

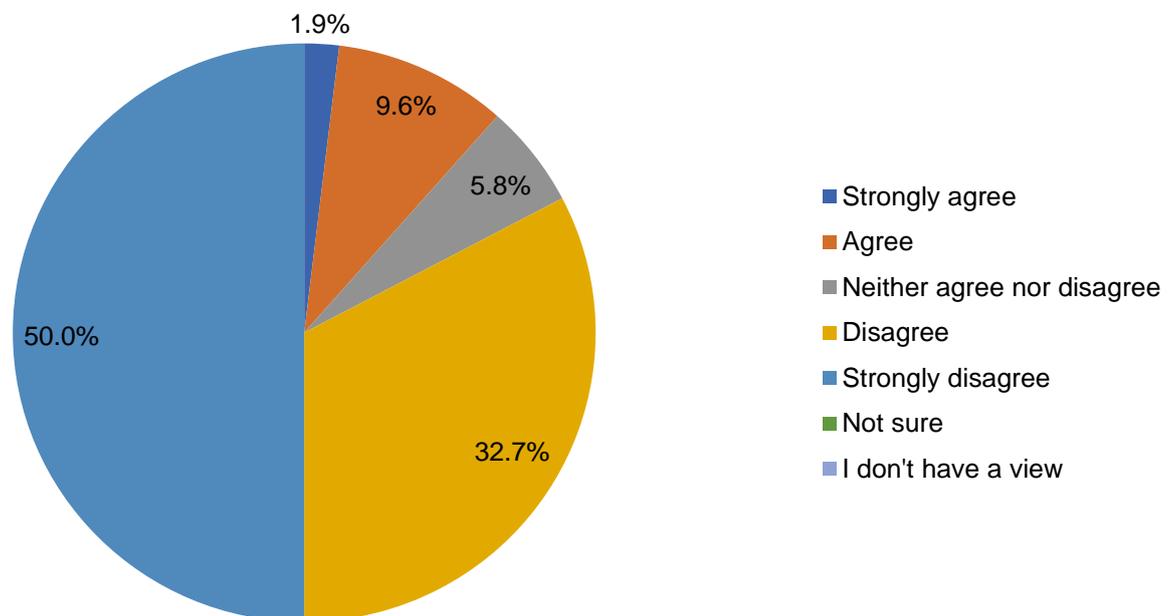
## CGR\_F – Sunningwell / Wootton / Cumnor

Any personal information supplied to us within the comments that could identify anyone has been redacted and will not be shared or published in the report. Further information on data protection is available in our general consultation's privacy statement on our [Vale](#) website.

### 1. How far do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Answer Choice		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	1.9%	1
2	Agree	9.6%	5
3	Neither agree nor disagree	5.8%	3
4	Disagree	32.7%	17
5	Strongly disagree	50.0%	26
6	Not sure	0.0%	0
7	I don't have a view	0.0%	0
		<b>answered</b>	<b>52</b>
		<b>skipped</b>	<b>113</b>

### How far do you agree or disagree with this proposal?



### 2. If you have any comments on this proposal please provide them below:

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	44

## 2. If you have any comments on this proposal please provide them below:

1	Bayworth and Sunningwell likely to be overwhelmed by the inclusion of the whole of Boars Hill within their Parish. Could well lead to the situation where Bayworth and Sunningwell feel that their needs are being disregarded and that only the needs of Boars Hill are being taken into account.
2	This takes a large section of the Parish away from Wootton and splits the community. Many of the residents of Boars Hill actively participate in Wootton community events and make use of the facilities which are provided by or financially supported by the Parish Council. They clearly feel that they are part of the Parish. The Boars Hill Association are trying to move to a smaller Parish so they can dictate to Sunningwell Parish what they want done. Neither the Boars Hill Association, nor Sunningwell Parish Council have sought the views of the residents of the hamlets in their Parish which will be affected by this.
3	I have lived in Wootton for over 45 years, growing up in old Wootton village, I always felt Boars hill was part of our parish. Boars hill residents use the cricket club in Wootton, the school in Wootton, the church in Wootton and Wootton shops and community centre. Boars hill is also in very close proximity with no defined boundaries, all of old Wootton village and many other homes in Wootton have Boars hill in their address. The neighbour hood plan was written including Boars hill with Wootton.
4	My address is Wootton, Boars Hill I would like it to stay that way!
5	It would be a shame to change the boundary for no valid reason.
6	The historical parish of Wootton boundaries do not need amending. The Sunningwell Parish have not put forward a coherent case for the change. Wootton Parish have made a good case. It is important that Wootton maintains its historical hinterland.
7	I would like to understand the motivations behind the request before forming an opinion, as a Sunningwell resident of many years I have become very concerned about some of the decisions that our current parish council make. The atmosphere at our parish council meetings over recent years have become toxic and unwelcoming to the general public and people don't tend to want to express their views or opinions. In my opinion our current parish council are not fit for purpose and providing with them with yet more responsibility would be a mistake, and a move towards more residents from Boars Hill being incorporated into the Sunningwell Parish could be more divisive. I believe a review of our current parish council, it's policies and procedures should take place before a decision to enlarge the parish be reached.
8	It would be extremely detrimental to make any changes to the current parish boundaries
9	Sunningwell Parish already includes Bayworth and half of Boars Hill. It's big enough. I'm very much against changing the name. It is important to keep it the same.
10	The proposal doesn't make particular sense. It doesn't straighten up any current parish boundary and is just a land grab that makes an odd irregular boundary. The handful of properties affected in Cumnor don't retain a geographical link to Sunningwell which is the other side of another parish in Wootton. The Wootton properties are better linked to the Wootton parish by road and make plenty of use of the Wootton amenities. Putting them in Sunningwell splinters a community and from its nearest amenity.  The Cumnor properties are also part of the Cumnor neighbourhood plan designation and receive protections from that currently. They are also in the distinct character of that parish and bear no relation to the character and environment of Sunningwell.  Feels like a total waste of public monies and time for no actual benefit to residents or existing parishes, infact it makes a messy boundary reformatting.
11	This will likely devalue properties in Wootton parish and seems very unnecessary. It will artificially break traditional parish boundaries and interfere with established feelings of community, particularly around school communities.
12	What does it mean funding wise - what are the benefits or dis benefits?
13	The majority of Boars Hill lies within Wootton parish council, why would we move to Sunningwell? our field would be in Wootton and our house in Sunningwell, there is no need for change
14	What is the reasoning behind this proposal? Our parish has been functioning pretty good as it is. I can only guess that in the future if this proposal is approved, more funds will be diverted to Boars Hill, leaving the poorer neighbourhoods of Bayworth and Sunningwell underrepresented and sparsely funded.
15	No real objection to changing the boundaries, but strongly disagree if it means changing the name of the parish to Boars Hill instead of Sunningwell.

## 2. If you have any comments on this proposal please provide them below:

16		<p>Capability of the current councillors to manager a larger parish.          Poor and at times overly aggressive and authoritarian communications.          Capability of managing conflict well with parishioners.          Lack of diversity in the current parish council membership. Lack of women, younger people, representatives from Sunningwell and Bayworth with a different socio-economic status.          Health and safety awareness - not servicing a defibrillator and when the village hall car park work took place, they did not provide easy access to it for disabled people or families using prams.          They don't maintain the village pond.          Boars Hill will become the centre of attention with Sunningwell and Bayworth becoming marginalised in terms of priorities.</p>
17		<p>The proposal would be detrimental to the Parish, especially as it would undermine the current local plan.</p> <p>A much better proposal would be to merge the Parishes of Wootton and Sunningwell. This would benefit both parishes, not least financially and in terms of local influence. It would mean that a single full time parish clerk could be employed,</p> <p>Furthermore, if any realignment of the existing parish boundaries is required, Whitecross should be brought into the Parish of Sunningwell.</p>
18		<p>There are a certain number of houses immediately adjoining Sunningwell and separate from the rest of Boars Hill (from the westerly spur of Lincombe Lane up to the Fox PH) which it would be very sensible to move across from Wootton, assuming they agree. But on the whole I don't think historic boundaries - and these are ancient ones - should be changed without very good cause. Not should historic parishes be renamed without better cause than appears here.</p>
19		<p>Since those residents of Boars hill who currently are part of Wootton or Cumnor seem to have voted by a significant majority to become part of Sunningwell, there are good grounds for implementing the change.</p> <p>In my opinion, there are no grounds for changing the name of the parish, as Sunningwell is an ancient part of the realm the boubaries of which have remained broadly the same for 100's of years.</p>
20		<p>The residents of Boar's Hill already have quite a lot of influence due to the demographic of the area. Residents such as those of Bayworth Park won't get to be heard in the shadow of the strength of this influence. Sunningwell and Bayworth will lose their identity into the bigger, more influential Boar's Hill. We all know this will eventually happen, despite any argument against it. I therefore strongly disagree and hope Sunningwell and Bayworth Parish (an ancient parish) will be able to retain it's own identity.</p>
21		<p>There are many reasons why this is not a good idea for the Parish or the volunteers within it.</p> <p>Wootton Parish Council (and St Helen Without PC as it was a joint plan) have had a fully made Neighbourhood Plan in place since 2019. We'd like to draw the committee's attention to the following complications if the current Parish is split:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NP policies will remain in place and be enforced for the area of land that they cover even if that land becomes part of a different Parish.</li> <li>• NPs that have already been finalised and adopted cannot be revoked even if Parish Boundaries are changed.</li> <li>• NP areas cannot overlap, so Sunningwell PC can't create a NP that includes the area of our NP.</li> <li>• Reviewing a made plan to change the NP area will require all statutory processes to be repeated, including area designation, consultation, examination and referendum - which is a lengthy time-consuming process that WPC won't be going through as it also affects SHWPC and the Dalton Barracks development and they would have to agree.</li> <li>• So if the parish boundary was changed the NP boundary would still apply to those houses on Boars Hill and Sunningwell would have to apply those NP policies. Additionally any amendments to the NP we make - would also directly affect people in a different parish - basically making it all incredibly complicated.</li> </ul> <p>There are many other reasons including:</p> <p>Debt. In 2005, Wootton Parish Council took a government loan to support the redevelopment of the WADS Community Centre. If the Parish is split then the remaining households will still be liable for the loan and the households that have left the parish won't be liable anymore. Every remaining household within Wootton Parish will therefore have to pay more to service the loan.</p> <p>The Community Park. This is used by residents in nearby Boars Hill. If the split goes ahead then residents of another Parish will get to use this amenity without paying anything for the upkeep.</p> <p>Traffic. We believe that if the Parish is split up then households within the Parish will end up having to pay more in Council Tax to make up the budget shortfall from those households leaving the Parish. This will likely affect the implementation of traffic calming measures and our ability to enhance the community park.</p>

## 2. If you have any comments on this proposal please provide them below:

	<p>History. Until the late nineteenth century the hamlets of Wootton and Old Boars Hill were outlying parts of Cumnor parish. Since then they have formed a separate parish with the same boundaries as today and over the years have developed into a single large village of some 3,000 inhabitants, centred around the Besselsleigh Rd shops, the Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre and the Bystander Public House. Although different parts of the village, such as Old Wootton, Boars Hill, and the B4017 corridor, have their distinctive social and architectural characters, the village is a well-integrated community as is evidenced in the replies to the questionnaire sent out in preparing our Joint Neighbourhood Plan with St Helen Without (made December 2019). There was a strong feeling of belonging to a neighbourhood and a strong satisfaction with the area as a place to live.</p> <p>Website. If the boundary is split we'd have to spend a considerable sum and many hours of effort to rework the website. This is a considerable burden we really don't need given the work we're currently doing within the parish.</p> <p>WADS Community Centre. Wootton Parish Council grants thousands of pounds every year to support the WADS Community Centre. If the Parish is split we believe that we won't be able to support the Community Centre to the same amount. In addition, people in the breakaway Parish won't be supporting the Community Centre with their Council Tax but will still be using it.</p>
22	<p>I believe that if the Parish is split up then households within the Parish will end up having to pay more in Council Tax to make up the budget shortfall from those households leaving the Parish. This will likely affect the implementation of traffic calming measures and our ability to enhance the community park.</p>
23	<p>I would like to object to the proposed boundary changes to the parish of Wootton put forward by The Boars Hill Association. My primary objection is the detrimental effect the boundary change would have on the finances of Wootton Parish Council and its ability to meet its current obligations and aims.</p> <p>In 2010, Wootton Parish Council took out a government loan of £60,000 to support the redevelopment of the Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre, a vital parish amenity. The loan was for fifty years at a fixed interest rate of 4.6 per cent. Each year the Council makes repayments of £3,076.60, and the current outstanding loan is £55,003.91. The total cost of repayment over 50 years is £153, 830. The Parish Council has not the reserves to pay the loan off at once, which would incur a repayment premium and cost £111,357, and refinancing the loan at a lower rate of interest for the same term would make no difference to the overall cost. In consequence, Wootton Parish Council is committed to putting aside £3,000 p.a. to pay off the loan until 2035.</p> <p>At present, Wootton Parish Council receives a precept of c. £60,000. This is a large enough sum to allow the Council to put aside £3,000 per annum to pay off the loan without undue difficulty. Were Boars Hill to be detached from Wootton, the precept would be considerably reduced and the percentage of the budget dedicated each year to paying off the loan increased. This would mean that the Council would no longer have the same amount of money each year to enhance traffic-controlling measures and the broader quality of life in the parish to which it is committed in accordance with its made Neighbourhood Plan. With a lower precept, for instance, it would not have been possible to create the recently established Children's Community Park opposite the church, which each year is being improved.</p> <p>It should be pointed out, too, that the residents of Boars Hill have always made full use of the Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre and belong to many of the societies that enjoy its facilities. As Sunningwell Parish has no equivalent Community Centre, the Boars Hill residents will continue to do use WADSCC, just as they will continue to use the other amenities in the village, such as the cricket field, primary school, the church and the community park, which Wootton Parish Council either directly or indirectly (through a grant to the Wootton Primary School PTA to provide laptops for home learning during lockdown, for instance) supports. It seems very unjust that the residents of a new, smaller Wootton Parish should pay a higher proportion per head towards repaying the Community Centre loan and maintaining other existing amenities in the village, while residents of Boars Hill, who use these facilities, contribute nothing at all.</p>
24	<p>The parish has always worked very well as a unit during the forty years I have lived within its boundaries.</p>
25	<p>Smaller parish equals smaller amount of funds, hence my disapproval of altering the boundary to include Boars Hill in the Sunningwell parish. Little enough is spent in our parish as it is!</p>
26	<p>The boundary has been set for many years and I can't understand why the boundaries should be moved. In all likelihood this will have a negative financial impact on the money provided by The VWHDC to the Wootton parish, and as such I am strongly against this proposal.</p> <p>I would also be interested to know what percentage of the residents that will be impacted directly by this proposal, due to them living within the new boundaries, have actually proposed this change or have formally agreed with the proposal?</p>

## 2. If you have any comments on this proposal please provide them below:

		I ask this as it may well be that just a few residents have set out the proposal, as they would prefer to not be associated with the Wootton parish, for their own self interests, whereby others who don't have the same interest are content with the current boundaries? The old adage, "if it isn't broken, then don't try and fix it" springs to mind!
27		The Boars Hill Association are just trying to move to Sunningwell as their attempts to bully Wootton have not worked. They think their voice will carry more weight in Sunningwell as they will be a majority voice. They will just ignore the existing residents. Maybe they should get involved in the Parish they are in rather than invading another parish.
28		Please uploaded letter.
29		I wish to oppose Sunningwell's request to join Boars Hill parish. I hope you will consider this carefully especially as there seems to be a very fast time factor.  Written response 14.04.22
30		Just to say that I object strongly to the proposal that Boars Hill should become part of Sunningwell. The reduction in finances would mean less support for all the facilities in Wootton particularly the Community Centre and field and the Cricket Club. All of which are used by the residents of Boars Hill. I am also concerned about the potential loss of financial support for such things as road calming measures which would affect the safety of all of us in the area.  Email response received 26.04.22
31		I am against the proposal of the removal of Boars Hill from Wootton Parish Council. I would imagine that this matter has been on the drawing board for some time and am disappointed that this has only recently come to our attention with so little time to gather enough response to it.  Email response received 21.04.22
32		We are against the proposal.  Email response received 14.04.22
33		I do not support Boars Hill being part of Sunningwell Parish Council. Plans have been made on the existing and forecast revenue for Wootton and to change the boundary will have an adverse effect on those plans and the community served by the existing parish boundary.  Email response received 13.04.22
34		I would like to say I am personally against the changes to the boundary.  Email response received 27.04.22
35		My sister and I do not approve of the proposed changes to the parish boundary.  Email response received 26.04.22
36		As a resident... in Boars Hill, I should like to register my agreement with this proposal. At present the parish boundary line runs down Lincombe Lane resulting in some 10 houses... belonging to Wootton Parish and the remaining majority lying within the Sunningwell Parish. It clearly makes sense for the whole of Lincombe Lane to be included in Sunningwell Parish. I very much hope this proposal wins approval.  Email response received 20.04.22
37		This email is to advise that as a resident of Wootton I am against the request for Sunningwell to take Boars Hill or any more than they currently have of it from Wootton parish boundaries.  Email response received 25.04.22
38		Please register my opposition to this move which smacks of elitism. There is nothing wrong with the present boundary and it should be left as it is, as to allow the amendment would have unnecessary financial consequences for our parish.  Email response received 25.04.22
39		I would like to state that I am against this proposal.  Email response received 27.04.22

## 2. If you have any comments on this proposal please provide them below:

40		...I wish to register my disagreement with the proposal to transfer part of Boar's Hill from Wootton to Sunningwell parish.  Email response received 21.04.22	
41		Please be advised that I am against transferring that part of Boars Hill that is within Wootton parish into Sunningwell.  Email response received 14.04.22	
42		Boundary change. I do not agree with this proposal.  Email response received 14.04.22	
43		Please see attached document.	
44		Please see attached document.	
	Submitted at end of survey under 'Any other comments'	Wootton Parish Council believes that no changes should be made to the present boundaries of the parish on the grounds the parish as presently constituted works well for the benefit of all the residents. Your Council is particularly concerned that the removal of Boars Hill from the parish would necessarily lead to a sizeable reduction in our annual precept (the money we receive each year from the Vale to run the Council, which is paid on the number of residents). This would reduce our ability to develop further our traffic-controlling measures along the B4107, enhance the facilities in our new Community Park, and provide grants to local societies and projects. A reduction in precept would also make it more difficult to finance the large loan the Parish Council took out to make possible the renovation of the Community Centre, which is a central part of village life.	
	Submitted at end of survey under 'Any other comments'	I know that some of the Boars Hill residents have been unhappy/upset with the way that issues which affect or could affect Boars Hill have been dealt with in the past. Residents attending meetings were left in no doubt that certain elements on Wootton PC resented their presence and 'knew better' on the matters put forward by Boars Hill residents. Attempts to take matters further were obstructed by those same elements on the PC. The current make up of the Wootton PC is very different from 2 years ago, although there are still 2 councillors who are unsympathetic/hostile to anything involving Boars Hill. Bearing in mind the change in attitude of Wootton PC I feel that maintaining the status quo would be preferable to transferring the Wootton and Cumnor parts of Boars Hill to Sunningwell PC. IF ANY CHANGE IS TO BE MADE IN BOUNDARIES THEN I WOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT UNITING THE WHOLE OF BOARS HILL INTO ONE WITH ITS OWN NEW PARISH COUNCIL.	
	Submitted at end of survey under 'Any other comments'	Keeping our part of Boars Hill within the Wootton parish is infinitely preferable to porting it over to Sunningwell PC. Either keep things exactly as they are or give the whole of Boars Hill its own parish council, which would be the ideal solution even if that would take longer to achieve.	
	Submitted at end of survey under 'Any other comments'	Any changes to the current parish boundaries would have an adverse affect on monies available to support community projects and more worrying is the repayment of the loan taken out to refurbish the Wootton community centre. So keep things as they are and mess it up for the future residents of Wootton.	
	Submitted at end of survey under 'Any other comments'	I suspect the Sunningwell parish councillors are trying to grow a larger empire and there should be a referendum before any changes are made.	
	Submitted at end of survey under 'Any other comments'	Currently our parish has been governed by a council consisting of Sunningwell, Bayworth and Boars Hill. We have witnessed in the recent months funds (£5K) diverted to Boars Hill to fight a planning application, even though this part of Boars Hill is not part of our parish. If the current application for change of boundary and name of the parish is approved, the majority of the funding will go to the Boars Hill part of the parish.	
	Submitted at end of survey under 'Any other comments'	Changing parish boundaries at a time when budgets are so tight and households are struggling does not seem logical. Any changes made should minimise these costs.	
		answered	44
		skipped	121

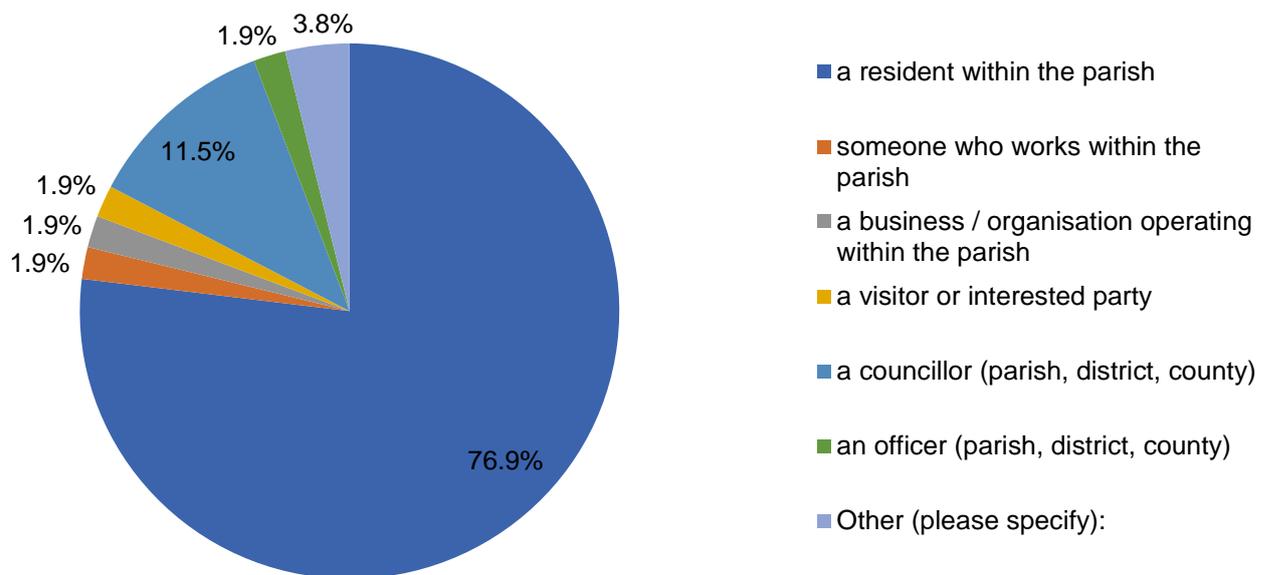
## 3. Are you responding to this request as: (tick all that apply)

Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 a resident within the parish	76.9%	40

2	someone who works within the parish	1.9%	1
3	a business / organisation operating within the parish	1.9%	1
4	a visitor or interested party	1.9%	1
5	a councillor (parish, district, county)	11.5%	6
6	an officer (parish, district, county)	1.9%	1
7	Other (please specify):	3.8%	2
		<b>answered</b>	<b>52</b>
		<b>skipped</b>	<b>113</b>

Other (please specify): (2)		
1		responding as a resident of the area of Boars Hill currently within Wootton Parish Council
2		Resident of Cumnor parish

## Are you responding to this request as: (tick all that apply)



### 4. If you are responding as a business / organisation, council or body please provide its name:

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	7
1		Wootton and Dry Sandford		
2		Opera Anywhere Ltd		
3		Wootton Parish Council		
4		Wootton Parish Council		
5		Cumnor Parish Council		
6		Wootton Parish Council		

4. If you are responding as a business / organisation, council or body please provide its name:

7	Boars Hill Association		
		answered	7
		skipped	158

5. To help us analyse responses, please provide the first part of your postcode (e.g. OX12 1)

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	34
		answered	34
		skipped	131

6. You can upload any supporting documents using the button below.

File Type	Average Size	Files Uploaded	
.doc	2193920Kb	1	
.pdf	674552.5Kb	2	
To view the files uploaded, go into the individual results.		answered	3
		skipped	162

# Cumnor Parish Council

Tina Brock  
Clerk of the Council  
Tel: 01367 240407  
E-mail: [clerk@cumnorparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cumnorparishcouncil.org.uk)

8 Sand View  
Faringdon  
Oxon  
SN7 7UT

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Mr S Corrigan  
Democratic Services Manager  
Vale of White Horse District Council  
Legal & Democratic Services  
135 Eastern Avenue  
Milton Park  
Milton  
Oxon OX14 4SB

27 April 2022

Our Ref: CPC/Electoral/lets/2022-04-27CorriganVWHDC  
Your Ref:

Dear Mr Corrigan,

## **Community Governance Review Vale of the White Horse District Council 2022**

Council objects to the proposal from Sunningwell Parish Council to transfer Chilswell properties from Cumnor Parish to Sunningwell Parish for the following reasons:

- 1) Historically Chilswell has been one of the small hamlets, along with nearby Henwood, that fall within the parish.
- 2) The original Parish boundary was established to reflect the land ownership of four tithings - with Chiswell being part of one of those.
- 3) Council consulted with 13 households, 5 responded they were happy with the proposal and 8 objected or did not comment.
- 4) Please see below an extract from the Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan which shows the importance of the area to the Parish. There are 3 contiguous and overlapping designated Important Views within the Parish that span - and originate at Chilswell. A fourth important view (number 4 Beacon Hill) has the section of the Parish under discussion in its foreground. The Chiswell part of the Parish under discussion is part of a wider specific area of local character – Local Character Assessment 14 (LCA 14) – along with the Hurst SSSI and Beacon Hill. As such it shares geology, landscape, ancient woodlands, form and function with a wider area of the Parish. LCA 14 is crossed by the Oxford Greenbelt Way and by public footpaths known locally as the ‘Chilswell Paths’.
- 5) As with the same request from the same source in 2017 (to which Council also objected) this appears to be a reflection of the Boars Hill Association’s perception of what constitutes ‘community cohesion’, as presented to Sunningwell PC. Given this and the above points, we do not believe this warrants a boundary change.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Tina Brock  
Clerk to Cumnor Parish Council

## [Neighbourhood Plan](#)

pp 9

9. The parish of Cumnor lies four miles to the west of Oxford and is made up of 4 wards – Dean Court, Cumnor Hill, Cumnor Village and Farmoor, and includes the smaller hamlets of **Chilswell**, Henwood, Filchampstead and Swinford. The parish is largely rural, with the more suburban area of Dean Court still retaining a strong sense of green space with its mature trees, wider streets and ample gardens adding to its unique identity.

pp34

## Policy DBC7: Important Views

**A. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies Important Views on the Policies Maps (page 63), table 5 and map 12 (below) as contributing to the essential rural character of the Parish.**

Ref No	Name	Location
1	Rough Copse	LCA4
2	Farmoor	LCA2
3	Reservoir Denman's Copse	LCA8
4	<b>Beacon Hill</b>	LCA4
5a & 5b	Red House Farm	LCA7
6a, 6b & 6c	St Michael's Church	LCA10
7	Long Leys Meadow	LCA9
8	Bradley Farm	LCA13
9	Western Edge of Hurst Hill	LCA13
10	Footpath at Cumnor Hill	LCA13
11	Hids & Shadwell Copses	LCA12
12a, 12b &12c	Cumnor Beacon	LCA14
13	Oxford Green Belt Way	LCA13
14a & 14b	<b>Chilswell Farm</b>	LCA14
15	Chawley Lane	LCA12
16	Denman's Farm	LCA8
17	Pinkhill Lock 1	LCA2
18	Pinkhill Lock 2	LCA2
19	Pinkhill Nature Reserve	LCA2
20a & 20b	Pinkhill Meadow and Buckthorn Meadow Nature Reserve &	LCA2

21	Farmoor Reservoir Thames side pasture nr Lower	LCA2
22	Whitley Farm Whitley Copse and Physic Well	LCA2
23	The Singing Way	LCA6
24	The Bird Hide, Denman's Lane	LCA8
25	Hurst Hill SE Corner	LCA13
26	Oxford Green Belt Way, Henwood Farm	LCA13
27	Chilswell Path, Powder Hill Copse	LCA14
28	Limekiln Copse	LCA14
29	Chilswell Farm Cottages	LCA14
30	Cumnor Hill Top	LCA13
31	Smith Hill Copse	LCA8

### [Landscape Character assessment](#)

pp4

1.3.2 The original Parish boundary was established to reflect the land ownership of four tithings. The four wards are Farmoor, Dean Court, Cumnor Hill and Cumnor Village. Approximately three quarters of the Parish is farmland. Farmoor Reservoir to the west of the Parish was built in 1967.

pp44 – Landscape Character Assessment Area 14 (LCA14)

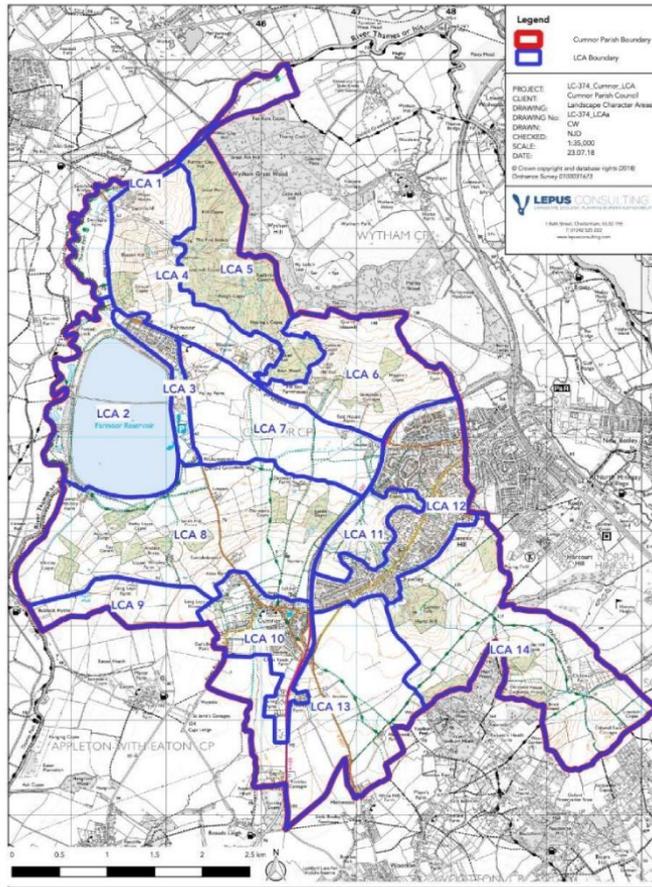
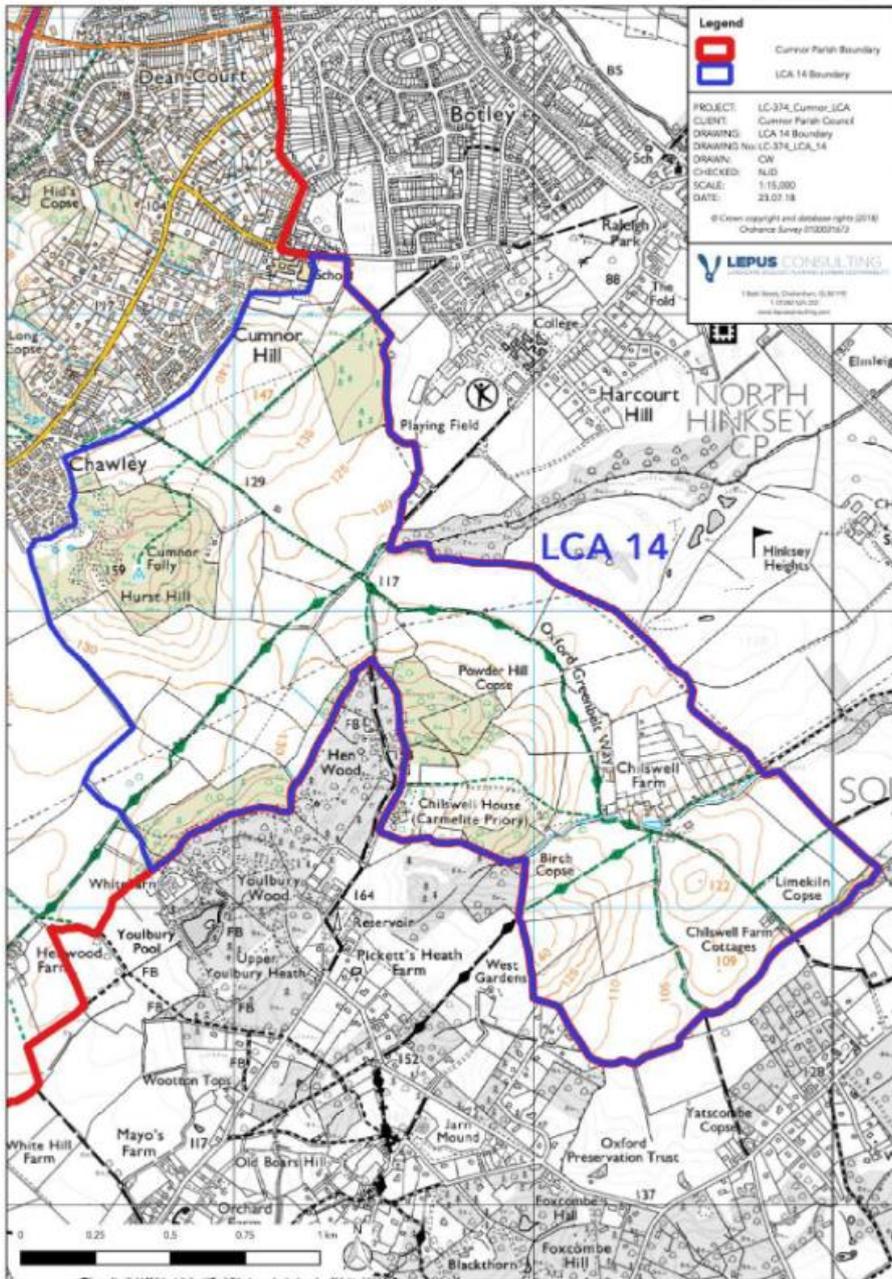


Figure 4.1: Map of LCAs identified within the Cumnor Parish boundary.

# 18 Hurst Hill and Chilswell Farm (LCA 14)



pp112 & 113

## 18.2 Designations and Policy

18.2.1 A section of the Oxford Green Belt Way passes through the LCA. There is a network of public bridleways that cross the LCA, primarily bordering the stands of

woodland. Public footpaths, known locally as 'Chilswell Paths' cross the LCA. There are four Grade II Listed Buildings, all at Chilswell Farm. Hurst Hill SSSI is within the LCA. Four stands of Ancient Woodland are completely or partially within the LCA. The LCA almost entirely covers Grade 3 ALC land.

18.3.4 Parts of larger stands of Ancient Woodland lie within the LCA, which includes:

- Hen Wood;
- Powder Hill Copse;
- Stone's Copse; and
- Birch Copse.



Wootton Parish Council  
c/o Clerk to the Parish  
32 Lamborough Hill  
Wootton, Abingdon  
OX13 6BZ

29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## VWHDC Community Governance Review (2022)

Response to Sunningwell's Proposal and to Wootton's proposal to change name.

Wootton Parish Council wishes to express its disagreement to the proposals made by Sunningwell Parish Council to change the Parish Boundary to adopt a significant part of Wootton Parish.

Currently the Parish centers around the Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre, the Boars Hill and Wootton Cricket Club, the Community Park, all of which are provided significant financial support by Wootton Parish Council in addition to the Bystander Public House and the Besselsleigh Rd shops. The removal of such a large area of the Parish would significantly affect the Parish's income from Precept and given that the loan on the Community Centre was taken with a remaining term of 50 years, the result would be an increase on the remaining population at a time when the cost of living is having a significant impact on residents already. All these facilities are available to and used by the residents of the areas which Sunningwell are requesting to adopt and no doubt, the residents will continue to use these facilities regardless of the Parish Boundary.

Despite the short timescale that was made available by the Vale of White Horse DC for the Parish to communicate the proposals and provide the Vale's link to the electorate (meaning that it was not viable to include this in the Community Magazine), there is a strong feeling among our residents that they are opposed to this change. We have received several emails which we would like to share with you.

Although different parts of the village, such as Old Wootton, Boars Hill, and the B4017 corridor, have their distinctive social and architectural characters, the village is a well-integrated community as is evidenced in the replies to the questionnaire sent out in preparing our Joint Neighbourhood Plan with St Helen Without (made December 2019). There was a strong feeling of belonging to a neighbourhood and a strong satisfaction with the area as a place to live. This sense of community has been enhanced by the lack of significant housing development in the parish since 1970, apart from the relatively small Deerhurst Park. While there will be some development over the next ten years - notably a new housing estate on the old industrial park - there will not be a substantial increase in population and little change to the village's existing character.

Wootton is a medium-sized rural parish with a diverse social, economic and, to a growing degree, ethnic profile, and the Wootton PC see no reason why its boundaries should be altered under the Community Governance Review. It also feels that the views of this diverse community are well represented on the current Parish Council which has a positive gender, age and work experience balance and has ambitions to enhance further the parish's pleasant and welcoming environment in the coming years.



Wootton Parish Council  
c/o Clerk to the Parish  
32 Lamborough Hill  
Wootton, Abingdon  
OX13 6BZ

Wootton Parish Council, however, would like to suggest a change of name to the Wootton and Boars Hill Parish Council. There are several reasons for this.

- 1) It would distinguish the Wootton/ Abingdon Council from the other Wootton Parish Council in Oxfordshire and the host of other Woottons in England (in Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, and so on).
- 2) It seems strange that when the original council was established in the late nineteenth century that the proposed name was not adopted, given that the parish was formed from two hamlets and Boars Hill was developing fast as place to live for affluent Oxford dons, such as Sir Arthur Evans.
- 3) It has been brought to our attention that some residents of Boars Hill feel that the Wootton Parish Council does not sufficiently reflect their interests. This situation could easily be addressed were candidates from Boars Hill to come forward to serve on the Parish Council.

The Parish Council recognizes that residents of Boars Hill have developed an understandable pride in maintaining the special visual aspect of their area and that some among them feel that the area's unique heritage is not fully appreciated by other sections of the village. Renaming the Parish Council would be one way of demonstrating that Boars Hill is a much-loved part of the village, whose artistic and intellectual history gives it an important place in the life of the county and the country, not just Wootton.

Renamed or not, the Parish Council looks forward to working closely with the Boars Hill Association to maintain the beauty and character of this special area. It hopes, too, that a member of the Association will be willing to come on the Council and help us continue our vision of turning the entire village into a community that would have warmed the heart of Matthew Arnold and all the other poets and writers forever associated with this unique part of our parish.

In summary, Wootton Parish Council do not want the boundary to be changed and we feel that given the Neighbourhood Plan has been made and covers the whole of our parish and that of St Helen Without PC it would be incredibly complicated to amend any boundary. However, we would like the Parish to be renamed to be more inclusive of all the areas of our Parish and to differentiate ourselves from other similarly named parishes.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Quigley  
Clerk to the Parish



## **Boars Hill Association - Parish Boundary Review**

### **Summary**

The Boars Hill Association has long felt that the community of Boars Hill would be better served if it was not, broadly, divided between two civil parishes. The BHA has taken the opportunity of the upcoming review of parish boundaries to invite the residents of the western part of Boars Hill to consider a transfer to Sunningwell parish.

Although, when visited, there was no reply from a number of households, nevertheless **208** voters out of **343** signed a petition calling for revised boundaries as detailed below. This represents **60.6%** of all voters. But, excluding those households who did not answer when called on, **66.0%** of registered voters were in favour.

### **Background**

The residents of Boars Hill form a very distinct community with a strong sense of identity. The Boars Hill Association (BHA) was founded in 1974 as a residents' association and its constitution states:

"The purpose of the Association shall be to engender a sense of identity and community among the residents of Boars Hill including the provision of a forum for the presentation of information, entertainment and exchange of views among the residents of Boars Hill and to provide a focal point for discussion, representation and action in respect of any issue of interest or concern to the community of Boars Hill in Oxfordshire"

Further information on the BHA constitution may be found on the BHA website:  
<https://boarshill.info/background-to-bha/>

For almost 50 years every household has received a free quarterly Newsletter, now in full colour, which is also distributed via email to nearly 300 residents on the BHA database. A pdf of the latest Newsletter may be seen here: <https://boarshill.info/latest-newsletter/>. The majority of households pay an annual subscription to the BHA and participate more fully in the activities organised by the BHA.

During the recent Covid-19 pandemic, the BHA established a support hub for the Boars Hill community which was officially recognised by the Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWH DC).

### **Proposed Boundary Change**

The Boars Hill boundaries have been laid down by the BHA since the 1970s as shown on the BHA map. See: <https://boarshill.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BHA-boundaries-10-final2.jpg>. See also Appendix 3 below. The boundaries are delineated to coincide with Land Registry cadastral parcels so as to avoid splitting residential holdings.

At the end of November 2021, the BHA became aware that a parish boundary review was to be undertaken by the VoWH DC. The BHA has held a very long standing view that Boars Hill would benefit from a community cohesion viewpoint if it were not divided largely between Sunningwell and Wootton parishes.

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The existing parish boundaries typically follow old agricultural field ditches and are mostly obsolete having been delineated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century at a time when there were hardly any houses on Boars Hill. Today there are numerous anomalies such as the division of residential gardens between different parishes and in one case, at least, the boundary runs through the middle of a dwelling house. In the case of Lincombe Lane, one branch belongs to Wootton parish but is completely cut off from the rest of the parish as it is necessary to travel through another branch of Lincombe Lane which belongs to Sunningwell parish in order to reach the rest of the parish.

The BHA notes that the Local Government Boundary Commission gives guidance on community governance reviews and in particular notes that this provides for public petitions to trigger such reviews. The guidance stresses the importance of community cohesion and that the views of local communities and inhabitants are of central importance.

Para 39 states:

“In recent years, the Government has been keen to encourage more community engagement. The 2006 White Paper confirmed this development further stressing the intention to build on the existing parish structure improving capacity to deliver better services, and to represent the community’s interests.”

Whilst Para 40 states:

“Under the 2007 Act, local electors throughout England can petition their principal council for a community governance review to be undertaken. The petition must set out at least one recommendation that the petitioners want the review to consider making. These recommendations can be about a variety of matters including *inter alia*:

- the alteration of boundaries of existing parishes
- a strong, inclusive community
- reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area;
- the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion;

Para 50 states:

“... it is desirable that a parish should reflect a distinctive and recognisable community of place, with its own sense of identity. **The views of local communities and inhabitants are of central importance.**”

Accordingly in early December 2021 the officers of the BHA drafted an explanatory leaflet incorporating a map and petition which was discussed, amended and then approved by the full committee of the BHA. This was subsequently distributed to all households in the western part of Boars Hill which currently belong to Wootton parish. The BHA necessarily had to summarise the key arguments in favour of the recommended change and it is not for us to consider and raise all the possible factors which might be debated on either side in a leaflet advocating community cohesion on Boars Hill. As a courtesy, a copy of the circular was sent to both the Sunningwell and Wootton parish clerks. The circular gives further explanation for the changes sought and a copy is shown as Appendix 1 below.

The BHA feels that the predominantly semi-rural community of Boars Hill has far more in common with Sunningwell parish, which is essentially rural in nature and to which the eastern part of Boars Hill already belongs, rather than the larger parish of Wootton. Wootton parish has a population which is about three times the size of Sunningwell and, after the proposed boundary change, would still remain substantially larger even without counting the various housing developments currently proposed in Wootton.

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The BHA has also been aware for some years that Wootton PC appears very focussed on the affairs of Wootton and, by contrast, appears very disinterested in the concerns of Boars Hill residents who live in the Wootton part of the Hill. This has been apparent not only to members of the BHA committee, but also to many residents when they have attended meetings to raise matters of great concern to Boars Hill. By contrast Boars Hill residents have noted various projects implemented by Sunningwell PC which have benefitted Boars Hill.

The circular was distributed to the Wootton part of Boars Hill by BHA volunteers and after a few days volunteers started to call on dwellings in the affected area. However they were somewhat hampered by the Christmas and New Year holiday period, when more people were away than usual, and, it is thought, by some residents still shielding from Covid-19.

Nevertheless 208 voters out of 343 have signed a petition calling for revised boundaries as detailed below. This represents 60.6% of all registered voters. But, excluding those households who did not answer when called on, 66.0% of registered voters were in favour (see separate spread sheet). In addition, a further 21 adult residents who are not on the current electoral roll also signed.

We attach as Appendix 4 a map showing the location and number of petition forms signed for each house. The votes in favour of a change are well distributed throughout the area. The BHA would like to thank VoWH Democratic Services Dept. for kindly providing a sanitised list of voter numbers for the western part of Boars Hill.

### **Cumnor Parish**

As an additional matter, there are a few properties in the extreme eastern part of Cumnor parish on Boars Hill, about a dozen in total, which merited consultation at the same time.

The residents living in the extreme eastern salient of Cumnor parish are presently completely cut off from direct road access with the rest of Cumnor parish. The existing parish boundary actually dissects two of the properties whilst another four are directly adjacent to the parish boundary. All the properties concerned form a part of the community of Boars Hill and represent just a half of one percent of Cumnor parish which has a total population about six times that of Sunningwell parish.

A similar circular with a map and petition has resulted in 25 (c 83%) out of about 30 residents being in favour of the boundary change as set out. As a courtesy, a copy of the circular was sent to the Cumnor parish clerk and is reproduced as Appendix 2 below.

### **Our Request**

A schedule of houses showing the names of those who have signed is attached in the separate Excel spread sheet. The original petition forms are available for inspection upon request.

In light of all the above, the Boars Hill Association hereby requests that the clear wishes of the residents of Wootton parish who live in the western part of Boars Hill and those of the extreme east of Cumnor parish as expressed in the attached petitions be accepted and implemented as provided for in the legislation so that the whole of the community of Boars Hill falls within one parish.

*Kate O'Donovan*

Chair, for the BHA.

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## Boars Hill Association - Parish Boundary Review

The District Council is currently reviewing local government parish boundaries.

The community of Boars Hill is presently divided into two halves: the western part falls under Wootton parish and the eastern part is in Sunningwell parish. Many residents feel that Boars Hill is a single clearly defined community and that it should be wholly in one parish. The boundary review presents an opportunity to request that the western part of Boars Hill should be merged with Sunningwell parish. Boars Hill would then be united providing greater community cohesion and be better able to address matters of common interest. The revised boundary would be based on official land registry records so that properties would not be split.

There is also dissatisfaction among many Boars Hill Wootton parish residents with Wootton Parish Council's apparent lack of concern in Boars Hill interests, particularly in the last few years when there has been a clear disregard of Boars Hill residents' views during some council meetings.

Wootton is a large parish with about three times the population of Sunningwell parish. Even after such a boundary change Wootton would still be substantially larger than Sunningwell and due to grow even bigger with proposed development. Sunningwell parish would welcome the addition of the western part of Boars Hill.

The very long standing BHA boundaries, upon which these civil parish changes are based, would not alter ecclesiastical boundaries therefore church membership would not be affected.

The map overleaf demonstrates the proposed new arrangements. If you have any questions please do email us: [bha@boarshill.info](mailto:bha@boarshill.info)

The district council will not make changes against the wishes of the residents concerned but, equally, they will take note if most would like a change. A decision to change, or not, is entirely in your hands. That change is what this petition calls for.

If you agree and would like to have the parish boundaries amended along the lines suggested please enter your full name and address and then sign where shown. One form may be used for all voters resident at your address and all who are in favour should sign the form. If you need more space please email us or photocopy the form. Please note that only registered adult voters may sign this petition. We will collect your form in the next week or two. You may also drop it in to our BHA Secretary: Nigel Jones, Whitsun Meadows, Berkeley Road.

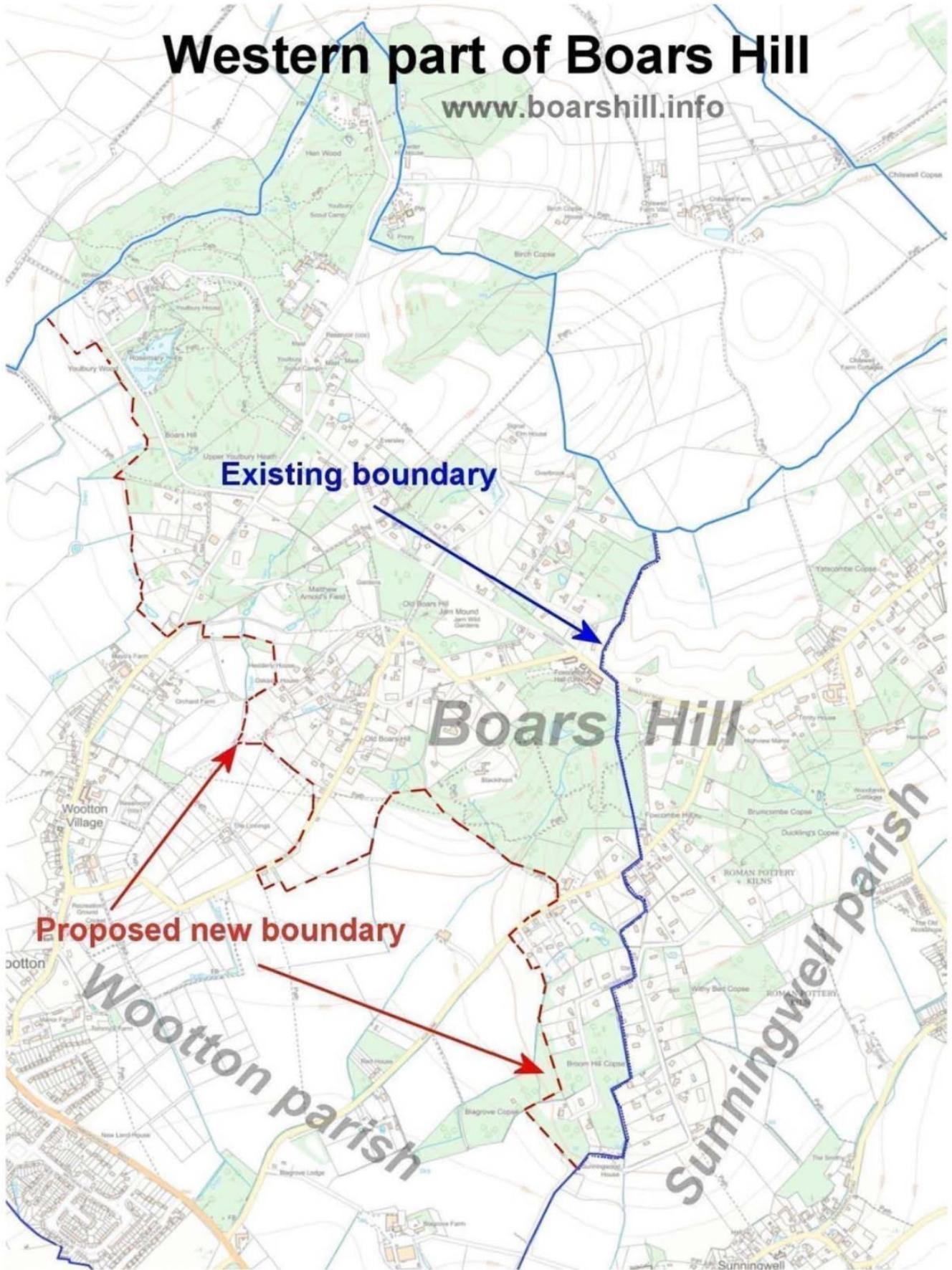
Thank you for your attention. - Kate O'Donovan, Chairman, on behalf of the BHA.

I / we the undersigned hereby request that the western part of Boars Hill be transferred to Sunningwell parish as set out above and overleaf.

Full name	Address	Signature

# Western part of Boars Hill

[www.boarshill.info](http://www.boarshill.info)



The proposed new boundaries coincide with Land Registry cadastral parcels.



## Boars Hill Association - Parish Boundary Review

The District Council is currently undertaking a 10 yearly review of local parish boundaries.

The community of Boars Hill is broadly divided into two halves; the western part falls under Wootton parish and the eastern part is in Sunningwell parish. The BHA, as well as many residents, have long felt that Boars Hill is a single clearly defined community and that it should be wholly in one civil parish. The boundary review presents an opportunity to request that the western part of Boars Hill should be merged with Sunningwell parish. Boars Hill would then be largely united providing greater community cohesion and be better able to address matters of common interest. Where possible the revised boundary would be based on official land registry records so that residential properties would not be split.

The BHA, has been consulting in the Wootton part of Boars Hill where more than half of the residents have already supported joining Sunningwell parish.

There are about a dozen households, like yours, in the extreme east of Cumnor parish which are wholly cut off from direct access with the rest of Cumnor. These residents are close to and form a more natural part of the Boars Hill community. We hope very much you will take this opportunity to join the rest of us to create a single parish on Boars Hill. Sunningwell parish has indicated it would welcome the inclusion of residences from all parts of Boars Hill.

The map overleaf demonstrates the proposed new arrangements. If you have any questions please do email us: [bha@boarshill.info](mailto:bha@boarshill.info)

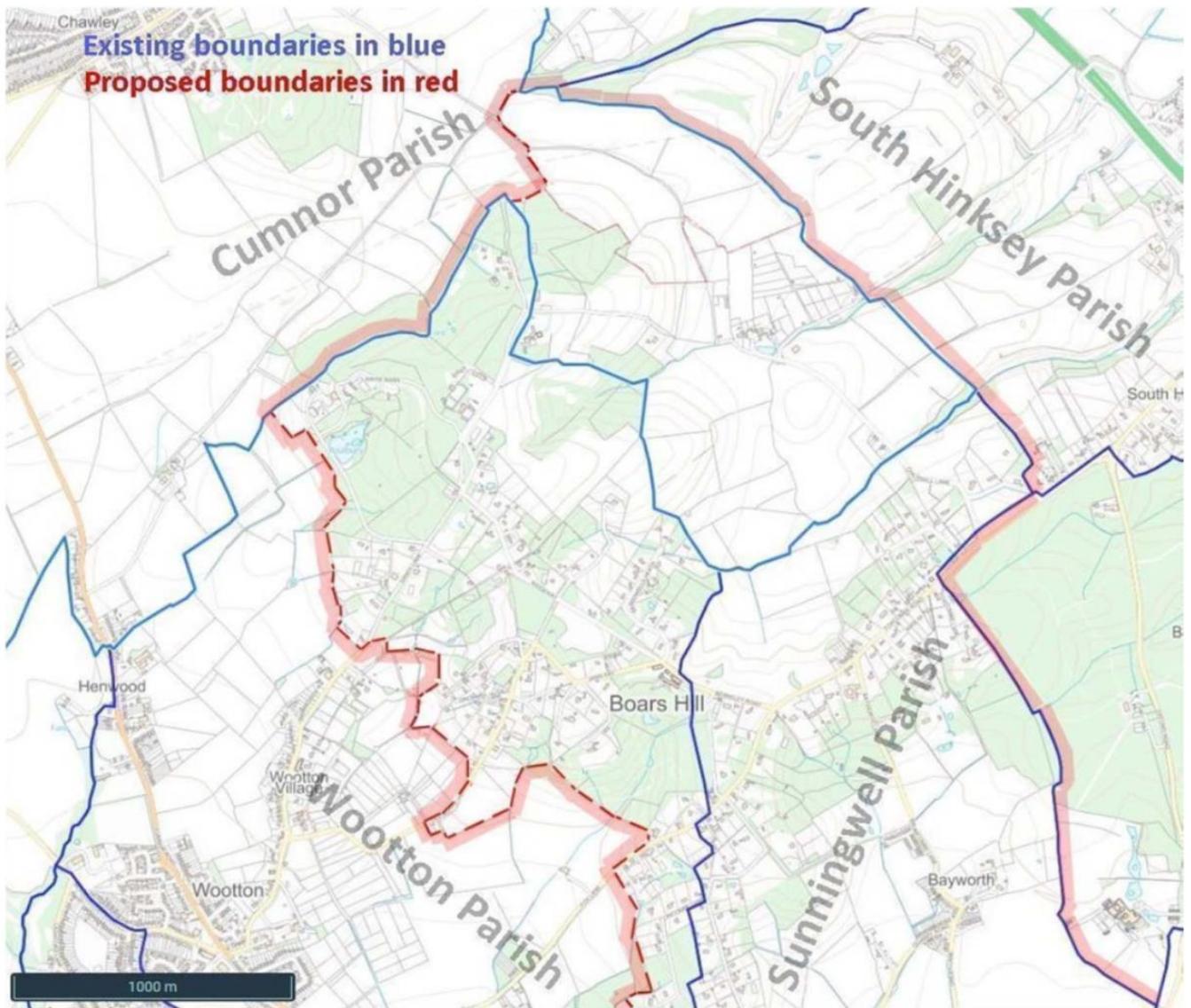
The district council will not make changes against the wishes of the residents concerned but, equally, they will take note if most would like a change. The decision to request a change, or not, is entirely in your hands – the residents of eastern Cumnor. That change is what this petition calls for.

If you agree and would like to have the parish boundaries amended along the lines suggested please enter your full name and address and then sign where shown. One form may be used for all voters resident at your address and all who are in favour should sign the form. If you need more space please email us or photocopy the form. Please note that only registered adult voters may sign this petition. We will collect your form in the next few days or you may drop it in to our BHA Secretary: Nigel Jones, Whitsun Meadows, Berkeley Road, OX1 5ET.

Thank you for your attention. - Kate O'Donovan, Chairman, on behalf of the BHA.

I / we the undersigned hereby request that the eastern part of Cumnor parish be transferred to Sunningwell parish as set out above and overleaf.

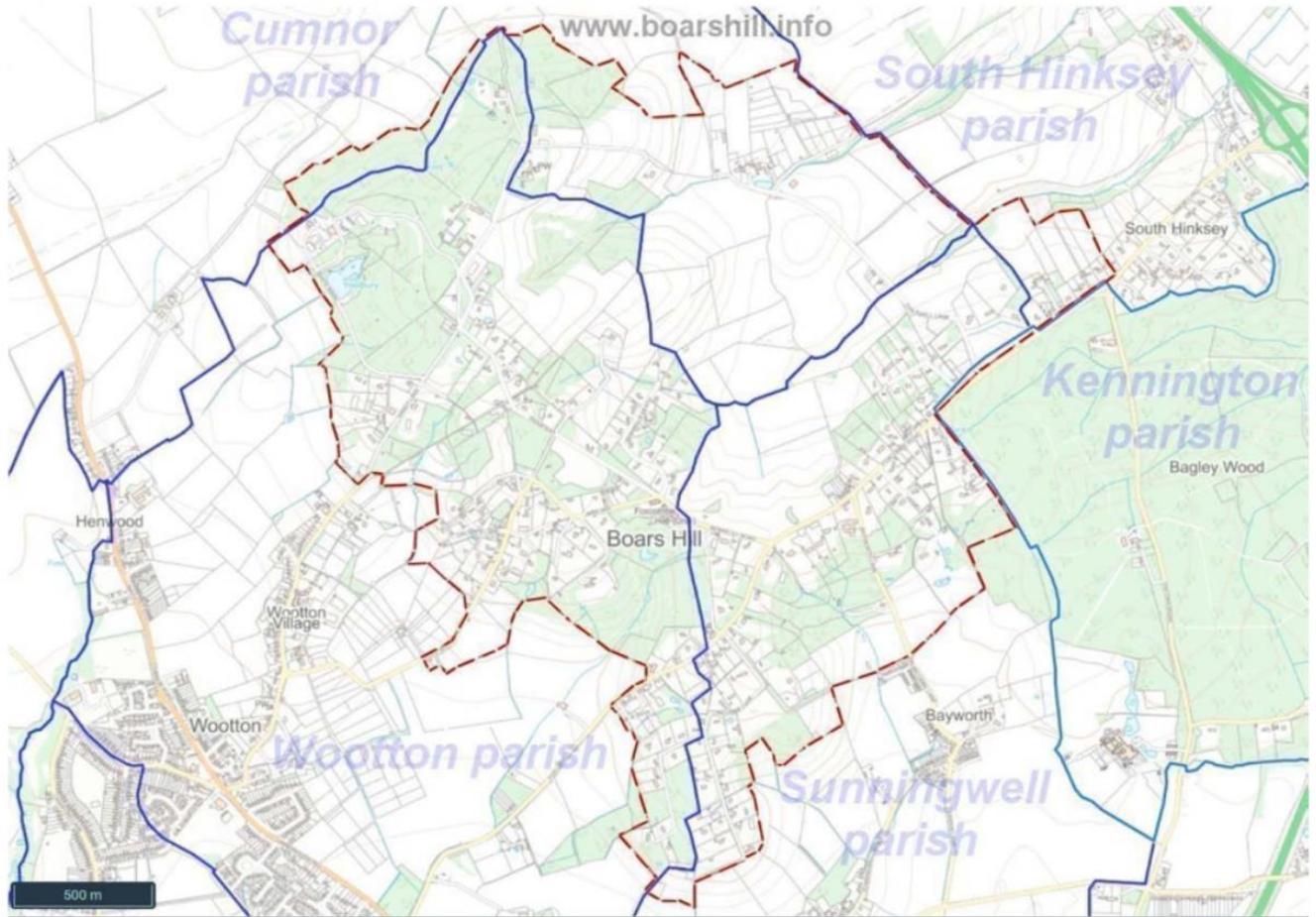
Full name	Address	Signature



The proposed new boundaries coincide with Land Registry cadastral parcels.

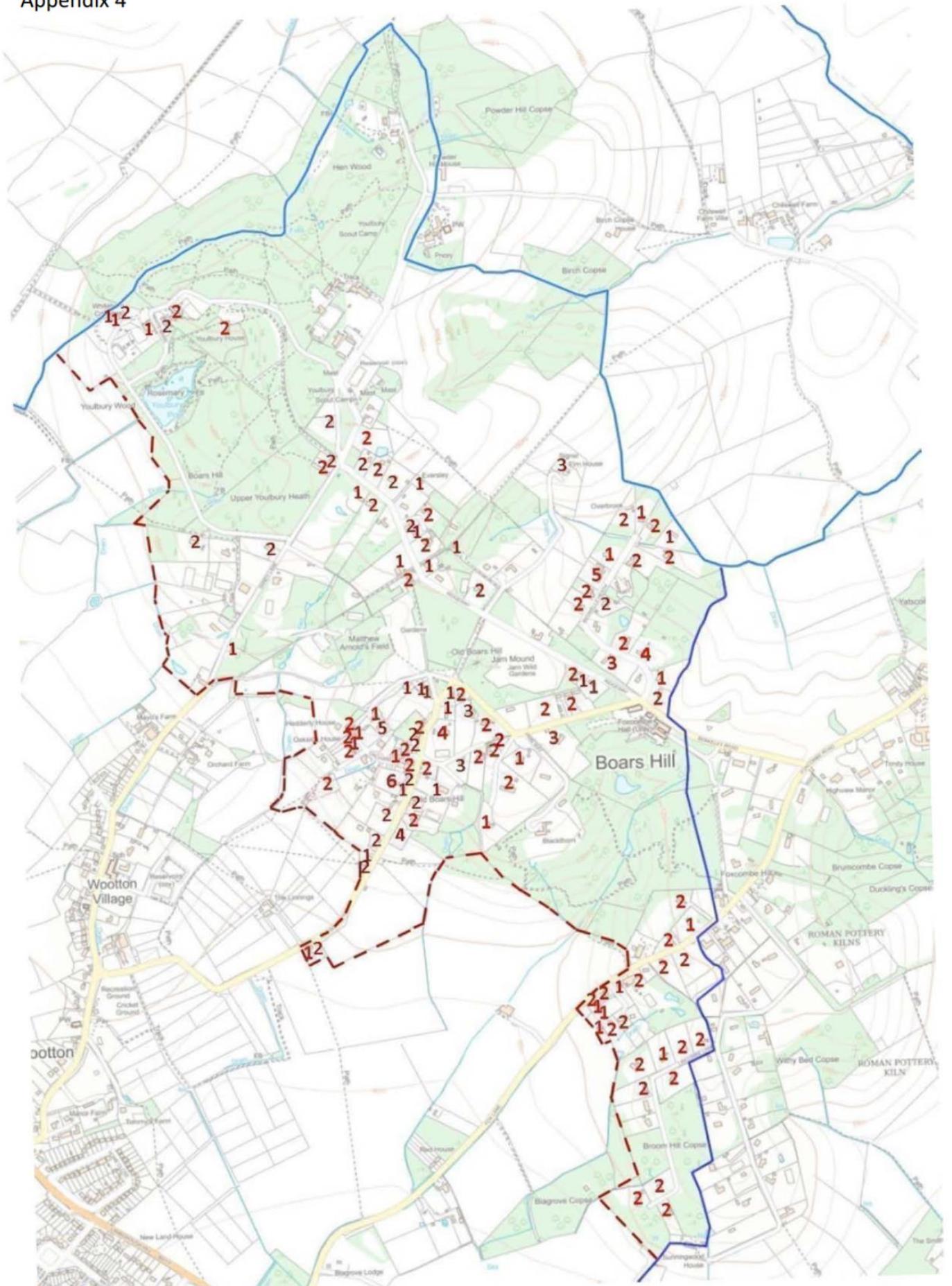
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Appendix 3



BHA boundaries for Boars Hill

Appendix 4



Location and number of petition signatories