



Review of polling districts, places and stations 2024

Background information

If you have any comments or questions, please contact:

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Review of polling districts, places and stations

1. General Information

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983), Councils have a duty to divide its local authority area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district. The local authority is responsible for designating polling districts and polling places whilst the (Acting) Returning Officer is responsible for decisions on polling stations.

This is for the purposes of voting at UK Parliamentary elections, but the same scheme is used for local elections for consistency of voter experience and administration.

Under Section 18(c) of the RPA 1983, the next compulsory review must be undertaken within a 16-month window, between 2 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.

2. Guideline for the review

The review relies on the following key definitions:

- A **polling district** is a geographical area. Each parish/parish ward must be a separate polling district. A good starting point is to include the whole parish/parish ward as one polling district. If this is too large, in order to provide easy access, the area can be split into smaller polling districts. Forest of Dean is currently divided into 71 Polling Districts.
- A **polling place** is the area or building in which a polling station is located and should be within the polling district unless it is not possible to find a suitable place.
- A **polling station** is the actual room or building where polling takes place. This information is available on the notice of poll and communicated to electors via their poll card. Unlike polling districts and polling places, which are areas designated by the Council, the designation of polling stations is the responsibility of the relevant (Acting) Returning Officer for the election.
- The scope of the review is limited to polling districts and polling places only; therefore, the outcomes of the review cannot make changes to existing parliamentary constituency, district, parish or parish ward boundaries as a result of this review.

The outcomes of the review must also meet the following legislative criteria:

- Each parish in the area should constitute a separate polling district(s), with no part of a different parish, community or unparished area within its boundary.
- The polling place should be within the boundary of the polling district unless in special circumstances, for example, where no suitable polling place can be identified within the district.
- The polling place must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the polling district how they will be able to reach it.
- The polling place should be accessible to electors who are disabled, so far as is reasonable and practical.
- The polling place should provide such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

The comments of the (Acting) Returning Officers for the relevant parliamentary constituencies also consider the following practical guidance where possible:

- Electoral Commission guidance on the maximum number of voters in attendance at any single polling station, which is currently suggested as 2,250 voters.

- Powers of the Returning Officer to require use of publicly funded school buildings free of charge. This entitlement is granted by Section 22(1)(a) of the RPA 1983 but should be considered against safeguarding issues and availability at short notice, especially if the school would be required to close to ensure pupils' safety.
- The use of temporary polling stations in portacabins. Such temporary units provide unsuitable facilities for voting, especially considering the implementation of voter ID checking and provisions for privacy. The administration of units is burdensome, costly and relies on diesel generators, which are a safety risk to staff, noisy and pollutants. Therefore, temporary polling stations should be recommended as a last resort, where no suitable polling place can be found in the polling district, or within reasonable travelling distance outside of the polling district.

3. Pre-consultation analysis and format of comments

The following comments and recommendations have been compiled using information from the following sources:

- Feedback from polling station staff and voters at the recent Police & Crime Commissioner elections held in May 2024 and UK Parliamentary Election held in July 2024.
- Questionnaire sent to venue booking agents.
- GIS mapping
- Electorate statistics
- Assessments of alternative potential polling places, conducted in person by Electoral Services.

4. How the review is conducted

The Council announces that the review is to take place. The (Acting) Returning Officer must be consulted on the current arrangements and must make representations on the existing polling stations used. The (Acting) Returning Officers' comments must be published within 30 days of receipt.

We will consult elected representatives in the area (at all levels), and Political representatives. We would particularly welcome comments from disabled residents, or any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability, on the current arrangements, future proposals, the ARO representations or any other related matters.

The final decision on polling districts and polling places is made by the council and the final decision on the situation of polling stations rests with the (Acting) Returning Officer.

Accessibility

- A polling station should be within reasonable walking distance for most electors.
- All polling stations should have access facilities for disabled electors including wheelchair users.
- There are various building regulations which determine how adaptations can be made, and it is not always possible for the owners of buildings to make permanent structural changes.
- Where permanent facilities are not possible, the Council tries to make temporary provision, usually by means of a portable ramp. However, it must be remembered that on occasion, these ramps can cause a hazard and thus are not always a practical solution.

Practical Considerations

- When selecting a polling station there are some basic criteria which need to be considered:
 - Geographically central for the majority of the electorate
 - Appropriate for democratic use
 - Health & Safety arrangements
 - Enough useable space
 - Exclusive use
 - Access (including parking)
 - Welfare facilities for staff
 - Cost
- There are no legislative limits on the number of polling stations an authority can provide; however, a polling station should not have more than 2,250 voters allocated to it. There are currently 71 polling stations, with some acting as double/triple stations.

What is not covered by the review?

This review does not cover:

- boundaries of the parliamentary constituency
- county council divisions
- district council wards
- parish boundaries and parish wards

Timetable for the Review

Formal review notice published	Monday 7 October 2024
Review period commences	Monday 7 October 2024
(Acting) Returning Officers' comments published	Not later than Friday 11 October 2024
Representations to be received by	5pm - Friday 15 November 2024
Report to Council	Thursday 12 December 2024

Making Comments

Representations on the current arrangements of polling districts, places and stations are welcome, however, it should be highlighted that each parish/parish ward must be a separate polling district and ward boundaries cannot be changed as part of the review.

Comments do not have to be restricted to alternative proposals - support for the current arrangements are also welcome. When making representations it would be helpful to the Council for you to provide as much relevant information as you can about your current polling place including how conveniently it is located in relation to where you live, whether there is adequate parking, what access is like for disabled and/or wheelchair users and how suitable overall it is for voting. Please also indicate whether there are any other suitable premises that could be used.

Comments should be made in writing to: Electoral Services, Forest of Dean District Council, High Street, Coleford, GL16 8HG or by e-mail elections@fdean.gov.uk no later than **5 pm on Friday 15 November 2024**. Alternatively using the online form, which is available from our website <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/pollingreview/>

Current Arrangements

Current polling places, districts and stations together with the electorate figures used for this review are based on the 1 October 2024 electoral register. It is also worth noting that the electorate means the total electors for the polling station and includes those who have a postal vote in place. [Appendix A](#)

An interactive map of our current arrangements can be found on our website <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/pollingreview/>.

Appendix A

Current polling places together with information on the number of registered electors allocated to each polling station is detailed below. It is also worth noting that the electorate relates to the total number of electors for the polling station and includes those who have a postal vote in place.

District Ward: BERRY HILL

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Coleford - Mile End & Broadwell	NJD	Mile End & Broadwell	Evergreen Hall, Speech House Road, Broadwell, GL16 7BG	1416
English Bicknor	NY	English Bicknor	Village Hall, Ross Road, English Bicknor, GL16 7PD	338
West Dean - Berry Hill	PS	Berry Hill	Berry Hill Institute, Lakers Road, Berry Hill, GL16 7QU	1310
West Dean - Christchurch	PSA	Christchurch	Berry Hill Institute, Lakers Road, Berry Hill, GL16 7QU	733

District Ward: BREAM

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
West Dean – Bream	PP	Bream	The West Dean Centre, High Street, Bream, GL15 6JW	2562
West Dean – Parkend *	PUA	Whitcroft	Memorial Hall, Parkend Road, Whitcroft, GL15 4PA	701
	PV	Parkend	Parkend Memorial Hall, Folly Road, Parkend, GL15 4JF	457

District Ward: CINDERFORD EAST

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Cinderford East*	NIXA	Cinderford East	Baptist Church, Commercial Street, Cinderford, GL14 2RP	852
	NIXB	Cinderford East	Sheltered Housing Scheme, Worcester Road, Cinderford, GL14 2XB	1038
	NIZ	Cinderford East	Wesley Hall, Belle Vue Road, Cinderford, GL14 2AB	1566

District Ward: CINDERFORD WEST

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Cinderford West*	NIX	Cinderford West	Grouped Housing Scheme, Rowandean, Cinderford, GL14 2XP	1307
	NIXC	Cinderford West	Grouped Accommodation, Crawshay Place, off Valley Road, Cinderford, GL14 2EW	1605
Cinderford North	NIY	Steam Mills	Cinderford Bowling Club, Steam Mills, Cinderford, GL14 3JD	224

District Ward: COLEFORD

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Coleford - Central Ward	NJ	Coleford	The Main Place, Old Station Way, Coleford, GL16 8RH	3137
Coleford - East Ward*	NJA	Coalway	Coalway Methodist Hall, Old Road, Coalway, GL16 7JJ	1245
	NJB	Milkwall	Recreation Hall, Station Road, Milkwall, GL16 7LJ	1197
	NJC	Coleford East	The Meeting Room, The Main Place, Old Station Way, Coleford, GL16 8RH	640

District Ward: DYMOCK

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Dymock	NQ	Dymock	Parish Hall, Ledbury Road, Dymock, GL18 2AG	1029
Gorsley and Kilcot	NX	Gorsley	Christ Church, Gorsley, HR9 7SP	223
Kempley	OF	Kempley	Village Hall, Kempley, GL18 2BP	248
Oxenhall	OX	Oxenhall	Parish Hall, Oxenhall, GL18 1RN	201

District Ward: HARTPURY & REDMARLEY

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Bromsberrow	NF	Bromsberrow	Village Hall, Albright Lane, Bromsberrow, HR8 1RU	363
Corse	NK	Corse	Village Hall, Gloucester Road, Corse GL19 3RQ	530
Hartpury	OA	Hartpury	Village Hall, Over Old Road, Hartpury, GL19 3BJ	712
Pauntley	OY	Pauntley	Pauntley Village Hall, Brand Green, Pauntley, GL19 3JD	252
Redmarley	OZ	Redmarley	Village Hall, Redmarley, GL19 3HS	698
Rudford & Highleadon	PB	Rudford & Highleadon	Rudford & Highleadon Village Hall, Buttermilk Lane, Rudford, GL2 8DY	240
Staunton Gloucester	PE	Staunton Gloucester	Swan Community Hub Staunton, Ledbury Road, Gloucester GL19 3QA	664
Upleadon	PN	Upleadon	Village Hall, Gloucester Road, Upleadon, GL18 1EJ	220

District Ward: LONGHOPE & HUNTLEY

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Churcham	NH	Churcham	Kings Head Inn, Birdwood, GL19 3EF	572
Huntley	OE	Huntley	Village Hall, North Road, Huntley, GL19 3DU	910
Longhope	OI	Longhope	The Latchen Room, Latchen, Longhope, GL17 0QE	1355
Tibberton	PI	Tibberton	Church Room, Tibberton, GL19 3AF	498

District Ward: LYDBROOK

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Lydbrook*	OK	Lydbrook	Memorial Hall, Central Lydbrook, Lydbrook, GL17 9PP	1079
	OL	Joys Green	Memorial Hall, Central Lydbrook, Lydbrook, GL17 9PP	730

District Ward: LYDNEY EAST

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Lydney East	ON	Lydney East	Lydney Community Centre, Naas Lane, Lydney, GL15 5AT	5374

District Ward: LYDNEY NORTH

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Lydney North	OM	Lydney North	Primrose Hill Church Hall, Primrose Hill, Lydney, GL15 5SF	1696

District Ward: LYDNEY WEST & AYLBURTON

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Aylburton	ND	Aylburton	Memorial Hall, High Street, Aylburton, GL15 6DL	578
Lydney West	OO	Lydney West	Lydney Town Hall, High Street, Lydney GL15 5DY	1399

District Ward: MITCHELDEAN RUARDEAN & DRYBROOK

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Drybrook - Village	NM	Drybrook	Band Room, Drybrook, GL17 9BS	1548
Drybrook - Ruardean Hill*	NN	Ruardean Hill	Baptist Chapel, Baptist Way, Ruardean Hill, GL17 9AR	522
	NO	Ruardean Woodside	Memorial Hall, Forest Road, Ruardean Woodside, GL17 9XR	518
Mitcheldean - North	OR	Mitcheldean North	Community Centre, The Playing Fields, Mitcheldean, GL17 0BE	1896
Mitcheldean - South	ORA	Mitcheldean South	Community Centre, The Playing Fields, Mitcheldean, GL17 0BE	253
Ruardean	PA	Ruardean	Ruardean War Memorial Hall, High Street Ruardean, GL17 9US	1114

District Ward: NEWENT & TAYNTON

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Newent - Central	OS	Newent Central	Newent Memorial Hall, Bury Bar Lane, Newent, GL18 1PT	3859
Newent - North East	OSA	Newent North East	Newent Community Centre, Ross Road, Newent GL18 1BD	1139
Newent - South West	OSB	Newent South West	Cliffords Mesne Village Hall, Chapel Pitch, Cliffords Mesne, Newent, GL18 1JN	334
Taynton	PHA	May Hill	Village Hall, All Saints Road, May Hill, GL17 0NL	374

District Ward: NEWLAND & SLING

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Newland*	OT	Clearwell	Clearwell Memorial Hall, High Street, Clearwell, GL16 8JS	524
	OU	Redbrook	Village Hall, Redbrook, NP25 4LY	301
Staunton Coleford	PD	Staunton Coleford	Village Hall, Staunton, Coleford, GL16 8NX	249
West Dean - Ellwood & Sling	PQ	Sling	Sling & District Recreation Centre, Milestone Walk, Sling, GL16 8JG	912

District Ward: NEWNHAM

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Awre*	NC NCA	Blakeney Awre	Blakeney and District Recreation Centre, Blakeney, GL15 4DW Village Hall, Awre, GL14 1EL	1201 153
Littledean	OG	Littledean	The Community Centre, Roman Way, Off Beech Way, Littledean, GL14 3NB	1033
Newnham	OV	Newnham	The Armoury Hall, Dean Road, Newnham, GL14 1AB	1218
Ruspidge & Soudley - East	PBY	Soudley	Village Hall, Lower Road, Soudley, GL14 2TZ	412

District Ward: PILLOWELL

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
West Dean - Pillowell	PU PW PX	Pillowell Yorkley Viney Hill	Pillowell Village Hall, Upper Road, Pillowell GL15 4QZ Community Centre, Bailey Hill, Yorkley, GL15 4RS Viney St Swithins Sports and Social Club, Viney Hill, GL15 4NF	285 1053 408

District Ward: RUSPIDGE

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Ruspidge & Soudley - West	PBX	Ruspidge	Memorial Hall, Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, GL14 3AE	1886

District Ward: ST BRIAVELS

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Alvington	NA	Alvington	Memorial Hall, Knapp Lane, Alvington, GL15 6BH	518
Hewelsfield & Brockweir	OC	Brockweir	Mackenzie Hall, Mill Hill, Brockweir, NP16 7NW	380
St Briavels*	PF PG	St Briavels Brockweir	St Briavels Assembly Rooms, East Street, St Briavels, GL15 6TG Mackenzie Hall, Mill Hill, Brockweir, NP16 7NW	948 92

District Ward: TIDENHAM

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Tidenham*	PJ	Sedbury & Beachley	Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, King Alfreds Road, Sedbury, NP16 7AG	2427
	PK	Tutshill	War Memorial Hall, Coleford Road, Tutshill, NP16 7BN	2112
Woolaston	PY	Woolaston	Woolaston Memorial Hall, Swains Field, Woolaston, GL15 6SU	1007

District Ward: WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN

Parish/Parish Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Address of Polling Station	Electorate
Blaisdon	NE	Blaisdon	Village Hall Blaisdon GL17 0AH	206
Westbury-on-Severn	PO	Westbury-on-Severn	Westbury on Severn Parish Hall, Rodley Road, Westbury on Severn, GL14 1PF	1437

*denotes where a parish/parish ward is split into smaller polling districts.