

CGR 2

Parishes Affected

Bourton, Ashbury, Shrivenham, Compton Beauchamp, Woolstone, Uffington, Baulking, Sparsholt, Childrey, West Challow, Goosey, East Challow, Denchworth, Grove, Lockinge, Ardington, West Hendred, East Hendred, Steventon, Milton, Harwell

Matter to be considered

Aligning parish council boundaries to the railway line, where a small part of the parish lies north or south of the railway line separated from the rest of the parish and with no or limited direct means of access

Impact on district and county council boundaries

None in view of the recommendation

Summary of parish council responses

Various parish councils, particularly those to the west of the district, objected to the principle of looking at this matter. Most cited the historic nature of the existing parish boundaries. A smaller number of parish councils, mostly to the east of the district, supported the principle.

Summary of other responses

A number of local residents, all from the west of the district, wrote objecting to the principle of looking at this matter. Most cited contentment with the current parish arrangements.

Recommendation

To leave the parish boundaries as they are (with the exception of Harwell parish, covered separately elsewhere)

Justification

The London-Bristol railway line is a strong man-made boundary and in places would form a good parish boundary. However, local feeling on this matter is high and any proposals would be likely to generate a significant response against, even though such proposals if they were made would cover probably only 11 parishes at most and affect virtually no properties. There are more important boundary changes to consider.