

Dorset

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Littlemoor and Preston ward

Please see attached word doc

Attached Documents:

- lw-submission-may-2026.docx

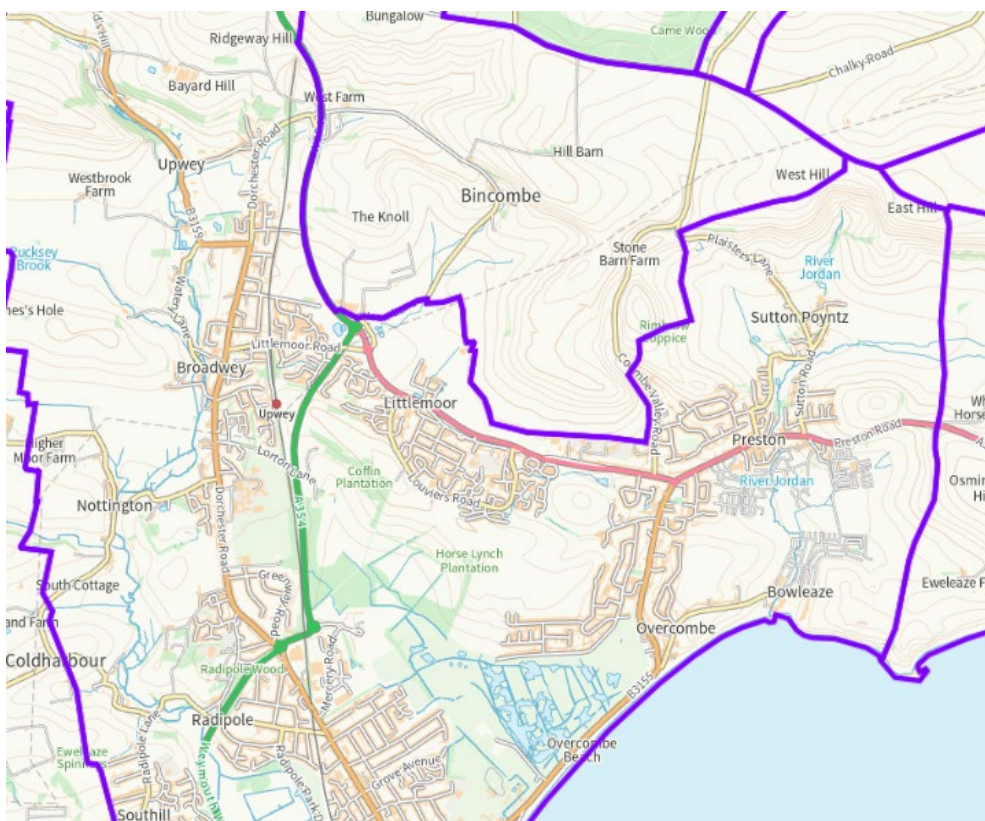
Littlemoor and Preston was probably the worst example of local warding last time. This chimeric ward, was assembled from two distinct communities with totally different personalities.

It is my submission that consideration of dividing this large ward into two single member wards, one for each community, should be a priority of this review. I provide reasoning below:

External Boundary of Weymouth Town

In a CGR three years go, the northern boundary of Weymouth Town was adjusted, as there is a large urban development there that did not sit well with the rural parish grouping to the north. (Prior to 2019, this was the West Dorset/WPBC boundary, so getting agreement to move it at all was very difficult when it involved two districts and two parishes.) The current Unitary Wards are anomalous with this improved boundary. The internal parish warding was contentious, and the final warding was subject to several very late amendments in the decision making meeting. This was done politically, to give an advantage to one particular member – unfortunately gerrymandering won, overpowering the guidelines and logic. The extant internal parish warding, should not be taken as a recommendation of community cohesion.

Updated Weymouth Town boundary including development north of Littlemoor.

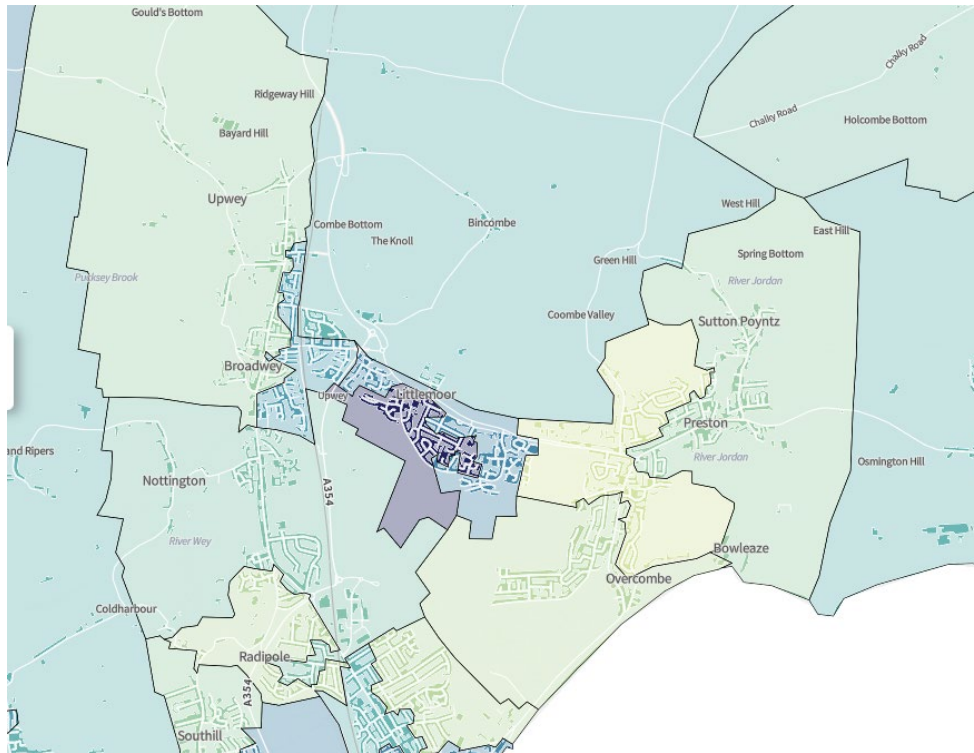


<https://gi.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorsetexplorer#map=14.46/50.65013/-2.42499/0&layers=426/100/100//&basemap=1/100/100>

Littlemoor is mid-way through an expansion of 500 homes – these will be opposite and share the same centre and amenities as the existing Littlemoor community. The new development includes a significant number of affordable and shared ownership properties – these should be represented along with the rest of Littlemoor community, not separately. These additional homes, give Littlemoor more electors, and bring it up to an acceptable size to be a single member ward.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

The simplest and most obvious difference between these two communities is the IMD 2025. Preston is mostly in the two least deprived deciles, whereas Littlemoor is in the three most deprived deciles. Littlemoor and Broadwey are recipients of the Pride in Place programme for deprived neighbourhoods (<https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/25497677.littlemoor-broadwey-receive-20m-pride-place/>)



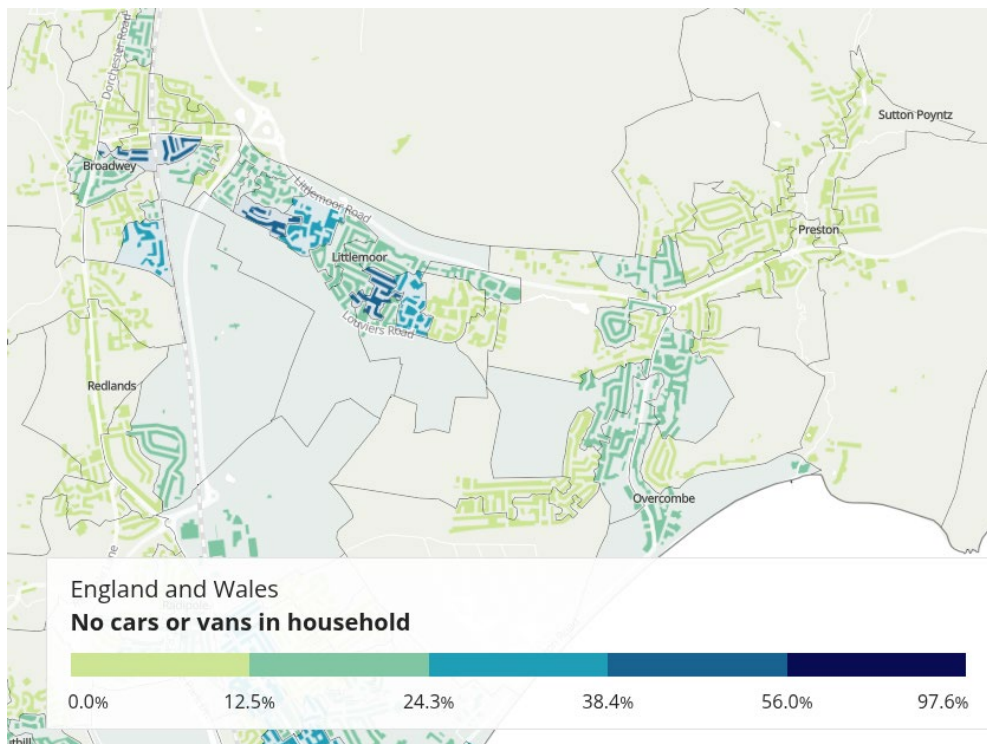
<https://deprivation.communities.gov.uk/maps?type=imd&geog=lsao#12.5/50.64947/-2.46975>

Combining these two areas together, unfortunately averages out the deprivation and masks the scale of the deprivation. Council wards are frequently used as the building blocks for statistical data, including the census, so allowing this large ward, will perpetuate this statistical anomaly.

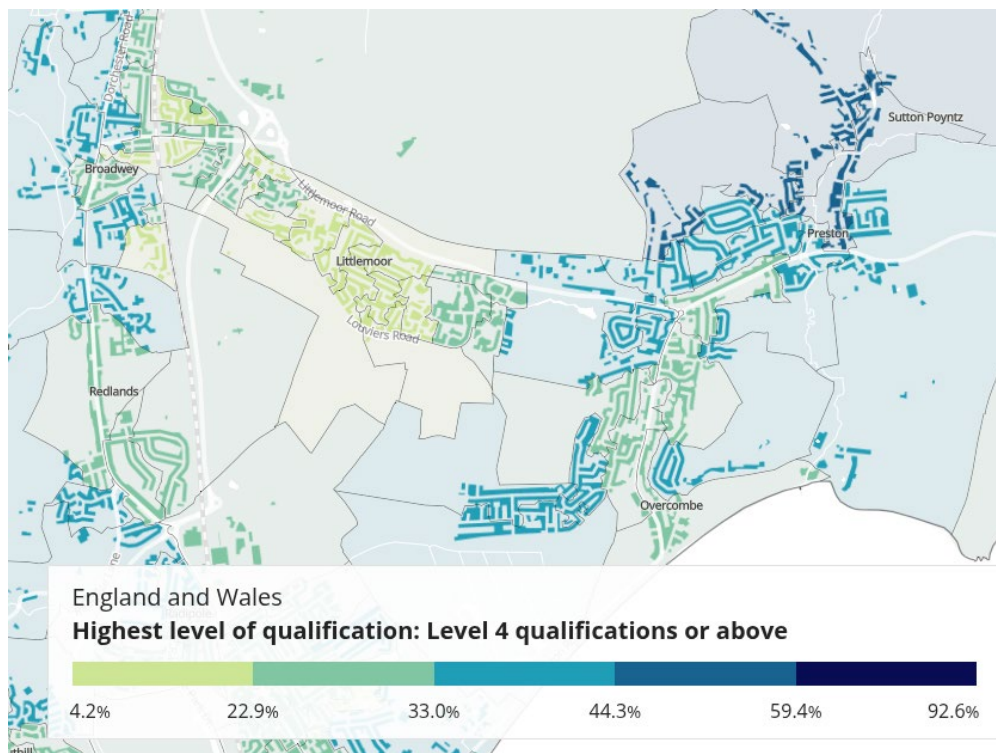
The two communities are of similar size and could be two distinct wards, which would allow for each to elect one councillor who could prioritise local issues. Even if the elector counts were slightly off, that would probably be preferable to a larger combined ward, which masks the different issues facing each community.

Demographic differences between Littlemoor and Preston

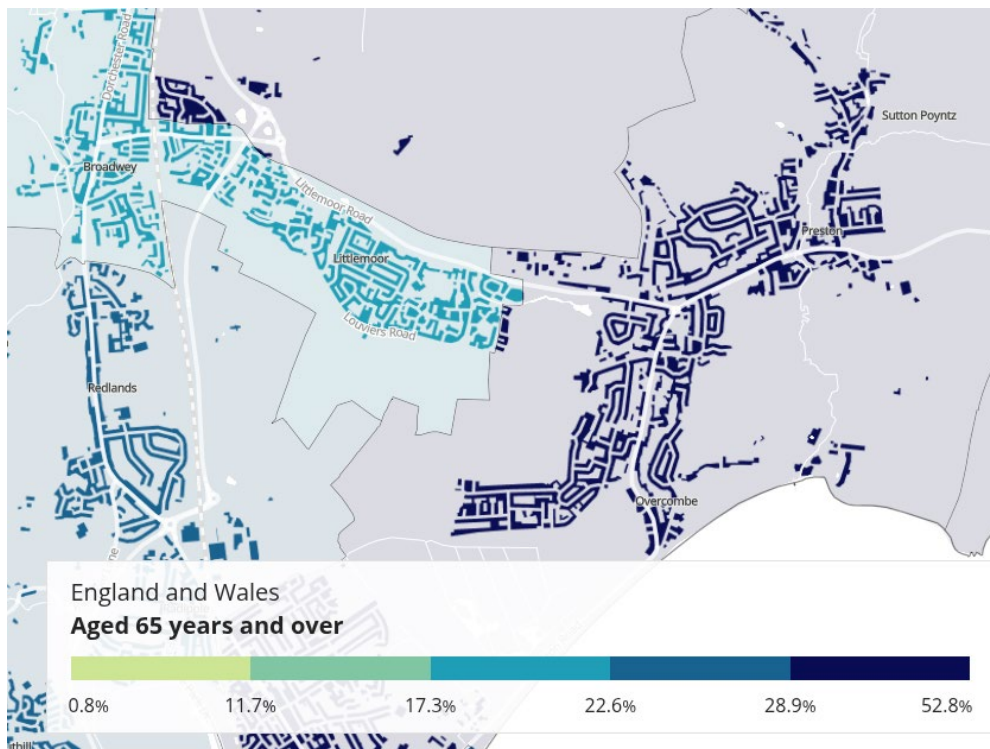
In five choropleth maps, the divide between the two communities is stark. On Vehicle Ownership, Education, Age, Religion and Tenure of Home, these two communities are distinct, and very different.



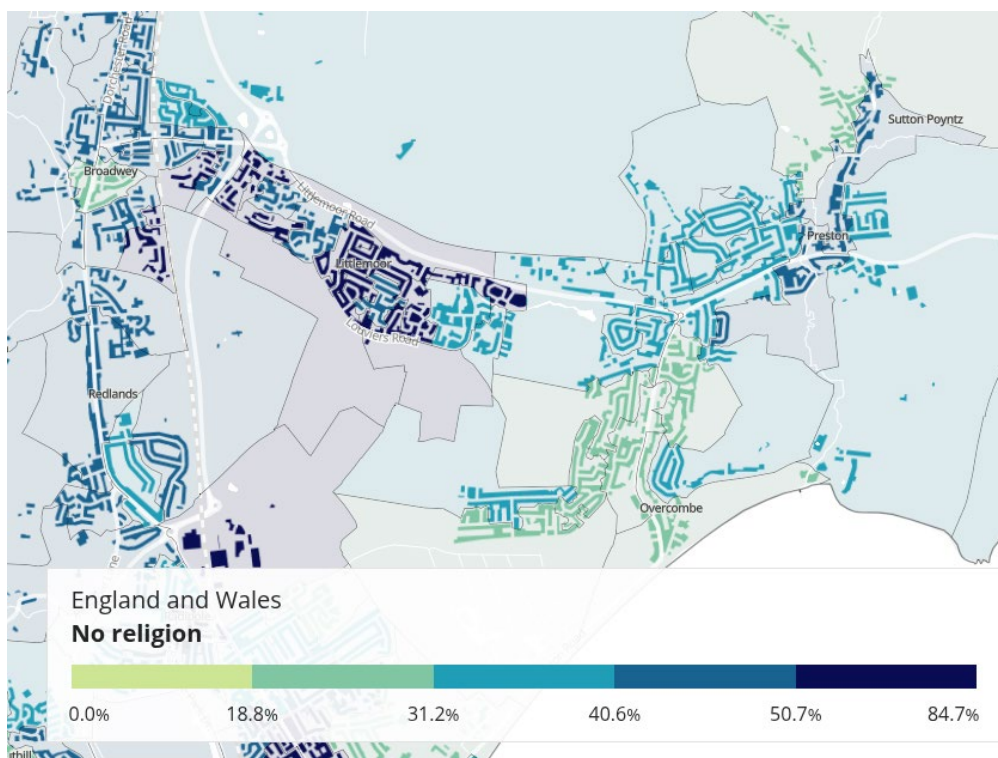
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/housing/number-of-cars-or-vans/number-of-cars-3a/no-cars-or-vans-in-household/>



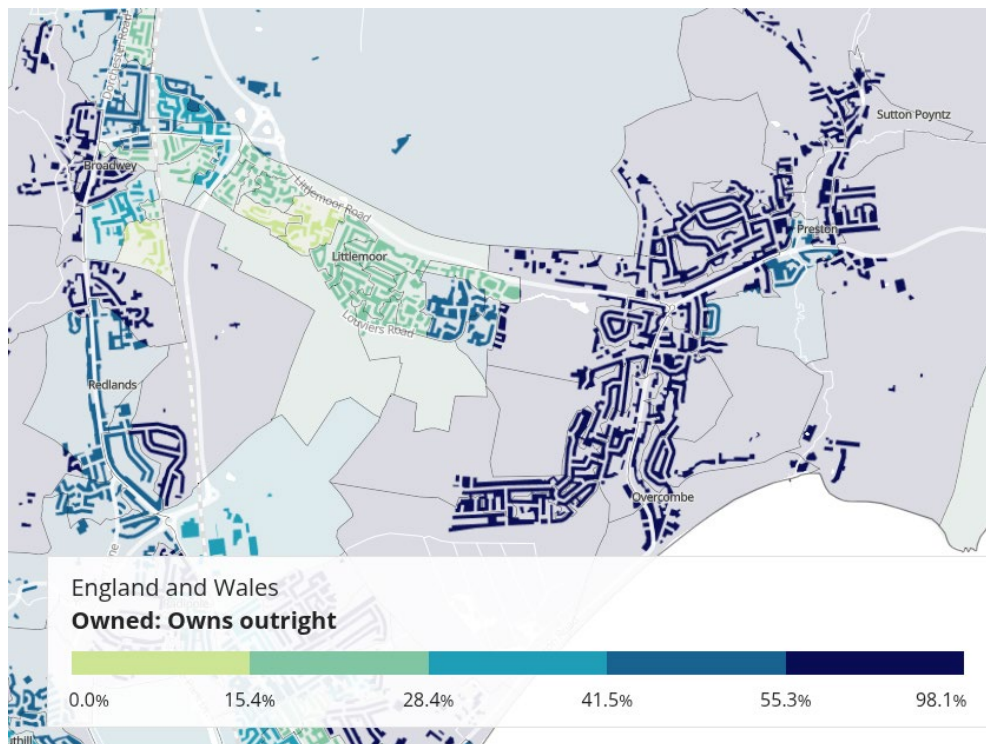
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/education/highest-level-of-qualification/highest-qualification-6a/highest-level-of-qualification-level-4-qualifications-or-above/>



<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/population/age/resident-age-3a/aged-65-years-and-over/>



<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/identity/religion/religion-tb/no-religion/>



<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/housing/tenure-of-household/hh-tenure-5a/owned-owns-outright/>