

Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I attach a Word doc indicating my position. As I want to attach some maps I will have to send them separately.

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1667765117_Submission+LGBCE.docx\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1667765117_Submission+LGBCE.docx)

Review Officer (Nuneaton and Bedworth)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE



November 2022

Via email

To whom it may concern:

Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary review

The Commission is conducting a review of the wards of this borough and invites public comments until 7 November 2022. This is a response to the consultation.

I ask that if you publish this my name and address are redacted.

First, the borough is made up of two towns and one village: Nuneaton, Bedworth and Bulkington. The boundaries of these three places are very clear. Bulkington is the present ward of that name, Bedworth is made up of the present wards of Bede, Exhall, Heath, Poplar and Slough, and Nuneaton is made up of the remaining eleven wards. There is perhaps scope to consider whether the hamlet of Marston Jabbett should remain in Bulkington or can be placed in a Whitestone-based ward. I would also suggest that Quincy Close, just off Lutterworth Road near Bramcote, may be better off in Whitestone.

Apart from these minor matters there should not be any issue. It is clear that Nuneaton ends well north of Griff Island (where the A444 meets the B4113 in between the two towns) and that Bedworth begins south of it.

I suggest that no ward should contain part of Nuneaton and part of Bedworth as any such ward would be an incoherent ward lacking community ties and in effect divided in two.

The electorate figures provided by the Commission indicated Nuneaton has an entitlement to 25.94 councillors, Bedworth 10.21 councillors and Bulkington 1.86. This implies the number of 2-member wards in Nuneaton should increase by two and the allocation for Bedworth and Bulkington should remain unchanged. The under-representation of Bedworth by one-fifth of a councillor would not be worth breaking community ties over.

My further comments relate solely to Nuneaton.

Boundaries or barriers in Nuneaton

I wish to make the point that Nuneaton is made up of a number of communities that are clearly divided from another by strong boundaries such as railway lines and the Coventry Canal. Although of course one can easily travel between these areas on foot or by car via roads, these roads are often few and far between.

Such barriers or boundaries are as follows:

- 1) The 'gap' between the north west of the town (Tuttle Hill, Camp Hill) and the north east (Weddington). These areas are completely divided by the River Anker, the West Coast Main Line, Judkins Quarry, the Coventry Canal and farmland. It is only possible to pass from the north east to the north west of the town by travelling through the town centre (Newtown Road) or by leaving the borough and using the A5 (Watling Street).
- 2) From west to east, Hawthorn Common, Whittleford Park, Bar Pool Brook, Vale View Recreation Ground, and the Nuneaton to Birmingham railway line divide Camp Hill from Whittleford and Stockingford. Access from Camp Hill to Whittleford is only by Bucks Hill. Access from Camp Hill to Stockingford is only by Hilary Road which is a single lane road over the railway line.
- 3) Galley Common is divided from Whittleford by the Black Track (now a cycle track; formerly the Stockingford Branch of the London, Midland & Scottish Railway, serving collieries in the area). There is no road between the two except by Plough Hill Road, which involves leaving the borough at Hartshill. Galley Common is divided from Stockingford by the Nuneaton to Birmingham railway line. Access from Galley Common to Stockingford is only by Park Lane. Galley Common village on its own is too small to form a ward. It is currently combined with Whittleford. In my view this is sensible as the only other logical combinations would either split Camp Hill or split Stockingford.
- 4) Whittleford is divided from Stockingford by the Nuneaton to Birmingham railway line. Access from Whittleford to Stockingford is only by Whittleford Road, at the site of the former Stockingford station.
- 5) The far western part of Nuneaton (Stockingford, Camp Hill, Galley Common and Whittleford) is divided from the rest of the town by the Coventry Canal. Access is only by Tuttle Hill or Queens Road at Wash Lane Bridge (there is no access between Vernons Lane and Stanley Road as it is blocked by bollards).
- 6) Bermuda is divided from Heath End by a small number of fields. Access from Bermuda to Heath End is only by Bermuda Road. Until a very short time ago (about 15 years ago) Bermuda was a rather isolated single street village. Even with recent

development, Bermuda is far too small to form a ward. It is currently combined with Heath End and this arrangement should continue as there is no direct access from Bermuda to any other part of Nuneaton.

- 7) Weddington is clearly divided from St Nicolas Park north of Brookdale Road by fields. However, it is clear there is going to be development in this area and what the street pattern will be, and which areas will link with which, may be very different in a few years' time. The present Weddington ward is not appropriate today as it consists of two divided parts; but it may become appropriate if Weddington is joined to St Nicolas Park by housing in the future (although the projected electorate growth makes it clear Weddington ward cannot remain as it is).
- 8) The north eastern part of the town (Weddington, St Nicolas Park and Horeston Grange) are divided from the rest of the town by the West Coast Main Line. Nuneaton is a major railway junction; the station has seven platforms. Access is only by the A444 (Leicester Road). This access is directly to the town centre; residential areas lie further away.
- 9) Attleborough is divided from Whitestone by the West Coast Main Line. Access from Attleborough to Whitestone is by Lutterworth Road or Gipsy Lane. Access is also by Eastboro Way although it is not largely used for this purpose.
- 10) Attleborough is divided from Hill Top and Red Deeps by the Wem Brook and associated park land. Access from Attleborough to Red Deeps is by Donnithorne Avenue or Gipsy Lane. Access from Attleborough to Hill Top is by Avenue Road then Coventry Road. Although the Wem Brook is little more than a stream it is edged by park land and school fields from the town centre down to the southern edge of the town.
- 11) St Nicolas Park and Horeston Grange are divided from Whitestone by the Attleborough Fields Industrial Estate and the Nuneaton to Leicester railway line. Access from the north east of the town to the south east is only by Eastboro Way.

I have tried to illustrate these divides on the attached map.

Owing to the differing sizes of the electorates of the neighbourhoods of Nuneaton, it will not be possible to respect all of these divides in drawing ward boundaries.

I would also point out the ways in which certain communities are not divided from one another:

- 1) Stockingford is not divided from Heath End. The rough boundary between them is the B4102 (Ansley Road/Arbury Road/Croft Road). This is a porous boundary.

- 2) Hill Top is not divided from Red Deeps. The boundary between them is the Coventry Canal, but in the south of the town it is crossed by the A444, Coventry Road, Donnithorne Avenue and Gipsy Lane.
- 3) The town centre is encircled by a ringroad made up of Jubilee Way, Newtown Road and Vicarage Street, with a one way system around Back Street, Bond Street and Regent Street near the railway station. On its own this is not a strong boundary, although combined with Riversley Park to the south or the West Coast Main Line to the east it becomes stronger. The only major residential area close to the town centre is to the west.
- 4) The Nuneaton to Coventry railway line is not a barrier through the town centre or Chilvers Coton, as it is carried on a viaduct (hence the name Coton Arches). It is more so to the south of the town where it is combined with the parallel A444.

Neighbourhoods or areas of Nuneaton

I have tried to illustrate on the attached map the neighbourhoods and their boundaries, as per the above section. I have not differentiated boundaries by different colours, but some of the boundaries are hard boundaries and others are soft boundaries. Some boundaries are 'fuzzy' and people may consider themselves part of either neighbouring community.

I try to illustrate the places by reference to local amenities named for them.

Stockingford

The area between Croft Road/Arbury Road, the Coventry Canal north of Wash Lane Bridge, and the Nuneaton to Birmingham railway line

St Paul's Church, Stockingford, Church Road

Stockingford Congregational Church, Croft Road

Stockingford Academy, Cross Street

Stockingford Recreation Ground, Westbury Road

Stockingford Library, St Paul's Road

Stockingford Sports and Social Club, Arbury Road

Stockingford Allotments Association, Ansley Road, a social club

Stockingford Community Centre, Haunchwood Road

Stockingford Medical Centre, Northumberland Avenue

Bus route 9 bus to Stockingford

Bus route 10 bus to Grove Farm

Whittleford

The area between the Black Track, Whittleford Park, and the Nuneaton to Birmingham railway line

Whittleford Park

Whittleford Co-op, Sherbourne Avenue

Bus route 42 to Frensham Drive

Galley Common

The village to the west of the Black Track and north of the Nuneaton to Birmingham railway line

St Peter's Church, Galley Common, Hickman Road

Galley Common Post Office, Hickman Road

Galley Common Medical Centre, Valley Road

Galley Common Infant School, Plough Hill Road

Camp Hill

The area between the West Coast Main Line, the Nuneaton to Birmingham railway line, Vale View Recreation Ground, Whittleford Park and Bucks Hill

St Mary & St John Church, Camp Hill, Cedar Road

Camp Hill shops, Copper Beech Road

Camp Hill Post Office, Copper Beech Road
Camp Hill Health Centre, Ramsden Avenue
Camp Hill Shopper, Queen Elizabeth Road
The CHESS (Camp Hill Education Sports and Social) Centre, Cedar Road
Bus routes 5 and 5A to Camp Hill

Heath End

The area bounded by Croft Road/Arbury Road, Heath End Road and the Coventry Canal, and including some of the roads south of Heath End Road before you get to Bermuda

Heath End Road Post Office, Heath End Road
Arbury Medical Centre, Cambridge Drive
Arbury Baptist Church, Arbury Road

Bermuda

The area to the end of Bermuda Road, south of Sargasso Lane. Previously a single street village, now including a large amount of new housing, some only accessible through Bermuda Park along Walshingham Drive

Bermuda Phoenix Recreation Ground
Bermuda Lake
Bermuda Phoenix Community Centre, Bermuda Road
(Bermuda Industrial Estate, Bermuda Park, and Bermuda Park railway station are not part of the residential area of Bermuda but are adjacent)

'Abbey'

The area between the town centre and the Coventry Canal, centred around Queens Road and Manor Court Road, including Abbey Green. This also includes the area around Kenilworth Drive being marketed by estate agents as 'Weavers Green' (as it stands on the site of the former Courtaulds factory)

St Mary's Abbey Church, Manor Court Road
St Nicolas Church, Vicarage Street
Abbey C of E Infant School, Aston Road
Abbey Fields Nursery, Aston Road
Abbey Allotment Association, Vernons Lane
Abbey Driving Centre, Bentley Road
Abbey Theatre, Pool Bank Street

Chilvers Coton

The area between Princes Avenue/Princes Street (soft boundary), Riversley Park, the Centrovell Trading Estate (Caldwell Road), and the Coventry Canal as far as Cat Gallows

All Saints Church, Chilvers Coton, Avenue Road
Riversley Road Surgery, Riversley Road
Griff and Coton Sports Club, Heath End Road
Coton Sports and Social Club, Henry Street
Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre, Avenue Road

Chilvers Coton Community School, Fitton Street
Chilvers Coton Conservative Club, Bridge Street
Coton Arches, Coventry Road

Hill Top

The area between the A444 (Griff Way) and the Coventry Canal

Hill Top Post Office, Coventry Road
Hill Top Store, Donnithorne Avenue
Hill Top East Allotment Association, Sorrell Road

Red Deeps (noted as 'Caldwell' on some maps)

The area between the Coventry Canal, the Centrovell Trading Estate (Caldwell Road) and the Wem Brook

Caldwell Stores, Bradestone Road
Bus routes 1 and 2 to Red Deeps

Attleborough

The area between the Wem Brook, the ring road, and the West Coast Main Line

Holy Trinity Church, Attleborough, Fifield Close
Attleborough Baptist Church, Lutterworth Road
Attleborough Village Centre (i.e. a shopping area), around Bull Street, The Square, The Green, and Kern Street
Attleborough Post Office, The Square
Attleborough Store, Ivanhoe Avenue
Attleborough Arms pub, Highfield Road
Attleborough Liberal Club, Bull Street
Attleborough Sports Club, Marston Lane
Chaucer Surgery, School Walk

Whitestone

The area between the West Coast Main Line and the Nuneaton to Leicester railway line

Whitestone Post Office, Lutterworth Road
SPAR Whitehouse, Lutterworth Road
Whitestone Surgery, Bulkington Lane
The Whitestone pub, Meadowside
Whitestone Infant School, Magyar Crescent
Bus route 7 to Whitestone
(Attleborough Fields Industrial Estate lies in Whitestone as I have defined it, but it would not be considered to be in Attleborough, Whitestone or Horeston Grange, as it does not lie in any residential area and is of relatively new

Horeston Grange

The area between the A47 (Hinckley Road) and the Nuneaton to Leicester railway line

Horeston Grange Church, Camborne Drive

Horeston Grange Shopping Centre, Camborne Drive
The Grange Medical Centre, Leicester Road
Little Horestone Allotment Association, Kelsey Close
Bus route 4 to Horeston Grange

St Nicolas Park

The area between Higham Lane and the A47 (Hinckley Road/Long Shoot)

Higham Lane Post Office, Higham Lane
St Nicolas Clinic, Windermere Avenue
St Nicolas Primary School, Windermere Avenue
St Nicolas Park Eye Clinic, St Nicolas Park Drive

Weddington

The area between the West Coast Main Line, the A47 (Hinckley Road) and Higham Lane

St James' Church, Weddington, Church Lane
Weddington Post Office, Weddington Road
Weddington Social Club, Weddington Road
Weddington Allotment Association, Shawe Avenue
Weddington Primary School, Winchester Avenue
Weddingtons Fish and Chips, Weddington Road
Bus routes 1 and 2 to Weddington

Names

The two principal places in Nuneaton outside the central part of the town itself must be considered to be Stockingford and Chilvers Coton. Both are historic areas. Stockingford is represented as Paddiford Common, and Chilvers Coton as Shepperton, in George Eliot's *Scenes of Clerical Life* (1857). The review of the Commission's predecessor in 1999 obliterated both of these as ward names.

'Bar Pool', 'Kingswood' and 'Wem Brook' are not names for areas in everyday usage by local residents and could readily be replaced with Stockingford East, Stockingford West and Chilvers Coton respectively if those wards remain unchanged or little changed.

The Galley Common ward, if it continues to contain Whittleford, should reference Whittleford.

Arbury could be renamed Heath End, or Heath End and Bermuda. However, I understand its present name probably references Arbury Hall, so it could retain its name.

There will clearly be new ward/s in the north east of the town. If a ward is centred on Horeston Grange, it should be named after it. The names of the other wards depends on their boundaries. Local buses heading for the new housing currently built in the north of Weddington are starting to show 'Granary Yard' as their destination; I think this is for the road they terminate at, rather than that the area has been named such by estate agents.

I do not much like 'Abbey' as a ward name, but 'Town Centre' or 'Central' would be much worse. The name as I understand it comes from the ancient Abbey church, which later became a priory, founded in the 12th century at what is now the site of St Mary's Abbey Church on Manor Court Road. This is where the town of Nuneaton, formerly Eaton or Etone, gains its name. The name should stay for lack of suitable alternative.

Conclusion

It will not be possible to maintain the existing structure of wards in Nuneaton, as it is entitled to gain two two-member wards.

The present wards of St. Nicolas, Weddington and Whitestone between them have an entitlement to 9.63 councillors and could between them (or with addition of all or part of the ATF and ATG polling districts east of the West Coast Main Line) be divided into five wards, allowing minimal change in the rest of the town.

This would certainly mean a ward combining Horeston Grange with the northern part of Whitestone along Eastboro Way. I think this would be the most suitable arrangement. The alternative would be to combine part of Weddington with the town centre (or perhaps some area further west) across the railway line.

I would want to see what the street layout will be in five years' time in Weddington and St Nicolas Park before making any decisions as to what the ward pattern should be. I note the present WEA polling district would, on 2028 figures, be almost exactly right to be a two-member ward. At the moment, however, all that polling district is is the top end of St Nicolas Park; a number of streets running off Milby Drive. It may be that some of the new development looks to Weddington and some to St Nicolas Park. It would not be acceptable just to create a ward out of WEA.

The present wards of Camp Hill and Galley Common are both too large. They have an entitlement between them to 4.63 councillors. If Galley Common village itself is taken out (it could only be added to a Stockingford ward), Camp Hill and Whittleford have an entitlement to 3.46 councillors.

Neither of these work. It would be best to combine some of the eastern part of Camp Hill (east of Queen Elizabeth Road) with the 'Abbey' area to the west of the town centre. The areas are connected by Tuttle Hill and by three frequent bus routes. This would be preferable to dividing either Whittleford or Galley Common (neither could be added whole without creating problems further along) to tack part of it onto the west of Stockingford.

The two Stockingford wards are presently divided along Westbury Road, which makes a sensible boundary. However, the present Kingswood ward is undersized, and if part of Whittleford or part of Galley Common is not added to it, it must be extended eastward in Stockingford. The houses on the north side of Haunchwood Road, along with Talbot Close and Freeman Close, could readily be added to the ward. If houses to the east of Westbury Road have to be added it must be noted that the area between Westbury Road and Northumberland Avenue forms a single community and should not be split.

If areas to the east of the Coventry Canal have to be added to Bar Pool ward the first area to be added should be Beaumont Road and Borough Way, which are connected to the present

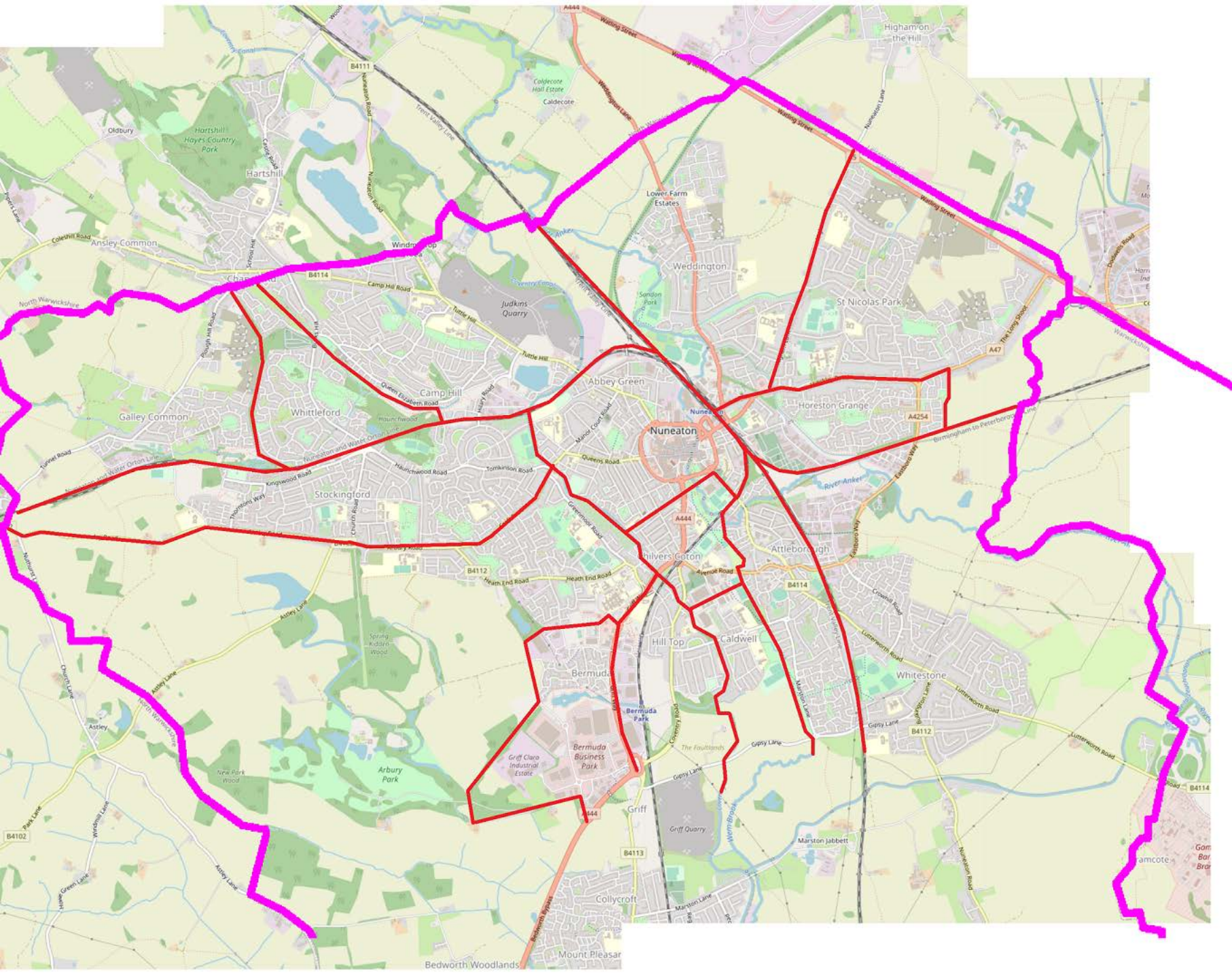
ward at both Vernons Lane and Queens Road (at Wash Lane Bridge). If further electors needed to be added, the streets around Richmond Road and Merevale Avenue should then be added. The four long, parallel roads (Marlborough Road, Bracebridge Street, Norman Avenue and Edward Street) that are to the east of this are one community and should not be divided (north of Princes Avenue) to add numbers to Bar Pool.

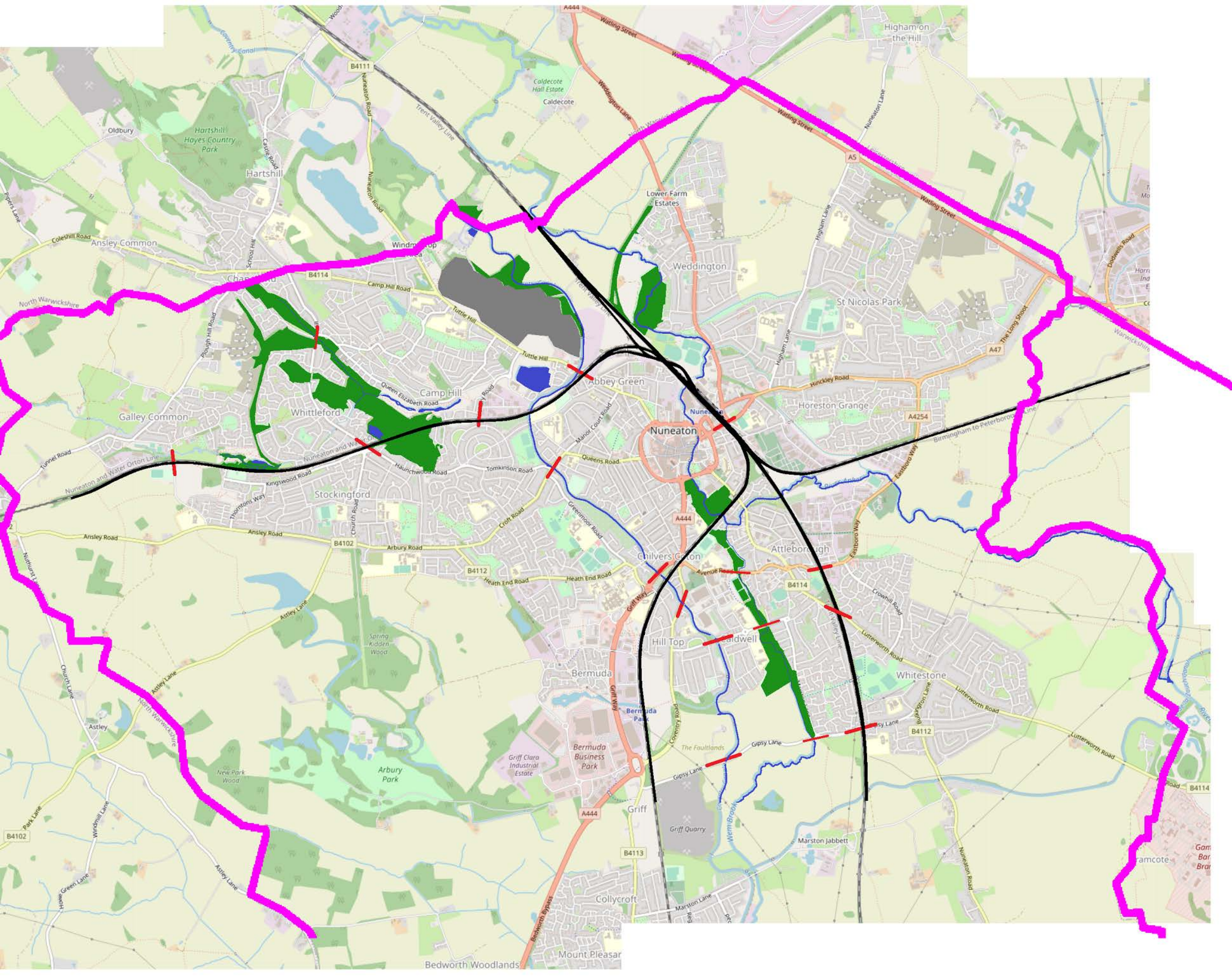
If numbers allow it, I think Greenmoor Road would be better off in Arbury than Bar Pool. On a map it looks a strange appendage to Bar Pool.

The part of Marston Lane (along with the side streets that in fact form part of the same road) presently in Wem Brook could easily be added to Attleborough, using the Wem Brook as the boundary.

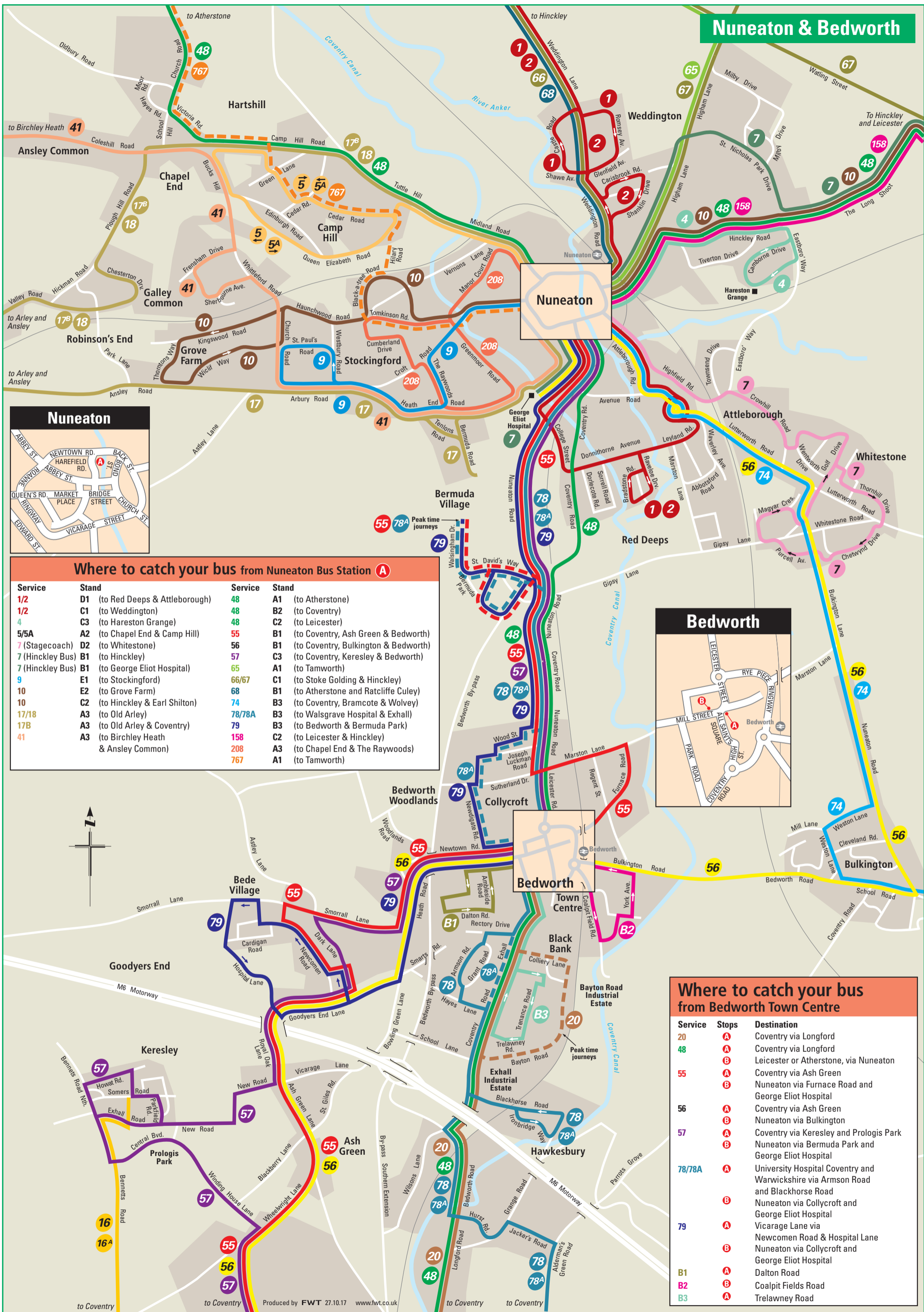
Although I have said the West Coast Main Line separates Attleborough from Whitestone, if the numbers require leaving Magyar Crescent and Purcell Avenue in Attleborough, it would do little harm.

Thank you for reading these thoughts. I wish you success in this task.





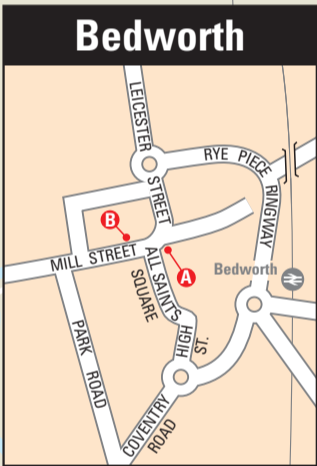
Nuneaton & Bedworth



Where to catch your bus from Nuneaton Bus Station A

| Service | Stand | Service | Stand |
|------------------|--|---------|---|
| 1/2 | D1 (to Red Deeps & Attleborough) | 48 | A1 (to Atherstone) |
| 1/2 | C1 (to Weddington) | 48 | B2 (to Coventry) |
| 4 | C3 (to Hareston Grange) | 48 | C2 (to Leicester) |
| 5/5A | A2 (to Chapel End & Camp Hill) | 55 | B1 (to Coventry, Ash Green & Bedworth) |
| 7 (Stagecoach) | D2 (to Whitestone) | 56 | B1 (to Coventry, Bulkington & Bedworth) |
| 7 (Hinckley Bus) | B1 (to Hinckley) | 57 | C3 (to Coventry, Keresley & Bedworth) |
| 7 (Hinckley Bus) | B1 (to George Eliot Hospital) | 65 | A1 (to Tamworth) |
| 9 | E1 (to Stockingford) | 66/67 | C1 (to Stoke Golding & Hinckley) |
| 10 | E2 (to Grove Farm) | 68 | B1 (to Atherstone and Ratcliffe Culey) |
| 10 | C2 (to Hinckley & Earl Shilton) | 74 | B3 (to Coventry, Bramcote & Wolvey) |
| 17/18 | A3 (to Old Arley) | 78/78A | B3 (to Walsgrave Hospital & Exhall) |
| 17B | A3 (to Old Arley & Coventry) | 79 | B3 (to Bedworth & Bermuda Park) |
| 41 | A3 (to Birchley Heath & Ansley Common) | 158 | C2 (to Leicester & Hinckley) |
| | | 208 | A3 (to Chapel End & The Raywoods) |
| | | 767 | A1 (to Tamworth) |

Bedworth



Where to catch your bus from Bedworth Town Centre

| Service | Stops | Destination |
|---------|-------|---|
| 20 | A | Coventry via Longford |
| 48 | A | Coventry via Longford |
| | B | Leicester or Atherstone, via Nuneaton |
| 55 | A | Coventry via Ash Green |
| | B | Nuneaton via Furnace Road and George Eliot Hospital |
| 56 | A | Coventry via Ash Green |
| | B | Nuneaton via Bulkington |
| 57 | A | Coventry via Keresley and Prologis Park |
| | B | Nuneaton via Bermuda Park and George Eliot Hospital |
| 78/78A | A | University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire via Armson Road and Blackhorse Road |
| | B | Nuneaton via Collycroft and George Eliot Hospital |
| 79 | A | Vicarage Lane via Newcomen Road & Hospital Lane |
| | B | Nuneaton via Collycroft and George Eliot Hospital |
| B1 | A | Dalton Road |
| B2 | B | Coalpit Fields Road |
| B3 | A | Trelawney Road |