

# North Yorkshire

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mr Jonathan Harston

**Email:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Former Scarborough Council area

See attached submission.

I am happy for information that would identify me to be made public.

## Attached Documents:

- reviewjghdivision.doc

Submission regarding the  
Local Government Boundary Review of North Yorkshire Council.  
Stage Two: Division Boundaries  
Jonathan Harston – [REDACTED]

Introduction

I am a member of Whitby Town Council, and previously a member of Sheffield City Council. I have long had an interest and practice in mapping and electoral geography. I have submitted recommendations on boundaries in reviews of Sheffield City Council, 2004 and 2016, and the parliamentary review covering Sheffield in 2005, and Yorkshire in both the aborted and the current parliamentary review covering Yorkshire, and the 2019 review of Scarborough Borough Council.

I have been preparing a report for Whitby Town Council to agree to submit as their representation. On checking the consultation timetable I note that this stage of consultation closes on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Due to recent staffing changes this is a very tight fit for timetabling the usual meeting to agree the Town Council submission. Consequently, I am submitting my personal representation, which include those representations I have recommended to the Town Council, most of which have been discussed between members.

Whitby Town area

This part of my recommendation is identical to the representation I have written for Whitby Town Council, and covers county divisions in the area covered by Whitby Town Council.

As with the 2019 review of Scarborough Borough Council, I recommend that the area of Whitby be co-terminal with a whole number of county divisions. The Town Council is currently covered by two county divisions: Whitby West and Whitby Streonshalh. Although each division on its own is mis-sized and will need adjusting, the two divisions taken together are very close to the quota for exactly two divisions with the proposed 89 county councillors.

2023 Whitby electorate	10208	1.9seats
2030 Whitby forecast	11377	2.0seats
County quota	5818	89 seats

Whitby has a distinct local identity. The greater Whitby District, broadly the Esk Valley basin, also has a distinct local identity. The area has a distinct character and community of its own. Whitby is isolated on all sides, by the moors to the landward side and the sea to the other. The geography funnels the focus of the area towards Whitby which is the focus for local facilities and forms the urban core. The Town Council is also wholly outside the North Yorkshire National Park, with the Park boundary being coterminous with the Town Council boundary other than the north-western border with Sandsend.

I believe that addressing the criteria of *Interests and Identities of Local Communities* and *Effective and Convenient Local Government* and would be best served if Whitby had a whole number of county councillors with no county division overlapping outside the Town Council area.

There are currently exactly two county divisions covering Whitby Town. With the 2030 quota they are mis-sized, one 15% undersized, and the other just over 10% too big. With a small adjustment involving transferring a handful of streets in the town centre, transferring about 775 electors, the two divisions can be adjusted to bring them both close to quota. This would be a small change to *achieve electoral equality*, and would *follow lines clearly distinct on the ground*.

	2030 forecast		2030 forecast	
	Current divisions		Recommended divisions	
Whitby West	6438	1.106seats	5663	0.973 seats
Whitby Streonshalh	4939	0.849seats	5714	0.982 seats
Whitby total electorate	11377		11377	

The recommendation is to adjust the existing division boundary by deviating where the existing boundary along the dismantled railway crosses Southend Gardens/Stakesby Vale:

from: \* centre of Southend Gardens, Chubb Hill Road, Back St. Hilda's Terrace, Skinner Street  
to: \* continue along dismantled railway, skirting Beeching Mews to centre of Station Avenue, Argyle Road

The following defaced boundary should also be adjusted, with no change to the electorate:

\* The boundary towards the Esk runs along the dismantled railway line underneath Larpool Viaduct. This is very overgrown and is not clear on the ground. The Cinder Path runs along the fork of the dismantled railway line that runs over Larpool Viaduct and is a clear and made-up multi-use path, and is a clearer line on the ground at this point.

This recommended boundary also addresses some anomalies that have resulted over time:

\* 2 Byland Road is a new development on the "wrong" side of the pre-2022 country division and borough boundary. There is now no longer anything stopping it being united with the rest of Byland Road.

The recommended new boundary is detailed in the attached map in Appendix 2, with the list of streets and electorate transferred in Appendix 1.

The new boundary would split the current 2-member Town North parish ward. There are two simple options to address this:

\* split the current 2-member Town North parish ward into two 1-member parish wards  
\* split off the western part of Town North parish ward into a 1-member parish ward, and merge the remainder with the 1-member Town South parish ward to form a 2-member parish ward.

Before they were abolished, Scarborough Borough Council committed to undertaking a parish Local Governance Review to address anomalies and malapportionments that had built up since the last review in 1983. They were not able to do this before being abolished. North Yorkshire Council have similarly stated that they will undertake a Local Governance Review once the county division review is completed. This will be able to address anomalies that result from the division review.

### Esk Valley and Coast area

Outside Whitby the area has distinct geographical boundaries. The coast is a hard border to the north and east, and the moors are a distinct border to the south of the Esk Valley headlands. Crossing the existing border running between Westerdale Moor and Goathland Moor would not create divisions that would satisfy *Interests and Identities of Local Communities* or *follow lines clearly distinct on the ground*. So, in this area I recommend that the upper Esk Valley be the core of a division and spread eastwards towards the coast, not southwards towards Pickering.

Reviewing the projected electorate numbers shows that the Sandsand to Staithes coast and the upper Esk Valley upstream of Staithes has an electoral quota of 1.0 This also has a clearly distinct geography and community, being the western hinterlands of Whitby.

Along the coast between Whitby and Scarborough there is also just enough electorate to resurrect something close to the pre-2022 “Scalby And Coast” division. A division running from Sleights, through Robin Hood’s Bay and to Cloughton would have a quota of 1.03; including Hackness / Harwood Dale would result in a quota of 1.10. Hackness / Harwood Dale has only 0.07 quota, and could be included in either a Robin Hood Coast seat or a Derwent Valley seat, whichever best makes the numbers add up properly.

The rest of the area in and around Scarborough has a denser population and is easier to create new divisions. The rural area around Scarborough naturally spreads westwards along the A170 and the A64, so divisions can be drawn here spreading over former borough council boundaries. The main geographical and community border in this area that is difficult to cross is the former Noth/East Riding boundary along the River Derwent running between and parallel to the A64 and A170 west of Seamer/Saxton.

Consequently, in this area I recommend the following, as detailed in Appendix 3:

- a Mulgrave/Danby/Esk Valley, etc. division
- a Sleights, Robin Hood, Coast, Cloughton division

#### Scalby & Newby

I have observed that the Scalby & Newby Town Council area is split between abolished Borough Council wards and between current North Yorkshire Divisions. The current boundary line runs rather arbitrarily through streets with no clear distinction on the ground. This was clearly chosen at some previous review in order to get the electorate numbers to tally correctly.

If the opportunity or requirement arises to adjust how division boundaries are drawn through Scalby & Newby I recommend that the Scalby Cut/Scalby Beck river is used. This is a very clear and distinctive geographical feature, and is the community boundary between the Newby part of the area and the Scalby part. This shown in Appendix 4.

## APPENDIX 1

Streets to transfer from Whitby West to Whitby Streonshal:

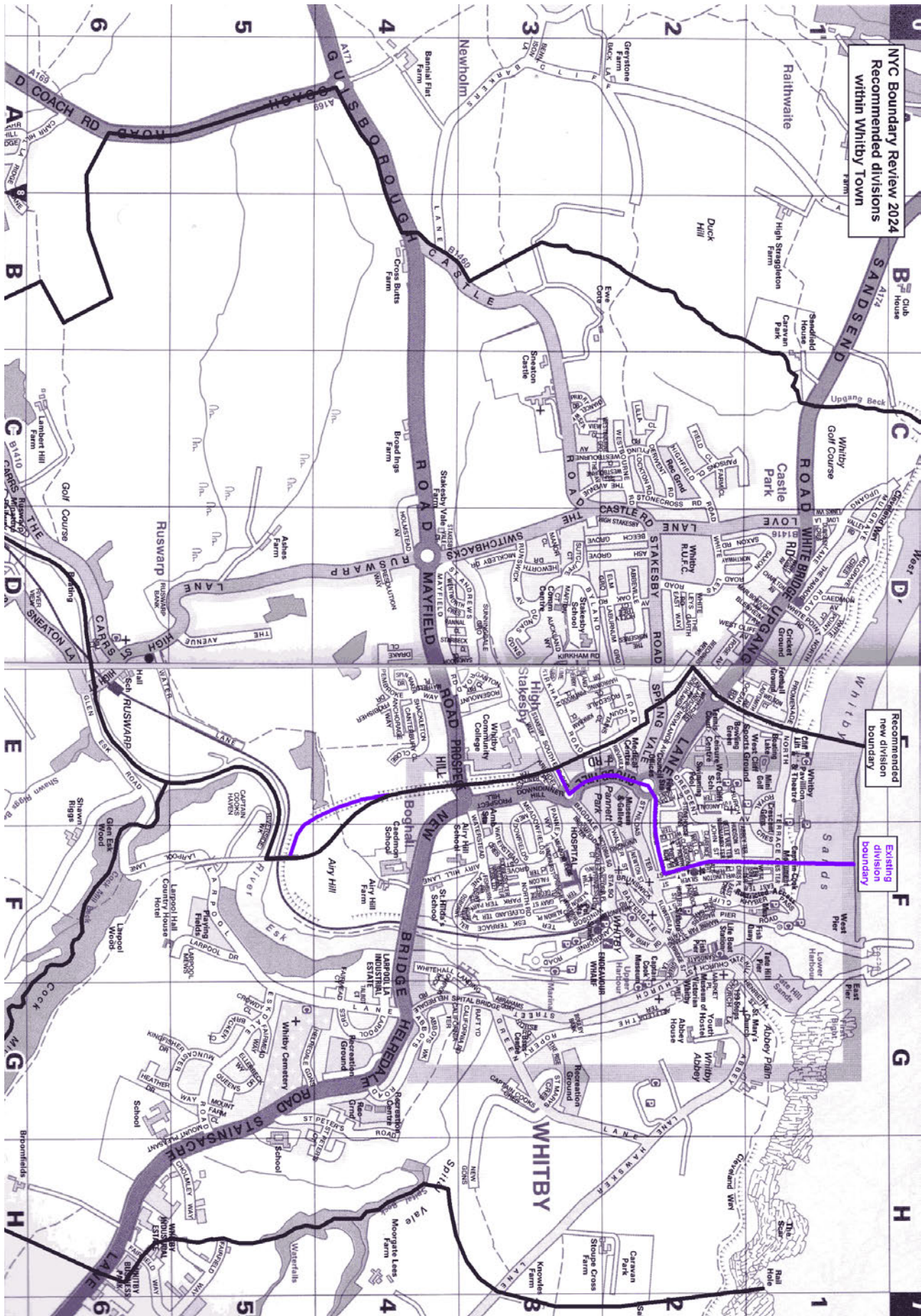
Street	Number of electors
Southend Gardens	4
Royal Crescent	49
Church Square	29
Hudson Street	36
Esplanade	38
Crescent Avenue	117
John Street	19
Clarence Place	7
Well Close Square	35
Well Close Terrace	25
St. Hilda's Gardens	12
Back St. Hilda's	1
Stonehouse Gardens	11
Poplar Row	1
Skinner Street evens 2-36	14
Routh Walk	12
Mulgrave Place	16
Normanby Terrace	22
Havelock Place	16
Abbey Terrace	47
Langdale Terrace	29
Crescent Terrace	2
Westlands Avenue	20
Southlands Avenue	11
Newlands Avenue	12
Field House Road	5
Spring Vale	39
Upgang Lane evens 2-42	
Upgang Lane odds 1-45	109
Argyle Road evens 2-28, Berkley Mansions, Coach House, St. Joseph's Convent	37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>775</b>

These are 2023 electorate figures, but population changes to 2030 will make a minimal difference to the balance between the two recommended divisions.



## APPENDIX 2

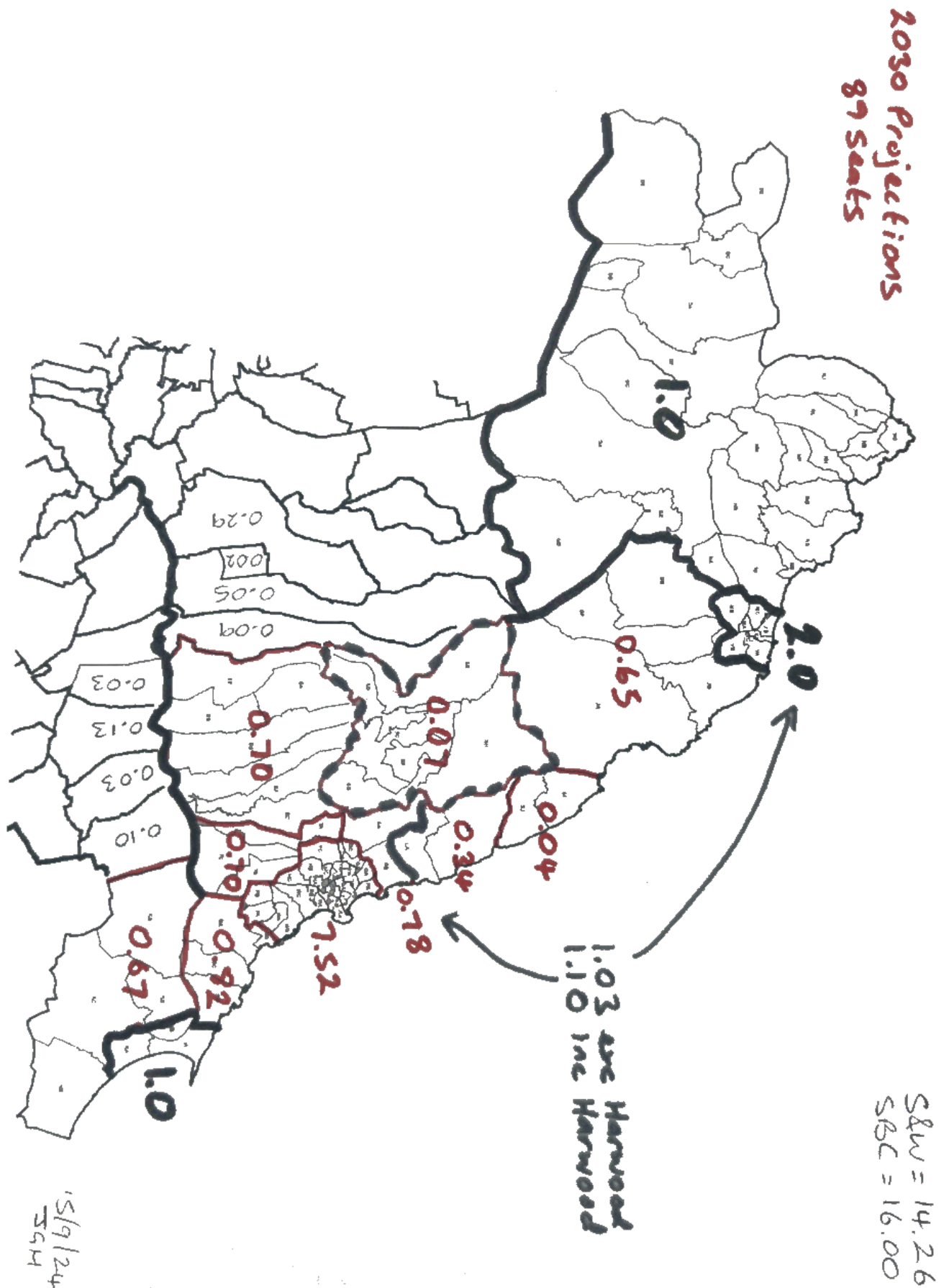
Recommended division boundary within Whitby Town



Mapping from Philip's Red Book Scarborough & Whitby Local Street Atlas

# APPENDIX 3

Recommended division boundaries in the Esk Valley and Coast

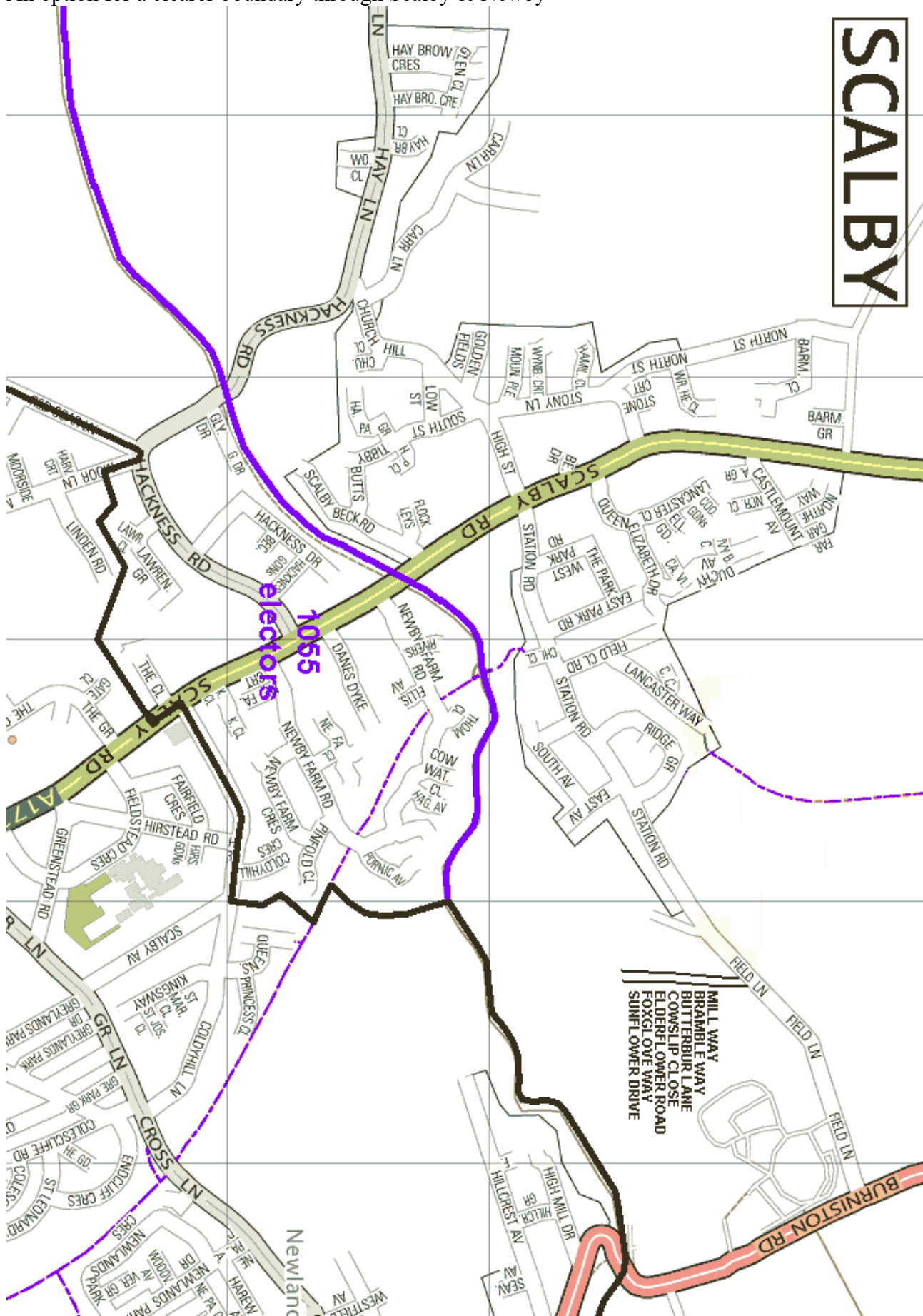


Numbers are electoral quotas in groups of polling districts.



## APPENDIX 4

An option for a clearer boundary through Scalby & Newby



Mapping from streetmap.co.uk