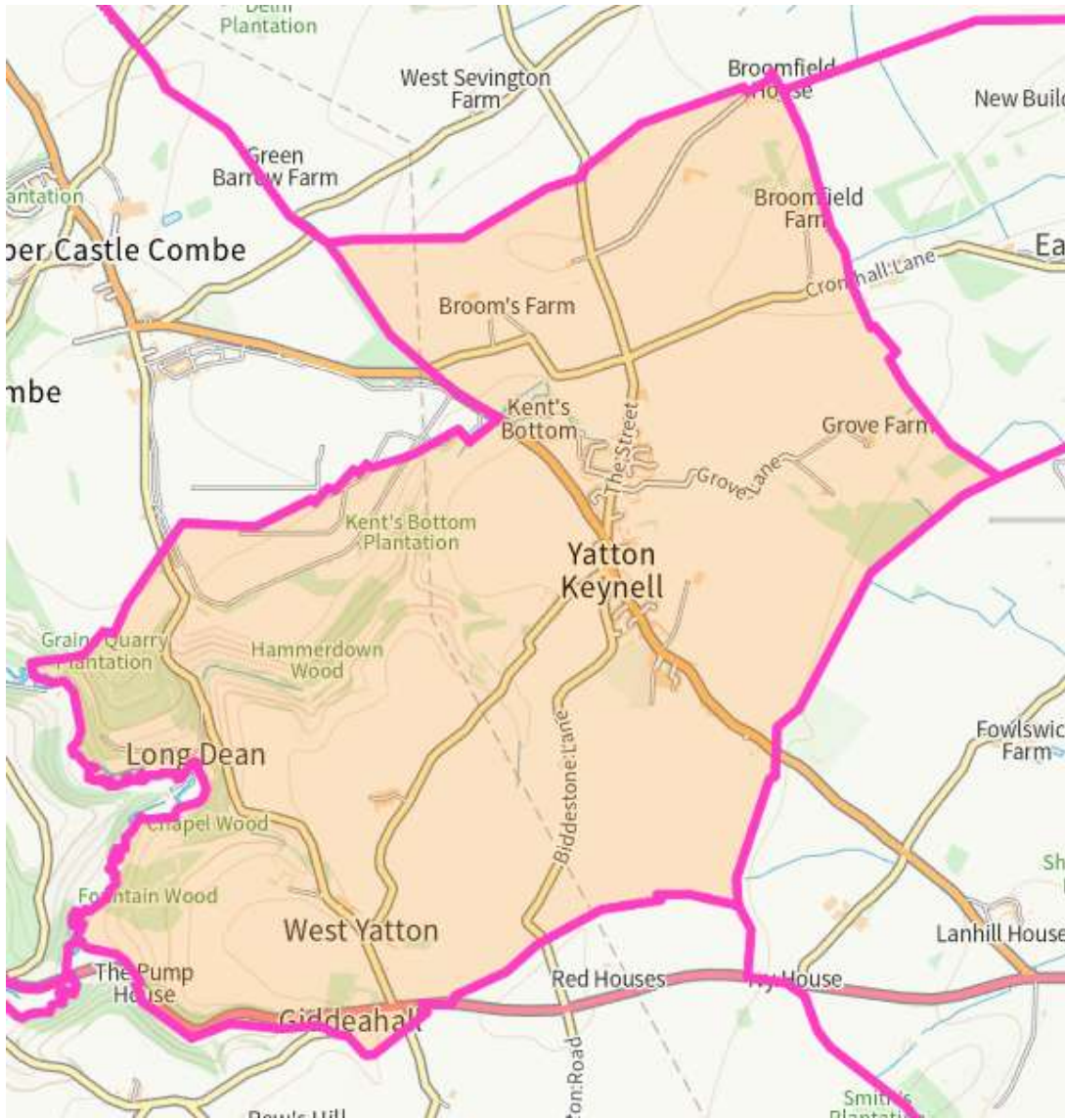


## **Yatton Keynell and Biddestone & Slaughterford**

### **Background**

95. Yatton Keynell is a moderately sized parish near Chippenham. It is bordered by Grittleton to the North, Kington St Michael and Chippenham Without to the East, Biddestone & Slaughterford to the South, and Castle Combe to the West. In August 2022 the parish was estimated to contain approximately 645 electors. It is served by a parish council of up to 9 councillors, and is unwarded. The parish is part of the By Brook Electoral Division of Wiltshire Council.

**Map of Yatton Keynell parish**



Maps from <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

96. Biddestone & Slaughterford is a small parish near Chippenham and Corsham. It is bordered by North Wraxall, Castle Combe, and Yatton Keynell to the North, Chippenham Without to the East, Corsham and Box to the South, and Colerne to the West. In August 2022 the parish was estimated to contain approximately 402 electors. It is served by a parish council of up to 9 councillors, and is unwarded. The parish is part of the By Brook Electoral Division of Wiltshire Council.

97. Yatton Keynell Parish Council had submitted a request to amend the boundary with Biddestone & Slaughtford, to use the main A420 road as the boundary for most of the length between the parishes, bringing some cottages north of the road into Yatton Keynell, whilst the area at Giddeahall moved into Biddestone & Slaughtford.
98. The Parish Council had also requested an area of Chippenham Without be moved into their parish. This request, which included an area with no electors but an area around a substation and gold academy, had also been made in 2019 and considered by the Committee in its 2019/2020 Community Governance Review. The Committee at that time did not consider there were sufficient grounds to support the proposal, and declined to make a recommendation to amend the governance arrangements as requested.

#### Initial Proposals and Pre-consultation information gathering

99. Both Yatton Keynell Parish Council and Biddestone & Slaughtford Parish Council supported the transfers between their parishes and using the A420 as a clear boundary, arguing that this was more reflective of the communities in the area.
100. Biddestone & Slaughtford Parish Council made a request that an area of the parish of Colerne be transferred, at the former paper mill site alongside the By Brook. They argued that the area was geographically much more aligned with Slaughtford than Colerne. They did not propose a precise line of which part should be transferred.
101. An online survey was set up for November 2022 to allow comments on the submitted proposals. The councils in the area were asked to promote this, to assist the committee with any local views at this stage.
102. In relation to the Yatton Keynell proposals, 30 comments were received. However, 13 expressed no opinion as they were commenting solely upon the Colerne option. 16 comments were in disagreement, however these were in relation to the proposal relating to Chippenham Without, not the A420 Giddeahall proposal.
103. In relation to the Biddestone & Slaughtford proposal for Colerne, 15 comments expressed no opinion as they were in relation to the Chippenham Without option, with 3 comments in agreement and 12 in disagreement. Comments in agreement considered the area naturally aligned more to the Slaughtford community. Comments in disagreement stated the Bybrook stream remained an appropriate boundary, that the area was well served by current arrangements and there was no benefit to a change.

#### Committee Discussion

104. Noting the agreement of the parish councils, the common use of main roads as natural and clear boundaries, and the small number of properties involved, the Committee was persuaded that the A420 would serve as a suitable boundary between Yatton Keynell and Biddestone & Slaughtford under the criteria. In particular they noted that the old road direct from Giddeahall no longer connected with West Yatton, with the crossing to via the A420 now further away, the nature of the settlement set back from the old road, and connections to the south.

105. However, given this left a few small, anomalous areas still lying on either side of the main road, the Committee considered that this should be the case all the way to the boundary with Chippenham Without and North Wraxall, in the interests of consistency. This would result in a very clear boundary for community and governance.
106. The mixed response to the proposal relating to Colerne was considered. On balance, the Committee did not feel sufficient evidence or reasoning had been provided to justify the proposal to move the former paper mill site from Colerne, and noted strong arguments had been made in objection to any need for change. It was noted that if the change were made, a request would need to be made to the LGBCE to amend the Electoral Divisions, as the parishes were in separate divisions of By Brook and Box & Colerne.
107. In respect of the proposal to move an area of Chippenham Without to Yatton Keynell, it was noted that if the change were made, a request would need to be made to the LGBCE to amend the Electoral Divisions, as the parishes were in separate divisions of By Brook and Kington.
108. At its meeting the Committee did not consider there had been justification provided under the statutory criteria which would support such a change. From provisional discussions with the Parish Council it had been noted they might withdraw their request due to the requirement of a Division change.
109. Following that meeting but before the beginning of the Draft Recommendations consultation Yatton Keynell Parish Council indicated they did in fact wish to proceed with their request relating to Chippenham Without.
110. Committee Members were updated as to the position of the Parish Council. However, this did not alter their view not to recommend a change as requested. No further reasoning, evidence or situation change had been proposed to justify a change from when it had previously been considered and rejected in the 2019/20 review. No residents would be impacted, there were negative administrative governance impacts in relation to the Division boundary, and they were not persuaded any reasons of community identity or interests existed which would justify recommending such a change. The strong and clear views of residents of the existing parish in opposition was also a considering factor.

#### Committee Draft Recommendation Proposal

111. The Committee therefore agreed to recommend a transfer between Biddestone & Slaughterford, and Yatton Keynell. No other changes to governance arrangements were considered necessary or appropriate.
112. Having considered the evidence, statutory criteria, guidance, and other relevant information, the Committee therefore proposed the following:

#### **Recommendation 5**

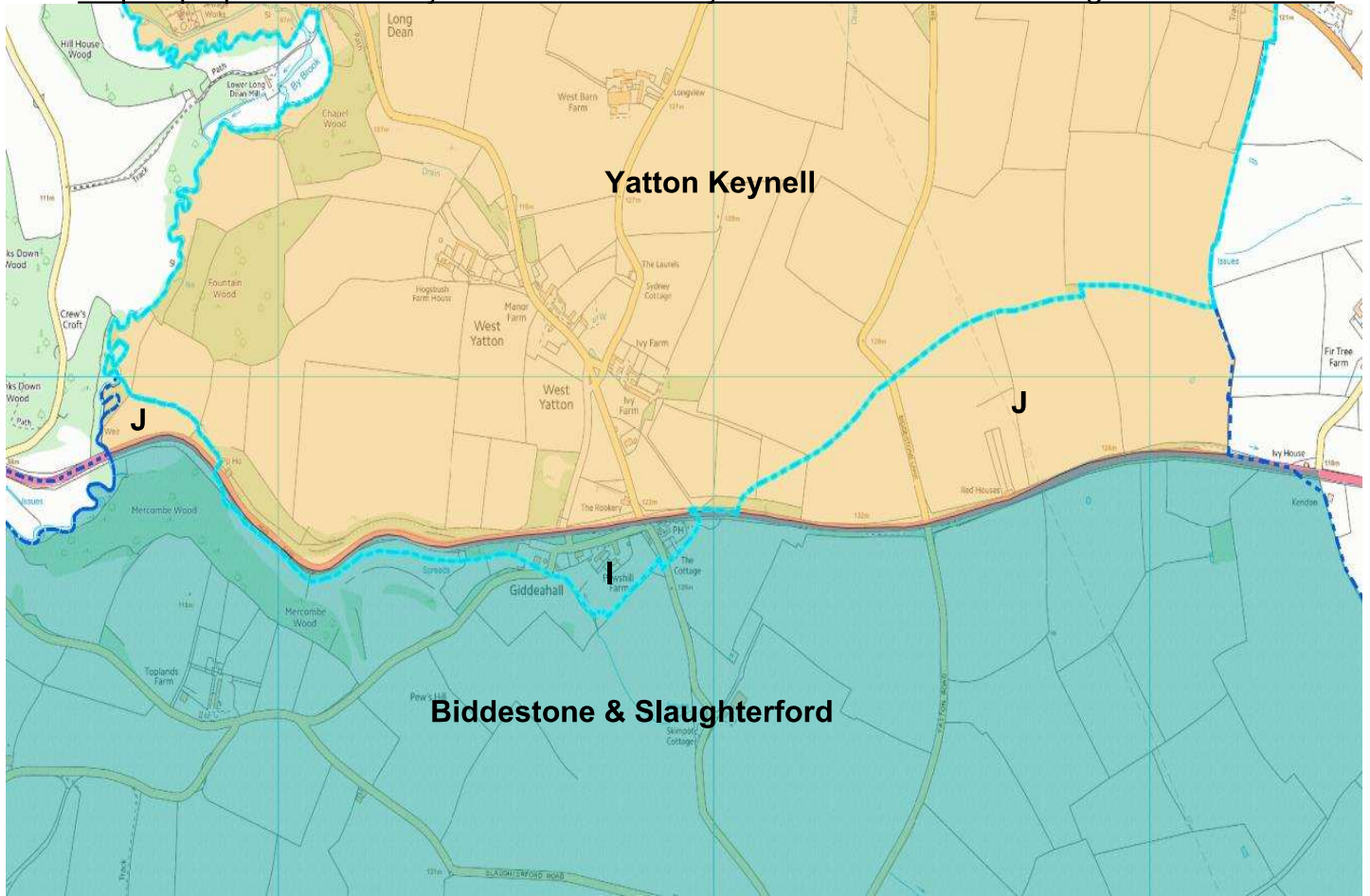
**5.1 That the area shown as I in the map below be transferred from the parish of Yatton**

**Keynell to the parish of Biddestone & Slaughterford.**

**5.2 That the areas shown as J in the map below be transferred from the parish of Biddestone & Slaughterford to the parish of Yatton Keynell.**

*Reasons: Paragraphs 80, 83, and 85 of the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews*

Map of proposed boundary between Yatton Keynell and Biddestone & Slaughterford Parishes



© Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022 Ordnance Survey 100049050  
Dotted line is existing parish boundary. Shaded areas showing new parish proposal.