



DEMOCRATIC AUDIT BOUNDARY MODEL FOR EASTERN ENGLAND

Lewis Baston, June 2011

The region as a whole only loses two seats, but there is considerable change in most areas. The choice of which grouping of counties to use is an interesting one, because valid considerations conflict with each other.

Eastern England probably has the largest number of viable permutations for pairing counties of any of the regions. Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire are capable of whole-number allocations (though the latter two only just, and even it were possible on the ground, it would probably mean some peculiar seats elsewhere). But realistically, there needs to be extensive pairing or grouping because a county at each end of the region (Bedfordshire and Norfolk) cannot have whole numbers.

| | Current seats | 2011 entitlement | Allocation | Pages |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|------------|-------|
| Bedfordshire | 6 | 5.64 | | 3-5 |
| Cambridgeshire | 7 | 7.34 | | 6-8 |
| Essex | 18 | 16.71 | | 9-16 |
| Hertfordshire | 11 | 10.59 | | 17-20 |
| Norfolk | 9 | 8.50 | | 21-24 |
| Suffolk | 7 | 7.08 | | 25-28 |
| EASTERN | 58 | | 56 | |

We do not know how the BCE will approach the task of pairing and grouping counties in situations like this where it is not obvious. There are at least two viable starting points:

1. Creating groupings that are as small as possible, and then building cross-border seats where they will fit.
2. Building straddle seats around harmonious places to cross county borders where crossing is necessary in the region and there is no single clear solution, even if that means a larger county grouping.

The scheme here is based around the second approach (the East Midlands similarly). There is perhaps particular reason to be solicitous of the internal coherence of cross-border seats – they will be delicate entities, and forming one with good internal communications, common identity and significant population and service centres on both sides, is surely desirable.

Larger groupings may also be more stable over time. With boundary reviews every five years, relatively small groupings are particularly subject to being broken up based on what might be small changes in registered electorate, causing extremely radical shifts. For instance, if a small county is paired with its western neighbour at one boundary review, and the eastern one at the next, it is

probable that all its seats will be radically different from one parliament to the next. The approach used here involves better cross-border seats, and more stability over time, at the cost of having a rather large county group (though without public inquiries the benefits of smaller groupings are less than they were under the previous rules).

This will no doubt be an issue of general approach for the BCE to address in its future Newsletters and on which consultation will presumably be sought.

Bedfordshire

Bedfordshire is entitled to 5.64 constituencies and currently has 6, so it needs to have a constituency spanning a county boundary. There are two possibilities, namely Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. The Hertfordshire crossing would allow a perhaps tidier arrangement of counties over the eastern region as a whole, but the potential crossing points are not easily identified – perhaps Harpenden with Dunstable or south Luton (which would produce a seat with very little in common), or Hitchin with an east Bedfordshire area. The Cambridgeshire option allows a compact, relatively well-integrated straddle seat based on the A1 through St Neots and Biggleswade, with common features of agriculture and longer-distance commuting.

Note that in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford, the Boundary Commission is obliged to use the ward boundaries prevailing in December 2010, not the ones in use from May 2011.

| BEDFORD (77,312) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Bedford | Bedford UA | Entire current constituency | 69,019 | 89.3 |
| North East Bedfordshire | Bedford UA | Bromham, Oakley | 8,293 | 10.7 |

It would be possible to take Bromham alone and bring Bedford's electorate into the required range, but Oakley helps even up the electorates in the county's seats as a whole.

| NORTH WEST BEDFORDSHIRE (78,562) | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Mid Bedfordshire | Central Bedfordshire UA | Amphill, Cranfield, Flitwick (2), Langford & Henlow Village (part), Marston, Maulden & Houghton Conquest, Shefford, Silsoe & Shillington | 47,003 | 73.6 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | Bedford UA | Turvey, Wilshamstead, Wootton | 10,824 | |
| North East Bedfordshire | Bedford UA | Carlton, Clapham, Eastcotts, Harrold, Riseley, Sharnbrook | 16,516 | 26.4 |
| North East Bedfordshire | Central Bedfordshire UA | Langford & Henlow Village (part) | 4,219 | |

Bedfordshire (cont.)

| SOUTH WEST BEDFORDSHIRE (75,228) | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| South West Bedfordshire | Central Bedfordshire UA | Dunstable Downs, Grovebury, Leighton Linlade Central, Northfields, Plantation, Southcott, South West Bedfordshire, Toddington (part), Watling | 57,888 | 77.0 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | Central Bedfordshire UA | Barton, Toddington (part), Woburn & Harlington | 17,340 | 23.0 |

| LUTON NORTH (74,746) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Luton North | Luton UA | Barnfield, Bramingham, Challney, Icknield, Leagrave, Lewsey, Limbury, Northwell, Sundon Park | 57,614 | 77.1 |
| South West Bedfordshire | Central Bedfordshire UA | Houghton Regis, Icknield | 17,132 | 22.9 |

Houghton Regis and Icknield are linked by continuous urban development to Luton North and Leagrave is the rail station serving the area.

| LUTON SOUTH (75,706) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Luton South | Luton UA | Biscot, Crawley, Dallow, Farley, High Town, Round Green, South, Stopsley, Wigmore | 61,013 | 87.0 |
| Luton South | Central Bedfordshire UA | South East Bedfordshire (part) | 4,876 | |
| Luton North | Luton UA | Saints | 8,659 | 11.4 |
| South West Bedfordshire | Central Bedfordshire UA | South East Bedfordshire (part) | 1,158 | 11.5 |

Bedfordshire/ Cambridgeshire

| EAST BEDFORDSHIRE AND ST NEOTS (78,479) | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| North East Bedfordshire | Central Bedfordshire UA | Biggleswade, Northill & Blunham (part), Potton, Sandy, Stotfold & Arlesey | 41,706 | 62.8 |
| North East Bedfordshire | Bedford UA | Roxton, Great Barford | 7,616 | |
| Huntingdon | Huntingdonshire DC | Gransden & The Offords, Kimbolton & Aughton, St Neots (4) | 27,943 | 35.6 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | Central Bedfordshire UA | Northill & Blunham (part) | 1,214 | 1.5 |

This cross-county seat is linked by very strong connections – the A1 and the main line railway – and territory on both sides of the border is a similar mix of expanding small towns and agricultural countryside.

Cambridgeshire

| CAMBRIDGE (75,259) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Cambridge | Cambridge DC | Unchanged current constituency | 75,259 | 100.0 |

| NORTH EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE (78,047) | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| North East Cambridgeshire | Fenland DC | Entire local authority | 71,117 | 91.1 |
| Peterborough | Peterborough UA | Eye & Thorney, Newborough | 6,930 | 8.9 |

The Peterborough wards were in North East Cambridgeshire prior to 2010. This is the seat that would be most disrupted by the 'small groupings' approach of crossing the Norfolk-Cambridgeshire border, while this plan allows the Cambridgeshire seats a lot of continuity.

| NORTH WEST CAMBRIDGESHIRE (77,397) | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| North West Cambridgeshire | Peterborough UA, Huntingdonshire DC | Current constituency less Barnack, Glington & Wittering, Northborough, St Ives East (part), Ellington (part) | 77,397 | 100.0 |

North West Cambridgeshire's population growth has been such that it is oversized even under the new rules (and grossly so by current standards). Removing the area north of the Nene and a small rural section in the south reduces it appropriately.

Cambridgeshire (cont.)

| SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE (75,271) | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| South Cambridgeshire | South Cambridgeshire DC | Barton, Bassingbourn, Bourn, Caldecote, Comberton, Duxford, Fowlmere & Foxton, Gamlingay, Girton, Hardwick, Harston & Hauxton, Haslingfield & The Eversdens, Melbourn, Meldreth, Orwell & Barrington, Sawston, The Abingtons, The Mordens, The Shelfords & Stapleford, Whittlesford | 54,704 | 72.7 |
| South Cambridgeshire | Cambridge DC | Queen Edith's | 6,032 | |
| South East Cambridgeshire | South Cambridgeshire DC | Balsham, Fulbourn, Linton, Teversham, | 14,535 | 27.3 |

The rural Cambridgeshire seats around Cambridge essentially rotate a little anti-clockwise, with South Cambridgeshire picking up the area immediately south east of Cambridge.

| SOUTH EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE (77,124) | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| South East Cambridgeshire | East Cambridgeshire DC | Bottisham, Burwell, Cheveley, Dullingham Villages, Ely (4), Fordham Villages, Haddenham, Isleham, Soham (2), Stretham, The Swaffhams | 48,529 | 83.7 |
| South East Cambridgeshire | South Cambridgeshire DC | Histon & Impingham, Milton, Waterbeach, The Wilbrahams | 16,051 | |
| North East Cambridgeshire | East Cambridgeshire DC | Downham Villages, Littleport (2), Sutton | 12,544 | 16.3 |

This seat now contains the entire district of East Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire (cont.)

| HUNTINGDON (75,968) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Huntingdon | Huntingdonshire DC | Alconbury & The Stukeleys, Brampton, Buckden, Fenstanton, Godmanchester, Huntingdon (3), Little Paxton, St Ives (3), The Hemingfords | 51,184 | 67.4 |
| South Cambridgeshire | South Cambridgeshire DC | Bar Hill, Cottenham, Longstanton, Papworth & Elsworth, Swavesey | 17,178 | 22.6 |
| South East Cambridgeshire | South Cambridgeshire DC | Willingham & Over | 5,237 | 6.9 |
| North West Cambridgeshire | Huntingdonshire DC | Ellington (part), St Ives East (part) | 2,362 | 3.1 |

Population growth in this area has caused the seat's geographical size to shrink continuously – in 1983 it extended all the way to Barnack on the Lincolnshire border. It is now based fairly tightly on the A14 corridor linking the A1 at Huntingdon to Cambridge.

| PETERBOROUGH (75,517) | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Peterborough | Peterborough UA | Current constituency less Eye & Thorney, Newborough | 65,857 | 87.2 |
| North West Cambridgeshire | Peterborough UA | Barnack, Glington & Wittering, Northborough | 9,660 | 12.8 |

Peterborough loses the fenland wards but picks up the rural area north of the Nene.

Essex

The south-eastern corner of the county, around Southend, has several undersized seats and this, as well as the overall fall in numbers and the need for cross-border seats means that there is considerable change in Essex. There are probably many internal permutations in Essex that make some sense - there is no 'only way' as it were.

| BASILDON EAST AND BENFLEET (75,154) | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Basildon & Billericay | Basildon DC | Burstead, Crouch, Fryerns, St Martin's | 29,908 | 39.8 |
| Castle Point | Castle Point DC | Appleton, Cedar Hall, St George, St Mary, St Peter, Victoria | 27,653 | 36.8 |
| South Basildon & East Thurrock | Basildon DC | Pitsea (2) | 17,593 | 23.4 |

Another radical set of boundary changes in the Basildon area, which seems to be considerably altered every time boundaries are reviewed even now that the New Town population growth has stabilised.

| BASILDON WEST AND EAST THURROCK (73,584) | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| South Basildon & East Thurrock | Thurrock UA | Corringham & Fobbing, Orsett, Stanford (2), The Homesteads | 27,082 | 67.2 |
| South Basildon & East Thurrock | Basildon DC | Langdon Hills, Nethermayne, Vange | 22,398 | |
| Basildon & Billericay | Basildon DC | Laindon Park, Lee Chapel North | 16,957 | 23.0 |
| Thurrock | Thurrock UA | Chadwell St Mary | 7,147 | 9.7 |

| BRAINTREE (76,052) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Braintree | Braintree DC | Bocking (3), Braintree (3), Cressing & Stisted, Great Notley & Braintree West | 36,640 | 48.2 |
| Witham | Braintree DC | Black Notley & Terling, Bradwell, Silverend & Rivenhall, Hatfield Peverel, Witham (4) | 28,429 | 37.4 |
| Saffron Walden | Chelmsford DC | Boreham & The Leighs, Broomfield & The Walthams | 10,983 | 14.4 |

Essex (cont.)

This version of Braintree is based on the previous (1974-2010) formula for the seat, combining the neighbouring towns of Braintree and Witham – although this one is shifted a little south, losing Coggeshall and picking up some Chelmsford fringe areas.

| BRENTWOOD AND BILLERICAY (75,972) | | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Brentwood & Ongar | Brentwood DC | Entire local authority | 55,692 | 75.6 |
| Brentwood & Ongar | Epping Forest DC | Passingford | 1,772 | |
| Basildon & Billericay | Basildon DC | Billericay (2) | 18,508 | 24.4 |

The connection between Brentwood and Billericay is a fairly narrow corridor, but the well-used commuter railway line links the two towns (and they were in one seat before 1974).

| CHELMSFORD (77,835) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Chelmsford | Chelmsford DC | Unchanged current constituency | 77,835 | 100.0 |

| COLCHESTER (76,703) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Colchester | Colchester DC | Current constituency less Lexden | 69,329 | 90.4 |
| Harwich & North Essex | Colchester DC | Wivenhoe (2) | 7,374 | 9.6 |

Wivenhoe contains the University of Essex.

| EPPING FOREST (76,983) | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Epping Forest | Epping Forest DC | Entire current constituency | 72,212 | 93.8 |
| Harlow | Epping Forest DC | Lower Nazeing | 3,198 | 4.2 |
| Brentwood & Ongar | Epping Forest DC | Lambourne | 1,573 | 2.0 |

Essex (cont.)

| HARLOW AND ONGAR (74,798) | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Harlow | Harlow DC | Entire local authority | 59,380 | 84.0 |
| Harlow | Epping Forest DC | Hastingwood, Matching & Sheering Village, Roydon | 3,414 | |
| Brentwood & Ongar | Epping Forest DC | Chipping Ongar, Greensted & Marden Ash, High Ongar, Willingale & the Rodings, Moreton & Fyfield, North Weald Bassett, Shelley | 12,004 | 16.0 |

Harlow is now much too small to have a seat of its own – it has been bulked out by rural wards in the last sets of boundaries and now needs a larger rural hinterland. The ripple effect of the changes further east, and the size of the additional component, makes it possible for the town to have a partner (Ongar) rather than a collection of straggling village wards.

| HARWICH (76,724) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Clacton | Tendring DC | Current constituency less wards listed under Stour Valley | 60,181 | 78.4 |
| Harwich & North Essex | Tendring DC | Great & Little Oakley, Harwich (4), Ramsey & Parkeston | 16,543 | 21.6 |

This reassembles a slightly smaller version of the Harwich seat that existed for decades prior to 2010 including Clacton.

Essex (cont.)

| MALDON (74,731) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Witham | Colchester DC | Birch & Winstree, Copford & West Stanway, Marks Tey, Stanway, Tiptree | 20,388 | 52.2 |
| Witham | Maldon DC | Great Totham, Tollesbury, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Wickham Bishops & Woodham | 10,725 | |
| Witham | Braintree DC | Coggeshall & North Feering, Kelvedon | 7,909 | |
| Maldon | Maldon DC | Heybridge (2), Maldon (4) | 17,325 | 23.2 |
| Harwich & North Essex | Colchester DC | East Donyland, West Bergholt & Eight Ash Green, Pyefleet, West Mersea | 14,075 | 18.8 |
| Colchester | Colchester DC | Lexden | 4,309 | 5.8 |

The little town of Maldon seems to change partners with every boundary review, and this is no exception. It re-orientates itself north, based on the rural and coastal areas between Maldon and Colchester (including a segment around Mersea which is currently a non-contiguous part of the Harwich & North Essex seat); its predecessor seat is Witham rather than the current 'Maldon'. It somewhat resembles the Colchester South & Maldon seat of 1983-97, although it is more rural.

| ROCHFORD AND SHOEBURY (76,810) | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Rayleigh & Wickford | Rochford DC | Ashingdon & Canewdon, Grange, Hawkwell (3), Hockley (3), Hullbridge, Lodge, Rayleigh Central, Sweyne Park, Trinity, Wheatley, Whitehouse | 49,764 | 64.8 |
| Rochford & Southend East | Southend UA | Shoeburyness, West Shoebury | 15,385 | 35.2 |
| Rochford & Southend East | Rochford DC | Barling & Sutton, Foulness & Great Wakering, Rochford | 11,661 | |

This seat includes nearly all of Rochford district.

Essex (cont.)

| SAFFRON WALDEN (77,534) | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Saffron Walden | Uttlesford DC | Ashdon, Clavering, Elsenham & Henham, Felstead, Great Dunmow (2), Littlebury, Newport, Saffron Walden (3), Stebbing, Thaxted, The Chesterfords, The Eastons, The Sampfords, Wenden Lofts, Wimbish & Debden | 42,110 | 54.3 |
| Braintree | Braintree DC | Bumpstead, Gosfield & Greenstead Green, Halstead (2), Hedingham & Maplestead, Panfield, Rayne, Stour Valley (2), The Three Colnes, Three Fields, Upper Colne, Yeldham | 35,424 | 45.7 |

This seat resembles the pre-2010 Saffron Walden, which also included Halstead, although displaced somewhat to the north and east.

| SOUTHEND CENTRAL (73,654) | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Rochford & Southend East | Southend UA | Kursaal, Milton, St Luke's, Southchurch, Thorpe, Victoria | 44,085 | 59.9 |
| Southend West | Southend UA | Chalkwell, Prittlewell, St Laurence, Westborough | 29,569 | 40.1 |

| SOUTHEND WEST AND CANVEY (74,120) | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Southend West | Southend UA | Belfairs, Blenheim, Eastwood Park, Leigh, West Leigh | 37,211 | 50.2 |
| Castle Point | Castle Point DC | Boyce, Canvey Island (6), St James | 36,909 | 49.8 |

It is impossible to divide Canvey Island and the desirability of constituencies that are contiguous by road limits the options in this part of Essex.

Essex (cont.)

| THURROCK (75,266) | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Thurrock | Thurrock UA | Current constituency less Chadwell St Mary | 70,520 | 93.7 |
| South Basildon & East Thurrock | Thurrock UA | East Tilbury | 4,746 | 6.7 |

| WICKFORD AND BURNHAM (78,539) | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Maldon | Chelmsford DC | Bicknacre & East & West Hanningfield, Little Baddow Danbury & Sandon, Rettendon & Runwell, South Hanningfield, Stock & Margaretting, South Woodham (2) | 31,645 | 66.5 |
| Maldon | Maldon DC | Althorne, Burnham-on-Crouch (2), Mayland, Purleigh, Southminster, Tillingham | 20,569 | |
| Rayleigh & Wickford | Basildon DC | Wickford (3) | 22,617 | 33.5 |
| Rayleigh & Wickford | Rochford DC | Downhall & Rawreth | 3,708 | |

This is a mainly rural seat based on the Crouch estuary with relatively good internal road and rail communications.

Essex/ Hertfordshire

| STORTFORD AND STANSTED (76,376) | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Hertford & Stortford | East Hertfordshire DC | Bishop's Stortford (5), Hunsdon, Much Hadham, Sawbridgeworth | 38,385 | 50.3 |
| Saffron Walden | Uttlesford DC | Barnston & High Easter, Birchanger, Broad Oak & The Hallingburys, Hatfield Heath, Stansted (2), Stort Valley, Takeley & The Canfields, The Rodings | 17,498 | 31.4 |
| Saffron Walden | Chelmsford DC | Chelmsford Rural West, Writtle | 6,518 | |
| North East Hertfordshire | East Hertfordshire DC | Braughing, Buntingford, Little Hadham, Puckeridge, Thundridge & Standon | 12,267 | 16.1 |
| Harlow | Epping Forest DC | Lower Sheering | 1,708 | 2.2 |

A cross-border seat spanning Essex and Hertfordshire. Stortford is by far the best crossing point between the two counties, as it forms a salient of Hertfordshire into Essex, is the local service centre for a section of Essex, and indeed houses the 'Herts and Essex' hospital. It is a seat that is not just a fairly good fit if a cross-border seat has to be created, but probably the best example of how a cross-border seat could be a functional, coherent entity.

Essex/ Suffolk

| STOUR VALLEY (75,671) | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| South Suffolk | Babergh DC | Alton, Berners, Boxford, Brook, Dodnash, Hadleigh (2), Holbrook, Leavenheath, Lower Brett, Mid Samford, Nayland, Pinewood, South Cosford | 35,310 | 46.7 |
| Harwich & North Essex | Tendring DC | Alresford, Ardleigh & Little Bromley, Bradfield, Wrabness & Wix, Brightlingsea, Great Bentley, Lawford, Manningtree etc, Thorrington etc | 24,318 | |
| Harwich & North Essex | Colchester DC | Dedham & Langham, Fordham & Stour, Great Tey | 8,777 | |
| Clacton | Tendring DC | Little Clacton & Weeley, St Osyth & Point Clear | 7,266 | 9.6 |

This is a cross-border seat between Essex and Suffolk, just over half of which is Essex. The Essex section is mostly based on the pre-2010 North Essex seat, covering a band of rural territory to the north and east of Colchester based on Manningtree - Mistley. There are arterial and many local cross-border links to southern Suffolk from here, and the whole unit forms what might be called 'Constable Country'.

Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire is left with 10 seats of its own if it is grouped with Essex but the Bedfordshire border remains uncrossed.

| BROXBOURNE (76,457) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Broxbourne | Broxbourne DC, Welwyn Hatfield DC | Entire current constituency | 71,872 | 94.0 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | Welwyn Hatfield DC | Brookmans Park & Little Heath | 4,585 | 6.0 |

| HARPENDEN (73,375) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Hitchin & Harpenden | St Albans DC | Harpenden (4), Redbourn, Sandridge, Wheathampstead | 34,862 | 57.5 |
| Hitchin & Harpenden | North Hertfordshire DC | Hitchwood, Offa & Hoo, Kimpton | 7,341 | |
| St Albans | St Albans DC | Park Street, St Stephen | 10,767 | 14.7 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | Welwyn Hatfield DC | Welwyn (2) | 7,901 | 10.8 |
| Hemel Hempstead | Dacorum DC | Ashridge, Watling | 6,287 | 8.6 |
| Stevenage | North Hertfordshire | Codicote, Knebworth | 6,217 | 8.5 |

The constituency is a successor to Hitchin & Harpenden, with Hitchin replaced essentially by Old Welwyn and some outlying bits of St Albans.

| HEMEL HEMPSTEAD (76,841) | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Hemel Hempstead | Dacorum DC | Adeyfield (2), Apsley & Corner Hall, Bennett's End, Boxmoor, Chaulden & Warners End, Gadebridge, Grove Hill, Hemel Hempstead Town, Highfield, Leverstock Green, Nash Mills, Woodhall Farm | 62,377 | 81.2 |
| Watford | Three Rivers DC | Abbots Langley, Langleybury, Leavesden | 11,456 | 14.9 |
| St Albans | Three Rivers DC | Bedmond & Primrose Hill | 3,008 | 3.9 |

Hertfordshire (cont.)

The boundary changes offer a chance to rationalise some of the contorted boundaries in western Hertfordshire. Hemel Hempstead moves to the south and takes in a suburban area lying between it and Watford.

| HERTFORD AND WELWYN (76,973) | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Hertford & Stortford | East Hertfordshire DC | Great Amwell, Hertford (5), Stanstead Abbots, Ware (4) | 40,870 | 53.1 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | Welwyn Hatfield DC | Haldens, Handside, Hollybush, Howlands, Panshanger, Peartree, Sherrards | 34,169 | 44.4 |
| North East Hertfordshire | East Hertfordshire DC | Hertford Rural South | 1,934 | 2.5 |

Hertford needs a new partner now that Stortford is the basis of a cross-border seat, and Welwyn Garden City is not only close at hand but the right size.

| NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE (77,731) | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| North East Hertfordshire | North Hertfordshire DC | Arbury, Baldock (2), Ermine, Letchworth (5), Royston (3), Weston & Sandon | 50,918 | 65.5 |
| Hitchin & Harpenden | North Hertfordshire DC | Cadwell, Hitchin (5) | 26,813 | 34.5 |

This seat resembles the pre-1997 North Hertfordshire, with Hitchin rejoining Letchworth and Baldock in a seat entirely contained within the North Herts district council.

Hertfordshire (cont.)

| SOUTH WEST HERTFORDSHIRE (73,925) | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| South West Hertfordshire | Three Rivers DC | Chorleywood (2), Croxley Green (3), Maple Cross & Mill End, Moor Park & Eastbury, Penn, Rickmansworth (2), Sarratt | 35,745 | 94.7 |
| South West Hertfordshire | Dacorum DC | Aldbury & Wigginton, Berkhamsted (3), Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield, Northchurch, Tring (3) | 34,283 | |
| Hemel Hempstead | Dacorum DC | Kings Langley | 3,897 | 5.3 |

This version of South West Herts is more coherent than the 2010 version, in that it loses the Oxhey area south of Watford which had very little to do with the rest of the seat.

| HERTSMERE (73,636) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Hertsmere | Hertsmere DC | Entire current constituency | 70,772 | 96.1 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | Welwyn Hatfield DC | Welham Green | 2,864 | 3.9 |

| ST ALBANS AND HATFIELD (78,770) | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| St Albans | St Albans DC | Ashley, Batchwood, Clarence, Colney Heath, Cunningham, London Colney, Marshalswick (2), St Peter's, Sopwell, Verulam | 56,523 | 71.8 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | Welwyn Hatfield DC | Hatfield (5) | 22,247 | 28.2 |

Road connections between St Albans and Hatfield are very good.

Hertfordshire (cont.)

| STEVENAGE (75,852) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Stevenage | Stevenage DC | Entire local authority | 61,203 | 83.2 |
| Stevenage | East Hertfordshire DC | Datchworth & Aston | 1,937 | |
| North East Hertfordshire | East Hertfordshire DC | Hertford Rural North, Mundens & Cottered, Walkern, Watton-at-Stone | 7,539 | 9.9 |
| Hitchin & Harpenden | North Hertfordshire | Chesfield | 5,173 | 6.8 |

| WATFORD (77,724) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Watford | Watford DC | Entire local authority | 63,007 | 89.4 |
| Watford | Three Rivers DC | Carpenders Park, Oxhey Hall | 6,476 | |
| South West Hertfordshire | Three Rivers DC | Ashridge, Hayling, Northwick | 8,241 | 10.6 |

Watford currently looks a little to the north, containing suburbs like Leavesden as well as the core town – this version absorbs a coherent group of wards to the south of the town.

Norfolk

| BROADLAND (79,026) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Norwich North | Broadland DC | Hellesdon (2), Old Catton & Sprowston West, Sprowston (2), Thorpe St Andrew (2) | 35,717 | 54.7 |
| Norwich North | Norwich DC | Catton Grove | 7,544 | |
| Broadland | Broadland DC | Acle, Blofield with South Walsham, Brundall, Burlingham, Coltishall, Drayton (2), Horsford & Felthorpe, Marshes, Plumstead, Spixworth with St Faith's, Wroxham | 35,765 | 45.3 |

This constituency is based closely on the Broadland council area, and takes in the suburban belt of wards that are currently the basis of Norwich North (the seat is a nearly equal merger of Norwich North and Broadland).

| GREAT YARMOUTH (75,090) | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth DC | Entire current constituency | 70,526 | 93.9 |
| South Norfolk | South Norfolk DC | Gillingham, Thurlton | 4,564 | 6.1 |

Great Yarmouth is only a little short of the minimum size, and it is one of the consequences of an inflexible 5 per cent rule that two rural wards are appended to the town.

Norfolk (cont.)

| MID NORFOLK (77,173) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Mid Norfolk | Breckland DC | All Saints, Dereham (4), Eynsford, Haggard de Toni, Hermitage, Launditch, Necton, Shipdham, Springvale & Scarning, Swanton Morley, Taverner, Templar, Two Rivers, Upper Wensum, Upper Yare, Watton, Wissey | 49,801 | 64.5 |
| Broadland | Broadland DC | Eynesford, Great Witchingham, Reepham, Taverham (2) | 13,982 | 35.5 |
| Broadland | North Norfolk DC | Astley, Lancaster (2), The Raynhams, Walsingham, Wensum | 13,390 | |

'Mid Norfolk' is a rural equivalent of the 'floating kidney' seats in cities of which Roy Jenkins wrote in 1998, whose boundaries move about every time seats are redrawn. In 2010 it migrated southwards – it now floats back north again and resembles in the bulk of its composition if not its shape the seat that existed prior to 2010.

| NORTH NORFOLK (78,206) | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| North Norfolk | North Norfolk DC | Entire current constituency | 68,277 | 87.3 |
| Broadland | Broadland DC | Aylsham, Buxton, Hevington | 9,929 | 12.7 |

| NORTH WEST NORFOLK (77,371) | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| North West Norfolk | Kings Lynn & Norfolk DC | Entire current constituency | 73,269 | 94.7 |
| South West Norfolk | Kings Lynn & Norfolk DC | St Laurence, Walton | 4,102 | 5.3 |

Norfolk (cont.)

| SOUTH WEST NORFOLK (79,313) | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| South West Norfolk | Kings Lynn & Norfolk DC | Airfield, Denton, Downham Old Town, East Downham, Emneth with Outwell, Hilgay with Denver, Mershe Lande, North Downham, St Lawrence, South Downham, Upwell & Delph, Walton, Watlington, Wiggshall, Wimbotsham with Fincham, Wissey | 37,785 | 89.4 |
| South West Norfolk | Breckland DC | Conifer, East Guiltcross, Harling & Heathlands, Mid Forest, Nar Valley, Swaffham, Thetford (4), Wayland, Weeting, West Guiltcross | 35,147 | |
| Mid Norfolk | Breckland DC | Burgh & Haverscroft, Queen's | 8,381 | 10.6 |

| CITY OF NORWICH (75,613) | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Norwich South | Norwich DC | Lakenham, Mancroft, Nelson, Thorpe Hamlet, Town Close, University, Wensum | 53,892 | 71.3 |
| Norwich North | Norwich DC | Crome, Mile Cross, Sewell | 21,721 | 28.7 |

The city boundaries of Norwich are drawn very tightly – the city itself has 98,569 electors and as a regional centre it therefore punches well above its apparent weight. The current formula has been to bulk out two city constituencies with suburban wards from Broadland and South Norfolk, and over the years this has continued to the extent that Norwich North is now composed more of Broadland than Norwich proper. Either this expansion can continue, or – given that the city is three wards larger than the specified size- one can create a ‘doughnut’ seat composed entirely of city wards.

Norfolk (cont.)

| WYMONDHAM (75,367) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| South Norfolk | South Norfolk DC | Bunwell, Cringleford, Easton, Forncett, Hethersett, Mulbarton (part), Newton Flotman, Old Costessey, Poringland with the Framinghams, Rockland, Stoke Holy Cross, Stratton | 38,792 | 51.5 |
| Norwich South | Norwich DC | Bowthorpe, Eaton | 15,412 | |
| Norwich South | South Norfolk DC | New Costessey | 4,265 | |
| Mid Norfolk | South Norfolk DC | Abbey, Cromwells, Hingham & Deopham, Mulbarton (part), Northfields, Rustens, Town, Wicklewood | 15,512 | 22.4 |
| Mid Norfolk | Breckland DC | Buckenham | 1,386 | |

This is a radically altered version of South Norfolk, which loses the rural area around Diss to a cross-border seat and moves north west to take in some Norwich suburbs. It recovers Wymondham from the Mid Norfolk seat.

Suffolk

Suffolk is one of the more intriguing cases for the rival merits of small county groups and harmonious straddle seats. It is capable of sustaining seven seats without crossing any county boundaries, but doing so involves crossing two other county borders elsewhere at rather difficult points (Cambridgeshire/ Norfolk and Hertfordshire/ Bedfordshire). Suffolk's boundaries are considerably more porous, with no big natural physical or cultural divisions between north Suffolk and south Norfolk, and south Suffolk and the northern rural part of Essex. In the interests of creating more harmonious cross-border units, it may be desirable – given the constraints that the law has created – to cross the Suffolk border twice. Giving Suffolk seven seats of its own is also not uncomplicated – there would need to be a net transfer between Bury St Edmunds and South Suffolk, and this could reduce the coherence of one or more seats in the west of the county.

There is considerable change in mid-Suffolk, but West Suffolk and the eastern seats (Waveney, Coastal, Ipswich) are little altered.

| BURY ST EDMUNDS AND SUDBURY (76,408) | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Bury St Edmunds | St Edmundsbury DC | All wards in current constituency less Pakenham | 36,965 | 55.1 |
| Bury St Edmunds | Mid Suffolk DC | Rattlesden, Thurston & Hessett | 5,144 | |
| South Suffolk | Babergh DC | Brett Vale, Bures St Mary, Chadacre, Glemsford & Stanstead, Great Cornard (2), Lavenham, Long Melford, North Cosford, Sudbury (3), Waldingfield | 34,299 | 44.9 |

| IPSWICH (75,195) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Ipswich | Ipswich DC | Unchanged current constituency | 75,195 | 100.0 |

Suffolk (cont.)

| STOWMARKET AND IPSWICH NORTH (78,722) | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Central Suffolk & Ipswich North | Suffolk Coastal DC | Grundisburgh, Kesgrave (2), Rushmere St Andrew, Witnesham | 18,737 | 57.7 |
| Central Suffolk & Ipswich North | Ipswich DC | Castle Hill, Whitehouse, Whitton | 17,946 | |
| Central Suffolk & Ipswich North | Mid Suffolk DC | Barking & Somersham, Bramford & Blakenham, Claydon & Barham | 8,703 | |
| Bury St Edmunds | Mid Suffolk DC | Bacton & Old Newton, Elmswell & Norton, Haughley & Wetherden, Needham Market, Onehouse, Ringshall, Stowmarket (3), Stowupland, Woolpit | 33,336 | 42.3 |

This is a relatively coherent seat based on the A14 corridor, in contrast to the current seat which stretches from Ipswich urban wards to the very rural border with Norfolk and has poor internal communications.

| SUFFOLK COASTAL (76,915) | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Suffolk Coastal | Suffolk Coastal DC, Waveney DC | Current constituency less Peasenhall | 75,221 | 97.8 |
| Suffolk Central & Ipswich North | Suffolk Coastal DC | Wickham Market | 1,694 | 2.2 |

| WEST SUFFOLK (77,926) | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| West Suffolk | Forest Heath DC | Entire local authority | 37,584 | 92.5 |
| West Suffolk | St Edmundsbury DC | Bardwell, Barrow, Chedburgh, Haverhill (4), Hundon, Ixworth, Kedington, Risby, Wickhambrook, Withersfield | 34,473 | |
| South Suffolk | St Edmundsbury DC | Cavendish, Clare | 3,356 | 4.3 |
| Bury St Edmunds | St Edmundsbury DC | Pakenham | 2,513 | 3.2 |

Suffolk (cont.)

| WAVENEY (79,132) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| Waveney | Waveney DC | Unchanged current constituency | 79,132 | 100.0 |

If Suffolk were treated alone, this seat could probably be reduced with the loss of a single ward.

Suffolk/ Norfolk

| EYE AND DISS (76,844) | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Current constituency | Local authority | Wards | Electors | Share % |
| South Norfolk | South Norfolk DC | Beck Vale, Bressingham & Burston, Brooke, Chedgrave & Thurton, Dickleburgh, Diss, Ditchingham & Broome, Earsham, Harleston, Hempnall, Loddon, Roydon, Scole, Tasburgh | 33,960 | 44.2 |
| Central Suffolk & Ipswich North | Mid Suffolk DC | Debenham, Eye, Fressingfield, Helmingham & Coddenham, Hoxne, Mendlesham, Palgrave, Stradbroke & Laxfield, The Stonhams, Wetheringsett, Worlingworth | 20,512 | 37.9 |
| Central Suffolk & Ipswich North | Suffolk Coastal DC | Earl Soham, Framlingham, Hacheston, Otley | 8,585 | |
| Bury St Edmunds | Mid Suffolk DC | Badwell Ash, Gislegham, Rickingham & Walsham | 7,975 | 10.4 |
| West Suffolk | St Edmundsbury DC | Barningham, Stanton | 4,101 | 4.3 |
| Suffolk Coastal | Suffolk Coastal DC | Peasenhall | 1,711 | 2.2 |

This new seat straddles the long rural border between Norfolk and Suffolk, creating a constituency united by agriculture and the local ties that exist between rural north Suffolk and the service centre (and growth point) of Diss just across the border in Norfolk. 'Eye' was the pre-1983 name for the seat covering a lot of the Suffolk component of this seat.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

The main author of the projection is Lewis Baston, with assistance from Kevin Larkin.

Lewis has been Senior Research Fellow at Democratic Audit since July 2010. His principal areas of expertise are electoral systems, constitutional reform, the history of elections, boundaries and redistricting and devolution. Before joining Democratic Audit Lewis was Director of Research at the Electoral Reform Society and had worked at ERS since 2003. From 1998 to 2002 he was a research fellow at the Centre for the Understanding of Society and Politics (CUSP) at Kingston University.

For further information about Lewis and his work, please visit his website:

<http://www.lewisbaston.co.uk>