

Kirklees

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Comment text:

Hello,

I am attaching some additional information about Kirklees' boundary review consultation. For some reason I can't upload this to the website.

Kind regards,

Attached Documents:

- kirklees-labour-group-submission---second-draft-consultation.docx

Executive Summary

Kirklees Labour Group thanks the commissioners and staff for their work. This is not an easy task and we appreciate the effort that has gone into this work. We particularly welcome that a field trip was made to Kirklees, as experience in the field is very valuable when making these decisions.

The Labour Group's opinion on boundaries in Kirklees remains mostly unchanged, however we would suggest a series of minor amendments which we believe improve our overall proposals.

We would direct the commission to our submission to the previous consultation which we still stand by except with the small alterations below.

We also provide additional evidence to support our original recommendations.

Amendments to the Labour Group proposal

Highfields (Greenhead and Dalton)

We believe that the boundary between Greenhead and Dalton should be Huddersfield Ring Road and Huddersfield Railway Viaduct.

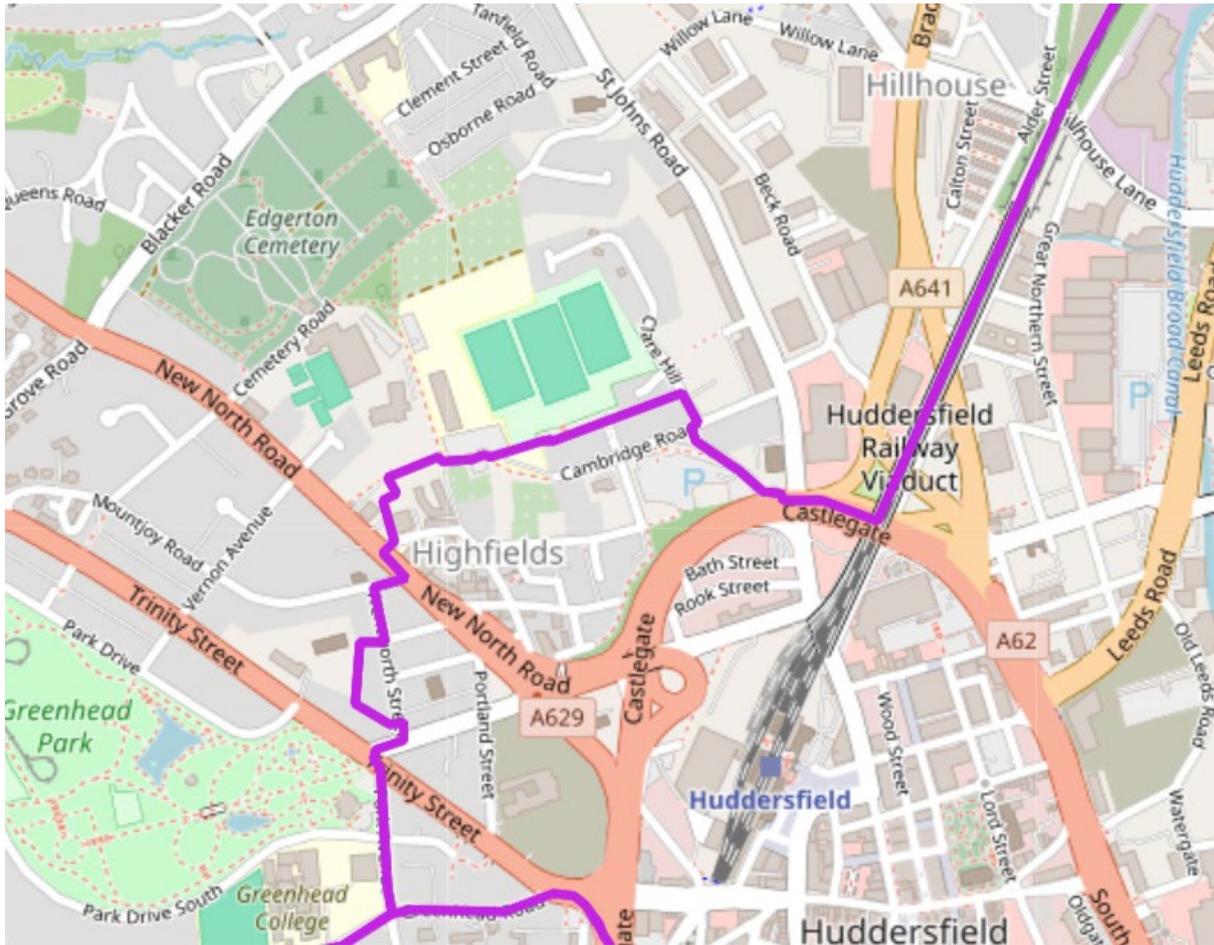


Figure 1 Map of draft recommendation's boundary between Greenhead and Dalton ward

In the second draft recommendations, the boundary follows Huddersfield Railway Viaduct until the viaduct intersects with Huddersfield Ring Road. The railway viaduct provides a clear, identifiable boundary between Greenhead and Dalton as it is a recognisable landmark and a clear dividing line.

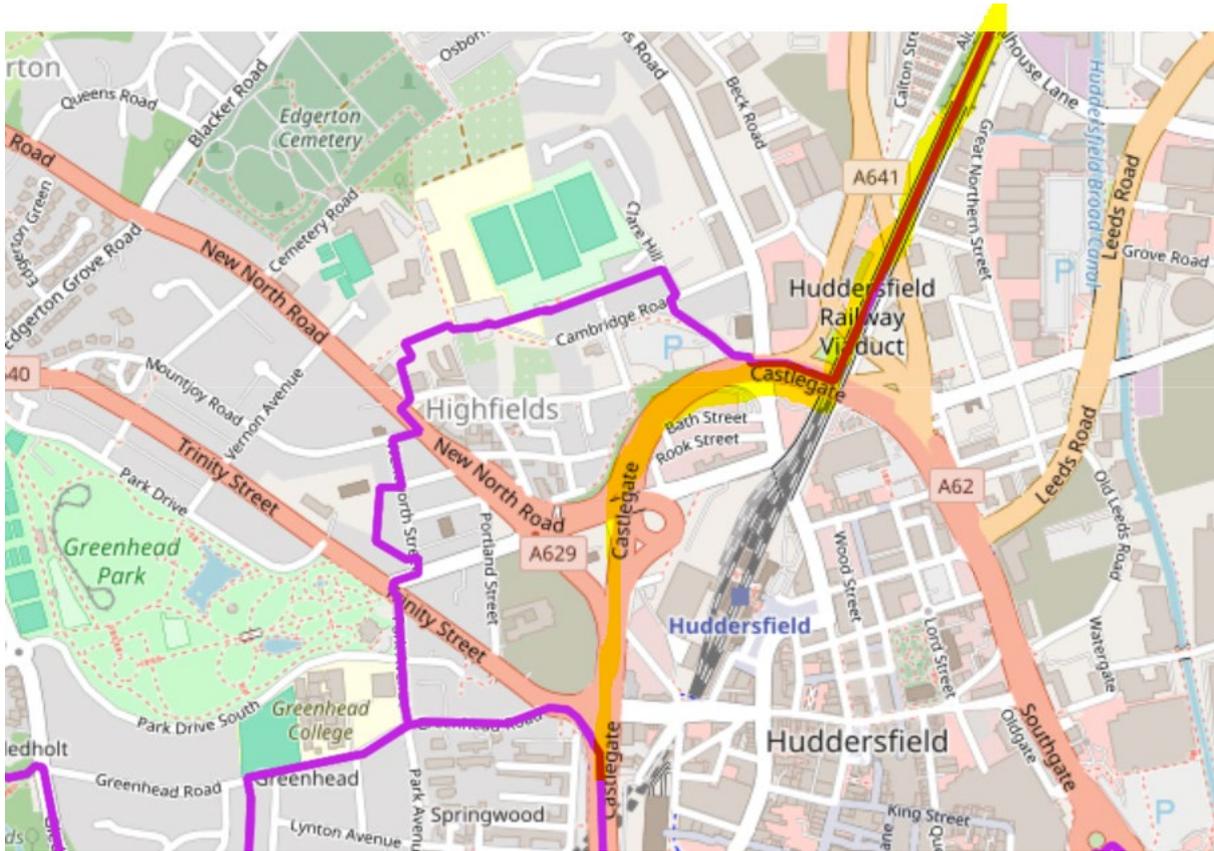


Figure 2 Huddersfield Railway Viaduct

However, the current boundary between the two wards in the draft recommendations includes Highfields. The boundary between Greenhead and Dalton in this area is undefined and does not follow a clear boundary – it zig-zags across many small roads.

By moving the boundary to Huddersfield Ring Road, this would make the boundary between the two wards much clearer and identifiable. As a major A road, the ring road provides a clear dividing line between Huddersfield Town Centre – a business and retail district – and Highfields – a mainly residential area.

We also believe that by making the boundary the Ring Road, this fits the warding pattern in the rest of Huddersfield. The ring road forms the boundary between Crosland Moor and Dalton, and also Netherton and Newsome and Dalton. Having one bit of Dalton “sticking out” to the West of Huddersfield Town Centre is confusing and makes little sense.



The map above shows our new proposed boundary for Greenhead ward highlighted in yellow, following the ring road rather than the purple squiggly line.

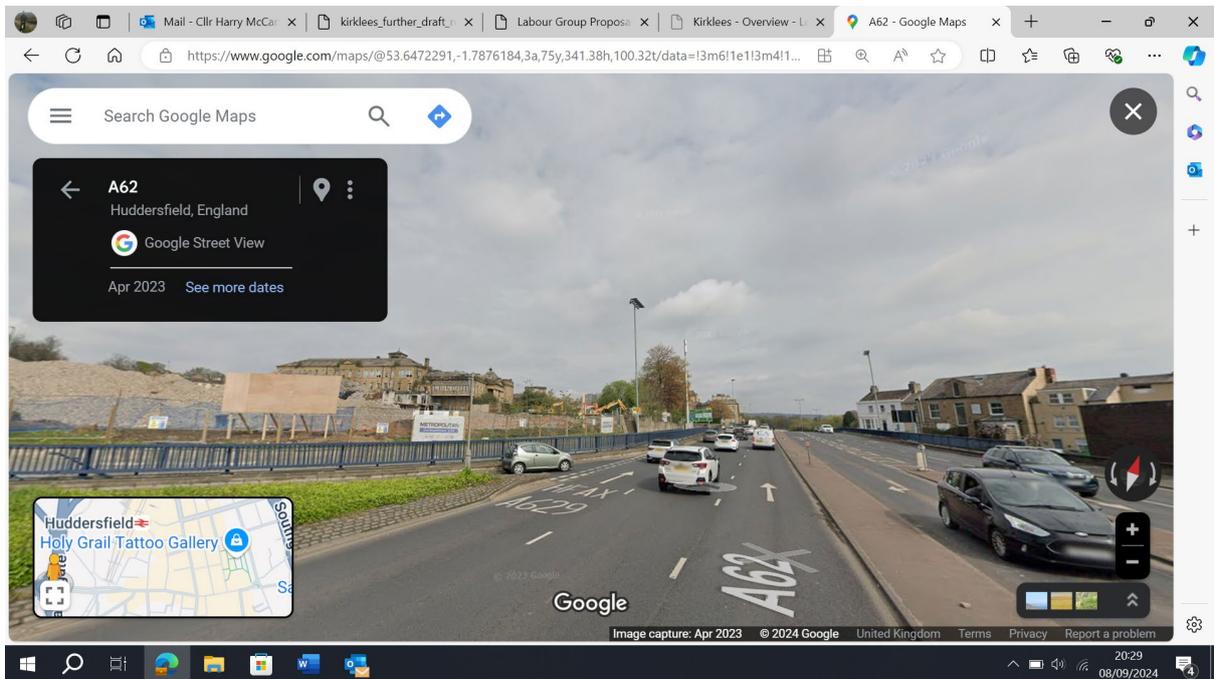


Figure 3 Huddersfield Ring Road

We also believe that moving Highfields into Greenhead ward would more accurately reflect community identities and ties. This area shares many facilities and amenities with the wider Greenhead ward, such as Greenhead pharmacy which lies in Highfields.



Figure 4 Greenhead Pharmacy

Greenhead Family Doctors, a GP surgery, lies within this part of Highfields, and serves a large number of patients in the wider Greenhead area. The Highfields and Greenhead Park area also serves as a “locality”, a geographic area which Kirklees Council uses to map communities. Under our proposal, this would keep the locality together. Greenhead Park serves as the focal point for the whole ward and the Highfields area fits with this.

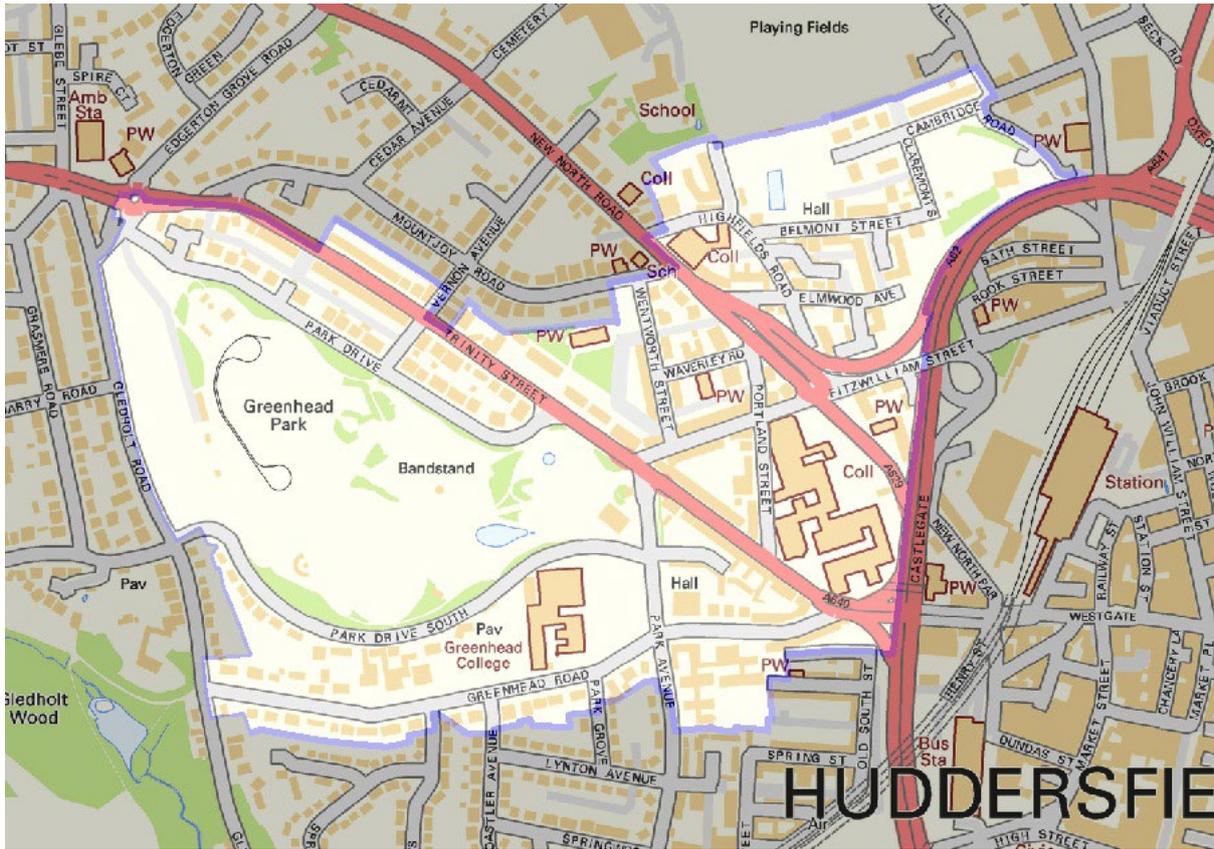


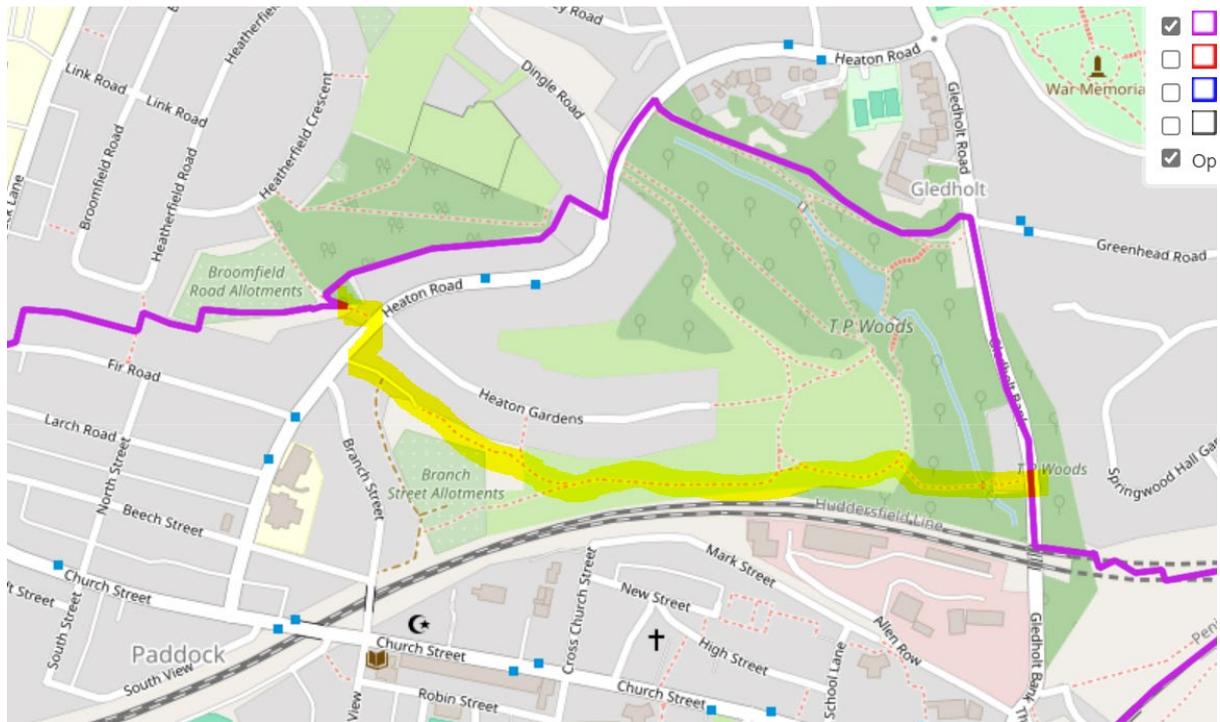
Figure 5 Highfields and Greenhead Park locality

In our submission to the previous consultation, we argued to put Huddersfield Town Centre into Dalton ward because the mainly retail and business town centre shared amenities and interests with the business and industrial area to the east of the town centre in Dalton ward. Highfields is generally residential and so it does not fit with this pattern.

Paddock (Colne Valley East and Greenhead)

We welcome the boundary commission's draft recommendation to include all of Paddock within Colne Valley East.

We would propose to follow a slightly altered boundary which would include Heaton Gardens in Greenhead ward, and the boundary would then follow a public footpath. We appreciate that it is hard to find a clear, identifiable boundary in this area, but we believe that this is a better fit.



The proposed boundary is highlighted in yellow in the map above.

The reason for this is it keeps Gledholt Woods within Greenhead ward – this amenity is a local nature reserve close to Greenhead Park, the focal point of Greenhead ward. There are shared events in both these park and they can be considered to form one “network”.

The original boundary does not follow a recognisable route and we believe that this is better.

Outlane (Colne Valley West and Lindley)

In our submission we put forward a proposal to move Outlane into Lindley ward. The boundary between the new Lindley and Colne Valley West ward we put forward was the boundary of polling district CV08. The boundary commission put forward an alternate boundary which follows the M62.

On reflection, the Labour Group believes that the commission’s proposed boundary following the M62 to be a much more recognisable boundary between Colne Valley West and Lindley that would clearly demarcate the two wards. The M62 is a very prominent local landmark and is an obvious dividing line.

Additional information

Dewsbury East

We strongly disagree with the boundary commission’s proposal to move DE07 out of Dewsbury East.

This is on grounds of electoral equality. While we agree with the boundary commission's proposals to move parts of the current Mirfield into Dewsbury West, retaining DE07 in Dewsbury West as part of the commission's draft proposals results in a high projected electoral variance for Dewsbury West of 10%. This is out

This polling district forms part of the wider Dewsbury Town Centre area, with amenities like Kirklees College, the fire station and the police station being outside of the ring road. The draft recommendation would split Dewsbury Rail Station and the surrounding area between two wards – splitting the Dewsbury Town Centre area would be highly confusing and would cause several difficulties. For example, this proposal would divide Kirklees College's Pioneer Higher Skills Centre from the Kirklees College building outside of the Ring Road.

Paddock (Colne Valley East)

We do not agree with the Liberal Democrats' opinion that Paddock should be united in Greenhead ward and we believe that it is more appropriate to unite the ward within Colne Valley East. The reasons for this are outlined in our submission to the previous consultation. In our view, there are many shared amenities between Paddock and the rest of Colne Valley ward – for example, the catchment area for Paddock School includes all of Longwood and Royds Hall Secondary School includes Paddock, Longwood, Milnsbridge, Cowlersley and Golcar. Paddock and the rest of Greenhead ward is also separated by Gledholt wood which provides distance between the two wards.

Colne Valley East is not rural in character, unlike Colne Valley West which has a distinctly rural character.

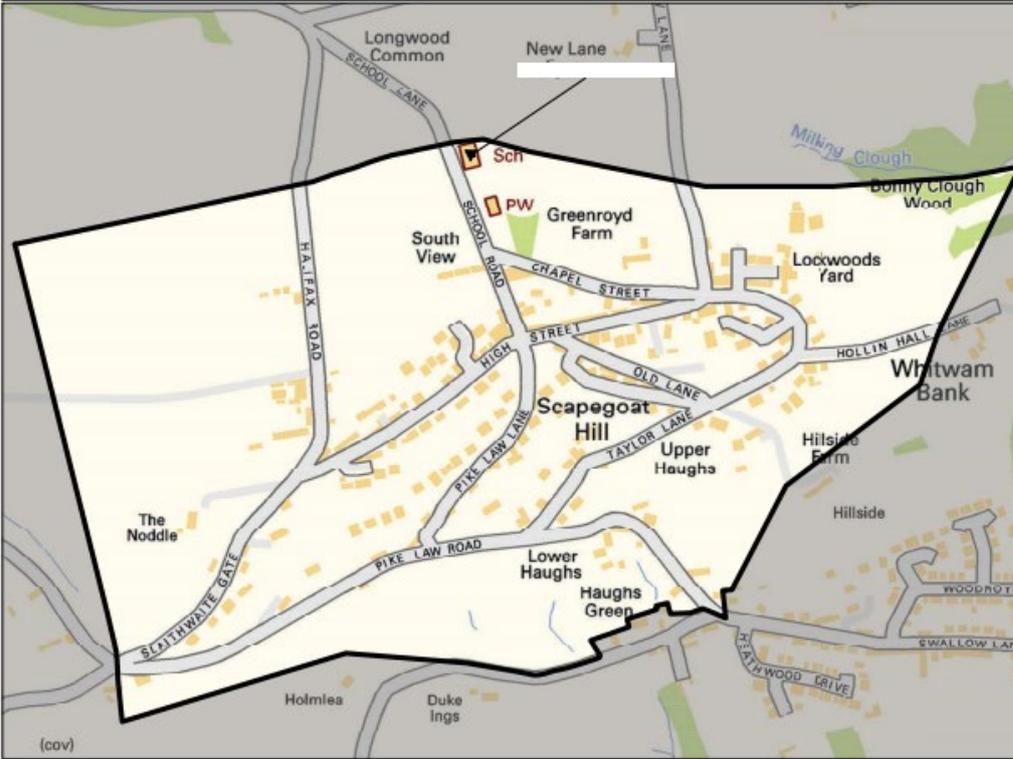
Scapegoat Hill and Bolster Moor (Colne Valley West)

The Liberal Democrat Group proposed putting Scapegoat Hill and Bolster Moor into Colne Valley East. We do not think that this is justified by the evidence in terms of community ties.

Bolster Moor and Scapegoat Hill are rural communities with a large agricultural sector. Colne Valley East ward is a suburban community. The Colne Valley West ward is a rural ward which covers the upper Colne Valley – with the shared interests of rural communities and the farming sector. Colne Valley East does not share these interests.

There is a clear division in terms of the amenities that Scapegoat Hill and Bolster Moor have in comparison to Colne Valley East. For example, the priority admission areas for Scapegoat Hill Junior and Infant School and Clough Head Junior and Infants School (which covers the Bolster Moor area) do not overlap. Maps of the catchment areas for these schools are below.

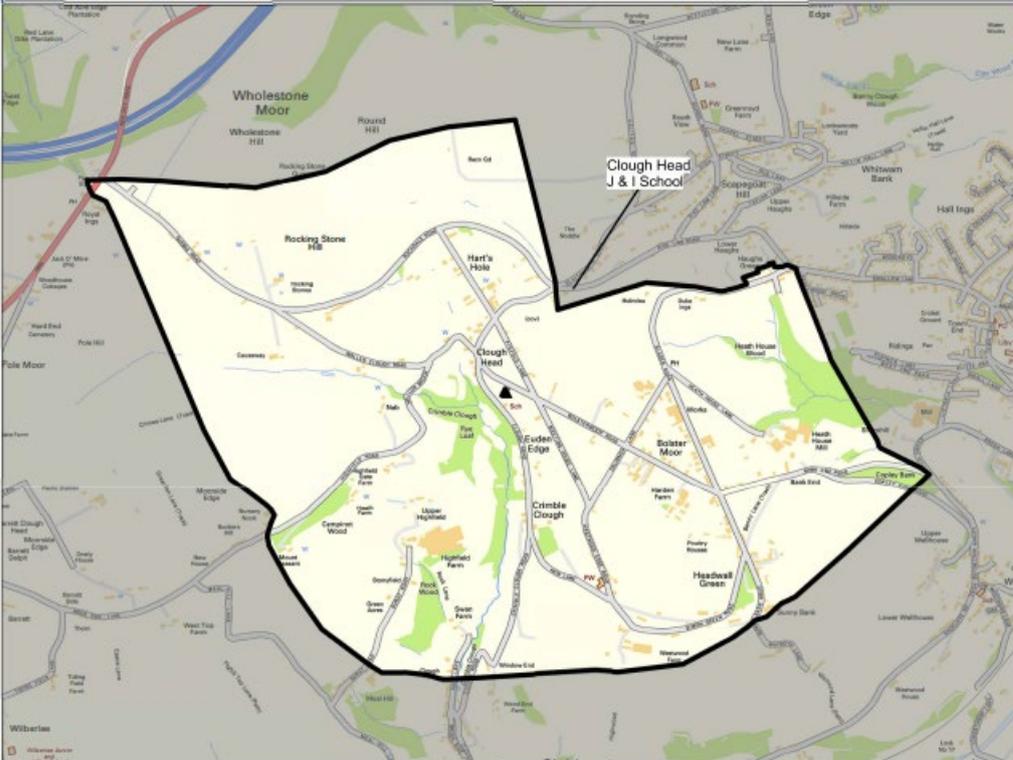
Scapegoat Hill J & I School



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Clough Head J & I School



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