

# Pre-Operative Westminster Boundaries

## March 2024

The Boundary-Line supplementary data for Pre-Operative Westminster Constituency boundaries produced by Ordnance Survey supersedes the maps and spatial data provided by the Boundary Commissions of England, Scotland and Wales within their Final Recommendations, and is the definitive dataset for the boundaries of all GB Westminster Constituencies for the next General Election.

The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland will publish their data independently through Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland, please see [Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland](#).

## Overview

The data provided encompasses the results of the Westminster Parliamentary Constituency Review 2023 approved by the Privy Council of the House of Commons on 15th November 2023, introduced into UK law as The Parliamentary Constituencies Order 2023.

This act follows the final recommendations of the Boundary Commissions for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland that were reported on 27th June 2023.

### **Ordnance Survey's Capture of Pre-Operative Westminster Constituency Boundaries:**

These boundaries are described as being “pre-operative” as they will only become operative on the day of the next UK General Election, the date of which is yet to be determined. Until this time the Westminster Constituency boundaries agreed in 2007 for the 2010 General Election are deemed to be the current operative boundaries.

As part of the final recommendations of the review in July 2023, the Boundary Commissions for England, Scotland and Wales have produced maps and spatial data describing the new Westminster Constituencies based on boundaries and “prospect” boundaries in existence and legally approved at the start of the process as of 1st December 2020.

Since 1st December 2020 there have been many changes to the boundary data used by the Boundary Commissions to build the proposed Westminster Constituency boundaries. The consequence of these changes is that the boundaries within the final recommendations of the Boundary Commissions are not fully consistent with the latest boundaries confirmed and supplied within the Ordnance Survey Boundary-Line product.

Ordnance Survey, who has a statutory requirement under the Ordnance Survey Act 1841 (as amended) and a contractual requirement under the PSGA to provide national electoral boundaries, has deemed it necessary to produce definitive boundary data for all proposed Westminster Constituency boundaries for Great Britain. The resulting dataset has been produced with reference to the boundary data provided by the national Boundary Commission's Final Recommendations but aligned to the latest boundaries contained within Ordnance Survey data.

The 2023 review is based on electoral data supplied by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in January 2021 produced from the Wards in existence at this date along with those “Prospective” wards that had

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been created by a legal instrument as of 1st December 2020. These “Prospective” wards were ones created following a local government boundary electoral review but had yet to become operative until a future local election had taken place.

For Further Information Please see:

[Boundary Commission for England Guide to the 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies](#)

[Boundary Commission for Scotland - Electorate Processes](#)

[Boundary Commission for Wales - Guide to the 2023 Review](#)

[The Parliamentary Constituencies Order 2023.](#)

## Annex I

- I. Due to this dataset being for the Pre-Operative Westminster Constituency Boundaries, the coastline improvements you can view within this dataset are an ongoing project.
- II. To produce the proposed constituency boundaries the methods employed by the national boundary commissions were as follows:

### Boundary Commission for England (BCE)

BCE used Wards in District and Borough Council areas, or Electoral Divisions in Unitary Authorities as the building blocks for designing constituencies, as Wards are a well-defined and well-understood unit. Where the splitting of a Ward was deemed necessary, it was done where possible using the Polling Districts component that forms part of the Ward and was where possible contained within a single local authority.

### Boundary Commission for Scotland (BCS)

BCS used electoral Wards within Unitary Councils as the basis for the creation of constituency boundaries, and where the splitting of wards was required, subdivision was done using Polling Districts, Community Council areas and School catchment boundaries to create recognisable boundaries.

### Boundary Commission for Wales (BCW)

BCW used electoral wards as the basic building blocks for designing constituencies and tried to avoid dividing them between proposed constituencies. In addition, where possible boundaries of existing constituencies were retained.