



Subject:



Northumberland draft submission

Date:

06 February 2023 17:09:14

Attachments:

[2023-02-03 Final Draft NCC Submission to BC - Division Summaries - DPA \(3\).docx](#)
[divisionshp.zip](#)
[submissionpart1.zip](#)

Good Afternoon, Mark

Attached is a submission for consideration for new electoral arrangements for Northumberland, which was considered by members at full Council on 18 January 2023. The minutes of that meeting will be confirmed as a true record on 22 February, and a copy of the minutes will be sent by way of confirmation then.

Below is a hyperlink to a web map of the draft boundaries which may be helpful to members of the public.

<https://northumberland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=36b6bd864d4d40729612d2d8d6d193d0>

I'll send the other maps in another email, to keep the size of the email down.

Regards

Ryan Gilchrist

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Northumberland County Council

Alphanumerical Summaries of 69 Proposed Electoral Divisions

Statutory Criteria numbered within as follows:

- 1 Electoral Equality
- 2 Community Identities and Interest
- 3 Effective and Convenient Local Government

Division 1	Alnwick East	
Proposed Division	Alnwick East	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	4,517
	Variance	17%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The 17% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for a significant extension of the upper end of the electoral equality criterion. The electorate forecast for the current single division is 13%. In preparing our revised proposals for 69 divisions we found that achieving a number closer to the County average would involve segregating electors beyond the traditional east/west boundary of Bondgate. We note from the Report on Phase 1 of the Review that the Commission is minded to favour single divisions throughout the County.</p>		
<p>2 The three parish wards in the area, Castle, Clayport and Hotspur, meet as a single Parish Council, and a revision of the division boundary would have a negative impact upon this established community. As we pointed out during the 2008/2009 electoral review of the County, when the Boundary Committee proposed what is now the current arrangement for Alnwick, we were concerned that smaller communities around the town would not be adequately represented, in particular the more rural areas. Our new proposal would go some way to provide a clearer distinction between the market town and business district in the west and the rural areas in the east.</p>		
<p>3 The two proposed divisions would form a natural west/east boundary which, while seeking to conserve the sense of community among the well established parishes in the area, would provide a more specific focus on the principal business activities and use of land, and hence would contribute to the effectiveness and convenience of local government in the area.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		The proposal would avoid a negative impact on parishes.

Division 2	Alnwick West	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Alnwick West Electorate Variance	4,285 11%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The 11% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for an extension of the upper end of the electoral equality criterion. The electorate forecast for the current single division is 13%.</p> <p>2 As indicated for proposed Division 1, extending the boundary at Bondgate with a view to reducing non-compliance with the electorate average would have a negative impact on the parishes. Also, our new proposal will go some way to provide a clearer distinction between the market town and business district in the west and the rural areas in the east.</p> <p>3 The two proposed divisions would form a natural west/east boundary which, while seeking to conserve the sense of community among the well established parishes in the area, would provide a more specific focus on the principal business activities and use of land, and hence would contribute to the effectiveness and convenience of local government in the area.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		The proposal would avoid a negative impact on parishes.

Division 3	Amble	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Amble Electorate Variance	4,060 5%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The 5% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly increases the estimated eec variance from 2 (current division) to 5%.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals

Division 4	Amble West with Warkworth	
Proposed Division	Amble West with Warkworth	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,863
	Variance	0
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 At 3,863, variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is statistically irrelevant, in compliance with the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -3 (current division) to NIL</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals

Division 5	Ashington Central	
Proposed Division	Ashington Central	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,602
	Variance	-7%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -7% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -9% (current division) to -7%.</p> <p>2 Ashington is a town and parish in Southeast Northumberland, situated west of the A189 and borders with the river Wansbeck at the south of the town. We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for this division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals

Division 6	Bamburgh	
Proposed Division	Bamburgh	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,698

Variance	-4%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence	
1	The -4% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -7% (current division) to -4%.
2	We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.
3	We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals

Division 7	Bebside
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Bebside Electorate 3,655 Variance -5%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence	
1	The -5% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -8% (current division - Kittybrewster) to -5% (new name Bebside). Cowpen has been redrawn to incorporate part of Bebside, thus rebalancing electoral equality.
2	Blyth is a town and parish in southeast Northumberland. It lies on the coast, to the south of the river Blyth. The port of Blyth dates back to the 12th century and, while many industries which helped the town prosper have largely vanished, the port still thrives. The current division of Kitty Brewster has been renamed to better reflect the area, particularly with the redevelopment of the Northumberland Line and the new train station at Bebside.
3	We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals

Division 8	Bedlington Central
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Bedlington Central Electorate 3,844

Variance	0%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence	
<p>1 At 3,844, variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is statistically irrelevant, in compliance with the electoral equality criterion. Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -3% (current division) to NIL.</p> <p>2 In performing analysis to rebalance electoral equality between the existing Bedlington divisions (Bedlington Central, Bedlington East & Bedlington West), we found that any changes to one had a cascade effect on the neighbouring division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>	
Impact on Parish Council arrangements on the parish	We anticipate a moderate impact

Division 9	Bedlington East	
Proposed Division	Bedlington East	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,746
	Variance	-3%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -3% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -6% (current division) to -3%.</p> <p>2 In performing analysis to rebalance electoral equality between the existing Bedlington divisions (Bedlington Central, Bedlington East & Bedlington West), we found that any changes to one had a cascade effect on the neighbouring division. Directly to the east of Bedlington East is Sleekburn division, for which there is a proposal to absorb properties to the west. As a result, for Bedlington East there was little alternative to a review of neighbouring divisions to the west (also, the River Blyth is to the south, forming a boundary with division between Bedlington and Bebside). Bedlington East moved west to contain the majority of properties on Vulcan Place. We consider this boundary change useful in rebalancing electoral equality as the parish boundary was not coterminous with the electoral division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements upon the parish.	We anticipate a moderate impact	

Division 10	Bedlington West	
Proposed Division	Bedlington West	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,781
	Variance	-2%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -2% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -5% (current division) to -2%. In performing analysis to rebalance electoral equality between the existing Bedlington divisions (Bedlington Central, Bedlington East & Bedlington West), we found that any changes to one had a cascade effect on the neighbouring division. Directly to the east of Bedlington East is Sleekburn division, for which there is a proposal to absorb properties to the west.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals

Division 11	Bellingham	
Proposed Division	Bellingham	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,167
	Variance	-18%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -18% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for a significant extension of the lower end of the electoral equality criterion. Bellingham is, we believe, the largest electoral division in England. Its electorate is spread evenly across the entire area, consisting of farmland, forestry and in large part the Northumberland National Park. The clear problem in seeking to place the division within standard deviations from the average County electorate is the sheer size of both Bellingham, its nearest neighbour Humshaugh (itself with a variance of -10%) and other settlements around its southern and south eastern border. Throughout that area of the County electors are in small numbers, evenly spread across wide landscapes. It would be impracticable to redraw borders with standard blocks of 600 electors. The resulting division area would be unworkable from a standpoint of electoral equality both as a measure of equivalence and practically for the unreasonable travelling distances and time commitments required of elected representatives.</p>		

2 Parishes absorbed into a considerably extended Bellingham division would lose their sense of identity and community. The disruption of parishes in one division would have a knock-on effect on parishes of neighbouring divisions. Also the responsibilities of representing such a large area would inevitably have an impact on interaction between elected Members and parishes/individuals.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements Extension of Bellingham District
would have a knock-on impact on parishes in neighbouring divisions.

Division 12		Berwick East	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Berwick East Electorate Variance	3,729 -3%	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			
1 The -3% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -6% (current division) to -3%.			
2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.			
3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.			
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals	

Division 13		Berwick North	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Berwick North Electorate Variance	3,917 2%	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			
1 The 2% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly increases the estimated eec variance from -1% (current division) to 2%.			
2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.			

3	We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals

Division 14	Berwick West with Ord
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Berwick West with Ord Electorate 3,492 Variance -9%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence	
<p>1 The -9% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly reduces the estimated eec variance from -12% (current division) to -9%.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>	
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals

Division 15	Bothal
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Bothal Electorate 3,605 Variance -7%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence	
<p>1 The -7% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -9% (current division) to -7%.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>	
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals

Division 16		Bywell	
Proposed Division	Bywell		
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,691	
	Variance	-4%	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			
<p>1 The -4% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -7% (current division) to -4%.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>			
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals	

Division 17		Choppington	
Proposed Division	Choppington		
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,494	
	Variance	-9%	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			
<p>1 The -9% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -12% (current division) to -9%.</p> <p>2 Choppington, Guide Post and Stakeford are villages to the Southeast of Northumberland contained within the current parliamentary constituency of Wansbeck along with the small localities of West & East Sleekburn and Cambois contained within the Sleekburn division. All three divisions of Choppington, Stakeford and Sleekburn lie south of the River Wansbeck from Ashington, the nearest town. The majority of these areas are mainly residential. As a result of the necessity to comply with the eec by the shifting boundaries of Sleekburn and Stakeford westwards, this creates a domino effect with one division gaining numbers to the detriment of the next. This in turn requires a difficult balance being struck between Choppington and Stakeford where any changes could tip either division outside tolerance. We do not anticipate that our proposal for Choppington will have any negative impact upon its communities.</p>			

3	We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.	
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals	

Division 18	College with North Seaton	
Proposed Division	College with North Seaton	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,801
	Variance	-1%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -1% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -4% (current division) to -1%. We propose to rename the current division of College to College with North Seaton, as the former College boundary now incorporates a large proportion of North Seaton, including Old North Seaton Colliery (Links View), The Demesne and South Ridge.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals	

Division 19	Corbridge	
Proposed Division	Corbridge	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,664
	Variance	-5%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -5% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -8% (current division) to -5%. Moving boundaries in order to achieve compliance with the eec would be problematic in this area (Corbridge), creating a domino effect among neighbouring divisions (Hexham), further reducing one electorate to increase another. We therefore propose to maintain the integrity of existing divisions.</p>		

2	We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.
3	We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals

Division 20	Cowpen	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Cowpen Electorate Variance	3,894 1%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
1	The 1% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -2% (current division) to 1%. Cowpen has been redrawn to incorporate part of Bebside, thus rebalancing electoral equality.	
2	We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.	
3	We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.	
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals	

Division 21	Cramlington East	
Proposed Division	Cramlington East	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,774
	Variance	-2%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
1 The -2% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal maintains the estimated eec variance of -2% (current division) at -2%. This was part of a compromise involving adjustments to the East Cramlington, Cramlington Village and Cramlington South East divisions. East Cramlington has the lowest electorate number in the town under the current		

scheme (-18%). We are proposing to merge part of Collingwood Chase, currently in South East Cramlington division, with East Cramlington division.

2 Cramlington is a large town and parish in the South East of Northumberland, bordering North Tyneside at the Moor Farm traffic interchange, Annitsford. Each of the proposed 7 electoral divisions has its own character and contains a thriving business community and extensive residential areas throughout. In devising our proposals for rebalancing electoral equality in the town, we have sought to maintain its integrity as a distinct area of the County, keeping its boundaries coterminous with the parish.

3 Cramlington is served by a Town Council and the County Council in proportion to its prominent size and number of electors. Our proposals should improve this representation through the additional electoral division.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals
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Division 22		Cramlington Eastfield	
Proposed Division	Cramlington Eastfield		
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,941	
	Variance	2%	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			
<p>1 The 2% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly increases the estimated eec variance from -1% (current division) to 2%.</p>			
<p>2 Cramlington is a large town and parish in the South East of Northumberland, bordering North Tyneside at the Moor Farm traffic interchange, Annitsford. Each of the proposed 7 electoral divisions has its own character and contains a thriving business community and extensive residential areas throughout. In devising our proposals for rebalancing electoral equality in the town, we have sought to maintain its integrity as a distinct area of the County, keeping its boundaries coterminous with the parish.</p>			
<p>3 Cramlington is served by a Town Council and the County Council in proportion to its prominent size and number of electors. Our proposals should improve this representation through the additional electoral division.</p>			
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals	

Division 23	Cramlington North	
Proposed Division	Cramlington North	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	4,131
	Variance	7%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The 7% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly increases the estimated eec variance from 4% (current division) to 7%.</p> <p>2 Cramlington is a large town and parish in the South East of Northumberland, bordering North Tyneside at the Moor Farm traffic interchange, Annitsford. Each of the proposed 7 electoral divisions has its own character and contains a thriving business community and extensive residential areas throughout. In devising our proposals for rebalancing electoral equality in the town, we have sought to maintain its integrity as a distinct area of the County, keeping its boundaries coterminous with the parish.</p> <p>3 Cramlington is served by a Town Council and the County Council in proportion to its prominent size and number of electors. Our proposals should improve this representation through the additional electoral division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals

Division 24	Cramlington North West	
Proposed Division	Cramlington North West	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,501
	Variance	-10%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -10% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion. The current division Cramlington West has seen a considerable increase in housing numbers, with many more planned, and its current variance from the average electorate is 85%. Our proposal splits Cramlington West into 2 divisions, rebalancing electoral equality with a natural boundary between North and South following the A1172 heading west away from the town centre.</p> <p>2 Cramlington is a large town and parish in the South East of Northumberland, bordering North Tyneside at the Moor Farm traffic interchange, Annitsford. Each of the proposed 7 electoral divisions has its own character and contains a thriving business community and extensive residential areas throughout. Cramlington's industrial centre, the Nelson Park Industrial Estate, is</p>		

situated in North West Cramlington, to the north and west of Nelson Village, the main residential area of this division, with further housing to the south and east. In devising our proposals for rebalancing electoral equality in the town, we have sought to maintain its integrity as a distinct area of the County, keeping its boundaries coterminous with the parish.

3 Cramlington is served by a Town Council and the County Council in proportion to its prominent size and number of electors. Our proposals should improve this representation through the additional electoral division.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals
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Division 25	Cramlington South East	
Proposed Division	Cramlington South East	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,559
	Variance	-8%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -8% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -10% (current division) to -8%. This was achieved as part of a compromise involving adjustments to the East Cramlington, Cramlington Village and Cramlington South East divisions. We are proposing to merge part of Collingwood Grange, currently in Cramlington Village division, with Cramlington South East division.</p>		
<p>2 Cramlington is a large town and parish in the South East of Northumberland, bordering North Tyneside at the Moor Farm traffic interchange, Annitsford. Each of the proposed 7 electoral divisions has its own character and contains a thriving business community and extensive residential areas throughout.</p>		
<p>3 Cramlington is served by a Town Council and the County Council in proportion to its prominent size and number of electors. Our proposals should improve this representation through the additional electoral division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals	

Division 26	Cramlington South West	
Proposed Division	Cramlington South West	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,519
	Variance	-9%

Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence

1 The -9% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion. The current division Cramlington West has seen a considerable increase in housing numbers, with many more planned, and its current variance from the average electorate is 85%. Our proposal splits Cramlington West into 2 divisions, rebalancing electoral equality with a natural boundary between North and South following the A1172 heading west away from the town centre.

2 Cramlington is a large town and parish in the South East of Northumberland, bordering North Tyneside at the Moor Farm traffic interchange, Annitsford. Each of the proposed 7 electoral divisions has its own character and contains a thriving business community and extensive residential areas throughout. The proposed South West division is predominantly residential, bordering to the east the Cramlington Village division with the town's central shopping and business area. In devising our proposals for rebalancing electoral equality in the town, we have sought to maintain its integrity as a distinct area of the County, keeping its boundaries coterminous with the parish.

3 Cramlington is served by a Town Council and the County Council in proportion to its prominent size and number of electors. Our proposals should improve this representation through the additional electoral division.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements

None from our proposals

Division 27 Cramlington Village

Proposed Division	Cramlington Village	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,567
	Variance	-8%

Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence

1 The -6% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -10% (current division) to -6%.

2 Cramlington is a large town and parish in the South East of Northumberland, bordering North Tyneside at the Moor Farm traffic interchange, Annitsford. Each of the proposed 7 electoral divisions has its own character and contains a thriving business community and extensive residential areas throughout. The Cramlington Village division contains the town's main shopping and business centre, with busy transport links to neighbouring towns and settlements. In devising our proposals for rebalancing electoral equality in the town, we have sought to maintain its integrity as a distinct area of the County, keeping its boundaries coterminous with the parish.

3 Cramlington is served by a Town Council and the County Council in proportion to its prominent size and number of electors. Our proposals should improve this representation through the additional electoral division.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals
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Division 28		Croft	
Proposed Division	Croft		
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,533	
	Variance	-8%	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			
<p>1 The -8% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -11% (current division) to -8%. The Croft and Wensleydale boundaries have been moved northwards to rebalance electoral equality.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>			
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals	

Division 29		Druridge Bay	
Proposed Division	Druridge Bay		
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,803	
	Variance	-1%	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			
<p>1 The -1% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion(eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -4% (current division) to -1%.</p> <p>2 Druridge Bay is a 7-mile long bay on the North Sea in Northumberland, stretching from Amble in the north to Cresswell in the south. Druridge Bay Country Park is situated on the bay, and part of the bay is owned by the National Trust. Coastal areas on the bay are set aside as nature reserves. Widdrington has been divided between the east and west of the railway line supporting the redistribution of electoral equality reducing the numbers within Druridge Bay and supporting the existence of Longhirst. Our proposal for Druridge Bay division extends north to</p>			

North Togston supporting the reduction of electors to the north with the neighbouring division of Amble.

3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements the proposed division at Longhirst that joins the draft division of Druridge Bay to the east unavoidably shifts to seek electoral equality. The adjoining boundary between both divisions runs north to south along the east coast mainline. The existing divisions in this area have not run conterminously with the parish boundary of Widdrington Station and Stobswood. instead, the division boundary moves west and divides the parish between east and west of the rail line. This could have a 'significant impact' on the parish and or Local community. However, to the north of Druridge Bay the draft boundary no longer splits the parish of East Chevington between Druridge Bay and Amble.

Division 30	Haltwhistle	
Proposed Division	Haltwhistle	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,789
	Variance	-2%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
1	The -2% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -5% (current division) to -2%.	
2	We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.	
3	We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.	
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals	

Division 31	Hartley	
Proposed Division	Hartley	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	4,371
	Variance	13%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		

1 The 13% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for an extension of the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). This arose under our proposal for 69 Northumberland divisions. The electorate forecast for the current division is 10%, in compliance with the eec.

2 New Hartley is situated at the south eastern corner of Northumberland. It is one of four villages in the parish of Seaton Valley (Seghill, New Hartley, Seaton Delaval and Seaton Sluice) and in the three neighbouring divisions of Seghill with Seaton Delaval, Hartley and Holywell. While each of the villages has a distinct sense of identity, with individual features (Seaton Sluice [with Old Hartley] popular as a tourist destination on the coast, and outdoor pursuits in New Hartley), Seaton Valley is a vibrant, coherent community. Our proposal preserves the ongoing relationship between these close-knit communities and, apart from a small adjustment between the north boundary of Holywell shared with Seghill with Seaton Delaval, we consider that any further alterations would have a negative impact on the area.

3 Seaton Valley has long standing and productive local government arrangements, with active parish councils and other representative bodies, as well as services from the County Council, and we consider that maintaining the status quo in that respect would be the most productive outcome of the Review.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our current proposals.
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Division 32		Haydon	
Proposed Division	Haydon		
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,744	
	Variance	-3%	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			
<p>1 The -3% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -6% (current division) to -3%. For Haydon division we propose minor alterations absorbing a small number of Streets with the housing estate locally known as Fallowfield.</p>			
<p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p>			
<p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>			
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals	

Division 33	Haydon & Hadrian	
Proposed Division	Haydon & Hadrian	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,689
	Variance	-4%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -4% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -7% (current division) to -4%.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals

Division 34	Hexham Central with Acomb	
Proposed Division	Hexham Central with Acomb	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,519
	Variance	-9%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -9% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -11% (current division) to -9%. Moving boundaries in order to achieve compliance with the eec would be problematic in this area, creating a domino effect among neighbouring divisions, further reducing one electorate to increase another. We therefore propose to maintain the integrity of existing divisions.</p> <p>2 Hexham is a historic market town in South West Northumberland, with a mature business district and industrial area. It is the principal settlement in a large area mainly of farmland. As in many relatively isolated settlements, Hexham has a strong sense of identity and community, having been the centre of local government in the District of Tynedale before local government reorganisation in 2009. Leaving the town's current electoral divisions intact would serve to maintain its place in the political landscape in the interests of its communities.</p> <p>3 Hexham is served by a long established Town Council and the County Council in proportion to its prominence in the area. Our proposals are intended to support this representation.</p>		

Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals
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Division 35	Hexham East	
Proposed Division	Hexham East	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,692
	Variance	-4%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -4% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -7% (current division) to -4%. Moving boundaries in order to achieve compliance with the eec would be problematic in this area, creating a domino effect among neighbouring divisions, further reducing one electorate to increase another. We therefore propose to maintain the integrity of existing divisions.</p> <p>2 Hexham is a historic market town in South West Northumberland, with a mature business district and industrial area. It is the principal settlement in a large area mainly of farmland. As in many relatively isolated settlements, Hexham has a strong sense of identity and community, having been the centre of local government in the District of Tynedale before local government reorganisation in 2009. Leaving the town's current electoral divisions intact would serve to maintain its place in the political landscape in the interests of its communities.</p> <p>3 Hexham is served by a long established Town Council and the County Council in proportion to its prominence in the area. Our proposals are intended to support this representation.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals	

Division 36	Hexham West	
Proposed Division	Hexham West	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,247
	Variance	-16%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -16% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for a significant extension of the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -18% (current division) to -16%. Moving boundaries in order to achieve compliance with the eec would be problematic in this area, creating a domino effect among neighbouring divisions,</p>		

further reducing one electorate to increase another. We therefore propose to maintain the integrity of existing divisions.

2 Hexham is a historic market town in South West Northumberland, with a mature business district and industrial area. It is the principal settlement in a large area mainly of farmland. As in many relatively isolated settlements, Hexham has a strong sense of identity and community, having been the centre of local government in the District of Tynedale before local government reorganisation in 2009. Leaving the town's current electoral divisions intact would serve to maintain its place in the political landscape in the interests of its communities.

3 Hexham is served by a long established Town Council and the County Council in proportion to its prominence in the area. Our proposals are intended to support this representation.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals
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Division 37		Hirst
Proposed Division	Hirst	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,596
	Variance	-7%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -7% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -9% (current division) to -7%. We propose that Hirst and Ashington Central boundaries move south, now running parallel with Sixth Avenue, south of Hirst Park.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals

Division 38		Holywell
Proposed Division	Holywell	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	4,351
	Variance	13%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		

1 The 13% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for an extension of the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). This arose under our proposal for 69 Northumberland divisions. The electorate forecast for the current division is 10%, in compliance with the eec.

2 Holywell is situated at the south eastern corner of Northumberland. It is one of four villages in the parish of Seaton Valley (Seghill, New Hartley, Seaton Delaval [merged with Holywell] and Seaton Sluice) and in the three neighbouring divisions of Seghill with Seaton Delaval, Hartley and Holywell. While each of the villages has a distinct sense of identity, with individual features (Seaton Sluice popular as a tourist destination on the coast [with Old Hartley], heritage sites in Holywell [part of Seaton Delaval]), Seaton Valley is a vibrant, coherent community. Our proposal preserves the ongoing relationship between these close-knit communities and, apart from a small adjustment between the north boundary of Holywell shared with Seghill with Seaton Delaval, we consider that any further alterations would have a negative impact on the area.

3 Seaton Valley has long standing and productive local government arrangements, with active parish councils and services from the County Council, and we consider that maintaining the status quo in that respect would be the most productive outcome of the Review.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements	A small adjustment made between north boundary of Holywell shared with Seghill with Seaton Delaval.
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Division 39	Humshaugh	
Proposed Division	Humshaugh	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,454
	Variance	-10%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
1	The -10% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -13% (current division) to -10%.	
2	We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.	
3	We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.	
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our Proposals	

Division 40	Isabella	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Isabella Electorate Variance	3,693 -4%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -4% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -7% (current division) to -4%.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals	

Division 41	Longhirst	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Longhirst Electorate Variance	3,857 0
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 At 3,857, variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is statistically irrelevant, in compliance with the electoral equality criterion. Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -3% (current division) to NIL.</p> <p>2 Druridge Bay is a 7-mile long bay on the North Sea in Northumberland, stretching from Amble in the north to Cresswell in the south. Widdrington has been divided between the east and west of the railway line supporting the redistribution of electoral equality reducing the numbers within Druridge Bay and supporting the existence of Longhirst. We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the Longhirst division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	We anticipate a moderate impact on the parish.	

Division 42	Longhorsley	
Proposed Division	Longhorsley	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	4,380
	Variance	14%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The 14% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for an extension of the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly increases the estimated eec variance from 10% (current division) to 14%.</p> <p>2 Reviewing the high variance at Longhorsley, we propose to leave the eec outside tolerance. In an earlier draft, it was proposed that the small parish of Thirston be situated in the neighbouring division of Longhirst. Under the current revision of English Parliamentary Constituencies Thirston would be divided between the proposed Hexham and Berwick & Morpeth constituencies. In the interests of conserving the integrity of Thirston, we propose that the eec variance be accepted in this case.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals

Division 43	Longhoughton	
Proposed Division	Longhoughton	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,785
	Variance	-2%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -2% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -5% (current division) to -2%.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals

Division 44	Lynemouth	
Proposed Division	Lynemouth	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	4,015
	Variance	4%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The 4% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the upper end of the electoral equality criterion(eec). Our proposal increases the estimated eec variance from 1% (current division) to 4%.</p> <p>2 Lynemouth is a village in Northumberland, northeast of Ashington, close to the village of Ellington to the northwest. It was built close to coal mines, including Lynemouth Colliery. Lynemouth To local residents, Lynemouth has always been synonymously linked to the coast, helping the decision to merge the Parish of Cresswell into Lynemouth. We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals

Division 45	Morpeth Kirkhill	
Proposed Division	Morpeth Kirkhill	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	4,289
	Variance	11%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The 11% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for an extension of the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly increases the estimated eec variance from 8% (current division) to 11%. This was caused by the recalculation of our previous submission to accommodate 69 divisions.</p> <p>2 Morpeth is a Market town and parish in Northumberland, lying on the river Wansbeck. Nearby towns include Ashington and Bedlington. The town is split into three divisions - North, Kirkhill and Stobhill. A community governance review in Morpeth (January 2021) made amendments to the current parish boundary to both the North and South of Morpeth. This realigned the parish boundary with the divisions, for example the housing estate at Stobhill Manor. Reviewing those divisions within Morpeth involved reviewing those areas to the North as it was considered important not to divide communities over the proposed parliamentary constituency boundaries if this could be avoided. In our current proposals Stobhill gain a small number of electors as a result of minor alterations made between</p>		

Kirkhill and Stobhill. Any further alterations to these boundaries would necessitate a need to rename the divisions as the area would no longer be described correctly by the current division names.

3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals
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Division 46		Morpeth North	
Proposed Division	Morpeth North		
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,841	
	Variance	0	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			
<p>1 At 3,841, variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is statistically irrelevant, in compliance with the electoral equality criterion. Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -3% (current division) to NIL.</p> <p>2 Morpeth is a Market town and parish in Northumberland, lying on the river Wansbeck. Nearby towns include Ashington and Bedlington. The town is split into three divisions - North, Kirkhill and Stobhill. A community governance review in Morpeth (January 2021) made amendments to the current parish boundary to both the North and South of Morpeth. This realigned the parish boundary with the divisions, for example the housing estate at Stobhill Manor. Reviewing those divisions within Morpeth involved reviewing those areas to the North as it was considered important not to divide communities over the proposed parliamentary constituency boundaries if this could be avoided. With further housing developments planned to the North of Morpeth (St George's Hospital site) the proposal is to cut the North of Morpeth, merging this area with the neighbouring Pegswood division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>			
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		There is potentially a considerable impact upon the parish.	

Division 47		Morpeth Stobhill	
Proposed Division	Morpeth Stobhill		
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,794	
	Variance	-2%	

Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence

1 The -2% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -4% (current division) to -2%.

2 Morpeth is a Market town and parish in Northumberland, lying on the river Wansbeck. Nearby towns include Ashington and Bedlington. The town is split into three divisions - North, Kirkhill and Stobhill. A community governance review in Morpeth (January 2021) made amendments to the current parish boundary to both the North and South of Morpeth. This realigned the parish boundary with the divisions, for example the housing estate at Stobhill Manor. Reviewing those divisions within Morpeth involved reviewing those areas to the North as it was considered important not to divide communities over the proposed parliamentary constituency boundaries if this could be avoided. In our current proposals Stobhill gain a small number of electors as a result of minor alterations made between Kirkhill and Stobhill. Any further alterations to these boundaries would necessitate a need to rename the divisions as the area would no longer be described correctly by the current division names.

3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals
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Division 48

Newbiggin-by-the-Sea

Proposed Division	Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,976
	Variance	3%

Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence

1 The 3% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). The currently named division Newbiggin Central and East is proposed to absorb Westmorland Avenue and Welfare Crescent, and the division is therefore better described as Newbiggin-By-The-Sea.

2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.

3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements upon the parish	We anticipate a moderate impact
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Division 49	Newsham		
Proposed Division	Newsham		
Forecast 2028	Electorate	4,309	
	Variance	12%	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			
<p>1 The 12% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for an extension of the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly increases the estimated eec variance from 8% (current division) to 12%. After our consultation with Members we proposed to move the boundaries of South Blyth and Newsham. Members later advised against this adjustment because of the planned reprovion of the Northumberland Line, which would establish a railway station at Newsham. The railway line is the current and historic boundary between the two divisions. We were advised by our Members that the community of Newsham has regard to its historic identity and that a merger with South Blyth would be disruptive to community cohesion. Our initial proposal is therefore withdrawn and we propose to retain the current arrangements of the boundary between South Blyth and Newsham..</p>			
<p>3 Newsham Ward is represented on Blyth Town Council and through the County Council. Respecting the wishes of the local community will enhance Effective and Convenient Local Government.</p>			
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals	

Division 50	Norham & Islandshires	
Proposed Division	Norham & Islandshires	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,675
	Variance	-5%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
1	The -5% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -7% (current division) to -5%.	
2	We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.	
3	We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.	
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals	

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Division 51	Pegswood	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Pegswood Electorate Variance	3,887 1%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The 1% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -2% (current division) to 1%.</p> <p>2 Pegswood is a historic mining village and parish in Northumberland, east of Morpeth and three miles west of Ashington. It is built on a hill above the valley in which Morpeth is situated, close to the River Wansbeck and the small stream Brocks Burn. The existing Pegswood division extends north as far as West Chevington but is significantly over the eec variance, as is Morpeth North southwards and Druridge Bay to the east. In seeking electoral equality, the numbers support the opportunity to introduce a proposed new division named Longhirst, a locality to the north of Pegswood. Pegswood merges in with the area removed from Morpeth North (St George's Hospital site).</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		There is potential for a considerable impact upon the parish.

Division 52	Plessey	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Plessey Electorate Variance	3,666 -5%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -5% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -8% (current division) to -5%.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p>		

3	We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals

Division 53	Ponteland East & Stannington
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Ponteland East & Stannington Electorate 4,013 Variance 4%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence	
1	The 4% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly increases the estimated eec variance from 1% (current division) to 4%.
2	We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.
3	We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals

Division 54	Ponteland North
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Ponteland North Electorate 4,303 Variance 12%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence	
1	The 12% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for an extension of the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly increases the estimated eec variance from 8% (current division) to 12%. This was caused by the recalculation of our previous proposal to accommodate a move to 69 divisions. In the absence of adequate time to reconsult our Members, the original proposal has been retained.
2	In the Ponteland North area there are three well established parishes, Belsay, Walton and Ponteland. Ponteland is considerably larger than Belsay and Walton, and a review transferring electors from Ponteland would have a disruptive effect on the other parishes. Our proposal is therefore to retain the current arrangements.

3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements upon the parish We anticipate a moderate impact

Division 55	Ponteland South with Heddon
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Proposed Division	Ponteland South with Heddon
Forecast 2028	Electorate 3,806
	Variance -1%

Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence

1 The -1% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -4% (current division) to -1%.

2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.

3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements None from our proposals

Division 56	Ponteland West
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Proposed Division	Ponteland West
Forecast 2028	Electorate 3,746
	Variance -3%

Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence

1 The -3 variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -6% (current division) to -3%.

2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.

3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements None from our proposals

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Division 57	Prudhoe North	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Prudhoe North Electorate Variance	4,274 11%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The 11% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for an extension of the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly increases the estimated eec variance from 8% (current division) to 11%. This was caused by the recalculation of our previous submission to accommodate 69 divisions.</p> <p>2 During our consultation with Members it became apparent that the only viable means to achieve compliance with the eec was to merge part of Prudhoe South division with Prudhoe North division, however the nearest available change would provide only 283 electors and as such was not suitable, rather moving a problem than solving it.</p> <p>3 Ongoing Council services to Prudhoe would not be affected by our proposal.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals	

Division 58	Prudhoe South	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Prudhoe South Electorate Variance	4,605 19%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The 19% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for a significant extension of the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal increases the estimated eec variance from 16% (current division) to 19%. This was caused by the recalculation of our previous submission to accommodate 69 divisions, however as noted above the only viable adjustment would move the problem than solving it.</p> <p>2 Our Members informed us during the consultation that the local community objected to any change to the division as it was perceived as a possible loss of identity in addition to affecting links to amenities in Prudhoe.</p>		

3 Ongoing Council services to Prudhoe would not be affected by our proposal.	
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals

Division 59		Rothbury	
Proposed Division	Rothbury		
Forecast 2028	Electorate	4,552	
	Variance	18%	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			
<p>1 The 18% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for a significant extension of the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal increases the estimated eec variance from 16% (current division) to 19%.</p> <p>2 When consulting on our initial proposal the first draft included moving the parish of Glanton and Whittingham from the Rothbury division to the Wooler division. Members responded that the parishes Glanton, along with Whittingham and Callaly have a joint parish council arrangement in place. The feedback also suggested that these geographic areas had no affiliation with Wooler. The decision was to reverse the amendment and keep these parishes together and that such an adjustment would disrupt community life. We accordingly proposed the current alternative of moving Brinkburn parish from Shilbottle division to Rothbury division. This was welcomed by the public.</p> <p>3 Ongoing Council services to Rothbury would not be affected by our proposal.</p>			
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals	

Division 60		Seaton with Spital	
Proposed Division	Seaton with Spital		
Forecast 2028	Electorate	4,207	
	Variance	9%	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			
<p>1 The 9% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). The current division of Seaton with Newbiggin West has experienced considerable growth in</p>			

residential housing south of Wansbeck hospital and therefore requires boundary readjustments to rebalance electoral equality and is renamed Seaton with Spital.	
2	We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.
3	We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.
Impact on Parish Council arrangements on the parish	We anticipate a moderate impact

Division 61	Seghill with Seaton Delaval	
Proposed Division	Seghill with Seaton Delaval	
Forecast 2028	Electorate	4,368
	Variance	13%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
1	The 13% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for an extension of the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). This arose under our proposal for 69 Northumberland divisions. The electorate forecast for the current division is 10%, in compliance with the eec.	
2	Seghill and Seaton Delaval are situated at the south eastern corner of Northumberland. They are two of four villages in the parish of Seaton Valley (Seghill, New Hartley, Seaton Delaval and Seaton Sluice) and in the three neighbouring divisions of Seghill with Seaton Delaval, Hartley and Holywell. While each of the villages has a distinct sense of identity, with individual features (stately home and scenic walks in Seaton Delaval, Seaton Sluice [with Old Hartley] popular as a tourist destination on the coast), Seaton Valley is a vibrant, coherent community. Our proposal preserves the ongoing relationship between these close-knit communities and, apart from a small adjustment between the north boundary of Holywell shared with Seghill with Seaton Delaval, we consider that any further alterations would have a negative impact on the area.	
3	Seaton Valley has long standing and productive local government arrangements, with active parish councils and other representative bodies, as well as services from the County Council, and we consider that maintaining the status quo in that respect would be the most productive outcome of the Review.	
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals	

Division 62	Shilbottle

Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Shilbottle Electorate Variance	4,560 18%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The 18% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor calls for a significant extension of the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly increases the estimated eec variance from 15% (current division) to 18%.</p> <p>2 A possible adjustment to achieve compliance with the EEC would be to move electors from Shilbottle division to Longframlington and Felton in division. Consultation responses were that these small villages, which have a distinct profile and character, could not absorb and provide services to large numbers of additional electors. Our proposal is therefore to maintain the current arrangements under the new</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals

Division 63	Sleekburn	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Sleekburn Electorate Variance	3,654 -5%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -5% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -8% (current division) to -5%.</p> <p>2 Choppington, Guide Post and Stakeford are villages to the Southeast of Northumberland contained within the current parliament constituency of Wansbeck, along with the small localities of West & East Sleekburn and Cambois, contained within the Sleekburn division. All three divisions of Choppington, Stakeford and Sleekburn lie south of the River Wansbeck from Ashington, the nearest town. The majority of these areas are mainly residential with the exception of Sleekburn, which has many signs of its industrial past. There was a need to review and rebalance electoral equality between these existing divisions. Sleekburn's electorate numbers remained low, falling short of the accepted tolerances. The existing boundary to the Northeast of Sleekburn, running parallel with the railway line, has been adjusted, now incorporating 190 addresses within West Sleekburn which were previously within the Stakeford division. This creates</p>		

a domino effect, with Sleekburn gaining numbers and Stakeford losing numbers. We have sought to keep any disruption to a minimum.

3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements	We anticipate that there will be moderate impact on the parish
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Division 64		South Blyth	
Proposed Division	South Blyth		
Forecast 2028	Electorate	3,839	
	Variance	0	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			
<p>1 At 3,839, variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is statistically irrelevant, in compliance with the electoral equality criterion. Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -3% (current division) to NIL. After our consultation with Members we proposed to move the boundaries of South Blyth and Newsham. Members later advised against this adjustment because of the planned reprovision of the Northumberland Line, which would establish a railway station at Newsham. The railway line is the current and historic boundary between the two divisions. We were advised by our Members that the community of Newsham has regard to its historic identity and that a merger with South Blyth would be disruptive to community cohesion. Our initial proposal is therefore withdrawn and we propose to retain the current arrangements of the boundary between South Blyth and Newsham.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>			
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		None from our proposals	

Division 65		South Tynedale	
Proposed Division	South Tynedale		
Forecast 2028	Electorate	4,005	
	Variance	4%	
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence			

1 The 4% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly increases the estimated eec variance from 1% (current division) to 4%.

2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.

3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.

Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals
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Division 66		Stakeford
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Stakeford Electorate Variance	3,550 -8%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -8% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces the estimated eec variance from -11% (current division) to -8%.</p> <p>2 Choppington, Guide Post and Stakeford are villages to the Southeast of Northumberland contained within the current parliament constituency of Wansbeck, along with the small localities of West & East Sleekburn and Cambois, contained within the Sleekburn division. All three divisions of Choppington, Stakeford and Sleekburn lie south of the River Wansbeck from Ashington, the nearest town. The majority of these areas are mainly residential. There was a need to review and rebalance electoral equality between these existing divisions. Sleekburn's electorate numbers remained low, falling short of the accepted tolerances. The existing boundary to the Northeast of Sleekburn, running parallel with the railway line, has been adjusted, now incorporating 190 addresses within West Sleekburn which were previously within the Stakeford division. This creates a domino effect, with Sleekburn gaining numbers and Stakeford losing numbers. We have sought to keep any disruption to a minimum.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements		We anticipate that there will be moderate impact on the parish

Division 67	Stocksfield & Broomhaugh	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Stocksfield & Broomhaugh Electorate Variance	3,951 2%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The 2% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the upper end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal slightly increases the estimated eec variance from -1% (current division) to 2%.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals	

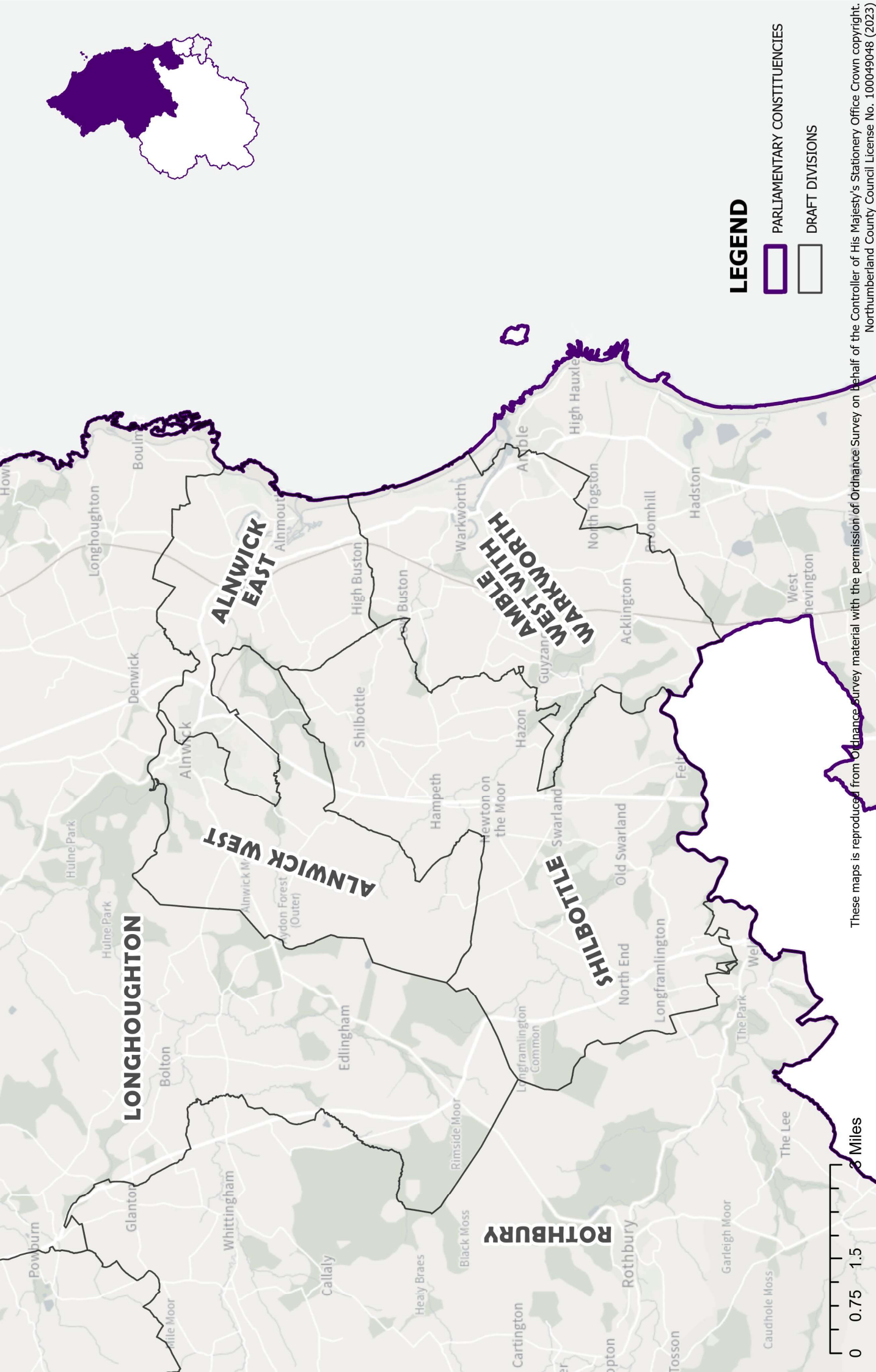
Division 68	Wensleydale	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Wensleydale Electorate Variance	3,612 -6%
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence		
<p>1 The -6% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces estimated eec variance from -9% (current division) to -6%.</p> <p>2 We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.</p> <p>3 We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.</p>		
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals	

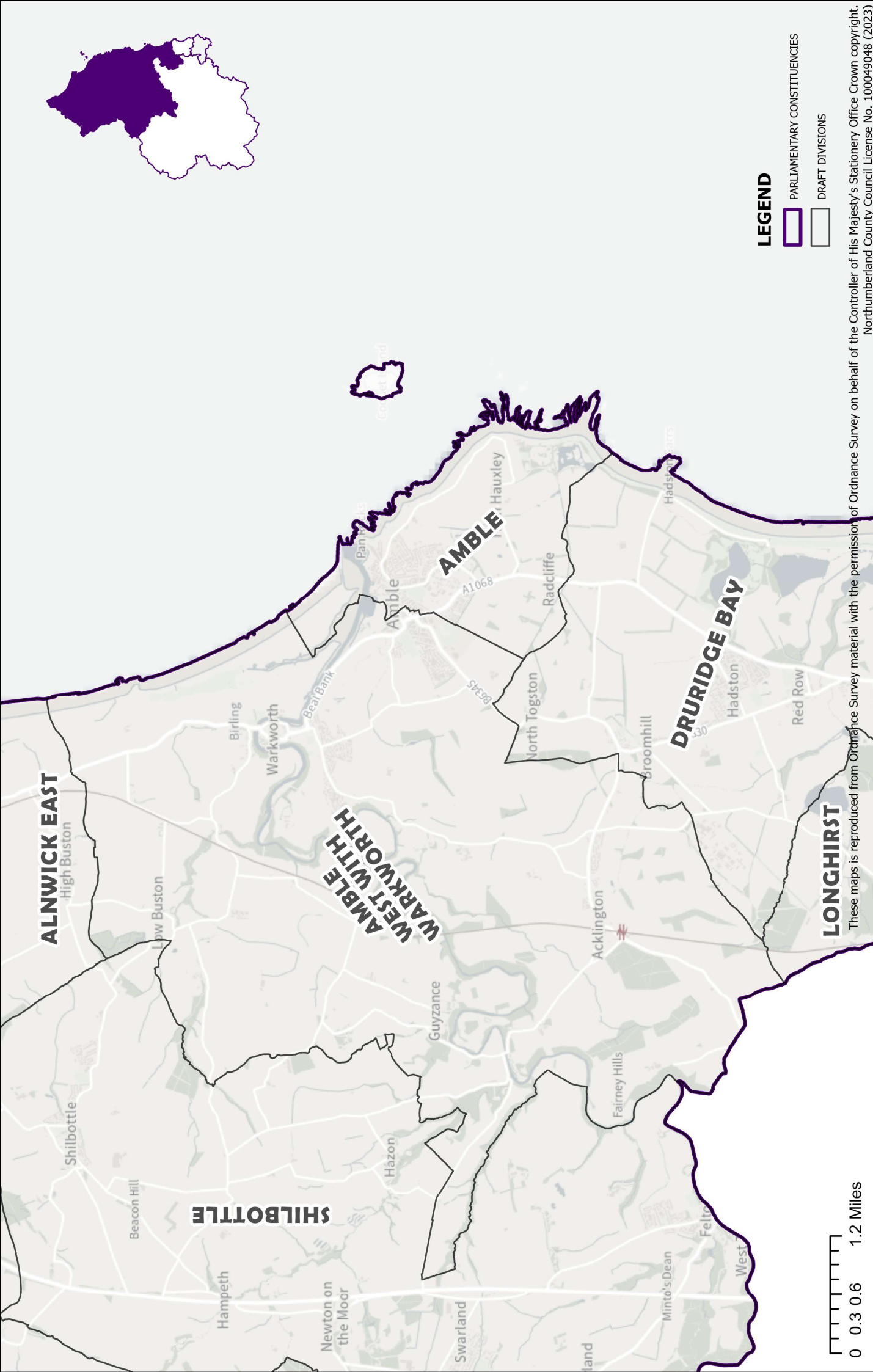
Division 69	Wooler	
Proposed Division Forecast 2028	Wooler Electorate Variance	3,602 -7%

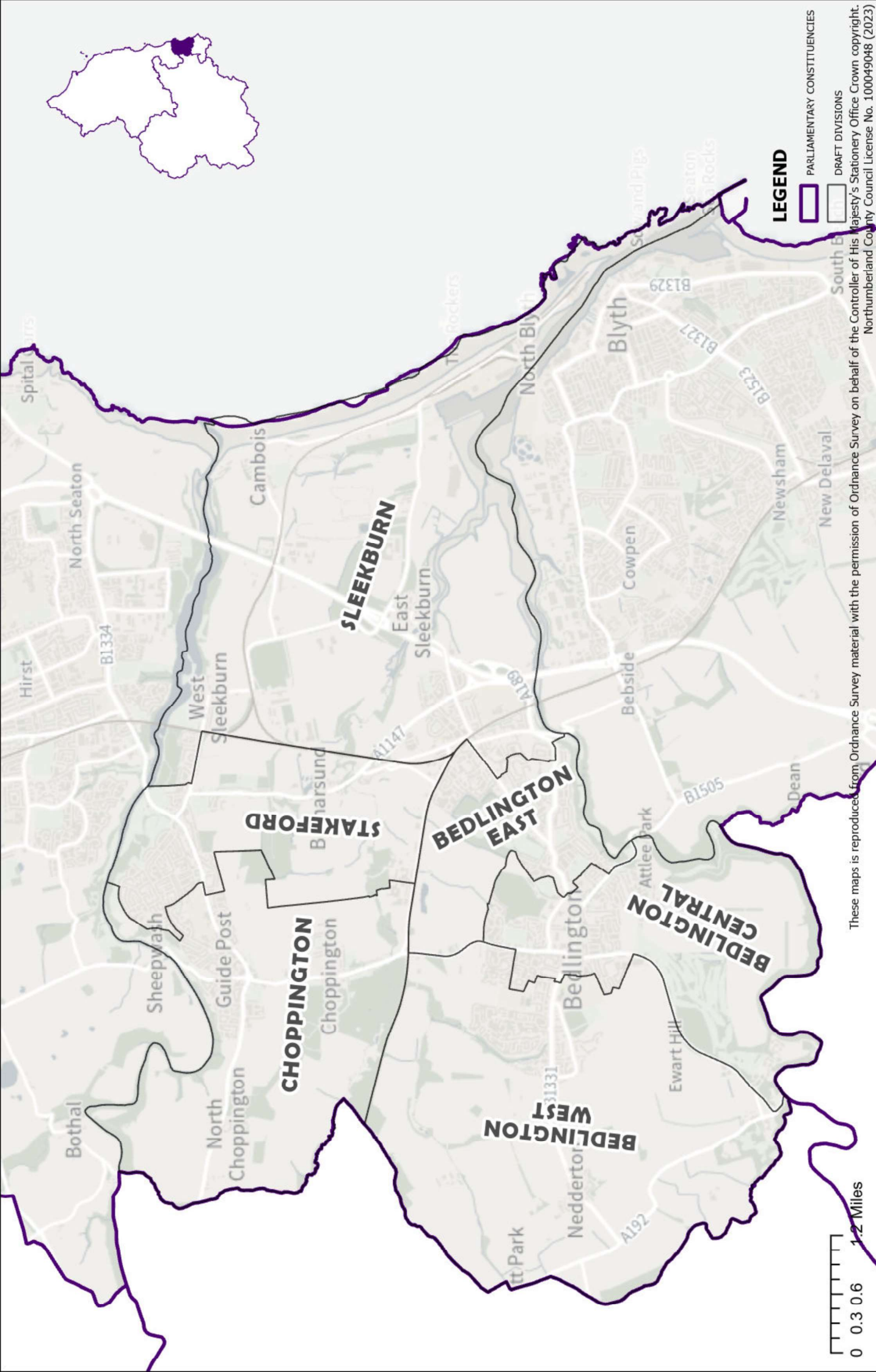
Meeting Statutory Criteria - Evidence	
1	The -7% variance from the average electorate of 3,856 per Councillor is in compliance with the lower end of the electoral equality criterion (eec). Our proposal reduces estimated eec variance from -9% (current division) to -7%.
2	We do not anticipate any negative impact upon communities arising from our proposal for the division.
3	We do not anticipate any significant negative impact on Effective and Convenient Local Government in the division.
Impact on Parish Council arrangements	None from our proposals

Note: Evidence set out on 'impacts' throughout this document (e.g. for communities and / or parishes) are based on assessments by Council Officers at this stage of the consultation. Local communities, parishes, individual Members and other stakeholders may take a different view from Officers' assessments of 'impacts'. Therefore, this consultation response is without prejudice to other stakeholders taking different views in this and future phases of consultation on the Electoral Review.

**ENDS/
2023-02-02**



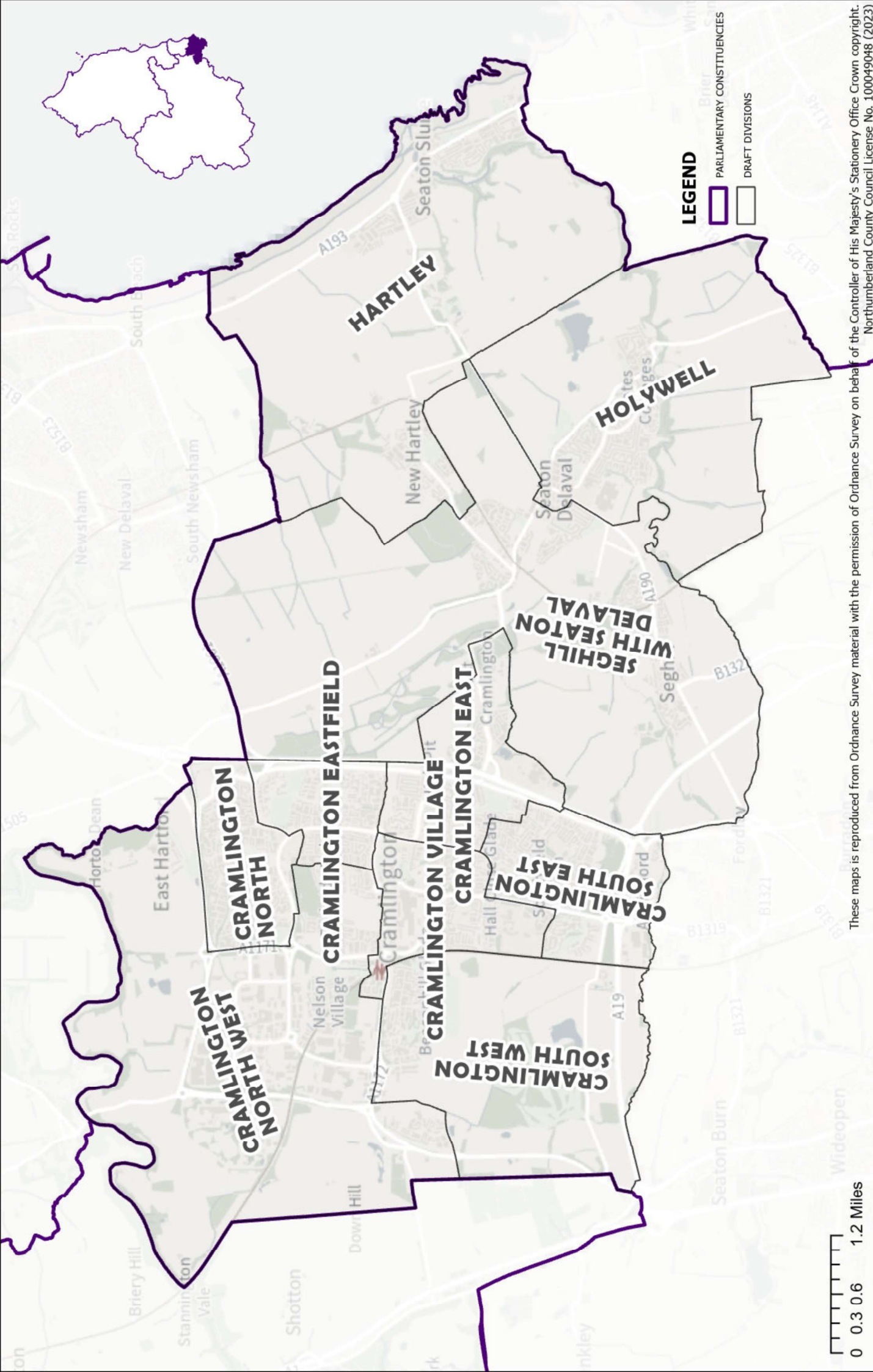




Bedlington Electoral Divisions within Blyth and Ashington

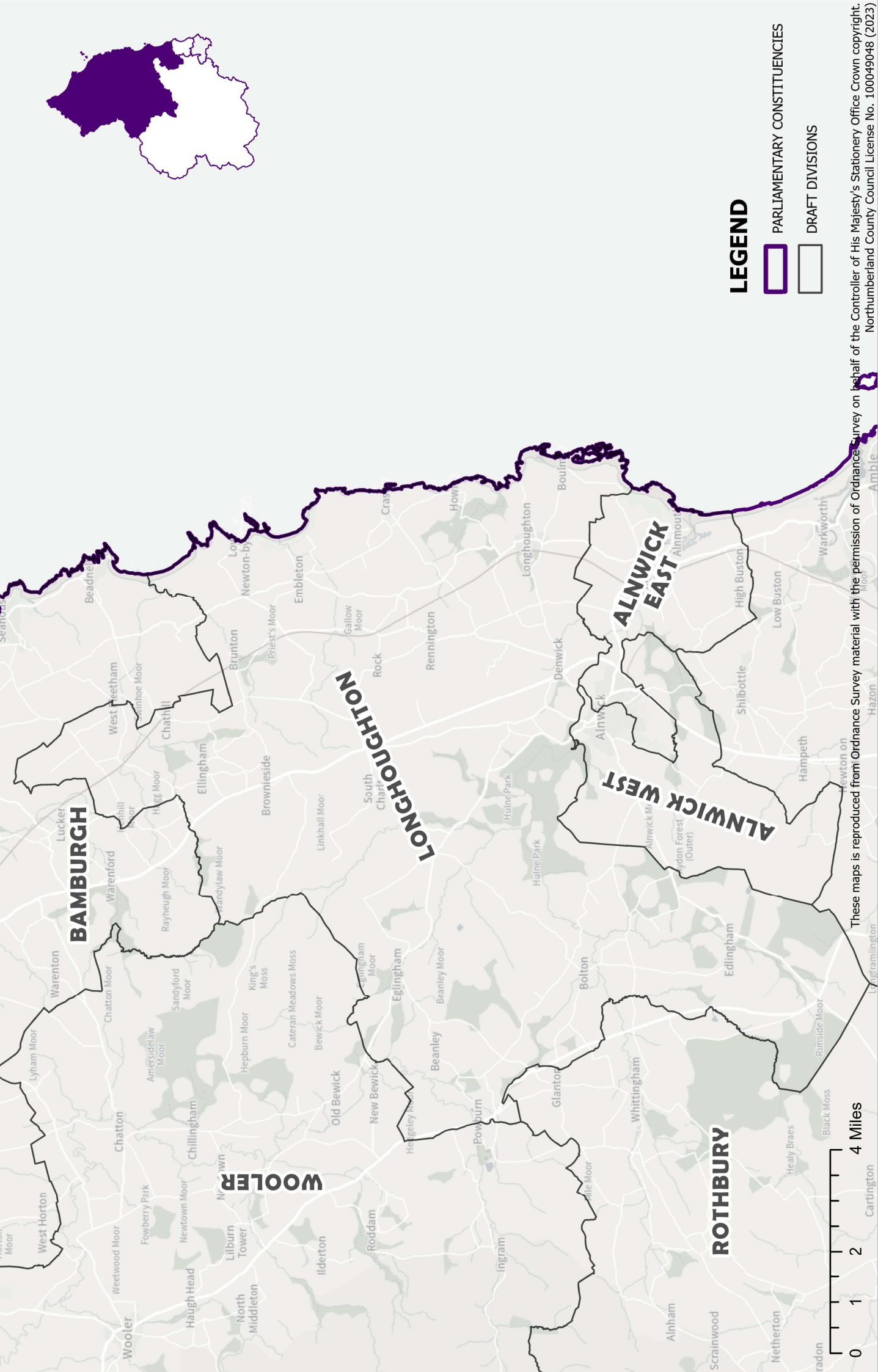


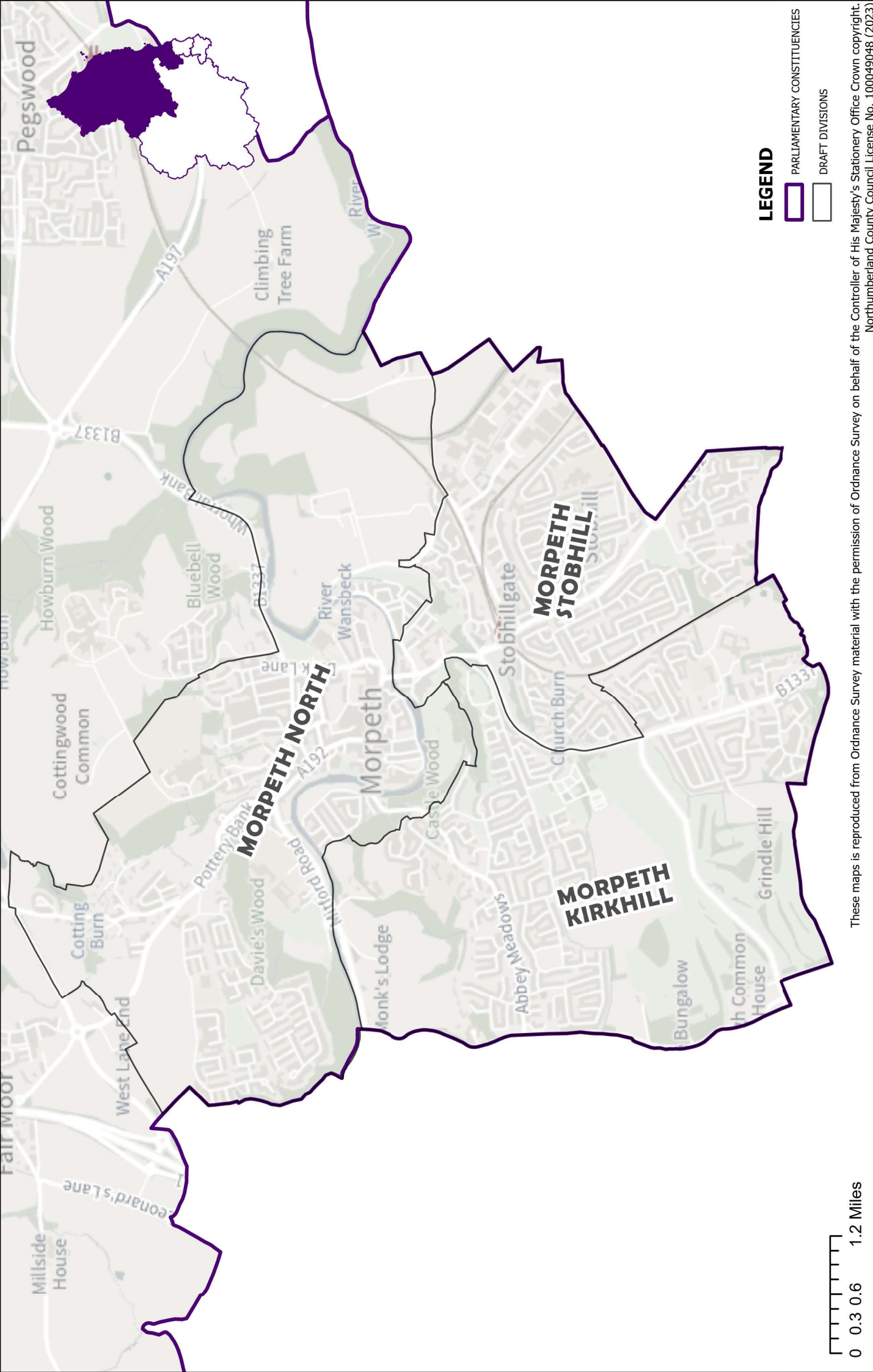
Draft Blyth Electoral Divisions within Blyth and Ashington



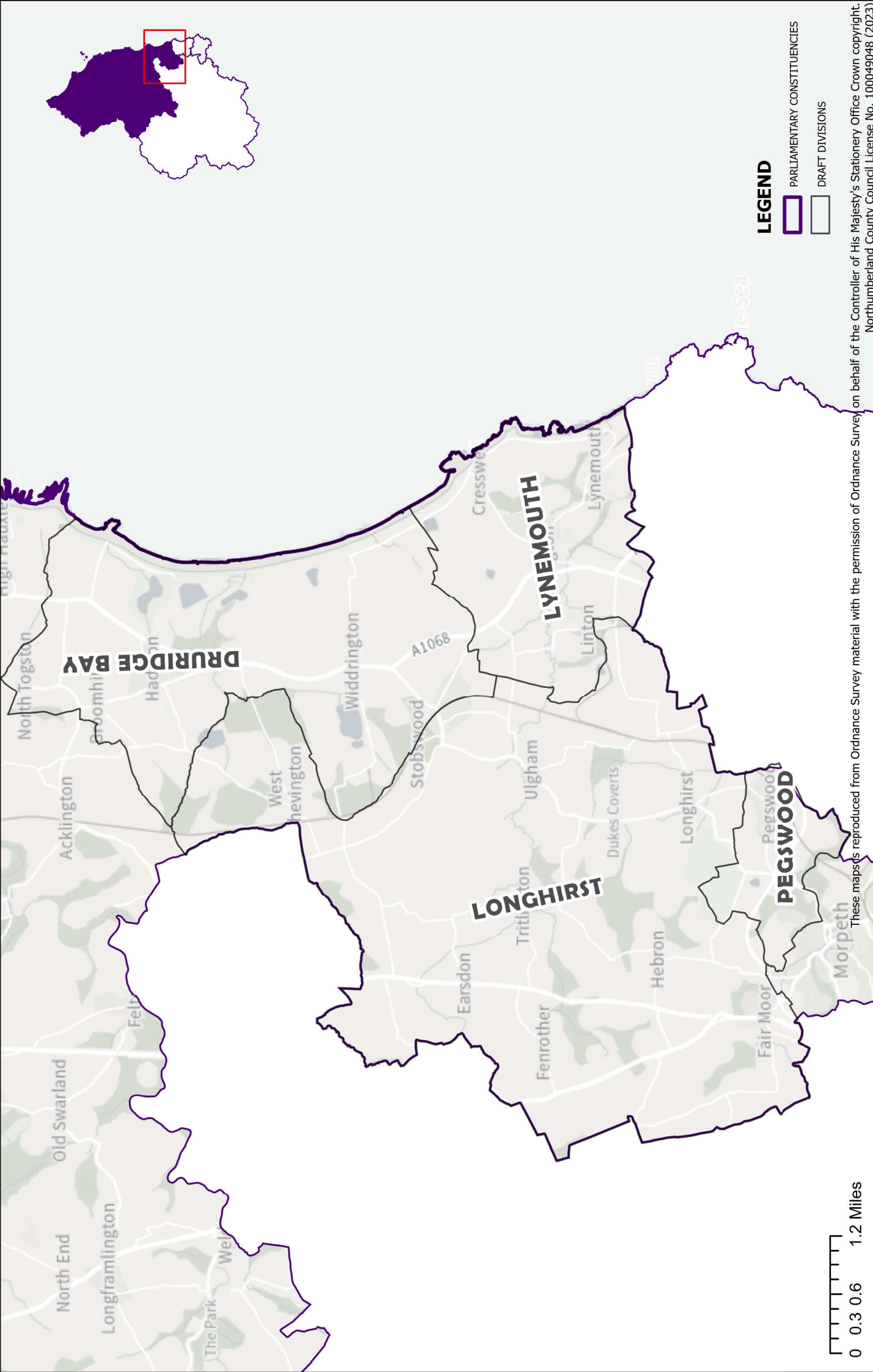
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Draft Electoral Divisions within Cramlington and Killingworth

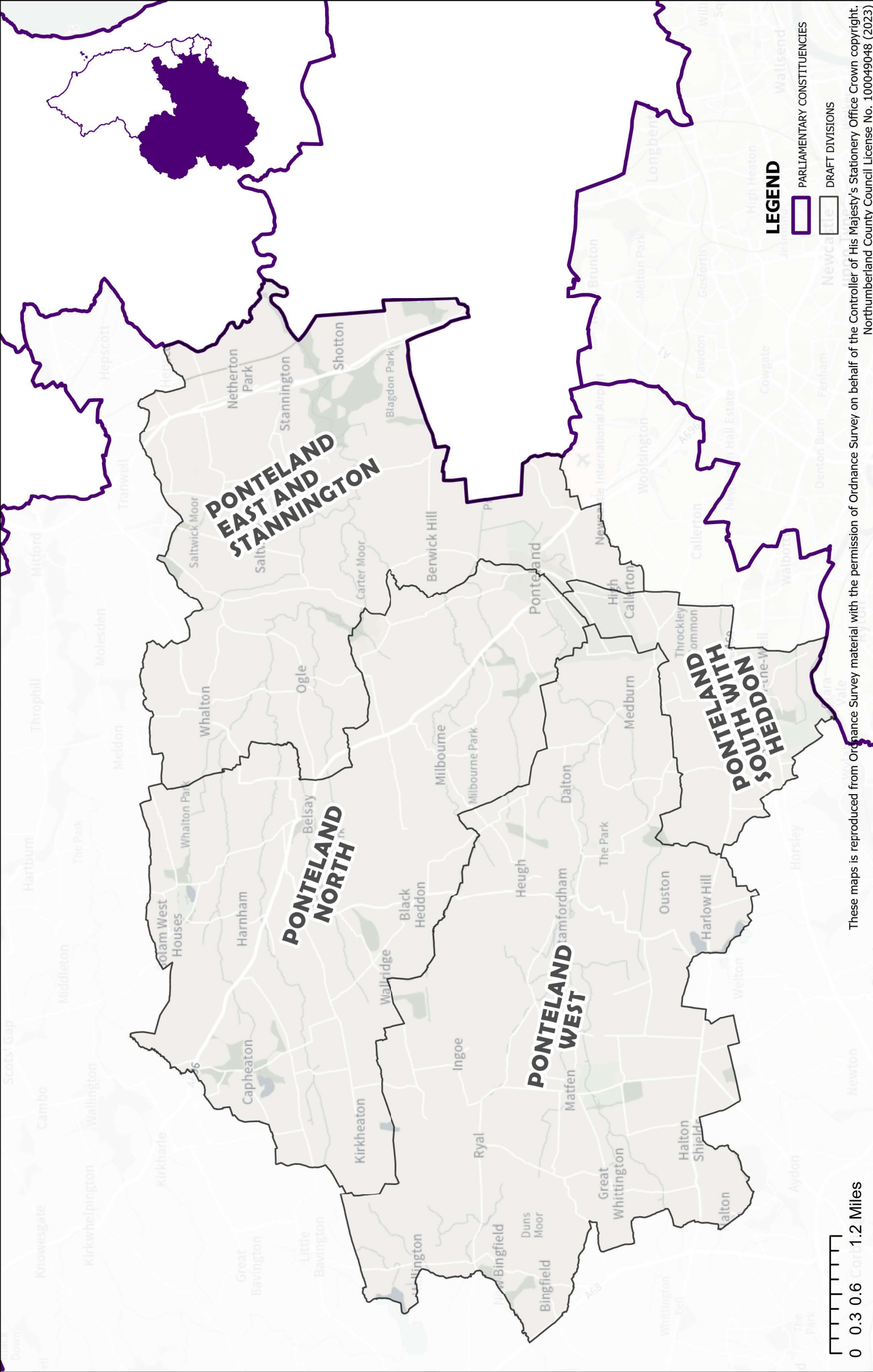




Morpeth Draft Divisions within Berwick & Morpeth



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Draft Ponteland Electoral Divisions within Hexham

