



DEMOCRATIC AUDIT BOUNDARY MODEL FOR THE SOUTH WEST

Lewis Baston, June 2011

At first sight, the options seem unattractive for the South West, to put it mildly. Gloucestershire is the only county that has about the right number of electors for a whole number of seats, although a solution confined to 'Avon' is just about arithmetically possible (although 'Avon' is probably the last county one would strive officiously to keep in one piece). Devon on first inspection seems in the same category, but it is actually impossible because there is nowhere else for Cornwall to pair with.

Fortuitously – it did not quite work for the December 2009 electorate figures – the region falls out into three pairings plus Gloucestershire. Cornwall and Devon for a combined allocation of 17 (down one), Avon and Somerset keep their current combined 16 in a somewhat different configuration, and Dorset and Wiltshire pair for 14 seats (down 1). The pairing arrangement for the counties of the South West used here seems to have no obvious alternative.

Somerset is in an unusual position in the current review – its five seats are all very large by prevailing standards and some are even too large under the new boundary rules. It can keep five seats all its own, and donate some territory to a straddle seat. There is a logical pairing with the former county of Avon – the areas share a police force and two of Avon's unitary boroughs have 'Somerset' in their titles. The combined area is entitled to 15.78 constituencies, or 16 (somewhat small) seats, as at present.

Dorset and Wiltshire (including Swindon) fit together neatly to produce 14 seats for an area with an entitlement of 14.09, and Swindon UA can be left entirely alone. Dorset presently has 8 seats, and Wiltshire 7, and the area as a whole loses one seat.

The 'Devonwall' controversy is dealt with in the section on Cornwall.

	Current seats	2011 entitlement	Allocation	Pages
'Avon'	11	10.42		2-4
Cornwall (including Isles of Scilly)	6	5.47		5-7
Devon (including Torbay and Plymouth)	12	11.39		8-10
Dorset (including Bournemouth and Poole)	8	7.51		11-12
Gloucestershire	6	6.03	6	13-14
Somerset	5	5.36		15-16
Wiltshire (including Swindon)	7	6.57		17-19
SOUTH WEST	55		53	

'Avon'

BATH (74,735)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bath	Bath & NE Somerset UA	Entire current constituency	66,690	89.2
North East Somerset	Bath & NE Somerset UA	Bathavon North, Bathavon South	8,045	10.8

BRISTOL EAST (77,671)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bristol East	Bristol UA	Entire current constituency	69,347	89.3
Bristol West	Bristol UA	Easton	8,324	10.7

BRISTOL NORTH WEST (73,920)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bristol North West	Bristol UA	Unchanged current constituency	73,920	100.0

BRISTOL SOUTH (78,703)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bristol South	Bristol UA	Unchanged current constituency	78,703	100.0

BRISTOL WEST (74,179)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bristol West	Bristol UA	Current constituency less Easton	74,179	100.0

FILTON AND BRADLEY STOKE (75,712)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Filton & Bradley Stoke	South Gloucestershire UA	Current constituency less Almondsbury, Pilning & Severn Beach, Staple Hill	58,084	76.7
Kingswood	South Gloucestershire UA	Emerson's Green, Rodway	17,628	23.3

'Avon' (cont.)

FROME AND MIDSOMER (73,159)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North East Somerset	Bath & NE Somerset UA	Bathavon West, Chew Valley (2), Clutton, High Littleton, Mendip, Midsomer Norton (2), Paulton, Peasedown, Radstock, Westfield	38,551	52.7
Somerton & Frome	Mendip DC	Ammerdown, Beckingham & Selwood, Coleford & Holcombe, Cranmore, Doultling & Nunney, Frome (6), Rode & Norton St Philip	30,999	42.4
Wells	Mendip DC	Ashwick, Chilcompton & Stratton	3,609	4.9

This cross-border seat based on Frome and Midsomer Norton somewhat resembles the Frome constituency that existed before 1950 or pre-1974 North Somerset.

KINGSWOOD AND KEYNSHAM (73,552)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Kingswood	South Gloucestershire UA	Bitton, Hanham, Kings Chase, Longwell Green, Oldland Common, Parkwall, Woodstock	45,972	62.5
North East Somerset	Bath & NE Somerset UA	Farmborough, Keynsham (3), Publow & Whitchurch, Saltford, Timsbury	21,950	29.8
Filton & Bradley Stoke	South Gloucestershire UA	Staple Hill	5,630	7.7

NORTH SOMERSET (78,223)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North Somerset	North Somerset UA	Unchanged current constituency	78,223	100.0

'Avon' (cont.)

THORNBURY AND YATE (74,353)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Thornbury & Yate	South Gloucestershire UA	Entire current constituency	64,736	87.1
Filton & Bradley Stoke	South Gloucestershire UA	Almondsbury, Pilning & Severn Beach	6,018	8.1
Kingswood	South Gloucestershire UA	Siston	3,599	4.8

WESTON SUPER MARE (78,778)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Weston super Mare	North Somerset UA	Unchanged current constituency	78,778	100.0

Cornwall (including cross-border seat)

After the passage of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act, it became inevitable that there would be 5 constituencies wholly within Cornwall and one or more straddling the border with Devon.

From the point of view of Cornwall, the immediate interest (until the Act can be amended) is in finding a least-worst option. The worst option would be for the border to be crossed more than once, for instance a seat in the south adding some tightly defined areas (Saltash and possibly Torpoint) to Plymouth plus another border crossing in the north. The BCE is unlikely to follow such an option.

The basic question then becomes south or north. One commonly discussed option is to cross the Tamar in the Plymouth urban area. One needs to remember that we are talking about nearly half a constituency (32-37,000 electors). The four wards of Saltash amount to 13,315. Taking in Torpoint and the hinterland wards of St Germans and Rame brings us up to 27,000, and then one would need probably Gunnislake and Kelly Bray (and possibly Callington). On the Plymouth side, the wards would probably be St Budeaux, Devonport, Ham and Stoke. It would be a pretty incongruous seat, combining some very urban and very rural areas whose communities have rather little to do with each other (both may share links with central Plymouth).

In some ways, crossing in the north is the lesser of two evils. It would bring communities with something in common together (tourism, agriculture, moorlands) and one could at least cross from one bit of the constituency to another without paying a toll!

A northern crossing would also involve less of a radical redistribution of the constituencies in the rest of Cornwall (see below). It enables a reconstruction, more or less, of the pattern that existed before the 2010 boundary changes and the sixth seat. Abolishing South East Cornwall would lead to large shifts in the rest of the county and the combination of unfamiliar towns in the same constituency.

Note: Cornwall UA wards are occasionally split between current constituencies. Such split wards are listed below with the current constituency to which the majority of its electorate belongs, although the number of electors accurately reflects the allocation of partial wards. The new model does not split any wards.

Cornwall (cont.)

BODMIN & NEWQUAY (75,997)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
St. Austell & Newquay	Cornwall UA	Colan & Mawgan, Newquay (5), Roche, St. Columb, St. Dennis, St. Enoder	31,999	42.1
North Cornwall	Cornwall UA	Bodmin (3), Lanivet, Padstow, St. Endellion, St. Issey, Wadebridge (2)	29,956	39.4
Truro & Falmouth	Cornwall UA	Newlyn & Goonhaven, Perranporth, St. Agnes	9,984	13.1
Camborne & Redruth	Cornwall UA	Mount Hawke & Portreath	4,058	5.3

SOUTH EAST CORNWALL (76,970)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South East Cornwall	Cornwall UA	Current constituency less Bugle (part)	71,485	92.9
North Cornwall	Cornwall UA	Stokeclimlsland	2,978	3.9
St. Austell & Newquay	Cornwall UA	Fowey	2,507	3.3

FALMOUTH & CAMBORNE (76,547)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Camborne & Redruth	Cornwall UA	Camborne (4), Carn Brea (2), Constantine, Illogan. Mabe, Redruth (3), St Day & Lanner, Stithians, Troon & Beacon	49,008	64.0
Truro & Falmouth	Cornwall UA	Falmouth (5), Penryn (2)	27,539	36.0

ST. IVES (78,428)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
St Ives	Cornwall UA, Isles of Scilly SUA	Entire current constituency	66,696	85.0
Camborne & Redruth	Cornwall UA	Gwinnear-Gwithian & St Erth, Hayle (2)	11,732	15.0

Cornwall (cont.)

TRURO & ST. AUSTELL (75,651)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
St. Austell & Newquay	Cornwall UA	Bugle (part), Mevagissey, Mount Charles, Penwithick, St. Austell (4), St. Blaise, St. Mewan, St. Stephen, Tywardreath	41,468	54.8
Truro & Falmouth	Cornwall UA	Chacewater & Penwyn, Feock & Kea, Ladock SCSE, Probus, Roseland, Threemilestone & Gloweth, Truro (4)	33,817	44.7
South East Cornwall	Cornwall UA	Bugle (part)	366	0.5

TORRIDGE & TINTAGEL (76,156)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Torrige & West Devon	Torrige DC	All of Torrige DC less wards under Tavistock & Central Devon	40,884	53.7
North Cornwall	Cornwall UA	Altarnum, Bude (2), Camelford, Flexbury & Poughill, Launceston (3), Poundstock, St. Teath, Tintagel	35,272	46.3

Devon

EAST DEVON (75,506)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
East Devon	East Devon DC, Exeter DC	Entire current constituency	72,406	95.9
Central Devon	East Devon DC	Exe Valley	1,593	2.1
Tiverton & Honiton	East Devon DC	Beer & Branscombe	1,507	2.0

NORTH DEVON (75,098)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North Devon	North Devon DC	Unchanged current constituency	75,098	100.0

SOUTH WEST DEVON (73,478)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South West Devon	Plymouth UA, South Hams DC	Current constituency less Plymstock Radford	60,934	82.9
Totnes	South Hams DC	Kingsbridge (2), Salcombe & Malborough, Saltstone, Stokenham, Thurlstone, Westville & Alvington	12,544	17.1

EXETER (76,796)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Exeter	Exeter DC	Unchanged current constituency	76,796	100.0

NEWTON ABBOT (72,887)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Newton Abbot	Teignbridge DC	Current constituency less Ambrook, Ipplepen	62,986	86.4
Central Devon	Teignbridge DC	Chudleigh, Kenn Valley	9,091	13.6

Devon (cont.)

PLYMOUTH DEVONPORT (72,880)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Plymouth Moor View	Plymouth UA	Budshead, Ham, Honicknowle, St Budeaux	39,231	53.8
Plymouth Sutton & Devonport	Plymouth UA	Devonport, Drake, Peverell, Stoke	33,649	46.2

The suggested pattern here allows the restoration of the traditional Plymouth constituency names that were unfortunately mangled in the 2010 boundary changes – and in contrast to some past patterns ‘Devonport’ is in the Devonport seat, and likewise Sutton.

PLYMOUTH SUTTON (76,734)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Plymouth Sutton & Devonport	Plymouth UA	Compton, Efford & Lipson, St Peter & The Waterfront, Sutton & Mount Gould	37,587	49.0
Plymouth Moor View	Plymouth UA	Eggbuckland, Moor View, Southway	29,325	38.2
South West Devon	Plymouth UA	Plymstock Radford	9,822	12.8

TAVISTOCK AND CENTRAL DEVON (77,221)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Central Devon	Mid Devon DC	Boniface, Lawrence, Newbrooke, Sandford & Creedy, Taw, Taw Vale, Upper Yeo, Way, Yeo	17,666	52.7
Central Devon	West Devon DC	All wards currently in Central Devon	15,948	
Central Devon	Teignbridge DC	Moorland, Teign Valley, Teignbridge North	7,074	
Torrige & West Devon	West Devon DC	All wards currently in Torrige & West Devon	26,497	47.3
Torrige & West Devon	Torrige DC	Clinton, Three Moors, Torrington, Two Rivers, Winkleigh	10,036	

Devon (cont.)

TIVERTON AND HONITON (78,611)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Tiverton & Honiton	East Devon DC, Mid Devon DC	Current constituency less Beer & Branscombe	74,332	94.6
Central Devon	Mid Devon DC	Bradninch, Cadbury, Silverton	4,279	5.4

TORBAY (76,219)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Torbay	Torbay UA	Unchanged current constituency	76,219	100.0

TOTNES (76,734)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Totnes	South Hams DC, Torbay UA	Current constituency less wards listed under South West Devon	55,018	71.7
Central Devon	Teignbridge DC	Ashburton & Buckfastleigh, Bovey, Haytor	15,102	19.7
Newton Abbot	Teignbridge DC	Ambrook, Ipplepen	6,614	8.6

Dorset

BOURNEMOUTH EAST (72,961)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bournemouth East	Bournemouth UA	Unchanged current constituency	72,961	100.0

BOURNEMOUTH WEST (78,223)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bournemouth West	Bournemouth UA, Poole UA	Entire current constituency	72,714	93.0
Poole	Poole UA	Branksome West	5,509	7.0

CHRISTCHURCH (78,561)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Christchurch	Christchurch DC, East Dorset DC	Current constituency less Stapehill	67,038	85.3
North Dorset	East Dorset DC	Three Cross & Potterne, Verwood (3)	11,523	14.7

MID DORSET (79,465)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Mid Dorset & North Poole	East Dorset DC	Colehill (2), Corfe Mullen (3), Wimborne Minster	19,385	65.8
Mid Dorset & North Poole	Poole UA	Broadstone, Merley & Bearwood	16,717	
Mid Dorset & North Poole	Purbeck DC	Lytchetts (3), St Martin, Wareham	16,153	
North Dorset	North Dorset DC	Abbey, Blandford (5), Portman, Riversdale, The Lower Tarrants	15,257	31.8
North Dorset	East Dorset DC	Alderholt, Crane, Handley Vale, Holt, Stour	9,983	
Christchurch	East Dorset DC	Stapehill	1,970	2.5

Dorset (cont.)

SOUTH DORSET (75,109)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South Dorset	Weymouth & Portland DC, Purbeck DC, West Dorset DC	Entire current constituency	73,499	97.9
Mid Dorset & North Poole	Purbeck DC	Bere Regis	1,610	2.1

WEST DORSET (76,779)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
West Dorset	West Dorset DC	Unchanged current constituency	76,779	100.0

POOLE (78,104)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Poole	Poole UA	Current constituency less Branksome West	67,264	86.1
Mid Dorset & North Poole	Poole UA	Canford Heath (2)	10,840	13.9

Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire is one of very simplest areas for the boundary review. Shifting one ward (though admittedly a controversial one) from the current distribution makes all seats the right size.

CHELTENHAM (77,937)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Cheltenham	Cheltenham DC	Unchanged current constituency	77,937	100.0

THE COTSWOLDS (78,448)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
The Cotswolds	Cotswold DC, Stroud DC	Unchanged current constituency	78,448	100.0

FOREST OF DEAN AND GLOUCESTER WEST (73,112)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Forest of Dean	Forest of Dean DC, Tewkesbury DC	Entire current constituency	68,703	94.0
Gloucester	Gloucester DC	Westgate	4,409	6.0

This is a 'minimal change' plan. However, the consequences here are fairly ugly-looking, given that Westgate contains much of the city centre of Gloucester. The alternative of adding rural areas to the north to Forest of Dean is complicated by the shape of the wards in the area.

GLOUCESTER EAST (76,379)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Gloucester	Gloucester DC	Current constituency less Westgate	76,379	100.0

STROUD (79,126)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Stroud	Stroud DC	Unchanged current constituency	79,135	100.0

A tiny number of electors move to The Cotswolds constituency because of a ward boundary change.

Gloucestershire (cont.)

TEWKESBURY (77,206)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury DC, Gloucester DC, Cheltenham DC	Unchanged current constituency	77,206	100.0

Somerset

Within Somerset, there is a major reorganisation because several seats are a bit too large – the most unfamiliar combination will be ‘Glastonbury and Somerton’ and Wells has some significant shifts.

BRIDGWATER AND WEST SOMERSET (72,827)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Bridgwater & West Somerset	West Somerset DC, Sedgemoor DC	Current constituency less East Poldens, Huntspill & Pawlett, Puriton, West Poldens, Woolavington	72,827	100.0

GLASTONBURY AND SOMERTON (74,305)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Somerton & Frome	South Somerset DC	All wards currently in constituency	43,816	61.4
Somerton & Frome	Mendip DC	Butleigh & Baltonsborough	1,822	
Wells	Mendip DC	Glastonbury (4), Moor, Street (3)	17,324	23.3
Yeovil	South Somerset DC	Ilminster, Ivelchester, South Petherton	11,343	15.3

TAUNTON (79,331)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Taunton Deane	Taunton Deane DC	Current constituency less Blackdown, Neroche	79,331	100.0

YEOVIL (74,979)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Yeovil	South Somerset DC	Current constituency less South Petherton, Ilminster, Ivelchester	71,428	95.3
Taunton Deane	Taunton Deane DC	Blackdown, Neroche	3,551	4.7

Somerset (cont.)

WELLS (74,678)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Wells	Sedgemoor DC	Axbridge, Axe Vale, Berrow, Brent North, Burnham (2), Cheddar & Shipham, Highbridge, Knoll, Wedmore & Mark	33,952	79.1
Wells	Mendip DC	Chewton Mendip & Ston Easton, Croscombe & Pilton, Rodney & Westbury, St Cuthbert Out North, Shepton (2), Wells (3), Wookey & St Cuthbert Out West	25,104	
Bridgwater & West Somerset	Sedgemoor DC	East Poldens, Huntspill & Pawlett, Puriton, West Poldens, Woolavington	10,109	13.4
Somerton & Frome	Mendip DC	Creech, Postlebury, The Pennards & Ditchat	5,513	7.4

Wiltshire

In technical terms the seat that disappears is North Wiltshire, as it does not comprise the largest element of any successor. Wiltshire was awarded its seventh seat in 2010, and the seats modelled here are not dissimilar to the pre-2010 pattern.

DEVIZES (77,074)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Devizes	Wiltshire UA	Aldbourne & Ramsey, Bromham, Rowde & Potterne, Burbage & The Bedwyns, Devizes (3), Marlborough (2), Pewsey, Pewsey Vale, Roundway, The Collingbournes & Netheravon, Urchfont & The Cannings, West Selkley	48,612	63.1
North Wiltshire	Wiltshire UA	Calne (4), Lyneham, Wootton Bassett (3)	28,462	36.7

SALISBURY (77,962)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Salisbury	Wiltshire UA	Current constituency less Fovant & Chalke Valley (part), Nadder & East Knoyle (part), Till & Wylke Valley	63,103	80.9
Devizes	Wiltshire UA	Bulford, Allington & Figheldean, Durrington & Larkhill, Ludgershall & Perham Down, Tidworth	14,859	19.1

NORTH SWINDON (79,488)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North Swindon	Swindon UA	Unchanged current constituency	79,488	100.0

SOUTH SWINDON (73,449)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South Swindon	Swindon UA	Unchanged current constituency	73,449	100.0

Wiltshire (cont.)

WESTBURY (76,752)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South West Wiltshire	Wiltshire UA	Ethnadune, Southwick, Summerham & Seend (part), Trowbridge (7), Westbury (3), Winsley & Westwood (part)	42,244	55.0
Chippenham	Wiltshire UA	Bradford-on-Avon (2), Hilperton, Holt & Staverton, Melksham (3), Melksham Without South, Summerham & Seend (part), Winsley & Westwood (part)	33,264	43.3
Devizes	Wiltshire UA	Summerham & Seend (part)	1,244	1.6

NORTH WILTSHIRE (78,740)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Chippenham	Wiltshire UA	Chippenham (8), Corsham (2), Corsham Without & Box Hill (part), Melksham Without North	40,048	50.7
North Wiltshire	Wiltshire UA	Box & Colerne, Brinkworth, By Brook, Calne Rural, Corsham Without & Box Hill (part), Cricklade & Latton, Kington, Malmesbury, Minety, Purton, Sherston	38,692	49.3

Wiltshire/ Dorset (cont.)

WARMINSTER AND SHAFTESBURY (76,582)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North Dorset	North Dorset DC	Blackmore, Bourton & District, Bulbarrow, Cranborne Chase, Gillingham Town, Hill Forts, Lodbourne, Lydden Vale, Marnhull, Milton, Motcombe & Ham, Shaftesbury (4), Stour Valley, The Beacon, The Stours, Wyke	36,247	47.3
South West Wiltshire	Wiltshire UA	Fovant & Chalke Valley (part), Mere, Nadder & East Knoyle (part), Tisbury, Warminster (5)	30,576	39.9
Salisbury	Wiltshire UA	Fovant & Chalke Valley (part), Nadder & East Knoyle (part), Till & Wylke Valley	5,628	7.3
Devizes	Wiltshire UA	The Lavingtons & Erlestoke	4,131	5.4

ABOUT DEMOCRATIC AUDIT

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