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Date: Wednesday, 18 October
2023

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

You are summoned to attend a meeting of Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Centre, at **10.00 am on Thursday, 26 October 2023** to transact the following business:

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET

- 1 Report from the Cabinet (Pages 3 - 10)**
- 1a Draft Submission to LGBCE on Warding Arrangements (Pages 11 - 36)**
- 1b Ward Changes Map (Pages 37 - 58)**
- 1c Amendment to Notice of Motion (Pages 59 - 60)**

(to consider any notices of motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.6)

Sheena Ramsey
Chief Executive

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COUNCIL MEETING

26 October 2023

Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Electoral Review of Gateshead Council, Part Two (Warding Arrangements)

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the Council's draft submission to the Commission on Part Two of its review of Gateshead Council (Warding Pattern) and to seek agreement for the Chief Executive to make such amendments as required to the draft prior to it being filed.
2. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report, including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

3. It is recommended that Council:
 - (i) agrees the recommendation of the draft submission in terms of the Council size remaining the same at 66 Councillors, across 22 wards, based on the new warding pattern, with three new ward names being proposed;
 - (ii) agrees that the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, may make any amendments to the draft Submission she deems appropriate prior to it being filed with the Commission on 30 October 2023.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Electoral Review of Gateshead Council, Part Two (Warding Arrangements)

REPORT OF: Mike Barker, Strategic Director,
Corporate Services and Governance

Purpose of the Report

1. Following the report presented to Cabinet in January 2023 regarding the Council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) on Council size, this report is to update Cabinet on the Council's draft submission to the Commission on Part Two of its review of Gateshead Council (Warding Pattern) and to seek agreement for the Chief Executive to make such amendments as required to the draft (appended to this report) following the Cabinet and full Council meetings.

Background

2. In 2022 the Commission informed the Council of its decision to carry out an Electoral Review, comprising:
 - Council's size (number of elected councillors) and the number of wards
 - Ward boundaries for the Council.
 - Ward names
3. The last electoral review in Gateshead was undertaken in 2002 and resulted in the current Council size (66 Councillors across 22 wards) and the ward boundaries which presently exist across the borough.
4. Following agreement by Cabinet and Council in January 2022, the Council's submission, which proposed the status quo was maintained, was submitted in February 2023.
5. Due to alternative proposals being received by the Commission, there was a period of public consultation before the Commission made a decision on phase one of the electoral review. On 15 August the Commission made a determination that the Council remain at the same size, maintaining the existing 66 Councillors across 22 wards.
6. On 22 August, the Commission opened the public consultation on the new ward boundary arrangements. The Council is required to file its submission, which will propose new ward boundaries and a number of new ward names, by 30 October 2023.

7. In addition to the Council's submission, the Commission also welcomes comments from individuals and community groups.
8. In preparing a proposal on warding arrangements, the Council is required, as far as possible, to develop a warding pattern which fulfils the following:
 - (a) **Delivering electoral equality for local electors:** ideally, this means each ward in Gateshead would have an equal number of electors in it, so that there is equality of representation across the borough, i.e. the same number of electors per Councillor. The electorate in Gateshead is forecast to be 150,899 by 2030 (future housing developments and demolitions have been factored into this electorate forecast). The following electoral quotas refer to the mean number of electors in each ward. In proposing wards, a 10% variance in the electoral quota is acceptable as the Commission recognise that it is unlikely that any local authority will be able to have exactly this number in every ward:
 - i. 66 Councillors in 22 wards with 6,859 electors per ward (6,173 – 7,545 variance)
 - ii. 69 Councillors in 23 wards with 6,561 electors per ward (5,905 – 7,217 variance)
 - iii. 63 Councillors in 21 wards with 7,186 electors per ward (6,467 – 7,904 variance)
 - (b) **Interests and identities of local communities:** The Commission is interested in views on which communities should be part of the same ward, considering the following factors:
 - i. What facilities do people share, such as parks, leisure centres or schools and shopping areas?
 - ii. What issues do neighbouring communities face that they have in common, such as high numbers of visitors or heavy traffic?
 - iii. Have there been new housing or commercial developments that have changed the focus of communities?
 - iv. And are there roads, rivers, railways or other features that people believe form strong boundaries between neighbourhoods?
9. All Elected Members were invited to engagement events in the week commencing 4 September 2023. Initial proposals were considered along the following lines:
 - a. Retaining the same number of wards
 - b. Increasing to 23 wards should this better reflect local communities
 - c. Reducing to 22 wards should this better reflect local communities
10. The consensus of the Elected Members was to support the Council remaining at 66 Councillors, across 22 wards in line with the Commission's initial determination. It was accepted that even in remaining the same Council size, the ward boundaries would need to be redrawn to ensure greater electoral equality in terms of the electorate quota.

11. Given the new complexities of the shared Parliamentary constituency boundaries with three neighbouring local authorities, it was agreed that the new local ward boundaries should be coterminous with their Parliamentary boundaries. There are therefore no proposals for local ward boundaries to cross the Parliamentary boundaries.
12. New proposals were devised based on the feedback from these sessions. All Councillors were given a further opportunity to comment upon and make new suggestions up to 6 October.
13. The attached submission was prepared on the basis of a consensus of Councillors' views.

Proposal

14. Cabinet is requested to consider the content of the attached submission and appendices (maps).
15. Cabinet is requested to endorse the proposed recommendation to the Commission that the Council retains 22 wards based on the new boundary arrangements, together with new suggested names for three wards, and recommends the same to Council for approval.
16. Cabinet may wish to express a view on the content and provide amendments to the proposed submission.

Recommendations

17. Cabinet is requested to recommend that Council:
 - (i) agrees the recommendation of the draft Submission in terms of the Council size remaining the same at 66 Councillors, across 22 wards, based on the new warding pattern, with three new ward names being proposed; and
 - (ii) agrees that the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, may make any amendments to the draft Submission she deems appropriate prior to it being filed with the Commission on 30 October 2023.

For the following reason:

This is a periodic review undertaken by the Commission that the Council must partake in with a requirement for the Submission to be filed on 30 October 2023.

CONTACT: Angela Simmons-Mather

extension: 2110

Policy Context

1. The Review is a statutory process undertaken by the Commission, and the Council is obliged to participate and provide certain information. However, the warding pattern stage of the review process should also ensure that this aspect of the Council's governance arrangements reflect the needs of the community it serves and its long-term ambitions, thereby enabling the Council to fulfil its policy objectives and particularly its pledges to '*Support our communities to support themselves and each other*' and to '*Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead*'.

Background

2. This is a review of the Council's structure and electoral arrangements. The revised arrangements will take effect from the local elections in May 2026.

Consultation

3. Initial consultation has taken place between the Commission, officers, political group leaders and Council members in September 2022.
4. All Elected Members were given the opportunity to contribute to the Submission in three engagement sessions which took place in the week commencing 4 September 2023.

Alternative Options

5. There are no alternatives. This is a statutory review being undertaken by the Commission which the Council must take part in.
6. The Commission will welcome alternative submissions on warding patterns from individuals and groups.

Implications of Recommended Option

7. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms there are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Had the proposal recommended the creation of another ward, this would have incurred further expenditure. Conversely, had the proposal recommended a reduction in ward numbers, this would have led to a financial saving on current expenditure. Given there are no changes proposed to the current number of Councillors / wards, there are no financial implications.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resource implications arising directly from this report.

- c) **Property Implications** - The outcome of the review process will result in properties being moved from one ward to another, but there are no other implications for the Council property.
- 8. **Risk Management Implications** – there are no risk management implications arising from this report.
- 9. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – The outcome of the review will result in a more balanced level of representation across the whole Borough
- 10. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report
- 11. **Health Implications** – There are no health implications arising from this report.
- 12. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - There are no climate emergency and sustainability implications arising from this report.
- 13. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising from this report
- 14. **Ward Implications** - The review process is applicable to all wards

Background Information

- 15. Local Government Boundary Commission for England Guide for Councillors

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Electoral Review of Gateshead Council

Stage 2 – Warding Arrangements

Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Cabinet Approval – 24 October 2023
Council Approval – 26 October 2023

Submitted – 30 October 2023

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Introduction

In 2022 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) informed Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council of its intention to carry out an Electoral Review of the Council. The last electoral review in Gateshead was undertaken in 2002.

The review process began in mid-2022; any changes that are made regarding council size and ward boundaries will come into effect for the local government elections in May 2026.

In the first phase of the review, the size of the Council was the subject of scrutiny. On 17 February 2023, the Council made a formal submission which supported the size of the Council remaining at 66 councillors, across 22 wards.

On 15 August 2023 the LGBCE made a determination that the Council should remain at the same size, maintaining the existing 66 Councillors across 22 wards.

On 22 August the public consultation on future warding arrangements commenced. This gives the Council, individuals and community organisations the opportunity to provide the LGBCE with views on the positioning of ward boundaries.

It is recognised that the shape and size of existing wards will need to change to reflect the change in population and housing developments (and demolitions) since the last review 20 years ago.

In redrawing the ward boundaries, the intention is that there will be, as far as possible:

- Electoral equality – each councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity – each ward reflects community ties and identities.
- Effective and convenient local government – each ward has effective representation to address issues within their locality.

This document is Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council's submission for stage two of the review, which provides the LGBCE with the Council's view on the proposed ward boundary arrangements.

The document concludes that the ward boundary arrangements should be based upon the existing size of the Council, that being 66 councillors across 22 wards (3 members per ward).

The proposed warding pattern is recommended on the basis:

- It retains the current Council size, which the LGBCE has initially recommended.
- It achieves electoral equality within the constraints of the local geography, with no ward over the 10% variance (+/-) of the electoral quota.
- It has been developed using the local knowledge of the Elected Councillors who are well placed to advise on local facilities, community ties and infrastructure which may physically divide neighbourhoods.

Developing the pattern of wards for Gateshead

When starting this process, consideration was given to the newly created Parliamentary constituency boundaries. Whilst acknowledging that the LGBCE are not concerned with Parliamentary boundaries, Gateshead now shares three Parliamentary constituencies with neighbouring councils:

- Blaydon and Consett constituency – cross boundary shared with Durham County Council
- Jarrow and Gateshead East constituency – cross boundary shared with South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
- Washington and Gateshead South constituency – cross boundary shared with Sunderland City Council

Following careful consideration, it was agreed that when drawing up the proposed new ward boundaries, none would cross a Parliamentary boundary. The reasoning was to ensure all electors within the local government boundary understand that they are also within the same Parliamentary boundary. This avoids confusion for the voters and ensures they retain a sense of local identity, all being within the same local / parliamentary boundary.

With the aim of delivering electoral equality, it was important to determine the electorate forecast for Gateshead. This is the number of anticipated electors in the borough in 2029. The proposals in this document are based on a forecast of electorate which takes into account future housing developments and projected demolitions. To guard against over-optimistic forecasting, only sites where development has already started, or which have existing planning permission, can be considered.

Whilst the current number of electors in Gateshead is 142,639, the projection is for an additional 8,260 voters by 2029, with the electorate forecast being accepted by the LGBCE as being **150,899 voters**.

With the proposed **22 wards**, this led to an average of **6,859 voters** per ward. While every effort is taken to achieve the electorate quota, the LGBCE has acknowledged that this is not always possible due to local features, therefore a +/- 10% variance is possible. This means at the lowest, 90% of the quota, there would be 6,173 voters, whilst at the top end, 110% of the quota, this would be 7,545 voters.

The current position:

Ward	Current electorate	Percentage of forecast – 6,859
Crawcrook & Greenside	7257	(+6%)
Ryton Crookhill & Stella	7832	(+14%)
Chopwell & Rowlands Gill	7404	(+8%)
Blaydon	7418	(+8%)
Winlaton & High Spenn	7145	(+4%)
Whickham South & Sunniside	6666	(-3%)

Whickham North	6307	(-8%)
Dunston & Teams	6207	(-10%)
Dunston Hill & Whickham East	7423	(+8%)
Lobley Hill & Bensham	7461	(+9%)
Bridges	6907	(+1%)
Saltwell	6264	(-9%)
Low Fell	7037	(+3%)
Chowdene	6771	(-1%)
Deckham	6429	(-6%)
High Fell	6112	(-11%)
Felling	5983	(-13%)
Windy Nook & Whitehills	7083	(+3%)
Pelaw & Heworth	6534	(-5%)
Wardley & Leam Lane	6337	(-8%)
Lamesley	7530	(+10%)
Birtley	6792	(-1%)

Key:

	100% of Electorate Quota +/- 2%
	Mid-range +/- 3-7%
	Outer limit of variance +/- 8-10%
	Over +/-10% variance

On the Council's current ward structure, two wards, namely Felling (-13%) and High Fell (-11%) are significantly below the electoral quota; and two wards, namely Lamesley (+10%) and Ryton Crookhill & Stella (+14%) are significantly above the electoral quota.

In drawing up these proposals a high priority has been given to the LGBCE's guidance on electoral equality. These proposals will place all 22 wards within the 10% deviation of the electoral quota placing one ward, namely Crawcrook & Greenside, at 110% (+10%) and one ward, namely Felling, at 90% (-10%).

Whilst electorate calculations were part of the review, in developing the proposals, the interests and identities of communities across the borough of Gateshead have been at the forefront of this process. As set out in the earlier submission on Council size, Gateshead is a borough of contrasts. It has a large urban hub centred around the main town centre area in Bridges ward and has a number of smaller urban centres and busy employment areas. However, around two thirds of the borough is rural, consisting of green-belt or countryside land, with numerous small settlements.

It has therefore been important to recognise distinct communities and neighbourhoods and to take into consideration facilities, transport links, community groups, and also the parish of Lamesley, which sits within the ward of Lamesley.

The geographical features of the borough were also important when considering the boundary proposals, including the A1 (Western Bypass), the A184 (Felling Bypass), East Coast Mainline and the Tyne & Wear Metro lines.

The avoidance of unnatural splits within communities has been given precedence in these proposals, even where that means that electoral equality may have been somewhat compromised.

The proposals were considered and developed through three councillor engagement sessions where local knowledge helped move initial considerations forward. The LGBCE's criteria was taken into consideration to help form the final proposals:

- Delivering electoral equality for local electors
- Interests and identities of local communities
- Effective and convenient local government

Finally, consideration was given to the renaming of wards to more accurately reflect the communities within. These proposals have not sought to make changes where there is no reason for them, therefore it is proposed 19 wards will retain their current name, whilst three wards, namely Dunston & Teams, Whickham North and Birtley should have their name adjusted to more accurately reflect the communities within the ward.

Working from west to east on the map, within each Parliamentary constituency, the Council proposes the following twenty-two wards are implemented across the borough of Gateshead.

Proposals for Blaydon and Consett Constituency Wards

Current Wards

There are five wards within this constituency with a combined electorate of 37,056, which would give an average of 7411 electors per ward. This is at the top end of the electorate quota but still within 10%

Ward	Current Electorate	Proposed Electorate
Chopwell & Rowlands Gill	7404 (108%)	7423 (108%)
Crawcrook & Greenside	7257 (106%)	7545 (110%)
Ryton Crookhill & Stella	7832 (114%)	7465 (108%)
Winlaton & High Spen	7145 (104%)	7349 (107%)
Blaydon	7418 (108%)	7274 (106%)

Proposed Changes

Ward 1 – Chopwell & Rowlands Gill Ward

This ward covers the extreme south-west of the Borough. The main centres of population are Chopwell, Highfield, Blackhall Mill and Rowlands Gill. There has been limited elector growth in this area since the previous review (7,391 in 2001).

Due to its location at the outer edge of the Borough and rural geography, this ward remains towards the higher electoral quota variance. It is not possible to reduce its size without dividing established communities.

The proposal is to move Coalburns (ADG 19 electors) from Crawcrook and Greenside ward into Chopwell and Rowlands Gill ward, returning the hamlet to its previous ward:



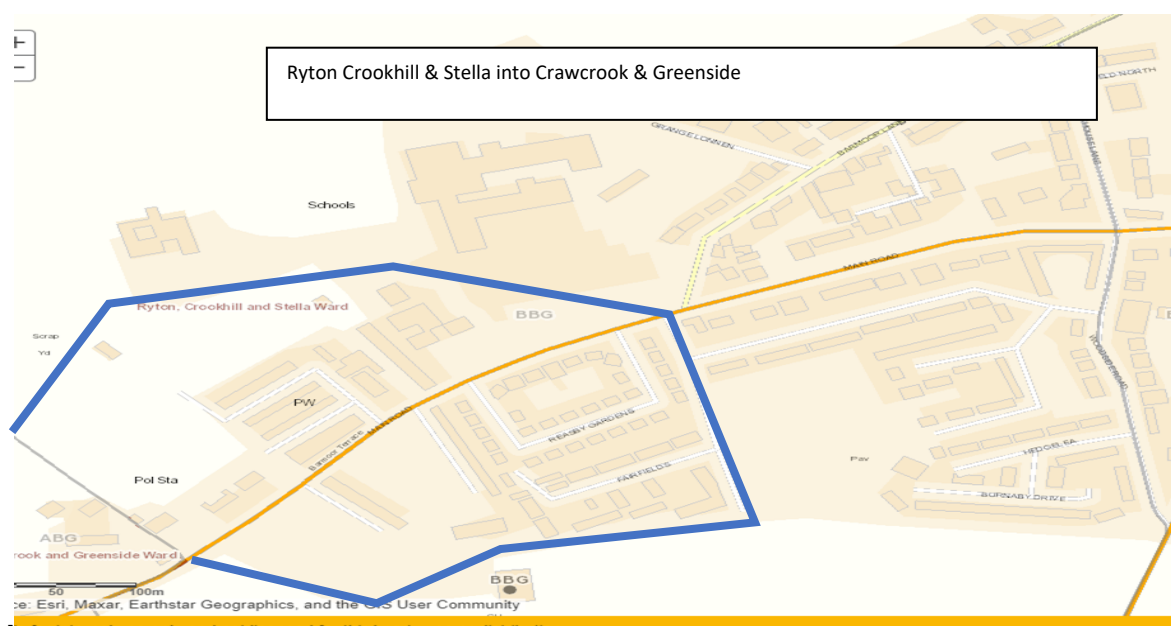
This ward is on the outer west boundary of the Borough, neighbouring Northumberland. There is a considerable amount of rural land in this ward, meaning the communities are largely separated, which can be evidenced through the isolated village of Clara Vale, whose only road link is with Crawcrook. Housing developments in recent years have increased the number of voters within the ward by 8.6% since the last review (6,658 in 2001).

Whilst there is currently an electorate 6% over the electorate quota, it is proposed that 307 voters are moved across from the Ryton, Crookhill and Stella ward to reduce the excess numbers in that ward. The proposal to move these voters does not provide for an unnatural split within that neighbourhood and can be achieved through a relatively straightforward transfer across the ward boundary.

The proposal is to move the following electors from Ryton Crookhill & Stella ward (BBG) into Crawcrook & Greenside ward. It is also proposed that Coalburns be moved from Crawcrook & Greenside ward into Chopwell & Rowlands Gill ward (as above).

Properties to be moved from Ryton Crookhill and Stella ward into Crawcrook & Greenside ward:

PD/Ward	Street	Props	Electors
BBG – Ryton Crookhill and Stella	Barmoor Terrace	8	14
BBG – Ryton Crookhill and Stella	Beverley Gardens	10	17
BBG – Ryton Crookhill and Stella	Fairfields	49	74
BBG – Ryton Crookhill and Stella	North View	23	30
BBG – Ryton Crookhill and Stella	Reasby Gardens	50	72
BBG – Ryton Crookhill and Stella	Reasby Villas	14	23
BBG – Ryton Crookhill and Stella	Seymour Terrace	12	23
BBG – Ryton Crookhill and Stella	Thorp Cottages	13	19
BBG – Ryton Crookhill and Stella	Towneley Cottages	12	27
BBG – Ryton Crookhill and Stella	Tyne Valley Gardens	4	8
Totals		195	307



Ward 3 – Ryton, Crookhill & Stella

Traditionally the core of this ward has been the large village of Ryton, together with Crookhill and Stella.

This ward has grown significantly in voter numbers since the last electoral review, +18.6%, through the housing development on the site of the former Stella power station, which now has a large, modern estate. The current number of voters in the ward is 14% over the electorate quota and therefore, to achieve more even elector representation, the proposal is for voters on the western edge of this ward to move into the Crawcrook & Greenside ward (above), whilst a small number on the eastern boundary move into the Blaydon ward (below). This brings the proposed electorate within the +/- 10% variance (+108%).

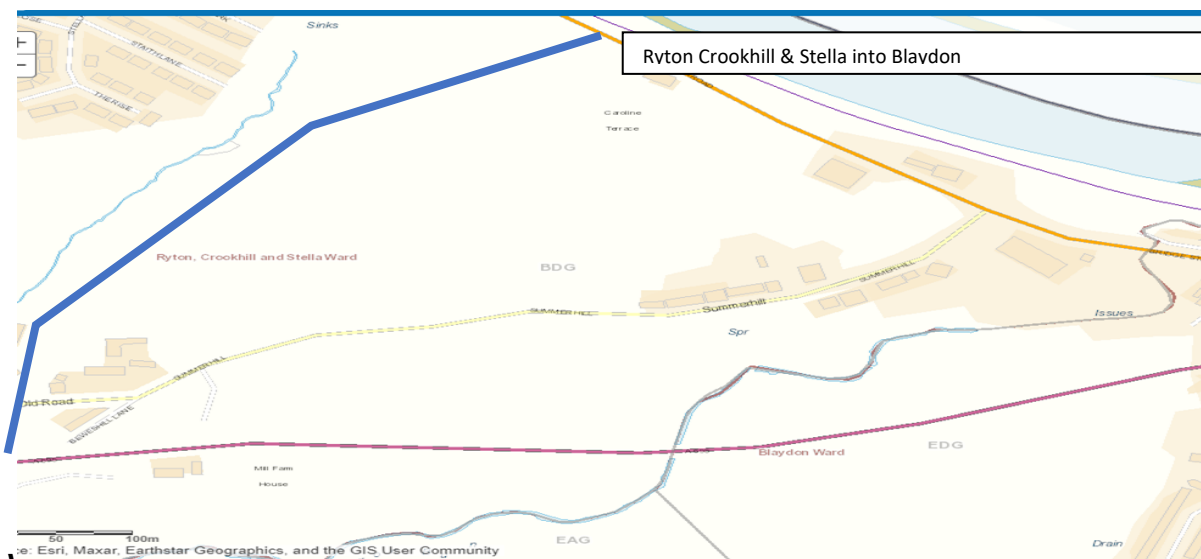
Ward 4 – Blaydon Ward

Blaydon is a distinct community with clear natural boundaries to the west (Blaydon Burn), the north (the River Tyne) and the east (the river Derwent). Blaydon is well served with local amenities and benefits from good transport links.

The electorate has remained fairly stable since the previous electoral review (7,520 in 2001). Whilst there was an initial decline in electorate following the demolition of Bleach Green, the numbers have increased as the subsequent housing developments have been established. Only limited changes are proposed, reducing the electorate by 2%, from 108% to 106% of the electorate quota. As well as moving a small number of electors (60) from the Ryton Crookhill & Stella ward, it is proposed that streets are realigned from the Blaydon ward into the Winlaton & High Spen ward (below). These latter changes more accurately reflect the neighbourhood composition within the Winlaton community.

Move the following electors from Ryton Crookhill & Stella ward into Blaydon ward:

PD/Ward	Street	Props	Electors
BDG - Ryton Crookhill and Stella	Caroline Terrace	6	8
BDG - Ryton Crookhill and Stella	Path Head	12	17
BDG - Ryton Crookhill and Stella	Summerhill	14	27
BDG – Ryton Crookhill and Stella	Stella Road (Nos 4, 6, 8)	3	6
BDG – Ryton Crookhill & Stella	Bewsehill House	1	2
Totals		36	60



Ward 5 – Winlaton & High Spen

This ward was formed at the time of the previous electoral review. There are no proposals to revert to previous arrangements.

Winlaton village forms the north boundary of this ward, with a continuous residential area which blends with the southern boundary of Blaydon ward. It is proposed that a small number of voters (204) are moved from Blaydon ward into Winlaton ward as this more accurately reflects the community identity of the voters living in these streets.

The proposal is to move the following electors from Blaydon ward into Winlaton & High Spennearth ward :

PD/Ward	Street	Props	Electors
EBG – Blaydon	California	39	79
EBG – Blaydon	West Park Gardens	22	31
EBG – Blaydon	Eastlands	38	40
EBG – Blaydon	Parkside Avenue	26	35
EBG – Blaydon	East Park Gardens	10	19
Totals		135	204



Proposals for Gateshead Central and Whickham Constituency Wards

Gateshead Central and Whickham constituency (completely within Gateshead local authority area)

Current Wards

There are eleven wards within this constituency with a combined electorate of 73,584, which would give an average of 6,689 electors per ward. This is well within the Electorate quota.

Ward	Current Electorate	Proposed Electorate
Whickham South & Sunnyside	6666 (97%)	6349 (93%)
Whickham North	6307 (92%)	6716 (98%)
Dunston & Teams	6207 (90%)	6855 (100%)
Dunston Hill & Whickham East	7423 (108%)	6583 (96%)
Lobley Hill & Bensham	7461 (109%)	6721 (98%)
Bridges	6907(101%)	7207 (105%)
Saltwell	6264 (91%)	6584 (96%)
Low Fell	7037 (103%)	6725 (98%)
Chowdene	6771 (99%)	6643 (97%)
Deckham (unchanged)	6429 (94%)	6429 (94%)
High Fell	6112 (89%)	6772 (99%)

Proposed Changes

Ward 6 - Whickham South & Sunnyside

This ward comprises of the southern part of Whickham, the large village of Sunnyside and the smaller villages of Marley Hill and Byermoor. The southern boundary of this ward neighbours Durham. This remains a coherent grouping as all villages are connected by local road links, although all having distinct community identities. The proposal to move voters into the Whickham North and Swalwell ward does not significantly change the electorate quota for this ward allowing it to remain within the +/-10% variance (93%).

Ward 7 – Whickham North Ward (Suggested name Whickham North & Swalwell)

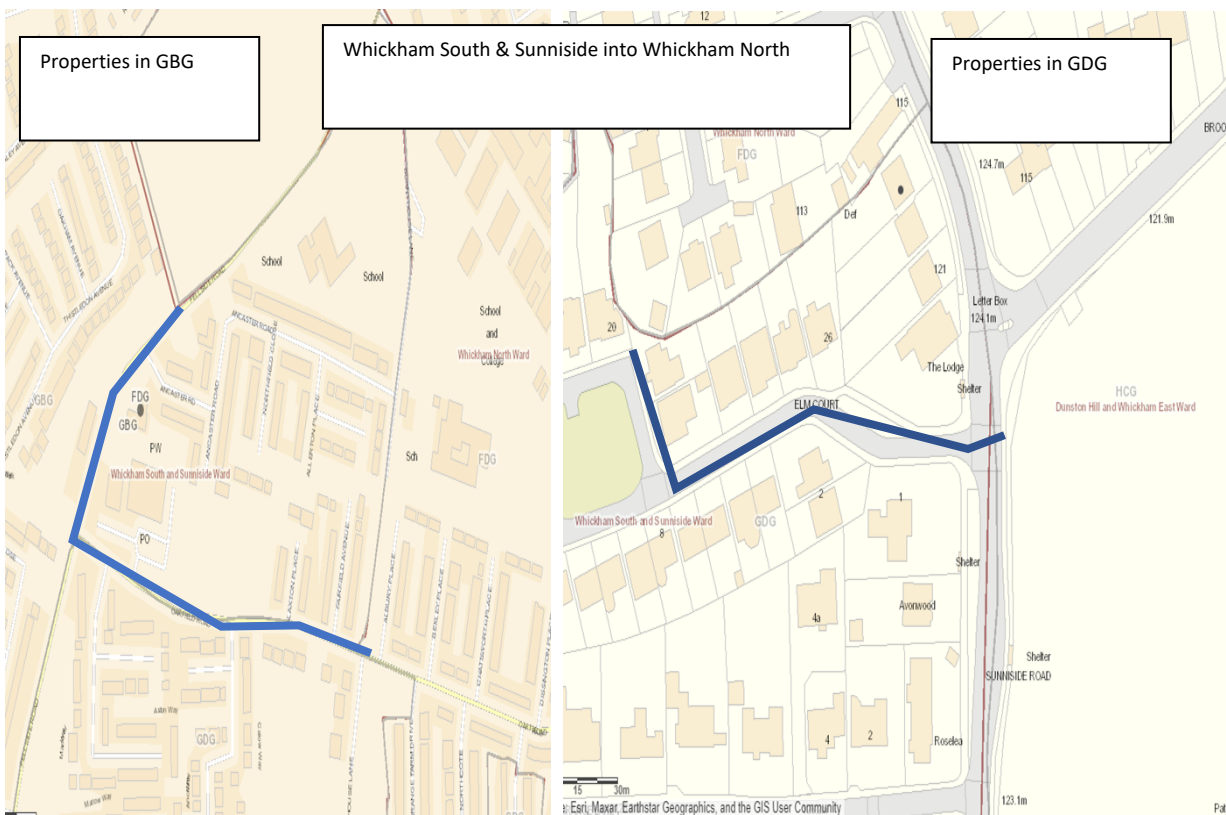
Whickham North covers the eastern community of Whickham and the distinctly identifiable community of Swalwell. As stated above, it is proposed the ward name is changed to recognise the voters who form a large proportion of this ward.

To the east this ward neighbours Dunston Hill and Whickham East ward and to the south boundary, Whickham South & Sunnyside ward. The large urban area shares good amenities across these wards, including the large shopping and leisure facilities at the Metro Centre and recreational areas such as Chase Park and Watergate Park.

There are currently 1000 voters fewer (-14.9%) in this ward than in 2001, giving an electorate of 8% less than the quota. The proposals move voters from both the north boundary of Whickham South & Sunnyside ward and the western extremity of the Dunston Hill and Whickham East ward.

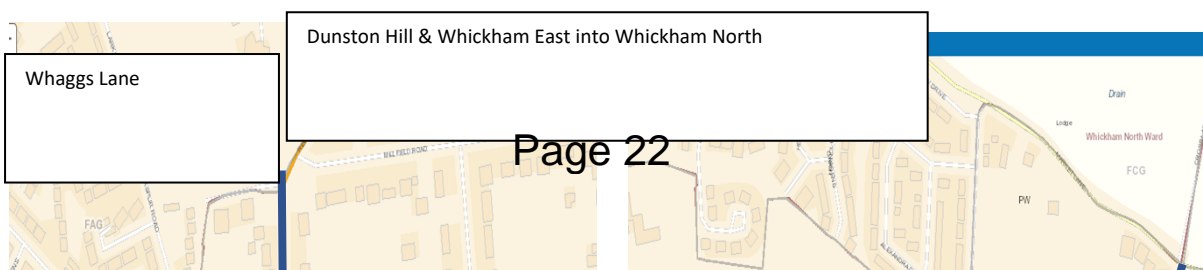
Move the following from Whickham South & Sunnyside ward into Whickham North ward:

PD/Ward	Street	Props	Electors
GBG – Whickham South & Sunnyside	Allerton Place	5	5
GBG – Whickham South & Sunnyside	Ancaster Road	61	103
GBG- Whickham South & Sunnyside	Baxton Place	8	9
GBG – Whickham South & Sunnyside	Fairfield Avenue	17	32
GBG – Whickham South & Sunnyside	Fellside Road	14	25
GBG – Whickham South & Sunnyside	Marston Walk	26	35
GBG – Whickham South & Sunnyside	Northfield Close	10	16
GBG – Whickham South & Sunnyside	Regency Drive	24	34
GDG – Whickham South & Sunnyside	Whaggs Lane	4	7
GDG – Whickham South & Sunnyside	Elm Court	26	51
Totals		195	317



Move the following from Dunston Hill & Whickham East ward into Whickham North ward:

PD/Ward	Street	Props	Electors
HCG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Whaggs Lane (Odds 1-51)	24	59
HDG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Duckpool Lane North	9	20
HDG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Garden House Crescent	4	11
HDG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Poachers Pocket	1	2
Totals		38	92



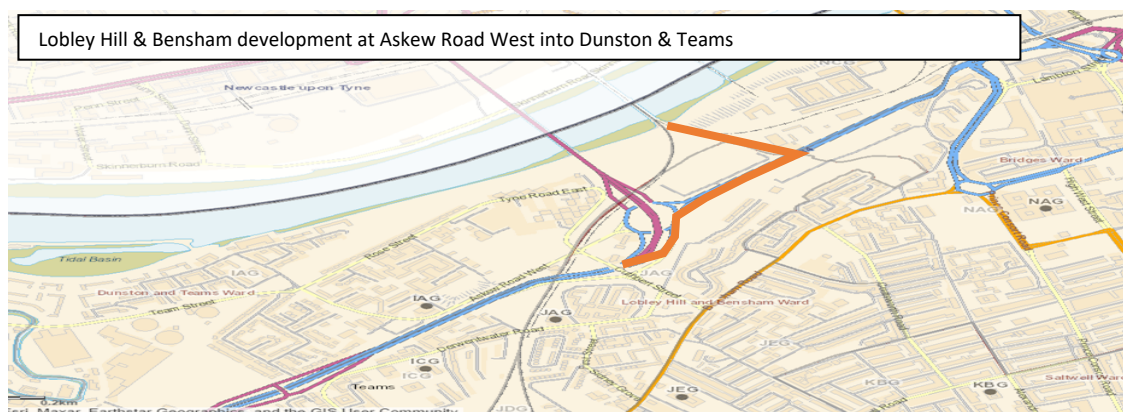
Ward 8 – Dunston & Teams Ward (Suggested name Dunston, Teams & Riverside)

This ward has, until now, consisted of the part of Dunston which lies to the north of the A1 (Western Bypass) moving through to the east, along the River Tyne, to the Teams community, which comprises both east and west of the A184, leading to the Redheugh Bridge.

The current electorate is at the lowest end of the quota (90%). With the current proposals this number will now hit 100% of the quota. This has been achieved by moving a new development site to the north east of the current boundary into the ward. Although this will not have an immediate impact upon the electoral equality, this will be achieved as the development is established.

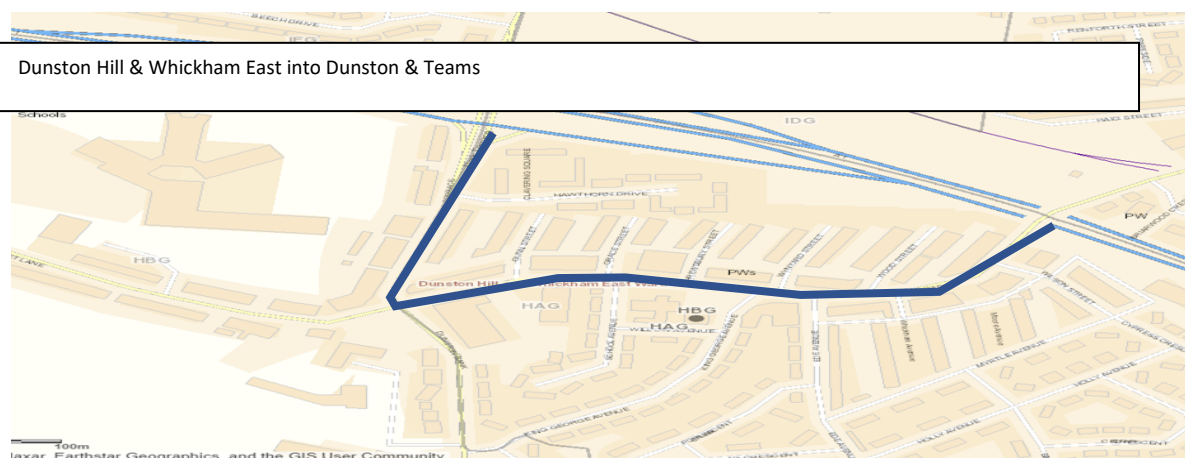
There is also a proposal to move a distinct estate, south of the A1 in Dunston, into this ward. Whilst every effort was taken to respect the geographical features (ie the Western Bypass), these voters identify with living in Dunston and are part of the wider Dunston community.

Move the new development on Askew Road West (190 props, proposed 285 electors) from JAG into Dunston Teams & Riverside so that the ward boundary runs along Askew Road:



Move the following from Dunston Hill & Whickham East ward into Dunston & Teams ward:

PD/Ward	Street	Props	Electors
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Park Terrace (Evens)	12	21
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Hawthorn Terrace	4	10
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Hawthorn Drive	39	55
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Clavering Square	26	39
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Glebe Terrace	43	60
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Gunn Street	39	55
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Shrewsbury Street	15	27
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Wynyard Street	29	30
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Wood Street	31	47
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Kensington Terrace	9	19
Totals		247	363



Ward 9 – Dunston Hill & Whickham East

This ward comprises a mixture of residential and countryside land use. It includes areas to the far south of the Dunston community, adjacent to Dunston Hill at the west and Lobley Hill at the eastern boundary. The ward moves along Whickham highway, taking in Watergate Park, Washingwell Woods and Chase Park to the south of the highway. The ward includes residential communities in the “Lakes estate” and “Watergate estate”, off Broom Lane.

The current number of voters within this ward is at the higher limit of the +/- electorate quota (108%) and has required, as referred to above, the movement of voters into the neighbouring wards of Dunston, Teams & Riverside and Lobley Hill & Bensham to ensure greater electoral equality.

Ward 10 – Lobley Hill & Bensham

This ward was created following the last review when the area west of the A1, Lobley Hill and east of the A1, encompassing Festival Park, the Team Valley Trading Estate (with few voters) and the area of Bensham adjacent to the south eastern boundary of the Dunston, Teams & Riverside ward, were combined.

To better reflect the community at the north western boundary, voters have been moved from Dunston Hill & Whickham East ward, however the current electorate was already at the high end of the Electoral Quota (109%). Moving the streets at the north western boundary

has allowed for the movement of voters to neighbouring wards where the electorate quotas are lower than the mean average (Saltwell – 91% and Dunston & Teams – 90%).

A large number of electors have therefore been moved from “The Racecourse” estate in this ward into the Saltwell ward.

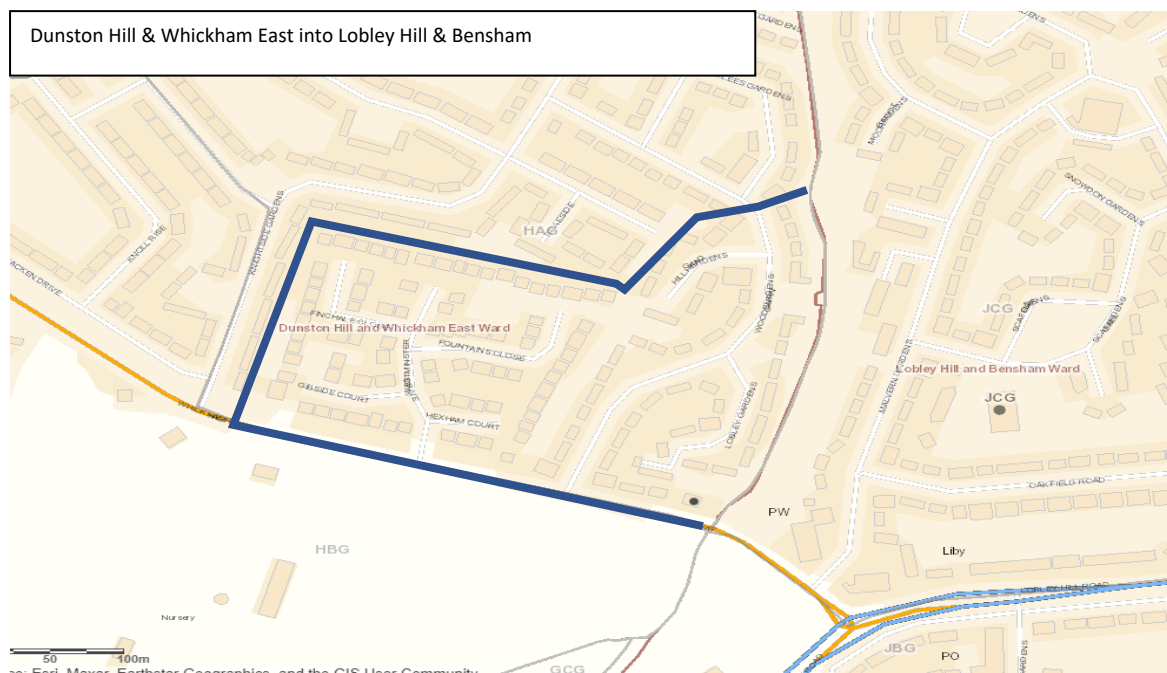
Although not presently built, as set out above, the proposed development at Askew Road has ensured a more cohesive community within the Dunston, Teams & Riverside Ward. The current placement of the development would have been separated from the rest of the Lobley Hill & Bensham ward by the A189.

To the north east boundary, there is a proposed realignment of the streets in the Windmill Hills development from this ward, into the Bridges ward. These changes more accurately reflect the neighbourhood composition within the Bridges community.

These proposals reduce the number of voters from 109% to 98% of the electorate quota.

Move the following from Dunston Hill & Whickham East ward into Lobley Hill & Bensham ward:

PD/Ward	Street	Props	Electors
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Lobley Gardens	28	50
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Woodburn Gardens	72	106
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Hillhead Gardens	21	36
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Finchale Close	21	49
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Gibside Court	16	37
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Westminster Drive	13	23
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Hexham Court	13	25
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Fountains Close	29	56
HAG – Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Railway Cottages	3	3
Totals		216	385



This ward runs eastward from the adjacent ward of Dunston and Teams, running along the River Tyne from the King Edward Bridge through central Gateshead to the west of Gateshead Stadium. The ward comprises of the urban hub of the Borough, Gateshead Town Centre with the main, regional transport links which includes buses and the Metro trainline. The Civic Centre falls within this ward, together with the Quayside landmarks (Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art and the Glasshouse International Centre for Music) and the proposed Baltic Quay development.

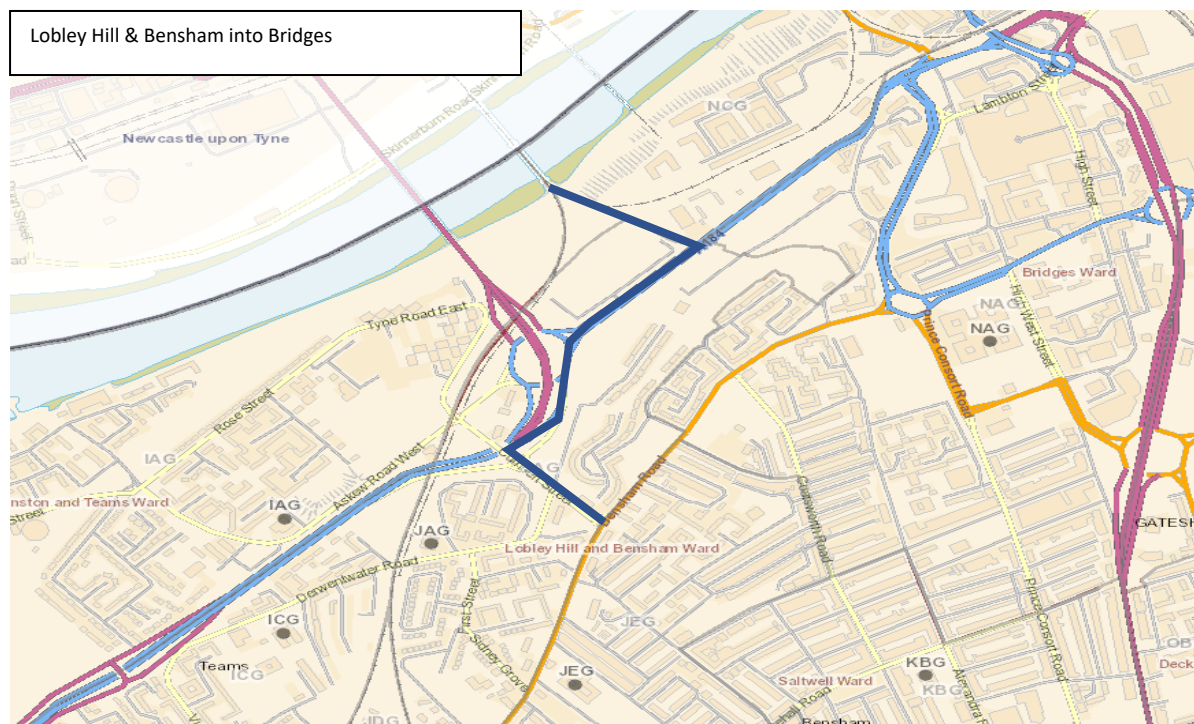
The electorate has increased significantly (+19%) since the previous review (5,709 in 2001) which placed it at 101% of the electorate quota.

Whilst the boundary for this ward could have remained at the same, it is proposed that the Windmill Hills area moves into this ward as this better reflects the geography of the area. Traffic lights at the junction of Bensham Road and Cuthbert Street provide a natural separation between the Bridges ward and the Bensham area of the Borough.

This ward will consist of the current Bridges ward and adding the following from Lobley Hill & Bensham ward.

Move the following from JAG into Bridges:

PD/Ward	Street	Props	Electors
JAG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Bensham Road	3	3
JAG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Bridges View	62	77
JAG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	St Cuthberts Court	84	52
JAG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	St Cuthberts Road	51	84
JAG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Village Heights	12	20
JAG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Windmill Way	51	64
Totals		263	300



Ward 12 – Saltwell Ward

This ward is made up of the Avenue area of traditional Tyneside flats as well the area around Saltwell Park, the main recreational, green space within central Gateshead.

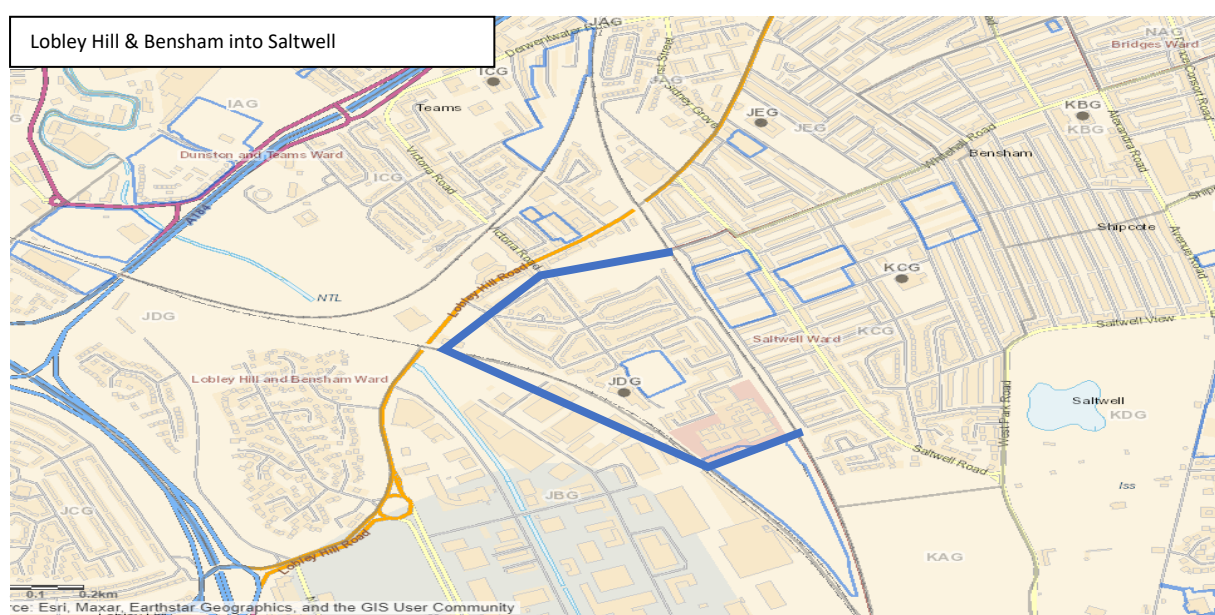
The electorate in Saltwell ward had declined significantly (-13%) since the previous electoral review (7,138 in 2001) and is presently -9% of the electorate quota. These proposals will result in a higher degree of equality (96%).

As stated above “The Racecourse” estate has moved from the Lobley Hill & Bensham ward into this ward. The movement of the entire estate has ensured there are no unnatural divisions within the community. Although the East Coast Mainline has acted as a western boundary to this ward, there is a road link beneath the railway line which connects the estate with the rest of the Saltwell ward.

This ward will consist of the current Saltwell ward minus the properties moving into Low Fell ward and adding the following from Lobley Hill & Bensham ward.

Move the following from JDG into Saltwell

PD/Ward	Street	Props	Electors
JDG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Aintree Gardens	25	37
JDG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Armstrong Street	45	70
JDG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Ascot Crescent	35	59
JDG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Cartmel Grove	33	39
JDG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Fontwell Drive	84	68
JDG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Goodwood Avenue	23	41
JDG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Kempton Gardens	15	26
JDG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Newbury Avenue	29	50
JDG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Sandown Gardens	27	33
JDG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Victoria Road	68	86
JDG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	Wetherby Grove	24	27
JDG – Lobley Hill & Bensham	York Close	5	4
Totals		413	540

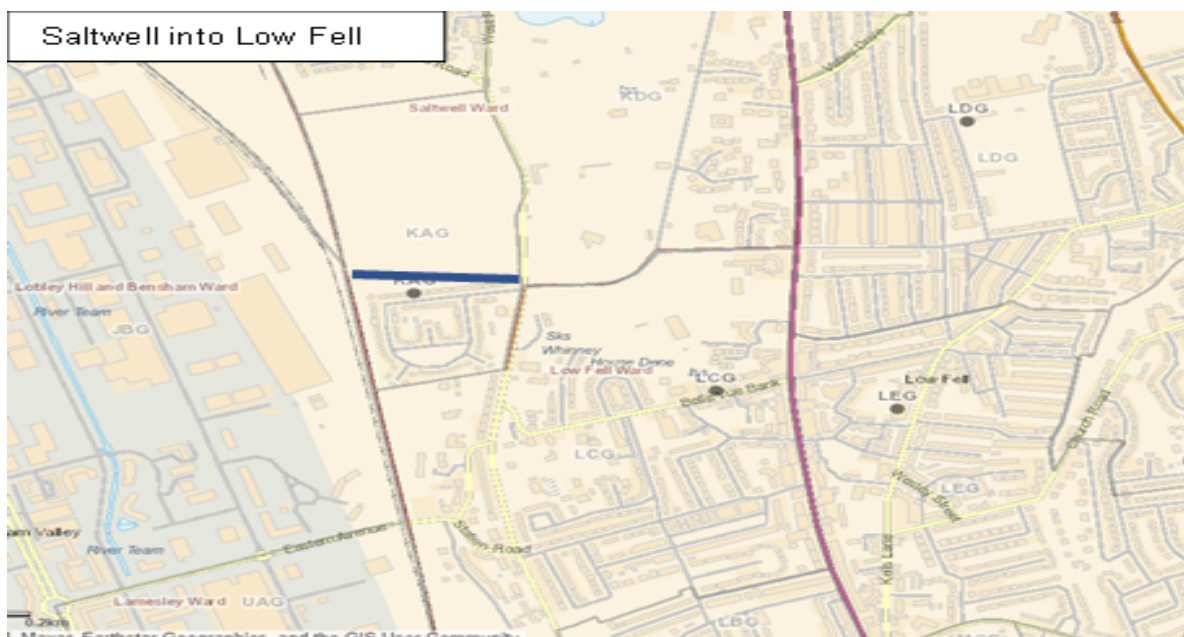


This ward is centred on the commercial, shopping area in Low Fell which straddles the A167 Durham Road as it goes south out of Gateshead. The ward also covers the Dryden Road and Kells Lane areas.

Whilst the electorate has remained fairly stable since the last review (7,067 in 2001), with the current number of voters in the ward slightly above the Electorate quota (103%), there was scope to realign the northern boundary of the ward to return the streets around Ventnor Crescent/Gardens to this ward, whilst moving the boundary to south has realigned the streets within the Chowdene ward to provide for a higher degree of electoral equality.

This ward will consist of the districts LBG, LCG, LDG and LEG from the current Low Fell ward and adding the following from Saltwell ward:

PD/Ward	Street	Props	Electors
KAG – Saltwell	Saltwell Road	1	1
KAG – Saltwell	Ventnor Crescent	87	118
KAG – Saltwell	Ventnor Gardens	54	101
Totals		142	220



Ward 14 – Chowdene Ward

This ward consists of the Lyndhurst and Harlow Green estates to the east of the A1697 Durham Road and the Allerdene estate to the west.

This ward had slightly decreased (-5.6%) in terms of voter numbers since the last electoral review (7,158 in 2001), however it remained at 99% of the electorate quota. Whilst this ward may have stayed unchanged, there was a significant variance in High Fell (-11%) which required addressing. In looking at the communities in the neighbouring wards, Chowdene provided the best alignment for voters to move into the High Fell ward.

This ward will consist of districts MAG, MBG, MCG, MEG MFG and MGG from the current Chowdene ward and add district LAG (532) from Low Fell ward:



Ward 15 - Deckham

This ward extends eastwards from the A167 Durham Road. The eastern part of the ward consists of the area between Durham Road and Old Durham Road, stopping just short of Valley Drive which forms the southern boundary. To the east of Old Durham Road, the ward takes in the Deckham and Carr Hill estates plus the majority of Mount Pleasant.

There are no proposed changes to the boundary for this ward. It maintains 94% of the electorate quota at 6,429 voters.

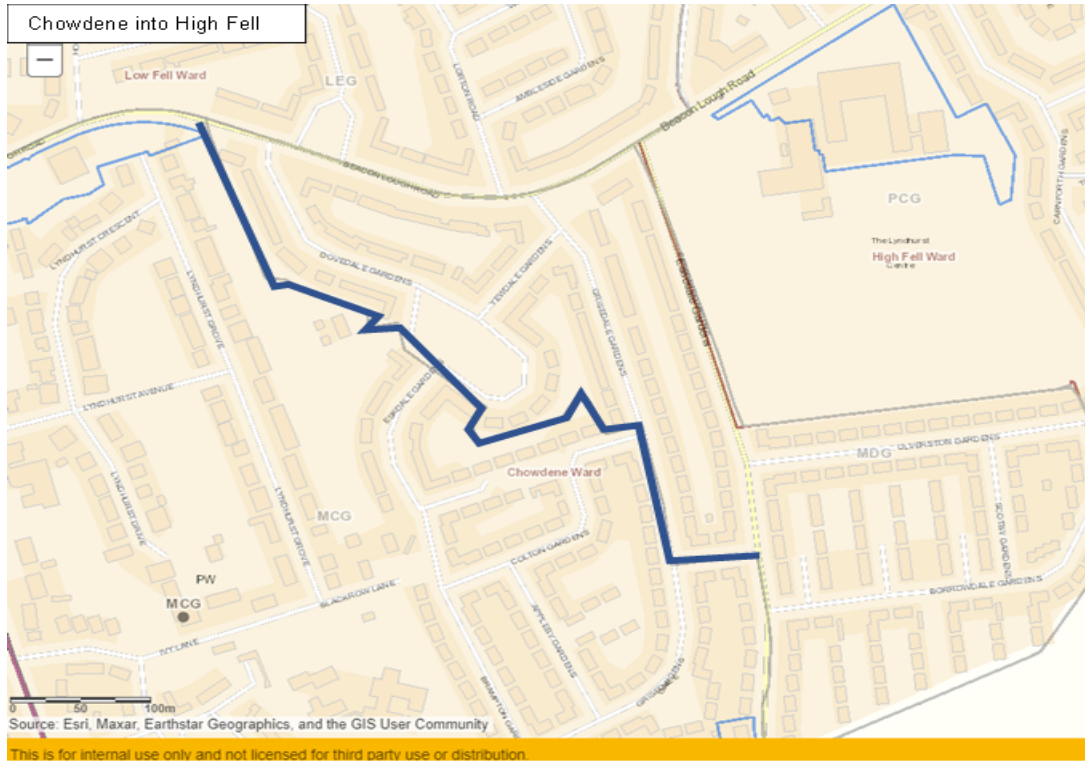
Ward 16 – High Fell Ward

This ward includes the residential areas of Sheriff Hill, Beacon Lough, Wrekenton and Springwell. Old Durham Road runs through the middle of this area with Springwell Road forming its northern boundary.

The number of voters within this ward had declined significantly (-16.8%) since the previous electoral review (7,230 in 2001). As noted above, High Fell had exceeded the +/-10% variance of the quota (89%) and required movement of voters to ensure it achieved greater electoral equality.

The addition of a whole polling district from the Chowdene ward has ensured there are no unnatural divisions within neighbourhoods.

This ward will consist of the current High Fell ward and add district MDG (660) from Chowdene ward:



Proposals for Jarrow and Gateshead East Constituency Wards

Current Wards

There are four wards with a combined electorate of 25,937, which would give an average of 6484 electors per ward. This is well within the quota.

Ward	Current Electorate	Proposed Electorate
Felling	5983 (87%)	6187 (90%)
Windy Nook & Whitehills	7083 (103%)	6510 (95%)
Pelaw & Heworth	6534 (95%)	6426 (94%)
Wardley & Leam Lane	6337 (92%)	6823 (99%)

Proposed Changes

Ward 17 – Felling Ward

The urban area of Felling is a distinct community with its own shopping area. The ward also includes densely populated residential areas around this central hub.

Again, this ward was outside the +/-10% variance of the electorate quota in terms of the current number of voters (87%) and had experienced a significant drop (-15.6%) in the number of electorate compared to the previous electoral review (6,994 in 2001).

This proposal moves voters from the Pelaw & Heworth ward to the east, around Felling cricket club, and Windy Nook & Whitehills ward to the south, next to the former Thomas Hepburn Academy school (now XP Gateshead).

Move the following from Pelaw & Heworth ward into Felling ward:

District	Ward	Street	Props	Electors
SAG	Pelaw & Heworth	Burnside	12	17
SAG	Pelaw & Heworth	Parkin Gardens	24	39
SAG	Pelaw & Heworth	High Heworth Lane (part)	9	18
SAG	Pelaw & Heworth	Wardle Gardens	22	34
Totals			67	108

Move the following from Windy Nook & Whitehills ward into Felling ward:

District	Ward	Street	Props	Electors
RAG	Windy Nook & Whitehills	Fleming Gardens	20	26
RAG	Windy Nook & Whitehills	Sunningdale Close	20	36
RAG	Windy Nook & Whitehills	Squires Gardens	12	12
RAG	Windy Nook & Whitehills	Hall Gardens	14	13
Totals			66	87



Ward 18 - Windy Nook & Whitehills

This ward comprises of mainly housing in Windy Nook and Whitehills. There are 6 schools currently contained within this ward which serve this residential area.

The main area for consideration was the estate at the south western edge of the ward boundary, contained between Wealcroft to the north and Leam Lane to the south. The residents within this estate very much identify with being part of the community in Leam Lane and therefore the suggested new boundary will place these voters within the Wardley and Leam Lane ward.

The current elector numbers took this ward to slightly over the electorate quota (103%). With the proposed moves, this number is reduced to 95% of the quota.

Ward 19 – Pelaw & Heworth

This ward comprises of Pelaw, Heworth and Bill Quay urban areas which have a mixture of residential and industrial land use. The River Tyne acts as the boundary in the north, whilst the Borough boundary with South Tyneside is to the western edge of the ward. The A184 (Felling Bypass) runs through this ward.

The proposal to move a small number of voters into the Felling ward has a limited effect on the electorate quota, moving from 95% to 94%.

Ward 20 – Wardley and Leam Lane

This ward is bounded to the east and south by the Borough boundary with South Tyneside. To the north, the boundary is the Metro railway line to Sunderland. The main areas of housing are Wardley and Leam Lane.

The number of voters in this ward has remained fairly static since the last electoral review however, the ward is at the low end of the Electorate quota (92%), with these proposals it will rise to 99%.

The proposal is to move the following electors from Windy Nook & Whitehills ward into Wardley & Leam Lane ward:

PD/Ward	Street	Props	Electors
RCG – Windy Nook and Whitehills	Bavington	16	22
RCG – Windy Nook and Whitehills	Belmont	14	16
RCG – Windy Nook and Whitehills	Chevington	140	118
RCG – Windy Nook and Whitehills	Cotemedede	62	78
RCG – Windy Nook and Whitehills	Falstone	54	100
RCG – Windy Nook and Whitehills	Rennington	56	66
RCG – Windy Nook and Whitehills	Wealcroft	43	50
RCG – Windy Nook and Whitehills	Woodwynd (part) 52-82	16	36
Totals		401	486



Proposals for Washington and Gateshead South Constituency Wards

Current Wards

There are two wards with a combined electorate of 14,322, which would give an average of 7,161 electors per ward. This is above the quota but still within 10%

Ward	Current Electorate	Proposed Electorate
Lamesley	7530 (110%)	7137 (104%)
Birtley	6792 (99%)	7185 (105%)

Proposed Changes

The proposal is to realign the ward boundaries between Birtley and Lamesley so that they form a more natural line so as not to dissect streets between wards.

Ward 21 - Lamesley

This ward covers a large rural area in the south of the Borough. It also encompasses the entirety of the Lamesley parish, of which the main residential area is the village of Kibblesworth. Eighton Banks/Long Bank is also within the ward to the south of Chowdene and High Fell wards. This ward is dissected by the A1.

There has been an increase in voter numbers (+10.3%) in this ward since the last electoral review (6,793 in 2001). This is reflected in the current electorate, sitting at the outer edge of the electorate quota (110%) requiring the ward boundary to be redrawn with Birtley.

The proposal to move 112 voters into Lamesley ward from Birtley is to realign neighbourhoods to ensure streets are not split along unnatural lines.

By moving over 500 voters into the Birtley ward, ensuring complete neighbourhoods within one ward, the proposed electorate quota will be 104%, ensuring parity between the two wards.

Move the following from Birtley into Lamesley:

District	Ward	Street	Props	Electors
VCG	Birtley	Birch Crescent	20	38
VCG	Birtley	Maple Avenue	6	11
VCG	Birtley	Bewicke View	28	63
Totals			54	112

Ward 22 – Birtley (Suggested name Birtley South)

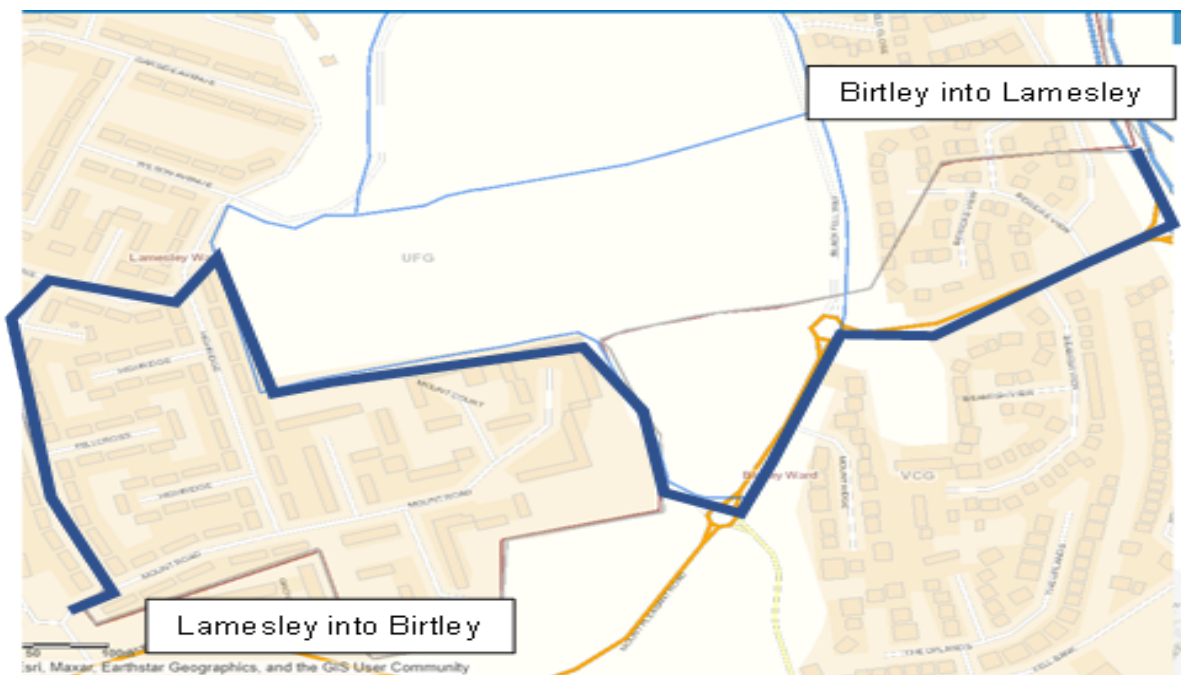
This ward is in the extreme south of the Borough, with Durham to the west and south of the boundary and Sunderland to the east. There are no longer parish councils contained within the ward, with the cessation of the two parish councils, Birtley South and Birtley Central. The main shopping area of Birtley is within the ward, with a trading estate to the west of York Road, running along the western boundary with Durham.

Whilst currently at 99% of the electorate quota, it may have remained within its current boundary, however to achieve elector equality, and to return whole neighbourhoods to the same ward, over 500 voters were moved from Lamesley into this ward, resulting in an

electorate of 105% in this ward. As stated above, it is proposed that a smaller number of voters move from Birtley into Lamesley to create a more natural boundary, which does not spilt streets between wards.

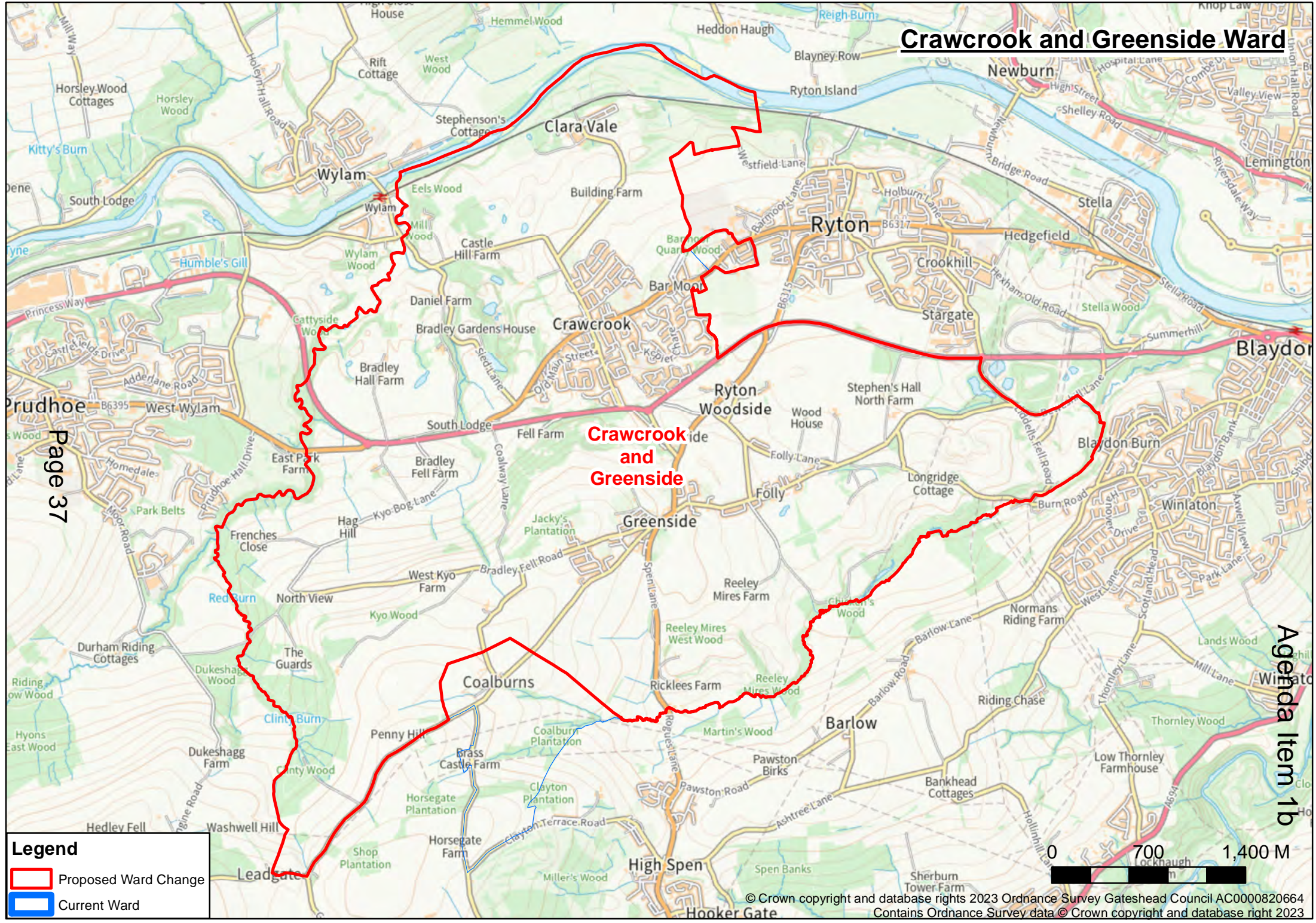
Move the following from Lamesley ward into Birtley ward:

District	Ward	Street	Props	Electors
UFG	Lamesley	Fell Cross	20	31
UFG	Lamesley	Northside	43	92
UFG	Lamesley	Sycamore Crescent	8	9
UFG	Lamesley	Mount Road	141	227
UFG	Lamesley	High Ridge	77	122
UFG	Lamesley	Mount Court	12	24
Totals			301	505



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Crawcrook and Greenside Ward



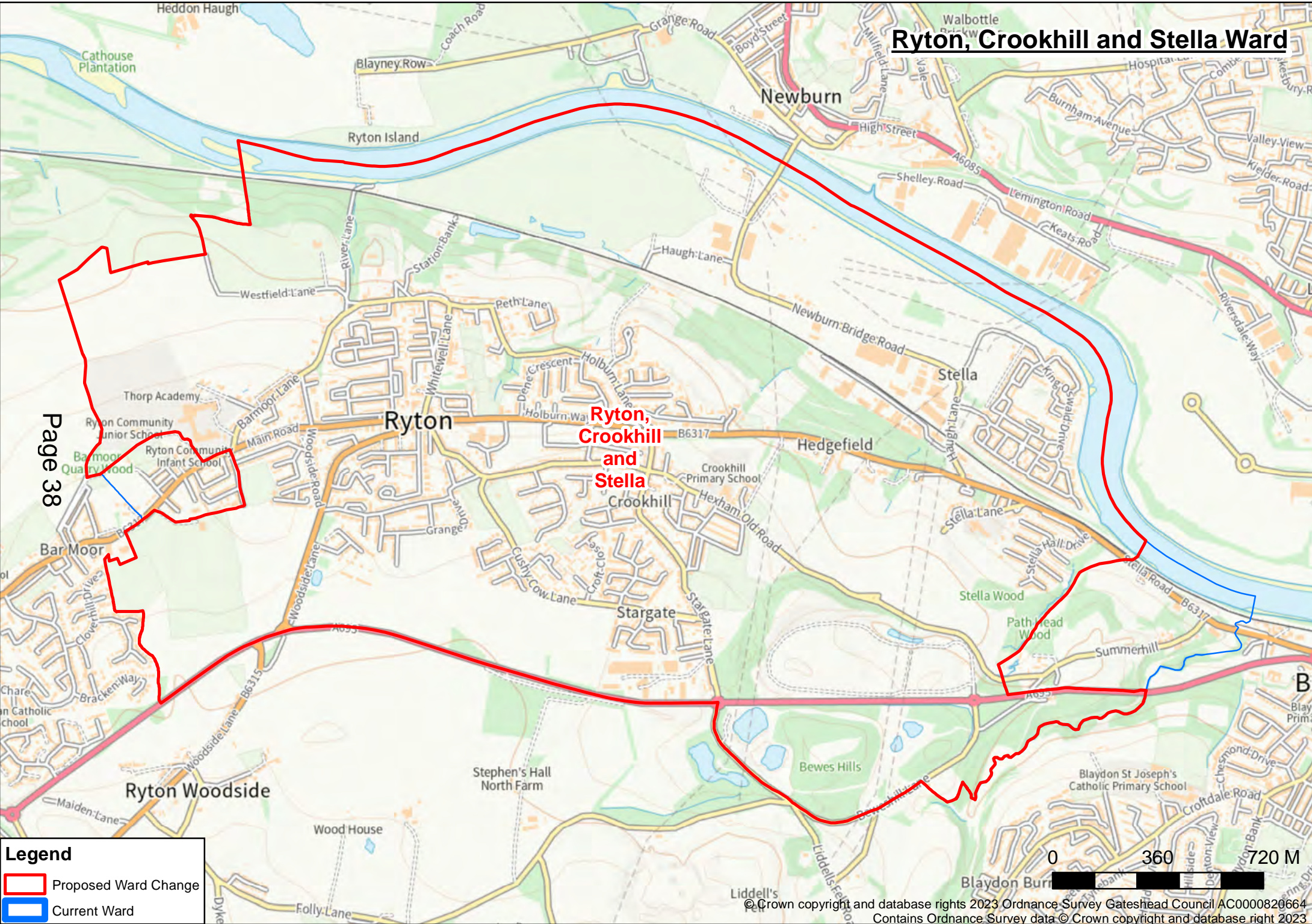
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Agenda Item 1b

Legend

- Proposed Ward Change
- Current Ward

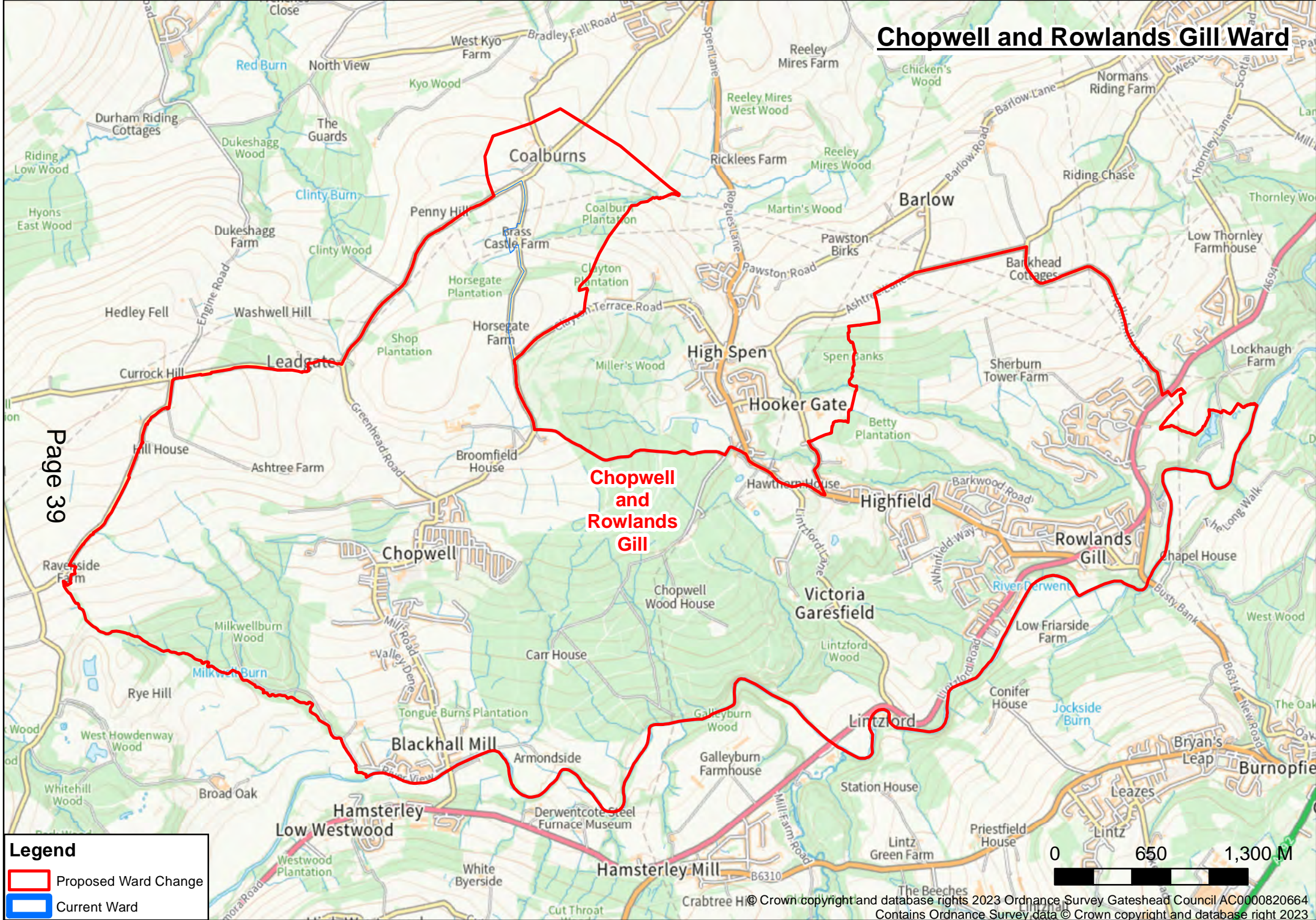
Ryton, Crookhill and Stella Ward



Legend



- Proposed Ward Change
- Current Ward

Chopwell and Rowlands Gill Ward



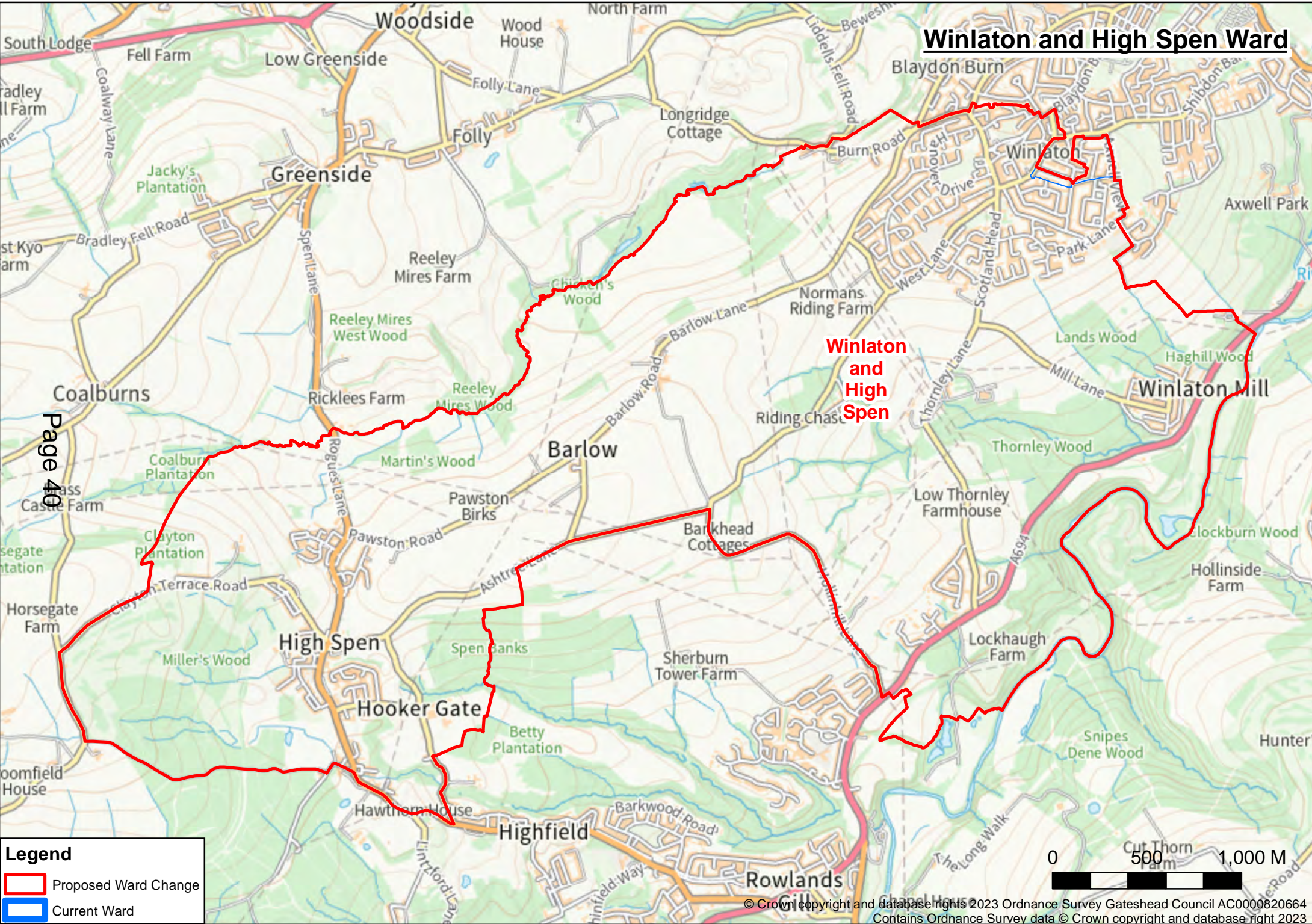
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-  Proposed Ward Change
-  Current Ward



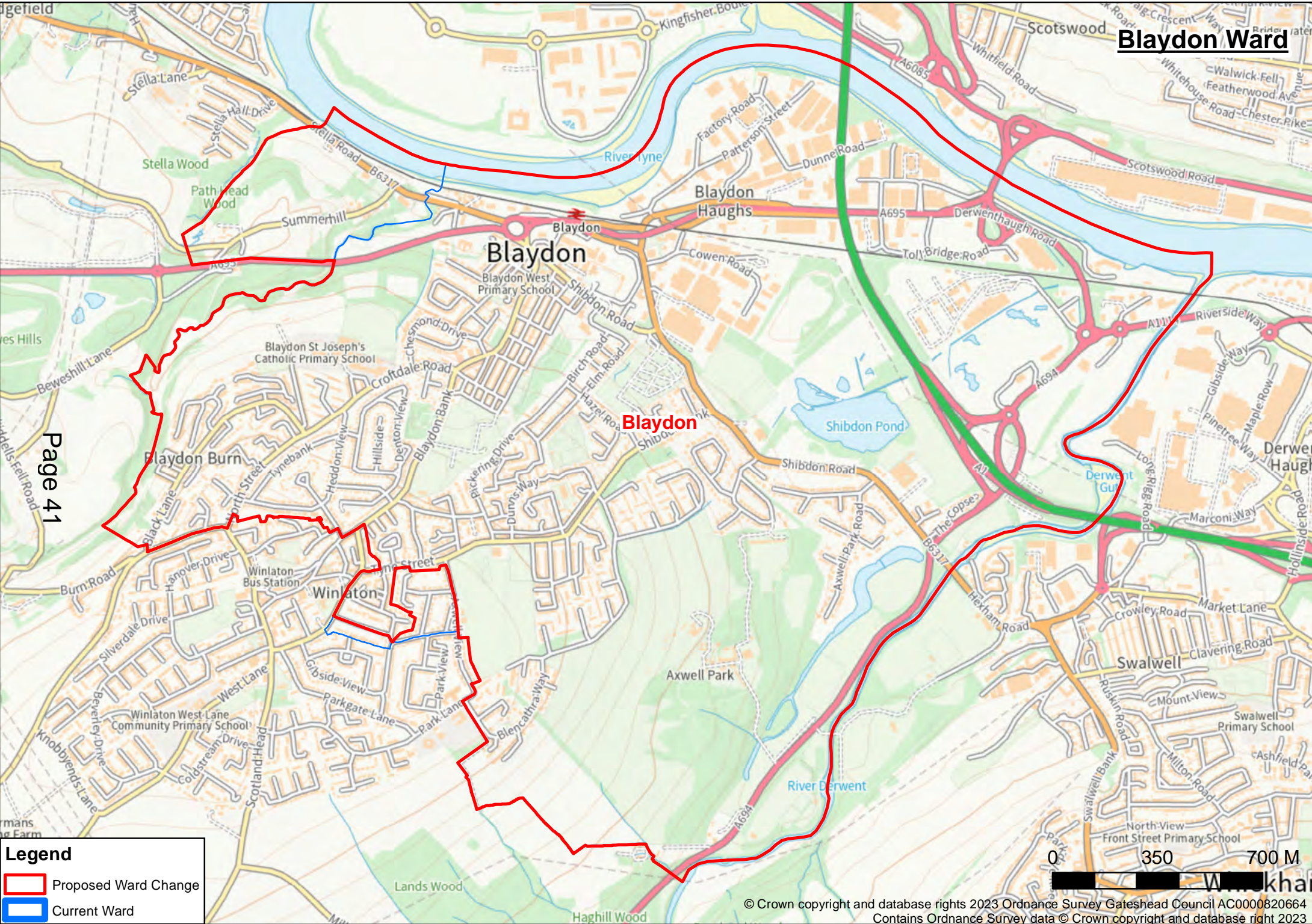
Winlaton and High Spen Ward



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-  Proposed Ward Change
-  Current Ward





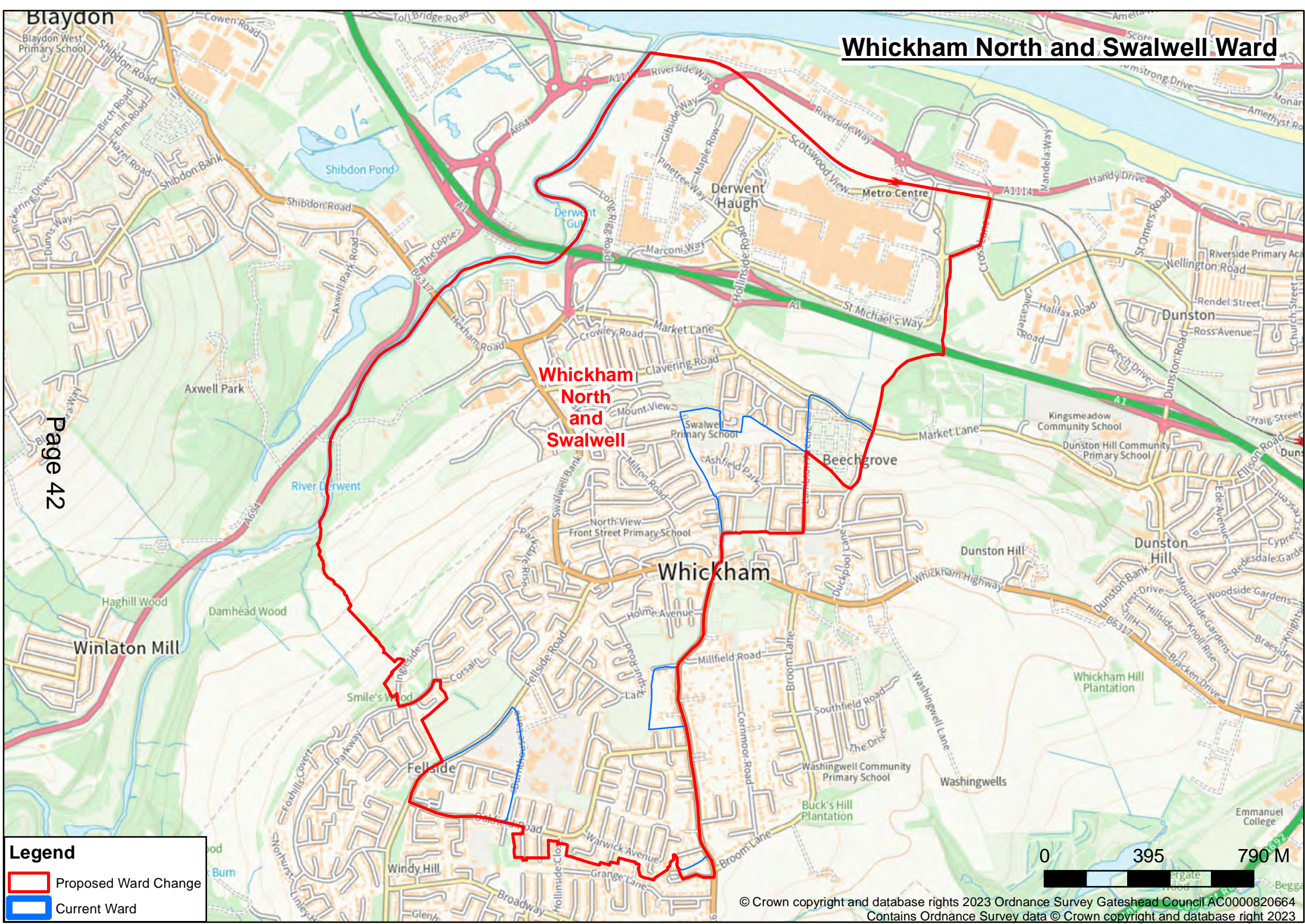
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- Proposed Ward Change
- Current Ward



Whickham North and Swalwell Ward

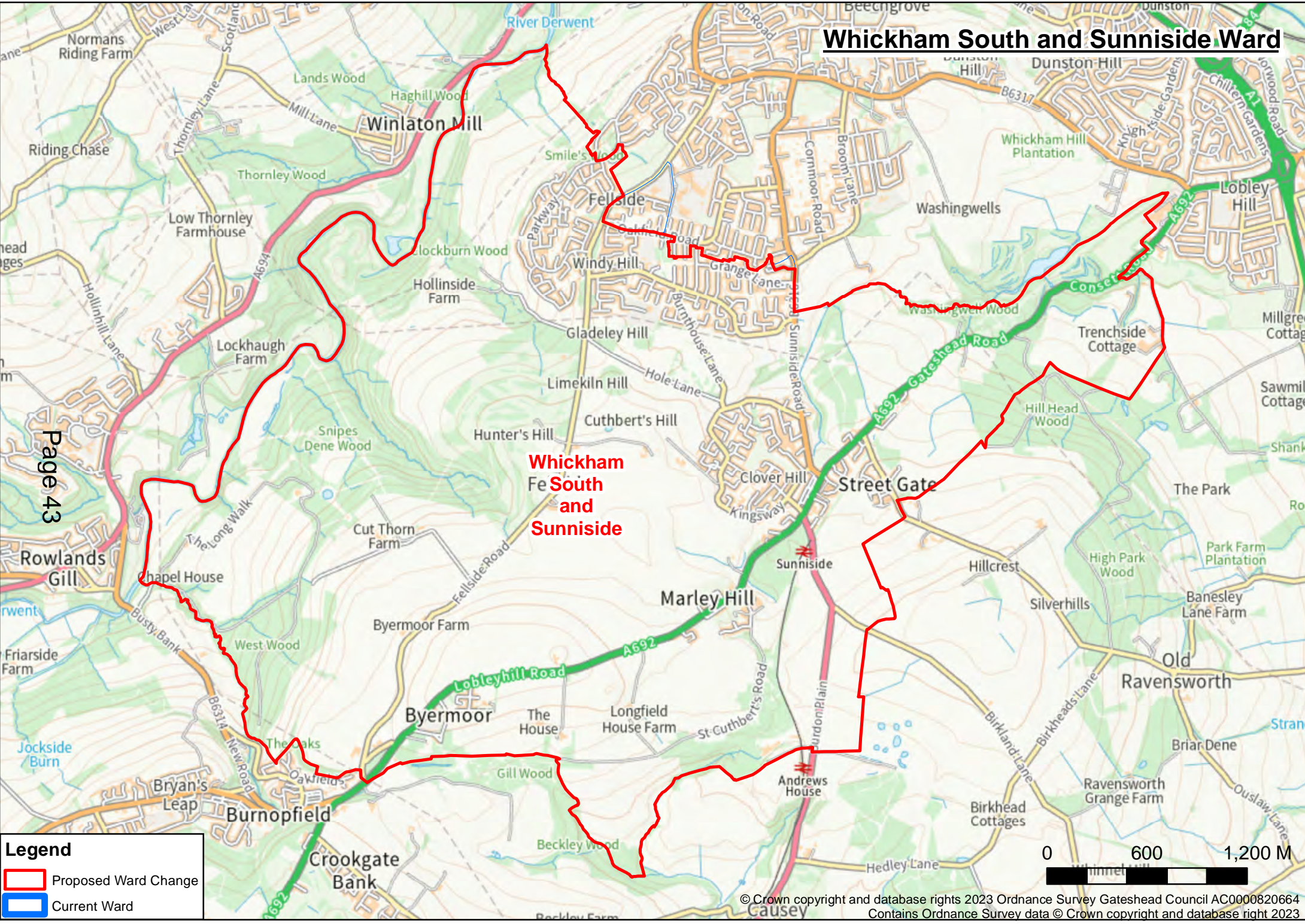


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Whickham South and Sunniside Ward

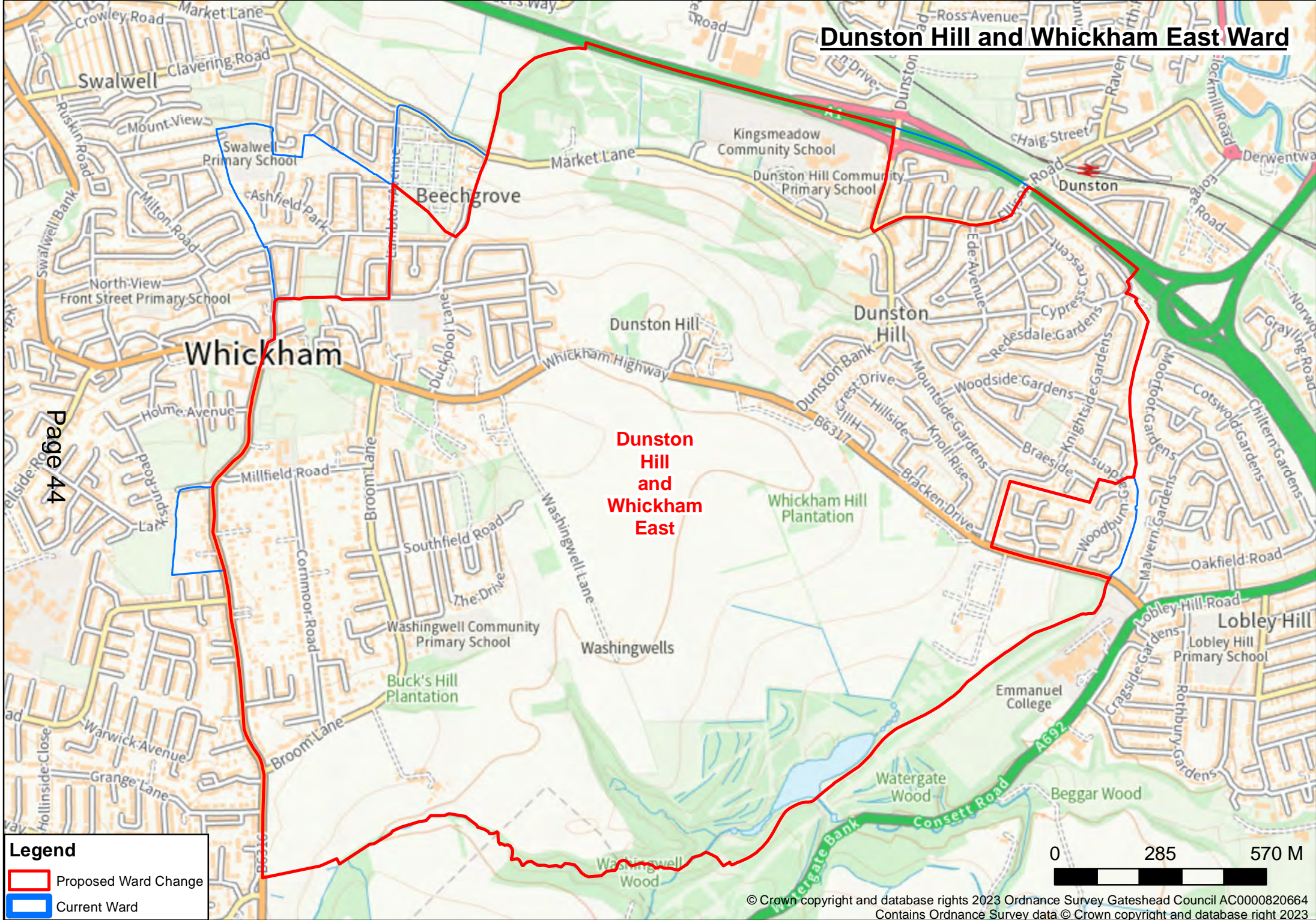


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-  Proposed Ward Change
-  Current Ward

Dunston Hill and Whickham East Ward



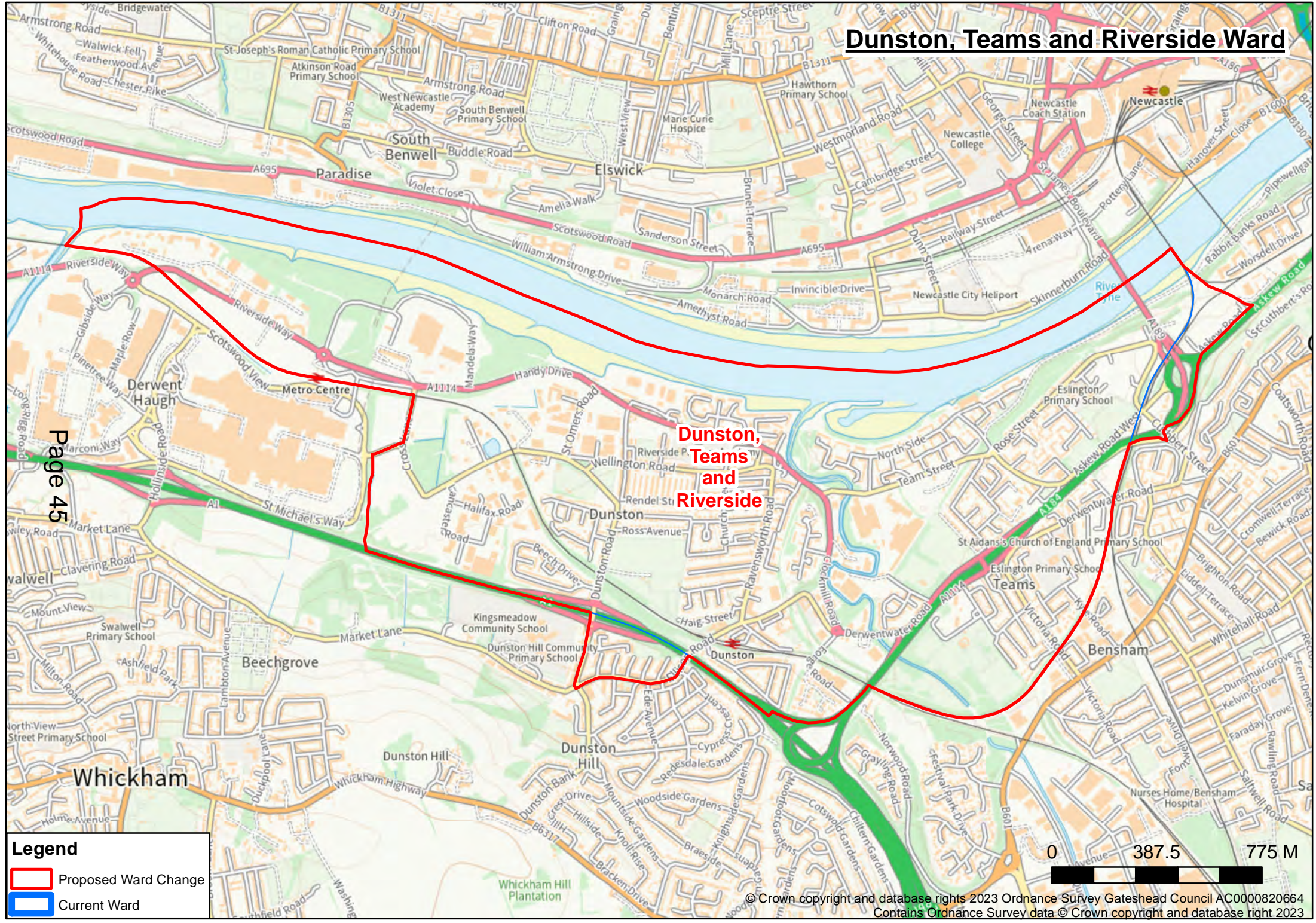
Dunston Hill and Whickham East

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-  Proposed Ward Change
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Dunston, Teams and Riverside Ward



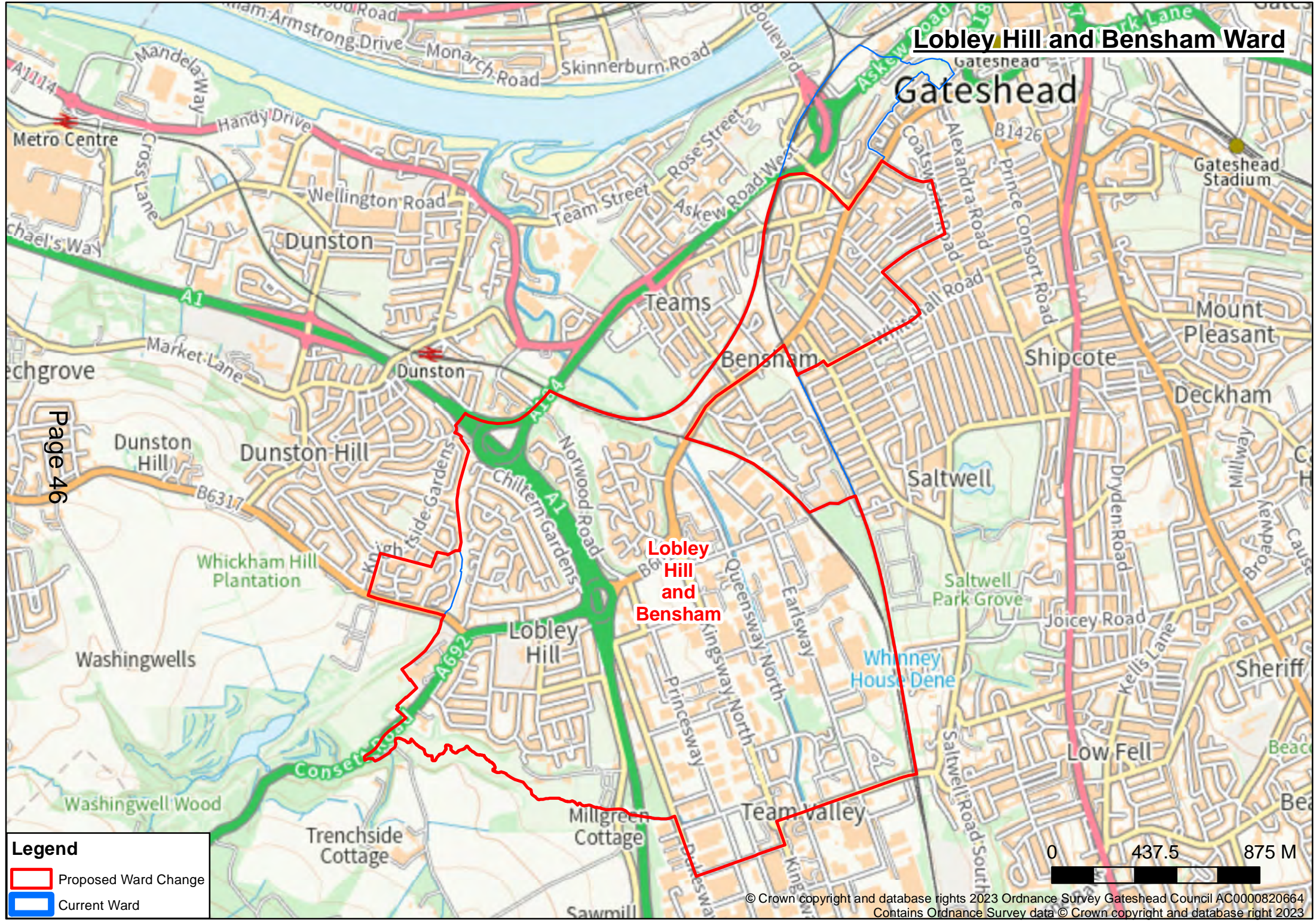
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- Proposed Ward Change
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Lobley Hill and Bensham Ward

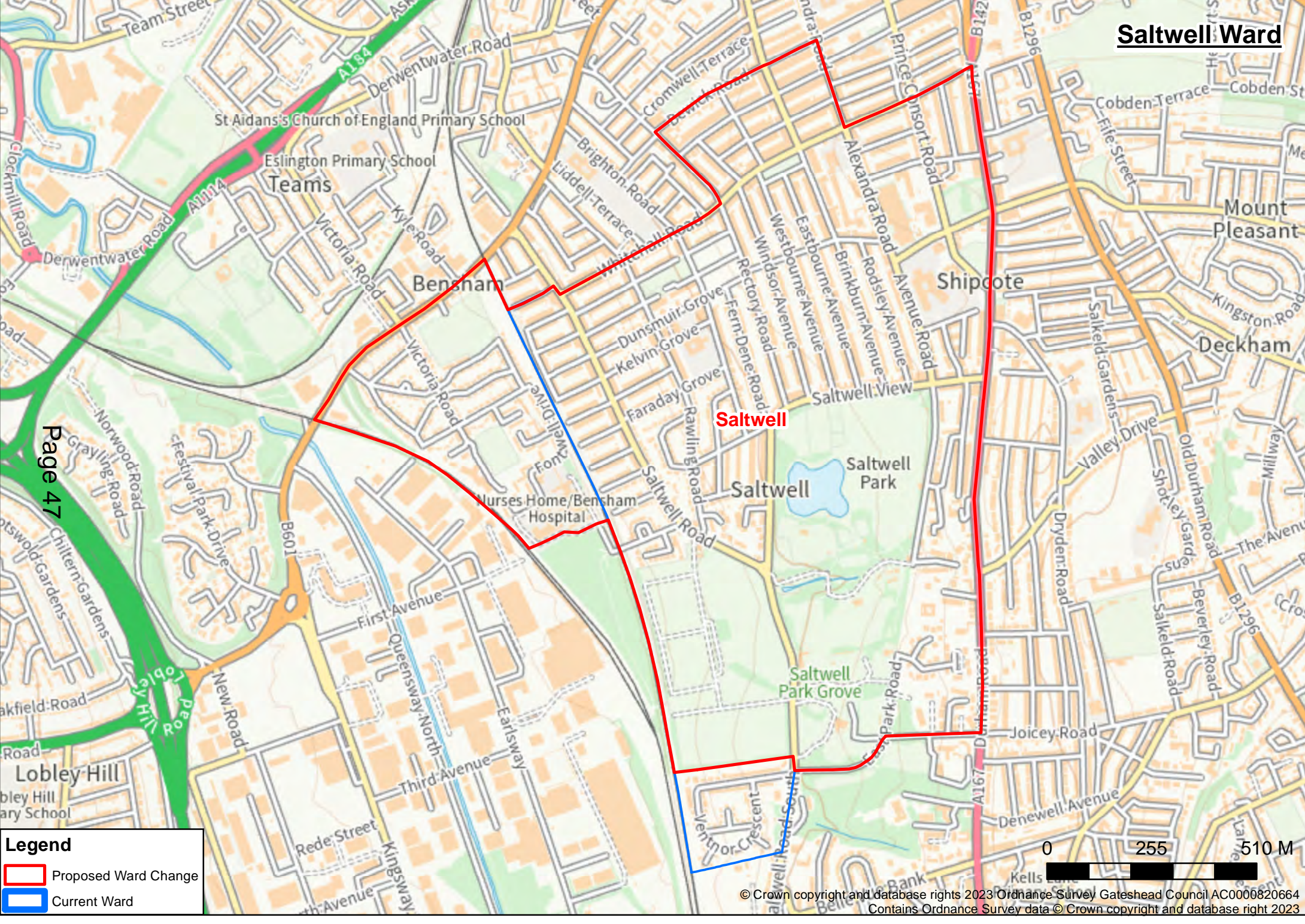


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-  Proposed Ward Change
-  Current Ward

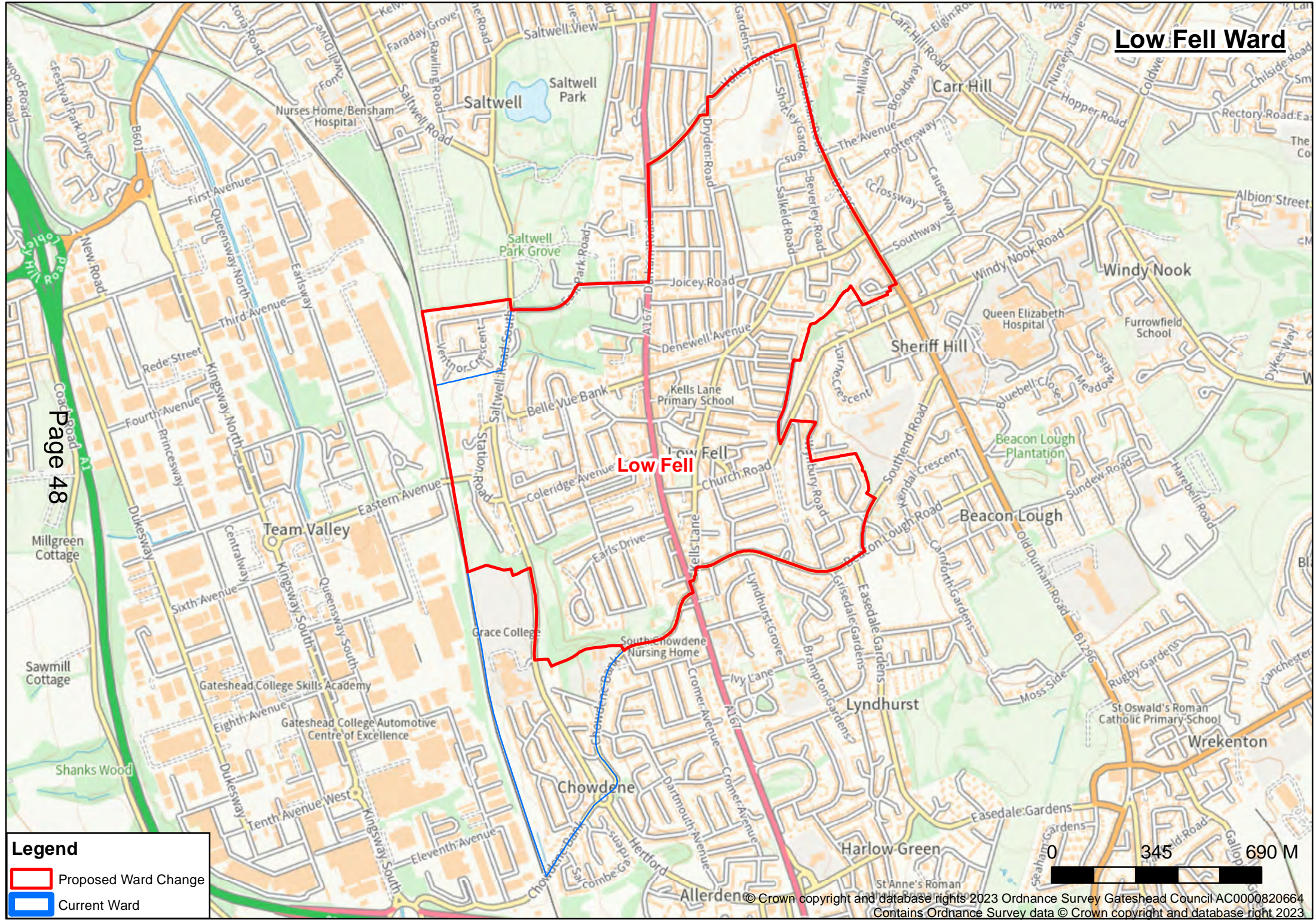




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- Proposed Ward Change
- Current Ward

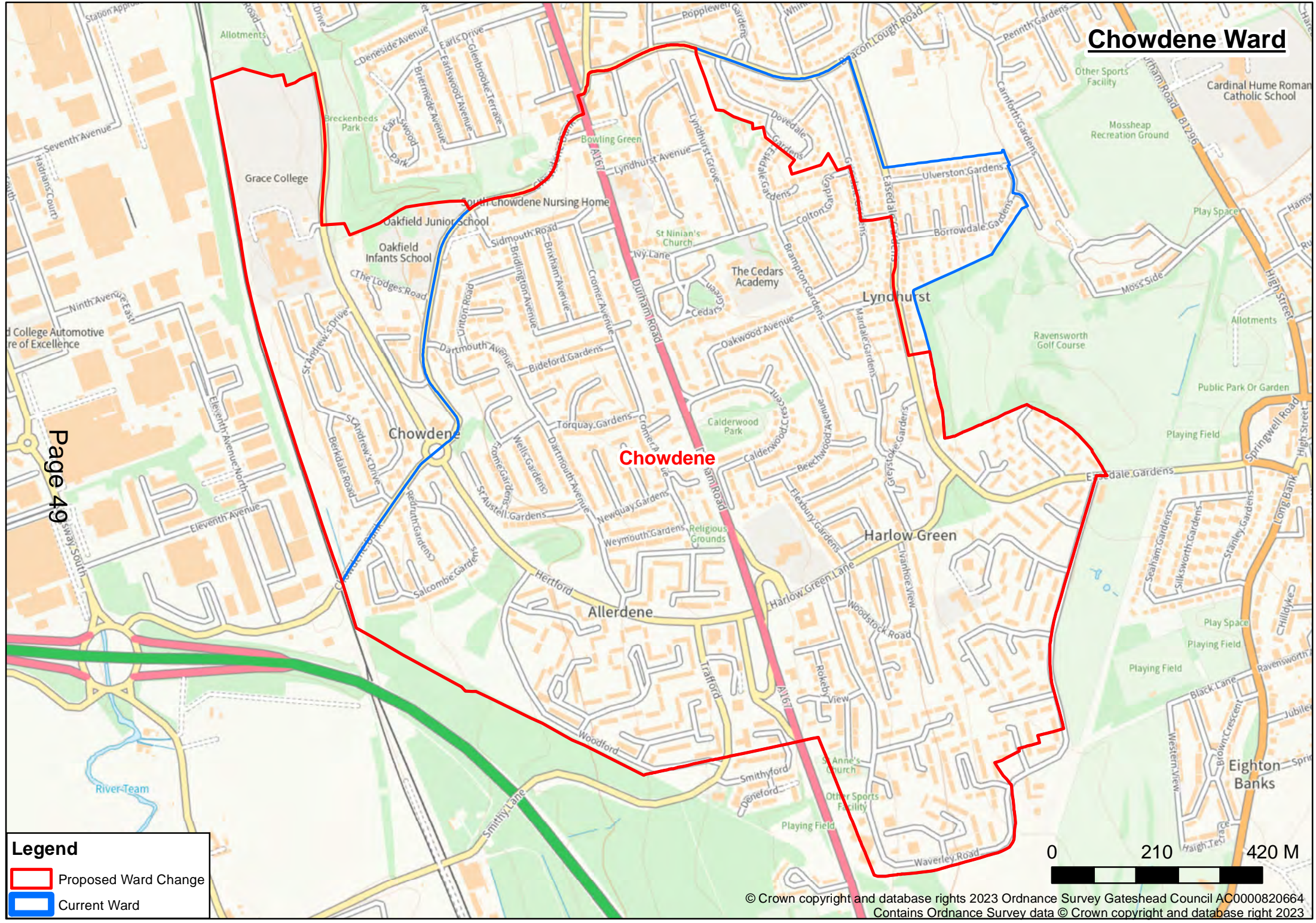


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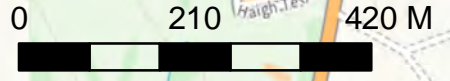
Chowdene Ward

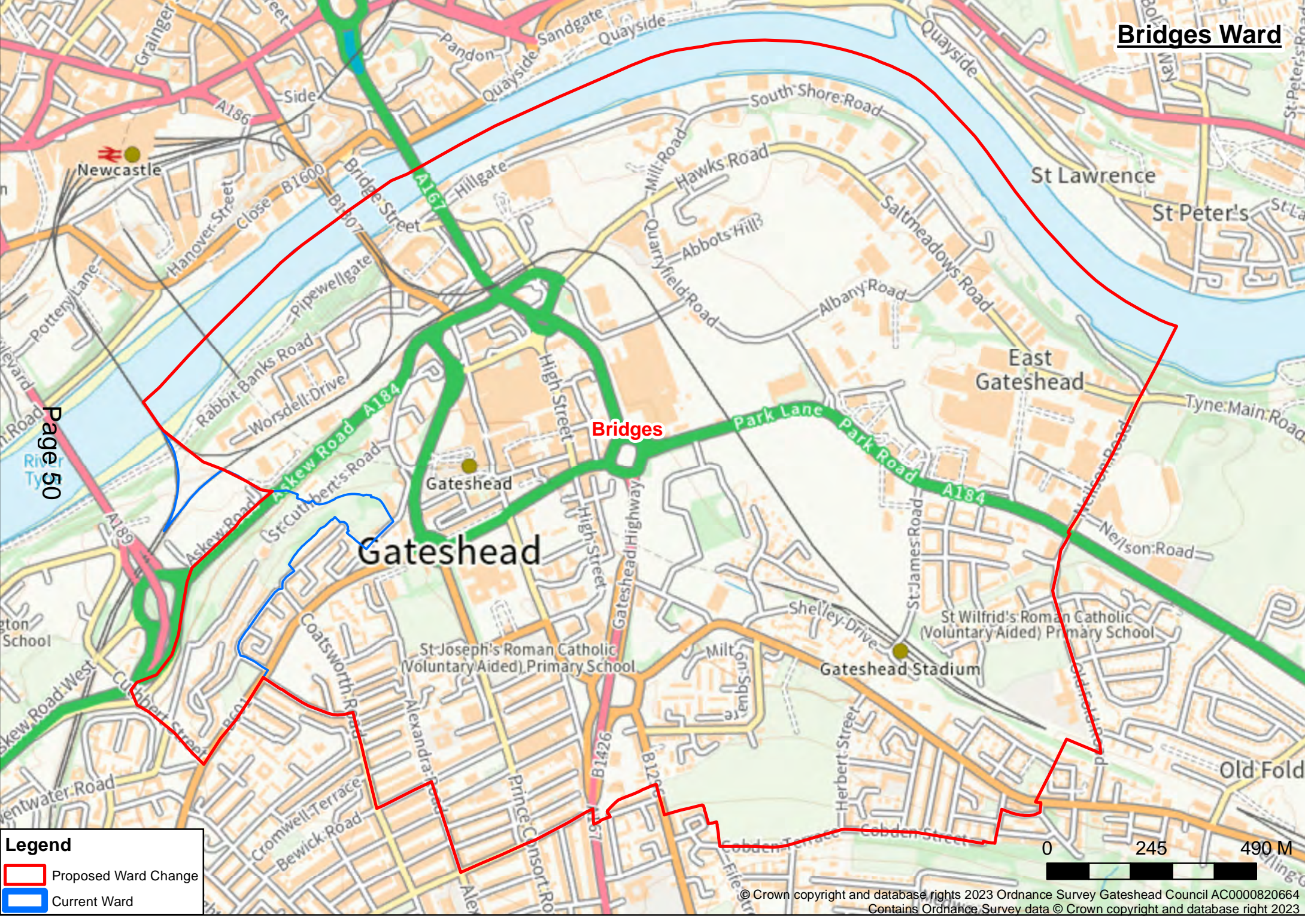


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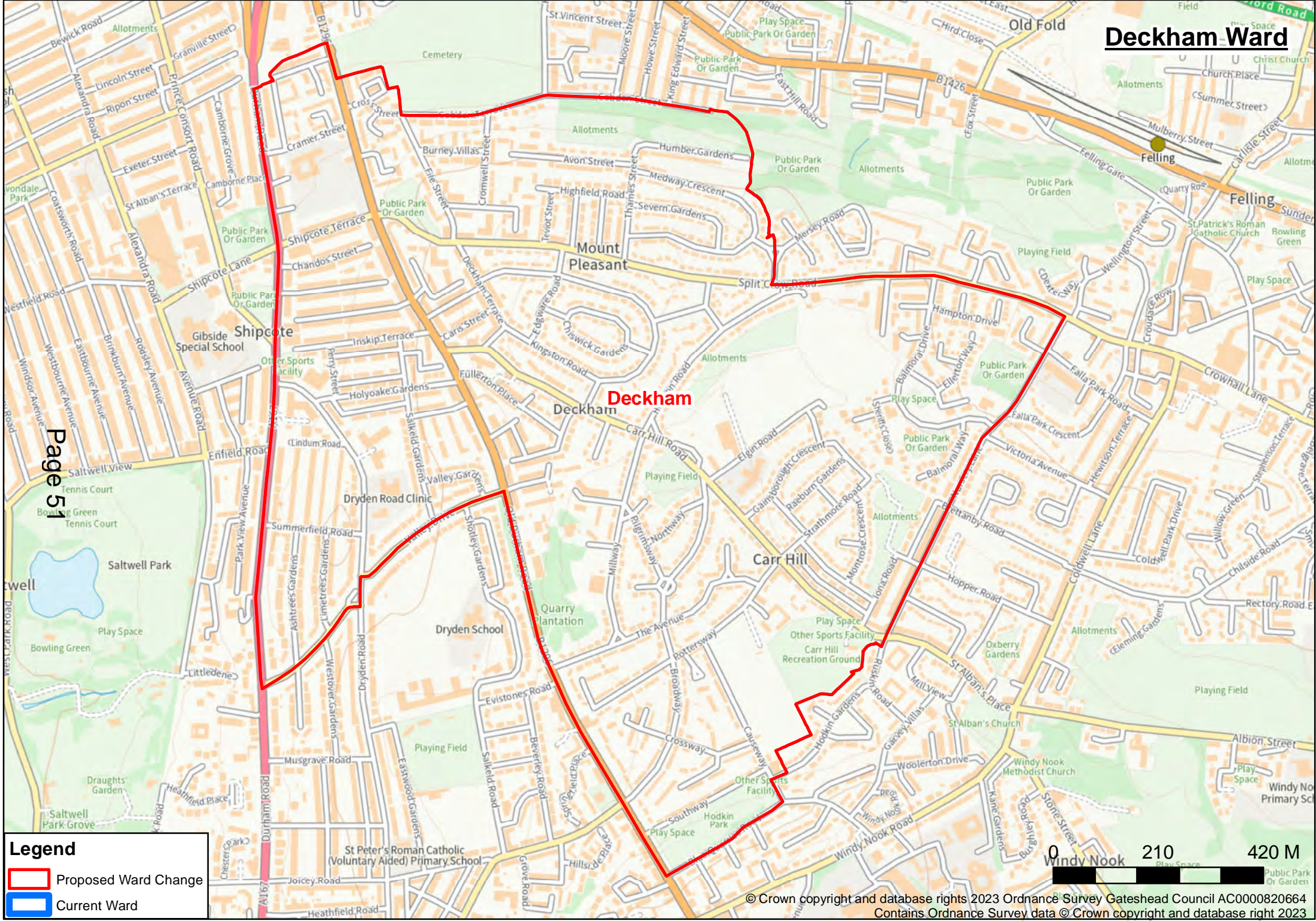
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Legend

- Proposed Ward Change
- Current Ward





Deckham Ward



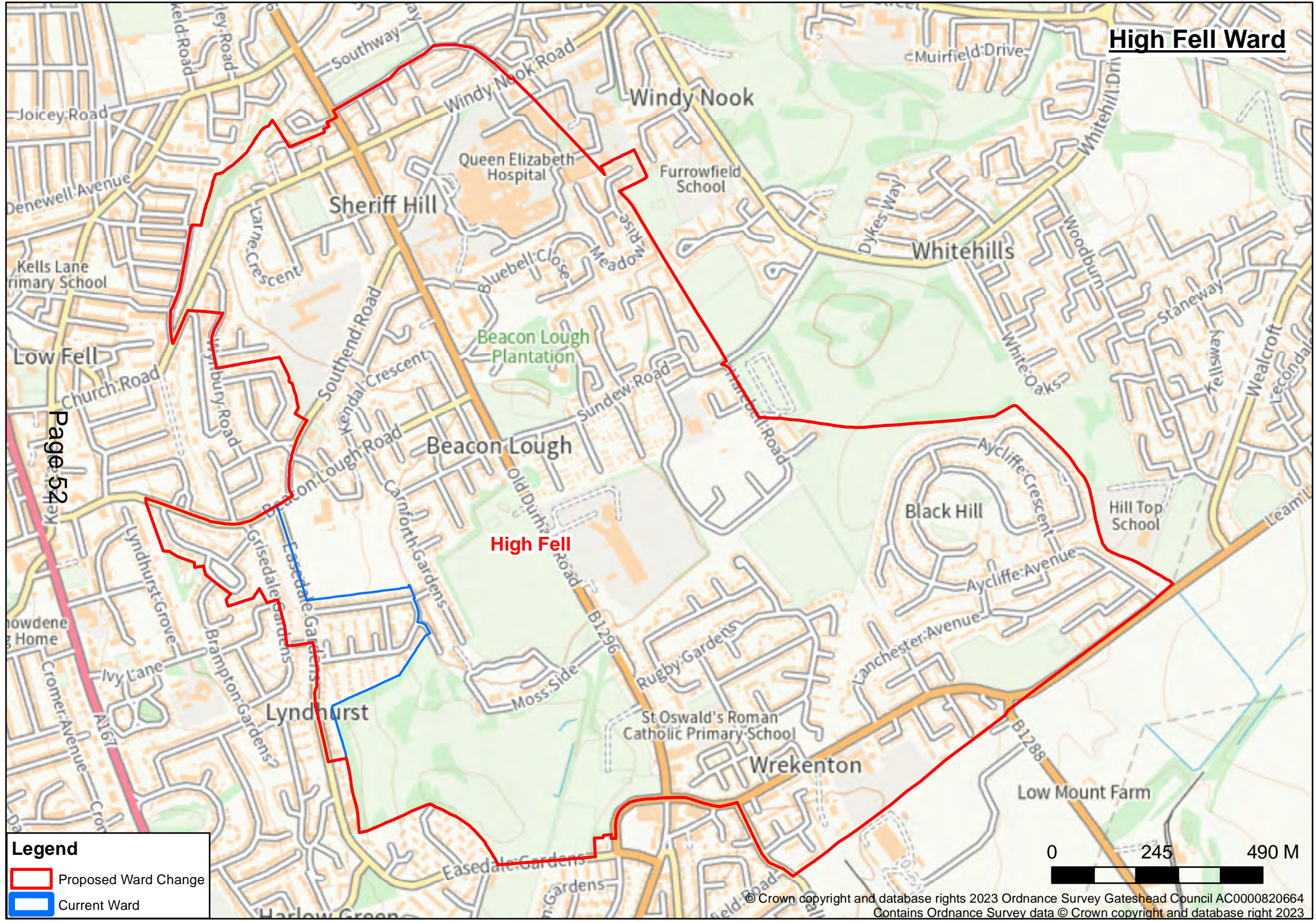
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-  Current Ward





High Fell Ward

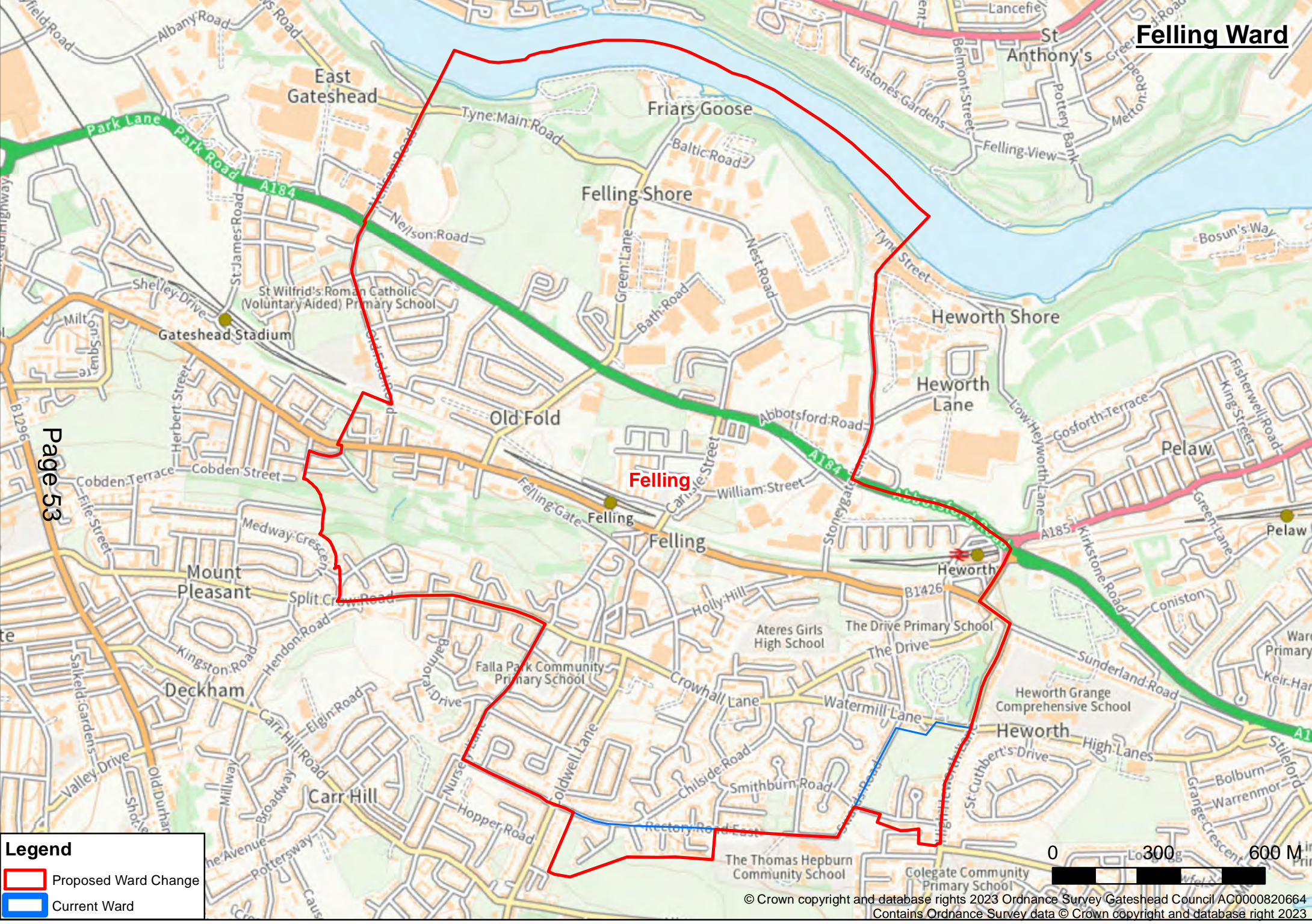


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-  Proposed Ward Change
-  Current Ward





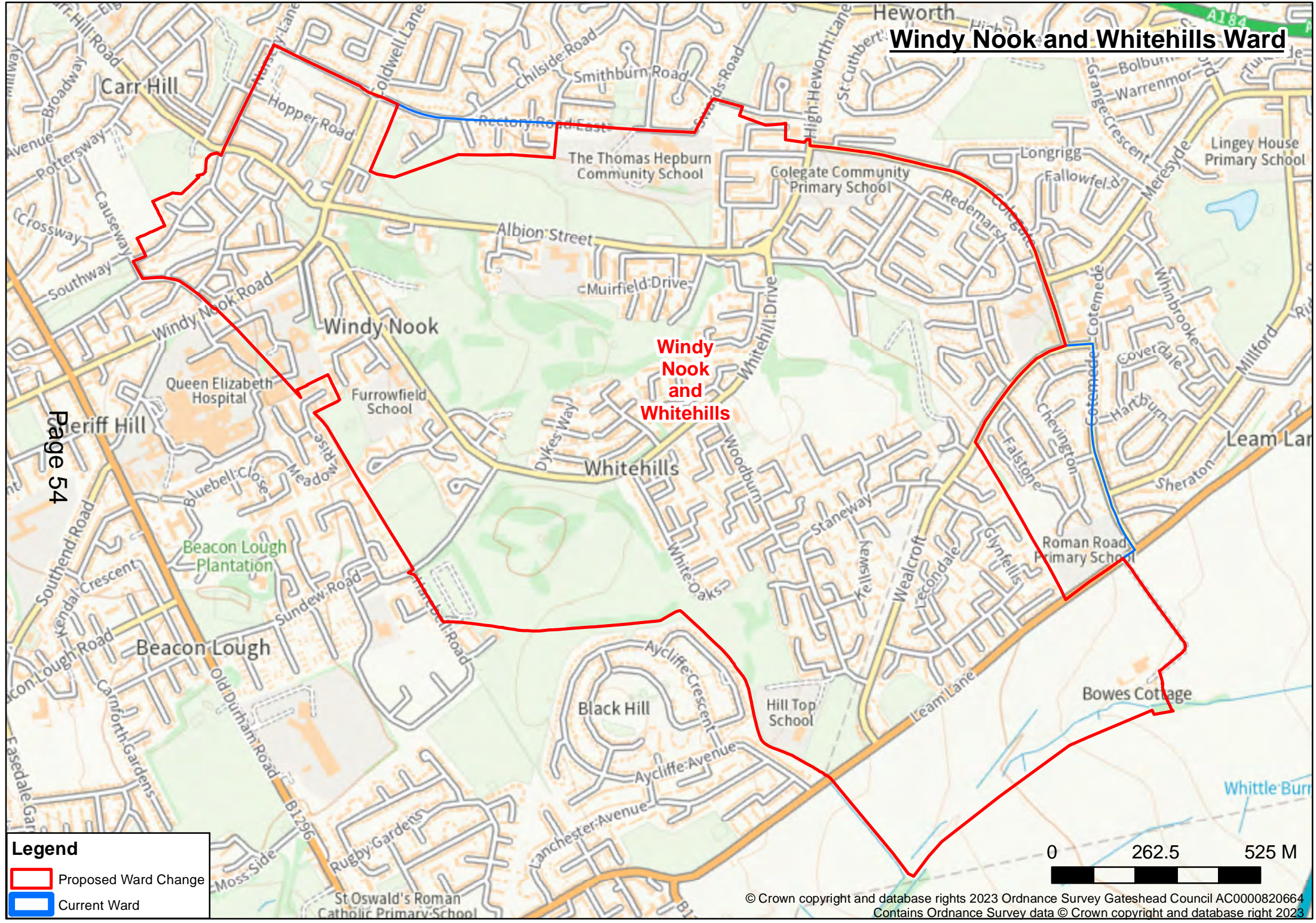
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- Proposed Ward Change
- Current Ward



Windy Nook and Whitehills Ward

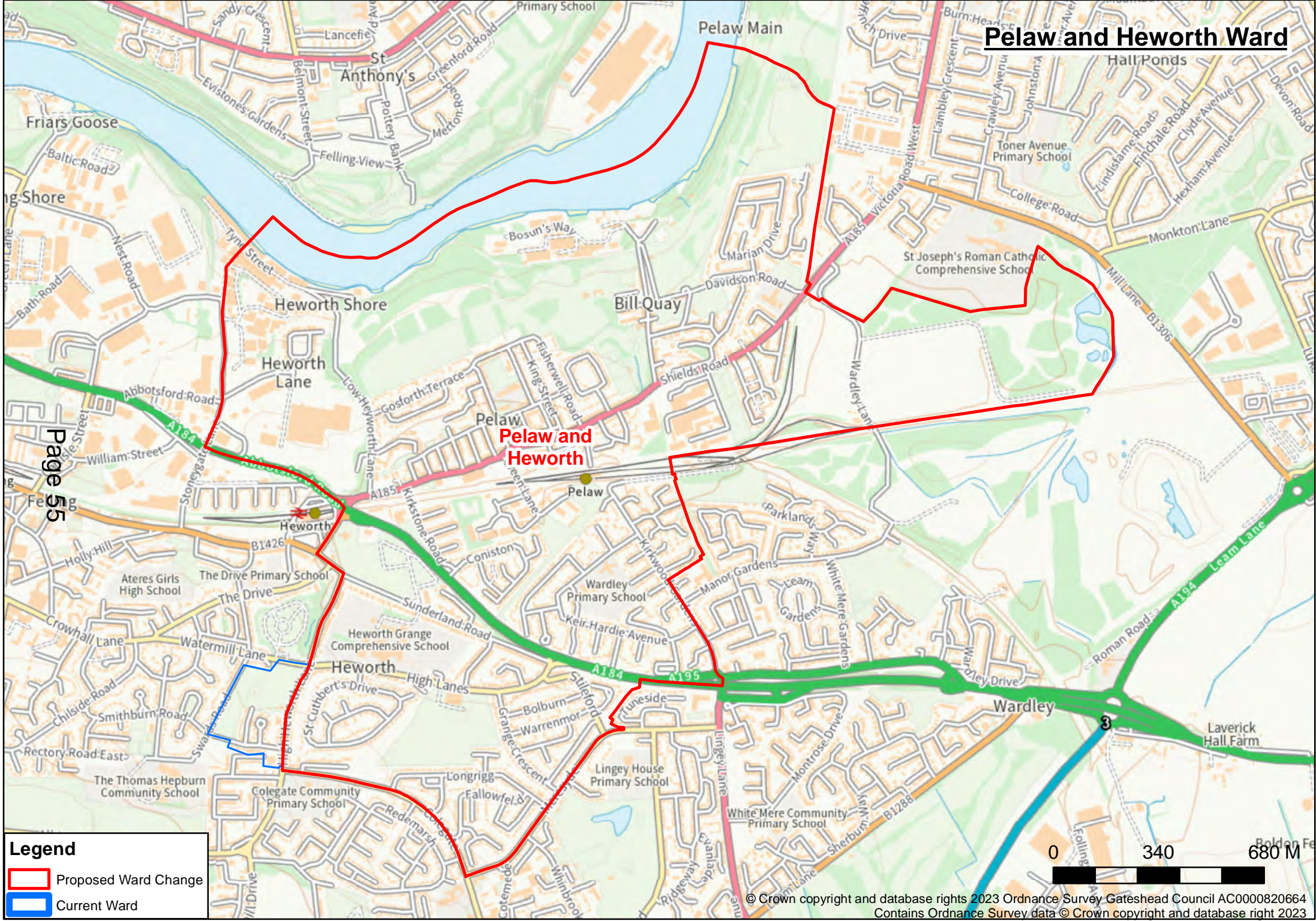


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-  Current Ward





Pelaw and Heworth Ward

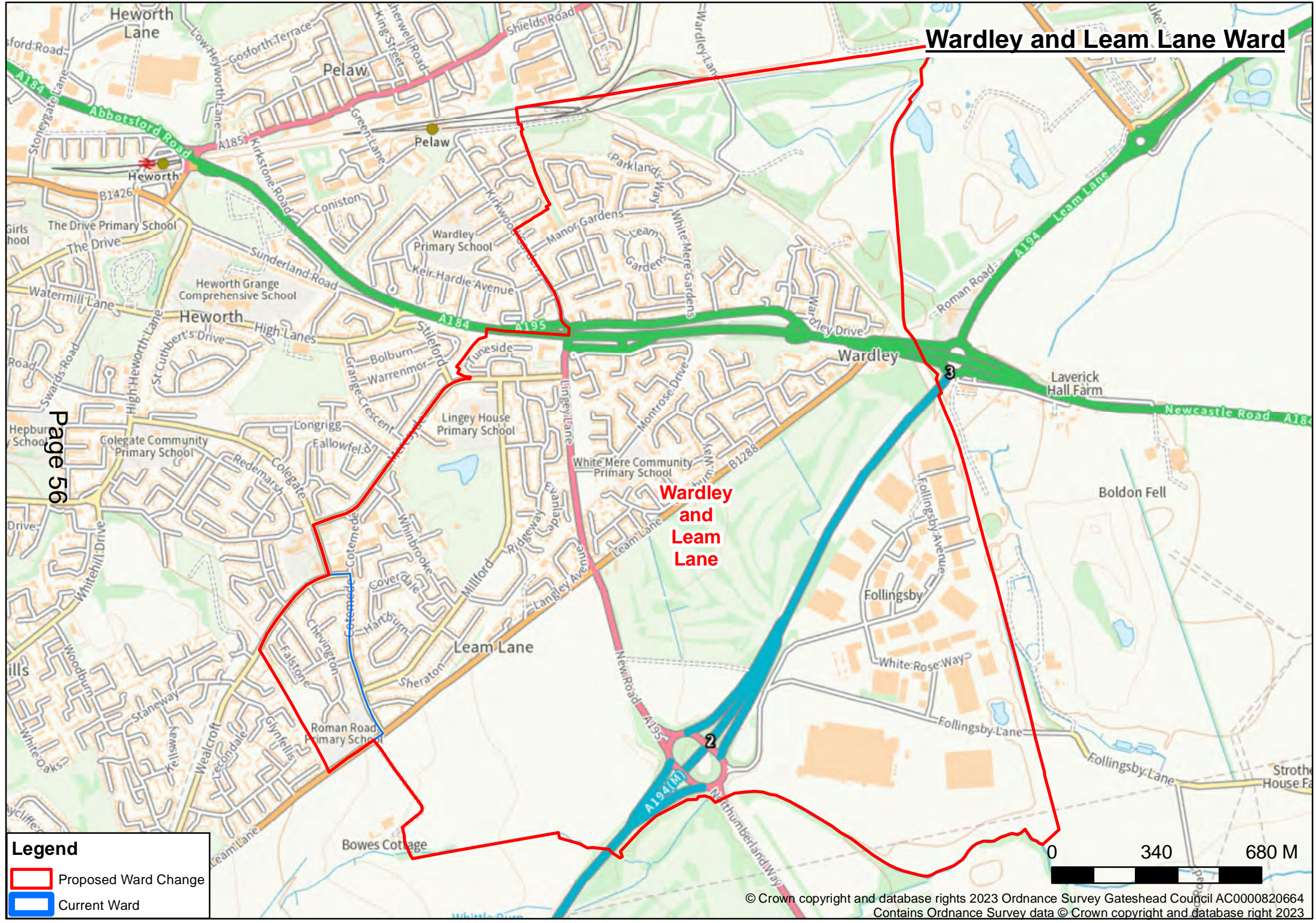


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-  Proposed Ward Change
-  Current Ward

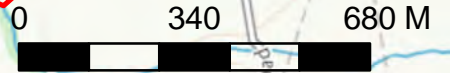
Wardley and Leam Lane Ward



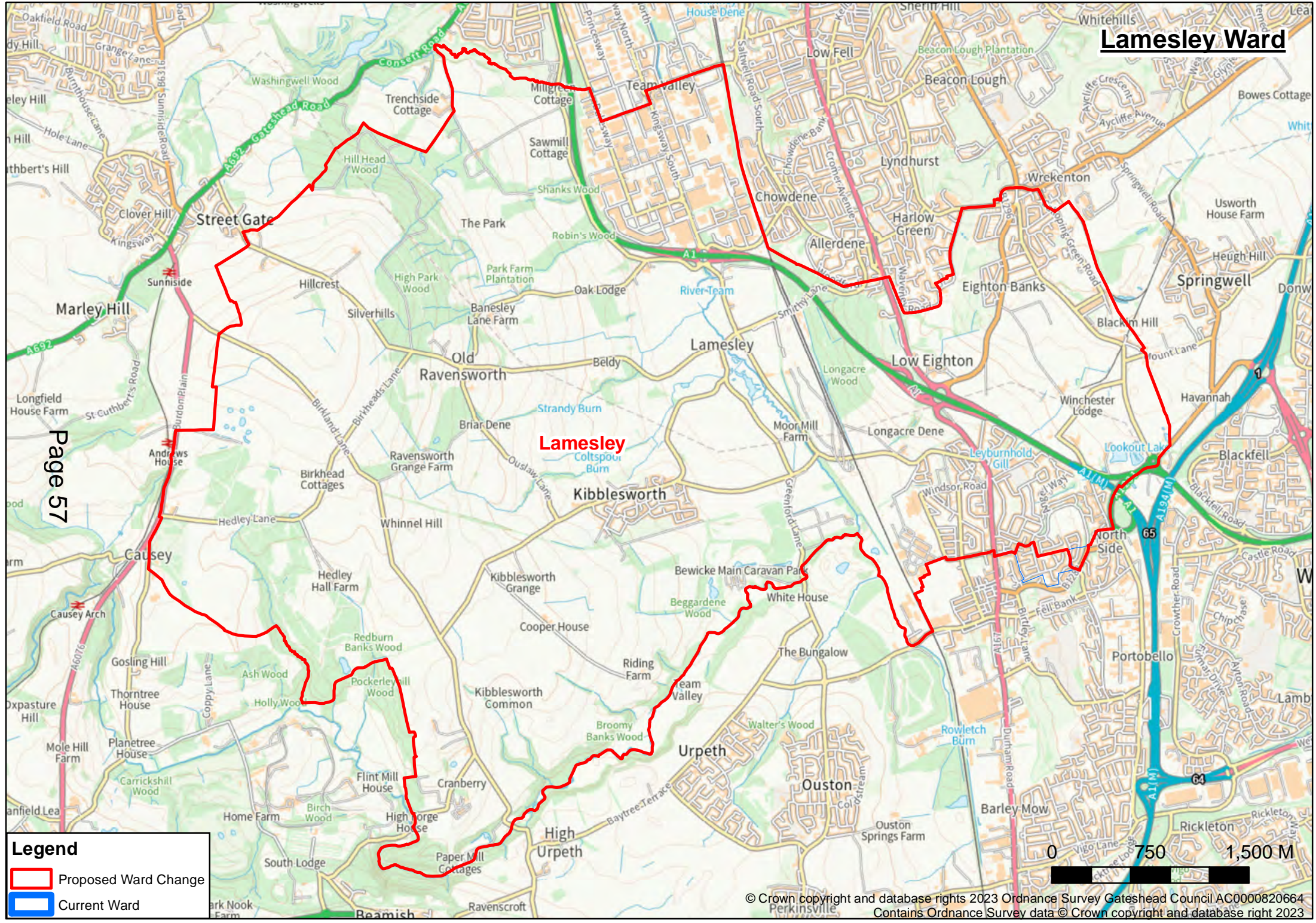
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-  Proposed Ward Change
-  Current Ward





Lamesley Ward

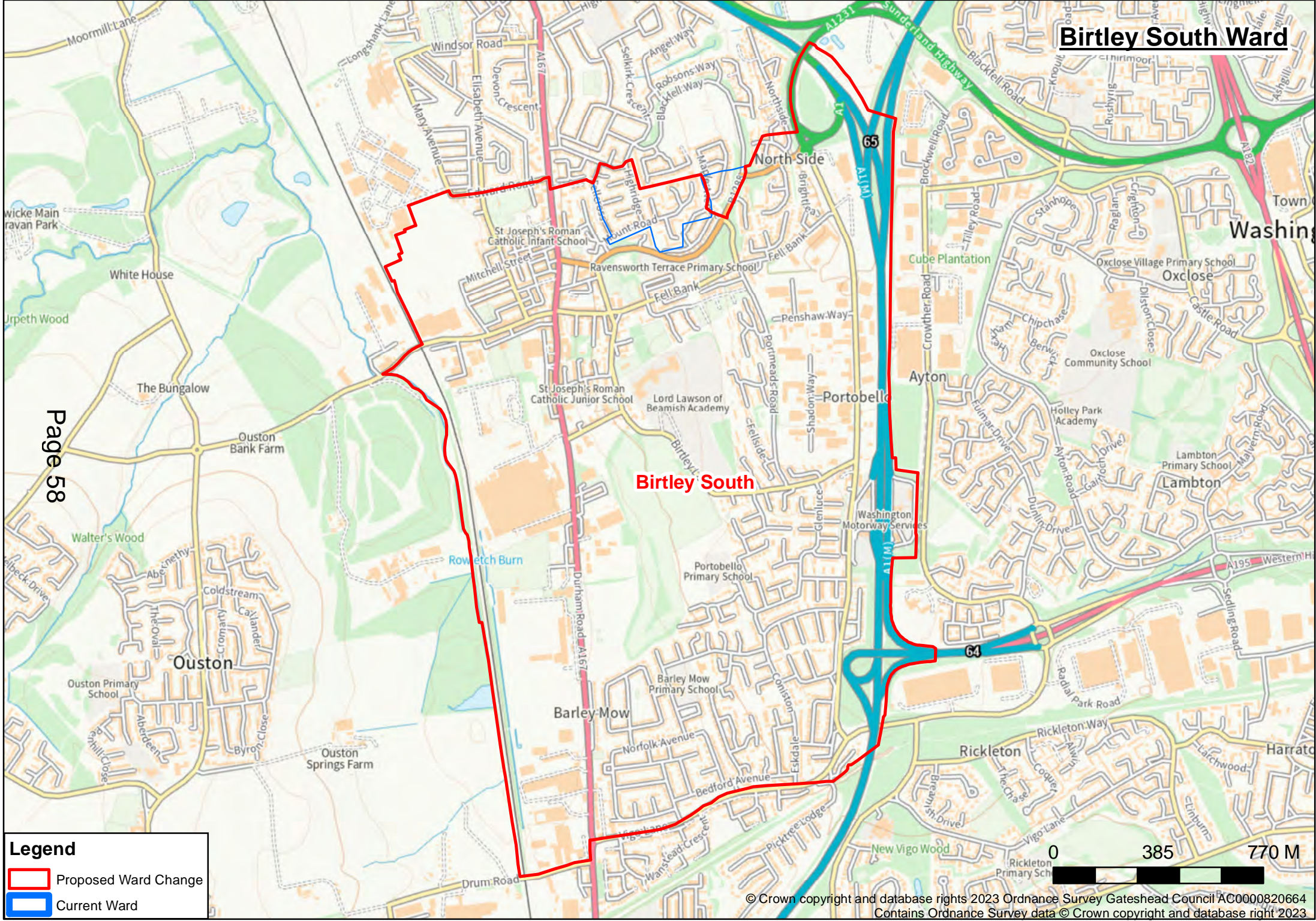


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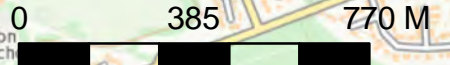
-  Proposed Ward Change
-  Current Ward





Legend

-  Proposed Ward Change
-  Current Ward





COUNCIL MEETING

26 October 2023

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION

ITEM 1C – DRAFT SUBMISSION TO LGBCE ON WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor R Beadle will move the following amendment:

In recommendation ii: Add “and Leader of the Opposition” after “Leader of the Council”.

Add new recommendation iii: With the following changes and resultant changes to estimates:

- a) Removing transfer of Saltwell Road, Ventnor Gardens and Ventnor Crescent from Saltwell to Low Fell ward (pp17-18)
- b) Removing transfer of Northside from Lamesley to Birtley South ward, and Maple Avenue from Birtley to Lamesley (pp24-25)
- c) Transferring the Central Nursery site from Dunston Hill and Whickham East ward to Lobley Hill and Bensham (pp24-25)
- d) Renaming Lamesley Ward to Birtley North and Lamesley Ward (p2 and 24)
- e) Renaming Lobley Hill and Bensham ward to Lobley Hill and Team Valley (pp14-15)
- f) Renaming Pelaw and Heworth ward to Pelaw, Heworth and Bill Quay (p22)

Proposed by: Councillor R Beadle

Supported by: Councillor J Wallace

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