



DEMOCRATIC AUDIT BOUNDARY MODEL FOR THE NORTH EAST

Lewis Baston, June 2011

The North East region is proportionately the heaviest-hit in England, losing 3 of its 29 constituencies. It is the only English region with a loss rate of more than 10 per cent. The losses come from its static or declining population numbers, and also the unwinding of the favourable treatment previously received by Northumberland because of its very large land area and the remoteness of some settlements (by English standards).

The county grouping is not completely uncontentious. An alternative configuration is possible, grouping Cleveland with Durham and Northumberland with a cross-border seat around Prudhoe. Tyne & Wear is the only county arithmetically capable of receiving a whole number of seats.

The border between Cleveland and County Durham has been crossed twice, a breach of the model's usual principle of doing so only once. The justification is twofold – it prevents Hartlepool or Billingham from being arbitrarily divided, and both Stockton and Hartlepool are for ceremonial purposes parts of County Durham anyway. There is logic in regarding the two boroughs as being on a par with Darlington unitary, making the 'real' cross-county seat Middlesbrough West & Thornaby.

	Current seats	Quotas	Allocation	Pages
Cleveland	6	5.45		
Durham (inc Darlington UA)	7	6.31		
Northumberland	4	3.16		
Tyne & Wear	12	10.81		
	29			
Cleveland-Durham	13	11.76	12	2-5
Northumberland-Tyne & Wear	16	13.96	14	6-9
NORTH EAST	29		26	

Cleveland-Durham

Cleveland

BILLINGHAM AND SEDGFIELD (73,674)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Stockton North	Stockton UA	Billingham (5 wards), Northern Parishes, Norton West, Roseworth, Western Parishes	43,399	58.9
Sedgefield	Darlington UA	Sadbergh & Whessoe	1,625	41.1
Sedgefield	Durham UA	Aycliffe (3 wards), Sedgefield, Trimdon	28,650	

Sedgefield is abolished, or to put it more gently it is effectively merged with Stockton North.

HARTLEPOOL (76,213)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Hartlepool	Hartlepool UA	Entire constituency	70,010	91.9
Easington	Durham UA	Blackhalls (part)	5,266	6.9
Sedgefield	Durham UA	Blackhalls (part)	937	1.2

MIDDLESBROUGH EAST & ESTON (78,806)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Redcar	Redcar & Cleveland UA	Eston, Grangetown, Normanby, Ormesby, South Bank, Teesville	29,458	37.4
Middlesbrough	Middlesbrough UA	Beckfield, Beechwood, Clairville, North Ormesby & Brambles Farm, Pallister, Thorntree, University	28,363	36.0
Middlesbrough S & E Cleveland	Middlesbrough UA	Ladgate, Marton, Marton West, Nunthorpe, Park End	20,985	26.6

The current north/ south division of East Cleveland involves a rather incoherent and variegated seat stretching from the southern suburbs of Middlesbrough along some hills to the coast, known in 1983-97 by a strange name (Langbaugh) and since then by a cumbersome one. The size constraints mean that while both seats could be stretched further into Middlesbrough, it may make sense to rationalise them as suggested here.

Cleveland (cont.)

MIDDLESBROUGH WEST & THORNABY (76,202)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Middlesbrough	Middlesbrough UA	Acklam, Ayresome, Brookfield, Gresham, Kader, Linthorpe, Middlehaven, Park	37,488	49.2
Stockton South	Stockton UA	Ingleby Barwick (2), Stainsby Hill, Village	25,022	32.8
Middlesbrough S & E Cleveland	Middlesbrough UA	Coulby Newham, Hemlington, Stainton & Thornton	13,692	18.0

This seat is not dissimilar to seats previously known as Middlesbrough West (before 1974) or Thornaby (1974-83).

REDCAR & EAST CLEVELAND (75,936)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Middlesbrough S & E Cleveland	Redcar & Cleveland UA	Brotton, Guisborough, Hutton, Lockwood, Loftus, Saltburn, Skelton, Westworth	38,199	50.3
Redcar	Redcar & Cleveland UA	Coatham, Dormanstown, Kirkleatham, Longbeck, Newcomen, St Germain's, West Dyke, Zetland	37,737	49.7

STOCKTON (73,433)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Stockton South	Stockton UA	Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree, Eaglescliffe, Fairfield, Grangefield, Hartburn, Mandale & Victoria, Parkfield & Oxbridge, Yarm	50,501	68.8
Stockton North	Stockton UA	Hardwick, Newtown, Norton North, Norton South, Stockton Town Centre	23,934	31.2

County Durham

BISHOP AUCKLAND (74,707)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bishop Auckland	Durham UA	Entire constituency less Chilton (part)	67,508	90.4
Sedgefield	Durham UA	Shildon East (part)	4,232	9.6
Sedgefield	Darlington UA	Heighington & Coniscliffe	2,967	

DARLINGTON (73,871)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Darlington	Darlington UA	Entire constituency	67,476	91.3
Sedgefield	Darlington UA	Hurworth, Middleton St George	6,395	8.7

City of DURHAM (74,250)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
City of Durham	Durham UA	Belmont, Brandon, Elvet, Framwellgate Moor, Gilesgate, Nevill's Cross, Newton Hall, Sherburn, Durham South	59,721	80.4
Sedgefield	Durham UA	Childon (part), Ferryhill	13,536	18.2
Bishop Auckland	Durham UA	Childon (part)	993	1.3

NORTH DURHAM (75,337)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North Durham	Durham UA	Entire constituency	68,959	91.5
North West Durham	Durham UA	Burnopfield & Dipton	6,378	8.5

NORTH WEST DURHAM (73,876)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North West Durham	Durham UA	All except Burnopfield & Dipton	66,382	89.9
City of Durham	Durham UA	Deerness Valley	7,494	10.1

County Durham (cont.)

EASINGTON (74,840)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Easington	Durham UA	Entire constituency including Wingate (part) less Blackhalls	60,352	80.6
Sedgefield	Durham UA	Thornley, Wingate (part)	9,044	12.1
City of Durham	Durham UA	Coxhoe	5,444	7.3

Northumberland-Tyne & Wear

Northumberland

BERWICK UPON TWEED (77,937)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Berwick upon Tweed	Northumberland UA	Entire current constituency less Ponteland North (part)	54,425	69.8
Wansbeck	Northumberland UA	Ashington Central, College, Haydon, Hirst, Lynemouth, Newbiggin Central & East, Seaton & Newbiggin West, Ulgham (part)	23,512	30.2

BLYTH & MORPETH (78,571)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Blyth Valley	Northumberland UA	Cowpen, Cramlington (6), Croft, Isabella, Kitty Brewster, Newsham, Plessey, South Blyth, Wensleydale	50,876	64.8
Wansbeck	Northumberland UA	Bothall, Choppington, Morpeth (3), Pegswood, Sleekburn, Stakeford	27,695	35.2

Keeping Morpeth and Bedlington towns both in one seat is tricky given the shape of boundaries in the Wansbeck area, a large part because one ward (Ulgham) wraps itself nearly entirely around Morpeth and then heads to the coast. The model boundaries here accomplish keeping the towns in one piece, but involve some twisty lines in the area.

HEXHAM (73,047)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Hexham	Northumberland UA	Entire current constituency	60,499	82.8
Wansbeck	Northumberland UA	Bedlington (3)	11,188	15.3
Berwick-upon-Tweed	Northumberland UA	Ponteland North (part)	1,360	1.9

Tyne and Wear

GATESHEAD EAST & HEBBURN (79,363)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Gateshead	Gateshead MB	Chowdene, Deckham, Felling, High Fell, Low Fell, Windy Nook & Whitehills	41,072	51.8
Jarrow	Gateshead MB	Pelaw & Heworth, Wardley & Leam Lane	13,124	48.2
Jarrow	South Tyneside MB	Fellgate & Hedworth, Hebburn (2), Monkton	25,167	

GATESHEAD WEST & BLAYDON (74,414)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Blaydon	Gateshead MB	Entire current constituency	68,156	91.6
Gateshead	Gateshead MB	Dunston & Teams	6,258	8.4

HOUGHTON & SUNDERLAND SOUTH (78,776)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Houghton & Sunderland South	Sunderland MB	Entire current constituency	70,115	89.0
Washington & Sunderland West	Sunderland MB	St Anne's	8,661	11.0

Following radical changes in Sunderland in 2010, the changes proposed in the model are relatively minor.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE EAST (74,055)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Newcastle East	Newcastle MB	Current constituency less Ouseburn	58,045	78.4
North Tyneside	North Tyneside MB	Benton, Longbenton	16,010	21.6

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NORTH (74,838)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Newcastle North	Newcastle MB	Entire current constituency	67,401	90.1
Newcastle Central	Newcastle MB	West Gosforth	7,437	9.9

Tyne and Wear (cont.)

SOUTH SHIELDS & JARROW (76,185)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South Shields	South Tyneside MB	Entire current constituency	63,765	83.7
Jarrow	South Tyneside MB	Bede, Primrose	12,420	16.3

SUNDERLAND CENTRAL (76,292)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Sunderland Central	Sunderland MB	Unchanged constituency	76,292	100.0

TYNE BRIDGE (79,252)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Newcastle Central	Newcastle MB	Current constituency less West Gosforth	53,358	67.3
Gateshead	Gateshead MB	Bridges, Lobley Hill & Bensham, Saltwell	18,736	23.6
Newcastle East	Newcastle MB	Ouseburn	7,158	9.0

The concept of a Tyne Bridge seat is a lot less alien than when one was first introduced in 1983, as the idea of 'Newcastle-Gateshead' has entered popular consciousness.

WALLSEND & TYNEMOUTH (78,306)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North Tyneside	North Tyneside MB	Battle Hill, Howdon, Killingworth, Northumberland, Riverside, Wallsend	47,079	60.1
Tynemouth	North Tyneside MB	Chirton, Cullercoats, Preston, Tynemouth	31,227	39.9

WASHINGTON (75,872)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Washington & Sunderland West	Sunderland MB	Current constituency less St Anne's	61,516	81.1
Jarrow	South Tyneside MB	Boldon Colliery, Cleadon & East Boldon	14,336	18.9

Tyne and Wear/ Northumberland

WHITLEY BAY (73,216)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Tynemouth	North Tyneside MB	Colingwood, Monkseaton (2), St Mary's, Valley, Whitley Bay	45,391	62.0
North Tyneside	North Tyneside MB	Camperdown, Weetslade	15,528	21.2
Blyth Valley	Northumberland UA	Hartley, Holywell, Seghill with Seaton Delaval	12,297	16.8

A cross-border seat, including the very south east corner of Northumberland (south of Blyth) in a constituency based on the North Tyneside borough.

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