

## Further clarification: electoral division boundaries in the Amesbury area of Wiltshire

This paper has been sent to:

- Wiltshire County Council
- Salisbury District Council
- Amesbury Town Council
- Local MPs and MEPs
- Local political groups
- Any local residents who have made submissions to us with respect to the Amesbury area

Copies of this paper can also be downloaded from our website at [www.boundarycommittee.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk)

### What is the Boundary Committee for England?

The Boundary Committee for England is a committee of the Electoral Commission, an independent body set up by the UK Parliament. Its main role is to conduct electoral reviews of local authorities in England with the aim of ensuring the number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same. Other duties include reviewing local authority boundaries and advising the Government on local authority bids for unitary status.

### Background

#### Electoral review in Wiltshire

The Boundary Committee for England is currently conducting an electoral review of the new Wiltshire unitary authority. The review began on 26 February 2008 with the changes to electoral divisions intended to be implemented in time for elections in May 2009. The first consultation stage ended on 21 April 2008 and the Boundary Committee published its Draft Recommendations on 1 June 2008. In response the Committee received approximately 110 representations during the second stage of consultation, which finished on 25 August 2008.

The representations referred to in this paper, together with the Boundary Committee's draft recommendations are available for viewing on our website at

[www.boundarycommittee.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk). A leaflet is enclosed explaining what we have to consider when making our recommendations.

## Areas on which we would like views

In response to the Committee's draft recommendations, we received substantial objections, supported by good evidence to the proposed boundaries of Amesbury East and Amesbury West. These objections were based on a clarification of the Stage One submission of Amesbury Town Council and Wiltshire County Council.

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Having considered these objections, the Committee is minded to support a modification to the Amesbury divisions in its final recommendations. The clarification provided by the Town and County Council during the second round of consultation would involve a significant modification to the Committee's draft recommendations. As this has not been formally consulted upon and to help us put forward the most appropriate recommendations for this area, the Committee would like to hear views from local stakeholders on the proposals for Amesbury East and Amesbury West divisions. Please tell us your views, taking care to explain your reasons.

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## Mapping

Please find attached a map of the Committee's proposed final recommendations for the Amesbury area as Appendix A.

## Electorate numbers for the proposed Amesbury divisions

	Constituent parts	2007 electorate	Electoral variance (%)	2012 electorate projection	Electoral variance (%)
Amesbury East	Polling district AE	3,290	-7	3,631	-2
Amesbury West	Polling districts AD & BR	3,711	5	4,096	11

## Town Council arrangements

A consequence of both proposals would be a change in the electoral arrangements of Amesbury Town Council. Under Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 we are obliged, in as far as is practicable, to create parish wards if a parish lies in more than one division. Under either proposal three parish wards would be created within Amesbury and would follow the boundaries of the relevant divisions within Amesbury.

## Making a representation

Please send submissions to the Boundary Committee for England by **24 October 2008**. We are unable to consider responses received after this date. Tell us clearly:

- Which area you are writing about
- Which option you prefer
- Why this option is better than the other options

Please feel free to refer to evidence you may already have provided to us. However, additional evidence and further comments would strengthen the case for your chosen option. We welcome responses in writing by post, email or fax. Please send your response to the questions raised in this consultation to:

**Please send your views and any additional information to:**

The Review Manager  
Wiltshire Electoral Review  
The Electoral Commission  
Trevelyan House  
30 Great Peter Street  
London SW1P 2HW

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