Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for the Sheffield Hallam Constituency

Olivia Blake MP

Councillor Ruth Milsom

Councillor Minesh Parekh

Introduction

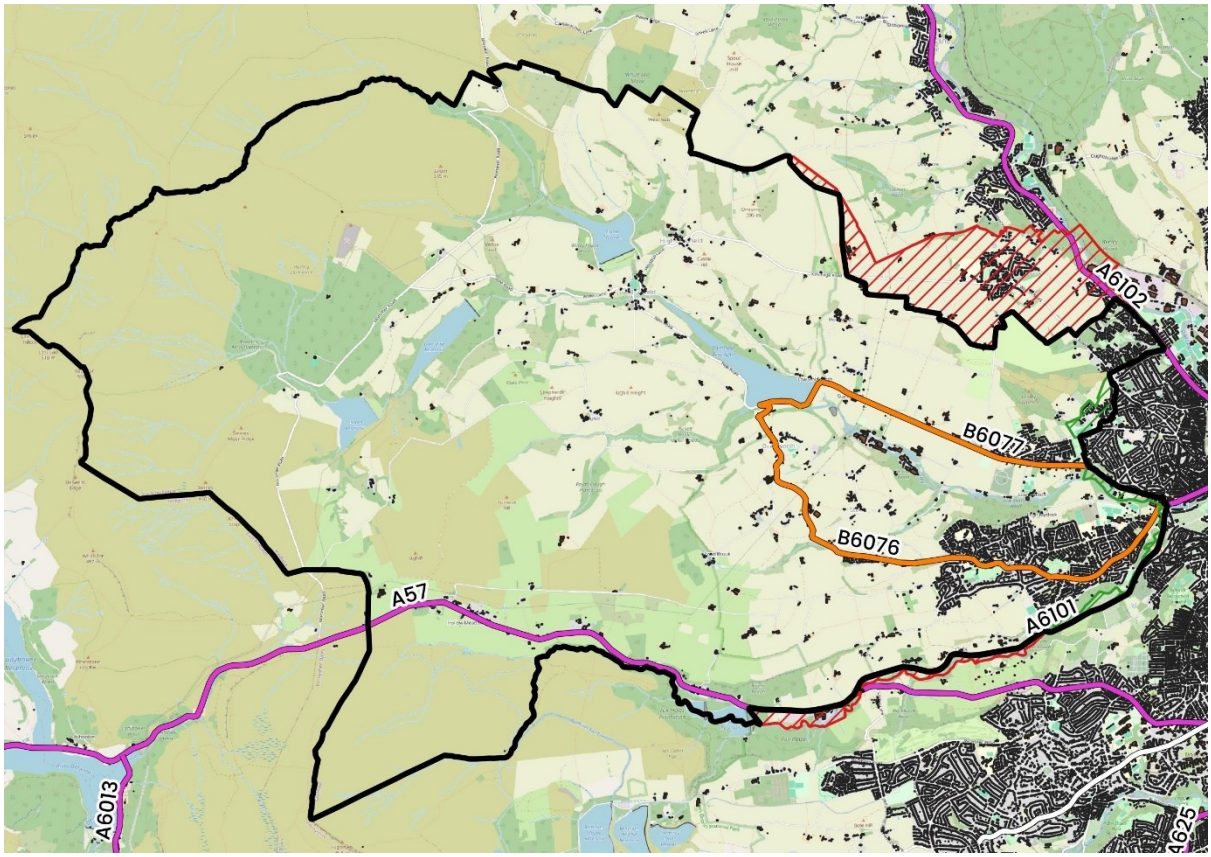
This submission is made jointly by Olivia Blake, MP for Sheffield Hallam, and Councillors Ruth Milsom and Minesh Parekh, councillors for Crookes and Crosspool.

We consider the wards established for the Sheffield Hallam constituency in 2004 and revised in 2016 to be essentially well-functioning with regards to the LGBCE's objectives of community identity and effective and convenient local government.

However, they currently fail on the objective of electoral equality with Ecclesall Ward significantly oversized and Crookes and Crosspool Ward undersized. We are also conscious of pressure on electoral equality in the wards of the neighbouring Central constituency.

Our recommendations aim to consolidate the existing benefits of the warding pattern in our constituency, while achieving electoral equality within the constituency and across the city as a whole.

1. Stannington and Loxley Ward



Map at 1:68,000 scale. Red-hatching are subtractions from present Stannington Ward; green-hatching is additions.

Polling District	2025 Electors	2032 Electors	Notes
XA	334	354	
XB	360	358	
XC*	1057	1117	Filter Cottages to Fulwood
XD	1611	1683	
XE	2366	2459	
XF	2400	2976	
XG	993	1186	
XH	1479	1538	
XI*	1577	1651	See Figure 3
XK	857	896	
QJ*	153	153	See Figure 2
QD*	279	279	See Figure 2
QE*	65	65	See Figure 2
Total	13,531	14,716	
Variance			

Key Changes:

- Add Wadsley from Hillsborough Ward
- Remove Worrall and Stockarth Lane into Stocksbridge & Upper Don Ward

Rationale:

- Stannington was created in 2004 and had the major benefit of uniting the area of Stannington in one ward. It had previously been split between South Wortley, Hillsborough and Walkley.
- We regard Stannington, overlooking the Rivelin and Loxley valleys, and the communities of the Loxley Valley, to work well as a ward.
- We believe the boundary around Loxley, Wadsley and Wadsley Park is currently poor. This could be rectified by transferring the small area of the historic Wadsley village from Hillsborough Ward. The parish boundary means that this is the only viable option.
- The village of Worrall, in contrast, looks north up the Don Valley to Oughtibridge, where is shares a primary school catchment. We believe that Worrall and Oughtibridge belong in the same ward.

Figure 1. Liberty Estate



We strongly believe that the Bradfield parish boundary does not represent a concrete line of division in the modern context. It was created by the piecemeal acquisition of parts of the parish by Sheffield County Borough from 1901 to 1967, with the remaining parish those areas incorporated from Wortley Rural District Council in 1974.

This is illustrated by Figure 3.1, which shows how the Liberty estate (highlighted in yellow) is bisected on the map by the parish boundary.

We propose that both sides of Stannington must remain in the same ward.

Figure 2. Wadsley and Loxley

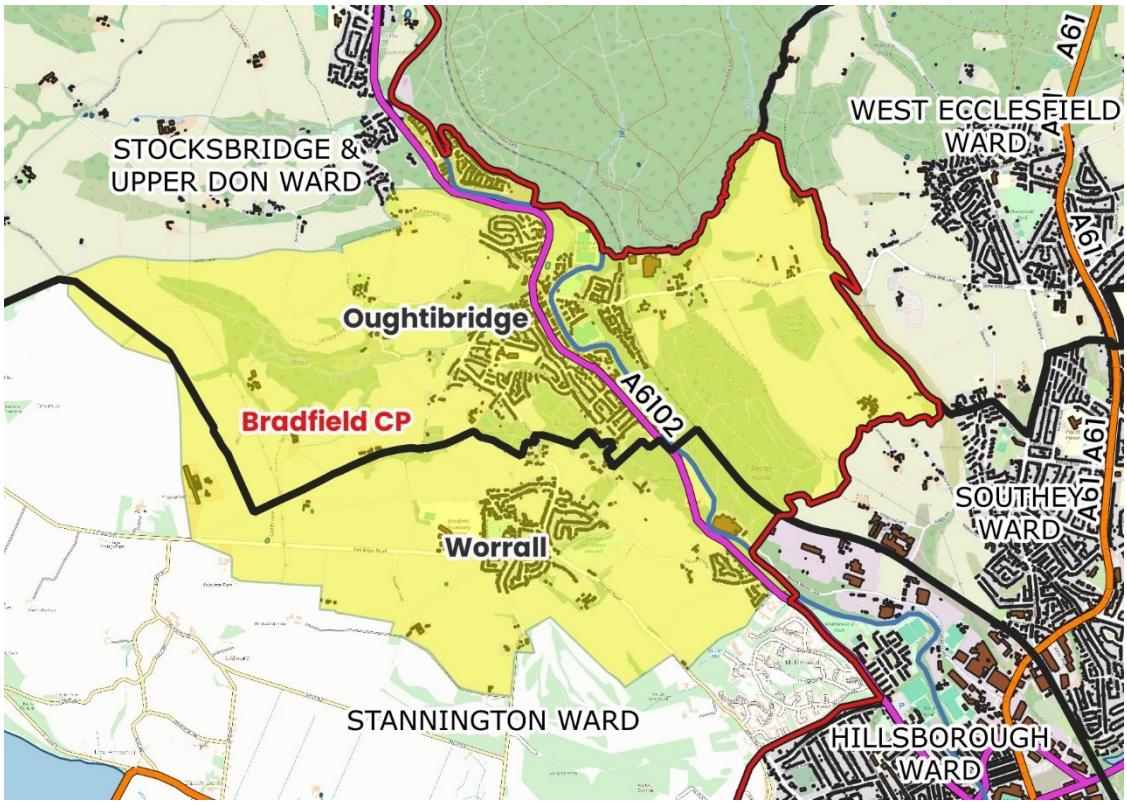


The current ward boundary separates the historic village centre of Wadsley from Wadsley Common and Wadsley Park, and the village of Loxley and Loxley Common from Loxley House.

There are several properties on Bland Lane and Aldene Road which are only accessible from Hillsborough Ward: i.e., they have no internal road links within Stannington Ward.

We propose that the area of Wadsley village move into Stannington & Loxley Ward from Hillsborough Ward.

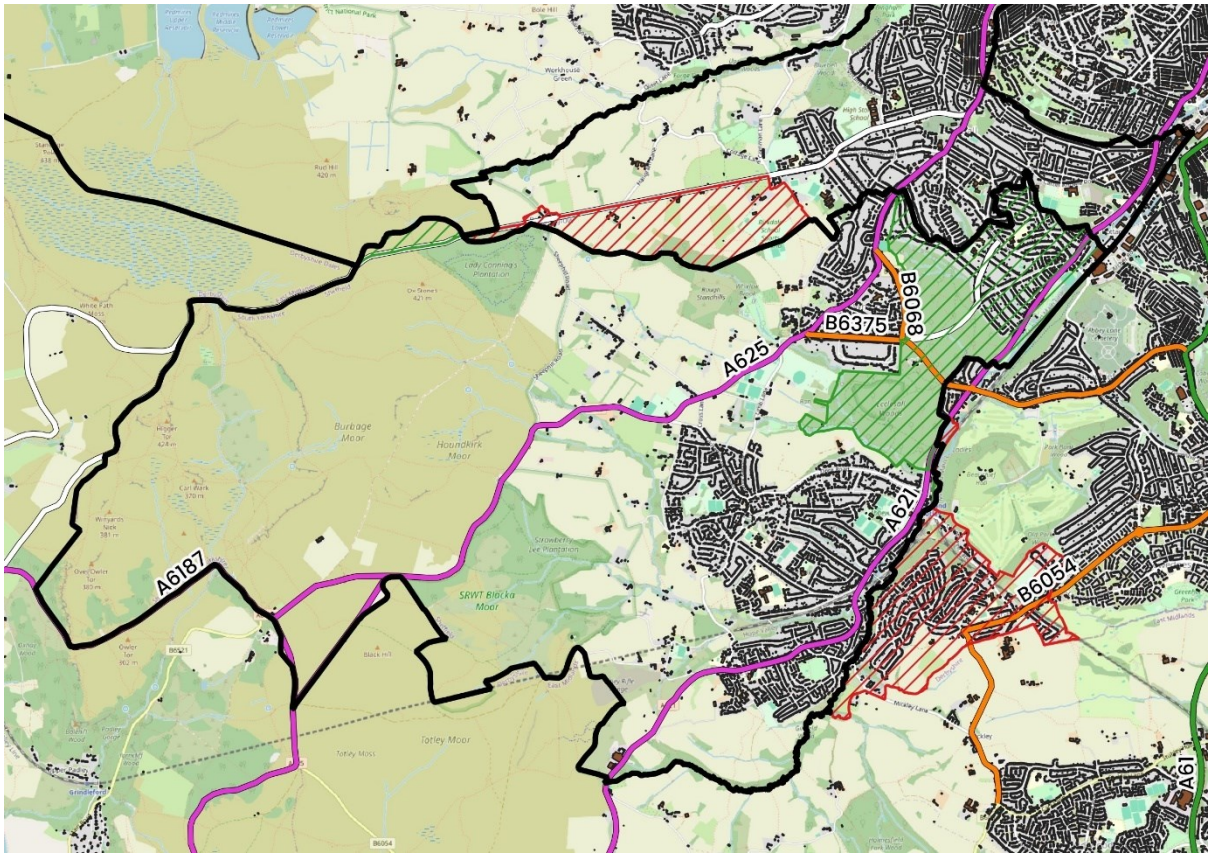
Figure 3. Worrall and Oughtibridge



The village of Worrall strongly identifies with the village of Oughtibridge rather than the rest of Stannington Ward. Residents look north up the Don Valley, rather than south into the Loxley Valley. They share an S35 postcode. The primary school catchment area is for Oughtibridge Primary School. Events like the Worrall Festival and Oughtibridge Gala are organised by residents of both villages.

We propose that the village of Worrall and area around Stockarth Lane move into Stocksbridge and Upper Don Ward.

2. Dore & Whirlowdale Ward



Red hatched areas: subtractions from Dore and Totley

Green hatched areas: additions to Dore and Totley

Polling District	2025 Electors	2032 Electors	Notes
JA	2059	2168	
JC	867	907	
JD	2460	2590	
JE	643	668	
JF	2226	2394	
JG	1542	1672	
JH	1471	1551	
LF	2746	2693	
LG	147	147	See Figure 6.
JA	2059	2168	See Figure 6.
JC	867	907	
Total	**14,407**	**15,036**	
Variance	**+4.3%**	**+1.3%**	

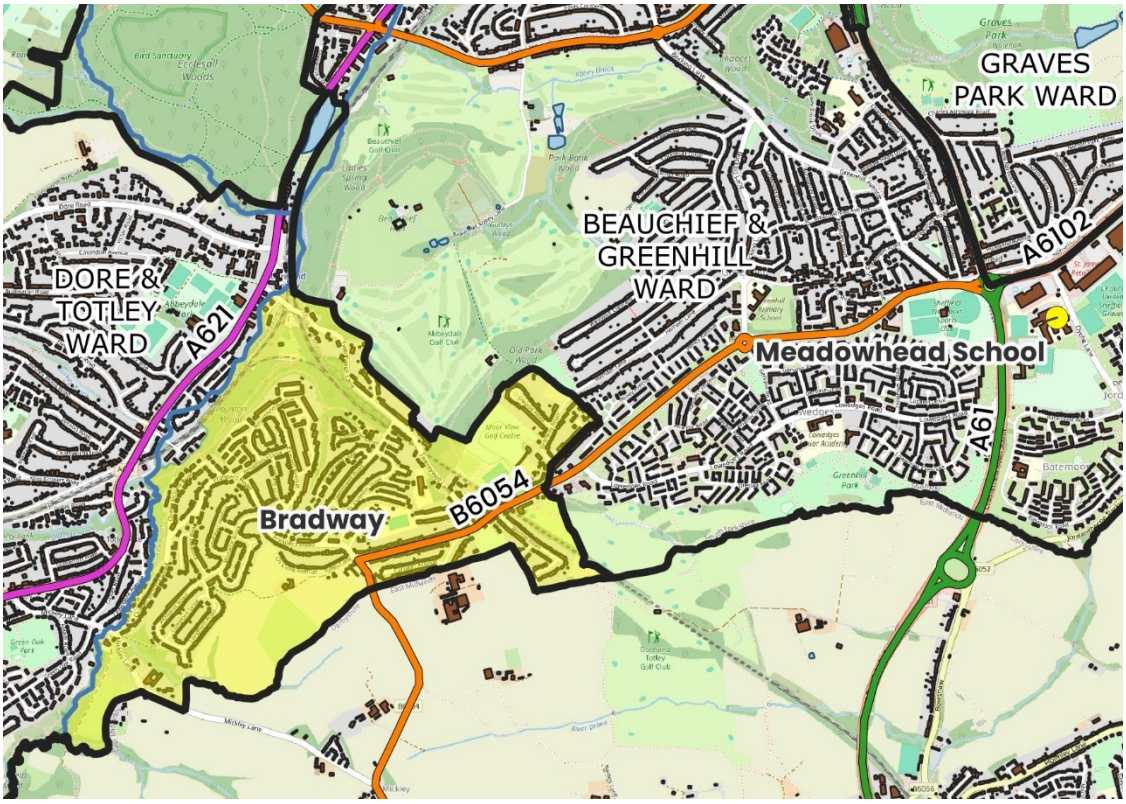
Key Changes:

- Remove Bradway into Beauchief & Greenhill
- Remove Ringinglow into Ecclesall
- Gain Millhouses around Whirlowdale Road from Ecclesall

Rationale:

- Dore and Totley works well to represent those two areas, which are integral to each other.
- Whirlow fits well, and benefitted from the transfer of Parkhead from Ecclesall in 2016.
- The area of Ringinglow is not a good fit, and should be returned to Ecclesall.
- The area of Bradway has much stronger connections to Greenhill in the east, and should be transferred. This also improves electoral equality as this is one of the few areas where numbers can be transferred into Sheffield Heeley Wards without the River Sheaf or railway line acting as barriers. In turn, it allows Dore and Totley to take on an area of Ecclesall, which is currently significantly oversized.
- We believe the area of Millhouses around Whirlowdale Road would be a good fit in terms of community identity. This area shares Dobcroft Primary School with Whirlow. It also provides for better equality by relieving Ecclesall of numbers without putting additional pressure on the oversized Sheffield Central wards.

Figure 4. Bradway



The neighbourhood of Bradway was united by the 2016 boundary changes, having previously been split between Dore & Totley and Beauchief & Greenhill Wards. While this was good, it has resulted in a very poor boundary in the east (e.g. Edmund Avenue, Fox Lane) that has caused signficant confusion.

Thinking about Bradway more widely, the area is better connected with Greenhill than with Dore & Totley. Its main road and bus routes are along the B6054. It has a self-contained primary school catchment for Bradway Primary, but its secondary catchment is for Meadowhead School, like Beauchief & Greenhill.

Whereas Bradway has an unclear boundary with Greenhill, it has a distinct boundary with Dore & Totley along the River Sheaf and Totley Brook. The area also rises steeply.

We propose that the neighbourhood of Bradway is moved into Beauchief & Greenhill Ward.

Figure 5. Whirlowdale

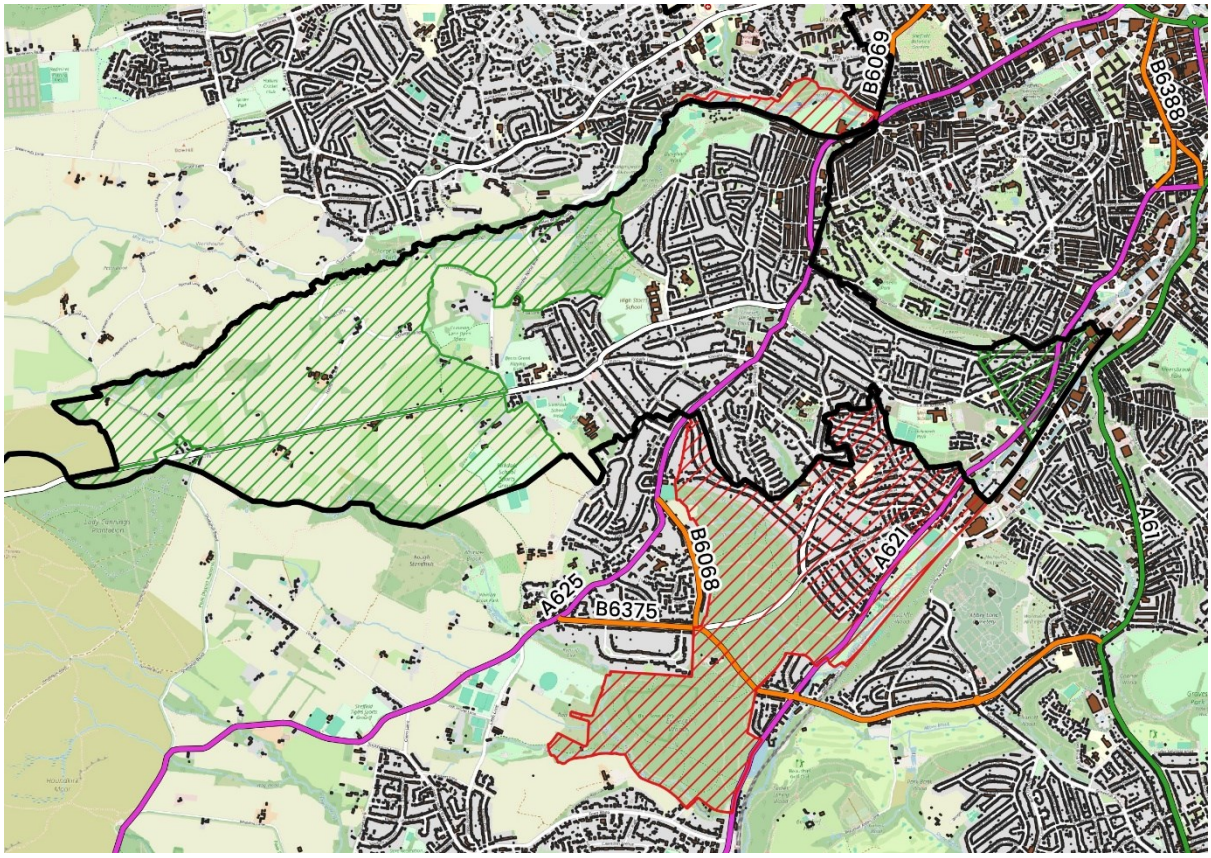


Area in yellow: catchment area for Dobcroft Primary School

We propose to ensure good electoral equality by removing an area of Millhouses around Whirlowdale Road into Dore & Totley. This is justifiable on community ground as the area shares a primary school with Whirlow and Parkhead, which are already in Dore & Totley. The area has major bus routes along the A625 and A621 which connect with Dore and Totley.

As a result of this change, we propose changing the ward name to Dore and Whirlowdale. This name would recognise both the village of Whirlow (within the ward since 2004) and the new area of Millhouses. "Dore and Millhouses" would be acceptable, but does not have the advantage of recognising Whirlow. Whirlowdale Road runs through both Whirlow and Millhouses and is a well-known placename.

3. Ecclesall Ward



Green-hatched: additions to Ecclesall Ward

Red-hatched: subtractions from Ecclesall Ward

Polling District	**2025 Electors**	**2032 Electors**	**Notes**
LA	1,866	2,055	
LB	1,384	1,419	
LC	1,839	1,829	
LD	2,487	2,686	
LE	2,019	2,083	
LG*	2,173	2,386	Less Oliver Road, Springfield Avenue, Dobcroft Road, Dobcroft Close
LH	858	922	
JE*	66	66	
NA*	27	27	See Figure 6.
ND*	53	53	See Figure 6.
TD	1,544	1,585	
Total	**14,316**	**15,112**	
Variance	**+6.5%**	**+4.5%**	

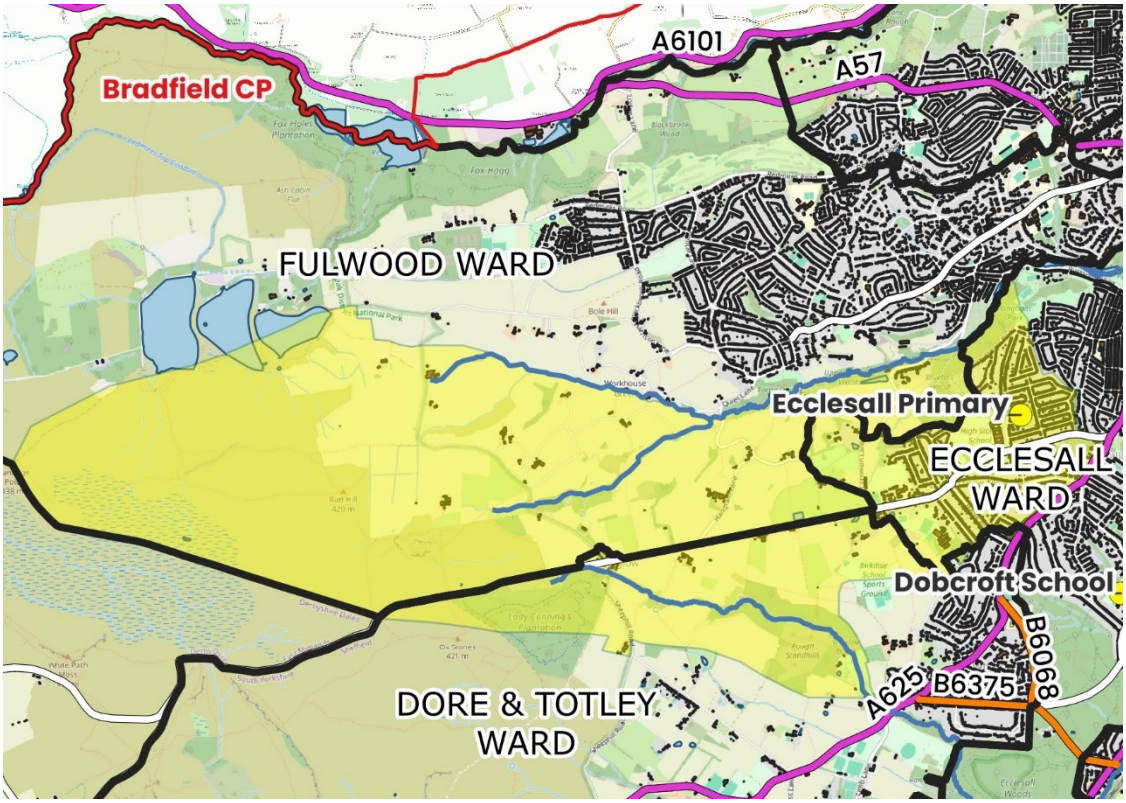
Key Changes:

- Add area of Ringinglow Village and Ringinglow Road from Dore & Totley and Fulwood Wards
- Add part of Carterknowle from Nether Edge & Sharrow Ward
- Remove area around Whirlowdale Road to Dore & Whirlowdale Ward
- Remove Endcliffe Park to Fulwood & Endcliffe Ward

Rationale:

- Ecclesall Ward functions reasonably well, but is significantly oversized both now and in 2032.
- We propose to ensure good electoral equality by removing an area of Millhouses around Whirlowdale Road into Dore & Totley. This is justifiable on community ground as the area shares a primary school with Whirlow and Parkhead, which are already in Dore & Totley. The area has major bus routes along the A625 and A621 which connect with Dore and Totley. [See Figure 5]
- Bringing Ringinglow village and the surrounding area back into the ward is necessary for community identity and convenient local government. [See Figure 6]
- Bringing the remainder of Carterknowle from Nether Edge & Sharrow provides for electoral equality in this ward, while releasing population pressure from the city centre. It corrects the unhelpful division of this neighbourhood from 2016.

Figure 6. Ringinglow



Area in yellow: Ecclesall Primary School catchment

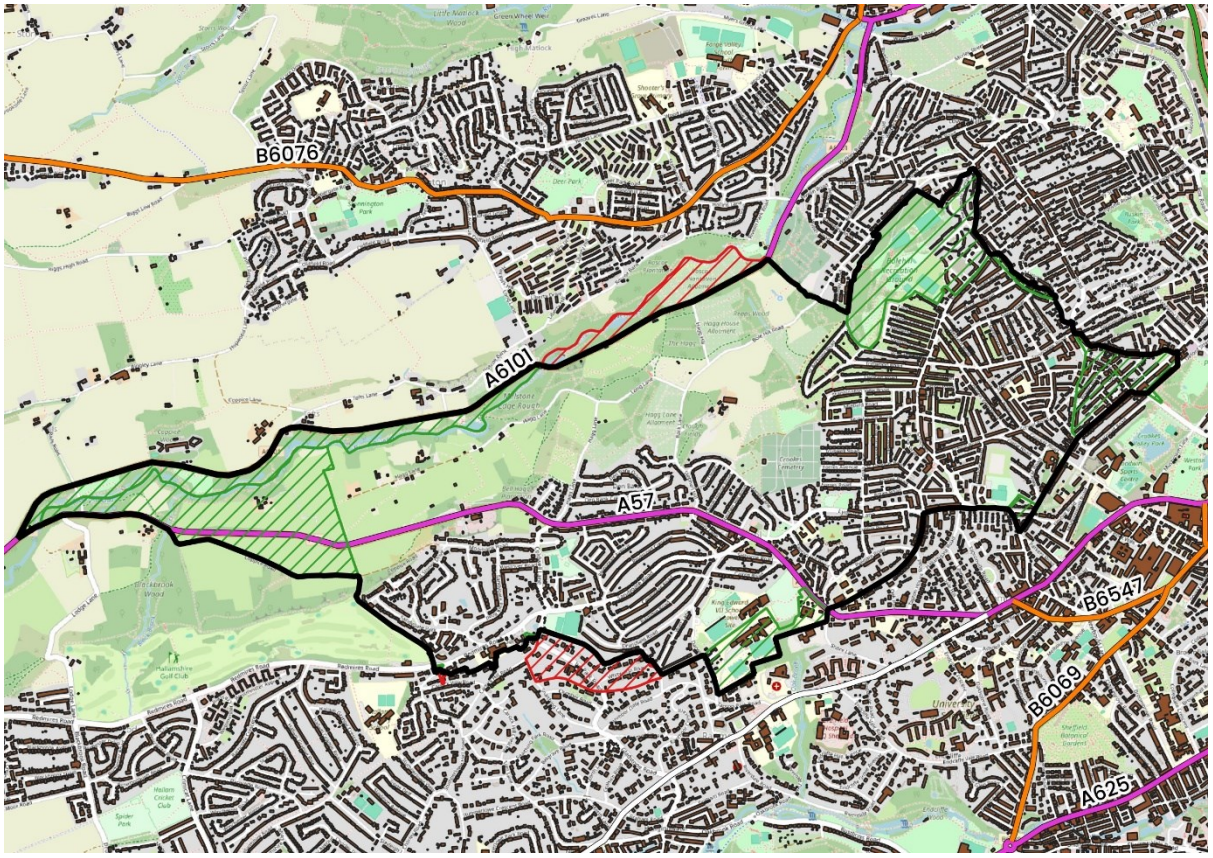
The village of Ringinglow was placed into Dore & Totley Ward in 2016, while the area between Ringinglow Road and the Porter Brook were moved into Fulwood.

We maintain that this has resulted in inconvenient local government and poor community identity. For example, Sheffield Council continues to use Bents Green Methodist in Ecclesall Ward as the polling station for Ringinglow, as there is no convenient location in Dore & Totley Ward.

The major axis for this area is along Ringinglow Road, into the Bents Green neighbourhood of Ecclesall Ward. The school catchment area (indicated on the map) is for Ecclesall Primary School. In contrast, the connections with Fulwood or Dore are along steep country roads.

We propose Ringinglow Village, and the area between Whirlow Brook and Porter Brook are returned into Ecclesall Ward, uniting the Ringinglow neighbourhood.

4. Crookes and Crosspool Ward



Red-hatched: subtractions from existing Crookes and Crosspool Ward

Green-hatched: additions to existing Crookes and Crosspool Ward

Polling District	2025 Electors	2032 Electors	Notes
HA	1164	1226	
HB	1388	1462	
HC	1496	1655	
HE	2097	2208	
HF	1353	1425	
HG	1237	1303	
HD	1318	1620	
HH	1147	1215	
HI*	1141	1201	See Figure 10.
EI*	64	64	See Figure 8..
EE*	293	534	See Figure 8.
NG*	6	6	Bell Hagg only
ZH*	464	464	See Figure 7.
Total	**13,546**	**14,761**	
Variance	**-1.9%**	**-0.5%**	

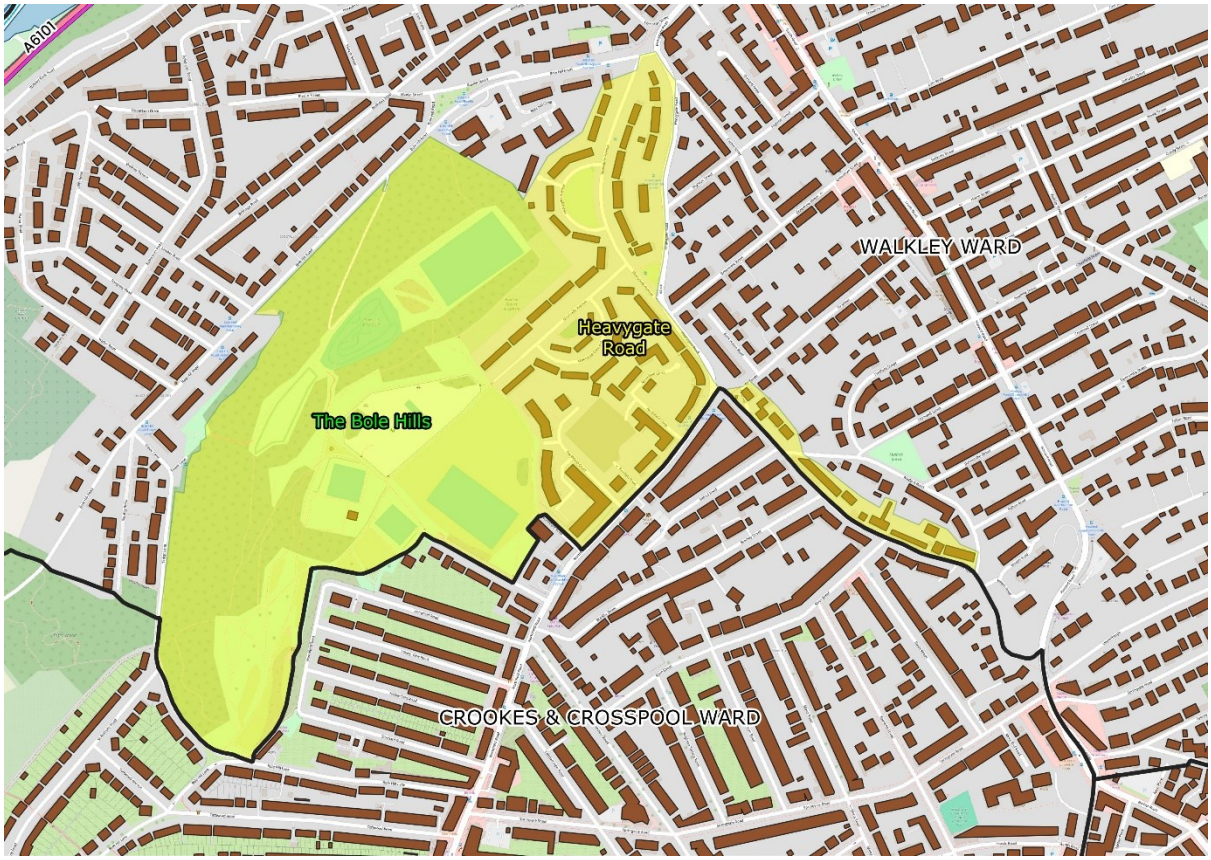
Key Changes:

- Remove parts of Ranmoor and Carsick into Fulwood Ward
- Gain Tapton and Lydgate Schools from Fulwood Ward
- Gain parts of Crookesmoor, aligned with the BBEST neighbourhood plan
- Gain Bole Hills and Heavygate Road area from Walkley

Rationale:

- Crookes and Crosspool essentially functions well, but is projected to be significantly undersized.
- Bringing the Heavygate and Crookesmoor areas into the ward will produce a ward of good electoral equality and stronger community identity.
- Bringing Heavygate and Crookesmoor into the ward, while removing the area around Ivy Park, will result in more convenient local government. Currently roads in these areas are split between wards in a way that appears irrational on the ground and has resulted in residents' and agencies' confusion.
- With these changes, Crookes and Crosspool has stronger community identity, clearer boundaries and better electoral equality.

Figure 7. Heavygate

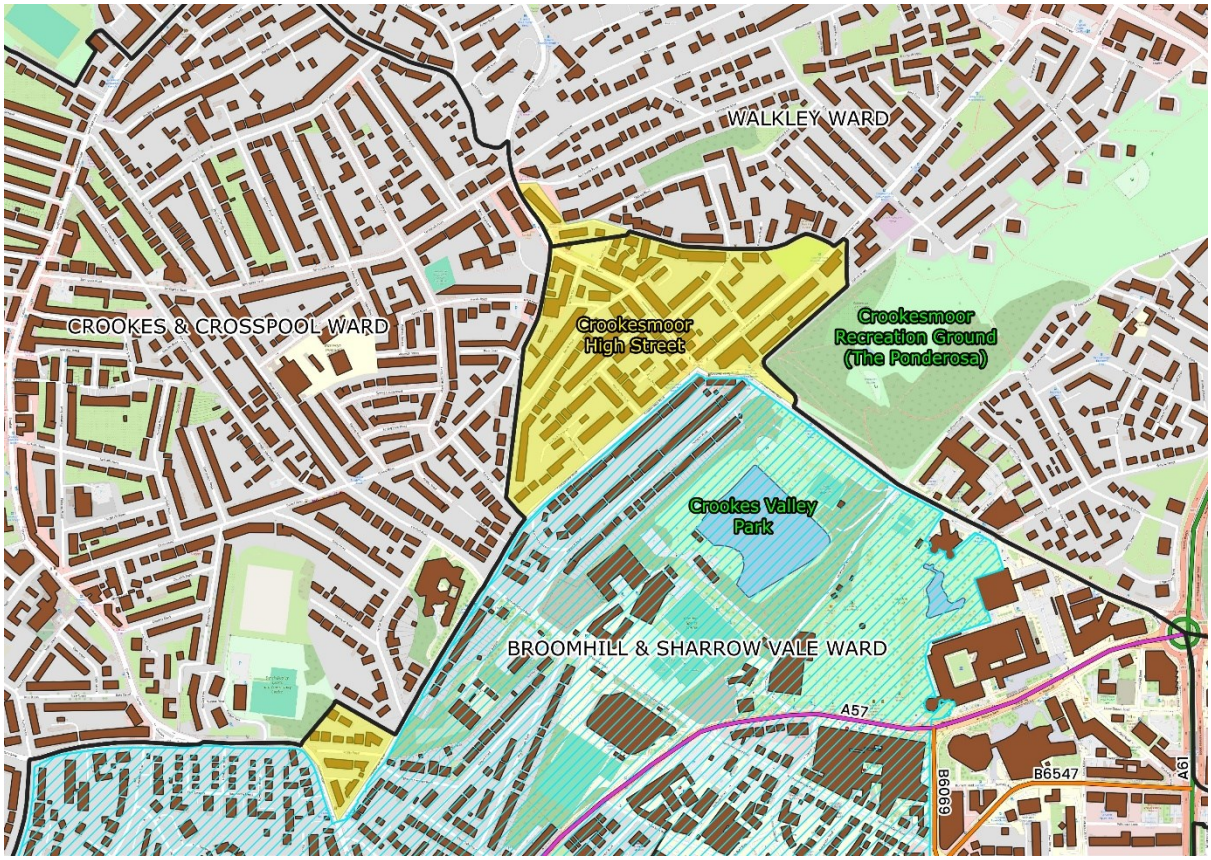


The Bole Hills green space was previously shared between Crookes and Walkley Wards until 2016. We believe the green space has greater connection with Crookes, as the major entrances are from the south, whereas the north is steep and wooded.

The area around Heavygate Road has been split since 2004, when Crookes was separated from Walkley Ward. We believe the current split does not represent community identity or provide for convenient local government. While residents may shop at either Walkley or Crookes high streets, we believe the area primarily looks south to Crookes. It is in the catchment area for Westways Primary School in Crookes and Crosspool Ward. Unlike the majority of Walkley Ward, which has an S6 postcode, this area shares an S10 postcode with Crookes.

We propose the Bole Hills and the area around Heavygate Road (including Moorsyde, Northfield) move into Crookes and Crosspool, uniting the Heavygate neighbourhood.

Figure 8. Crookesmoor



The neighbourhood of Crookesmoor has been split since 2004, when Netherthorpe Ward was divided between Walkley, Broomhill and Crookes. We believe it is inconvenient and not representative of community identity to have Crookesmoor High Street split between three different wards.

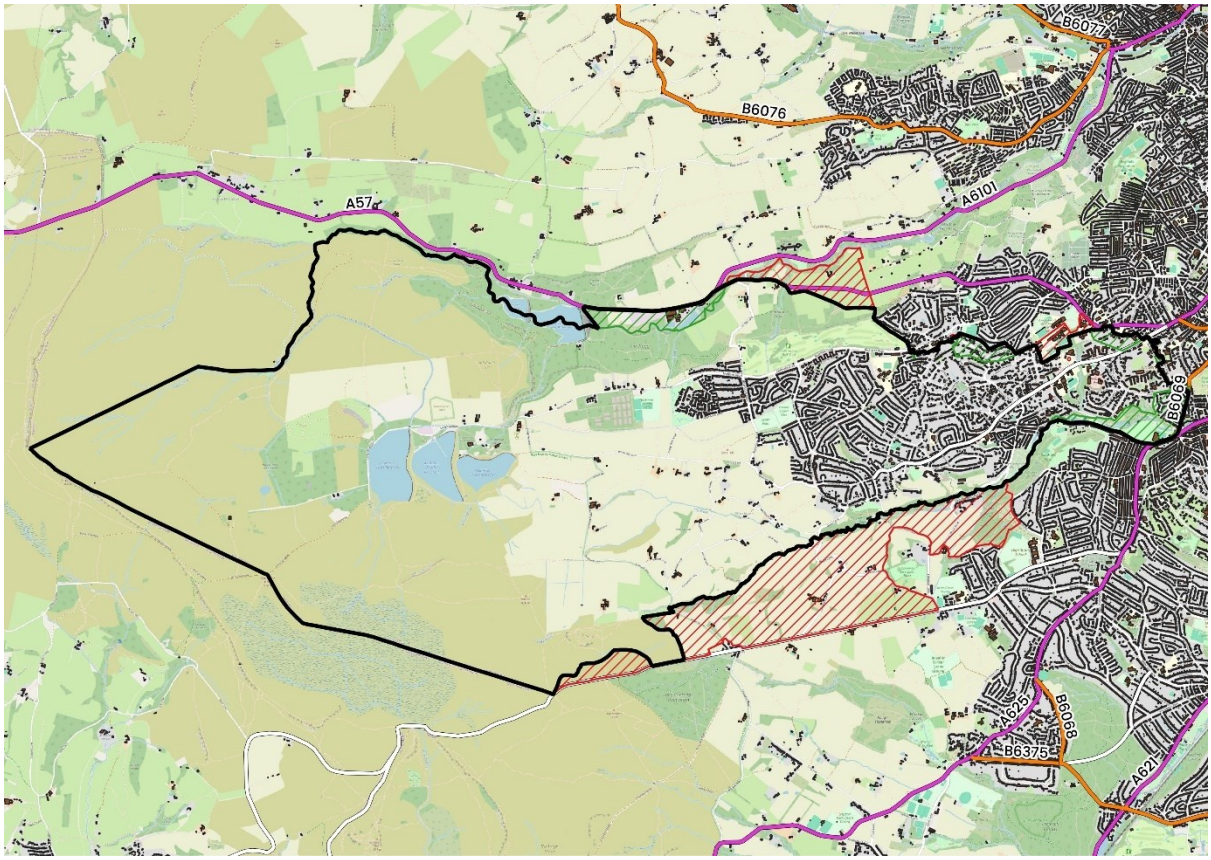
We propose to align the boundary with the BBEST Neighbourhood Plan, so that all of Crookesmoore north-west of Crookesmoor Road is united in Crookes and Crosspool Ward.

Crookesmoor Recreation Ground (aka The Ponderosa) must remain in Walkley Ward, where the majority of residents are located.

Crookes Valley Park could be brought into Crookes and Crosspool Ward, but this would divide the BBEST neighbourhood planning area.

We propose the area of Crookesmoor north of Crookesmoor Road move into Crookes and Crosspool, uniting the majority of the Crookesmoor neighbourhood.

5. Fulwood & Endcliffe Ward



Map of Proposed Fulwood & Endcliffe Ward (1:38,000)

Red-hatched: subtractions from existing Fulwood Ward
Green-hatched: additions to existing Fulwood Ward

Polling District	2025 Electors	2032 Electors	Notes
NA	2413	2552	
NB	1106	1278	
NC	1551	1306	
ND	2222	2230	
NE	1113	1172	
NF	1798	1893	
NG	1617	1822	
NH	1481	1559	
EC	575	600	See Figure 9.
EH	137	137	See Figure 9.
HH	137	127	See Figure 10.
XC	3	3	
Total	**14,153**	**14,679**	
Variance	**+2.5%**	**-1.1%**	

Key Changes:

- Add parts of Ranmoor/Carsick from Crookes & Crosspool
- Remove Tapton and Lydgate Schools to Crookes & Crosspool
- Add parts of Endcliffe from Broomhill & Sharrow Vale Ward
- Add Endcliffe Park from Ecclesall Ward
- Remove south of Porter Brook to Ecclesall Ward

Rationale:

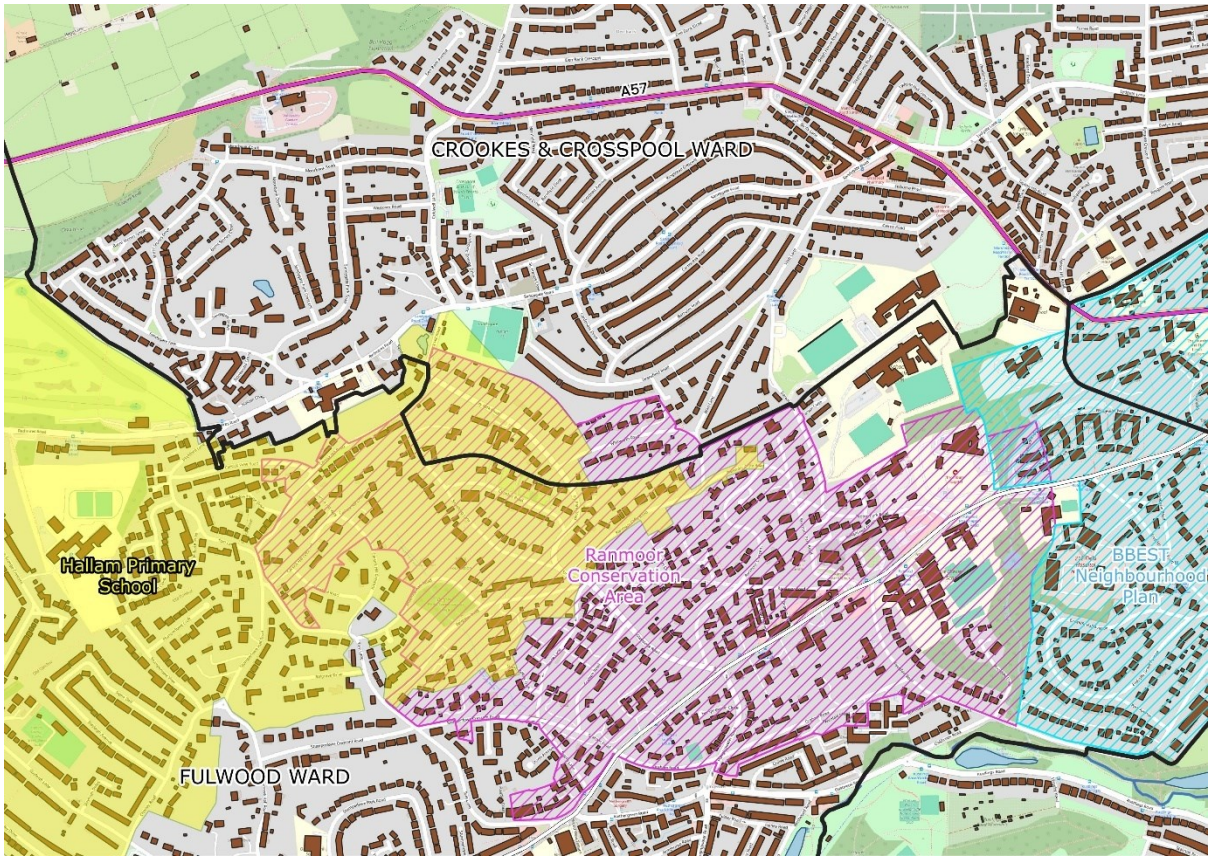
- Fulwood Ward was created in 2004 to bring together the north-west of Hallam Ward and south-west of Broomhill Ward. We believe it functions well, as the communities of Nether Green, Ranmoor, Lodge Moor, and Fulwood flow into one another. These communities share bus services along Fulwood Road and, to some extent, Redmires Road.
- In 2016 Carsick and Endcliffe were added into the ward, but incompletely. We propose to transfer areas from Crookes and Crosspool, Broomhill and Sharrow Vale and Ecclesall Wards to ensure these neighbourhoods are unified.
- Once these transfers are complete, we believe the ward would be best known as 'Fulwood and Endcliffe' to represent the two sides of the ward.

Figure 9. Endcliffe



These changes complete the unification of Endcliffe in a single ward, which was partly implemented in 2016. We propose to include the entire area identified as Endcliffe by the BBEST Neighbourhood Plan, plus the area of Endcliffe Rise and Endcliffe Park. This means the distinct community and its amenities are within a single ward.

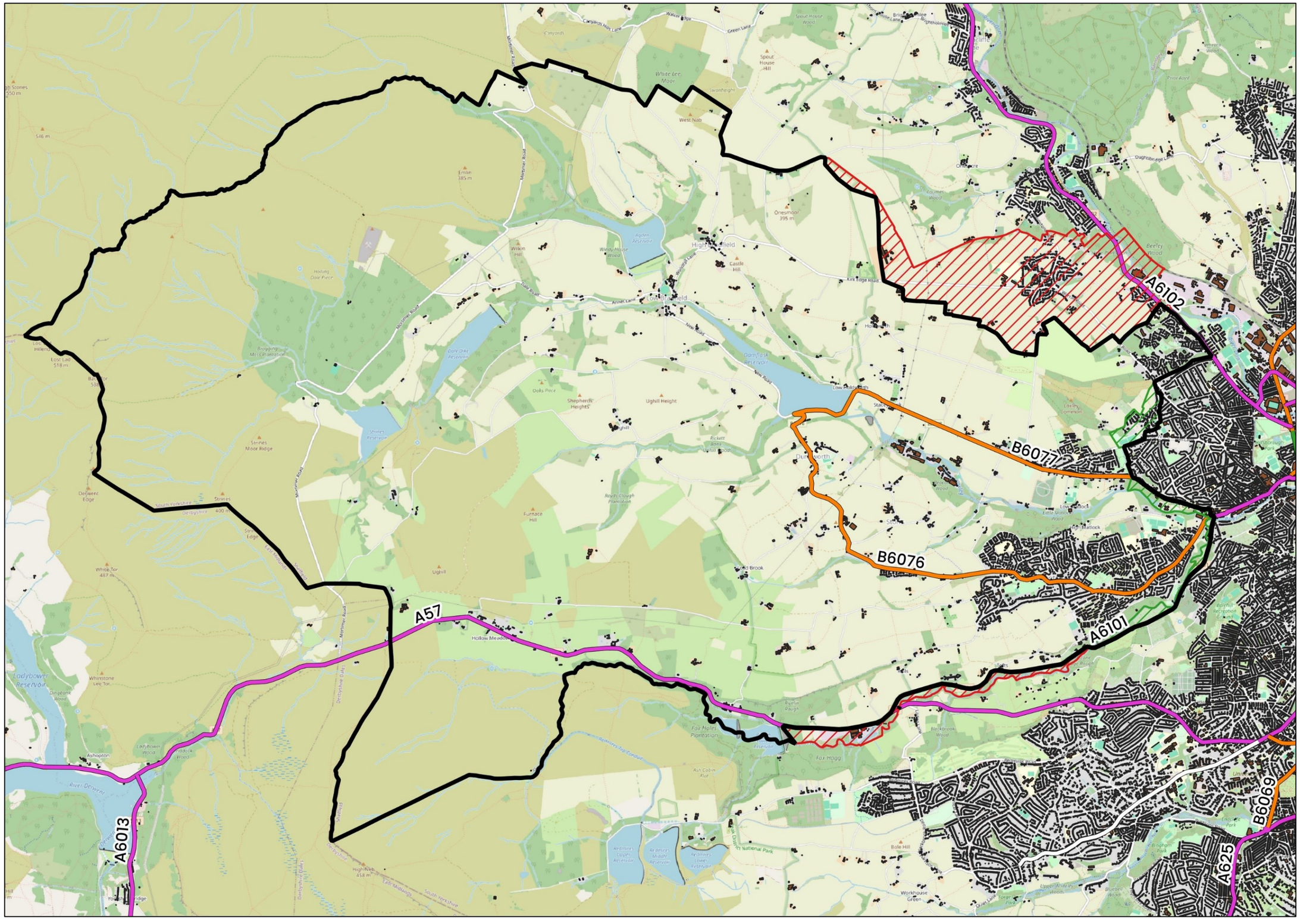
Figure 10. Ranmoor



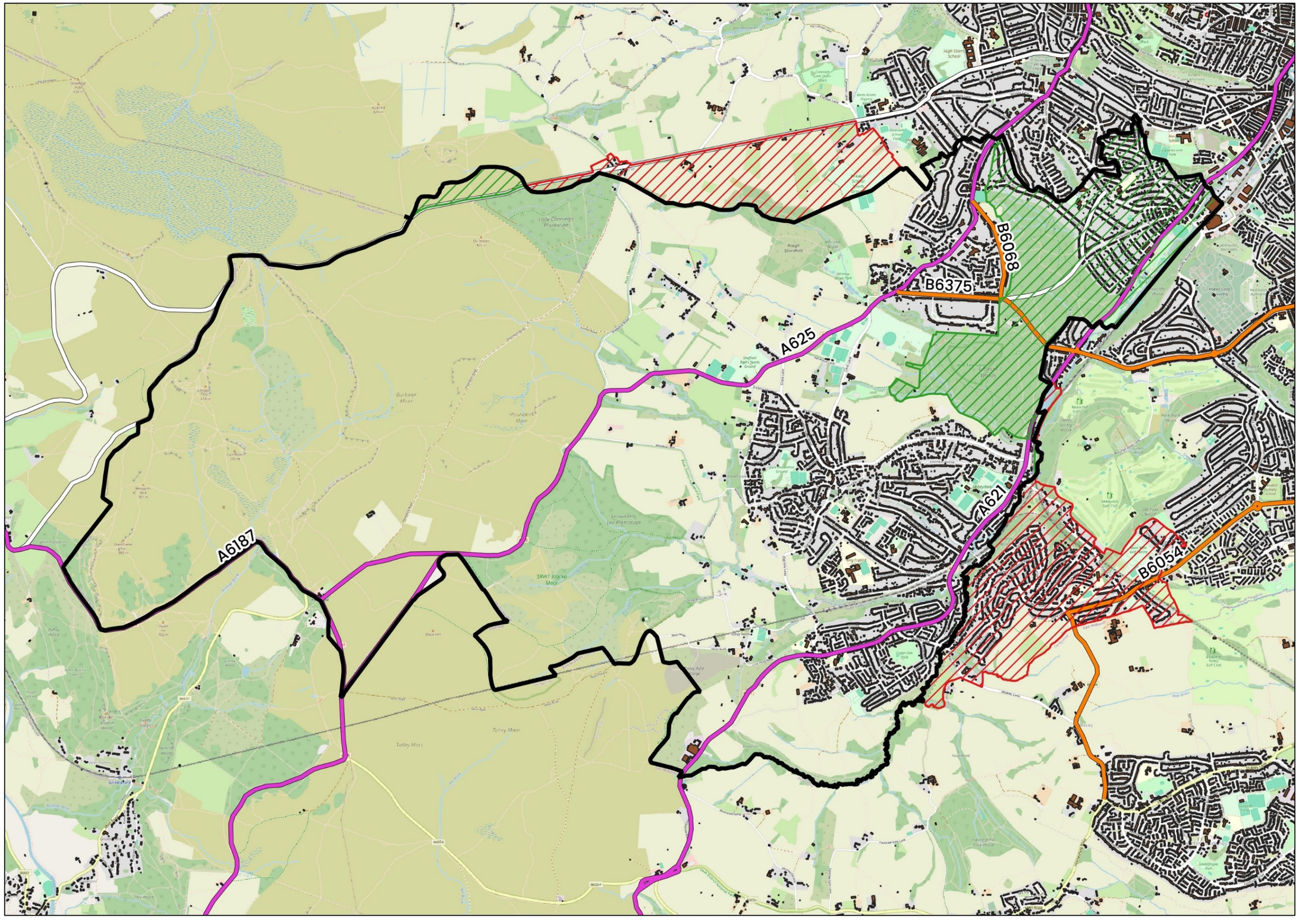
These changes complete the division of Ranmoor/Carsick from Crosspool in the 2016 boundary changes. Ivy Park Road is within the Ranmoor conservation area and catchment for Hallam primary school. Whitworth Road is within the conservation area. Both roads look south to Ranmoor and west to Fulwood rather than north to Crookes and Crosspool. The handful of properties on Sandygate Road and Pitchford Road are exchanged so each road is completely in one ward.

Appendix: Large-scale maps

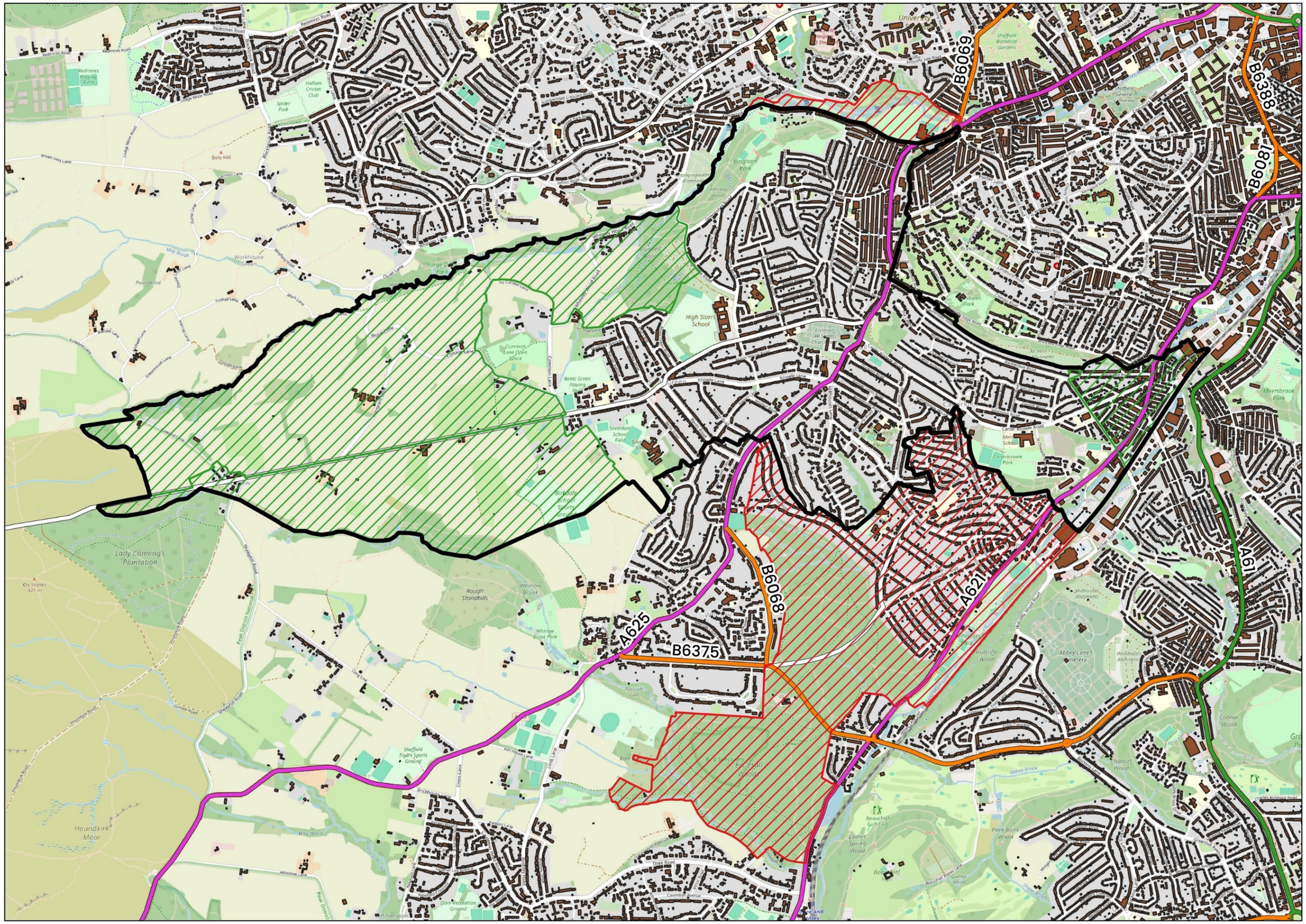
Large Map 1 – Stannington and Loxley Ward (1:68,000 scale)



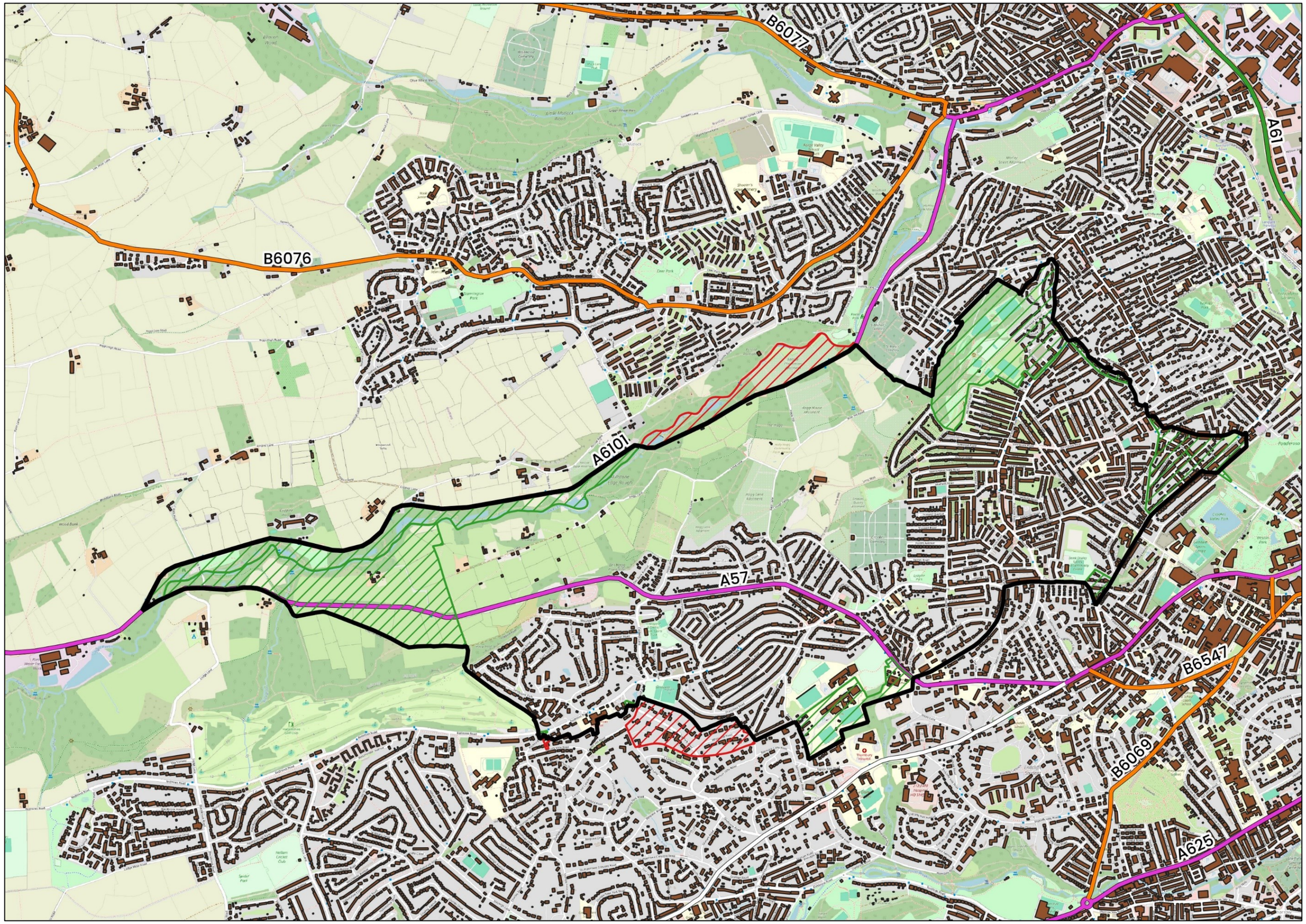
Large Map 2 – Dore and Whirlowdale Ward (1:38,000 scale)



Large Map 3 – Ecclesall Ward (1:25,000 scale)



Large Map 4 – Crookes and Crosspool Ward (1:20,000 scale)



Large Map 5 – Fulwood & Endcliffe Ward (1:40,000 scale)

