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North Hertfordshire District Council  
Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations 2023  
Proposals

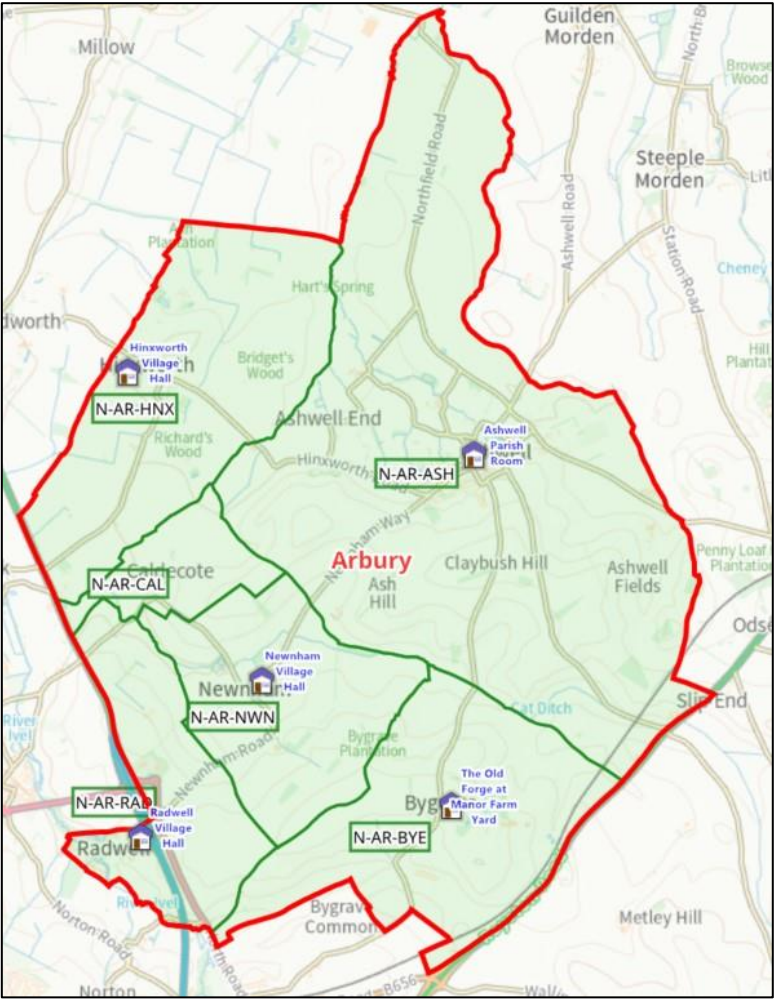
**Explanatory notes:**

- Under the terms of the Representation of the Peoples Act (1983), North Herts Council is required to divide its area into parliamentary polling districts and to designate a polling place and polling station for each.
- The following definitions may be helpful when reading this report:
  - o 'Polling Districts' are geographical electoral areas into which wards and constituencies may be sub-divided.
  - o 'Polling Places' are the areas designated by the council where electors for a particular polling district go to vote in person.
  - o 'Polling Stations' are the issuing desks or room within the building or area designated as the polling place.
- The Boundary Commission has recently concluded a review of parliamentary constituency boundaries, with the new boundaries set to be in place and used at the next UK Parliamentary General Election (UKPGE). The proposals in this review must therefore account for these new parliamentary constituency boundaries, as well as the old (existing) constituencies, because of the possibility of a parliamentary by-election occurring before the next UK Parliamentary General Election, which would need to take place based on the existing parliamentary boundary arrangements.
- The Electoral Administration Act (2006), as amended, introduced a duty for all local authorities in Great Britain to review their polling districts and polling places every 5 years, with the next compulsory review required between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.
- Although this compulsory review is technically concerned with polling districts for parliamentary elections, in practice, the council will need to set polling districts which are also compatible for local government elections so that the register can be structured in a way that enables all election types to be delivered.
- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has also recently completed an electoral review of North Hertfordshire, with recommendations for changes to district and parish wards to take effect from May 2024.
- As a result, the review must account for the boundary changes at both parliamentary and local elections, so that North Hertfordshire has agreed and functioning polling districts and places ready to be used at the scheduled local elections in May 2024, as well as the next UK Parliamentary General Election which must take place by January 2025.
- The review must therefore be concluded in time for the revised register of electors, incorporating the changes agreed as a result, to be published on 1 December 2023.

- As part of this polling district review, we are proposing that each of the new polling districts will be given a new name (code) which is more rationalised. At present, polling districts have been named with 3 or 4 letter codes in alphabetical order (i.e., AAA, AAB, etc). By contrast, the new names will comprise 4-7 letters according to the electoral areas that the polling district belongs to, with the first letter corresponding to its parliamentary constituency, followed by letters indicating its district ward and, where applicable, the final letters representing the parish. For instance, the polling district incorporating the parish of Ashwell, which is in the North East Hertfordshire constituency and Arbury ward, would be represented as N-AR-ASH.

Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward

Arbury ward

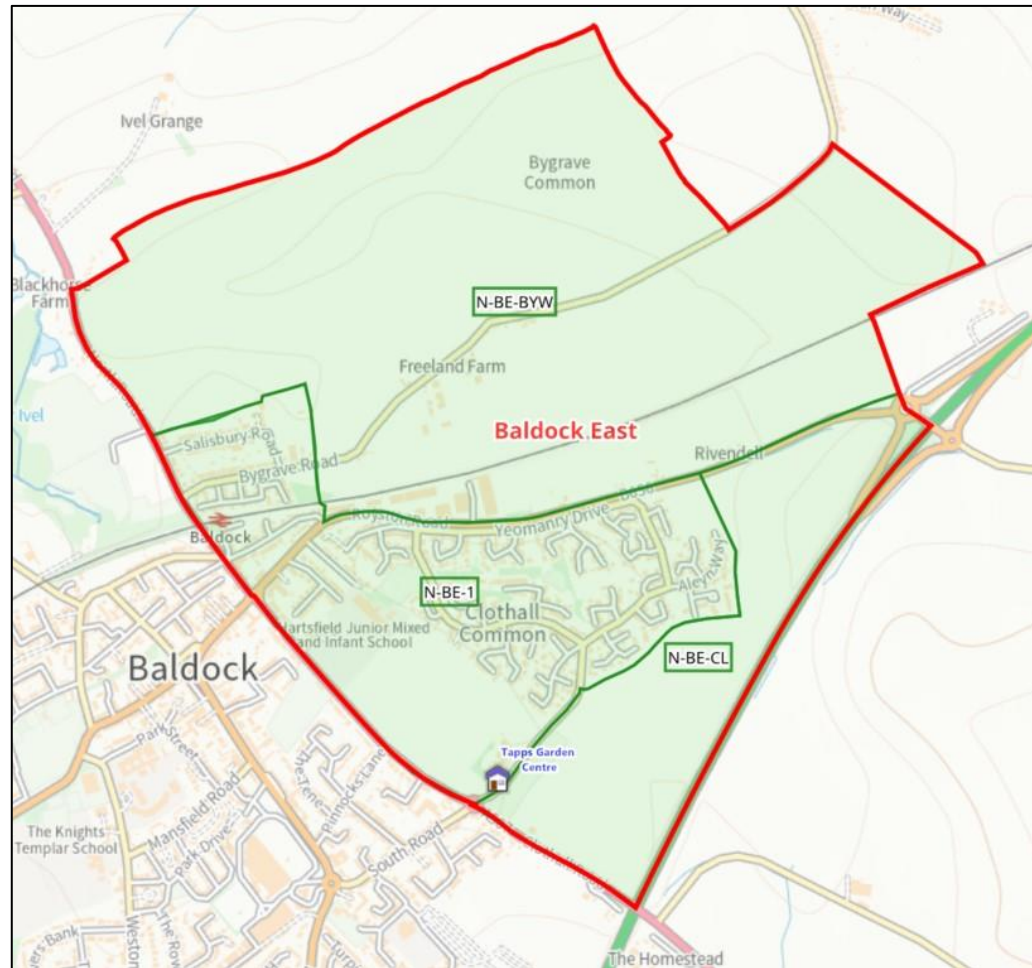


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Polling District	2023 Electorate	Proposed Polling Place	Returning Officer comments	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered
<b>N-AR-ASH</b> <b>Ashwell</b>	1593	Ashwell Parish Room, Swan Street, SG7 5NY		Consultation responses all in favour of Ashwell Parish Room remaining as the polling place for Ashwell
<b>N-AR-BYE</b> <b>Bygrave (East)</b>	204	The Old Forge, Manor Farm, Church Lane, SG7 5EE	Bygrave parish was divided in the new district ward boundaries, creating parish wards, hence the creation of this new polling district.	Consultation responses from members of the public all in favour of The Old Forge remaining as the polling place
<b>N-AR-HNX</b> <b>Hinxworth</b>	250	Hinxworth Village Hall, Francis Road, SG7 5HL		
<b>N-AR-CAL</b> <b>Caldecote</b>	13	Newnham Village Hall, Ashwell Road, SG7 5JX	Polling Place outside Polling District	Caldecote & Newnham Parish Council favoured retaining Newnham Village Hall as polling place
<b>N-AR-NWN</b> <b>Newnham</b>	70	Newnham Village Hall, Ashwell Road, SG7 5JX		
<b>N-AR-RAD</b> <b>Radwell</b>	114	Radwell Village Hall, Radwell Lane, SG7 5EW		Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of Radwell Village Hall remaining as the polling place

**Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward**

**Baldock East ward**

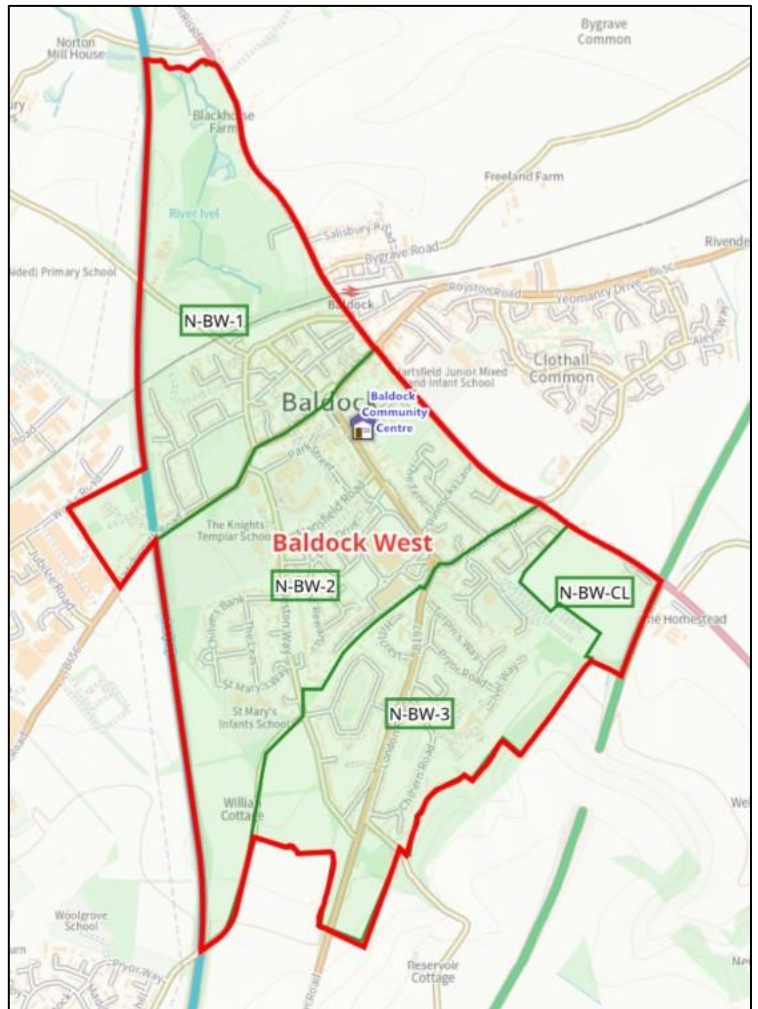


Polling District	2023 Electorate	Proposed Polling Place	Returning Officer comments	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered
<b>N-BE-1 Baldock East 1</b>	1329	Tapps Garden Centre, Wallington Road, SG7 6RS		<p>Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining Tapps Garden Centre as polling place.</p> <p>Tapps Garden Centre has also undergone recent extension to further improve facilities available.</p>
<b>N-BE-CL Baldock East (Clothall)</b>	0	Tapps Garden Centre, Wallington Road, SG7 6RS	<p>Clothall parish was divided in the new district ward boundaries, hence the creation of this new polling district.</p> <p>Polling Place outside Polling District</p>	
<b>N-BE-BYW Baldock East (Bygrave West)</b>	15	Tapps Garden Centre, Wallington Road, SG7 6RS	<p>Bygrave parish was divided in the new district ward boundaries, creating parish wards, hence the creation of this new polling district.</p> <p>Polling Place outside Polling District</p>	<p>Small section of Clothall Parish (which polled at Weston Village Hall) but is now part of Baldock East ward and will therefore poll there.</p>



**Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward**

**Baldock West ward**



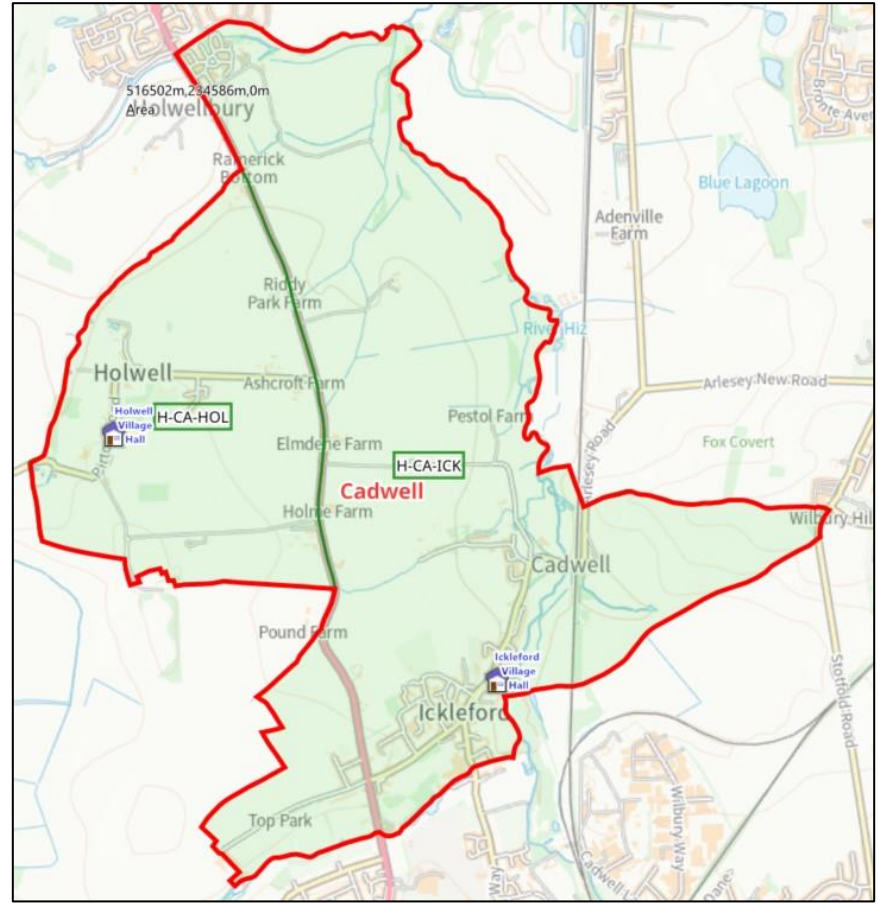


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<b>N-BW-1</b> <b>Baldock West 1</b>	1194	Baldock Community Centre, Simpson Drive, SG7 6DH	Polling Place outside Polling District	All consultation feedback received for Baldock Community Centre was in favour of the polling place arrangements remaining unchanged.
<b>N-BW-2</b> <b>Baldock West 2</b>	2359	Baldock Community Centre, Simpson Drive, SG7 6DH	The previous polling district had a very large electorate size, so it has been divided to give better sized polling districts and stations.	It was originally proposed to local ward councillors that we could investigate other locations if it was felt that having 3 polling stations at one polling place was excessive; however, they agreed with the consultation responses from members of the public that the current arrangements were suitable to continue.  Separate rooms are currently used for each of the stations here to help manage this: The Large Hall, Small Hall and Youth Wing.
<b>N-BW-3</b> <b>Baldock West 3</b>	2139	Baldock Community Centre, Simpson Drive, SG7 6DH	The previous polling district had a very large electorate size, so it has been divided to give better sized polling districts and stations.  Polling Place outside Polling District	
<b>N-BW-CL</b> <b>Baldock West (Clothall)</b>	3	Baldock Community Centre, Simpson Drive, SG7 6DH	Clothall parish was divided in the new district ward boundaries, hence the creation of this new polling district.  Polling Place outside Polling District	Small section of Clothall Parish (which polled at Weston Village Hall) but is now part of Baldock West ward and will therefore poll there.

**Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward**

**Cadwell ward**

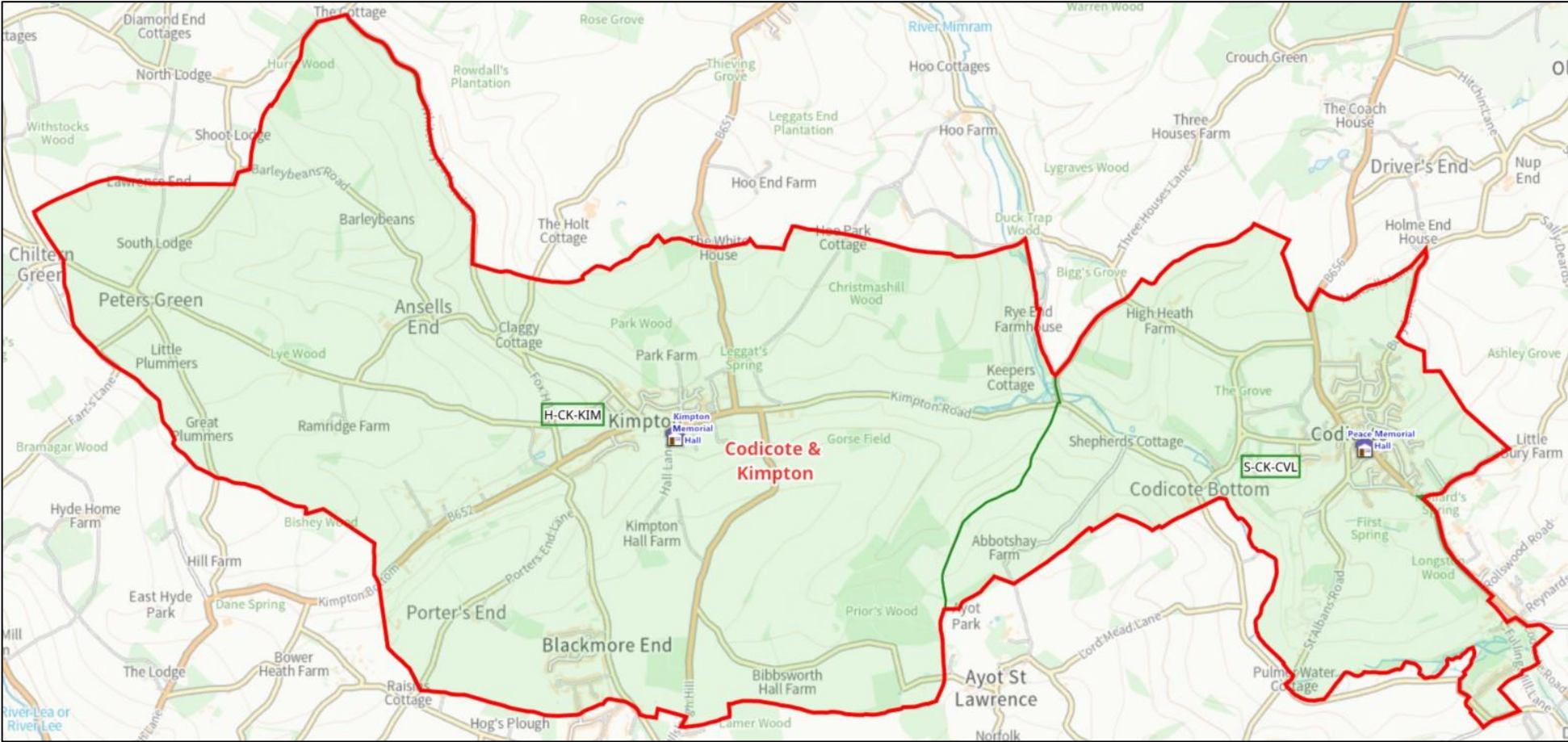


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<b>Polling District</b>	<b>2023 Electorate</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place</b>	<b>Returning Officer comments</b>	<b>Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered</b>
<b>H-CA-HOL Holwell</b>	183	Holwell Village Hall, Pirton Road, SG5 3SS		
<b>H-CA-ICK Ickleford</b>	1024	Ickleford Village Hall, 82 Arlesey Road, SG5 3TG	Electorate of 189 in new build area to the north.	<p>Consultation response received from member of public in support of Ickleford Village Hall remaining as polling place, pointing out benefits to the accessibility of the building.</p> <p>The District Ward Councillor raised a concern that there is a small section of new build properties in the north of the parish for whom Ickleford Village Hall was a further distance compared to the majority of the parish.</p> <p>It was originally proposed whether that section would be better served by polling at Holwell Village Hall, but feedback suggested this was no closer than the existing arrangements, and an alternative venue which was more suitable could not be identified without looking outside of the district (Ickleford shares a border with Central Bedfordshire district). Therefore, with the available options, remaining at Ickleford Village Hall ensures that voters are familiar (as it is their existing station) and that they remain with the rest of the parish of Ickleford.</p>

Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward

Codicote & Kimpton ward



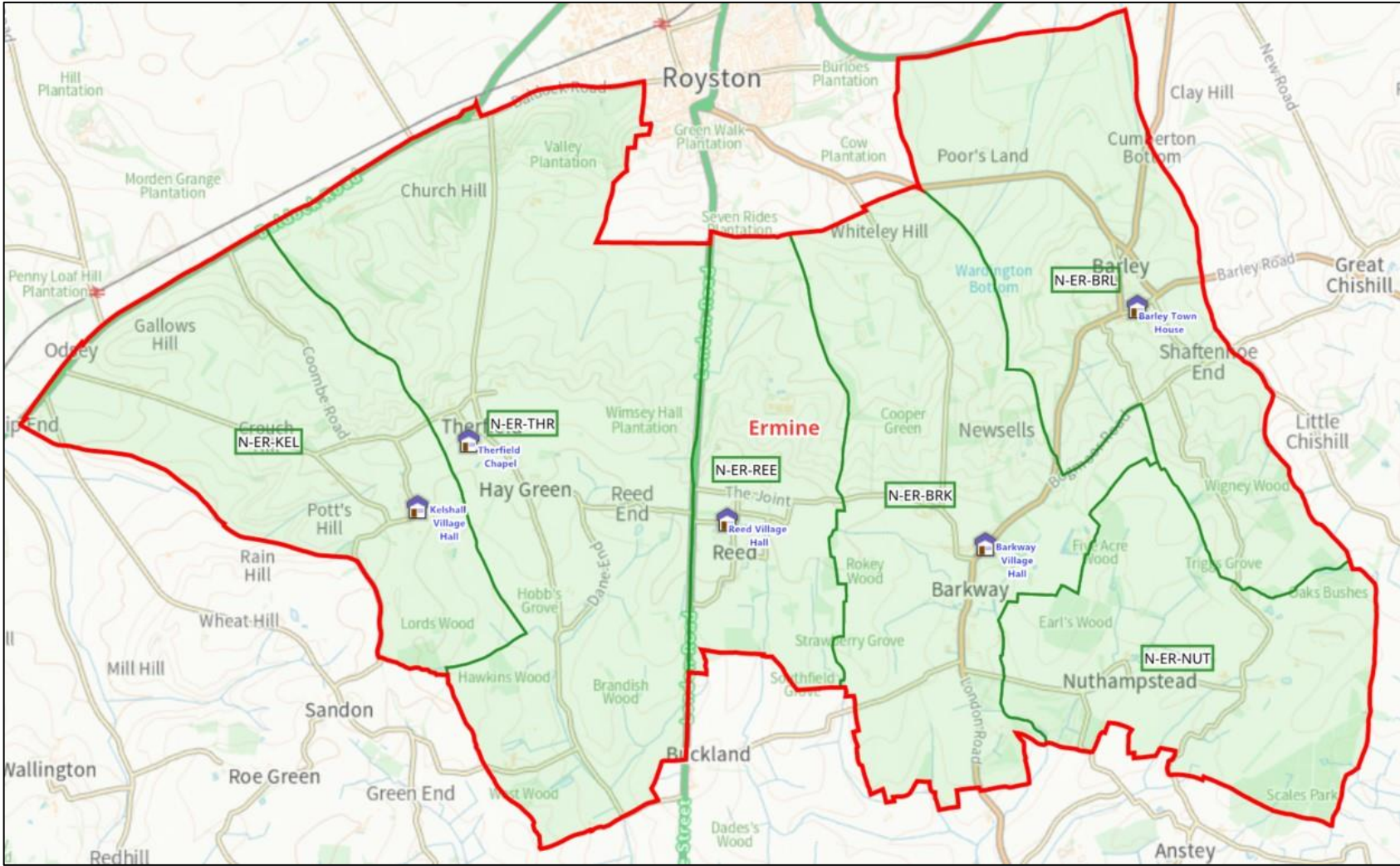
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<b>S-CK-CVL</b> <b>Codicote (Village)</b>	1267	Peace Memorial Hall, High Street, SG4 8XE	Codicote (Village) remains unchanged, although this was previously a double station with Codicote (East) which has now been moved. This will therefore be a single station at Peace Memorial Hall.	Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the Peace Memorial Hall as polling place for Codicote (Village), pointing out its accessibility and location.
<b>H-CK-KIM</b> <b>Kimpton</b>	939	Kimpton Memorial Hall, Hall Lane, SG4 8RD		Consultation response from member of the public in favour of retaining Kimpton Memorial Hall due to its easy level access and car parking (including disabled spaces)  Kimpton Parish Council also supports retaining Kimpton Memorial Hall as polling place.



Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward

Ermine ward



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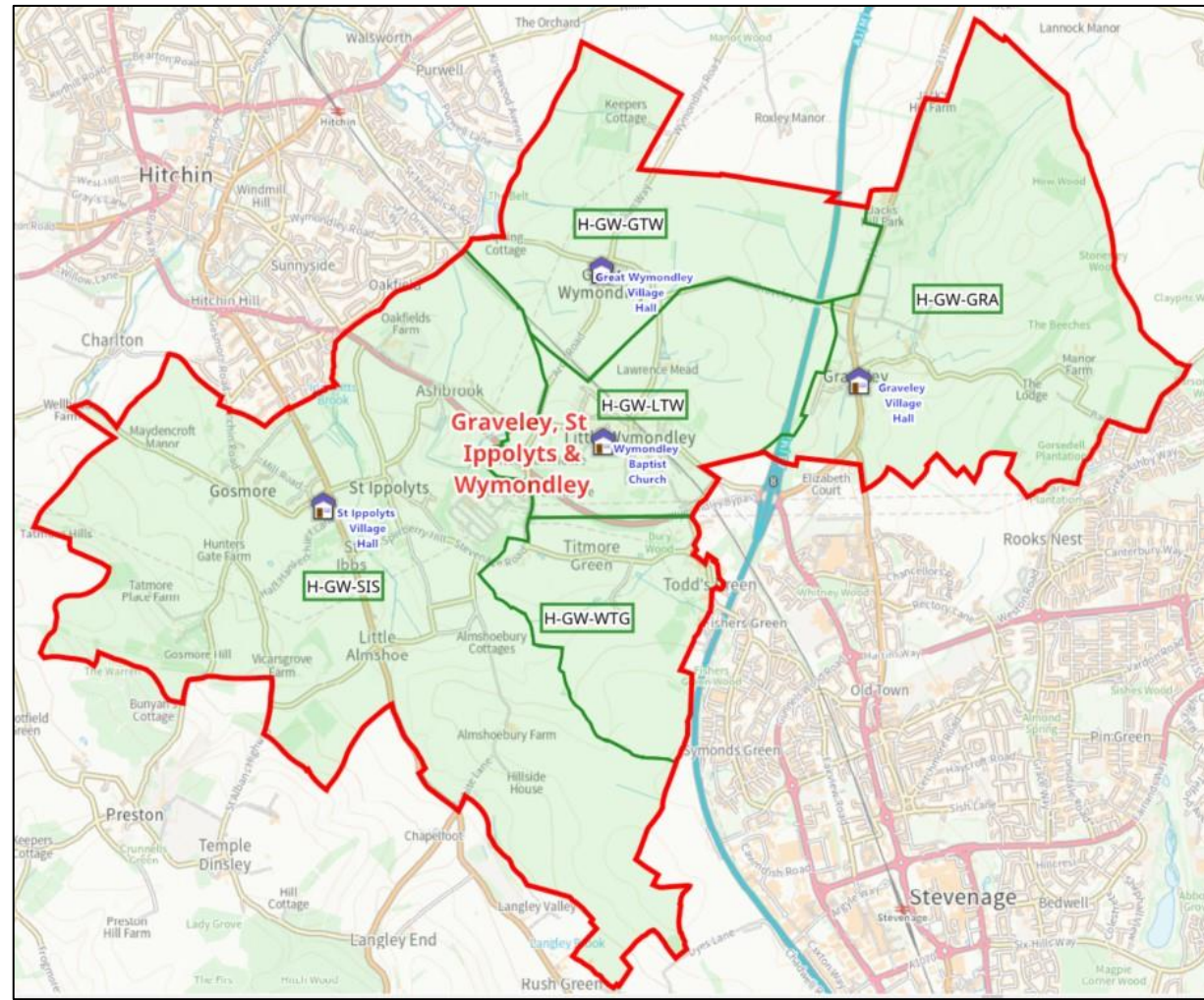
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<b>N-ER-BRK</b> <b>Barkway</b>	680	Barkway Village Hall, Cambridge Road, SG8 8BS		Consultation response from member of the public in support of retaining polling place at Barkway Village Hall.
<b>N-ER-NUT</b> <b>Nuthampstead</b>	108	Barkway Village Hall, Cambridge Road, SG8 8BS	Polling Place outside Polling District	The District Ward Councillor had proposed that Nuthampstead has a pub and a museum which could be considered as potential venues; However, the parish electorate is small, electors are used to polling at Barkway Village Hall and no other negative consultation responses have been received to suggest Nuthampstead should be moved away from Barkway Village Hall.
<b>N-ER-THR</b> <b>Therfield</b>	440	Therfield Chapel, Wellhead, SG8 9PZ		
<b>N-ER-BRL</b> <b>Barley</b>	536	Barley Town House, Church End, SG8 8JW		Consultation response from member of the public in support of retaining polling place at Barley Town House, highlighting its location in the centre of the parish and its good accessibility and parking facilities.
<b>N-ER-KEL</b> <b>Kelshall</b>	123	Kelshall Village Hall, Village Green, SG8 9SE		Consultation response from member of the public in support of retaining polling place at Kelshall Village Hall.
<b>N-ER-REE</b> <b>Reed</b>	267	Reed Village Hall, Blacksmiths Lane, SG8 8AX		Consultation response from member of the public in support of retaining polling place at Reed Village Hall.



**Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward**

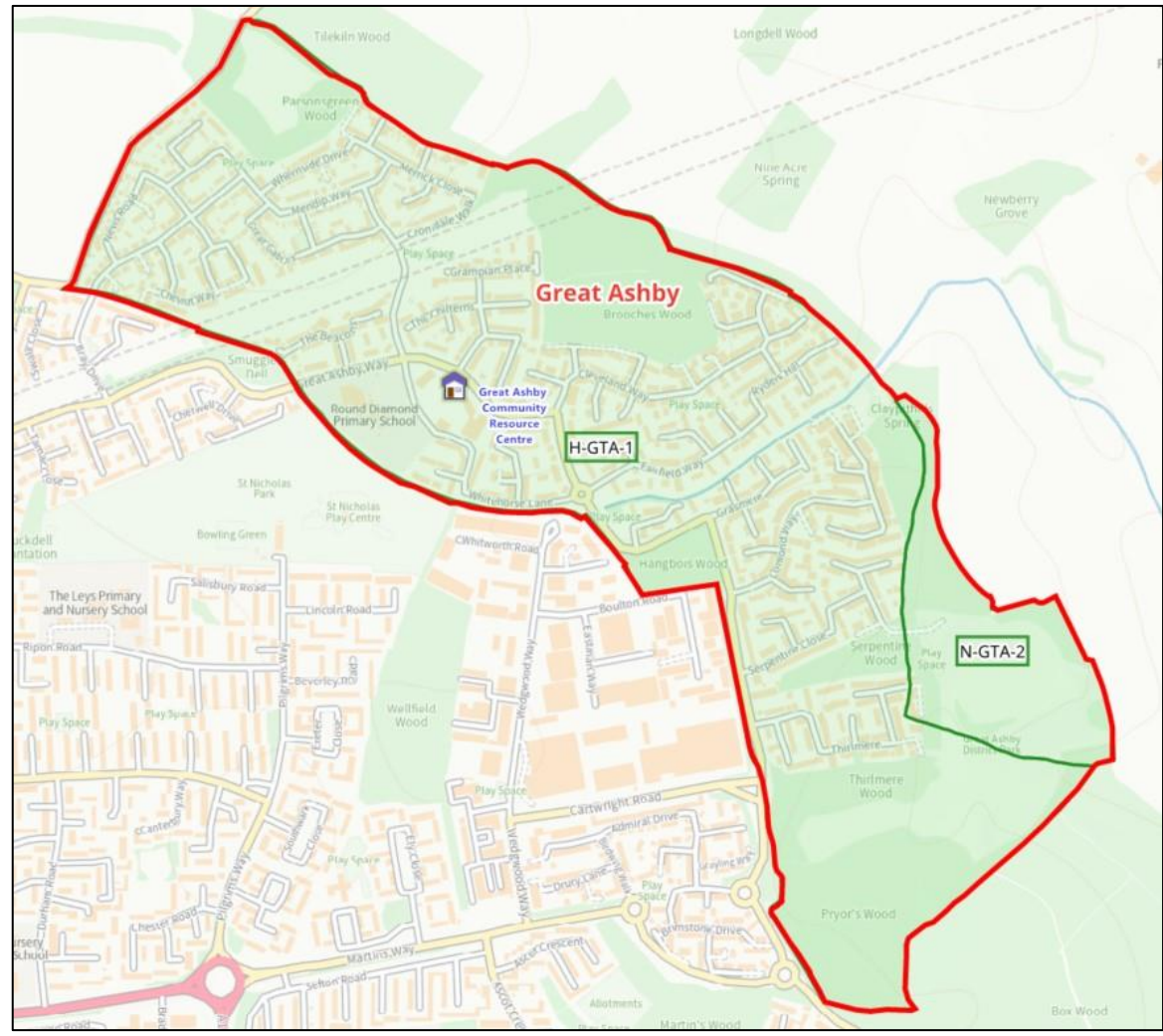
**Graveley, St Ippolyts & Wymondley ward**



<b>Polling District</b>	<b>2023 Electorate</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place</b>	<b>Returning Officer comments</b>	<b>Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered</b>
<b>H-GW-GTW</b> <b>Wymondley (Great Wymondley)</b>	128	Great Wymondley Village Hall, Great Wymondley, SG4 7ET		Consultation responses from members of the public in support of retaining Great Wymondley Village Hall as polling place, highlighting its central location and accessibility for electors with disability.
<b>H-GW-LTW</b> <b>Wymondley (Little Wymondley)</b>	638	Wymondley Baptist Church, Stevenage Road, SG4 7JA		Consultation responses from members of the public in support of retaining polling place at Wymondley Baptist Church
<b>H-GW-WTG</b> <b>Wymondley (Todds Green)</b>	115	Wymondley Baptist Church, Stevenage Road, SG4 7JA	Polling Place outside Polling District	
<b>H-GW-GRA</b> <b>Graveley</b>	345	Graveley Village Hall, High Street, SG4 7LB		Consultation responses from members of the public in support of retaining the polling place at Graveley Village Hall, highlighting the location and disabled access of the venue.
<b>H-GW-SIS</b> <b>St Ippolyts (South)</b>	858	St Ippolyts Parish Hall, Waterdell Lane, SG4 7RB		

Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward

Great Ashby ward



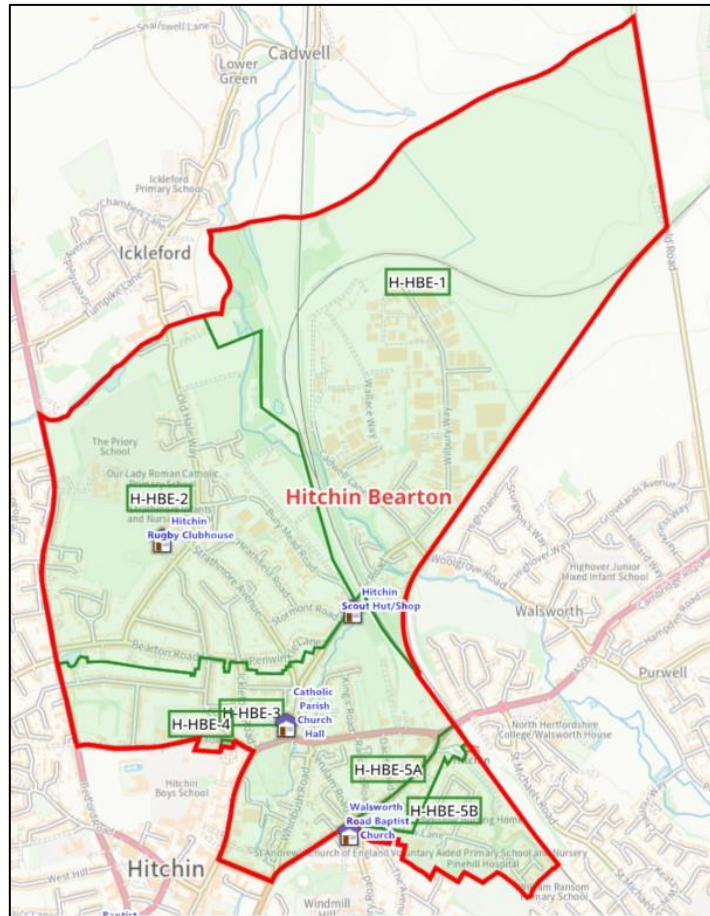
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<b>H-GTA-1</b> <b>Great Ashby 1</b>	3935	Great Ashby Community Centre, Whitehorse Lane, Great Ashby Way, SG1 6NH		Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at Great Ashby Community Centre due to its location
<b>N-GTA-2</b> <b>Great Ashby 2</b>	12	Great Ashby Community Centre, Whitehorse Lane, Great Ashby Way, SG1 6NH	Small double station at UK Parliamentary elections. Polling Place outside Polling District	



**Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward**

**Hitchin Bearton ward**



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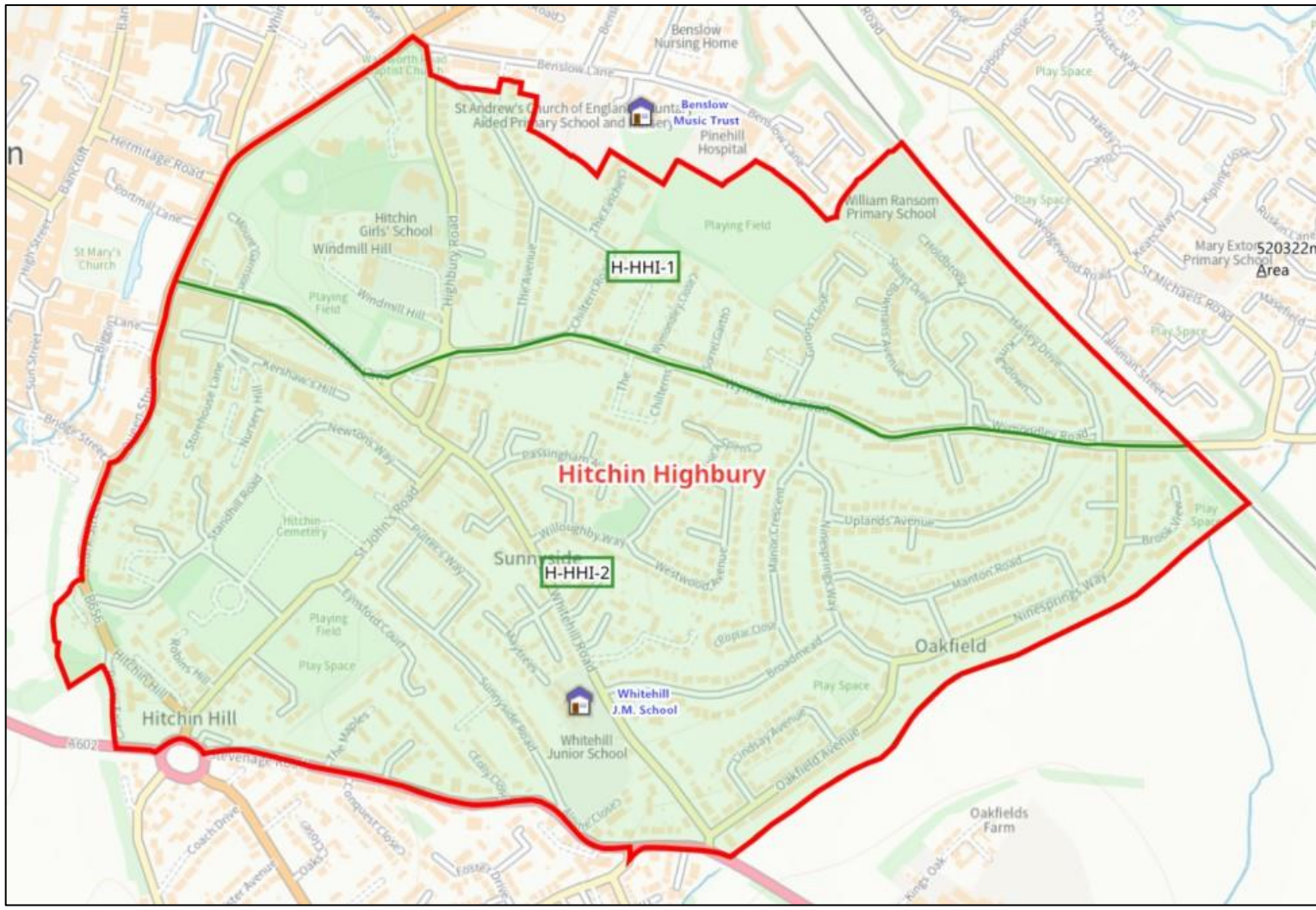
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>2023 Electorate</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place</b>	<b>Returning Officer comments</b>	<b>Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered</b>
<b>H-HBE-1</b> <b>Hitchin Bearton 1</b>	723	Hitchin Scout Hut/Shop, 105 Grove Road, SG5 1SQ	Polling Place outside Polling District	<p>A local bowls club, drama school and Sikh Temple were approached but were unavailable.</p> <p>This area previously polled at Walsworth Community Centre, although this scenario created a double polling station across district wards as the venue already has a polling place in Hitchin Walsworth ward.</p> <p>A site visit was undertaken at Hitchin Scout Shop to assess its suitability. The inside of the building was found to be suitable, and the venue is in close walking distance from the properties allocated to vote there. The approach to the building is a grass area rather than a hardstanding path, so appropriate mitigations will be put in place to help with access to the building on polling day.</p>
<b>H-HBE-2</b> <b>Hitchin Bearton 2</b>	2398	Hitchin Rugby Clubhouse, King Georges Recreation Ground, Old Hale Way, SG5 1XL		<p>Consultation responses from members of the public generally in favour of retaining the polling place at Hitchin Rugby Club, although one respondent argued that it was a long distance for them compared to other stations (NB the address in question is very close to the boundary line)</p>
<b>H-HBE-3</b> <b>Hitchin Bearton 3</b>	2896	Catholic Parish Church Hall, Nightingale Road, SG5 1QS	Has a large electorate but 500+ postal voters on the register so decided not to split.	<p>Consultation response from member of the public in support of polling place remaining at Catholic Parish Church Hall. One respondent raised a concern about disabled access, which will be addressed.</p>
<b>H-HBE-4</b> <b>Hitchin Bearton 4</b>	12	Walsworth Road Baptist Church, Walsworth Road, SG4 9SP	<p>New District ward boundary differs slightly to county division along Bunyan Road, hence this small polling district.</p> <p>Polling Place outside Polling District</p>	<p>We had originally considered the Bowling Green at Bancroft recreation ground; however District Ward Councillors in the area raised concerns with external lighting and anti-social behaviour in the area. Additionally, Hitchin Hack Space was suggested but ruled out as the venue was considered too small.</p> <p>Site visit undertaken at Walsworth Road Baptist Church and this has suitable facilities.</p>
<b>H-HBE-5a</b> <b>Hitchin Bearton 5</b>	324	Walsworth Road Baptist Church, Walsworth Road, SG4 9SP	<p>New District ward boundary means this has extended slightly to include part of the old BEA polling district.</p> <p>Temporarily split into A &amp; B because of old district ward boundary.</p> <p>Polling Place outside Polling District</p>	

<p><b>H-HBE-5b</b></p>	<p>330</p>	<p>Walsworth Road Baptist Church, Walsworth Road, SG4 9SP</p>	<p>New District ward boundary means this has extended slightly to include part of the old BEA polling district.</p> <p>Temporarily split into A &amp; B because of old district ward boundary.</p> <p>Polling Place outside Polling District</p>	
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Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward

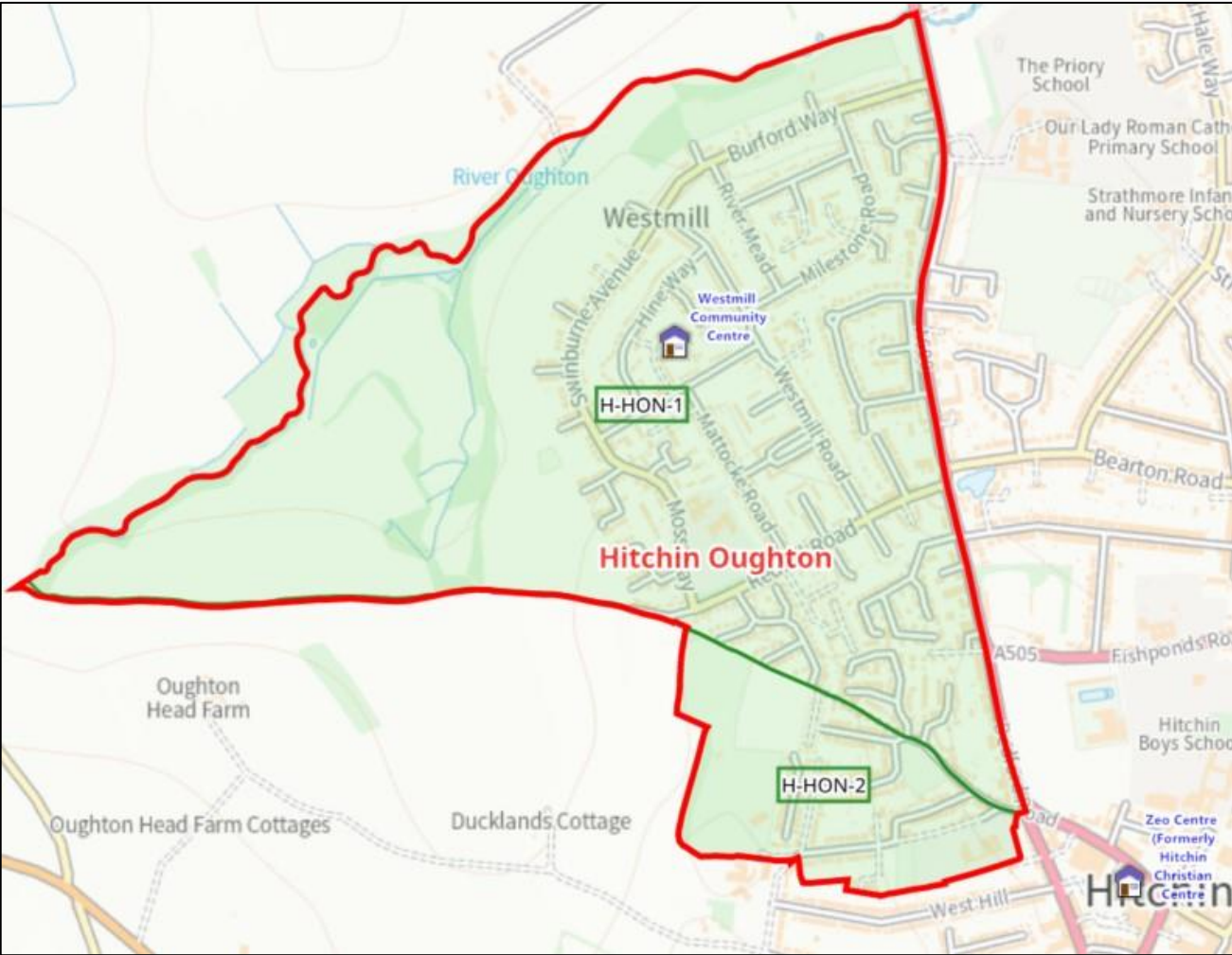
Hitchin Highbury ward



Polling District	2023 Electorate	Proposed Polling Place	Returning Officer comments	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered
<b>H-HHI-1</b> <b>Hitchin Highbury 1</b>	1333	Benslow Music Trust- Waldeck Block, Benslow Lane, SG4 9RB	Polling Place outside Polling District	Consultation responses from members of the public overwhelmingly in favour of retaining the polling place at Benslow.
<b>H-HHI-2</b> <b>Hitchin Highbury 2</b>	3450	Whitehill J.M. School, Whitehill Road, SG4 9HT		<p>Consultation responses from members of the public raised some concerns with the use of Whitehill School.</p> <p>One respondent indicated that they felt the walk to Whitehill was too far, whilst others voiced concern about the closure of the school to accommodate elections. However, no specific alternative venues in the area were put forward other than suggestions to use churches, pubs, town halls and leisure centres.</p> <p>No suitable alternative venues could be identified in the polling district area, hence the decision to remain at Whitehill school. Of the available buildings in this polling district, St Johns Community Centre is already used for a neighbouring ward and the Chapel at Hitchin Cemetery, which was used at a recent by-election, was discounted due to the lack of external lighting and suitable facilities.</p> <p>This polling district is a largely residential area with very few other community buildings which could be used as polling stations.</p>

**Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward**

**Hitchin Oughton ward**



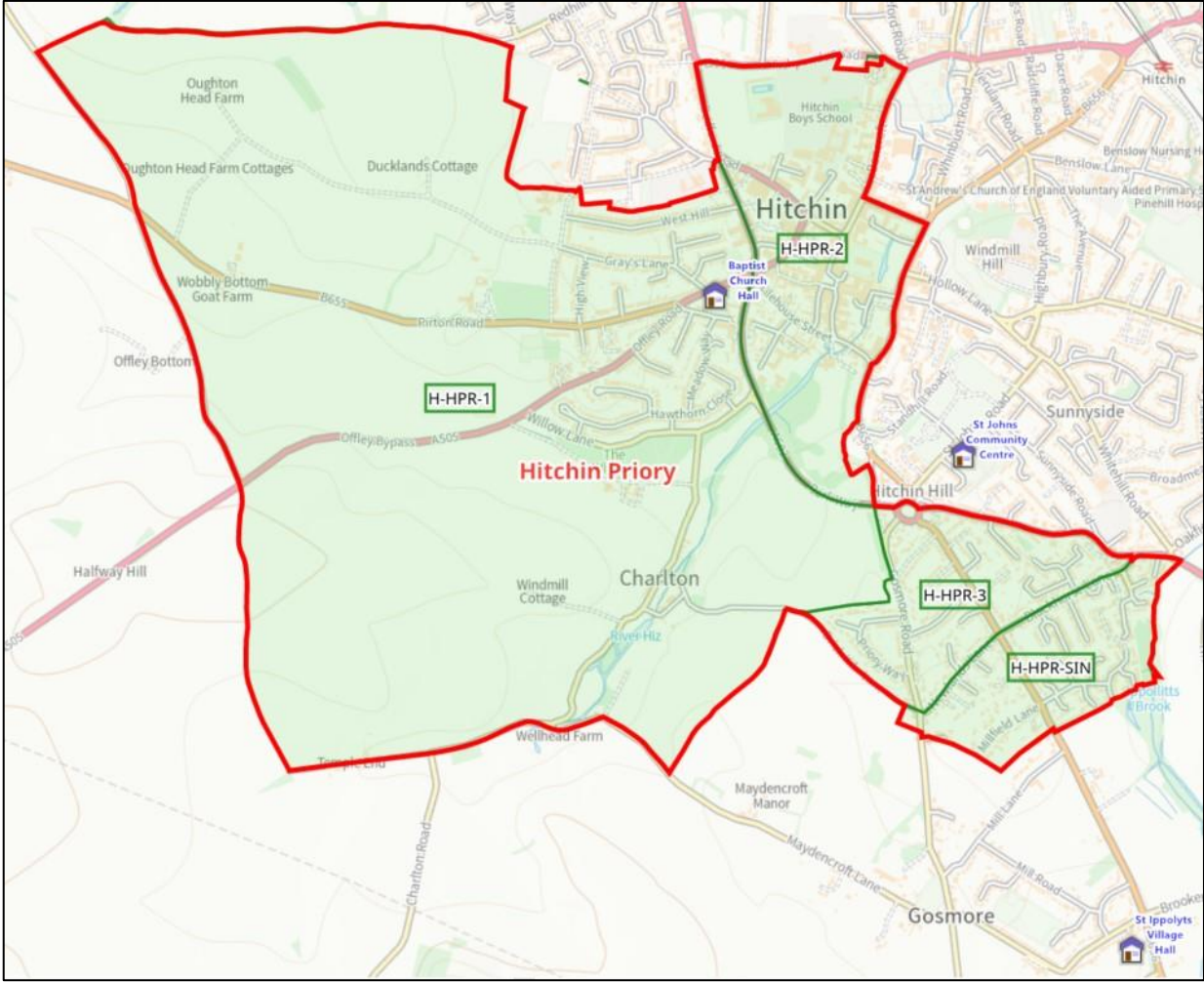
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<b>H-HON-1 Hitchin Oughton 1</b>	3620	Westmill Community Centre, Rear of John Barker Place, SG5 2PG		Consultation responses from members of the public generally in favour of retaining the polling place at Westmill Community Centre.
<b>H-HON-2 Hitchin Oughton 2</b>	468	Zeo Centre, Bedford Road, SG5 1HF	This is a new polling district created by the new District ward boundary.  Polling Place outside Polling District	District Ward Councillor had raised possibility of using a local Cricket Club or local school, both of which are inside the polling district. However, in both cases, these were unfortunately unavailable due to concerns about safeguarding.  Hitchin Swimming Centre was also explored, although this was ruled out as it does not have appropriate facilities.  Zeo Centre and Christchurch, which are both in close proximity, were then considered. After undertaking a site visit, it was felt that Zeo Centre had the better facilities and so has been proposed as polling place.



Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward

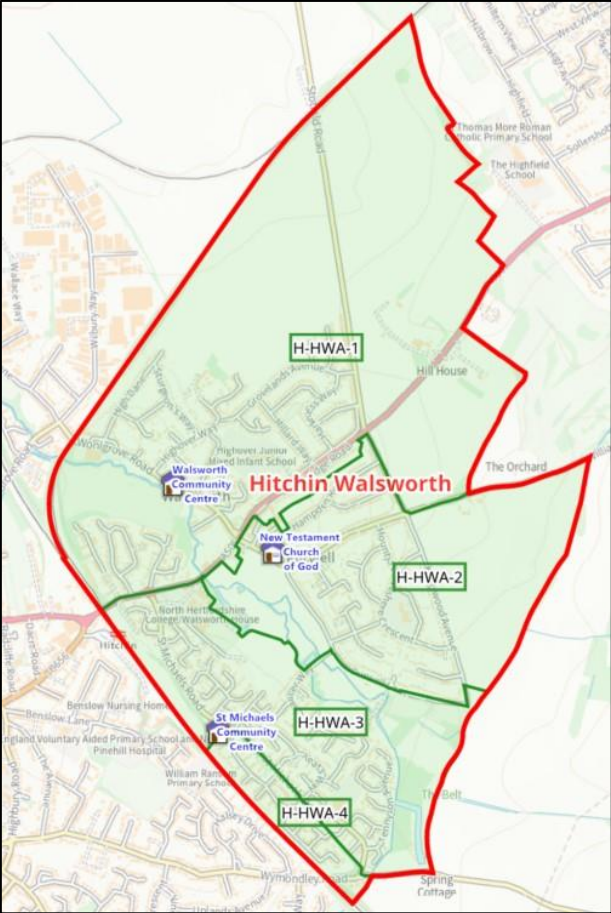
Hitchin Priory ward



Polling District	2023 Electorate	Proposed Polling Place	Returning Officer comments	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered
<b>H-HPR-1</b> <b>Hitchin Priory 1</b>	1650	Baptist Church Hall, Upper Tilehouse Street, SG5 2EE	This polling district has lost a small section of the north-eastern corner compared to the previous BCA polling district, due to the new District ward boundaries.	Consultation responses received from members of the public in favour of retaining polling place at Baptist Church Hall.
<b>H-HPR-2</b> <b>Hitchin Priory 2</b>	1156	Baptist Church Hall, Upper Tilehouse Street, SG5 2EE	Previously voted at Zeo Centre but new boundaries mean this can be combined with station for BCA(01).  Polling Place outside Polling District	
<b>H-HPR-3</b> <b>Hitchin Priory 3</b>	901	St Johns Community Centre, St Johns Road, SG4 9JP	Polling Place outside Polling District	Consultation responses received from members of the public in favour of retaining polling place at St Johns Community Centre
<b>H-HPR-SIN</b> <b>Hitchin Priory (St Ippolyts – North)</b>	730	St Ippolyts Parish Hall, Waterdell Lane, SG4 7RB	St Ippolyts parish is split by the district ward boundary and this section is in Hitchin Priory ward.  Polling Place outside Polling District	Due to being in Hitchin Priory ward, it was originally proposed that this polling district could poll at St Johns Community Centre. District Ward Members were consulted and were generally in agreement.  However, consultation responses from members of the public and St Ippolyts Parish Council were strongly against this, raising concerns that moving to St Johns would involve a journey across busy roads and roundabouts which weren't accessible on foot.  As such, we have reverted to each half of St Ippolyts remaining at St Ippolyts Parish Hall.

**Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward**

**Hitchin Walsworth ward**



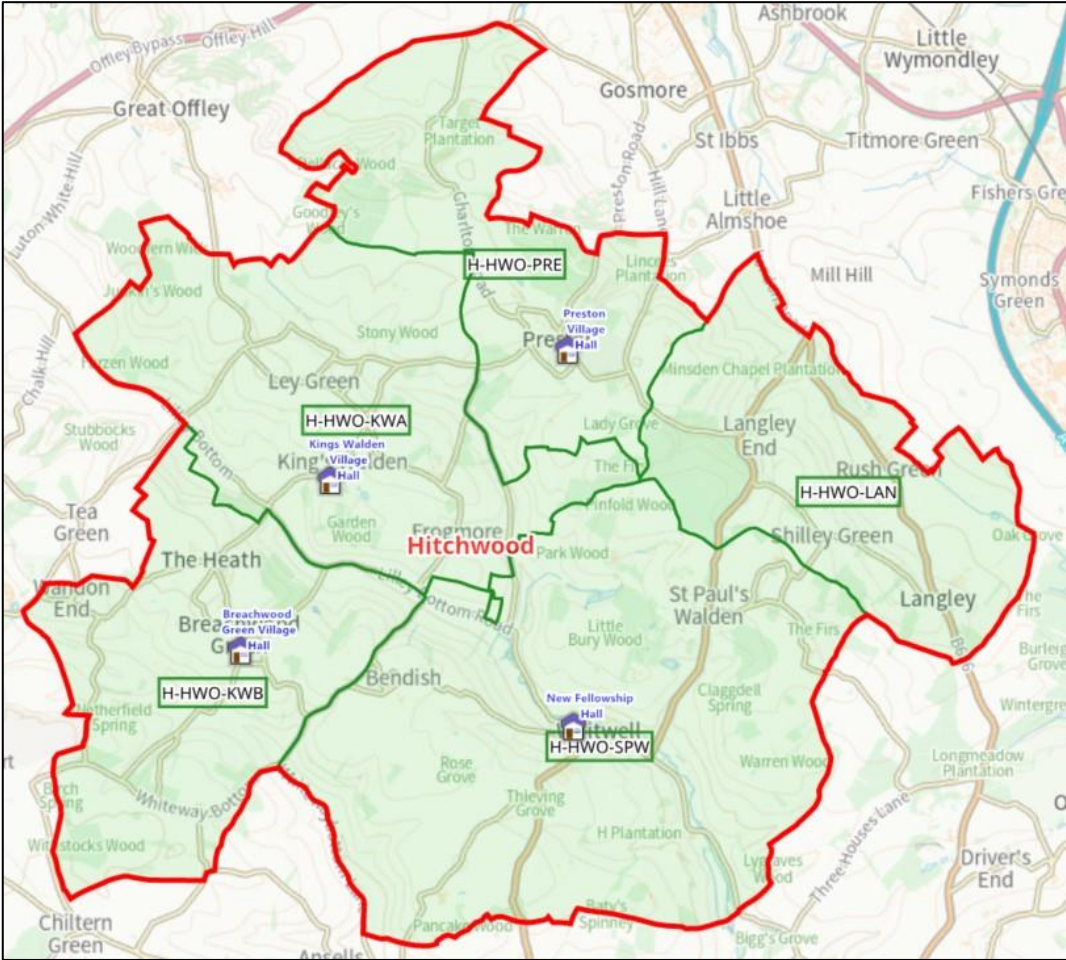


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<b>H-HWA-1 Hitchin Walsworth 1</b>	2479	Walsworth Community Centre, 88 Woolgrove Road, SG4 0AU		Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at Walsworth Community Centre.
<b>H-HWA-2 Hitchin Walsworth 2</b>	1918	New Testament Church of God, Hampden Road / Willian Road, SG4 0LN		Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at New Testament Church of God, with respondents highlighting the location which is easily accessible on foot.
<b>H-HWA-3 Hitchin Walsworth 3</b>	1349	St Michaels Community Centre, St Michaels Road, SG4 0QY	Boundary moved slightly north to follow Purwell Road – Chaucer Way estate now in H-HWA-3	Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at St Michaels Community Centre.
<b>H-HWA-4 Hitchin Walsworth 4</b>	455	St Michaels Community Centre, St Michaels Road, SG4 0QY	Polling Place outside Polling District	District Ward Councillors consulted were in favour of moving Chaucer Way area into H-HWA-3 polling district.

Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward

Hitchwood ward

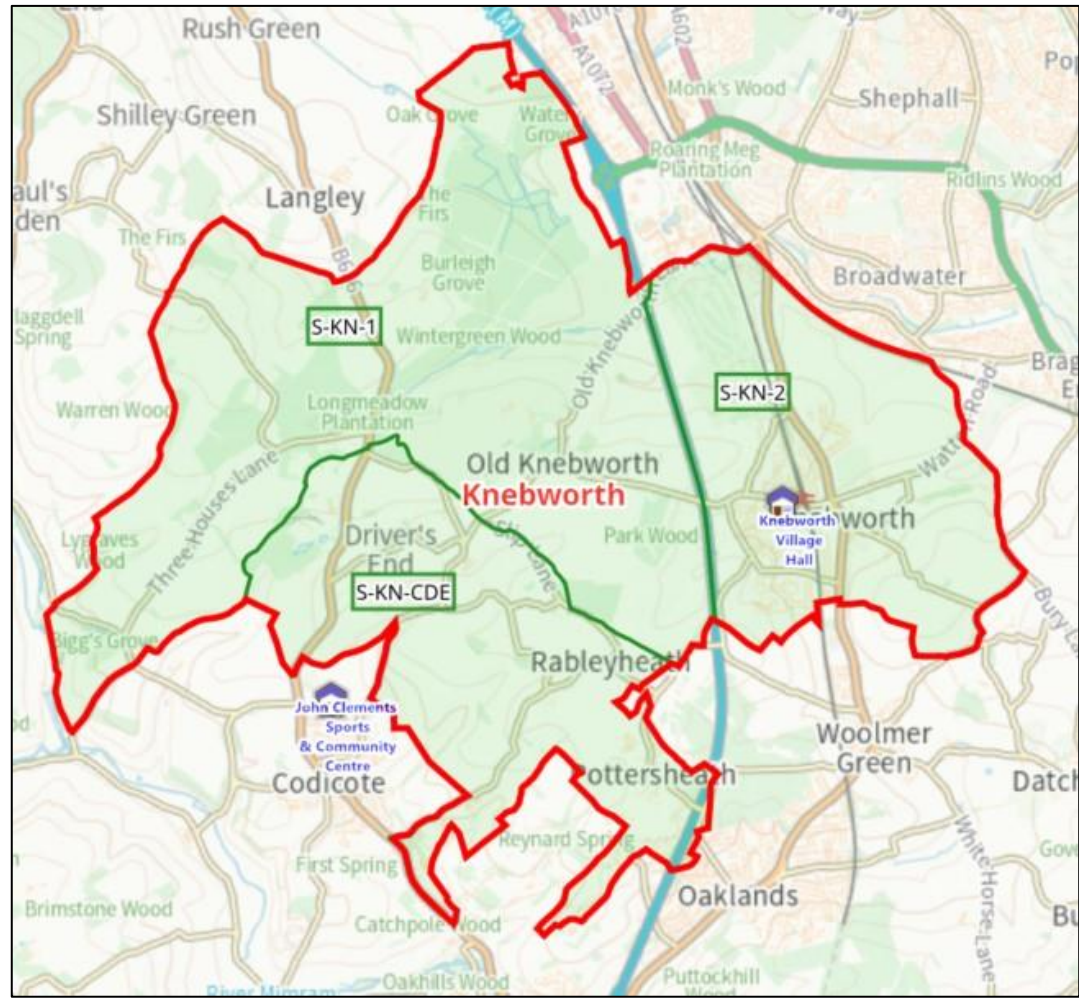


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<b>H-HWO-KWA</b> <b>Kings Walden (Kings Walden)</b>	178	Kings Walden Village Hall, Church Road, SG4 8JX		
<b>H-HWO-KWB</b> <b>Kings Walden (Breachwood Green)</b>	608	Breachwood Green Village Hall, Chapel Road, SG4 8NX		Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at Breachwood Green Village Hall.
<b>H-HWO-LAN</b> <b>Langley</b>	154	New Fellowship Hall, Bendish lane, SG4 8HX	Polling Place outside Polling District	Former polling place at Wytch End is no longer available.  No alternative venues could be identified within the parish of Langley itself, so the possibility of merging with the polling station in the neighbouring parish of St Pauls Walden was explored.  Consultation response from the District Ward Councillor in support of this proposal.
<b>H-HWO-SPW</b> <b>St Pauls Walden</b>	1061	New Fellowship Hall, Bendish lane, SG4 8HX		Consultation response from member of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at New Fellowship Hall.
<b>H-HWO-PRE</b> <b>Preston</b>	320	Preston Village Hall, School Lane, SG4 7UE		Consultation response from member of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at Preston Village Hall, citing its central location and ease of access.

Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward

Knebworth ward

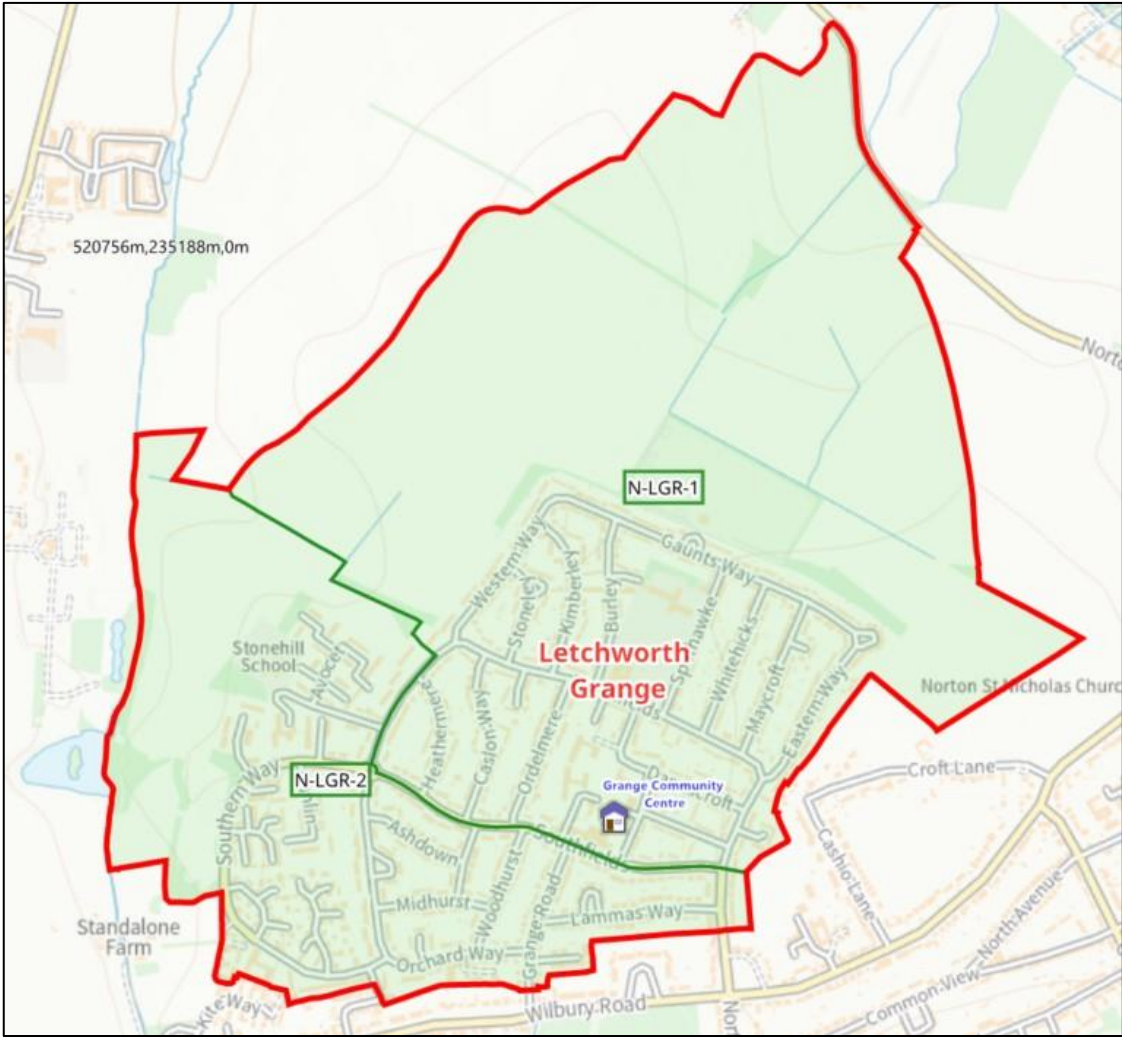


Polling District	2023 Electorate	Proposed Polling Place	Returning Officer comments	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered
<b>S-KN-CDE</b> <b>Codicote (East)</b>	624	John Clements Sports and Community Centre, Bury Lane, Codicote, SG4 8XY	Polling Place outside of Polling District	<p>Consultation response received from member of the public highlighting that the former station at Peace Memorial Hall, which was a double station for both halves of Codicote, was a distance for electors in Codicote (East) and that we should consider finding an alternative closer to this half of the parish.</p> <p>In addition, Codicote being split across district wards added further weight to this idea.</p> <p>One consultation response (from the other half of Codicote) did object to this proposal based on cost. However, it was felt that the case for having its own polling station was a strong one.</p> <p>We were unable to locate a venue in Codicote (East) itself, but John Clements Sports Centre and St Giles Church, which are closer to the eastern half of the parish, were considered.</p> <p>After undertaking a site visit and liaising with local District Ward Councillors, John Clements Sports Centre was deemed the best option for Codicote (East). NB – the remainder of Codicote parish will retain its polling place at the Peace Memorial Hall, which will now be a single station.</p>
<b>S-KN-1</b> <b>Knebworth 1</b>	282	Knebworth Village Hall, Park Lane, SG3 6PD	Polling Place outside Polling District	Knebworth Parish Council and consultation responses received from members of the public in favour of retaining polling place at Knebworth Village Hall, highlighting its central location and car parking facilities
<b>S-KN-2</b> <b>Knebworth 2</b>	3207	Knebworth Village Hall, Park Lane, SG3 6PD		



Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward

Letchworth Grange ward

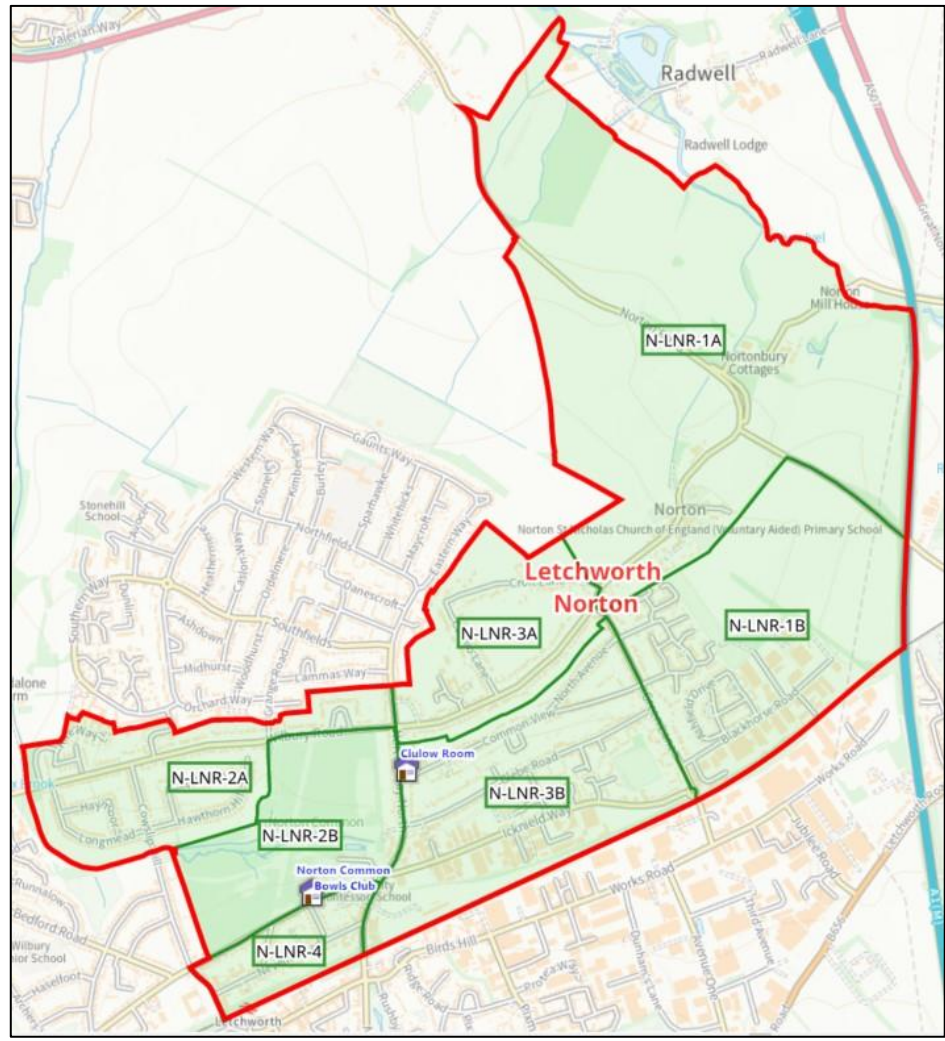


<b>Polling District</b>	<b>2023 Electorate</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place</b>	<b>Returning Officer comments</b>	<b>Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered</b>
<b>N-LGR-1</b> <b>Letchworth Grange 1</b>	2060	Grange Community Centre, Middlfields, SG6 4NG	The previous CAB polling district has been amended to follow the new District ward boundary and then split in 2 because of large electorate size.	Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining polling place at Grange Community Centre
<b>N-LGR-2</b> <b>Letchworth Grange 2</b>	2044	Grange Community Centre, Middlfields, SG6 4NG		



Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward

Letchworth Norton ward



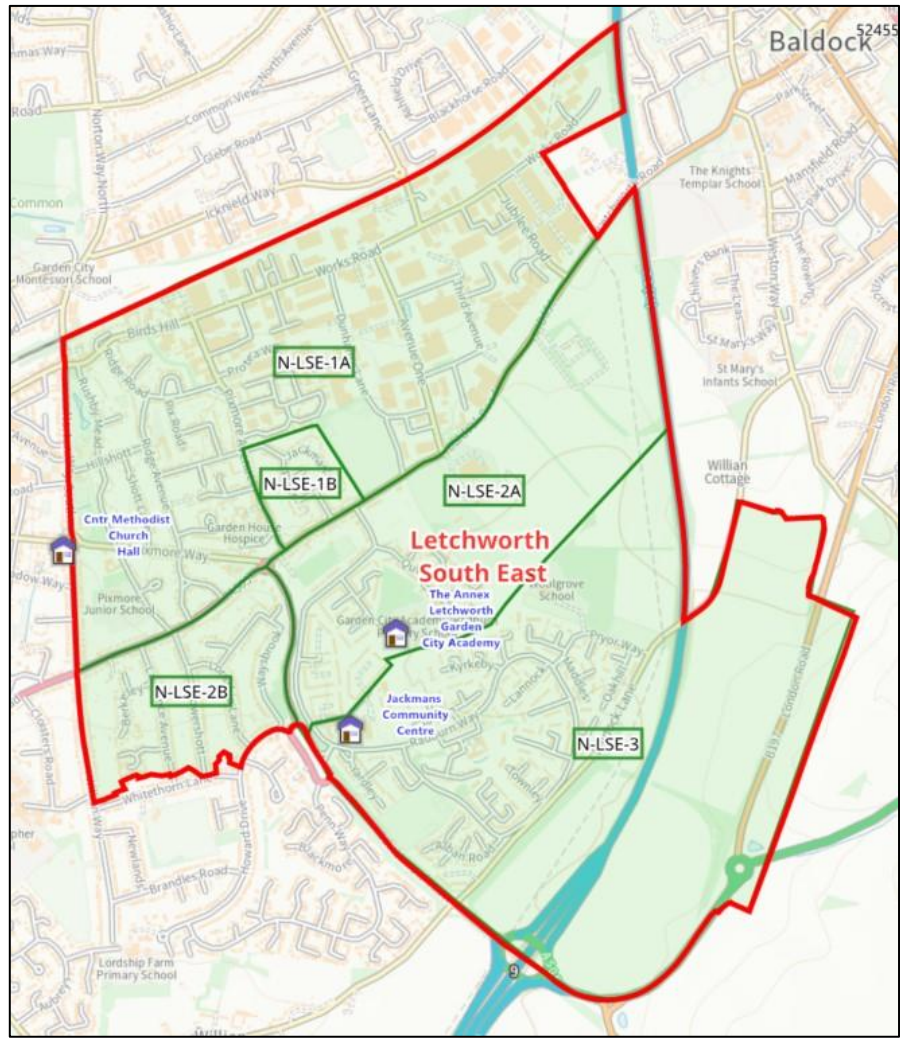
Polling District	2023 Electorate	Proposed Polling Place	Returning Officer comments	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered
<b>N-LNR-1a</b> <b>Letchworth Norton 1a</b>	142	Clulow Room, St George's Hall, Common View, SG6 1DA	<p>Polling district boundary has been amended to make more logical shape.</p> <p>Temporarily split A &amp; B because of old district wards.</p> <p>Polling Place outside Polling District.</p>	<p>Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at Clulow Rooms</p>
<b>N-LNR-1b</b> <b>Letchworth Norton 1b</b>	744	Clulow Room, St George's Hall, Common View, SG6 1DA	<p>Polling district boundary has been amended to make more logical shape.</p> <p>Temporarily split A &amp; B because of old district wards.</p> <p>Polling Place outside Polling District.</p>	
<b>N-LNR-2a</b> <b>Letchworth Norton 2a</b>	839	Clulow Room, St George's Hall, Common View, SG6 1DA	<p>Polling district boundary has been amended to make more logical shape and taken on part of former CBA along Norton Way.</p> <p>Temporarily split A &amp; B because of old district wards.</p> <p>Polling Place outside Polling District</p>	
<b>N-LNR-2b</b> <b>Letchworth Norton 2b</b>	68	Clulow Room, St George's Hall, Common View, SG6 1DA	<p>Polling district boundary has been amended to make more logical shape and taken on part of former CBA along Norton Way.</p> <p>Temporarily split A &amp; B because of old district wards.</p> <p>Polling Place outside Polling District</p>	
<b>N-LNR-3a</b> <b>Letchworth Norton 3a</b>	431	Clulow Room, St George's Hall, Common View, SG6 1DA	<p>Reduced in size slightly – L-NR-2a has been expanded compared to previous CAC polling district.</p> <p>Temporarily split A &amp; B because of old district wards.</p> <p>Polling Place outside Polling District</p>	
<b>N-LNR-3b</b> <b>Letchworth Norton 3b</b>	1355	Clulow Room, St George's Hall, Common View, SG6 1DA	<p>Reduced in size slightly – CAC has been expanded.</p> <p>Temporarily split A &amp; B because of old district wards</p>	

**APPENDIX A**

<b>N-LNR-4</b> <b>Letchworth</b> <b>Norton 4</b>	261	Norton Common Bowls Club, Icknield Way, SG6 4UF	Separate polling district and station because of county division boundary.	Site Visit undertaken for Council owned site at Norton Common Bowls Club confirmed that this has suitable facilities, including car parking and disabled access.
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**Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward**

**Letchworth South East ward**

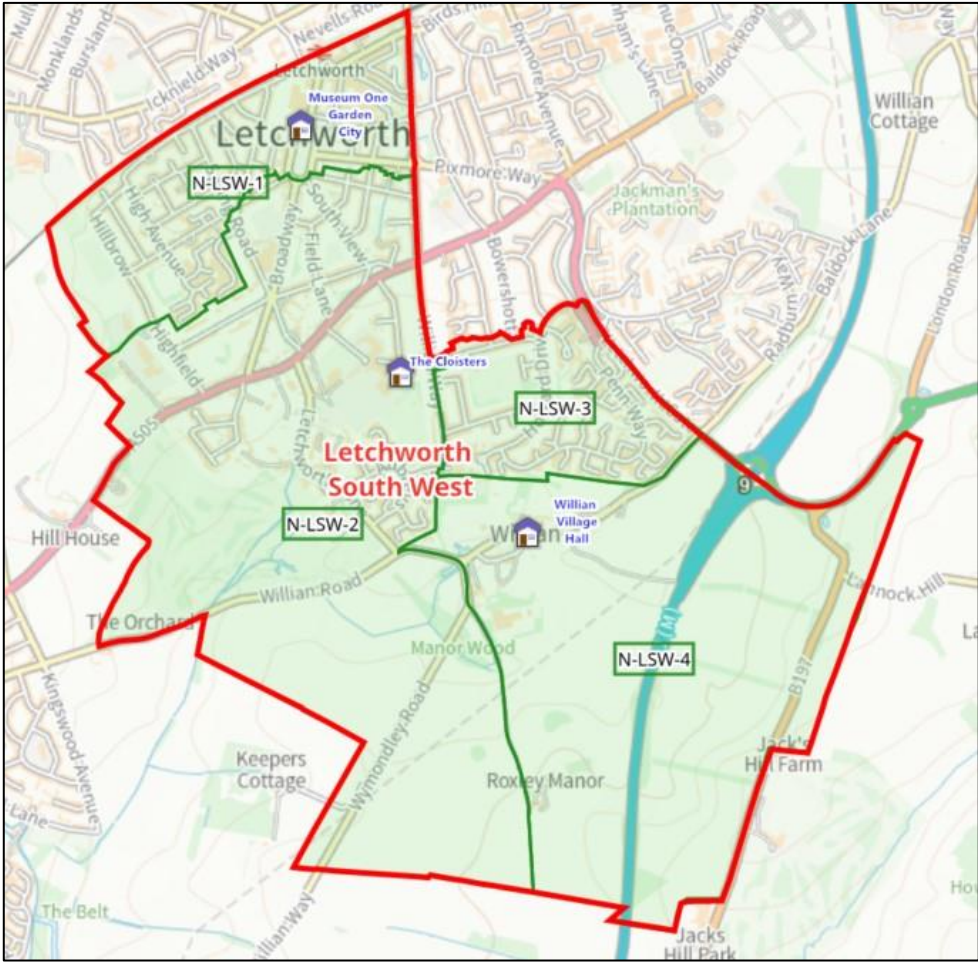


Polling District	2023 Electorate	Proposed Polling Place	Returning Officer comments	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered
<b>N-LSE-1a</b> <b>Letchworth South East 1a</b>	2222	Central Methodist Church Hall, Norton Way South, SG6 3TR	The previous CBB and CCF polling districts are now in the same electoral area at each level and will be merged post May 2024 elections	Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at Central Methodist Church Hall
<b>N-LSE-1b</b> <b>Letchworth South East 1b</b>	421	Central Methodist Church Hall, Norton Way South, SG6 3TR	The previous CBB and CCF polling districts are now in the same electoral area at each level and will be merged post May 2024 elections  Polling Place outside Polling District	
<b>N-LSE-2a</b> <b>Letchworth South East 2a</b>	987	The Annex at Garden City Academy, Garden City Academy, OFF Radburn Way, SG6 2JZ	Temporarily split A & B because of old district wards	Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at The Annex.
<b>N-LSE-2b</b> <b>Letchworth South East 2b</b>	830	The Annex at Garden City Academy, Garden City Academy, OFF Radburn Way, SG6 2JZ	Temporarily split A & B because of old district wards  Polling Place outside Polling District	One respondent raised concern about the size of the room used there, but no alternative venues were suggested.
<b>N-LSE-3</b> <b>Letchworth South East 3</b>	2014	Jackmans Community Centre (Old Library), Ivel Court, SG6 2NL		It was originally considered to explore a church which is located more centrally within this polling district. However, District Ward Councillors indicated that Jackmans Community Centre was a widely known/recognised location for this area and benefited from voter familiarity, so the decision was taken to maintain this polling place.



**Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward**

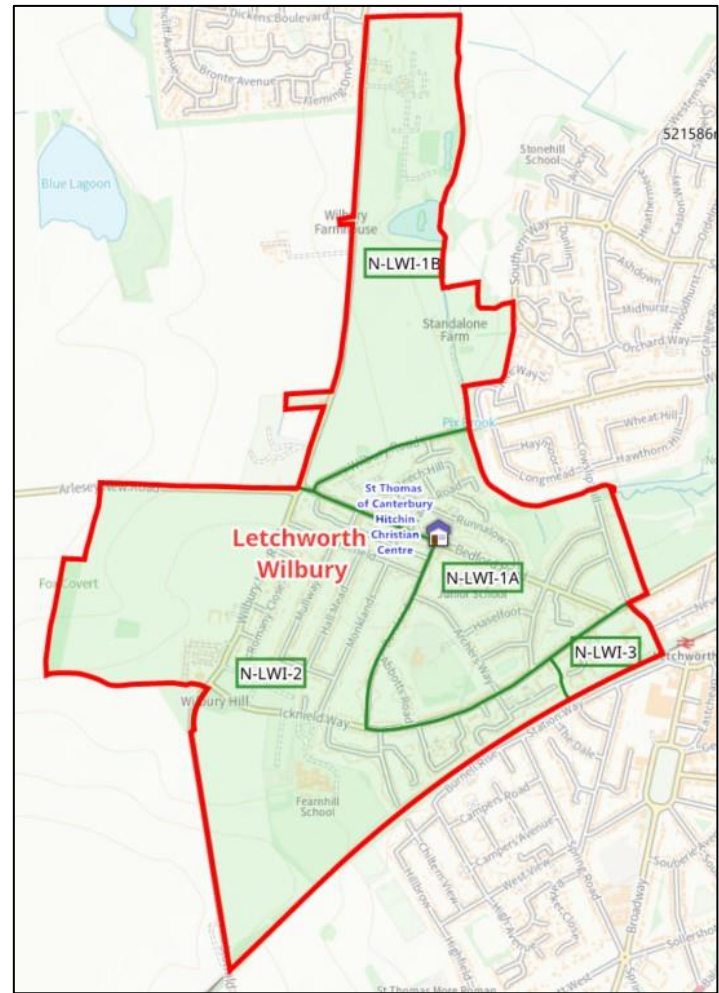
**Letchworth South West ward**



Polling District	2023 Electorate	Proposed Polling Place	Returning Officer comments	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered
<b>N-LSW-1</b> <b>Letchworth South West 1</b>	2584	Museum at One Garden City, One Garden City, Broadway, SG6 3BF		<p>Consultation responses from members of the public generally in favour of retaining the polling place at the Museum at One Garden City, raising its close walking distance and accessibility.</p> <p>One respondent raised concern with corridor access and signage, but this will now be a single station instead a double station as at the elections in May 2023, removing the need for additional rooms to be accessed through corridors.</p> <p>Other options explored for this area included the District Council Offices, but this was ruled out as it is in use for other election functions on polling day, and Brotherhood Hall which was ruled out as it does not have suitable facilities for staff.</p>
<b>N-LSW-2</b> <b>Letchworth South West 2</b>	2131	The Cloisters, Barrington Road, SG6 3TH		<p>Consultation responses from District Ward Councillor and members of the public generally in favour of retaining the polling place at The Cloisters.</p> <p>One respondent proposed that this polling place should be moved to Lordship Farm School, as it was for elections in 2019; however, other respondents indicated that school closures should not be considered to accommodate polling stations. Wherever possible, alternatives to school polling stations have been explored to avoid disruption for pupils.</p>
<b>N-LSW-3</b> <b>Letchworth South West 3</b>	1707	The Cloisters, Barrington Road, SG6 3TH	Polling Place outside Polling District	
<b>N-LSW-4</b> <b>Letchworth South West 4</b>	162	Willian Village Hall, Willian, SG6 2AP		<p>It was originally proposed that, due to the small electorate size and the fact that it is in the same electoral area at all levels, the polling station for N-LSW-4 could be merged with N-LSW-2 &amp; N-LSW-3 at The Cloisters.</p> <p>However, local District Ward Councillors raised concerns about this proposal, highlighting that Willian was a distance away from the Cloisters and not easily accessible on foot.</p> <p>It was therefore concluded to retain the polling place arrangements at Willian Village Hall.</p>

**Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward**

**Letchworth Wilbury ward**

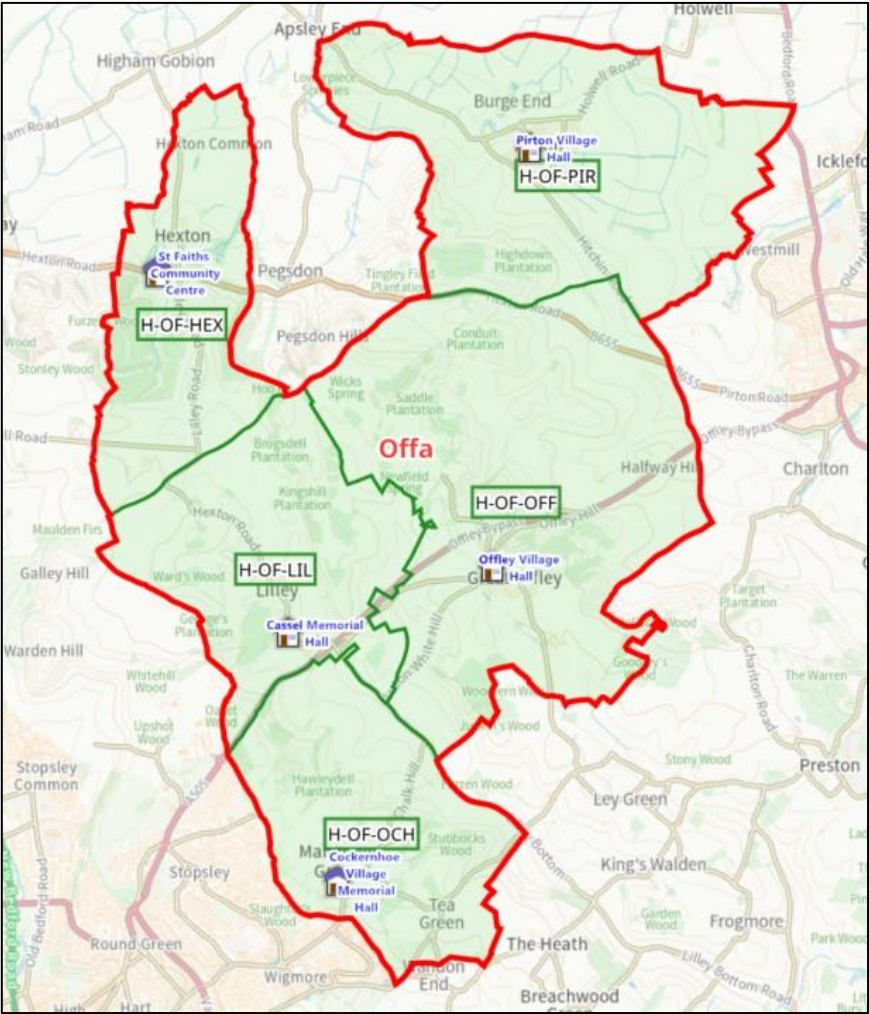


Polling District	2023 Electorate	Proposed Polling Place	Returning Officer comments	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered
<b>N-LWI-1a</b> <b>Letchworth Wilbury 1a</b>	1773	St Thomas of Canterbury, Bedford Road, SG6 4DU	Gains part of the previous CAA polling district and then split in 2 because of large electorate.  Temporarily split A & B due to old district wards.	Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at St Thomas of Canterbury.  One respondent raised that although it was ideally placed for voters walking to the station, it can be difficult to park at the venue.  Possibility of a separate station for N-LWI-3, which is in a separate county division, was explored and a site visit was undertaken at local scout hut. However, due to concerns about disabled access and a lack of parking this was ruled out and the proposal is to remain with St Thomas.
<b>N-LWI-1b</b> <b>Letchworth Wilbury 1b</b>	13	St Thomas of Canterbury, Bedford Road, SG6 4DU	Gains part of the previous CAA polling district and then split in 2 because of large electorate.  Temporarily split A & B due to old district wards.  Polling Place outside Polling District	
<b>N-LWI-2</b> <b>Letchworth Wilbury 2</b>	2165	St Thomas of Canterbury, Bedford Road, SG6 4DU	Polling Place outside Polling District	
<b>N-LWI-3</b> <b>Letchworth Wilbury 3</b>	150	St Thomas of Canterbury, Bedford Road, SG6 4DU	Double station for county elections	



Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward

Offa ward

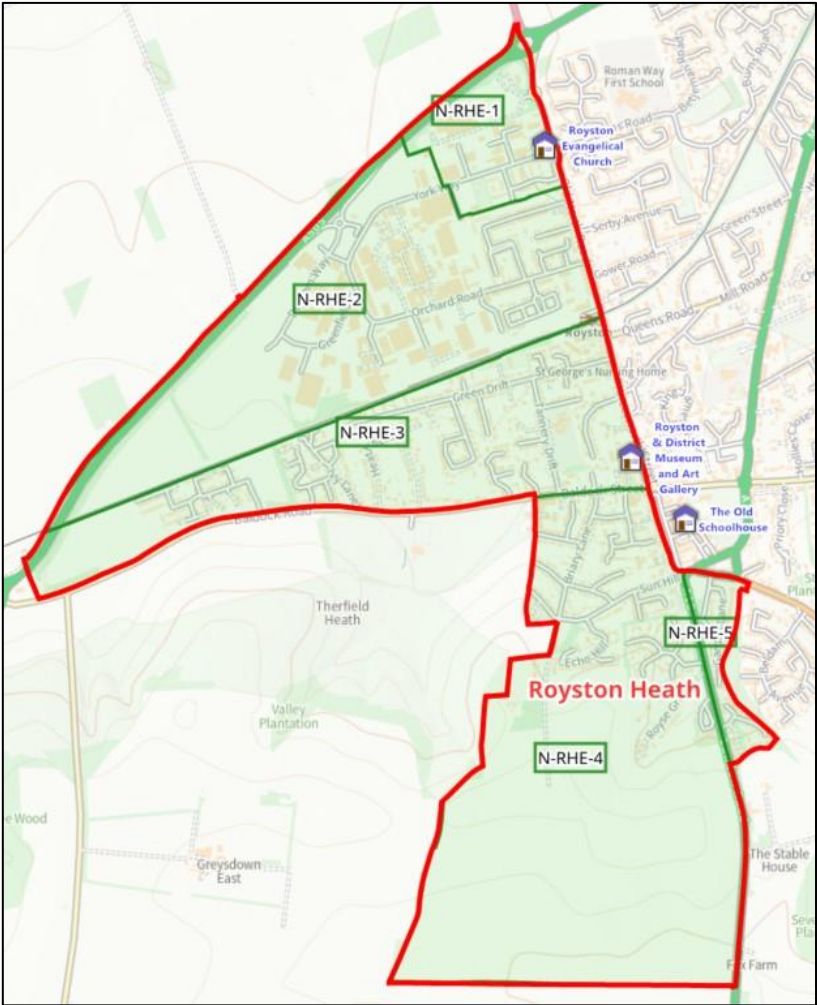




Polling District	2023 Electorate	Proposed Polling Place	Returning Officer comments	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered
<b>H-OF-HEX</b> <b>Hexton</b>	87	St Faiths Community Centre, Barton Road, SG5 3JL		<p>Consultation response from member of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at St Faiths, highlighting its convenient location and parking facilities for disabled voters.</p> <p>Consideration was initially given to merging the station for Hexton with Lilley since it has a small electorate and is in the same district ward and county division.</p> <p>However, the local District Ward Councillor raised concerns and stated that St Faiths Community Centre should be retained as polling place. Therefore, this proposed merge was decided against.</p>
<b>H-OF-LIL</b> <b>Lilley</b>	304	Cassel Memorial Hall, West Street, LU2 8LN		Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at Cassel Memorial Hall
<b>H-OF-OFF</b> <b>Offley (Offley)</b>	849	Offley Village Hall, Luton Road, SG5 3DG		
<b>H-OF-OCH</b> <b>Offley (Cockernhoe)</b>	385	Cockernhoe Memorial Hall, Mangrove Road, LU2 8QD		
<b>H-OF-PIR</b> <b>Pirton</b>	1215	Pirton Village Hall, High Street, SG5 3PS		Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at Pirton Village Hall, with respondents highlighting its central location, good disabled access including the availability of a ramp, although one other respondent did indicate that the side access door was often used which was less accessible and that we could procure a ramp to assist with this entrance.

**Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward**

**Royston Heath ward**



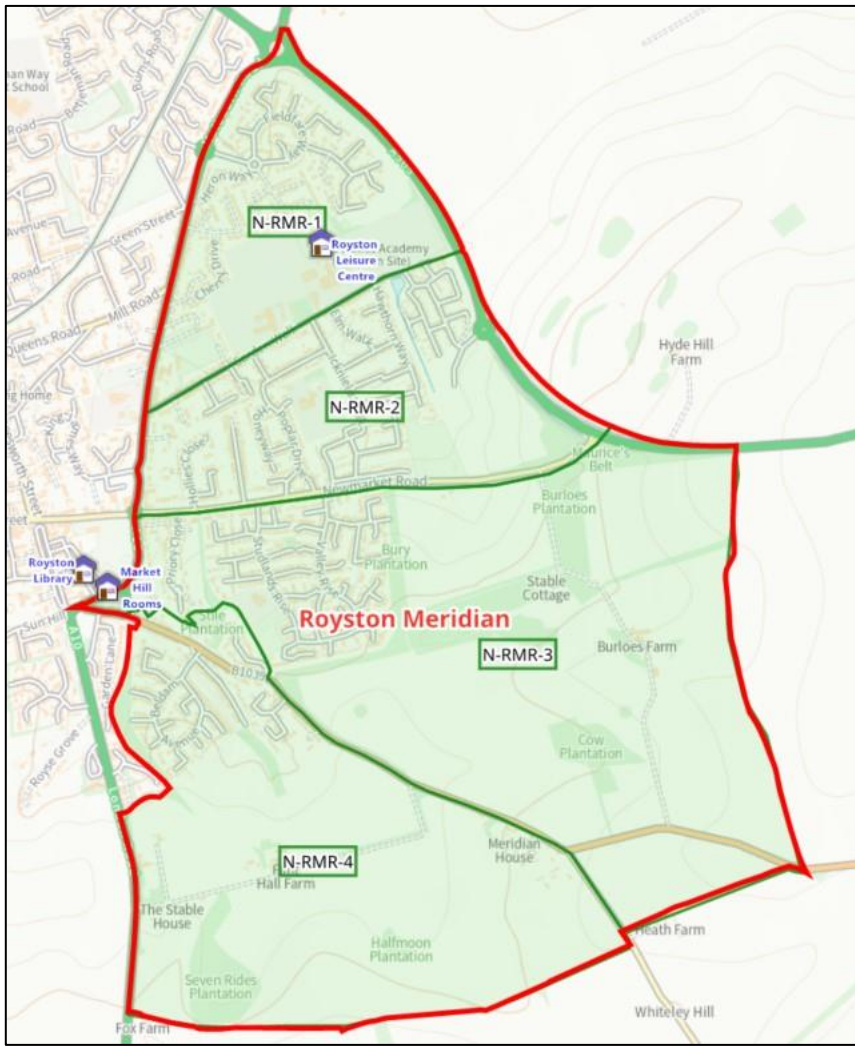
Polling District	2023 Electorate	Proposed Polling Place	Returning Officer comments	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered
<b>N-RHE-1</b> <b>Royston Heath 1</b>	143	Royston Evangelical Church, York Way, Royston, SG8 5HJ	This is a new polling district created by the new district ward boundaries. It was previously in Royston Meridian ward and therefore polled at Coombes Community Centre with the rest of the ward.	Having divided the previous polling district along the railway line, it felt natural that N-RHE-1 and N-RHE-2 should be identified a polling station which was north of the railway for voters to access.  A local nursery was approached. However, was unavailable.  Royston Evangelical Church was identified as being within the N-RHE-1 polling district and after a site visit was undertaken, its facilities were found to be suitable. It will require a double station at County and Town council elections.
<b>N-RHE-2</b> <b>Royston Heath 2</b>	713	Royston Evangelical Church, York Way, Royston, SG8 5HJ	Former DBA polling district has been divided in half along railway line as this is a hard geographical boundary.  Polling Place outside Polling District	
<b>N-RHE-3</b> <b>Royston Heath 3</b>	1382	Royston & District Museum and Art Gallery, 5 Lower King Street, SG8 5AL	Former DBA polling district divided in half along railway line as this is a hard geographical boundary.  The southern boundary of this polling district moved up to follow Baldock Road as this is a more logical boundary. Properties south of Baldock Road have therefore been moved to be part of N-RHE-4.	Consultation responses received from members of the public and District Ward Councillors generally in favour of retaining the polling place at Royston Museum for N-RHE-3.  N-RHE-4 previously polled at Market Hill Rooms, but this is a polling place in the Meridian Ward, so it has been combined at the Museum, which is in Royston Heath ward.  One respondent raised concern that parking was limited at the venue and proposed the local golf club or Tannery Drift School as alternatives.  Unfortunately, neither of these sites were available as options. The Town Hall was also suggested, but this is already the venue for a polling station in a neighbouring ward.
<b>N-RHE-4</b> <b>Royston Heath 4</b>	1281	Royston & District Museum and Art Gallery, 5 Lower King Street, SG8 5AL	Polling Place outside Polling District	
<b>N-RHE-5</b> <b>Royston Heath 5</b>	201	The Old Schoolhouse, 4 Market Hill, SG8 9JL	This polling district previously polled at Market Hill Rooms. However, the new District ward boundary follows Garden Lane, creating a new small polling district.	Potential venues inside the polling district itself were unable to be identified. However, a few options were investigated nearby.

**APPENDIX A**

			<p>Polling Place outside Polling District</p>	<p>A local pub was considered but was known to only have upstairs facilities, which aren't easily accessible for disabled voters. A nearby hospital was also approached, but no response was provided so therefore assumed unavailable.</p> <p>The Old Schoolhouse was identified as a nearby venue with suitable facilities after a suggestion put forward by a District Ward Councillor. A site visit confirmed this as a suitable venue.</p>
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**Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward**

**Royston Meridian ward**

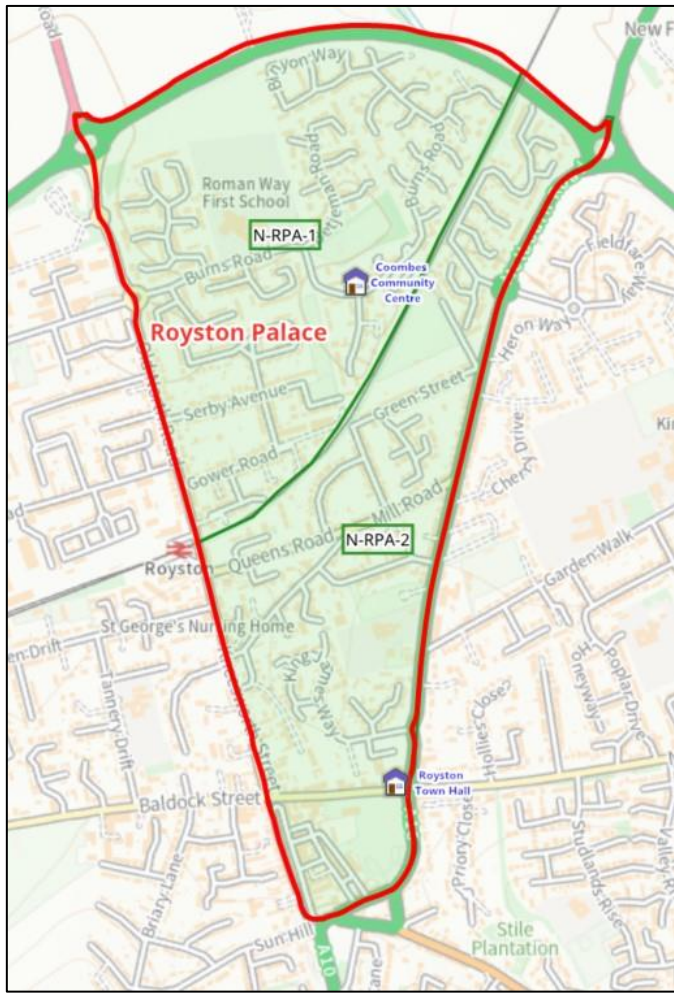




Polling District	2023 Electorate	Proposed Polling Place	Returning Officer comments	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered
<b>N-RMR-1</b> <b>Royston Meridian 1</b>	1191	Royston Leisure Centre, Woodcock Road, SG8 7XT	Previous DAA polling district had a large electorate so has been split in half along Garden Walk	<p>Consultation responses from members of the public and District Ward Councillors in favour of retaining the polling place at Royston Leisure Centre.</p> <p>One respondent raised concern that it was not easily accessible on foot from their address and proposed moving the station to a local school. However, other respondents were strongly against the proposal to use schools and the Returning Officer has avoided this wherever possible to minimise disruption to pupils.</p>
<b>N-RMR-2</b> <b>Royston Meridian 2</b>	1721	Royston Leisure Centre, Woodcock Road, SG8 7XT	Polling Place outside Polling District	
<b>N-RMR-3</b> <b>Royston Meridian 3</b>	1365	Royston Library, Market Hill, SG8 9JN		<p>This polling district previously polled at Studlands Rise school, which was initially proposed to remain unchanged.</p> <p>However, after discussions with the school, their circumstances had changed and the arrangement which previously allowed us to use it as a polling station whilst the school remained open for pupils was no longer considered viable due to safeguarding concerns.</p> <p>Consultation responses from members of the public strongly expressed that school closures shouldn't be utilised to facilitate elections, and wherever possible, the Returning Officer has tried to avoid this disruption to students.</p> <p>Alternative options were therefore explored. An alternative within the polling district itself couldn't be identified. However, the Library is situated in the Town Centre which is a short distance from the polling district. A site visit was undertaken to confirm that the facilities are satisfactory, and District Ward Councillors were informed who expressed support for the proposal.</p>
<b>N-RMR-4</b> <b>Royston Meridian 4</b>	934	Market Hill Rooms, Fish Hill, SG8 9JL	<p>New District boundary means this loses a small section along Garden Lane compared to previous DBB polling district</p> <p>Polling Place outside Polling District</p>	<p>Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at Market Hill Rooms</p>

**Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward**

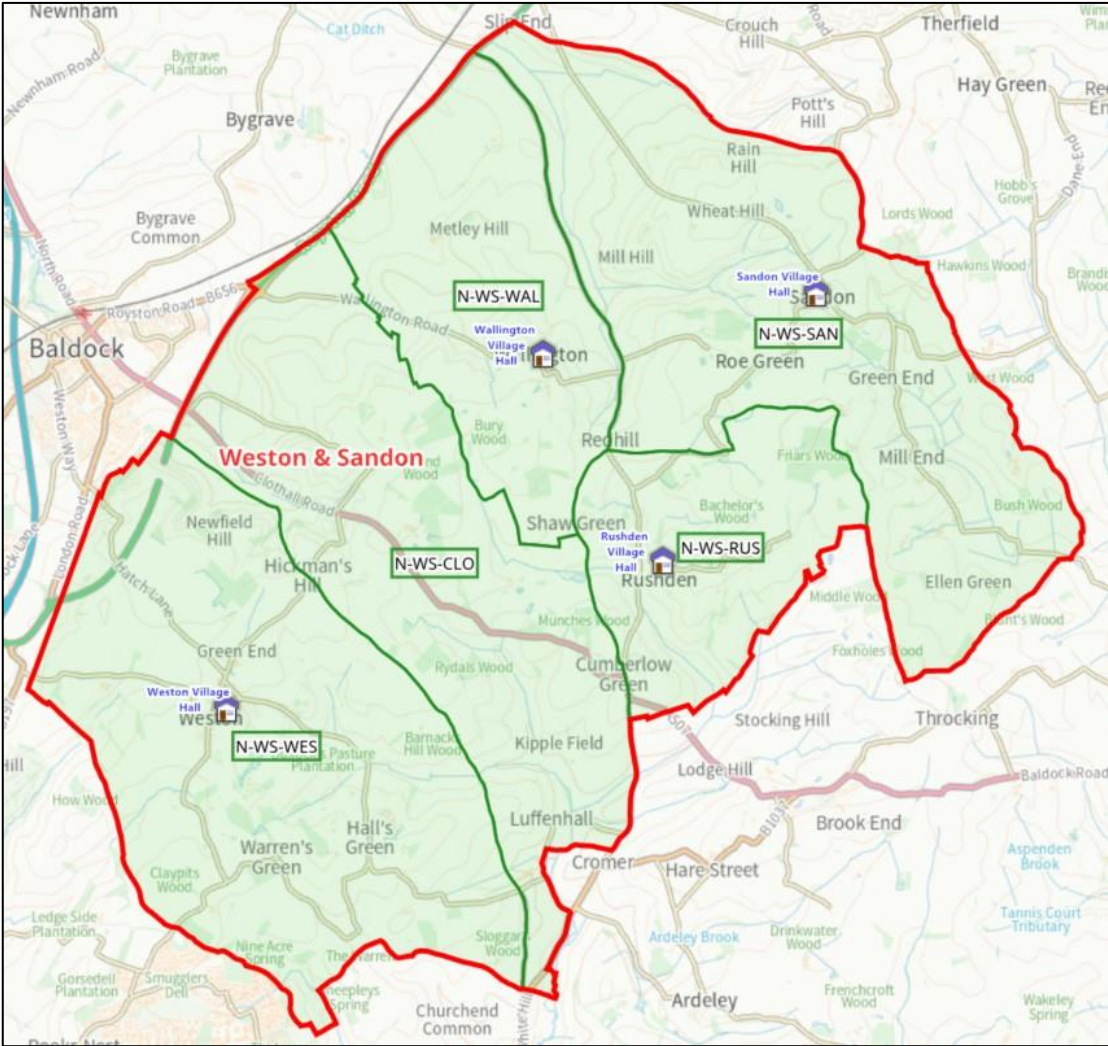
**Royston Palace ward**



Polling District	2023 Electorate	Proposed Polling Place	Returning Officer comments	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered
<b>N-RPA-1</b> <b>Royston Palace 1</b>	2330	Coombes Community Centre, Burns Road, SG8 5PT		
<b>N-RPA-2</b> <b>Royston Palace 2</b>	1821	Royston Town Hall, Melbourn Street, SG8 7DA		Consultation response from member of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at Royston Town Hall.

Proposed Polling Scheme by District ward

Weston & Sandon ward



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<b>Polling District</b>	<b>2023 Electorate</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place</b>	<b>Returning Officer comments</b>	<b>Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered</b>
<b>N-WS-SAN</b> <b>Sandon</b>	393	Sandon Village Hall, Payne End, SG9 0QU		<p>Consideration was initially given to merging the stations of Sandon, Wallington &amp; Rushden parishes because they are small electorates and in the same district ward and county division.</p> <p>However, the local District Ward Councillor raised concerns that the villages are a distance apart and that there is no public transport easily linking them, nor safe walking/cycling routes. Therefore, this proposal was decided against, and the separate polling places were retained.</p>
<b>N-WS-WAL</b> <b>Wallington</b>	114	Wallington Village Hall, The Street, SG7 6SW		Please see above considerations for Sandon.
<b>N-WS-WES</b> <b>Weston</b>	786	Weston Village Hall, Maiden Street, SG4 7AA		Consultation responses from members of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at Weston Village Hall.
<b>N-WS-CLO</b> <b>Clothall (W&amp;S)</b>	120	Weston Village Hall, Maiden Street, SG4 7AA	<p>Clothall parish was divided in the new district ward boundaries, hence the creation of this new polling district.</p> <p>Polling Place outside Polling District</p>	
<b>N-WS-RUS</b> <b>Rushden</b>	204	Rushden Village Hall, Rushden, SG9 0SN		<p>Consultation response from member of the public in favour of retaining the polling place at Rushden Village Hall due to its easy accessibility on foot.</p> <p>Please see above considerations for Sandon.</p>