

LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON THE FUTURE  
ELECTORAL  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
THREE RIVERS  
IN HERTFORDSHIRE

*Report to the Secretary of State for the  
Environment, Transport and the Regions*

*February 1998*

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

This report sets out the Commission's final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for Three Rivers in Hertfordshire.

Members of the Commission are:

Professor Malcolm Grant (Chairman)

Helena Shovelton (Deputy Chairman)

Peter Brokenshire

Professor Michael Clarke

Robin Gray

Bob Scruton

David Thomas O.B.E

Adrian Stungo (Chief Executive)

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# CONTENTS

	page
LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE	<i>v</i>
SUMMARY	<i>vii</i>
1 INTRODUCTION	<i>1</i>
2 CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS	<i>3</i>
3 DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>7</i>
4 RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION	<i>9</i>
5 ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>13</i>
6 NEXT STEPS	<i>31</i>
APPENDICES	
A Final Recommendations for Three Rivers: Detailed Mapping	<i>33</i>
B Draft Recommendations for Three Rivers (August 1997)	<i>39</i>





## Local Government Commission for England

3 February 1998

Dear Secretary of State

On 10 December 1996 the Commission commenced a periodic electoral review of Three Rivers district under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations in August 1997 and undertook a nine-week period of consultation.

We have now prepared our final recommendations in the light of the consultation. We have substantially confirmed our draft recommendations, although some modifications have been made (see paragraphs 129–130) in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Three Rivers.

We recommend that Three Rivers District Council should be served by 48 councillors as at present, representing 20 wards, and that changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. We recommend that the Council should continue to be elected by thirds.

I would like to thank members and officers of the District Council and other local people who have contributed to the review. Their co-operation and assistance have been very much appreciated by Commissioners and staff.

Yours sincerely

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT  
Chairman



# SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of Three Rivers on 10 December 1996. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 13 August 1997, after which we undertook a nine-week period of consultation.

- **This report summarises the representations we received during consultation on our draft recommendations, and offers our final recommendations to the Secretary of State.**

We found that the existing electoral arrangements provide unequal representation of electors in Three Rivers:

- **in 10 of the 20 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the district;**
- **in three wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **by 2001 the number of electors per councillor in 12 wards is expected to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average, eight of which would vary by more than 20 per cent and one, Leavesden, by more than 80 per cent.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figure 1 and paragraphs 129-130) are that:

- **Three Rivers District Council should have 48 councillors as at present;**
- **there should continue to be 20 wards;**
- **the boundaries of 18 of the existing wards should be modified, while two wards should retain their existing boundaries;**
- **elections should continue to take place by thirds.**

These recommendations seek to ensure that the number of electors represented by each district councillor is as nearly as possible the same, having regard to local circumstances.

- **In 15 of the 20 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the district average, with two wards, Leavesden and Sarratt, varying by more than 20 per cent.**
- **By 2001 the number of electors per councillor is projected to vary by no more than 10 per cent from the average in all but two wards, with no wards varying by more than 20 per cent.**

Recommendations are also made for changes to parish council electoral arrangements. They provide for:

- **new warding arrangements for the parishes of Abbots Langley, Chorleywood, Croxley Green and Watford Rural.**

All further correspondence on these recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, who will not make an order implementing the Commission's recommendations before 17 March 1998:

**The Secretary of State  
Local Government Review  
Department of the Environment,  
Transport and the Regions  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU**

*Figure 1:  
The Commission's Final Recommendations: Summary*

<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>	<b>Map reference</b>
1 Abbots Langley	3	Abbots Langley district and parish ward (part); Leavesden district and parish ward (part)	Maps A2 and A3
2 Ashridge	2	Ashridge district and parish ward (part); Northwick district and parish ward (part)	Large map
3 Bedmond & Primrose Hill	2	Bedmond district ward (Bedmond and Nash Mills parish wards); Abbots Langley district and parish ward (part)	Map A2
4 Carpenders Park	3	<i>Unchanged</i> (Carpenders Park district and parish ward)	Large map
5 Chorleywood East	2	Chorleywood district and parish ward (part)	Large map and Map A4
6 Chorleywood West	3	Chorleywood district and parish ward (part); Chorleywood West district ward (Chorleywood Chenies and Chorleywood West parish wards)	Large map and Map A4
7 Croxley Green	3	Croxley Green district and parish ward (part); Croxley Green North district and parish ward (part); Croxley Green South district and parish ward (part)	Large map
8 Croxley Green North	2	Croxley Green North district and parish ward (part); Sarratt district ward (part)	Large map
9 Croxley Green South	2	Croxley Green district and parish ward (part); Croxley Green North district and parish ward (part); Croxley Green South district and parish ward (part)	Large map
10 Hayling	2	Hayling district and parish ward (part)	Large map
11 Langleybury	3	Langleybury district and parish ward (part); Leavesden district and parish ward (part)	Map A3
12 Leavesden	3	Langleybury district and parish ward (part); Leavesden district and parish ward (part)	Map A3
13 Maple Cross & Mill End	3	Maple Cross & West Hyde district ward; Mill End district ward (part)	Large map
14 Moor Park & Eastbury	3	Ashridge district and parish ward (part); Moor Park district ward; Rickmansworth district ward (part)	Large map

Figure 1 (continued):  
The Commission's Final Recommendations: Summary

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
15 Northwick	3	Hayling district and parish ward (part); Northwick district and parish ward (part)	Large map
16 Oxhey Hall	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (Oxhey Hall district and parish ward)	Large map
17 Penn	2	Chorleywood district and parish ward (part); Mill End district ward (part); Moneyhill district ward (part)	Large map
18 Rickmansworth	2	Rickmansworth district ward (part)	Large map
19 Rickmansworth West	2	Chorleywood district and parish ward (part); Moneyhill district ward (part); Rickmansworth district ward (part)	Large map
20 Sarratt	1	Sarratt district ward (part – Grove and Sarratt parish wards of Sarratt parish)	Large map

Notes: 1 The district is parished except for the wards of Maple Cross & West Hyde, Mill End, Moneyhill, Moor Park and Rickmansworth.

2 The existing district and parish warding arrangements for the five parished areas are detailed in Figure 3.



# 1. INTRODUCTION

1 This report contains our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the district of Three Rivers in Hertfordshire. We have now reviewed all the districts in Hertfordshire as part of our programme of periodic electoral reviews of all principal local authority areas in England.

2 In undertaking these reviews, we have had regard to:

- the statutory criteria contained in section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992;
- the *Rules to be Observed in Considering Electoral Arrangements* contained in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972.

3 We have also had regard to our *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Local Authorities and Other Interested Parties* (published in March 1996 and supplemented in September 1996), which sets out our approach to the reviews.

4 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 10 December 1996, when we wrote to Three Rivers District Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. Our letter was copied to Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Police Authority, the local authority associations, the Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils, parish councils in the district, Members of Parliament and the Member of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the district, and the headquarters of the main political parties. At the start of the review, and following publication of our draft recommendations, we published notices in the local press, issued a press release and invited the District Council to publicise the review more widely. The closing date for receipt of initial representations was 10 March 1997. At Stage Two we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

5 Stage Three began on 13 August 1997 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Three Rivers in Hertfordshire*, and ended on 14 October 1997. Comments were sought on our preliminary conclusions. Finally, during Stage Four we reconsidered our draft recommendations in the light of the Stage Three consultation and now publish our final recommendations.



## 2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

<sup>6</sup> Three Rivers is situated in south-west Hertfordshire and takes its name from the rivers Colne, Gade and Chess, which reach their confluence at Rickmansworth, the principal town. The district encompasses 8,700 hectares and has a population of around 84,000. It is mainly urban, interspersed with some rural areas. The District Council was established in 1974 by combining the former urban districts of Rickmansworth and Chorleywood with part of the Watford Rural District including Abbots Langley, Croxley Green, Maple Cross, Moor Park, the rural village of Sarratt, and the large post-war housing estate of South Oxhey. Apart from the main settlements, the whole district is protected by green belt status.

<sup>7</sup> Several main communication routes traverse the district, notably the M25 motorway, the West Coast mainline and Metropolitan Line railways, and the Grand Union Canal. Its proximity to London and the Chilterns, together with its good communication routes, makes the district attractive to developers, for the most part utilising the sites of former schools and hospitals. The district contains five parishes – Abbots Langley, Chorleywood, Croxley Green, Sarratt and Watford Rural – and the unparished area includes the communities of Maple Cross, Moor Park and Rickmansworth.

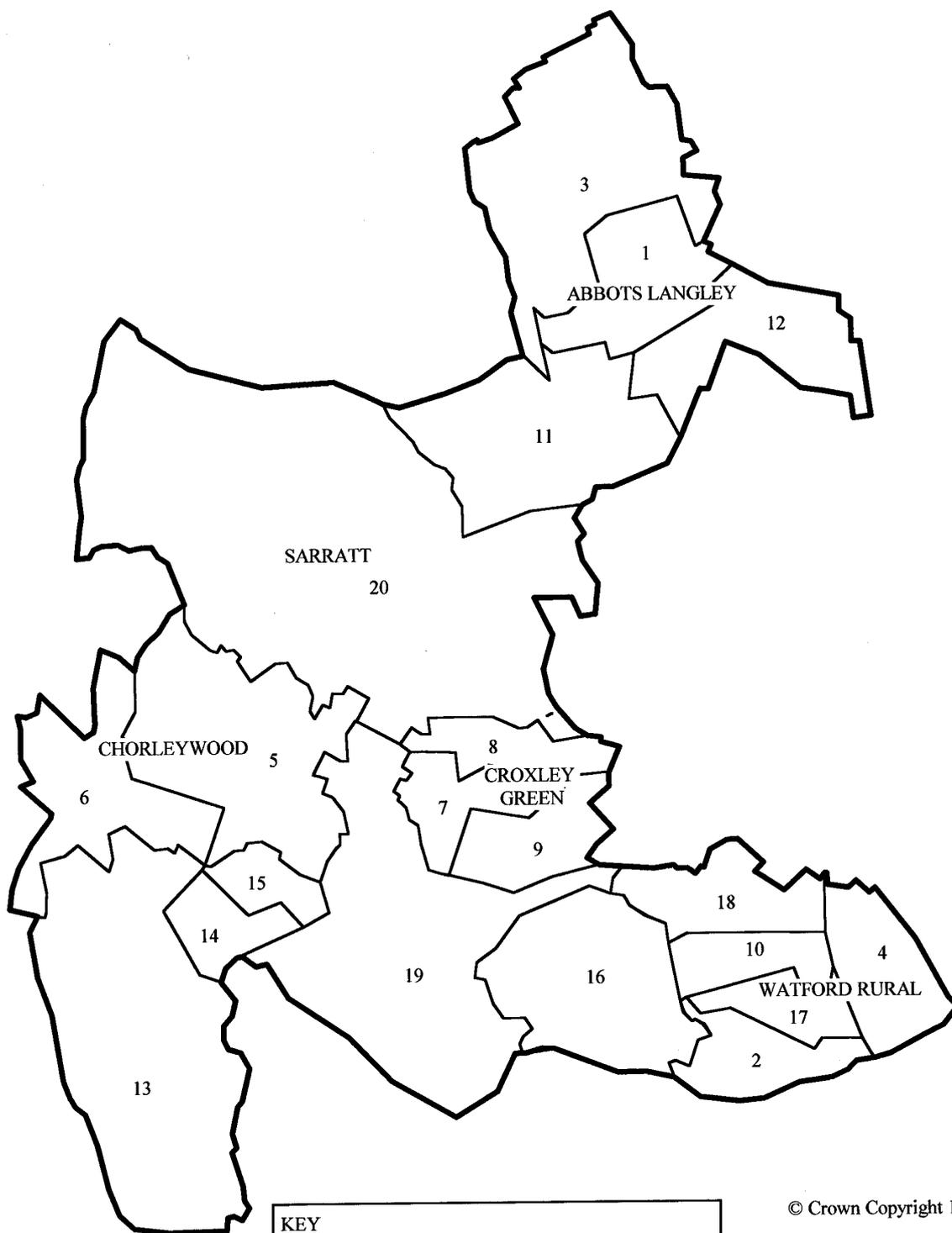
<sup>8</sup> To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards, we calculated the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the average for the district in percentage terms. In the report, this calculation may also be described as 'electoral variance'.

<sup>9</sup> Three Rivers District Council has 48 councillors elected from 20 wards (Map 1 and Figure 2). Eight wards are each represented by three councillors, while the remaining 12 wards elect two councillors each. The Council holds elections by thirds. The electorate of the district is 59,372 (February 1996) and each councillor represents an average of 1,237 electors. The District Council forecasts that the electorate will

increase by nearly 8 per cent to 63,972 by the year 2001, which would change the average number of electors per councillor to 1,333 (Figure 2).

<sup>10</sup> Since the last electoral review was completed in 1975 by our predecessor, the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), changes in population and electorate have been unevenly spread across the district. As a result, in 10 of the 20 wards, the number of electors per councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the district, and in three wards by more than 20 per cent. The most significant electoral imbalance is in Leavesden ward where each councillor represents on average 47 per cent more electors than the district average.

Map 1:  
Existing Wards in Three Rivers



KEY  
 EXISTING WARD BOUNDARY ———  
 EXISTING PARISH BOUNDARY - - - - -

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Key to Wards

- |                    |                              |                  |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Abbots Langley   | 8 Croxley Green North        | 15 Moneyhill *   |
| 2 Ashridge         | 9 Croxley Green South        | 16 Moor Park     |
| 3 Bedmond          | 10 Hayling                   | 17 Northwick     |
| 4 Carpenders Park  | 11 Langleybury               | 18 Oxhey Hall    |
| 5 Chorleywood      | 12 Leavesden                 | 19 Rickmansworth |
| 6 Chorleywood West | 13 Maple Cross and West Hyde | 20 Sarratt       |
| 7 Croxley Green    | 14 Mill End                  |                  |

\* Note: S.I. (1975) No 2199 Spelling is Money Hill

Figure 2:  
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Abbots Langley	3	3,494	1,165	-6	3,512	1,171	-12
2 Ashridge	2	2,313	1,157	-7	2,444	1,222	-8
3 Bedmond	2	2,299	1,150	-7	2,413	1,207	-9
4 Carpenders Park	3	3,748	1,249	1	3,980	1,327	0
5 Chorleywood	3	4,141	1,380	12	4,409	1,470	10
6 Chorleywood West	3	3,994	1,331	8	4,009	1,336	0
7 Croxley Green	3	3,261	1,087	-12	3,273	1,091	-18
8 Croxley Green North	2	2,489	1,245	1	2,877	1,439	8
9 Croxley Green South	2	2,685	1,343	9	3,218	1,609	21
10 Hayling	3	2,844	948	-23	2,847	949	-29
11 Langleybury	2	2,802	1,401	13	3,341	1,671	25
12 Leavesden	2	3,633	1,817	47	4,834	2,417	81
13 Maple Cross & West Hyde	2	2,028	1,014	-18	2,034	1,017	-24
14 Mill End	2	2,351	1,176	-5	2,351	1,176	-12
15 Moneyhill	2	2,953	1,477	19	3,294	1,647	24
16 Moor Park	2	3,292	1,646	33	3,309	1,655	24
17 Northwick	3	3,430	1,143	-8	3,903	1,301	-2
18 Oxhey Hall	2	2,354	1,177	-5	2,490	1,245	-7
19 Rickmansworth	3	3,213	1,071	-13	3,381	1,127	-15

*continued overleaf*

Figure 2 (continued):  
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
20 Sarratt	2	2,048	1,024	-17	2,053	1,027	-23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>59,372</b>	—	—	<b>63,972</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>1,237</b>	—	—	<b>1,333</b>	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Three Rivers District Council's submission.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, in 1996, electors in Hayling ward were relatively over-represented by 23 per cent, while electors in Leavesden ward were relatively under-represented by 47 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

### 3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

11 During Stage One we received representations from Three Rivers District Council, the Conservative Group on the District Council, three parish councils and 10 other respondents. In the light of these representations and evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Three Rivers in Hertfordshire*. Our proposals built on the District Council's Stage One submission, making further changes to provide more clearly defined boundaries, while improving the electoral imbalance which currently exists. We proposed that:

- (a) the District Council should continue to be served by 48 councillors representing 20 wards;
- (b) the boundaries of 18 of the existing wards should be modified, with no change to two wards;
- (c) a new Rickmansworth West ward should be created, comprising part of the existing Chorleywood, Moneyhill and Rickmansworth wards; a revised Moneyhill ward should comprise part of Moneyhill ward and part of Mill End ward; and a new Maple Cross & Mill End ward should incorporate Maple Cross & West Hyde ward and part of Mill End ward;
- (d) a revised Moor Park ward should incorporate part of Rickmansworth ward and part of Ashridge ward from Watford Rural parish;
- (e) in the Watford Rural parish area, the boundaries of the district and parish wards of Ashridge, Hayling and Northwick should be revised, with the revised Ashridge and Northwick wards renamed Prestwick and Oxhey Woods respectively, and a new Oxhey Ridge parish ward should be created for the area being transferred from Ashridge ward to Moor Park ward;
- (f) in the Croxley Green parish area, the boundaries of the district and parish wards of Croxley Green, Croxley Green North and Croxley Green South should be modified;
- (g) in the Sarratt parish area, part of Sarratt ward should transfer to Croxley Green North ward, and the revised Sarratt ward should comprise Sarratt parish and be represented by one councillor;
- (h) in the Abbots Langley parish area, the boundaries of the district and parish wards of Abbots Langley, Bedmond, Langleybury and Leavesden should be modified;
- (i) in the Chorleywood parish area, the boundaries of the district and parish wards of Chorleywood and Chorleywood West should be modified, and three new parish wards created for Chorleywood Cedars, Chorleywood Common and Chorleywood Quickwood.

#### **Draft Recommendation**

Three Rivers District Council should comprise 48 councillors, serving 20 wards. The Council should continue to hold elections by thirds.

12 Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in 16 of the 20 wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the district average. Electoral equality was expected to improve further by 2001 when only one ward, Sarratt, was projected to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average.



## 4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

<sup>13</sup> During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, 43 representations were received. A list of respondents is available on request from the Commission.

### **Three Rivers District Council**

<sup>14</sup> The District Council accepted our draft recommendations for 14 of the 20 wards. In the remaining wards it proposed that the boundary between Chorleywood ward and Chorleywood West ward should run along the full length of Dog Kennel Lane; that Chorleywood ward be renamed Chorleywood East; and that the warding of Chorleywood parish be further amended. It proposed that Ashridge and Northwick district and parish ward boundaries be realigned; that Ashridge and Northwick wards retain their existing names; and that the eastern boundary of the proposed Oxhey Ridge parish ward (which would be renamed Eastbury) should run along the middle of Oxhey Drive until it meets the boundary with Northwick ward, with the area to the west of Oxhey Drive being transferred to Moor Park ward (which would be renamed Moor Park & Eastbury). The Council also said that it would be recommending to the Secretary of State that the area covered by the proposed Eastbury parish ward should no longer form part of Watford Rural parish.

<sup>15</sup> The Council proposed that Nash Mills parish ward be renamed Primrose Hill, which it said had the support of Abbots Langley Parish Council. In the unparished area the District Council proposed that the revised Moneyhill ward be renamed Penn ward; that Moor Park be renamed Moor Park & Eastbury ward; and that the Woodcock Hill area remain in Rickmansworth ward and not be transferred to Moor Park & Eastbury ward.

### **Three Rivers District Council Conservative Group**

<sup>16</sup> The Conservative Group on the District Council submitted alternative proposals for four of the 20 wards. It opposed the transfer of the Moor Lane and Batchworth Hill area from

Rickmansworth ward to Moor Park ward on the grounds that “it is quite clear that these areas bear no community identity to Moor Park whatsoever”. The Group proposed that apart from the proposals contained in the draft recommendations report, “there should not be any further changes between Chorleywood and Rickmansworth wards at parish level”. As in its Stage One submission, the Group supported the transfer of the Heronsgate area polling district CHA from Maple Cross & West Hyde ward to Chorleywood West ward. While it acknowledged that this would create a degree of electoral inequality, it stated that it was justified by Heronsgate’s community identity with Chorleywood.

### **South West Hertfordshire Conservative Party**

<sup>17</sup> South West Hertfordshire Conservative Party endorsed the proposals submitted by the Conservative Group. The Conservative Party referred to the District Council’s consultation exercise in the area east of Berry Lane, currently in Chorleywood ward, which it said “shows that the electors in this area clearly do not want to be part of Rickmansworth”, and that electors in the area described as Winchfield Way and The Mount “also clearly do not wish to be transferred to the unparished area of Rickmansworth”. The Party asked the Commission to “consider seriously ... the proposal to transfer Heronsgate area to Chorleywood”.

### **Parish Councils**

<sup>18</sup> During Stage Three, representations were received from four parish councils. Abbots Langley Parish Council proposed that the Nash Mills parish ward be renamed Primrose Hill parish ward, so that the parish ward names in the area would reflect the proposed district ward name of Bedmond & Primrose Hill. The Parish Council supported the draft recommendation to increase the number of district councillors in Leavesden and Langleybury wards.

19 Chorleywood Parish Council considered that our proposal to create a single-member Chorleywood Quickwood parish ward would produce a degree of electoral inequality at parish level. It considered that it would “seem to be an anomaly to strive for equal representation at district level while producing unequal representation at parish level”. The Parish Council also said that the argument for a rethink in this area was strengthened by the result of the District Council’s public consultation exercise in polling district BC, currently in Chorleywood ward, where the electorate “strongly indicated a desire to remain in the Chorleywood Parish Council area”. It proposed that 47 electors be transferred from the part of Stag Lane in Maple Cross & Mill End ward to Chorleywood West ward; that 128 electors in the Chorleywood Common area should transfer from Chorleywood ward to Chorleywood West ward; and that 136 electors in the Loudwater area should transfer to Chorleywood ward from Rickmansworth ward. It also proposed that 896 electors be transferred from Moneyhill ward to Rickmansworth ward, and opposed the creation of Rickmansworth West ward.

20 Sarratt Parish Council stated that it had “no comment to make on the proposal to transfer polling district CAB from the Sarratt ward to the Croxley Green North ward”, but added that the recommendation that Sarratt ward be represented by one councillor, rather than two as at present, would increase the workload for the remaining councillor.

21 Watford Rural Parish Council supported the District Council’s revised proposals, subject to one amendment to its proposals for Ashridge and Northwick wards. The Parish Council proposed that an additional 52 electors in Prestwick Road and Woodhall Lane should be included in Ashridge ward instead of Northwick ward, on grounds of community identity.

## **Other Representations**

22 We received a further 36 representations in response to our draft recommendations. Twenty-three local residents opposed the draft recommendation to transfer the Moor Lane, London Road and Batchworth Hill area from Rickmansworth ward to Moor Park ward on the grounds that there was a lack of community identity and communication links between the two areas. This recommendation was also opposed

by Councillors Prizeman, Crispin and Williams, the members for Rickmansworth ward. A further two local residents supported no change for Rickmansworth ward.

23 Chorleywood & District Residents’ Association opposed the creation of a separate parish ward for Chorleywood Common.

24 A Heronsgate resident stated that “the M25 now represents a physical barrier between Heronsgate and Mill End/Rickmansworth” and proposed that Heronsgate should form part of Chorleywood West ward for both parish and district purposes.

25 Councillor Lamb, member for Rickmansworth county division, stated that “the people living in Heronsgate have never ... felt part of Rickmansworth and have even less association with Maple Cross”, and proposed that Heronsgate should form part of Chorleywood West ward, although she noted that this would have an adverse effect on electoral equality.

26 Councillor Bedford, member for Abbots Langley ward, supported the draft recommendations as they would affect the district and parish ward of Abbots Langley. He also suggested that the parliamentary constituency boundary between Abbots Langley and Bedmond wards be modified to include the 18 electors north of the M25, which would form part of a modified Bedmond district ward, in the St Albans constituency and not the Watford constituency. However, the Commission is unable to review parliamentary constituency boundaries. This is the responsibility of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission.

27 Councillor Struck, member for Maple Cross & West Hyde ward, stated that he was broadly in support of the draft recommendations but proposed a minor amendment. He contended that Moneyhill ward would comprise only a small part of the Moneyhill area, and that the ward would be more appropriately named William Penn, which had been the name of a school serving the area, on the site of which was the new Penn Heights estate.

28 A resident of Mill End, and former councillor, supported the proposal to transfer the area south of the railway line from Chorleywood ward to Moneyhill and Rickmansworth West wards, arguing that the people in the affected area identify

with Rickmansworth and not Chorleywood. He also supported the proposal to combine part of Mill End with Maple Cross & West Hyde, adding that “Heronsgate used to be part of Mill End ward and there are many family links between residents of Mill End and residents of Maple Cross”. He proposed that the revised ward be renamed Mill End & Maple Cross on the grounds that Mill End has a larger population and is a longer established community than Maple Cross. He supported the proposed boundaries for Moneyhill ward and suggested several alternative names for the revised ward, including Berry or Tudor which he considered would be more appropriate than Penn.

29 As stated above, Councillors Crispin, Prizeman and Williams opposed the proposal to transfer the Moor Lane and Batchworth Hill area from Rickmansworth ward to Moor Park ward on community identity grounds, urging that it be retained in Rickmansworth ward. They also argued that those residents in the part of Chorleywood south of the railway line (polling district BC) identify more closely with Chorleywood than with the Rickmansworth area, and opposed the inclusion of this area in the proposed Rickmansworth West ward.

30 Councillor Weitzmann, member for Chorleywood ward and Chair of Chorleywood Parish Council, supported the Parish Council’s proposals for the district wards of Chorleywood and Chorleywood West. She said that, in the District Council’s consultation exercise, the residents in Chorleywood polling district BC “responded overwhelmingly that they have an affinity to Chorleywood, not to Rickmansworth” and that they should be retained in Chorleywood for both district and parish purposes. She also proposed that the Loudwater area, currently in Rickmansworth ward, should be included in Chorleywood ward; and that the part of the Stag Lane area currently in Maple Cross & West Hyde ward, should be included in Chorleywood West ward. She supported the proposal by adding that “our enquiries have suggested that the people of Heronsgate consider themselves allied to Chorleywood”, although she considered that any proposal to transfer the Heronsgate area should be subject to public consultation.

31 Heronsgate Residents’ Association informed the District Council of its support for the recommendations made by the District Council and the Commission for the area, and maintained its view that Heronsgate should remain part of Maple Cross & West Hyde ward.



## 5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

32 As indicated previously, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Three Rivers is to achieve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria set out in the Local Government Act 1992 and Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, which refers to the ratio of electors to councillors being “as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district or borough”.

33 However, our function is not merely arithmetical. First, our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on existing electorate figures, but also on assumptions as to changes in the number and distribution of local government electors likely to take place within the ensuing five years. Second, we must have regard to the desirability of fixing identifiable boundaries, and to maintaining local ties which might otherwise be broken. Third, we must consider the need to secure effective and convenient local government, and reflect the interests and identities of local communities.

34 It is therefore impractical to design an electoral scheme which provides for exactly the same number of electors per councillor in every ward of an authority. There must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach, in the context of the statutory criteria, is that such flexibility must be kept to a minimum.

35 In our March 1996 *Guidance*, we expressed the view that “proposals for changes in electoral arrangements should therefore be based on variations in each ward of no more than plus or minus 10 per cent from the average councillor:elector ratio for the authority, having regard to five-year forecasts of changes in electorates. Imbalances in excess of plus or minus 20 per cent may be acceptable, but only in highly exceptional circumstances ... and will have to be justified in full”. However, as emphasised in our September 1996 supplement to the *Guidance*, while we accept that absolute equality of representation is likely to be unattainable, we consider that, if electoral imbalances are to be kept

to the minimum, such equality should be the starting point in any electoral review.

### Electorate Projections

36 During Stage One the District Council submitted electorate forecasts for the period 1996 to 2001, projecting an increase in the electorate of some 8 per cent over the five-year period, from 59,372 to 63,972. The Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to structure and local plans, the expected rate of building over the five-year period and assumed occupancy rates. We accepted that this is an inexact science and, having given consideration to the projected electorates, we were satisfied that they represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at the time.

37 During Stage Three no comments were received regarding the Council’s projected electorate figures and we remain satisfied that they provide the best estimates presently available.

### Council Size

38 Our March 1996 *Guidance* indicated that we would normally expect the number of councillors serving a district or borough council to be in the range of 30 to 60.

39 Three Rivers District Council is at present served by 48 councillors. At Stage One the District Council proposed no change to council size, while the Conservative Group proposed a reduction of five, to 43 members. In our draft recommendations report we considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received. We concluded that the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would best be met by a council of 48 members.

40 At Stage Three no further representations on changing council size were received, and we are therefore recommending a council of 48 members.

## Electoral Arrangements

41 In our draft recommendations report we acknowledged the difficulties of achieving good electoral equality in a district with urban and rural diversity, while also securing effective and convenient local government and reflecting local community identities and interests.

42 Having considered all the representations received during Stage Three, we have reviewed our draft recommendations. The following areas, based on existing district wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) Abbots Langley parish (four wards)
- (b) Chorleywood parish (two wards);
- (c) Croxley Green parish (three wards);
- (d) Sarratt parish (one ward);
- (e) Watford Rural parish (five wards);
- (f) the unparished area (five wards).

43 Details of our final recommendations are set out in Figures 1 and 5, and illustrated on Map 2 and in Appendix A and the large map inserted at the back of this report.

## The Parished Area

44 The district contains five parishes which are covered by 15 district wards (see Figure 3). The number of electors per councillor in six of these wards currently varies by more than 10 per cent from the district average, one of which, Leavesden, varies by more than 40 per cent. In our draft recommendations report, we proposed changes to 13 of the 15 wards, while Carpenders Park and Oxhey Hall wards would remain unchanged.

### Abbots Langley, Bedmond, Langleybury and Leavesden wards

45 Abbots Langley parish lies in the north-east of the district and comprises four district wards. The number of electors per councillor is 6 per cent below the district average in Abbots Langley ward (12 per cent in 2001), 7 per cent below in Bedmond ward (9 per cent in 2001), 13 per cent above in Langleybury ward (25 per cent in 2001) and 47 per cent above in Leavesden ward (81 per cent in 2001).

46 At Stage One the District Council proposed modifications to these ward boundaries to improve electoral equality. It proposed that the part of Abbots Langley ward which lies north of the M25,

*Figure 3:  
Parishes in Three Rivers District: Existing Wards*

Parish	District wards	Parish wards
Abbots Langley	Abbots Langley Bedmond Langleybury Leavesden	Abbots Langley Bedmond, Nash Mills Langleybury Leavesden
Chorleywood	Chorleywood Chorleywood West	Chorleywood Chorleywood West, Chorleywood Chenies
Croxley Green	Croxley Green Croxley Green North Croxley Green South Sarratt (part)	Croxley Green Croxley Green North (part) Croxley Green South Croxley Green North (part)
Sarratt	Sarratt (part)	Grove, Sarratt
Watford Rural	Ashridge Carpenders Park Hayling Northwick Oxhey Hall	Ashridge Carpenders Park Hayling Northwick Oxhey Hall

comprising 18 electors, should be transferred to Bedmond ward, and the ward renamed Bedmond and Primrose Hill. The Council stated that the M25 now forms “an effective boundary” and that the revised ward name would reflect “local sensitivities”. The number of electors per councillor in Bedmond & Primrose Hill ward would be 6 per cent below the district average (9 per cent in 2001).

47 In addition, the District Council proposed that Abbots Langley ward should gain 184 electors from Tylersfield and Follett Drive in Leavesden ward. The number of electors per councillor in the revised Abbots Langley ward would be 1 per cent below the district average (8 per cent in 2001).

48 The two-member Leavesden ward has the worst electoral imbalance in the district, with 47 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average (81 per cent in 2001). The District Council therefore proposed the transfer of 820 electors from Leavesden ward to Langleybury ward, specifically from the area around Queens Drive bounded by Langley Lane and South Way. The bulk of the area around the Leavesden aerodrome site (projected to include over 500 electors by 2001) would transfer from Langleybury ward to Leavesden ward. With a third councillor, the number of electors per councillor in Leavesden ward would initially be 29 per cent below the average, but is projected to improve to 9 per cent above the average by 2001 as a result of proposed housing development. In the modified Langleybury ward, which would also be represented by three councillors, there would be 2 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the average (9 per cent in 2001).

49 Abbots Langley Parish Council supported the District Council’s proposals for the parish area, but expressed concern that district ward boundaries and parish boundaries were not being reviewed simultaneously.

50 At Stage One the Conservative Group proposed an alternative configuration of wards for the Abbots Langley parish area. It stated that Bedmond ward comprises “two distinct communities, the north-east part which borders the Bedmond Road which links it to Abbots Langley, and the western part, popularly known as Primrose Hill”. The Group proposed that the western area be renamed Primrose Hill ward, and be represented by one councillor. The eastern part would be combined with Abbots Langley ward, which would also gain 177 electors from the Broomfield

Rise and Rosehill Gardens area of Langleybury ward. No further change was proposed for Langleybury ward, which would retain two councillors. Under the Conservative Group’s scheme, Leavesden would retain its existing boundaries, but would be served by three councillors, one more than at present, and Abbots Langley ward would continue to be represented by three councillors.

51 The Abbots Langley parish area is separated from the rest of the district by the rural area of Sarratt. We considered that the modified boundaries in the Abbots Langley area proposed by the District Council would improve electoral equality and provide identifiable boundaries, having regard to local circumstances including the development expected to occur in the existing Langleybury and Leavesden wards. We therefore consulted on the District Council’s proposals for the wards of Abbots Langley, Bedmond & Primrose Hill, Langleybury and Leavesden as part of our draft recommendations.

52 At Stage Three we received three submissions regarding the draft recommendations for the Abbots Langley parish area. The District Council and Abbots Langley Parish Council both proposed that Nash Mills parish ward be renamed Primrose Hill. The Parish Council supported the draft recommendation to “increase the number of district councillors in Leavesden and Langleybury wards”. Councillor Bedford, member for Abbots Langley district ward, supported the draft recommendations “in particular in so far as they relate to the ward I represent and the three neighbouring wards which together form Abbots Langley Civil Parish”. The Conservative Group made no further comment on the proposals for this area.

53 Having considered the representations received, we propose to confirm our draft recommendations as final, subject to renaming Nash Mills parish ward Primrose Hill.

### **Chorleywood and Chorleywood West wards**

54 Chorleywood parish is divided into the two district wards of Chorleywood and Chorleywood West. The average number of electors represented by each of the three councillors for these wards is 12 per cent above the district average in Chorleywood (10 per cent in 2001) and 8 per cent above in Chorleywood West (projected to equal the average in 2001).

55 At Stage One the District Council proposed no change to Chorleywood West, stating that it is a “physically distinct [area] with its own identity”, but proposed several modifications to Chorleywood ward. It proposed that polling district BC, which covers that part of Chorleywood ward south of the railway line, be divided between a new Moneyhill & Mill End ward and a new Rickmansworth West ward. The area east of Berry Lane (comprising 896 electors) would be transferred to a new Rickmansworth West ward, and form a new parish ward of Chorleywood Cedars. The area west of Berry Lane (comprising 302 electors) would form part of a combined Moneyhill & Mill End ward, and form a new parish ward of Chorleywood Quickwood. It also proposed that 314 electors around The Drive, The Mount and Valley Road be transferred from Chorleywood ward to a modified Rickmansworth ward. Under the District Council’s proposals, the number of electors per councillor for Chorleywood ward would be 7 per cent above the district average (9 per cent in 2001).

56 The Conservative Group proposed that the Heronsgate area (polling district CHA) should form part of a modified Chorleywood West ward. It proposed no further change to Chorleywood and Chorleywood West wards.

57 Chorleywood & Sarratt Liberal Democrats agreed with the District Council’s proposal that polling district BC be transferred from Chorleywood to the Rickmansworth area, adding that “residents in this area see Rickmansworth rather than Chorleywood as their centre”. They proposed that the remainder of Chorleywood ward should be represented by two members. They added: “We see no reason to change the boundaries of Chorleywood West ward, an area with close ties to the village centre, which should be retained with three members.”

58 Chorleywood Parish Council opposed the District Council’s proposals for Chorleywood ward. The Parish Council was concerned that a proposal to include part of the parish in a district ward with the neighbouring unparished area of Rickmansworth might be adopted in a future parish boundary review, with the loss to the parish of around 1,500 electors. However, it supported the District Council’s proposal that the area west of Berry Lane should transfer from Chorleywood ward to Moneyhill ward, because the electors there

are “at present cut off from the remainder of their community”. The area east of Berry Lane would remain part of Chorleywood ward.

59 The Parish Council also proposed that Shepherd’s Way be transferred from Chorleywood ward to Rickmansworth ward, and that Armitage Close, Chess Close, Chess Hill, Chess Lane, Loudwater Drive and Loudwater Lane be transferred from Rickmansworth ward to Chorleywood ward. It proposed that the Heronsgate area (polling district CHA), currently in Maple Cross & West Hyde ward, should form part of a modified Chorleywood West ward. In addition to these changes, the Parish Council submitted alternatives to the District Council’s scheme for the unparished wards of Mill End and Moneyhill.

60 At Stage One a resident of Rickmansworth said that there had been insufficient consultation on the District Council’s proposal to modify Chorleywood ward, and considered that “there is sufficient green belt between Rickmansworth, Chorleywood, and Maple Cross and West Hyde to create natural boundaries without needing to generate boundaries based on roads and railway lines”. Councillor Lamb, the county councillor for Rickmansworth division, suggested that the Heronsgate area of Maple Cross & West Hyde ward be included in Chorleywood West ward. Councillors Crispin, Prizeman and Williams, members for Rickmansworth, proposed no change to the boundaries between the wards of Chorleywood, Moneyhill and Rickmansworth.

61 In our draft recommendations report we adopted the District Council’s proposal that the southern boundary of Chorleywood ward should follow the railway line; that the area west of Berry Lane and Church Lane should form part of a modified Moneyhill ward; while the area east of this new boundary should form part of a new Rickmansworth West ward.

62 To achieve better electoral equality, while seeking to use identifiable boundaries, we also proposed that the boundary between Chorleywood ward and Chorleywood West ward be modified. The boundary would run along Chenies Road and Rickmansworth Road, south along Dog Kennel Lane as far as Cedars Cottage, east along the track to the south of Chorleywood College, and along field boundaries until it joins Park Avenue, then

north-east along the path until it meets the M25. This would transfer some 280 electors from Chorleywood ward to Chorleywood West ward, with the affected area forming a new parish ward of Chorleywood Common.

63 Under the draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor would be 8 per cent above the district average in Chorleywood ward (10 per cent in 2001), and 15 per cent above in Chorleywood West ward (7 per cent in 2001). We recognised that our proposals would result in a greater electoral variance in both Chorleywood ward and Chorleywood West ward than under the District Council's scheme, but in our view, improved electoral arrangements would be achieved for the area as a whole.

64 At Stage Three we received 12 representations regarding the Chorleywood parish area. The District Council proposed that "despite the electoral imbalance created, the boundary between Chorleywood ward and Chorleywood West ward should run along Chenies Road and Rickmansworth Road as proposed by the Commission, but should continue uninterrupted southwards down Dog Kennel Lane until it meets the Metropolitan Railway [because] the community to the east of Dog Kennel Lane is isolated from Chorleywood West by the railway and the Common, and identifies more readily with the residential area to the north". The District Council also proposed that Chorleywood ward be renamed Chorleywood East.

65 Chorleywood Parish Council proposed the following amendments to the draft recommendations: that 47 electors should be transferred from the part of Stag Lane currently in Maple Cross & Mill End ward to Chorleywood West ward; that 128 electors in the Chorleywood Common area should be transferred from Chorleywood ward to Chorleywood West ward; and that 136 electors in the Loudwater area should be transferred from Rickmansworth ward to Chorleywood ward. In submitting these proposals, the Parish Council argued that in response to the District Council's public consultation, electors in polling district BC had indicated a preference to "remain in the Chorleywood Parish Council area".

66 The Conservative Group on the District Council recognised the improved electoral equality that would be achieved by the draft

recommendations in the Chorleywood and Rickmansworth area for district warding purposes. The Group also proposed that the 246 electors in the Heronsgate area (polling district CHA) be transferred from Maple Cross & West Hyde ward to Chorleywood West ward. It recognised that a degree of electoral inequality would result but considered this would be justified in view of the community identity which it believed Heronsgate shares with Chorleywood.

67 South West Hertfordshire Conservative Party supported the Conservative Group's proposals. In particular, the Conservative Party referred to the proposed transfer of 896 electors in the area east of Berry Lane from Chorleywood ward to Rickmansworth West ward, stating that the District Council's consultation exercise showed that "the electors in this area clearly do not want to be part of Rickmansworth". The Conservative Party also supported the Conservative Group's proposal that the Heronsgate area be transferred from Maple Cross & West Hyde ward to Chorleywood.

68 Councillor Weitzmann, member for Chorleywood ward and Chair of Chorleywood Parish Council, supported the proposals submitted by the Parish Council. She said that in the District Council's consultation exercise, the residents in Chorleywood polling district BC "responded overwhelmingly that they have an affinity to Chorleywood, not to Rickmansworth", and that they should be retained in Chorleywood for both district and parish purposes. She also proposed that the Loudwater area, currently in Rickmansworth ward, should be included in Chorleywood ward and that the whole of the Stag Lane area, part of which is currently in Maple Cross & West Hyde ward, should be included in Chorleywood West ward. She stated that "our enquiries have suggested that the people of Heronsgate consider themselves allied to Chorleywood", but believed that any proposal to transfer the Heronsgate area "needs to be tested by a public consultation". She said that the District Council agreed that these "small tidying exercises" were sensible but had been discounted due to "numbers" and asked the Commission to "rectify this strange situation these residents find themselves in – geographically in Chorleywood, but electorally outside it – and with only fields between themselves and their 'ward'".

69 Councillors Prizeman, Crispin and Williams re-stated their opposition to the proposal to transfer the residents in polling district BC from Chorleywood ward to Moneyhill and Rickmansworth West wards, and referred to the District Council's consultation exercise which indicated that "the people in these areas identify more closely with Chorleywood than the Rickmansworth area, as shown by their wish to remain within Chorleywood Parish Council".

70 A resident and former councillor from Mill End supported the proposal to transfer polling district BC from Chorleywood ward to Rickmansworth West and Moneyhill wards, because he believed that "the people in that area identify with Rickmansworth and not Chorleywood".

71 Councillor Lamb, member for Rickmansworth county division, proposed that Heronsgate, currently in Maple Cross & West Hyde ward, should form part of Chorleywood West ward on community identity grounds, although she appreciated "this would slightly change the balance of 'numbers' ". A resident of Heronsgate also supported the transfer of Heronsgate to Chorleywood West ward, and said that "the M25 now presents a physical barrier between Heronsgate and Mill End/Rickmansworth".

72 However, the Heronsgate Residents' Association informed the District Council of its support for the draft recommendation that Heronsgate should remain with Maple Cross & West Hyde.

73 Having carefully considered all the representations received, we propose to make only minor modifications to our draft recommendations for the Chorleywood area. We are adopting the District Council's proposal to run the boundary between Chorleywood and Chorleywood West wards along the middle of Chenies Road, Rickmansworth Road and the centre of Dog Kennel Lane. However, we propose to modify it to include Artichoke Dell in Chorleywood district and parish ward, to better reflect local communities. In response to representations received, we also propose that the ward be renamed Chorleywood East.

74 We have not been persuaded to recommend the retention of polling district BC in Chorleywood East ward because of the electoral inequality which

this would cause in Chorleywood East and neighbouring wards. The proposal to transfer 243 electors in the Heronsgate area from Maple Cross & West Hyde ward to Chorleywood West ward would result in significant electoral under-representation in Chorleywood West ward, and over-representation in Maple Cross & Mill End ward. We also acknowledge that our draft recommendation for the area was supported by the District Council and the Heronsgate Residents' Association, and we therefore propose to retain Heronsgate in Maple Cross & Mill End ward.

75 We are satisfied that our draft recommendations, subject to the proposed boundary amendment along Dog Kennel Lane and around Artichoke Dell, would provide better electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Chorleywood East would be 14 per cent above the average (16 per cent in 2001) and 11 per cent above the average in Chorleywood West (3 per cent in 2001). Our proposals for warding Chorleywood parish are detailed later.

#### **Croxley Green, Croxley Green North and Croxley Green South wards**

76 Under the existing arrangements the number of electors per councillor is 12 per cent below the district average in Croxley Green (18 per cent in 2001), 1 per cent above in Croxley Green North (8 per cent in 2001) and 9 per cent above in Croxley Green South (21 per cent in 2001).

77 At Stage One the District Council proposed changes to each of these three wards which fall within the parished area of Croxley Green. It proposed that polling district CAB, comprising 500 electors in Canterbury Way, Dover Way and Links Way, be transferred from Sarratt ward to Croxley Green North ward, noting that this area is currently part of Croxley Green parish. To achieve equality of representation, it also proposed that the area south of Baldwins Lane should be transferred from Croxley Green North ward to Croxley Green ward, while the area south of the railway line would form part of a modified Croxley Green South ward.

78 The District Council proposed that the southern boundary of Croxley Green ward should run along Scots Hill and the A412 Watford Road,

until it meets the existing boundary at Croxley Green Metropolitan Line station. This would transfer 131 electors south of Scots Hill, from Croxley Green ward to Croxley Green South ward, and 347 electors in the area between New Road and the A412, from Croxley Green South to Croxley Green.

79 Both Chorleywood & Sarratt Liberal Democrats and the Conservative Group on the District Council agreed that polling district CAB should be transferred from Sarratt ward to Croxley Green North ward, as proposed by the District Council. The Conservative Group proposed no other changes to the area.

80 In our draft recommendations report, we acknowledged the overall improvement in electoral equality which would result from the District Council's proposals for the wards of Croxley Green, Croxley Green North and Croxley Green South, having regard to local circumstances, and put them forward as part of our draft recommendations. The number of electors per councillor would be 9 per cent above the district average in Croxley Green ward, 3 per cent above in Croxley Green North ward and 5 per cent below in Croxley Green South ward (2 per cent, 10 per cent and 8 per cent above respectively in 2001).

81 At Stage Three no further representations were received regarding the Croxley Green area, and we are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for this area as final.

### **Sarratt ward**

82 Sarratt ward is currently represented by two councillors and comprises Sarratt parish together with polling district CAB, which covers part of Croxley Green parish. Each of the two councillors for Sarratt represents 17 per cent fewer electors than the district average (23 per cent in 2001).

83 As indicated earlier, at Stage One the District Council proposed that polling district CAB, comprising 500 electors, should form part of Croxley Green North ward, with the revised Sarratt ward, covering Sarratt parish only, being represented by a single councillor.

84 Councillor Ella, one of the two members for Sarratt ward, supported the revised ward boundary. However, he noted that Sarratt is the largest ward in the district by area, and that the size and rural

nature of the ward "contributes to a wide and varied range of issues for a local councillor to keep up with". He therefore urged the Commission to "give careful consideration to the possibility of retaining two councillors for Sarratt, despite the unfavourable ratios that this would generate".

85 We recognised the general level of support for the proposal to transfer polling district CAB to Croxley Green North ward from Sarratt ward. However, retaining two members for a revised Sarratt ward would result in unacceptable levels of electoral variance in the ward. No other proposals for change were received in relation to the Sarratt area. We therefore proposed that Sarratt ward should comprise only Sarratt parish and be represented by a single member, as proposed by the District Council and the Conservative Group and supported by Chorleywood & Sarratt Liberal Democrats. The number of electors per councillor would be 25 per cent above the district average (16 per cent in 2001).

86 In our draft recommendations report we expressed concern at the electoral imbalance which would remain in Sarratt ward, but recognised that alternative proposals were restricted by the geography of the area. The ward is the largest in the district, and is essentially rural. It is bordered to the south by the urban parishes of Chorleywood and Croxley Green, and to the north-east by Abbots Langley parish. Its boundaries to the east, north and west are also the district's boundaries. We were therefore unable to put forward an alternative proposal for the area which would improve electoral equality, without adversely affecting the equality achieved in the surrounding areas and the statutory criteria.

87 At Stage Three we received one representation specifically in relation to this area. Sarratt Parish Council stated that it had "no comment to make on the proposal to transfer polling district CAB from Sarratt ward to the Croxley Green North ward". However, the Parish Council noted that the proposal to make Sarratt a single-member ward "will be particularly onerous for the remaining councillor who will have to cover a much larger area when dealing with the numerous problems and diversity of issues which affect rural areas" No further comments on Sarratt ward were received at Stage Three.

88 In spite of the relative under-representation which would exist in Sarratt ward, we remain

satisfied that our proposals would provide the best available solution for Sarratt and the area as a whole, having regard to the statutory criteria, and therefore confirm our draft recommendation as final.

#### **Ashridge, Carpenders Park, Hayling, Northwick and Oxhey Hall wards**

89 The area of Watford Rural parish is covered by five district wards. The number of electors per councillor is 7 per cent below the district average in Ashridge ward (8 per cent in 2001), 1 per cent above in Carpenders Park ward (equal to the average in 2001), 23 per cent below in Hayling ward (29 per cent in 2001), 8 per cent below in Northwick ward (2 per cent in 2001) and 5 per cent below in Oxhey Hall ward (7 per cent in 2001).

90 At Stage One the District Council proposed no change to Carpenders Park and Oxhey Hall because it considered that both areas are geographically defined: Carpenders Park by the district boundary and the West Coast mainline railway; and Oxhey Hall by the parish boundary and South Oxhey playing fields.

91 The Council did, however, propose changes to the other three wards. It proposed that 454 electors in the area west of Oxhey Drive should be transferred from Ashridge ward to Moor Park ward. This area should form a new parish ward of Oxhey Ridge. In addition, some 1,500 electors in the area bounded by Chilwell Gardens, Northwick Road and Prestwick Road should be transferred from Northwick ward to Ashridge ward, with the latter being renamed Prestwick ward. Under the District Council's proposals, the number of electors per councillor in Prestwick ward would be 10 per cent below the district average (4 per cent in 2001).

92 The Council also proposed that 387 electors in the area south of and including Fairfield Avenue should be transferred from Hayling ward to Northwick ward, with the latter being renamed Oxhey Woods ward. The number of electors per councillor would be 6 per cent below the district average in Oxhey Woods (8 per cent in 2001) and 1 per cent below in Hayling (8 per cent in 2001).

93 In its Stage One submission the Conservative Group also proposed that the area west of Oxhey Drive be transferred from Ashridge ward to Moor Park ward, but favoured no change to Carpenders Park and Oxhey Hall wards. It made no specific

proposals for the wards of Hayling or Northwick, nor for further change to Ashridge, although it acknowledged that "the Commission could redefine the specific ward boundaries" in the area.

94 Watford Rural Parish Council requested a joint review of district electoral arrangements and parish boundaries. It opposed the District Council's proposals for the area because they would mean that the district ward boundaries and parish boundaries would no longer be coterminous. The Parish Council was particularly opposed to including part of the parish area in an enlarged, but otherwise unparished, Moor Park ward.

95 In our draft recommendations report we proposed no change to the wards of Carpenders Park and Oxhey Hall, as put forward by the District Council and the Conservative Group. In the remainder of the area, we proposed to consult on the District Council's proposed wards of Hayling, Oxhey Woods and Prestwick, as they would provide improved electoral equality and appeared to have regard to local communities, while using clearly defined boundaries. The electoral variances in these wards would be 1 per cent, 6 per cent and 10 per cent respectively (projected to be 8 per cent, 8 per cent and 4 per cent in 2001).

96 At Stage Three we received two representations regarding the Watford Rural parish area. The District Council submitted alternative arrangements to those included in its Stage One proposals, to reflect comments it had received from Watford Rural Parish Council and local district councillors who "argued that changing existing ward names would be confusing and request that the representation in Northwick remains at three councillors". The District Council proposed that Ashridge, Hayling and Northwick wards be realigned and retain their existing ward names. Hayling and Ashridge wards would be represented by two councillors and Northwick by three councillors. The Council proposed that the boundary between Ashridge and Northwick should run along the centre of Prestwick Road to its junction with Woodhall Lane, then east along the centre of Woodhall Lane to the West Coast mainline railway.

97 Watford Rural Parish Council supported the District Council's proposal, subject to one further

amendment. It proposed that the boundary between Ashridge ward and Northwick ward should continue north along the centre of Prestwick Road until it meets the existing boundary at Fairfield Avenue. This proposal would transfer a further 52 electors (six from Woodhall Lane and 46 from Prestwick Road) from Northwick ward to Ashridge ward.

<sup>98</sup> Having carefully considered the representations received, we propose to amend our draft recommendations for the Watford Rural parish area to reflect the proposals made by the District Council and the Parish Council. We propose to adopt the Parish Council's additional boundary change between Ashridge ward and Northwick ward, and the District Council's proposal that the boundary between Moor Park & Eastbury and Ashridge wards should follow the length of Oxhey Drive. The proposed district ward boundaries are illustrated on the large map at the back of the report. Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 3 per cent below the district average in Ashridge (5 per cent in 2001), 1 per cent above in Carpenders Park (equal to the average in 2001), 1 per cent below in Hayling (8 per cent in 2001), 12 per cent below in Northwick (6 per cent in 2001) and 5 per cent below in Oxhey Hall (7 per cent in 2001). The warding arrangements for Watford Rural parish are detailed later.

## **The Unparished Area**

<sup>99</sup> The unparished area covers the southern part of the district, including the town of Rickmansworth and the surrounding communities of Maple Cross, Mill End, Moneyhill and Moor Park. It comprises five district wards.

<sup>100</sup> Under the current arrangements, the number of electors per councillor is 18 per cent below the district average in Maple Cross & West Hyde ward (24 per cent in 2001), 5 per cent below in Mill End ward (12 per cent in 2001), 19 per cent above in Moneyhill ward (24 per cent in 2001), 33 per cent above in Moor Park ward (24 per cent in 2001) and 13 per cent below in Rickmansworth ward (15 per cent in 2001).

<sup>101</sup> Our draft recommendations proposed changes to all five wards, and the creation of a new Rickmansworth West ward. We received a number of representations in response to our draft recommendations, in particular with regard to the

boundary between Moor Park ward and Rickmansworth ward.

### **Moor Park ward**

<sup>102</sup> At Stage One the District Council proposed that three areas be transferred into Moor Park ward: first, as indicated earlier, an area west of Oxhey Drive in Ashridge ward; second, a large section of the more rural eastern part of Rickmansworth ward, comprising 413 electors, with the new boundary running west along Moor Lane, going south to the rear of the properties on the west of London Road, then south-west along field boundaries until it joins the district boundary; and third, the mainly industrial area south of the dismantled railway line, also currently in Rickmansworth ward. The enlarged Moor Park ward would be served by three councillors.

<sup>103</sup> The Conservative Group substantially supported the District Council's proposals for the area around Moor Lane, London Road and Batchworth Hill, as did Chorleywood Parish Council and Councillors Crispin, Prizeman and Williams, members for Rickmansworth ward.

<sup>104</sup> We recognised that the District Council's proposals for Moor Park would achieve an improved level of electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. Having given careful consideration to the representations received, including the concerns of Watford Rural Parish Council (detailed earlier), we proposed to adopt the District Council's proposals as part of our draft recommendations. The number of electors per councillor in Moor Park ward would be 12 per cent above the district average (4 per cent in 2001).

<sup>105</sup> At Stage Three we received 30 representations relating to our draft recommendations for Moor Park ward. The District Council, in a departure from its Stage One submission, proposed that the Woodcock Hill area (comprising 50 electors) should remain in Rickmansworth ward and not be transferred to Moor Park ward, on the grounds that it has more community identity with Harefield Road to the north, which would remain in Rickmansworth ward. It also proposed that the ward be renamed Moor Park & Eastbury. As a result of the draft recommendation to create a new Rickmansworth West ward, the Conservative Group also departed from its Stage One submission and opposed the draft recommendation to transfer the Moor Lane, London Road,

Batchworth Hill and Woodcock Hill area from Rickmansworth ward to Moor Park ward, on the grounds that these areas have little community identity with Moor Park. Councillors Prizeman, Crispin and Williams, the members for Rickmansworth ward, also changed their view and opposed the transfer of electors in this area on the grounds of community identity, and their view was supported by 20 local residents.

106 The District Council's modified proposals for Watford Rural parish area would also affect Moor Park ward. The proposal to slightly modify the boundary of Moor Park & Eastbury ward along the length of Oxhey Drive would not affect any additional electors.

107 Having considered all the representations received, we have decided to retain the Moor Lane, London Road, Batchworth Hill and Woodcock Hill area (comprising 431 electors) in Rickmansworth ward and not transfer the affected area to Moor Park ward. We also propose to rename the latter ward Moor Park & Eastbury to reflect the inclusion of the whole of the Eastbury area. The existing boundary between the two wards would be retained as far as the River Colne, but still provide an improved level of electoral equality than the current arrangements. As outlined earlier, we also propose to adopt the District Council's proposal that Oxhey Drive should form the eastern boundary of Moor Park & Eastbury ward. Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor in the proposed three-member Moor Park & Eastbury ward would be 2 per cent above the district average (5 per cent below in 2001).

### **Rickmansworth ward**

108 At Stage One the District Council put forward two proposals for Rickmansworth. First, it proposed that a new Rickmansworth West ward be established, comprising the area in Rickmansworth ward north of the River Colne, west of Rectory Road and south of the railway line, containing 496 electors; 896 electors in Chorleywood, east of Berry Lane, currently in Chorleywood ward; and an area with over 1,300 electors in the eastern part of Moneyhill ward, also east of Berry Lane. Second, it proposed the transfer of 314 electors from the area north of the railway line, around The Drive, The Mount and Valley Road, currently in Chorleywood ward, to a modified Rickmansworth ward. Both these proposals were opposed by the Conservative Group and Councillors Crispin, Prizeman and

Williams, and insofar as they affected Chorleywood ward, by Chorleywood Parish Council.

109 As indicated earlier, in our draft recommendations report we proposed no change to the boundary between Chorleywood ward and Rickmansworth ward north of the railway line. However, we did consult on the District Council's proposal for a new Rickmansworth West ward, comprising parts of Chorleywood, Moneyhill and Rickmansworth wards. Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Rickmansworth and Rickmansworth West wards would be 7 per cent below and 9 per cent above the average for the district respectively (7 per cent below and 1 per cent above in 2001).

110 At Stage Three we received 35 representations relating to Rickmansworth ward. As outlined earlier, the District Council proposed that the Woodcock Hill area should remain in Rickmansworth and not be transferred to Moor Park ward, while the Conservative Group and Councillors Prizeman, Crispin and Williams together with 23 local residents, opposed the transfer of electors in the Moor Lane, London Road, Batchworth Hill and Woodcock Hill areas from Rickmansworth to Moor Park.

111 One resident suggested the creation of a single-member ward for Batchworth, to include the area proposed for transfer to Moor Park together with those residents in Rickmansworth ward living south of the Grand Union Canal. Two residents proposed no change for Rickmansworth ward.

112 Councillors Prizeman, Crispin and Williams also opposed the transfer of the part of polling district BC east of Berry Lane, from Chorleywood ward to Rickmansworth ward, on the grounds that there was little support for this locally. The Conservative Group acknowledged local opposition to this proposal but recognised that "at this late stage it is just not possible to justify taking 896 electors out of Rickmansworth [West ward] and putting them back into the Chorleywood ward as the councillor ratios would then be massively out of balance".

113 A resident of Mill End ward supported the proposal that part of polling district BC should form part of Rickmansworth West ward.

114 Chorleywood Parish Council opposed the transfer of part of polling district BC to Rickmansworth West ward on community identity

grounds, and proposed the retention of polling district BC in Chorleywood for both district and parish purposes. Councillor Weitzmann, member for Chorleywood ward and Chair of Chorleywood Parish Council, supported the Parish Council's proposals.

115 Having considered all representations received, we propose modifying our draft recommendations for Rickmansworth ward, to retain part of the existing boundary with Moor Park ward as far as the River Colne, so that the 431 electors in the Moor Lane, London Road, Batchworth Hill and Woodcock Hill areas would remain in Rickmansworth ward and not be transferred to Moor Park ward (as outlined earlier). We recognise that electoral equality would not be as good as under the draft recommendations, but in the light of the representations received we are persuaded that this modification would better reflect local identities. We confirm our draft recommendation that a new ward be created for Rickmansworth West, comprising part of the existing Chorleywood, Moneyhill and Rickmansworth wards, as we are satisfied that any alternative arrangement would lead to an inferior level of electoral equality in the area. The number of electors represented by each of the two councillors for Rickmansworth ward would be 9 per cent above the district average (7 per cent in 2001), and in Rickmansworth West ward 9 per cent above the district average (1 per cent in 2001).

### **Moneyhill ward**

116 As indicated earlier, at Stage One the District Council proposed that an area with over 1,300 electors in Moneyhill ward, east of Berry Lane and Field Way, should form part of the new Rickmansworth West ward. The remaining (western) part of Moneyhill ward, together with some 300 electors west of Berry Lane in Chorleywood ward, should join most of the existing Mill End ward to form a combined Moneyhill & Mill End ward.

117 As part of our draft recommendations, we adopted the District Council's proposal that part of the existing Moneyhill ward east of Field Way and Berry Lane should form part of a new Rickmansworth West ward. The remainder of Moneyhill ward would join that part of Chorleywood ward which lies south of the railway

line and west of Berry Lane, to form a revised Moneyhill ward. The boundary of the revised Moneyhill ward would follow the existing boundary of Shepherd's Lane, continuing south-east along Church Lane, crossing Uxbridge Road to rejoin the existing boundary, going east, then north-west along Field Way and Berry Lane, as far as the railway line, and the existing boundary of the M25. The average number of electors represented by each of the two councillors for Moneyhill ward would be 9 per cent below the district average (3 per cent in 2001).

118 At Stage Three we received four further representations regarding Moneyhill ward. The District Council proposed that the ward be renamed Penn, after the founder of Pennsylvania who lived locally, because much of the area which is known locally as Moneyhill would be in the proposed Rickmansworth West ward.

119 Councillor Struck, member for Maple Cross & West Hyde ward, suggested William Penn ward as the new ward name, while a Mill End resident supported the proposed boundaries for the ward, but felt that a more appropriate name would be Berry or Tudor ward, after roads in the area.

120 Chorleywood Parish Council proposed that 896 electors be transferred from Moneyhill to Rickmansworth ward and opposed the creation of Rickmansworth West ward.

121 In the light of finalising our proposal for Rickmansworth ward detailed earlier, subject to proposing that the ward be renamed Penn, we confirm our draft recommendations for the ward as final. The number of electors per councillor in Penn ward would be 8 per cent below the district average (2 per cent in 2001).

### **Mill End and Maple Cross & West Hyde wards**

122 As stated earlier, at Stage One the District Council proposed that the area of Moneyhill ward west of Berry Lane, together with some 300 electors west of Berry Lane in Chorleywood ward, should join the existing Mill End ward to form a combined Moneyhill & Mill End ward. The southern part of the existing Mill End ward, comprising 253 electors from the area around Eastwick Crescent and Long Lane, should form part of an enlarged Maple Cross & West Hyde ward, with the new boundary running to the rear of Fotherley Road.

123 The Conservative Group and Chorleywood Parish Council both proposed that Mill End ward be combined with part of Maple Cross & West Hyde ward to form a new three-member ward called Maple Cross & Mill End, while the Heronsgate area (polling district CHA) of Maple Cross & West Hyde should join Chorleywood West ward.

124 Councillor Lamb, member for Rickmansworth county division, opposed the transfer of the area to the rear of Fotherley Road from Mill End ward to Maple Cross & West Hyde ward, as did a resident of Rickmansworth. Councillor Lamb suggested that if any changes were to be made to Maple Cross & West Hyde ward, then the Heronsgate area, with some 243 electors, should be included in Chorleywood West ward, and the revised Maple Cross & West Hyde ward should be represented by a single councillor. Chorleywood Parish Council also proposed that Heronsgate should transfer to Chorleywood West ward, but proposed an alternative ward boundary between Rickmansworth and Moneyhill, transferring some 790 electors from Moneyhill ward to a three-member Rickmansworth ward.

125 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that the existing wards of Maple Cross & West Hyde and Mill End be combined to form a three-member ward called Maple Cross & Mill End. We proposed modifying the boundary between the existing Mill End and Moneyhill wards, so that it would run along Shepherd's Lane, as at present, Church Lane and across Uxbridge Road until it meets the existing boundary. This would transfer some 310 electors from Mill End ward to the revised Moneyhill ward. Under the draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Maple Cross & Mill End ward would be 10 per cent above the district average (2 per cent in 2001).

126 At Stage Three we received eight representations regarding the wards of Mill End and Maple Cross & West Hyde. As stated earlier, the Conservative Group proposed that the Heronsgate area of Maple Cross & West Hyde ward should transfer to Chorleywood West ward on the grounds of community identity. This proposal was supported by the South West Hertfordshire Conservative Party, Councillor Lamb and a resident of Heronsgate. Councillor Weitzmann stated that "our enquiries have suggested that the people of Heronsgate consider themselves allied to Chorleywood, however I believe that needs to be tested by a public consultation". However, the Heronsgate Residents'

Association informed the District Council that it wished to remain part of Maple Cross & West Hyde ward. Chorleywood Parish Council proposed that the southern part of Stag Lane, currently in Maple Cross & West Hyde ward, be transferred to Chorleywood West ward as did Councillor Weitzmann. A resident of Mill End supported the proposed ward boundaries for the area but suggested that the modified ward be called Mill End & Maple Cross as Mill End is the larger and longer established of the two communities.

127 As stated earlier, having considered all representations received, we do not propose to transfer the Heronsgate area from Maple Cross & West Hyde ward to Chorleywood West ward due to the level of inequality which would result. Furthermore, this proposal did not form part of the District Council's submission at either Stages One or Three, and is not supported by the Heronsgate Residents' Association. Consequently, we propose no change to the existing boundary between Chorleywood West ward and Maple Cross & West Hyde ward, and to retain the proposed ward name. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final. The number of electors per councillor in Maple Cross & Mill End ward would be 9 per cent above the district average (1 per cent in 2001).

## Electoral Cycle

128 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that elections for Three Rivers District Council should continue to be held by thirds. At Stage Three no representations were received on this issue, and we confirm our draft recommendation as final.

## Conclusions

129 Having considered carefully all the evidence and representations received in response to our consultation report, we have decided substantially to endorse our draft recommendations, subject to the following modifications:

- (a) the existing boundary between Rickmansworth ward and Moor Park ward (the latter to be renamed Moor Park & Eastbury) as far as the River Colne, should be retained;
- (b) the boundary between the Ashridge and Oxhey Ridge parish wards (the latter to be renamed Eastbury) should run along Oxhey Drive as far as the existing boundary;

- (c) the boundary between Chorleywood (to be renamed Chorleywood East) and Chorleywood West parish and district wards should run along the middle of Dog Kennel Lane, to the west of Artichoke Dell and back along Dog Kennel Lane until it meets the railway line;
- (d) there should be no parish ward for Chorleywood Common, but a modification to the parish warding arrangements to provide an additional parish councillor for each of the parish wards of Chorleywood Cedars and Chorleywood East;
- (e) the boundary between the district and parish wards of Ashridge and Northwick should be modified and the existing ward names retained;
- (f) Nash Mills parish ward of Abbots Langley parish should be renamed Primrose Hill.

130 We have concluded that there should continue to be 48 councillors; that there should be 20 wards, as at present; that the boundaries of 18 of the existing wards should be modified; and that elections should continue to be held by thirds.

131 Figure 4 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, based on 1996 and 2001 electorate figures.

132 As Figure 4 shows, our recommendations would result in a reduction in the number of wards with electoral variances of more than 10 per cent from 10 to five, reducing further to two by 2001. We conclude that our recommendations would best

meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

### Final Recommendation

Three Rivers District Council should comprise 48 councillors serving 20 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 5, and illustrated on Map 2 and in Appendix A to this report. The Council should continue to hold elections by thirds.

## Parish Council Electoral Arrangements

133 In undertaking reviews of electoral arrangements, we are required to comply as far as is reasonably practicable with the provisions set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act. The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different district wards, it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward of the district. Accordingly, in our draft recommendations report, as a consequence of our proposals for the District Council's electoral arrangements, we proposed changes to the warding of the parishes of Abbots Langley, Chorleywood, Croxley Green and Watford Rural.

134 At Stage Three both Abbots Langley Parish Council and the District Council agreed with the proposed warding for the parish, subject to renaming Nash Mills parish ward Primrose Hill.

*Figure 4:  
Comparison of Current and Recommended Electoral Arrangements*

	1996 electorate		2001 projected electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	48	48	48	48
Number of wards	20	20	20	20
Average number of electors per councillor	1,237	1,237	1,333	1,333
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	10	5	12	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	3	2	8	0

Subject to this, we confirm our draft recommendation as final.

### **Final Recommendation**

Abbots Langley parish should comprise 15 councillors serving five parish wards: Abbots Langley (returning four councillors); Bedmond (one); Langleybury (four); Leavesden (five); and Primrose Hill (one). The parish ward boundaries of Abbots Langley, Langleybury and Leavesden should be modified to reflect the proposed District Council wards of the same names. The proposed Bedmond and Primrose Hill parish wards should together form Bedmond & Primrose Hill district ward. The proposals are illustrated on Maps A2 and A3 in Appendix A.

135 At Stage Three the District Council proposed revised parish warding arrangements for Chorleywood. Instead of the proposed Chorleywood Common parish ward, it proposed that the electorate south of Chenies Road and Rickmansworth Road and west of Dog Kennel Lane should form part of an enlarged Chorleywood West parish ward, while those north of Chenies Road, Rickmansworth Road and east of Dog Kennel Lane should form part of Chorleywood parish ward, to be renamed Chorleywood East. In order to retain electoral equality within the parish arrangements, the Council proposed an additional two parish councillors, one each for the wards of Chorleywood Cedars and Chorleywood East. The District Council said that “as a result of this proposal only the smallest parish ward (Quickwood) is outside the 10 per cent range from the average.”

136 The Parish Council noted that under the draft recommendations, the creation of a single-member Chorleywood Quickwood parish ward (which was a consequence of our draft recommendations for district warding arrangements) would produce a degree of electoral inequality at parish level. It proposed instead to retain the existing pattern of parish wards and representation in the area. Although the Parish Council recognised that “it might not be in the Commission’s remit to consider parish representation, it would seem an anomaly to strive for equal representation at district level while producing unequal representation at parish level”. The Conservative Group said that in view of “the strong local opposition ... there should not be any further changes [to the draft recommendations]

between Chorleywood and Rickmansworth wards at parish level”. Chorleywood & District Residents’ Association opposed the creation of the Chorleywood Common parish ward.

137 Having considered all representations received, we do not propose substantially to alter our draft recommendations, except to modify the proposed boundary between Chorleywood and Chorleywood West wards, in the Dog Kennel Lane area, in order better to reflect local identity and provide a clearer boundary. Consequently, we no longer propose the creation of a parish ward for Chorleywood Common, and instead recommend the parish warding arrangements put forward by the District Council with two additional parish councillors for Chorleywood parish, raising the total number from 15 to 17.

### **Final Recommendation**

Chorleywood Parish Council should comprise 17 councillors serving five parish wards: Chorleywood Cedars (returning two councillors); Chorleywood Chenies (three); Chorleywood East (six); Chorleywood Quickwood (one); and Chorleywood West (five). Chorleywood East parish ward would be coterminous with Chorleywood East district ward; Chorleywood Chenies and Chorleywood West parish wards would together form Chorleywood West district ward; Chorleywood Cedars parish ward would form part of Rickmansworth West ward; while Chorleywood Quickwood parish ward would form part of Penn district ward. The proposals are illustrated on Map A4 in Appendix A.

138 At Stage Three no further representations were received regarding the Croxley Green parish area and we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

### **Final Recommendation**

Croxley Green Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors serving three parish wards: Croxley Green (returning six councillors); Croxley Green North (five); and Croxley Green South (five). The parish ward boundaries should be modified to reflect the proposed District Council wards, as illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

139 At Stage Three Watford Rural Parish Council and the District Council submitted alternatives to their Stage One proposals, instead proposing that the existing boundary between Ashridge and Northwick district and parish wards should be modified, and that the ward names should be retained. Their proposed boundaries were marginally different. As confirmed earlier, we propose to adopt the Parish Council's modified boundary between Ashridge and Northwick district and parish wards, so that it would follow the centre of Prestwick Road until it meets the existing boundary, since we consider that it would provide a clearer boundary while maintaining good electoral equality.

140 The District Council considered that a more appropriate name for the proposed Oxhey Ridge parish ward would be Eastbury. It also proposed that the eastern boundary of Eastbury parish ward should run the length of Oxhey Drive to provide a more coherent boundary. Oxhey Wood House and Oxhey Wood Cottages would then be included in Eastbury parish ward, to form part of a modified Moor Park & Eastbury district ward.

141 As stated earlier, if a parish is to be divided between different district wards, it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward of the district. We therefore propose the creation of a parish ward for Eastbury. We have received no representations to increase the number of councillors on Watford Rural Parish Council, and therefore propose a redistribution of parish councillors, with one councillor representing Eastbury ward and three councillors representing Northwick ward.

142 In our draft recommendations report we proposed that there should be no change to the electoral cycle of parish councils in the district, and are confirming this as final.

### **Final Recommendation**

Elections for parish councils should continue to be held at the same time as elections for principal authorities.

### **Final Recommendation**

Watford Rural Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors serving six parish wards: Ashridge (returning two councillors); Carpenders Park (three); Hayling (three); Northwick (three); Oxhey Hall (three); and Eastbury (one). The boundaries of Ashridge, Hayling and Northwick wards should be modified to reflect the proposed District Council wards. Eastbury parish ward would form part of Moor Park & Eastbury district ward. Carpenders Park and Oxhey Hall would remain on their present boundaries. These proposals are illustrated on the large map.

Map 2:  
*The Commission's Final Recommendations for Three Rivers*

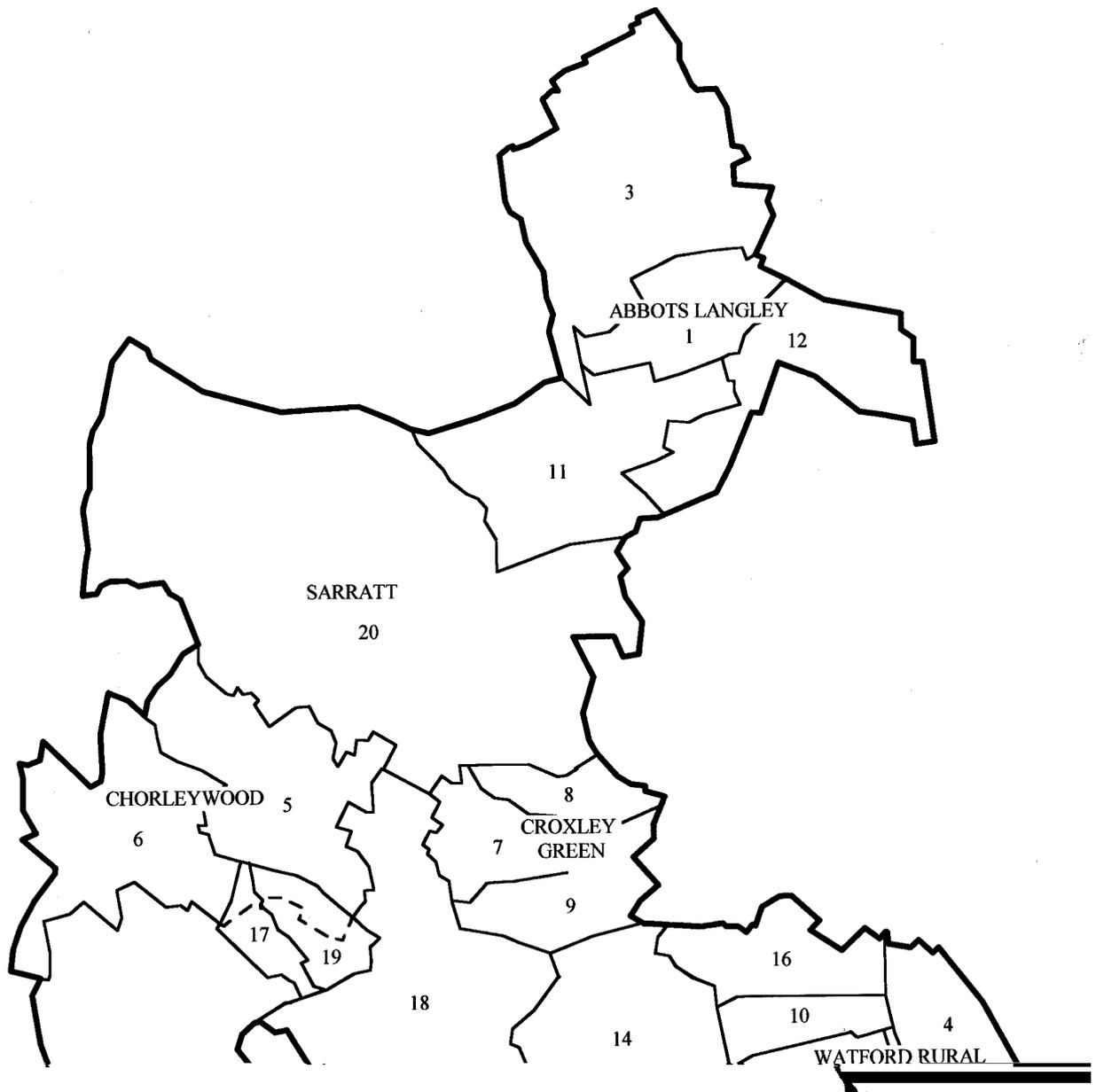


Figure 5:  
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Three Rivers

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Abbots Langley	3	3,660	1220	-1	3,678	1,226	-8
2 Ashridge	2	2,396	1198	-3	2,530	1,265	-5
3 Bedmond & Primrose Hill	2	2,318	1,159	-6	2,430	1,215	-9
4 Carpenders Park	3	3,747	1,249	1	3,981	1,327	0
5 Chorleywood East	2	2,831	1,416	14	3,097	1,549	16
6 Chorleywood West	3	4,107	1,369	11	4,122	1,374	3
7 Croxley Green	3	4,053	1,351	9	4,065	1,355	2
8 Croxley Green North	2	2,540	1,270	3	2,930	1,465	10
9 Croxley Green South	2	2,344	1,172	-5	2,876	1,438	8
10 Hayling	2	2,458	1,229	-1	2,460	1,230	-8
11 Langleybury	3	3,621	1,207	-2	3,639	1,213	-9
12 Leavesden	3	2,628	876	-29	4,353	1,451	9
13 Maple Cross & Mill End	3	4,047	1,349	9	4,053	1,351	1
14 Moor Park & Eastbury	3	3,776	1,259	2	3,794	1,265	-5
15 Northwick	3	3,281	1,094	-12	3,752	1,251	-6
16 Oxhey Hall	2	2,354	1,177	-5	2,490	1,245	-7
17 Penn	2	2,276	1,138	-8	2,616	1,308	-2
18 Rickmansworth	2	2,685	1,343	9	2,853	1,427	7
19 Rickmansworth West	2	2,704	1,352	9	2,704	1,352	1

*continued overleaf*

Figure 5 (continued):  
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Three Rivers

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
20 Sarratt	1	1,548	1,548	25	1,550	1,550	16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>59,374</b>	—	—	<b>63,973</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>1,237</b>	—	—	<b>1,333</b>	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Three Rivers District Council's submission.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

## 6. NEXT STEPS

<sup>143</sup> Having completed our review of electoral arrangements in Three Rivers and submitted our final recommendations to the Secretary of State, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 1992.

<sup>144</sup> It now falls to the Secretary of State to decide whether to give effect to our recommendations, with or without modification, and to implement them by means of an order. Such an order will not be made earlier than six weeks from the date that our recommendations are submitted to the Secretary of State.

<sup>145</sup> All further correspondence concerning our recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to:

The Secretary of State  
Local Government Review  
Department of the Environment,  
Transport and the Regions  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU



# APPENDIX A

## Final Recommendations for Three Rivers: Detailed Mapping

The following maps illustrate the Commission's proposed ward boundaries for the Three Rivers area.

**Map A1** illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries within the district and indicates the areas which are shown in more detail on Maps A2, A3 and A4 and the large map inserted in the back of the report.

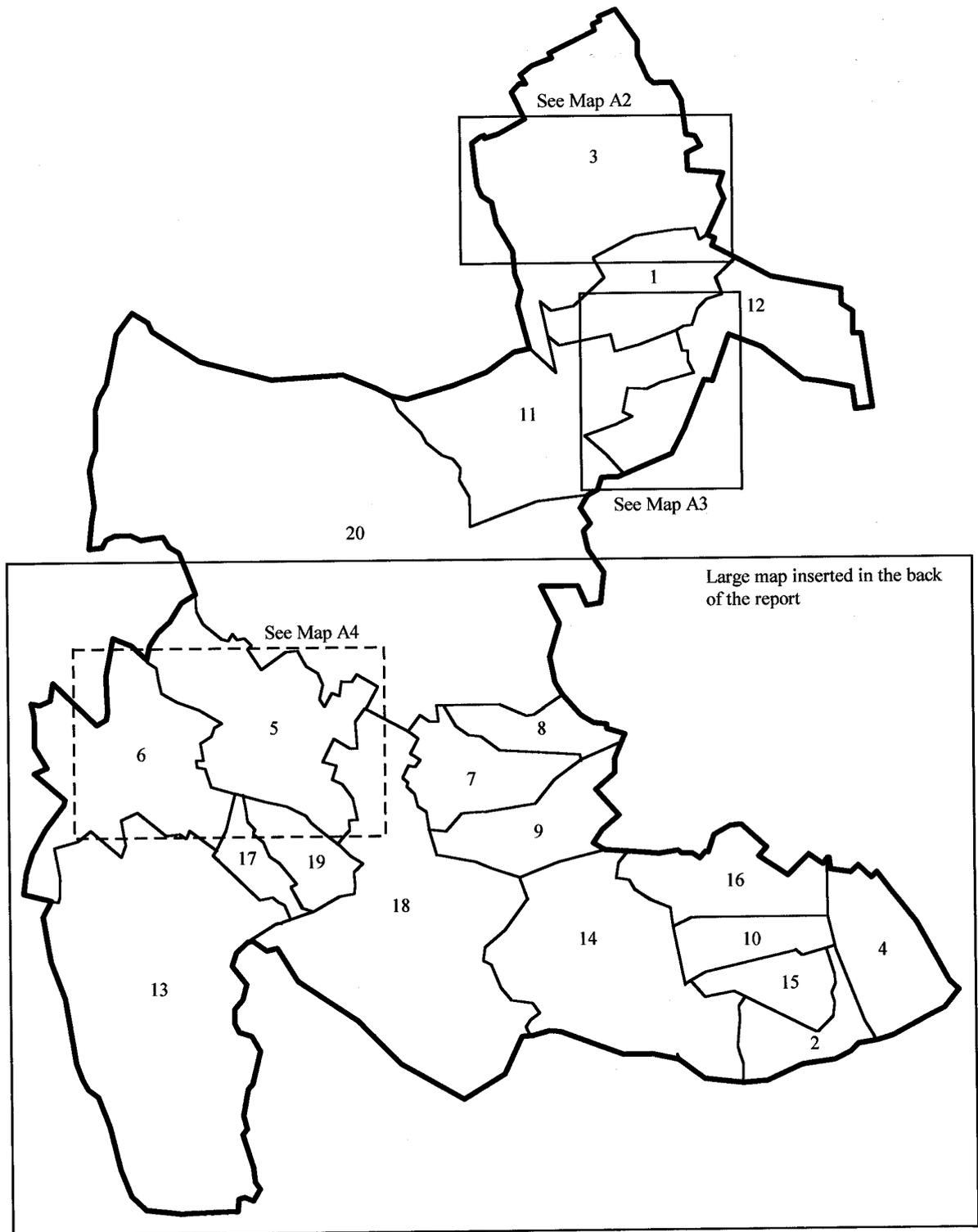
**Map A2** illustrates the proposed district ward boundaries between Abbots Langley and Bedmond & Primrose Hill, and the proposed parish ward boundaries between Abbots Langley, Bedmond and Primrose Hill.

**Map A3** illustrates the proposed boundaries between Abbots Langley ward, Langleybury ward and Leavesden ward.

**Map A4** illustrates the proposed warding arrangements for Chorleywood parish.

The **large map** inserted in the back of this report illustrates the proposed warding arrangements for the southern part of the district.

Map A1:  
*The Commission's Final Recommendations for Three Rivers: Key Map*

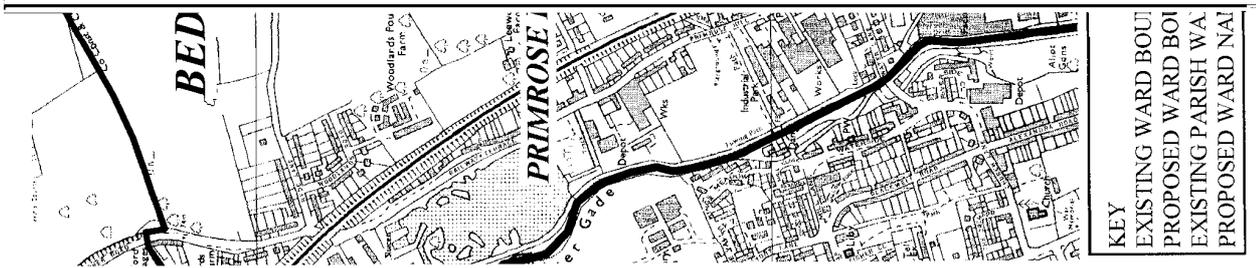
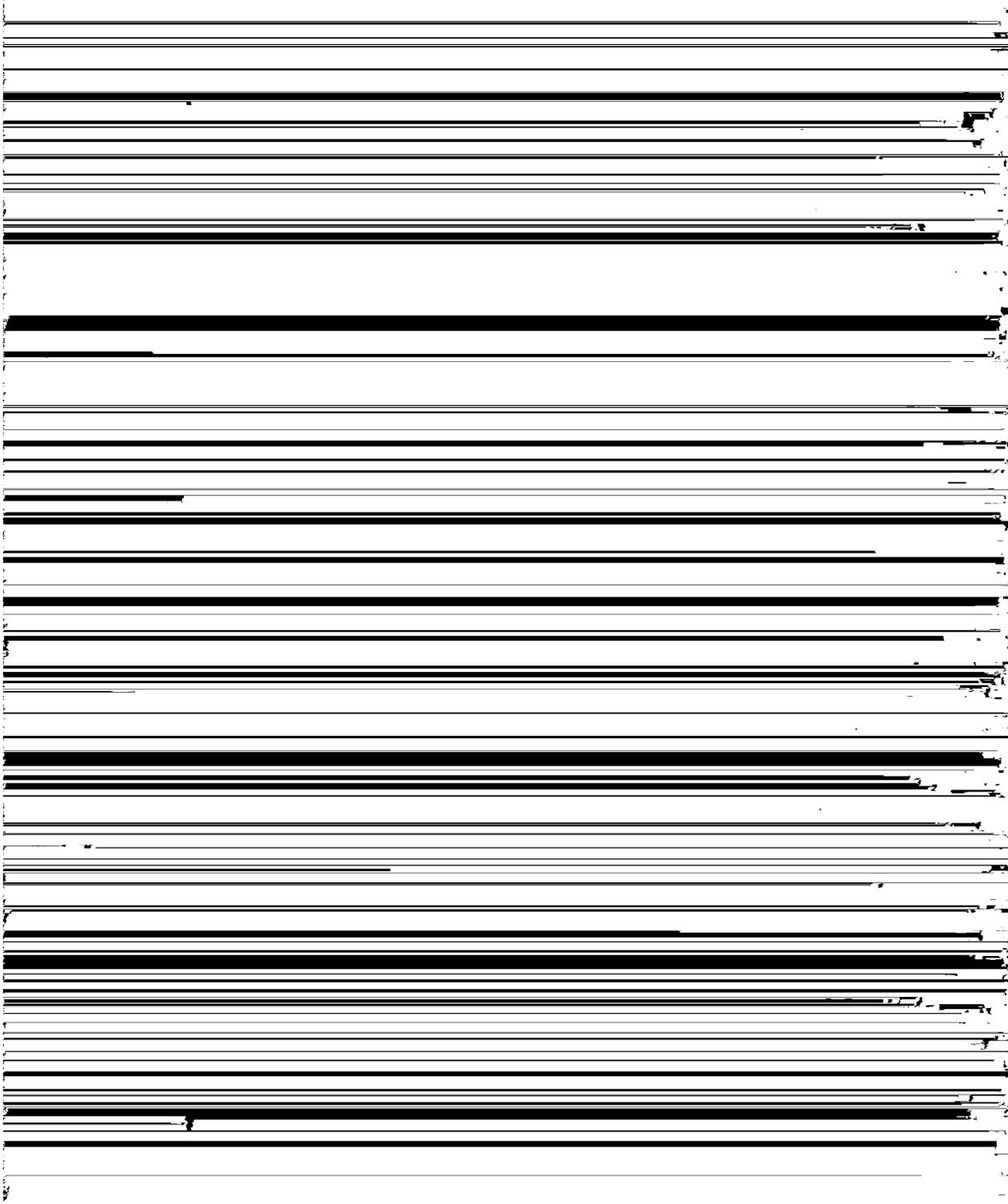


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Key to Wards

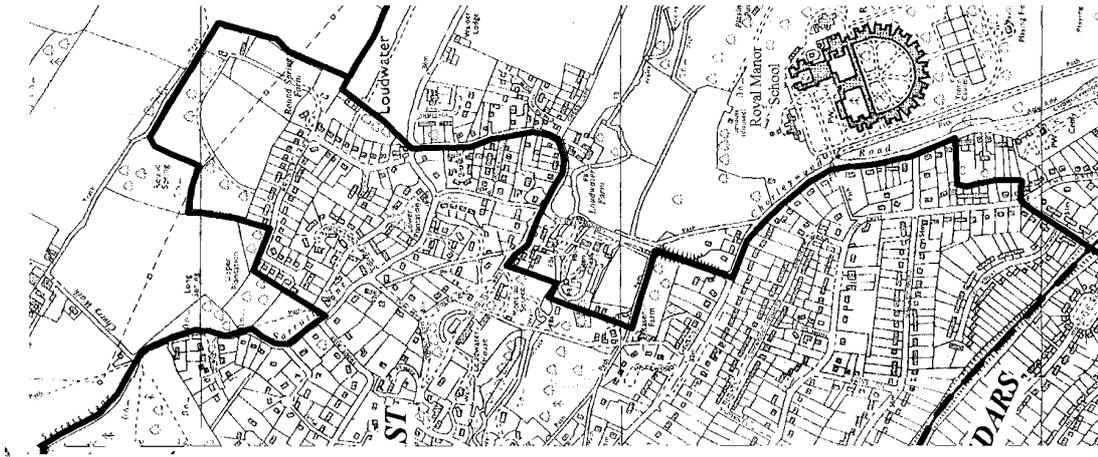
- |                             |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Abbots Langley            | 8 Croxley Green North       | 15 Northwick          |
| 2 Ashridge                  | 9 Croxley Green South       | 16 Oxhey Hall         |
| 3 Bedmond and Primrose Hill | 10 Hayling                  | 17 Penn               |
| 4 Carpenders Park           | 11 Langleybury              | 18 Rickmansworth      |
| 5 Chorleywood East          | 12 Leavesden                | 19 Rickmansworth West |
| 6 Chorleywood West          | 13 Maple Cross and Mill End | 20 Sarratt            |
| 7 Croxley Green             | 14 Moor Park and Eastbury   |                       |

Map A2:  
*Proposed District Ward Boundaries between Abbots Langley and Bedmond & Primrose Hill,  
and Proposed Parish Ward Boundaries between Abbots Langley, Bedmond and Primrose Hill*

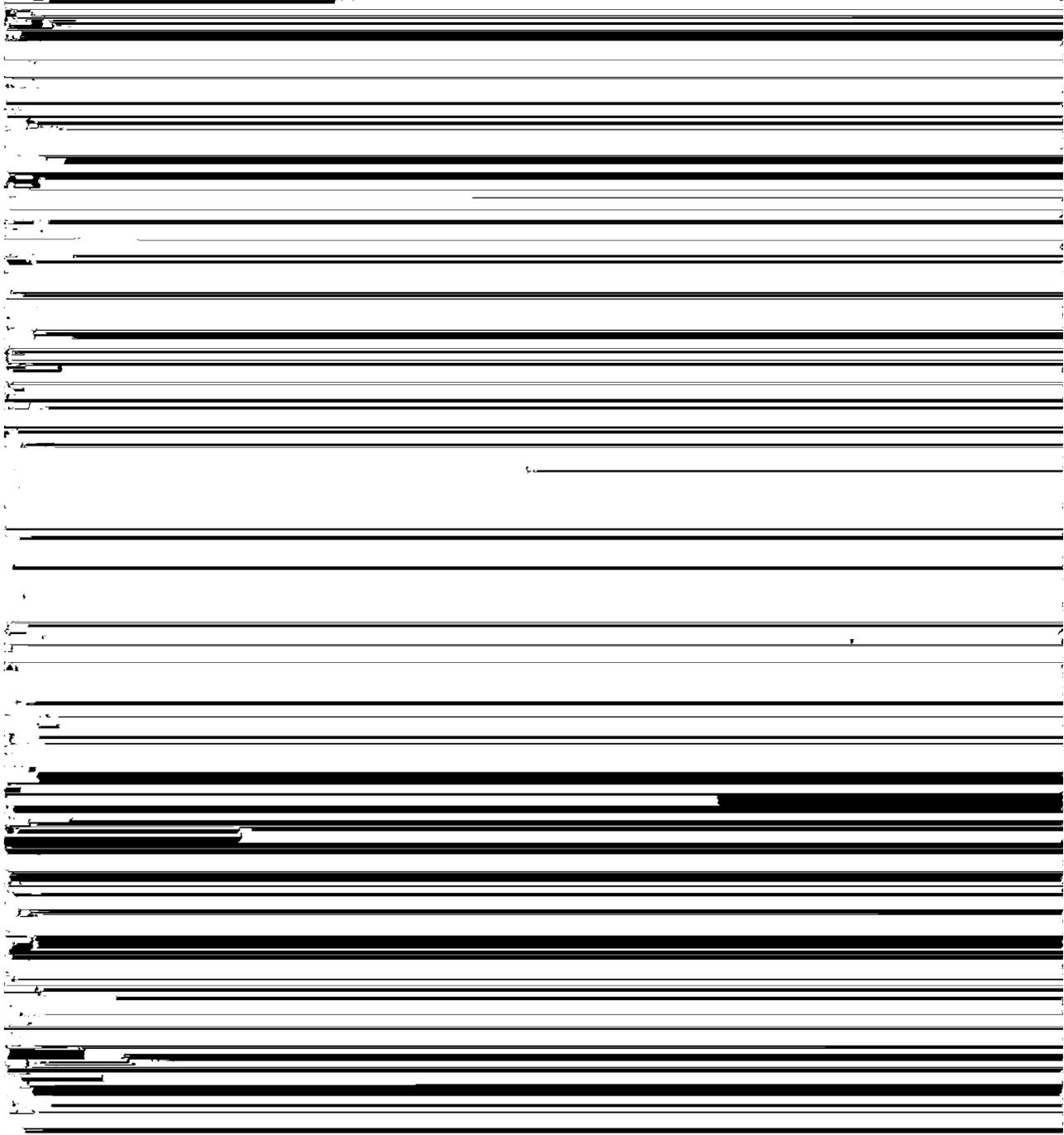




Map A4:  
*Proposed Warding Arrangements for Chorleywood Parish*



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# APPENDIX B

## Draft Recommendations for Three Rivers

Our final recommendations, detailed in Figures 1 and 5, differ from those we put forward as draft recommendations only in respect of Ashridge (referred to as Prestwick in our draft recommendations report), Chorleywood East (Chorleywood), Chorleywood West, Moor Park & Eastbury (Moor Park), Northwick (Oxhey Woods) and Rickmansworth wards, where our proposals were as set out in Figure B1. The only other change from our draft recommendations is to rename Moneyhill ward as Penn.

*Figure B1:  
The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas*

<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>
Chorleywood	2	Chorleywood district and parish ward (part)
Chorleywood West	3	Chorleywood district and parish ward (part); Chorleywood West district ward (Chorleywood Chenies and Chorleywood West parish wards)
Moor Park	3	Ashridge district and parish ward (part); Moor Park district ward; Rickmansworth district ward (part)
Oxhey Woods	2	Hayling district and parish ward (part); Northwick district and parish ward (part)
Prestwick	3	Ashridge district and parish ward (part); Northwick district and parish ward (part)
Rickmansworth	2	Rickmansworth district ward (part)

Figure B2:

*The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Number of Councillors and Electors by Ward*

<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Electorate (1996)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>	<b>Electorate (2001)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>
Chorleywood	2	2,673	1,337	8	2,931	1,466	10
Chorleywood West	3	4,272	1,424	15	4,287	1,429	7
Moor Park	3	4,158	1,386	12	4,176	1,392	4
Oxhey Woods	2	2,320	1,160	-6	2,440	1,220	-8
Prestwick	3	3,357	1,119	-10	3,840	1,280	-4
Rickmansworth	2	2,304	1,152	-7	2,472	1,236	-7

*Source: Electorate figures are based on Three Rivers District Council's submission.*



