



DEMOCRATIC AUDIT BOUNDARY MODEL FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS

Lewis Baston, June 2011

The East Midlands produces an interesting test of the methodology adopted by the Boundary Commission for England in constructing cross-county constituencies. The dominant problem is that Northamptonshire is incompatible with a whole number of seats, and the only county with which it is possible to create a straddle seat is Leicestershire. In a sense, one has a Leicestershire-Northamptonshire entity (entitlement 16.46) plus the other counties. Arithmetically, it could be left at that, with Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire having 10, 10 and 7 respectively – but the Leicestershire – Northamptonshire combination would have to be given 17 small seats in order to make the regional delegation the right size! The Leicestershire/ Northants and Nottinghamshire seats would all have to average 3 per cent off quota, which is very hard to do without splitting wards and creating extremely artificial seats.

It is then perfectly possible to create a cross-border Leicestershire/ Nottinghamshire seat to balance up the electorates, leaving Derbyshire on its own with 10 seats. If minimising border-crossing, this is what the BCE would do. However, if there are other considerations it may not. The Leicestershire/ Nottinghamshire border is far from ideal for creating a straddle seat. Keeping Loughborough in one piece makes it impossible to give it enough Nottinghamshire territory to balance the numbers. The best option for a straddle is probably in the east of the counties, between Melton Mowbray and small Rushcliffe towns of Radcliffe, Bingham and Cotgrave. This is the basis of the alternative Democratic Audit scheme which will be published shortly.

However, the option chosen here is to cross the Derbyshire border twice in the interests of creating more harmonious cross-border seats and allowing a solution that involves less knock-on disruption to Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire.

	Current seats	2011 entitlement	Allocation	Pages
Derbyshire (including Derby)	11	10.12		2-4
Leicestershire (including Leicester and Rutland)	10	9.85		5-7
Lincolnshire	7	6.98	7	8-9
Northamptonshire	7	6.61		10-11
Nottinghamshire (including Nottingham)	11	10.30		12-14
EAST MIDLANDS	46		44	

Derbyshire

AMBER VALLEY (78,640)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Amber Valley	Amber Valley DC	Alfreton, Codnor & Waingroves, Heanor (3), Ironville & Riddings, Kilburn, Denby & Holbrook (part), Langley Mill & Aldercar, Ripley (2), Shipley Park, Horsley & Horsley Woodhouse, Somercotes, Swanwick	63,629	80.9
Bolsover	Bolsover DC	Blackwell, Pinxton, South Normanton (2)	14,935	19.0
Mid Derbyshire	Amber Valley DC	Kilburn, Denby & Holbrook (part)	76	0.1

CHESTERFIELD (76,386)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Chesterfield	Chesterfield DC	Entire current constituency	72,866	95.4
North East Derbyshire	Chesterfield DC	Lowgates & Woodthorpe	3,520	4.6

DERBY NORTH (76,277)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Derby North	Derby UA	Abbey, Chaddesden, Darley, Derwent, Mackworth	50,652	66.4
Mid Derbyshire	Derby UA	Oakwood, Spondon	19,997	33.6
Mid Derbyshire	Erewash DC	Ockbrook & Borrowash	5,628	

DERBY SOUTH (77,324)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Derby South	Derby UA	Entire current constituency	72,048	93.2
South Derbyshire	South Derbyshire DC	Aston	5,276	6.8

Derbyshire (cont.)

NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE (77,348)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North East Derbyshire	North East Derbyshire DC, Chesterfield DC	Entire current constituency less Lowgates & Woodthorpe	68,854	89.0
Bolsover	North East Derbyshire DC	Pilsley & Morton, Shirland	8,494	11.0

SOUTH WEST DERBYSHIRE (77,128)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South Derbyshire	South Derbyshire DC	Etwall, Hartshorne & Ticknall, Hatton, Hilton, Melbourne, North West, Repton, Stenson, Willington & Fintern	30,770	39.9
Derby North	Derby UA	Littleover, Mickleover	21,965	28.5
Mid Derbyshire	Derby UA	Allestree	10,997	19.4
Mid Derbyshire	Amber Valley DC	Duffield	3,946	
Derbyshire Dales	Derbyshire Dales DC	Brailsford, Clifton & Bradley, Doveridge & Sudbury, Hlland, Norbury	7,254	12.3
Derbyshire Dales	Amber Valley DC	South West Parishes	2,196	

EREWASH (78,682)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Erewash	Erewash DC	Entire current constituency	70,022	89.0
Mid Derbyshire	Erewash DC	Little Eaton & Breadsall, Stanley, West Hallam & Dale Abbey	8,660	11.0

Some of the additional territory was in the pre-2010 Erewash seat.

HIGH PEAK (75,363)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
High Peak	High Peak DC	Entire current constituency	72,178	95.8
Derbyshire Dales	Derbyshire Dales DC	Hathersage & Eyam	3,185	4.2

Derbyshire (cont.)

High Peak is an example of a constituency with a clear identity and coterminous with a local authority which is disrupted because it falls just short of the 5 per cent permitted variation.

MATLOCK AND BELPER (74,274)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Derbyshire Dales	Derbyshire Dales DC	All wards not listed under SW Derbyshire or High Peak	46,994	68.8
Derbyshire Dales	Amber Valley DC	Alport, Crich	4,103	
Mid Derbyshire	Amber Valley DC	Belper (4)	17,268	23.2
Amber Valley	Amber Valley DC	Heage & Ambergate, Wingfield	5,909	8.0

BOLSOVER AND OLLERTON (76,064)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bolsover	Bolsover DC	Barlborough, Bolsover (3), Clowne (2), Elmston-with-Creswell, Pleasley, Scarcliffe, Shirebrook (5), Tibshelf, Whitwell	42,759	64.1
Bolsover	North East Derbyshire DC	Holmewood & Heath, Sutton	5,974	
Sherwood	Newark & Sherwood DC	Boughton, Clipstone, Edwinstowe, Ollerton	16,368	21.5
Mansfield	Mansfield DC	Birklands, Meden	9,375	12.3
Bassetlaw	Bassetlaw DC	Welbeck	1,588	2.1

This is a cross-border seat with some coherence – it is wrapped around Mansfield and although mostly Derbyshire contains a fair Nottinghamshire portion around Warsop and Ollerton. It is very largely ex-mining territory.

Leicestershire

BLABY (74,243)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South Leicestershire	Blaby DC	Blaby South, Cosby with South Whetstone, Croft Hill, Enderby & St John's, Narborough & Littlethorpe, Normanton, North Whetstone, Pastures, Saxondale, Stanton & Flamville	38,091	77.3
South Leicestershire	Harborough DC	Broughton Astley (4), Dunton, Lutterworth (4), Peatling, Ullesthorpe	19,272	
Charnwood	Blaby DC	Ellis, Fairestone, Forest, Muxloe	16,880	22.7

BOSWORTH (78,934)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bosworth	Hinckley & Bosworth DC	All except as listed under Charnwood	67,799	85.9
North West Leicestershire	North West Leicestershire DC	Appleby, Ibstock & Heather, Measham	11,135	14.1

CHARNWOOD (77,483)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Charnwood	Charnwood DC	Anstey, Birstall Wanlip, Birstall Watermead, Forest Bradgate, Mountsorrel, Rothley and Thurcaston, Syston East, Syston West, Thurmaston	45,928	66.4
Charnwood	Bosworth DC	Groby	5,522	
Loughborough	Charnwood DC	Barrow & Sileby West, Quorn & Mountsorrel Castle, Sileby	16,045	20.7
Bosworth	Bosworth DC	Markfield, Stanton & Fieldhead, Ratby, Bagworth & Thornton	9,988	12.9

Leicestershire (cont.)

LEICESTER EAST (74,377)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Leicester East	Leicester UA	Unchanged current constituency	74,377	100.0

LEICESTER SOUTH (78,433)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Leicester South	Leicester UA	Unchanged current constituency	78,433	100.0

LEICESTER WEST (78,088)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Leicester West	Leicester UA	Entire current constituency	65,432	83.8
South Leicestershire	Blaby DC	Millfield, Ravenhurst & Fosse, Winstanley	12,656	16.2

This seems the easiest solution to the low electorate of Leicester West – extending across a continuously built-up boundary to the Braunstone area of Blaby.

SOUTH EAST LEICESTERSHIRE (73,517)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Harborough	Oadby & Wigston DC	Entire district	45,046	79.2
Harborough	Harborough DC	Fleckney, Glen, Kibworth	12,451	
Rutland & Melton	Harborough DC	Billesdon, Nevill, Thurnby & Houghton, Tilton	10,621	14.4
South Leicestershire	Blaby DC	Countesthorpe	5,399	7.3

The name change from Harborough is necessitated by the loss of Market Harborough; Oadby & Wigston is already the largest single element in the Harborough seat.

Leicestershire (cont.)

LOUGHBOROUGH (76,074)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Loughborough	Charnwood DC	Loughborough (10), Shepshed (2)	59,321	78.0
North West Leicestershire	North West Leicestershire DC	Bardon, Greenhill, Thringstone, Whitwick	16,753	22.0

There appears to be a viable alternative to this grouping, which would switch the Castle Donington tip of Leicestershire from Ashby & Swadlincote to Leicester, and some of the Whitwick area in the other direction.

RUTLAND AND MELTON (76,345)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Rutland & Melton	Rutland UA, Melton DC	Entire local authorities	66,703	87.4
Charnwood	Charnwood DC	East Goscote, Queniborough, Wreake Villages	5,124	9.3
Loughborough	Charnwood DC	The Wolds	2,518	3.3

Leicestershire/ Derbyshire

ASHBY AND SWADLINCOTE (79,414)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North West Leicestershire	North West Leicestershire DC	Ashby (3), Breedon, Castle Donington, Coalville, Hugglescote, Kegworth & Whatton, Moira, Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe, Ravenstone & Packington, Snibston, Valley	44,134	55.6
South Derbyshire	South Derbyshire DC	Church Gresley, Linton, Midway, Newhall & Stanton, Seales, Swadlincote, Woodville	35,280	44.4

Again, a straddle seat constructed on the basis of having a significant town on each side of the border. The current South Derbyshire seat appears divisible – it is partly the Swadlincote area, and partly some rural and commuter areas that look more to Derby.

Lincolnshire

This set of boundaries represents a pretty minimal change scenario.

BOSTON AND SKEGNESS (74,510)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Boston & Skegness	Boston DC, East Lindsey DC	Entire current constituency	70,620	94.8
Louth & Horncastle	East Lindsey DC	Chapel St Leonards	3,890	5.2

GAINSBOROUGH (78,452)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Gainsborough	West Lindsey DC	Entire current constituency less Wragby	71,945	91.7
Sleaford & North Hykeham	North Kesteven DC	Eagle, Swinderby & Witham St Hugh's	3,728	4.8
Lincoln	North Kesteven DC	Skellingthorpe	2,779	3.5

GRANTHAM AND STAMFORD (79,118)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Grantham & Stamford	South Kesteven DC	Unchanged current constituency	79,118	100.0

LINCOLN (77,190)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Lincoln	Lincoln DC, North Kesteven DC	Entire current constituency less Skellingthorpe	69,883	90.5
Sleaford & North Hykeham	North Kesteven DC	Heighington & Washington, Waddington West	7,307	9.5

LOUTH AND HORNCASTLE (74,193)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Louth & Horncastle	East Lindsey DC	Current constituency less Chapel St Leonards	72,343	97.5
Gainsborough	East Lindsey DC	Wragby	1,850	2.5

Lincolnshire (cont.)

SLEAFORD AND NORTH HYKEHAM (74,526)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Sleaford & North Hykeham	North Kesteven DC, South Kesteven DC	Current constituency less Eagle, Swinderby & Witham St Hugh's , Heighington & Washington, Waddington West	74,526	100.0

SOUTH HOLLAND AND THE DEEPINGS (76,939)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South Holland & The Deepings	South Holland DC, South Kesteven DC	Unchanged current constituency	76,939	100.0

Northamptonshire

Having gained a seventh seat in 2010, Northamptonshire is pegged back to six and a half under the new rules. Note that Northampton suffers particularly from the problem that the Boundary Commission has to work from a set of ward boundaries which no longer used in local elections.

CORBY (79,468)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Corby	Corby DC, East Northamptonshire DC	Unchanged current constituency	79,468	100.0

KETTERING (74,818)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Kettering	Kettering DC	Entire current constituency	69,610	93.0
Wellingborough	Wellingborough DC	Finedon, North	5,208	7.0

NORTHAMPTON NORTH (73,868)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Northampton North	Northampton DC	Entire current constituency	62,095	84.1
Northampton South	Northampton DC	Billing, Ecton Brook	11,773	15.9

NORTHAMPTON SOUTH (75,196)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Northampton South	Northampton DC	Entire current constituency less Billing, Ecton Brook	51,975	69.1
South Northamptonshire	Northampton DC	East Hunsbury, Nene Valley, West Hunsbury	23,221	30.9

Northamptonshire (cont.)

SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (75,594)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South Northamptonshire	South Northamptonshire DC	Entire constituency less Northampton DC wards	59,735	79.0
Daventry	Daventry DC	Badby, Byfield, Weedon, Woodford	8,665	21.0
Daventry	South Northamptonshire DC	Harpole & Grange, Heyfords & Bugbrooke	7,194	

WELLINGBOROUGH (77,175)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Wellingborough	Wellingborough DC, East Northamptonshire DC	Current constituency less Finedon, North	71,640	92.8
Daventry	Wellingborough DC	Earls Barton, West	5,535	7.2

DAVENTRY AND HARBOROUGH (73,759)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Daventry	Daventry DC	Entire district other than wards listed under South Northamptonshire	50,509	68.5
Harborough	Harborough DC	Bosworth, Lubenham, Market Harborough (4)	23,250	28.8
South Leicestershire	Harborough DC	Misterton	1,994	2.7

This appears to be an almost inevitable formula for Northamptonshire's cross-border constituency, given that it is at the edge of the East Midlands region and Leicestershire is the only other county in the East Midlands region with which it shares a length of border. It is composed according to the usual principle of trying to have a significant town in each county part of the constituency.

Nottinghamshire

ASHFIELD (73,638)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Ashfield	Ashfield DC	Jacksdale, Kirkby in Ashfield (3), Selston, Sutton in Ashfield (4), Underwood, Woodhouse	65,597	89.1
Sherwood	Gedling DC	Ravenshead	4,708	10.9
Sherwood	Newark & Sherwood DC	Blidworth	3,333	

BASSETLAW (76,718)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bassetlaw	Bassetlaw DC	Current constituency less Welbeck	76,718	100.0

BROXTOWE (79,526)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Broxtowe	Broxtowe DC	Current constituency less Nuthall East & Strelley	68,074	85.6
Ashfield	Broxtowe DC	Brinsley, Eastwood (2)	11,452	14.4

GEDLING (74,203)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Gedling	Gedling DC	Entire current constituency	70,886	95.5
Sherwood	Gedling DC	Lambley, Woodborough	3,317	4.5

MANSFIELD (75,629)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Mansfield	Mansfield DC	Current constituency less Birklands, Meden	70,474	93.2
Sherwood	Newark & Sherwood DC	Rainworth	5,155	6.8

Nottinghamshire (cont.)

NEWARK (75,609)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Newark	Newark & Sherwood DC	All wards in current constituency	53,541	86.5
Newark	Rushcliffe DC	Cranmer, Oak, Thoroton	4,981	
Newark	Bassetlaw DC	East Markham, Rampton, Tuxford & Trent	6,888	
Sherwood	Newark & Sherwood DC	Farnsfield & Blidthorpe	6,391	8.5
Rushcliffe	Rushcliffe DC	Trent	3,808	5.0

NOTTINGHAM EAST (74,675)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Nottingham East	Nottingham UA	Berridge, Dales, Mapperley, St Ann's, Sherwood	52,565	70.4
Nottingham North	Nottingham UA	Basford, Bestwood	22,110	29.6

NOTTINGHAM NORTH AND HUCKNALL (79,194)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Nottingham North	Nottingham UA	Aspley, Bilborough, Bulwell, Bulwell Forest	42,468	53.6
Sherwood	Ashfield DC	Hucknall (4)	24,050	41.4
Sherwood	Newark & Sherwood DC	Bestwood Village, Calverton, Newstead	8,789	
Broxtowe	Broxtowe DC	Nuthall East & Strelley	3,887	4.9

This broad formula for a constituency was previously used in 1955-74 when Hucknall was included in a Nottingham seat. Transport links between Hucknall and Nottingham have become closer in recent years with the Nottingham tram system reaching the town.

NOTTINGHAM SOUTH (76,078)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Nottingham South	Nottingham UA	Entire current constituency	69,154	90.9
Nottingham East	Nottingham UA	Arboretum	6,924	9.1

A constituency whose registered electorate seems to fluctuate.

Nottinghamshire (cont.)

RUSHCLIFFE (76,619)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Rushcliffe	Rushcliffe DC	Current constituency less Trent	69,622	90.9
Newark	Rushcliffe DC	Bingham (2)	6,977	9.1

ABOUT DEMOCRATIC AUDIT

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