

10. Rushmoor

10.1 About Rushmoor

The borough of Rushmoor forms Hampshire's north-eastern tip and it is very closely linked with the adjoining parts of Surrey, including Camberley and Farnham. Rushmoor consists principally of two towns, Farnborough and Aldershot, which are separate communities but merge into each other in the central part of the borough. Aldershot is best known as the home of the British Army and Farnborough is famous for its International Air Show.

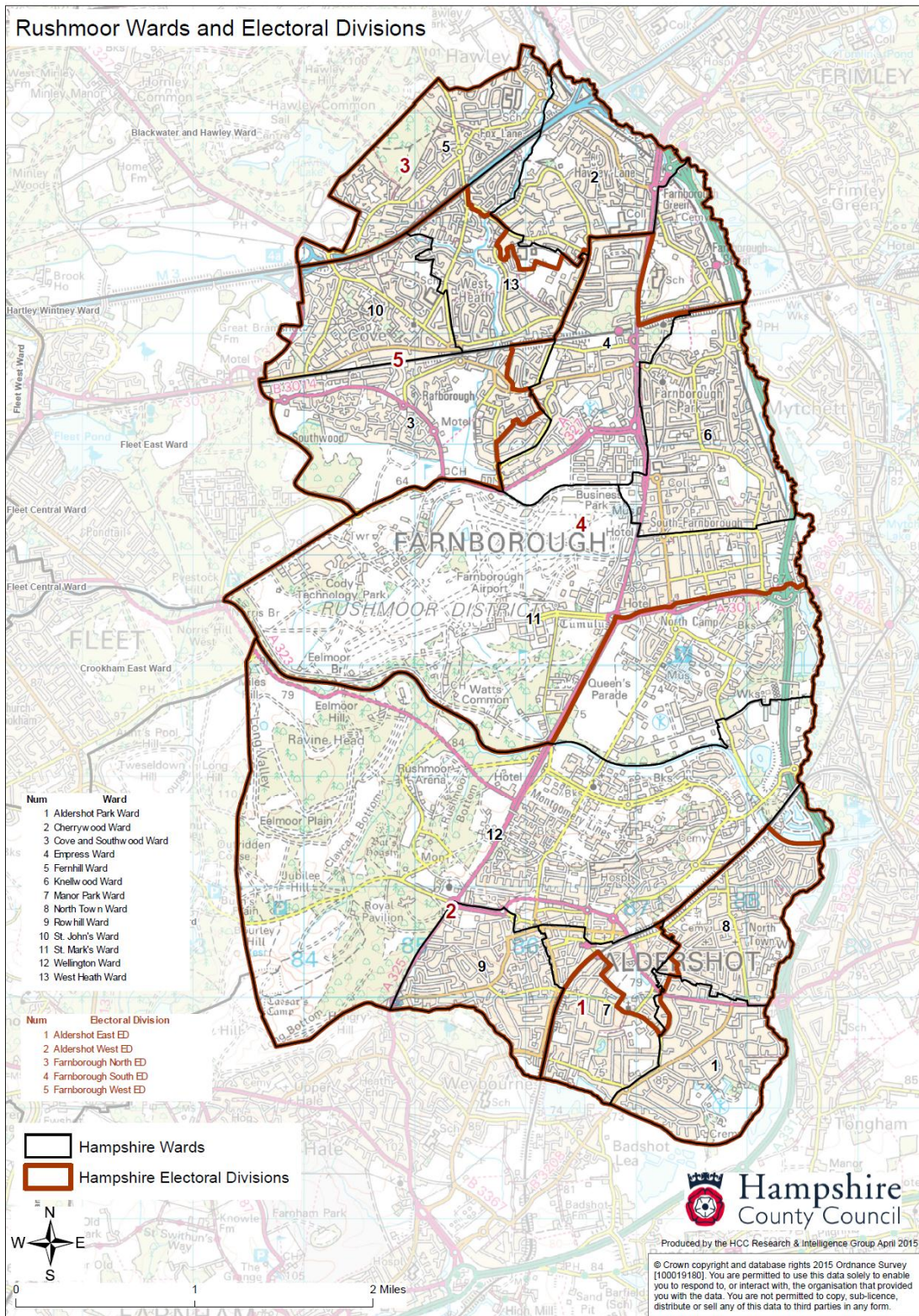
Rushmoor lies on the main travel corridor between London and the South West, with the M3 and South West Main Line running straight through Farnborough town and the Alton line through Aldershot. Journey times to London from Farnborough are the shortest in Hampshire, and many people commute from Rushmoor to London. There are also north-south connections along the Blackwater Valley.

Aldershot developed rapidly as a garrison town after the first permanent training camp for the British Army was built there during the Crimean War. The current garrison population is around 10,000 service personnel, and there are significant areas of the borough that are reserved for military training. A major redevelopment of part of the garrison area is under way and will result in 4,000 homes and new community facilities being built as part of a new community called Wellesley. This significant regeneration project is expected to bring significant economic benefits for the town, which is among the less thriving areas of Hampshire.

Farnborough is a successful centre for technology companies but is known around the world for its association with aviation, defence and aerospace. Farnborough Airport saw the UK's first powered flight in 1908 and it is now the UK's top business airport, playing host to the International Air Show, a week-long trade exhibition and public display.

The population of Rushmoor in 2015 is about 95,000, making it the third-smallest in Hampshire. It is also by some way the youngest, with a medium age of 36, six years below the county average. Both towns have a number of wards that are among the most deprived in Hampshire, with relatively lower levels of employment, income and health. Rushmoor is one of a number of areas in Hampshire, Surrey and Berkshire that has been affected by a 2009 Government decision to allow Gurkha veterans with more than four years' service to settle in the UK with their families. Many Gurkhas had been based in Aldershot and other nearby military bases, so Rushmoor has seen very significant growth in its Nepalese population.

Map of Existing County Council Divisions in Rushmoor



10.2 County Council Divisions in Rushmoor

There are currently five County Councillors from Rushmoor, each representing one division, and the County Council's proposal is that this should remain the case.

Existing divisions – registered and forecast electorate

Division name	Members	2014 Electorate	2014 Variance	2021 Electorate Forecast	2021 Variance
Aldershot East	1	13,099	+0.1%	12,753	-7.9%
Aldershot West	1	11,571	-11.5%	15,467	+11.7%
Farnborough North	1	12,619	-3.5%	12,654	-8.6%
Farnborough South	1	14,298	+9.3%	14,396	+4.0%
Farnborough West	1	13,716	+4.9%	12,527	-9.5%
Total	5	65,303		67,797	

The most significant factor by far driving the need to adjust the division boundaries in Rushmoor is the sharp growth in the forecast electorate in Aldershot West. This is due to the significant Wellesley development that is taking place on the site of a former Army barracks in that division. As a result we propose some realignment of the boundaries to reduce the size of Aldershot West and augment neighbouring divisions. However, the County Council has sought to keep the changes minimal, and moreover to reflect long-standing community identities, the proposed new boundaries are within the original pre-2013 ward boundaries. No changes to division names are proposed.

Where changes are proposed the County Council has sought to ensure that there is a good level of shared interest in the relevant communities. There are no rural areas in Rushmoor; the whole borough is urban/suburban infrastructure and therefore the new boundaries do not fundamentally change the character of the divisions or move voters away from shared travel corridors, shopping areas and community centres. In several cases the County Council is proposing that part-wards revert to where they were before, thus recreating a feeling of being part of a local community with a proud and distinct identity.

The proposals for Rushmoor were co-ordinated by Councillor Mark Staplehurst, the Member for Farnborough West, and were discussed with and agreed by all current Rushmoor County Councillors.

10.3 Aldershot East

2021 Electorate Forecast: 12,753 (-7.9% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division covers the eastern half of Aldershot town and is bordered by the railway to the north and Surrey to the east. It is a wholly built-up division comprising three distinct communities with strong links both to the rest of the town and also to settlements across the A331 in Surrey. This division currently includes the following wards:

- Aldershot Park (95%)
- Manor Park (58%)
- North Town (97%)

Aldershot East has a forecast electorate in 2021 that is below the average for Hampshire but within the -10% threshold. Given the significant growth forecast within Aldershot West (see below) it is necessary to expand its boundaries slightly to the west to achieve greater electoral equality. Three polling districts have been identified as follows:

- Aldershot Park B (1): this small area will fit neatly into the Aldershot East division, which includes almost all of the rest of Aldershot Park ward;
- North Town A (1): again, this is an 'orphan' area of a ward that is otherwise almost all in Aldershot East;
- North Town B (1): this area between the A331 and the railway fits much more logically in Aldershot East and including it brings all of North Town ward within this division.

Under this proposal both North Town B(1) and Aldershot Park B (1) are both returned to where they were prior to the district ward boundary change in 2013.

Proposal for Aldershot East

- Add Aldershot Park B (1) (+250)
- Add North Town A (1) (+156)
- Add North Town B (1) (+2)

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 13,161 (-4.9% against forecast Hampshire average)

10.4 Aldershot West

2021 Electorate Forecast: 15,467 (+11.7% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division covers the western half of Aldershot town including the town centre and the railway station. Notably it also includes the Aldershot garrison and a large redevelopment of former Ministry of Defence land ('Wellesley') is taking place within this ward over the next few years, which accounts for the large growth in the forecast electorate. Aldershot West is bounded by Surrey to the south, Hart district beyond the woodland to the west and Farnborough Airport to the north. This division currently includes the following wards:

- Aldershot Park (5%)
- Manor Park (42%)
- North Town (3%)
- Rowhill
- St. Mark's (16%)
- Wellington

Aldershot West has a forecast electorate in 2021 that is significantly above the average for Hampshire. As explained above, the proposal is to transfer three polling districts to Aldershot East to achieve better electoral equality. In addition, the County Council proposes to move St Marks A (1), which covers the North Camp area, to Farnborough South. This polling district is the old Army quarters sold off by the Ministry of Defence. These, as in Cove, are part of North Camp Village and not Aldershot so by bringing them into North Camp (Farnborough) means they retain their proper identity and place back within their own community of North Camp Village. The proposal reunites this polling district with the rest of St Mark's ward.

Proposal for Aldershot West

- Transfer Aldershot Park B (1) to Aldershot East (-250)
- Transfer North Town A (1) to Aldershot East (-156)
- Transfer North Town B (1) to Aldershot East (-2)
- Transfer St Mark's A (1) to Farnborough South (-896)

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 14,163 (-4.9% against forecast Hampshire average)

10.5 Farnborough North

2021 Electorate Forecast: 12,654 (-8.6% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division covers all of Farnborough north of the M3 as well as Cherrywood Ward and the northern part of Empress Ward. The division is bounded by Hart district to the north and Surrey, the A331 and the North Downs Line to the east. This division currently includes the following wards:

- Cherrywood
- Empress (24%)
- Fernhill - Rushmoor
- West Heath

Farnborough North has a forecast electorate in 2021 that is below the average for Hampshire but within the -10% threshold. In normal circumstances the County Council might seek to expand its geographical coverage slightly to achieve greater electoral equality, but there is no simple solution that does not unacceptably disrupt community identity. With an acceptable balance achieved elsewhere in the borough the County Council does not propose any changes to be made to Farnborough North.

Proposal for Farnborough North

- Retain whole of current division

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 12,654 (-8.6% against forecast Hampshire average)

10.6 Farnborough South

2021 Electorate Forecast: 14,396 (+4.0% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division covers the central part of Rushmoor borough, including Farnborough town centre, the main shopping area and railway station, the airport and Farnborough Park. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Cove & Southwood (20%)
- Empress (76%)
- Knellwood
- St. Mark's (84%)

Farnborough South has a forecast electorate in 2021 that is slightly above the average for Hampshire, so no action is required to achieve greater electoral equality. However, as seen above, pressures from Aldershot West have caused us to propose moving the remaining part of St Mark's Ward into this division, which creates a knock-on requirement to move a similar number of voters into Farnborough West. The County Council therefore proposes that Cove and Southwood B, which is part of Cove and Southwood Ward and therefore part of Cove within the parish boundary, be moved into West Farnborough. This proposal brings Farnborough South's electorate closer to the forecast Hampshire average.

Proposal for Farnborough South

- Add St Mark's A (1) (+896)
- Transfer Cove and Southwood B to Farnborough West (-1,044)

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 14,248 (+2.9% against forecast Hampshire average)

10.7 **Farnborough West**

2021 Electorate Forecast: 12,527 (-9.5% against forecast Hampshire average)

This division covers the north-western part of Rushmoor borough, including the Cove, Southwood and West Heath areas of Farnborough town. Farnborough West is bounded by the M3 to the north, Hart district to the west and the airport to the south, and the South West Main Line cuts straight through its centre. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Cove & Southwood (80%)
- St. John's
- West Heath

Farnborough West has a forecast electorate in 2021 that is below the average for Hampshire but within the -10% threshold, so it would be preferable to take some action to achieve greater electoral equality. As seen above, the proposal is that Cove and Southwood B be moved from Farnborough South into Farnborough West. This area will now be within the division that includes the rest of Cove village rather than the division centred around Farnborough town – a change that Members believe reflects local reference. St Christopher's Church is the hub within the community and the changes make the streets coming into West Farnborough an integral part of that community, as these streets are part of the same estate and demographic community groups that the Church is situated in. This proposal

increases Farnborough West's electorate so that it is only just under the forecast Hampshire average.

Proposal for Farnborough West

- Add Cove and Southwood B (+1,044)

Proposed 2021 Electorate: 13,571 (-2.0% against forecast Hampshire average)

10.8 Proposals for Rushmoor

Division name	Members	2021 Electorate (Existing Forecast)	2021 Variance (Existing Forecast)	2021 Electorate (Proposed)	2021 Variance (Proposed)
Aldershot East	1	12,753	-7.9%	13,161	-4.9%
Aldershot West	1	15,467	+11.7%	14,163	2.3%
Farnborough North	1	12,654	-8.6%	12,654	-8.6%
Farnborough South	1	14,396	+4.0%	14,248	2.9%
Farnborough West	1	12,527	-9.5%	13,571	-2.0%
Total	5	67,797		67,797	

Map of Proposed County Council Divisions in Rushmoor

