



# **THE REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES IN MERTHYR TYDFIL AND POWYS**

## **PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

**June 2010**

The Commission welcome correspondence and telephone calls either in English or Welsh



# **BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES**

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### **PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pursuant to its powers under Section 3 (2) of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, the Commission undertook their Fifth General Review of Parliamentary Constituencies, and, under Paragraph 8 (2) of Schedule 1 to the Government of Wales Act 2006, their First General Review of National Assembly for Wales Electoral Regions from December 2002 until January 2005. The resultant Parliamentary Constituencies and Assembly Electoral Regions (Wales) Order 2006 came into force on 25 April 2006. This Order however only made reference to local government areas as they existed on 31st January 2005. The Merthyr Tydfil and Powys (Pontsticill) Order 2009 came into operation on 1 May 2009 and made changes to the boundary between the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil and the County of Powys. In addition the Preserved Counties of Powys and Mid Glamorgan (Changes in Area) Order 2010 comes into operation on 1 April 2010 and makes corresponding changes to the boundary of the preserved counties. As a result the boundary between Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney CC and Brecon and Radnorshire CC no longer follows the county and preserved county boundary. The Commission has therefore, pursuant to its powers under Section 3 (3) of the 1986 Act and Schedule 1 of the 2006 Act, undertaken a review of the constituency and electoral region boundaries in the area.
- 1.2 Following the interim review, the Commission are now publishing their **provisional** recommendations, i.e. the Commission's initial proposals, for public consultation. Those recommendations take careful account of developments since the last general review, including changes that have been made to preserved counties, local authority areas and electoral divisions. It is emphasised, however, that the recommendations and the reasoning on which they are based are all provisional (references to recommendations, decisions, conclusions, etc. within this document should therefore be read accordingly) and that great importance is attached to the opportunity now given for all concerned to make representations, whether in support of or objecting to the proposals.
- 1.4 Details of when and how to make representations, together with a brief background note, are given later in this document.

## 2. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- Minor changes are proposed to the constituency of Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney and the constituency of Brecon and Radnorshire to reflect the change to the boundary between the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil and the County of Powys.
- Minor changes are proposed to the Assembly electoral regions of South Wales East and Mid and West Wales to reflect the proposed changes to parliamentary/Assembly constituencies.

### 3. PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- 3.1 The parliamentary and National Assembly for Wales constituency of Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney currently has 52,708 electors (as at 21 December 2009). The constituency consists of the **Merthyr Tydfil County** electoral divisions of Bedlinog, Cyfarthfa, Dowlais, Gurnos, Merthyr Vale, Park, Penydarren, Plymouth, Town, Treharris and Vaynor and **Caerphilly County** electoral divisions of Darren Valley, Moriah, New Tredegar, Pontlottyn and Twyn Carno. As a result of the Merthyr Tydfil and Powys (Pontsticill) Order 2004 the constituency also includes part of the **Powys County** electoral division of Llangynidr.
- 3.2 The parliamentary and National Assembly for Wales constituency of Brecon and Radnorshire currently has 53,354 electors (as at 21 December 2009). The constituency consists of the **Powys County** electoral divisions of Aber-craf, Beguildy, Bronllys, Builth, Bwlch, Crickhowell, Cwm-twrch, Dissersh and Trecoed, Felin-fâch, Glasbury, Gwernyfed, Hay, Knighton, Llanafanfawr, Llanbadarn Fawr, Llandrindod East/Llandrindod West, Llandrindod North, Llandrindod South, Llanelwedd, Llangattock, Llangors, Llangunllo, Llangynidr, Llanwrtyd Wells, Llanyre, Maescar/Llywel, Nantmel, Old Radnor, Presteigne, Rhayader, St.David Within, St.John, St.Mary, Talgarth, Talybont-on-Usk, Tawe-Uchaf, Ynyscedwyn, Yscir and Ystradgynlais. As a result of the Merthyr Tydfil and Powys (Pontsticill) Order 2004 part of the Pontsticill electoral division is excluded from the constituency.
- 3.3 The change to the county boundary involved the transfer of 18 electors from the Llangynidr electoral division of Brecon and Radnorshire to the Vaynor electoral division of Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney. This has resulted in the Vaynor electoral division being split between the Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney constituency and the Brecon and Radnorshire constituency. The boundary change is illustrated on the map at Appendix 1. Since all but a very small part of the Vaynor electoral division is within the existing Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney constituency, the Commission have decided to change the boundary between the Merthyr and Rhymney and Brecon and Radnorshire constituencies so as to include the whole of the Vaynor electoral division within the Merthyr Tydfil constituency.
- 3.4 The Commission have decided against recommending changes to any of the other existing constituencies as the small number of electors involved in the proposed change will have a very minimal impact on the number of electors and consequentially the arrangement of constituencies within the preserved counties of Powys and Mid Glamorgan.
- 3.5 Accordingly the Commission have provisionally decided to amend the composition of the two constituencies as follows (the December 2009 electorates are shown in brackets):

**BRECON AND RADNORSHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (53,354) Powys County** electoral divisions: Aber-craf, Beguildy, Bronllys, Builth, Bwlch, Crickhowell, Cwm-twrch, Dissersh and Trecoed, Felin-fâch, Glasbury, Gwernyfed, Hay, Knighton, Llanafanfawr, Llanbadarn Fawr, Llandrindod East/Llandrindod West, Llandrindod North, Llandrindod South, Llanelwedd, Llangattock, Llangors, Llangunllo, Llangynidr, Llanwrtyd Wells, Llanyre, Maescar/Llywel, Nantmel, Old

Radnor, Presteigne, Rhayader, St.David Within, St.John, St.Mary, Talgarth, Talybont-on-Usk, Tawe-Uchaf, Ynyscedwyn, Yscir, Ystradgynlais.

MERTHYR TYDFIL AND RHYMNEY COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (52,708)  
**Merthyr Tydfil County** electoral divisions: Bedlinog, Cyfarthfa, Dowlais, Gurnos, Merthyr Vale, Park, Penydarren, Plymouth, Town, Treharris and Vaynor. **Caerphilly County** electoral divisions: Darren Valley, Moriah, New Tredegar, Pontlottyn and Twyn Carno.

3.6 The electoral divisions named in this document are the electoral divisions which were created by the following Orders:

- The County of Powys (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1998
- The Community of Old Radnor (Warding Order) 2001
- The Powys (Llanbadarn Fynydd, Llanbister and Abbey Cwmhir) Order 2003
- The Powys (Brecon and Llanfrynach Communities) Order 2004
- The County of Powys (Community Electoral Arrangements) Order 2006
- The Powys (Communities) Order 2008
- The Merthyr Tydfil and Powys (Areas) Order 2009

and

- The County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil Electoral Arrangements Order 1994

and

- The County Borough of Caerphilly (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1998
- The Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly (Tredegar and Rhymney) Order 2002

#### **4. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES ELECTORAL REGIONS**

4.1 The Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney constituency is included within the South East Wales Assembly electoral region and the Brecon and Radnorshire constituency is included within the Mid and West Wales Assembly electoral region as shown on the map at Appendix 2. As a consequence of the proposed changes to the parliamentary constituencies the Mid and West Wales Assembly electoral region would decrease by 18 electors and the South East Wales Assembly electoral region would see a corresponding increase. The Commission considers that this minor change involving a small number of electors does not require a change to the composition of the Assembly electoral regions.

#### **5. PUBLICATION DETAILS**

##### **Publication of Provisional Recommendations**

5.1 Notification of the Commission's provisional recommendations and where they can be seen will be published formally in a notice appearing in newspapers in Wales on 1 June 2010. Local authorities, MPs, AMs, the Political Parties' Headquarters, and others will be sent a copy of the recommendations.

- 5.2 The notice will also be published on the Commission's web site at [www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk)

### **Places of Inspection**

- 5.3 The notice in local newspapers will also give the addresses within the existing parliamentary constituencies where a copy of the recommendations and a more detailed map illustrating them have been made available for inspection by the public (please note the copyright warning below concerning the map). Those addresses are:

**Brecon and Radnorshire** Council Offices, Cambrian Way, Brecon LD3 7HR  
County Hall, Llandrindod Wells LD1 5LG  
Knighton Area Office, The Library, Knighton

**Mertyhr Tydfil and Rhymney** Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8AN  
Council Offices, Nelson Road, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach,  
Hengoed CF82 7WF

## **6. PERIOD FOR REPRESENTATIONS: 1 June 2010 TO 1 July 2010**

- 6.1 The Commission are required to consider representations about their provisional recommendations for each review area made within one month of publication on 1 June 2010. Representations should be addressed to the Boundary Commission for Wales, Caradog House, 1-6 St Andrews Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BE, or faxed to 02920 395250, or e-mailed to [bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk). All representations received by the Commission will be acknowledged. The representation period will end on 1 July 2010.
- 6.2 Please note that the Commission are not statutorily required to consider any representations made after 1 July 2010, but will endeavour to take late representations into account. However, the later the representation is made, the more difficult this will be. The Commission therefore ask that all representations be made within the one month period. In the event that a local inquiry is held into the provisional recommendations, all representations will be made public beforehand so that interested persons may prepare for the local inquiry. Any representation received too late to be issued with the other representations before the local inquiry cannot be given the same weight as the other representations because other interested persons will not have had the same opportunity to consider it.
- 6.3 Where representations objecting to the provisional recommendations are made by an interested county council or by a body of 100 or more electors, the Commission cannot proceed with their final recommendations to the Secretary of State until a local inquiry has been held. If the Commission decide to alter their recommendations as a result of the inquiry, the revised recommendations must also be published and representations invited, but a further local inquiry is not obligatory.
- 6.4 Those who make representations are requested to say whether they approve of, or object to, the Commission's proposals and to give their reasons for their approval or objection. In particular, objectors are advised to say what they propose in place of the Commission's recommendations and should note that an objection accompanied by a counter-proposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection.
- 6.5 The Commission wish to stress that their provisional recommendations relate solely to parliamentary constituencies and do not affect unitary authority or community

boundaries, taxes or services. The Commission will therefore not take account of any representation made about those local issues.

## **7. BACKGROUND NOTE**

- 7.1 Details of the relevant statutory framework and of the Commission's general approach to the reviews is to be found in the Commission's publication, "The Review of Parliamentary Constituencies and of Welsh Assembly Electoral Regions in Wales" (2003), which is available in English and Welsh from the Commission or on the Commission's web-site at [www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk). For your convenience a summary of this information is set out in the following paragraphs.
- 7.2 The Commission are constituted under Section 2 and Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. The ex officio Chairman is the Speaker of the House of Commons. The Deputy Chairman, who presides over Commission meetings, is a High Court Judge appointed by the Lord Chancellor. One Commissioner is appointed by the Secretary of State for Wales and the other Commissioner is appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice. The two Assessors to the Commission are the Registrar General of England and Wales and the Director General of Ordnance Survey. Assistant Commissioners are lawyers appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice to conduct local inquiries.
- 7.3 The Commission are required by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992 to conduct a general review of all the constituencies in Wales every eight to twelve years. The Commission completed their fifth general review on 31 January 2005.
- 7.4 The Commission are also empowered by Section 3 (3) of the 1986 Act to submit to the Secretary of State reports with respect to any particular constituency or constituencies (an "interim review"). The Commission has the corresponding power in relation to Assembly electoral regions pursuant to Schedule 1 of the Government of Wales Act 2006.
- 7.5 This interim review started formally with the publication of a notice in the London Gazette on 21 December 2009. The Commission's recommendations throughout the review must by law be based on the numbers of electors on the electoral registers on that date.

### **Rules**

- 7.6 In recommending new constituencies, the Commission are required to give effect to the Rules for Redistribution of Seats which are contained in Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act.
- 7.7 Rule 1 places limits on the total number of constituencies. Rule 2 requires single member constituencies. Rule 3 relates to the City of London. Rule 4 states that county (*preserved county in Wales*) boundaries are to be followed so far as is practicable. Rule 5 states that the electorates of constituencies are to be as nearly equal to the electoral quota as practicable. Rule 6 allows the Commission to depart from rules 4 and 5 if special geographical considerations make a departure desirable. Rule 7 allows the Commission to depart from other rules, and requires them to take account of inconveniences caused by alterations of constituencies (other than alterations made for the purposes of rule 4) or local ties broken by such alterations. Rule 8 defines the electoral quota as the total



number of parliamentary electors in Wales divided by the existing number of seats, and requires the Commission to use the electorates as at the start of a review.

### **Assembly Electoral Regions**

- 7.8 The Assembly constituencies are the parliamentary constituencies in Wales. There are five Assembly electoral regions (North Wales, Mid and West Wales, South Wales Central, South Wales East, South Wales West). In provisionally recommending the alteration of parliamentary constituencies, the Commission are required to consider whether any alteration in the Assembly electoral regions or in the allocation of seats to the Assembly electoral regions are required to give effect to the rules contained in Schedule 1 to the Government of Wales Act 1998.
- 7.9 Rule 1 requires that each Assembly constituency is wholly included in one Assembly electoral region. Rule 2 requires that the electorates of the Assembly electoral regions shall be as nearly equal as is practicable, having regard (where appropriate) to special geographic considerations. Rule 3 provides that the number of Assembly seats for the Assembly electoral regions shall be either one half of the total number of Assembly constituencies, or, if the total is not divisible by two, one half of the total plus one. Rule 4 provides that the number of Assembly seats for an Assembly region shall be either one fifth of the number calculated under Rule 3 or, if the Rule 3 total is not divisible by five, either one fifth of the highest number that is less than that total number and exactly divisible by five or the number produced by adding one to one fifth of that highest number (the procedures for calculating the number and allocation of residual seats are detailed in sub-paragraphs (2) to (4) of Schedule 1).

### **Procedures**

- 7.10 In conducting a review of constituencies, the Commission are required by the legislation to follow certain procedures, principally to provide for public consultation.
- 7.11 The Secretary of State must be given notice of a review and that notice must be published in the London Gazette. Provisional recommendations must be published in newspapers in the affected constituencies and, unless the proposals are for no changes to be made, they must also be deposited for public inspection in at least one place in each affected constituency. Representations may be made within one month of publication of the provisional recommendations and the Commission must take any representations into consideration. Where objections are received from a county or county borough council or a body of 100 or more electors, a local inquiry must be held. If the Commission revise their recommendations as a result of an inquiry, the revised representations must also be published and further representations invited and considered. A second local inquiry cannot be forced by these further representations, but there is discretionary power to hold a second inquiry. Any further modifications, as a result of further representations or a second inquiry, must also be published and representations invited. When the Commission have decided their final recommendations for the whole country, they must submit a report to the Secretary of State.

### **Implementation of the recommendations**

- 7.12 The Secretary of State has a statutory duty to lay the Commission's report before Parliament together with a draft Order in Council giving effect to the Commission's

recommendations with or without modifications. If modifications are proposed, the Secretary of State must also lay a statement of reasons for the modifications. The draft Order in Council is submitted to both Houses of Parliament for approval and, after it is made by Her Majesty in Council, it cannot be called into question in any legal proceedings. The new constituencies take effect at the next following general election.

- 7.13 The above information is intended to be a general guide only. For a definitive statement of the law, please refer to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 – as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992, the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, the Government of Wales Act 1998, and the Scotland Act 1998 – together with the Court of Appeal ruling in *R v Boundary Commission for England Ex parte Foot* [1983] QB 600.

### **Crown Copyright**

- 7.14 The maps deposited at the addresses listed above were produced using data provided by Ordnance Survey, Romsey Road, Southampton SO16 4GU (telephone 08456 05 05 05 or 08456 05 05 04 for the Welsh language helpline). These maps and the maps that form part of this document are subject to © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction will infringe Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Any newspaper editor wishing to use the maps as part of an article about the provisional recommendations should first contact the Copyright Office at Ordnance Survey.

### **Enquiries**

- 7.15 Should you require further information about these provisional recommendations or about other aspects of the Commission's work please contact:

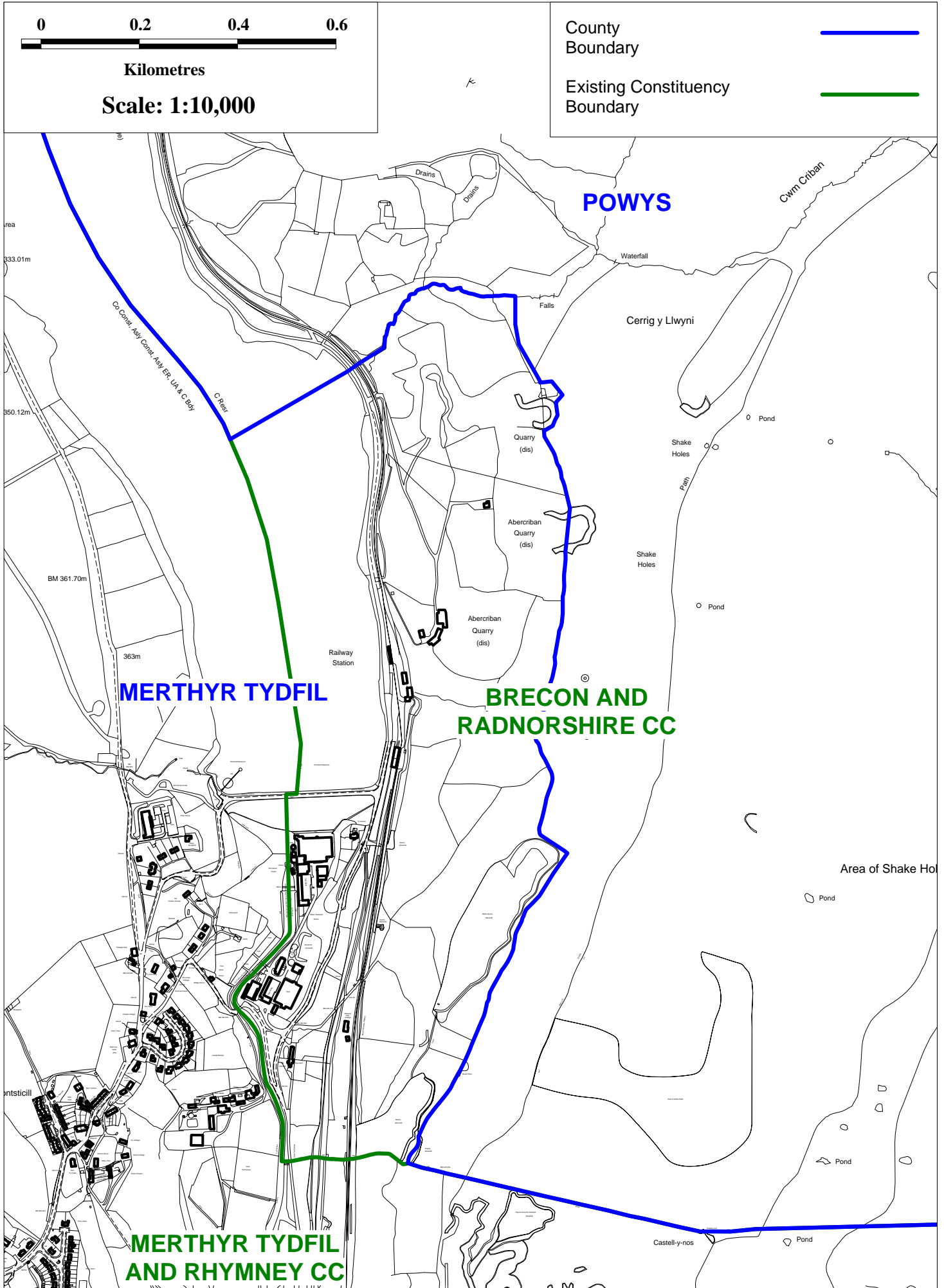
Boundary Commission for Wales  
Caradog House  
1-6 St Andrews Place  
Cardiff  
CF10 3BE

Telephone: 02920 395031  
Fax: 02920 395250  
Email: [bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

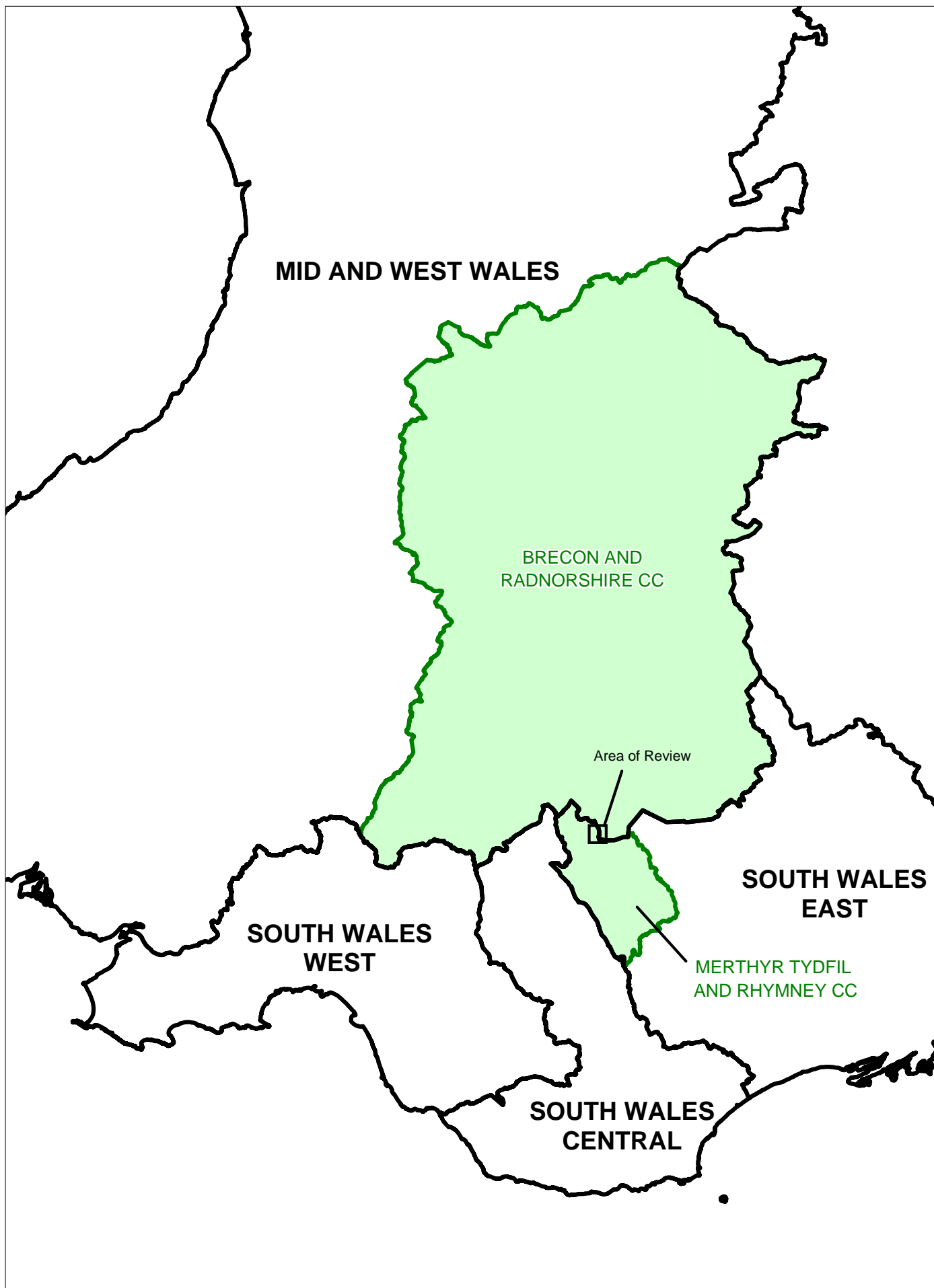
The Internet version of these provisional recommendations and maps are now available on:

[www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk)

# MERTHYR TYDFIL AND POWYS



# BRECON AND RADNORSHIRE - MERTHYR TYDFIL AND RHYMNEY CONSTITUENCIES AND ASSEMBLY ELECTORAL REGIONS



**ELECTORAL DIVISION ELECTORATES BY COUNTY**

<b>Powys</b>					
1.	Aber-craf	1,135	38.	Llangors	875
2.	Banwy	784	39.	Llangunllo	1,046
3.	Beguilydy	1,101	40.	Llangynidr	829
4.	Berriew	1,090	41.	Llanidloes	2,274
5.	Blaen Hafren	1,889	42.	Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant/Llansilin	1,793
6.	Bronllys	992	43.	Llansantffraid	1,519
7.	Builth	1,887	44.	Llanwrtyd Wells	1,468
8.	Bwlch	731	45.	Llanwddyn	858
9.	Caersws	1,861	46.	Llanyre	915
10.	Churchstoke	1,260	47.	Machynlleth	1,659
11.	Crickhowell	2,296	48.	Maescar/Llywel	1,362
12.	Cwm-twrch	1,638	49.	Meifod	1,067
13.	Disserth and Trecoed	1,016	50.	Montgomery	1,081
14.	Dolforwyn	1,598	51.	Nantmel	1,204
15.	Felin-fâch	1,088	52.	Newtown Central	2,219
16.	Forden	1,130	53.	Newtown East	1,501
17.	Glantwymyn	1,657	54.	Newtown Llanllwchaiarn North	1,756
18.	Glasbury	1,764	55.	Newtown Llanllwchaiarn West	1,379
19.	Guilsfield	1,866	56.	Newtown South	1,278
20.	Gwernyfed	1,226	57.	Old Radnor	1,318
21.	Hay	1,274	58.	Presteigne	2,160
22.	Kerry	1,641	59.	Rhayader	1,605
23.	Knighton	2,305	60.	Rhiwcyonon	1,680
24.	Llanafanfawr	1,121	61.	St.David Within	1,187
25.	Llanbadarn Fawr	867	62.	St.John	2,454
26.	Llanbrynmair	766	63.	St.Mary	2,029
27.	Llandinam	1,135	64.	Talgarth	1,306
28.	Llandrindod East/Llandrindod West	914	65.	Talybont-on-Usk	1,564
29.	Llandrindod North	1,469	66.	Tawe-Uchaf	1,754
30.	Llandrindod South	1,614	67.	Trewern	1,075
31.	Llandrinio	1,662	68.	Welshpool Castle	1,075
32.	Llandysilio	1,411	69.	Welshpool Gungrog	1,990
33.	Llanelwedd	963	70.	Welshpool Llanerchydol	1,723
34.	Llanfair Caereinion	1,346	71.	Ynyscedwyn	1,726
35.	Llanfihangel	896	72.	Yscir	851
36.	Llanfyllin	1,190	73.	Ystradgynlais	2,057
37.	Llangattock	807			

.	<b>Merthyr Tydfil</b>	<b>41,310</b>
1.	Bedlinog	2,447
2.	Cyfarthfa	4,759
3.	Dowlais	4,768
4.	Gurnos	3,169
5.	Merthyr Vale	2,701
6.	Park	3,240
7.	Penydarren	3,591
8.	Plymouth	3,852
9.	Town	5,404
10.	Treharris	4,739
11.	Vaynor	2,640

	<b>Caerphilly</b>	
1.	Darren Valley	1,811
2.	Moriah	3,147
3.	New Tredegar	3,396
4.	Pontlottyn	1,398
5.	Twyn Carno	1,646