

Agenda Item No: 4

Report To: Council Council

Date: 8 September 2016

Report Title: Review of Ward Boundaries for Ashford Borough Council

Report Author: Terry Mortimer, Corporate Director, Law and Governance



Summary: The report sets out proposed ward boundaries for Ashford Borough Council for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). The proposed ward boundaries have been developed by the Electoral Review Task Group in response to a public consultation by the LGBCE inviting local people and organisations to suggest a new pattern of wards for Ashford Borough Council.

Key Decision: No.

Affected Wards: All.

Recommendations: **The Council be asked to:- agree the proposed ward boundaries as recommended by the Electoral Review Task Group, for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.**

Policy Overview: As part of an Electoral Review of Ashford Borough Council, the LGBCE is conducting a public consultation and inviting local people and organisations, including the Council, to submit proposals for a new pattern of wards. The new pattern of wards will come into affect at the next local elections in 2019.

Financial Implications: The Electoral Review is conducted by the LGBCE and therefore the cost of officer resources in facilitating the different stages of the review can be met through existing resources.

Contacts: charlotte.hammersley@ashford.gov.uk – Tel: (01233 330878)

Report Title: Review of Ward Boundaries for Ashford Borough Council

Purpose of the Report

1. To agree the proposed pattern of wards as recommended by the Electoral Review Task Group, for submission to the LGBCE as part of the Electoral Review of Ashford Borough Council.

Background

2. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is conducting an Electoral Review of Ashford Borough Council. An Electoral Review considers the number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of wards and the number of councillors to be elected to each. The review has been initiated by the LGBCE to improve electoral equality within the borough ensuring that the ratio of electors to councillors in each ward is broadly the same.

Stages of the review

3. The first stage of the review was to establish the number of councillors (council size) that should represent Ashford Borough Council from the next local elections in May 2019. Following a submission made by the council for a proposed council size of 47 and a public consultation on this number, the LGBCE announced on 28 June 2016 it was minded to recommend there should be 47 councillors from May 2019.
4. The second stage of the review is to create a new pattern of wards to reflect the future council size. To initiate this process, the LGBCE is conducting a public consultation inviting local people and organisations, including the Council, to submit proposals for a new pattern of wards.
5. Following the consultation, the LGBCE will create a draft pattern of wards which will be subject to a further public consultation between 8 November and 9 January before any final recommendations are made.

LGBCE criteria for developing a pattern of wards

6. The LGBCE adhere to statutory criteria in developing a pattern of wards. The main piece of legislation which applies is the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. Schedule 2 to the Act sets out the criteria to which the LGBCE are required to have regard in conducting the review. The main rules are:
 - Delivering electoral equality for local voters – ensuring that each local councillor represents roughly the same number of people.

For Ashford Borough Council, this means each councillor should represent approximately 2125 electors in 2022 based on 47 councillors.

- Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities – establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, maintain local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.
- Promoting effective and convenient local government – ensuring that new wards can be represented by their elected representative(s) and allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.¹

Proposed wards

7. Details of proposed pattern of wards, developed and supported by the council's Electoral Review Task Group, are set out at Appendix A of this report. Maps showing the proposed wards are attached to this report and hard copies of the maps will be on display at the meeting.

The proposed submission reflects the Boundary Commission's recommendation for 47 councillors for Ashford Borough Council from the next local elections in May 2019. All proposed wards meet the criterion of electoral equality whereby each councillor will represent 2125 electors within a range of 10 per cent either side.

There are 39 proposed wards of which, eight are double Member wards and 31 are single Member wards. The submission also gives details of proposed names for each of the wards.

Consultation

8. The Council is itself a consultee and responding to the LGBCE's request for proposals for a pattern of wards to be made.

The Electoral Review Task Group held a consultation with all Members between 28 July and 12 August to gain their views on the proposed pattern of wards and to ensure the criterion of local community interests and identities was met. Suggestions made by Members have been incorporated into the final draft proposals where they meet the LGBCE's statutory criteria.

Conclusion

9. Submitting a proposal in response to the LGBCE's consultation, will assist the LGBCE in its work to develop a pattern of wards for Ashford Borough Council and ensure the council's views are included in the review process.
10. The LGBCE will publish their draft recommendations for a new pattern of wards on 8 November 2016. They will hold a further public consultation on their draft recommendations between 8 November 2016 and 9 January 2017.

¹ The Local Government Boundary Commission for England, [How to propose a pattern of wards](#), p5.

Final recommendations will be made on 14 March 2017. The new wards will be implemented at the next local elections in 2019.

Contact: Charlotte Hammersley

Email: charlotte.hammersley@ashford.gov.uk

Review of ward boundaries

Summary of proposed wards

No	Ward name	No of Cllrs	Electorate	% variance	Commentary
1	Conningbrook and Little Burton Farm	1	1974	-7%	Follows the Community Governance Review boundary for North Willesborough joining the Conningbrook development with the Little Burton Farm development.
2	Saxon Shore	1	2162	+2%	Existing Saxon Shore Ward split into two single Member wards along the parish boundary line between Smeeth and Aldington.
3	Bircholt	1	2169	+2%	As above.
4	Downs West	1	2105	-1%	New ward consisting of Westwell, Challock, Eastwell and Boughton Aluph minus Goat Lees. The ward reflects the Community Governance Review boundary which follows Sandyhurst Lane.

5	Stour Valley	1	2072	-2%	Incorporate the Community Governance Review boundary between Little Chart and Charing along the M20. The Ward is made up of Pluckley, Little Chart and Hothfield parishes with the inclusion of Charing Heath.
6	Singleton West	1	2015	-5%	New ward covering Singleton North area.
7	Mersham, Sevington South with Finberry	1	2203	+4%	New ward consisting of Mersham, Sevington South, the new Finberry development. The ward boundary reflects the Community Governance Review boundary change which follows the A2070.
8	Rolvenden and Tenterden West	1	2158	+2%	Existing Rolvenden and Tenterden West but with a boundary change along Smallhythe Road.

9	Trinity	1	1915	-10%	New ward covering the Goat Lees area. In response to the Member consultation Sherwood Close and the properties on the north side of Grosvenor Road were moved into Kennington Ward to better reflect community identity.
10	Bockhanger	1	2129	0%	New ward covering the Bockhanger area.
11	Highfield	1	1972	-7%	Highfield Estate including Kingfisher Close, Boys Hall Road and Ashford Business Park. The boundaries follow Hythe Road, Bad Munstereifel Road and the train line. In response to the Member consultation Church Road, Millstream Green and Twelve Acres have been included into this ward to better reflect the community identity.
12	Aylesford Green and Swan	2	4590	+8%	New ward comprising Newtown, Adams Drive, Bentley Road, South Willesborough, the Boulevard and Monument Way.

13	Repton	2	4044	-5%	New ward comprising Repton Park, Orchard Heights and Campion Close.
14	Godinton	1	1934	-9%	New ward comprising Godinton Park Estate.
15	Kingsnorth Village and Bridgefield	1	2225	+5%	New ward consisting of Kingsnorth Village and Stubbs Cross. The new ward incorporates Bridgefield. The new Local Plan which is out for consultation puts forward proposals for a large part of rural Kingsnorth to become residential. The suggested boundary change would allow for Bridgefield to become a ward in its own right in the future.
16	Weald Central	2	4294	1%	New ward consisting of High Halden, Bethersden, proposed Chilmington Green Parish Ward and Great Chart Village.

17	Roman	1	2225	+5%	New ward comprising West Hawk Farm, Britannia Lane and Coulter Road. Following the Member consultation The Limes has been moved into this Ward to improve electorate equality.
18	Singleton East	1	2107	-1%	Existing ward with the exclusion of Running Foxes Lane and Greenfields Lane.
19	Washford	1	2160	+2%	New ward comprising Washford Farm Road, Langney Drive and John Wesley Primary School, Running Foxes Lane and Greenfields Lane.
20	Weald North	1	1998	-6%	Existing Weald North Ward except for minor amendment to reflect the Community Governance Review. This change affects 3 properties.
21	Weald South	2	4288	+1%	Existing Weald South with polling district WS5 removed (Stubbs Cross).
22	Wye with Hinxhill	1	1976	-7%	Existing Wye with Hinxhill Ward unchanged.

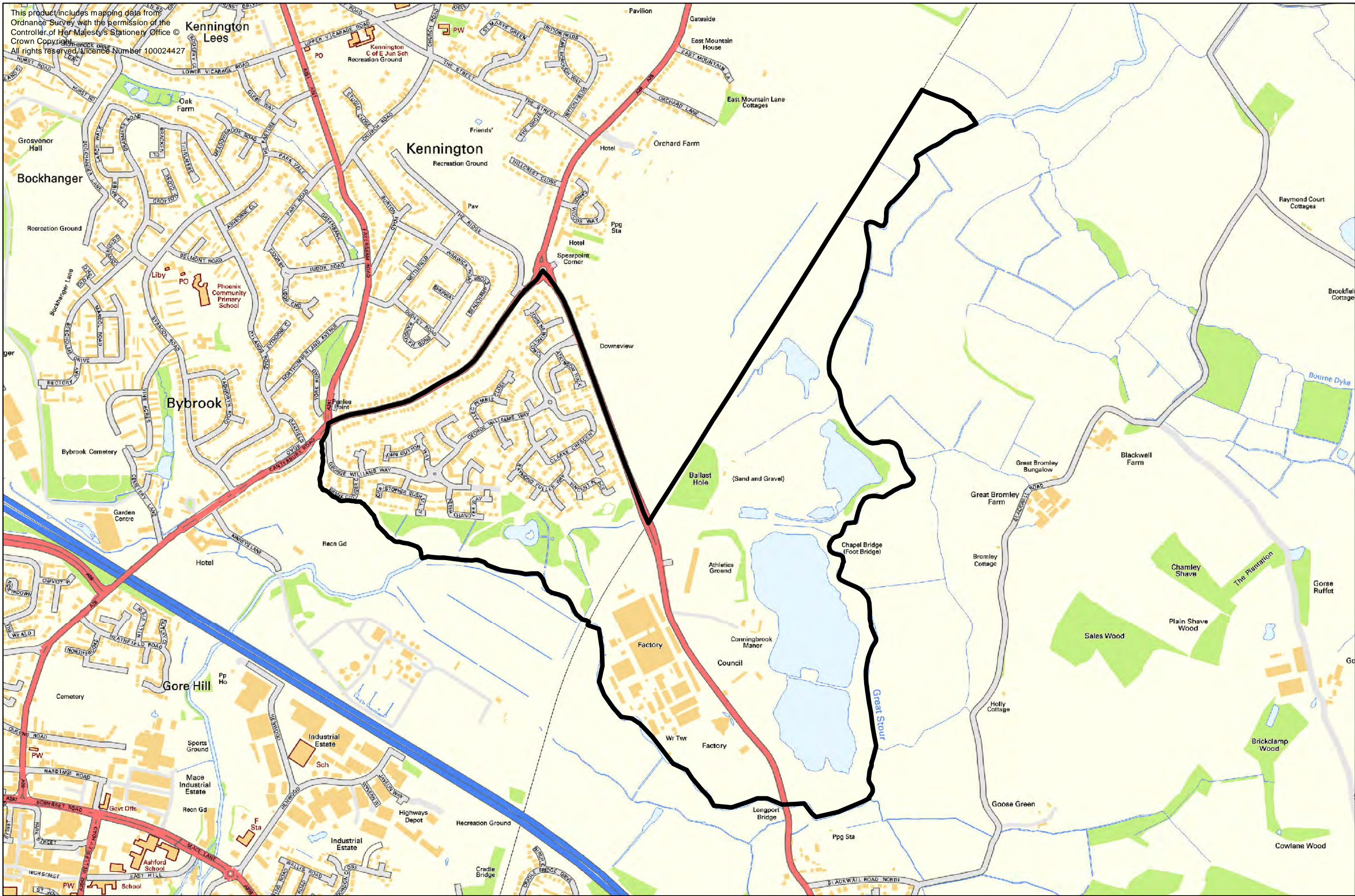
23	Beaver	2	4669	+10%	Existing Beaver Ward except boundary change to reflect the Community Governance Review along Knoll Lane and the removal of Arlington and Boxley. Farrow Court is included in this Ward.
24	Biddenden	1	2204	4%	Existing Biddenden Ward. The existing boundary has been moved to run along the High Halden Road so that the Woodlands Caravan Park falls within one ward.
25	Charing	1	2229	+5%	Existing Charing Ward but with boundary change along the M20 to reflect the Community Governance Review changes.
26	Downs North	1	2099	-1%	Existing Downs North Ward unchanged.
27	Isle of Oxney	1	2207	+4%	Existing Isle of Oxney boundary retained.

28	Kennington	1	2086	-2%	<p>Existing ward with the inclusion of Oak Farm because access is off Lower Vicarage Road. This affects one property only.</p> <p>Following the Member consultation Sherwood Close and the properties on the north side of Grosvenor Road have been moved into this Ward to better reflect community identity.</p>
29	Norman	1	2140	+1%	Existing Norman Ward reflecting the Community Governance Review change along Badmunsteriefel.
30	North Willesborough	2	4444	+5%	New ward including the Community Governance Review boundary along Willesborough Road. The ward includes Willesborough Lees, Hythe Road, Breadlands Road, Summer Leeze.
31	Park Farm South	1	1949	-8%	Existing Park Farm South with the exclusion of Acorn Close and part of Wood Lane and with the inclusion of Finn Farm and Finn Farm Court.

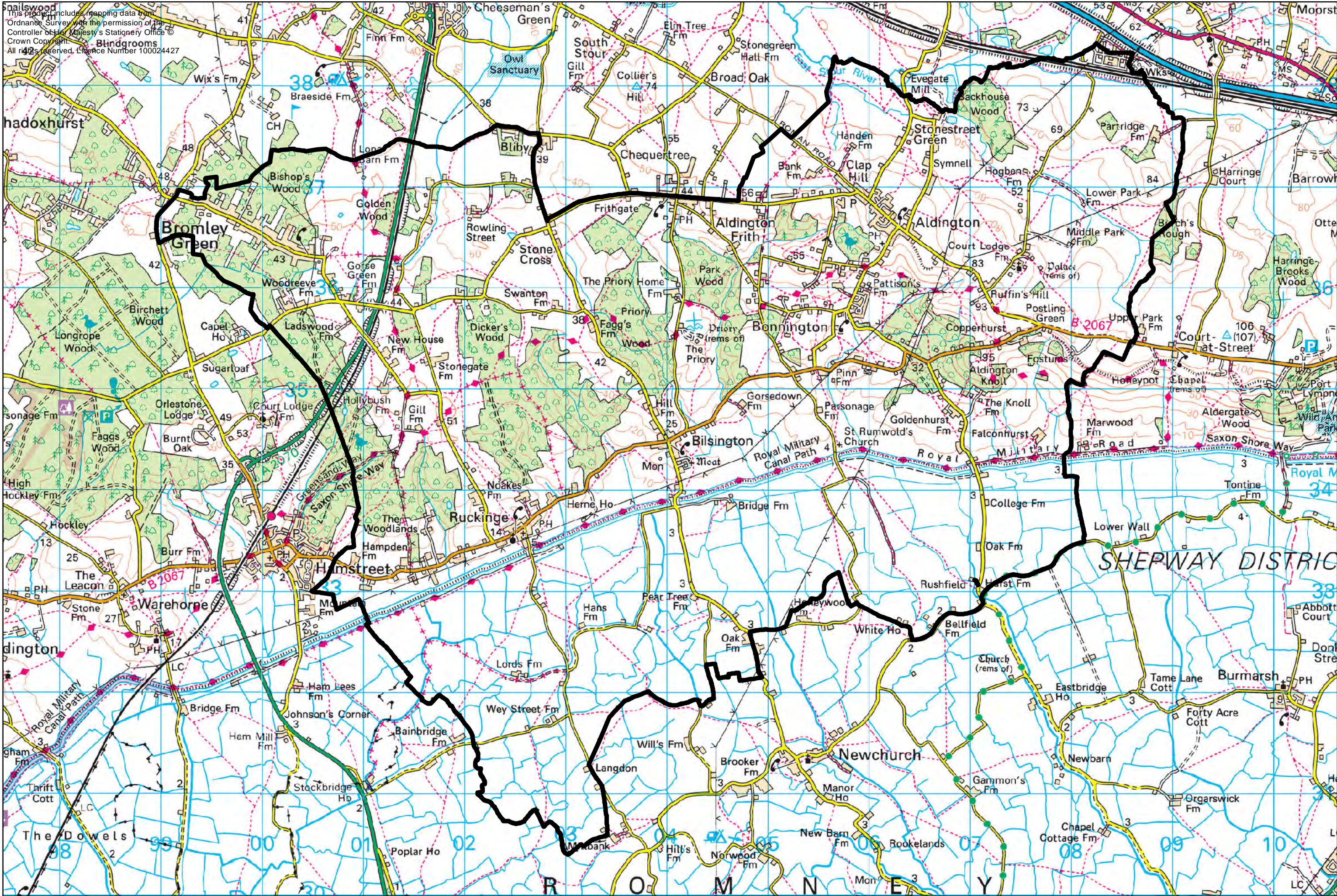
32	Park Farm North	1	1926	-9%	Existing Park Farm North Ward with the exclusion of Britannia Lane, and West Hawk Farm and the inclusion of Acorn Close and part of Wood Lane.
33	Tenterden St Michael's	1	2019	-5%	Formerly St Michael's Ward. Boundary retained except for the addition of Colonel Stephen's Way.
34	Stanhope	1	2324	+9%	Existing Stanhope Ward with the exclusion of The Limes.
35	Elizabeth	2	4623	+9%	Existing ward with amendment to boundary to include Sussex and Kent Avenue, Highworth School, Warren Lodge Nursing Home and Chamberlain Manor.
36	Tenterden North	1	1927	-9%	Existing Tenterden North ward with inclusion of Beacon Oak Road, Eastgate Road, Craythorne and part of Woodchurch Road. Colonel Stephen's Way has been removed from the existing ward as its only access is from a neighbouring ward.

37	Tenterden South	1	1964	-8%	Existing Tenterden South ward with boundary change along Smallhythe Road. Beacon Oak Road, Eastgate Road, Craythorne and part of Woodchurch Road have been removed from existing ward to reflect councillor comments.
38	Victoria	2	4276	+1%	Existing Victoria Ward with the inclusion of Godinton Road, Kings Avenue and Barrow Hill and the exclusion of Kent and Sussex Avenue and Arlington Boxley.
39	Bybrook	1	2064	-3%	New ward covering the Bybrook area.

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427

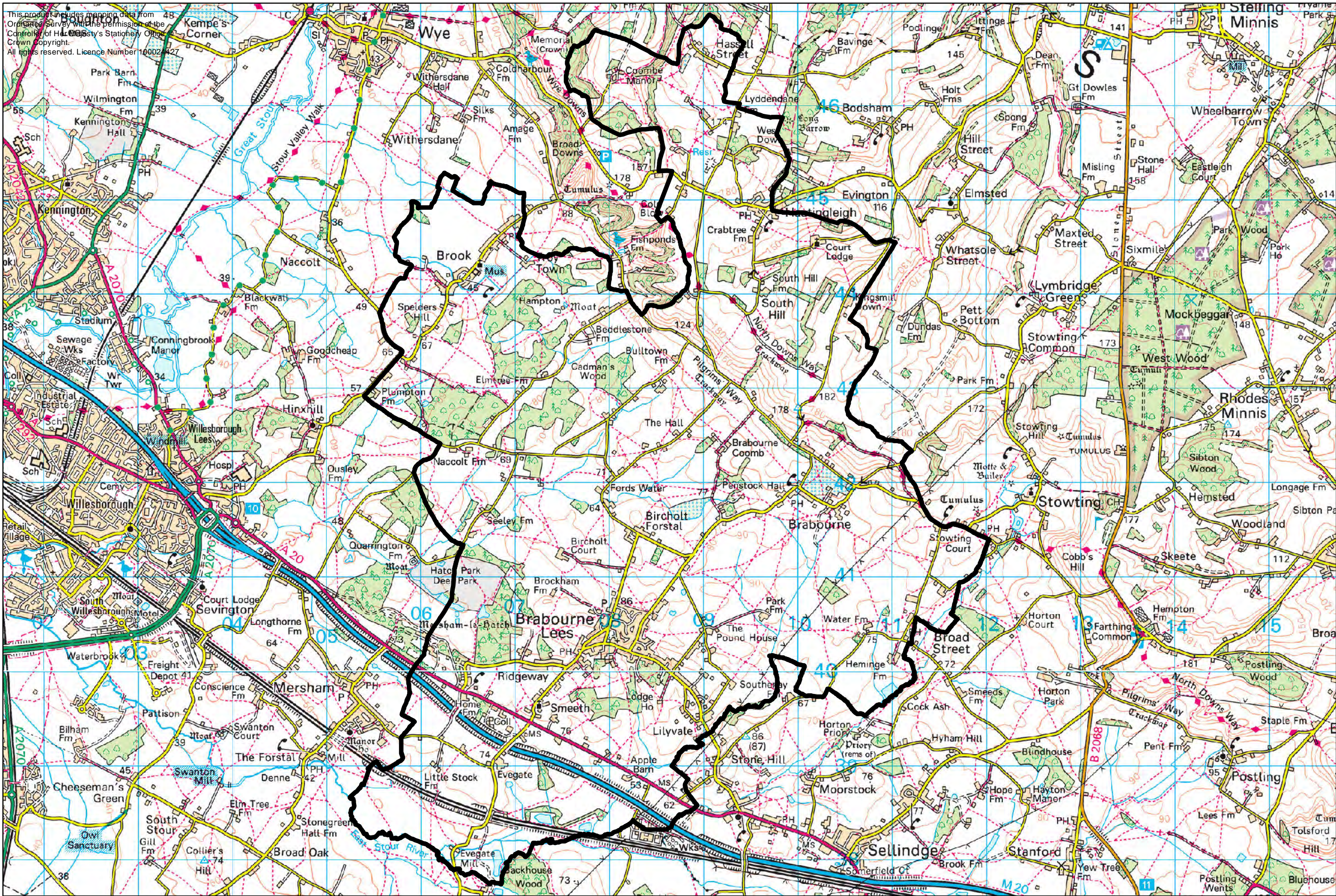


Ward Boundary Review - Ward 1

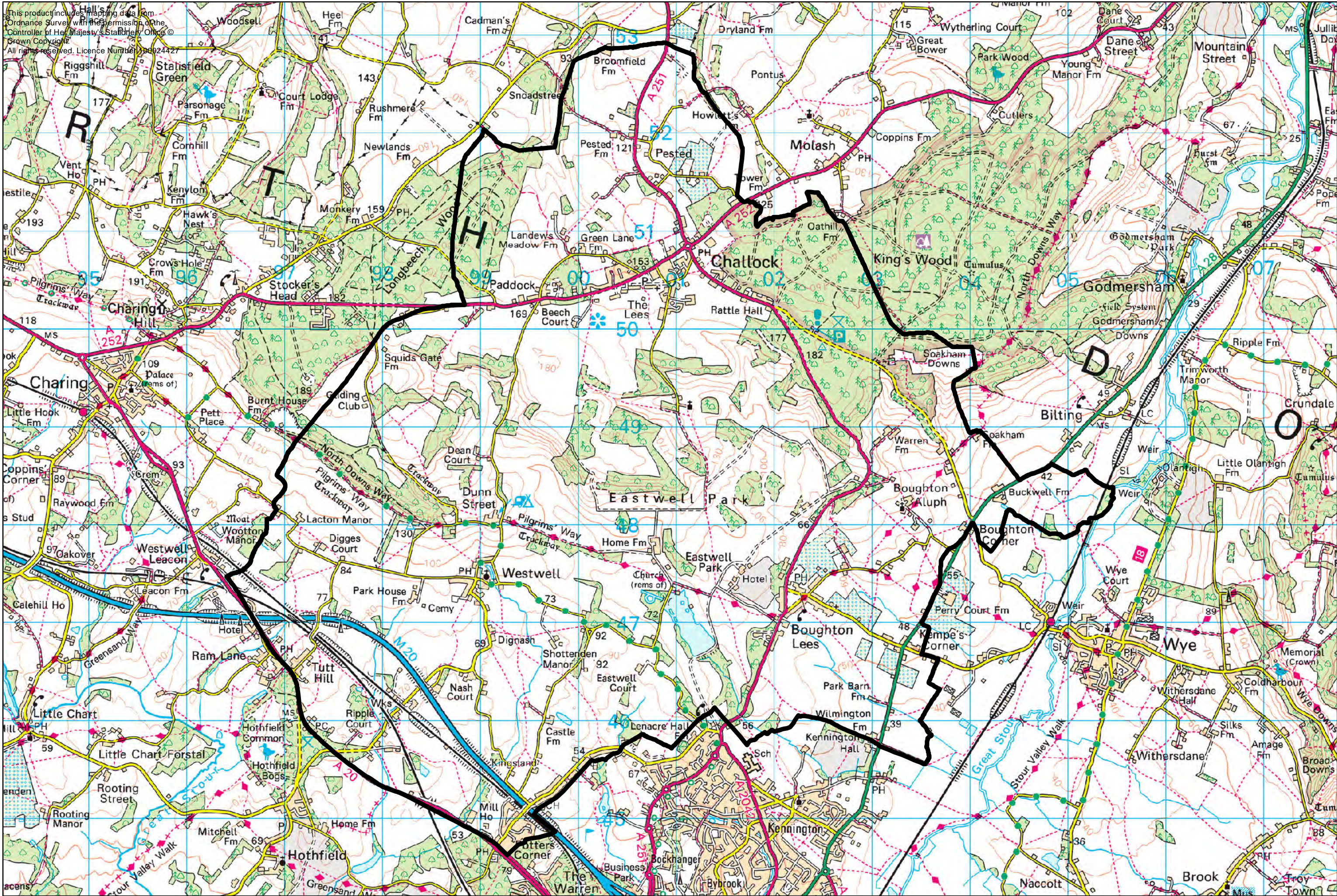


Ward Boundary Review - Ward 2

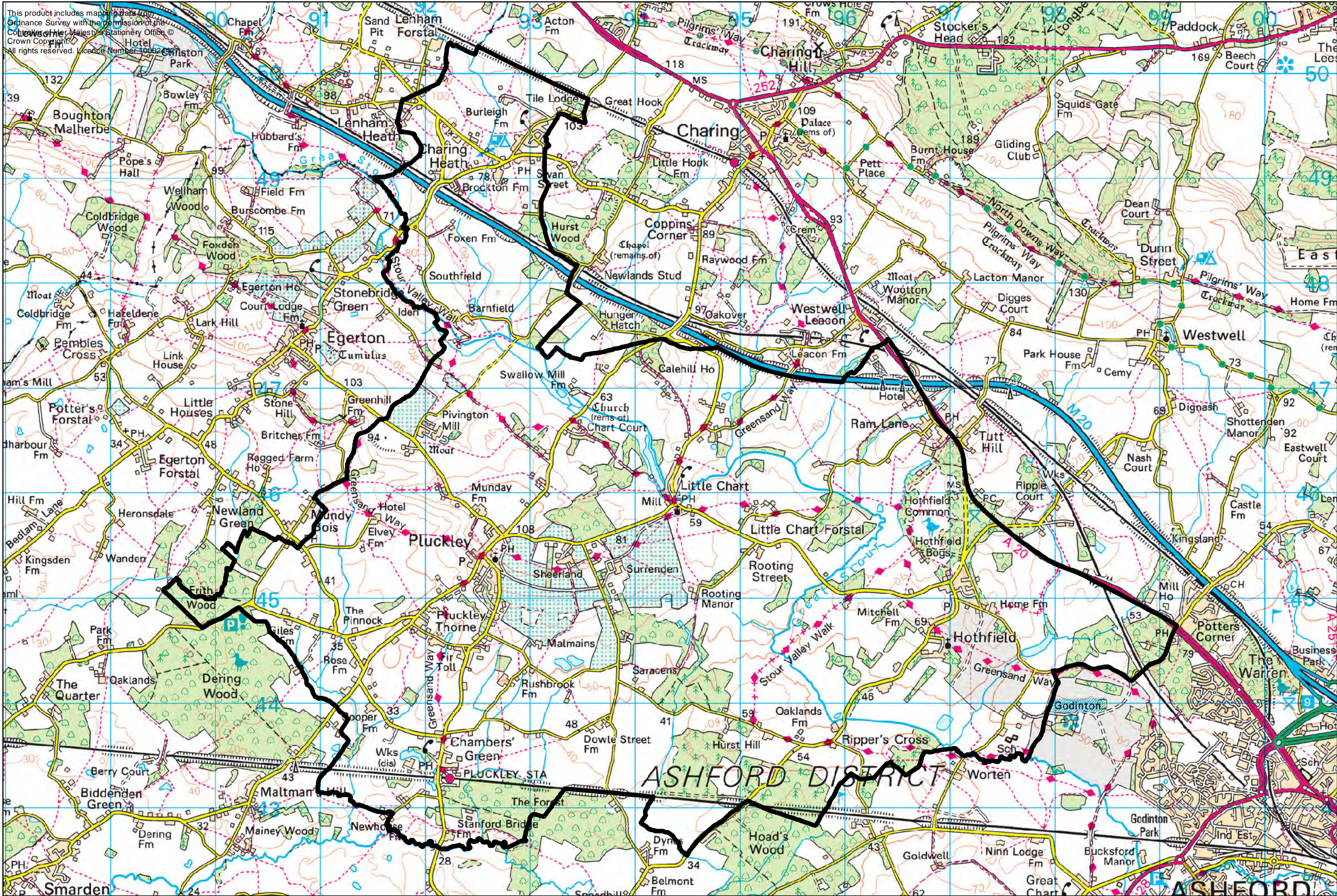
This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100021427



Ward Boundary Review - Ward 3



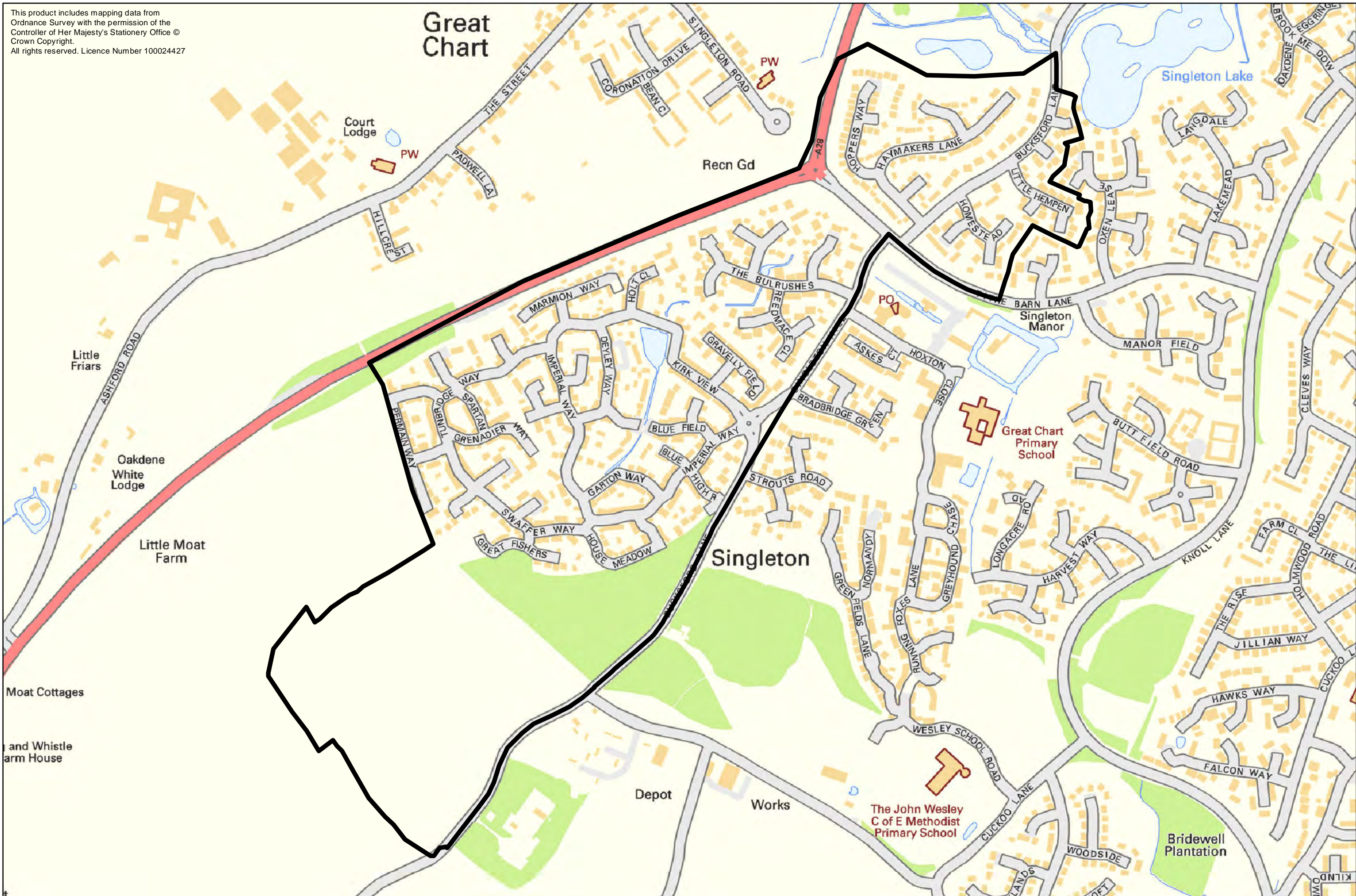
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 4



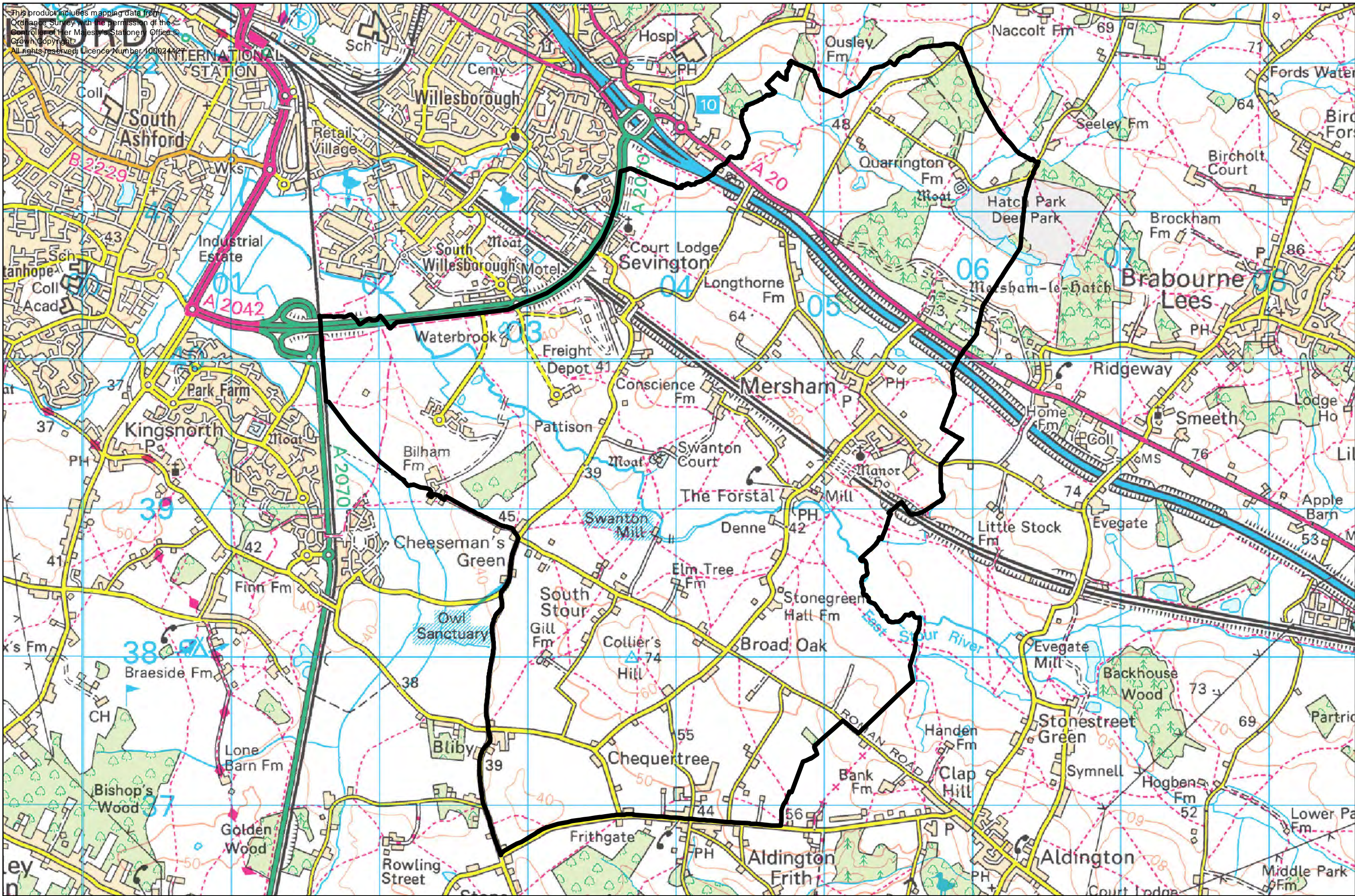
This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller, Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024371

Ward Boundary Review - Ward 5

Great Chart

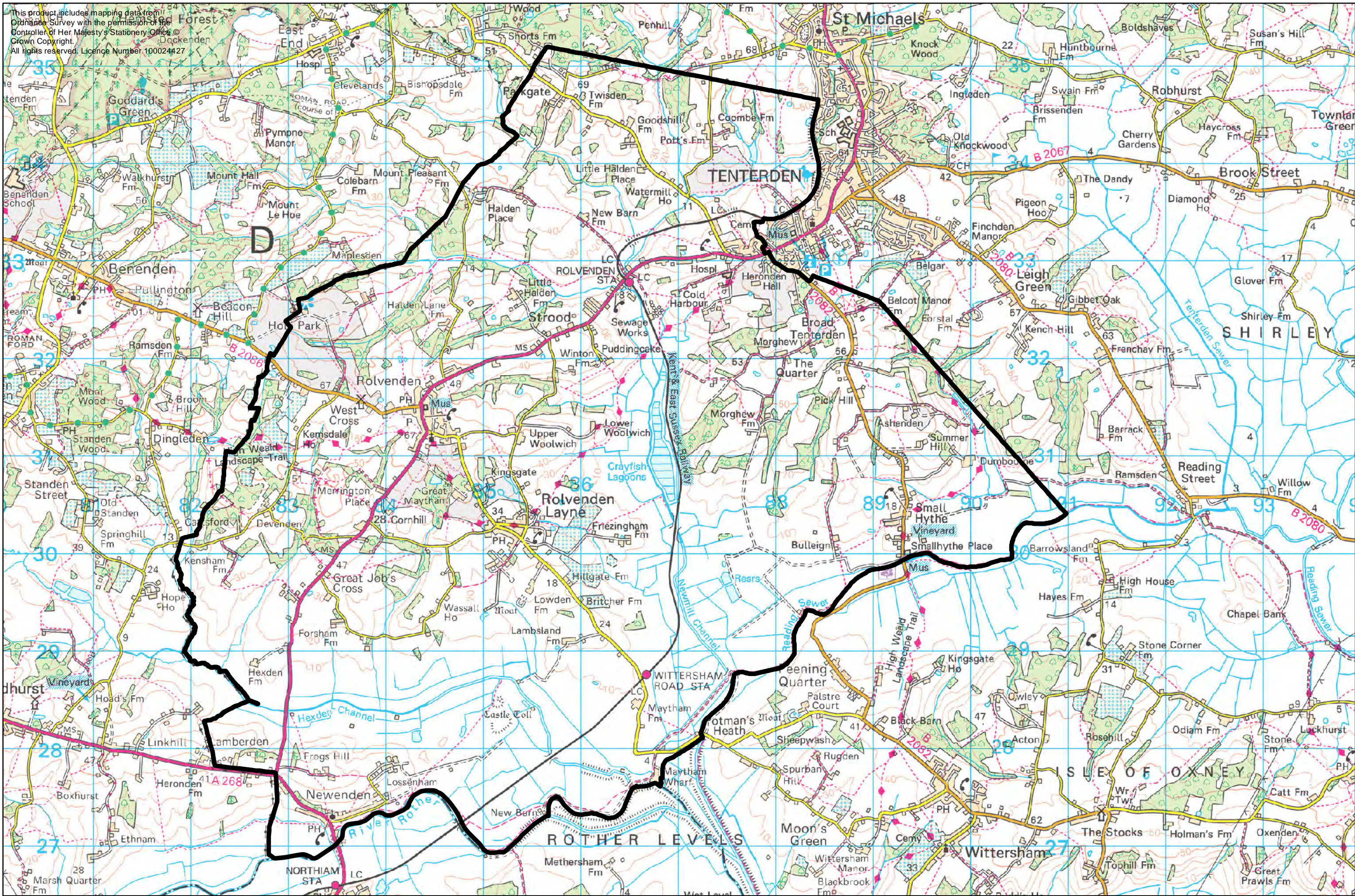


This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427

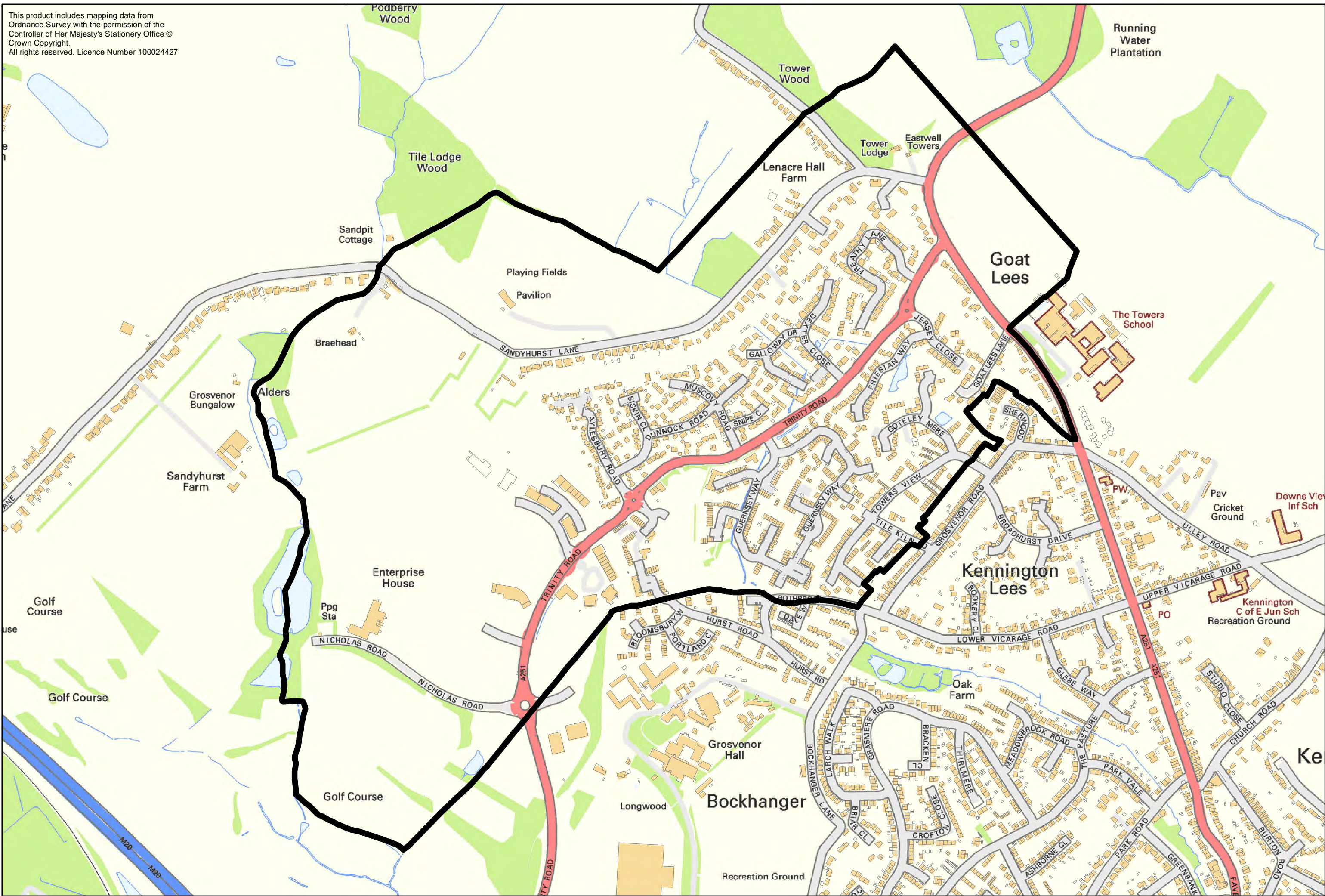


Ward Boundary Review - Ward 7

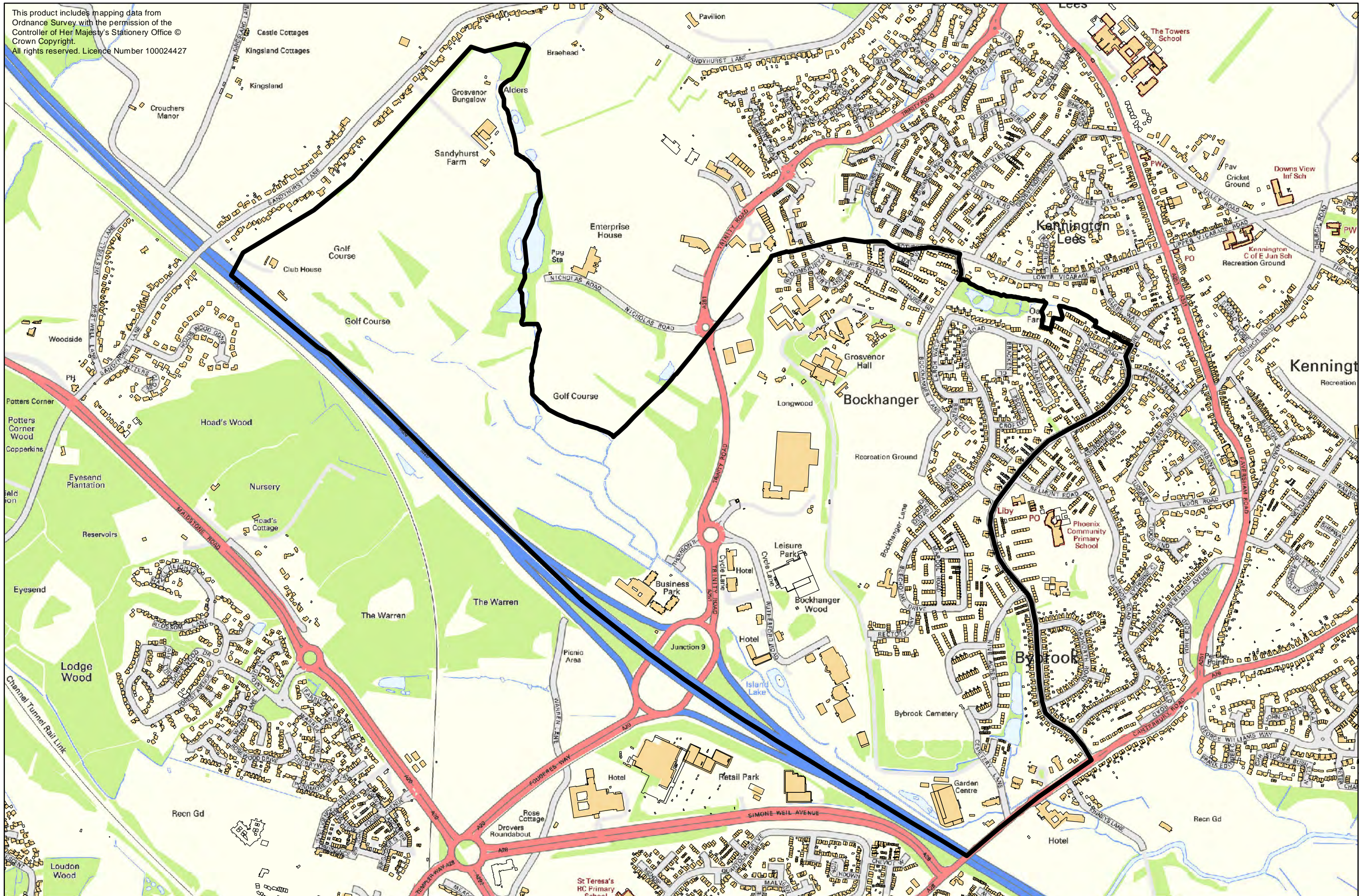
This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024#27



Ward Boundary Review - Ward 8

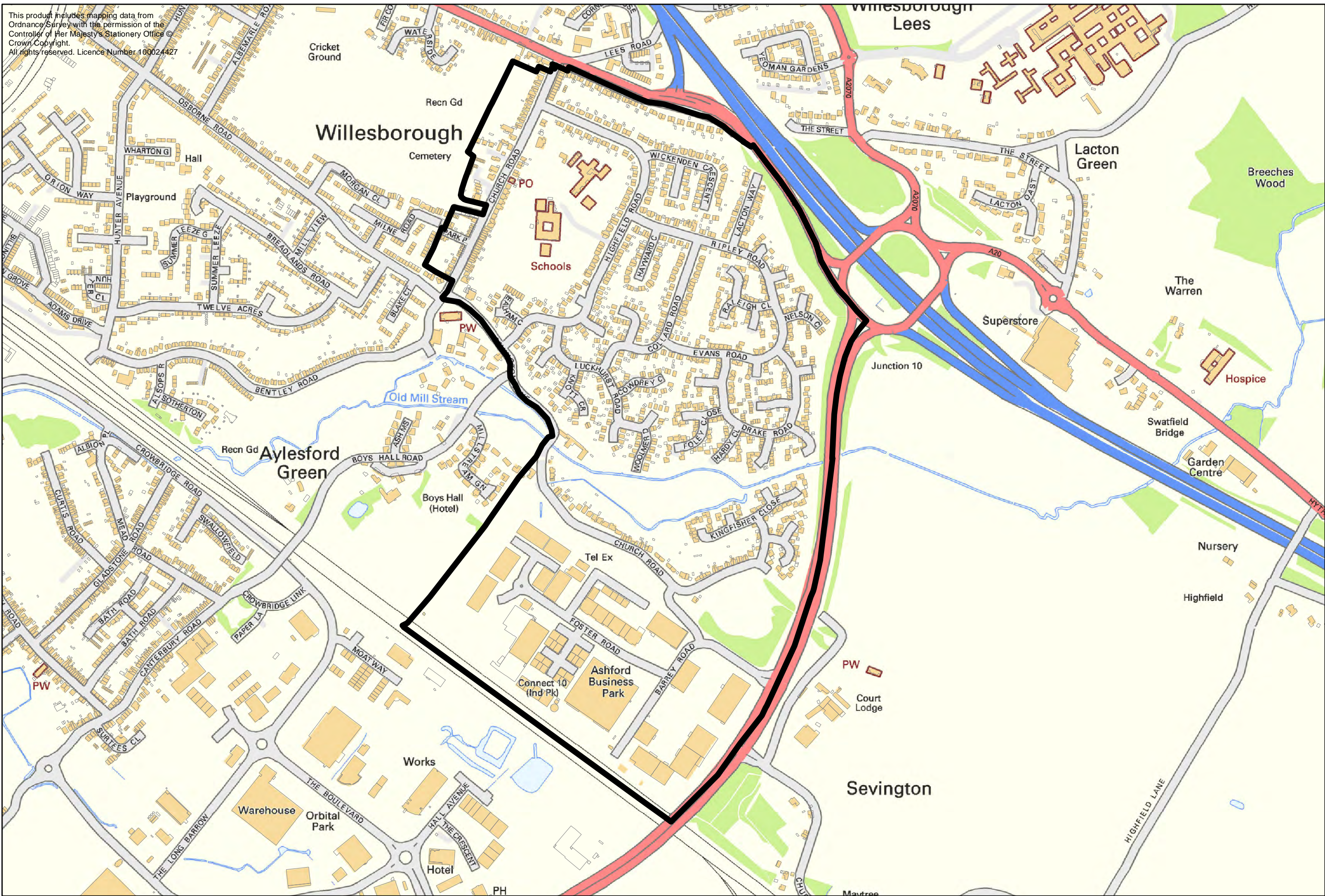


This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



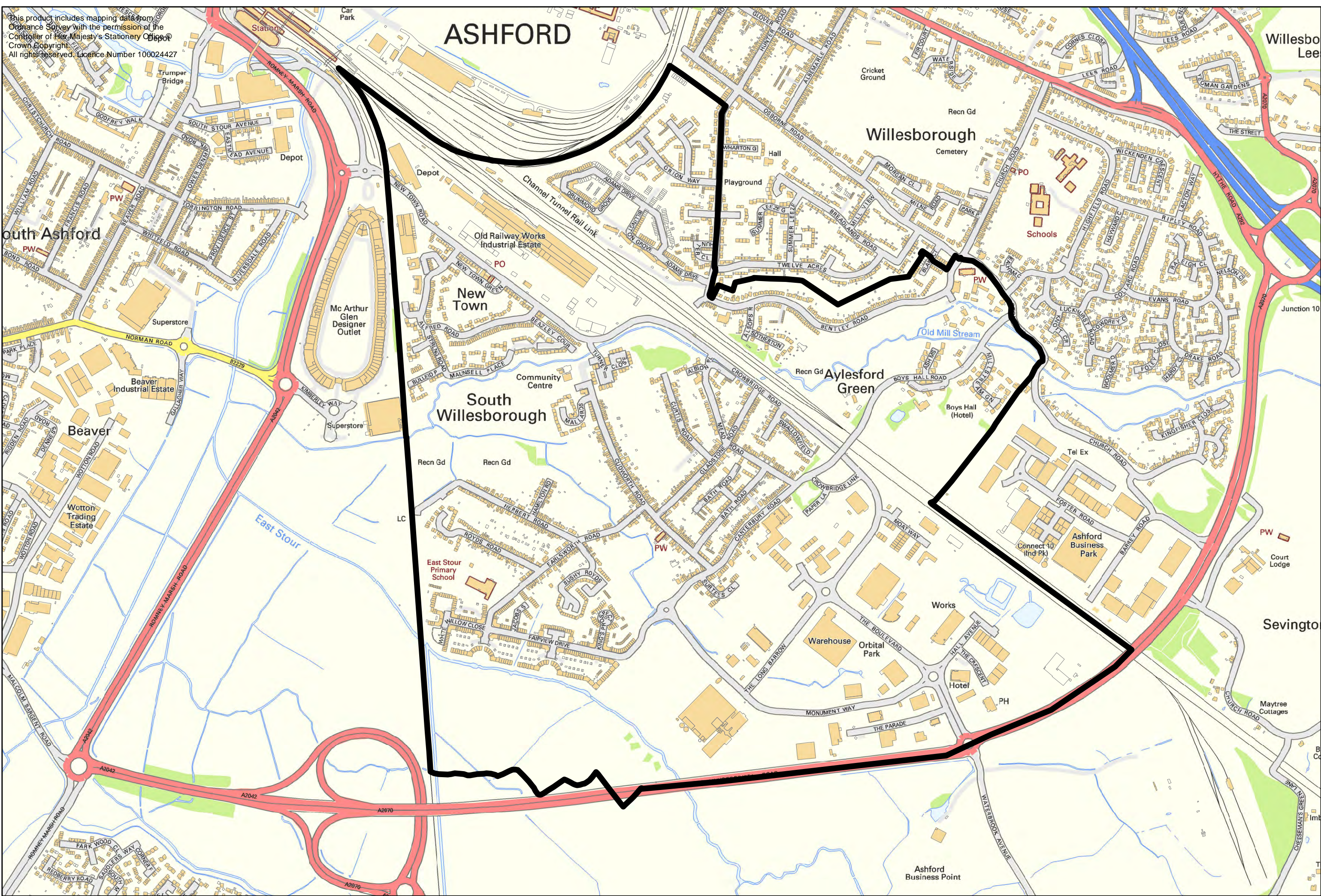
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 10

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



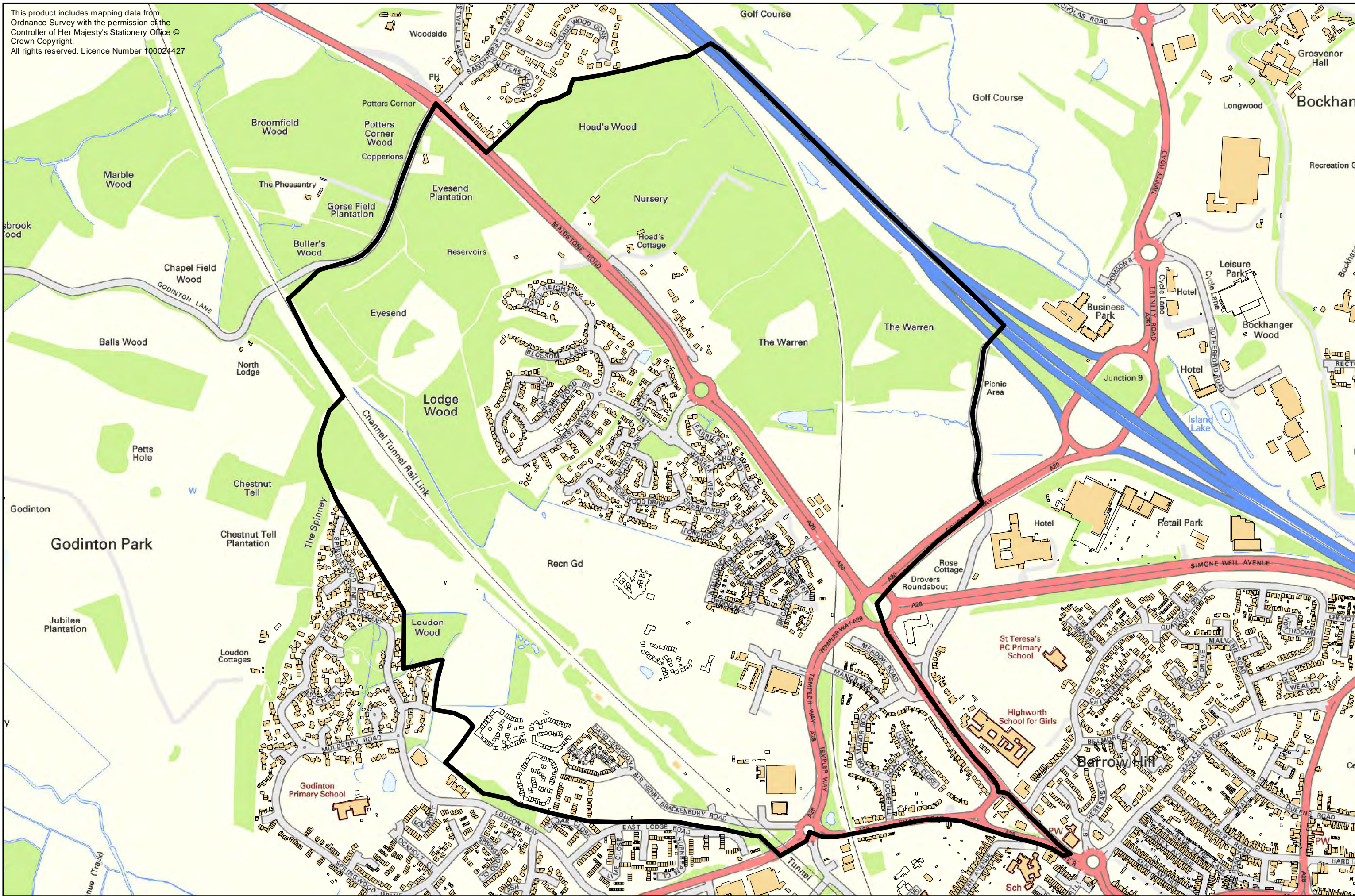
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 11

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



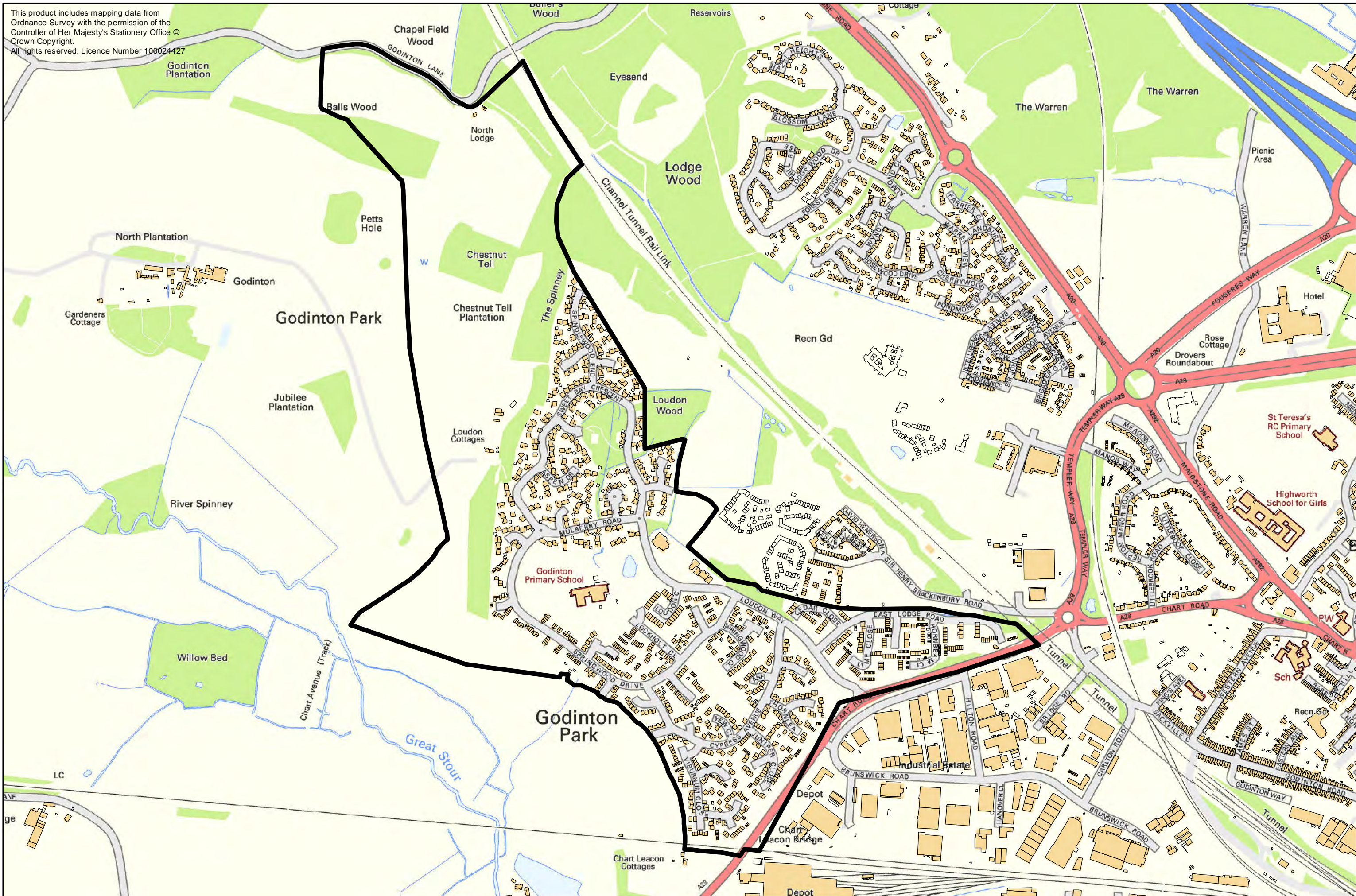
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 12

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



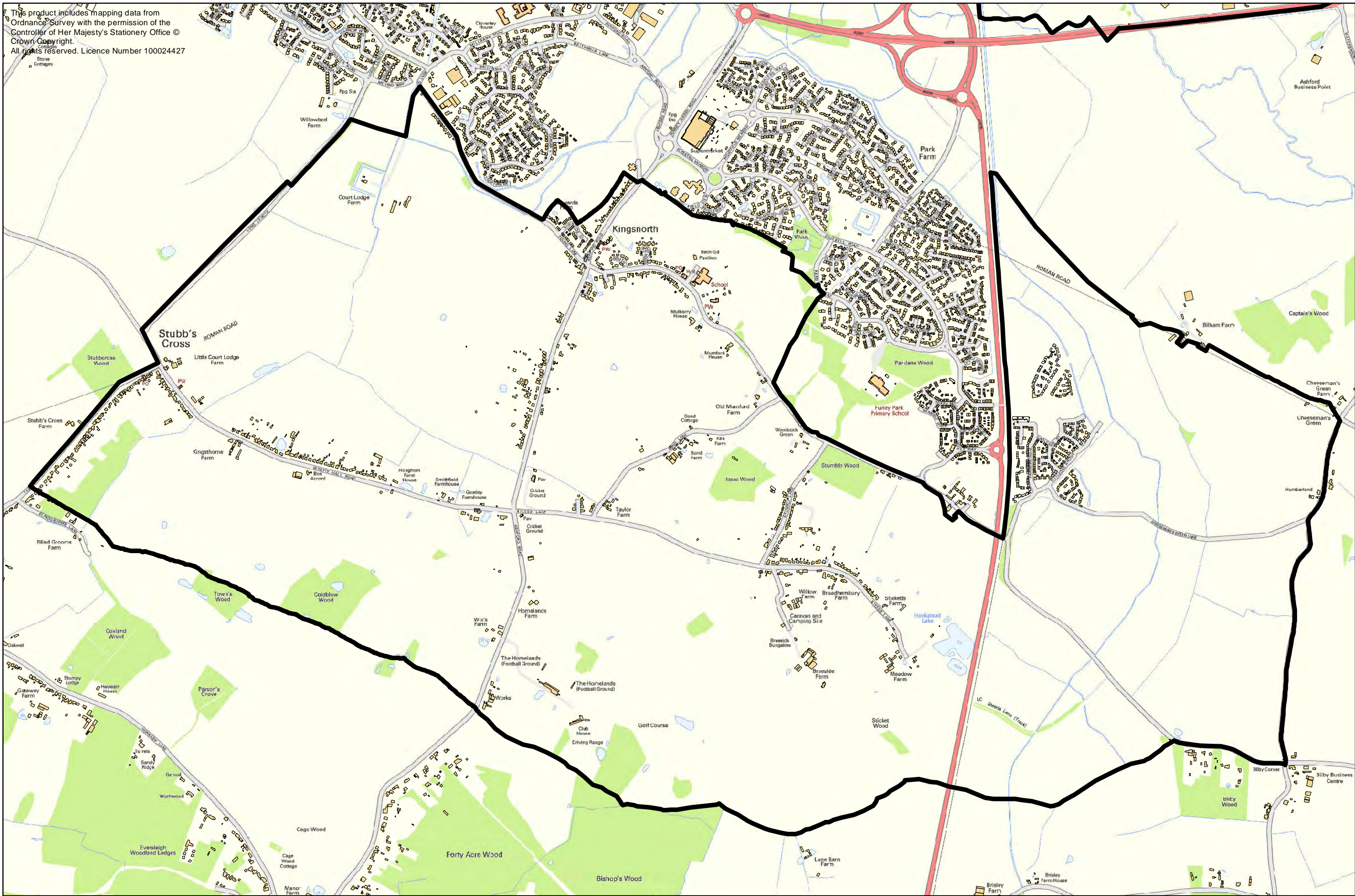
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 13

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



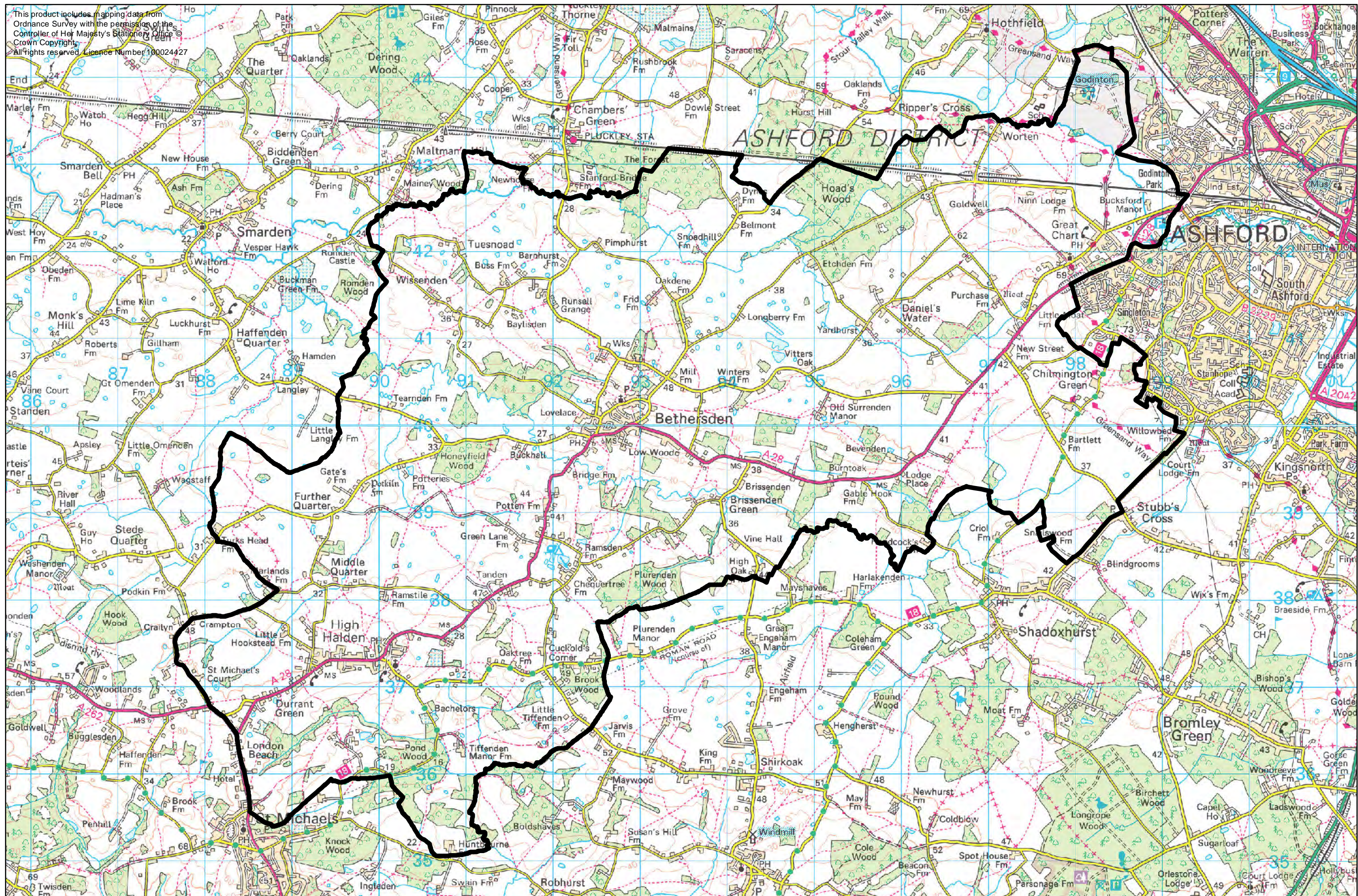
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 14

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427

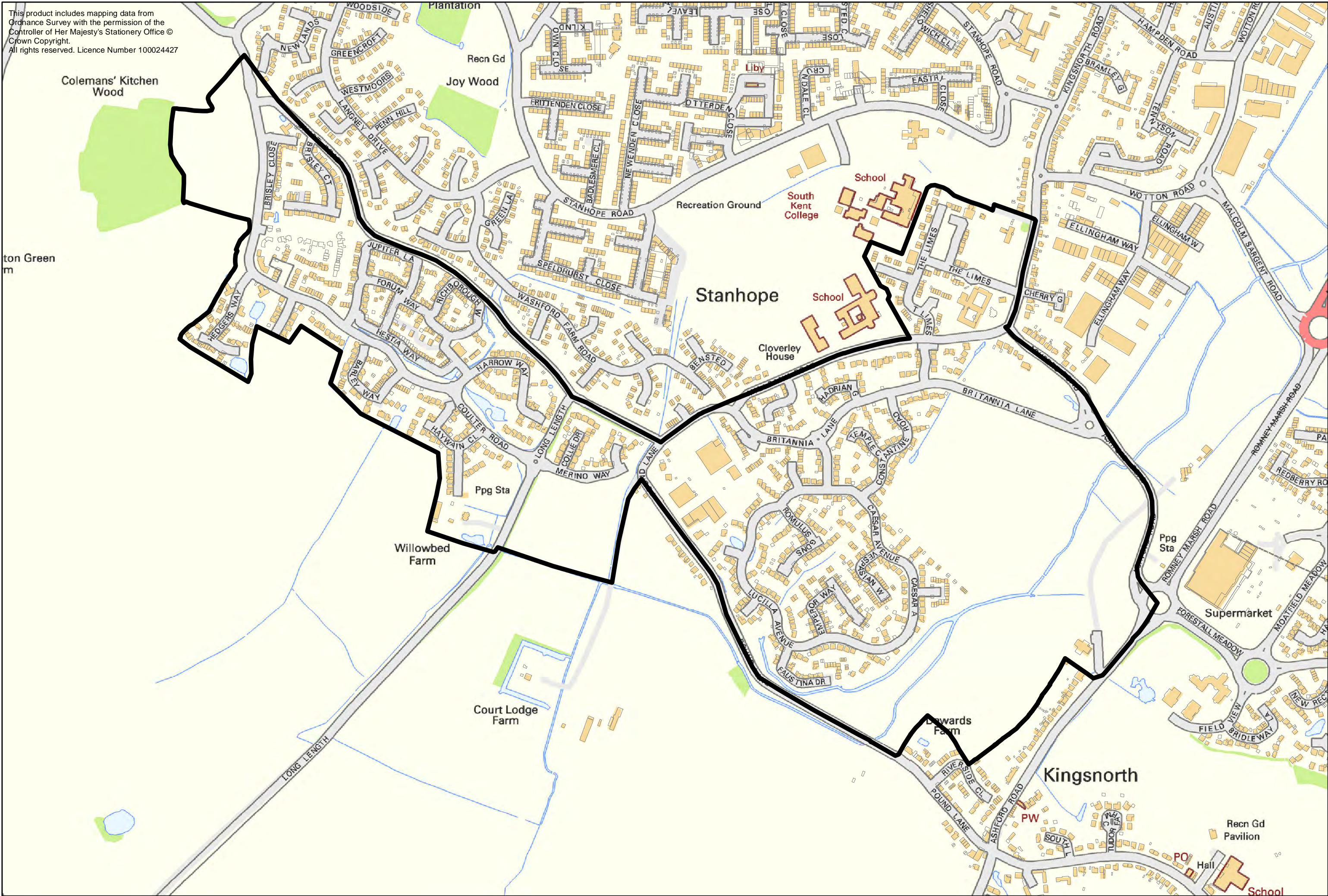


Ward Boundary Review - Ward 15

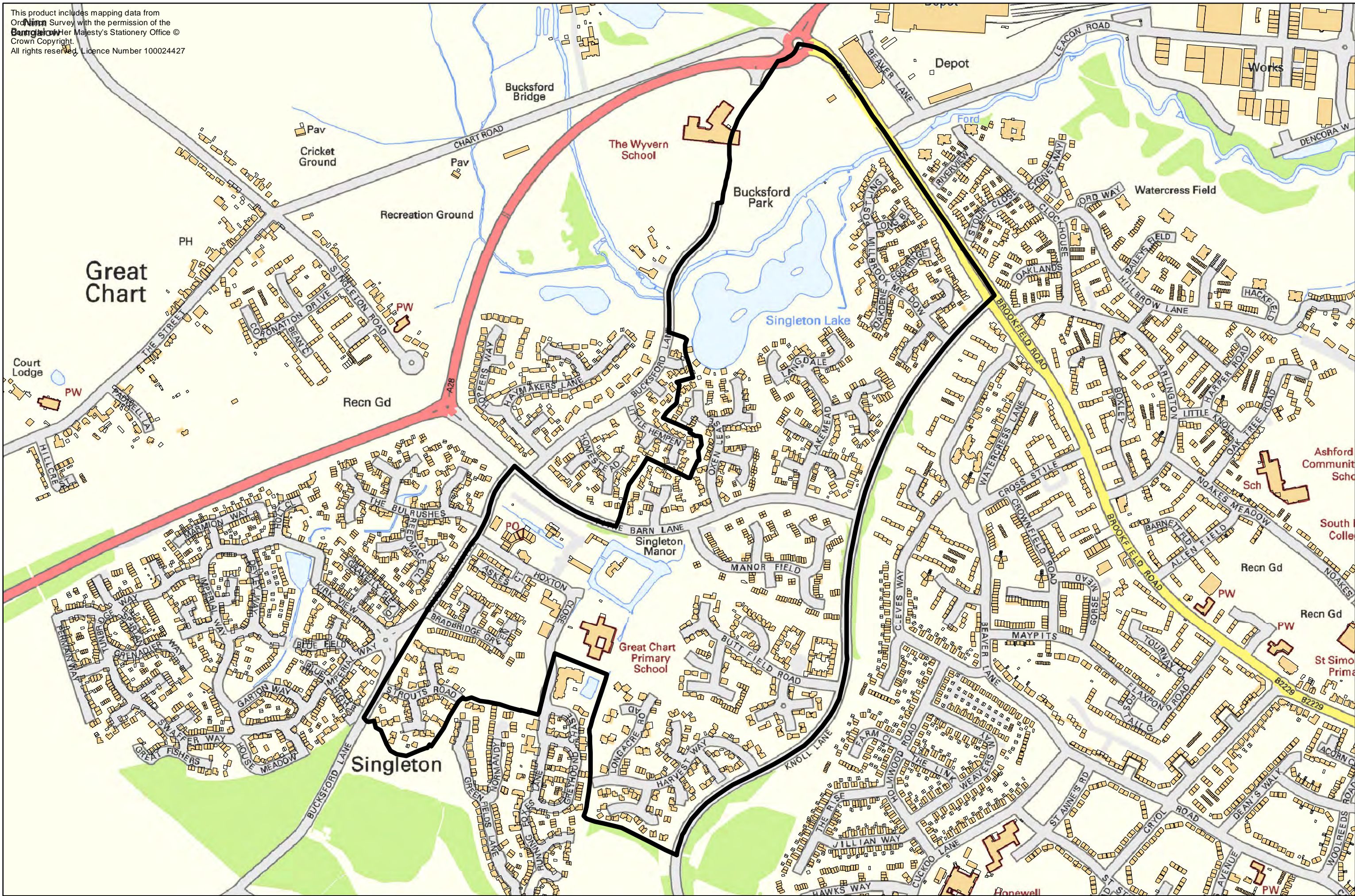
This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



Ward Boundary Review - Ward 16

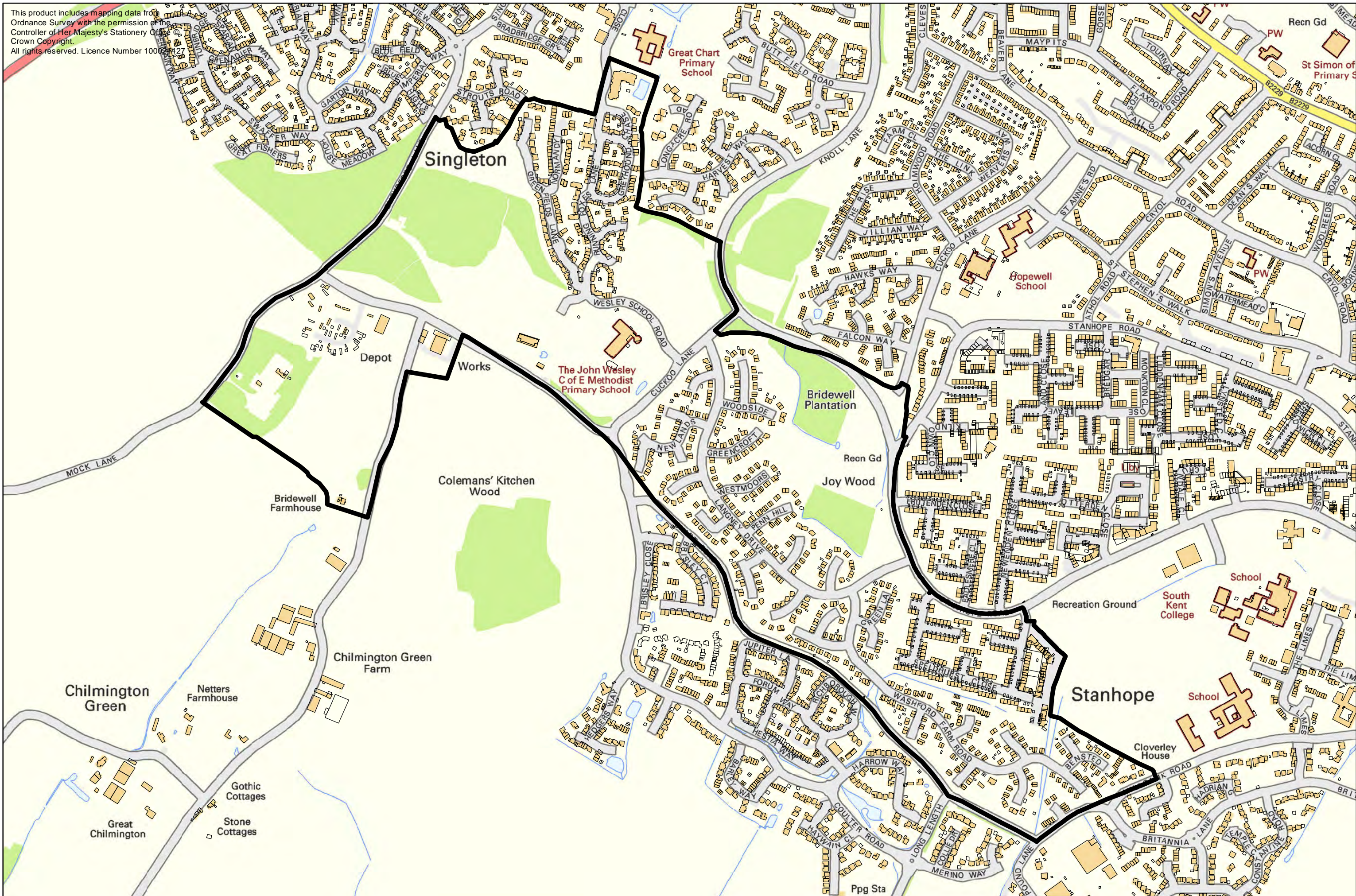


Ward Boundary Review - Ward 17



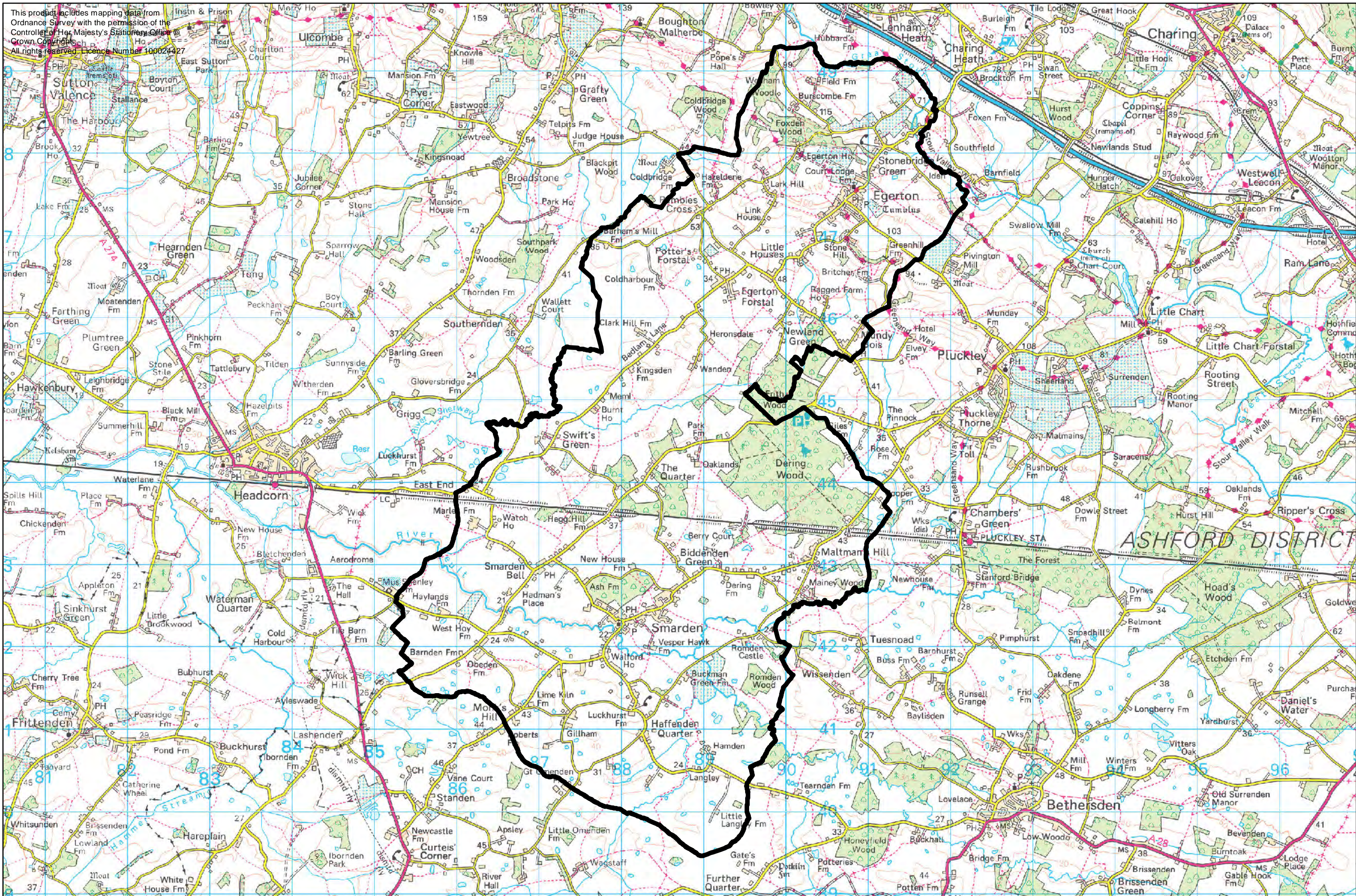
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 18

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. All rights reserved. Licence Number 10002427



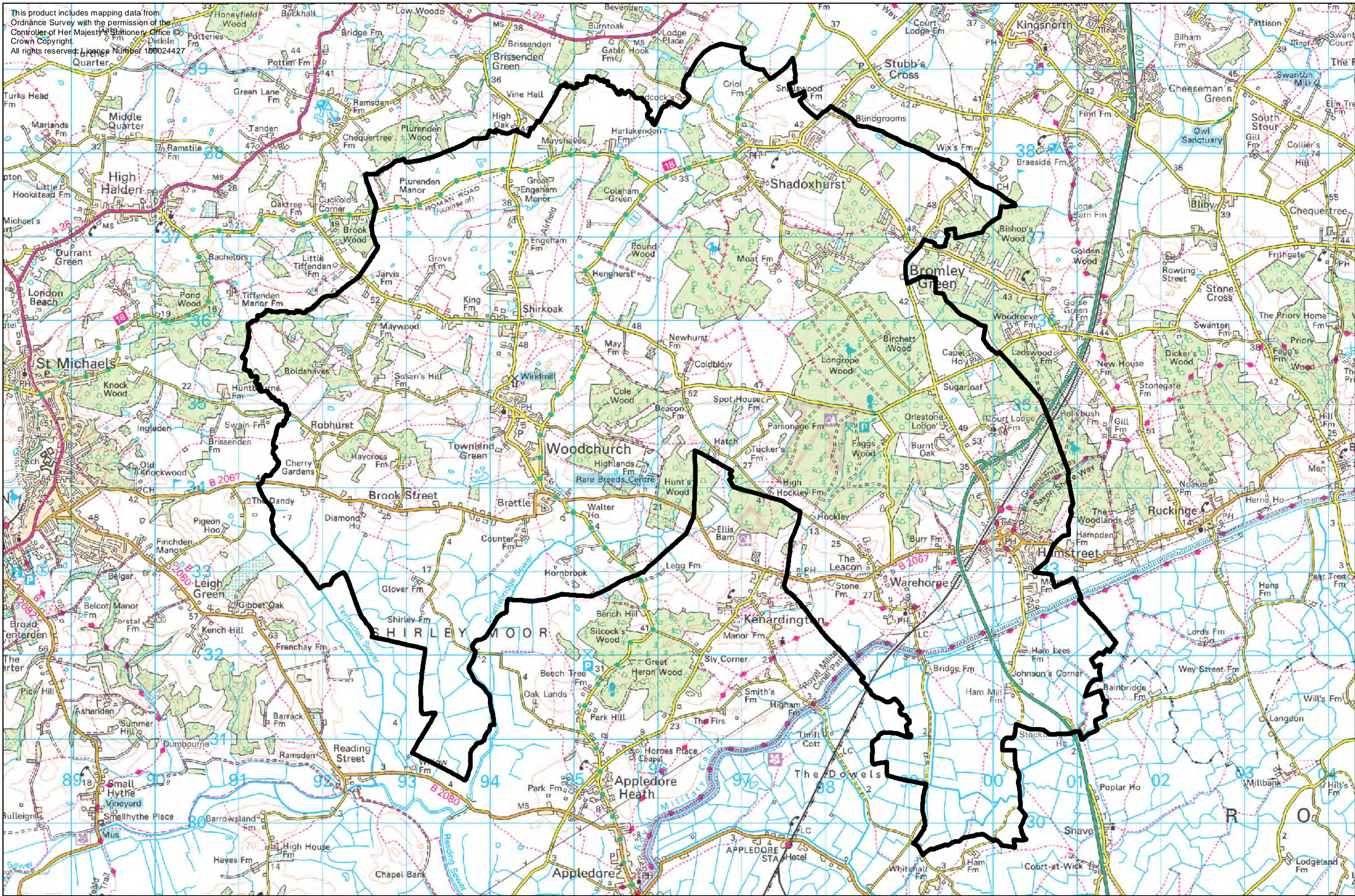
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 19

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



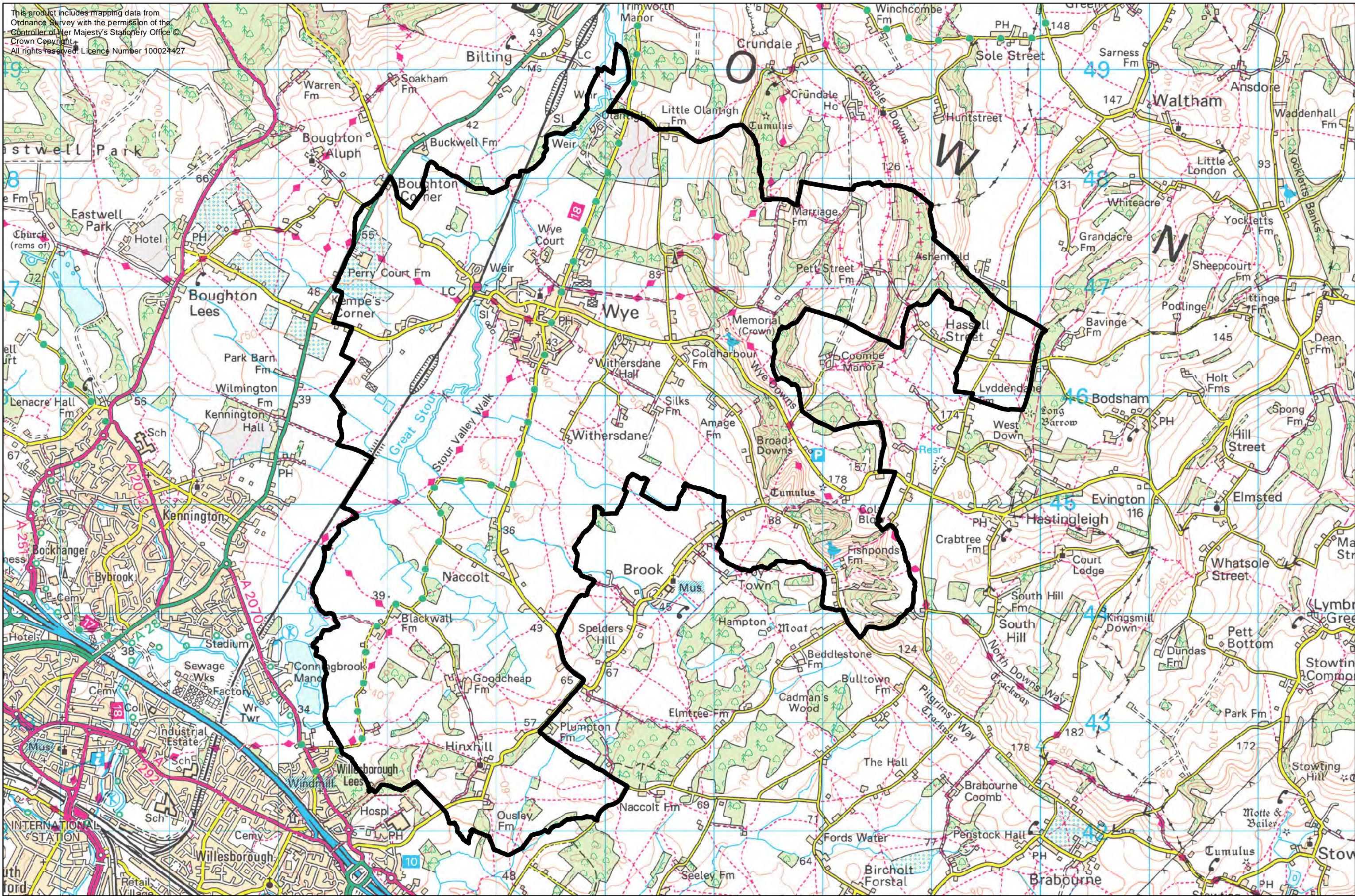
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 20

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Licence Number 100024427



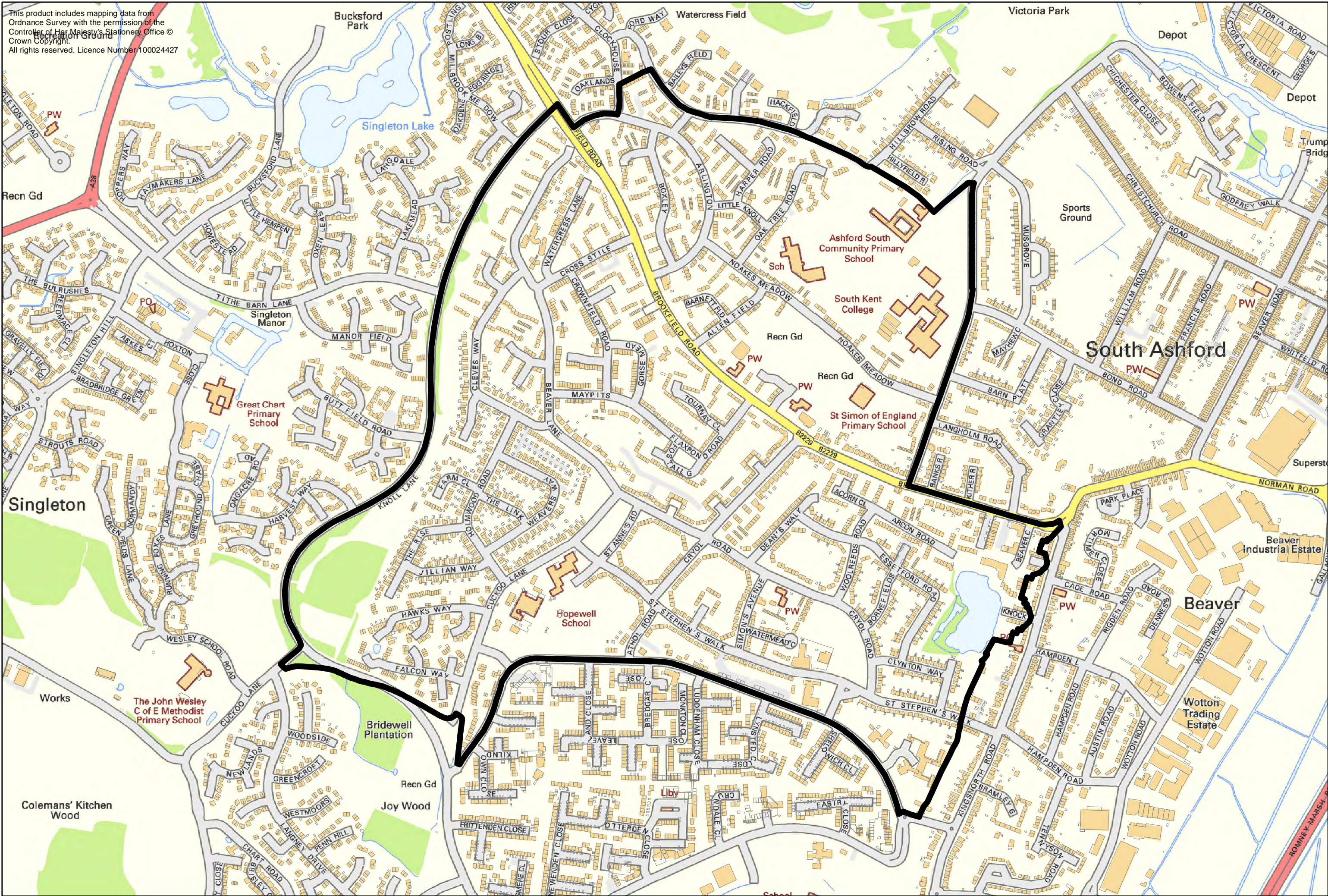
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 21

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427

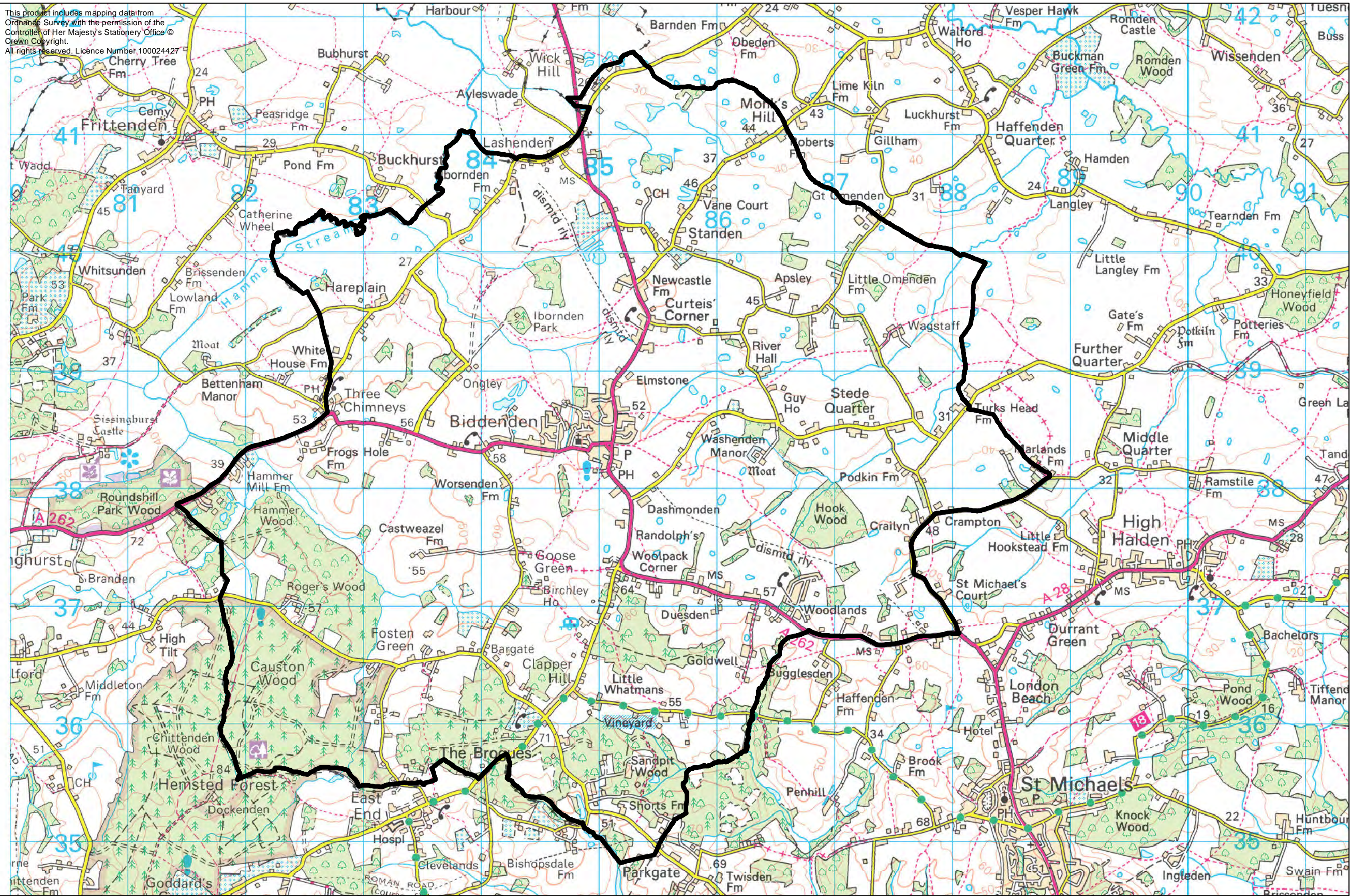


Ward Boundary Review - Ward 22

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427

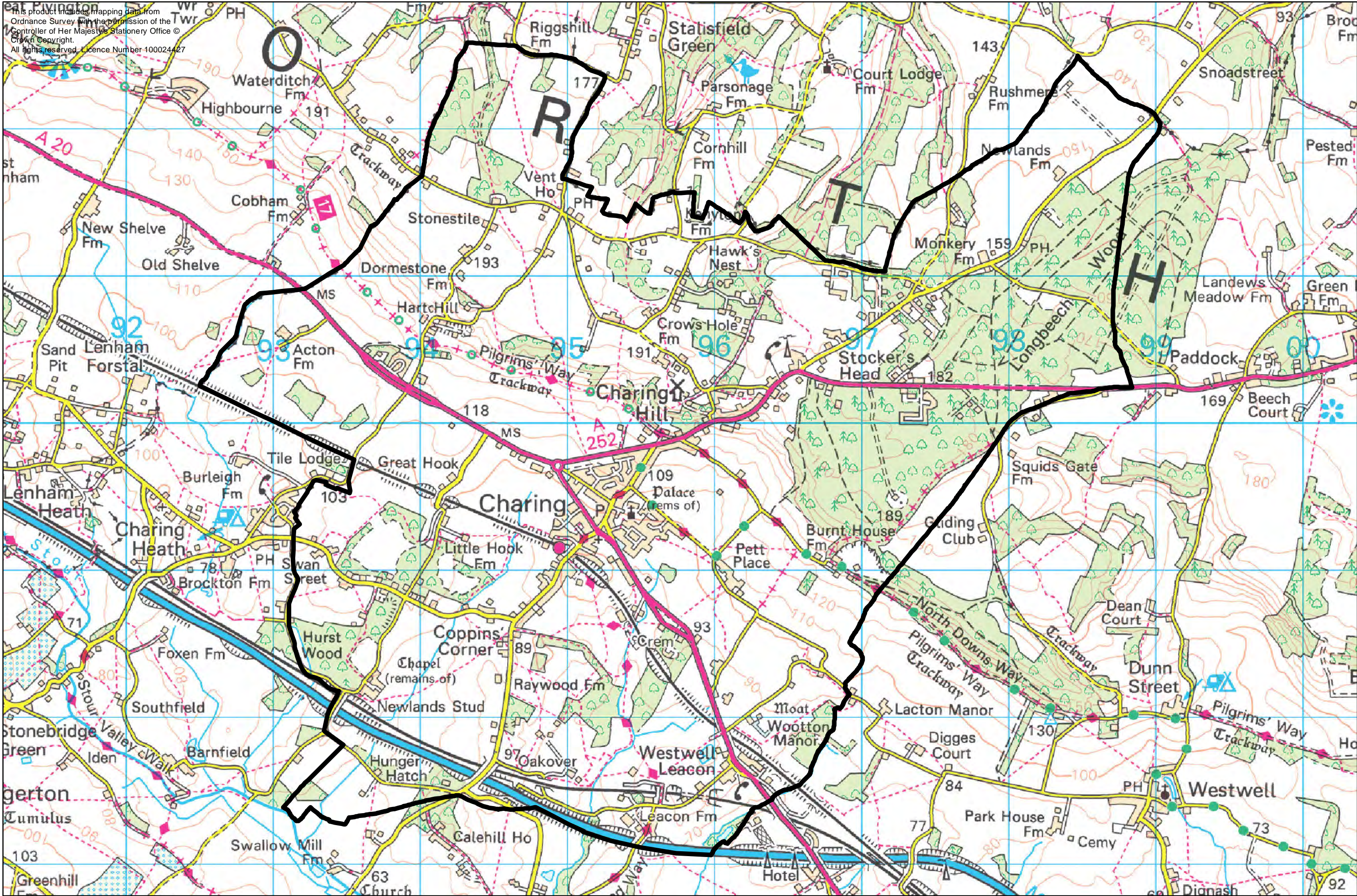


Ward Boundary Review - Ward 23



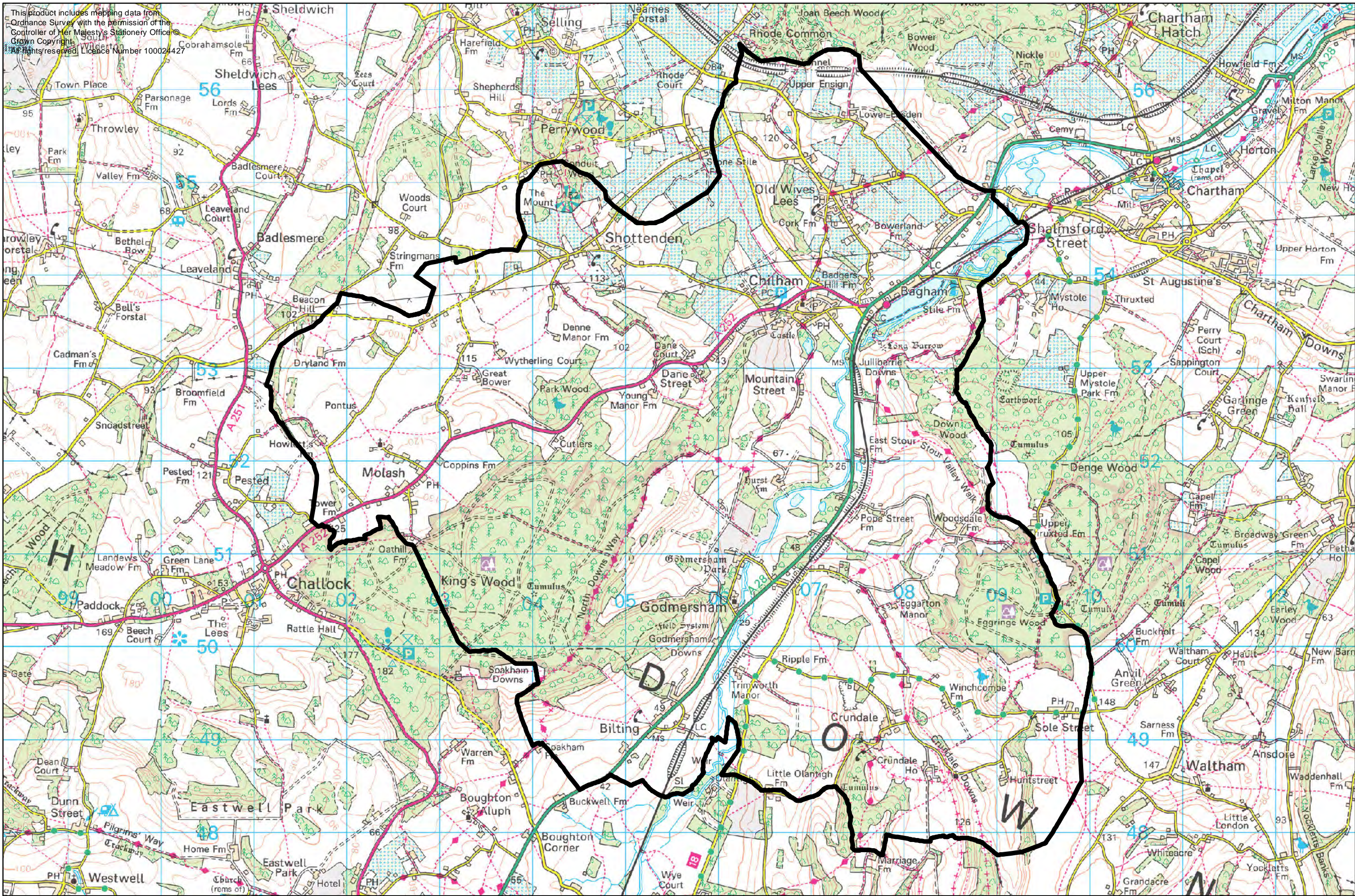
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 24

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427

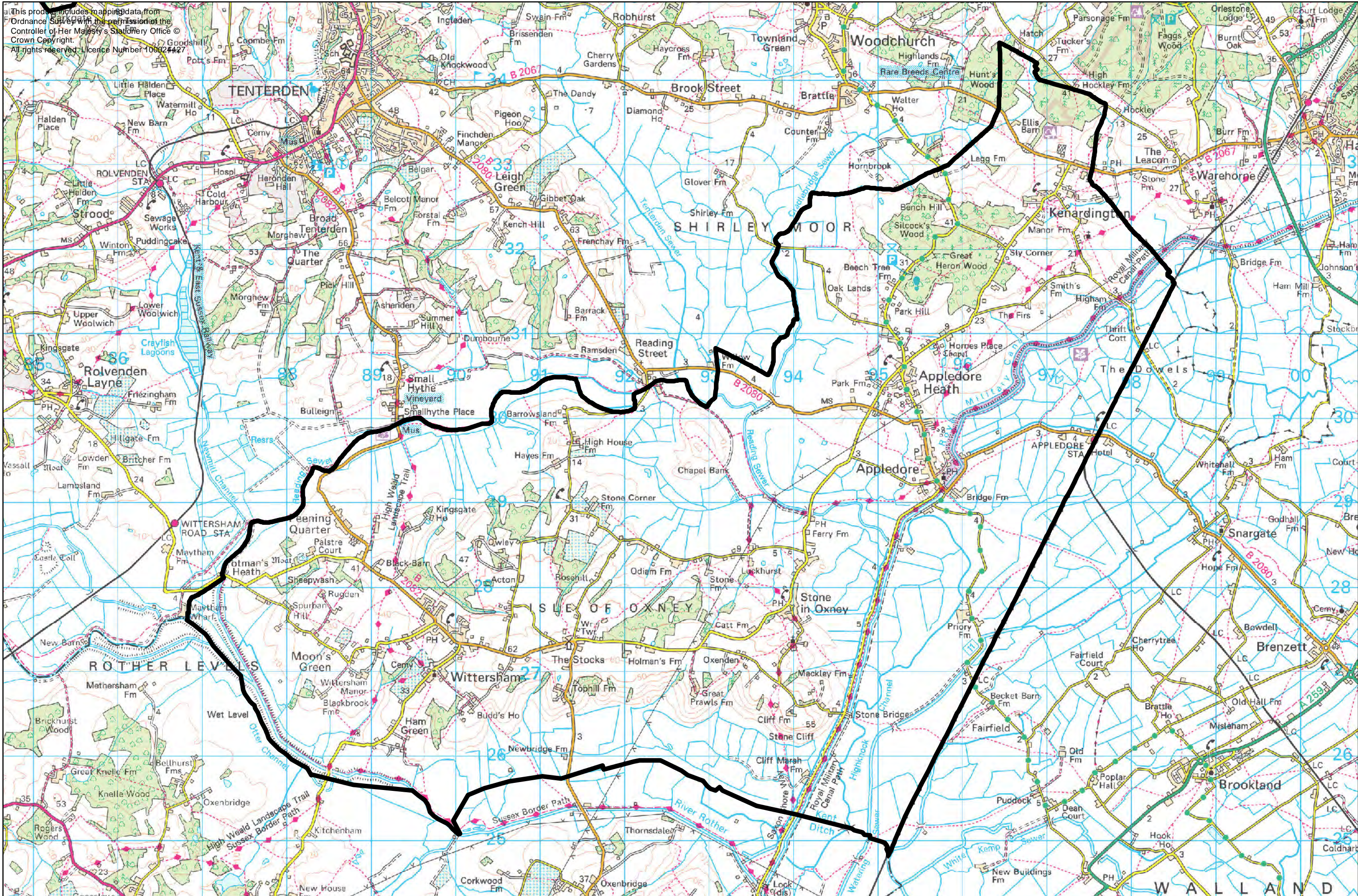


Ward Boundary Review - Ward 25

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



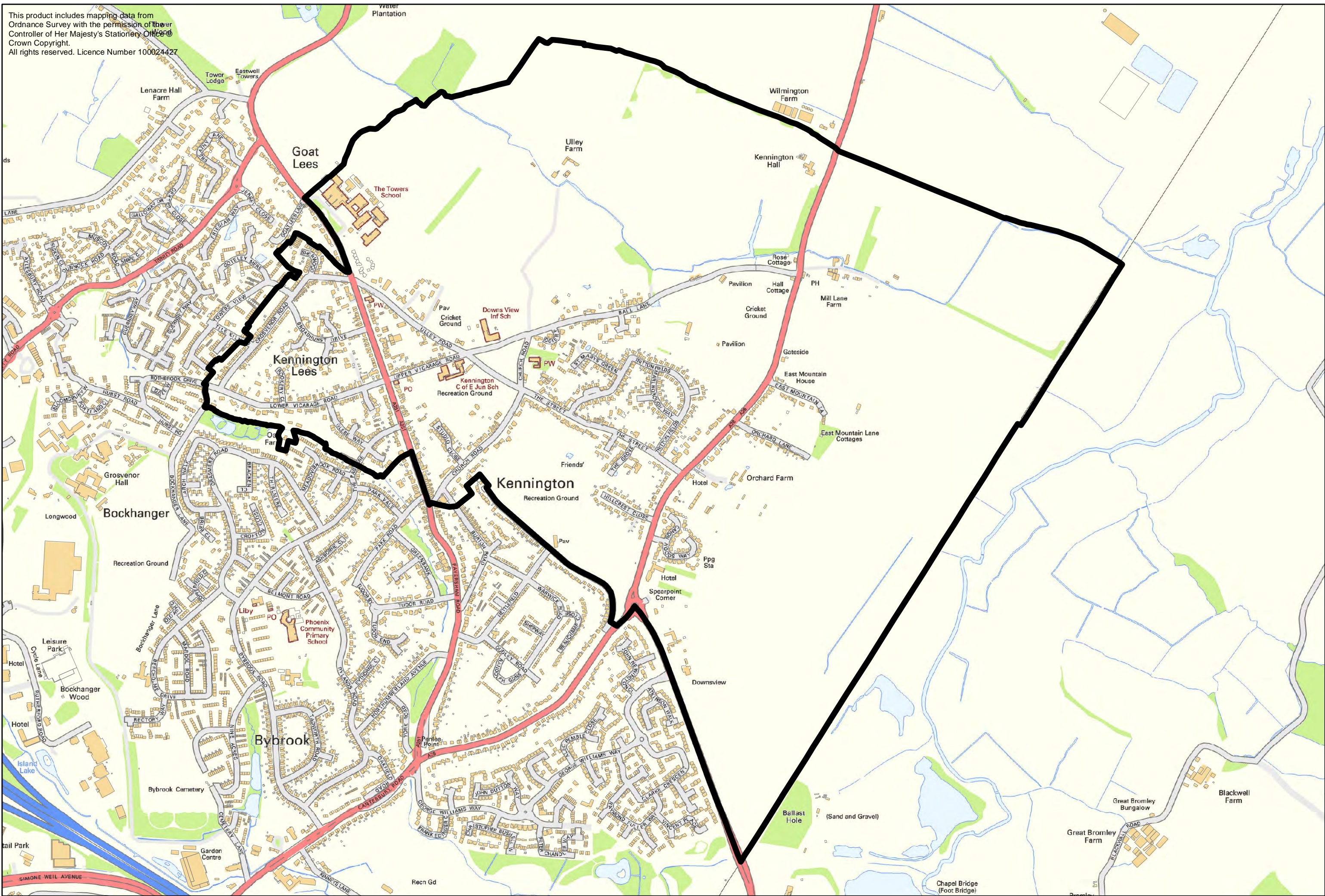
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 26



This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427

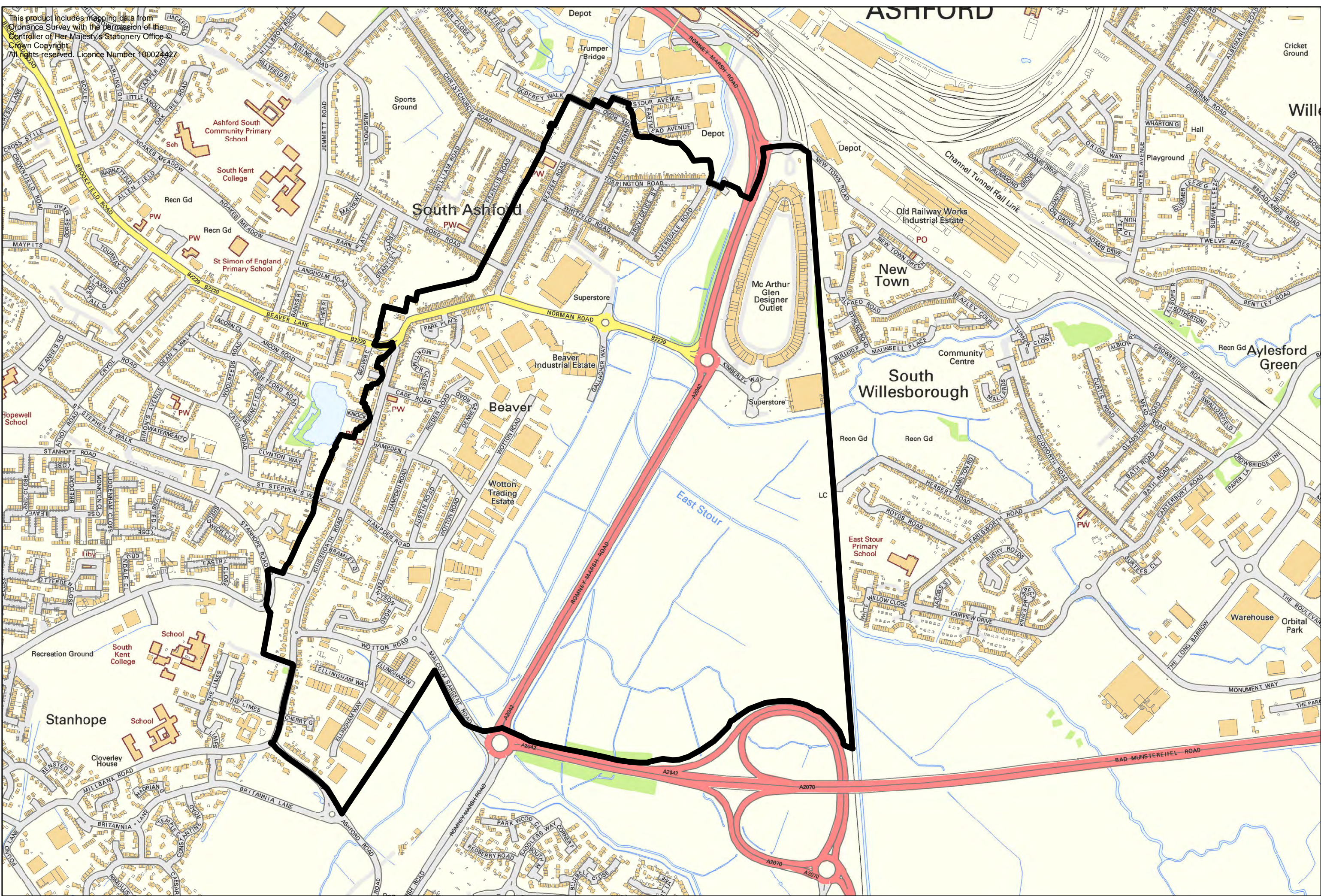
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 27

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



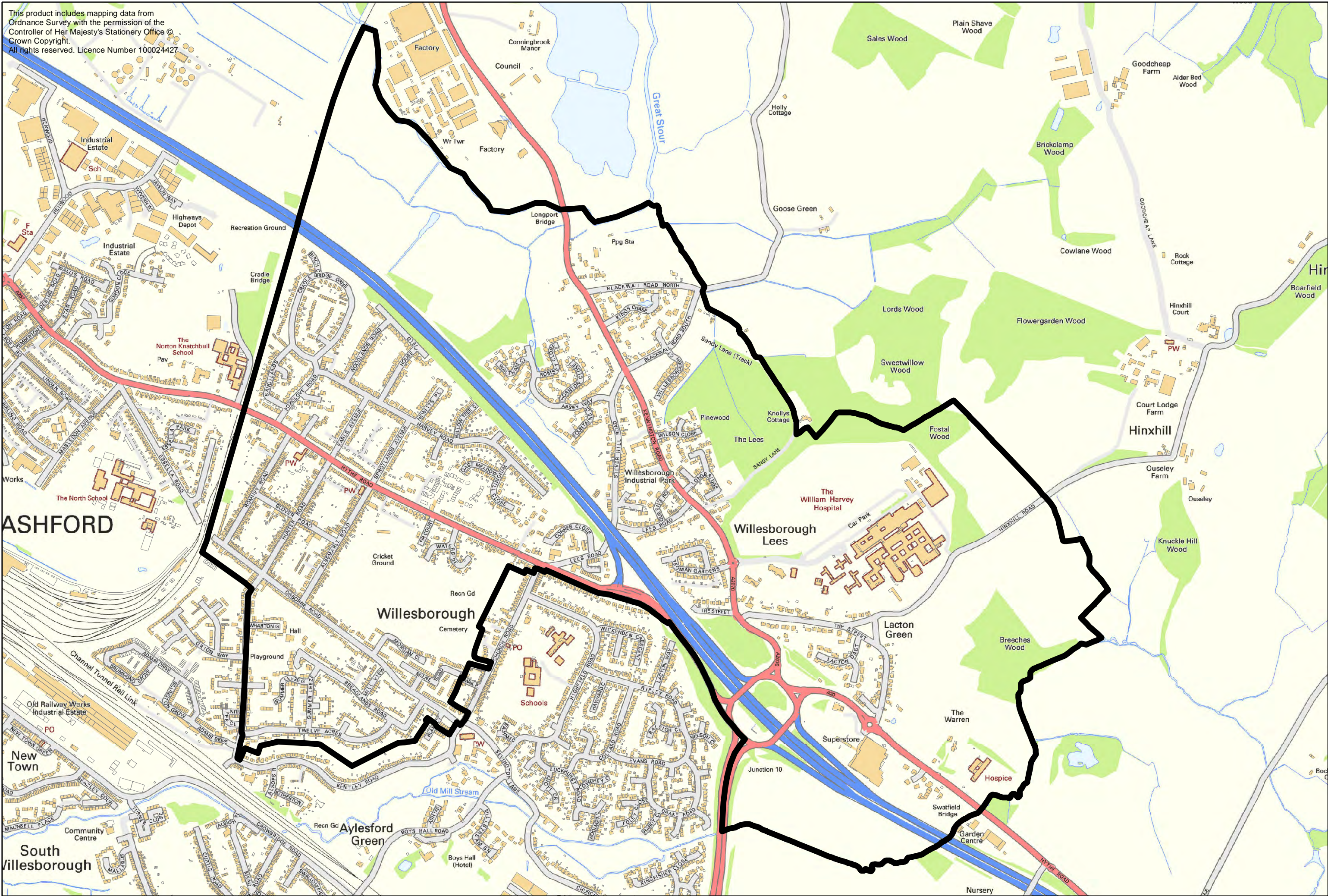
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 28

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



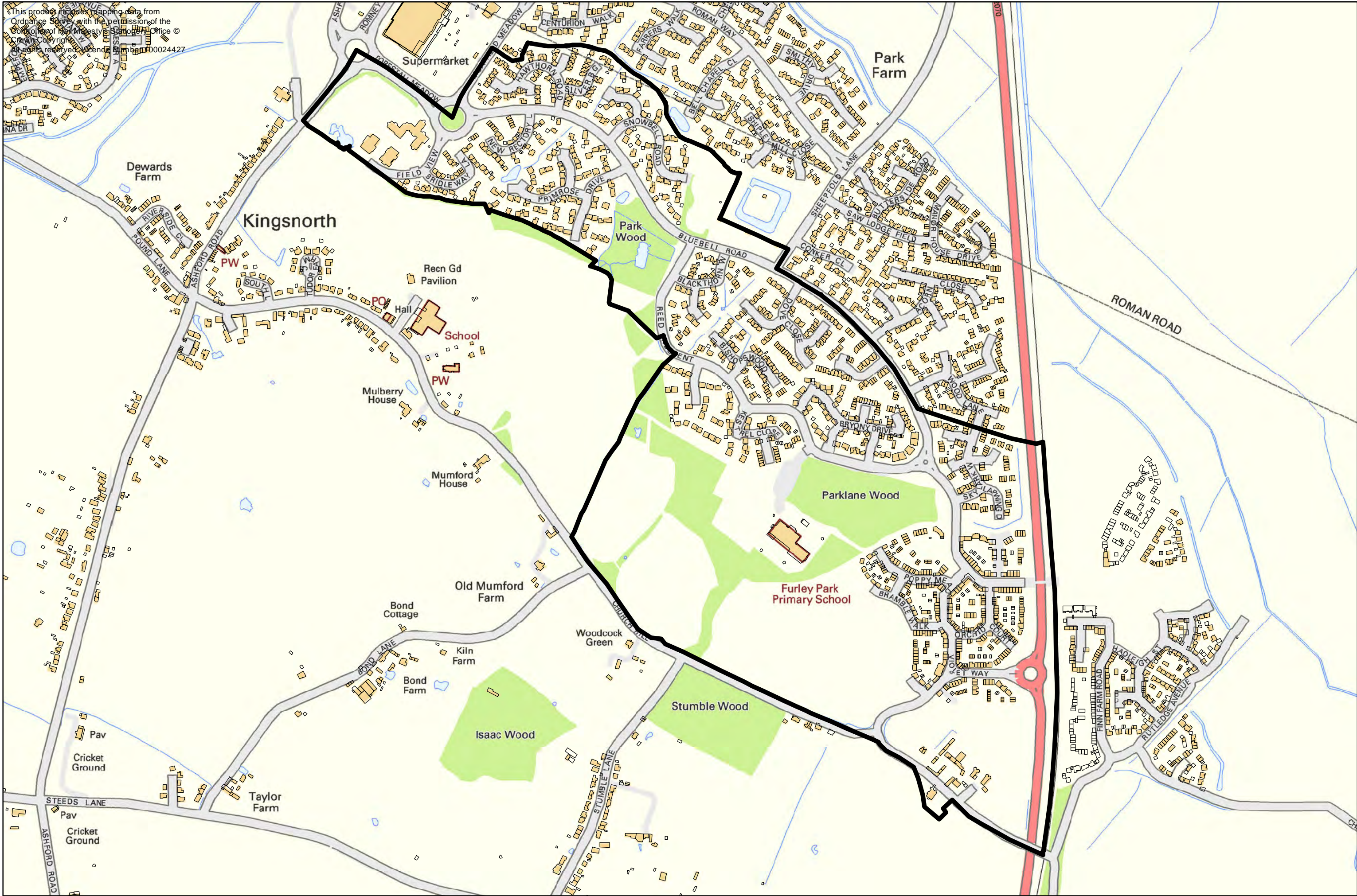
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 29

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



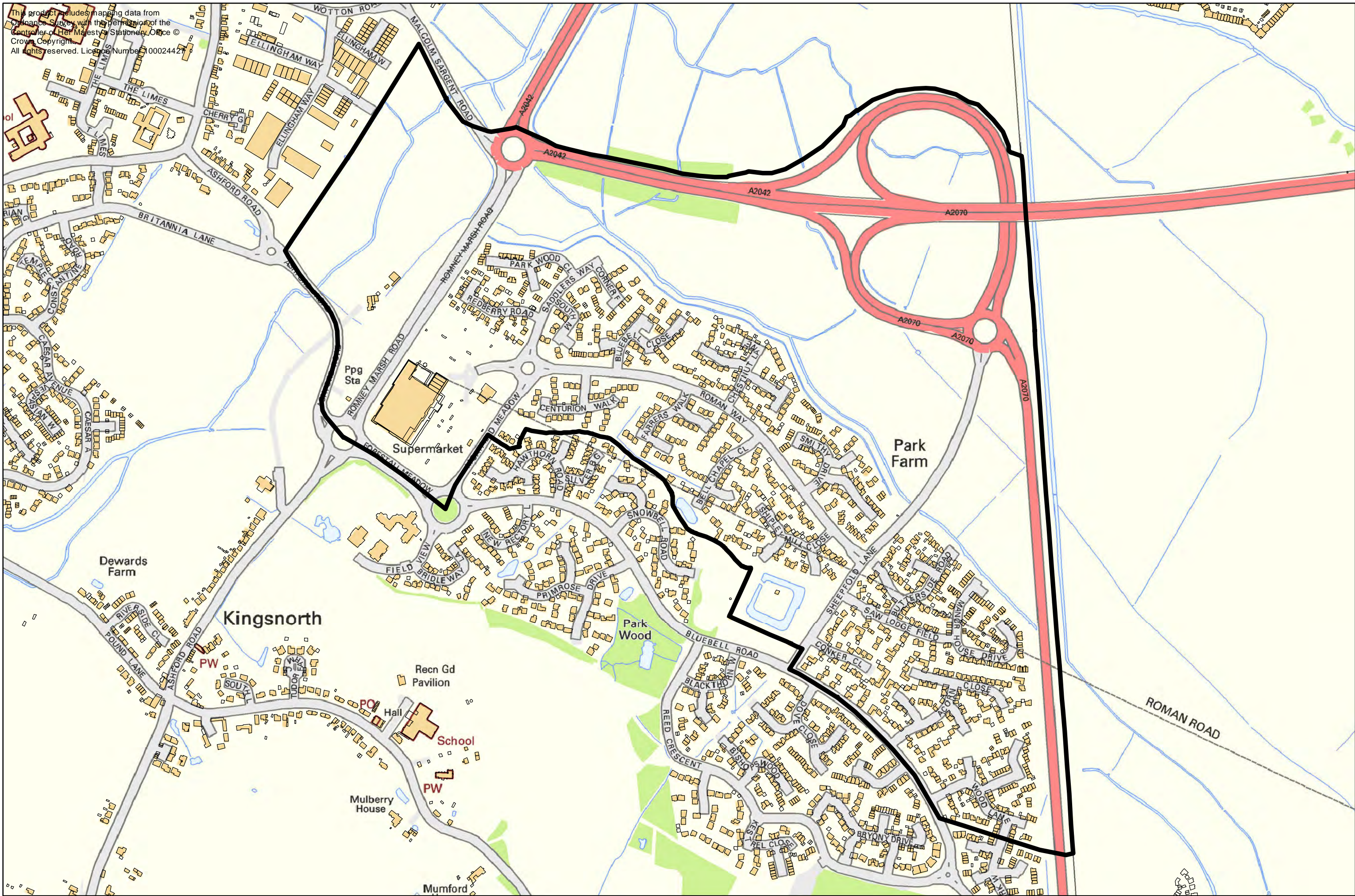
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 30

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100024427



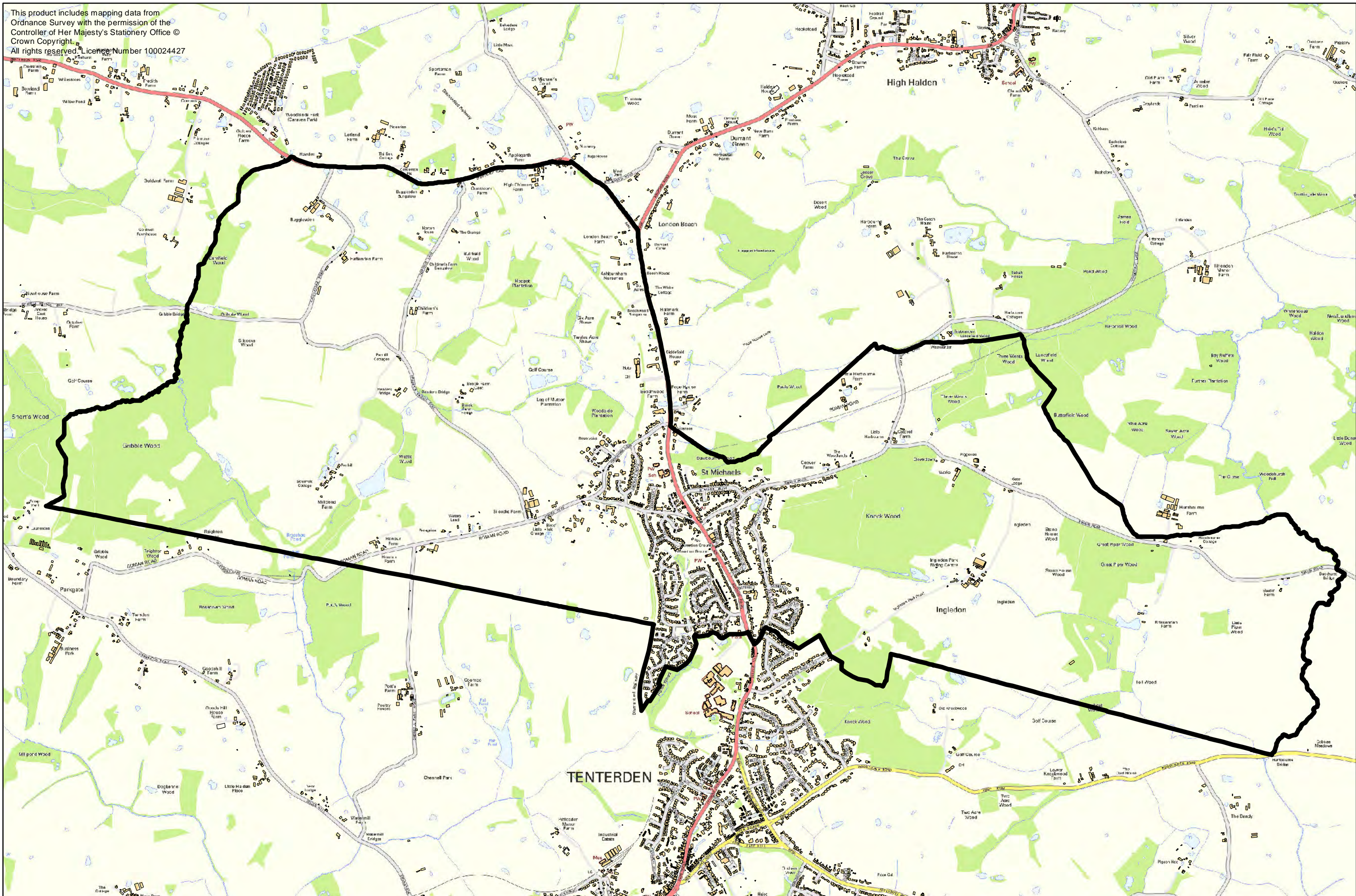
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 31

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100024427

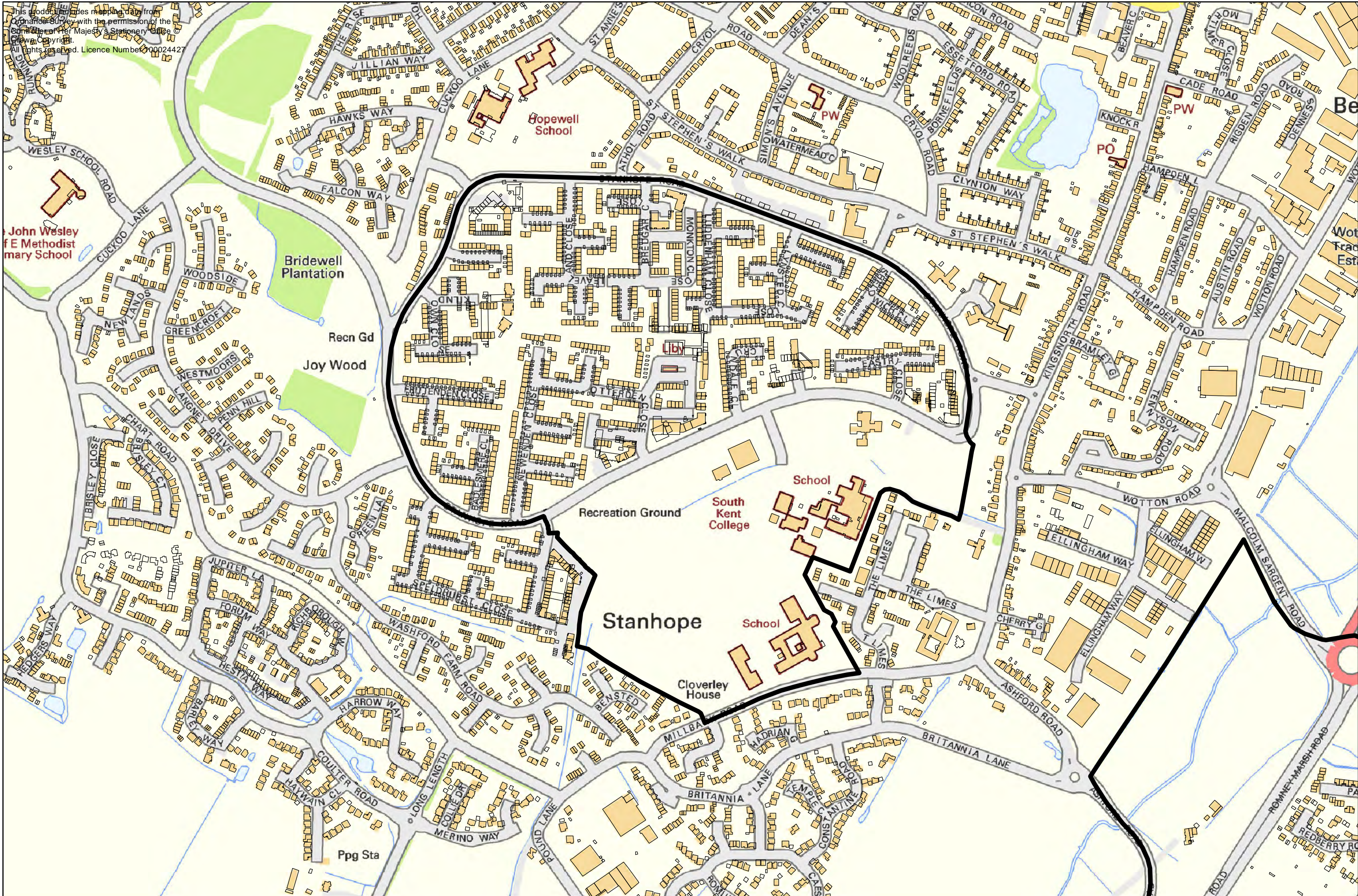


Ward Boundary Review - Ward 32

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



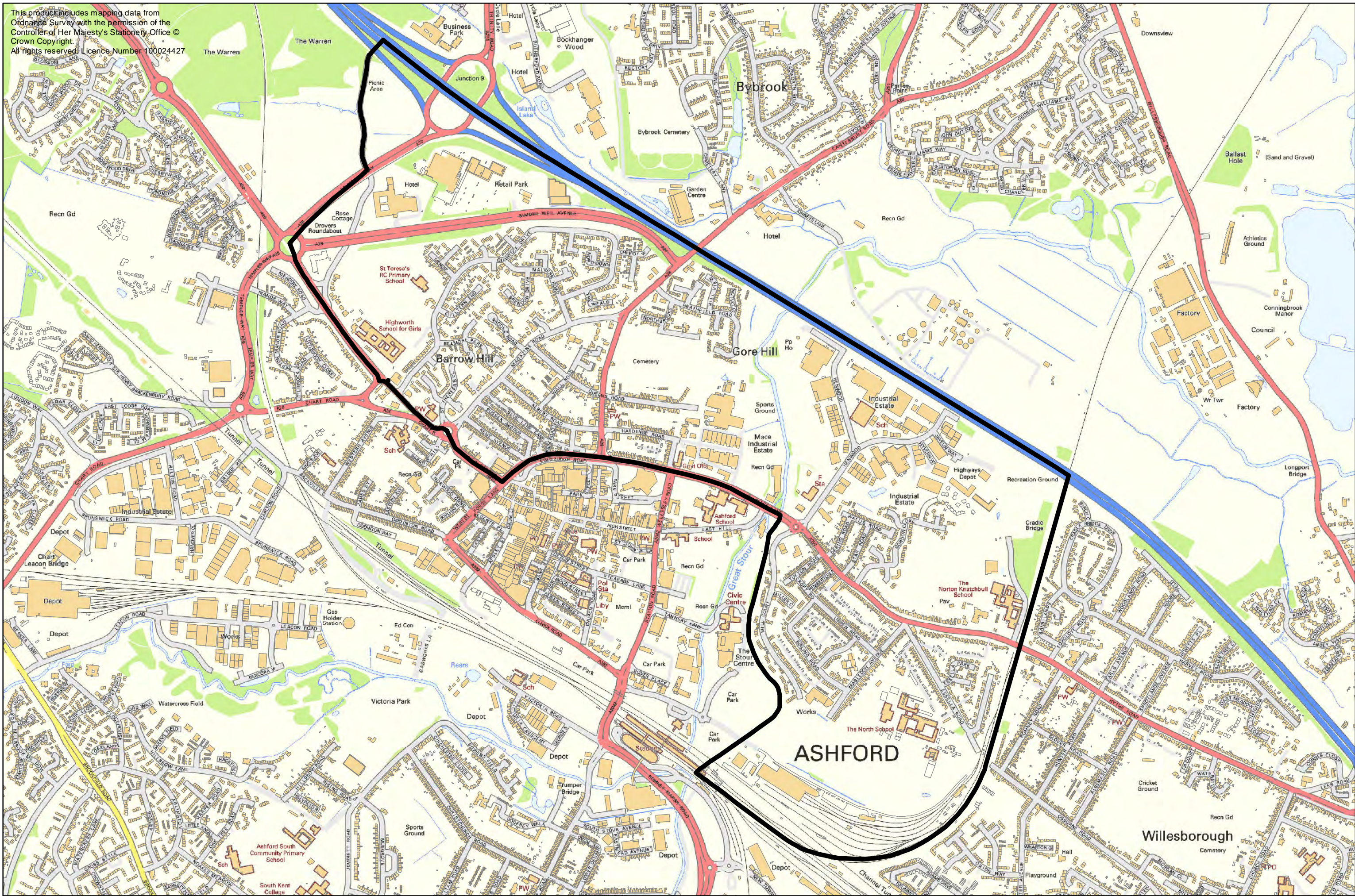
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 33



This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427

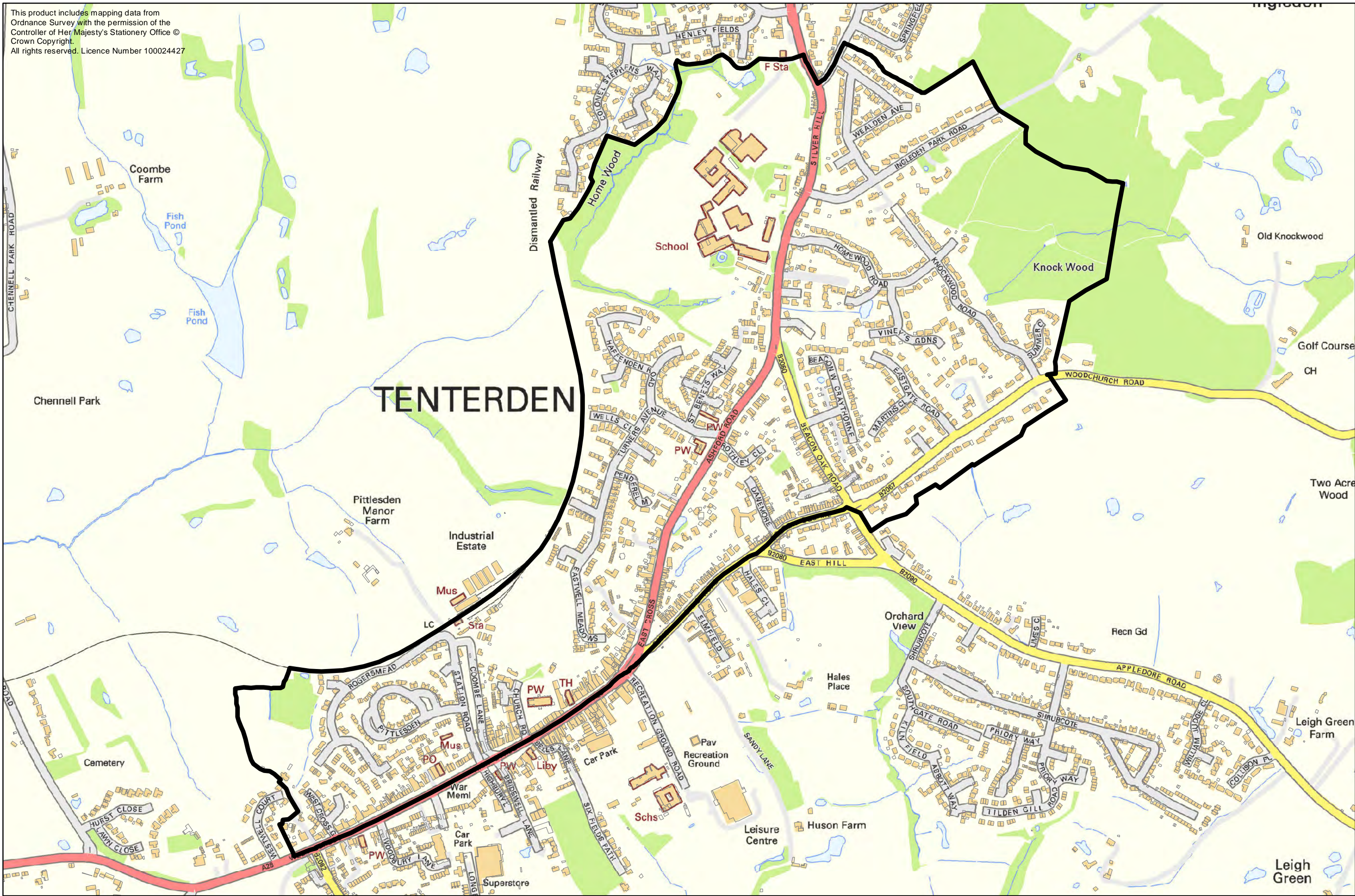
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 34

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



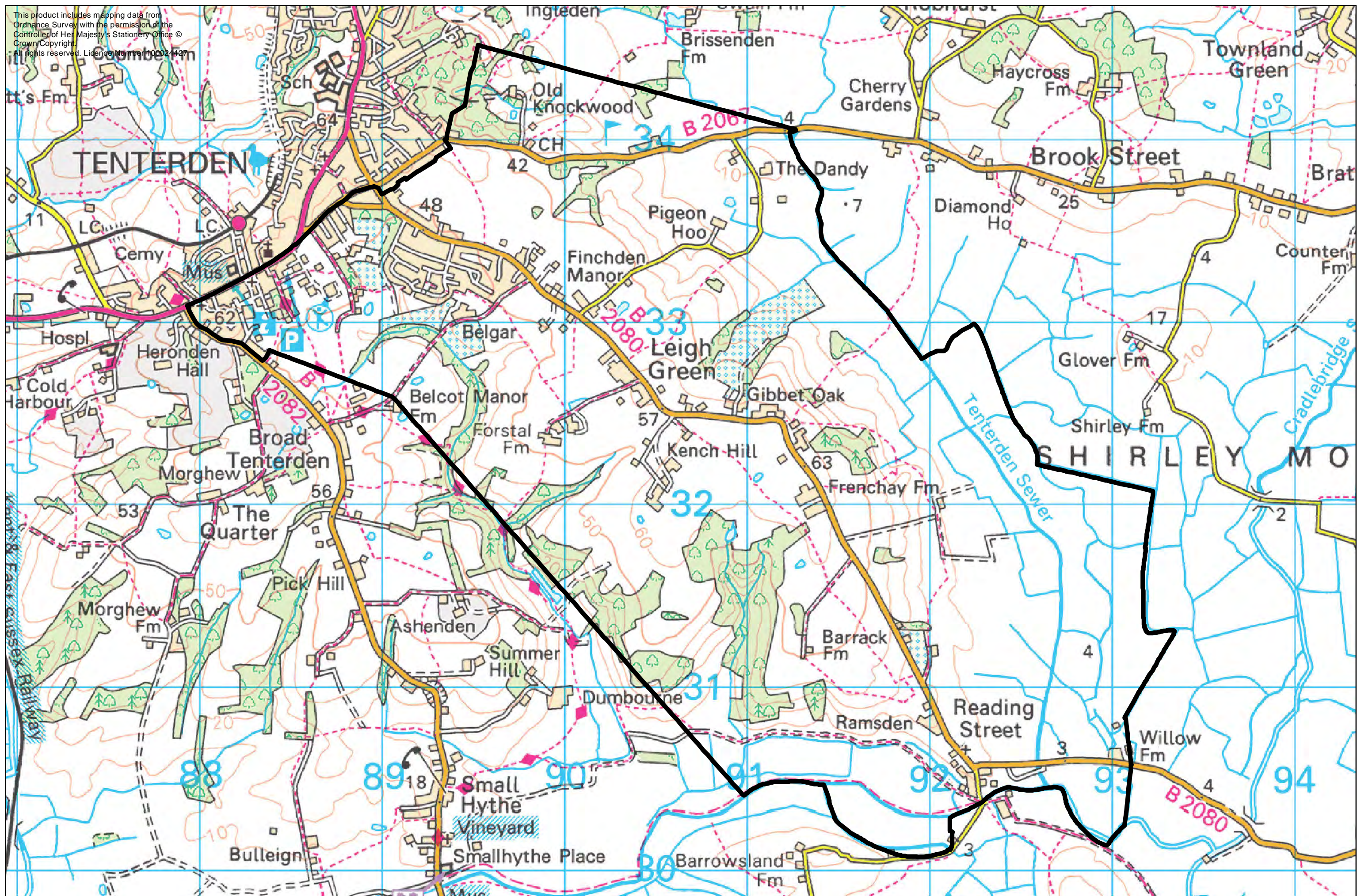
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 35

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



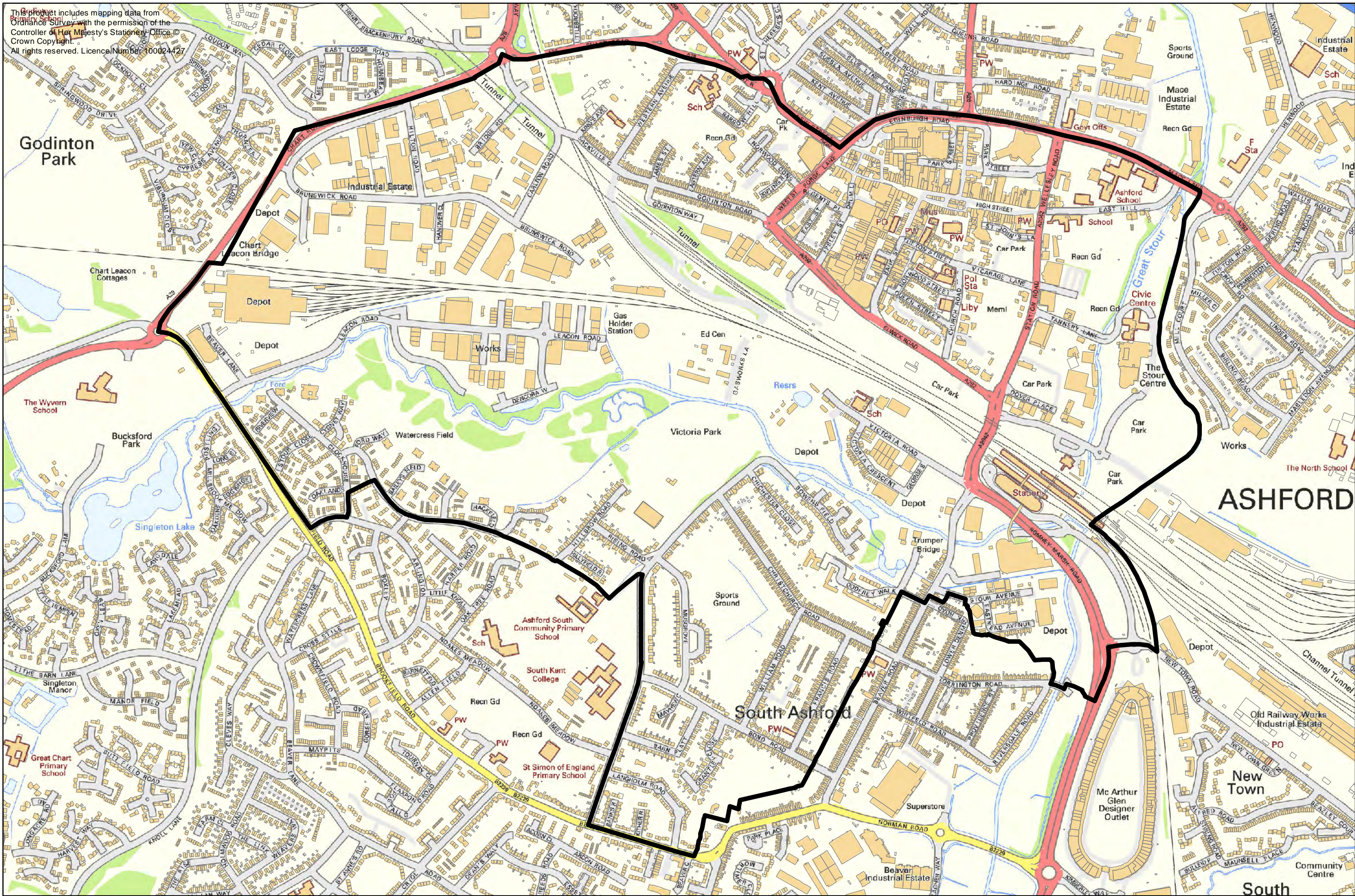
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 36

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



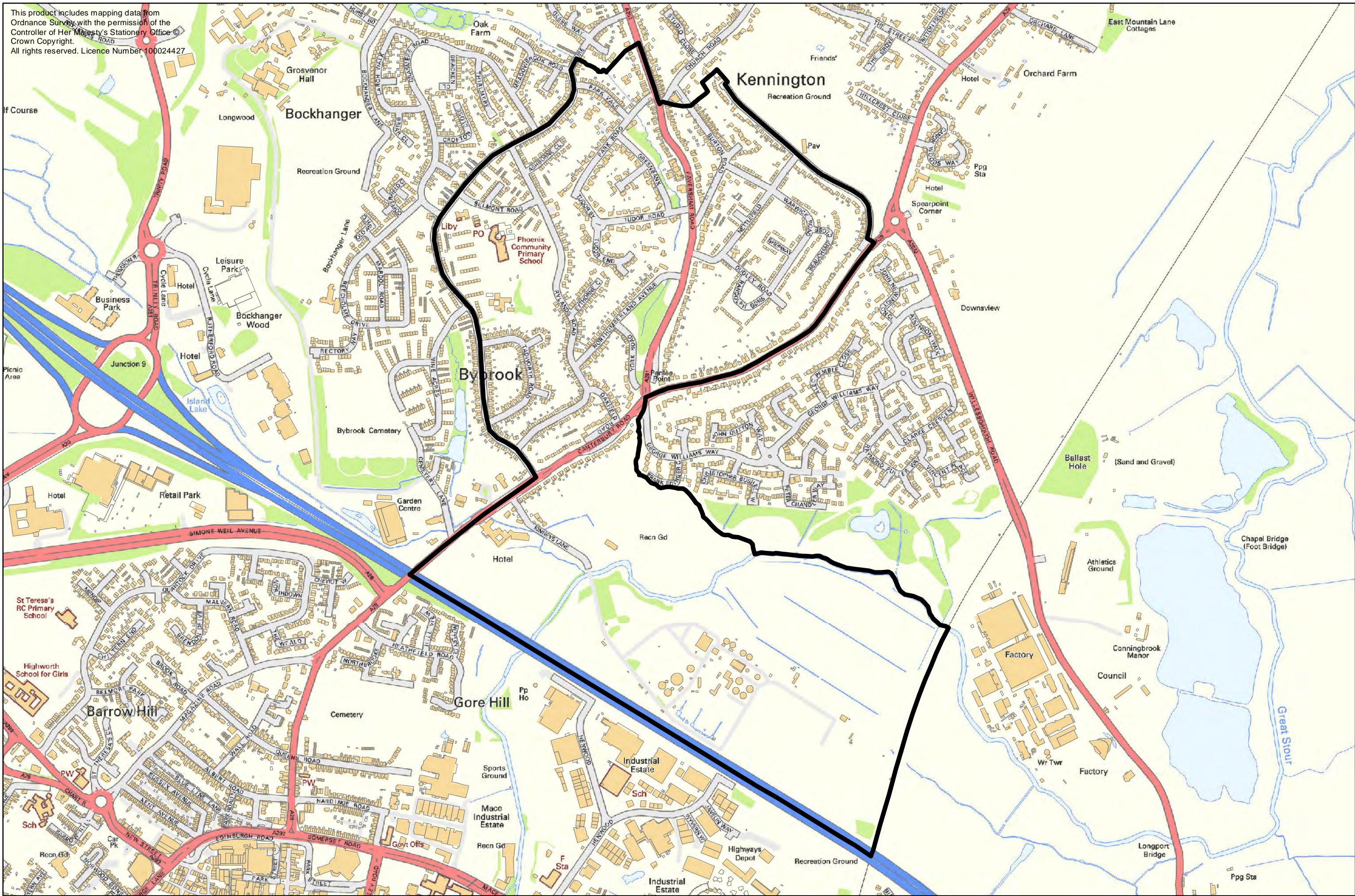
Ward Boundary Review - Ward 37

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



Ward Boundary Review - Ward 38

This product includes mapping data from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100024427



Ward Boundary Review - Ward 39