

Swindon

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Comment text:

Dear Sir / Madam

Please find attached our submission for the review of Swindon Borough electoral boundaries 2026. This document has been compiled by and represents the collective views of the Swindon Conservative Federation, Swindon Borough Conservative Council Group, East Wiltshire Conservative Association and the three Conservative MPs representing all parts of the Borough.

As well as working to keep as close as possible to the ratio of 3118 electors per councillor, we have used a 'guiding principle' to keep the new wards as coterminous as possible with the existing parish council boundaries. This ensures that electors can identify with the wards and candidates they are considering electing to represent the interests of their areas. There are some exceptions to this 'rule' when geography or elector numbers make this impossible and we have highlighted these in our submission document.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission and use me as the main point of contact for any queries or communications and I will ensure my colleagues, as cc'd, are informed or consulted.

Kind regards

David

Attached Documents:

- [swindon-boundary-review-2026-final-submission.docx](#)



Swindon Borough Council Boundary Review for 'All Out' Local Elections from 2026

Proposals submitted to the Boundary Commission for England jointly by

Swindon Conservative Federation

Swindon Conservative Council Group

Swindon's Two Conservative MPs

East Wiltshire Association and MP

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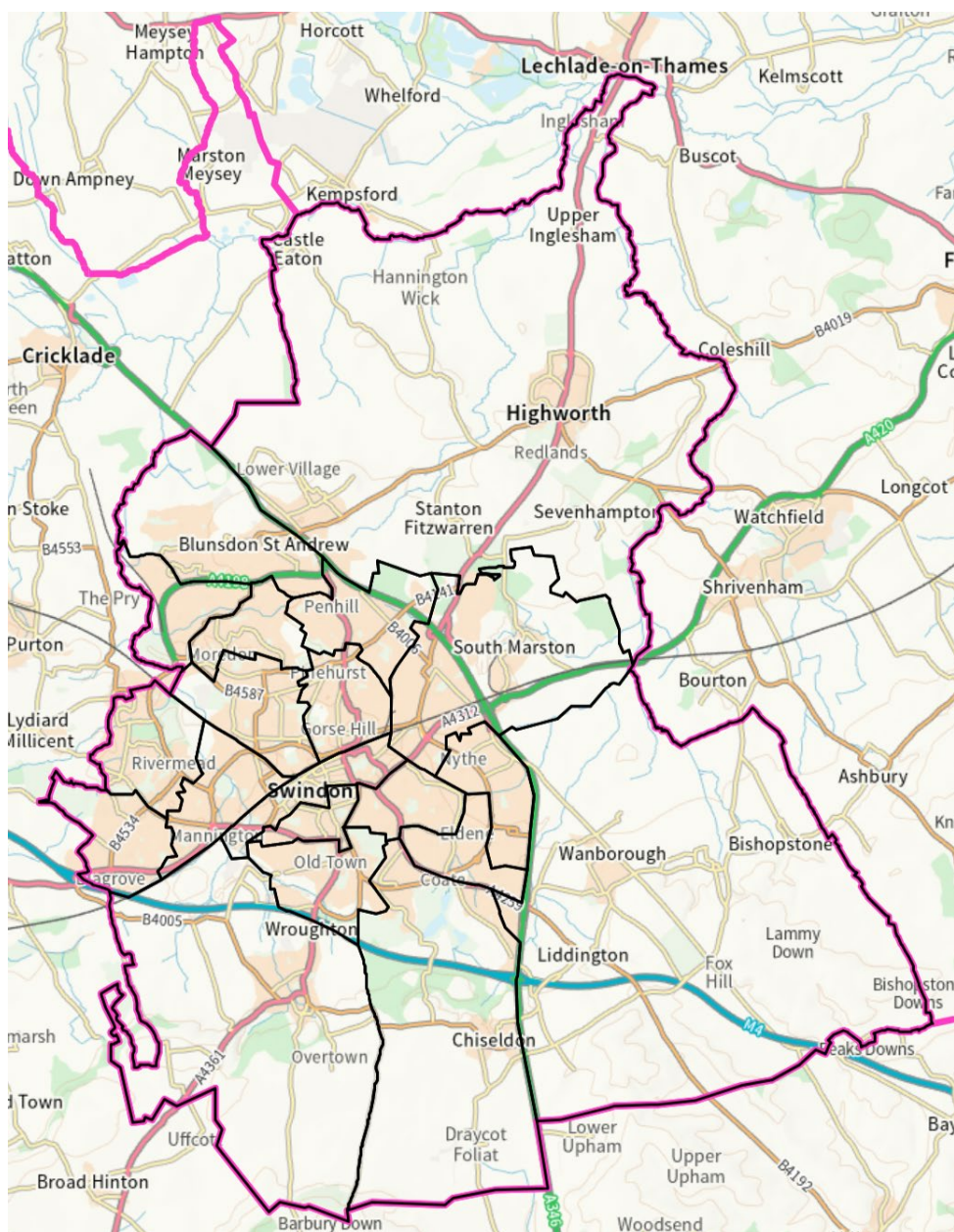
Final Draft Approved – 11 March 2024

Submitted to the Boundary Commission – 15 March 2024

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2. Aim and Rationale
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MAP 1 – Existing Borough Wards



1. Introduction

Since 2012, Swindon has had 57 councillors representing 20 wards, 18 each with 3 members, one with 2 members and 1 with one member. Elections are currently by thirds.

Taking into account the significant housing growth in Swindon over recent years, at the Full Council meeting on 12 October 2023, Council voted to maintain councillor numbers at 57 but move to all out elections every four years from 2026. Based on projected voter numbers of 177,732 the targeted average number of voters per councillor is 3118.

Following the Constituency boundary review, the borough of Swindon now covers three constituencies, two in their entirety and one in a small part; North Swindon, South Swindon and part of East Wiltshire.

All parties listed on the front page have been consulted and what follows is a consensus of all those views.

2. Aim and Rationale

To create wards with three or two members each whilst keeping as close as possible to the target number of electors per councillor of 3118 and ensuring that the wards are communities that voters would associate with. We have avoided proposing wards where the numbers worked but the voters had no 'local affiliation' to the newly constructed areas. We have also sought to propose wards that use major infrastructure, such as dual carriageways, as dividing lines although one ward is divided by the railway line but this is around the historic railway works so it supports the community principle. In a limited number of cases, we have not been able to keep to the 'parish boundary rule' due to the elector numbers; specifically Covingham and Nythe (Covingham alone equals 1 ½ councillors) and Even Swindon which is well short of electors to deliver 2 councillors.

3. Process

In order to ensure voters associate with the community of their new electoral wards, we have, as far as possible, used the existing parish boundaries to create the new wards and used the existing polling districts as the basic 'building blocks' to achieve that. Most residents know their local areas and which parish councils provide many of their local services and also know where their local polling stations are. However, the need to focus on the target number of 3118 voters per councillor means that this has not always been possible in South Swindon.

Constituency boundaries have been used as a guide but not followed fully. Also, existing polling districts have been split where appropriate to get closer to the ideal ratio e.g. GPA part with Penhill.

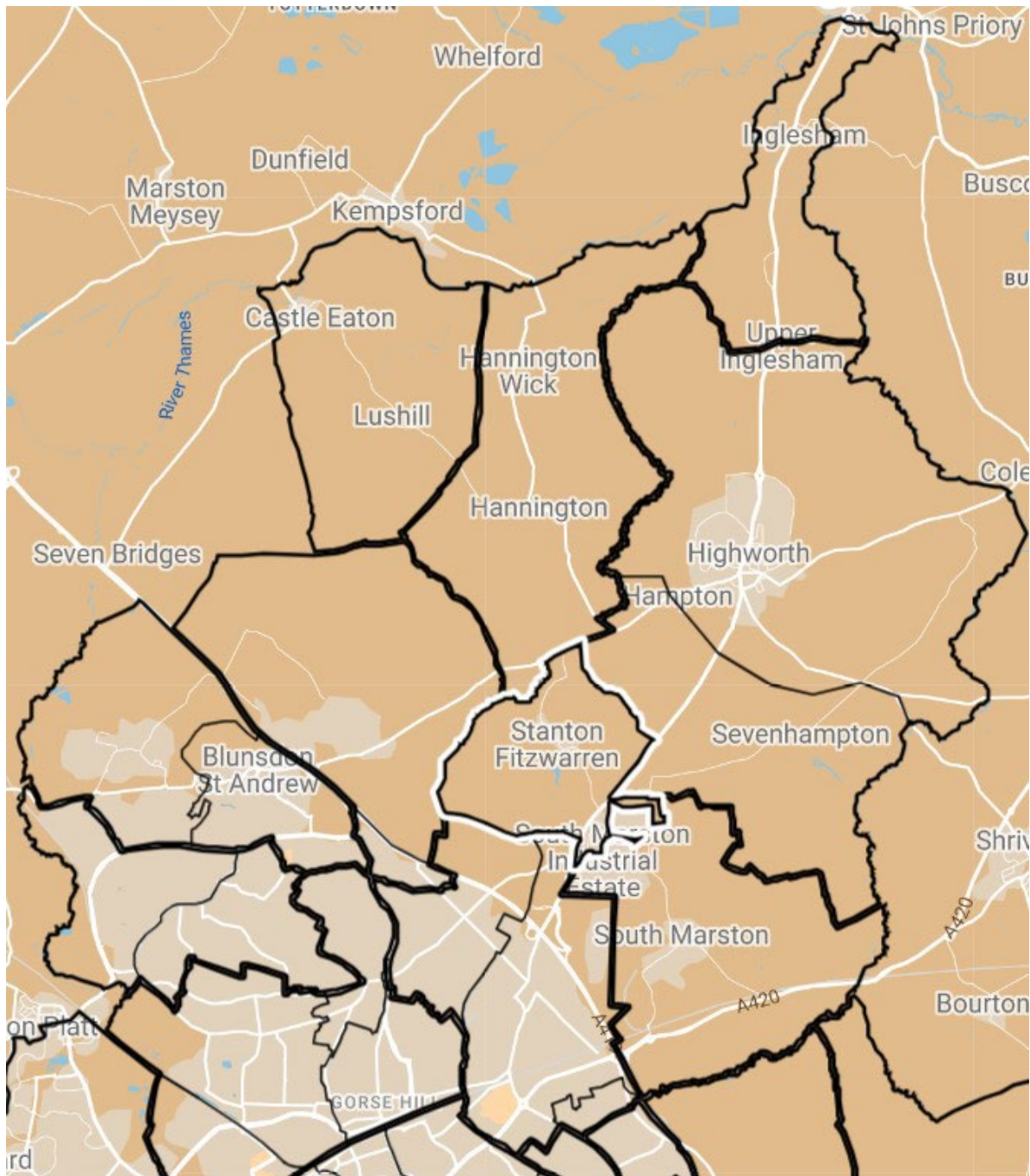
These proposals have been debated and agreed by the Conservative Federation, Council Group and MPs. We believe they meet the Commission's criteria and provide a sensible electoral map for local elections in Swindon. We commend them to the Boundary Commission.

4. Proposed Ward Maps

Below are the maps showing our proposed wards for North and South Swindon and the part of East Wiltshire with the number of councillors per ward along with descriptions for each. The proposal is that there will be 26 councillors in the North of the Borough and 26 in South Swindon and 5 in the East Wiltshire wards making up the 57 elected members.

Wards have been shown with neighbouring wards beneath the descriptions where it is helpful to show them in groupings in order to appreciate the respective geographies.

MAP 2 – North Swindon



5. Proposed wards and their communities

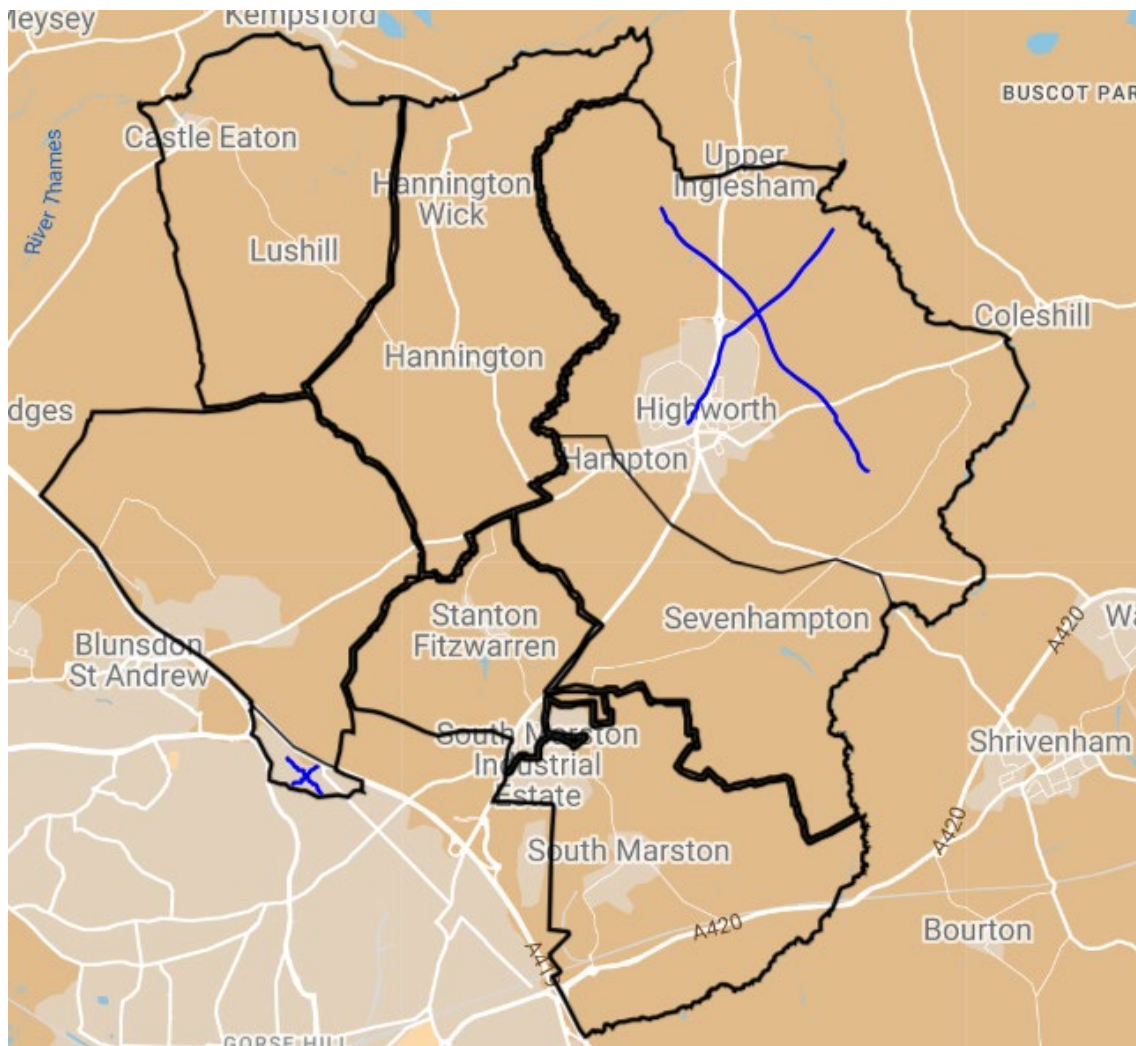
North Swindon (11 wards)

Blunsdon, South Marston and other villages 2 members

This new ward includes most of the rural villages in the North of the Borough. Blunsdon and South Marston villages are the largest settlements along with most of the small villages such as Castle Eaton, Stanton Fitzwarren and Hannington which all have their own parish councils and identities. The properties West of the A419 (marked with a small X to the South) are included in the Stratton St Philip ward for practical reasons as it is not possible to walk between the village of Blunsdon and those properties.

Highworth 2 members

Highworth and Inglesham, each with their own parish councils, becomes a 2 member ward. Highworth has always had its own identity and is sensibly paired with Inglesham which is very small and both border Gloucestershire in the far North-East of the Borough.



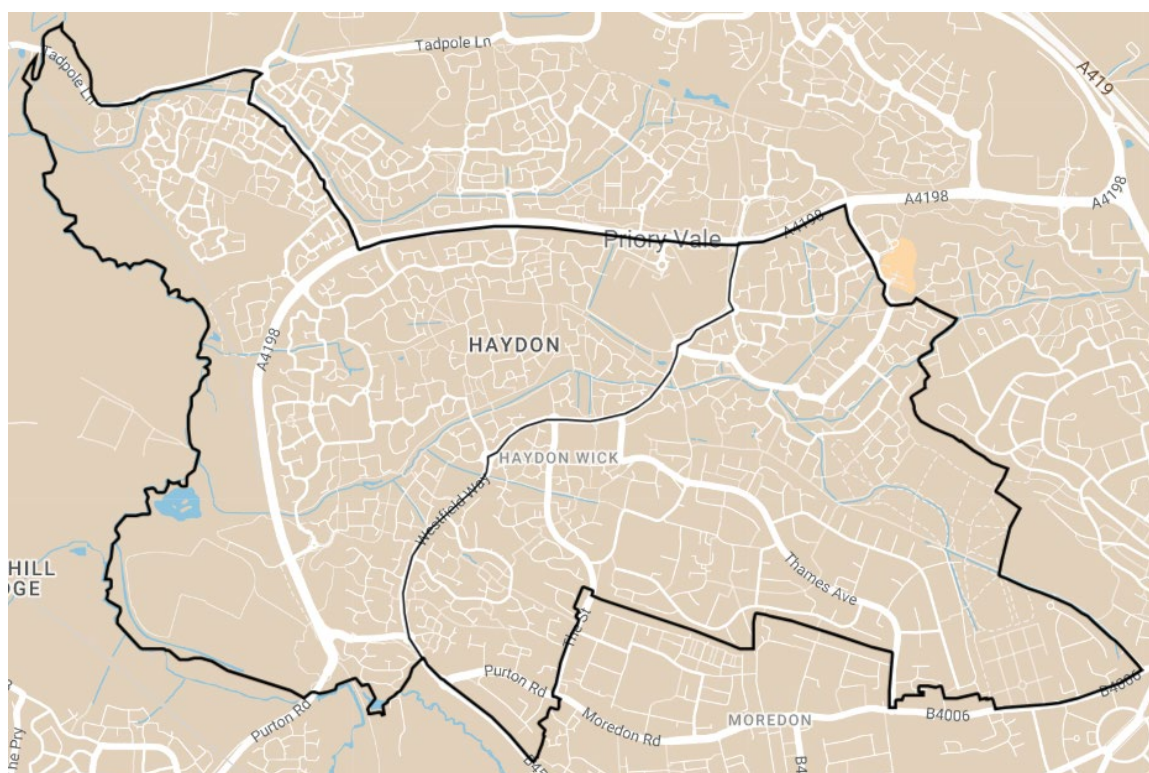
Haydon Wick 3 members

The parish of Haydon Wick comprises the two borough wards of Haydon Wick and Priory Vale and a section in the East which was added to the parish following the last community governance review.

The proposals for these two wards is that they remain largely as they are at present, however, we would add the areas covered by GPF and PSH in the new Haydon Wick ward which are currently in the Gorse Hill and Pinehurst and the Penhill and Upper Stratton wards. This ensures that the two borough wards cover the entirety of the current parish.

Priory Vale 3 members

This ward is also wholly within the parish of Haydon Wick but we propose taking in 8 properties from the St Andrews ward which rectifies an historic anomaly so that the parish and wards are coterminous.



Gorse Hill & Pinehurst South 2 members

These three proposed wards are all within the parish of Central North Swindon which contains the three communities of Gorse Hill, Pinehurst and Penhill. The population of electors of these three communities require 7 elected members. In order to ensure a balance of electors, we propose dividing the Pinehurst community into North and South.

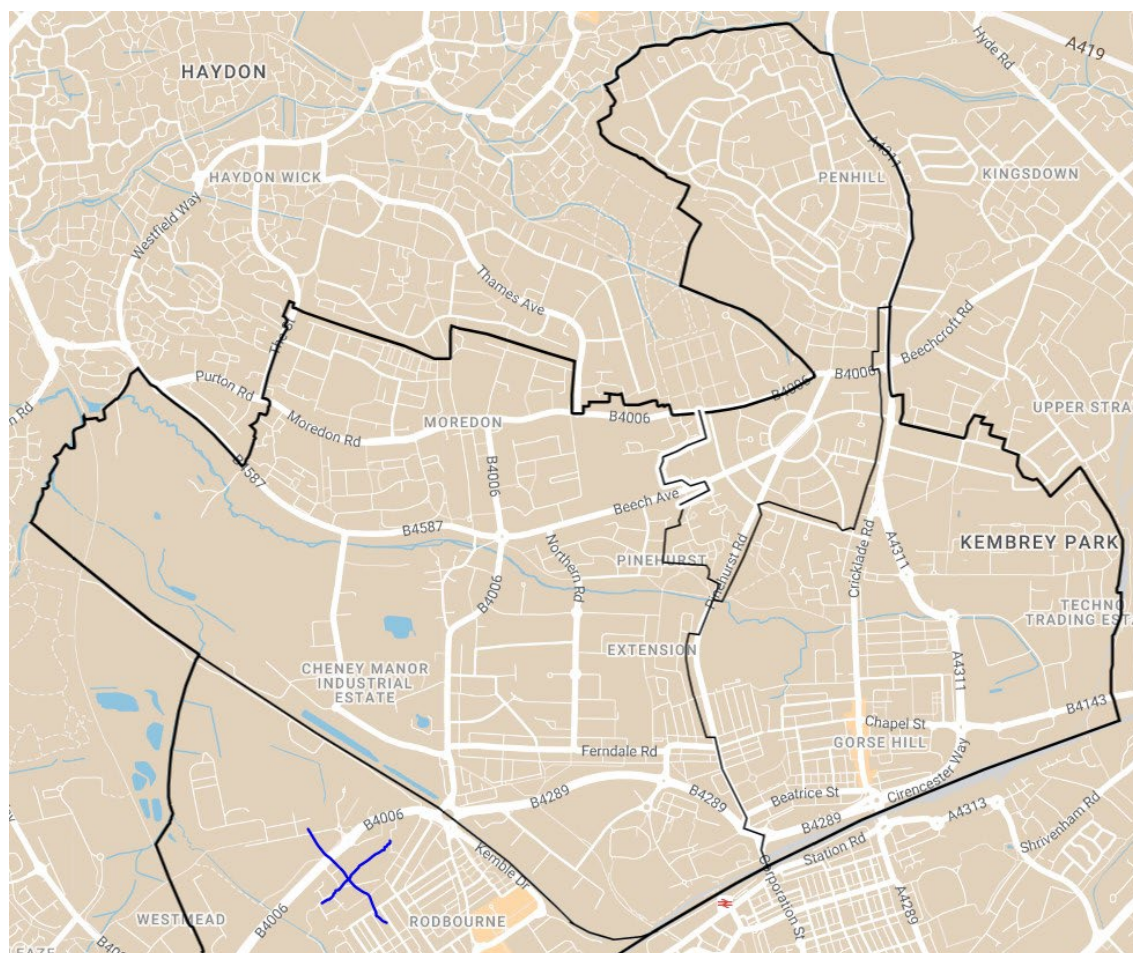
Therefore, the ward of Gorse Hill and South Pinehurst align the well-established residential area of Gorse Hill with the part of Pinehurst South of the area known as The Circle thereby creating a 2 member ward.

Penhill and Pinehurst North 2 members

In this case, the North part of Pinehurst which is adjacent to Penhill forms the other new 2 member ward. This is the community of Penhill plus the area of The Circle.

Rodbourne Cheney 3 members

This ward remains unchanged under our proposals as shown on the left of the map below.



St Andrews Ridge 2 members

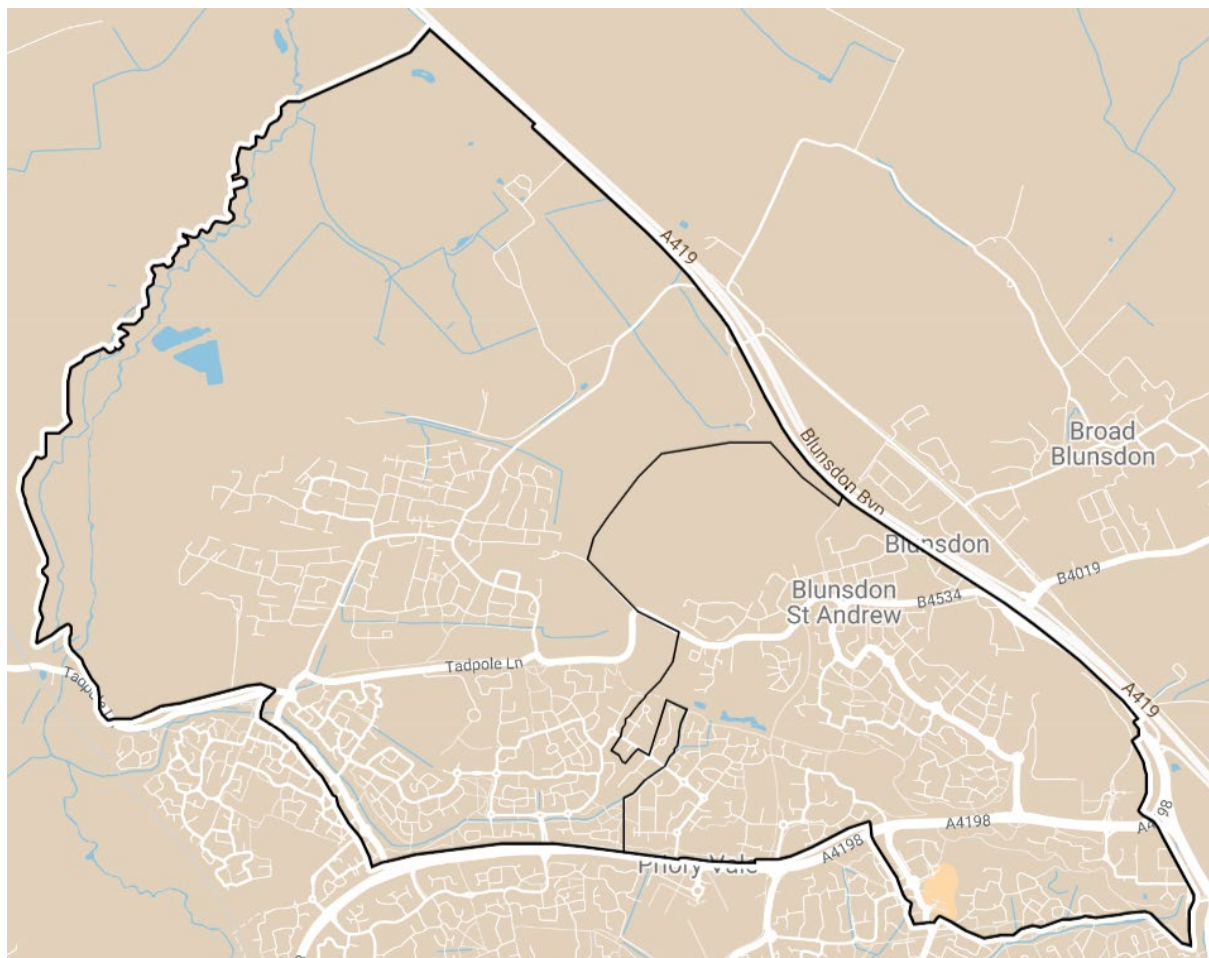
The current St Andrew's ward is a 3 member ward which has seen huge amounts of housing development in recent years and is the primary reason for this boundary review.

In order to address this issue, we propose to create two distinct communities, East and West, with 2 elected members for each.

The St Andrew's Ridge ward, which is the Eastern sector of this map, comprises the communities of The Ridge and Groundwell with the A419 on its Eastern edge.

St Andrews West 2 members

The Western end of this ward comprises the relatively new development of Tadpole Garden Village and Redhouse as the main distinct communities which straddle either side of Tadpole Lane.



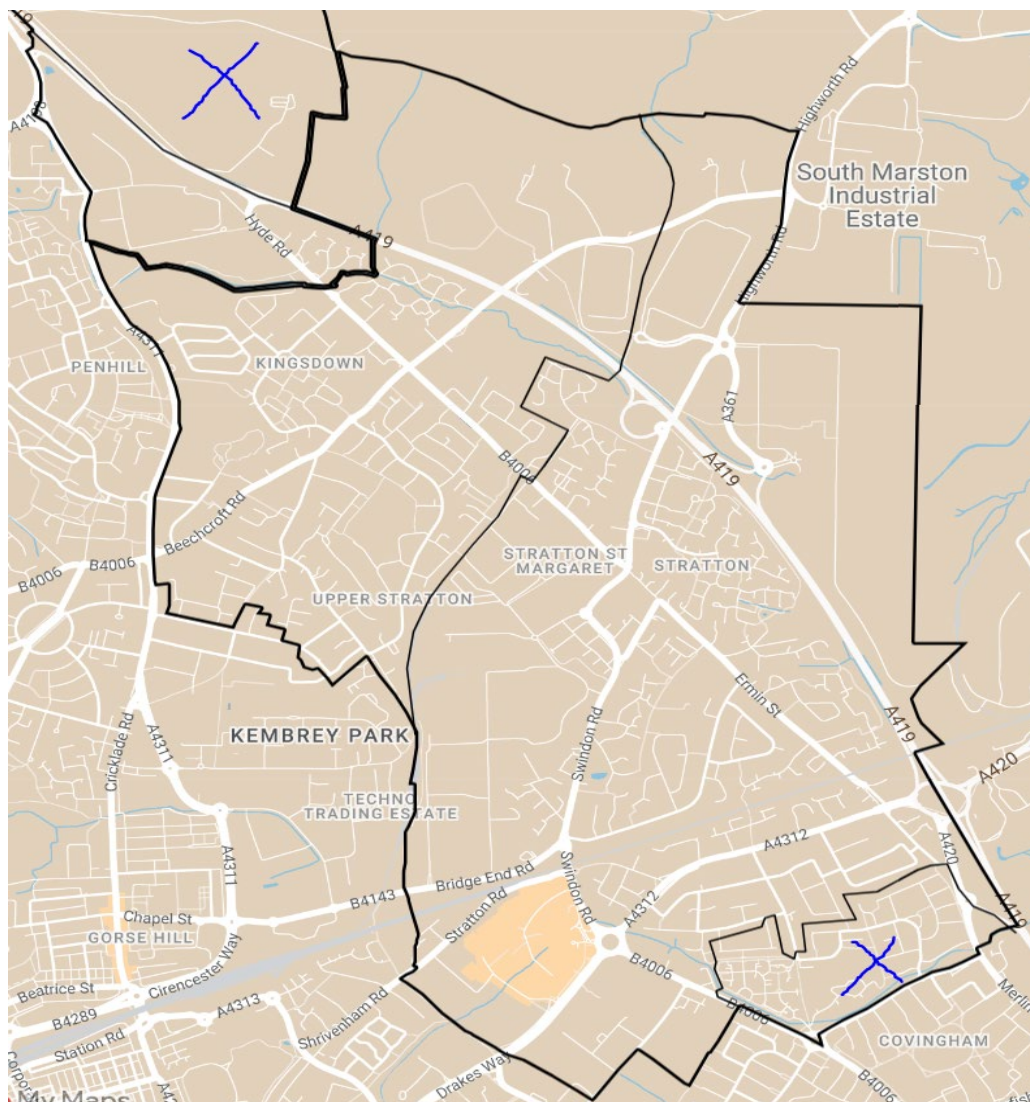
Stratton St Margaret 3 members

This ward is similar to the existing borough ward but without the Village of South Marston which form part of the rural wards with Blunsdon. It is and is wholly within the Stratton Parish and almost entirely to the West of the A419 but the number of electors still justifies being represented by 3 councillors.

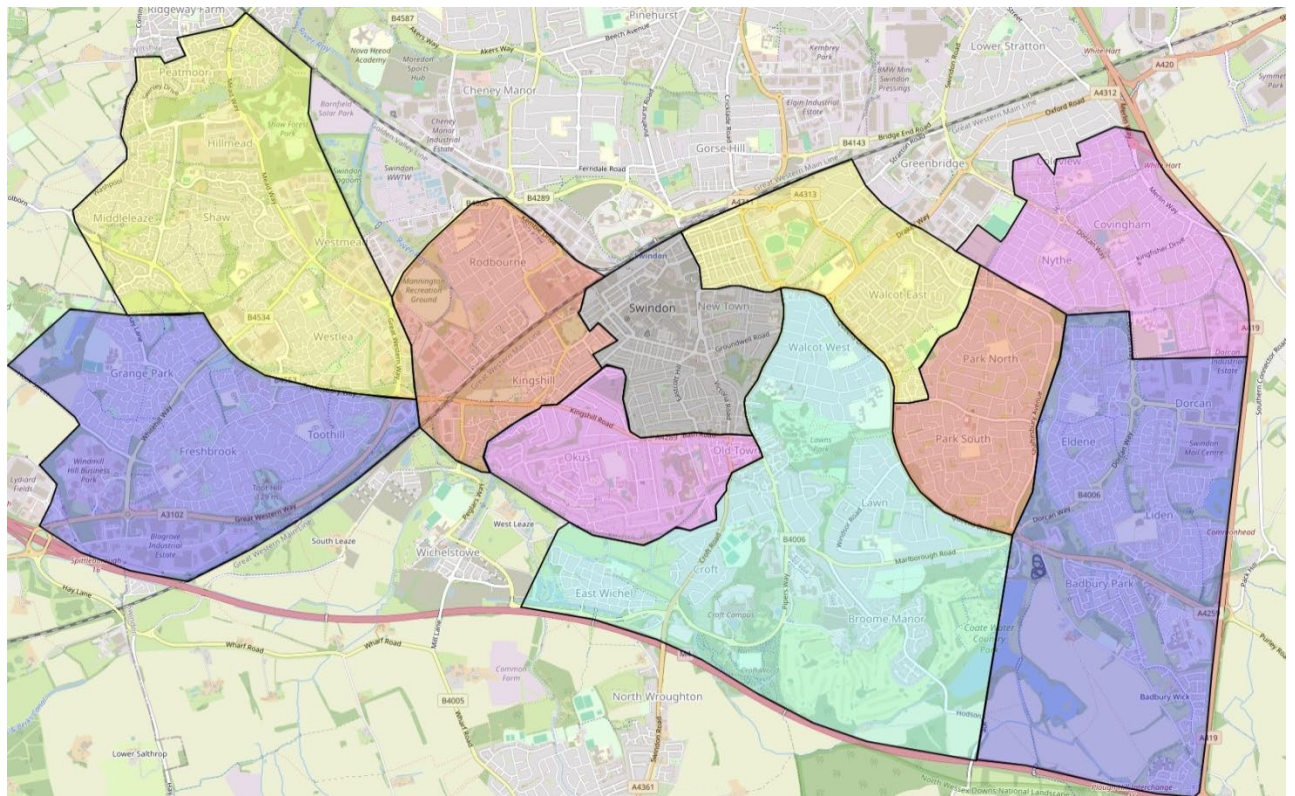
Stratton St Philip 2 members

This ward is also wholly within the Stratton Parish and the area covers much of the St Philips ward which existed prior to the last boundary review which came into effect in 2012. We have included a small number of properties which are in the Blunsdon parish area but are to the West of the A419 meaning there is no logic to leave them in the ward which includes Blunsdon.

These two wards combined are almost coterminous with the Stratton parish, the exception being those few properties in Blunsdon but West of the A419.



MAP 3 – South Swindon



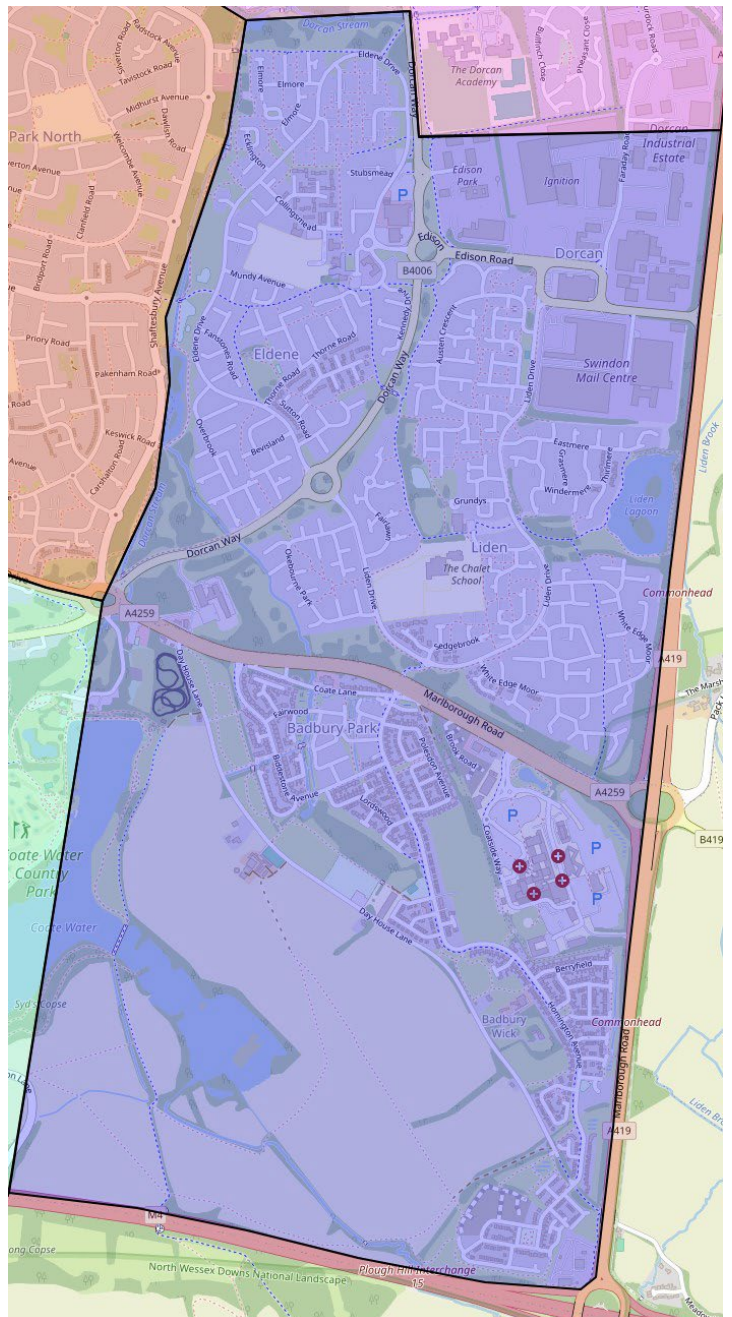
South Swindon (10 wards)

Badbury Park, Eldene and Liden 3 members

This ward preserves the two established communities of Liden (which has been united under this plan) and Eldene, these communities were built around the same time, are in the same parish and share doctor's surgeries, dentists, other amenities and linking roads, with regular interaction between the two. They are also linked by a footbridge, three underpasses and several other walking routes, so the residents of both regularly travel back and forth between them.

To these two estates are added the new estate of Badbury Park which adjoins Liden in the south and shares medical facilities with Eldene. They form together a coherent southeast Swindon community boundary in the east by the A419, the south by the M4 and in the southwest by the Coate Water Country Park which is well used by residents of all three estates. The local hospital (near Badbury Park) and the Swindon Mail Centre (in Liden) are major local employers with much of their workforce living in these three estates.

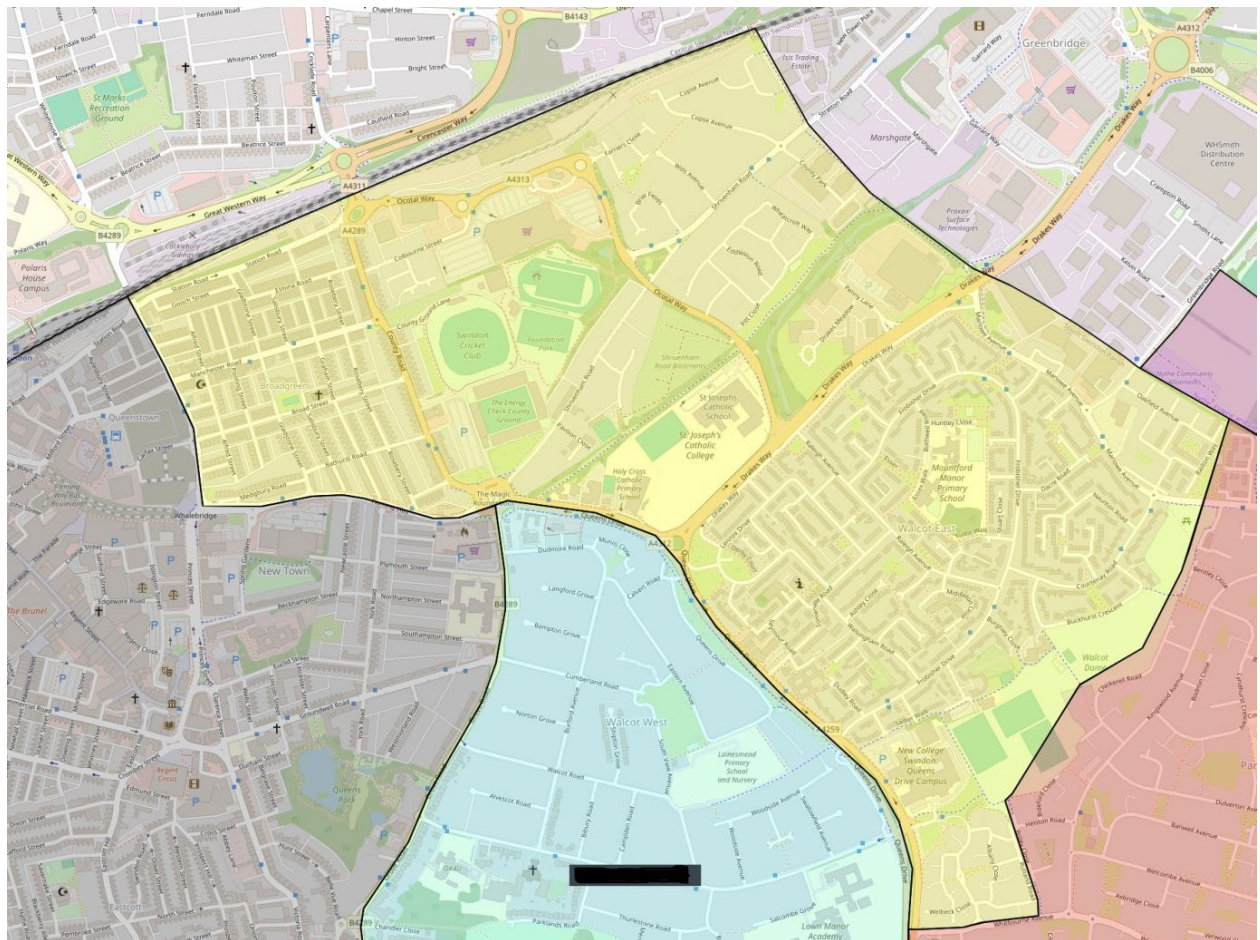
The RWF polling district, while being in the parish of Liddington is an integral part of the Badbury Park development and is separated from the village by the A419 dual carriageway and around a mile of open countryside. The division of the estate currently causes confusion for residents of the affected area, which can be seen from local social media and community forums and so this change would also simplify local representation for residents.



Broadgreen & East Walcot 3 members

Swindon is a major sporting town, and this area is dominated by the County Ground, home of Swindon Town FC and the world-famous Magic Roundabout, which many Swindonians pass through every day and forms a major centre of this ward. Many of the town's major sporting and leisure facilities are within this ward, such as the County Ground, Foundation Park, Cricket Ground, and others; this very much links together the area.

This is one of the most densely populated parts of the town with both Broadgreen and East Walcot being long-established areas with Broadgreen having been constructed during the early 20th century and East Walcot being constructed in the mid-century period. These communities have a multitude of places of worship and diverse populations. These are both very walkable communities which share schools and a very large supermarket that serves both areas. This, alongside the town's sporting facilities ties the area together.

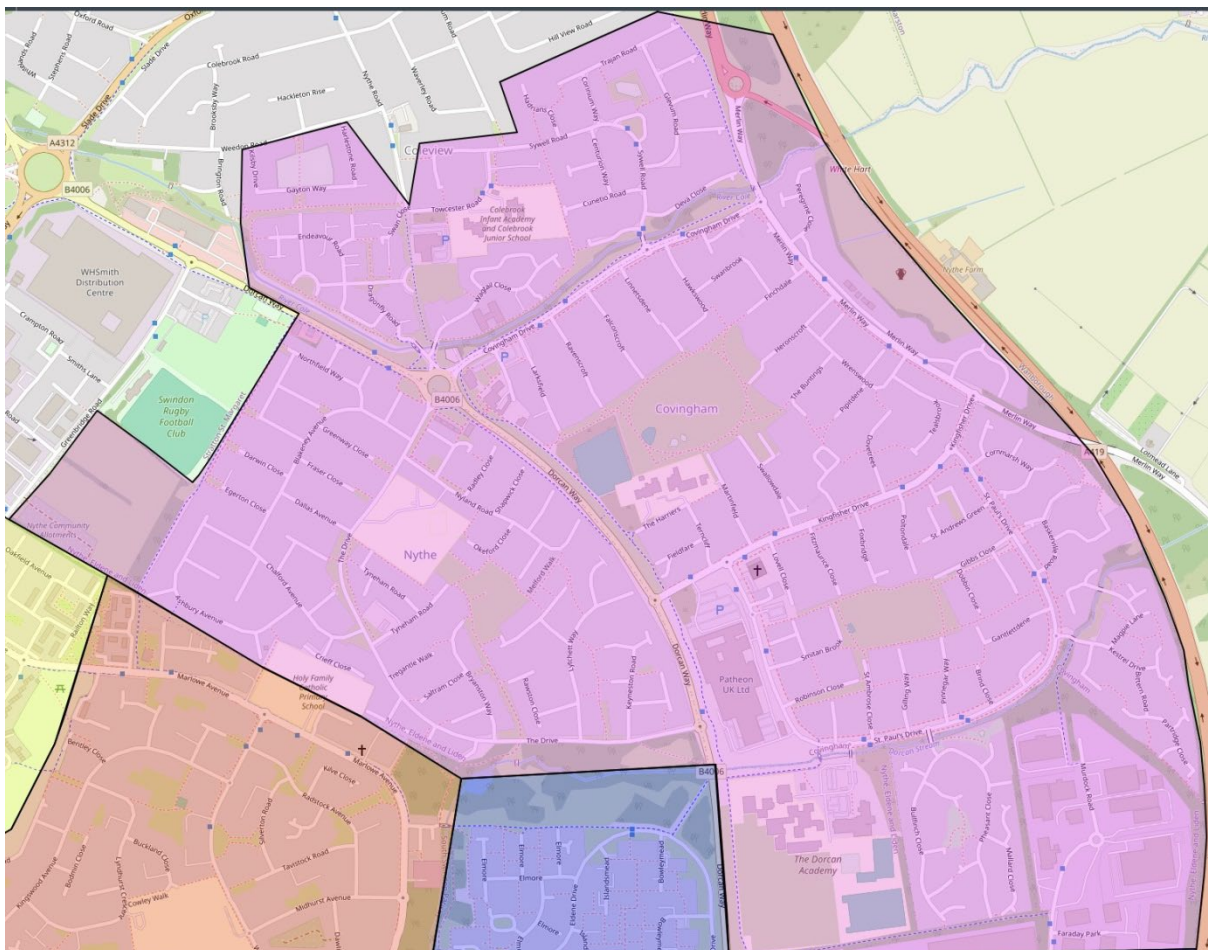


Covingham & Nythe 2 members

This ward is almost identical to the existing Covingham & Dorcan ward, losing only North Liden to the neighbouring ward, becoming a two-member ward and allowing Liden to be united in a single ward. Covingham Parish area is too small to support a ward alone and so has been joined with neighbouring areas with which it already enjoys significant links.

The three estates of Covingham, Nythe and Lower Coleview are joined by Dorcan Way, the main road for the area and bound in the east by the A419. They were all constructed around the same time and are established communities that have shared facilities since they were first built. The areas share a local secondary school (Dorcan), a local church, local public house, and other amenities, which makes for a natural community of these residential areas.

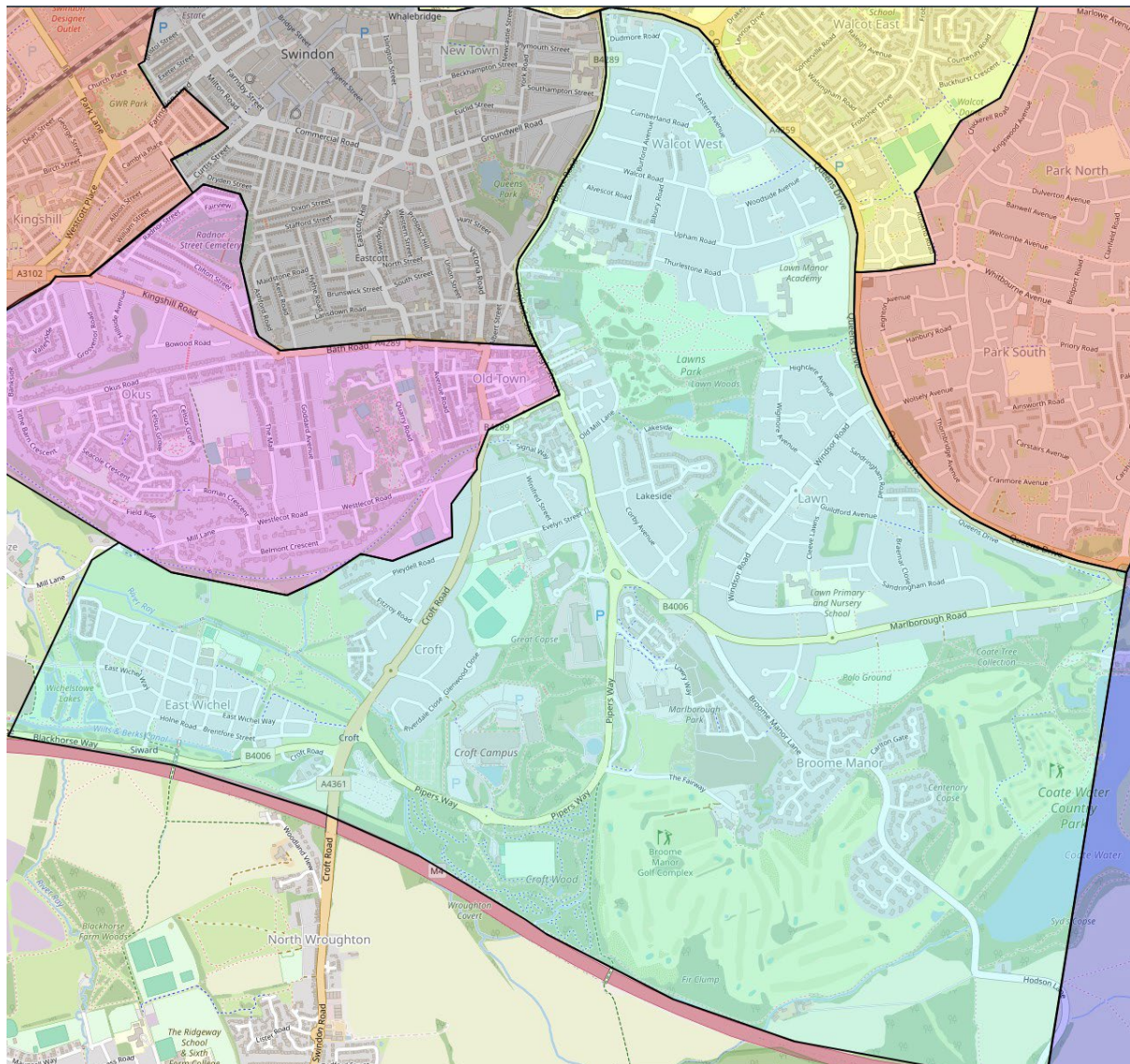
The SMG polling district is placed within this ward as it corresponds to the Nythe Allotments, which are used by residents in all three areas and is entirely within the NEL parish area, presently it is not expected that there will be any residents of this polling district in 2029.



Croft and Lawn 3 members

This ward is largely comprised of the major established communities of Lawn, Croft and Old Walcot. All three areas were built around the same time, in the 1930s and 40s, and therefore share a very similar character – to the extent, to many residents, it is difficult to determine where one area ends and the other begins.

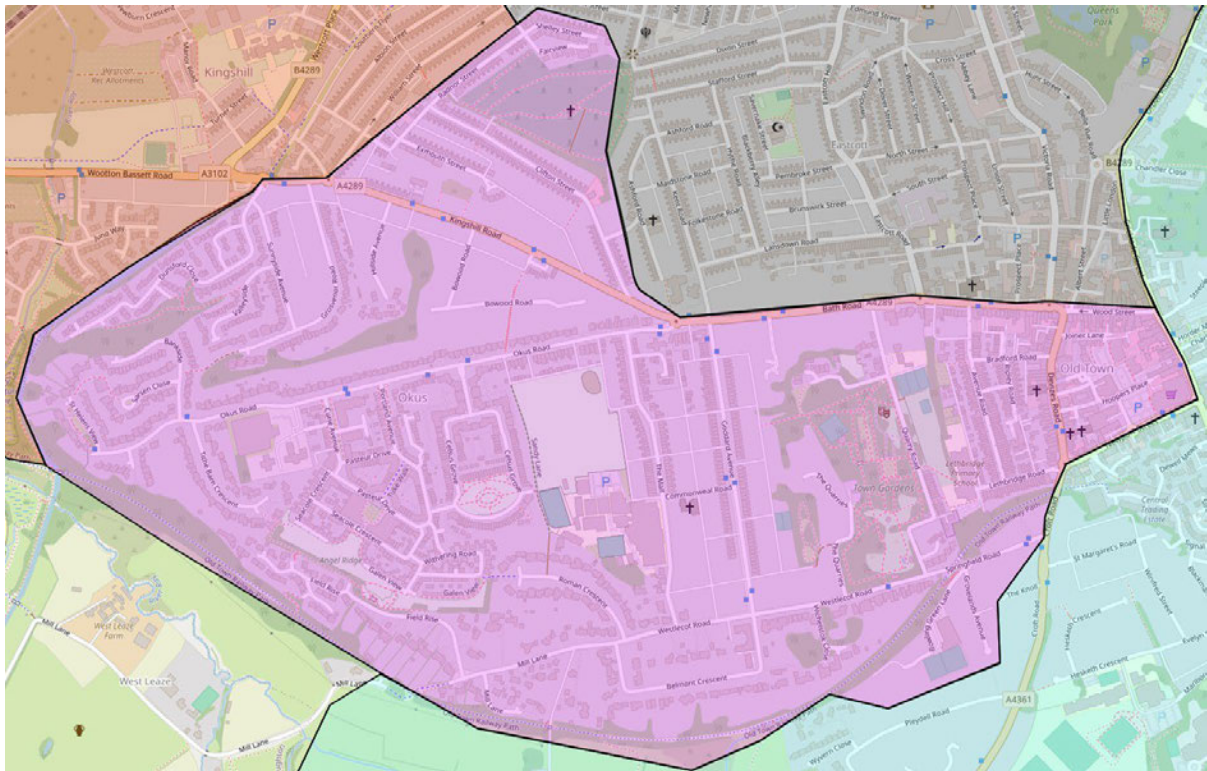
Each area takes its identity from a nearby park or green space, with Lawn being close to its namesake 'Lawns' park and Lawn woods, as well as Coate Water country park. Old Walcot likewise borders Lawns Park, and the Croft area derives its name from Croft wood.



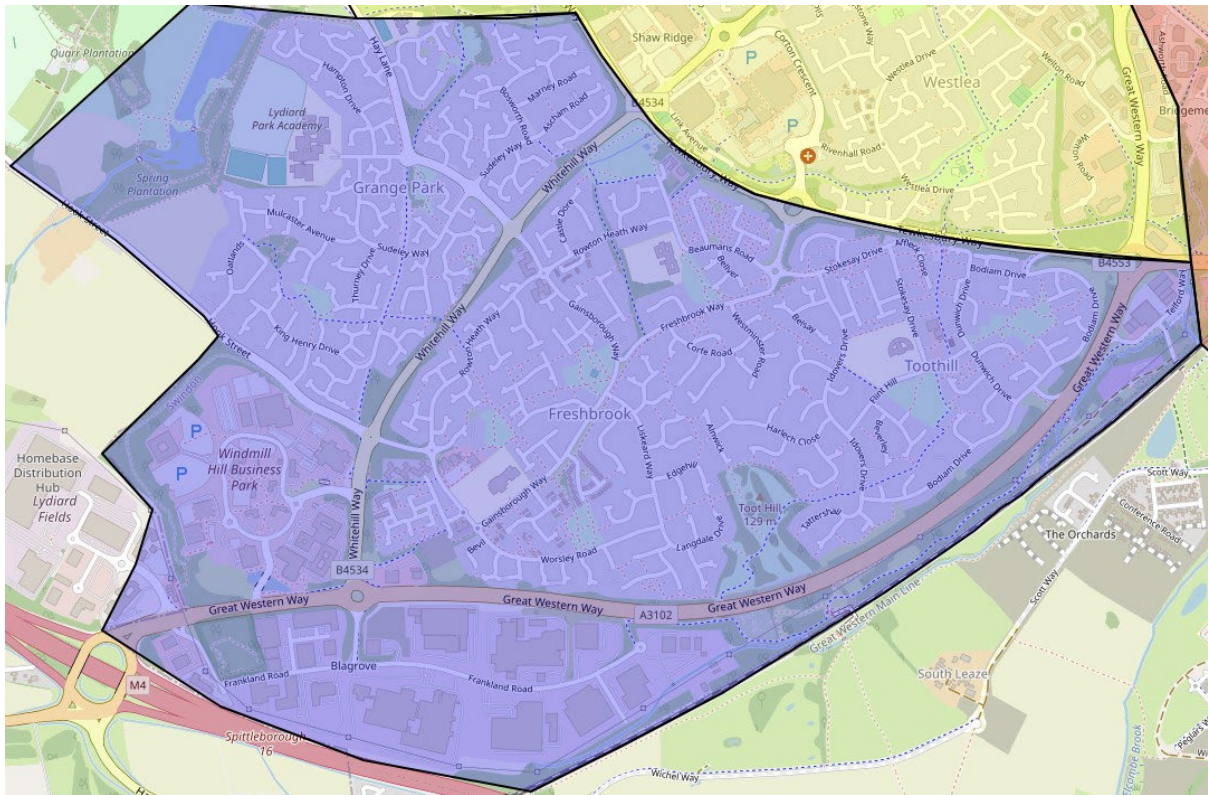
Kingshill & Okus 2 members

This ward contains much of the core of the historic Old Town of Swindon, with Kingshill and Okus forming the western side of the Old Town Hill. Although there are a couple of more modern developments, specifically Okus, much of which has been constructed on the former Princess Margaret Hospital site. This area is of Victorian, Edwardian and 1930's construction and has long had active community links centred on the Town Gardens and containing the historic Radnor Street Cemetery.

These are some of the oldest communities in the old town of Swindon and share many of the same amenities with an obvious core running along Bath Road to the thriving commercial area around Wood Street, Devizes Road and Newport Street in which many of the residents of these areas tend to socialise and hold community events. This ward is both geographically contiguous and has substantial social and economic links within it.

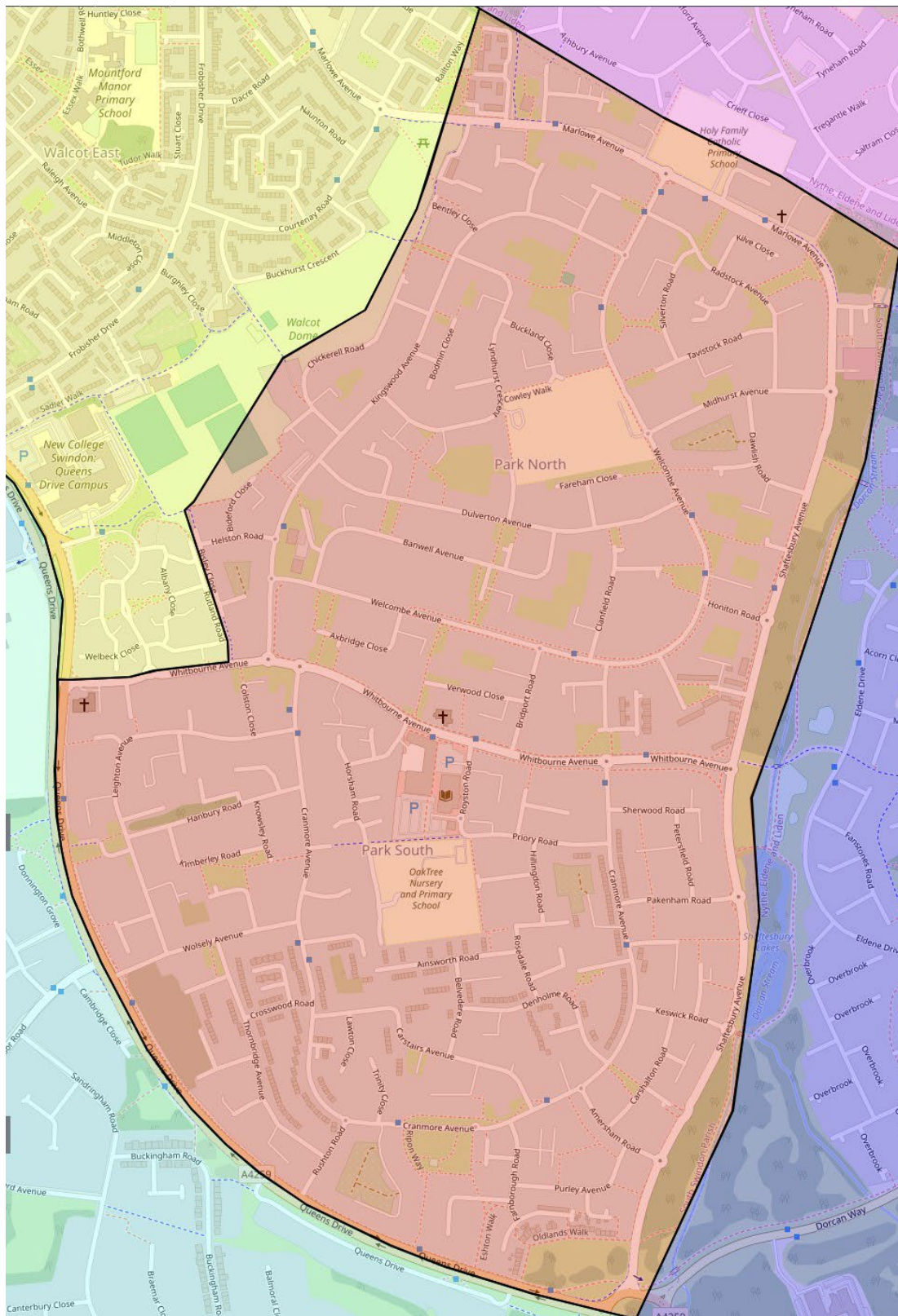


This established West Swindon community remains the same save for the inclusion of the Toothill polling districts formerly in the Mannington & Western Ward, which serves to unify Toothill in one Ward.



Parks 2 members

This ward comprises the two existing polling districts of the Parks plus the Southern part of Walcot providing sufficient electors for a 2 member ward. This ward is wholly within the Central South Parish area.

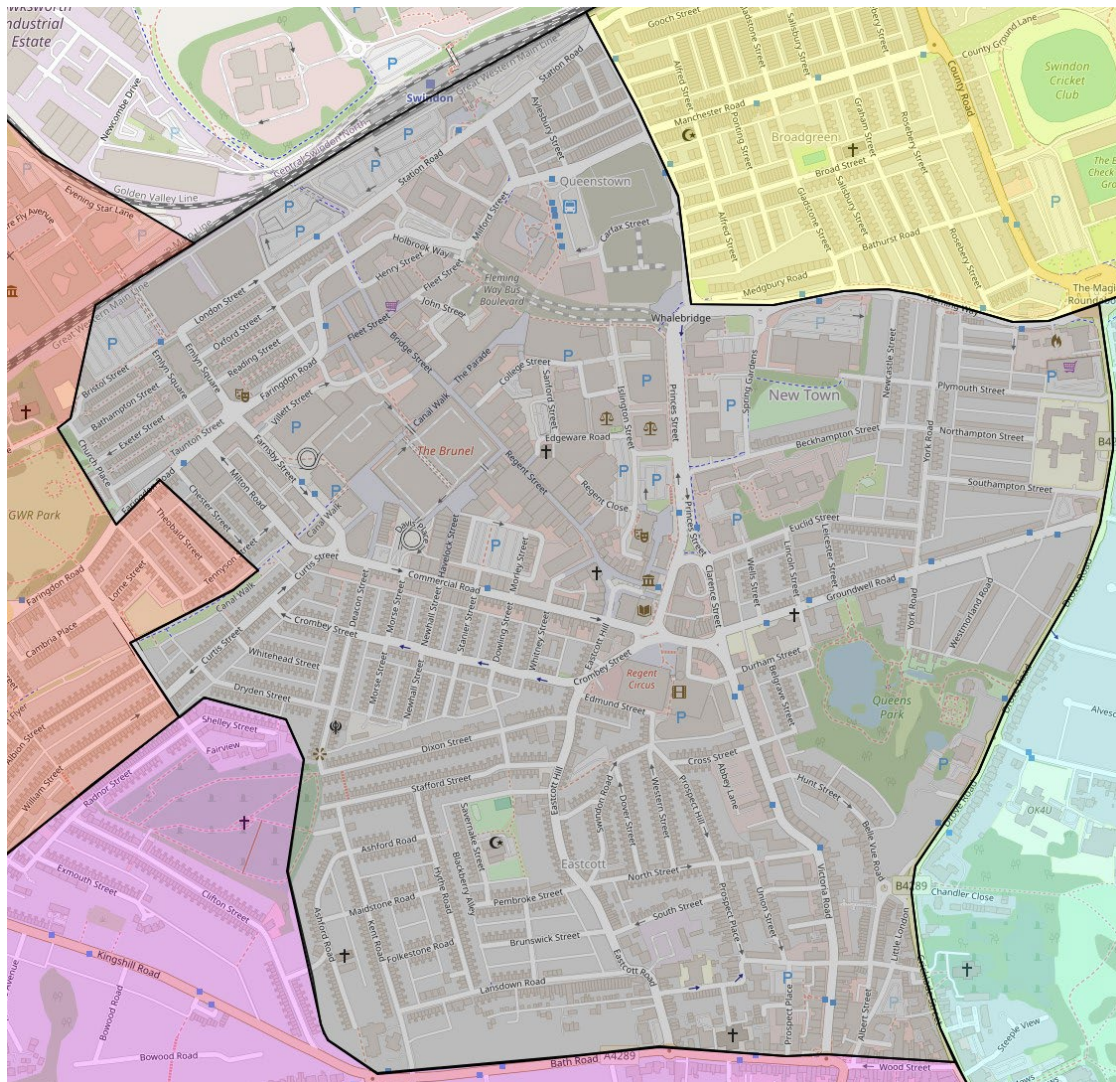


Queen's Park 3 members

This ward forms the Victorian core of the Swindon New Town, including the historic Railway Village and the developments off of Victoria and Eastcott hills. This ward also contains the commercial and civic centre of the town, containing many major shops, the town hall, and civic offices. Many of the polling districts that form this ward were previously part of Eastcott which serves as a significant community forming the southern half of the ward, which runs in to the core town centre, forming the other half of this highly condensed ward.

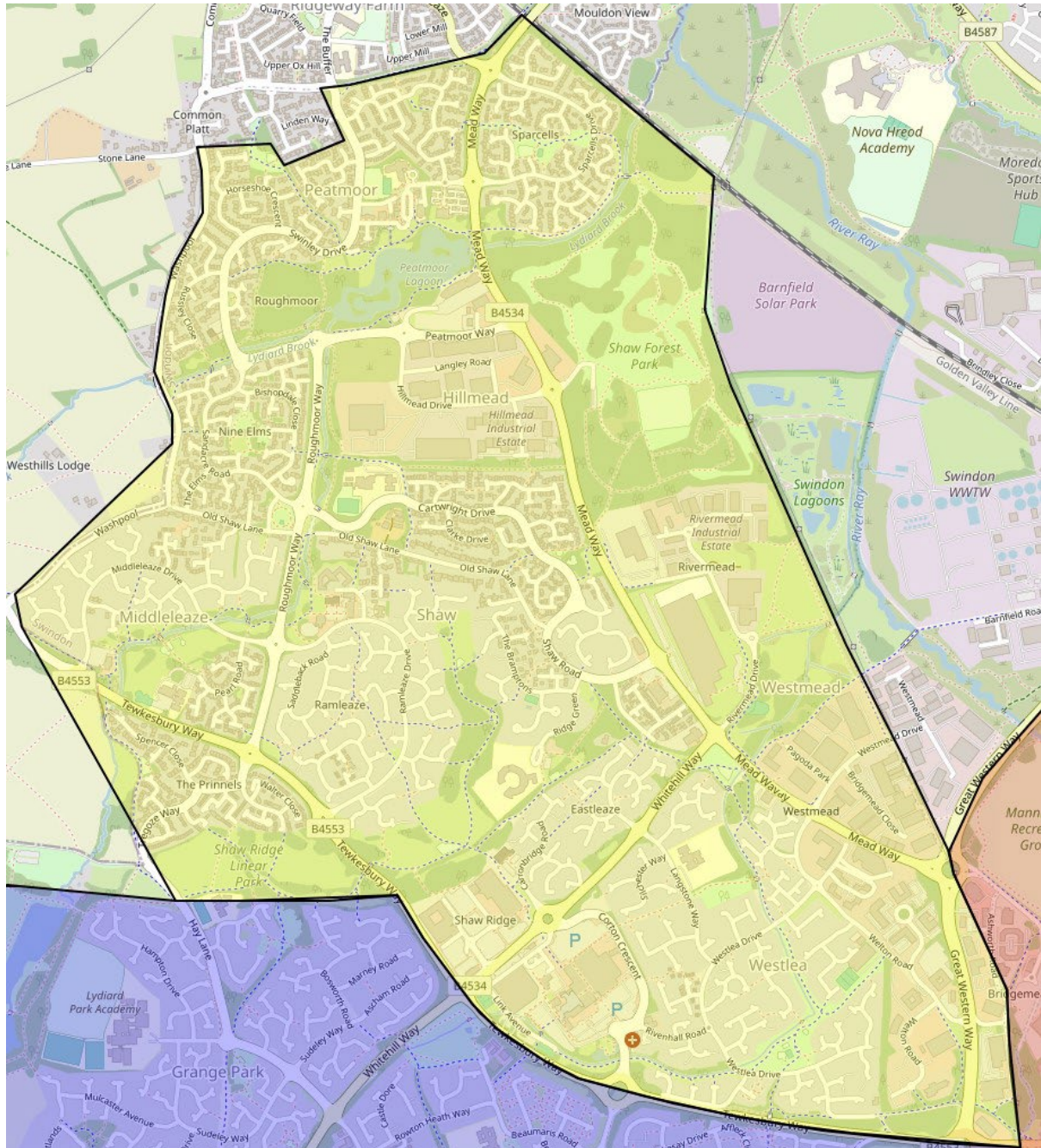
The area is majorly pedestrianised, which lends itself to a natural, walkable community with few barriers and a raft of shared amenities, local bus links and a strong visual link as most of these areas were constructed at the same time.

This ward is bounded in the east by the historic Drove Road and in the north by the railway line. Queen's Park is a Victorian park that is well used by the residents across this ward, forming the largest park in the Town Centre.



Shaw and Westlea 3 members

As with Lydiard & Freshbrook, this ward is largely unchanged, leaving the established community of Shaw intact. It undergoes one minor change of unifying the whole community of Westlea in one ward.

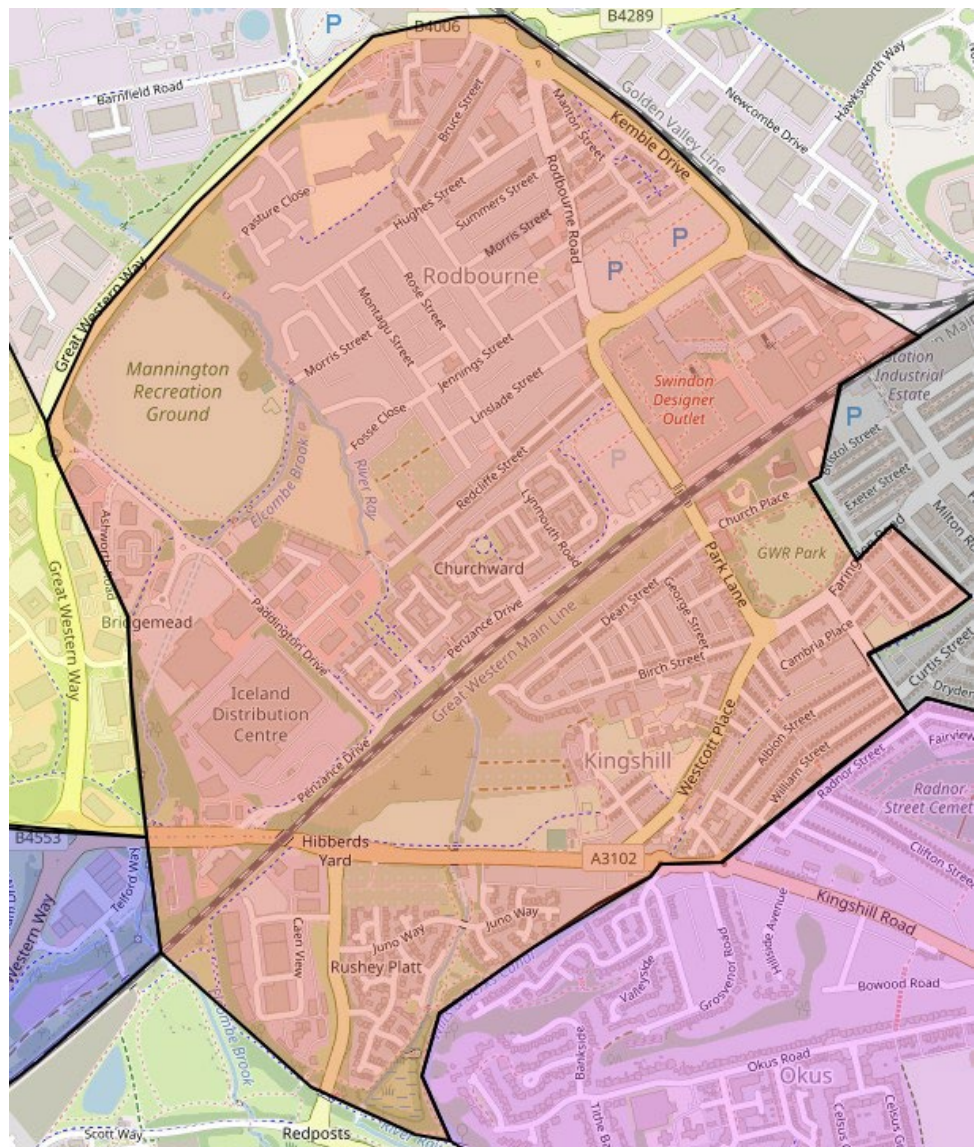


Western 2 members

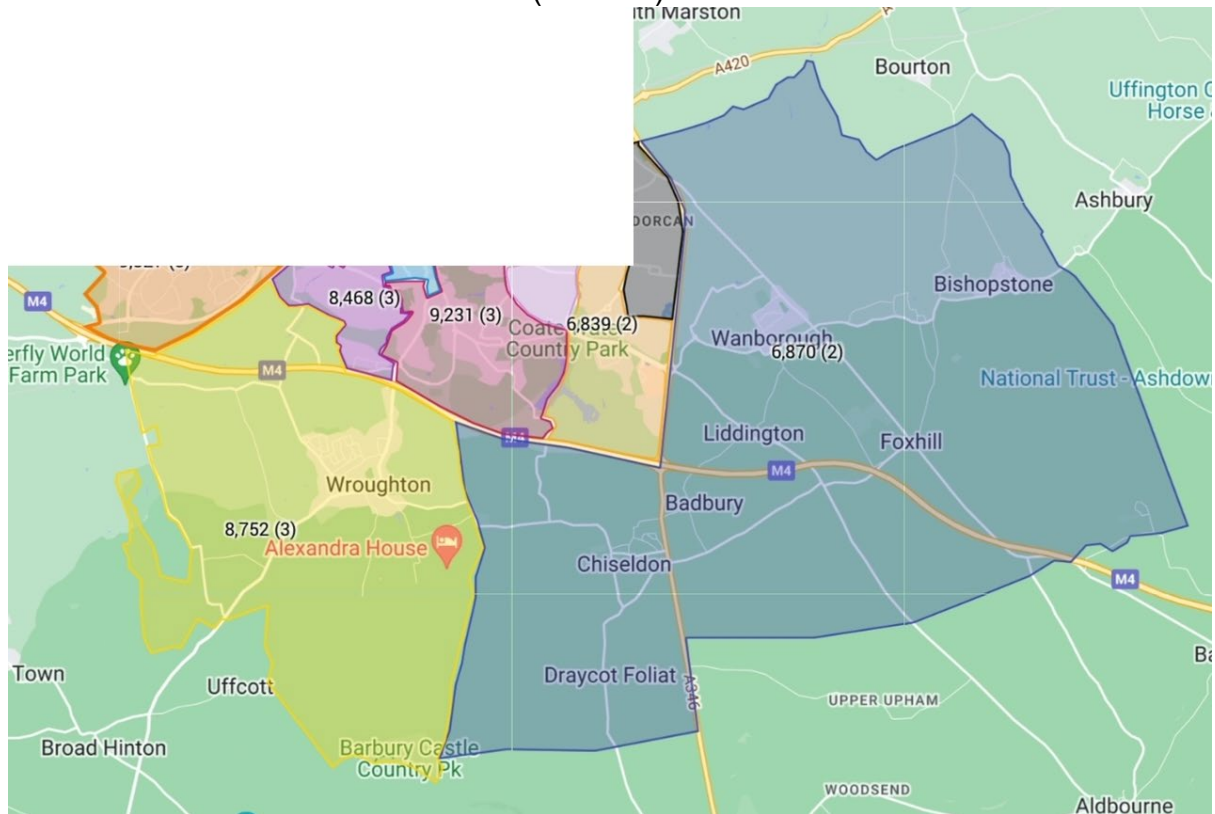
This ward represents one of the oldest communities in Swindon, bordered in the east by the Railway Village, the ward contains many Victorian streets, laid out towards the west of the New Town area of Swindon, it is centred on the former railway works, with many shared facilities such as doctors, dentists, and many of the facilities of the western part of the town centre. As well as shared access to the GWR Park and Mannington Recreation Ground, both sites a legacy of the Great Western Railway Works.

The modern housing of the Churchward area of Even Swindon is constructed on the site of the former A shop of the Railway works with the Rushy Platt development being constructed on the former sidings and timber yards of the works. This is a proud heritage for the area and is reflected in the fact that Swindon has for many years had a ward named Western.

Because of this, these communities have a high level of interaction and form a natural ward, despite crossing between two parishes and the railway line. There is a highly trafficked road and underpass that leads past the former works, now the designer outlet that links together both halves of the ward. There are also several other major points of connection, including bus routes, footpaths, and major roads.



MAP 4 - East Wiltshire wards (2 wards)



Chiseldon and Ridgeway 2 members

The Ridgeway and Chiseldon Wards are represented at Parish level by four small Parish Councils and share many of the same concerns and issues. Although in Ridgeway ward, Badbury is part of Chiseldon Parish and although the M4 separates Liddington from Badbury there are bridges across the M4 and walking/cycle routes.

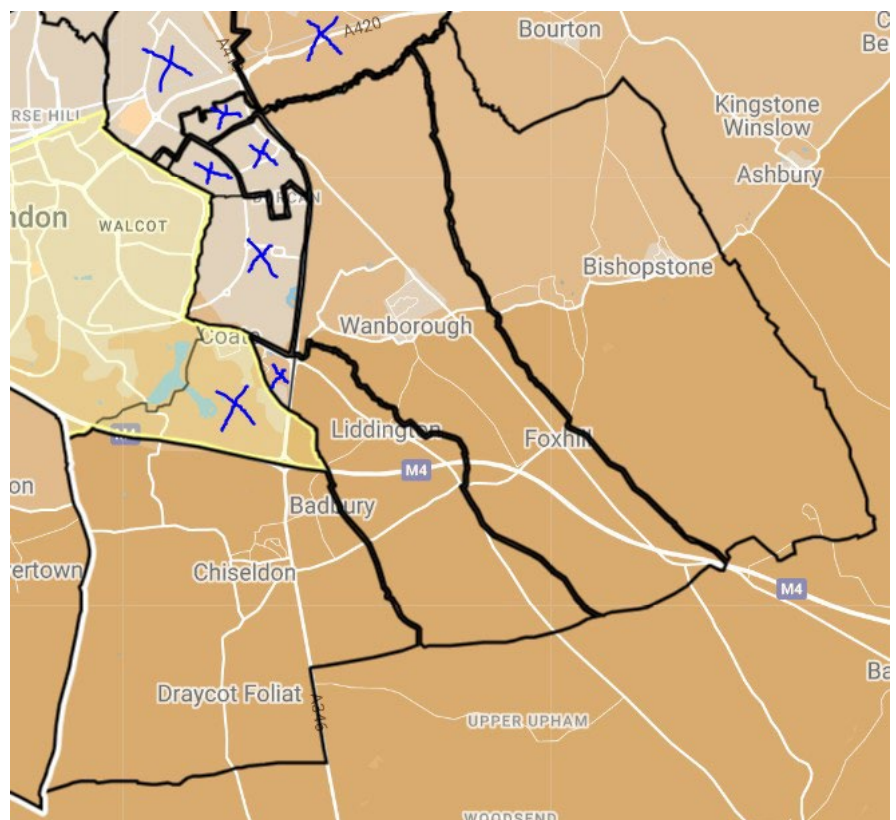
The villages have active communities and very much identify as being separate to Swindon. For Wanborough there is an 'Area of Non-Coalescence' in planning terms to protect the village being 'joined' to the urban area of Swindon which is to the east of the A419.

The Parish of Wanborough (within Ridgeway) will see the growth of the allocated 'New Eastern Villages' site in the coming years, although only the first new 'village' of Redlands Grove' is under construction about half a mile from Lower Wanborough. That will bring around 450 homes in the coming 5 years and includes pavements joining it to the village of Wanborough and the five public houses and village amenities and events.

These are very traditional villages with rural summer shows, horse and dog shows and even 'international pig racing' in Bishopstone. The larger villages have active sports clubs and facilities and five churches. Students from the two main village primary schools go on to attend the Ridgeway Secondary School in Wroughton with a free bus service (which does not serve the urban areas of Badbury Park or Lawn).

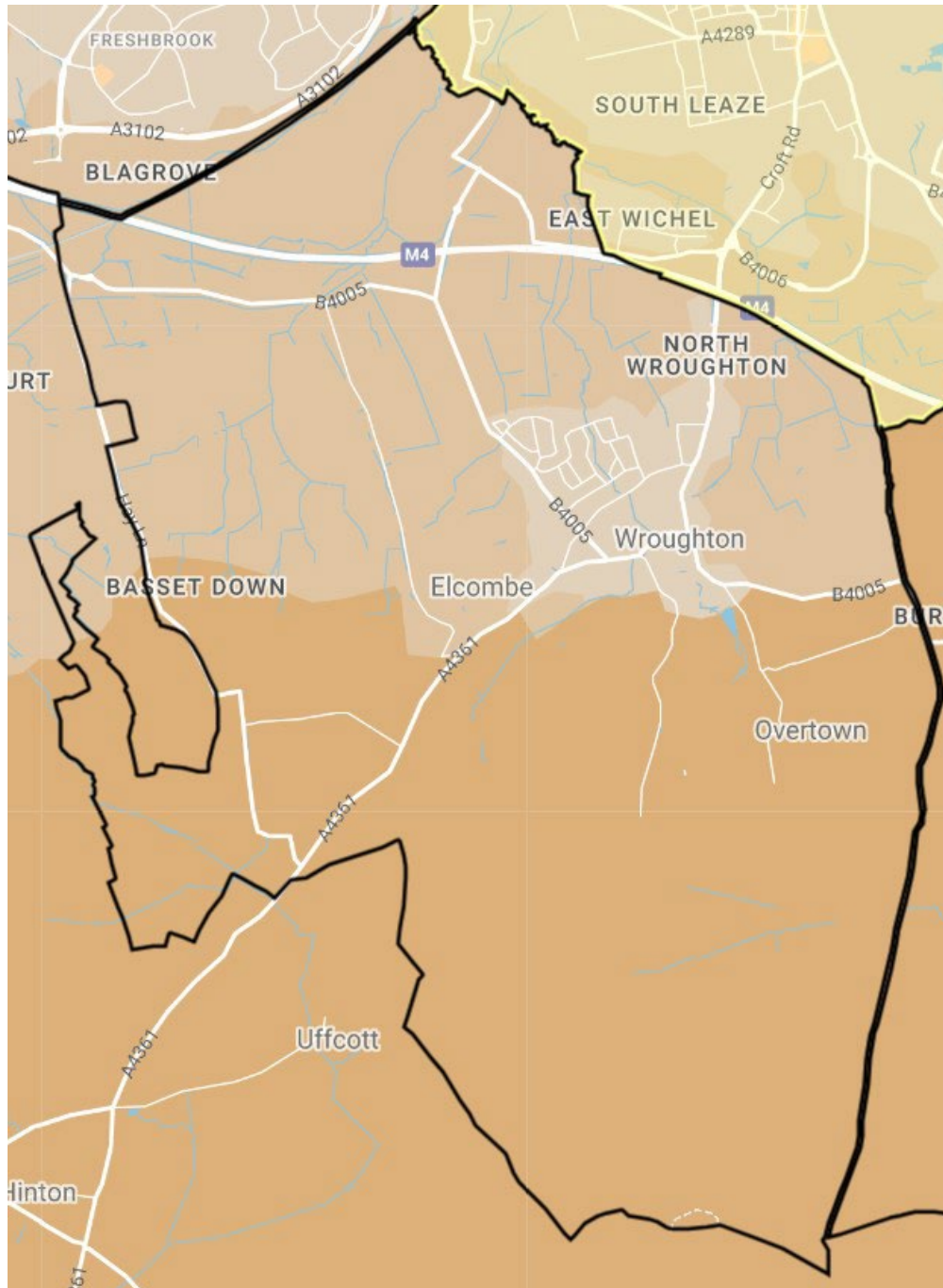
Chiseldon is a similar size to Wanborough and also sits within the North Wessex Downs 'National Landscape' area, as does Liddington, Badbury, Bishopstone and part of Wanborough.

This new proposed Ward, with two members will more accurately represent the village of Chiseldon which is currently joined by the urban areas of Badbury Park and Lawn within the existing Chiseldon & Lawn ward. Those areas have very different concerns and priorities to Chiseldon and are separated by the M4 motorway.



Wroughton and Wichelstowe 3 members

This ward remains the same as the existing arrangements providing for 3 elected members and is wholly contained within the Wroughton Parish Council area with the exception of the 15 electors at Burderop Barns which are moved from the Chiseldon and Ridgeway ward to ensure the ratios comply with the guidance.



6. Data Supporting the Proposals

The data used to create these maps is shown below with appropriate notes showing when there is a divergence from existing ward, constituency, parish or polling district boundaries.

Wards based on existing parish boundaries when possible		Target: Average no voters per Cllr			3118
North Swindon (11 wards)	Parish(es)				
Proposed wards		Polling District	2029 Voters	Ratio	Cllrs
Blunsdon & the Villages	Blunsdon, South Marston et al	BHA, BHB, BHC, BHD, BHF (part), BHJ, BHK, SMD, SN	6198	1.99	2
Gorse Hill & Pinehurst South	Central North	GPA (part) 3, GPB, GPD, GPE	5730	1.84	2
Haydon Wick	Haydon Wick	HWA, HWB, HWC, HWD, HWE, PSH, GPF	9116	2.92	3
Priory Vale	Haydon Wick	PVA, PVB, PVC, PVD, PVE, PVF, SAE	8672	2.78	3
Highworth	Highworth and Inglesham	BHE, BHF (part), BHG, BHI, BHI	6843	2.19	2
Penhill and Pinehurst North	Central North	PSA, PSB, PSG, GPA (part) 3	5974	1.92	2
Rodbourn Cheney	Central North	RCA, RCB, RCC, RCD	9260	2.97	3
St Andrews Ridge	St Andrews	SAB (part) 2, SAC, SAF	6414	2.06	2
St Andrews West	St Andrews	SAA, SAD, SAB (part) 1	6520	2.09	2
Stratton St Margaret	Stratton	SMA, SMB, SMC, SME	8815	2.83	3
Stratton St Philip	Stratton	PSC, PSD, PSE, PSF, GPC, BHF (part)	6547	2.10	2
		Sub Total	80089		26
South Swindon (10 wards)					
Badbury Park, Liden & Eldene	NEL, Central South & Liddington	CDE, CLC, LEC, LED, RWF	8431	2.70	3
Broadgreen, County Ground & East Walcot	Central South	CEC (part) 4, CED, WPB, WPC	9719	3.12	3
Covingham and Nythe	Covingham, NEL & Stratton	CDA, CDB, CDC, CDD, SMG	6719	2.15	2
Croft and Lawn	Central South	CLA, CLD, OTB, OTC (part) 6, OTD, WPA	9687	3.11	3
Kingshill & Okus	Central South	ETA, ETC (part) 5, OTA, OTC (part) 6	5684	1.82	2
Lydiard, Freshbrook & Toothill	West Swindon	LFA, LFB, LFC, LFD, LFE, MWC	9827	3.15	3
Parks	Central South	LEA, LEB, WPD	6823	2.19	2
Queen's Park	Central South	CEB, CEC (part) 4, ETB, ETC (part) 5, ETD, ETE	8899	2.85	3
Shaw & Westlea	West Swindon	SHA, SHB, SHC, SHD, SHE, SHF, MWB	9553	3.06	3
Western	Central North & South	CEA, MWA, MWD	6679	2.14	2
		Sub Total	82021		26
East Wiltshire (2 wards)					
Chiseldon and Ridgeway	Chiseldon, Wanborough et al	CLB (part) 7, RWA, RWB, RWC, RWD, RWE	6855	2.20	2
Wroughton and Wichelstowe	Wroughton and Wichelstowe	WWA, WWB, WWC, WWD, WWE, WWF, CLB (part) 7	8767	2.81	3
		Sub Total	15622		5
		Grand Total	177732		57
Notes					
1 Downland and Hebden Closes to St A East					
2 All SAB ex Downland and Hebden Closes					
3 GPA - Cricklade Rd, Poplar Ave, Ash Grove, Hawthorn Ave, Tulip Tree Cl all in Gorse Hill					
4 CEC - East of County Road into County Ground ward incl Amber Court and Colbourne St					
5 ETC - Wood Street and roads to South					
6 OTC - West of Devizes Road					
7 Burderop Barns goes into W&W to improve the ratios					

Credits

Producing this set of proposals has taken a great deal of time and commitment from many contributors and I would like to thank them all for their input and support. Particular thanks go to Matt Hinton, Zac Hawson, Matt Vallender and Jake Chandler for reviewing each iteration and providing valuable feedback and maps.

David Renard

Deputy Chairman Political, Swindon Federation