

LGBCE Review of Oxfordshire County Council

Division arrangements submission
from Oxfordshire County Council to LGBCE

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Introduction

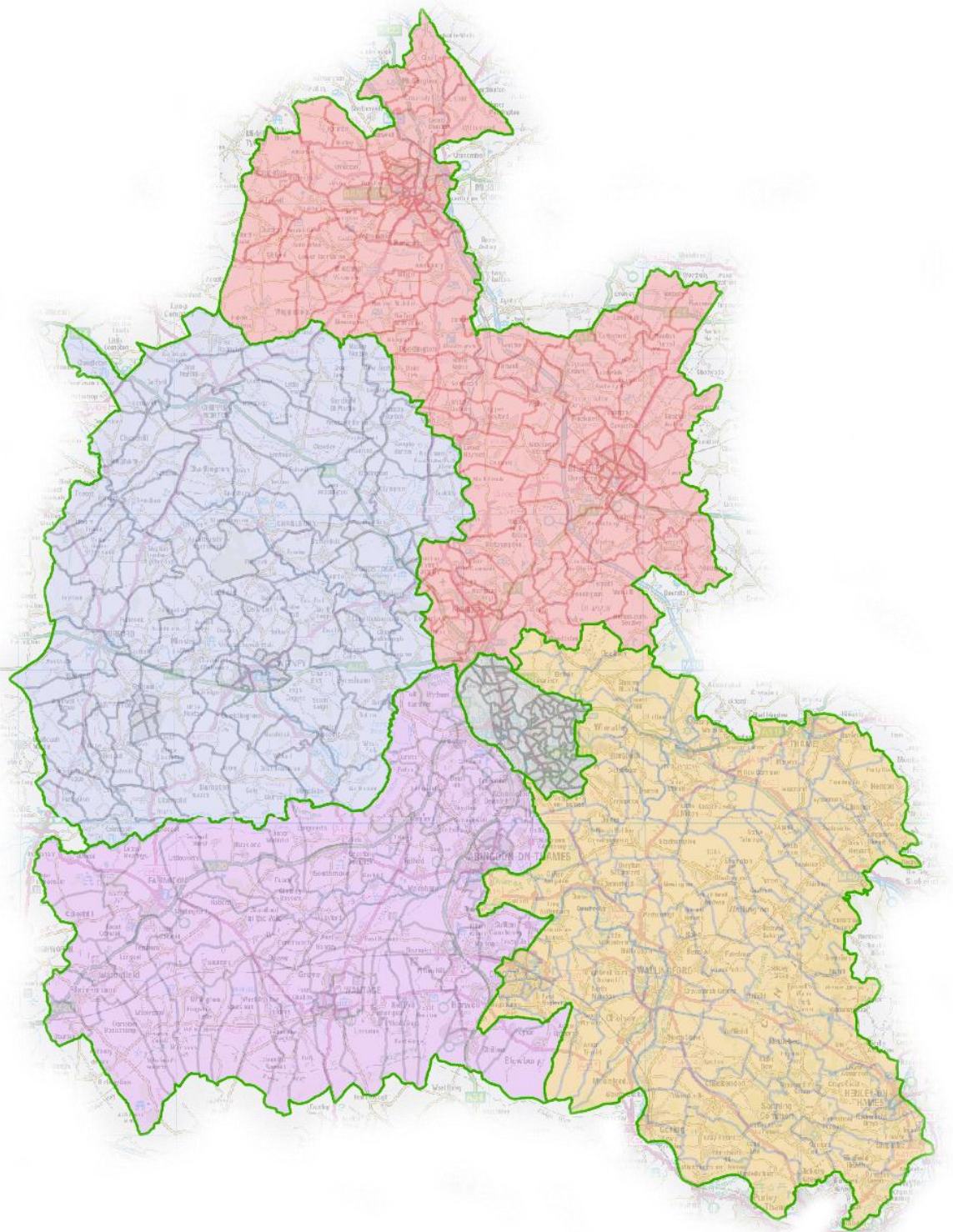
1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) are currently undertaking an electoral review of Oxfordshire County Council. This is considering the division arrangements for the district, taking effect from the next scheduled elections in May 2025.
2. The LGBCE have advised that they have agreed to a council size of 69. This means that, from the May 2025 elections, the Council will be served by 69 Members. This number may flex up or down by one/two in order to facilitate a stronger and more equal division pattern, but the aim is to achieve electoral equality with 69 Councillors.
3. The LGBCE have provided guidance about division arrangements and boundaries, which this document reflects. This submission has given due consideration to the three statutory criteria that electoral reviews conducted by the LGBCE must have, namely:
 - a. Delivering electoral equality for local voters.
 - b. Interests and identities of local communities.
 - c. Effective and convenient local government.
4. This document sets out the proposed submission for division arrangements for Oxfordshire. Once agreed by Council, this document shall become the formal submission of the Council as part of the LGBCE Review. No consultation with the public or communities has taken place in developing these proposals, as the LGBCE will consider these proposals alongside others submitted during the consultation and their own work, and will then develop 'Draft Recommendations' for public consultation. The Council, elected representatives, local communities, and anyone else with an interest will be able to respond to that LGBCE-led consultation, accessible from <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/oxfordshire/oxfordshire-county-council>

Council size

5. As noted above, the LGBCE have agreed to a council size of 69, albeit with flexibility of plus or minus one or two Councillors overall in order to facilitate a stronger and more equal pattern of electoral divisions. In addition, Members previously indicated a preference to retain an odd number of Councillors overall.
6. It is important to ensure rural divisions are not excessively large, in order to maintain effective and convenient local governance, and for Councillor workloads to not be excessive. These representations to the LGBCE supported OCC's submission to have 69 Members following this current review.
7. As far as possible, single-member divisions have been proposed as this was established early in the process by Council as being an important aspect of community representation. In addition, no divisions cross district boundaries, and existing parish and district wards have been taken into account in developing this submission as far as reasonably practicable. Local knowledge from Members has been included to ensure division proposals reflect local communities, and historic and important links have been retained.
8. As far as reasonably practicable, existing parish wards, parish boundaries and district wards have been used to build new county divisions. Further, existing polling districts have been used as the foundational building blocks where possible as these represent the local communities as identified by district councils in developing polling arrangements. In some isolated cases existing polling districts have been split in order to achieve more effective and more equal representation for electors. In these cases, robust discussions have been held within the cross-party Member Working Group to ensure these adjustments were both appropriate and necessary.
9. This set of proposals has been developed by a cross-party Member Working Group, supported by officers and technical advisors, and then discussed at full Council.
10. Officers and Councillors of Oxfordshire County Council have worked to produce a pattern of divisions that promotes the interests and identities of communities, whilst maintaining divisions that allow for effective and convenient local government and ensuring electoral equality. However, some areas of the county have geographical and community features such that mean rural divisions can only be configured in specific ways.
11. This submission is therefore based on 69 Councillors in total.
12. Taking into account the projected electorate in 2029, and with 69 Councillors in total, the number of electors per ward (+/- 10% electoral variance) is set out below for single-member, 2- and 3- member divisions.

Number of Councillors in division	Number of electors (± 10% variance)
1	8,422 (7,580 – 9,264)
2	16,844 (15,160 – 18,529)
3	25,266 (22,740 – 27,793)

Oxfordshire county



County Councillors per District

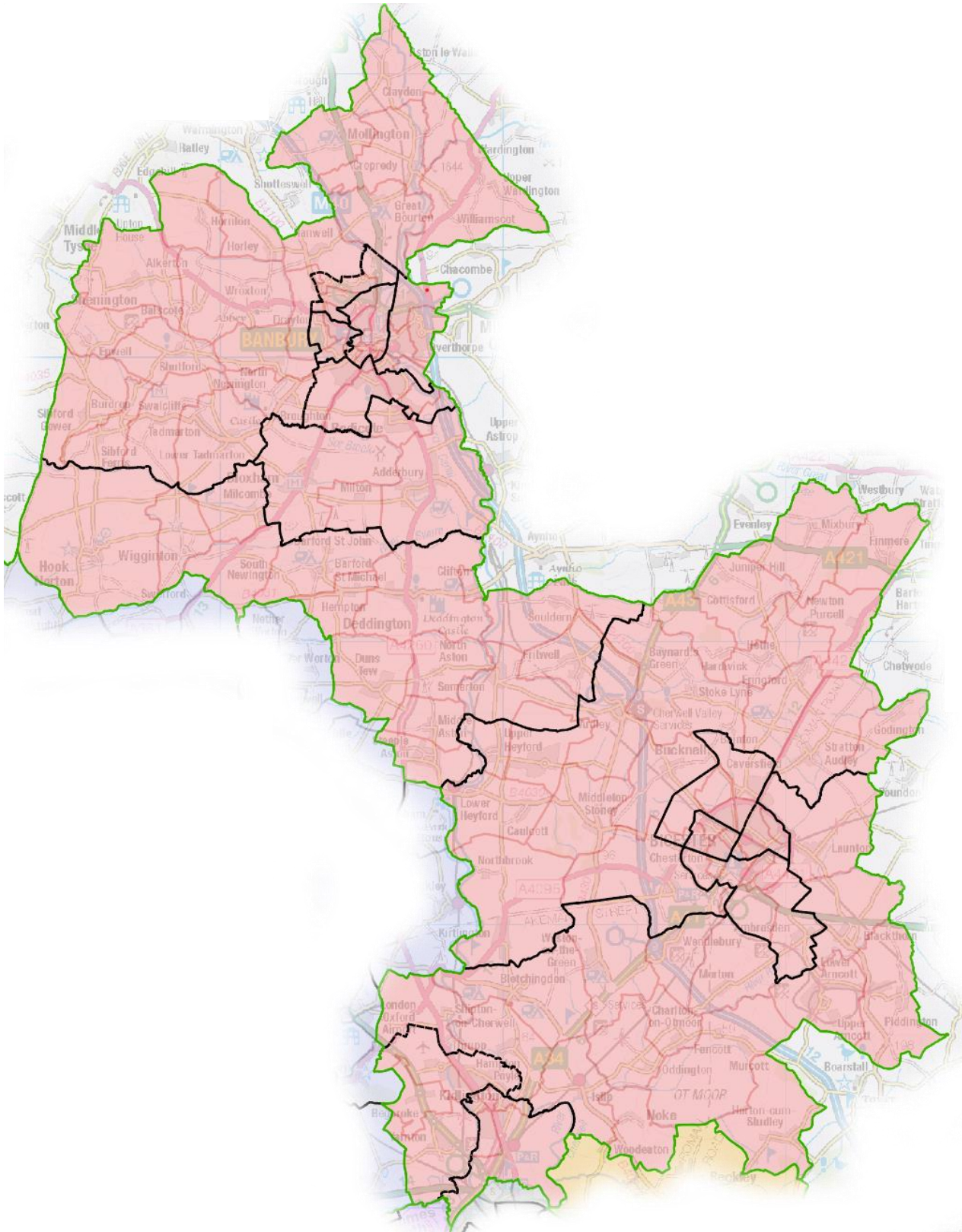
13. The number of County Councillors per District is proportional to the number of electors, as projected to 2029:

District	Electorate, 2029	Proportion of electorate total	Councillor allocation	Final County Councillors allocation
Cherwell	131,703	22.66%	15.64	16
Oxford City	112,293	19.32%	13.33	13
South Oxfordshire	124,857	21.49%	14.82	15
Vale of White Horse	117,603	20.24%	13.96	14
West Oxfordshire	94,671	16.29%	11.24	11
County total	581,127			69

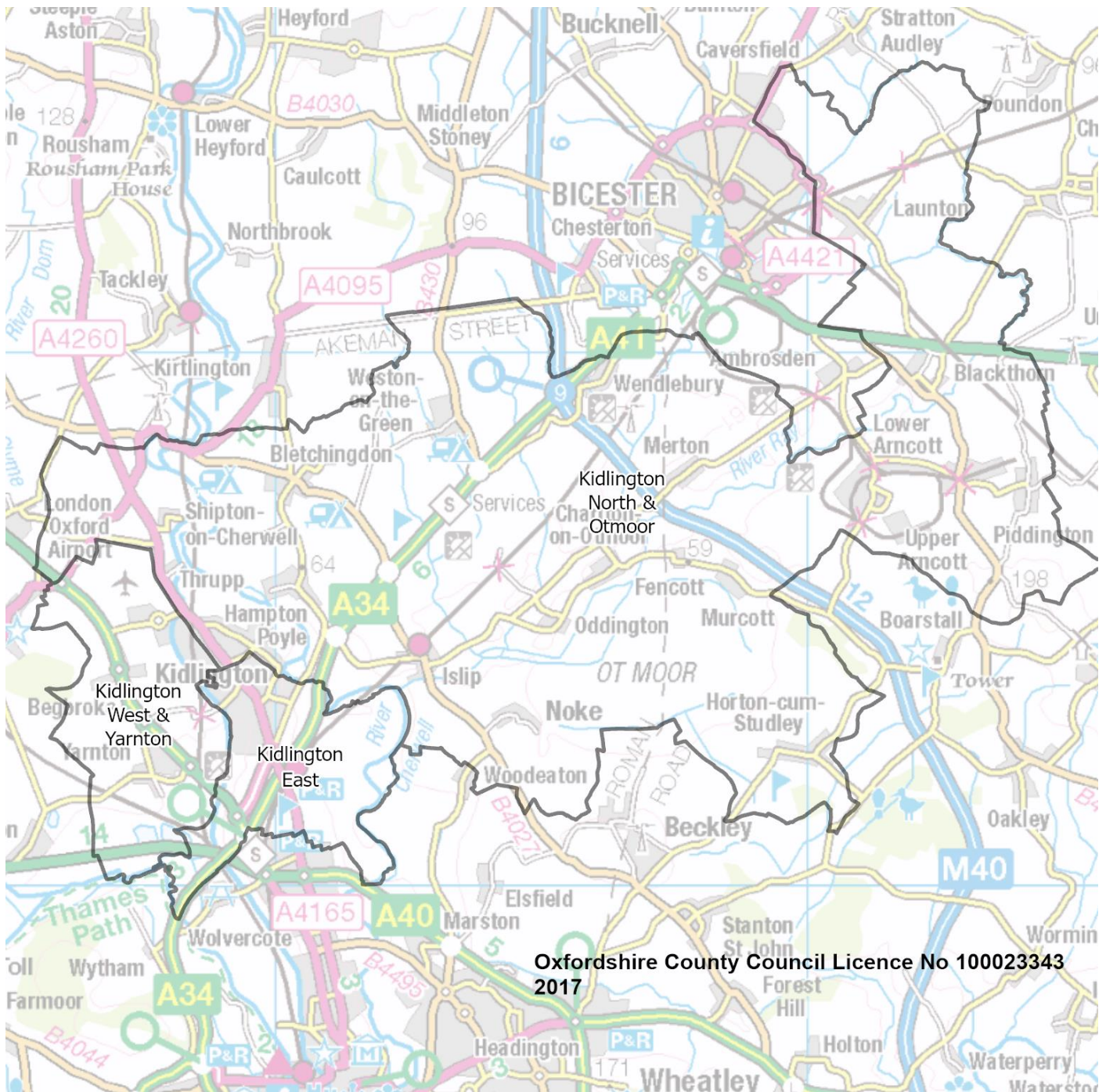
14. Overall there is an increase in 6 Members, distributed as follows;
- One additional Member for West Oxfordshire
 - Two additional Members for each of Cherwell, South and Vale
 - One less Member for Oxford City
15. These changes are based solely on electorate projections, and reflect the different rates of residential growth anticipated between district council areas. It is noted that not every resident is eligible to register to vote, and not everyone who is eligible to register will do so; however, following LGBCE guidance all divisions are based on the projected number of electors. Electorate projections have been previously submitted to the LGBCE as part of Council size submission, following a methodology approved by the Commission. The projections take into account current electorates and future development as well as the unique position regarding the large student population in parts of Oxford City.

division arrangements

Cherwell District



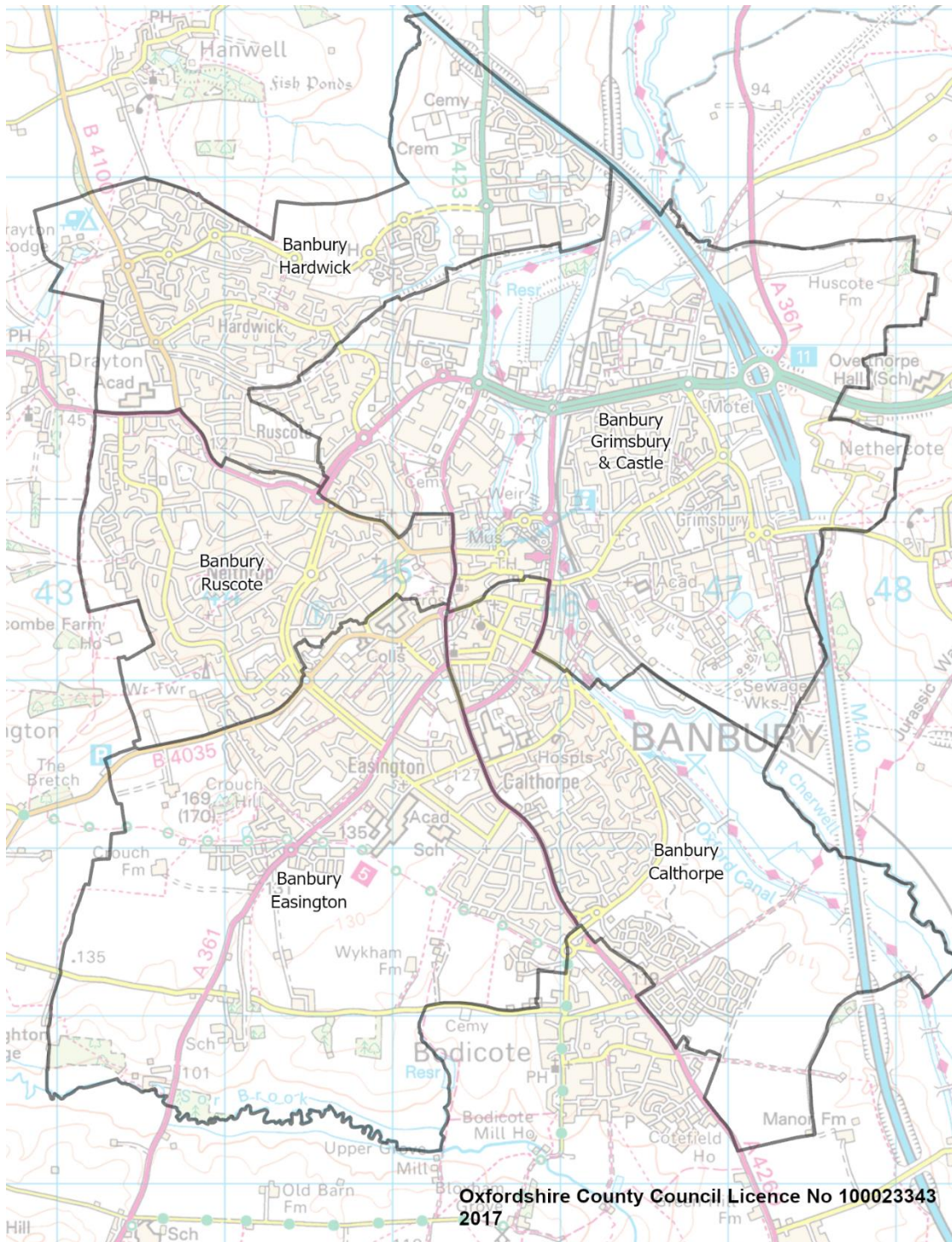
16. Kidlington parish has a total projected electorate of just over 10,000 and so needs to be divided into at least two areas. Due to the geography of the south-western corner of Cherwell District, there are limited options for how to divide the communities between divisions whilst maintaining a level of electoral equality. The two parishes of Begbroke and Yarnton must either join with part of Kidlington, or part of Gosford & Water Eaton parishes in order to reach an appropriate number of electors. On balance, keeping one existing district ward coterminous with the new division may be better than dividing Gosford & Water Eaton, although it does result in Kidlington being split across three divisions. The current division arrangements in this area mix urban and rural communities without significant detriment to the representation of either, and the proposals here continue that theme.
17. The current District ward of Kidlington East, which serves two parish/town councils (Kidlington, and Gosford & Water Eaton) will comprise 8761 electors in 2029. The proposed division of **Kidlington East** is coterminous with this ward. Coterminosity supports more effective and convenient local government, and ensures communities are appropriately represented and that their identities and interests are recognised.
18. The proposed division of **Kidlington West & Yarnton** comprises the parishes of Begbroke and Yarnton, plus the north-western part of Kidlington parish (to the west of the A4260). This division will have an electorate of 8966. Due to the geography of this area, surrounded as it is by the district boundary, and the size of the communities, there are limited options for alternative arrangements. Whilst this proposal divides the district ward of Kidlington West along the centre of the A4260, it is felt this represents a natural barrier within the ward allowing for electoral equality between divisions without adversely affecting community cohesion or identities.
19. The third division in this area comprises the district ward of Launton & Otmoor, plus the northern part of Kidlington West district ward (excluding Begbroke and Yarnton). The majority of this division are within the same ward at present, and this new division brings closer alignment between these two tiers of local government. This makes for more effective and convenient local government, strengthens links between communities, and maintains greater community cohesion. The proposed division of **Kidlington North & Otmoor** will have 8563 electors in 2029.



Banbury

20. Historically, Banbury was largely a group of distinct communities that coalesced into the current town. As such, the areas around the edge of the town have distinct identities and recognisable boundaries – primarily along the main roads that radiate from the town centre. Within the centre of the town, community identity is less strictly recognised. The proposed division arrangements for Banbury draw on local knowledge of community identities and both the distinct and shared heritage of them. As the town has historically been represented by five distinct areas, five divisions are proposed.
21. **Ruscote** is the western part of Banbury. In addition to the core parts of the existing division, the southern boundary is moved to the centre of the B4035 Broughton Road. This ensures all properties on the northern side of the road, plus the entire of Balmoral Avenue and the surrounding cul-de-sacs are included in the same division (Ruscote). This resolves the current anomaly where Claypits Close is split between two areas, ensuring more effective and convenient local government and a better representation of this community without artificially splitting it. In 2029, Ruscote will have 8540 electors.
22. **Hardwick** is the northern part of Banbury. As with the other areas of the town, Hardwick has a distinct look and feel, and defined communities and neighbourhoods. The proposed division includes the new development in Drayton, which is moving into Banbury following a recent Community Governance Review and, as such, will be an extension of the town in the north western corner. In 2029, Hardwick will have 8086 electors.
23. **Easington** in the south west includes the new major development south of Saltway, as well as the existing communities. In 2029, Easington will have 8358 electors.
24. **Calthorpe** includes the new developments to the south east of Banbury, which are include a gradual expansion of the town. In 2029, Calthorpe will have 7669 electors; whilst this is slightly less than other divisions in the town, it is recognised that there are limited options for further growth of Banbury to the north, east and west and most future growth will be to the south – particularly in the Calthorpe area which has been the focus of development in recent years and so presents as an area suitable for future growth and infill.
25. Finally **Grimsbury & Castle**, the eastern part of Banbury, includes the distinct area of Grimsbury and much of the town centre. The former Banbury Castle was in this area, and the Castle Quay shopping centre takes its name from it, hence the inclusion of Castle in the division name. In 2029, Grimsbury & Castle will have 9156 electors.
26. In broad terms, the major roads into Banbury are identified as clear demarcation lines between divisions. The A4260 separates Easington from Calthorpe; the B4035 separates Ruscote from Easington; Warwick Road separates Ruscote from Hardwick. These are the historic barriers recognised by existing communities as the edges of their neighbourhoods.
27. It is recognised that the very rural communities outside of Banbury have a slightly negative overall electoral variance, which theoretically could be resolved by including

small sections of Banbury with the rural communities. However, this does not appropriately represent either community, and given the very recent Community Governance Review in Cherwell, in which the boundaries of Banbury were reviewed and updated, it is felt it is important to ensure these communities are represented and not divided. In this case, community representation is more important than strict electoral equality given the distinctly different needs of Banbury town residents compared to their very rural neighbours, the clearly identified communities within the town, and the recent review of the external Banbury boundary that confirmed the position and distinctiveness of the town.



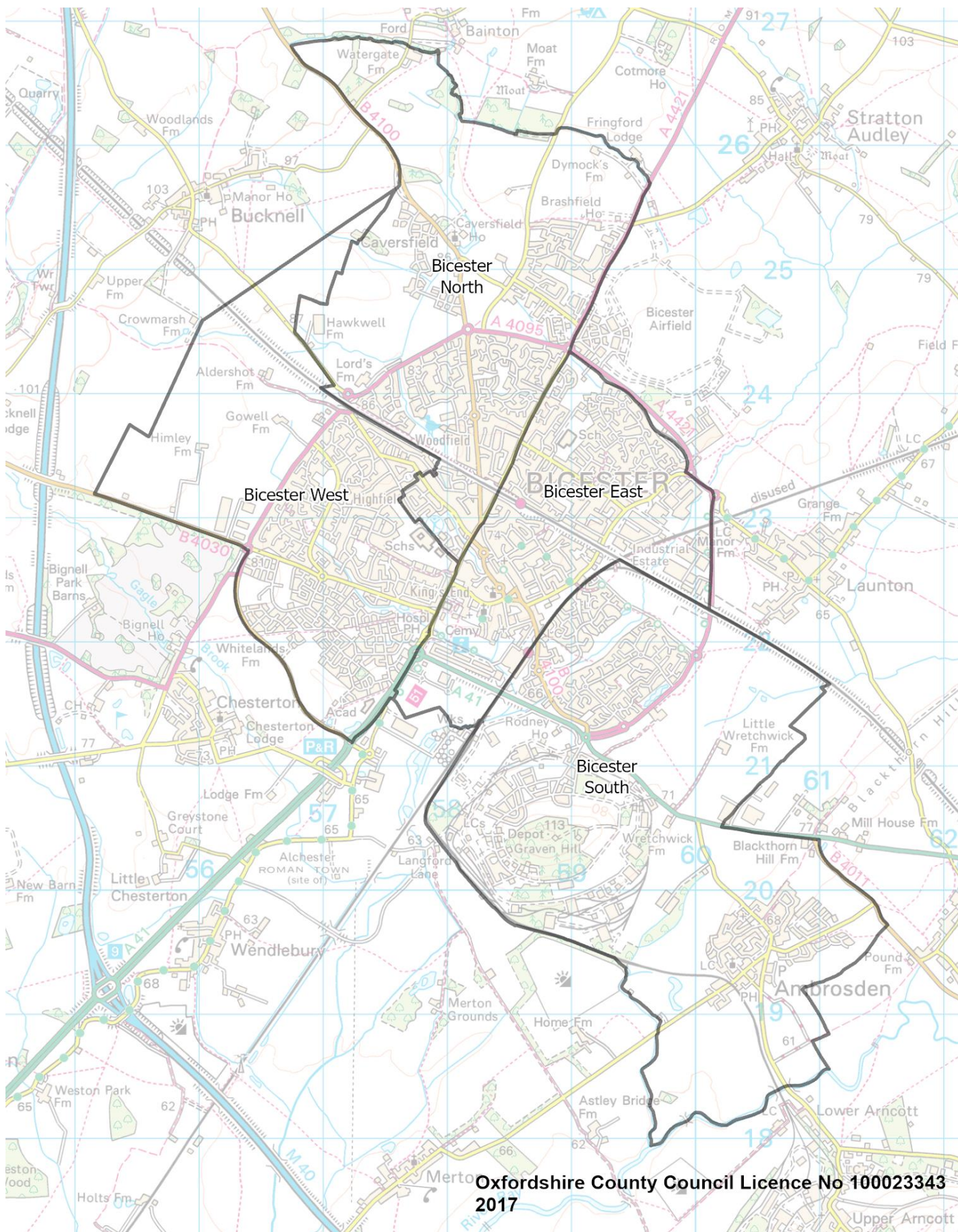
Northern and Central Cherwell

28. Due to a need to balance electoral equality, the existing rural divisions have been realigned in this proposal. Whilst the identities, interests and community needs of each parish differs, they are more alike than those of the much more urban communities of Banbury and Bicester. It is therefore appropriate to continue to group rural parishes together, noting that two adjacent parishes may not necessarily have a close affiliation to each other.
29. The northern-most part of the district comprises a large number of small rural parishes. These are currently incorporated into a single member division, and the proposal is to continue that approach. The proposed **Cropredy & Wroxton** division will have 7527 electors in 2029, and comprises the northern parishes; it is similar to the current similarly-named division with the addition of Milcombe parish and removal of the Deddington district ward. Including the two parish names in the division name highlights the geographic extent of the division, being named after the largest communities at each end of the division.
30. To the east of this area, and immediately south of Banbury, is **Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote** (including Milton parish) with an electorate of 7546 in 2029. This is the current district ward of the same name, other than the removal of 6 electors following a Community Governance Review, and the removal of the new development south of Saltway into Banbury (no current electors). Given the parishes in this area are already combined into a single ward, there are clear common interests and identities. Aligning the district ward and county division as far as possible simplifies governance for electors and for elected representatives. The removal of the new development into Banbury makes sense, too, as the new properties will be more of an extension of Banbury in terms of housing density and the residents will look to Banbury for services, rather than being part of the more rural parishes.
31. The proposed **Deddington & Hook Norton** division of 7776 electors is constrained by the district boundary on three sides and the divisions proposed above to the north. This division is broadly similar to the existing district ward, with some minor changes – moving parishes into and out of the division in order to maintain electoral equality.
32. Similarly, the proposed **Fringford & Heyfords** division (7721 electors in 2029) is based on the current district ward but with some changes with Deddington to ensure electoral equality.



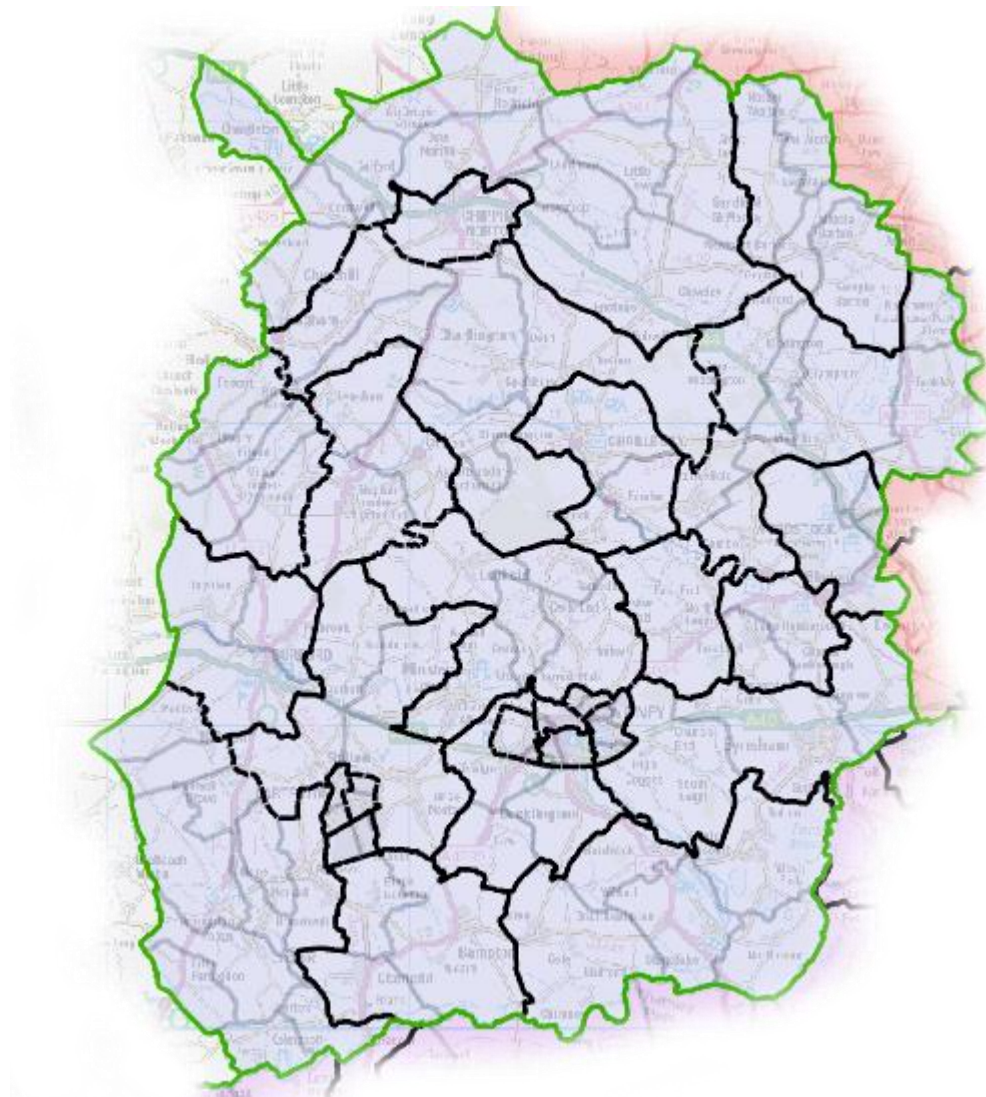
Bicester

33. Bicester, the second largest town in Cherwell, will have four County Councillors following this review. The town, as with other significant towns across Oxfordshire, is distinct from the rural villages that surround it. Large areas of development and growth have taken place, and are continuing to do so. Given electoral variances, there is no way to adequately map existing District wards into County divisions to give electoral equality at county level. For example, the existing Bicester South & Ambrosden ward has over 12.2k electors in 2029. Therefore, current polling district boundaries have been used to build these four possible divisions, with some minor adjustments to better reflect communities.
34. The division of **Bicester North** (8571 electors in 2029) is largely the same as the current division, reflecting the existing known and recognised communities in this area. There is one change, which aligns the boundary more accurately to the communities and brings the Highfield area into one division: the area to the north east of Bucknell Road and George Street (following the centre of the road) moves around 600 electors into Bicester North. This better reflects communities, whilst also improving electoral equality in the town.
35. **Bicester West**, with 8708 electors in 2029, includes the entire current division of Bicester West, which represents the communities, interests and identities well, with the slight amendment noted above moving 600 electors to Bicester North. In addition, one polling district currently in Bicester North is moved into this division to better represent the geography of the area, and the recent town boundary change following a Community Governance Review is taken into account.
36. **Bicester South** (8010 electors in 2029) comprises part of the current Otmoor division (parts of Bicester South district ward). This is the southern part of Bicester, and includes the parish of Ambrosden. Residential growth in the area includes the parish, and Community Governance changes following recent reviews have realigned boundaries between Ambrosden and Bicester. The proposed division, whilst retaining the more rural community of Ambrosden with the more urban southern Bicester, creates a much smaller division than the present one and so ensures the communities are better represented.
37. The final division in the town is **Bicester East** (7745 electors in 2029), formed of the communities in the east of the town and is the same as the current division; the name reflects the district ward. The community interests and identities are well established and recognised, and the new division (following the existing boundaries) reflects these taking existing boundaries and limitations into account.



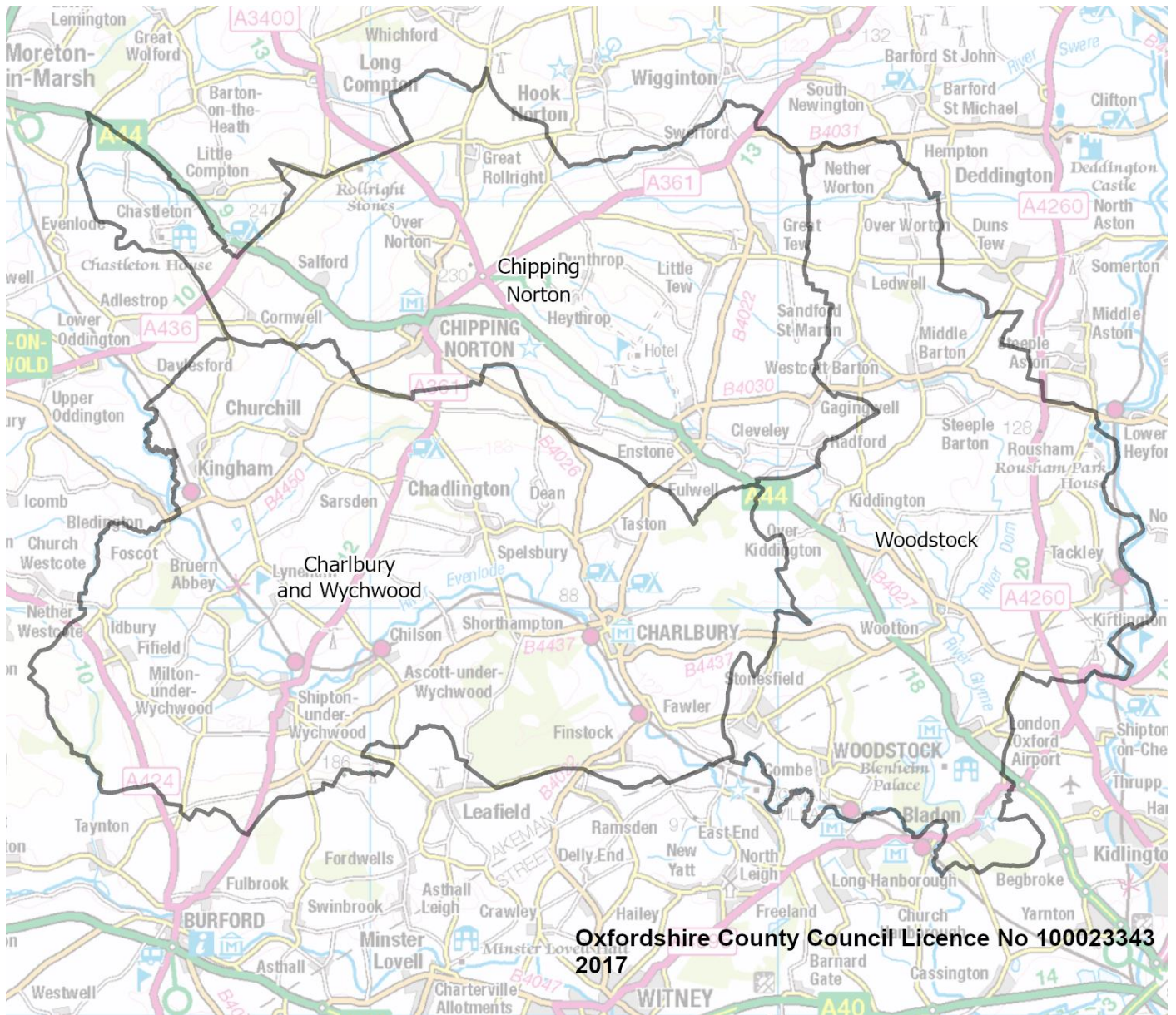
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West Oxfordshire District



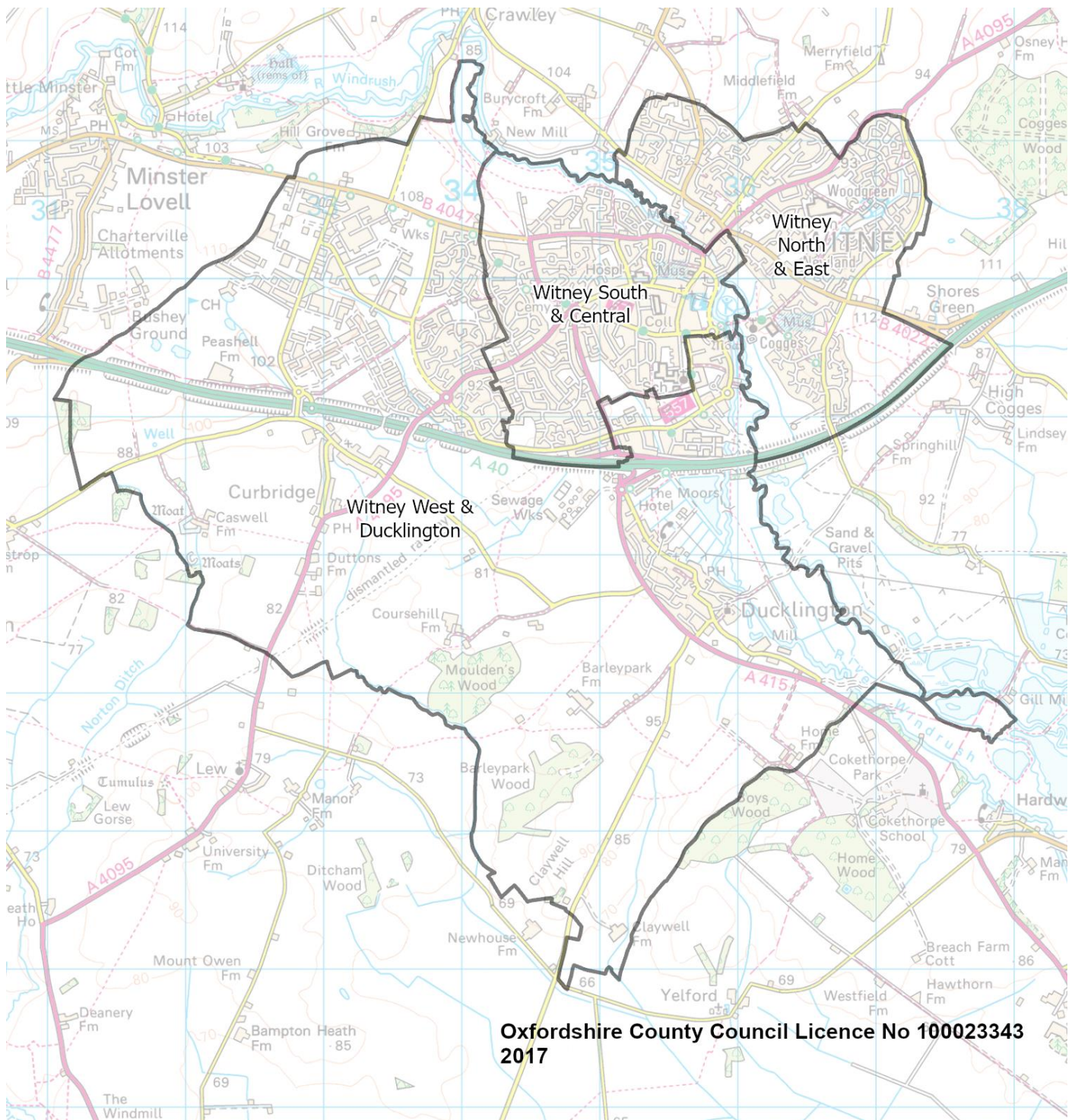
Northern West Oxfordshire

38. The northern half of West Oxfordshire is currently served by three single-member divisions. With only a very small change, it is possible for this area to continue to be served by three single-member divisions. This largely keeps existing parish, ward and town arrangements in place, minimises the changes for each division and so reduces confusion for electors. Parishes are kept entire, with no additional splits within them, and ongoing electoral equality is ensured.
39. The division of **Chipping Norton** (9091 electors in 2029) is largely the same as the current division, with the exception that Kingham parish is moved out. This division includes the whole of Chipping Norton district ward, plus the majority of Kingham Rollright & Enstone ward (with the exception of Kingham parish). As such, it reflects the identities and interests of the communities and ensures ongoing effective and convenient local government. These rural parishes look largely to Chipping Norton as their largest local town, and it is appropriate to keep them grouped together.
40. **Charlbury & Wychwood** (8776 electors in 2029) sits to the immediate south of Chipping Norton division. With the exception of the addition of Kingham parish, it is unchanged from the current division. It also includes four full district wards - Ascott & Shipton, Milton-Under-Wychwood, Chadlington & Churchill, and Charlbury & Finstock.
41. The proposed **Woodstock** division (9008 electors in 2029) is unchanged from the current division, and covers the north east corner of the district. It contains the three district wards of Woodstock & Bladon, Stonesfield & Tackley, and The Bartons. The three larger parishes of Woodstock, Stonesfield and Steeple Barton are included in their entirety. With no artificial splits of communities, the identities and interests of electors in this area are reflected in the proposed division boundary. Keeping the ward and division boundaries coterminous reduces uncertainty for electors and helps ensure effective and convenient local government in the area.



Witney

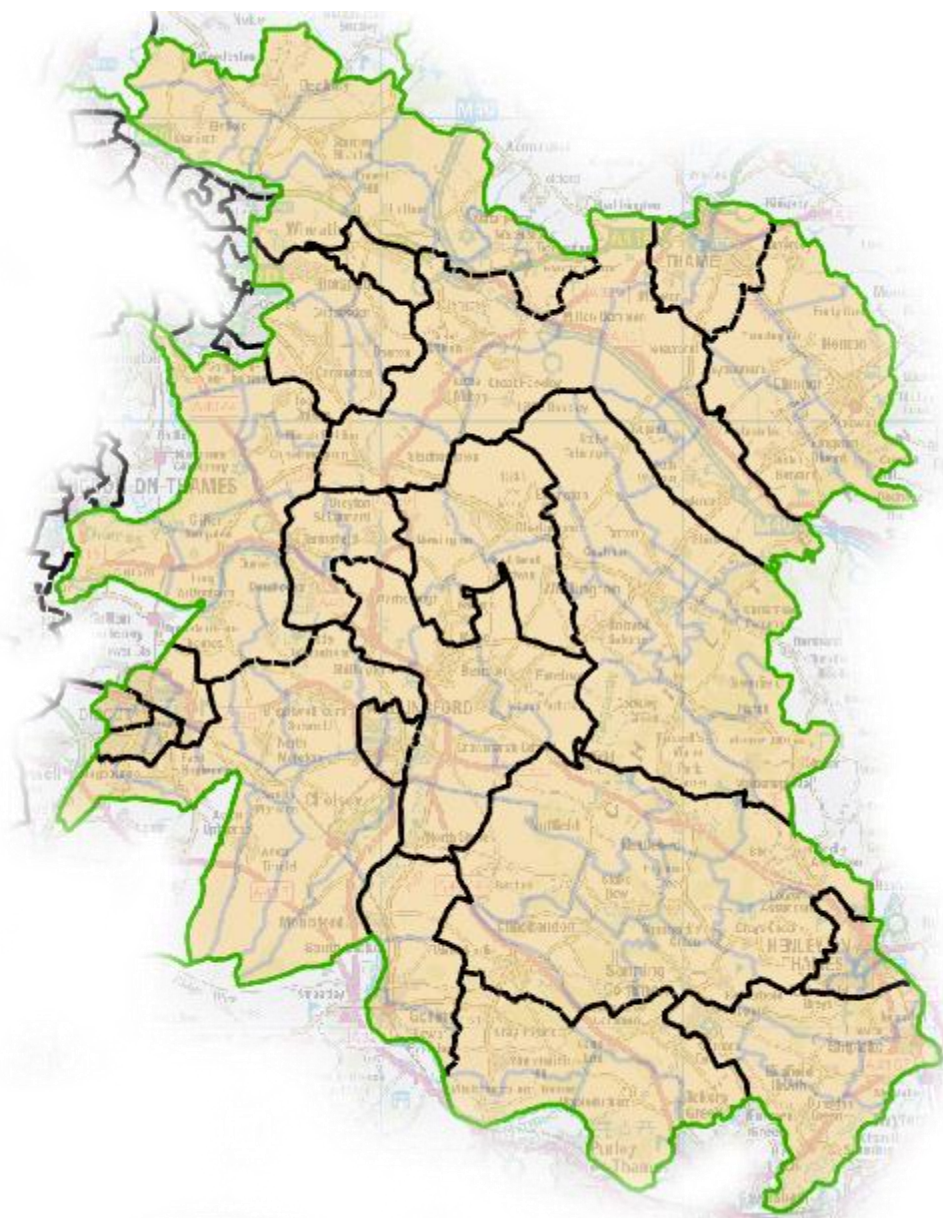
42. Witney is a large town in the centre of the southern part of West Oxfordshire, currently served by 3 County Councillors; the divisions include some more rural communities. Due to population growth, it is not possible to retain the existing division pattern for Witney, but the town will continue to be served by 3 County Councillors, again including some of the rural parishes immediately outside the town. Following robust and detailed discussions about the best way to divide Witney into divisions, taking communities and interests into account, and recognising which parishes look to Witney and which are more closely aligned with other nearby towns, the following pattern has been developed.
43. The division of **Witney North & East** (8981 electors in 2029) includes most of the communities to the east of the River Windrush, which is a clear demarcation line given the few crossing points. One area east of the river is excluded from this division, however – the Aquarius development (east of the river and south of the A4095) is less integrated into the rest of the area. The alternatives considered, in order to ensure electoral equality, would artificially split existing communities and so were ruled out.
44. **Witney South & Central** (8562 electors in 2029) includes most of the existing division of the same name. The changes are the addition of the Aquarius development from east of the river, and the split of polling district JJ. The south-eastern corner moves to Witney West under this proposal. The boundary between the two divisions follows clearly identifiable features, and represents a separation between communities.
45. The third division in the town is **Witney West & Ducklington** (7869 electors in 2029). As well as the western side of the town, and the balance of JJ polling district, this division includes the parishes of Curbridge to the west and Ducklington to the south. Whilst these two parishes do have their own distinct communities, they are immediately adjacent to Witney, look to Witney for their services, and are currently in the same division as the western side of Witney. As a result, community interests and identities are preserved and effective and convenient local government maintained. Ducklington and Curbridge remain distinct communities in their own right, and including the name of one of the parishes in the division name reflects that.



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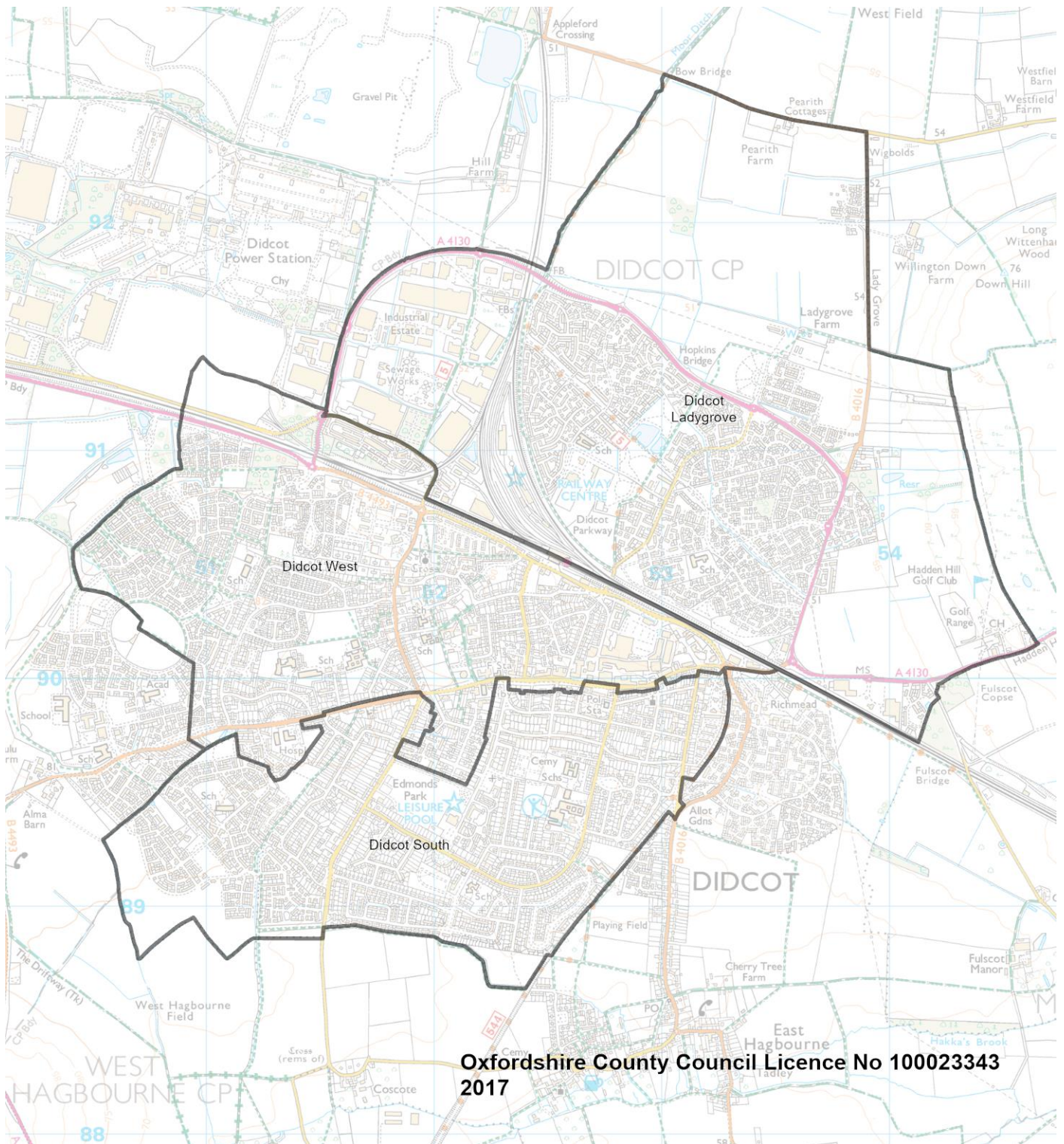
46. The rest of the southern half of the district includes the sizeable town of Carterton as well as several larger parishes and many very small parish communities. Given the geographical spread in this area, it is challenging to find a good balance between the number of parishes being joined into divisions and effective representation of communities. The Member Working Group spent a considerable amount of time looking at various options for this area, each grouping parishes and communities in different ways. There is no 'perfect' solution, there is therefore a difficult balance to be reached between the three statutory criteria. On balance, the proposed pattern is the best that can be achieved – ensuring communities are kept intact, and grouped along logical lines; effective and convenient local governance is maintained, ensuring there are roads and links between communities; and electoral equality is achieved.
47. The eastern-most division in this area is **Eynsham** (8362 electors in 2029). This is named after the largest settlement in the division. It is largely the same as the existing division of the same name, with the removal of the parish of Aston Cote Shifford & Chimney and the parish of Standlake. The parishes in this division look to Eynsham for services, and surround the town. They are a good fit in terms of communities, with good access links across the division.
48. The division of **Hanborough & Hailey** (7901 electors in 2029) covers the area to the north of Witney and includes the four parishes of Hailey, Hanborough, Freeland and North Leigh. All four are in the same division at present, and are linked by the A4095. The three smaller parishes currently sharing the division have been moved out for the benefit of electoral equality.
49. In order to achieve electoral equality across the area, the town of Carterton is split across three divisions. This proposal is not made lightly, but reflects the need for electoral equality throughout the district. Proposed division boundaries within Carterton follow existing identifiable boundaries in the town. **Burford & Carterton West** (9167 electors in 2029) includes the parishes to the north and north-west of the town, as well as the north-western part of Carterton itself, following the major roads in the town.
50. **Brize Norton & Carterton East** (7805 electors in 2029) is the eastern half of Carterton, combined with the smaller but closed aligned town of Brize Norton.
51. The final division in the district is the southern parishes and western part of Carterton. As such, **Bampton & Carterton South** has 9149 electors in 2029. The combination of parishes has been carefully considered, recognising those that align most closely with Bampton as well as ensuring good electoral equality overall.

South Oxfordshire District



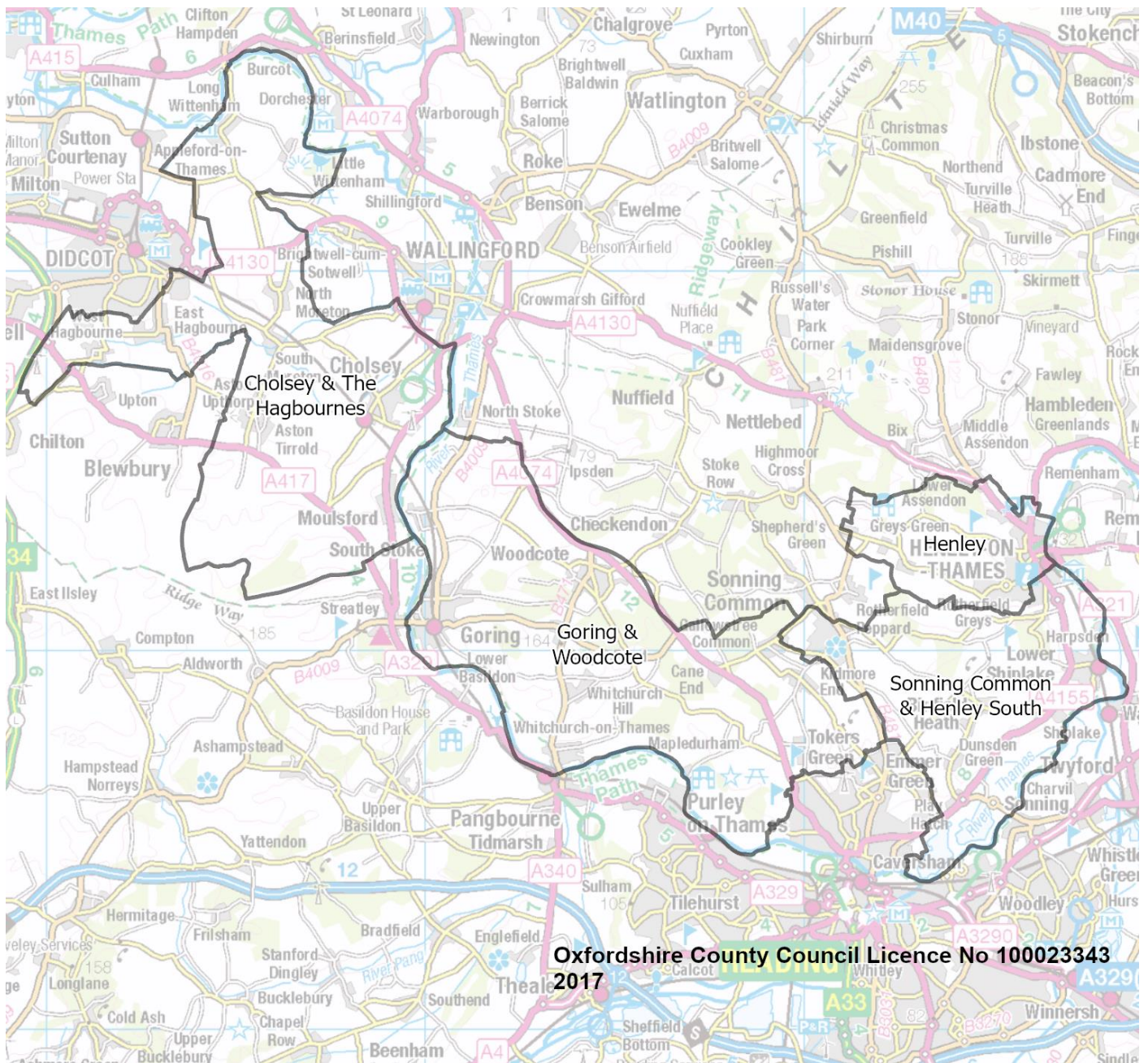
Didcot

52. In the coming years, Didcot is expected to see continued considerable growth in terms of electorate. Major new developments on the edge of the town, along with large scale redevelopment and infill within the town itself, mean changes to existing electoral arrangements are necessary.
53. The northern part of the town, clearly marked by the railway, will include a very large new development. As such, this area can continue to be a division in its own right and so retains the existing boundary and name – **Didcot Ladygrove** with 8260 electors in 2029.
54. **Didcot West** (7805 electors in 2029) is the central and western part of Didcot, forming a triangle between the railway, western edge of the district and the revised boundary near to the Wantage Road in the south. In the west of Didcot, large scale development straddles the boundary with Vale district, creating an artificial boundary within a community – but the proposed divisions are wholly retained within the district. The southern edge of Didcot West will include the whole of Wantage Road / Broadway, along with the smaller roads that link to it. The electors in this area could look north, to Didcot West, and have less direct access to the Didcot South.
55. **Didcot South** (8003 electors in 2029) includes the rest of the southern part of the town. As in previous arrangements, the south-eastern corner of Didcot remains linked to the rural parishes. In addition, the boundary for the east of Didcot South is revised, and now follows the footpath that runs between Jubilee Way and Western Avenue. This community is more closely aligned to the properties to the east, and this footpath is a clearly identifiable boundary; to the west of the Western Avenue community which has no physical links to the properties off Jubilee Way and is a separate and distinct community.



Henley and southern South Oxfordshire

56. Henley is a market town at the eastern edge of South Oxfordshire. In 2029, Henley will have too many electors to be a single Member division, but too few to have two County Councillors alone. As with other, similarly-sized, towns a detailed discussion has been held to try to identify the best arrangements for the residents. For Henley, Members felt it was better to have one division covering the majority of the town, with a second division serving the remainder as well as some rural parishes. It remains important to note that, under this arrangement, neither division is more important than the other and future Councillors will serve both the town and rural communities with equal value.
57. **Henley** (8021 electors in 2029), therefore, includes the majority of the town. This includes the small community currently in Bix and Assendon that is moving into the town following a recent Community Governance Review. In addition, to retain electoral equality and to ensure a balance of community needs, Rotherfield Greys is included in Henley division. This parish has a small electorate, but there are clear links between the town and village communities, including use of the parish church, access to community services and shops, and close community ties.
58. The balance of Henley is included in **Sonning Common & Henley South** (8411 electors in 2029). This area comprises the majority of the current division of Sonning Common, with some changes necessitated by uneven electoral growth. The communities in the south-eastern corner of the District are closely linked due to the geography in the area and are distinct from areas further west. The south, east and north are the district boundary and Henley, limiting options for grouping of parishes into effective divisions.
59. **Goring & Woodcote** (8233 electors in 2029) is very similar to the current division of the same name, with the removal of two small parishes (Checkendon and Stoke Row); this is needed to ensure electoral equality. The eastern edge of this division follows the River Thames.
60. **Cholsey & The Hagbournes** (8905 electors in 2029) is the area to the west of the River Thames, wrapping around Didcot. Due to considerable uneven population growth in South Oxfordshire, there are some changes compared to the current division pattern. However, the communities grouped into this division have a closer affiliation with each other than with the other neighbouring communities. For example, the River Thames forms a natural boundary in the east; Didcot is an urban area compared to these much more rural communities; and to the north are other existing communities. The two Hagbourne communities are distanced from each other, and inclusion of both reflects their diverse nature.



Thame and Chinnor

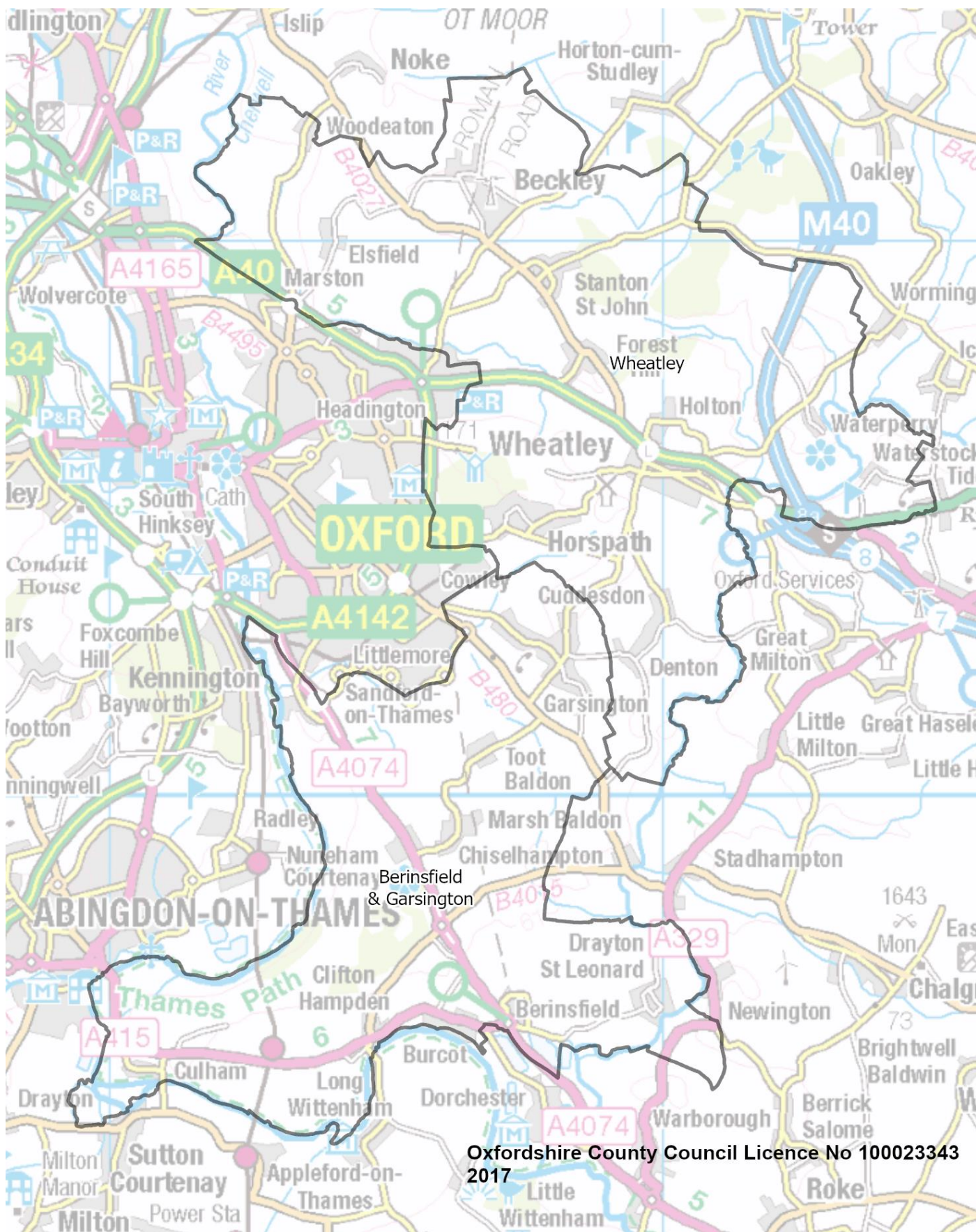
61. In the north of the District is the town of Thame. As with Henley, Thame will have too many electors to be a single Member division and so needs to be divided in some way. As with Henley, robust discussions have been held in the Member Working Group to try to identify the best way to do this. As with Henley, the proposal includes a division with the majority of the town; and a second division with the rest of the town grouped with rural surrounding communities.
62. **Thame** (8521 electors in 2029) is the majority of the town, other than the south-western edge (including Moreton), and takes into account the recent changes made through a Community Governance Review of the town wards. Keeping most of the town in one division ensures good cohesive communities, clear representation, and retains good electoral equality.
63. The balance of Thame is in the division of **Chinnor** (7880 electors in 2029), which also includes Chinnor itself and the parishes in the north-eastern corner of the district. As such it covers the whole of Chinnor district ward and part of Haseley Brook ward.



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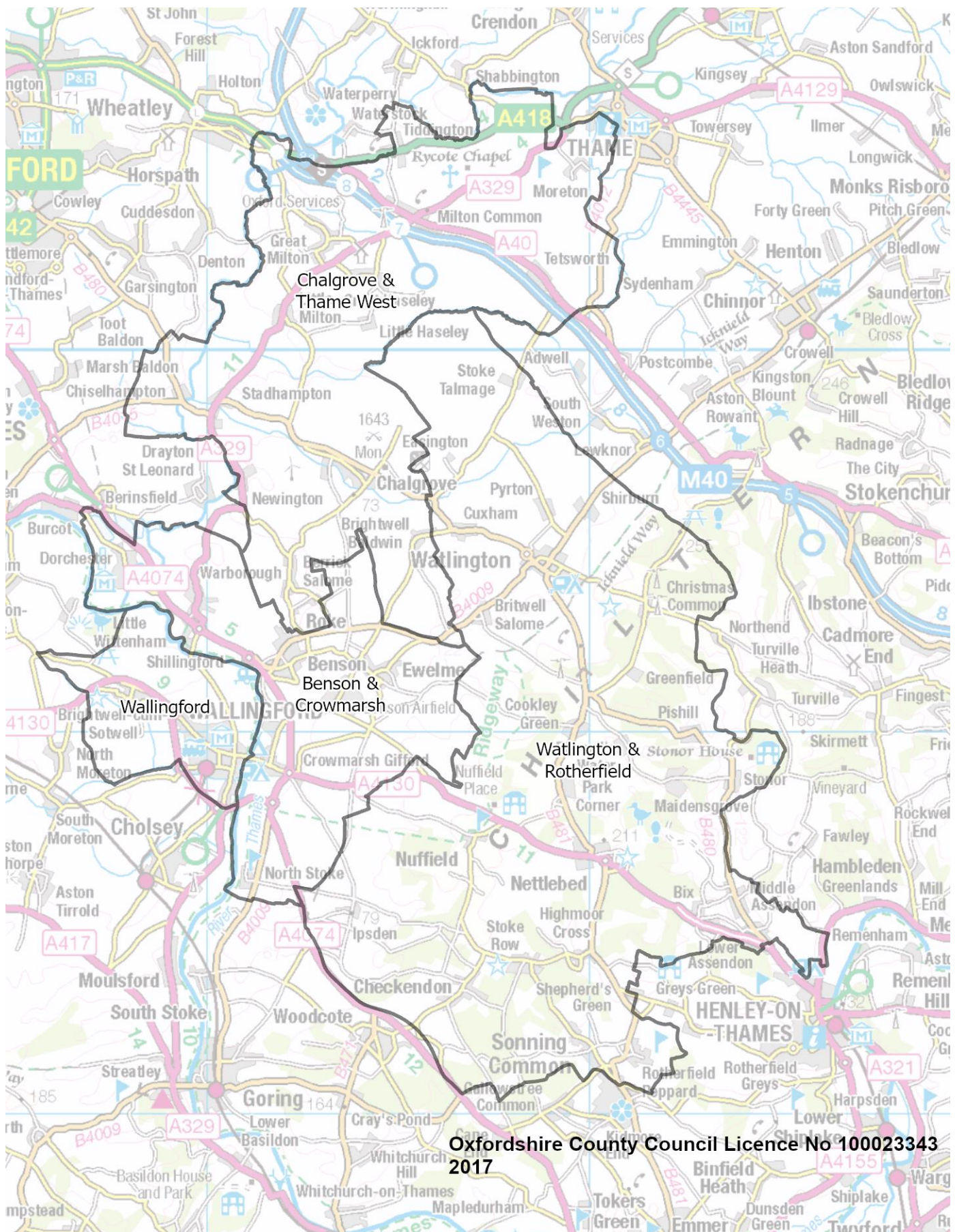
West

64. The north-western corner of the district comprises a number of small parish areas surrounding the larger settlement of Wheatley and neighbouring Horspath. These parishes are currently in the same division and, other than the removal of Tiddington, the pattern remains unchanged. Members felt that Tiddington is better served by being included with Chalgrove. Thus, the new division of **Wheatley** has 8149 electors in 2029.
65. Immediately to the south is the division of **Berinsfield & Garsington** (8641 electors in 2029). This is the majority of the current division, with a few parishes removed to ensure electoral equality. The remaining division focusses on the communities of Berinsfield, Garsington, Sandford and Culham, interspersed with smaller parish areas. There are major roads linking the parishes, which form the western edge of the district.

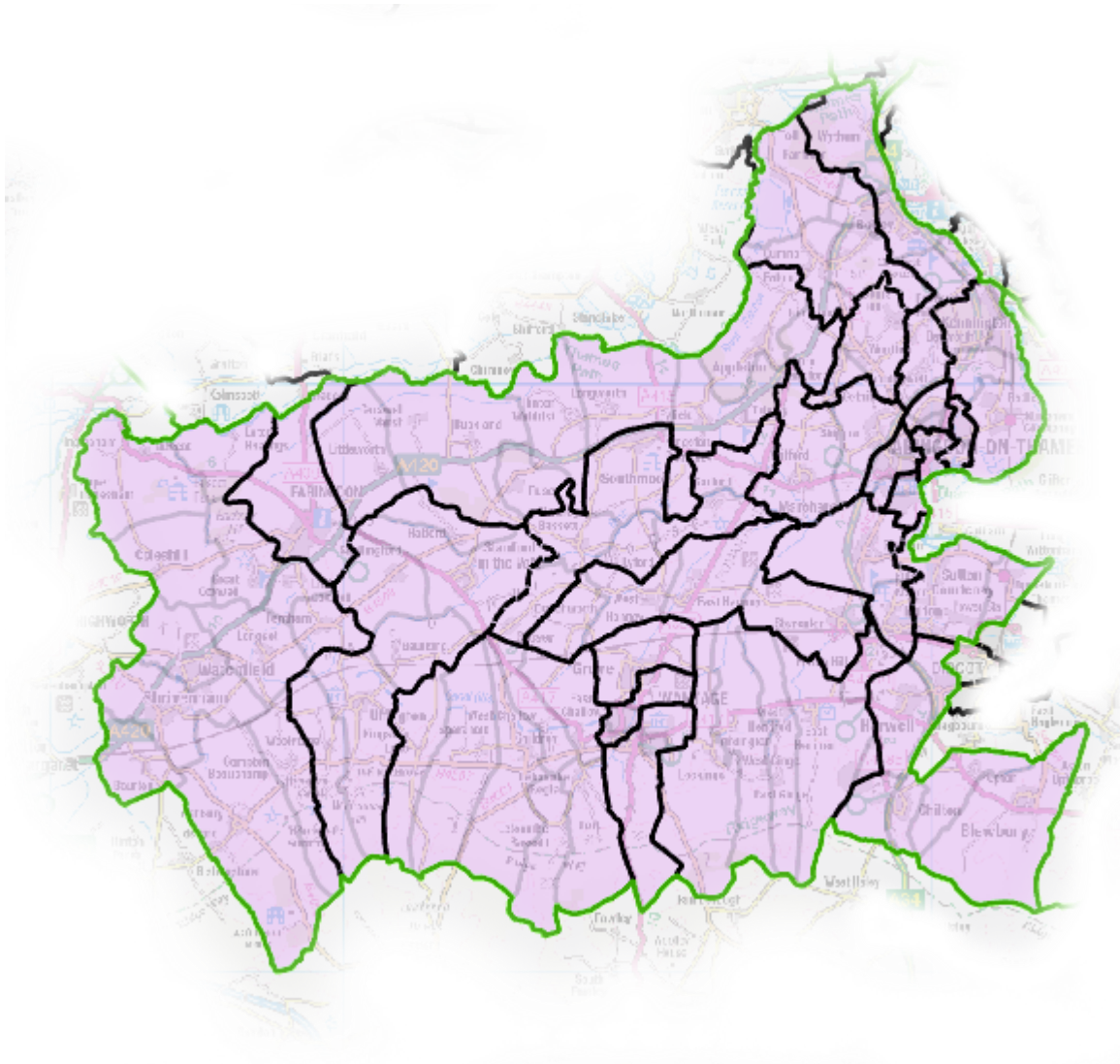


Central

66. The remainder of the District is divided between four divisions. Due to unequal growth in electorates, none are unchanged from the current arrangements although the existing boundaries have been taken into account when drawing-up these proposals.
67. **Benson & Crowmarsh** (8449 electors in 2029) forms the division in the centre of the District, and includes the whole of the District ward of the same name in addition to Dorchester parish. These communities have close ties to each other, with clear transport routes linking the parishes. The division sits to the east and north of the river, which forms a distinct boundary from other parishes.
68. **Wallingford** (8984 electors in 2029) includes the district ward of Wallingford, plus the parish of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell which looks closely to the town of Wallingford. This geographically small area has good intra-division links.
69. **Chalgrove & Thame West** (8624 electors in 2029) comprises most of the district wards of Chalgrove and Haseley Brook, with some additions of the south-western corner of Thame and Tiddington, and the removal of Adwell, Lewknor and Wheatfield to support electoral equality.
70. The final division, **Watlington & Rotherfield** (7971 electors in 2029) comprises a number of rural areas in the east of the District. These share common issues and concerns, which are not shared with the larger towns.

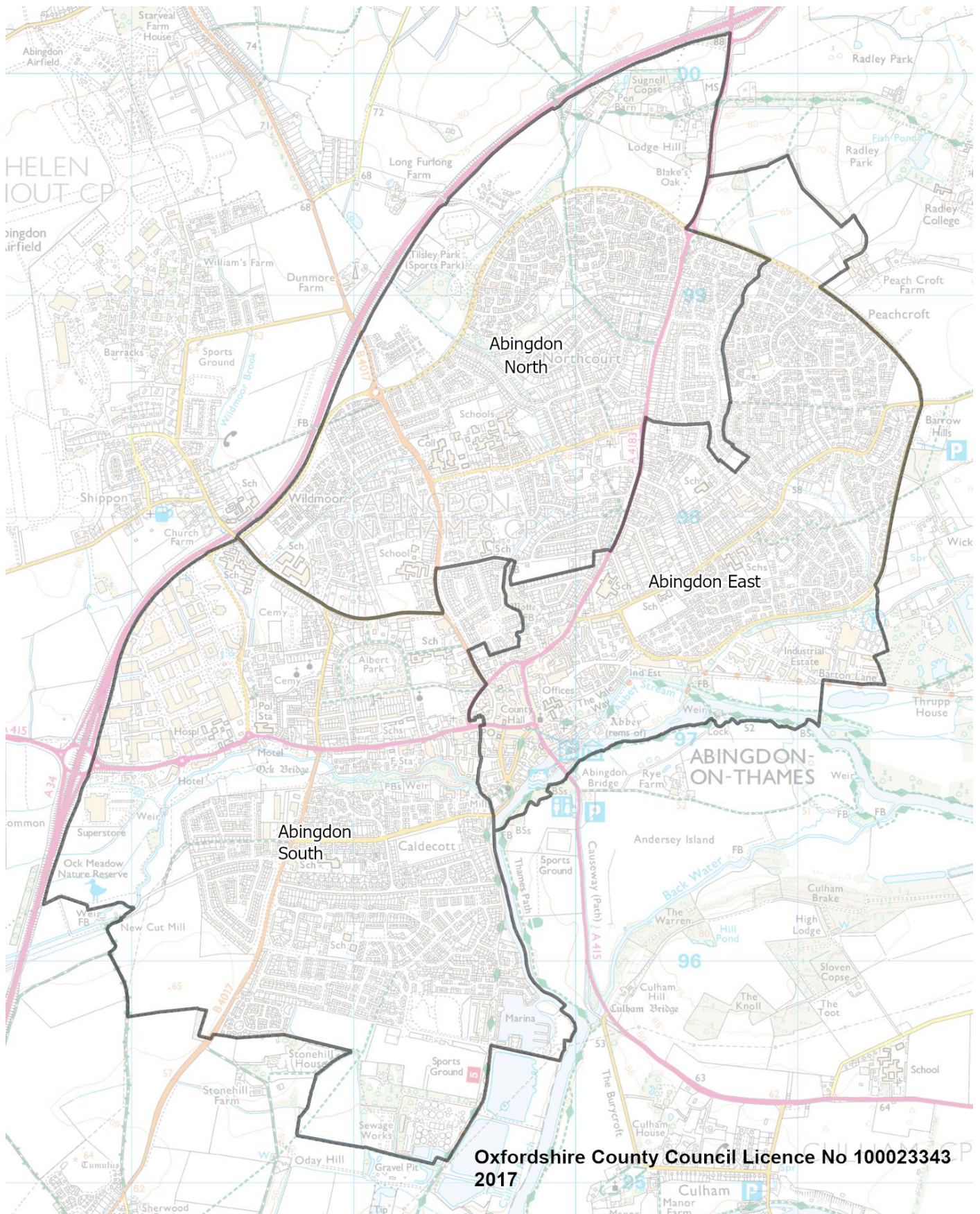


Vale of White Horse District



Abingdon

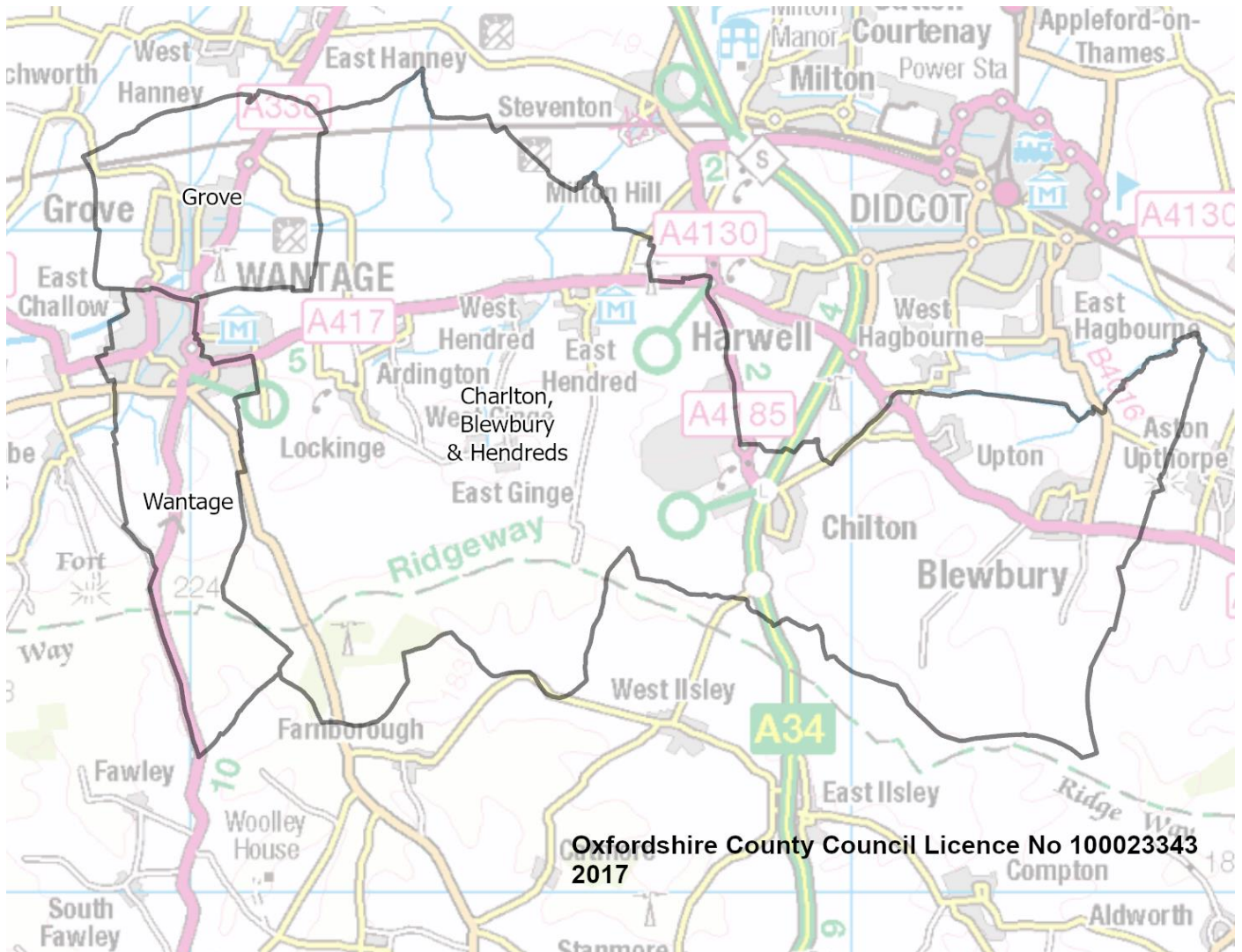
71. Abingdon is a large town in the north-east of the district, bordered on one side by the district boundary. Some significant development is planned within Abingdon, but the town will continue to be served by three County Councillors following this electoral review. The existing divisions represent the communities of the town well, and only minor changes are needed to ensure electoral equality in the future. Thus, Abingdon South is unchanged; Abingdon East and North swap a polling district, which leads to more appropriate division arrangements both numerically and in terms of the geography.
72. As a result, **Abingdon South** has no changes compared to the current division (8598 electors in 2029), representing the southern part of the town.
73. The slight change to **Abingdon North** (8928 electors in 2029) is that part of the area transfers to the revised **Abingdon East** (8614 electors in 2029). This is due to large-scale development planned in the Abingdon North area. This change better reflects the communities, with a larger part of the community east of the A4183 being included in East, and ensures electoral equality.



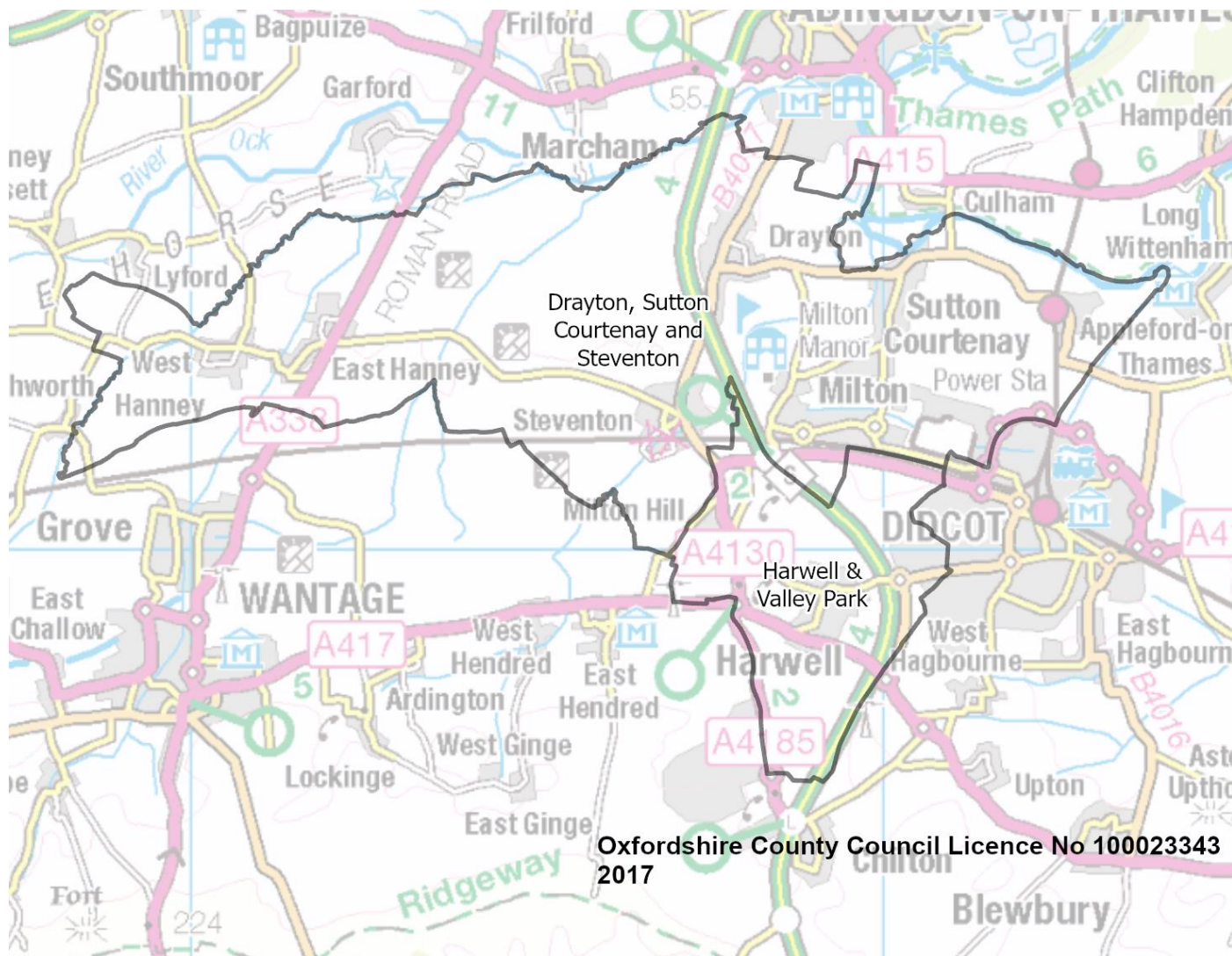
Grove and Wantage

74. At present, Grove and Wantage are combined into one two-member division. Due to the growth in electorate, the parish of Grove is now large enough to be served by a single-member division. This leaves Wantage, which is too large to be served by a single Councillor but not large enough for two.
75. By aligning the division boundary to be entirely coterminous with the parish, the new division of **Grove** (8983 electors in 2029) ideally matches the community. As such, the interests and identities of the residents of Grove are aligned with the new division boundary. There would be no benefit, and considerable problems, associated with changing this boundary.
76. For Wantage there are three options, as is the case with all similar communities that are too large for one Councillor but not large enough for two, and Members recognise that the needs of different communities may differ – whilst one option may be best for Wantage, it does not necessarily follow that it is the best for other towns. The three possible options are:
- Split the town into fairly even pieces, combining each with a small number of neighbouring rural parishes. The advantage of this is the town is split, so both parts are fairly equal in terms of size and representation. However, it can make representation more challenging particularly if there is no clear demarcation between the two parts.
 - Create a ‘town’ division that comprises a large part of the town (and no rural parishes), with the rest of the town being combined with a larger number of rural communities. The advantage is that most of the town is in a single division and easily identifiable; the disadvantage is that the portion allocated with the rural parishes may feel less aligned to the town.
 - Create a single two-member division, with the whole town and the large number of parishes. There are considerable disadvantages to having multi-member representation, including lack of clarity of who serves which community and how responsibilities are divided. In December, Full Council requested that, where possible, all divisions should be single-member.
77. Of these three options, the preference for Wantage is to have a single ‘town’ division and a second division joining the remaining part of Wantage with rural communities. Having considered the different options for how to split the town, Members have indicated a preference for keeping the current polling districts of SSB1, SSB2, SSC1 and SSC2 being retained in Wantage (7805 electors in 2029). This keeps all of the older part of Wantage and the town centre in one division, and enables the proposed Wantage, Blewbury & Hendreds division to follow the line of the Reading Road (A417).
78. The balance of Wantage town in the east (polling district SSC3), is joined with parishes across the south-eastern corner of the district. These communities form a continuous group and encompass much of the current Hendreds and Harwell division (but, by including part of Wantage, the new division is much smaller and more manageable for representatives than the old), and most of the two district wards of Hendreds and Blewbury & Harwell. The three biggest communities within the new division are

Wantage Charlton, Blewbury, and West Hendred. The proposed division of **Charlton, Blewbury & Hendreds** will have 8781 electors in 2029.

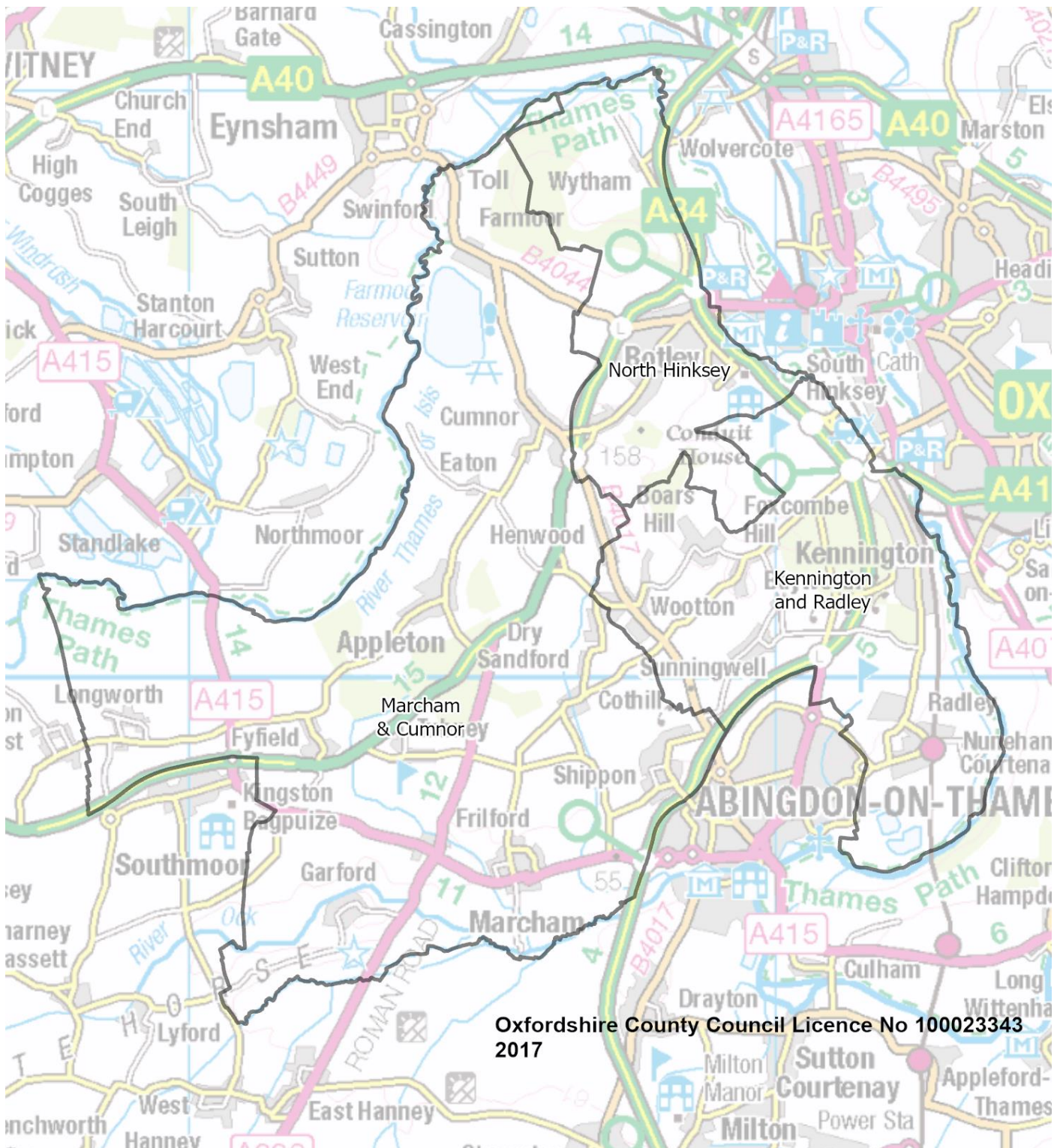


79. The parish of Harwell is expected to grow considerably in the coming years. This growth means that, rather than being part of a broad rural division as at present, it can form the core of a much smaller division. The proposed division of **Harwell & Valley Park** (7931 electors in 2029) comprises the whole of Harwell, plus the Heights parish ward of Milton. Milton is currently divided between two district wards; whilst keeping the whole parish in a single division would be preferable, it is not possible numerically but makes no further split compared to current arrangements. Keeping the whole of Harwell in one division reflects community interests and identities.
80. The remaining six parishes in the east of the district form a distinct cluster, centred on Milton, Steventon and Drayton and extending along the Hanney Road. It was noted that a priority was to keep East and West Hanney parishes together as they share services and a sense of identity. Communication and links within the parishes are clear, and whilst they are currently in a number of different wards and divisions, they now form part of a smaller and more clearly defined division of **Drayton, Sutton Courtenay & Steventon** (9118 electors in 2029).



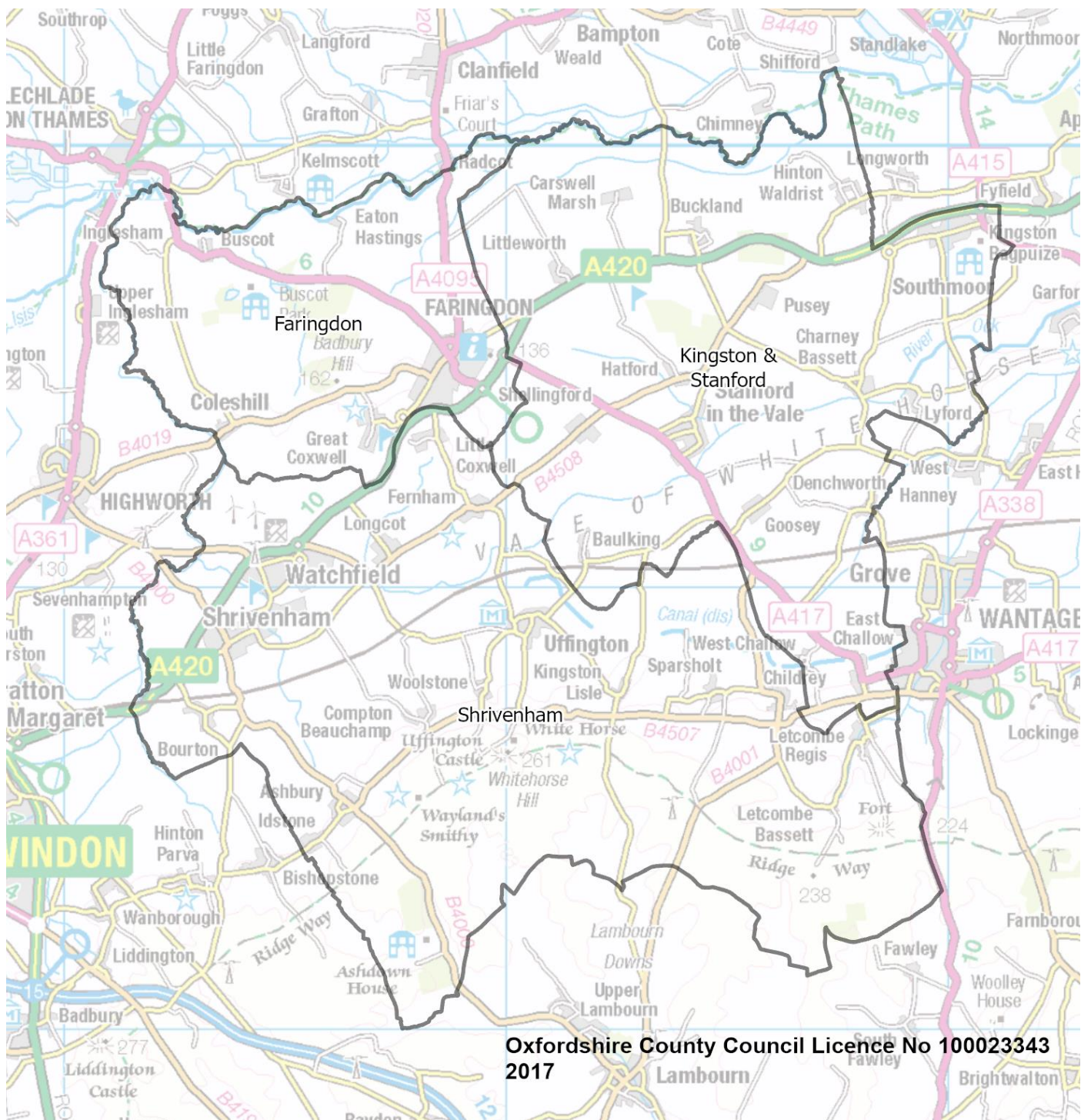
North eastern Vale

81. Outside of Abingdon there is relatively little growth in electorate anticipated, with the majority focussed in and around the larger town. As such, the rural parishes in the north east of the district must be combined into workable and identifiable divisions. In this area, the north, south and east boundaries form the district boundary, limiting opportunities for creating divisions. Nonetheless, these proposals identify coherent and appropriate division arrangements.
82. The division of **Kennington & Radley** (8922 electors in 2029) is unchanged from the current division, and combines the parishes surrounding the eastern and northern edges of Abingdon. These parishes have been served by the same county councillor for some years, and the arrangement has been effective and convenient whilst retaining the identities and interests of local communities.
83. The division of **North Hinksey** (7703 electors in 2029) is largely unchanged, but with the removal of the parish ward of Cumnor Farmoor. Cumnor parish is currently split between two divisions, so this proposed split is not unique in this area. Indeed, removing Farmoor parish ward will bring it into the same division as Cumnor ward of Cumnor parish, more evenly splitting the parish between two divisions compared to the current arrangements. The parish ward of Farmoor is geographically separate from the other parts of the broader parish and closer to the centre of Cumnor.
84. The division of **Marcham & Cumnor** (7960 electors in 2029) combines the parish areas linked by the A420 and A338, which provide easy access between the parish communities.



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85. The three divisions in the western half of the district take into account the largely rural and sparsely populated parishes along with the more densely populated larger communities. Given the location and impact of large settlements such as Grove and Wantage, and the district boundaries, the combinations of parishes reflects the best possible arrangement given the need to reflect identities and interests whilst retaining electoral equality and supporting effective and convenient local government.
86. The division of **Kingston & Stanford** (8129 electors in 2029) combines parishes across the central part of the district, north of Grove and Wantage. Effectively bordered and linked by the A420, the A338 and the A417, these parishes form group of communities in the centre.
87. The division of **Faringdon** (7695 electors in 2029) is similar to the current division of the same name, with the removal of the parishes of Buckland and Littleworth (both in Thames district ward) to reflect the expected growth in Great Faringdon parish. These two parishes are also better represented by councillors serving the central area of the district. As a result, the new geographically smaller division represents the communities in the north-western corner of the district, which all look to Faringdon as their centre.
88. The final division, **Shrivenham** (8436 electors in 2029) covers a large geographical area in the south-west of the district. The largest parishes of Shrivenham and Watchfield in the west are joined by a number of rural parishes that run along the B4507. The identities and interests of these communities are similar, and the residents face similar issues. They are distinct from the much more populated communities of Wantage and Grove.



Oxford City



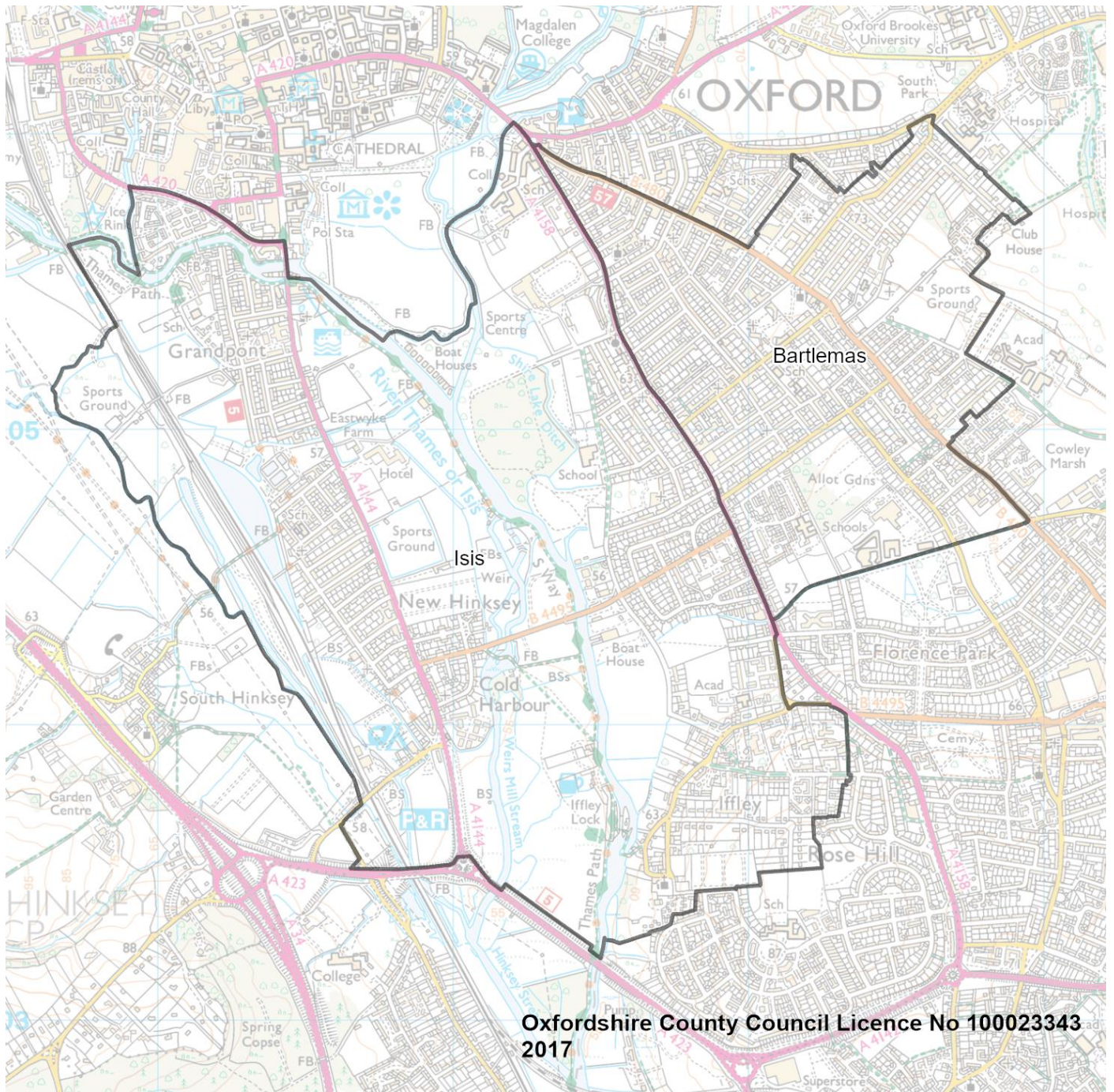
Oxford City north

89. In general, the proposals for Oxford City take into account the distinct separate communities, the parishes, existing ward boundaries, and natural features and barriers such as the rivers. They use recognised boundaries to denote the new division boundaries.
90. The northern part of Oxford City comprises a number of distinct communities, some of which are separated or divided by major roads. The furthest north of the City is **Wolvercote & Cutteslowe** (8184 electors in 2029). This is similar to the existing division, with a slight adjustment. Local Members, in consultation with community representatives, identified that the communities in polling district CC look to the shops and amenities in Summertown; residents in the BD polling district do as well. As a result, a slight change has been incorporated into the division proposal.
91. Immediately to the south is **Summertown & Walton Manor** (8956 electors in 2029), taking in the recognised communities between the River Cherwell and Wolvercote Common. This new division includes polling district DD, which is a small number of properties at the southern end of William Lucy Way that are accessed only from the rest of the road; their separation until now is the result of a historic anomaly due to boundaries being drawn before properties were built, and this proposal reunites both ends of the road.
92. To the west is **Jericho & Osney** (8030 electors in 2029). The existing polling districts of DA and DB are amended, so that the whole of Adelaide Street, Observatory Street and Belsyre Court are included in Jericho and Osney to reflect community identities more accurately. These areas are recognisably Jericho and keeps the student/academic dominated Radcliffe Quarter and Sommerville College outside of this division.
93. The new **Parks** division (9086 electors in 2029) takes inspiration from the three major Parks – University Parks, South Park and Christchurch Meadow.



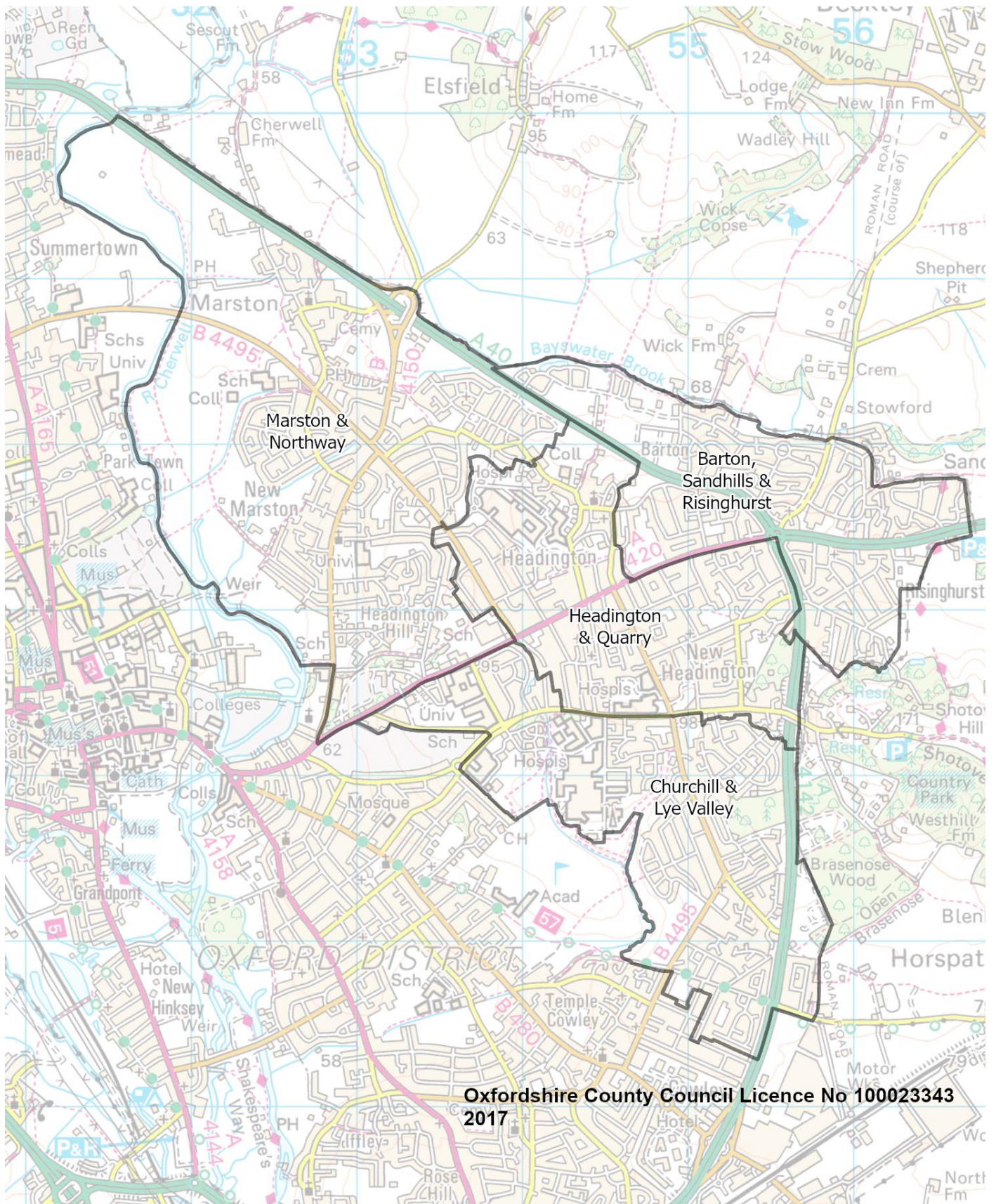
Oxford City central

94. The geographical centre of Oxford City has two divisions. The first, Isis, reflects the existing community of the same name, with some slight deviations to ensure electoral equality. The extension of the division ensures both sides of the river, a clear focal point, are kept in the same division. **Isis** division will have 8127 electors in 2029.
95. The second division is **Bartlemas** (9082 electors in 2029). Bartlemas takes inspiration from the historic, medieval Bartlemas Chapel which is central to the division and the inspiration of nearby roads and the Bartlemas Surgery.
96. There is a new proposed split in polling district JB to improve electoral equality. This moves East Avenue and Ablett Close into Parks division from Bartlemas. Cosin Close and Nye Bevan Close would stay with the historic polling district, as they maintain dedicated walking routes through to Manzil Way and look towards Oxford Central Mosque and the Cowley Road. In addition, the rest of the north-east corner of JB also moves into Parks (i.e. 147-208 Cowley Road, and South Park Court), to tidy up the boundary to snap to the ward boundary along there.



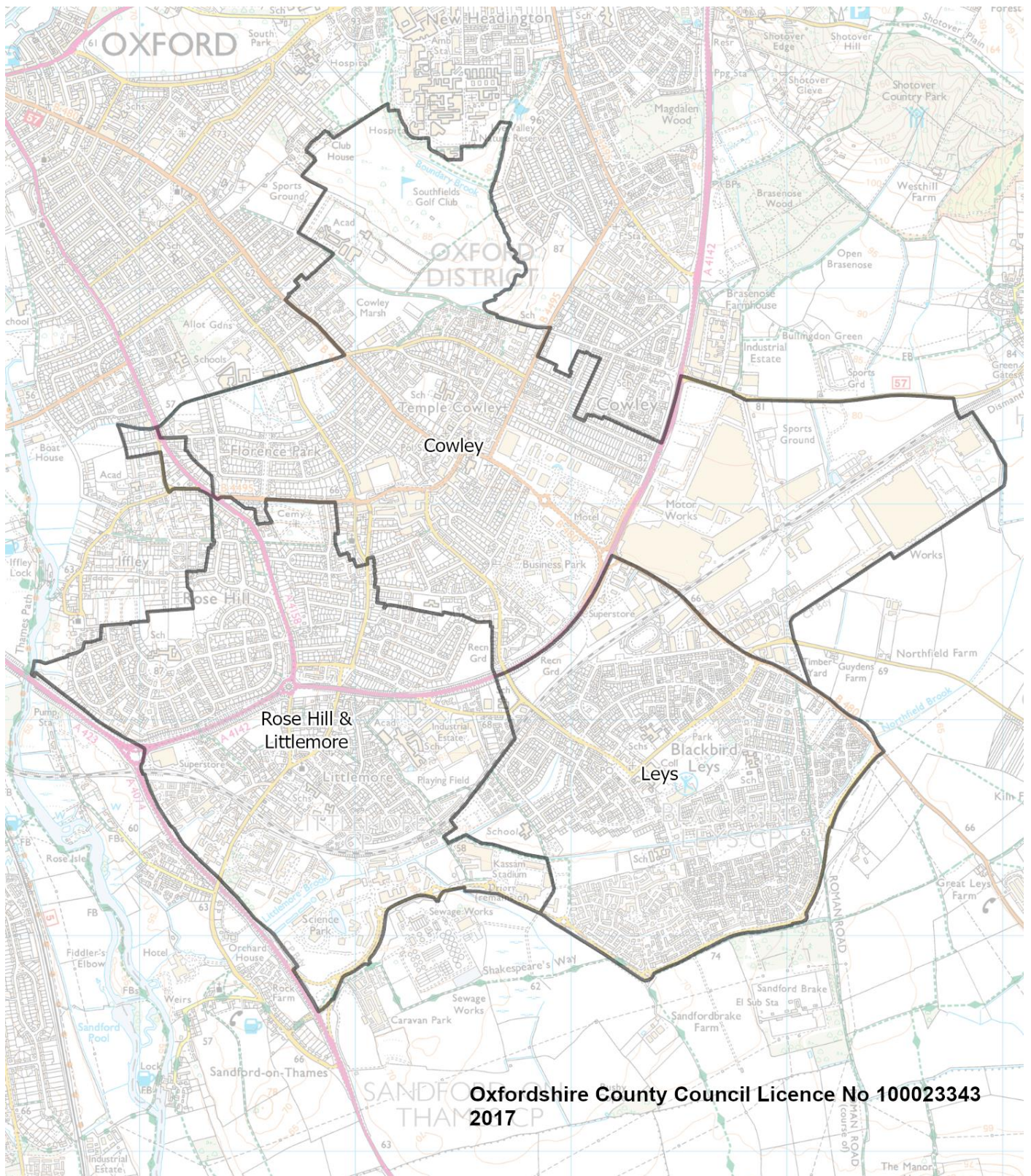
Oxford City east

97. The eastern part of the City has clearly identifiable communities. **Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst** (7817 electors in 2029) is unchanged from the current division reflecting the interests and identities of local communities in the easternmost part of the City.
98. **Marston & Northway** (8979 electors in 2029) includes the current division of the same name, with the addition of part of Headington & Quarry (polling district XC) as this better reflects the community interests and electoral equality. This division is bordered on the west by the River Cherwell, and the east by the City boundary.
99. Between these two divisions sits **Headington & Quarry** (8105 electors in 2029). Apart from the transfer of one area noted above, this remains the same as the current division, reflecting the sense of community within the area.
100. **Churchill & Lye Valley** (8502 electors in 2029) remains unchanged from the current boundary, with the exception that polling district SC (currently no electors) moves into the division to provide a clearly recognisable boundary.



Oxford City south

101. The final three divisions for Oxford City cover the southern end of the area. **Leys** (9110 electors in 2029) remains unchanged from the current clearly identifiable boundaries.
102. **Cowley** (9191 electors in 2029) in the southern corner of the city is broadly similar to the existing division of the same name. These communities are clearly identifiable and align to known boundaries.
103. The division of **Rose Hill & Littlemore** (9124 electors in 2029) includes the whole of the current division of the same name, with one small addition. There is some flexibility between the divisions in the southern half of the City, but this configuration represents the communities served, ensures effective and convenient local government, and provides for electoral equality.

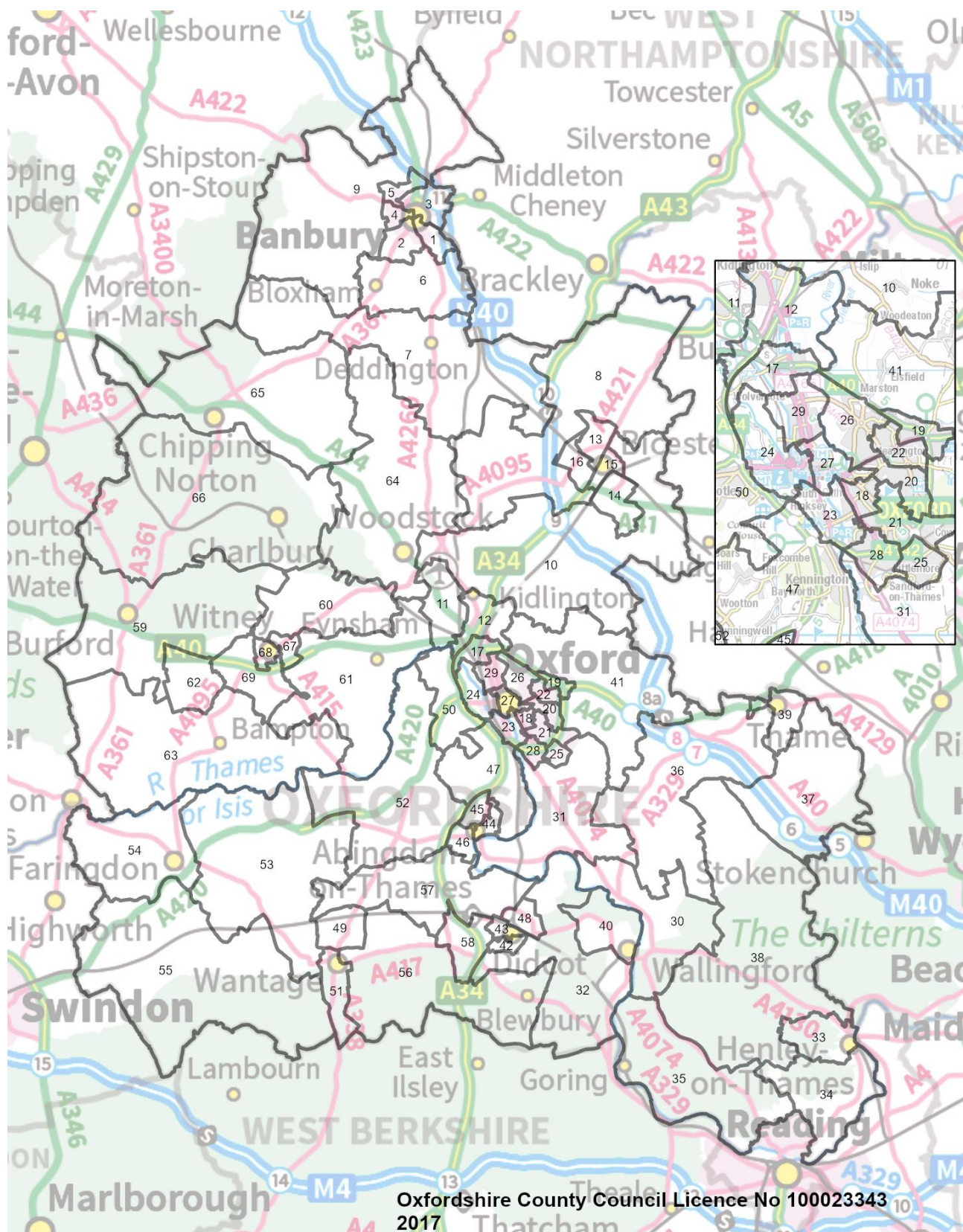


Summary

104. Overall, Oxfordshire County Council will comprise 69 Councillors following this review. The table below provides an overview of the proposed divisions.

District	division	Cllrs	Forecast (2029)	
			Electorate	Variance
Cherwell	Cropredy & Wroxton	1	7527	-10.6%
Cherwell	Deddington & Hook Norton	1	7776	-7.7%
Cherwell	Fringford & Heyfords	1	7721	-8.3%
Cherwell	Kidlington North & Otmoor	1	8563	1.7%
Cherwell	Kidlington West & Yarnton	1	8966	6.5%
Cherwell	Kidlington East	1	8761	4.0%
Cherwell	Bicester North	1	8571	1.8%
Cherwell	Bicester South	1	8010	-4.9%
Cherwell	Bicester East	1	7745	-8.0%
Cherwell	Bicester West	1	8708	3.4%
Cherwell	Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote	1	7546	-10.4%
Cherwell	Banbury Calthorpe	1	7669	-8.9%
Cherwell	Banbury Easington	1	8358	-0.8%
Cherwell	Banbury Ruscote	1	8540	1.4%
Cherwell	Banbury Grimsbury & Castle	1	9156	8.7%
Cherwell	Banbury Hardwick	1	8086	-4.0%
West	Chipping Norton	1	9091	7.9%
West	Charlbury & Wychwood	1	8776	4.2%
West	Woodstock	1	9008	7.0%
West	Witney West & Ducklington	1	7869	-6.6%
West	Eynsham	1	8362	-0.7%
West	Witney South & Central	1	8562	1.7%
West	Witney North & East	1	8981	6.6%
West	Hanborough & Hailey	1	7901	-6.2%
West	Bampton & Carterton South	1	9149	8.6%
West	Burford & Carterton West	1	9167	8.8%
West	Brize Norton & Carterton East	1	7805	-7.3%
Vale	North Hinksey	1	7703	-8.5%
Vale	Kennington & Radley	1	8922	5.9%
Vale	Marcham & Cumnor	1	7960	-5.5%
Vale	Wantage	1	7805	-7.3%
Vale	Kingston & Stanford	1	8129	-3.5%
Vale	Shrivenham	1	8436	0.2%
Vale	Grove	1	8983	6.7%
Vale	Faringdon	1	7695	-8.6%
Vale	Charlton, Blewbury & Hendreds	1	8781	4.3%
Vale	Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon	1	9118	8.3%
Vale	Harwell & Valley Park	1	7931	-5.8%
Vale	Abingdon East	1	8614	2.3%
Vale	Abingdon North	1	8928	6.0%
Vale	Abingdon South	1	8598	2.1%

District	division	Cllrs	Forecast (2029)	
			Electorate	Variance
South	Benson & Crowmarsh	1	8449	0.3%
South	Wallingford	1	8984	6.7%
South	Berinsfield & Garsington	1	8641	2.6%
South	Wheatley	1	8149	-3.2%
South	Cholsey & The Hagbournes	1	8905	5.7%
South	Chalgrove & Thame West	1	8624	2.4%
South	Thame	1	8521	1.2%
South	Chinnor	1	7880	-6.4%
South	Watlington & Rotherfield	1	7971	-5.4%
South	Henley	1	8021	-4.8%
South	Sonning Common & Henley South	1	8411	-0.1%
South	Goring & Woodcote	1	8233	-2.2%
South	Didcot Ladygrove	1	8260	-1.9%
South	Didcot West	1	7805	-7.3%
South	Didcot South	1	8003	-5.0%
City	Wolvercote & Cutteslowe	1	8184	-2.8%
City	Summertown & Walton Manor	1	8956	6.3%
City	Jericho & Osney	1	8030	-4.7%
City	Isis	1	8127	-3.5%
City	Rose Hill & Littlemore	1	9124	8.3%
City	Cowley	1	9191	9.1%
City	Headington & Quarry	1	8105	-3.8%
City	Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst	1	7817	-7.2%
City	Marston & Northway	1	8979	6.6%
City	Leys	1	9110	8.2%
City	Churchill & Lye Valley	1	8502	0.9%
City	Bartlemas	1	9082	7.8%
City	Parks	1	9086	7.9%
Total		69	581,127	



(1) Banbury Calthorpe; (2) Banbury Easington; (3) Banbury Grimsbury & Castle; (4) Banbury Ruscote; (5) Banbury Hardwick; (6) Alderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote; (7) Deddington & Hook Norton; (8) Fringford & Heyfords; (9) Cropredy & Wroxton; (10) Kidlington North & Otmoor; (11) Kidlington West & Yarnton; (12) Kidlington East; (13) Bicester North; (14) Bicester South; (15) Bicester East; (16) Bicester West; (17) Wolvercote & Cutteslowe; (18) Bartlemas; (19) Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst; (20) Churchill & Lye Valley; (21) Cowley; (22) Headington & Quarry; (23) Isis; (24) Jericho & Osney; (25) Leys; (26) Marston & Northway; (27) Parks; (28) Rose Hill & Littlemore; (29) Summertown & Walton Manor; (30) Benson & Crowmarsh; (31) Berinsfield & Garsington; (32) Cholsey & The Hagbournes; (33) Henley; (34) Sonning Common & Henley South; (35) Goring & Woodcote; (36) Chalgrove & Thame West; (37) Chinnor; (38) Watlington & Rotherfield; (39) Thame; (40) Wallingford; (41) Wheatley; (42) Didcot South; (43) Didcot West; (44) Abingdon East; (45) Abingdon North; (46) Abingdon South; (47) Kennington & Radley; (48) Didcot Ladygrove; (49) Grove; (50) North Hinksey; (51) Wantage; (52) Marcham & Cumnor; (53) Kingston & Stanford; (54) Faringdon; (55) Shrivenham; (56) Charlton, Blewbury & Hendreds; (57) Drayton, Sutton Courtenay & Stevenston; (58) Harwell & Valley Park; (59) Burford & Carterton West; (60) Hanborough & Hailey; (61) Eynsham; (62) Brize Norton & Carterton East; (63) Bampton & Carterton South; (64) Woodstock; (65) Chipping Norton; (66) Charlbury and Wychwood; (67) Witney North & East; (68) Witney South & Central; (69) Witney West & Ducklington.

