

Cheshire East

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Comment text:

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached Cheshire East Council's submission to the Draft Recommendations consultation stage of the ongoing Cheshire East Electoral Review. This sets out the Council's consultation response, as determined by its Electoral and Polling District Review Sub-Committee. We can confirm that the Sub-Committee's determinations do not appear to need referring to the Full Council meeting that is taking place on 11 December, two days after the consultation period ends. Therefore, the attached response can be regarded as our final one, unless we let you know to the contrary before your 16 December deadline for confirming any changes made by Full Council.

The submission consists of three pdf documents:

- i) The main submission document (36 pages).
- ii) Annex A (16 pages), which includes detailed maps to which Section 3 of the main submission document refers.
- iii) Annex B (12 pages), which is included to support and provide further context for the Borough Council's comments on Knutsford warding. This annex consists of Knutsford Town Council's pre-consultation survey submission to the Council's recent (2018-22) Community Governance Review.

Today I also intend to forward, in a separate email (due to file size limitations) a fourth file, which has the current polling district electronic boundary lines (in geopackage format). The Council has submitted this file to the Commission before (as one of the data files requested by the Commission in late 2023, before the first round of public consultation). However, we will submit this file again, in case that helps the Commission to understand the exact Borough ward boundary line adjustment that the Council is proposing around one individual property in Sandbach. (This matter is covered in detail on pages 27-29 of the main submission document and the current polling district line shows the future Borough ward line that the Council is proposing.)

We would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of these documents as soon as is convenient.

If you have any queries about this submission, please contact me, Laura Bateman or Brian Reed.

Regards,

Nick

Attached Documents:

- cecdraftrecssubmission_annex_b_knutsfordtc_cgr2020proposals.pdf
- cecdraftrecssubmission_annex_a_maps_final_20241202.pdf
- cecdraftrecssubmission_maindoc_final_20241202.pdf

Cheshire East Council Electoral Review Draft Recommendations Consultation Submission

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Technical notes	5
2.1	Terminology	5
2.2	Use of electoral forecast data in this submission	6
3	Comments on Borough and parish warding	7
3.1	Alderley Edge & Chorley	7
3.2	Bollington and Macclesfield	9
3.3	Knutsford	20
3.4	Sandbach (including Wheelock & Winterley)	27
3.5	Other wards	32

1 Introduction

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is responsible for determining the electoral arrangements of local authorities across England. Each year, the Commission calculates the level of electoral inequality in each local authority area, in order to establish whether there is a need for an Electoral Review. Electoral inequality arises if electors are either over or under-represented by their councillor(s) when compared with average levels of representation across the authority. The current Electoral Review of Cheshire East is taking place because the changes in the Borough's resident population and electorate (largely due to the size and geographical locations of new housing developments in the last 10-15 years) meant that electoral inequality increased to the point where it met the Commission's criteria for a new Review.

The Council's Corporate Policy Committee appointed the Electoral Review Sub-Committee (since renamed the Electoral and Polling District Review Sub-Committee) to make recommendations upon all matters relating to the Commission's Review.

Officers have provided advice to Members throughout the Review process, taking account of the Commission's own published guidance and seeking additional clarification from the Commission on various matters related to the Review.

The Council is keen to ensure that the current Review produces electoral arrangements that:

- enable the Council to deliver public services effectively and efficiently;
- allow an even division of councillors' workloads, taking into factors such as rurality and deprivation, as well as the numbers of electors;
- reflect the interests and identities of the Borough's communities;
- give electors a fair (broadly equal) say in the Council's decision-making and resource allocation.

The Council therefore welcomed the opportunity, at earlier stages of this Review, to submit proposals to the Commission on:

- the future council size (the number of councillors);
- future warding arrangements for the Borough, including where ward boundaries should be drawn, how many councillors should represent each ward, and ward names.

For the same reason, the Council further welcomes the public consultation (from 1 October to 9 December 2024) on the Commission's Draft Recommendations for the Council's new electoral arrangements.

The Council is encouraged by the facts that:

- the Draft Recommendations’ proposed Borough wards are largely based on the proposals that it (the Council) submitted to the Commission in March 2024¹, during this Review’s first public consultation stage (on future warding arrangements).
- the Commission still takes the view that Cheshire East should in future have 82 councillors, which is the same number as now, and also the number that the Council itself had proposed in its initial (December 2023) submission.

The Council further notes the Draft Recommendations’ proposals for changing the boundaries and councillor numbers for some ‘parish’ wards (the wards into which town councils and some parish councils are divided), so that parish warding arrangements align with the new Borough wards.

The Council is content with the Draft Recommendations’ proposals for the vast majority of Borough wards and with many of the Commission’s recommended changes to parish warding.

However, there are other proposals within the Draft Recommendations that the Council urges the Commission to reconsider and modify accordingly. Some of these proposals, the Council believes, require only slight modifications to the Draft Recommendations, but others would involve more fundamental revisions. This Submission explains why the Council believes those particular Draft Recommendations proposals should be revisited, and offers alternative proposals where possible, along with supporting evidence.

The Submission also comments on one aspect of the Draft Recommendations (the proposed choice of ‘Alderley Edge & Chorley’ as the name for the expanded Alderley Edge Borough ward) that the Council now accepts, but which differs from what the Council’s original submission proposed. The commentary on this explains the reasons for the Council’s change of view and offers additional supporting evidence beyond that cited in the Draft Recommendations report.

The rest of this Submission is structured as follows:

- Section 2 has some technical notes relating to this Submission. These cover:
 - terminology (the definitions and abbreviations used in the Submission);
 - issues arising from the Commission’s use of revised electoral figures that differ slightly from the original electoral data produced by the Council for the purposes of this Electoral Review.
- Section 3 sets out the Council’s comments on the Draft Recommendations for Borough wards, and the knock-on changes the Commission is proposing to parish wards. This is broken into separate subsections for each of the

¹ These submitted warding proposals were approved by Full Council on 27 February 2024.

geographical areas on which the Council wishes to comment: Alderley Edge & Chorley; Bollington and Macclesfield; Knutsford; Sandbach; and warding issues elsewhere in the Borough.

Annex A (the ‘maps’ annex) is a separate document accompanying this main report. This Annex includes detailed maps to which Section 3 of the main report refers. (The references to these maps are highlighted in bold, to make them easier to identify within the main report’s text.)

Annex B is another separate document, included to support and provide further context for the Borough Council’s comments on Knutsford warding. Annex B consists of Knutsford Town Council’s pre-consultation survey submission to the Council’s recent (2018-22) Community Governance Review.

2 Technical notes

2.1 Terminology

In the interest of concise wording, this consultation response to the Draft Recommendations is referred to as the Draft Recommendations Consultation Submission, or ‘Consultation Submission’ (or the/ this ‘Submission’) for short. For the sake of clarity, other terms, definitions and abbreviations used in this Consultation Submission are listed below.

- **‘The Borough’, ‘The Borough Council’ or ‘The Council’**: Cheshire East Council.
- **‘Borough ward’**: one of the wards into which Cheshire East is divided.
- **‘CGR’**: Community Governance Review. Except where specified otherwise, the CGR referred to is the review of town and parish councils’ governance arrangements that was undertaken by Cheshire East Council between 2018 and 2022. The changes arising from this CGR’s final recommendations were implemented in April 2023.
- **‘The Commission’**: the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
- **‘Draft Recommendations’**: the Commission’s recently-published (October 2024) Draft Recommendations on Cheshire East and the associated report.
- **‘Parish ward’ or ‘town/ parish council ward’**: the wards into which (some) town and parish councils are divided.
- **‘Properties’**: except where specified otherwise, this refers only to residential properties, not to commercial or industrial premises or public buildings.
- The **‘Review’**: the Commission’s current Electoral Review of Cheshire East.
- **‘Seats’**: the number of councillors representing a particular electoral area, such as a parish ward, town or parish council, Borough ward or the Borough Council.
- **‘Variance’**: the percentage difference between the electors per seat ratio for a given Borough ward and the Borough average.
- **‘Warding Proposal Report’**: the Council’s submitted (March 2024) response to the first (warding) public consultation stage of this Review.

2.2 Use of electoral forecast data in this submission

For its Electoral Reviews, the Commission requires local authorities to produce electoral forecasts, to help inform the development of consultation stage submissions (both the Council's and those of other consultees) and to help inform the Commission's recommendations.

In late 2023, the Borough Council submitted its electoral forecasts to the Commission. In keeping with the Commission's requirements, these forecasts cover the period from 2023 (the base year for the Review) to 2030. The forecasts cover all electoral tiers (apart from parliamentary constituencies), from polling districts up to (current) Borough wards and the Borough as a whole.

The Commission checked and approved the Council's submitted forecasts. The Commission then published these forecasts on the Cheshire East Review page of its website in January 2024, to coincide with the public launch of the Review and the start of its first (warding) public consultation stage.

However, the Council is aware that the Commission has subsequently produced slightly revised electorate figures for the 2023-30 period and is now using these revised numbers to inform its decision-making.² The Council notes the Commission's explanation of these revisions, in paragraph 26 of the Draft Recommendations report:

"There can be very slight differences between the electorate figures published on our website at the beginning of the review and the electorate figures published in this report. However, these are very minor and do not impact on our recommendations."

The Council has compared the Commission's revised electoral statistics against the Council's original figures and is satisfied that the differences are indeed relatively small.

To ensure maximum consistency with the Commission's approach and the data it is now using for its decision-making, the electoral statistics cited in this Consultation Submission are taken or derived, wherever practical, from the Commission's revised figures for its recommended Borough wards. However, for some of the parish wards and other small geographical areas discussed in this Submission, this is not possible and the Council's original figures are used instead, as a proxy measure. Where this Submission presents tables of electoral data, or quotes electoral statistics within its commentary, it therefore includes a footnote or similar aside, specifying whether the figures are the Council's original ones or the Commission's revised ones.

² However, as of mid-October 2024, the electoral forecast data file published on the Commission's Cheshire East Review page still contained the original figures submitted by the Council. The Council therefore assumes that the only published documents containing any of the Commission's revised electoral figures will be its Draft Recommendations and Final Recommendations reports.

3 Comments on Borough and parish warding

3.1 Alderley Edge & Chorley

The Council notes the Commission's agreement with the Council's warding consultation stage proposal for this Borough ward's boundary: namely that the existing Alderley Edge Borough ward be expanded in size, to include the parish of Chorley.

However, whilst the Council's original submission proposed keeping the existing Borough ward name of 'Alderley Edge', the Commission's draft recommendation is to change the name to 'Alderley Edge & Chorley'.

Having considered the Draft Recommendations report's rationale for the proposed name, and the warding consultation stage submissions from Chorley Parish Council and Cllr Durbar (one of the Chorley parish councillors), the Borough Council accepts the Commission's recommended name.

The Borough Council believes that this name would reflect the identities and interests of local communities, as:

- It would reflect the wishes and arguments of Chorley Parish Council and the submission from Cllr Durbar, which expressed a desire for Chorley to retain its identity. Local Members have indicated that local residents too are keen to preserve a sense of the parish's separate identity.
- The Borough Council's recent (2018-22) Community Governance Review (CGR) – with 75 responses from Chorley parish to the CGR's draft recommendations – revealed very strong evidence of the parish having a separate identity to Alderley Edge and neighbouring parishes: for example, Chorley Village Hall providing a focal point for community activities.
- Chorley is a distinct settlement, on the opposite of the Alderley Edge bypass (Melrose Way) to Alderley Edge village.

The recommended name would also help to secure effective and convenient local government. In particular, the current Borough wards' names indicate which one of them ('Wilmslow West & Chorley') contains Chorley, reducing the potential for confusion among local residents as to which Borough ward they are in. If the expanded Alderley Edge kept its existing name, there could be uncertainty as to whether Chorley would be part of the new (post-2027) Wilmslow West Borough ward, or part of another neighbouring new ward. Dealing with such confusion and redirecting residents to the right Borough ward councillor could be a

frequent occurrence under such a scenario, as, for a rural parish, Chorley has a significant number of electors (378 in 2023 and 380 forecast for 2030³).

³ These electoral figures are taken from the Council's originally submitted data, as the Commission's revised figures are not available (and cannot be derived for) small geographical areas like Chorley parish.

3.2 Bollington and Macclesfield

The Borough Council welcomes the fact that the Commission has accepted in full the Council's proposals for the Macclesfield East and Macclesfield Hurdsfield Borough wards. It also welcomes the fact that the Commission has largely accepted the Council's proposals for the Bollington & Rainow Borough ward (except for the boundary line between that ward and Macclesfield Tytherington Borough ward).

However, the Borough Council wishes to express its deep concern over some of the Commission's proposed Borough and parish warding for the northern (Tytherington) part of the town – which of course has knock-on consequences for the Draft Recommendations' proposals for warding in some of the central, western and southern parts of the town. More specifically, the Borough Council is very concerned about:

- the Commission's warding proposals for the areas covering the northern section of Springwood Way (the properties along, or accessed from, Livesley Road and Webbs Close) and the implications for parish warding in the Tytherington area, with the Commission's recommended Macclesfield Springwood parish ward having an extremely low electors per seat ratio;
- the Commission's proposals for Bollinbrook (the community broadly corresponding to polling district 4AE1);
- the Commission's proposals for the Beechwood Mews and Beech Farm Drive areas (within polling districts 4AA3 and 4AA4);
- the Commission's proposals for the area covering polling district 4AC1 (Coare Street, Brynton Road, etc);
- the comparatively high electors per seat ratio for the Commission's recommended Macclesfield Central parish ward, which does not reflect its unique workload challenges.

The Council's response to the Bollington & Macclesfield warding proposals deals with its concerns about each of these areas in turn. (However, the Macclesfield Central parish ward issue is raised alongside the Springwood Way issues, as both relate to electoral inequality between Macclesfield parish wards.)

The Council also understands from local Members that many residents of the current Tytherington Borough ward are strongly opposed to the Commission's proposed changes to warding in their area, and that their councillors are compiling evidence of this to include in separate submissions to this Draft Recommendations consultation.

Given this, the Council wonders which parts of the current Tytherington Borough ward the Commission included in its site visit to Macclesfield (besides Bollinbrook, as noted in paragraph 106 of the Draft Recommendations report), and how many local residents it consulted during that visit.

In addition, the comments in this subsection of the Council's response include a reminder of (and details of the background to) informal assurances the Council received from the Commission regarding any future Borough ward boundaries in the Local Plan site LPS 15 (Gawsworth Moss) area. The LPS 15 site marks the southwestern extent of the Commission's recommended Macclesfield South Borough ward.

Northern section of Springwood Way (properties along/ off Livesley Road and Webbs Close)

A key limitation with the Commission's recommended warding for Macclesfield is that it requires the creation of a new parish ward, Macclesfield Springwood, with very few electors. This is because the Commission's (draft) recommended Bollington & Rainow Borough ward would extend as far south and west as the southern boundary of Tytherington Business Park and Tytherington Lane/ Manchester Road – and would therefore split an existing parish ward (Macclesfield Tytherington) between two Borough wards. As Borough wards have to consist of whole parishes or parish wards, the affected current parish ward would have to be subdivided along the new Borough ward boundary line.

Based on the Council's original data, it is estimated that the Commission's recommended Macclesfield Springwood parish ward would have only 222 electors as of 2030, as shown in Table 3.2a below.⁴ (To provide further context here, **Map 1 in Annex A** shows the areas that each of the Commission's recommended parish wards would cover.) This parish ward would be limited to the areas marked as 'A' and 'B' in **Map 2 of Annex A**. (In this map, Area A shows the part of the would-be Springwood parish ward containing the properties on or accessed via Tytherington Lane; Area B shows the part containing the properties off Springwood Way.) The rest of the recommended Macclesfield Tytherington Borough ward would be a separate parish ward, also with its own councillor, but would (as of 2030) have around 4,600 electors (4,618 based on the Commission's revised electorate figures and a

⁴ The figure of 222 is based on the Council's original electoral data, as the Commission's revised figures are not available for this small area. The number of electors in this subdivision of polling district 4AA2 was estimated by counting the number of existing residential properties in that subdivision (using Ordnance Survey data), then adding on expected net housing completions in that subdivision up to 2030, and then multiplying the resulting 2030 housing stock estimate by a modelled estimate of the average number of electors per residential property (as of 2030) for the (current) local Borough ward. As indicated in the legend box for **Map 2 of Annex A**, the Council's calculations put the number of electors in Area A (the properties on or accessed via Tytherington Lane) at 34 as of 2030 and the number in Area B (the rest of the Commission's proposed Macclesfield Springwood parish ward) at 188.

very similar number – 4,583 - if the Council's original figures are used). Furthermore, using the Borough Council's original data, the electors per seat ratios for all of the other Macclesfield parish wards would, under the Commission's recommendations, be between 3,100 (Macclesfield South) and 4,500 (Macclesfield Central), as Table 3.2a also shows. The contrasting numbers of electors for these Macclesfield parish wards highlights the extreme electoral inequality involved, with one parish ward having an electors per seat ratio of less than 225, whilst all the others had ratios in excess of 3,100 and two of these had ratios in excess of 4,400.

Table 3.2a: Macclesfield Town Council – Commission's (draft) recommended warding

Parish ward area	Proposed number of seats	Electors (2023)	Electors (2030)	Ratio of electors to seats (2023)	Ratio of electors to seats (2030)
Broken Cross & Upton	2	8,079	8,325	4,040	4,163
Central	2	8,215	8,914	4,108	4,457
East	1	3,620	4,106	3,620	4,106
Hurdsfield	1	3,428	3,413	3,428	3,413
South	2	5,418	6,266	2,709	3,133
Springwood	1	223	222	223	222
Tytherington	1	4,596	4,583	4,596	4,583
West & Ivy	2	7,506	7,829	3,753	3,915
Whole Council	12	41,085	43,658	3,424	3,638

Note: The electoral figures in the above table are taken from the Council's originally submitted data, as the Commission's revised figures are not generally available (and cannot generally be derived for) individual town and parish councils and their (recommended future) parish wards.

As such, the Commission's proposed Borough warding in the Tytherington area – and the resulting creation of a very small Springwood parish ward with under 225 electors – fails to satisfy the statutory criterion relating to electoral equality.

In addition, the Borough Council believes that this (draft) recommended Borough and parish warding fails to satisfy the Commission's other two statutory criteria. It would not secure convenient and effective local government because the electors per seat ratio would be extremely low for an area (Springwood) that is small, compact, relatively affluent area and has no unusually challenging workload issues, but the ratio would be many times greater for some parish wards with significant deprivation or other factors that add substantially to workload levels. The Macclesfield West & Ivy parish ward, which includes a neighbourhood that ranks amongst England's most deprived 20%, would have a ratio more than 17 times as high as Springwood's. The Central parish ward, where the challenge of empty commercial premises is an unusually demanding workload issue, would have a ratio more

than 20 times as high as Springwood's. With the ratios for the recommended parish wards being so much at odds with their respective workload levels, it is likely some town councillors would be too heavily overloaded with local casework to contribute effectively to some key aspects of Town Council decision-making, whilst the Springwood councillor would have a shortage of work relating to their parish ward. **The Borough Council wishes to emphasise here that its concerns over the Commission's recommended parish wards electors per seat ratios relate to the Macclesfield Central parish ward's very high ratio (for the reasons set out above), as well as the extremely low ratio for Macclesfield Springwood.**

There are other respects in which the tiny Springwood parish ward would create inconvenient and ineffective local government. Given its electorate of little more than 200, securing enough signatures for an election candidate could be challenging. Furthermore, it is very likely (bearing in mind likely voter turnout) that the number of votes cast in this parish ward would be below 100 (and possibly significantly below 100, particularly if a by-election is involved). This would make recounts more likely in the event of a contested election.

There is also extensive evidence to demonstrate that the residents in the would-be Macclesfield Springwood parish ward have closer ties to - and more shared interests with - the rest of the current Tytherington Borough ward than with the rest of the Draft Recommendations' Bollington & Rainow Borough ward. In particular:

- The residential properties in the proposed Macclesfield Springwood parish ward (those on or accessed from Livesley Road and Webbs Close) are of similar character and age to those in the adjacent Tytherington estates further south and west. Both the properties in Kingsfield Park (those off the northern section of Springwood Way, such as Livesley Road, which the Commission would place in the Bollington & Rainow Borough ward) and those in Mulberry Park (those along and off the southern section of Springwood Way, such as Cotton Crescent, which the Commission would place in its Macclesfield Tytherington Borough ward) are relatively new builds and do not have separate identities or interests to each other.
- Tytherington Business Park includes a busy café that acts as an important social centre, strengthening the community ties between residents who live on either side (north and south) of the Business Park. However, under the Commission's proposals, these residents would be placed in different Borough wards.
- The Business Park also has a private nursery, where children and parents from houses on both sides (north and south) of the Business Park will meet and form or strengthen social bonds.

- Younger children from the properties on and around Livesley Road go to Marlborough Primary School, which is in the current (and in the Commission's proposed new) Tytherington Borough ward, while older children from that area commonly attend Tytherington High School. They can do so via a route that (unlike journeys into Bollington over the Silk Road) avoids crossing any busy roads. (There is also a nursery on the Marlborough Primary School site.) Again, this contributes to the development of social bonds between residents of the Livesley Road area and those in the parts of Tytherington south of the Business Park.
- The Silk Road and a large area of farmland lie between the Livesley Road area and the town of Bollington. Services in Bollington town centre are relatively distant on foot, unlike those in Tytherington.
- Much of the proposed Bollington & Rainow Borough ward (specifically the parishes of Rainow and Pott Shrigley) is very rural in character – whereas the properties on (or off) Livesley Road are within a large urban conurbation (Macclesfield). On this basis, the Council believes that the Commission's recommended Bollington & Rainow Borough ward would, by extending the ward boundary so far into the Macclesfield conurbation, result in a ward whose communities had somewhat dissimilar interests and identities.

The Commission's Draft Recommendations report correctly notes that the last Community Governance Review received evidence of ties between the residents in the Livesley Road area and the part of Bollington parish north of the Silk Road - and consequently decided to leave the parish boundary unchanged. The CGR draft recommendations' specific proposals included moving the parish boundary to the Silk Road, so that all the properties along and accessed via Livesley Road would be within Macclesfield parish. However, of all the CGR draft recommendations consultation responses, there were only ten that came from Bollington parish residents (or the Town Council) and which responded to questions about the CGR draft recommendations' specific proposals. Of these ten responses, six (including a detailed submission from the Town Council) disagreed overall with those proposals, while two agreed and the remaining two offered no view. To put this in a broader context, the CGR draft recommendations consultation prompted 55 responses from Macclesfield's residents, councillors and community groups and there were some individual town and parish council areas for which there were hundreds of submissions. Therefore, the number of CGR consultation responses challenging the CGR draft recommendations' main premise (that the Livesley Road area's community ties and interests are with Macclesfield rather than Bollington) was only six. Clearly, this number is relatively small in comparison to the total number of CGR consultation responses that commented on town and parish governance arrangements in the Macclesfield and Bollington part of the Borough. It is also small even in relation to the number of residents in the Commission's proposed Springwood parish ward, so it should not be assumed that those consultation responses are necessarily a representative sample of local opinion.

In commenting on the Commission's recommended Borough ward boundary between Macclesfield Tytherington and Bollington & Rainow, the Borough Council also wishes to question the rationale for the Commission's proposal that the Bollington & Rainow Borough ward include those properties (19 currently, with no more expected to be built by 2030) that are accessed via the B5090 (Tytherington Lane) or border the B5090.⁵ Including these properties in the Bollington & Rainow Borough ward, rather than in Macclesfield Tytherington, is the Commission's intended modification to the Macclesfield Labour Party's submitted proposal for warding in that part of the Borough.

It is clear from the Draft Recommendations report that the proposed warding of these 19 properties results in slightly better electoral equality for the Commission's recommended Macclesfield Tytherington Borough ward. However, the Borough Council does not accept the implication, made in paragraph 107 of the Draft Recommendations report, that the properties affected by its modification are part of a 'Springwood Estate' and have closer ties to the properties off the northern section of Springwood Way than they do to the rest of Tytherington. The houses along Tytherington Lane are established properties, not part of the relatively recent development along and off Livesley Road, and are of a different character.

Bollinbrook

The Borough Council accepts the point (made in the Draft Recommendations report) that Bollinbrook is a distinct community and considers that, as such, it could potentially be warded either with Tytherington or with the Broken Cross and Upton areas of Macclesfield. However, the Council does not agree that warding Bollinbrook with Broken Cross and Upton would best meet the Commission's statutory criteria. Looking at the need for warding to reflect local communities' identities and interests, a number of points can be made to demonstrate that Bollinbrook has clear social connections to Tytherington, and that its ties to Broken Cross and Upton are not as strong as the Commission perhaps believes. In particular:

- Bollinbrook has its own shops and school, as do Upton Priory and Broken Cross. Hence there is no mutual dependency in those respects.
- For goods and services not available from Bollinbrook's own small parade of shops, Tytherington's larger shopping precinct is an alternative.

⁵ The 19 properties involved are: numbers 15 to 41 Tytherington Lane, Ridge View, The Manor Cottage, Manor Bungalow, Manor House, The Little Manor, Manor Farm, Step Cottage and Bramshill.

- Some local Members argue that Bollinbrook has links to Upton, which is another part of the Commission's proposed Broken Cross & Upton Borough ward. However, Bollinbrook has no links to Broken Cross – and Upton faces different issues to Bollinbrook, such as deprivation in the Upton Priory area.
- Tytherington has a wider range of social and community facilities and groups than Bollinbrook, including a number of places of worship, pubs, dementia groups, coffee mornings, mother and toddler groups, as well as a number of children's play areas and sports pitches (the Rugby Drive playing fields, the football pitches at Summerlea Close, Beech Hall School and Sandwich Drive), while Tytherington Juniors Football Club has nearly 70 teams. It is accepted that Bollinbrook has some of these facilities too, but some of the alternatives in Tytherington – for example, the pitches at Summerlea Close and Beech Hall School - are within a very accessible distance for Bollinbrook residents.
- It is accepted that some of the children who attend Bollinbrook Primary School go on to secondary education at Fallibroome Academy, which is in the current (and in the Commission's proposed) Broken Cross & Upton Borough ward. However, Tytherington High School is closer by road or foot and is highly rated and therefore a large proportion of Bollinbrook parents choose to send their children there.
- The Macclesfield (Bollin Valley) Riverside Park is widely used by residents from both Bollinbrook and Tytherington, with its many footpaths and multiple underpasses (and a bridge) enabling Bollinbrook residents to cross to the Tytherington side and vice-versa. It is a place where people from both sides of the river meet and socialise: it is very popular with dog walkers, for example.
- Although Bollinbrook is adjacent to some of the residential properties in the rest of the proposed Broken Cross & Upton Borough ward, these adjacent houses (along and off Prestbury Road) are of a different character to Bollinbrook. Those areas of Broken Cross & Upton housing that are of similar style to the ones in Bollinbrook are some distance away.

Beechwood Mews and Beech Farm Drive

The Commission's recommendations also involve moving the Beech Farm Drive part of polling district 4AA3 and the Beechwood Mews part of 4AA4 from Macclesfield Tytherington Borough ward to Macclesfield Central Borough ward. However, surprisingly, the Draft Recommendations report does not explicitly refer to or set out the rationale for the proposed changes to these specific sections of the Macclesfield Tytherington Borough ward boundary. Nor does the Macclesfield Labour Party warding consultation submission (from which the Commission's proposals for these boundary changes are taken).

Nor does the Draft Recommendations report make any reference to any warding consultation stage submissions providing evidence on the local community identity or interests of Beech Farm Drive or Beechwood Mews residents.

The Borough Council considers that the available evidence clearly demonstrates that the identities and interests of local communities would only be properly reflected by warding Beech Farm Drive and Beechwood Mews with Tytherington – and that this would result in more easily identifiable boundaries. In particular:

- The housing on these streets is of a similar character to that in the Commission's proposed Tytherington Borough ward and unlike that in the town centre.
- Members with knowledge of this area report that local residents identify with Tytherington.
- The area is separated from central Macclesfield by the River Bollin and the playing field off Summerlea Close – which provides a clearer Borough ward boundary than the one advocated by the Commission (the boundaries of Tytherington High School/ Beech Hall School and resident properties' rear boundaries). Hibel Road and the extensive non-residential development on either side of it also add to the degree of geographical and physical separation between the Beech Farm Drive/ Beechwood Mews area and the town centre.

The Commission's proposals would also result in less convenient and effective local government. In particular, Tytherington High School shares an entry and exit with Beech Farm Drive. If the street and school were to be placed in different Borough wards, issues relating to road access might (unlike now) need to involve Members from two Borough wards.

Polling district 4AC1 (Coare Street, Brynton Road, etc)

The Draft Recommendations report argues that Hibel Road is not a physical barrier between the Coare Street/ Station Street area and the town centre area to the immediate south. In support of this argument, it refers to warding consultation stage submissions from the Macclesfield Labour Party and a local resident. On this basis, the Commission concludes, 4AC1 (which is in the current Macclesfield Tytherington Borough ward) can be brought within the Macclesfield Central Borough ward. The Draft Recommendations report notes that the Commission found the Borough Council's arguments on this issue (that 4AC1 is a separate community and Hibel Road is a physical barrier) less compelling.

However, the Draft Recommendations report refers only very briefly to the supporting evidence provided by Macclesfield Labour Party. Therefore, to provide more context, it is worth quoting the relevant part of the Labour Party's warding consultation stage submission in full:

“Coare Street and Station Street areas are close to the town centre. Hibel Road is not [as the Council's submission claims] ‘a clear physical barrier’. There are crossing points used daily by hundreds of residents including schoolchildren. The new section of Hibel Road, from the Beech Lane junction to Cumberland Street, actually bisected existing streets like Brock Street which is now partly in Central and partly in Tytherington. This community has existed for decades, long before the Tytherington estate was built. There is an opportunity to reunite a divided community with longstanding links to Central ward.”

The Borough Council accepts that many people cross Hibel Road on a daily basis. However, it is inevitable that many residents of 4AC1, like other people who live close to central Macclesfield, will find it more practical to walk into the town centre than to drive or use public transport, because of the short distance involved. Many of those crossing the road will do so in order to access services and shops that are available only in the town centre and not elsewhere in Macclesfield. Likewise, for many schoolchildren whose routes to school run past or near Hibel Road, there is an opportunity to cross the road in order to access town centre services and shops on the way to or from school. Consequently, many of the journeys across Hibel Road will reflect residents' needs for goods and services that are not available in their immediate neighbourhood, and will not necessarily be triggered by community ties with people living on the opposite side of Hibel Road. (The Borough Council does not, of course, dispute the fact that some residents on both sides of the road have social links, but the point is that the number of pedestrians crossing the road is not necessarily a measure of the strength of those links.)

Furthermore, the Council maintains that Hibel Road is a clear physical barrier. Clearly it is not an insurmountable obstacle for shoppers, commuters or local residents seeking to access key public services, but the logistical challenges in crossing it mean that the potential for social interaction between people on both sides of the road is much more limited than it otherwise would be. Hibel Road is a dual carriageway consisting mostly of five lanes (and four lanes elsewhere). There are two crossing points: the traffic lights at the junction of Jordangate and Beech Lane; and an elevated footbridge connecting the northern (4AC1) sections of Brock Street and Pownall Street with their southern sections. However, access to the top of the footbridge is possible only via steps: a few on the southern side, but many on the northern side. As a result, this crossing is not an option for wheelchair users nor for many others with disabilities or health conditions.

In addition to this, much of the development to the immediate north and south of Hibel Road consists of office and commercial premises, and public buildings, including the Jordangate multistorey car park, a postal delivery office, car dealership and

Macclesfield Library. Some of the streets to the immediate south of Hibel Road, such as Cumberland Street, do include some properties intended for use as dwellings, but even these consist of a mixture of residential and business premises. Hence there are relatively few people living to the immediate south of Hibel Road and this too limits the scope for social interaction between residents on both sides of the road.

Furthermore, the Council feels that the Commission's current position on Hibel Road – that it is not a physical barrier – is inconsistent with its reasoning on the use elsewhere of major roads as Borough ward boundaries. For example, the Draft Recommendations report justifies its proposed Broken Cross & Upton and Macclesfield West & Ivy Borough wards in part by arguing that Congleton Road and Chester Road provide clear boundaries. The Council does not dispute that fact, but it notes that Congleton Road and Chester Road consist of only two lanes, whereas (as stated earlier) Hibel Road spans four to five lanes. (The Silk Road, which the Council's original submission proposed for the Borough ward boundary between Macclesfield Tytherington and Bollington & Rainow, is a similarly substantive boundary, with four lanes.)

However, the Council's concerns about the proposed warding of 4AC1 are not limited to the points made above about Hibel Road. In particular, the northern part of this polling district – the part north of Coare Street: Brynton Road, for example - has a different character of housing and different identity to the residents who live near Hibel Road. This area has a similar identity to the areas of Tytherington further north.

The Borough Council also wonders whether the Commission's proposals have taken account of the new Kings Quarter development (on the site of the former Kings School playing fields). There is access from this development – via Wightman Avenue and Northgate Avenue and Beech Lane – to Tytherington and to key services there, such as the High School.

Local Plan site LPS 15 (Gawsworth Moss area) boundary between Gawsworth and Macclesfield South Borough wards

The LPS 15 site covers the same area as polling district 4GDT. This polling district, along with the established properties in the adjacent polling district to the northwest (4BFR), makes up Gawsworth Parish Council's Moss parish ward. Unlike Gawsworth's other parish ward (Village), Moss is currently part of the Macclesfield South Borough ward.

The Draft Recommendations accept the proposals - made both by the Council and by the Macclesfield Labour Party in its warding consultation stage submission – that 4GDT be added to the existing Macclesfield South Borough ward. However, in this location, the Draft Recommendations' proposed Borough ward electronic boundary line (provided by the Commission, to inform the Council's understanding of the proposals) follows fences or field boundaries rather than the actual LPS 15 site boundary and, in

doing so, it excludes (from Macclesfield South) two large triangular subsections of the LPS 15 site land where new homes could potentially be built by 2030, as well as leaving out some smaller sections of land.

This can be seen in **Map 3 in Annex A**, which shows the Commission's Draft Recommendations boundary line (in orange) and the LPS site boundary (marked by the pale blue parish ward and brown polling district lines).

Although no construction has started yet and a planning application (necessary for indicating the likely distribution of dwellings across the site) has yet to be approved, the forecasts the Council produced for this Review anticipate a significant volume of development, with around 500 electors living on the site by 2030. Clearly a Borough ward boundary that placed sizeable sections of the site (and whatever properties those eventually had) in Gawsworth Borough ward, whilst placing the rest of the site's homes in Macclesfield South Borough ward, would artificially divide what is likely to be a single community with shared interests and ties. It would also make for inconvenient and ineffective local government, as Members from two different Borough wards would have to liaise over issues affecting the development and its residents. As Borough wards are required to consist of whole parish wards, it would, in addition, mean that the boundary between Gawsworth's two parish wards would have to be redrawn (in a way that would not reflect community identity).

The Council raised the above concerns with the Commission informally in October, as part of its more general feedback on locations where the Commission's Draft Recommendations boundary lines diverged from the path implied by the Commission's report and the Council's own electoral boundary data. In response, the Commission has confirmed in writing that its Final Recommendations will have regard to the exact LPS 15 site boundary and avoid splitting the site between two Borough wards. It has also explained that its Draft Recommendations boundary line in this location was based on Ordnance Survey data and therefore did not take proper account of development site boundaries or indeed the existing parish ward boundary. (Ordnance Survey does not hold comprehensive information on housing site boundaries and nor, as the Council understands, does it hold comprehensive information on parish ward boundaries.)

The Council therefore wishes to take the opportunity, in this formal Submission, to remind the Commission of its earlier (informal) written assurance that the Final Recommendations will have regard to the exact LPS 15 site boundary and avoid splitting the site between two Borough wards.

3.3 Knutsford

The Borough Council has carefully considered the Commission's recommendation that Knutsford (the Town Council area) be divided into two Borough wards. However, the Borough Council continues to support its original (warding consultation stage) submission proposal, of a single ward for Knutsford, covering the Town Council area. It believes this ward would best reflect the Commission's statutory criteria.

It is also clear that the Commission's recommendations for changes to Knutsford's 'parish' (Town Council) wards arise solely from its recommendation to divide the town into two Borough wards.

Were the Commission to change its view and accept the Borough Council's proposal (for a single ward, covering the same area as the Town Council), it would no longer need to recommend changes to Knutsford's parish wards, as the new Knutsford Borough ward would contain all of the current Knutsford parish wards (and would exclude all parishes and parish wards outside of Knutsford).

In keeping with its continued support for its original proposal of a single Borough ward for Knutsford, covering the Town Council area, the Borough Council proposes there should be no changes to the town's parish warding.

This section of the Submission sets out the case for the Borough Council's proposed single-ward Knutsford (and for making no changes to the town's parish warding), presenting evidence and arguments that were not included in the Council's original submission.

Electoral equality

The Borough Council accepts that the Commission's two proposed wards would have good electoral equality, with each having electors per seat ratios within 10% of the Borough average as of 2030. However, it follows that the same is also true of the single-ward option favoured by the Council (as its electors per seat ratio is a weighted average of the ratios for the Commission's two proposed wards). Using the original electoral figures produced by the Council, the single Knutsford Borough ward has a ratio of 6% below the Borough average as of 2030. Furthermore, it can be deduced (by aggregating the revised electoral figures that the Draft Recommendations report presents for the Commission's proposed two Knutsford Borough wards) that the Commission's revisions did not involve any changes to the overall forecast number of electors in the Knutsford Town Council area as of 2030

(11,639). Consequently, the Council can see that the variance for its proposed Knutsford ward is minus 6%, regardless of whether the original or revised data sets are used for calculating ratios and variances.⁶

Other statutory criteria

A number of arguments and pieces of evidence can be cited to demonstrate why the Council believes its single-ward proposal is superior to the Commission's two-ward (draft) recommendation in terms of the other two statutory criteria (the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities, and the need to secure effective and convenient local government).

Firstly, the evidence and outcomes from the recent (2018-22) Community Governance Review (CGR) indicate that the Commission's two-ward arrangement would not reflect the identities and interests of local communities, nor secure effective and convenient local government.

At Town Council level, the CGR resulted in Knutsford being divided into five parish wards (each with three councillors). The post-CGR boundaries were based on detailed proposals made by the Town Council itself, which persuasively argued that these changes would better reflect local communities' sense of identity than the pre-CGR parish wards did.

The CGR concluded that Cross Town was a sufficiently distinct but cohesive community to justify having its own parish ward. However, the Commission's recommendations would split Cross Town residents between two different Borough (and two different parish) wards, as shown in **Maps 4 and 5 of Annex A** - despite the CGR evidence of Cross Town residents having a common identity and interests.

On this point, it is interesting to note the Commission's recommended names for the subdivided areas of Cross Town: Cross Town North (the part that would be in the recommended Knutsford North East Borough ward) and Cross Town South (the part that would be in the recommended Knutsford South & West Borough ward). The reasoning behind the proposed names for the two new parish wards is not explained in the Commission's report. However, the choice of names possibly indicates that the Commission has come across no evidence to persuade it that the northern and southern parts of Cross Town have significantly different identities, despite the recommendation that they be placed in different Borough wards.

⁶ For this analysis, the Council has used the Commission's revised figure for Cheshire East's total electorate as of 2030 (337,307) to work out the Borough-wide electors per seat average and the Knutsford Borough ward's variance. However, if the Council's original figure for the 2030 Borough-wide electorate (337,339) is used instead, the Borough average is only very marginally different and the variance for the Knutsford Borough ward is still minus 6%.

Looking the impact of the Commission's proposals on individual streets within Cross Town, the (draft) recommended boundary would in fact split Boothfields between the two wards. 56 Boothfields would be in the North East ward, but number 58 would be in the South & West ward, despite both properties being separated only by the turning into Kenilworth Avenue cul-de-sac and (like other properties along this section of the street) being of similar character. Likewise, numbers 51 and 53 Boothfields (also of similar housing character) would be in different Borough wards.

Turning to the other part of the Commission's recommended North East ward (the part north and east of Cross Town), it is worth noting that the recent CGR resulted in a separate parish ward for St John's Wood: the area which includes Longridge and Shaw Heath. As shown in **Map 5 of Annex A**, Knutsford's only area of significant deprivation lies entirely within the St John's Wood parish ward. (Prior to the CGR, a single large parish ward, Over, covered an area that corresponded fairly closely to the current Cross Town and St John's Wood parish wards.) It is therefore possible for issues and interests that are specific to this area - such as deprivation - to be raised and addressed via its three town councillors. Consequently, the Borough Council does not believe that having a separate Borough ward - covering this part of Knutsford but also a large swathe of Cross Town, where deprivation is not an issue - would make local government more effective and convenient.

It can be added here that the CGR decision to divide St John's Wood and Cross Town into separate Town Council wards was made in part to address the separate issues and feeling of disconnection that some residents in the Longridge area had. The fact a sense of isolation still persists may be partly because the still-very-recent CGR changes are taking time to have an impact, not necessarily because the warding at Borough level dilutes Longridge's voice.

Secondly, there is significant political engagement with those communities in the northeast of Knutsford, with two town councillors being Longridge residents and several others living elsewhere in the St John's Wood or Cross Town parish wards.

Thirdly, there are both longstanding and more ad hoc community groups coordinating activities not just across but beyond the Commission's proposed North East Knutsford ward. In failing to reflect this reality, the Commission's two-ward arrangement would impact adversely not just on the identities and interests of local communities, but on effective and convenient local government as well. For example, two community groups currently active in the area – Friends of St John's Wood and KROW (Knutsford Residents of Over Ward) draw members from across the two existing (Cross Town and St John's Wood) parish wards covering the northeast of the town. A further example is the coordinated efforts of a group of residents from across Knutsford in opposing a proposal for new development on land at Longridge, for which (as of November 2024) a planning appeal is underway. It would be harder for these groups to coordinate their work if they had to liaise with councillors for two different Borough wards.

Fourthly, the locations and take-up of mainstream schools and school places within Knutsford result in social bonds and common interests between residents in the Commission's proposed North East Knutsford ward and those elsewhere in the town, including the areas to the immediate south of this proposed ward. The two primary schools located in the northeast part of the town, Manor Park (which also has a nursery) and St Vincent de Paul, are both in the current Cross Town parish ward and are (diagonally) across the road from each other. The grounds of each school border the Commission's proposed Borough ward boundary line, with Manor Park just within the proposed North East ward and St Vincent de Paul just within the proposed South & West ward.

However, Manor Park's catchment area covers the whole of St John's Wood and Cross Town parish wards, and part of the Norbury Booths parish ward. Whilst catchment areas are far from a perfect indicator of where a school's pupils live, Manor Park's admissions policy prioritises children living closest to the school over those living further away – favouring those who live in the nearby parts of both the Commission's proposed North East and South & West wards. Hence the school takes in pupils from both sides of the proposed Borough ward boundary and consequently there are stronger social ties between the pupils and parents in the (would-be) North East and South & West Borough ward areas.

As the town's only Catholic primary school, St Vincent de Paul accepts pupils from a wide area, spanning both the would-be North East and South & West wards (and some settlements outside the town), as its latest (October 2024) admission policy document confirms.

In addition, Knutsford has only one mainstream secondary school, Knutsford Academy, which is located in the current Bexton & Town Centre parish ward and in the Commission's proposed South & West ward. Knutsford Academy therefore receives pupils from across the town and Manor Park is one of its feeder schools. Again, having a school that serves residents from all areas of the town means that there are stronger social ties and greater shared interests between pupils and parents living in the Commission's proposed North East ward and those living in the rest of Knutsford.

Fifthly, and more generally, residents of Cheshire East's smaller towns, such as Knutsford, tend to have many common interests and community ties. Keeping them within a single ward promotes collaborative activities and a sense of shared identity, whereas dividing these towns into separate wards runs the risk of polarising their communities.

To elaborate on this point, there is evidence from elsewhere in the Borough which demonstrates the potential advantages and achievements that can result from warding arrangements that combine neighbourhoods with different socioeconomic backgrounds and different types of services and amenities within the same Borough ward, rather than divide them into separate wards. For example, both the current and (draft) recommended Congleton East Borough ward areas contain the communities of Buglawton,

Bromley Farm and Mossley. There is extensive evidence – not least in the Bromley Farm Community Development Trust’s warding consultation stage submission to the Commission – of mutual dependencies, connections and social bonds between these communities, and of long-term socioeconomic improvements following on from this cross-community cohesion. The same broad principles apply to Knutsford’s varied communities. The same principles have, indeed, been applied by the Council in its proposal (accepted by the Commission) that Colshaw Farm (currently part of Handforth Borough ward) be included in the new Wilmslow East & Dean Row Borough ward. Colshaw Farm is a relatively deprived area, in contrast to other parts of the would-be Wilmslow East & Dean Row Borough ward. However, it identifies with and has clear connections to the neighbouring part of Wilmslow; its inclusion in the new ward should help to strengthen these ties further and with tackling Colshaw Farm’s specific socioeconomic issues. Placing Knutsford’s more deprived areas in a separate Borough ward would be inconsistent with what the Commission is recommending for neighbourhoods like Colshaw Farm.

Sixthly, the three Knutsford Borough ward Members support the proposal for a single ward (covering the post-CGR Town Council area). A motion in support of that option was adopted by the Town Council (with a large majority of Members voting for and none voting against). These councillors have very detailed local knowledge and longstanding experience of Knutsford and its needs, so their opinions should carry additional weight.

A more general point – not specific to Knutsford – should also be made about the disadvantages to wards having a single Member. This relates to the loss of representation if, for example, the sole Member resigns, falls sick or has limited capacity to attend to local casework due to major Council duties (for example chairing a committee) or changes in family circumstances. This could be more of an issue in deprived areas, such as the northeast part of Knutsford, where residents may be more dependent on elected representatives to address local challenges.

A related issue is that conflicts of interest, and the rules governing these, sometimes mean that a Member is unable to sit on (and offer local knowledge and specialist advice to) a Council committee (or similar Council decision-making body) and also represent the interests and views of residents affected by that committee’s decisions. Where such a scenario arises for a Member who represents a two or three-Member ward, that Member is able to sit on and advise the relevant committee, but their residents’ views can still be heard, because there are one or two other Members who can engage with residents on matters the committee is due to consider. However, were Knutsford to be divided into two Borough wards as the Commission proposes, with the Knutsford North East ward having a single councillor, a North East Member facing the scenario just described would have to choose between advising the committee and engaging with local residents - and so local government would consequently be less effective and less convenient.

The same drawback also applies to the changes the Commission is recommending to parish ward seat allocations in Knutsford. As a knock-on consequence of its recommended division of the town into two Borough wards, the Commission recommends that the current Cross Town parish ward (with three seats) is replaced by a Cross Town North parish ward with two seats and a Cross Town South parish ward with one seat. Hence the number of seats each parish ward has would be (unlike now) unevenly distributed. Under the current warding, each of Knutsford's parish ward has three seats. Under the recommendations, the number of seats for each parish ward would range from one (Cross Town South) to three (most of the other parish wards). This would result in Cross Town residents no longer having a single 'voice' on the Town Council and would mean that residents of the new Cross Town South parish ward had no representation at all at Town Council meetings when their sole councillor was absent. In contrast, the current arrangement of three councillors for each parish ward means it is very unlikely that any one parish ward will lack any representation at a Town Council meeting.

Comments on other consultees' consultation stage submissions

The Borough Council also wishes to comment on the consultation of local residents that is cited in the Tatton Labour Party submission (the submission on which the Commission's two-ward proposal is largely based). That submission notes that 30 residents were consulted about warding options in March 2024 and it states that all those consulted were in favour of a separate, single-Member ward, with a strong feeling that this would improve communications with local councillors. However, the Borough Council does not know (and nor, presumably, does the Commission) how the surveyed residents were selected, whether they were a representative sample (30 is a small sample by any measure), what information they were given on the Review and alternative warding options, what questions they were asked and how these were phrased, nor how clear or ambiguous their responses might have been. The Borough Council therefore feels these survey findings should be treated with some caution.

Furthermore, the Borough Council is aware that the Town Council is undertaking its own consultation of local residents, to ascertain their views on the single-ward option favoured by it (and Cheshire East Council) and on the two-ward alternative the Commission is currently recommending. The Borough Council understands that the Town Council is likely to draw on the results of this consultation for its own Draft Recommendations consultation stage response.

Other relevant observations relating to the CGR

The Council wishes to make the Commission aware of the unusually high level of analysis and scrutiny that underpins Knutsford's current (post-Community Governance Review) Town Council warding – and of the major role played by the Town Council in that.

During the pre-consultation survey stage of the CGR, the Town Council developed and submitted detailed proposals for new (very different) parish ward boundaries. These proposals included large-scale maps the Town Council had prepared of each proposed ward; the proposals also gave careful consideration to the implications of future Local Plan housing development and to adjustments to the boundaries around individual streets that would better accord with the CGR criteria.

In the Borough Council's view, this Knutsford Town Council CGR response was one of the most detailed and carefully considered of all the CGR submissions (around 5,000 in total) in terms of its proposals for redrawing parish ward boundaries. The Borough Council examined the Town Council's proposals in depth and decided to accept them all (bar one proposal to extend the Town Council area into one of the rural parishes to its north).

The Town Council's CGR pre-consultation survey submission is included in the Borough Council's Consultation Submission as a separate supporting document, **Annex B**.

3.4 Sandbach (including Wheelock & Winterley)

Sandbach Borough warding

The Commission's Draft Recommendations accept in full the Borough Council's submitted proposals for all Borough wards covering this area, namely Wheelock & Winterley (which would cover part of Haslington parish as well as part of Sandbach), Sandbach East & Central and Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath.

Nevertheless, the Council proposes a slight modification to one small section of the Commission's recommended boundary between the new Sandbach East & Central and Wheelock & Winterley Borough wards. The purpose of this modification is to correct an historic boundary line inconsistency that affects a single property, 1 Mill Hill Lane. (The third recommended Borough ward covering parts of Sandbach - Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath - would be unaffected by this modification.)

More specifically, the Draft Recommendations electronic boundary line files (provided by the Commission, to inform the Council's understanding of the proposals) place 1 Mill Hill Lane in a different recommended Borough ward to that which the Council intended. There is an historic inconsistency in the Council's own electoral boundary records in this location, with the current parish ward and polling district boundary (and Electoral Register) data all being correct and consistent with each other, but the current Borough ward boundary line not aligning with these. This anomaly was overlooked and consequently replicated in proposed new Borough ward boundary line data file that the Council submitted to the Commission in March 2024, as part of its warding consultation stage response.

To elaborate:

- This property, along with all the others on Mill Hill Lane, is in the SAWR polling district. The Borough Council's submitted Warding Proposal Report correctly indicates the Council's proposals for this part of Sandbach, in stating (on pages 95 and 106 of that report) that all of SAWR, except for Park Lane, Fields Drive and Drovers Way, would fall within its proposed Wheelock & Winterley Borough ward.
- The electronic boundary line files that the Council submitted to the Commission did, however, contradict that report by incorrectly placing 1 Mill Hill Lane in the Council's proposed Sandbach East & Central Borough ward.

- This drafting error around 1 Mill Hill Lane was due to the Council basing its proposed new Borough ward boundary lines in this location on its electronic boundary line data for current Borough wards. The Council has now noticed that its current Borough ward boundary lines incorrectly place that property in the current Sandbach Heath & East Borough ward, rather than in its actual ward, which (as the Electoral Register confirm and as the Council's parish ward and polling district boundary lines indicate) is the current Sandbach Ettiley Heath & Wheelock Borough ward.
- It is clear from the Commission's Draft Recommendations electronic boundary lines that it too has followed the Council's current (incorrect) section of the Borough ward boundary line here and included 1 Mill Hill Lane in the recommended new Sandbach East & Central Borough ward (and consequently in its recommended Sandbach Heath & East parish ward).

The resulting boundary line error can be seen in **Map 6 of Annex A**. In this map, the current polling district (thin brown) and parish ward (slightly thicker pale blue) lines indicate the proposed new Borough ward boundary line that the Council's Warding Proposal Report envisaged, but the Commission's recommended Borough ward and parish ward lines (the thicker orange and green lines) take a detour around 1 Mill Hill Lane (the property to the immediate right of the map's 'SAWR' label).

If the Commission were to base its final recommendations on the erroneous electronic boundary line submitted by the Council in March 2024, the resulting Borough and parish wards in this location would meet the Commission's statutory criteria less well than adhering to the proposed boundary definition set out in the Council's Warding Proposal Report. It would also mean that, for the residents of 1 Mill Hill Lane specifically, the warding would totally (and unnecessarily) disregard the Commission's statutory criteria relating to the identities and interests of local communities and to effective and convenient local government.

The identities and interests of local communities would be adversely affected, as:

- The neighbouring properties that are closest to reach on foot (and by car) from 1 Mill Hill Lane, such as 2 Mill Hill Lane (almost directly opposite) and 148 or 150 Crewe Road, would all (unlike now) be in a different parish and Borough ward to 1 Mill Hill Lane, as would all the other properties on Mill Hill Lane (its most immediate community and the one with which it is most likely to share common issues).
- 1 Mill Hill Lane would be in the same Borough and parish ward as the properties on Hungerford Place that adjoin it to the side (east) and rear (north). There is a footpath a few metres away from the property (opposite number 4 Mill Hill

Lane) that connects its street to end of Hungerford Place where those adjoining properties are, but car travel between these two roads involves a somewhat longer route, via Crewe Road and Third Avenue.

Warding 1 Mill Hill Lane separately from the rest of its street would also result in less effective and convenient local government. For example, issues relating to Mill Hill Lane (a relatively narrow road where vehicle access and parking might potentially be an issue) might have to involve councillors from two different wards, not one.

Consequently, the Council proposes that the Commission's recommendations should be modified, so that 1 Mill Hill Lane and its entire plot is placed in the Wheelock & Winterley Borough ward, and in the Commission's recommended Sandbach Wheelock parish ward. This property is one built for a single household, so (even allowing for potential changes in household composition by 2030) it should have, at most, only a few electors. However, it takes a 'movement' of around 40 electors to change a Cheshire East Borough ward electors per seat ratio by 1%.

According to the Draft Recommendations, the Commission's proposed Sandbach East & Central Borough ward would have an electors per seat ratio (based on the Commission's revised figures) of 5% above the Borough average as of 2030, while its proposed Wheelock & Winterley Borough ward would have a ratio 7% below the average. As both wards have variances well within 10% of the Borough ward average, the Borough Council's proposed, very small modification would leave both wards with good electoral equality.

Sandbach parish warding

The Commission's recommended changes to parish warding in Sandbach include the creation of a new Elworth & Ettiley Heath parish ward, consisting of the existing Elworth parish ward, much of the existing Ettiley Heath & Wheelock parish ward and a small part of the existing Town parish ward. To put this in context, **Map 7 in Annex A** shows the Commission's recommended Borough and parish ward boundaries for the whole of Sandbach.

The Borough Council understands the rationale for this and other recommended changes to parish warding: namely to ensure that no parish wards or unwarded parishes are split between different Borough wards. The Borough Council also understands the reason for the Commission recommending that the new Elworth & Ettiley Heath parish ward have nine of Sandbach Town Council's 21 seats: namely to ensure that each parish ward's share of seats reflects its expected future (2030) share of the Town Council's electorate.

However, the Borough Council is very concerned about the potential implications of a single Town Council ward having so many seats – and particularly such a large share of the Town Council’s seat total.

The Draft Recommendations, if implemented, would mean the number of seats each Sandbach parish ward has would (unlike now) be very unevenly distributed. Under the current warding, Elworth parish ward has six seats and the other parish wards have five seats each. Under the recommendations, the allocated number of seats would range from three (Wheelock) to nine (Elworth & Ettiley Heath).

In addition, the Commission’s allocation of nine seats to its recommended Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath parish ward stands out as being unusually high – and not just in comparison to the recommended seat numbers for Sandbach’s other parish wards. In particular:

- no town councils in Cheshire East currently have more than seven seats for any of their parish wards; and
- apart from Sandbach, the Commission’s report assigns no more than six seats to any parish ward on any of the town (or parish) councils that its recommendations affect.

The Borough Council believes that the allocation of nine seats to an Elworth & Ettiley Heath parish ward would present a risk of Town Council decision-making unduly focusing on or favouring the Elworth & Ettiley Heath area of the town. In particular, it would be possible for quorate Town Council meetings to be held where a majority of those present are Elworth & Ettiley Heath councillors. None of the Town Council’s current six committees has more than ten members (just one more than the Commission’s proposed number of Elworth & Ettiley Heath councillors) and the quorum for each of these committees is three or four members.⁷ Consequently, the Town Council could potentially approve projects or funding allocations that were supported only by Elworth & Ettiley Heath councillors. As a result, local government would be less effective – and indeed could fail to reflect the interests of those local communities outside Elworth & Ettiley Heath.

The Borough Council therefore strongly believes that the recommended Elworth & Ettiley Heath parish ward should be divided into two smaller parish wards.

⁷ Source: Sandbach Town Council Committees’ Terms of Reference documents: <https://sandbach.gov.uk/council-committees/>

However, it would appear that only a Community Governance Review could address such a concern. The Commission has confirmed to the Borough Council (informally, but in writing) that, in cases where it is proposing a new Borough ward boundary that does not align with existing parish ward boundaries, it considers further division of the resulting, redrawn (Draft Recommendations) parish wards to be a matter that should be left to a CGR. This advice was in fact provided in response to the question of dividing the Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath parish ward into two, which the Council informally cited to the Commission as a possible, theoretical proposed modification that a consultee might put forward. The Commission's position on this specific option of a Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath parish ward 'split' is therefore clear.

Consequently, the Borough Council wishes to register its deep concern about the recommended parish warding for this part of Sandbach – and specifically the unusually large number and share of seats for the Elworth & Ettiley Heath parish ward - and wishes to notify the Commission that, once the Electoral Review Order is made, it may seek the Commission's consent for an early CGR, in order to address that concern.

3.5 Other wards

The Commission's Draft Recommendations accepted in full the Borough Council's submitted proposals for all Borough ward boundaries, except for those covering Knutsford, Macclesfield, and a section of the Bollington & Rainow Borough ward boundary bordering Macclesfield. However, those locations aside, the Commission's electronic boundary lines for its proposed Borough wards diverge in places from the path implied by the Council's own map data, the Council's Warding Proposal Report and the Draft Recommendations report. A few of these divergences are significant because they affect individual residential properties, rather than just small pieces of land where there are no existing residents or expected future residential development.

Most of the divergences affecting individual residential properties are along the boundary between the proposed Crewe West and Wistaston Borough wards. However, three of the affected locations are elsewhere in the Borough, involving properties that, according to the Council's records, lie just inside the boundaries of its proposed Bollington & Rainow, Odd Rode and Wybunbury Borough wards.

In its comments below, the Council:

- highlights the locations and nature of these divergences and their implications;
- explains how these divergences would result in Borough ward boundaries that meet the Commission's statutory criteria less well (than the Council's proposed boundary lines would) and in fact fail to reflect the Commission's criteria as far as the small number of affected properties are concerned;
- requests that the Commission adjust its boundary lines in these locations, so that they follow the exact line intended by the Borough Council.

The Council and the Commission have been engaged in informal correspondence over the Draft Recommendations consultation period, to try and ensure that both parties understand the reasons for these divergences, that any boundary inconsistencies are addressed and that the Final Recommendations adjust for any boundary line errors, inaccuracies or misunderstandings. The Council will continue working with the Commission, with these objectives in mind.

From the Council's dialogue with the Commission so far, it appears as though a key factor behind these divergences is that the Commission's records of current parish boundary lines differ slightly in this location from the Council's own records. However,

local government in the affected locations would be less effective and convenient if one (or even a few) properties in a particular parish were in a different Borough ward to the rest of that parish's properties. This is because the very small number of electors affected would require their own separate combination of ballot papers (and hence a separate polling station) for local elections, to avoid the risk of them being issued with the wrong papers. Therefore it is crucial to secure a common understanding, between the Council and the Commission, as to the exact path followed by parish boundary line (and consequently by the recommended Borough ward boundary line) in these locations, and as to which parish the affected electors are in.

Table 3.5a below lists details of the affected properties, the reference numbers for the **maps (in Annex A)** showing their location, the nature of the divergence and the potential implications. In each case, the Council's existing boundary lines place the whole dwelling and its plot within a single proposed future Borough ward, whereas the Commission's recommended Borough and parish ward boundaries place all or part of the dwelling in a different Borough ward.

With the exception of 41 Thirlmere Road – which the Commission's lines place in its recommended Crewe West Borough ward, rather than in Wistaston Borough ward, as the Council proposed – the Commission's lines run through (not around) the affected dwellings.

Table 3.5a also explains how, in each case, the Commission's statutory criteria would be best met by placing the affected properties in the Borough ward that the Council's submitted proposals envisaged. Consequently, the Borough Council proposes that the affected properties be warded as follows:

- 76 Dane Bank Avenue and 111 Moreton Avenue in Crewe West Borough ward (and Crewe West parish ward);
- 41 Thirlmere Road, numbers 1 and 2 Wistaston Avenue and numbers 74 and 98 Wistaston Green Road in Wistaston Borough ward;
- 'Roughwood' in Odd Rode Borough ward;
- Lower Windyway Fram and Lower Windy Way Barn in Bollington & Rainow Borough ward;
- 'Moorlands' in Wybunbury Borough ward'.

Table 3.5a: Residential properties potentially affected by the Commission's and the Council's differing parish boundary lines

Map No. in Annex A	Property address(es)	Electoral areas the dwelling(s) is/ are or will be in, based on the Council's boundary line and Electoral Register records	Details of how the Commission's boundary line diverges from this	Potential implications if the warding of this/ these dwelling(s) do not reflect the Council's proposals
Map 8	76 Dane Bank Avenue, Crewe parish	Current electoral areas: polling district 1BAR, which is within the current Crewe West parish ward, Crewe parish and Crewe West Borough ward Future (Draft Recommendations) Borough ward: Crewe West	Unclear which recommended Borough ward the Commission sees the property's electors as being in. Its recommended Borough (and parish) ward boundary line cuts through the dwelling, placing it partly in the recommended Crewe West parish and Borough wards, and partly in the recommended Wistaston Borough ward.	Local community identity and interests not reflected if the residents are placed in Wistaston Borough ward, as their most immediate neighbours by foot or car (77-78, 80 and 82 Dane Bank Avenue) would be in a different Borough ward (Crewe West).
Map 9	111 Moreton Road, Crewe parish	As for 76 Dane Bank Avenue	As for 76 Dane Bank Avenue	As for 76 Dane Bank Avenue, except that the most immediate neighbours are 108-110 Moreton Road.
Map 8	41 Thirlmere Road, Wistaston parish	Current electoral areas: polling district 1FG2, which is within the current Wistaston Green parish ward, Wistaston parish and Wistaston Borough ward Future (Draft Recommendations) Borough ward: Wistaston	The Commission's recommended Borough (and parish) ward boundary lines place the whole dwelling and its plot in the recommended Crewe West parish and Borough wards.	Local community identity and interests not reflected if the residents are placed in the Crewe West Borough and parish wards, as (apart from 84 Dane Bank Avenue, which is one of the adjacent properties) the residents' most immediate neighbours by foot or car (those on the rest of Thirlmere Road) would be in a different Borough ward (Wistaston).
Map 10	1 & 2 Wistaston Avenue, Wistaston parish	Current electoral areas: polling district 1FG1, which is within the current Wistaston Green parish ward, Wistaston parish and Wistaston Borough ward Future (draft recommendations) Borough ward: Wistaston	Unclear which recommended Borough ward the Commission sees these properties' electors as being in. Its recommended Borough (and parish) ward boundary line cuts through both dwellings, placing each partly in the recommended Crewe West parish and Borough wards, and partly in the recommended Wistaston Borough ward.	Local community identity and interests not reflected if the residents are placed in Crewe West Borough and parish wards, as their most immediate community (by foot or car), the rest of the Wistaston Avenue residents, would be in a different Borough ward (Wistaston).

Map No. in Annex A	Property address(es)	Electoral areas the dwelling(s) is/ are or will be in, based on the Council's boundary line and Electoral Register records	Details of how the Commission's boundary line diverges from this	Potential implications if the warding of this/ these dwelling(s) do not reflect the Council's proposals
Map 11	74 & 98 Wistaston Green Road, Wistaston parish	As for 1 & 2 Wistaston Avenue	As for 1 & 2 Wistaston Avenue	As for 1 & 2 Wistaston Avenue, except that the most immediate community is the rest of Wistaston Green Road.
Map 12	'Roughwood', Roughwood Hollow, Hassall parish (but bordering Alsager parish)	Current electoral areas: polling district LAW4, which is within the current (unwarded) Hassall parish and Brereton Rural Borough ward Future (draft recommendations) Borough ward: Odd Rode	Unclear which recommended Borough ward the Commission sees the property's electors as being in. Its recommended Borough ward boundary line cuts through the dwelling, splitting it between the would-be Alsager and Odd Rode Borough wards.	Local community identity and interests not reflected if the residents are placed in Alsager Borough ward, as their most immediate neighbours by foot or car (Rose Cottage and Roughwood Cottage, which are just across the road) would be a in different Borough ward (Odd Rode) and the 2018-22 CGR revealed no evidence of residents in this location having a separate identity or interests to the rest of Hassall parish.
Map 13	Lower Windyway Farm and Lower Windy Way Barn, Crookedyard Road, Rainow parish (but bordering Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough parish)	Current electoral areas: polling district 4FF1, which is within the current (unwarded) Rainow parish and Sutton Borough ward Future (draft recommendations) Borough ward: Bollington & Rainow	Same issue as for 'Roughwood', except that the Commission's recommended Borough ward boundary line splits each of these dwellings between the would-be Bollington & Rainow and Sutton Borough wards.	Local community identity and interests not reflected if the residents are placed in Sutton Borough ward, as their most immediate neighbours by foot or car (Walker Barn Cottage/ Farm and The Old Post House) would be a in different Borough ward (Bollington & Rainow) and the 2018-22 CGR revealed no evidence of residents in this location having a separate identity or interests to the rest of Rainow parish.

Map No. in Annex A	Property address(es)	Electoral areas the dwelling(s) is/ are or will be in, based on the Council's boundary line and Electoral Register records	Details of how the Commission's boundary line diverges from this	Potential implications if the warding of this/ these dwelling(s) do not reflect the Council's proposals
Map 14	'Moorlands', Wybunbury parish (but bordering Stapeley parish)	Current electoral areas: polling district 1GN1, which is within the current (unwarded) Wybunbury parish and Wybunbury Borough ward Future (draft recommendations) Borough ward: Wybunbury	Same issue as for 'Roughwood', except that the Commission's recommended Borough ward boundary line splits this property between the would-be Nantwich South & Stapeley and Wybunbury Borough wards.	Local community identity and interests not reflected if the residents are placed in Nantwich South & Stapeley Borough ward, as their most immediate neighbours by foot or car (The Hawthorns and The Byres) would be a in different Borough ward (Wybunbury) and the 2018-22 CGR revealed no evidence of residents in this location having a separate identity or interests to the rest of Wybunbury parish.

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CHESHIRE EAST COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR KNUTSFORD

INTRODUCTION

Knutsford Town Council is keen to support Cheshire East Council undertaking of the Community Governance Review in Knutsford and wishes to be actively involved in the process to shape the changes which affect the governance arrangements for Knutsford.

It should be noted that Knutsford Town Council was one of the councils progressing a petition to trigger a review of Knutsford's governance arrangements. The Town Council has undertaken a review of the governance issues it believes should be addressed during this process and this document sets these out in detail. The Town Council welcomes opportunity for further engagement with Cheshire East Council prior to any public consultation on proposals.

The Town Council has noted that the information published by Cheshire East Council includes elector forecasts to 2025 based on approvals to March 2019. It is also noted that Cheshire East Council has stated it will not be updating these forecasts.

Whilst the Town Council welcomes the reassurances of Nick Billington, Economic Research and Intelligence Officer, that the forecasts form only part of the evidence base for the review, the Town Council wishes to reinforce the importance of considering the changes to Knutsford as forecast through the Local Plan Strategy site allocations through to 2030.

Site	Location	Housing Number	Status
LPS37	North of Parkgate	200	Outline secured, reserved matters application being prepared
LPS36A	North of Northwich Road	190	Reserved matters approved by committee January 2020
LPS36B	West of Manchester Road	60	Outline application submitted, decision delayed
LPS36C	East of Manchester Road	250	Outline application submitted, decision deferred March 2019
LPS38	South of Longridge	225	Outline application being prepared

Table One: Local Plan Housing Sites Planning Status'

The Town Council will strongly challenge the conclusions of any review which does not plan for the development of the town past 2025. The Town Council supports the Cheshire East Council position that these reviews should be infrequent (the next being concluded in c. 2040) and as such wishes to see changes designed to last the full extent of the period. The Town Council will consider triggering ad hoc reviews to address individual issues as they arise if they have not been properly considered as part of this review.

TOWN COUNCIL PROPOSALS

The Town Council puts forward four specific proposals which it believes should be taken forward by Cheshire East Council for public consultation as part of the review. In summary the proposals are:

- I. Revision to the parish boundary to include LPS36A and LPS39 within the Knutsford parish boundary
- II. Restructuring of the internal warding arrangements to address a range of issues arising from future growth and to provide better town councillor representation.
- III. Revision to the parish boundary to include the full extent of the Longridge Business Park
- IV. Revision to the parish boundary to include the area covered by Tatton Parish within Knutsford

These proposals are explored in more detail below.

The Town Council considers that the existing number of councillors on Knutsford Town Council (15) is the correct and most appropriate number and would not support any change to this.

PROPOSAL ONE: REVISION TO THE WESTERN PARISH BOUNDARY

Proposal

The extent of Local Plan sites LPS36A and LPS39 be removed from Tabley Parish and incorporated within Knutsford Parish.

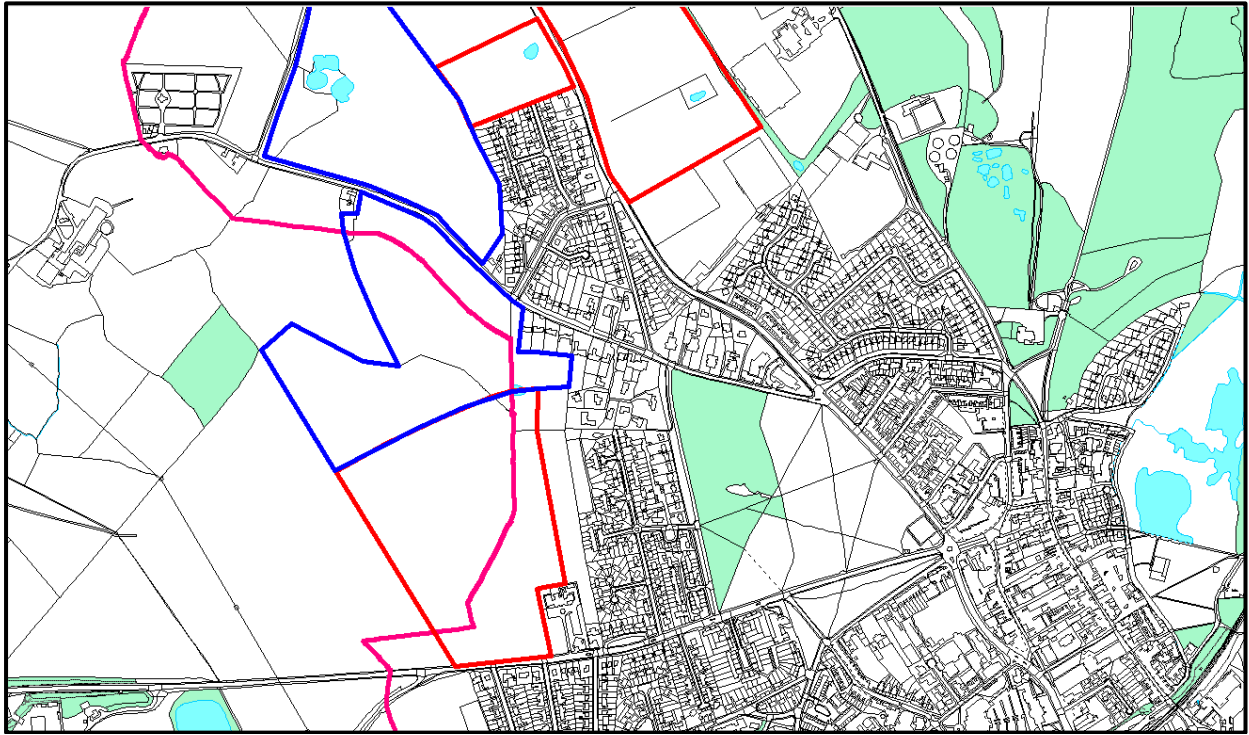
Rationale

Two strategic housing sites cross the boundary between the Knutsford and Tabley parishes. LPS36A has recently been granted consent for 190 homes and LPS39 is allocated as safeguarded land for future development.

The Town Council recognises that the new residents in these sites will feel part of Knutsford and look to Knutsford Town Council for local representation. The existing arrangement of the boundary cutting through the development will create confusion for new residents and may contribute to a lack of community cohesion as the Knutsford section would receive Knutsford Town Council services whilst the Tabley area would not.

The Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan was prepared with a neighbourhood boundary which included the whole of both these sites. Tabley Parish Council gave its consent to this area being within the Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan and recognised that the area was a Knutsford development.

The Town Council considers that the inclusion of the whole of both these sites within the Knutsford Parish will be reflective of interests of the community in this area and be the most effective and convenient.



Map A: Existing Parish Boundary (pink) and local plan site allocations

PROPOSAL TWO: REVISION OF INTERNAL WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Proposal

The Knutsford Town Council wards be redrawn to create five three member wards named:

- Nether
- Bexton and Town Centre
- Norbury Booths
- Cross Town
- St John's Wood

Maps of the proposed wards are contained within the appendix.

Background

Knutsford is currently split into four wards: Norbury Booths, Over, Nether and Bexton. Over Ward¹ elects six councillors whilst the other three wards elect three each. The Town Council believes that Knutsford should comprise five equal wards each electing three councillors as this creates the simplest governance structure.

The existing arrangements for Over Ward add confusion to representation as residents have six councillors to contact and creates additional workload for councillors as they strive to keep fellow

¹ Over ward does not actually cover the historic area of Over Knutsford. Over Knutsford is within Norbury Booths ward.

councillors abreast of any ward casework which arises.

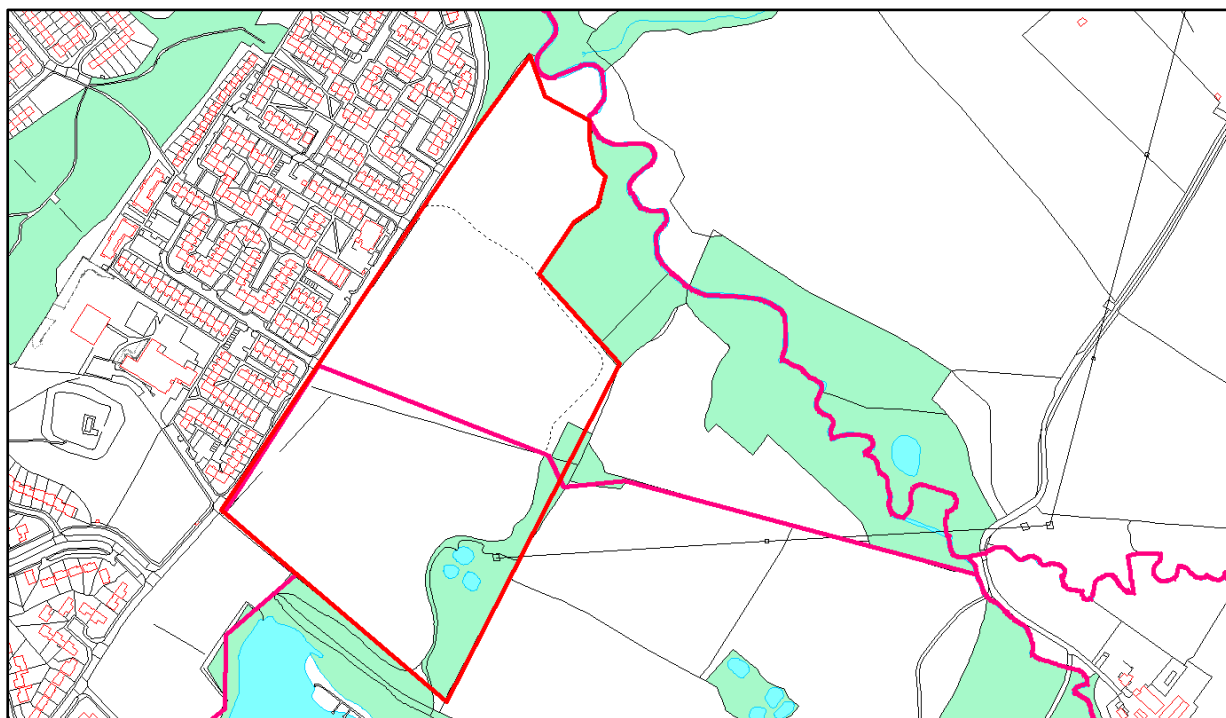
Over Ward generates the highest volume of councillor casework whilst Bexton Ward generates the lowest.

The Town Council has prepared an indicative plan of revised warding arrangements, to show how wards could be modified to create five equal wards with elector to councillor ratios within 10% (range 1:763 to 1:841). These have been modelled using the calculations set out in the Cheshire East Council electoral forecast report and factor in the development of all strategic sites.

The proposed names for the two new wards being created from Over Ward seek to ensure community cohesion and create identifiable areas. Cross Town is the historic name for the settlement around St Cross Church and Mobberley Road. It is still shown on Ordnance Survey maps and used in the names of some groups, such as the Cross Town WI. St John's Wood is a large community access woodland in the centre of the proposed new ward. The Town Council considered that neither new ward should be called Over Ward so that it is seen that two new wards are being created, not part of a community being separated from the rest of the ward. It was also felt that the

A significant amount of development is taking place in the existing Nether Ward. It is felt this will increase councillor workload significantly. It is considered that moving the Town Centre from Nether Ward and merging it with Bexton Ward will create wards which more equally generate casework evening the distribution of casework amongst all members.

Under the existing ward boundaries LPS38 is divided between Norbury Booths Ward and Over Ward. Under the emerging proposal for this site, the ward boundary would cut arbitrarily through the development. The Norbury Booths portion of the site would be cut off from the remainder of the Norbury Booths ward. The Town Council considers the whole site should be within one ward and that this should be with the adjoining Longridge housing estate in the new St John's Wood Ward.



Map B: Existing Parish and Ward Boundaries (pink) and LPS38 (red)

Aylesby Close is a small estate accessed off Manor Park South. Under the current ward boundaries this estate is split between Over Ward and Norbury Booths ward as the boundary follows the Sparrow Lane path. The Town Council considers that this is confusing for residents and that the whole estate should be within new Cross Town ward.



Map C: Aylesby Close and the existing boundary between Over and Norbury Booths wards

The proposed boundaries of the wards have been set to deliver the required elector to councillor ratios and designed to remain easily identifiable. The intention has been, where possible, to have whole roads within a single ward such that a resident living on a road can easily identify which councillors they are represented by. The Town Council is willing to work with Cheshire East Council to determine the most appropriate boundaries should any revisions be required.

PROPOSAL THREE: REVISION TO THE EASTERN PARISH BOUNDARY

Proposal

The Knutsford Parish Boundary should be expanded slightly at its eastern border to include the whole of Longridge Business Park.

Background

The Birkin Brook forms the present eastern boundary with Mobberley. This cuts through the Longridge Business Park meaning that whilst its only access and the majority of businesses on the park are in Knutsford, some units are in Mobberley.

Whilst this affects no electors, the Town Council considers it sensible to include the whole business park within Knutsford.



Map D: Longridge Business Park and the existing parish boundary

PROPOSAL FOUR: REVISION TO THE NOTHERN PARISH BOUNDARY

Proposal

That the existing Tatton Parish be incorporated within Knutsford as part of the Bexton and Town Centre Ward.

Background

The southern portion of Tatton Park falls within Knutsford parish whilst the majority of the park is Tatton Parish. Tatton Parish does not have a parish meeting nor a parish council and comprises around 25 electors.

Tatton Park and Knutsford are inextricably connected; the community of Knutsford has great interest in Tatton Park and its future. It is recognised that that park is managed by Cheshire East Council, and that a single Cheshire East Councillor is the only representation the electors of Tatton parish have.

The Town Council considers that Tatton Parish residents will look to Knutsford for their needs and most likely consider themselves resident of and part of the community of Knutsford.

The Town Council considers that Tatton Parish should be abolished and the area it covers incorporated within Knutsford as part of the Bexton and Town Centre Ward. This will provide the residents of the existing parish an additional voice and local representation, mean the Town Council will be consulted on planning applications within Tatton Park, and that the Knutsford Town Council will have a stronger

mandate to speak on behalf of the community in respect of decisions taken on the management of Tatton Park.



Map E: Existing Boundaries of Knutsford (blue) and Tatton (red)

Knutsford Town Council

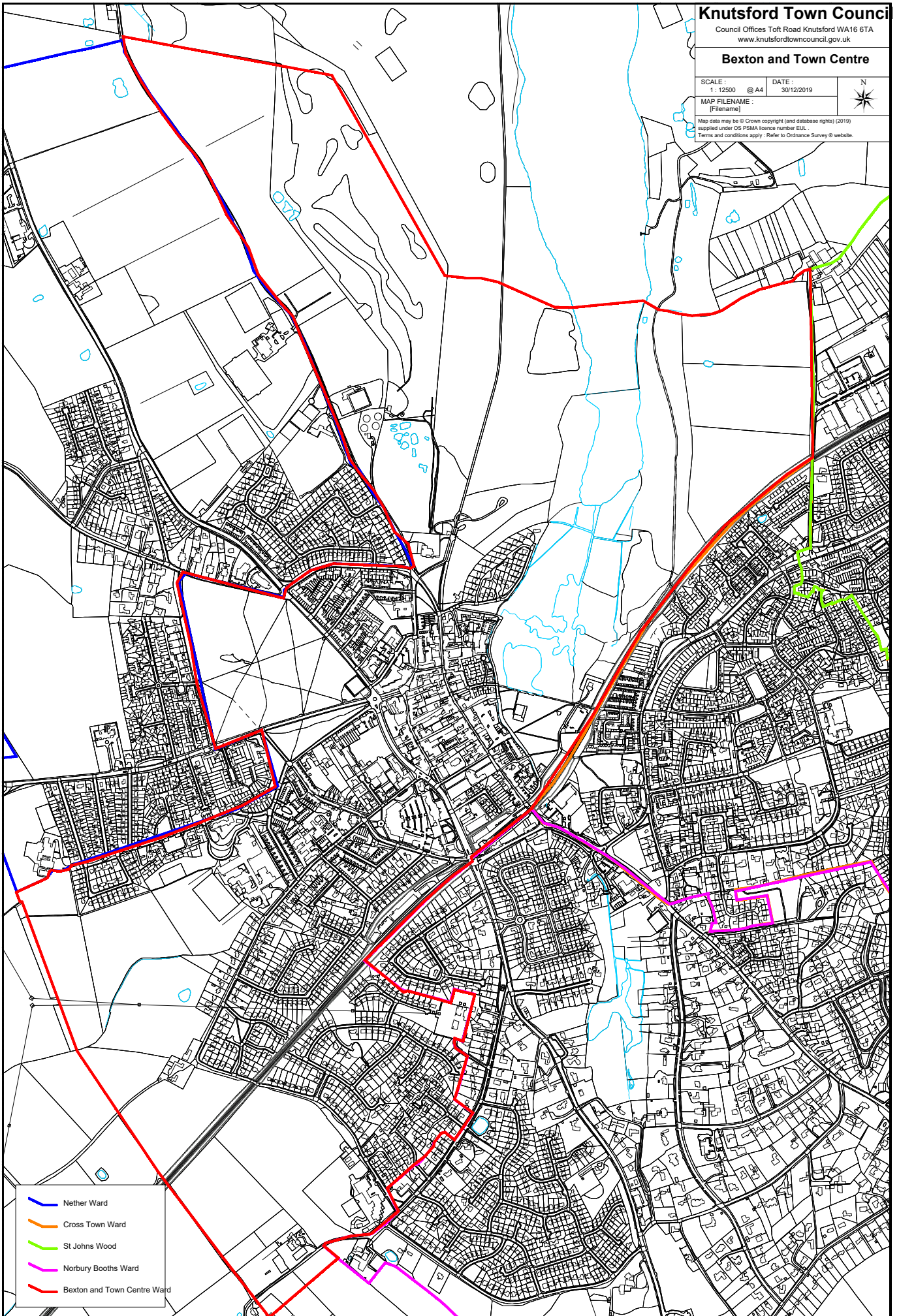
Council Offices Toft Road Knutsford WA16 6TA
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Bexton and Town Centre

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- Nether Ward
- Cross Town Ward
- St Johns Wood
- Norbury Booths Ward
- Bexton and Town Centre Ward

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Cross Town

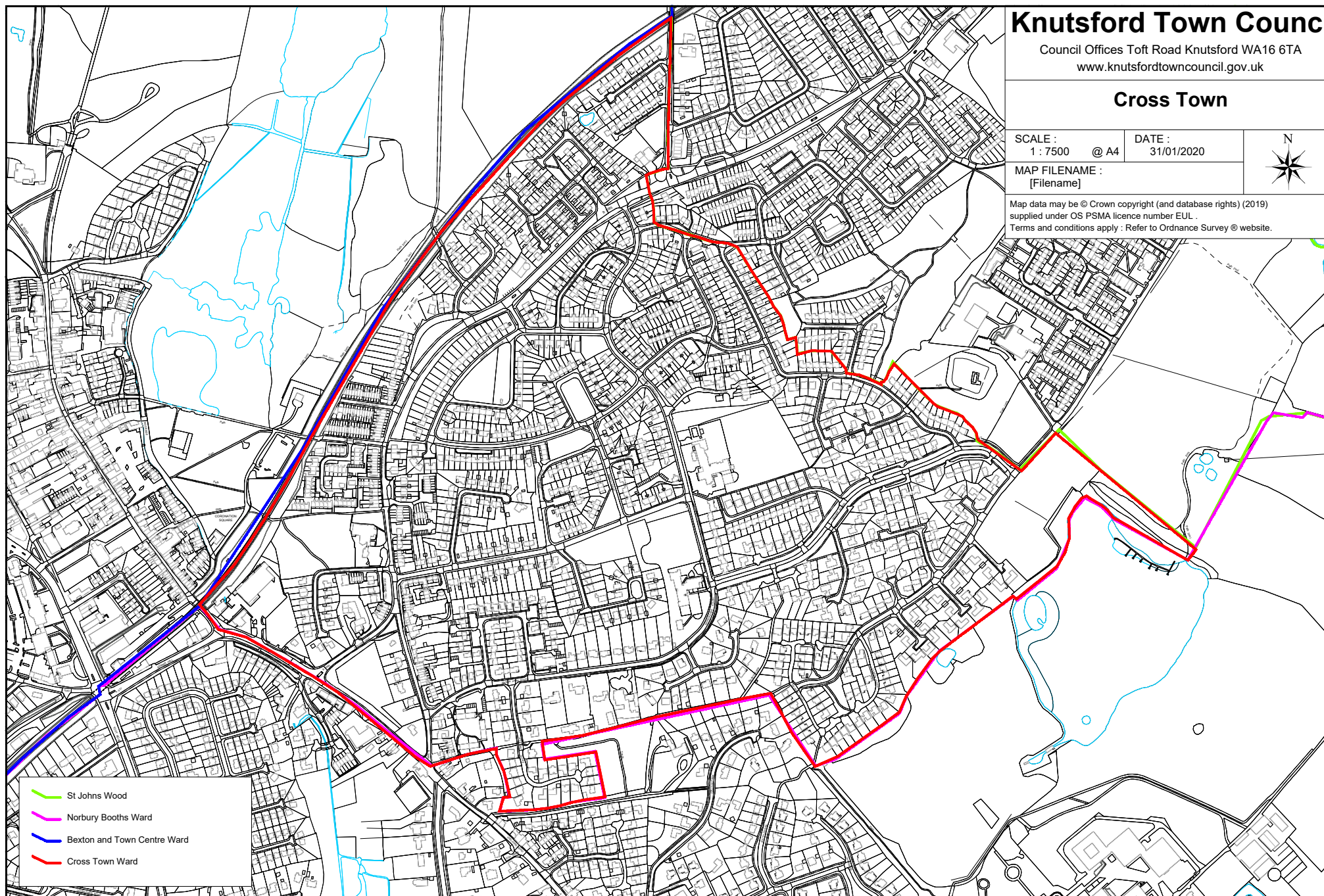
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- St Johns Wood
- Norbury Booths Ward
- Bexton and Town Centre Ward
- Cross Town Ward

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Nether

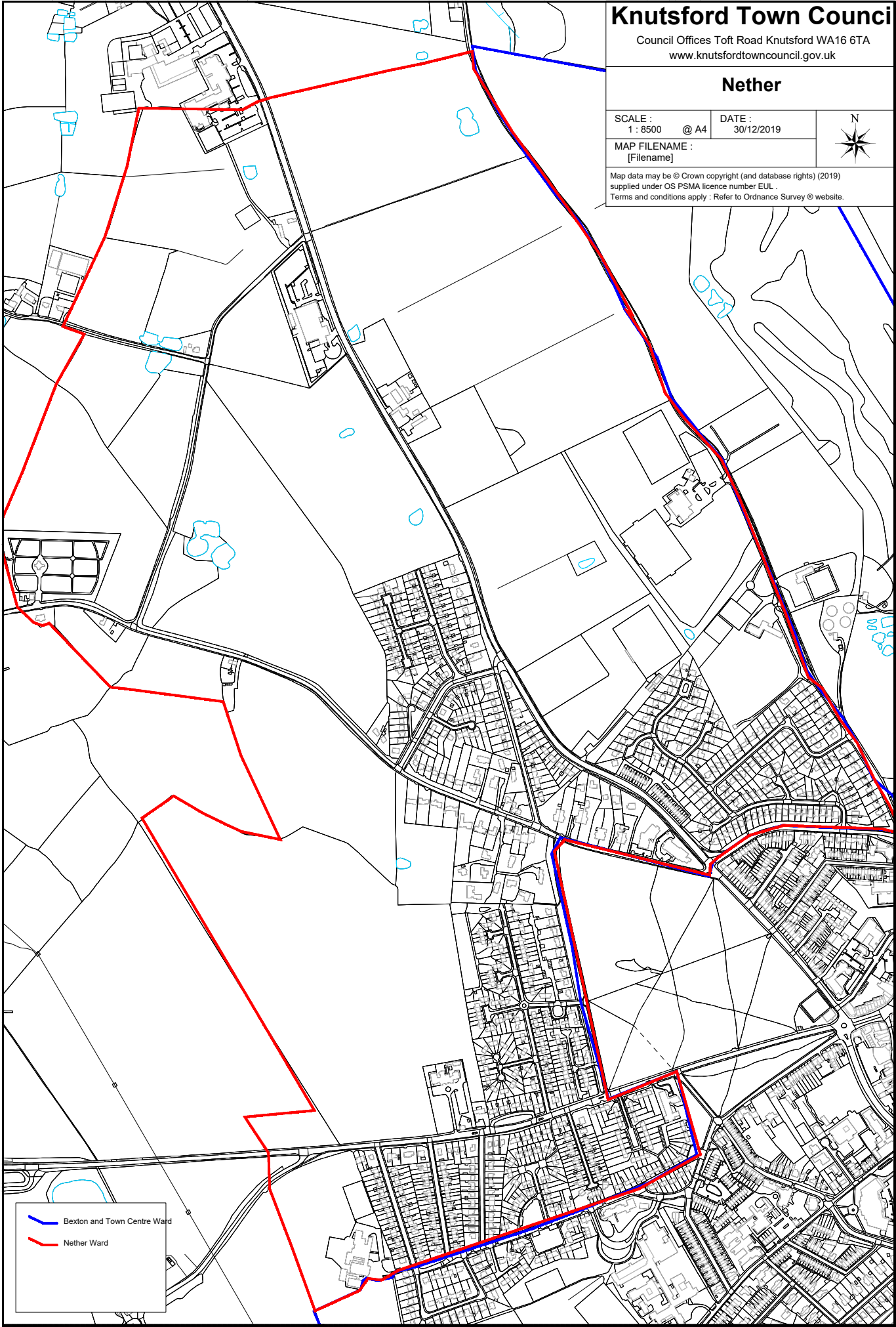
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-  Bexton and Town Centre Ward
-  Nether Ward

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Norbury Booths

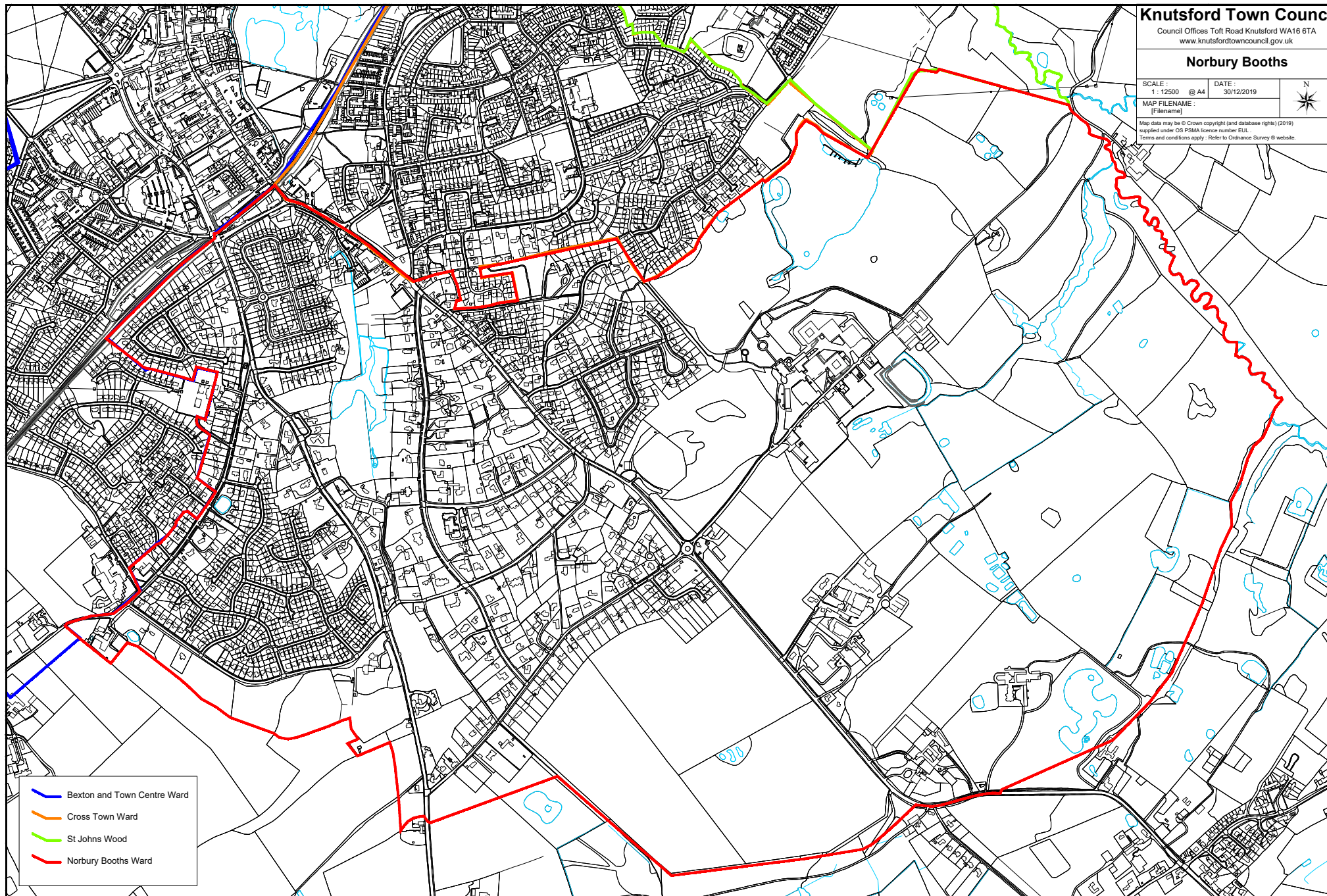
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-  Bexton and Town Centre Ward
-  Cross Town Ward
-  St Johns Wood
-  Norbury Booths Ward



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St John's Wood Ward

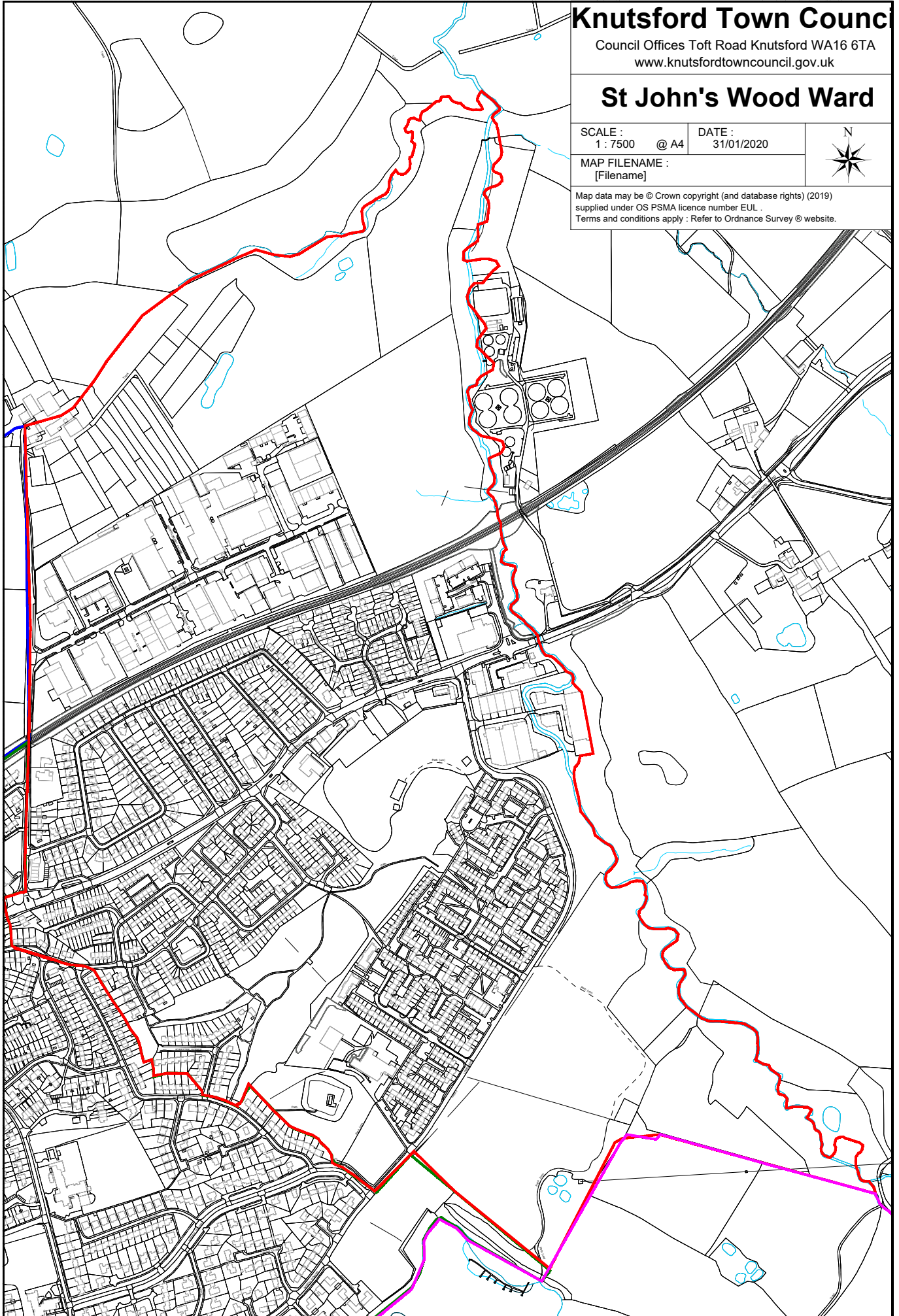
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Cheshire East Council Electoral Review Draft Recommendations Consultation Submission*

Annex A (maps annex)

*final (2/12/24) version

Annex A (maps annex): Table of Contents

Bollington and Macclesfield

Map 1: Macclesfield – Parish warding

Map 2: Macclesfield – Borough and parish warding in Springwood area

Map 3: Macclesfield – Gawsworth Moss (LPS 15) boundary correction

Knutsford

Map 4: Knutsford – Parish warding

Map 5: Knutsford – Deprivation

Sandbach

Map 6: Sandbach – Boundary anomalies - 1 Mill Hill Lane

Map 7: Sandbach – Parish warding

Other areas

Map 8: Other boundary anomalies – Crewe/ Wistaston – Dane Bank Avenue/ Thirlmere Road

Map 9: Other boundary anomalies – Crewe/ Wistaston – Moreton Road

Map 10: Other boundary anomalies – Crewe/ Wistaston – Wistaston Avenue

Map 11: Other boundary anomalies – Crewe/ Wistaston – Wistaston Green Road

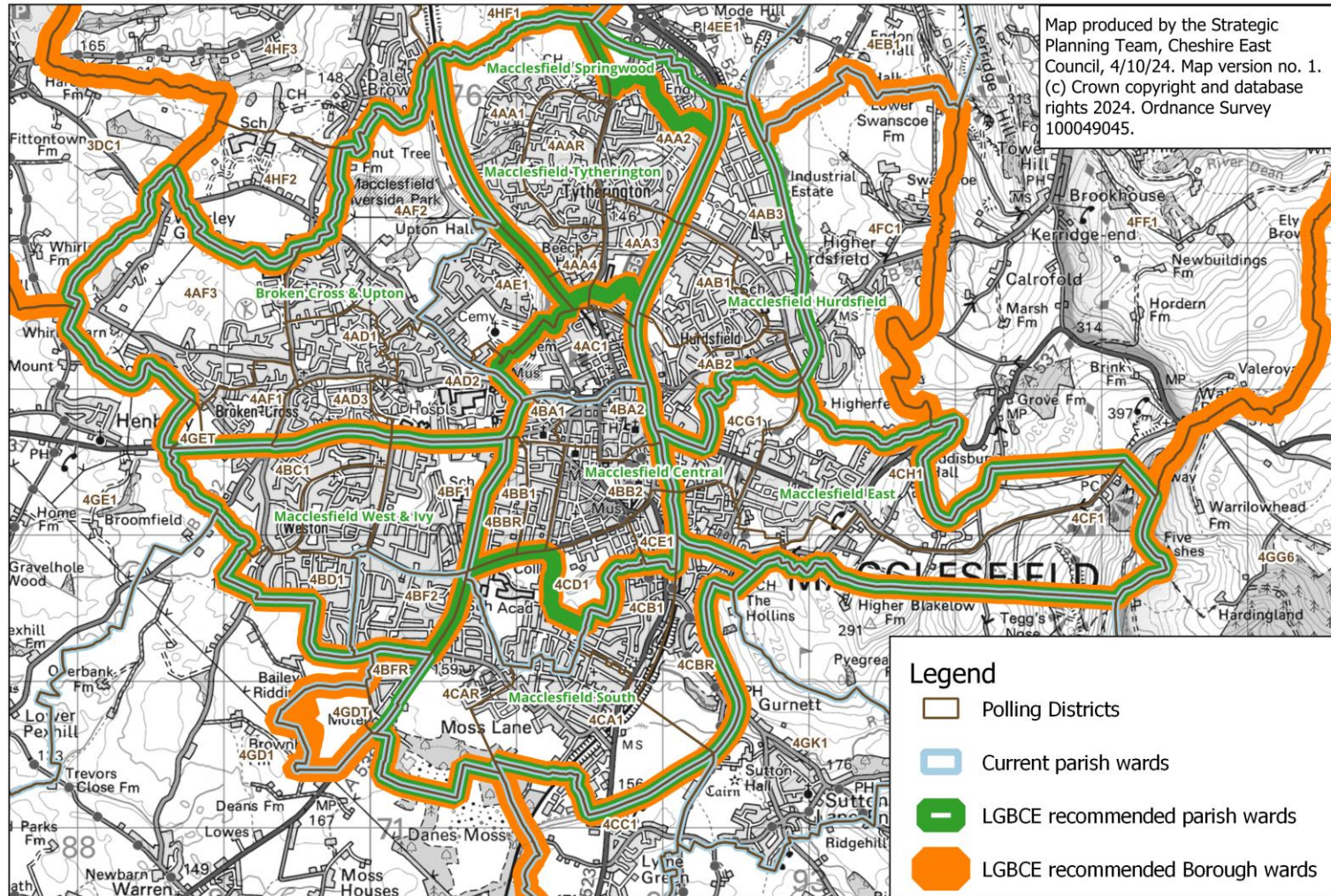
Map 12: Other boundary anomalies – Alsager/ Odd Rode – ‘Roughwood’

Map 13: Other boundary anomalies – Bollington & Rainow/ Sutton – Lower Windyway Farm/ Barn

Map 14: Other boundary anomalies – Nantwich South & Stapeley/ Wybunbury – ‘Moorlands’

Map 1: Macclesfield – Parish warding

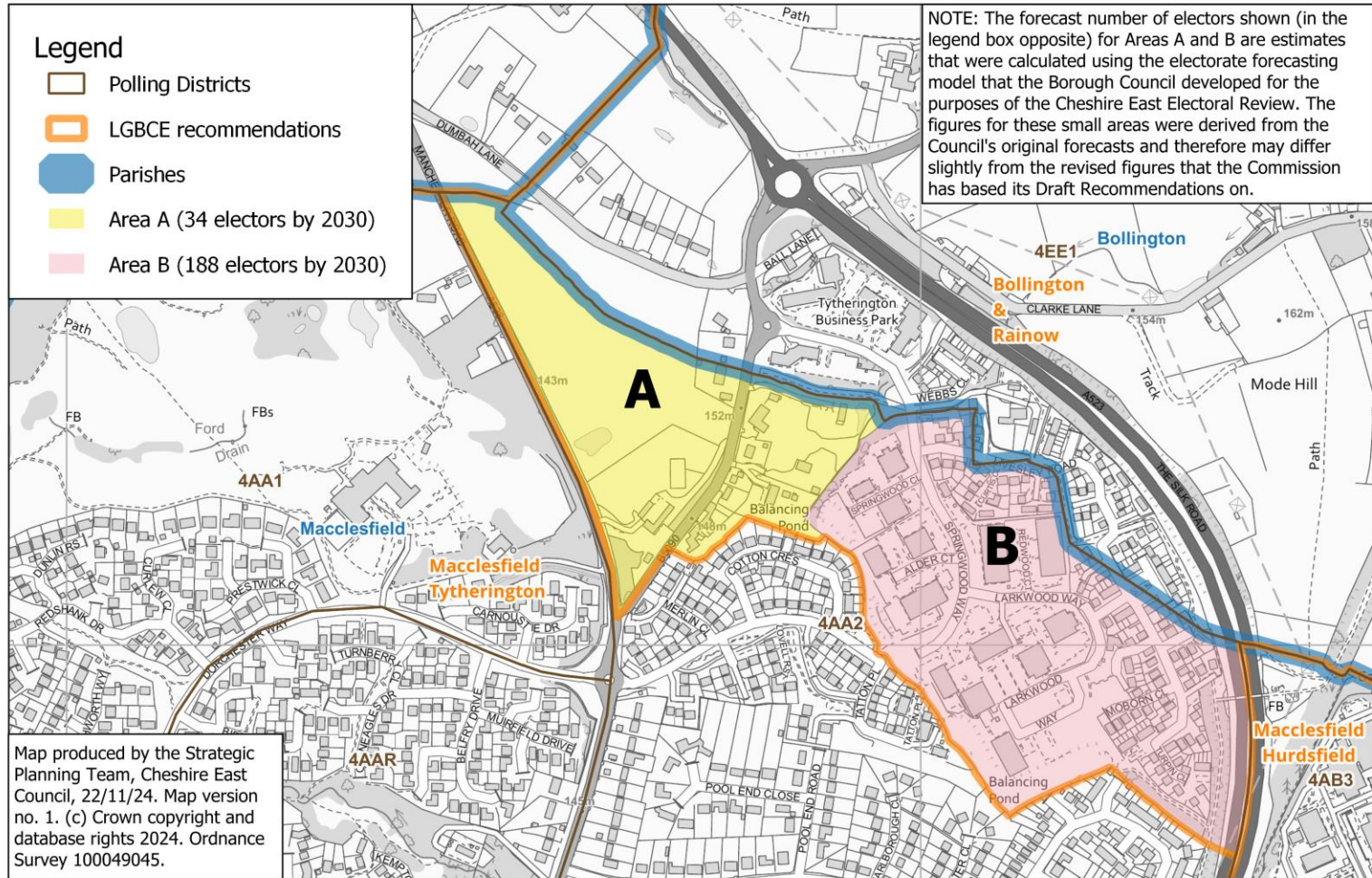
Parish warding for Macclesfield under the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) draft recommendations



Map 2: Macclesfield – Borough and parish warding in Springwood area

Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) draft recommended Borough ward boundary between Bollington & Rainow and Macclesfield Tytherington

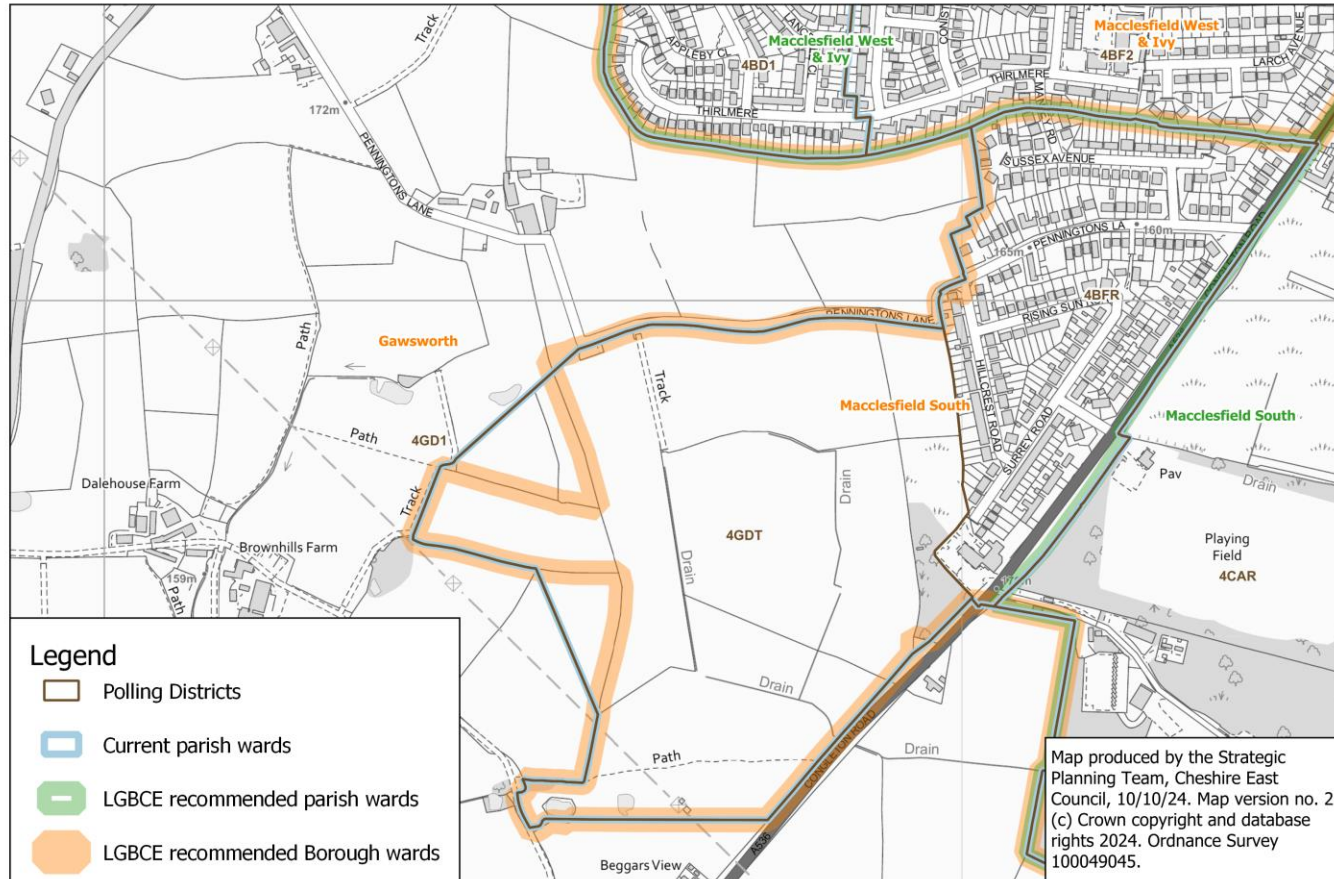
Under the LGBCE Draft Recommendations: the Bollington & Rainow Borough ward would include the small part of Macclesfield parish consisting of Areas A (yellow) and B (pink) in the map below; and this small area (A plus B) would therefore become a separate parish ward (Macclesfield Springwood).



Map 3: Macclesfield – Gawsworth Moss (LPS 15) boundary correction

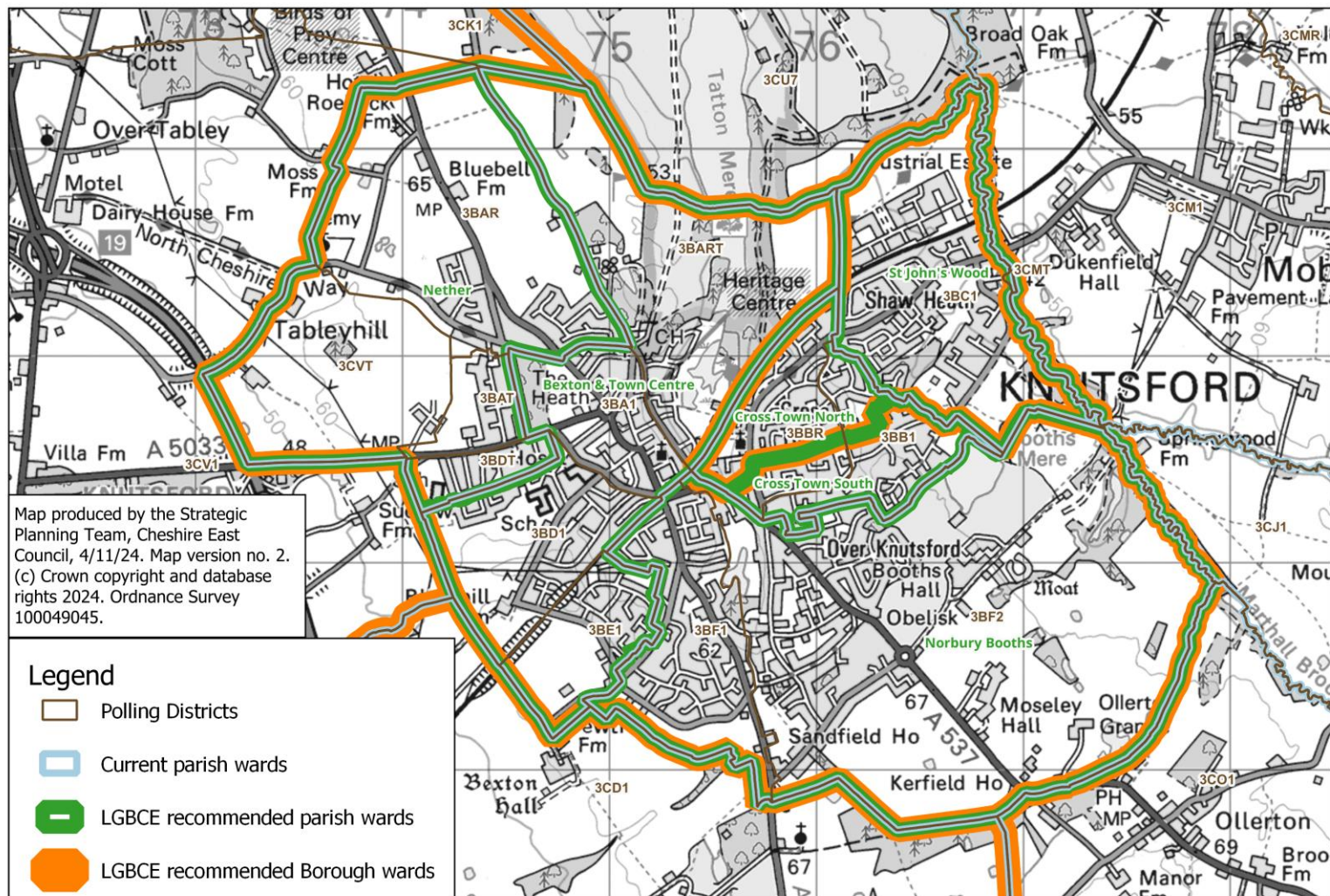
This map shows (as a pale orange line) the Commission's Draft Recommendations Borough ward boundary line in the Local Plan site LPS 15 area (LPS 15 covers the same area as polling district 4GDT). The Council has informally queried this line with the Commission, as it excludes two large triangular segments of LPS 15/ 4GDT – and in response the Commission has confirmed its Final Recommendations will have regard to the actual LPS 15 boundary and will ignore the 'deviations' below.

Warding for southwest Macclesfield and the adjacent area of Gawsworth under LGBCE draft recommendations: close-up of the divergence of LGBCE Borough ward boundary from current polling district boundaries, placing parts of 4GDT (same area as site LPS 15) in different Borough ward to the rest of that polling district.



Map 4: Knutsford – Parish warding

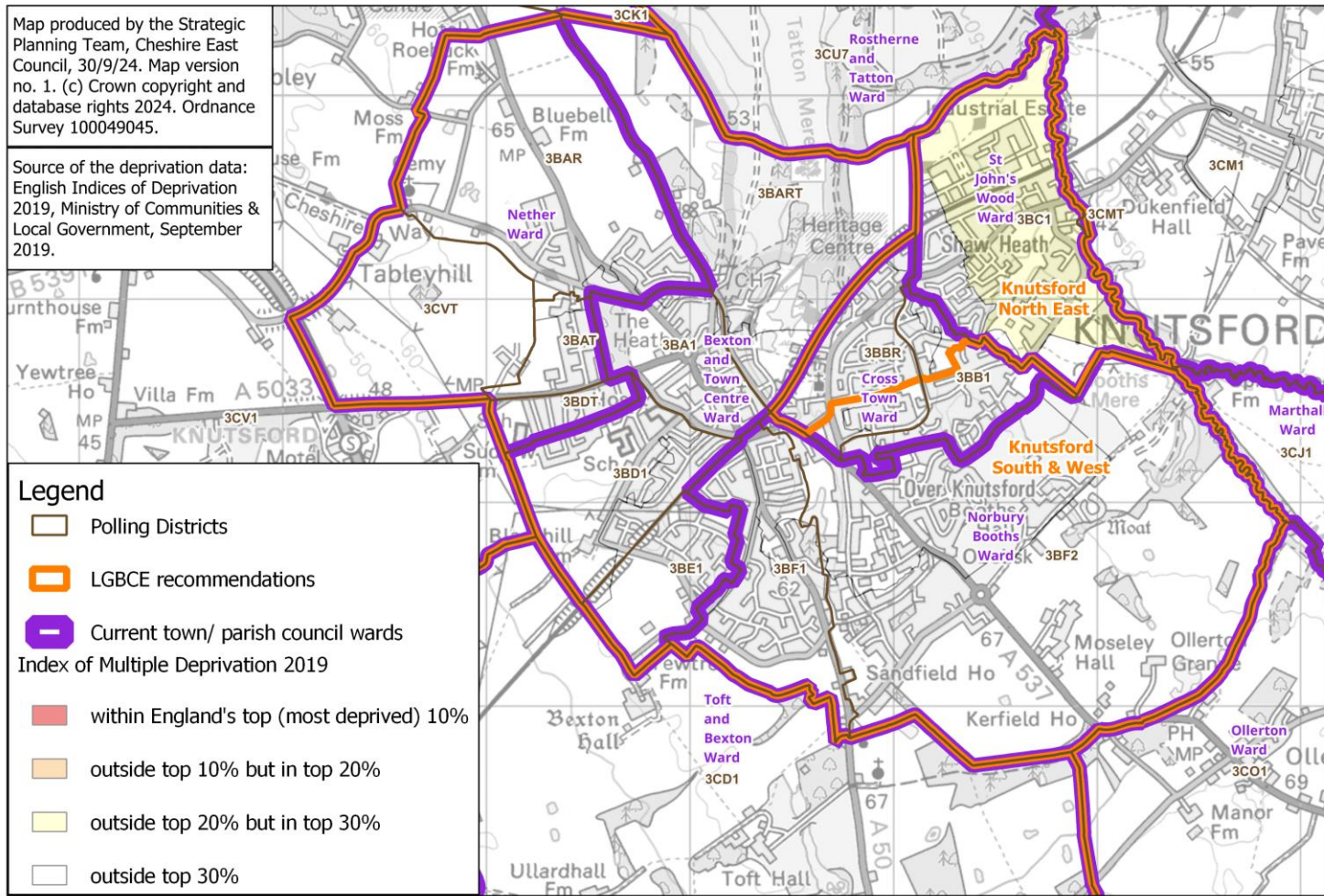
Parish warding for Knutsford under the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) draft recommendations



Map 5: Knutsford – Deprivation

In this map, the Commission's recommended Borough wards are shown by orange lines and Knutsford's main area of deprivation (covering most of the St John's Wood parish ward) is shown in pale yellow shading.

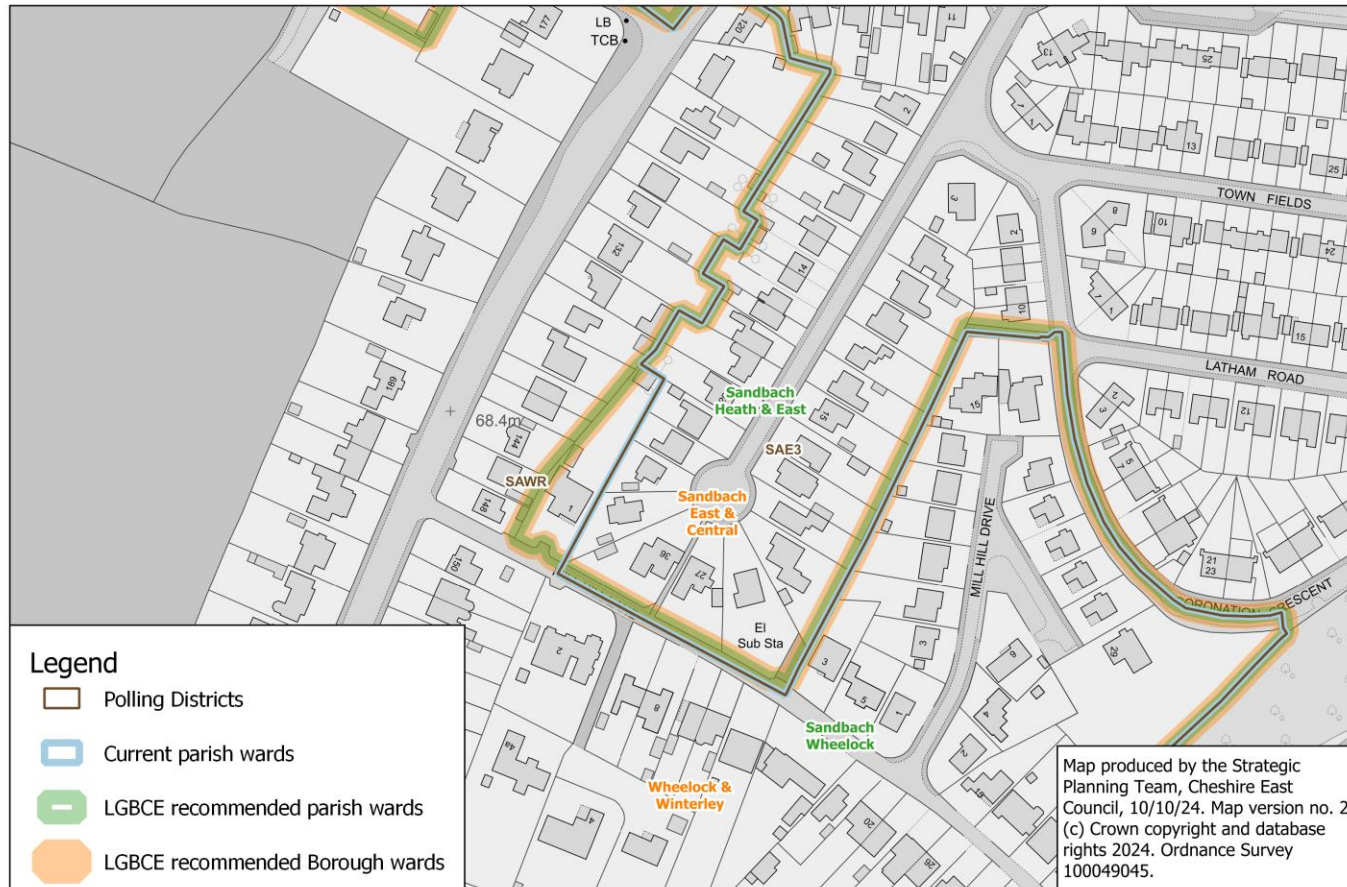
Warding for Knutsford under the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) draft recommendations, with most deprived area shown



Map 6: Sandbach - Boundary anomalies — 1 Mill Hill Lane

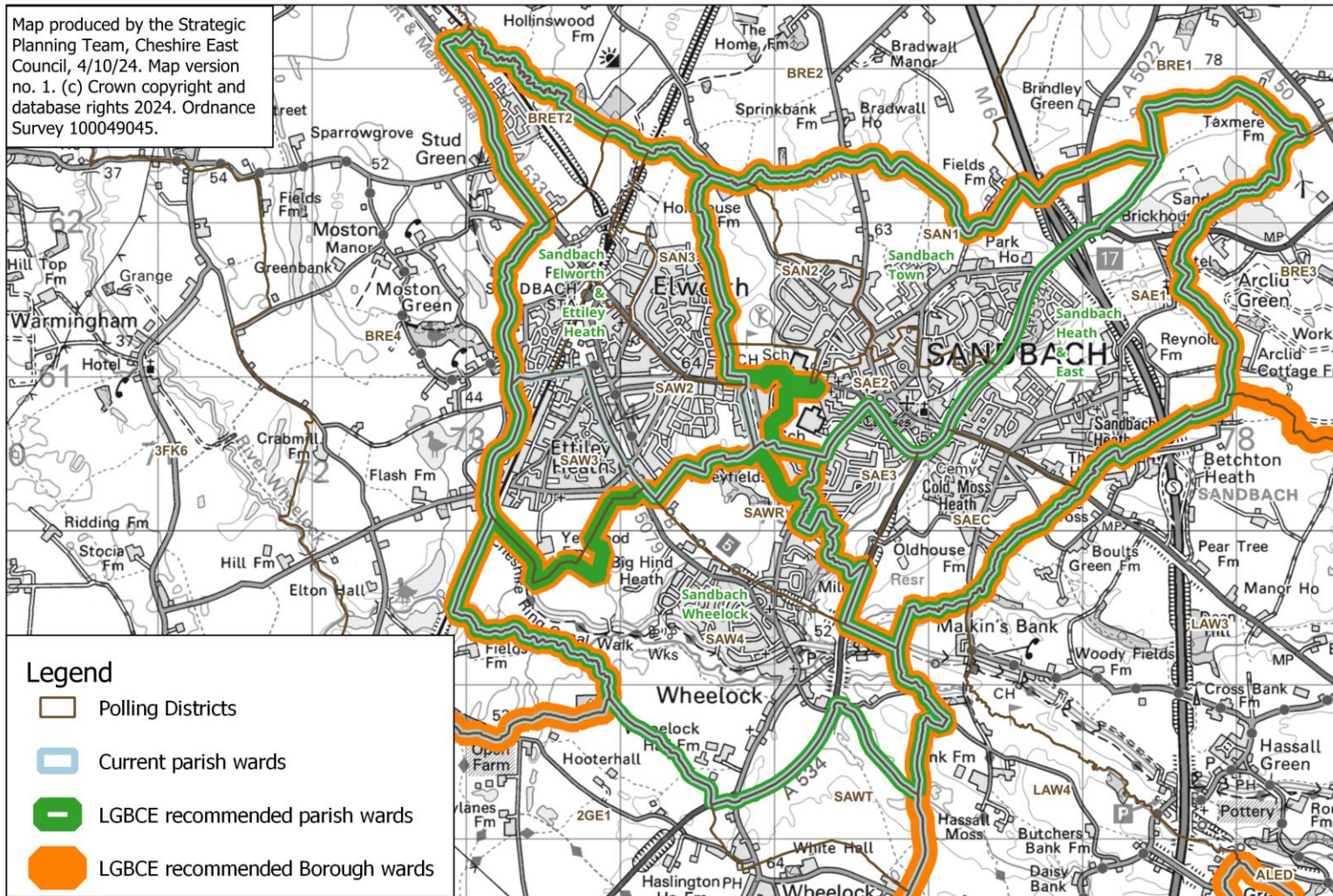
As shown below, the Commission's (draft) recommended Borough ward and parish ward boundaries deviate from the existing parish ward and polling district lines, to place No. 1 Mill Hill Lane in a different Borough and parish ward to those adjacent properties to which it has the most immediate pedestrian and vehicular access.

Parish warding for Sandbach under LGBCE draft recommendations: close-up of divergence of LGBCE boundary from current Town Council ward boundaries, placing 1 Mill Hill Lane in different Borough and parish wards to the rest of that street.



Map 7: Sandbach - Parish warding

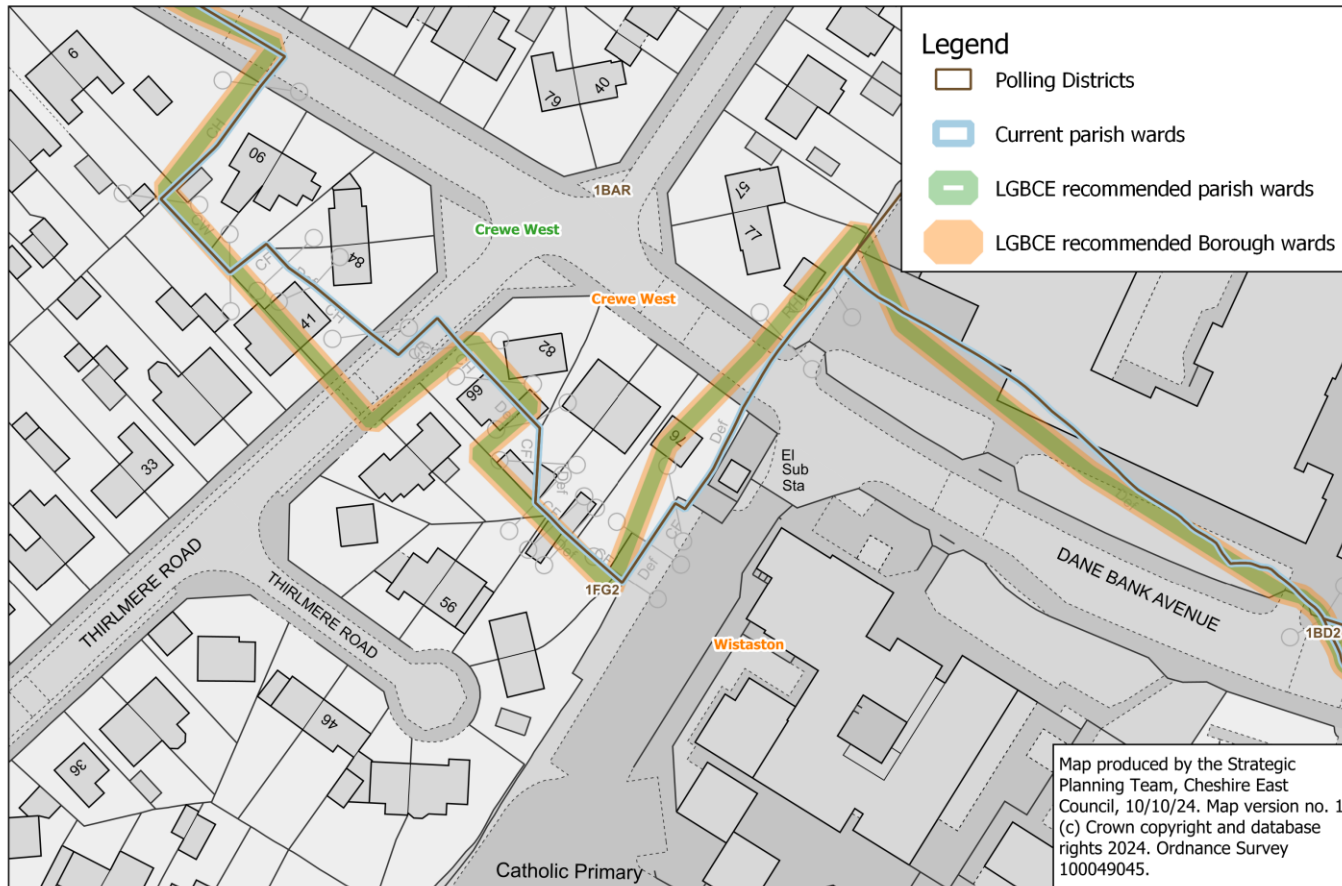
Parish warding for Sandbach under the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) draft recommendations



Map 8: Other boundary anomalies – Crewe/ Wistaston – Dane Bank Avenue/ Thirlmere Road

The Commission's Draft Recommendations report suggests its recommended Borough (and parish) ward boundary lines (the orange and green lines below) should align with the existing polling district and parish ward boundaries (brown and blue lines) in this location. However, they diverge, affecting 76 Dane Bank Avenue and 41 Thirlmere Road.

Divergence of LGBCE recommended Borough ward and parish ward boundaries from current electoral boundaries: impact on 41 Thirlmere Road and 76 Dane Bank Avenue



Map 9: Other boundary anomalies – Crewe/ Wistaston – Moreton Road

The Commission's Draft Recommendations report suggests its recommended Borough (and parish) ward boundary lines (the orange and green lines below) should align with the existing polling district and parish ward boundaries (brown and blue lines) in this location. However, they diverge, affecting 111 Moreton Road.

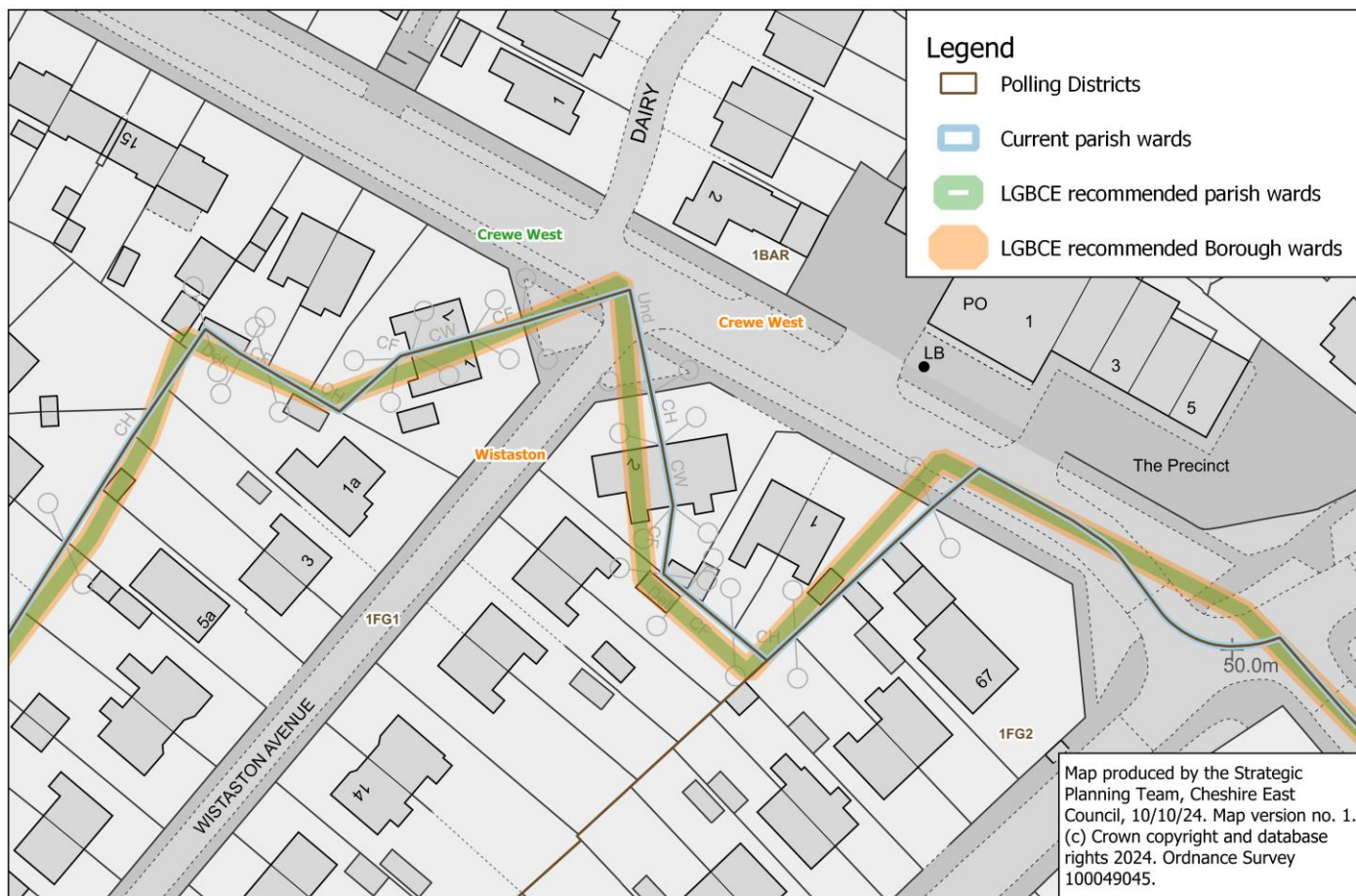
Divergence of LGBCE recommended Borough ward and parish ward boundaries from current electoral boundaries: impact on 111 Moreton Road



Map 10: Other boundary anomalies – Crewe/ Wistaston – Wistaston Avenue

The Commission's Draft Recommendations report suggests its recommended Borough (and parish) ward boundary lines (the orange and green lines below) should align with the existing polling district and parish ward boundaries (brown and blue lines) in this location. However, they diverge, affecting 1 and 2 Wistaston Avenue.

**Divergence of LGBCE recommended Borough ward and parish ward boundaries from current electoral boundaries:
impact on nos 1 & 2 Wistaston Avenue**



Map 11: Other boundary anomalies – Crewe/ Wistaston – Wistaston Green Road

The Commission's Draft Recommendations report suggests its recommended Borough (and parish) ward boundary lines (the orange and green lines below) should align with the existing polling district and parish ward boundaries (brown and blue lines) in this location. However, they diverge, affecting 74 and 98 Wistaston Green Road.

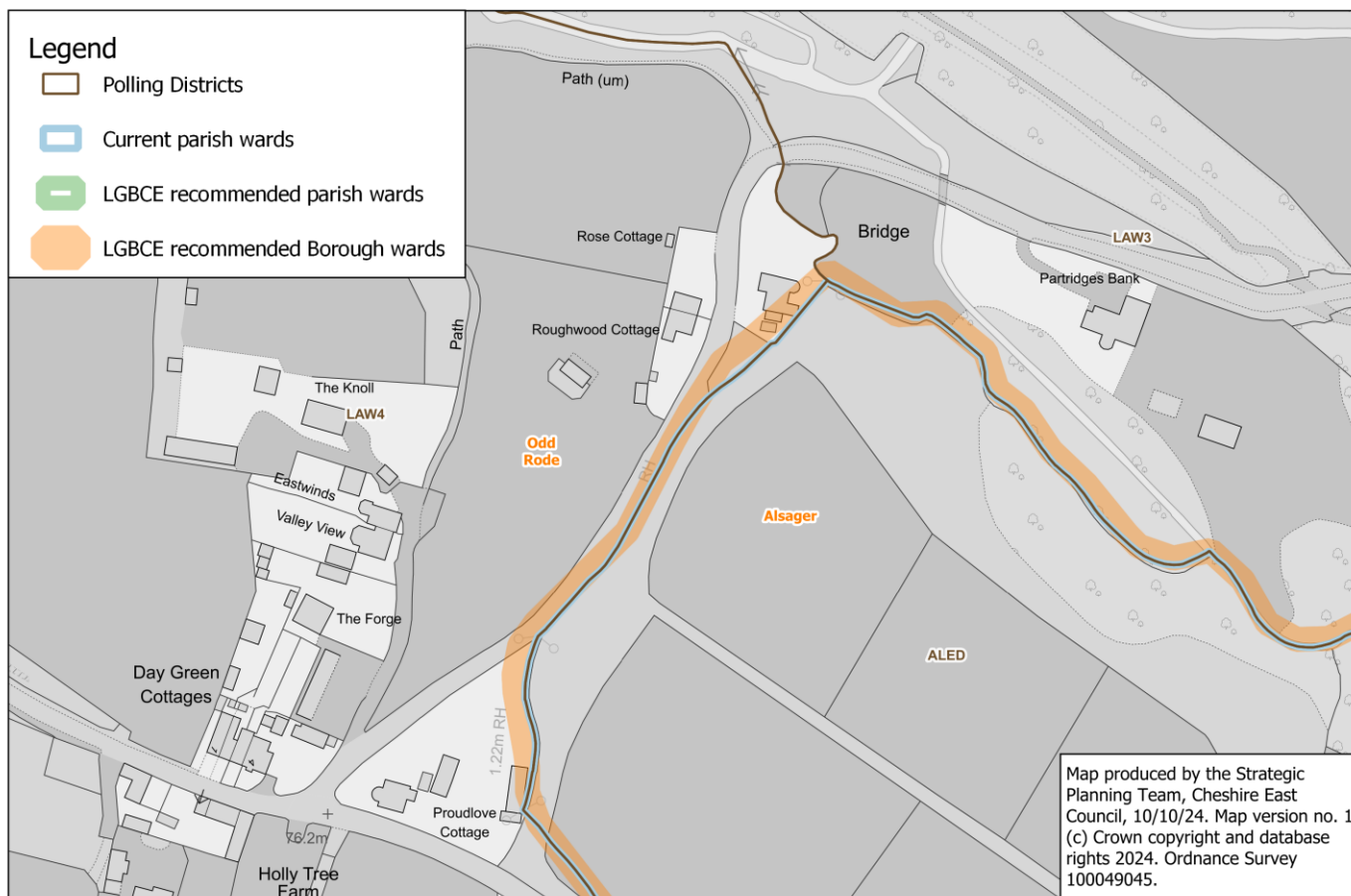
Divergence of LGBCE recommended Borough ward and parish ward boundaries from current electoral boundaries: impact on nos 74 & 98 Wistaston Green Road



Map 12: Other boundary anomalies – Alsager/ Odd Rode – ‘Roughwood’

The Commission’s Draft Recommendations report suggests its recommended Borough ward boundary line (the orange line below) should align with the existing polling district and parish ward boundaries (brown and blue lines) in this location. However, they diverge, affecting ‘Roughwood’ (the property opposite Rose Cottage/ Roughwood Cottage).

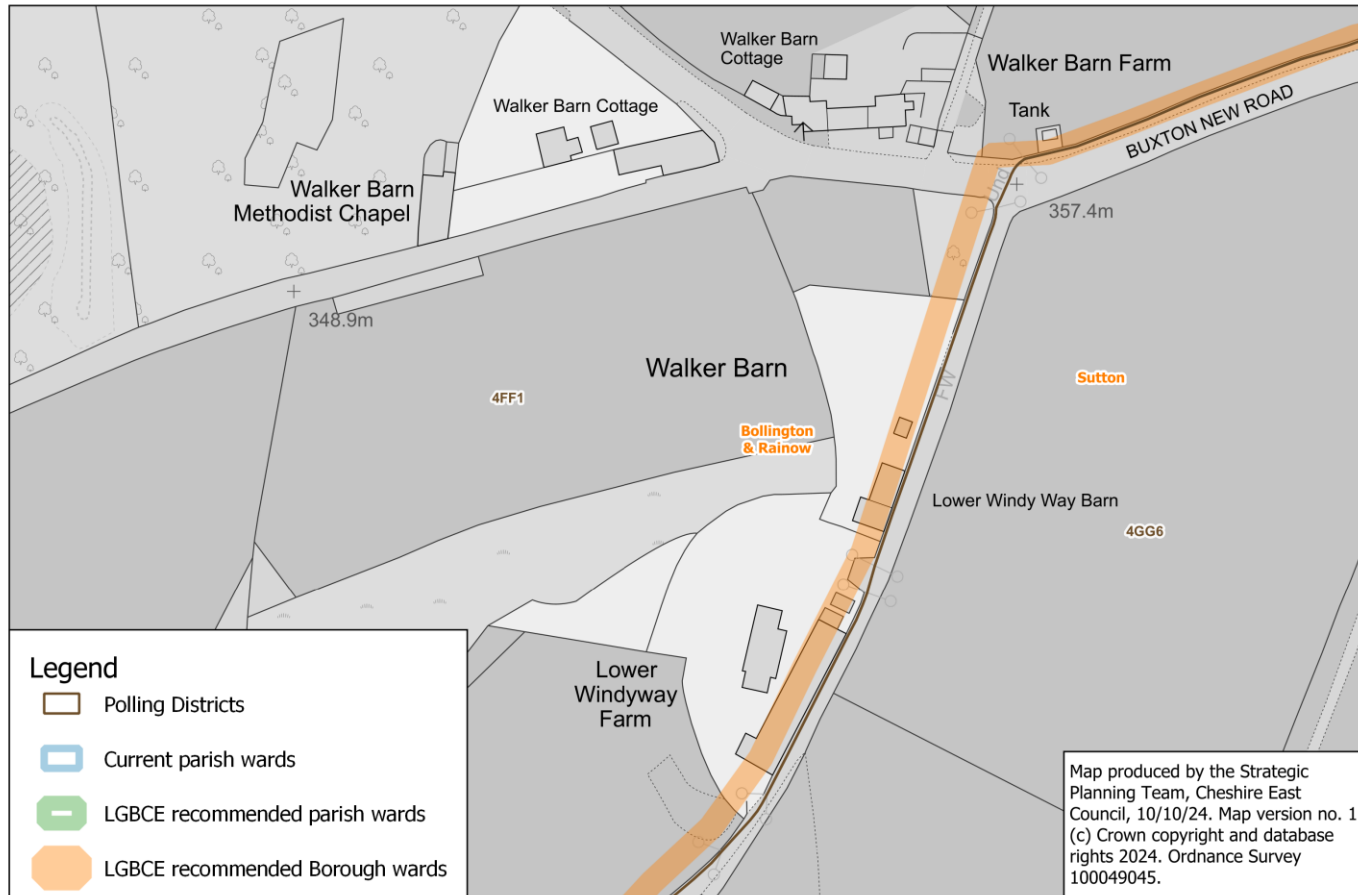
Divergence of LGBCE recommended Borough ward boundary from current electoral boundary: impact on ‘Roughwood’, Roughwood Hollow, Hassall parish



Map 13: Other boundary anomalies – Bollington & Rainow/ Sutton – Lower Windyway Farm/ Barn

The Commission's Draft Recommendations report suggests its recommended Borough ward boundary line (the orange line below) should align with the existing polling district boundary (the brown line) in this location. However, they diverge, affecting Lower Windyway Farm and Lower Windy Way Barn.

Divergence of LGBCE recommended Borough ward and parish ward boundaries from current electoral boundaries: impact on Lower Windy Way Barn and Lower Windyway Farm in Rainow parish



Map 14: Other boundary anomalies – Nantwich South & Stapeley/ Wybunbury – ‘Moorlands’

The Commission's Draft Recommendations report suggests its recommended Borough ward boundary line (the orange line below) should align with the existing polling district boundary (the brown line) in this location. However, they diverge, affecting the property 'Moorlands'.

Divergence of LGBCE recommended Borough ward boundary from current electoral boundary: impact on 'Moorlands', Wybunbury Lane, Wybunbury parish

