

# **Lewes District Council**



## **Council Agenda**

**Monday, 09 November 2015**

Southover House, Lewes

Jenny Rowlands  
Chief Executive

# Lewes District Council



## Council Meeting

*Councillors are kindly requested to switch off their mobile 'phones and other mobile devices prior to the commencement of the meeting.*

Note: At the commencement of the meeting the Chair will ask for a period of silence to enable councillors to focus their thoughts on the meeting or to pray silently.

### To all Members of the Council

A meeting of the **Council** will be held in the **The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes BN7 1UE** on **Monday, 09 November 2015** at **14:30** which you are requested to attend. Please note the start time and that the venue for this meeting is wheelchair accessible and has an induction loop to help people who are hearing impaired.

This meeting may be filmed, recorded or broadcast by any person or organisation. Anyone wishing to film or record must notify the Chair prior to the start of the meeting. Members of the public attending the meeting are deemed to have consented to be filmed or recorded, as liability for this is not within the Council's control.

## Agenda

### 1 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council dated 14 October 2015 (copy previously circulated).

### 2 Apologies for Absence

### 3 Declarations of Interest

Disclosure by councillors of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the councillor regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct

### 4 Urgent Items

Items not on the agenda which the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances as defined in Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972

## **5 Electoral Review: Ward Patterns - Report**

To consider the Report of the Assistant Director of Corporate Services  
(Report No 144/15 herewith - page 4).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Rowlands', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jenny Rowlands  
Chief Executive

For further information about items appearing on this Agenda, please contact Catherine Knight at Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1AB. Telephone (01273) 471600.

**Agenda Item No:** 5 **Report No:** 144/15  
**Report Title:** Electoral Review: Ward Patterns  
**Report To:** Council **Date:** 9 November 2015  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Andy Smith, Leader of the Council  
**Ward(s) Affected:** All  
**Report By:** Catherine Knight, Assistant Director of Corporate Services  
**Contact Officer(s)-**  
**Name(s):** Jackie Gavigan  
**Post Title(s):** Head of Democratic Services  
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**Tel No(s):** 01273 661117

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#### **Purpose of Report:**

To recommend approval of the proposals of the Electoral Review Working Group in respect of ward patterns for Lewes District Council, in accordance with the requirements of the Electoral Review being conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

#### **Officers Recommendation(s):**

- 1 To approve the recommendations of the Electoral Review Working Group in respect of ward numbers, boundaries and names, as set out in section 6 of the Working Group's appended proposals document.
- 2 To authorise the Head of Democratic Services to submit the decision to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on behalf of the Council.

#### **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 1 To achieve the outcomes of the Electoral Review and to ensure the LGBCE timetable is met.

#### **Information**

##### **2 Background**

- 2.1 The LGBCE is required to undertake an Electoral Review of East Sussex County Council prior to the next County Council elections in May 2017. In addition, reviews are being conducted in Wealden and Hastings as part of the process as, in both authorities, electorate imbalance in wards/divisions (where some councillors represent significantly more or fewer electors than other councillors) has triggered the need for such a review.

- 2.2** Although there was no current requirement for such a review in Lewes, Eastbourne or Rother, the LGBCE asked to review the whole County at the same time and all the relevant authorities agreed to take part.
- 2.3** Due to the simultaneous reviews being conducted county-wide, consistency of approach is being overseen by a joint officer Project team with representatives from all the authorities. However, within the bigger picture, each Council needs to produce its own review proposals.
- 2.4** Essentially, there are two parts to the review, firstly where we made proposals in respect of the size of the Council and, secondly, where we make proposals in respect of ward numbers, boundaries and names. In both cases, the Council needs to supply robust evidence in respect of the review criteria to support its proposals.

### **3 Council Size**

- 3.1** At its meeting on 6 July 2015, Council approved the proposal that no change be made to the Council size of 41 members. This was submitted to the LGBCE and has been accepted.
- 3.2** At the same meeting, Council agreed that the Electoral Review Working Group consider and produce the proposals for ward patterns (ie. names, number and boundaries). The cross-party Working Group comprised Councillors Andy Smith, Sarah Osborne, Tony Rowell and Ruth O’Keeffe (Councillor Simon Barnes was invited but was unable to participate in the Group).

### **4 Ward Patterns**

- 4.1** The Working Group has undertaken a great deal of detailed work in analysing potential scenarios for ward changes that address the criteria. This was essential as, even in the event that minimal or no change is recommended, the Council needs to demonstrate a robust, thought out process for arriving at that position.
- 4.2** The final proposals of the Working Group are appended to this Report (see Appendix) and the Council is asked to formally approve its recommendations. In arriving at its recommendations, as well as taking into account the statutory criteria below, the Working Group worked to the guiding principles that wherever possible communities are kept whole, that ward boundaries are practical and that where possible, co-terminosity between District wards and County divisions is achieved.
- 4.3** The Head of Democratic Services as the designated lead officer has a duty to ensure that any Council submission meets the criteria set by the LGBCE.

### **5 Criteria**

- 5.1** When considering warding patterns, the Council has to have regard to the LGBCE’s three main criteria set out in law which it must follow when

it produces a new pattern of wards. An email link to the LGBCE's guidance on how to propose ward patterns was sent to all councillors.

**5.2** The criteria are as follows:

- The new pattern of wards should mean that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters as elected members elsewhere in the District – in Lewes this means 1,993 electors per councillor.
- Ward patterns should, as far as possible, reflect community interests and identities, and boundaries should be identifiable.
- The electoral arrangements should promote effective and convenient local government, and reflect the electoral cycle of the Council.

**5.3** The LGBCE recognises that perfect electoral equality is unlikely to be achieved across the District. If the Council proposes a boundary that has many more, or fewer, voters in it than the target, the Council will need to provide evidence that such a variance is justified on the grounds of the other statutory criteria. There is no prescribed level of variance from the average that the LGBCE will accept without detailed justification. The LGBCE will accept a variance of +/-10% if it can be justified.

**5.4** A parish is the embodiment of a local community. It is for that very reason that the LGBCE recommends using Parish Council boundary lines as building blocks for proposing new wards. As such, divisions of parishes have been avoided so as to keep local communities intact.

**5.5** With regard to the renaming of wards, where significant changes are being made it is likely the name will need to change as the ward would be comprised of different communities. Suggested new names are proposed within section 6 of the Appendix.

## **6 Consultation and timetable**

**6.1** In order to encourage participation and awareness, details of how to contribute to the Electoral Review process were posted on the Council's website with a link to the relevant LGBCE page, and via press release. Further, the Boundary Commission will be publishing and consulting on all proposals received, including the Council's submission.

**6.2** Internally, all councillors were asked to feed in any comments or observations about their own individual ward. Those comments that were received were taken into account by the Working Group during their deliberations. The draft proposals developed by the Working Group were also circulated to all councillors for information.

**6.3** In addition, an informal drop-in session was held to provide an opportunity for all members to view the proposal maps and share their views. Members of the Working Group have also been liaising with their wider political groups. [Page 6 of 29](#)

- 6.4** All proposals (including the Council's) need to be submitted to the LGBCE by the end of November 2015. The LGBCE is then expected to publish its draft recommendations in March 2016. Public consultation on the draft recommendations is scheduled to take place between March and June 2016. Once the LGBCE has considered the representations and evidence as part of the consultation, it intends to publish final recommendations in September 2016.
- 6.5** New electoral arrangements are due to come into effect at the next scheduled elections following the completion of the review. This means that the new arrangements for East Sussex County Council will come into effect in May 2017, and in May 2019 for Lewes District Council.

### **Financial Appraisal**

- 7** None arising from this Report save the officer time inherent in assessing current polling district boundaries and analysing the location of polling stations as a result of the changes. This is important in order to ensure that all electors retain reasonable accessibility to suitably located and designed polling stations. There will also be work in updating a number of our systems including IDOX Strand (Electoral Registration), IDOX Uniform (Planning, Building Control, Gazetteer, Street Naming and Numbering), ESRI ArcGIS (GIS) and Open Text (Website).

### **Legal Implications**

- 8** None over and above those set out in the body of this Report.

### **Risk Management Implications**

- 9** If the recommendations are not implemented, the main risk will be that the Council fails to meet its legal duties and the requirements of the Electoral Review are not met. Failure to engage in the Electoral Review and make a considered, evidence-based submission on the Council's preferred warding pattern to the LGBCE by the deadline could result in the LGBCE imposing a warding pattern which may not reflect the needs and aspirations of the Council and the communities it serves.

### **Equality Screening**

- 10** An Equality Analysis report was previously completed and appended to the Cabinet report on 6 July 2015 at [Equality Analysis - Electoral Review](#). Positive impacts are expected from the Electoral Review as its purpose is to provide electoral equality and to ensure fair representation at local government elections.

### **Background Papers**

- 11** Local Government Boundary Commission for England guidance documents: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/east-sussex/lewes>

### **Appendix**

- 12** Electoral Review Working Group Ward Proposals document



## **APPENDIX**

### **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **WORKING GROUP WARD PROPOSALS TO FULL COUNCIL**

**9 NOVEMBER 2015**

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#### **CONTENTS:**

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<b>5</b>	<b>Potential Changes Considered</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Recommended Proposals</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Consultation</b>
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#### **APPENDICES:**

- (a) Table showing proposed ward patterns and ward names, and 2021 forecast electorate numbers and variances
- (b) GIS map showing existing District ward boundaries
- (c) GIS map showing proposed District ward boundaries
- (d) GIS map showing proposed Wivelsfield ward boundary
- (e) GIS map showing proposed Chailey, Barcombe and Hamsey ward boundary
- (f) GIS map showing proposed Lewes Castle and Lewes Priory ward boundary
- (g) GIS map showing proposed Newhaven North and Newhaven South ward boundary
- (h) GIS map showing proposed Ouse Valley and Ringmer ward boundary
- (i) GIS map showing proposed Peacehaven East, Peacehaven North and Peacehaven West ward boundary



## **1. KEY OBJECTIVES**

- 1.1 The first objective of the Electoral Review is to achieve electoral equality. In terms of population variation between wards, the desirable ideal tolerance is that each ward's electorate figure is within 10% of the average ward electorate across the District.
- 1.2 In measuring population, only electorate is taken into account, not overall population. This is a LGBCE requirement. Also, it is based on the total electorate forecast for 2021 taking into account new residential developments that we are confident will be in place within that time period.
- 1.3 The second objective is that of preserving community identities as much as possible within ward boundaries but within the constraints of electoral equality. The goal here is to try and enclose strongly identifiable communities within the boundaries of a single ward.
- 1.4 A third objective is to have strong and clear boundaries using, wherever possible, main roads and arterial routes.

## **2. GOVERNANCE**

- 2.1 The Head of Democratic Services is tasked with finalising the proposals for submission, in liaison with the cross-party Electoral Review Working Group.
- 2.2 It is important that the proposals focus on the key criteria above, and take no account of other objectives. Therefore, to preserve this integrity, only those proposals for significant change to current boundaries that meet the criteria and are unanimously supported by the Working Group have been recommended. Any proposals that do not meet the review criteria of the LGBCE cannot be included in the Council's submission.
- 2.3 Full Council will be asked to approve a proposal (and/or any amendments) at its 9 November 2015 meeting prior to the submission to the LGBCE, who will also be considering any proposals by other individuals, groups, political parties etc. All submissions must be finalised by the end of November 2015.

## **3. CURRENT WARDS**

- 3.1 Lewes District Council currently has 41 councillors and 21 District wards. As a result of the last electoral review conducted in 2000, our Council size was reduced from 48 to 41 councillors, and from 25 to 21 wards, with modifications made to the boundaries of 23 of the pre-existing wards.
- 3.2 Maps showing the current and proposed wards are appended to this document, together with a table showing the 2021 forecast electorate figures and percentage variances. A summary of the key characteristics of the current wards is as follows:
- 3.3 **Barcombe and Hamsey**  
**Boundaries:** This ward comprises of the Barcombe parish and the Hamsey parish. The north-east boundary is the edge of the District and the southerly

boundary is that of Lewes town. Neighbouring parishes are Newick, Chailey, St John (Without), St Ann (Without) and Ringmer.

**Description:** A rural ward comprised of the villages of Barcombe, Barcombe Cross, Cooksbridge, Offham and Hamsey. The main London railway line bisects the Hamsey parish and there is a station at Cooksbridge with commuter links to London. The old Lewes to Uckfield line also runs through this ward and there is a strong local interest in re-opening this line.

### 3.4 **Chailey and Wivelsfield**

**Boundaries:** This ward is made up of the parishes of Chailey and Wivelsfield. The northern boundary is the edge of Lewes District and to the south it boundaries the parishes of Ditchling, Westmeston, Streat, Plumpton, East Chiltington, St John (Without) Hamsey, Barcombe and to the east Newick.

**Description:** This ward contains the larger villages of Wivelsfield, Wivelsfield Green, North Chailey and South Chailey. It also contains areas of common land including Markstakes Common and Chailey Common. The tourist attraction of the Bluebell Railway begins at Sheffield Park Station just within the boundary. There is a strong agricultural presence in the ward.

### 3.5 **Ditchling and Westmeston**

**Boundaries:** This ward is formed of the parishes of Ditchling and Westmeston. Its westerly length is the District boundary and it neighbours the parish of Falmer in the south, Streat to the east and Wivelsfield to the north.

**Description:** The ward contains the villages of Westmeston and Ditchling. The large village of Ditchling is an historically important village with a strong artistic history and community, and is popular with visitors to the District. The ward contains Ditchling Common to the north and Ditchling Beacon, a part of the South Downs which is also very popular with walkers.

### 3.6 **East Saltdean and Telscombe Cliffs**

**Boundaries:** Formed of the parish of Telscombe, the western edge of the ward is the boundary between the District and Brighton & Hove City Council. The neighbouring parishes to the north are Rodmell and Southease, and to the east the boundary is with the town of Peacehaven.

**Description:** The ward contains the village of Telscombe, Telscombe Cliffs and East Saltdean. It has a large open area of downland called Telscombe Tye. To the south, the ward contains part of the Brighton to Newhaven Cliffs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The main A259 coast road cuts across the southern edge of the ward.

### 3.7 **Kingston**

**Boundaries:** The Kingston ward is formed of the parishes of Falmer, St Ann (Without), Kingston, Iford, Rodmell, Southease and Piddinghoe. It boundaries the edge of the District and Brighton & Hove City Council down the entire of its south-west edge. To the south, it adjoins the parishes of Telscombe, Peacehaven and Newhaven. Along its north and eastern boundary it joins Ditchling, Westmeston, Streat, Plumpton, East Chiltington, St John (Without), Hamsey, Lewes, Glynde, Beddingham and Tarring Neville.

**Description:** This is a very rural ward containing the small villages and hamlets of Falmer, Kingston, Iford, Rodmell, Southease and Piddinghoe. It is popular with walkers and contains large stretches of the South Downs Way. It also runs the length of the River Ouse between Lewes and Newhaven. The

village of Rodmell is home to Monks House, a National Trust property popular with visitors. North of the ward, the Brighton and Hove Albion Stadium is just over the boundary, as are the Universities of Sussex and Brighton campuses.

### 3.8 Lewes Bridge

**Boundaries:** One of the three Lewes wards. Its boundaries are with Hamsey and Ringmer to the north, Glynde to the south and Lewes Castle and Priory to the west. The boundary to Lewes Castle ward runs down the length of the river Ouse.

**Description:** The ward contains the large housing estate of Malling to the north and the historic Cliffe area of Lewes to the south. The pedestrianised high street and shopping centre of the town is also contained within the ward. There are two industrial estates in the ward. To the west of the ward, there is a large area of downland including Malling Hill and Lewes Golf Course. The ward is also the home of Malling House, the headquarters of Sussex Police.

### 3.9 Lewes Castle

**Boundaries:** The ward shares its boundaries with Hamsey to the north and both Lewes Bridge and Lewes Priory.

**Description:** The ward contains the large housing estate of Landport and the Wallands. It is home to the historic Lewes Castle and its grounds. It also has the Pells Lido, a popular attraction for both residents and visitors. The river Ouse is the boundary with Lewes bridge and the ward contains a large area of flood plain.

### 3.10 Lewes Priory

**Boundaries:** The Priory ward is to the south-west of Lewes and shares the majority of its boundary with the parishes of Hamsey, St Ann (Without), Kingston and Iford. To the east, it borders both Lewes Bridge and Lewes Castle wards.

**Description:** Geographically the largest of the three Lewes wards, Priory is made up of the Neville housing estate, Wallands Park, Winterbourne and Southover. It also contains Lewes Prison, County Hall, Sussex Downs College and Priory Secondary School. The Lewes Football Club is based in the ward at the Dripping Pan Ground. The ward also contains the popular visitor attractions of the ruins of the Priory of St Pancras and Anne of Cleves House. To the south and west of the ward there are large rural areas. The ward is bisected west to east by the A27.

### 3.11 Newhaven Denton and Meeching

**Boundaries:** This ward is one of the two wards that make up the town of Newhaven. To the east is Peacehaven. To the north there are the wards of Newhaven Valley and the parishes of South Highton and Seaford.

**Description:** The ward contains the large Meeching housing estate in its east, and the area of Denton in its west. The ward is home to the Port of Newhaven, which provides ferries to the French port of Dieppe. As part of this riverside, there is also the large Avis Way industrial estate. The popular, historical visitor attraction of Newhaven Fort is at the south of the ward. The Fort is built into the cliffs that form part of the Brighton to Newhaven Cliffs SSSI. It is also the location of the Newhaven Incinerator.

### 3.12 Newhaven Valley

**Boundaries:** The ward is one of the two wards that make up the town of

Newhaven. To its north it borders the parish of Piddinghoe, to the east Peacehaven and to the south Newhaven Denton & Meeching.

**Description:** The ward contains the pedestrianised shopping centre of Newhaven which is surrounded by a one-way system. The majority of the electors in the ward live in the Valley housing estate. It is also home to Denton Island which contains an enterprise hub and some industrial units. There is Meeching Down, a large area of Downland to the south of the ward, and a recreation ground to the north.

### 3.13 **Newick**

**Boundaries:** This ward is formed solely of the parish of Newick. It borders the District boundary to the north-east, Chailey to the west and Barcombe to the south.

**Description:** The ward contains the large village of Newick, on the A272 which crosses the north of the District. It is primarily a dormitory village for commuters who travel to London from Haywards Heath.

### 3.14 **Ouse Valley and Ringmer**

**Boundaries:** The ward is made up of the parishes of Ringmer, Glynde, Beddingham, Firle, Tarring Neville and South Heighton. Its full eastern boundary forms the edge of Lewes District. To the south, it borders the towns of Seaford and Newhaven, to the west it neighbours Piddinghoe, Southease, Rodmell, Iford, Lewes and Hamsey, and to the north the parish of Barcombe.

**Description:** A largely rural ward, it contains the large village of Ringmer, and the smaller villages of Glynde, Firle and South Heighton. It has many visitor attractions including the world famous Glyndebourne Opera House and Charleston Farm House, a National Trust property. It is also popular with visitors to the South Downs National Park containing the Mount Caburn and Blackcap Hill. It also contains the excellent road links of the A26 (north to south) and the A27 (east to west).

### 3.15 **Peacehaven East**

**Boundaries:** The ward is bordered with Peacehaven North and West wards, and Newhaven Valley and Denton and Meeching Wards.

**Description:** A predominantly residential ward, it is cut through by the A259 coast road. It contains a large new sewage works to the north of the ward. The southern coastal edge is formed of cliffs which are part of the Brighton to Newhaven Cliffs SSSI.

### 3.16 **Peacehaven North**

**Boundaries:** The ward is bordered by Telscombe to the west and the parish of Piddinghoe to the north. It also shares a boundary with both the other Peacehaven wards.

**Description:** This ward is also predominantly residential. The southern coastal edge is formed of cliffs which are part of the Brighton to Newhaven Cliffs SSSI.

### 3.17 **Peacehaven West**

**Boundaries:** The ward shares its boundary with Telscombe to the west and Peacehaven North and East wards.

**Description:** This is a predominantly residential ward. It is also home to the Peacehaven Town Council offices and a shopping centre. The southern coastal edge is formed of cliffs which are part of the Brighton to Newhaven

3.18 **Plumpton, Streat, East Chiltington and St John (Without)**

**Boundaries:** The ward is formed of the parishes of Streat, Plumpton, East Chiltington and St John (Without). It shares its boundary with the parishes of Westmeston, Wivelsfield, Chailey, Hamsey and Falmer parishes.

**Description:** A largely rural ward, it contains the village of Plumpton, Plumpton Green, East Chiltington and Streat. The railway line passes through the ward and there is a station at Plumpton which provides commuter access to London. To the south of the ward are the South Downs and the route of the South Downs Way. The ward contains Plumpton College, a renowned college of agricultural courses. It is also home to Plumpton Racecourse which hosts both horse-racing meetings and concerts.

3.19 **Seaford Central**

**Boundaries:** As its name suggests, the ward is in the middle of the other Seaford wards of West, North, East and South.

**Description:** The Central ward contains Seaford station which is the end of the line from Lewes. The main shopping area of Seaford is also within the ward. To the south of the ward is Seaford Beach which is very popular with visitors. To the far south-east of the ward is the Martello Tower which houses Seaford Museum. There is also a large residential area and the well-used Salts Recreation Ground.

3.20 **Seaford East**

**Boundaries:** The eastern boundary of this ward is also the eastern-most part of Lewes District and is defined by the Cuckmere river. It also borders the Seaford North, Central and South wards.

**Description:** Geographically the largest of the five Seaford wards, Seaford East has a large rural area. There are two recreation grounds within the ward. The cliffs to the south of the ward are the part of the Seaford to Beachy Head SSSI. The eastern most point of the ward is at Cuckmere Haven, a river estuary which is very popular with visitors.

3.21 **Seaford North**

**Boundaries:** The northern boundary of this ward is also the edge of Lewes District and it shares its other borders with Seaford East, Central, South and West wards.

**Description:** The south of the ward is predominantly residential. The ward also contains the Cradle Hill industrial Estate and Seaford Cemetery. The north of the ward is rural and contains the local landmark of Cradle Hill.

3.22 **Seaford South**

**Boundaries:** The ward shares its boundaries with the other Seaford wards of Central, North and West.

**Description:** Seaford South has a large residential area to the north where there is also the Downs Leisure Centre. The ward is also home to the Seaford Head Golf Club. The cliffs to the south of the ward are the start of the Seaford to Beachy Head SSSI. These cliffs are home to an internationally recognised Kittiwake colony which is popular with visitors.

3.23 **Seaford West**

**Boundaries:** The ward shares its boundary with that of the parish of South



Heighton to the north, Newhaven Denton & Meeching to the west and the Seaford Central and North wards to the east.

**Description:** The ward includes the residential areas to the west of Seaford town as well as the village of Bishopstone to the east. There is a large rural area to the north of the ward. The south west of the ward contains the area of Tidemills, this derelict village is now popular with archaeologists and visitors.

#### 4. ISSUES AND CHANGES

- 4.1 Based on the projected figures, the average electorate per councillor in Lewes District will be 1,993 in 2021. As a result, if left unchanged, the percentage variation in electorate from the average for each ward as currently drawn will be:

Ward	Forecast electorate in 2021	Variance (%) from average
Barcombe & Hamsey	1753	-12%
Chailey & Wivelsfield	4792	+20%
Ditchling & Westmeston	2174	+9%
East Saltdean & Telscombe Cliffs	5840	-2%
Kingston	1822	-9%
Lewes Bridge	3939	-1%
Lewes Castle	4468	+12%
Lewes Priory	5668	-5%
Newhaven Denton & Meeching	7105	+19%
Newhaven Valley	3015	-24%
Newick	2142	+7%
Ouse Valley & Ringmer	5487	-8%
Peacehaven East	4578	+15%
Peacehaven North	3562	-11%
Peacehaven West	3469	-13%
Plumpton, Streat, East Chiltington & St John (Without)	2030	+2%
Seaford Central	4075	+2%
Seaford East	4019	+1%
Seaford North	4150	+4%
Seaford South	3735	-6%
Seaford West	3903	-2%

- 4.2 At the last Electoral Review, care was taken in adhering to strong boundaries and wherever possible, keeping readily identifiable communities wholly within wards. Therefore, it is logical that we work on the principle that where possible we will maintain existing wards and boundaries where variances are forecast to be under +/- 10%, unless compensatory changes are required to offset necessary changes in adjacent wards.
- 4.3 Having regard to the above, the Working Group agreed that the presumption would be for no change unless there was an obvious variance issue to address. Therefore, the focus was placed on five key areas of change.

- 4.4 **Chailey, Wivelsfield, Barcombe & Hamsey** – The Working Group spent considerable time looking at potential options for this area to the north of the District. There were no practical options for the readjustment of boundary lines as it is largely rural and the electors are spread across the area in small pockets of housing. This means that any piecemeal approach to balancing the electorate risks separating residents from their local community and amenities. The Working Group's final recommendation is to split the existing ward of Chailey & Wivelsfield and reassign the parish of Wivelsfield as a stand-alone, one member ward. This new ward will have a variance of +2%.
- 4.5 Further to this, the Working Group proposes that the ward of Chailey be combined with the underrepresented ward of Barcombe & Hamsey to become a two member ward. After exhaustive attention, the Working Group felt that, although this will mean a variance of +13%, it was unable to find a way to achieve a lower variance that would not result in the breaking up of existing communities.
- 4.6 **Lewes Castle and Lewes Priory** – The wards of Lewes Priory and Lewes Castle are forecast to have a variance of +12% and -5% respectively. The Working Group considered various options before deciding that the best way of reducing the variance whilst still ensuring that the local community ties were retained would be to make a small adjustment to the boundary line. This would reduce the variance to +1% and +2% for each ward respectively.
- 4.7 **Newhaven Valley and Newhaven Denton & Meeching** – Newhaven had the most urgent need of boundary change within the District, it being forecast as having two wards with variances of -24% and +19%. The Working Group felt that this provided the ideal opportunity to include the parishes of South Highton and Tarring Neville within a Newhaven District ward. The electors within these parishes are more closely linked to Newhaven than to the villages to the north. The Working Group proposed that the removal of these parishes from the Ouse Valley & Ringmer ward should release a member. This member has been moved to represent Newhaven thereby creating two, three member wards. Due to planned developments and the distribution of electors, the proposed boundary will divide Newhaven into two wards along the main A259 road.
- 4.8 **Ouse Valley & Ringmer** – As a result of the Working Group's proposal that the parishes of South Highton and Tarring Neville be combined with the new Newhaven boundary, it was necessary to redraw the boundary of the Ouse Valley & Ringmer ward. This is a simple change which results in the ward's southern edge now following the boundary line of the parishes of Beddingham and Firle. The Working Group proposed to turn this ward from a three member to a two member ward. It accepts that this will result in the ward being at a +16% variance, however it is felt that this is justifiable to ensure that the community ties of South Highton and Tarring Neville are joined with Newhaven. The Working Group looked at length at ways to avoid this variance, but it was felt that any changes to boundary lines to reduce this would be solely compensatory.
- 4.9 **Peacehaven** - All three Peacehaven wards had a forecast variance of over the +/- 10% threshold so the Working Group agreed that small changes to the

boundaries of each of these wards was desirable in order to achieve a more balanced electorate in these three wards.

## **5. POTENTIAL CHANGES CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 Whilst variances within +/-10% of the average are the desired objective, electoral reviews are only automatically triggered in circumstances where there is a ward variance exceeding 30%, or three or more wards with variances exceeding 10%. While Lewes's electorate figures are not currently triggering a review, our projected 2021 figures show that we were right to take part in the full East Sussex review as the Council was on track to meet the trigger criteria.
- 5.2 Before coming to the decisions outlined in this proposal, the Working Group considered a number of options and suggestions from ward members, including those outlined here.
- 5.3 The proposal for Lewes Castle and Lewes Priory was originally intended to be a transfer of the Wallands Park area of Priory ward into the Lewes Castle ward, along with a member. However, when checking electorate figures it was established that this would result in the new two member Lewes Priory ward being over its ratio by 1000 electors. This led the Group to conceive the new boundary that is contained within this proposal.
- 5.4 The proposed reassignment of the parishes of South Highton and Tarring Neville was originally suggested by a ward member for Ouse Valley & Ringmer. This request also suggested moving the hamlet of Norton to within a Seaford ward. Norton has been moved, but as it is central to the parish of South Highton, it has now become part of Newhaven North ward. The Working Group felt that this was a positive proposal for the electors of Norton as it retained the parish boundary.
- 5.5 The current ward members for Chailey & Wivelsfield ward and Barcombe & Hamsey ward expressed their concerns at the proposal to create a separate Wivelsfield ward and a combined Chailey, Barcombe & Hamsey ward. A number of alternatives were put to the Working Group including various slice by slice approaches to distributing the electorate to enable the wards to remain as currently designated. However, the Working Group felt that where at all possible it was more important to the electorate to retain parish boundaries and the communities therein, than to separate off small numbers of neighbours in an attempt to balance the electorate figures.

## **6. RECOMMENDED PROPOSALS**

- 6.1 Having discussed, analysed and unanimously rejected earlier options, the Working Group has agreed that the following be the proposals to be presented to Council for acceptance.
- 6.2 The Working Group proposes that the Lewes District Council wards remain as currently designated apart from the following, where they propose the changes as outlined below. For purposes of clarity, those changes that are linked are outlined by area with a joint reasoning below for the proposed changes.



**6.3 Wivelsfield**

To split the current Chailey & Wivelsfield ward down the parish boundary line to create a one member ward.

**6.4 Chailey, Barcombe & Hamsey**

To merge the parish of Chailey with the existing ward of Barcombe & Hamsey and create a two member ward.

**Reasoning:** The forecast variance of Chailey & Wivelsfield at +20% and Barcombe & Hamsey at -12% requires action to be taken to achieve better electoral equality. The new ward of Wivelsfield will have a ratio of +2%. The resulting ratio of the new Chailey, Barcombe & Hamsey ward will be at +13%. This change, although it does not provide perfect electoral equality, does mean that the boundary will be coterminous with the existing parishes, and no viable alternative could be found to reassign electors without the splitting of clearly defined communities.

**6.5 Lewes**

To change the boundary between Lewes Castle and Lewes Priory wards. To move the boundary line so that Christie Road, Clare Road, Ferrers Road, Fitzjohns Road, Gundreda Road and Mildmay Road are now part of Lewes Priory ward. This represents an electorate of 423.

**Reasoning:** The variance for Lewes Castle was predicted to be at +12% due to some significant development that is forecast in that ward. The redrawing of the boundary along the proposed line ensures that the variance is reduced whilst the strong local community ties are retained.

**6.6 Ouse Valley & Ringmer**

To remove the parishes of South Highton and Tarring Neville from the current ward and place them within a new Newhaven ward. As a result, the representation will be reduced from a three member to a two member ward. This represents 852 electors.

**6.7 Newhaven**

To include the parishes of South Highton and Tarring Neville in addition to the currently designated wards of Newhaven Valley and Newhaven Denton & Meeching. The new boundary to be redrawn following the route, east to west, of the A259 Brighton Road. This proposal will create two, more equally balanced, three member wards.

**Reasoning:** The parishes of Tarring Neville and South Highton were not previously suitably assigned to an appropriate District ward, removing them from the Ouse Valley & Ringmer Ward and placing them in Newhaven means that they will be more closely linked to the communities and facilities that they use day-to-day. The Ouse Valley & Ringmer ward would be a two member ward, with a variance of +16%. The Working Group acknowledges that this is a high variance, but they could find no satisfactory way to transfer electors in such a rural area. The majority of the electors live within the large village of Ringmer and any changes to the adjoining parishes would risk breaking up very strong, ancient communities. The two new proposed wards for Newhaven have been defined along the logical boundary of the A259 and

take into account the clear communities based in the residential areas of Meeching, Valley, Denton and South Highton. The change has re-joined the previously split community of South Highton.

#### 6.8 **Peacehaven**

To make small adjustments to the boundaries of all three Peacehaven wards in order to more evenly distribute the electors.

To remove Bolney Avenue, Bramber Avenue, Damon Close, Rayford Close, Steyning Avenue, Victoria Avenue from Peacehaven East and into Peacehaven West ward. This represents an electorate of 452.

To remove Bramber Avenue North, Bramber Close, Dorothy Avenue North, Edith Avenue North, Horsham Avenue North, and Southview Road from Peacehaven West and into Peacehaven North ward. This represents an electorate of 161.

**Reasoning:** The proposed new boundary lines have been drawn to try to achieve better electoral equality across the Peacehaven wards. The changes will bring all the wards to well within the desired +/-10%.

#### 6.9 **Other Matters**

The Working Group considered two further matters of co-terminosity and ward names as follows:

#### 6.10 **Co-terminosity**

With regard to the East Sussex County Council arrangements, the number of County councillors for Lewes is proposed to remain at nine, as per the current arrangements. However, it is understood that there is a wish at County Council to move to all single member divisions which would mean the division of the current Peacehaven and Telscombe Towns division within Lewes into two separate divisions.

The relevant County Councillors were invited to attend one of our Working Group meetings to view the proposals and share their comments. The joint officer Project team are liaising to ensure that, as far as possible, the proposed new District ward boundaries will be co-terminus with the new East Sussex division boundaries. The changes proposed by Lewes District Council will only slightly affect the boundaries of the County divisions. The current County divisions are not wholly co-terminous with those of Lewes District and this will not change.

#### 6.11 **Ward Names**

The proposal means that there are only four wards where a change of name is required. The proposed wards have been assigned names that are in accordance with LGBCE guidance that the names are considered to be distinct and easily identifiable by the electorate. The Working Group unanimously proposed that:

- The current Chailey & Wivelsfield ward becomes Wivelsfield ward.
- The current Barcombe & Hamsey ward becomes Chailey, Barcombe & Hamsey ward.
- The current Newhaven Valley and Newhaven Denton & Meeching wards become Newhaven North ward and Newhaven South Ward.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Electoral Review is owned by the LGBCE who, as part of the process, invite submissions and proposals from any group or individual. A link to the LGBCE's web page has been placed on the Council's website and circulated to all councillors.
- 7.2 All councillors were asked to feed in any comments or observations about their own individual ward. Those comments that were received were taken into account by the Working Group during their deliberations. The draft proposals developed by the Working Group were also circulated to all councillors for information.
- 7.3 An informal drop-in session was held to provide an opportunity for all members to view the proposal maps and share their views. Members of the Working Group have also been liaising with their wider political groups.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 Having taken into account all the investigative work undertaken, the Working Group's conclusions and recommendations to Council at its meeting on 9 November 2015 are contained in this document, which Council is asked to consider and agree.
- 8.2 It is hoped that a ward pattern solution that the whole Council can support has been achieved. It has not been possible to come up with a set of proposals that achieves perfect electoral equality. The Working Group acknowledges that there has to be some compromise made.
- 8.3 The Council's submission will be considered by the LGBCE together with any alternative proposals put to them and other feedback as part of the consultation. The LGBCE will then publish draft recommendations for the proposed new electoral arrangements in March 2016. It is important to understand that the LGBCE's proposals could potentially be different from the Council's suggested ward arrangements.

**Jackie Gavigan, Head of Democratic Services**  
**On behalf of the Electoral Review Working Group**  
**November 2015**

## Proposed Ward Patterns and Ward Names

Ward	Number of Councillors	Forecast Electoral Variance in 2021 if proposals implemented		
		Electorate in 2021	Variance by %	Variance by elector
<b>Chailey, Barcombe &amp; Hamsey *</b> – Chailey – Barcombe – Hamsey	2 (increase of 1)	4508	13%	522
<b>Wivelsfield *</b>	1 (decrease of 1)	2037	2%	44
<b>Ditchling &amp; Westmeston</b> – Ditchling – Westmeston	1	2173	9%	180
<b>East Saltdean &amp; Telscombe Cliffs</b> – East Saltdean – Telscombe Cliffs	3	5840	-2%	-139
<b>Kingston</b> – Falmer – Iford – Kingston – Piddinghoe – Rodmell – St Ann (Without) – Southease	1	1822	-9%	-171
<b>Lewes Bridge</b>	2	3939	-1%	-47
<b>Lewes Castle</b> (less Christie Road, Clare Road, Ferrers Road, Fitzjohns Road, Gundreda Road, Mildmay Road)	2	4044	1%	58
<b>Lewes Priory</b> (including Christie Road, Clare Road, Ferrers Road, Fitzjohns Road, Gundreda Road, Mildmay Road)	3	6090	2%	111
<b>Newhaven North *</b> – South Highton – Tarring Neville	3 (increase of 1)	5277	-11%	-702
<b>Newhaven South *</b>	3	5695	-5%	-284

Ward	Number of Councillors	Forecast Electoral Variance in 2021 if proposals implemented		
		Electorate in 2021	Variance by %	Variance by elector
<b>Newick</b>	1	2142	7%	149
<b>Ouse Valley &amp; Ringmer</b> – Beddingham – Firle – Glynde – Ringmer	2 (decrease of 1)	4635	16%	649
<b>Peacehaven East</b> (less Bolney Avenue, Bramber Avenue, Damon Close, Rayford Close, Steyning Avenue, Victoria Avenue)	2	4126	4%	140
<b>Peacehaven North</b> (including Bramber Avenue North, Bramber Close, Dorothy Avenue North, Edith Avenue North, Horsham Avenue North, Southview Road)	2	3723	-7%	-263
<b>Peacehaven West</b> (less Bramber Avenue North, Bramber Close, Dorothy Avenue North, Edith Avenue North, Horsham Avenue North, Southview Road)  (including Bolney Avenue, Bramber Avenue, Damon Close, Rayford Close, Steyning Avenue, Victoria Avenue)	2	3760	-6%	-226
<b>Plumpton, Streat, E.Chiltington &amp; St John (without)</b> – Plumpton – Streat – East Chiltington – St John (Without)	1	2030	2%	37
<b>Seaford Central</b>	2	4075	2%	89
<b>Seaford East</b>	2	4019	1%	33
<b>Seaford North</b>	2	4150	4%	164
<b>Seaford South</b>	2	3735	-6%	-251
<b>Seaford West</b>	2	3903	-2%	-83

\* Proposed Ward Name





**Key**

Lewes District

1 - Barcombe and Hamsey Ward

2 - Chailey and Wivelsfield Ward

3 - Ditchling and Westmeston Ward

4 - East Saltdean and Telscombe Cliffs Ward

5 - Kingston Ward

6 - Lewes Bridge Ward

7 - Lewes Castle Ward

8 - Lewes Priory Ward

9 - Newhaven Denton and Meeching Ward

10 - Newhaven Valley Ward

11 - Newick Ward

12 - Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward

13 - Peacehaven East Ward

14 - Peacehaven North Ward

15 - Peacehaven West Ward

16 - Plumpton, Streat, East Chiltington and St. John (Without) Ward

17 - Seaford Central Ward

18 - Seaford East Ward

19 - Seaford North Ward

20 - Seaford South Ward

21 - Seaford West Ward

**Existing Ward Boundaries  
in the Lewes District**



1:80,000





**Key**

Lewes District

1 - Chailey, Barcombe and Hamsey Ward

2 - Ditchling and Westmeston Ward

3 - East Saltdean and Telscombe Cliffs Ward

4 - Kingston Ward

5 - Lewes Bridge Ward

6 - Lewes Castle Ward

7 - Lewes Priory Ward

8 - Newhaven North Ward

9 - Newhaven South Ward

10 - Newick Ward

11 - Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward

12 - Peacehaven East Ward

13 - Peacehaven North Ward

14 - Peacehaven West Ward

15 - Plumpton, Streat, East Chiltington and St. John (Without) Ward

16 - Seaford Central Ward

17 - Seaford East Ward


18 - Seaford North Ward

19 - Seaford South Ward

20 - Seaford West Ward

21 - Wivelsfield Ward

**Proposed Ward Boundaries  
in the Lewes District**

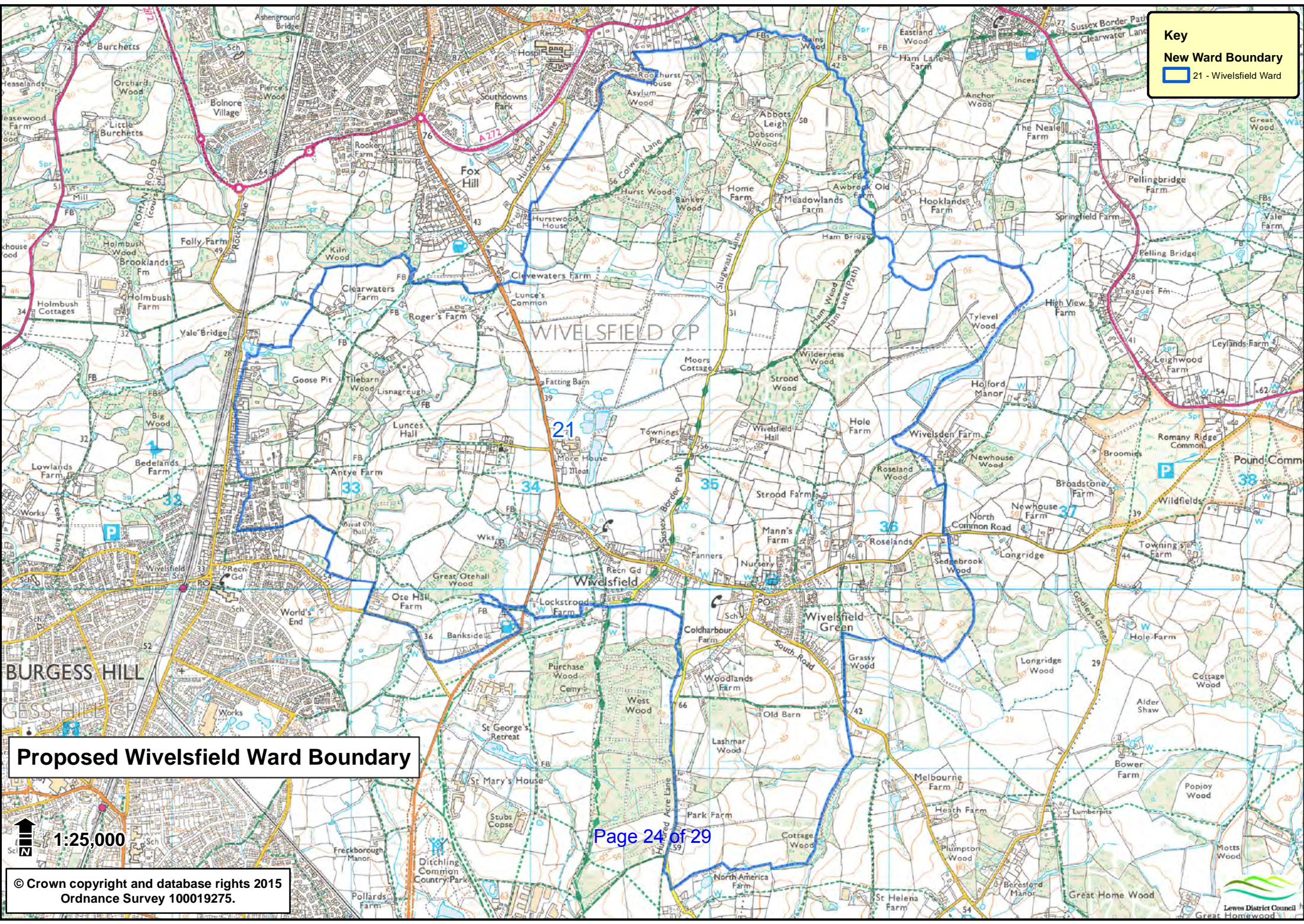
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**Key**

**New Ward Boundary**

21 - Wivelsfield Ward



**Proposed Wivelsfield Ward Boundary**

 **1:25,000**

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# Key

## New Ward Boundary

1 - Chailey, Barcombe and Hamsey Ward

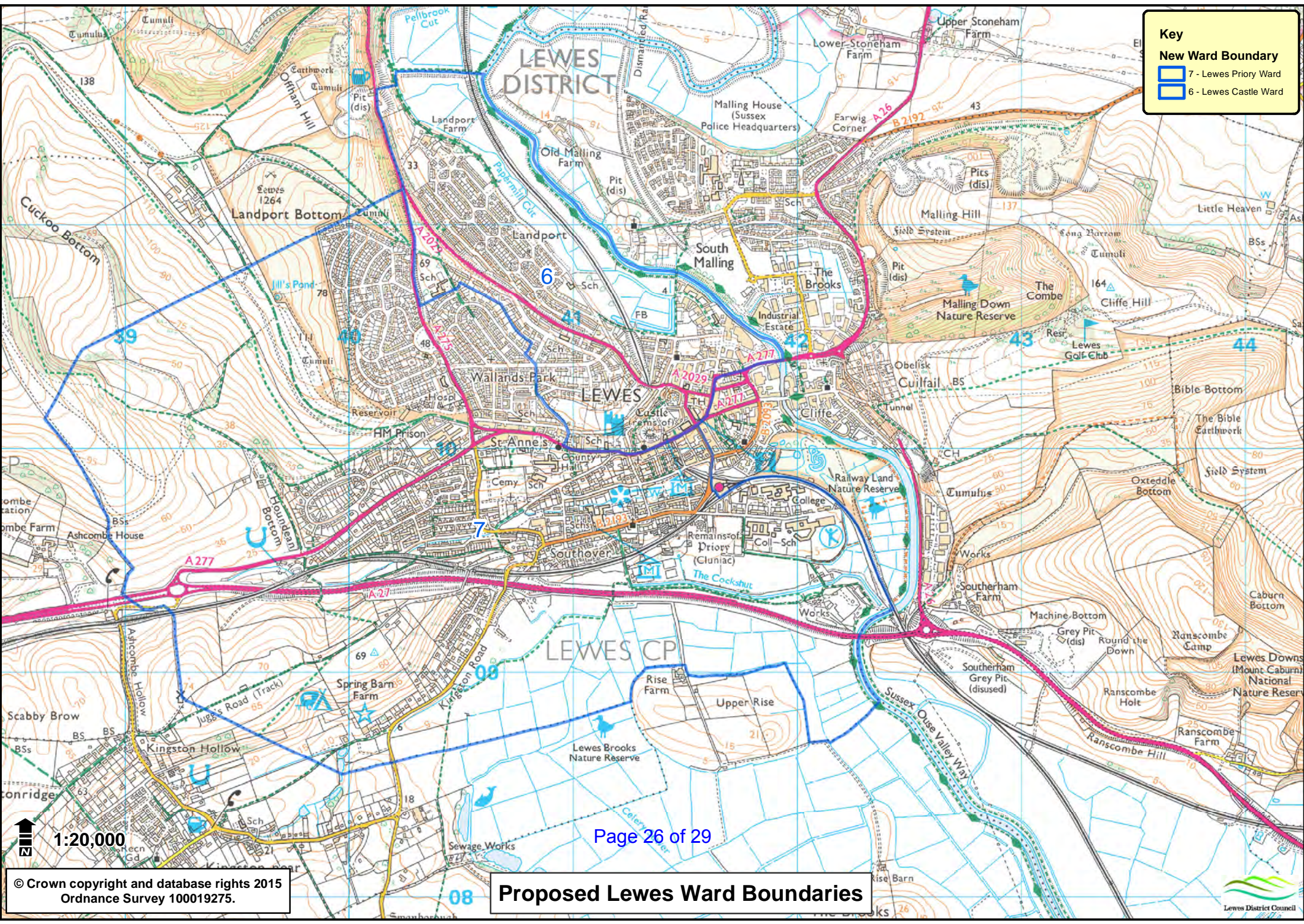
## Proposed Chailey, Barcombe and Hamsey Ward Boundary



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# Key

## New Ward Boundary

11 - Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward



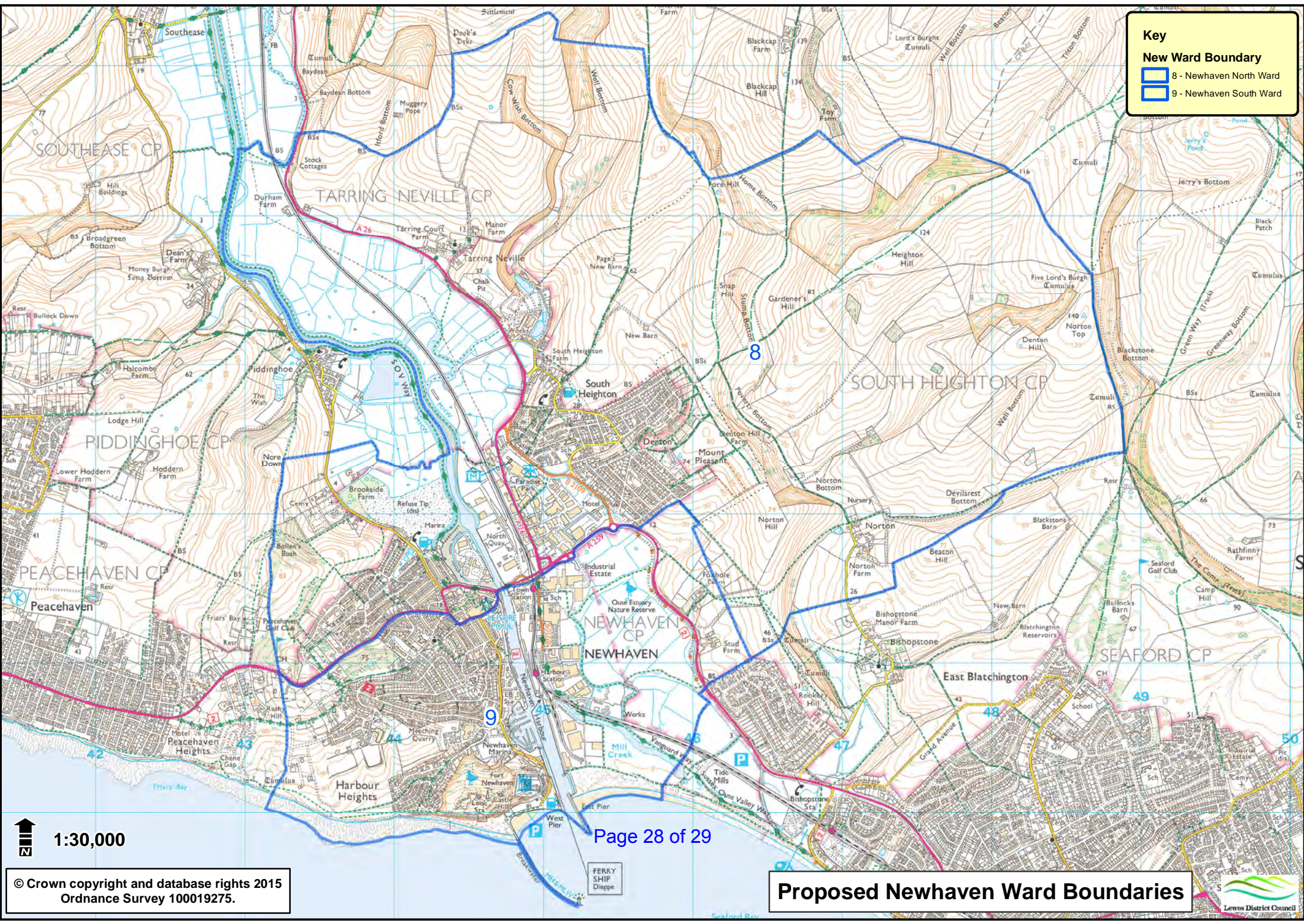


**Key**

**New Ward Boundary**

8 - Newhaven North Ward

9 - Newhaven South Ward



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**Proposed Newhaven Ward Boundaries**

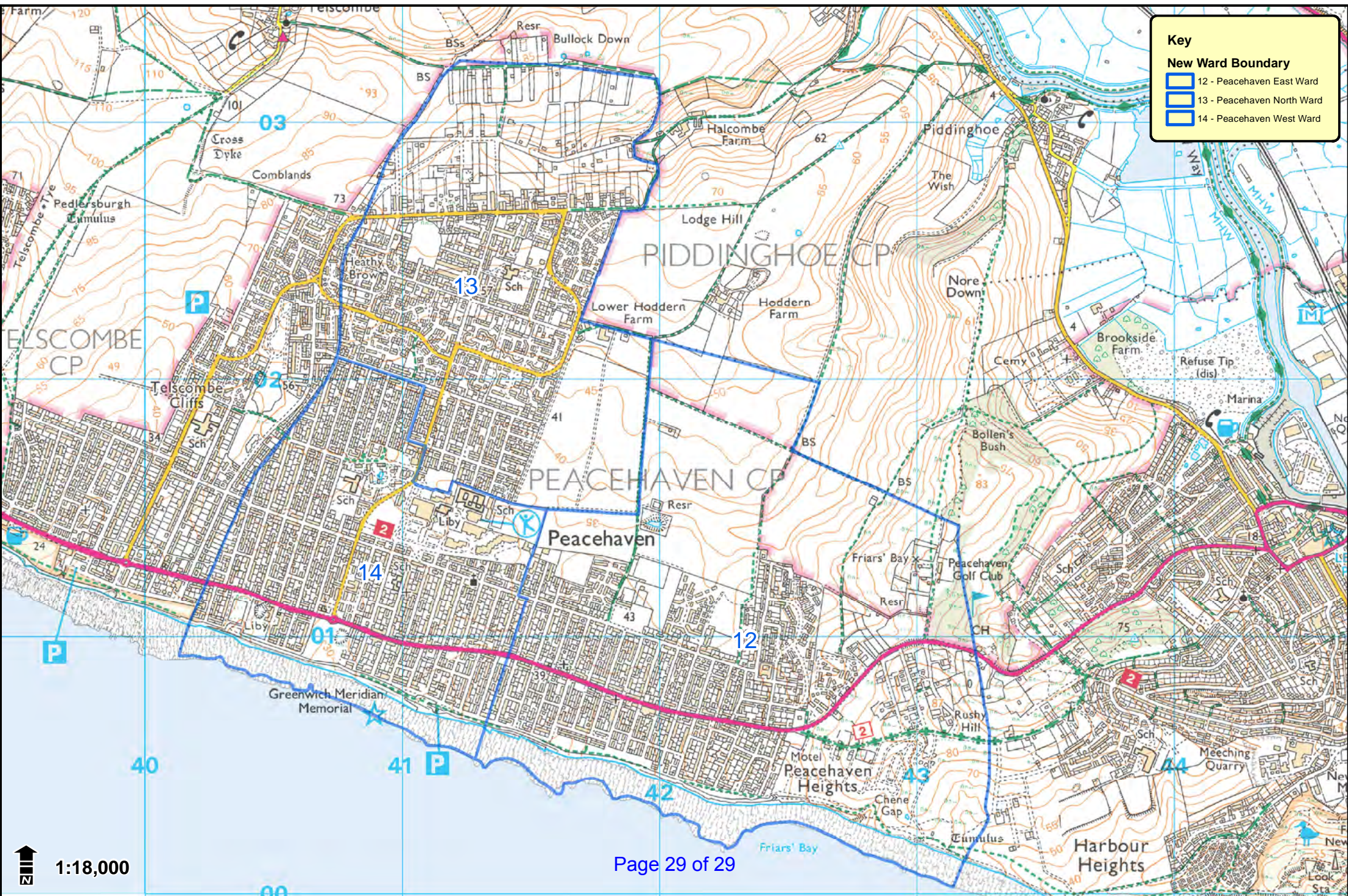




**Key**

**New Ward Boundary**

- 12 - Peacehaven East Ward
- 13 - Peacehaven North Ward
- 14 - Peacehaven West Ward



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