

# Bristol

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## Comment text:

**Related subject:** East Bristol

Please see uploaded PDF file.

## Attached Documents:

- [cllr-rob-bryher-submission-to-local-government-boundary-commission-for-england-review-bristol-city-council.pdf](#)

## **Submission to Local Government Boundary Commission for England review of Bristol City Council's councillors, wards and ward names by Rob Bryher, current councillor for St George West ward, Bristol City Council**

I wanted to share my personal reflections on natural boundaries and community boundaries in east Bristol. I have lived in east Bristol for over 17 years and have a decent understanding of what people call their neighbourhoods, as well as where the clear natural boundaries are that would work best as ward boundaries.

### **Strong natural external boundaries (i.e. delineate east Bristol as a whole from other areas)**

1. The strongest natural boundary in east Bristol is the River Avon. It divides north and south Bristol in the public imagination and I would argue all wards in east Bristol should be built from this boundary and outwards.

2. The next strongest natural boundaries in east Bristol are the A4044/A4 and the A4032/M32 roads. Whether we like it or not, these provide clear severances between:

- the city centre and east Bristol (A4044/A4) to delineate distinct communities of Old Market and the Dings from Broadmead and Redcliffe
- north Bristol and east Bristol (A4032/M32) to delineate distinct communities of St Pauls and St Werburghs from Old Market/St Judes and Easton/Eastville.

N.B. From junction 2 of the M32 northwards, this delineation does still continue, despite the current ward boundaries used in Bristol since 2016.

### **May be perceived to be a natural boundary but there are strong arguments against**

1. Although St Phillips Causeway (A4320) is a much wider road than previous examples cited (A4044/A4 and the A4032/M32), there are numerous routes for pedestrians, cyclists and rail users underneath this flyover-style road, which presents it as less of a challenge to navigate and less psychological severance in public perception:

- The Severn Beach Line passes underneath to connect Lawrence Hill station to Bristol Temple Meads station (the region's largest transport hub)
- Queen Ann Road passes underneath to connect to Silverthorne Lane (an area with a lot of future development)
- Feeder Road passes underneath to connect to Silverthorne Lane and Cole Road (which connects many pedestrians and cyclists to the Avonmeads Retail Park).
- The River Avon Trail passes underneath at the road's southerly end.

2. The Severn Beach Railway Line (between Stapleton Road, Lawrence Hill and Bristol Temple Meads) could be seen as an obvious natural boundary, but in most instances the names of the neighbourhoods either side continue over/under it:

- Between Stapleton Road/M32 and the line's intersection with Bristol and Bath Railway Path, both the easterly and westerly sides of the railway line are called **Easton** by local people.
- Between Lawrence Hill station and St Phillips Causeway, both easterly and western sides of the railway line are called **Barton Hill** by local people. (N.B. Barton Hill is a much more commonly used neighbourhood name than Lawrence Hill, the current name of a council ward.)
- Between St Phillips Causeway and Bristol Temple Meads, both southerly and northerly sides of the line are called **The Dings**. This may be the weakest area of the three listed for continuous community naming either side of the railway line, though.

3. Although the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has made clear that local authority boundaries are not a key consideration for guiding ward boundaries, it must be said that most Bristol residents would consider the border between Bristol and South Gloucestershire to be a clear external boundary. However, there are numerous instances where the naming of distinct neighbourhoods crosses the local authority boundary. For instance, Kingswood is largely within South Gloucestershire, but the easternmost area of the current St George Central and St George Troopers Hill wards would be considered to be Kingswood.

4. None of the high streets in east Bristol provide a clear delineation between one neighbourhood name and another, so they aren't good to use as boundaries:

- Stapleton Road - it's Easton on both sides, or St Jude's on both sides
- Church Road - it's Redfield on both sides for most of the length, and St George both sides for the rest of its length
- Old Market Street - the area immediately around this street on both sides is colloquially called Old Market

### **Neighbourhood names and boundaries**

- Barton Hill (large-sized area)
  - North: Lawrence Hill, Church Road
  - East: Cobden Street, Tichborne Road, Mildred Street, Marsh Lane
  - South: Feeder Canal
  - West: St Philips Causeway
- The Dings (small-sized area)
  - North: Broad Plain, Unity Street, Midland Road, Waterloo Road
  - East: Kingsland Road
  - South: Severn Beach railway line
  - West: Floating Harbour until Temple Way, Temple Way
- Easton (large-sized area):
  - North: M32 and Robertson Road
  - East: Bellevue Road until junction with Devon Road, Devon Road until bridge over Bristol & Bath Railway Path
  - South: Bristol & Bath Railway Path until junction with Lawrence Hill, Lawrence Hill

- West: Lawrence Hill roundabout, Easton Way
- Greenbank (medium-sized area):
  - North: Robertson Road, Greenbank Cemetery
  - East: Rose Green Road to junction with Bristol & Bath Railway Path
  - South: Bristol & Bath Railway Path
  - West: Devon Road from junction Bristol & Bath Railway, Bellevue Road from junction with Devon Road
- Newtown (small-sized area)
  - North: Clarence Road
  - East: St Phillips Causeway
  - South: St Phillips Road
  - West: Trinity Street
- Old Market (medium-sized area)
  - North: Champion Square, St Matthias Park, New Street, St Matthias Park, Lamb Street, Lawfords Gate
  - East: Trinity Road, Trinity Street
  - South: Waterloo Road, Midland Road, Unity Street, Broad Plain
  - West: A4044 (Temple Way, Old Market roundabout, Bond Street South)
- Redfield (large-sized area)
  - North: Whitehall Road
  - East: Chalks Road, Blackswarth Road, Fireclay Road, Netham Road
  - South: Feeder Canal
  - West: Marsh Lane, Mildred Street, Tichborne Road, Cobden Street <-Church Road ^ Severn Beach railway line
- St George (very large-sized area)
  - North: Northern boundary of St George Park, northern boundary of Hudds Vale Open Space, southern boundary of Plummers Hill Open Space, Holmes Hill Road, Ventnor Road, Meadow Vale, Speedwell Road
  - East: Charlton Road, New Queen Street, Kingsway, Furber Road, western boundary of Magpie Bottom, boundary of Bristol
  - South: Dundridge Park
  - West: Crew's Hole Road, Blackswarth Road, Chalks Road
- St Jude's (medium-sized area)
  - North: N/A
  - East: Easton Way
  - South: Lawrence Hill roundabout, Easton Road, Clarence Road, Trinity Road, Lawfords Gate, Lamb Street, St Matthias Park, Champion Square
  - West: A4044 (Bond Street South)
- St Philips (medium-sized area)
  - North: Waterloo Road, Trinity Street, St Philips Road
  - East: St Philips Causeway
  - South: Feeder Canal
  - West: Floating Harbour -> Severn Beach railway line ^ Kingsland Road

- St Phillips Marsh (small-sized area - currently low number of residents despite large size)
  - North: Feeder Canal
  - East: River Avon
  - South: Reiver Avon
  - West: River Avon (to point of junction of Cattle Market Road and Feeder Road)
- Whitehall (large-sized area)
  - North: Bristol & Bath Railway Path (until junction with Rose Green Road), Rose Green Road (east-bound only, until junction with Crofts End Road)
  - East: Crofts End Road, Brook Road -> Speedwell Road V Plummers Hill,
  - South: northern boundary of Hudds Vale Open space, northern boundary of St George Park, Lyndale Road ^ Chalks Road <- Whitehall Road (until junction with Bristol and Bath Railway Path)
  - West: N/A

**Areas I don't know well enough to say where the boundaries are**

- Eastville
- Fishponds
- Speedwell

**Opinions on neighbourhood names being used in ward names**

I would suggest the following neighbourhood names should **definitely** be used in new ward names (due to their large size, clear boundaries, and very common usage):

- Barton Hill
- Easton
- Redfield
- St George
- Whitehall

I would suggest the following neighbourhood names could **possibly** be used in new ward names (due to having more prominent adjacent neighbourhoods, less well-defined boundaries, their medium- to small-size, and less common usage or use to describe either side of a prominent road, Old Market Street):

- Greenbank
- Old Market
- St Jude's
- St Philips

I would suggest the following neighbourhood names should definitely NOT be used in new ward names (due to small size, less clearly defined boundaries or isn't actually a neighbourhood name people use):

- The Dings
- Lawrence Hill (this is not even a neighbourhood, yet it is one of the current names of a ward. No ward should be named this, it's simply inaccurate.)

- Newtown
- St Phillip's Marsh (this currently has a very small number of housed residents)
- Temple Meads
- Temple Quarter
- Troopers Hill (this is not even a neighbourhood, yet it is used in one of the current names of a ward.)

**Other observations**

- The current Easton ward is poorly named, taking in as it does Easton, Greenbank, and Redfield.
- The current Lawrence Hill ward is very poorly named, as there's no real neighbourhood people call Lawrence Hill and it takes in a vastly bigger set of neighbourhoods than this name lets on.
- The current St George wards (St George West, St George Central and St George Troopers Hill) are poorly named as they take in parts of Speedwell, Whitehall and Kingswood and St George Central in particular is not the central part of St George.

Rob Bryher  
Councillor for St George West  
15th February 2026