



DEMOCRATIC AUDIT BOUNDARY MODEL FOR SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

Lewis Baston, June 2011

Overall, the South East drops one seat from 84 to 83 – the smallest loss of any region, a result of the special treatment of the Isle of Wight but also population growth and large existing constituencies, particularly in the counties to the north of the region.

Most counties can be given whole numbers of seats – in theory all of them, but East Sussex in practice is too far away from quota (seats would have to be around 4 per cent undersized on average) and the only neighbouring county with a surplus is Kent. The larger counties, Kent and Hampshire, essentially drop a seat each.

Special arrangements were legislated for the Isle of Wight, which was awarded 2 constituencies in a government amendment despite a theoretical entitlement to 1.45 constituencies.

	Current seats	2010 entitlement	2011 entitlement	Allocation	Detail: see pages
Berkshire	8	7.87	7.94	8	2-3
Buckinghamshire	7	7.10	7.06	7	4-5
East Sussex	8	7.70	7.69		6-8
Hampshire	18	17.11	17.13	17	9-13
Kent	17	16.19	16.12		15-20
Oxfordshire	6	6.21	6.20	6	21-23
Surrey	11	10.78	10.79	11	24-27
West Sussex	8	7.88	7.86	8	28-29
SOUTH EAST (not Isle of Wight)	83			81	
Isle of Wight	1		1.45	2	14

Berkshire

Berkshire is an easy county under the new rules – switching one ward brings all the constituencies within the threshold.

BRACKNELL (77,490)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bracknell	Bracknell Forest UA, Wokingham UA	Unchanged current constituency	77,490	100.0

MAIDENHEAD (74,028)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Maidenhead	Windsor & Maidenhead UA, Wokingham UA	Unchanged current constituency	74,028	100.0

NEWBURY (77,898)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Newbury	West Berkshire UA	Unchanged current constituency	77,898	100.0

READING EAST (78,170)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Reading East	Reading UA, Wokingham UA	Unchanged current constituency	78,170	100.0

READING WEST (73,216)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Reading West	Reading UA, West Berkshire UA	Unchanged current constituency	73,216	100.0

SLOUGH (75,998)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Slough	Slough UA	Current constituency less Foxborough	75,998	100.0

Berkshire (cont.)

WINDSOR (75,962)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Windsor	Windsor & Maidenhead UA, Slough UA	Entire current constituency	70,633	93.0
Slough	Slough UA	Foxborough	5,329	7.0

WOKINGHAM (75,886)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Wokingham	Wokingham UA, West Berkshire UA	Unchanged current constituency	75,886	100.0

Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire (including Milton Keynes) is entitled to 7.06 seats, and therefore retains its current 7 seats. Some adjustment is necessary because the seats in the south of the county are a bit small and the Milton Keynes seats are too large, but the process is not complicated.

AYLESBURY (78,554)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Aylesbury	Aylesbury Vale DC	Aston Clinton, Aylesbury Central, Bedgrove, Coldharbour, Elmhurst & Watermead, Gatehouse, Mandeville & Elm Farm, Oakfield, Quarrendon (part), Southcourt, Walton Court & Hawkslade	57,358	87.0
Aylesbury	Wycombe DC	Bledlow & Bradenham, Greater Hughenden, Lacey Green, Speen & The Hampdens	10,945	
Buckingham	Wycombe DC	Icknield, The Risboroughs	8,852	11.3
Buckingham	Aylesbury Vale DC	Bierton, Quarrendon (part)	1,399	1.8

BEACONSFIELD (75,320)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Beaconsfield	South Buckinghamshire DC, Wycombe DC	Unchanged current constituency	75,320	100.0

BUCKINGHAM (78,768)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Buckingham	Aylesbury Vale DC	All wards in current constituency less Bierton, Quarrendon (part)	65,586	83.3
Milton Keynes South	Milton Keynes UA	Danesborough, Walton Park	13,174	16.7
Aylesbury	Aylesbury Vale DC	Weedon (part)	8	0.01

Buckinghamshire (cont.)

CHESHAM AND AMERSHAM (76,938)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Chesham & Amersham	Chiltern DC	Entire current constituency	70,723	91.9
Aylesbury	Aylesbury Vale DC	Wendover	6,215	8.1

MILTON KEYNES NORTH EAST (77,957)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Milton Keynes North	Milton Keynes UA	Current constituency less Wolverton	71,103	91.2
Milton Keynes South	Milton Keynes UA	Woughton	6,854	8.8

MILTON KEYNES SOUTH WEST (75,647)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Milton Keynes South	Milton Keynes UA	Current constituency less Danesborough, Walton Park	65,524	86.6
Milton Keynes North	Milton Keynes UA	Wolverton	10,123	13.4

WYCOMBE (77,974)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Wycombe	Wycombe DC	Entire current constituency	73,750	94.6
Aylesbury	Wycombe DC	Stokenchurch & Radnage	4,224	5.4

East Sussex

BRIGHTON EAST AND LEWES (74,977)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Brighton Kemptown	Brighton & Hove UA	East Brighton, Moulsecomb & Bevendean, Rottingdean Coastal, Woodingdean	39,434	74.7
Brighton Kemptown	Lewes DC	East Saltdean & Telscombe Cliffs, Peacehaven (3)	16,130	
Lewes	Lewes DC	Barcombe & Hamsey, Ditchling & Westmeston, Kingston, Lewes (3), Plumpton, Streat, East Chiltington & St Johns (Without)	19,413	25.3

The Brighton-Hove area has three somewhat small seats, and because it is in the corner of the county the options are limited and the knock-on consequences of getting Hove and Pavilion up to size is a radical change to Kemptown and Lewes – another infusion of Lewes DC wards into an east Brighton seat. Because of the geography the options here too are limited – either down the coast to Newhaven and parts of Seaford, or (as here) inland to Lewes itself, whose links with Brighton are probably stronger than those felt in Seaford (Seaford is the largest town in the current Lewes constituency).

BRIGHTON PAVILION (77,392)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Brighton Pavilion	Brighton & Hove UA	Current constituency less Regency	66,399	85.8
Brighton Kemptown	Brighton & Hove UA	Queen's Park	10,993	14.2

EASTBOURNE (76,978)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Eastbourne	Eastbourne DC, Wealden DC	Unchanged current constituency	76,978	100.0

HASTINGS AND RYE (76,422)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Hastings & Rye	Hastings DC, Rother DC	Unchanged current constituency	76,422	100.0

East Sussex (cont.)

HOVE (78,212)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Hove	Brighton & Hove UA	Entire current constituency	71,181	91.0
Brighton Pavilion	Brighton & Hove UA	Regency	7,031	9.0

SEAFORD AND HAILSHAM (74,573)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Lewes	Lewes DC	Newhaven (2), Ouse Valley & Ringmer, Seaford (5)	33,179	58.1
Lewes	Wealden DC	Alfriston, East Dean, Polegate (2)	10,154	
Wealden	Wealden DC	Chiddingley & East Hoathly, Hailsham (3), Hellingly	19,576	26.3
Bexhill & Battle	Wealden DC	Herstmonceux, Ninfield & Hooe with Wartling, Pevensey & Westham, Polegate North (part)	11,664	15.6

If the Brighton East & Lewes seat is the successor to Kempdown, this is the successor to Lewes; it shifts eastwards to the hinterland of Eastbourne.

WEALDEN (73,884)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Wealden	Wealden DC	Buxted & Maresfield, Crowborough (5), Forest Row, Framfield, Frant/Withyham, Hartfield, Horam, Mayfield, Rotherfield, Uckfield (4), Wadhurst	57,960	78.4
Bexhill & Battle	Wealden DC	Cross in Hand/ Five Ashes, Heathfield (2)	10,155	13.7
Lewes	Lewes DC	Chailey & Wivelsfield, Newick	5,769	7.8

East Sussex/Kent

BEXHILL AND TENTERDEN (74,876)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bexhill & Battle	Rother DC	All wards currently in the constituency	56,783	75.8
Ashford	Ashford DC	Biddenden, Isle of Oxney, Rolvenden & Tenterden West, St. Michael's, Tenterden (2)	11,813	15.8
Tunbridge Wells	Tunbridge Wells DC	Hawkhurst & Sandhurst	4,606	6.2
Maidstone & The Weald	Tunbridge Wells DC	Frittenden & Sissinghurst	1,674	2.2

This is a cross-border seat, combining Bexhill with a rural, Weald area on both sides of the county border.

Hampshire

The seat that disappears is basically the newly created Meon Valley constituency in the south east of Hampshire.

ALDERSHOT (79,681)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Aldershot	Rushmoor DC, Hart DC	Entire current constituency	71,908	90.2
North East Hampshire	Hart DC	Yateley East, Yateley North	7,773	9.8

BASINGSTOKE (75,470)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Basingstoke	Basingstoke & Deane DC	Unchanged current constituency	75,470	100.0

EASTLEIGH (78,313)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Eastleigh	Eastleigh DC	Unchanged current constituency	78,313	100.0

FAREHAM (76,314)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Fareham	Fareham DC	Current constituency less Titchfield	70,774	92.7
Meon Valley	Winchester DC	Whiteley, Wickham	5,540	7.3

GOSPORT (78,528)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Gosport	Gosport DC, Fareham DC	Entire current constituency	72,845	92.8
Fareham	Fareham DC	Titchfield	5,683	7.2

Hampshire (cont.)

EAST HAMPSHIRE (75,559)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
East Hampshire	East Hampshire DC	Binstead & Bentley, Bramshott & Liphook, East Meon, Froxfield & Steep, Grayshott, Headley, Lindford, Liss, Petersfield (6), Ropley & Tisted, Selborne, The Hangers & Forest, Whitehill (5)	51,643	68.3
Meon Valley	East Hampshire DC	Clanfield & Finchdean, Horndean (5), Rowlands Castle	16,505	
Meon Valley	Havant DC	Cowplain	7,411	

NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE (79,115)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North East Hampshire	Hart DC	Church Crookham (2), Crondall, Eversley, Fleet (5), Hartley Wintney, Hook, Long Sutton, Odiham, Yateley West	53,037	67.0
East Hampshire	East Hampshire DC	Alton (6), Downland, Four Marks & Medstead, Holybourne & Froyle	21,005	26.5
Winchester	Winchester DC	The Alresfords	5,073	6.4

NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE (79,446)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North West Hampshire	Test Valley DC, Basingstoke & Deane DC	Current constituency less wards listed under Romsey	67,708	85.2
North East Hampshire	Basingstoke & Deane DC	Bramley & Sherfield, Pamber & Silchester, Sherborne St John, Upton Grey & The Candovers	11,738	14.8

Hampshire (cont.)

HAVANT (78,552)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Havant	Havant DC	Current constituency less Purbrook	63,271	80.5
Meon Valley	Havant DC	Hart Plain, Waterloo	15,281	19.5

NEW FOREST EAST (74,982)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
New Forest East	New Forest DC	Current constituency less Boldre & Sway	69,144	92.2
Romsey & Southampton North	Test Valley DC	Blackwater, Dun Valley	5,838	7.8

NEW FOREST WEST (73,385)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
New Forest West	New Forest DC	Entire current constituency	68,987	94.0
New Forest East	New Forest DC	Boldre & Sway	4,398	6.0

PORTSMOUTH EAST (77,856)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Portsmouth South	Portsmouth UA	Central Southsea, Eastney & Craneswater, Milton, St Jude	39,077	50.2
Portsmouth North	Portsmouth UA	Baffins, Copnor, Drayton & Farlington	31,482	40.4
Havant	Havant DC	Purbrook	7,297	9.4

PORTSMOUTH WEST (73,186)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Portsmouth North	Portsmouth UA	Cosham, Hilsea, Nelson, Paulsgrove	40,316	55.1
Portsmouth South	Portsmouth UA	Charles Dickens, Fratton, St Thomas	32,870	44.9

Hampshire (cont.)

Hampshire (cont.)

Portsmouth is a problem area – keeping the current North/ South split would involve splitting a ward. A Portsmouth West seat existed before 1974.

ROMSEY (78,650)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Romsey & Southampton North	Test Valley DC	Abbey, Ampfield & Braishfield, Broughton & Stockbridge, Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams, Cupernham, Harewood, Kings Somborne & Michelmersh, North Baddesley, Over Wallop, Romsey Extra, Tadburn, Valley Park	41,909	67.0
Romsey & Southampton North	Southampton UA	Bassett	10,771	
Winchester	Eastleigh DC	Chandler's Ford (2), Hiltingbury (2)	16,658	21.2
North West Hampshire	Test Valley DC	Ampport, Anna, Penton Bellinger	9,312	11.8

SOUTHAMPTON ITCHEN (74,513)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Southampton Itchen	Southampton UA	Unchanged current constituency	74,513	100.0

SOUTHAMPTON TEST (80,441)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Southampton Test	Southampton UA	Entire current constituency	71,263	88.6
Romsey & Southampton North	Southampton UA	Swaythling	9,178	11.4

Hampshire (cont.)

WINCHESTER (78,961)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Winchester	Winchester DC	All Winchester DC wards in current constituency	57,480	72.8
Meon Valley	Winchester DC	Bishops Waltham, Boarhunt & Southwick, Cheriton & Bishops Sutton, Denmead, Droxford, Soberton & Hambledon, Owslebury & Curdrige, Shedfield, Swanmore & Newtown, Upper Meon Valley	21,481	27.2

Isle of Wight

ISLE OF WIGHT EAST (56,797)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight UA	Arreton & Newchurch, Binstead & Fishbourne, Brading, St Helens & Bembridge, Godshill & Wroxall, Havenstreet, Asheys & Haylands, Lake (2), Nettlestone & Seaview, Ryde (5), Sandown (2), Shanklin (2), Ventnor (2)	56,797	100.0

ISLE OF WIGHT WEST (54,127)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight UA	Carisbrooke, Central Wight, Chale, Niton & Whitwell, Cowes (4), East Cowes, Freshwater (2), Newport (5), Parkhurst, Totland, West Wight, Whippingham & Osborne, West Wight, Wootton Bridge	54,127	100.0

The line of division is essentially the eastern coastal, fairly urbanised strip from Ryde to Ventnor – most of it served by Wight’s railway line – and the rest of the Isle.

Kent

Kent with an entitlement of 16.12 seats is compatible with a whole-number allocation of 16 seats (and a 16-seat pattern is probably the best way of producing seats which correspond to local government boundaries). However, East Sussex (7.69 seat entitlement) is too small realistically for a whole number of seats and Kent is the only potential pair for it. The result is a somewhat unsatisfactory straddle seat necessitated by the tight 5 per cent threshold and the allocation of 81 seats to the South East mainland. The seat that vanishes is essentially Faversham & Mid Kent. There are a number of alternative configurations in the north of the county, some preserving more recognisable separate Rochester/ Chatham seats, or combining Dartford and Swanley.

ASHFORD (73,441)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Ashford	Ashford DC	Aylesford Green, Beaver, Bockhanger, Bybrook, Charing, Downs West, Godington, Great Chart with Singleton North, Highfield, Kennington, Little Burton Farm, Norman, Willesborough (2), Park Farm (2), Singleton South, Stanhope, Stour, Victoria, Washford, Weald (4)	64,119	87.3
Folkestone & Hythe	Shepway DC	Lympne & Stanford, North Downs West	5,226	7.1
Folkestone & Hythe	Ashford DC	Saxon Shore	4,096	5.6

CANTERBURY AND FAVERSHAM (75,051)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Canterbury	Canterbury DC	Barham Downs, Barton, Blean Forest, Chartham & Stone Street, Harblesdown, Little Stour, North Nailbourne, Northgate, St Stephens, Sturry (2), Westgate, Wincheap	48,568	64.7
Faversham & Mid Kent	Swale DC	Abbey, Boughton & Courtenay, Davington Priory, East Downs, St Ann's, Watling	20,468	27.3
Ashford	Ashford DC	Boughton Aluph & Eastwell, Downs North, Wye	6,015	8.0

Kent (cont.)

Although based on Canterbury, this seat looks west rather than north for its hinterland – the Swale element is straightforwardly transferred from the abolished Faversham & Mid Kent seat, and the Ashford wards around Wye are linked to Canterbury.

DARTFORD (79,593)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Dartford	Dartford DC	Entire local authority	69,972	87.9
Gravesham	Gravesham DC	Northfleet (2)	9,621	12.1

Dartford is currently awkwardly grouped with a rural Sevenoaks ward. An ideal solution might be to create an urban seat based on Dartford and Swanley. However, extending along the Thames frontage to Northfleet, with which eastern Dartford shares the Ebbsfleet station area, produces a satisfactory group of seats.

DOVER (77,565)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Dover	Dover DC	Entire current constituency	71,993	92.8
South Thanet	Dover DC	Sandwich	5,572	7.2

FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE (74,834)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Folkestone & Hythe	Shepway DC	Entire local authority less Lympe & Stanford, North Downs West	74,834	100.0

The Folkestone & Hythe constituency provides an interesting illustration of the flaws in the new boundary determination method. When initial modelling was done on the basis of the December 2009 electorate figures, the existing seat (which included a ward of Ashford) was about the right size. However, the electorate in Shepway council grew by 9 per cent between December 2009 and December 2010, with the biggest gains in the central wards of Folkestone. As a result, a slightly reduced version of the seat (coterminous with Shepway district) is only just inside the permitted size range. In the interests of a satisfactorily sized straddle seat with East Sussex, some territory around the M20 is given up to Ashford. With variations of this scale taking place from year to year, the quest for seats of the same 'size' is based on a superficial and inadequate measure of that 'size'.

Kent (cont.)

GILLINGHAM AND RAINHAM (76,487)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Gillingham & Rainham	Medway UA	Entire current constituency	71,109	93.0
Rochester & Strood	Medway UA	River	5,378	7.0

A minimal alteration to the seat, taking in a central Medway ward.

GRAVESEND (74,214)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Gravesham	Gravesham DC	Central, Chalk, Coldharbour, Higham, Painters Ash, Pelham, Riverside, Riverview, Shorne, Cobham & Luddesdown, Singlewell, Whitehill, Woodlands	53,849	72.6
Rochester & Strood	Medway UA	Peninsula, Strood Rural	20,365	27.4

Both Gravesham and Dartford boroughs are just short of the required size, and some substantial alterations and cross-district seats are needed to get both within the threshold. The method used here is, for Gravesham, to more or less revert to the pre-1983 borders when the Peninsula area of Medway was associated with it. Because the seat is no longer coterminous with Gravesham borough, it can be called Gravesend.

MID KENT (73,366)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Chatham & Aylesford	Tonbridge & Malling DC	Aylesford, Blue Bell Hill & Walderslade, Burham, Eccles & Wouldham, Ditton, Larkfield (2), Snodland (2)	28,114	48.2
Chatham & Aylesford	Medway UA	Walderslade	7,215	
Tonbridge & Malling	Tonbridge & Malling DC	Downs, East Malling, Kings Hill, West Malling & Leybourne, Wrotham	16,913	23.1
Faversham & Mid Kent	Maidstone DC	Boxley, Detling & Thurnham, Harrietsham & Lenham, North Downs	14,944	20.4
Rochester & Strood	Medway UA	Cuxton & Halling	4,228	5.8
Maidstone & The Weald	Maidstone DC	Barming	1,952	2.7

Kent (cont.)

Mid Kent's closest predecessor is Chatham & Aylesford but it is a seat of a different character – the Aylesford core is associated not with urban Chatham but mostly with villages in Malling and in Mid Kent along the M20. The M20 indeed forms a spine for this seat – it is very compact in terms of drive time from one area to another. The seat is a little like the 1983-97 version of Mid Kent, although without the Chatham component that seat featured.

MAIDSTONE (79,196)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Maidstone & The Weald	Maidstone DC	Allington, Bridge, East, Fant, Heath, High Street, Loose, North, South	46,087	58.2
Faversham & Mid Kent	Maidstone DC	Bearsted, Boughton Monchelsea & Chart Sutton, Downswood & Otham, Headcorn, Leeds, Park Wood, Shepway (2), Sutton Valence & Langley,	33,109	41.8

Maidstone town has been split awkwardly between constituencies in the last three sets of parliamentary boundaries, but there is an opportunity to unite it in a 16-seat pattern for Kent. The town has a relatively small rural hinterland to the south.

ROCHESTER AND CHATHAM (78,138)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Rochester & Strood	Medway UA	Rochester (3), Strood North, Strood South	45,030	57.6
Chatham & Aylesford	Medway UA	Chatham Central, Lordswood & Capstone, Luton & Wayfield, Princes Park	33,108	42.4

Rochester and Chatham was a parliamentary unit before 1983; this seat combines the twin towns.

SEVENOAKS (78,521)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks DC	Current constituency less Seal & Weald	66,795	85.1
Gravesham	Gravesham DC	Meopham (2)	6,942	8.8
Dartford	Sevenoaks DC	Hartley & Hodsoll Street	4,784	6.1

Kent (cont.)

SITTINGBOURNE AND SHEPPEY (74,796)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Sittingbourne & Sheppey	Swale DC	Unchanged current constituency	74,796	100.0

THANET (75,112)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South Thanet	Thanet DC	All Thanet DC wards in the constituency	57,001	75.9
North Thanet	Thanet DC	Dane Valley, Garlinge, Margate Central, Salmestone, Westbrook	18,111	24.1

The options for the Thanet seats are either to consolidate into one (as here) or have ever more ungainly 'sandwich' seats (perhaps a particularly appropriate term in this part of the world) spreading outwards (and getting a satisfactory Dover seat makes this difficult). This seat is based on South Thanet but shifts northwards to cover the core of Margate.

TONBRIDGE AND THE WEALD (73,936)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Tonbridge & Malling	Tonbridge & Malling DC	Borough Green & Long Mill, Cage Green, Castle, East Peckham & Golden Green, Hadlow, Mereworth & West Peckham, Higham, Hildenborough, Ightham, Judd, Medway, Trench, Vauxhall, Watlington	43,238	74.5
Tonbridge & Malling	Sevenoaks DC	Cowden & Hever, Edenbridge (2), Leigh & Chiddingstone Causeway, Penshurst, Fordcombe & Chiddingstone	11,838	
Maidstone & The Weald	Maidstone DC	Coxheath & Hunton, Marden & Yalding, Staplehurst	15,730	21.3
Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks DC	Seal & Weald	3,130	4.2

A somewhat altered seat, which loses Malling to Mid Kent but picks up some Weald countryside.

Kent (cont.)

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (73,555)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Tunbridge Wells	Tunbridge Wells DC	Current constituency less Hawkhurst & Sandhurst	68,422	
Maidstone & The Weald	Tunbridge Wells DC	Benenden & Cranbrook	5,133	

WHITSTABLE (79,607)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North Thanet	Canterbury DC	Greenhill & Eddington, Herne & Broomfield, Heron, Marshside, Reculver, West Bay	31,024	61.6
North Thanet	Thanet DC	Birchington (2), Thanet Villages, Westgate-on-Sea	17,975	
Canterbury	Canterbury DC	Chestfield & Swalecliffe, Gorrell, Harbour, Seasalter, Tankerton	25,211	31.7
South Thanet	Dover DC	Little Stour & Ashstone	5,397	6.8

A successor to North Thanet, covering a coastal strip shifted somewhat west of the current seat.

Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire has six large constituencies. They are large even by the new standard, and the county's entitlement of 6.20 means that it could well be paired depending on the overall allocation to the South East. However, on this occasion it can be left alone – although the average constituency size of a bit more than 3 per cent over quota gives little room for manoeuvre, and comparatively large changes are needed to get all seats within the permitted size range.

BANBURY (79,103)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Banbury	Cherwell DC	Adderbury, Banbury (6), Bloxham & Ruscote, Caversfield, Cropredy, Deddington, Fringford, Hook Norton, Sibford, The Astons & Heyfords, Wroxton	58,429	73.9
Oxford West & Abingdon	Cherwell DC	Yarnton, Gosford & Water Eaton, Kidlington (2)	13,722	17.3
Witney	West Oxfordshire DC	Stonesfield & Tackley, The Bartons	4,722	6.0
Henley	Cherwell DC	Kirtlington	2,230	2.8

HENLEY AND BICESTER (79,128)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Henley	South Oxfordshire DC	Aston Rowant, Benson, Berinsfield, Chalgrove, Chiltern Woods, Chinnor, Forest Hill & Holton, Garsington, Great Milton, Henley (2), Thame (2), Watlington, Wheatley	51,543	67.6
Henley	Cherwell DC	Otmoor	1,951	
Banbury	Cherwell DC	Ambrosden & Chesterford, Bicester (5), Launton	25,634	32.4

It would be possible to have less change elsewhere if Bicester town was to be split, but that seems sufficiently undesirable that the suggested pattern is to be preferred.

Oxfordshire (cont.)

OXFORD EAST (79,601)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Oxford East	Oxford DC	Current constituency less Carfax	77,769	97.7
Henley	South Oxfordshire DC	Sandford	1,832	2.3

OXFORD WEST AND ABINGDON (79,701)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Oxford West & Abingdon	Vale of White Horse DC	Abingdon (7), Applecote & Cumnor, Kennington & South Hinksey, North Hinksey & Wytham, Radley, Sunningwell & Wootton	42,625	80.4
Oxford West & Abingdon	Oxford DC	Jericho & Osney, North, St Margaret's, Summertown, Wolvercote	21,464	
Wantage	Vale of White Horse DC	Drayton, Hanneys, Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, Longworth, Marcham & Shippon, Sutton Courtenay & Appleford	11,737	14.7
Oxford East	Oxford DC	Carfax	3,875	4.9

The constituency shifts south west and picks up more rural territory while losing Kidlington.

WANTAGE (78,463)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Wantage	Vale of White Horse DC	Blewbury & Upton, Craven, Greendown, Grove, Harwell, Hendreds, Shrivenham, Stanfords, Wantage (2)	31,356	79.2
Wantage	South Oxfordshire DC	Brightwell, Cholsey & Wallingford South, Didcot (4), Hagbourne, Wallingford North	30,812	
Henley	South Oxfordshire DC	Crowmarsh, Goring, Shiplake, Sonning Common, Woodcote	16,295	20.8

Oxfordshire (cont.)

WITNEY (79,368)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Witney	West Oxfordshire DC	Current constituency less Stonesfield & Tackley, The Bartons	73,498	92.6
Wantage	Vale of White Horse DC	Faringdon & The Coxwells	5,870	7.4

Surrey

CHERTSEY AND SHEPPERTON (74,375)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Runnymede & Weybridge	Runnymede DC	Addlestone (2), Chertsey (3), Foxhills	25,806	49.0
Runnymede & Weybridge	Elmbridge DC	Oatlands Park, Weybridge (2)	10,645	
Spelthorne	Spelthorne DC	Halliford & Sunbury West, Shepperton Town, Sunbury Common, Sunbury East	21,104	28.4
Esher & Walton	Elmbridge DC	Walton (4)	16,820	22.6

EPSOM AND EWELL (76,916)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Epsom & Ewell	Epsom & Ewell DC, Reigate & Banstead DC, Mole Valley DC	Unchanged current constituency	76,916	100.0

ESHER (76,358)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Esher & Walton	Elmbridge DC	Claygate, Cobham (2), Esher, Hersham (2), Hinchley Wood, Long Ditton, Molesey (3), Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon, Thames Ditton, West Green	60,412	79.1
Mole Valley	Guildford DC	Clandon & Horsley, Lovelace, Send	11,800	15.4
Runnymede & Weybridge	Elmbridge DC	St George's Hill	4,416	5.8

Surrey (cont.)

GUILDFORD (72,960)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Guildford	Guildford DC	Burpham, Christchurch, Friary & St Nicholas, Holy Trinity, Merrow, Onslow, Pilgrims, Shalford, Stoke, Stoughton, Westborough, Worplesdon	63,521	89.1
Guildford	Waverley DC	Blackheath & Wonersh	1,457	
Woking	Guildford DC	Normandy, Pirbright	4,543	6.2
South West Surrey	Waverley DC	Bramley, Busbridge & Hascombe	3,439	4.7

MOLE VALLEY (73,307)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Mole Valley	Mole Valley DC	All wards except Ashted (3)	54,506	74.4
Mole Valley	Guildford DC	Effingham, Tillingbourne	6,262	8.5
Guildford	Waverley DC	Alford, Cranleigh Rural & Ellens Green, Cranleigh (2), Ewhurst, Shamley Green & Cranleigh North	12,539	17.1

Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Reigate	Reigate & Banstead DC	Banstead Village, Earlswood & Whitebushes, Kingswood with Burgh Heath, Meadvale & St John's, Preston, Redhill (2), Reigate (2), Salfords & Sidlow, South Park & Woodhatch, Tadworth & Walton	59,866	78.8
East Surrey	Reigate & Banstead DC	Horley (3)	16,089	21.2

Surrey (cont.)

STAINES AND EGHAM (74,423)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Spelthorne	Spelthorne DC	Ashford (4), Laleham & Shepperton Green, Riverside & Laleham, Staines (2), Stanwell North	50,107	67.3
Runnymede & Weybridge	Runnymede DC	Egham (2), Englefield Green (2), Thorpe, Virginia Water	24,316	32.7

Spelthorne illustrates one of the problematic aspects of a rigid 5 per cent rule. Its electorate is 71,211, which is just below the 5 per cent limit but would be permitted by a 7.5 per cent limit. It is a well-established and clearly defined constituency, coterminous with a district council and consisting of the part of Surrey north of the Thames. It is a shame to have to alter it. There are basically two options. One is to add one 'orphan' ward from across the river (in Egham or Walton) to the current Spelthorne seat. The other is to try to keep whole towns together, which is the option chosen here. Spelthorne is split along the line of the M3 motorway, and this seat is essentially that part of Surrey lying north west of the M3. If its suggested name is too reminiscent of a culinary mishap, it might be called 'North West Surrey'.

EAST SURREY (73,233)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
East Surrey	Tandridge DC	Entire local authority	61,056	83.4
Reigate	Reigate & Banstead DC	Chipstead, Hooley & Woodmansterne, Merstham	12,177	16.6

SURREY HEATH (78,453)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Surrey Heath	Surrey Heath DC, Guildford DC	Unchanged current constituency	78,453	100.0

SOUTH WEST SURREY (73,056)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South West Surrey	Waverley DC	Current constituency less Blackheath & Wonersh, Bramley, Busbridge & Hascombe	73,056	100.0

Surrey (cont.)

WOKING (78,282)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Woking	Woking DC	Entire local authority	69,785	96.5
Runnymede & Weybridge	Runnymede DC	New Haw, Woodham	8,497	11.8

West Sussex

The plan outlined here minimises change to the county's eight seats.

ARUNDEL AND SOUTH DOWNS (73,674)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Arundel & South Downs	Horsham DC, Arun DC, Mid Sussex DC, Chichester DC	Entire current constituency less Barnham	69,868	94.8
Chichester	Chichester DC	Plaistow	3,806	5.2

BOGNOR REGIS AND LITTLEHAMPTON (77,360)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bognor Regis & Littlehampton	Arun DC	Entire current constituency	70,535	91.2
Arundel & South Downs	Arun DC	Barnham	6,825	8.8

CHICHESTER (78,002)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Chichester	Chichester DC	Entire current constituency less Plaistow	78,002	100.0

CRAWLEY (75,535)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Crawley	Crawley DC	Entire current constituency	71,793	95.0
Horsham	Mid Sussex DC	Copthorne & Worth	3,742	5.0

Worth was included in Crawley in 1983-97.

HORSHAM (73,259)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Horsham	Horsham DC, Mid Sussex DC	Entire current constituency less Copthorne & Worth	73,259	100.0

West Sussex (cont.)

MID SUSSEX (77,044)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Mid Sussex	Mid Sussex DC	Unchanged current constituency	77,044	100.0

WORTHING WEST (74,468)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Worthing West	Worthing DC, Arun DC	Unchanged current constituency	74,468	100.0

EAST WORTHING AND SHOREHAM (72,996)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
East Worthing & Shoreham	Worthing DC, Adur DC	Unchanged current constituency	72,996	100.0

ABOUT DEMOCRATIC AUDIT

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