

York Labour Boundary Review Submission

This proposal is submitted on behalf of:

- York Labour Party
- York Labour Councillors
- David Skaith, York and North Yorkshire Mayor
- Luke Charters, York Outer MP
- Rachael Maskell, York Central MP

Executive Summary

This submission proposes a comprehensive plan to bring all wards into permissible electoral variance. Its proposed wards seek to better reflect community identity and interest, and deliver more effective and convenient local government.

This submission recognises the importance of clear geographic lines and common community identity as the basis for ward arrangements. In particular we recognise the primary importance of the river Ouse, railway lines and the ringroad, as the most identifiable dividing features of York. It also takes into consideration the decisions made by previous reviews on what were and were not appropriate geographies, as well as what historic boundaries are once again appropriate with shifting demographics.

West of the Ouse

To the west, Dringhouses and Woodthorpe ward no longer is within variance, and cannot be brought within variance whilst retaining a cohesive community identity and interest. The existing Westfield ward is not a fully coherent area, containing a substantial portion of Acomb.

A **Westfield, Woodthorpe and Westthorpe** ward in contrast forms a coherent area. A **Dringhouses** ward, east of the railway line forms its own unique community, as does the existing **Micklegate** ward.

Acomb is spread across Acomb, Holgate and Westfield wards, with few to none of Acomb's recognisable landmarks or services being within Acomb ward. This can be resolved by creating **Acomb West**, and **Holgate and Acomb East** wards. The **Leeman Road** area is isolated from surrounding areas, and has its own unique identity.

The six villages to the South of York (the Askhams, Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe, Middlethorpe and Acaster Malbis) share common interests and should together form a two member **Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe** ward, separate from a 1 member **Poppleton** ward.

East of the Ouse

To the east, Tang Hall is a clearly defined and distinct community, but finds itself split between Heworth and Hull Road wards. A better solution is to create a two member **Tang Hall and Derwenthorpe** ward to meet the needs of both communities. Derwenthorpe's road

access is almost entirely via Tang Hall, so it makes sense to bring both communities together.

Fishergate's residents see themselves as living in Fulford, so it is sensible to create an enlarged **Fulford** ward to reflect that identity. **Heslington and The University** are bound together by their parish and the students who live nearby, whereas Fulford and Heslington have little in common.

Better boundaries can be drawn between **Heworth** and **Heworth Without** to reflect the differences in these two communities.

Skelton is East of the Ouse but part of Rural West York, this makes little practical sense, and we think it should be returned to Rawcliffe and Clifton Without.

Osballdwick and **Derwent** should be divided into two separate wards to reflect their substantially different rural and suburban characters.

West of the Ouse

Existing wards:

Ward	Number of Councillors	% Variance 2031
Acomb	2	3
Copmanthorpe	1	5
Bishopthorpe	1	-4
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe	3	-13
Holgate	3	3
Micklegate	3	3
Rural West York	2	-4
Westfield	3	-2

Proposed wards:

Ward	Number of Councillors	Variance 2031	Recommendation/ Rationale
Holgate and Acomb East	3	8	Better boundaries reflecting communities
Acomb West	3	-4	Better boundaries, representing the local identity of the community, including new developments inside the ring road.
Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe	2	8	Askham Richard, Askham Bryan Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe, Acaster Malbis and Middlethorpe parishes. All have separate identities, but form an area of common socio-economic interest.
Dringhouses	1	-9	Creating a more compact ward with clear boundaries, now within variance
Micklegate	3	6	Small tweaks – a compact, established neighbourhood
Leeman Road	1	-8	A unique isolated neighbourhood
Poppleton	1	9	A more compact ward, with peripheral villages returned to neighbouring wards.
Westfield, Woodthorpe and Westhorpe	3	3	A more coherent community and within variance

West of the Ouse, ward boundaries need to be redrawn in order to address the Dringhouses and Woodthorpe ward projected electoral variance of -13%.

We have looked at ways to combine the ward with surrounding communities in order to boost its size, but there is no clear-cut solution that meets the test of 'local community identity' or 'effective local government'.

- Expanding the ward outside the Ring road into Rural West doesn't make sense as the rural villages have little in common with Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
- Expanding into Micklegate would impact clear, identifiable boundaries, and there would be no common interest and identity within the newly formed ward.
- Expanding into both Westfield and Micklegate wouldn't work either: this would mean including parts of Foxwood south of Bellhouse Way along Acomb Drive along with the Micklegate portion of St George's Place Residents' Association. This neither provides a ward with clear identifiable boundaries nor a ward with common interest and identity.

Micklegate, Dringhouses, Foxwood, Woodthorpe, Westfield and Westhorpe

Our recommendation is **to create a single member Dringhouses ward**.

This community, east of the railway line is geographically and culturally distinctive from surrounding areas. It is the historic centre of Dringhouses, with relatively high levels of affluence. It is served by Dringhouses Primary School, and is geographically compact with a clear centre along Tadcaster Road, with clear borders to the east and north, The Knavesmire and Little Hob Moor respectively.

This solution releases the western parts of Dringhouses and Woodthorpe ward to form part of a **Westfield, Woodthorpe and Westhorpe** ward. It is then possible to form a 3 member ward here, with parish lines, main roads, and the railway line acting as the boundary:

The proposed Westfield, Woodthorpe and Westhorpe ward would deliver effective and convenient local government:

- The previous '90s Foxwood ward contained the vast majority of this area.
- The Westhorpe area and Foxwood have similar levels of deprivation and housing stock.
- The areas are well connected:
 - 12 and 4 bus routes.
 - Cycle routes from Woodthorpe to town go through Foxwood.
 - Numerous pedestrian paths connecting cul de sacs.
- There are clear identifiable boundaries within this proposed ward.
 - Gale Lane is used by local primary schools as a dividing line for catchments, was the previous boundary of the 90s Foxwood ward, is the boundary of the Kingsway West Residents Association & is one of the most identifiable roads in the area.
 - It aligns with the southern urban catchment area for York High School.
 - It would contain the vast majority of the Cornlands and Lowfields Residents Association and the entirety of the Foxwood Residents Association.

- Askham Lane and Grange Lane provide a clear northern boundary, with Chapelfields to the north and Front Street to the east.

We also suggest the following tweaks to the existing boundary – affecting Dringhouses and Micklegate:

- The Knavesmire Wood should be moved into Dringhouses. The main users of the wood are overwhelmingly in Dringhouses, not the South Bank area. Casework relating to the woods could be better dealt with if the woods and its users were in the same ward.
- Pulleyn Drive should be moved into Micklegate ward.
 - This would move all of the St George's Place Residents' Association to within the Micklegate ward.
 - It would follow the previous 90s Bishophill ward boundary.
 - Little Hob Moor provides a clear geographic break between Micklegate and Dringhouses.
 - Residents look towards the city, not Dringhouses:
 - Local children attend Knavesmire primary and Millthorpe secondary
 - The local shops are on Bishophthorpe Road and Blossom Street.
- We would not suggest merging either Scarcroft Hill or Southbank with Dringhouses to form a 2 member ward, as these areas have significantly diverging identities and interests.

Making the changes needed to Dringhouses and Woodthorpe provides a positive opportunity to create other wards more aligned to local communities to improve democratic accountability.

Key issues to tackle:

- Westfield ward contains significant areas of Acomb, which have limited connection to Foxwood and Westfield.
- Holgate comprises parts of eastern Acomb with unclear boundaries between the two, as well as containing the isolated Leeman Road area.
- Acomb ward actually only contains a small portion of Acomb and doesn't include any of Acomb's community, cultural or institutional centres, or the new Acomb developments in and around Millfield Lane.

Acomb, Holgate and Leeman

We recommend forming **Holgate and Acomb East**, **Acomb West** and **Leeman Road** wards as ways of resolving these concerns.

Holgate and Acomb East will make a sensible pairing, absorbing the already blurred community boundary running across these two areas. Holgate's boundary is already unclear: to the south it is found running along the back of houses. Further, Acomb Primary is located in Holgate – its catchment area covers southern Holgate, parts of Acomb and Westfield wards, including Front Street. To the north, areas that used to be Acomb have been moved

into Holgate, as Carr Lane provides the clearest geographic boundary despite both sides being considered Acomb.

Front Street and Carr Lane form the best division of Acomb into east and west:

- Front Street is the historical and cultural centre of Acomb, and the boundary running along it would well reflect the demarcated community.
 - It was used as the previous Acomb southern ward boundary in the 90s.
 - It is a clear boundary.
 - It serves as a dividing line for the area's bus routes. With the 5 servicing areas to the north, and the 4 and 16 servicing areas to the south.
- Carr Lane
 - It is the existing boundary.
 - It is the clearest street in the area to draw a divide down, without going behind houses.
 - It is used to divide local primary school catchment areas - Poppleton Road Primary and Carr Junior School

To create a compact Holgate and Acomb East ward, we would suggest including Hob Moor, as the majority of the park accesses are within the new ward.

In order to make Holgate and Acomb East a three member ward, the Leeman Road area would need to be separated off into a 1 member **Leeman Road** ward. Whilst an urban 1 member ward is not the norm, it would provide the best representation for this area.

This area is isolated from all neighbouring areas of the city, being bordered on all sides by the Ouse and railway lines. It has traditionally been referred to by residents as 'the Island' due to its geographic isolation from neighbouring Holgate, Clifton and Micklegate, and its tendency to be cut off from much of the city during floods.

- The area is disconnected from Holgate, with access between areas being possible only along Water End and a singular footbridge. Local bus routes only connect the area with Acomb and the city centre, and its primary amenities and green spaces are separate to those used by Holgate residents.
- It previously formed the core of the '90s Beckfield ward, separated from Holgate along the railway line.
- The area is almost identical to the catchment area for St Barnabas Primary School.
- There are local community groups, such as Friends of Leeman Park, litter picking groups and a food bank.
- The area faces unique challenges with the York Central development.
- The area has strong identifiable boundaries.
- It has an identifiable local culture centred on the railways, distinct from neighbouring areas.
 - It contains the nationally iconic Railway Museum.
 - Leeman Road was constructed to house railway workers.
 - Physical railway tracks dominate the area.
 - The York Central neighbourhood names reflect the area's links with the railways.

Acomb West should contain the existing Acomb ward, the Acomb portion of Westfield north of Front Street, and Chapelfields. This provides a compact, identifiable ward. In addition, new developments at the northern end of Acomb should be included. Currently within Rural West York, but within the ring road, these sites form an extension of Acomb and the city proper, and have little to nothing in common with the remaining Rural West York ward.

- The Sugar Works site is largely within Acomb ward, however the top end is in Rural West York. With the anticipated layout of the site, phases 5 and 6 will be partially and fully within Rural West York ward respectively (*See Figure 1*). Dividing the new development would be detrimental to the new community.
- The housing along Millfield Lane, including the Kyle Way Cul De Sac is isolated from Rural West York, separated by the ring road and the York Industrial Estate. Once completed, the primary access road for the Sugar Works site will be along Millfield Lane, meaning as the development is built, the area will be increasingly integrated into the north of Acomb and Sugar Works area. (*See Figure 1*)
- The Langley Gate development is isolated from Rural West York ward, is within the ring road and forms an extension of the Acomb area.
- The area aligns neatly with the urban northern portion of the York High School catchment area.
- The southern and eastern boundaries align neatly with the Chapelfields and Carr Area Resident Association.

Figure 1:



Black Line - primary development road access

Red Line - parish boundary

Rural West York, Copmanthorpe and Bishopthorpe

Without the Acomb developments (which are an urban extension of Acomb, as set out above) there aren't sufficient electors for a 2 member ward in Rural West York ward.

Poppleton should become a 1 member ward with Rufforth, Poppleton, Hessay and Knapton parishes making up the ward, and the remaining parishes moving into neighbouring wards.

Poppleton ward would have similar schooling situations and be comparable to the 90s Upper Poppleton ward. Rufforth is served by Rufforth Primary and Poppleton, Hessay and Knapton are served by Poppleton Ousebank school. In contrast Skelton's schooling is linked to Rawcliffe and Clifton Without, whilst the Askhams are linked to North Yorkshire.

Skelton parish should be returned to a **Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without** ward (East of the Ouse). The current inclusion of Skelton into Rural West is unsatisfactory:

- A ward stretching from Askham Richard to Skelton, is ill defined geographically, as Skelton is not in the west of York.
- Rural West is the only ward to have land on both sides of the river Ouse, which is the largest dividing line in York.
- Skelton has substantial historic, cultural and transport links with Rawcliffe and Clifton Without. It has few links with Rural West York.
 - It has five bus routes connecting it to Rawcliffe and no routes to Poppleton.
 - Secondary education is provided by Vale of York Academy, whilst Rural West is primarily served by Manor School.
 - Rawcliffe Moor is within Skelton parish.
- The previous review moved Skelton into Rural West out of necessity, to make the ward electoral population numbers work. This is something that is no longer required under our broader proposed changes.
- All previous York wards have had Skelton in a ward with Rawcliffe.

The remaining area should form a new 2 member **Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe** ward. This ward would have significant commonality, with similar socio-economic interests around schooling, access to York, commuting to West Yorkshire, and rural affairs. This ward would be made up of the parishes of Askham Richard, Askham Bryan, Copmanthorpe, Acaster Malbis and Bishopthorpe. All areas with good foot and car connectivity.

- Askham Richard and Askham Bryan should be within the ward as:
 - They have similar schooling catchment concerns to Copmanthorpe and Bishopthorpe, with numerous secondary and primary aged children attending school in the North Yorkshire Council area.
 - They are well connected to Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe by Askham Field Lane and the York ring road.
- All 6 villages have separate identities, but form a recognisable area with common interest.
 - All 6 comprise the area covered by The Old School Medical Practice.

- The majority of the area is served by Milthorpe School.
- The villages have similar schooling catchment concerns, with numerous secondary and primary aged children attending school in the North Yorkshire Council area.
- Previously both Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe have been in a 2 Member ward.
- Copmanthorpe has previously been contained within the same ward as Askham Richard and Askham Bryan.
- We would suggest the inclusion of Middlethorpe Common into the same ward as Middlethorpe.

East of the Ouse

Existing wards:

Ward	Number of Councillors	% Variance 2031
Clifton	2	3
Fishergate	2	12
Fulford and Heslington	1	18
Guildhall	3	10
Haxby and Wigginton	3	-8
Heworth	3	-6
Heworth Without	1	15
Hull Road	3	-14
Huntington and New Earswick	3	7
Osballdwick and Derwent	2	9
Rawcliffe and Clifton Without	3	-4
Strensall	2	-10
Wheldrake	1	9

Proposed wards:

Ward	Number of Councillors	Variance 2031	Recommendation/ Rationale
Clifton	2	8	Return to the identifiable parish boundary – matching school catchment areas
Derwent	2	7	A more coherent rural area with shared social and economic interest
Fulford	3	-2	Better reflects the identity of Fulford
Guildhall	3	-1	Remains relatively unchanged, but loses the Heworth Gas Works
Haxby and Wigginton	3	-8	Unchanged
Heworth	3	-7	Delivers a stronger local identity
Heworth Without	1	-1	Delivers a stronger local identity and boundaries
Huntington and New Earswick	3	7	Unchanged
Osballdwick	1	-6	Creates a more coherent community identity
Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without	3	5	Includes Skelton for more effective and convenient government
Strensall	2	-10	Unchanged
Tang Hall and Derwenthorpe	2	5	Reflects urban community identity and transport connections
Heslington and University	2	-6	Reflects community identity

Unchanged Wards:

We suggest no changes to the wards below, as they are within variance and reflect their communities well.

- Huntington and New Earswick
- Haxby and Wigginton
- Strensall

Clifton, Rawcliffe, Clifton Without and Skelton

As previously discussed, we recommend Skelton be re-merged with the existing Rawcliffe and Clifton Without, into a Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without ward.

We recommend that the **Clifton** boundary be returned to the parish boundary:

- It represents the clearest dividing line between Clifton and Clifton Without
- It returns to the pre 2015 boundary
- It would make the Clifton Primary catchment area match the ward boundary.

Hull Road, Osbaldwick and Derwenthorpe

Hull Road ward is projected to have far too few electors by 2031, and the existing ward contains disparate communities. Boundaries will need to be re-drawn, providing an opportunity to create wards that reflect the local identity of the electors who live here.

Tang Hall and Derwenthorpe form a clear community of interest and a compact 2 member ward.

Tang Hall is a significant, well established community in the east of York, with clear common community interest and identity, separate to Heworth in the north and the University to the south. However, the area is artificially divided in two with no corresponding ward.

There is clear evidence to support ward boundaries that reflect this place:

- Tang Hall has significant levels of deprivation, distinct to levels of deprivation in other parts of Heworth and south of Hull Road.
- Tang Hall has numerous vibrant cultural and community centres, which are at the heart of the community:
 - Tang Hall Community Centre
 - Tang Hall Explore Library
 - Tang Hall Surgery
 - Tang Hall Primary School
 - A local Residents Association.
 - Tang Hall Working Men's Club
- It is compact and well connected, with an effective road network and a well-used pedestrian/cycle path connecting the core of the community.

We recommend the following boundaries:

- The southern boundary should run along Hull Road. It is a clear and identifiable boundary along a main road. It is in line with the boundary of the Tang Hall Residents Association and the local primary school southern catchment boundary.
- The western boundary should run along St Nicholas Fields up to and along Little Hallfield Road. The fields are the existing ward boundary. Little Hallfield Road provides a clear dividing line, with residential housing on the one side and industrial businesses on the other.
- The northern boundary should run along Tang Hall Beck until it ends meeting Melrosegate. The boundary should then go down the middle of Melrosegate, Third Avenue, Sixth Avenue and Fourth Avenue. This includes Tanghall Primary within the ward, and reflects the lower number Avenues being considered culturally Heworth.
- The eastern boundary should run largely along the current Heworth Without Osbaldwick ward lines, with slight amendments to create a clearer boundary:
 - Osbaldwick Primary should be moved entirely into the ward of the same name, as its two sites are currently split between two wards.
 - Broughton Way should be moved into Osbaldwick ward, as it is isolated from the rest of Tang Hall, by Osbaldwick Primary and is well connected to Osbaldwick. Locally it is considered to be a part of Osbaldwick, with the housing stock and demographic of residents being more similar to neighbouring streets in Osbaldwick than Tang Hall.

This new ward would just fall short of being a 2 member ward. Therefore the bordering Derwenthorpe development should be included, as its geography and population share far more in common with Tang Hall than Osbaldwick (the current ward is Osbaldwick and Derwent).

- Derwenthorpe has a distinct identity from Osbaldwick:
 - Derwenthorpe has its own local residents association
 - It has radically different demographics and housing types
 - It is geographically separate, with Osbaldwick Beck forming a clear dividing line between communities.
 - There is very limited road access, with only a small portion of Derwenthorpe being accessible by car from Osbaldwick.
 - Osbaldwick residents tend to use Osbaldwick playing fields for recreation activities, whereas Derwenthorpe uses its own green spaces.
- Derwenthorpe has clear common interests with Tang Hall:
 - Road access to Derwenthorpe comes primarily through Temple Avenue and Fifth Avenue in Tang Hall.
 - Pedestrian and cycle access to York City centre is the same as Tang Hall, along the 66 cycle route.
 - The only bus servicing Derwenthorpe directly is the 25, which runs through Tang Hall, with no Osbaldwick connection.
 - Its green and recreational areas are used primarily by residents of Derwenthorpe and neighbouring Tang Hall.

- It creates a much clearer on-the-ground boundary between Osbaldwick and Tang Hall along Osbaldwick Beck, rather than an arbitrary line cutting through 5th and Temple Avenues.

Guildhall, Heworth and Heworth Without

Guildhall ward is within variance and has clear boundaries well reflecting local communities, all in or within easy walking distance of the city centre. It is however at the top end of variance, has the largest non-registered population in York, and contains the majority of York's businesses and cultural assets.

To make the ward more manageable for members we would suggest that the Heworth Gas Works site and neighbouring Layerthorpe properties on the Heworth side of the major Eboracum Way/James street link road be moved back into **Heworth** ward.

- The site borders Heworth ward on two sides, with the Foss on the other, and is considered a part of Heworth.
- The area was previously part of Heworth ward, until the 2015 review.
- It would move the vast majority of residential Layerthorpe into Heworth, which currently straddles both wards.
- Layerthorpe is served by the same primary school as the southern half of Heworth.
- The Foss, Layerthorpe, and Hallfield Road, form a clearly defined boundary that can be seen on the ground.

Heworth Without ward is too large to be a 1 member ward, and the remaining Heworth ward with the Gas Works is too small to be a 3 member ward (given the formation of Tang Hall and Derwenthorpe). This can be remedied by adjusting the border between the two.

The Heworth Without parished area has a distinct suburban identity, separate to Heworth proper which has an urban identity. We recommend moving the Heworth and Heworth Without border largely to the parish boundary line up Stockton Lane.

- This would restore the previous Monk Heworth Without boundary line.
- It would return Heworth Stray to Heworth ward.
- Creates two more compact wards.
- It reflects the difference between the two Heworths, with the parish boundary largely defining the border.

The exception here would be the areas south of Stockton Lane off Algarth Road and Whitby Avenue, as the parish line cuts through several streets at awkward angles forming a confusing border.

With these changes Heworth Without's identity would be much more consistently suburban, centred on the historic parish boundary. We would also recommend the addition of the Meadlands area from the current Osbaldwick and Derwent ward.

- Meadlands forms an extension of Heworth Without, with its primary road connections running through Heworth Without.

- Its housing stock is the same type as neighbouring Heworth Without 1950s-60s semi-detached bungalows, as opposed to Osbaldwick's 1950s semi-detached one to two storey buildings.
- The York Historic Environment Characterisation Project, characterised Meadlands as a part of Heworth Without.
- Meadlands is disconnected from Osbaldwick with no direct road access. Meadlands and Heworth Without parish are both served primarily by the 11 bus route
- It has a distinct local identity from Osbaldwick, with its own residents association, demographics more similar to Heworth Without and shared amenities with Heworth Without.
- City of York Council treated Meadlands as an extension of Heworth Without Parish until the last election, it shared a polling station with the parished area.
- Meadlands is the only part of Osbaldwick to be served by Hempland Primary School, which serves the entire Heworth Without parish area.

Fishergate, Fulford and Heslington

Once Tang Hall and Derwenthorpe are formed the remaining Hull Road ward is insufficient to be a 2 member ward, and both Fulford & Heslington and Fishergate wards are too large to be 1 and 2 member wards respectively.

Existing boundaries here also currently fail to reflect both communities and the geography of Fishergate, Fulford and Heslington.

The key geographic features are:

- Hull Road to the north
- The river Ouse to the west
- Fields/ the ring road to the south and east
- Walmgate stry/ Green corridor
- The University campus

The current arrangements combining Fulford and Heslington are deeply unsatisfactory:

- Fulford and Heslington are separated geographically by Walmgate Stray and the Green Corridor.
- Both areas have diverging interests, with Fulford facing towards Fulford Road whereas Heslington faces towards the university.
- Heslington parish's urban area is artificially divided in two:
 - Heslington Church is not in the ward of the same name.
 - Non-student housing along Peel Close and Turner's Croft are within Hull Road, whilst student housing in Eden Court is in Fulford and Heslington.
 - Amenities in Heslington village are used overwhelmingly by local residents and local students.
 - The village and university have hugely significant geographic, economic and cultural links. Large numbers of Heslington residents are, or have been employed by the university.
- The existing ward is too large to be a 1 member ward.

Fulford and Fishergate have a common community identity and form a single cohesive area - **Fulford**. This, therefore, should be a single 3 member ward:

- Key cultural and community sites for Fulford are well within Fishergate ward:
 - The battle of Fulford Monument
 - The Fulford Arms pub and community venue
 - The Fulford Industrial Estate
 - Fulford Cross Nature Reserve and allotments
 - The overwhelming number of businesses with Fulford in the name are found in Fishergate.
- The area is entirely within the Fulford School catchment area.
- Local Fulford facebook groups cover almost the entirety of Fulford and Fishergate.
- The area is served by the same bus, cycle and pedestrian routes.
- The previous review acknowledged the parish border was an outdated reflection of Fulford, with residents to the north considering themselves to live in Fulford. This justified the move of several non-parished streets into Fulford.
- The area has very similar levels of students and HMOs.
- It would place the Imphal barracks and the military housing along Broadway in the same ward.
- It would remove an unnecessary urban 1 member ward.
- It has a clear identifiable boundary and forms a compact ward, with the Ouse in the west, Walmgate stry in the east, city walls to the north and ring road to the south.

The previous boundary review recognised the common interests and community between the University campus and the neighbouring areas of Hull Road, and this has not changed with time. As discussed, the divided urban Heslington area is also a clear area of identity and common interest. We therefore recommend these overlapping areas of interest be merged into a 2 member **Heslington and University ward**. We also recommend the south Lawrence Street area be added to this ward from the existing Fishergate ward.

- To the north Hull Road forms a clear geographic and cultural boundary of immediate University influence.
 - It is the boundary for the Tang Hall residents association.
 - It is the catchment line for numerous primary schools.
 - Residents north and south of Hull Road do not tend to cross Hull Road to use amenities on the opposite side of the road that they live on.
 - It is a major road artery for the city.
- In the west Walmgate Stray and the Green Corridor form a clear boundary with Fulford.
 - Heslington Road and the St Lawrence pedestrian path form the top end of the line, using the Fulford School catchment area line and the 90s Fishergate boundary.
- In the south and east, the transition from continuous urban housing to farmland forms a clear boundary.

- The boundary is drawn south of the area set aside in the local plan for university expansion.
- The Lawrence Street area is not well connected to the rest of Fishergate ward and is culturally not considered to be a part of Fulford.
 - It is outside the catchment area of Fulford School.
 - The boundary along Lawrence Street has repeatedly changed position in previous reviews, acknowledging the area's tenuous connection to Fishergate/Fulford.
 - The Lawrence Street area is well connected to the University and Badger Hill along Heslington Road and Hull Road, with the U1 and U2 bus routes and cycle paths.
- The ward matches near exactly with the catchment areas of Lord Deramore's Primary, Badger Hill Primary and St Lawrence CE Primary.
- It well represents the areas of York most connected to the University:
 - This ward would contain the areas of York with highest amounts of student housing and HMOs. With similar issues between long term and student residents.
 - It would place the Fairfax campus first year accommodation in the same ward as the campus.
 - The south side of Lawrence Street contains significant amounts of recent, large scale, purpose built student accommodation.
- It places the entirety of urban Heslington in a single ward.
- Badger Hill and Heslington share significant links.
 - Heslington parish and Badger Hill Residents Association regularly collaborate on common issues.
 - Heslington Church is the nearest church for Badger Hill residents.
 - Significant numbers of Badger Hill school children attend Lord Deramore Primary School in Heslington.
 - The Minster View development is within Heslington parish, but will form an effective extension of Badger Hill.

We recommend that the rural portions of both Fulford and Heslington parishes not be included in the discussed wards. The economic and social interests of these farms are substantially different to their counterparts within the ringroad and more aligned with those of the neighbouring Wheldrake ward.

- The vast majority of Fulford farms are economically and culturally closer to Crockey Hill than Fulford.
- The Langwith Garden Village development will sit within both Elvington and Heslington parishes, and have an entirely different identity to Heslington.
- The urban Heslington parish, includes the Low Mill Drive area of Badger Hill, and will include the Minster View development, an area with little to no rural interest.

The recommended border is drawn keeping in mind:

- York's local plan marks out the area immediately south of the University's East Campus, as an area for further university expansion.

- The urban areas of both parishes are continuous extensions of York's urban area, whilst the farms have their own distinct identity.

Osballdwick, Derwent, Wheldrake and Langwith

We recommend the division of **Osballdwick** and the **Derwent** area into separate wards. The existing Osballdwick and Derwent ward contains distinct communities within and without the ring road, (principally Osballdwick and Dunnington) with fundamentally different interests, geographies and identities. Until the last review, both areas were represented separately, and were merged primarily out of convenience to meet population requirements.

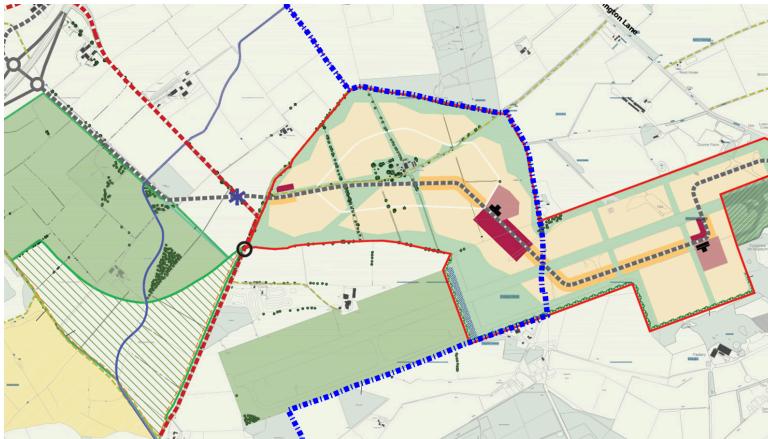
- Dunnington is served by Fulford school for secondary aged children, whereas Osballdwick is served by Archbishop Holgate.
- Osballdwick and Dunnington are served by separate primary schools. Osballdwick has significant numbers of students and HMOs, Dunnington and the villages have few to none.
- Osballdwick is a suburban village within the York ring road, meaning it has significantly different interests and self perception to the outer more rural villages.

We suggest Murton parish should be divided two, with the village and non-built up area being retained by Derwent ward and the developed inner ring road area being retained by **Osballdwick** ward.

- Murton village is outside the ring road and retains its traditional rural character and interests.
- The urban Murton parish within the ring road forms an extension of Osballdwick and is considered locally to be a part of Osballdwick. The area's interests are distinct from the village, and align entirely with Osballdwick proper, as reflected by:
 - The number of students and HMOs.
 - The York Historic Environment Characterisation Project characterising it as part of Osballdwick.
 - It would place the Osballdwick substation in Osballdwick ward.

The Langwith development is projected to have electors within the scope of this review. At present the new village will be divided between Heslington and Elvington parishes and their respective wards. (*See Figure 2*). A continuation of this would be a deeply unsatisfactory situation for the new rural village community. We recommend that the entire village should be within the same ward.

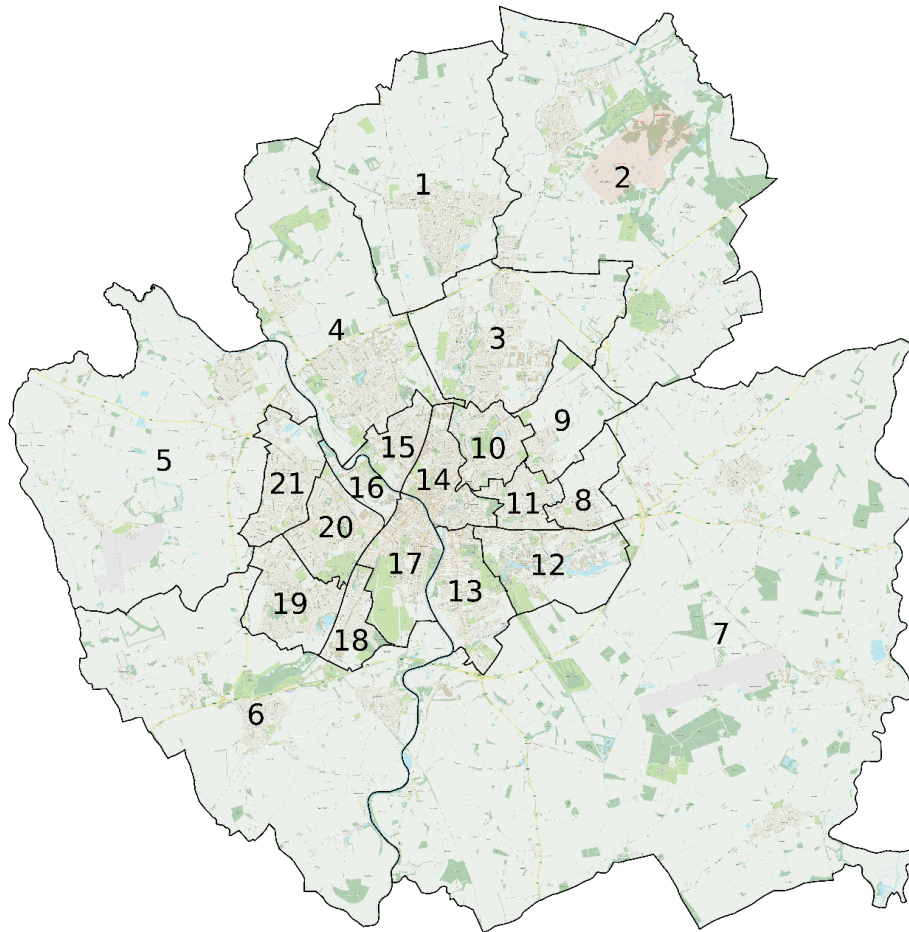
Figure 2:



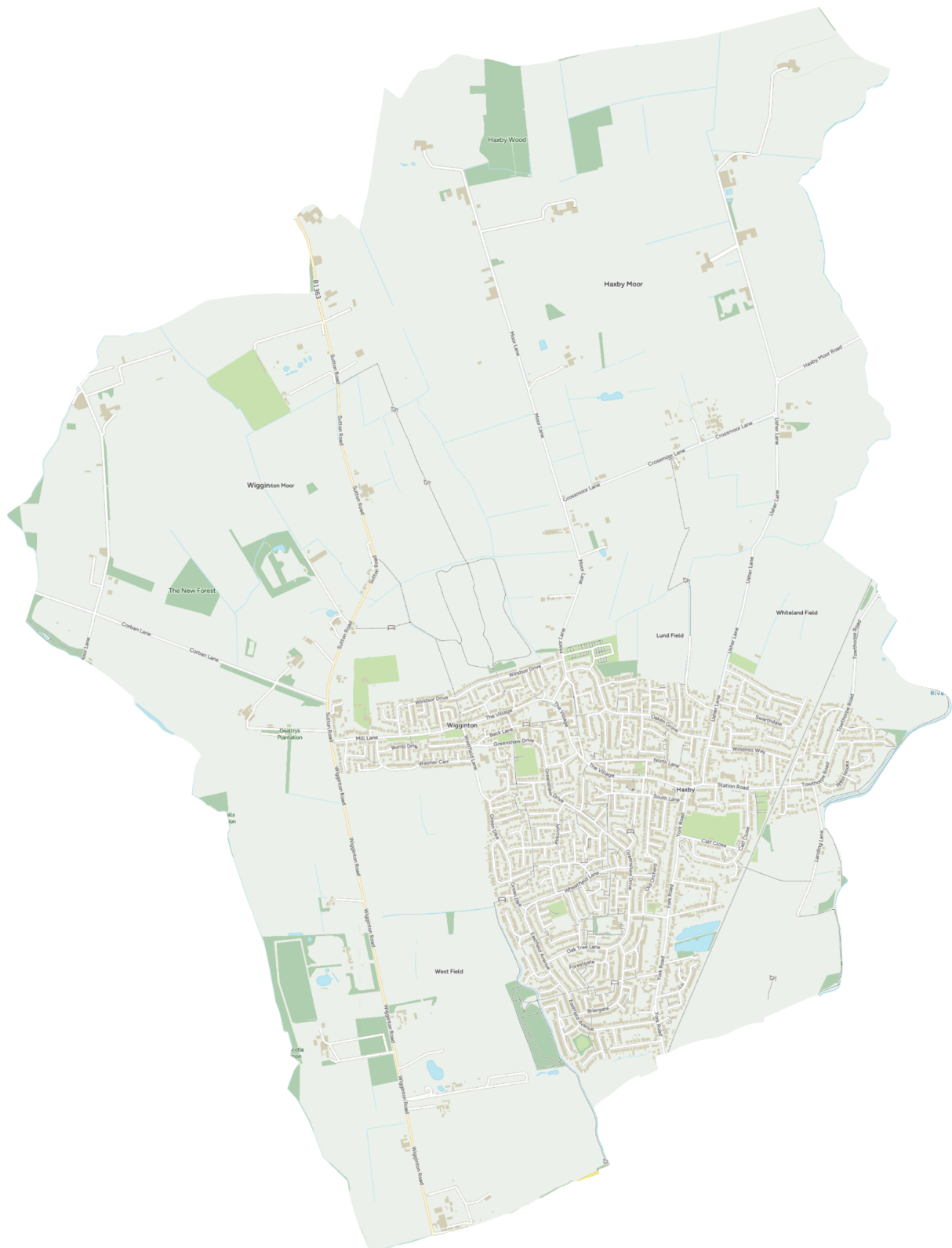
Blue Line - parish boundary

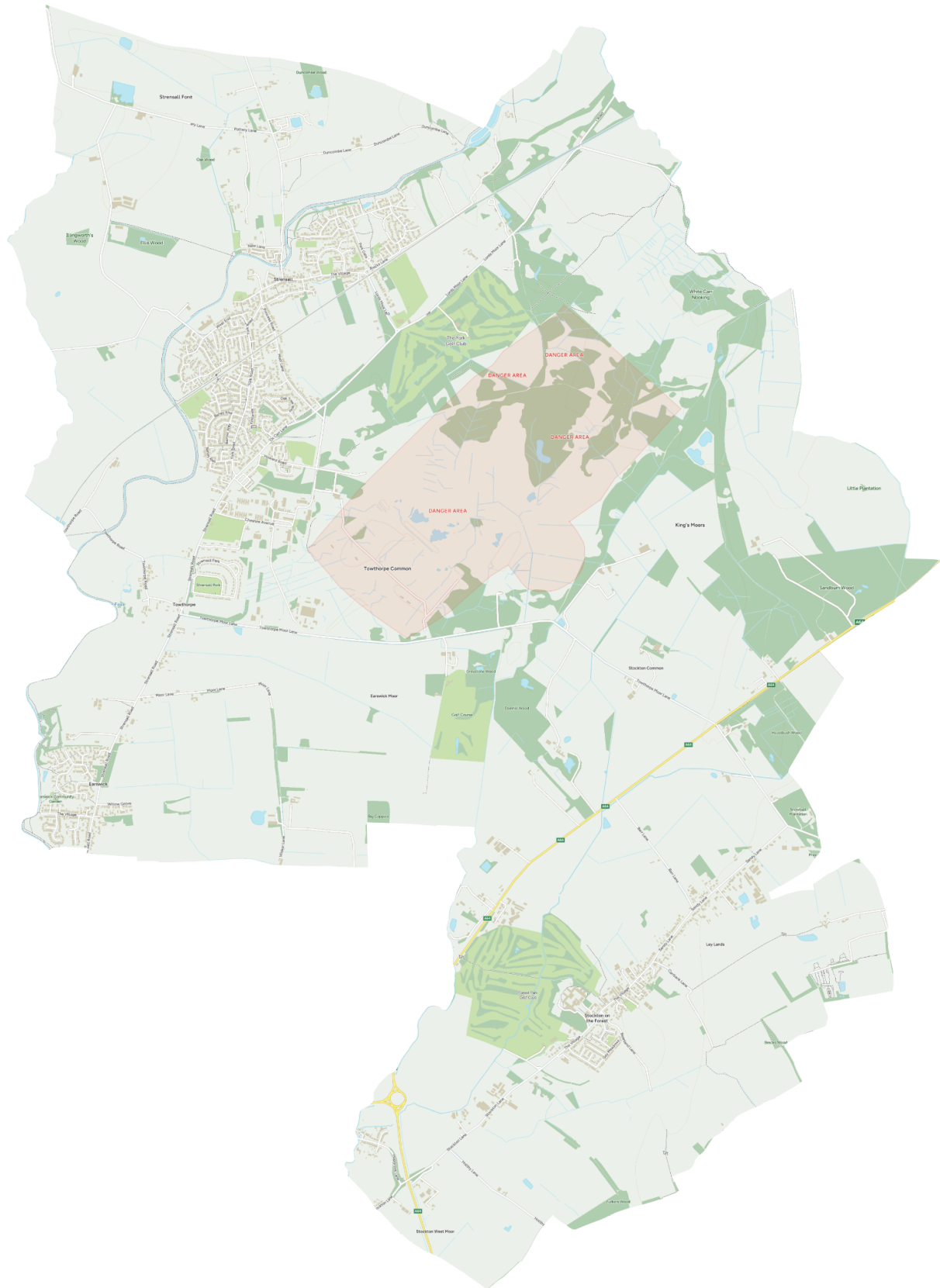
The Wheldrake ward cannot take the Heslington portion of Langwith without exceeding variance. Therefore the Langwith development, Wheldrake ward, the rural portions of Fulford and Heslington parishes, and the Derwent area should be merged to form a 2 Member Derwent ward.

- The vast majority of the area is within the Fulford School catchment area.
- There are existing primary school connections such as Kexby being within the Elvington Primary school catchment area.
- The areas larger and smaller villages share common rural, commuter, social, economic and geographic interests.

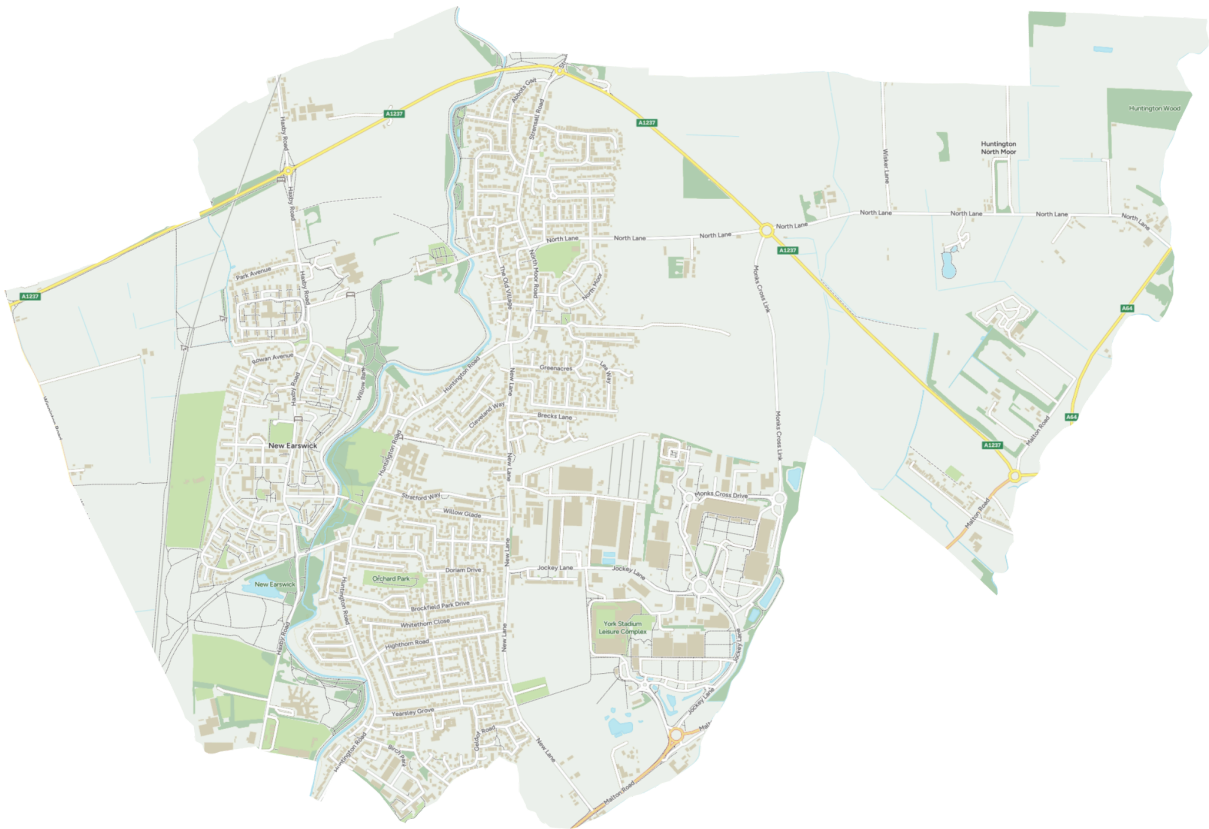
Annex**Proposed Wards****Key: *47 Cllrs**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Haxby and Wigginton, 3 Member | 12) Heslington and University, 2 Member |
| 2) Strensall, 2 Member | 13) Fulford, 3 Member |
| 3) Huntington and New Earswick, 3 Member | 14) Guildhall, 3 Member |
| 4) Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without, 3 Member | 15) Clifton, 2 Member |
| 5) Poppleton, 1 Member | 16) Leeman Road, 1 Member |
| 6) Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe, 2 Member | 17) Micklegate, 3 Member |
| 7) Derwent, 2 Member | 18) Dringhouses, 1 Member |
| 8) Osbaldwick, 1 Member | 19) Westfield, Woodthorpe and Westhorpe, 3 Member |
| 9) Heworth Without, 1 Member | 20) Holgate and Acomb East, 3 Member |
| 10) Heworth, 3 Member | 21) Acomb West, 3 Member |
| 11) Tanghall and Derwenthorpe, 2 Member | |

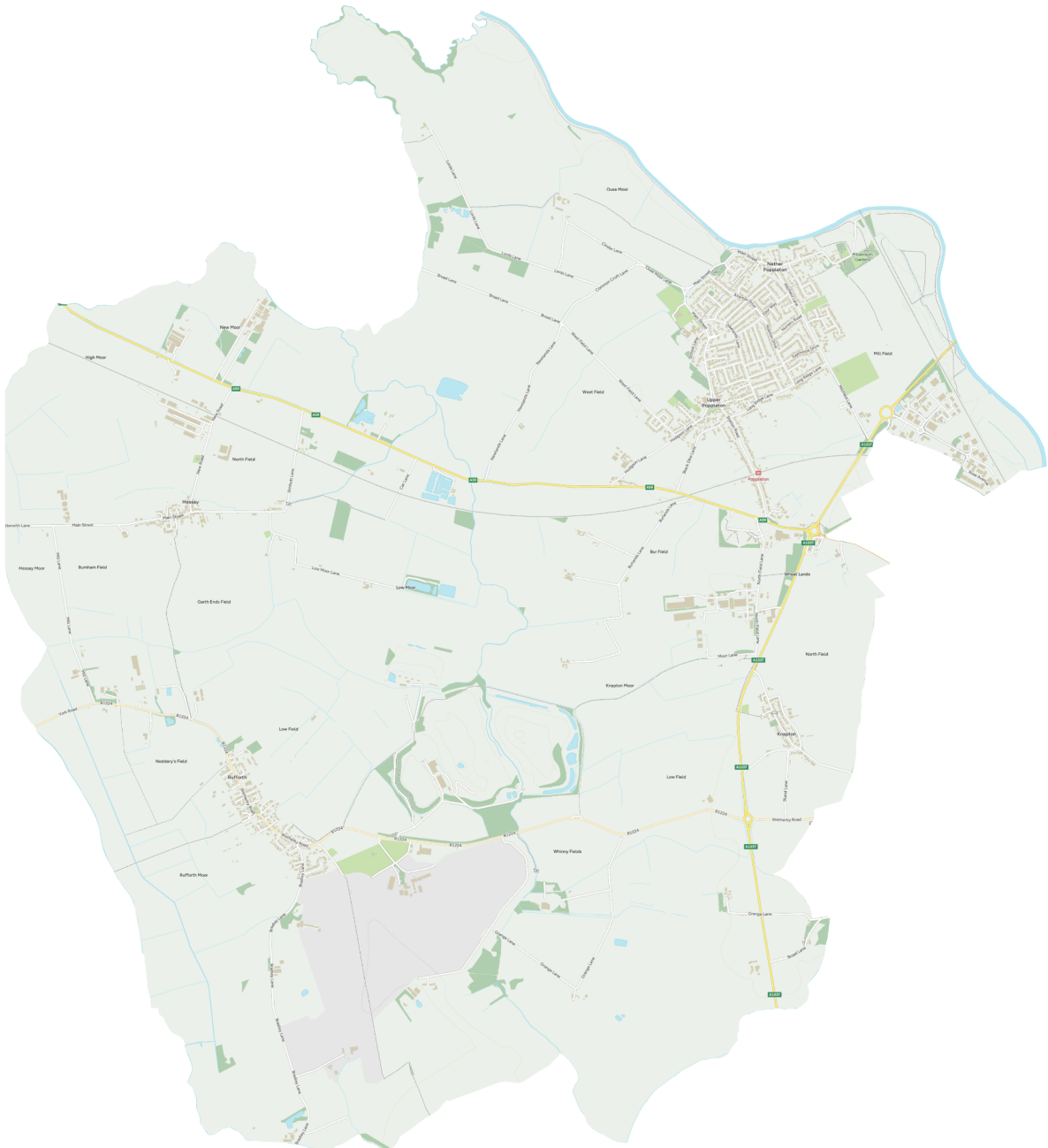
1) Haxby and Wigginton, 3 Member

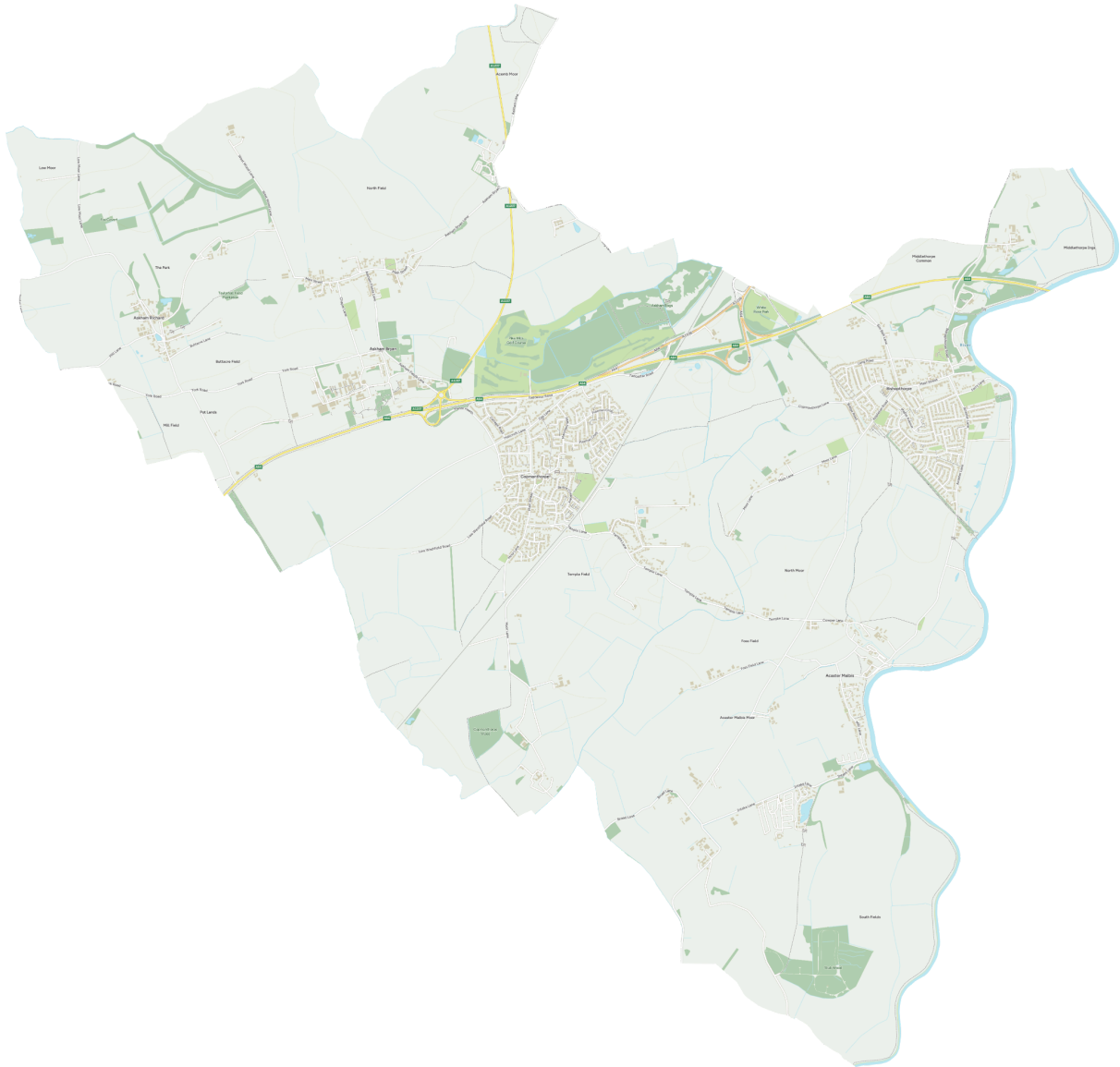


3) Huntington and New Earswick, 3 Member



4) Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without, 3 Member

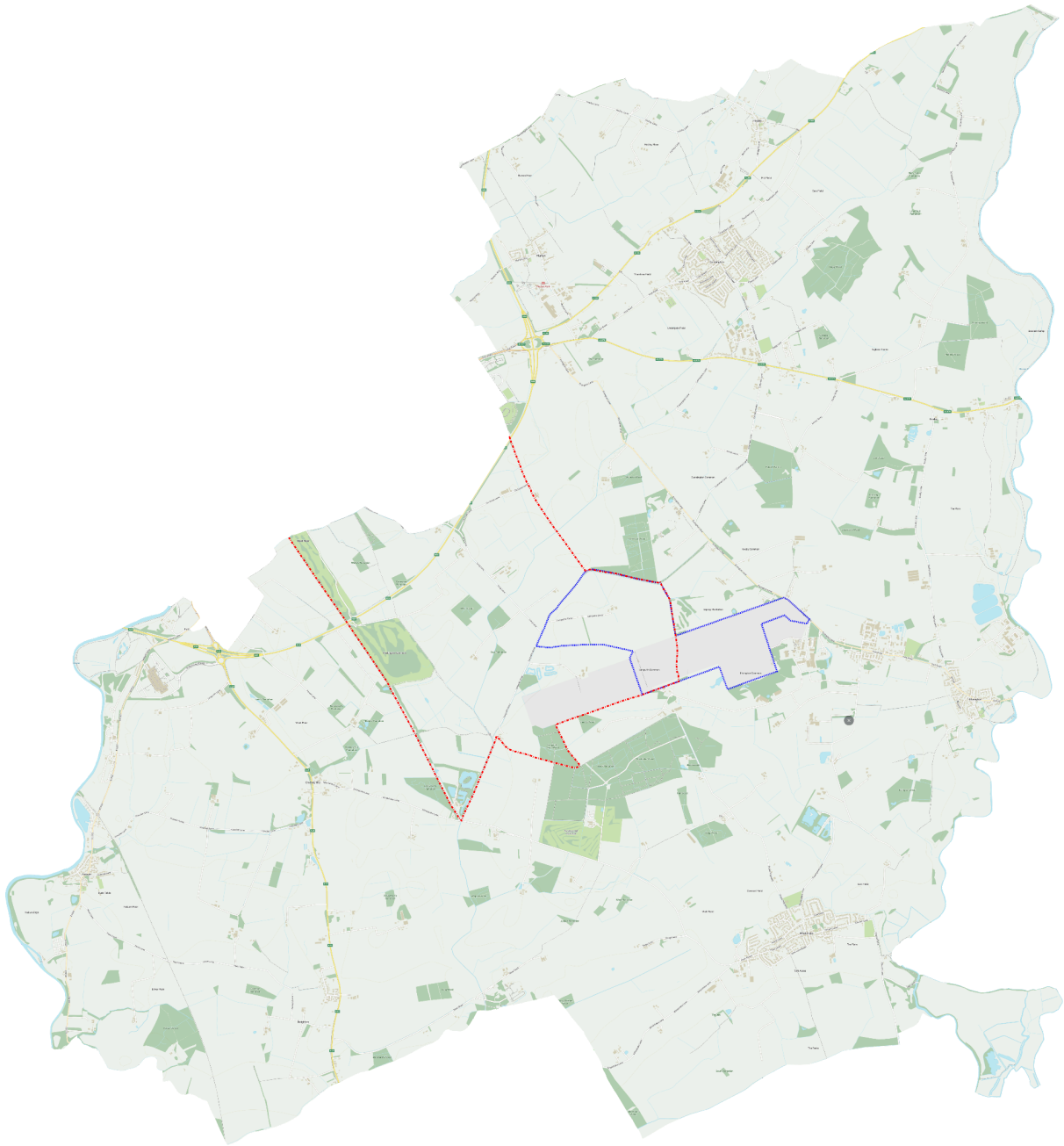
5) Poppleton, 1 Member

6) Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe, 2 Member

7) Derwent, 2 Member

Red line - Heslington Parish Boundary

Blue line - Langwith Development



8) Osbaldwick, 1 Member

9) Heworth Without, 1 Member

10) Heworth, 3 Member

11) Tanghall and Derwenthorpe, 2 Member

12) Heslington and University, 2 Member

13) Fulford, 3 Member

14) Guildhall, 3 Member

15) Clifton, 2 Member

16) Leeman Road, 1 Member

17) Micklegate, 3 Member

18) Dringhouses, 1 Member

19) Westfield, Woodthorpe and Westthorpe, 3 Member

20) Holgate and Acomb East, 3 Member

