

### **3. East Hampshire**

#### **3.1 About East Hampshire**

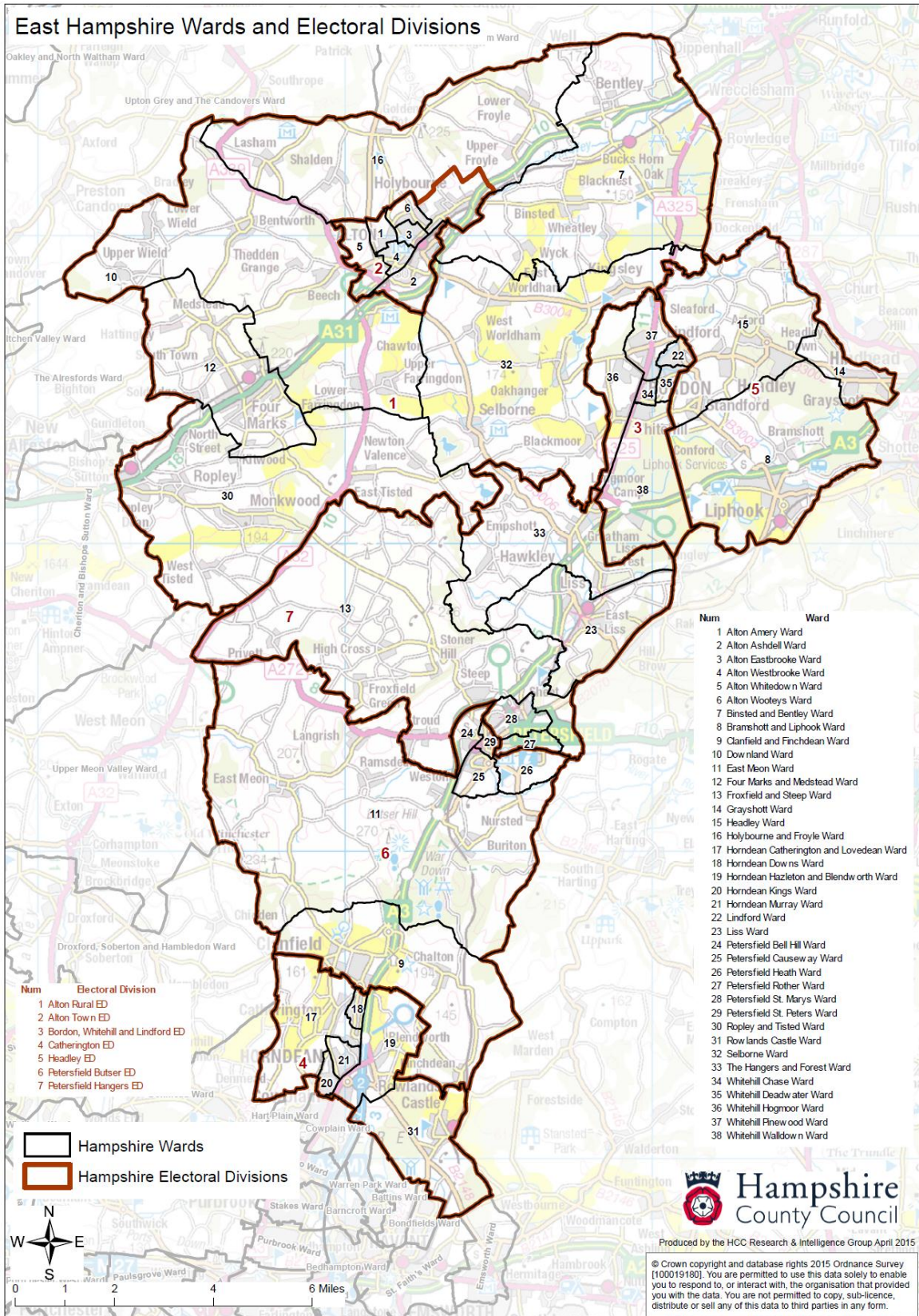
The district of East Hampshire forms most of the eastern edge of Hampshire and borders Surrey and West Sussex. It is a largely rural district, much of which is inside the South Downs National Park. There are two large and historic market towns in East Hampshire: Alton in the north and Petersfield further south. At the extreme south of the district there are urban settlements that blend into the built-up areas of the neighbouring borough of Havant.

Alton and Petersfield lie along the principal travel corridors in the district: east-west from Guildford to Winchester along the A31, and north-south from Guildford to Portsmouth along the A3 and the mainline railway. Both offer excellent journey times to Waterloo and are home to many London commuters. As a result house prices around Alton and Petersfield are among the highest in the county.

Rural East Hampshire is home to many characteristic Hampshire villages, including Selborne, Chawton, Bentley and Buriton. The centre of the district is dominated by the National Park and there are significant areas of forest. One effect of the two corridors and the National Park area is that the north and south of the district are not especially well linked.

East Hampshire is a mid-sized district in terms of population, with 118,000 residents in 2015. With constraints on growth in the National Park, development has historically tended to be focused on the two main travel corridors. However, significant new development is now planned to take place in Whitehill-Bordon, East Hampshire's third-largest settlement. This town is located between the A3 and the A31 in the east of the district and is the site of an Army barracks that is in the process of being vacated. The first tranche of 1,200 homes will be delivered by 2021.

Map of Existing County Council Divisions in East Hampshire



### 3.2 County Council Divisions in East Hampshire

There are currently seven County Councillors from East Hampshire, each representing one division. The two Alton divisions are forecast to have a larger electorate than the Hampshire average in 2021, while the other divisions are all forecast to be below the average size, particularly Petersfield Hangers, which lies wholly within the National Park.

#### Existing divisions – registered and forecast electorate

Division name	Members	2014 Electorate	2014 Variance	2021 Electorate Forecast	2021 Variance
Alton Rural	1	13,762	+5.2%	14,260	+3.0%
Alton Town	1	12,780	-2.3%	14,578	+5.3%
Bordon Whitehill & Lindford	1	9,940	-24.0%	12,901	-6.8%
Catherington	1	11,769	-10.0%	12,882	-7.0%
Headley	1	12,608	-3.6%	12,952	-6.5%
Petersfield Butser	1	12,714	-2.8%	13,293	-4.0%
Petersfield Hangers	1	11,349	-13.2%	11,612	-16.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>84,922</b>		<b>92,478</b>	

A difficulty in creating divisions with approximately equal electorates in East Hampshire is that the South Downs National Park Authority has an extremely restrictive policy on new housing development. This places development pressure on areas outside the National Park, where the electorate inevitably increases at a faster rate. Meanwhile the divisions located within the National Park may show a static or even reducing electorate, and to achieve electoral equality would have to be expanded to unmanageable proportions. This problem also applies in Winchester and New Forest districts.

The proposal is that the same seven divisions for East Hampshire be retained, each with one Councillor, but to adjust several division boundaries to provide a better degree of electoral equality without dividing natural communities or disturbing existing community arrangements. The new pattern requires the splitting of one ward, which is acceptable to the two current Councillors involved. There is an option to unify a currently split ward to achieve more uniform electorate sizes in the Alton area, and this has been set out below. One change to the division name of Bordon, Whitehill & Lindford is proposed.

These proposals recognise particularly that further growth is likely to take place in Whitehill-Bordon, so although this division shows a -7% variance

against the Hampshire average this is regarded as a prudent arrangement and one which reflects the natural community that exists in and around the town.

The proposals for East Hampshire, including presenting two options for Alton Rural and Alton Town, were co-ordinated by Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee, the Member for Alton Rural, and were discussed with and agreed by all current East Hampshire County Councillors.

### 3.3 Alton Rural

#### **2021 Electorate Forecast: 14,260 (+3.0% against forecast Hampshire average)**

As its name suggests, this is a wholly rural division surrounding the town of Alton (i.e. a 'doughnut' division), and is the third-largest division in Hampshire. Alton Rural consists mainly of small villages but there are larger settlements such as Four Marks and Ropley along the A31, which bisects the division through the middle. The lower part of Alton Rural is within the South Downs National Park.

The Member for Alton Rural, Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee, comments: "Although the division covers some 90 square miles there are many similarities with the 18 or so parishes and villages with a strong farming and self-help theme running through all the different communities which have many connections between each other. There is an extensive network of small B roads and C roads and unclassified lanes and BOATs (Byways Open to All Traffic) linking all the parishes in the division – many forming part of the old droving roads network. The electorate know by and large how the system works; certainly all the parish councils are very familiar with the local government boundaries and excellent communication and relations obtain between the County Councillors and all seven District Councillors that serve the same patch, which is why there may be a case to unite the Holybourne and Froyle Ward within this division (*see below*). The proportions are not too bad, being roughly 10 miles x 10 miles with residents able to be in contact with Winchester and Petersfield relatively easily because of good east/west and north/south A roads."

The division currently includes the following wards:

- Binsted & Bentley
- Downland
- Four Marks & Medstead
- Holybourne & Froyle (42%)

- Ropley & Tisted
- Selborne

Alton Rural's electorate in 2021 is projected to be only 3% above the Hampshire average, so no change is necessary to meet the requirement for electoral equality. However, the need to reassign voters to Petersfield Hangers requires the transfer of a whole ward to that division. This takes Alton Rural extremely close to the -10% variance threshold, so to offset this an option exists to reunite the ward of Holybourne and Froyle by moving the 58% of that ward currently within the Alton Town division to Alton Rural. This would loosen the 'doughnut' in the sense that there would be less of a stark separation between the two divisions, and would be the preferred option if minimising electorate variance was paramount. Both options are set out below.

It is recognised that the Commission prefers not to have 'doughnut' divisions such as Alton Rural; however, there is no way of avoiding this without extending Alton Town significantly to the north (further increasing its positive variance against the average electorate) or splitting the area covered by the two divisions equally on an east/west basis, which would divide the community of Alton.

#### **Proposal for Alton Rural – Option 1**

- Move Ropley & Tisted to Petersfield Hangers (-1,786)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 12,474 (-9.9% against forecast Hampshire average)**

#### **Proposal for Alton Rural – Option 2**

- Move Ropley & Tisted to Petersfield Hangers (-1,786)
- Add Alton Holybourne AD (+1,527)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 14,001 (+1.1% against forecast Hampshire average)**

### **3.4 Alton Town**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 14,578 (+5.3% against forecast Hampshire average)**

As described above, the Alton Town Division is wholly encircled by Alton Rural and comprises all of the urban area of Alton and Holybourne. The dual-carriageway A31 passes through the south of the division and the A339 forms a natural western feature that splits polling district Alton Whitedown

AF. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Alton Amery
- Alton Ashdell
- Alton Eastbrooke
- Alton Westbrooke
- Alton Whitedown
- Alton Wooteys
- Holybourne & Froyle (58%)

Alton Town's electorate in 2021 is projected to be just over 5% above the Hampshire average, so no change is necessary to meet the requirement for electoral equality. However, as mentioned above, the option exists to reunite the 58% of Holybourne and Froyle ward (polling district AD), at the eastern end of the town, with the 42% of the same ward currently within Alton Rural. There is a view that the ward area currently within Alton Town forms a natural part of the town community, so retaining the status quo would be the preferred option if maintaining this community identity was paramount. Both options are set out below.

#### **Proposal for Alton Town – Option 1**

- Retain whole of current division

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 14,578 (+5.3% against forecast Hampshire average)**

#### **Proposal for Alton Town – Option 2**

- Move Alton Holybourne AD to Alton Rural (-1,527)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 13,051 (-5.7% against forecast Hampshire average)**

### **3.5 Bordon, Whitehill & Lindford**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 12,901 (-6.8% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This division covers the built-up area of Whitehill Bordon and south along the A325, which runs the length of the division. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Linford
- Whitehill Chase
- Whitehill Deadwater
- Whitehill Hogmoor

- Whitehill Pinewood
- Whitehill Walldown

Bordon, Whitehill & Lindford is projected to have a 2021 electorate of nearly 7% below the Hampshire average. While this is relatively close to the -10% variance threshold, with a strong focus on new development in the area in the medium term it is considered important to keep the identity of this community intact and therefore no changes are proposed.

However, there is a need to correct a historical mistake in the naming of this division, which should properly be Whitehill, Bordon & Lindford. Councillor Adam Carew, the Member for Bordon, Whitehill & Lindford, comments:

“The name of this division has been wrong since its inception in 2005 due to a minuting mistake at an East Hampshire District Council Community Forum being carried forward. It was supposed to be Whitehill, Bordon & Lindford NOT Bordon, Whitehill & Lindford. Bordon is legally part of Whitehill Parish and has been since 1929. So Whitehill always comes first. This is why we have a Whitehill Town Council not a Bordon Town Council or even a Whitehill & Bordon Town Council. Local people are very keen that the division name is changed to Whitehill, Bordon & Lindford, which will ensure that everyone gets the name of our community historically and legally correct, which is essential for a town about to double in size.”

For these reasons it is proposed that this division be renamed Whitehill, Bordon & Lindford.

#### **Proposal for Whitehill, Bordon & Lindford**

- Retain whole of current division

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 12,901 (-6.8% against forecast Hampshire average)**

### **3.6 Catherington**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 12,882 (-7.0% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This division covers the southern wards of East Hampshire, which are more urban in nature and are linked with Havant and Waterlooville to the south. The A3 runs through Catherington, becoming the A3(M) and carrying a lot of traffic to Portsmouth. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Horndean Catherington & Lovedean
- Horndean Downs

- Horndean Hazleton & Blendworth
- Horndean Kings
- Horndean Murray
- Rowlands Castle

Like Bordon Whitehill & Lindford, Catherington is projected to have a 2021 electorate of nearly 7% below the Hampshire average. However, the same considerations about future growth do not apply and we propose to mitigate this variance by transferring Finchdean BY from Petersfield Butser into Catherington. Finchdean is in the parish of Rowlands Castle but is – against the sense of local community – located in Clanfield ward. The remainder of Clanfield Ward is west of the A3(M), which is a hard natural barrier separating it from Finchdean, whose electors gravitate to Rowlands Castle ward and parish and treat the Catherington County Councillor as their own.

#### **Proposal for Catherington**

- Add Finchdean BY (+153)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 13,035 (-5.9% against forecast Hampshire average)**

### 3.7 **Headley**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 12,952 (-6.5% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This division forms a ‘bulge’ on the eastern side of Hampshire that pushes into Surrey and West Sussex. It comprises several large villages/small towns and includes a stretch of the A3 and the Portsmouth railway in its southern part. Headley’s three rural parishes share many common interests and cultural values with useful sharing and learning between them. Examples quoted by Councillor Ferris Cowper, the Member for Headley, are ‘Party in Grayshott’/Liphook Carnival, and Liphook in Bloom/Gardens of Grayshott. The parish of Headley shares many activities with the other two that surround it, not least the recently opened Greenacres natural burial site and the long-standing and important local gap. Councillor Cowper reports that local councils share useful resources such as the parish lengthsman and Community Speedwatch, while the parish clerks in Headley and Grayshott get together often to share knowledge, experience and training opportunities. Councillor Cowper comments further:

“As a County Councillor I find the harmony of the division boundary with the three parishes to be integral to my local job performance and caseload. It’s

also of great importance to the credibility of local government that my division is perfectly co-terminous with the six district council wards.”

The division currently includes the following wards:

- Bramshott & Liphook
- Grayshott
- Headley

Headley is projected to have a similar 2021 electorate variance to Catherington and Bordon Whitehill and Lindford (-6.5%) i.e. below the forecast Hampshire average but within the -10% threshold. Headley forms a distinct area of East Hampshire that cannot be enlarged north, east or south due to its unique position on the county border, while westward expansion would encroach on Whitehill, Bordon and Lindford, which as described above is also a distinct community with a below-average electorate. Therefore no changes are proposed to Headley’s boundary.

#### **Proposal for Headley**

- Retain whole of current division

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 12,952 (-6.5% against forecast Hampshire average)**

### **3.8 Petersfield Butser**

**Electorate Forecast: 13,293 (-4.0% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This division covers the southern half of the town of Petersfield, including the railway station and central shopping area. It also stretches south and west across a substantial portion of the National Park including Butser Hill and Queen Elizabeth Country Park. The A3 runs south through the division to Portsmouth and the A272 west to Winchester. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Clanfield & Finchdean
- East Meon
- Petersfield Bell Hill
- Petersfield Causeway
- Petersfield Heath
- Petersfield St. Peter's

Petersfield Butser is projected to have a small negative electorate variance in 2021 (-4.0%) so no action is strictly necessary to achieve electoral equality. However, as described above it is proposed that Finchdean BY be

transferred to Catherington to better reflect real local communities. The number of voters involved is small and this proposal leaves Petersfield Butser comfortably within the threshold.

#### **Proposal for Petersfield Butser**

- Move Finchdean BY to Catherington (-153)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 13,140 (-5.1% against forecast Hampshire average)**

### **3.9 Petersfield Hangers**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 11,612 (-16.1% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This division covers the northern half of the town of Petersfield, and extends across the National Park with the A3 and the Portsmouth railway forming the main travel corridor. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Froxfield & Steep
- Liss
- Petersfield Rother
- Petersfield St. Mary's
- The Hangers & Forest

Petersfield Hangers is projected to have a large negative electorate variance in 2021 so it is necessary to enlarge the division to encompass more voters. As described above it is proposed that the whole of Ropley & Tisted Ward be transferred from Alton Rural into Petersfield Hangers, forming a natural north-western extension to the division. Although this extension crosses the A32, it also follows the path of the Ropley-Petersfield road and therefore continues to allow for practical and convenient government.

#### **Proposal for Petersfield Hangers**

- Add Ropley & Tisted ward (+1,786)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 13,398 (-3.2% against forecast Hampshire average)**

3.10 Proposals for East Hampshire – Option 1

Division name	Members	2021 Electorate (Existing Forecast)	2021 Variance (Existing Forecast)	2021 Electorate (Proposed)	2021 Variance (Proposed)
Alton Rural	1	14,260	+3.0%	12,474	-9.9%
Alton Town	1	14,578	+5.3%	14,578	+5.3%
Catherington	1	12,882	-7.0%	13,035	-5.9%
Headley	1	12,952	-6.5%	12,952	-6.5%
Petersfield Butser	1	13,293	-4.0%	13,140	-5.1%
Petersfield Hangers	1	11,612	-16.1%	13,398	-3.2%
Whitehill, Bordon & Lindford	1	12,901	-6.8%	12,901	-6.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>92,478</b>		<b>92,478</b>	

3.11 Proposals for East Hampshire – Option 2

Division name	Members	2021 Electorate (Existing Forecast)	2021 Variance (Existing Forecast)	2021 Electorate (Proposed)	2021 Variance (Proposed)
Alton Rural	1	14,260	+3.0%	14,001	+1.1%
Alton Town	1	14,578	+5.3%	13,051	-5.7%
Catherington	1	12,882	-7.0%	13,035	-5.9%
Headley	1	12,952	-6.5%	12,952	-6.5%
Petersfield Butser	1	13,293	-4.0%	13,140	-5.1%
Petersfield Hangers	1	11,612	-16.1%	13,398	-3.2%
Whitehill, Bordon & Lindford	1	12,901	-6.8%	12,901	-6.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>92,478</b>		<b>92,478</b>	

### Map of Proposed County Council Divisions in East Hampshire

