



EXTENDING LOCAL DAB COVERAGE

Consultation on changing local radio multiplex
frequencies and areas

Consultation

Publication date: 28 January 2015

Closing date for responses: 25 February 2015

About this document

This document seeks views on a set of requests to change the frequencies and/or areas to be served by some of the local radio multiplex services in the UK. These requests form part of a plan to improve the coverage of local DAB radio across the UK.

A radio multiplex service is the means by which DAB digital radio stations are broadcast.

Ofcom is required to consult before deciding whether to agree to such requests. This document is the consultation, and includes questions to help respondents frame their responses.

The frequency changes, if agreed, will require some listeners to retune their DAB digital radios. The proposed area changes are primarily administrative, and would not affect the services that currently can be received in any given local area.

The closing-date for responses to this consultation is 25 February 2015.

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Section 1

Executive summary

- 1.1 Under a Framework Agreement signed in December 2014, Government, local radio multiplex operators and the BBC have agreed to seek to improve the coverage of local DAB multiplexes around the UK. These multiplexes carry both commercial radio services and BBC Local or Nations' services.
- 1.2 The proposed improvements are incorporated in what is called the Local DAB Expansion Plan, and entail:
 - modifications to local radio multiplex service licensed areas, to more accurately reflect existing analogue radio station coverage areas;
 - changes to local DAB frequencies in some places;
 - modifications to 49 existing local DAB transmitters, and;
 - 182 new local DAB transmitters.
- 1.3 The objective of the Local DAB Expansion Plan and the Framework Agreement is to extend and improve local DAB coverage so that it is broadly equivalent to the existing FM coverage of the largest local commercial radio service in each local area.
- 1.4 This consultation is concerned directly with the first two of the elements set out in paragraph 1.2 (i.e. changes to licensed areas and frequencies). The Local DAB Expansion Plan includes proposed changes to the frequencies of eight local radio multiplex services, and proposed changes to the areas covered by 39 local radio multiplex services.
- 1.5 Ofcom has received applications from local DAB multiplex licensees requesting that we vary the relevant licences to give effect to these changes. Section 54A of the Broadcasting Act 1996 gives Ofcom the power to agree to such changes provided certain requirements are met.
- 1.6 Before deciding whether to agree to such requests, Ofcom is legally required to seek representations from any interested parties. This consultation represents that opportunity. The closing-date for representations to be made is Wednesday 25 February 2015; any submissions received after this date may not be considered.
- 1.7 The relevant statute states that Ofcom can agree to such requests only if we are satisfied that, in each case, the change would not unacceptably narrow the range of local DAB programme services available to listeners in the local area served by the multiplex.
- 1.8 Provided that the request meets the terms of the statute, the decision whether or not to agree to the request is at Ofcom's discretion. Our approach and proposed decision in respect of each of the applications to vary the licences is set out in this consultation document.
- 1.9 We seek views on whether Ofcom should approve the requests to change local DAB frequencies and areas which have been submitted in support of the Local DAB Expansion Plan.

Section 2

Details and background information

Local radio multiplex licences

- 2.1 Local radio multiplex licences are granted by Ofcom to enable the provision of radio stations and other types of service (e.g. data) on the DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting) platform. The holder of a local radio multiplex licence is responsible for, among other things, delivering coverage in the local area, and facilitating the provision of a range of radio services to listeners in that area. Local radio multiplex services carry both commercial radio services and BBC Local or Nations' services.
- 2.2 There are currently 55 local radio multiplex licences in issue¹. Most, but not all, parts of the UK are within the potential coverage area of at least one local radio multiplex service. In the Greater London area, there are three such local radio multiplex services. However, in Cumbria, Suffolk and parts of Scotland there is currently no local radio multiplex service (although listeners in these areas may be able to receive national digital radio services from the BBC, and/or national commercial radio stations from the national radio multiplex service provided by Digital One).
- 2.3 The first local radio multiplex services launched in May 2000, while the most recent such service, in North Yorkshire, commenced broadcasting last month, bringing local DAB digital radio services for the first time to a potential 700,000 listeners.
- 2.4 Each local radio multiplex licence is advertised by Ofcom, and is for a service designed to cover a designated geographical area. This area is known as the 'licensed area'. A local radio multiplex service will provide coverage to as much of its 'licensed area' as is reasonably practicable, but is unlikely to be available in every location. The area which a local radio multiplex service actually covers within its 'licensed area' is known as the 'coverage area'. This consultation is primarily concerned with proposed changes to the 'licensed areas' of a number of local DAB multiplexes, although, as will be explained below, coverage areas are also relevant.

Local DAB Expansion Plan

- 2.5 Under a Framework Agreement signed in December 2014², Government, local radio multiplex licensees and the BBC have agreed to seek to improve the coverage of local radio multiplex services around the UK.
- 2.6 The proposed improvements are incorporated in what is called the Local DAB Expansion Plan, and entail:
 - modifications to local radio multiplex service licensed areas, to more accurately reflect existing analogue radio station coverage areas;
 - changes to local DAB frequencies in some places;

¹ This number includes the licence for the Yorkshire local radio multiplex service, which is due to cease broadcasting in June 2015, and the licence for the Lincolnshire local radio multiplex service, which is due to commence broadcasting in June or July 2015, but does not include the licence for the Suffolk local radio multiplex service, which Ofcom hopes to advertise shortly.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-dab-network-expansion-2015-16>

- modifications to 49 existing local DAB transmitters, and;
- 182 new local DAB transmitters.

2.7 The objective of the 'Local DAB Expansion Plan' and the Framework Agreement is to extend and improve local DAB coverage so that it is broadly equivalent to the existing FM coverage of the largest local commercial radio service in each local area.

Applications to vary licences to make frequency and licensed area changes

2.8 We have received applications from licensees requesting variations to their licences in accordance with the first two bullets in 2.6 above. We are considering each of the following applications on a case-by-case basis, but by way of presentation we explain the requests for frequency changes and licensed area changes together below.

2.9 As noted in paragraph 2.6, the Local DAB Expansion Plan involves changes to the frequencies upon which some local radio multiplex services are provided. We have received applications from the multiplex licensees identified in the table below requesting that we exercise our powers to vary their licences to make these frequency changes.

2.10 The applications request that we vary the relevant licences to make the following frequency changes:

| Multiplex | Multiplex licensee | Existing Frequency | Proposed New Frequency |
|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Humberstone | Bauer Digital Radio Ltd | 11B | 10D |
| Liverpool | Bauer Digital Radio Ltd | 11B | 10C |
| Manchester | CE Digital Ltd | 11C | 12C |
| Norfolk | NOW Digital Ltd | 11B | 10B |
| Sussex | NOW Digital (Southern) Ltd | 11B | 10B |
| W & S Wiltshire | NOW Digital Ltd | 12D | 10D |
| Plymouth | South West Digital Radio Ltd | 12A | 12D |
| Lincolnshire | MuxCo Lincolnshire Ltd | 10B* | 12A |

*This is the frequency which is currently allocated for use by the Lincolnshire local radio multiplex service, which has not yet launched.

2.11 The Local DAB Expansion Plan also involves changes to the licensed areas of 39 local radio multiplex licences. These changes are intended to ensure that the area within which a given local radio multiplex service is potentially available more accurately reflects the coverage of the main FM local commercial radio service in that area. Such changes should help to ensure that listeners to an existing FM local commercial radio service will continue to be able to listen to that service on DAB in the event of a switchover (although any future switchover decision is a matter for Government and not for Ofcom).

2.12 We have received applications from the multiplex licensees identified in the table below requesting that we exercise our powers to vary their licences to change the licensed area in accordance with the Local DAB Expansion Plan. The licensed areas for which we have received requests are as follows:

| Multiplex | Multiplex licensee |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Birmingham | CE Digital Ltd |

| | |
|--|--|
| Bournemouth | Now Digital Ltd |
| Bradford & Huddersfield | UTV Digital (B&H) Ltd |
| Bristol & Bath | Now Digital Ltd |
| Cambridge | Now Digital Ltd |
| Coventry | Now Digital Ltd |
| Derbyshire | Now Digital East Midlands Ltd |
| Essex | Now Digital Ltd |
| Exeter/Torbay & North Devon (Exeter/Torbay part only) | Now Digital Ltd |
| Greater London I | CE Digital Ltd |
| Greater London II | Switch Digital (London) Ltd |
| Humberside | Bauer Digital Radio Ltd |
| Kent | Now Digital Southern Ltd |
| Lancashire | Bauer Digital Radio Ltd |
| Leeds | Bauer Digital Radio Ltd |
| Leicestershire | Now Digital East Midlands Ltd |
| Lincolnshire | MuxCo Lincolnshire Ltd |
| Liverpool | Bauer Digital Radio Ltd |
| Manchester | CE Digital Ltd |
| Mid & West Wales | MuxCo Wales Ltd |
| Norfolk | Now Digital Ltd |
| Northeast Wales & West Cheshire | MuxCo North East Wales and West Cheshire Ltd |
| Northwest Wales | MuxCo North Wales Ltd |
| North Yorkshire | MuxCo North Yorkshire Ltd |
| Northamptonshire | Now Digital Ltd |
| Nottinghamshire | Now Digital East Midlands Ltd |
| Oxfordshire | Now Digital Ltd |
| Peterborough | Now Digital Ltd |
| Plymouth/Cornwall (Cornwall part only) | South West Digital Radio Ltd |
| Reading & Basingstoke | Now Digital Ltd |
| South Hampshire | Now Digital Southern Ltd |
| South Yorkshire | Bauer Digital Radio Ltd |
| Stoke-on-Trent | UTV Digital Ltd |
| Surrey | MuxCo Surrey and North Sussex Ltd |
| Sussex | Now Digital Southern Ltd |
| Swindon/West Wiltshire (both parts) | Now Digital Ltd |
| Teesside | Bauer Digital Radio Ltd |
| Tyne & Wear | Bauer Digital Radio Ltd |
| Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury & Telford | Now Digital Ltd |

2.13 Maps illustrating the proposed changes to these licensed areas are at Annex 6 to this consultation document.

Statutory process

2.14 Under section 54A of the Broadcasting Act 1996, which was inserted by the Digital Economy Act 2010, Ofcom may vary a local radio multiplex licence by –

- a) varying the frequency on which the licensed service is provided,
- b) reducing the area or locality in which the licensed service is required to be available, or

- c) extending that area or locality to include an adjoining area or locality provided requirements specified in the legislation are met.
- 2.15 These requirements include that Ofcom must have received an application from the licence holder, and that this application must include a technical plan relating to the service proposed to be provided under the licence indicating, in particular –
- a) the area or locality which would be within the coverage area of the service,
 - b) the timetable in accordance with which that coverage would be achieved, and
 - c) the technical means by which it would be achieved.
- 2.16 The applications from the relevant licence holders are at Annex 5 to this consultation document.
- 2.17 Ofcom is publishing alongside this consultation a technical plan for every local radio multiplex licence (i.e. those which are the subject of this consultation, plus all others). The applications are made by reference to these plans. Each plan sets out details of the coverage sought to be achieved under the Local DAB Expansion Plan, the timetable in accordance with that coverage would be achieved, and the technical means (i.e. the transmitters to be used, and associated technical detail such as power levels, aerial heights etc.) by which it is would to be achieved. These technical plans can be found on the Ofcom website at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>.
- 2.18 Maps showing the current coverage of each local radio multiplex service are also on the Ofcom website, at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/radiolicensing/mcamaps/DABmaps.htm>.
- 2.19 Section 54A also states that before deciding whether to agree to a request from a local radio multiplex licence holder to change a licensed area and/or a frequency, Ofcom must seek representations on the request from any interested parties. This consultation represents that opportunity in respect of the licensed area and frequency changes which, if agreed, will form part of the Local DAB Expansion Plan. The closing-date for representations to be made is **3pm on 25 February 2015**; any submissions received after this date may not be considered.
- 2.20 Finally, the legislation stipulates that before deciding whether or not to agree to a request to change a licensed area or frequency, Ofcom must be satisfied that the change would not unacceptably narrow the range of local digital radio programme services available to listeners in the area for which, before the proposed variation, the relevant local radio multiplex service is required to be available.
- 2.21 In relation to each local radio multiplex service, then, we must be satisfied that extending or reducing the licensed area, and/or changing the frequency on which the multiplex service is provided, would not unacceptably narrow the range of local DAB radio stations available to listeners in the current licensed area.
- 2.22 Each multiplex licensee has stated its view that, for each of its local radio multiplex licences in respect of which it is requesting a frequency and/or licensed area change, the change(s) will not unacceptably narrow the range of local DAB radio stations available to listeners in the current licensed area. The reasons provided for this include: that the changes will not result in any changes to the transmission networks

used to broadcast digital radio services in the licensed areas and will therefore not affect the range of programmes available to listeners of any existing services; because the changes are essential to enable the Local DAB Expansion Plan, and; because the proposed changes will not alter the services carried on the multiplexes.

- 2.23 For each local radio multiplex licence in respect of which a change is being requested, we have considered whether we would be satisfied in relation to the statutory criterion set out in paragraph 2.20. Our provisional view, which takes account of the comments made by the multiplex licensees, is that for each local radio multiplex licence we are satisfied that the change would not unacceptably narrow the range of local digital radio programme services available to listeners in the area for which, before the proposed variation, the relevant local radio multiplex service is required to be available. This is on the basis that the changes to frequencies and licensed areas will have no impact on the range of services currently available to any listener. In other words, agreement to the changes being requested will not affect the programme services which are currently being provided on each local radio multiplex service.
- 2.24 We welcome views from stakeholders on this. Details of the local DAB radio stations provided on each local radio multiplex service can be found on the Ofcom website at: <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/formats-content/digital-formats>.

Policy considerations

- 2.25 As indicated in paragraph 2.20, Ofcom can still decide not to agree to a request to change a licensed area or a frequency, even if it is satisfied in relation to the criterion specified in the legislation. In other words, agreeing to such requests is at our discretion provided that they meet the terms of the statute.
- 2.26 In our April 2010 *Statement on commercial radio localness regulation*³, we set out how we would exercise this discretion when considering a request from a local radio multiplex licensee to 'merge' with a neighbouring local radio multiplex by sharing a frequency and, if appropriate, extending the overall licensed area into any un-served localities.
- 2.27 This was part of a package of proposals made at that time which were designed to enhance the coverage and sustainability of local radio multiplex services, while ensuring that listeners would continue to receive local DAB digital radio services relevant to them.
- 2.28 The policy approach we said in 2010 we would apply to such requests is as follows⁴:
- "Where [the] statutory requirements are met, and subject to the results of the consultation we are required to carry out, we are likely to consent to requests where we consider each of the following criteria to be met:
- the merger and/or extension would be calculated to maintain or promote the development of local digital sound broadcasting otherwise than by satellite;
 - the licensees' proposed coverage plans are satisfactory;
 - the licensees have the ability to maintain the licensed service; and

³ http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/radio/statement/Localness_statement.pdf

⁴ Ibid, paragraph 4.58

- there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of stations carried on the multiplexes and the rights and interests of other multiplex operators (and the stations they carry).”
- 2.29 We further said that where a request for a licence variation requires a change to the existing frequency:
- “approval will be subject to the availability of a suitable alternative frequency and ... consideration of the knock-on implications to the frequencies of other multiplexes (and the stations they carry)”.
- 2.30 In the event, we have not received any requests to ‘merge’ local radio multiplex services of the kind envisaged in 2010. We have considered whether the policy criteria we set out in that context remain appropriate for deciding on the requests which relate to the Local DAB Expansion Plan. In our view, these criteria remain relevant and we have considered them in relation to each application as follows.
- 2.31 In relation to the first three of these, we consider that the purpose of the proposed changes is to support the Local DAB Expansion Plan, which in turn is designed to promote the development of local digital sound broadcasting otherwise than by satellite. The planned expansion of coverage within each of the proposed new licensed areas (as set out in the technical plans referred to in paragraph 2.17) is the result of detailed technical planning over more than two years, and we are satisfied that in each case an appropriate balance between securing improved coverage, while ensuring that local radio multiplex licensees are able to meet the costs of such enhancements, has been achieved. We also note the statements made by each of the multiplex licensees that they are able to maintain their licensed services (see Annex 5), and further note that in accordance with the aforementioned Framework Agreement, the expansion of local DAB coverage will be part-funded by Government and the BBC and the frequency changes would be funded by Arqiva, thus reducing the cost burden on the multiplex licensees. It is therefore our provisional view that these three policy criteria are satisfied in the case of each of the applications received. We welcome views from stakeholders on these points.
- 2.32 The fourth policy criterion from the 2010 statement was “that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of stations carried on the multiplexes and the rights and interests of other multiplex operators (and the stations they carry)”. Each multiplex licensee applicant has stated its view that such safeguards are in place – in almost all cases, this is on the basis of the existing contracts and agreements between them and their service providers.
- 2.33 For frequency changes, we consider that the additional policy criterion we set out in 2010 (i.e. the one in paragraph 2.29) remains appropriate. In the context of each of the applications received pursuant to the Local DAB Expansion Plan, the proposed new frequencies listed in paragraph 2.10 would become available in the event that all of the proposed frequency changes are approved and, where appropriate, international agreement is reached. It also appears to Ofcom that in each case the knock-on implications for other multiplexes are likely to be positive, in that the frequency changes are designed to reduce the levels of interference between local DAB multiplexes on the same frequencies and thus improve local DAB coverage overall. It is therefore our provisional view that this policy criterion is satisfied. We nonetheless welcome the views of stakeholders on this matter.
- 2.34 On the basis of the information available to us, which has been provided by the applicants, our provisional view is that this criterion is satisfied. We invite

stakeholders (especially the providers of local digital sound programme services on the relevant local multiplexes) to offer their views.

Proposed decision

- 2.35 In the light of the assessment carried out above, we are proposing to exercise our power under section 54A of the Broadcasting Act 1996 to grant each of the licence variations requested.
- 2.36 Interested stakeholders are invited to provide their views by no later than **3pm on 25 February 2015**. To help frame responses, a list of specific consultation questions is set out in Annex 4.

Annex 1

Responding to this consultation

How to respond

- A1.1 Ofcom invites written views and comments on the issues raised in this document, to be made **by 3pm on 25 February 2015**.
- A1.2 Ofcom strongly prefers to receive responses using the online web form at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/extend-dab-coverage/howtorespond/form>, as this helps us to process the responses quickly and efficiently. We would also be grateful if you could assist us by completing a response cover sheet (see Annex 3), to indicate whether or not there are confidentiality issues. This response coversheet is incorporated into the online web form questionnaire.
- A1.3 For larger consultation responses – particularly those with supporting charts, tables or other data – please email: neil.stock@ofcom.org.uk, attaching your response in Microsoft Word format, together with a consultation response coversheet.
- A1.4 Responses may alternatively be posted or faxed to the address below:
- Local DAB coverage consultation
F.A.O. Neil Stock
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA
- Fax: 020 7981 3850
- A1.5 Note that we do not need a hard copy in addition to an electronic version. Ofcom will acknowledge receipt of responses if they are submitted using the online web form but not otherwise.
- A1.6 It would be helpful if your response could include direct answers to the questions asked in this document, at Annex 4. It would also help if you can explain why you hold your views and how the proposals would impact on you.

Further information

- A1.7 If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, or need advice on the appropriate form of response, please contact Ofcom's commercial radio licensing team on 020 7981 3000.

Confidentiality

- A1.8 We believe it is important for everyone interested in an issue to see the views expressed by consultation respondents. We will therefore usually publish all responses on our website, www.ofcom.org.uk, ideally on receipt. If you think your response should be kept confidential, can you please specify what part or whether all of your response should be kept confidential, and specify why. Please also place such parts in a separate annex.

- A1.9 If someone asks us to keep part or all of a response confidential, we will treat this request seriously and will try to respect this. But sometimes we will need to publish all responses, including those that are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations.
- A1.10 Please also note that copyright and all other intellectual property in responses will be assumed to be licensed to Ofcom to use. Ofcom's approach on intellectual property rights is explained further on its website at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/about/accoun/disclaimer/>

Next steps

- A1.11 Following the end of the consultation period, Ofcom intends to publish a statement.
- A1.12 Please note that you can register to receive free mail Updates alerting you to the publications of relevant Ofcom documents. For more details please see: http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/subscribe/select_list.htm

Ofcom's consultation processes

- A1.13 Ofcom seeks to ensure that responding to a consultation is as easy as possible. For more information please see our consultation principles in Annex 2.
- A1.14 If you have any comments or suggestions on how Ofcom conducts its consultations, please call our consultation helpdesk on 020 7981 3003 or e-mail us at consult@ofcom.org.uk . We would particularly welcome thoughts on how Ofcom could more effectively seek the views of those groups or individuals, such as small businesses or particular types of residential consumers, who are less likely to give their opinions through a formal consultation.
- A1.15 If you would like to discuss these issues or Ofcom's consultation processes more generally you can alternatively contact Graham Howell, Secretary to the Corporation, who is Ofcom's consultation champion:

Graham Howell
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

Tel: 020 7981 3601

Email Graham.Howell@ofcom.org.uk

Annex 2

Ofcom's consultation principles

A2.1 Ofcom has published the following seven principles that it will follow for each public written consultation:

Before the consultation

A2.2 Where possible, we will hold informal talks with people and organisations before announcing a big consultation to find out whether we are thinking in the right direction. If we do not have enough time to do this, we will hold an open meeting to explain our proposals shortly after announcing the consultation.

During the consultation

A2.3 We will be clear about who we are consulting, why, on what questions and for how long.

A2.4 We will make the consultation document as short and simple as possible with a summary of no more than two pages. We will try to make it as easy as possible to give us a written response. If the consultation is complicated, we may provide a shortened Plain English Guide for smaller organisations or individuals who would otherwise not be able to spare the time to share their views.

A2.5 We will consult for up to 10 weeks depending on the potential impact of our proposals.

A2.6 A person within Ofcom will be in charge of making sure we follow our own guidelines and reach out to the largest number of people and organisations interested in the outcome of our decisions. Ofcom's 'Consultation Champion' will also be the main person to contact with views on the way we run our consultations.

A2.7 If we are not able to follow one of these principles, we will explain why.

After the consultation

A2.8 We think it is important for everyone interested in an issue to see the views of others during a consultation. We would usually publish all the responses we have received on our website. In our statement, we will give reasons for our decisions and will give an account of how the views of those concerned helped shape those decisions.

Annex 3

Consultation response cover sheet

- A3.1 In the interests of transparency and good regulatory practice, we will publish all consultation responses in full on our website, www.ofcom.org.uk.
- A3.2 We have produced a coversheet for responses (see below) and would be very grateful if you could send one with your response (this is incorporated into the online web form if you respond in this way). This will speed up our processing of responses, and help to maintain confidentiality where appropriate.
- A3.3 The quality of consultation can be enhanced by publishing responses before the consultation period closes. In particular, this can help those individuals and organisations with limited resources or familiarity with the issues to respond in a more informed way. Therefore Ofcom would encourage respondents to complete their coversheet in a way that allows Ofcom to publish their responses upon receipt, rather than waiting until the consultation period has ended.
- A3.4 We strongly prefer to receive responses via the online web form which incorporates the coversheet. If you are responding via email, post or fax you can download an electronic copy of this coversheet in Word or RTF format from the 'Consultations' section of our website at www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/.
- A3.5 Please put any parts of your response you consider should be kept confidential in a separate annex to your response and include your reasons why this part of your response should not be published. This can include information such as your personal background and experience. If you want your name, address, other contact details, or job title to remain confidential, please provide them in your cover sheet only, so that we don't have to edit your response.

Cover sheet for response to an Ofcom consultation

BASIC DETAILS

Consultation title: Local DAB coverage consultation

To (Ofcom contact): Neil Stock

Name of respondent:

Representing (self or organisation/s):

Address (if not received by email):

CONFIDENTIALITY

Please tick below what part of your response you consider is confidential, giving your reasons why

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Nothing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Name/contact details/job title | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Whole response | <input type="checkbox"/> | Organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Part of the response | <input type="checkbox"/> | If there is no separate annex, which parts? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you want part of your response, your name or your organisation not to be published, can Ofcom still publish a reference to the contents of your response (including, for any confidential parts, a general summary that does not disclose the specific information or enable you to be identified)?

DECLARATION

I confirm that the correspondence supplied with this cover sheet is a formal consultation response that Ofcom can publish. However, in supplying this response, I understand that Ofcom may need to publish all responses, including those which are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations. If I have sent my response by email, Ofcom can disregard any standard e-mail text about not disclosing email contents and attachments.

Ofcom seeks to publish responses on receipt. If your response is non-confidential (in whole or in part), and you would prefer us to publish your response only once the consultation has ended, please tick here.

Name

Signed (if hard copy)

Annex 4

Consultation questions

Q1. Do you think that any of the proposed changes to frequencies and/or licensed areas would unacceptably narrow the range of DAB programme services which will be available in the relevant local radio multiplex area? Please explain the reasons for your view and, if appropriate, specify the local radio multiplex service(s) to which your response relates.

Q2. Do you agree that the proposed changes set out in the applications would help to promote the development of local digital sound broadcasting otherwise than by satellite? Please explain the reasons for your view.

Q3. Do you agree that the licensees' proposed coverage plans are satisfactory? Please explain the reasons for your view.

Q4. Do you consider that the licensees have the ability to maintain their local radio multiplex services if their requests are granted? Please explain the reasons for your view.

Q5. Do you consider that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of stations carried on the multiplexes and of other multiplex operators, in the event that any of the changes to frequencies and/or licensed areas are permitted? Please explain the reasons for your view.

Q6. Do you agree that our additional policy criterion for considering the requests to change frequencies (see paragraph 2.29) is satisfied? Please explain the reasons for your view.

Q7. Do you consider that there any other grounds on which Ofcom should approve, or not approve, any of the licence variation requests which are the subject of this consultation? Please explain the reasons for your view.

Annex 5

Applications from licence holders

Mr Neil Stock
Head of Radio Policy
Ofcom
Riverside House
London, SE1 9HA By Email

22 January 2015

Dear Neil

Bauer Digital Request for Multiplex Licence Variations

Following your recent email, this letter is a formal application to Ofcom by Bauer Digital Radio Ltd. (“BDR”) to vary seven Multiplex Licences held by BDR.

Such variations are being requested as they form part of the industry expansion plan to nominally match Local DAB coverage to relevant commercial FM coverage (“Expansion Plan”). Ofcom has indicated that it requires this variation request at this stage, to allow Ofcom to undertake necessary regulatory processes in a timely manner.

For avoidance of doubt, this letter is specifically and exclusively a request to Ofcom to vary the relevant licences as an enabling measure for the Expansion Plan and may not be inferred to have any other purpose whatsoever.

The licence variations requested are as follows:

1. Licensed Area Changes as Ofcom has proposed for the Expansion Plan

- a. **Humberside**
- b. **Lancashire**
- c. **Leeds**
- d. **Liverpool**
- e. **South Yorkshire**
- f. **Teesside**
- g. **Tyne & Wear**

2. Frequency Changes – In addition, in the following two Multiplex Licence Areas, this application calls for Ofcom to enable the frequency block to be changed as follows:

- a. **Humberside – from 11B to 10D**
- b. **Liverpool – from 11B to 10C**

The technical plans for each of the local radio multiplex licences referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under ‘DAB Coverage Plans’ at;

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>

The Licence Area changes are intended to best reflect the geographical target areas of the key commercial and BBC local services carried on each Multiplex Licence. The frequency changes are intended to make best use of the available spectrum to minimise the adverse effects of interference to consumers.

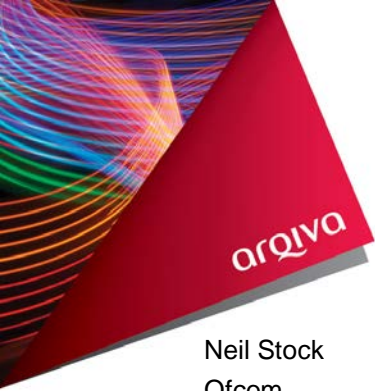
BDR is an experienced operator of local digital multiplexes and is content that it has the ability to maintain the licensed services which will be varied by this request.

BDR is content that there are adequate safeguards in place to protect content providers on the licensed services which will be varied by this request.

As these changes are essential to enable the Expansion Plan, BDR considers that such changes will not unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the area or locality for which, before the proposed variation, the local radio multiplex service is required to be available.

Yours Sincerely

Grae ALLAN
BDR DAB Radio Director



Arqiva

Crawley Court
Winchester SO21 2QA
T: +44 (0)1962 823 434
www.arqiva.com

Neil Stock
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

26 January 2015

Request to change the licensed area of the Ayr local DAB multiplex (DL027)

Dear Neil

I write on behalf of Arqiva Limited to request to make changes to the digital licence area (DLA) of the Ayr local DAB licence.

In accordance with Section 54A of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended by the Digital Economy Act 2010), Arqiva Limited asks that Ofcom considers this request against the statutory criterion that the change should not unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the area or locality for which, before the proposed variation, the local radio multiplex service is required to be available.

The DLA change, if approved, will not result in a change to the transmission network used to broadcast digital radio services in this licensed area and will therefore not affect the range of programmes available to listeners of any existing services.

The technical plan for the local radio multiplex licence referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, is available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>

The rights and interests of stations carried on this multiplex will be maintained in accordance with existing contracts and agreements.

This licence is held by Arqiva Limited. Arqiva Limited also owns and operates the transmission network for this licence as well as the majority of other local and national digital radio networks in the UK and is pleased to confirm its continuing commitment to maintain the licensed service.

If there is any further information I can provide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Paul Eaton
Director of Digital Radio
Arqiva Limited

Neil Stock
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

26 January 2015

Request to change the licensed areas and frequencies of various Now Digital (East Midlands) Limited local DAB multiplexes

Dear Neil

I write on behalf of Now Digital (East Midlands) Limited to request to make changes to the digital licence area (DLA) of the following local DAB licences:

| Licence Area | Licence Number | DLA change |
|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Derbyshire | DL048 | ✓ |
| Leicestershire | DL034 | ✓ |
| Nottingham | DL043 | ✓ |

In accordance with Section 54A of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended by the Digital Economy Act 2010), Now Digital (East Midlands) Limited asks that Ofcom considers this request against the statutory criterion that the change should not unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the area or locality for which, before the proposed variation, the local radio multiplex service is required to be available.

The DLA changes, if approved, will not result in any changes to the transmission networks used to broadcast digital radio services in these licensed areas and will therefore not affect the range of programmes available to listeners of any existing services.

The technical plans for each of the local radio multiplex licences referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>

The rights and interests of stations carried on our multiplexes will be maintained in accordance with existing contracts and agreements.

Each of these licences is held by Now Digital (East Midlands) Limited which is majority owned by Arqiva Limited. Arqiva Limited also owns and operates the transmission networks for these licences as well as the majority of other local and national digital radio networks in the UK and is pleased to confirm its continuing commitment to maintain the licensed services.

If there is any further information I can provide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Paul Eaton
Director
Now Digital (East Midlands) Limited

Neil Stock
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

26 January 2015

Request to change the licensed areas and frequencies of various Now Digital Limited local DAB multiplexes

Dear Neil

I write on behalf of Now Digital Limited to request to make changes to the digital licence area (DLA) and/or frequency of the following local DAB licences:

| Licence Area | Licence Number | DLA change | Frequency change |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|------------------|
| Bournemouth | DL028 | ✓ | |
| Bristol & Bath | DL014 | ✓ | |
| Cambridge | DL045 | ✓ | |
| Coventry | DL015 | ✓ | |
| Essex | DL025 | ✓ | |
| Exeter & Torbay | DL030 | ✓ | |
| Norwich | DL038 | ✓ | 11B to 10D |
| Northamptonshire | DL051 | ✓ | |
| Oxfordshire | DL052 | ✓ | |
| Peterborough | DL032 | ✓ | |
| Reading & Basingstoke | DL044 | ✓ | |
| Swindon | DL033 | ✓ | |
| West Wiltshire | DL033 | ✓ | 12D to 10D |
| Wolverhampton | DL007 | ✓ | |

In accordance with Section 54A of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended by the Digital Economy Act 2010), Now Digital Limited asks that Ofcom considers this request against the statutory criterion that the change should not unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the area or locality for which, before the proposed variation, the local radio multiplex service is required to be available.

The DLA changes, if approved, will not result in any changes to the transmission networks used to broadcast digital radio services in these licensed areas and will therefore not affect the range of programmes available to listeners of any existing services.

The frequency changes have been proposed to reduce the effect of interference between adjacent multiplex areas as additional transmitters are built to extend DAB coverage to match the coverage of FM radio networks. In each case, these changes will improve coverage and therefore extend the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services. If approved by Ofcom, the frequency changes will not be carried out until required by the local DAB coverage expansion project.

The technical plans for each of the local radio multiplex licences referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>

The rights and interests of stations carried on our multiplexes will be maintained in accordance with existing contracts and agreements.

Each of these licences is held by Now Digital which is wholly owned by Arqiva Limited. Arqiva Limited also owns and operates the transmission networks for these licences as well as the majority of other local and national digital radio networks in the UK and is pleased to confirm its continuing commitment to maintain the licensed services.

If there is any further information I can provide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Paul Eaton
Director
Now Digital Limited

Neil Stock
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

26 January 2015

Request to change the licensed areas and frequencies of various Now Digital (Southern) Limited local DAB multiplexes

Dear Neil

I write on behalf of Now Digital (Southern) Limited to request to make changes to the digital licence area (DLA) and/or frequency of the following local DAB licences:

| Licence Area | Licence Number | DLA change | Frequency change |
|-----------------|----------------|------------|------------------|
| Kent | DL042 | ✓ | |
| South Hampshire | DL035 | ✓ | |
| Sussex Coast | DL040 | ✓ | 11B to 10D |

In accordance with Section 54A of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended by the Digital Economy Act 2010), Now Digital (Southern) Limited asks that Ofcom considers this request against the statutory criterion that the change should not unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the area or locality for which, before the proposed variation, the local radio multiplex service is required to be available.

The DLA changes, if approved, will not result in any changes to the transmission networks used to broadcast digital radio services in these licensed areas and will therefore not affect the range of programmes available to listeners of any existing services.

The frequency change has been proposed to reduce the effect of interference between adjacent multiplex areas as additional transmitters are built to extend DAB coverage to match the coverage of FM radio networks. These changes will improve coverage and therefore extend the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services. If approved by Ofcom, the frequency change will not be carried out until required by the local DAB coverage expansion project.

The technical plans for each of the local radio multiplex licences referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>

The rights and interests of stations carried on our multiplexes will be maintained in accordance with existing contracts and agreements.

Each of these licences is held by Now Digital (Southern) Limited which is wholly owned by Arqiva Limited. Arqiva Limited also owns and operates the transmission networks for these licences as well as the majority of other local and national digital radio networks in the UK and is pleased to confirm its continuing commitment to maintain the licensed services.

If there is any further information I can provide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Paul Eaton
Director
Now Digital (Southern) Limited

Neil Stock
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

26 January 2015

Request to change the licensed areas and frequencies of various South West Digital Radio Limited local DAB multiplexes

Dear Neil

I write on behalf of South West Digital Radio Limited to request to make changes to the digital licence area (DLA) or frequency of the following local DAB licences:

| Licence Area | Licence Number | DLA change | Frequency change |
|--------------|----------------|------------|------------------|
| Cornwall | DL046 | ✓ | |
| Plymouth | DL046 | | 12A to 12D |

In accordance with Section 54A of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended by the Digital Economy Act 2010), South West Digital Radio Limited asks that Ofcom considers this request against the statutory criterion that the change should not unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the area or locality for which, before the proposed variation, the local radio multiplex service is required to be available.

The DLA changes, if approved, will not result in any changes to the transmission networks used to broadcast digital radio services in these licensed areas and will therefore not affect the range of programmes available to listeners of any existing services.

The frequency change has been proposed to reduce the effect of interference between adjacent multiplex areas as additional transmitters are built to extend DAB coverage to match the coverage of FM radio networks. These changes will improve coverage and therefore extend the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services. If approved by Ofcom, the frequency change will not be carried out until required by the local DAB coverage expansion project.

The technical plans for each of the local radio multiplex licences referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>

The rights and interests of stations carried on our multiplexes will be maintained in accordance with existing contracts and agreements.

This licence is held by South West Digital Radio Limited which is majority owned by Arqiva Limited. Arqiva Limited also owns and operates the transmission networks for these licences as well as the majority of other local and national digital radio networks in the UK and is pleased to confirm its continuing commitment to maintain the licensed services.

If there is any further information I can provide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Paul Eaton
Director
South West Digital Radio Limited

CE Digital Limited

Registered Office:
30 Leicester Square
London WC2H 7LA

Mr Neil Stock
Head of Radio Policy
Ofcom
Riverside House
London, SE1 9HA By Email

26 Jan 2015

Dear Neil

CE Digital Application for Multiplex Licence Variations

Following your recent email, this letter is a formal application to Ofcom by CE Digital Ltd. ("CE") to vary three Multiplex Licences held by CE.

Such variations are being requested as they form part of the industry expansion plan to nominally match Local DAB coverage to relevant commercial FM coverage ("Expansion Plan"). Ofcom has indicated that it requires this variation request at this stage, to allow Ofcom to undertake necessary regulatory processes in a timely manner.

For avoidance of doubt, this letter is specifically and exclusively a request to Ofcom to vary the relevant licences as an enabling measure for the Expansion Plan and may not be inferred to have any other purpose whatsoever.

The licence variations requested are as follows:

- 1. Licensed Area Changes as Ofcom has proposed for the Expansion Plan:**
 - a. **Manchester**
 - b. **Birmingham**
 - c. **London 1 - CE**
- 2. Frequency Changes** – In addition, in the following Multiplex Licence Area, this application calls for Ofcom to permit the frequency block to be changed as follows:
 - a. **Manchester – From 11C to 12C**

The technical plans for each of the local radio multiplex licences referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at;

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>

The Licence Area changes are intended to best reflect the geographical target areas of the key commercial and BBC local services carried on each Multiplex Licence. The frequency changes are intended to make best use of the available spectrum to minimise the adverse effects of interference to consumers.



CE Digital Limited

Registered Office:
30 Leicester Square
London WC2H 7LA

CE is an experienced operator of local digital multiplexes and is content that it has the ability to maintain the licensed services which will be varied by this request.

CE is content that there are adequate safeguards in place to protect content providers on the licenced services which will be varied by this request.

As these changes are essential to enable the Expansion Plan, CE considers that such changes will not unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the area or locality for which, before the proposed variation, the local radio multiplex service is required to be available.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Will Harding', written over a horizontal line.

Will Harding

Director



Neil Stock
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

23rd January 2015

Dear Neil,

Further to the signing of the Framework Agreement, we request the following changes in accordance with Ofcom's revised DAB frequency plan for the UK.

- Mid & West Wales – change to licensed area
- North West Wales – change to licensed area

In accordance with Section 54A of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended by the Digital Economy Act 2010), we request that Ofcom consider this request against the following statutory criterion:

The application must include a technical plan detailing the proposed coverage area, estimated timetable and the technical means by which it would be achieved .

The technical plans referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>.

Unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the area or locality for which, before the proposed variation, the local radio multiplex service is required to be available

The proposed changes will not alter the services carried on the multiplex and therefore will not narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the multiplex area.

There are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of stations carried on the multiplexes and the rights and interests of other multiplex operators (and the stations they carry).

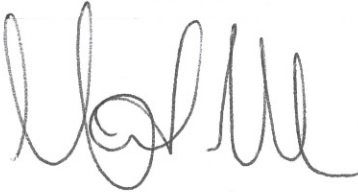
We have discussed the proposed changes, which have no impact on the terms and conditions of any existing carriage agreements, with service providers on these multiplexes. As part of the wider industry discussions, we believe that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of other multiplex operators and the services they carry.

The ability of the licensee to maintain the licensed service(s)

We are satisfied that the changes to frequencies and licensed areas requested will not affect the ability of each licensee to maintain its licensed service

Please let me know if you require any further information in respect of this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Mumford".

Martin Mumford
Managing Director
Muxco Wales Limited
Muxco North Wales Limited



Neil Stock
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

22nd January 2015

Dear Neil,

Further to the signing of the Framework Agreement, we request the following change in accordance with Ofcom's revised DAB frequency plan for the UK.

| Licensee | Multiplex | Change requested |
|------------------------|------------------|--|
| MuxCo Lincolnshire Ltd | Lincolnshire | change to licensed area change of frequency 10B to 12A |

In accordance with Section 54A of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended by the Digital Economy Act 2010), we request that Ofcom consider this request against the following statutory criterion:

The application must include a technical plan detailing the proposed coverage area, estimated timetable and the technical means by which it would be achieved

The technical plans for the local radio multiplex licence referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>.

Unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the area or locality for which, before the proposed variation, the local radio multiplex service is required to be available

The proposed changes will not alter the services carried on the multiplex and therefore will not narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the multiplex area.

There are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of stations carried on the multiplexes and the rights and interests of other multiplex operators (and the stations they carry).

We have discussed the proposed changes, which have no impact on the terms and conditions of any existing carriage agreements, with service providers on the multiplex. As part of the wider industry discussions, we believe that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of other multiplex operators and the services they carry.

The ability of the licensee to maintain the licensed service(s)

We are satisfied that the proposed change requested will not affect the ability of the licensee to maintain its licensed service.

Please let me know if you require any further information in respect of this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Watson".

Gregory Watson
For MuxCo Lincolnshire Ltd



Neil Stock
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

22nd January 2015

Dear Neil,

Further to the signing of the Framework Agreement, we request the following change in accordance with Ofcom's revised DAB frequency plan for the UK.

| Licensee | Multiplex | Change requested |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| MuxCo North East Wales & West Cheshire Ltd | North East Wales & West Cheshire | change to licensed area |

In accordance with Section 54A of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended by the Digital Economy Act 2010), we request that Ofcom consider this request against the following statutory criterion:

The application must include a technical plan detailing the proposed coverage area, estimated timetable and the technical means by which it would be achieved

The technical plans for the local radio multiplex licence referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>.

Unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the area or locality for which, before the proposed variation, the local radio multiplex service is required to be available

The proposed changes will not alter the services carried on the multiplex and therefore will not narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the multiplex area.

There are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of stations carried on the multiplexes and the rights and interests of other multiplex operators (and the stations they carry).

We have discussed the proposed changes, which have no impact on the terms and conditions of any existing carriage agreements, with service providers on the multiplex. As part of the wider industry discussions, we believe that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of other multiplex operators and the services they carry.

The ability of the licensee to maintain the licensed service(s)

We are satisfied that the proposed change requested will not affect the ability of the licensee to maintain its licensed service.

Please let me know if you require any further information in respect of this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Watson".

Gregory Watson
For MuxCo North East Wales & West Cheshire Ltd



Neil Stock
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

22nd January 2015

Dear Neil,

Further to the signing of the Framework Agreement, we request the following change in accordance with Ofcom's revised DAB frequency plan for the UK.

| Licensee | Multiplex | Change requested |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| MuxCo North Yorkshire Ltd | North Yorkshire | change to licensed area |

In accordance with Section 54A of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended by the Digital Economy Act 2010), we request that Ofcom consider this request against the following statutory criterion:

The application must include a technical plan detailing the proposed coverage area, estimated timetable and the technical means by which it would be achieved

The technical plans for the local radio multiplex licence referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>.

Unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the area or locality for which, before the proposed variation, the local radio multiplex service is required to be available

The proposed changes will not alter the services carried on the multiplex and therefore will not narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the multiplex area.

There are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of stations carried on the multiplexes and the rights and interests of other multiplex operators (and the stations they carry).

We have discussed the proposed changes, which have no impact on the terms and conditions of any existing carriage agreements, with service providers on the multiplex. As part of the wider industry discussions, we believe that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of other multiplex operators and the services they carry.

The ability of the licensee to maintain the licensed service(s)

We are satisfied that the proposed change requested will not affect the ability of the licensee to maintain its licensed service.

Please let me know if you require any further information in respect of this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Watson".

Gregory Watson
For MuxCo North Yorkshire Ltd



Neil Stock
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

22nd January 2015

Dear Neil,

Further to the signing of the Framework Agreement, we request the following change in accordance with Ofcom's revised DAB frequency plan for the UK.

| Licensee | Multiplex | Change requested |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| MuxCo Surrey & North Sussex Ltd | Surrey | change to licensed area |

In accordance with Section 54A of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended by the Digital Economy Act 2010), we request that Ofcom consider this request against the following statutory criterion:

The application must include a technical plan detailing the proposed coverage area, estimated timetable and the technical means by which it would be achieved

The technical plans for the local radio multiplex licence referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>.

Unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the area or locality for which, before the proposed variation, the local radio multiplex service is required to be available

The proposed changes will not alter the services carried on the multiplex and therefore will not narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the multiplex area.

There are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of stations carried on the multiplexes and the rights and interests of other multiplex operators (and the stations they carry).

We have discussed the proposed changes, which have no impact on the terms and conditions of any existing carriage agreements, with service providers on the multiplex. As part of the wider industry discussions, we believe that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of other multiplex operators and the services they carry.

The ability of the licensee to maintain the licensed service(s)

We are satisfied that the proposed change requested will not affect the ability of the licensee to maintain its licensed service.

Please let me know if you require any further information in respect of this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Watson".

Gregory Watson
For MuxCo Surrey & North Sussex Ltd



UTV Digital (B&H) Limited
18 Hatfields
London
SE1 8DJ

Tel: 020 7959 7813
Fax: 020 7959 7942

Neil Stock
Ofcom
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

By email: neil.stock@ofcom.org.uk

26th January 2015

Dear Neil,

DL031 Bradford & Huddersfield – request to change licensed area

Further to the plan for extending the coverage of local DAB services, which has been developed by the JPRG over the past two years, we write to request a change to licensed area of the above multiplex licence.

In respect of the requested changes we believe these will conform the licensed area more tightly within the main county and editorial boundaries, and importantly we do not consider these adjustments will unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the respective area, as the range of programmes on the multiplexes will not be changing as a result of these boundary changes.

The technical plans for each of the local radio multiplex licences referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>.

Given existing contractual arrangements with service providers we consider that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of stations carried on our multiplex.

UTV is an experienced multiplex operator and has the ability to maintain the licensed service throughout the licence period.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Piers Collins', written over a horizontal line.

PIERS COLLINS



Switchdigital (London) Limited
18 Hatfields
London
SE1 8DJ

Tel: 0207 959 7813
Fax: 0207 959 7942

Neil Stock
Ofcom
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

By email: neil.stock@ofcom.org.uk

26th January 2015

Dear Neil,

DL011 Greater London II – request to change licensed area

Further to the plan for extending the coverage of local DAB services, which has been developed by the JPRG over the past two years, we write to request a change to licensed area of the above multiplex licence.

In respect of the requested changes we believe these will conform the licensed area more tightly within the main county and editorial boundaries, and importantly we do not consider these adjustments will unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the respective area, as the range of programmes on the multiplexes will not be changing as a result of these boundary changes.

The technical plans for each of the local radio multiplex licences referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>.

Given existing contractual arrangements with service providers we consider that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of stations carried on our multiplex.

Switchdigital is an experienced multiplex operator and has the ability to maintain the licensed service throughout the licence period.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Piers Collins', written over a horizontal line.

PIERS COLLINS



UTV Digital Limited
18 Hatfields
London
SE1 8DJ

Tel: 020 7959 7813
Fax: 020 7959 7942

Neil Stock
Ofcom
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

By email: neil.stock@ofcom.org.uk

26th January 2015

Dear Neil,

DL041 Stoke-on-Trent – request to change licensed area

Further to the plan for extending the coverage of local DAB services, which has been developed by the JPRG over the past two years, we write to request a change to licensed area of the above multiplex licence.

In respect of the requested changes we believe these will conform the licensed area more tightly within the main county and editorial boundaries, and importantly we do not consider these adjustments will unacceptably narrow the range of programmes available by way of local digital sound programme services to persons living in the respective area, as the range of programmes on the multiplexes will not be changing as a result of these boundary changes.

The technical plans for each of the local radio multiplex licences referred to in this application, as required under section 54A(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, are available on the Ofcom website under 'DAB Coverage Plans' at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/>.

Given existing contractual arrangements with service providers we consider that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of stations carried on our multiplex.

UTV is an experienced multiplex operator and has the ability to maintain the licensed service throughout the licence period.

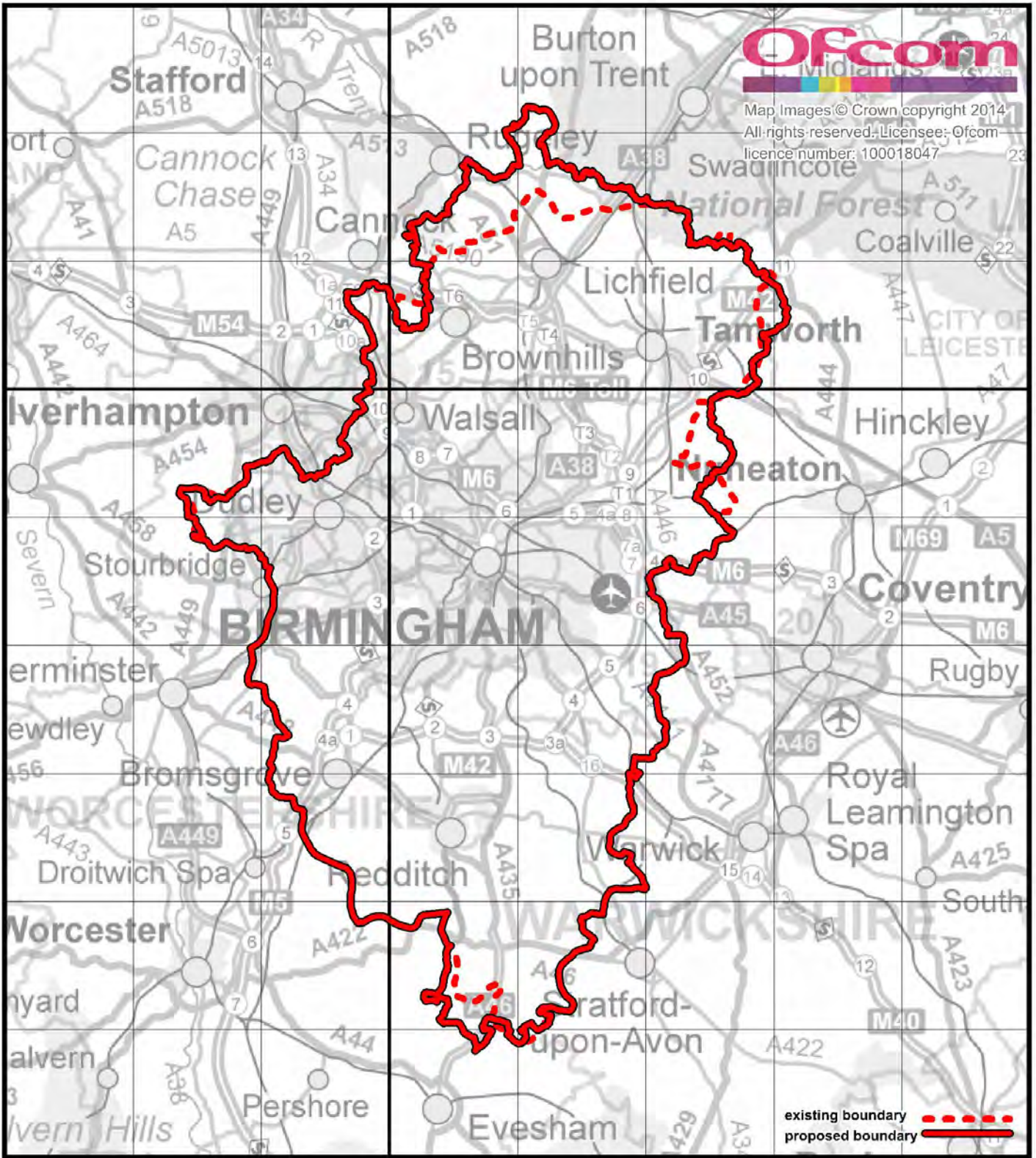
With kind regards
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Piers Collins', written over a horizontal line.

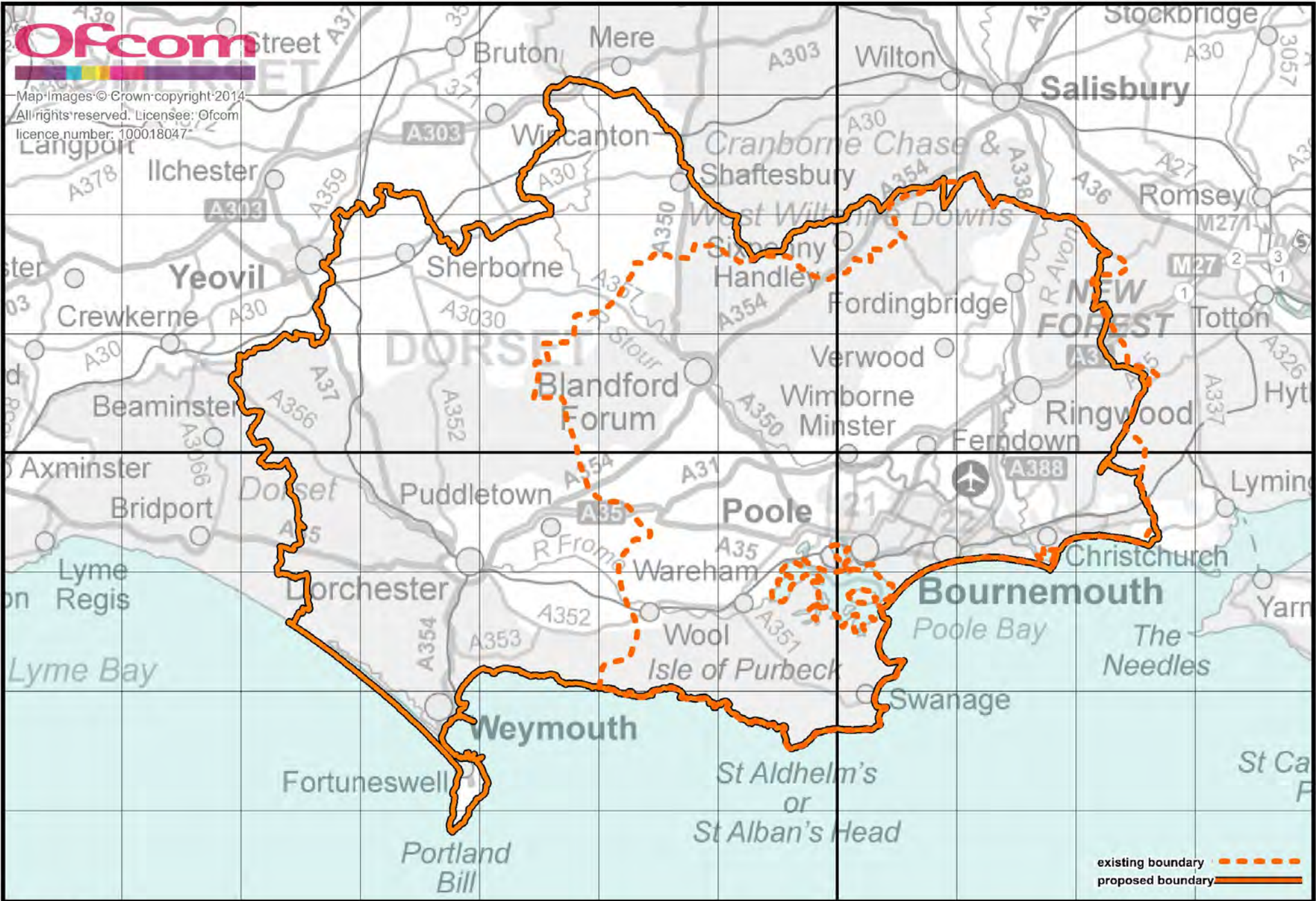
PIERS COLLINS

Annex 6

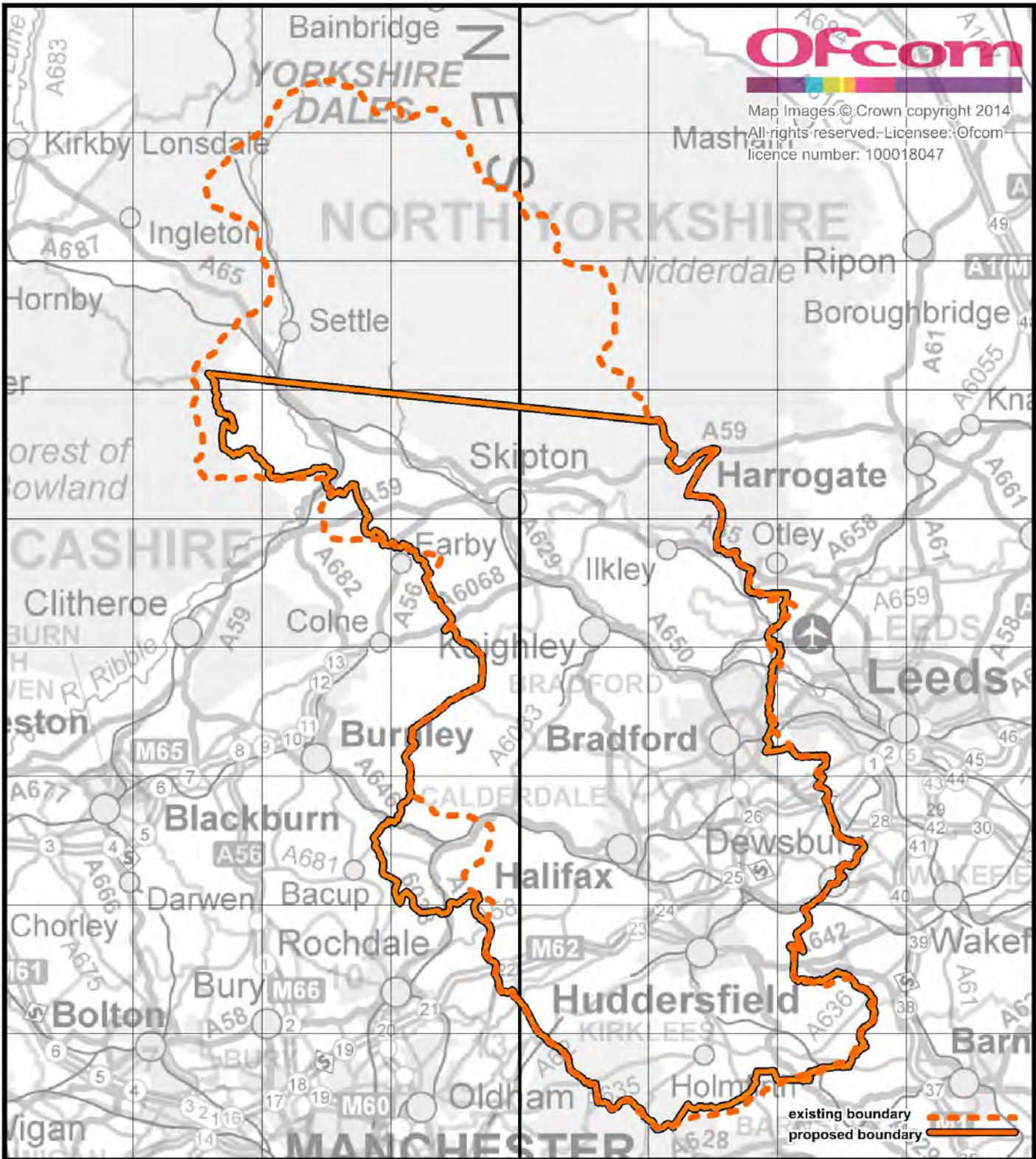
Licensed area changes



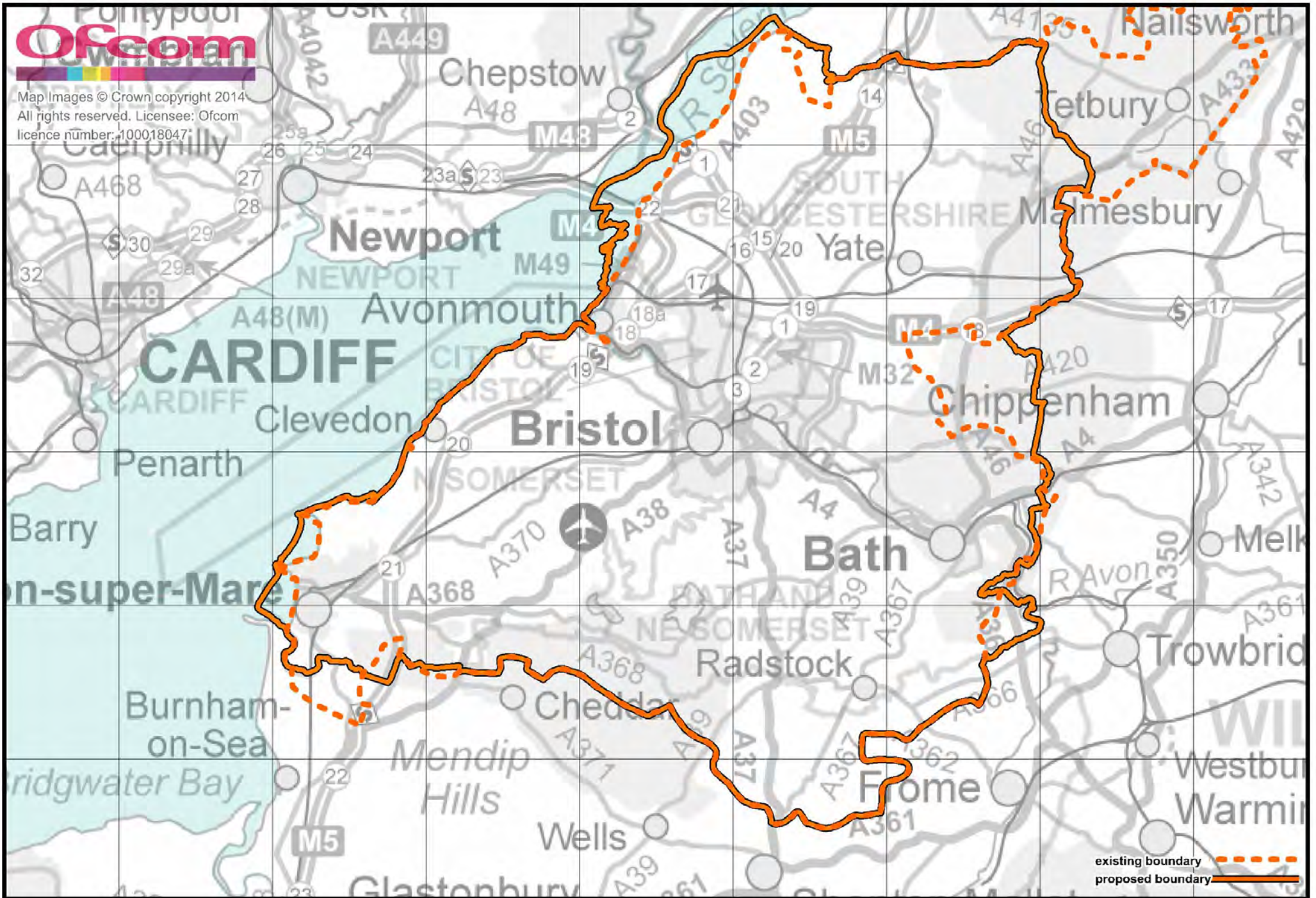
Birmingham



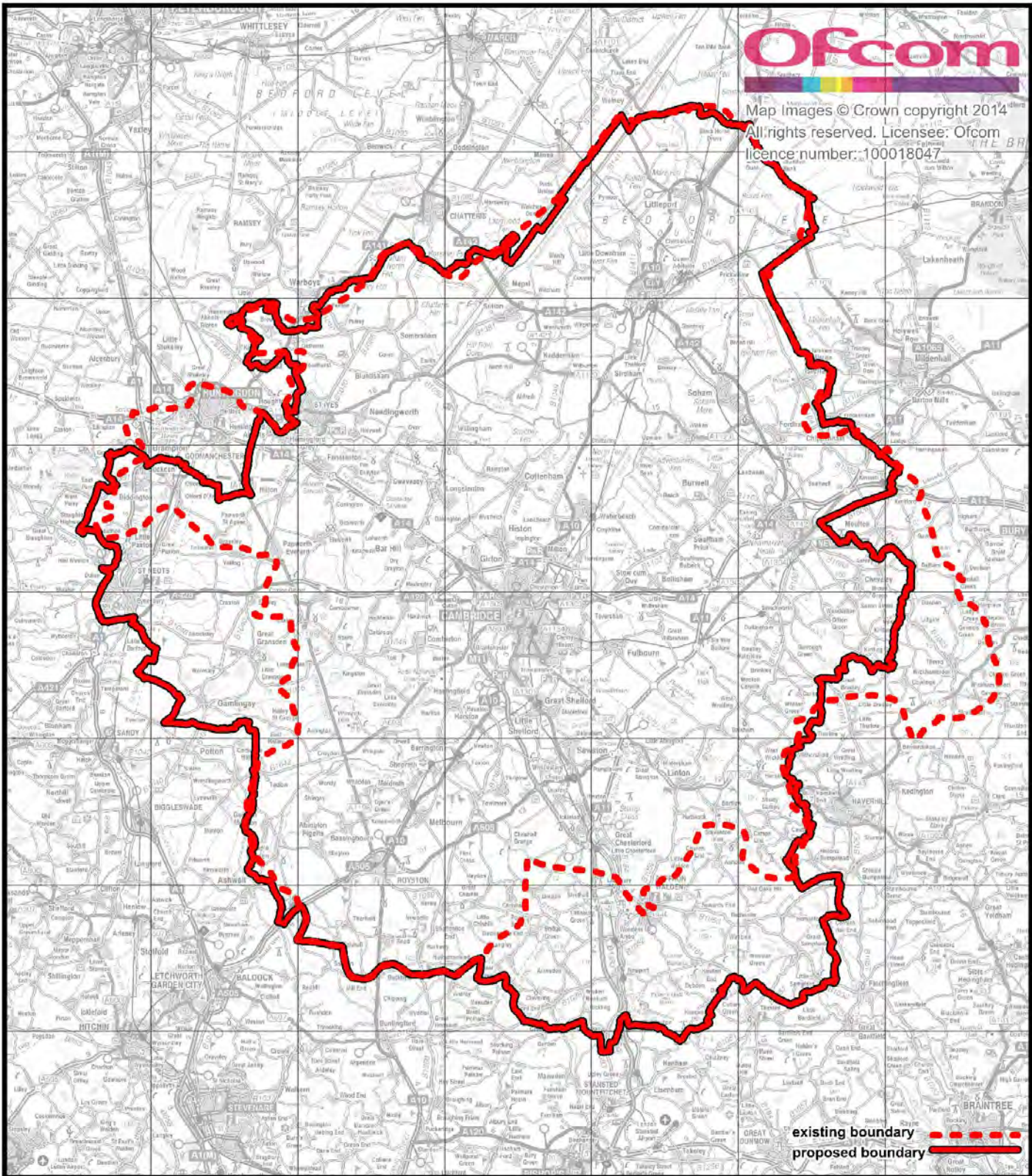
Bournemouth



Bradford

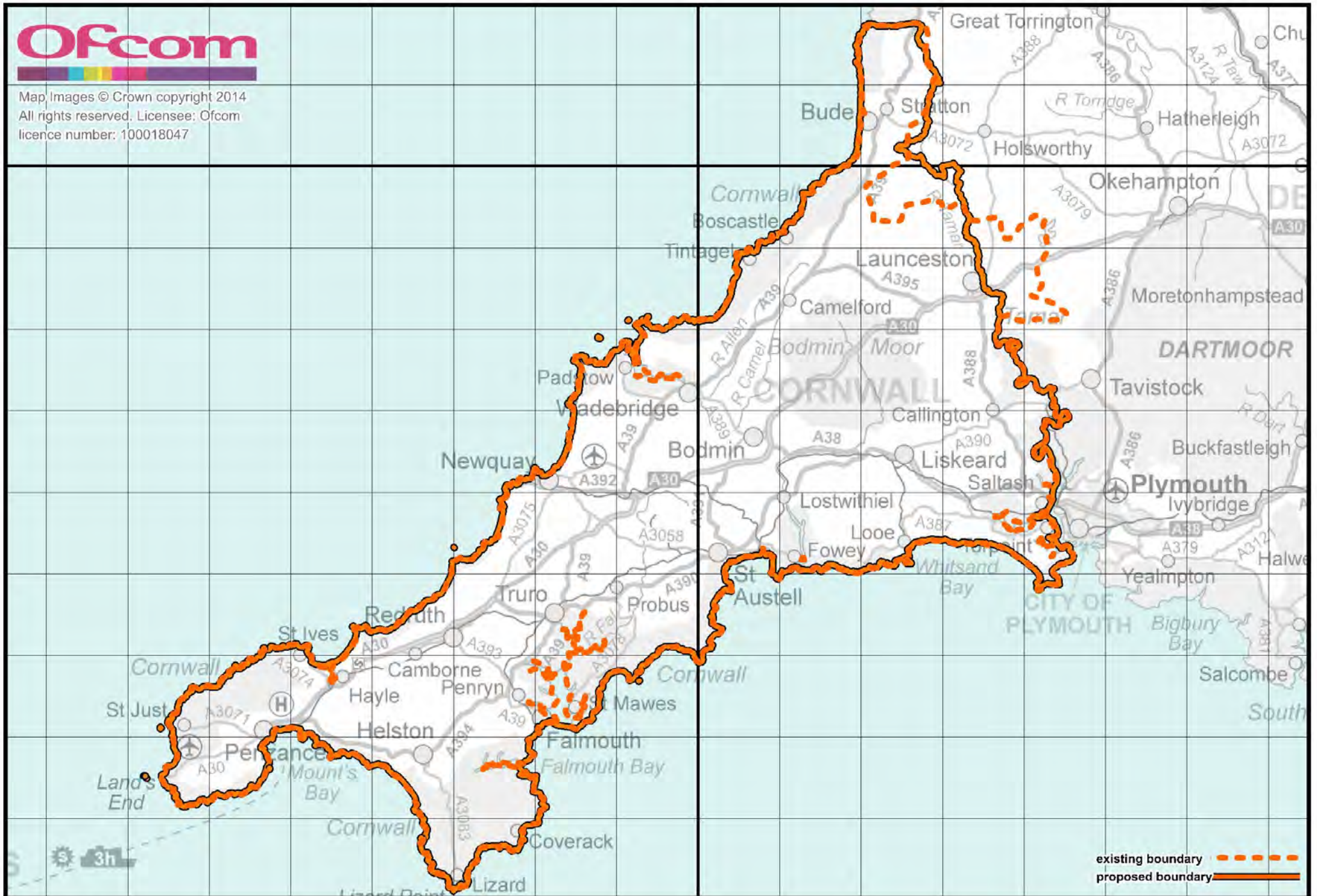


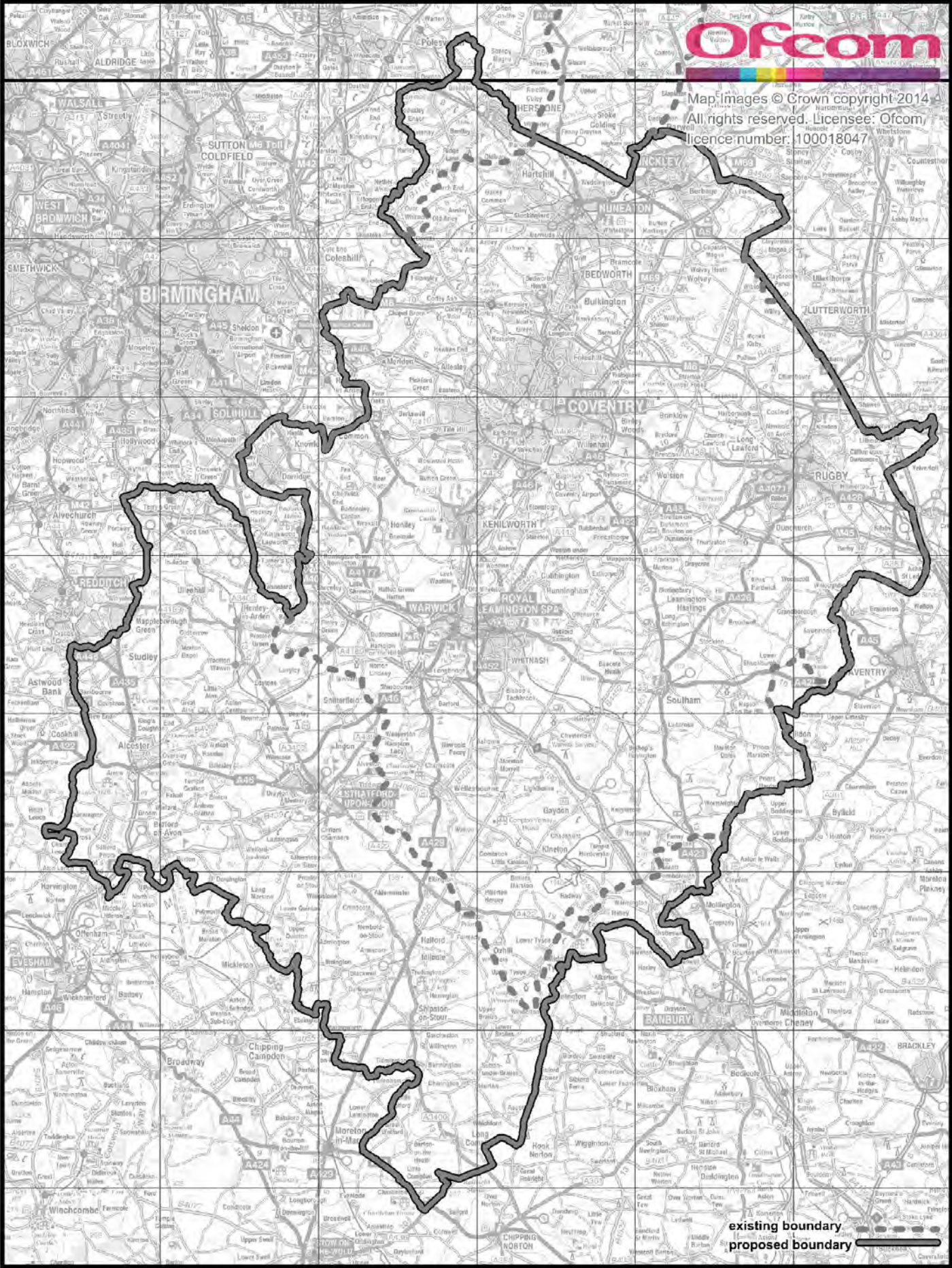
Bristol & Bath



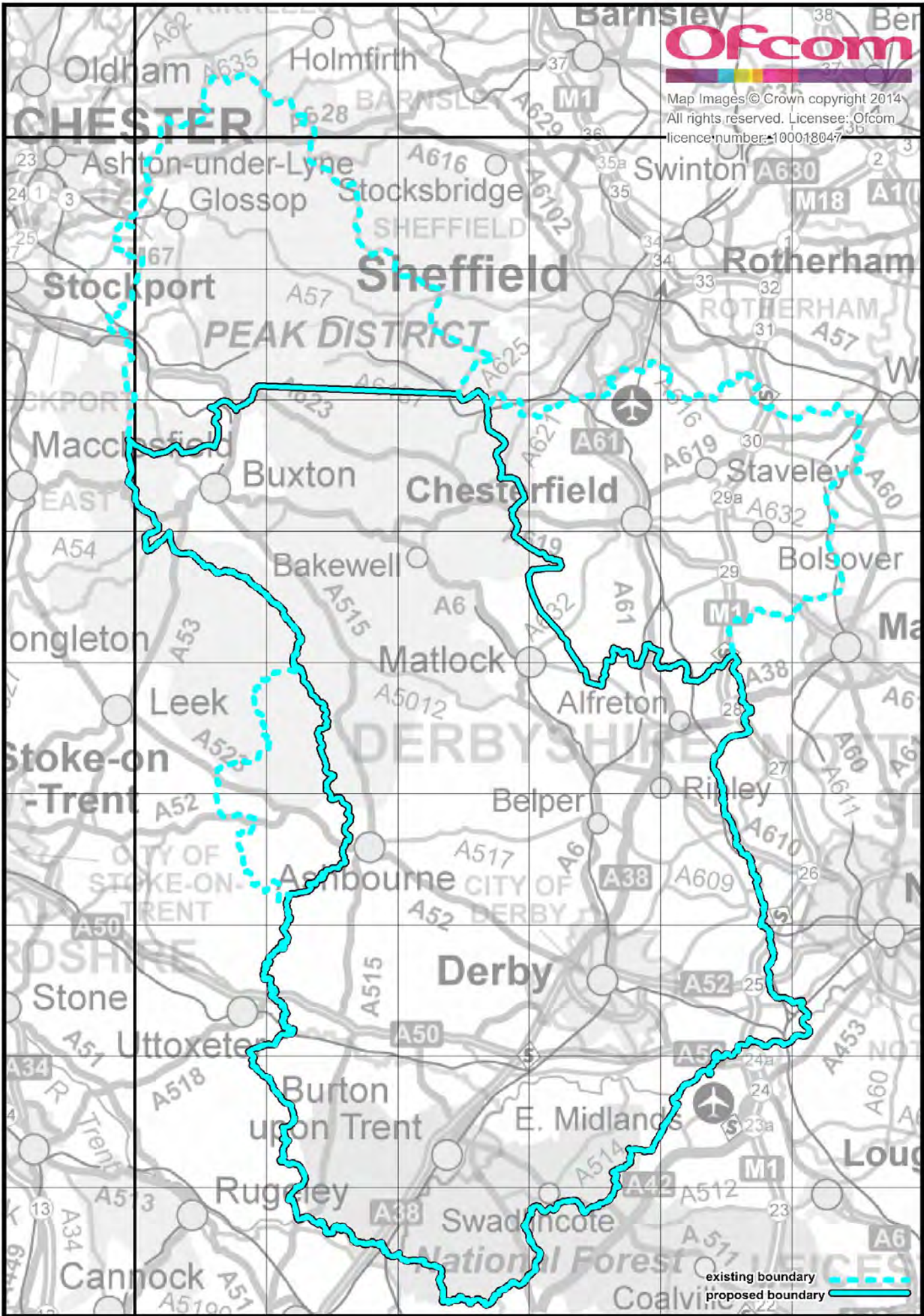
existing boundary
proposed boundary

Cambridge







Coventry

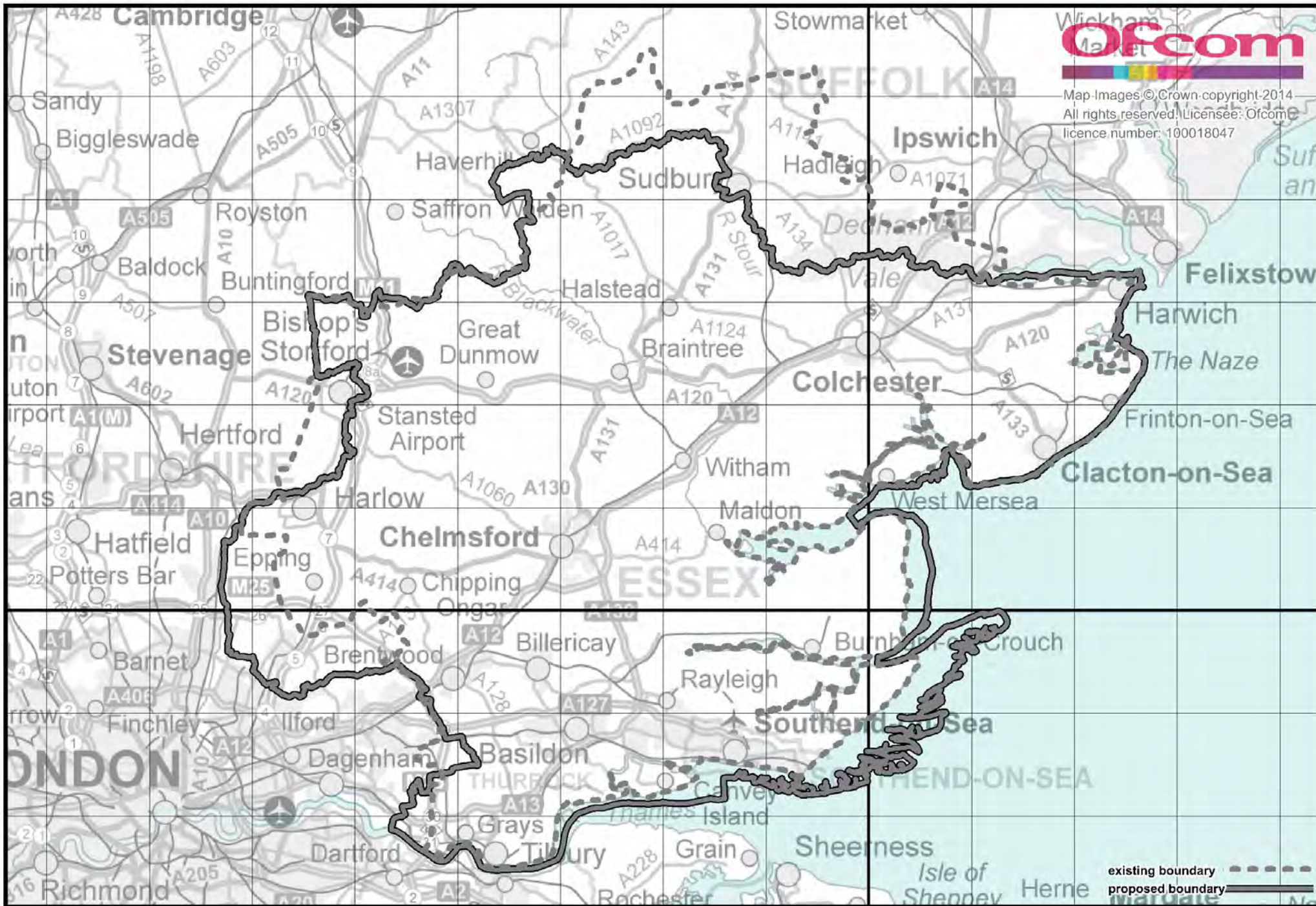


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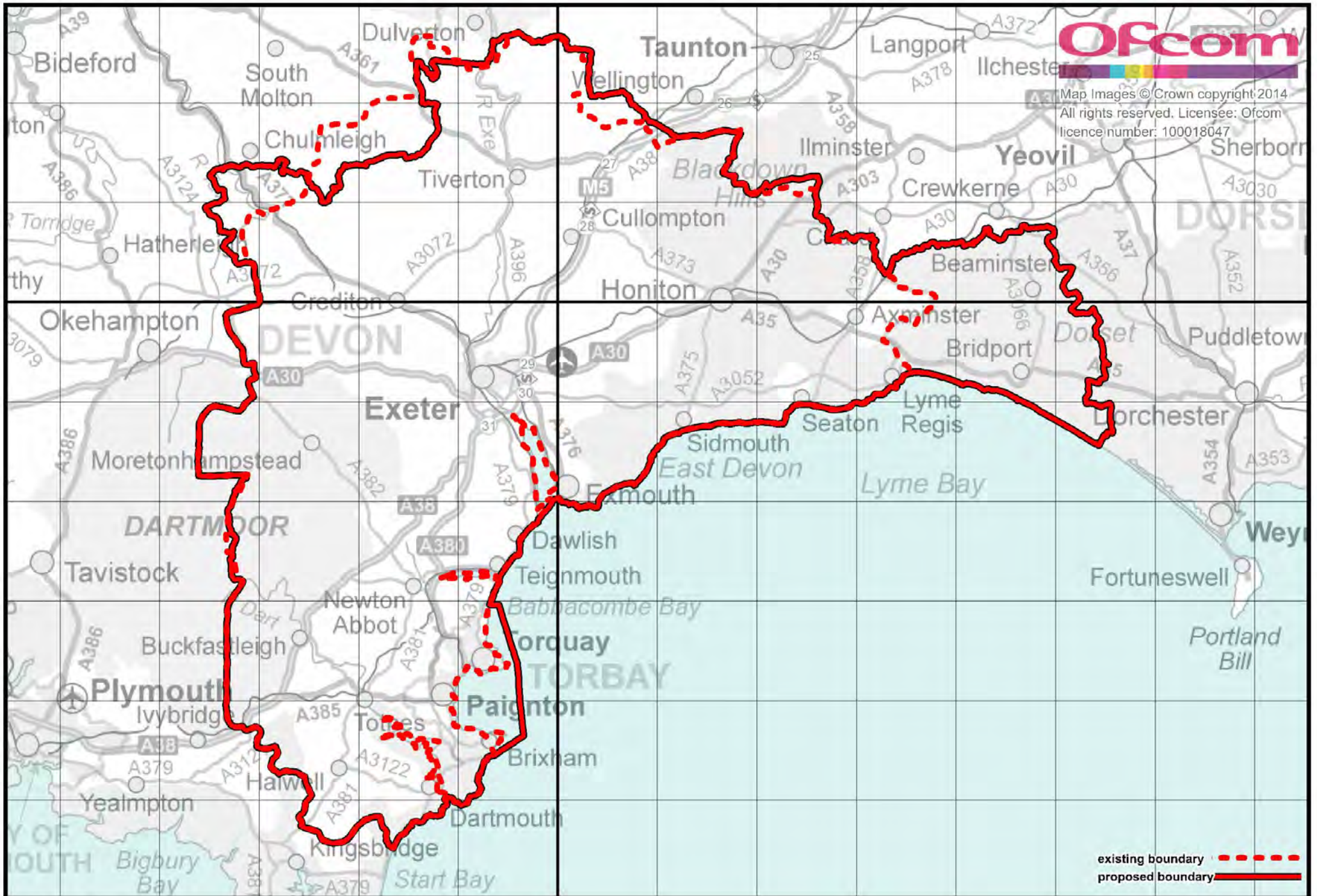
existing boundary 
 proposed boundary 

Derbyshire

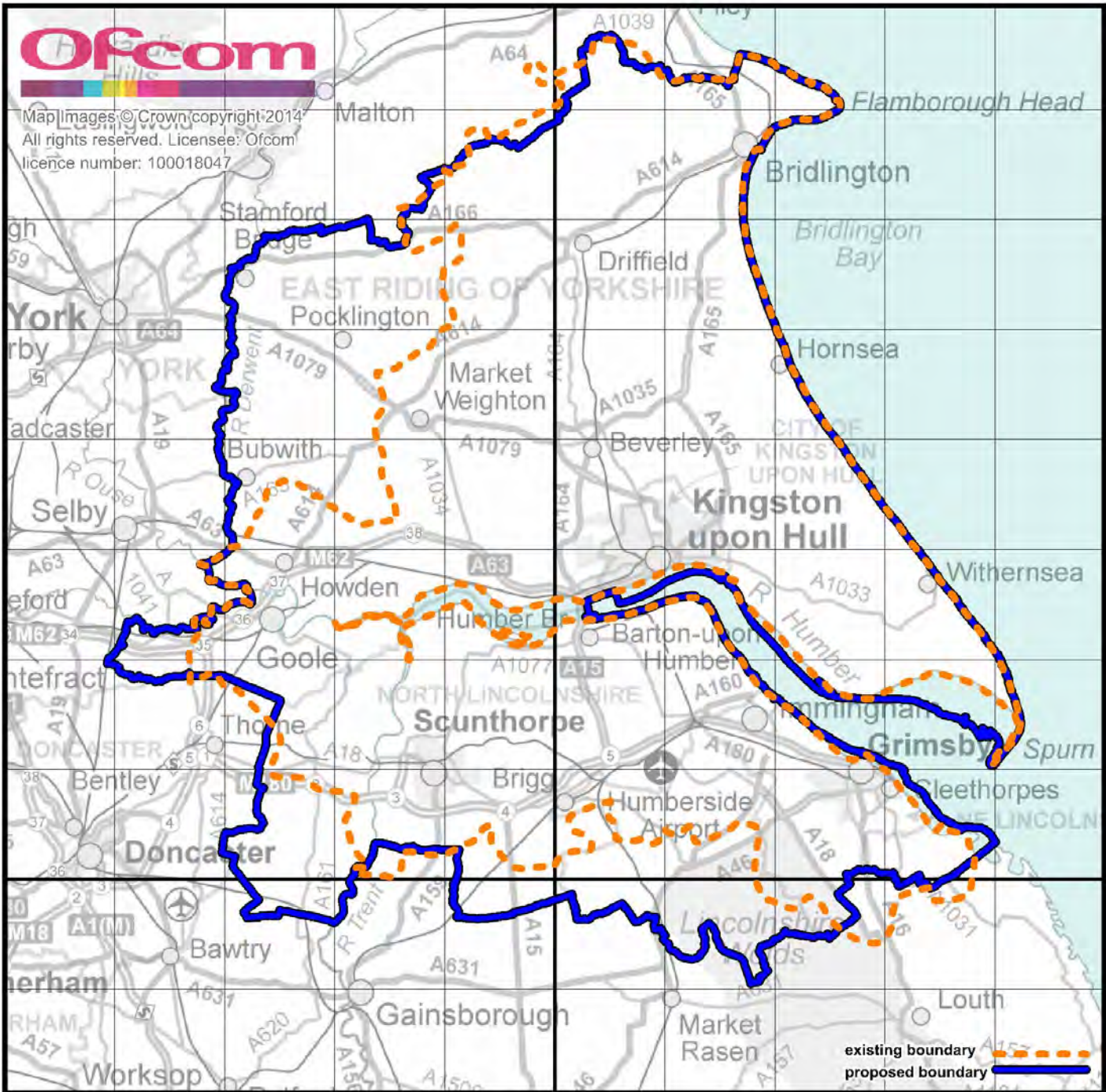


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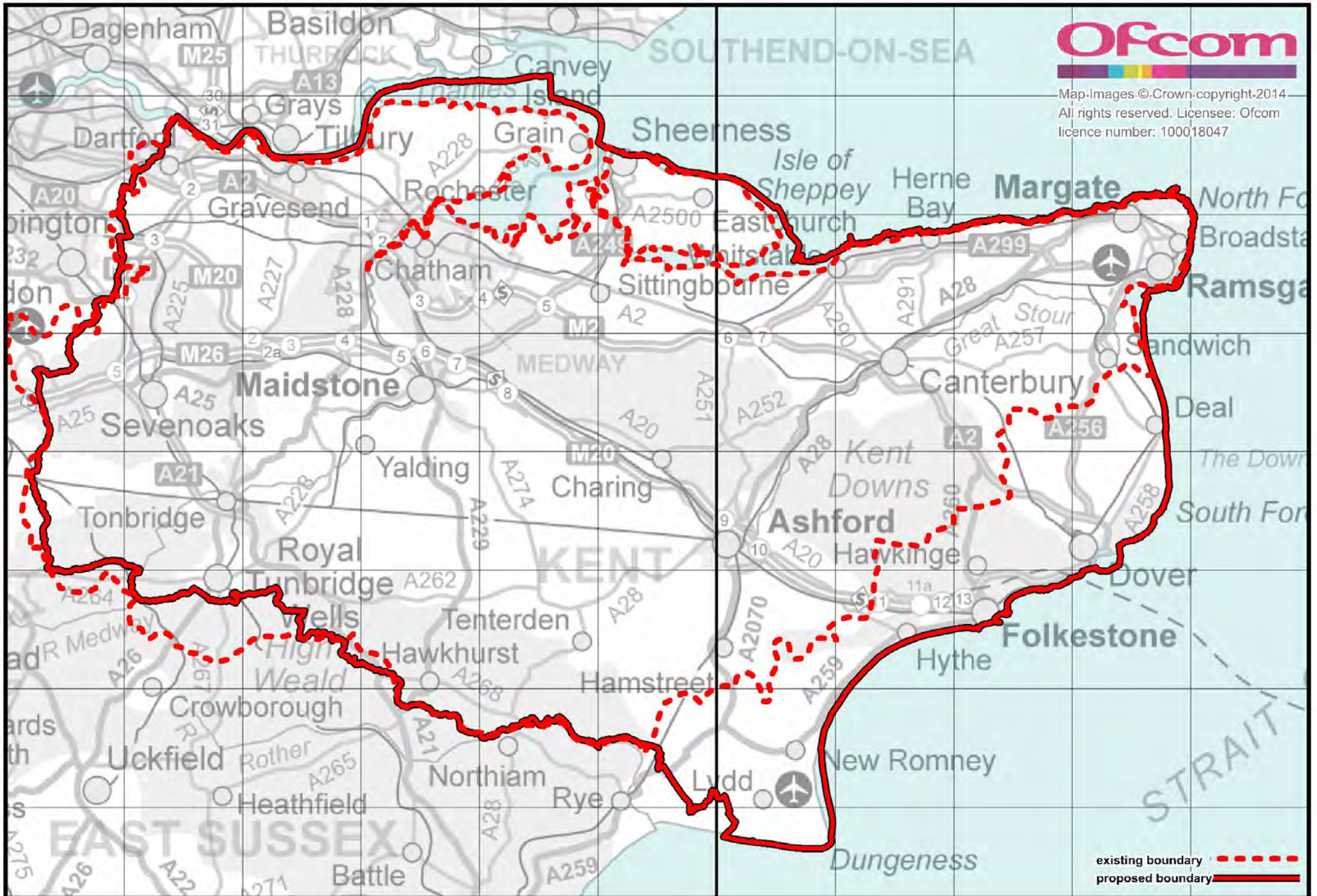
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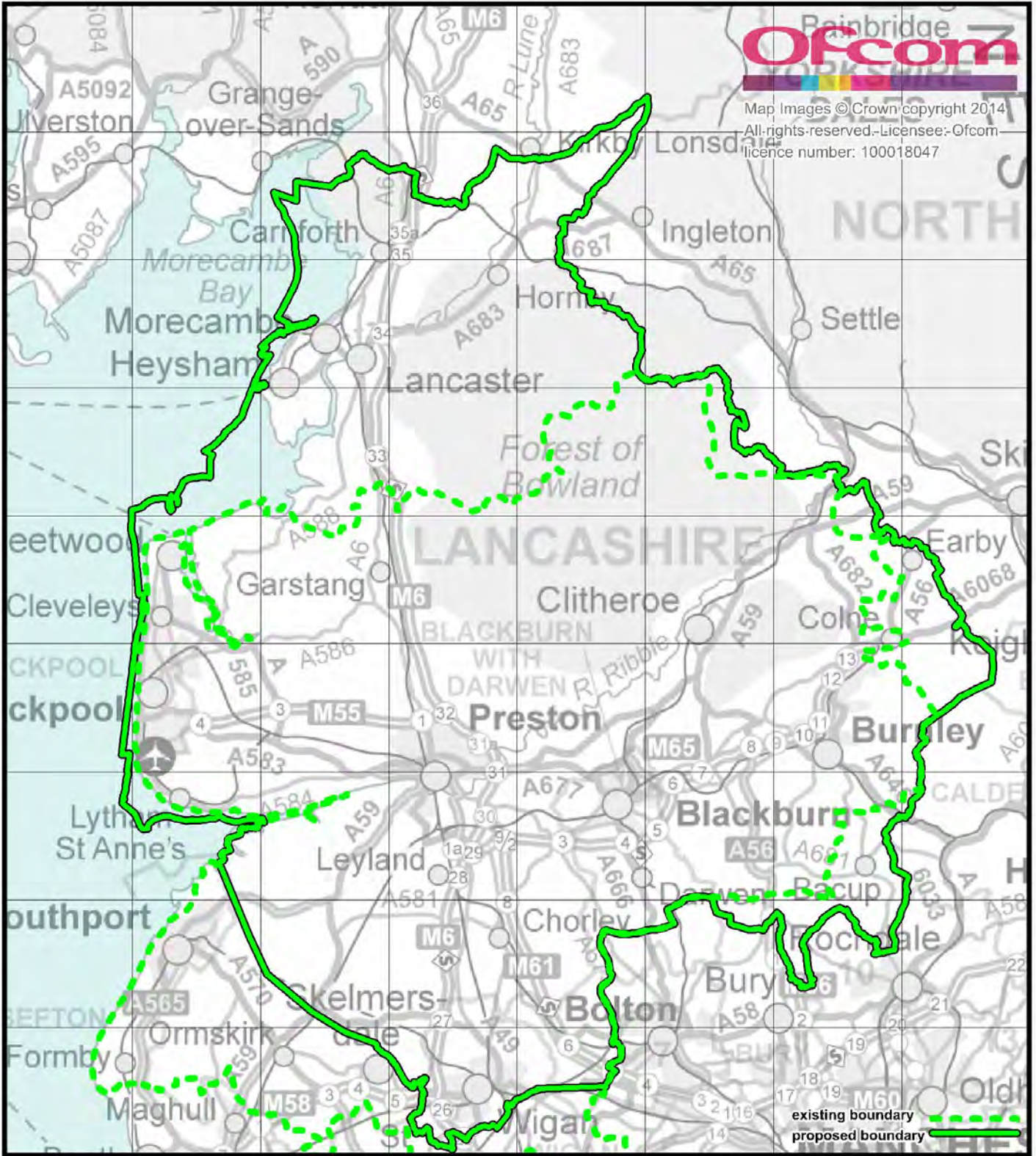


Exeter & Torbay

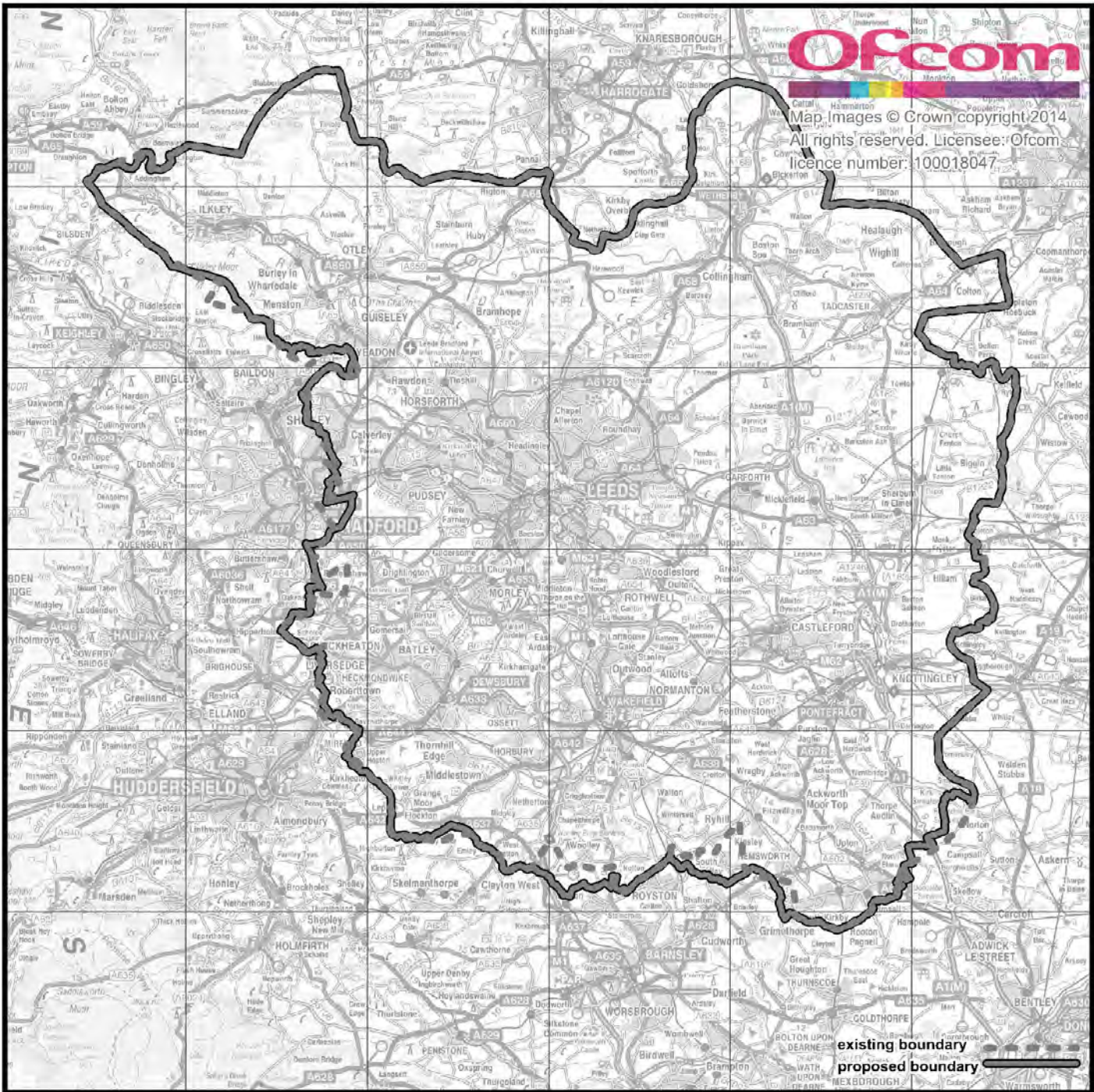


Humberside

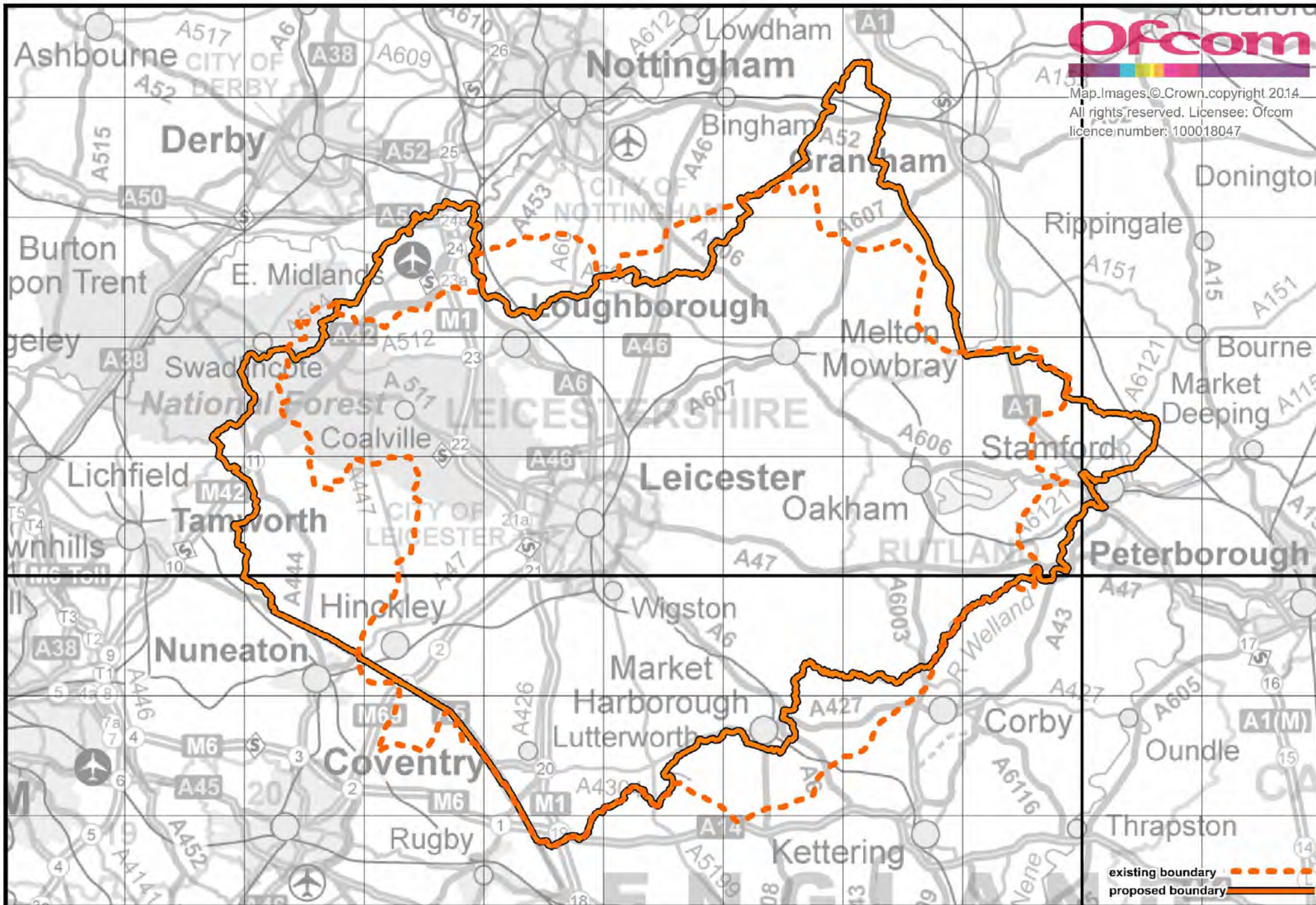




Lancashire

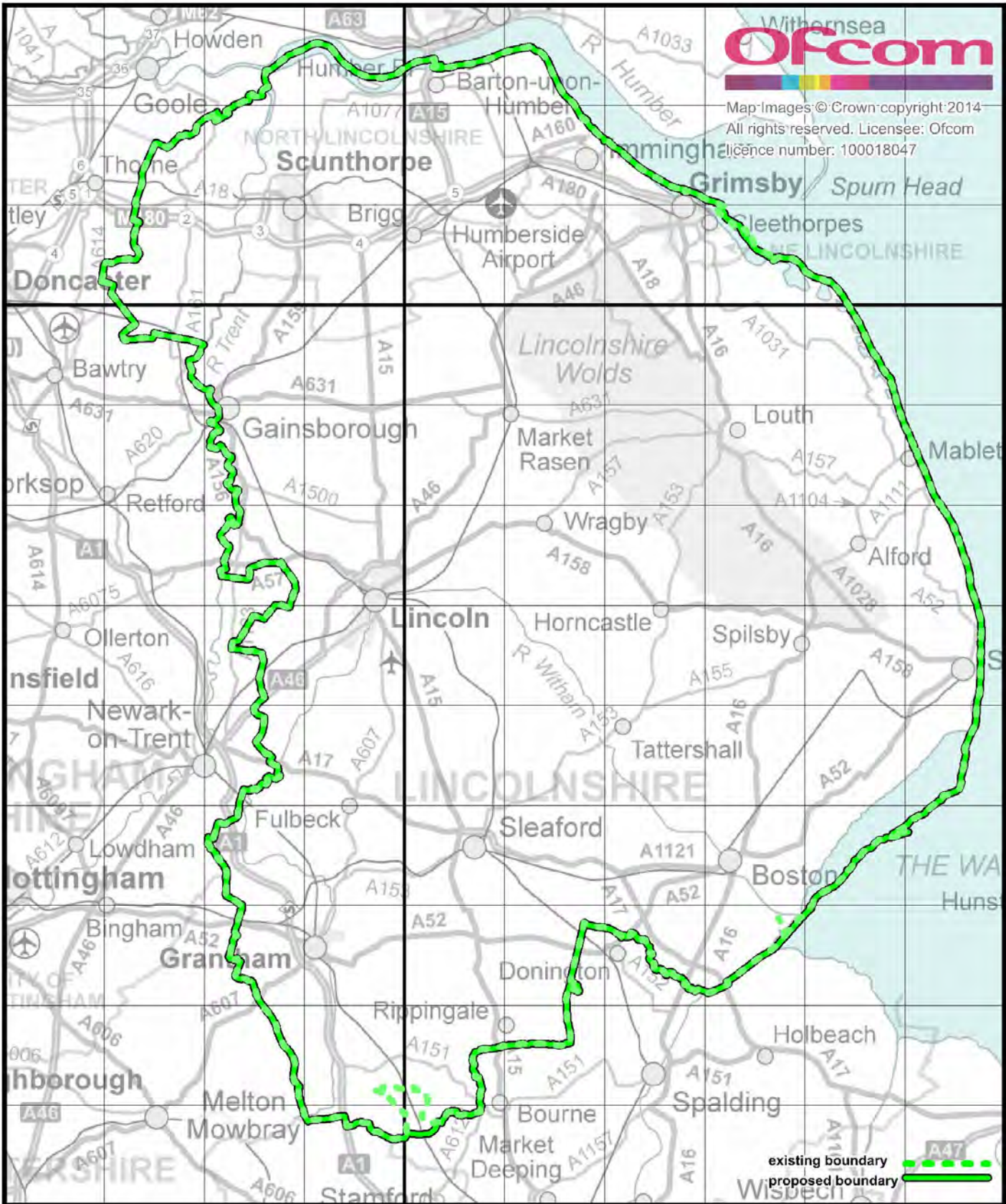


Leeds

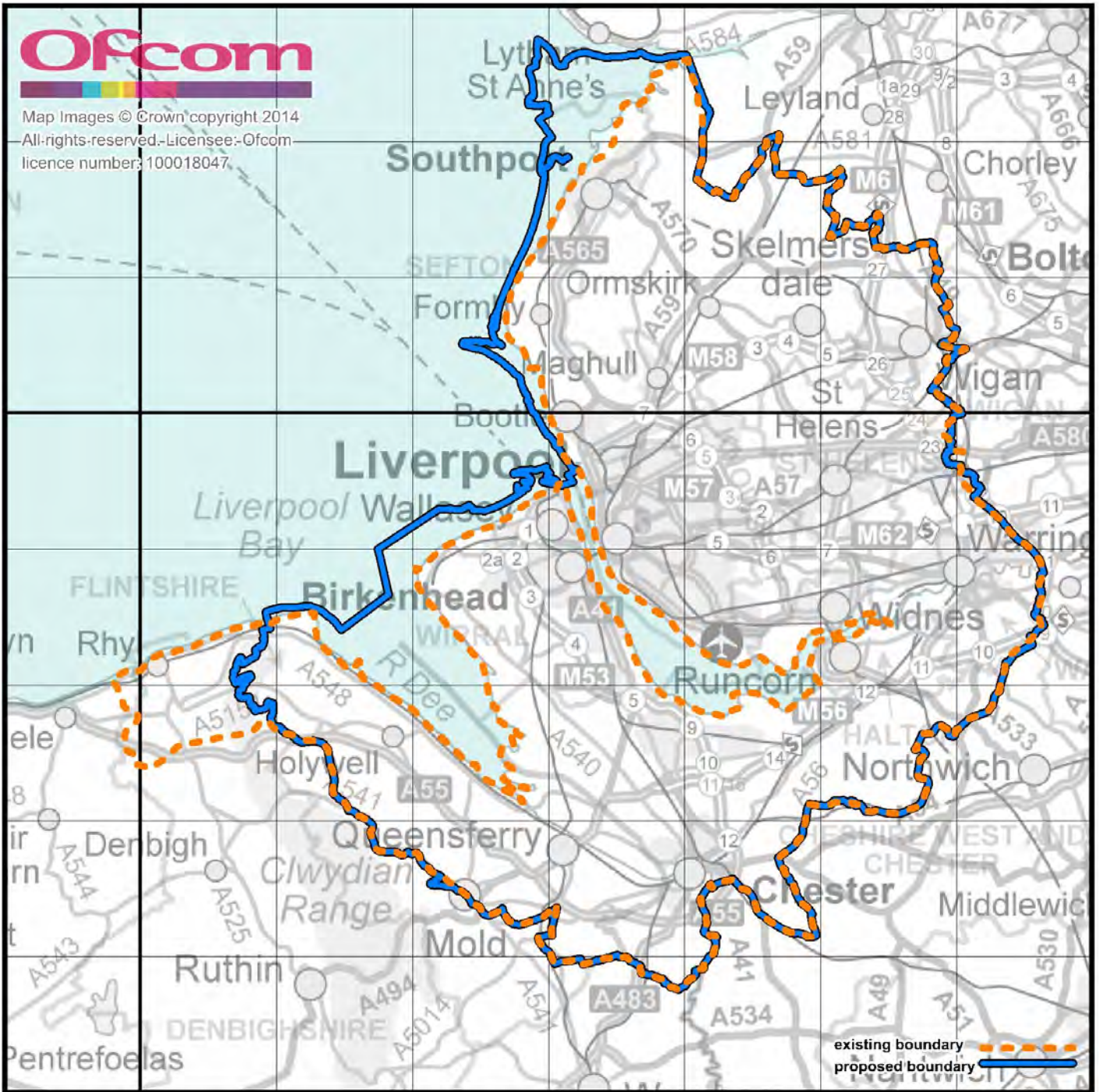


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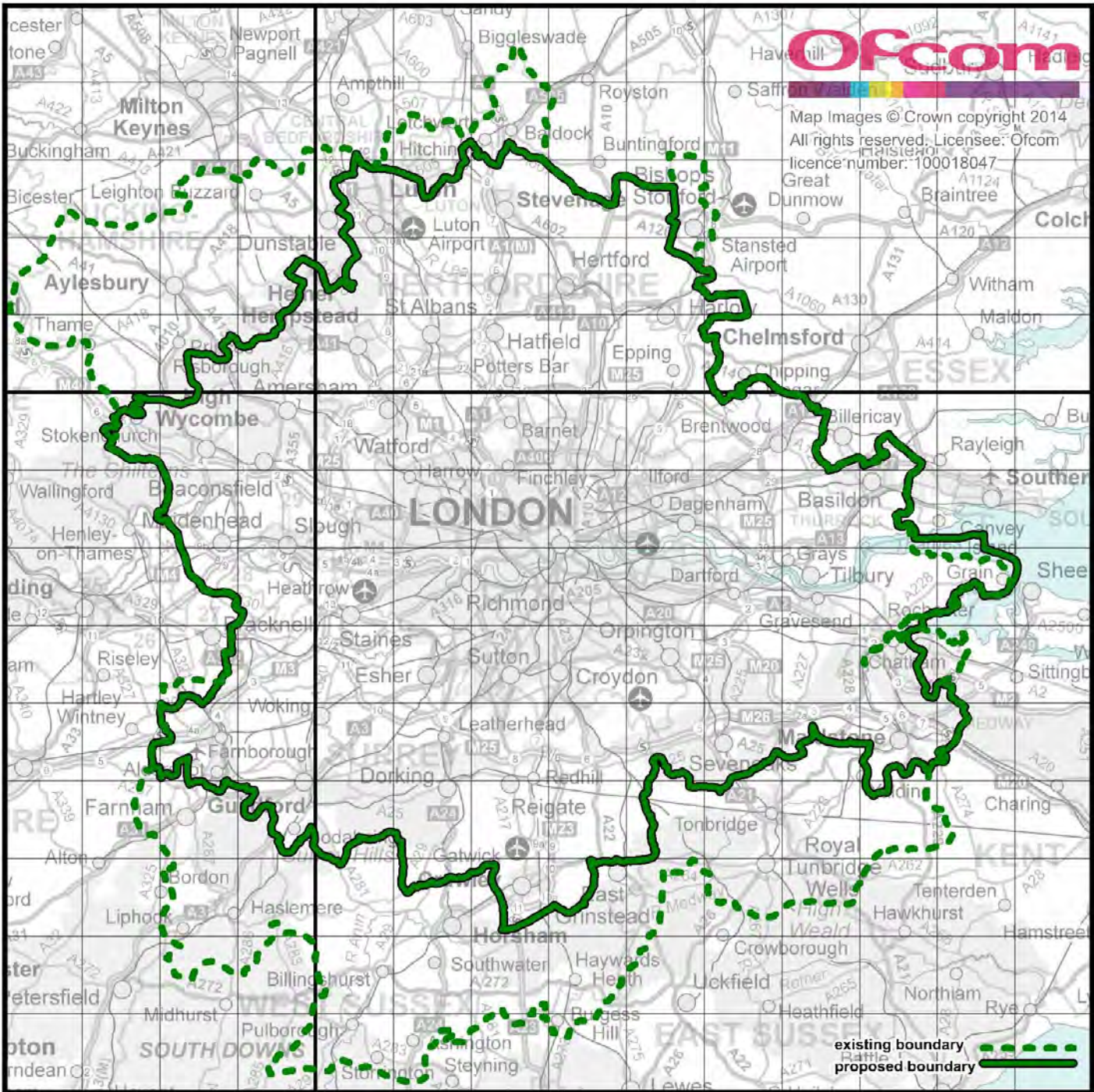
Leicestershire



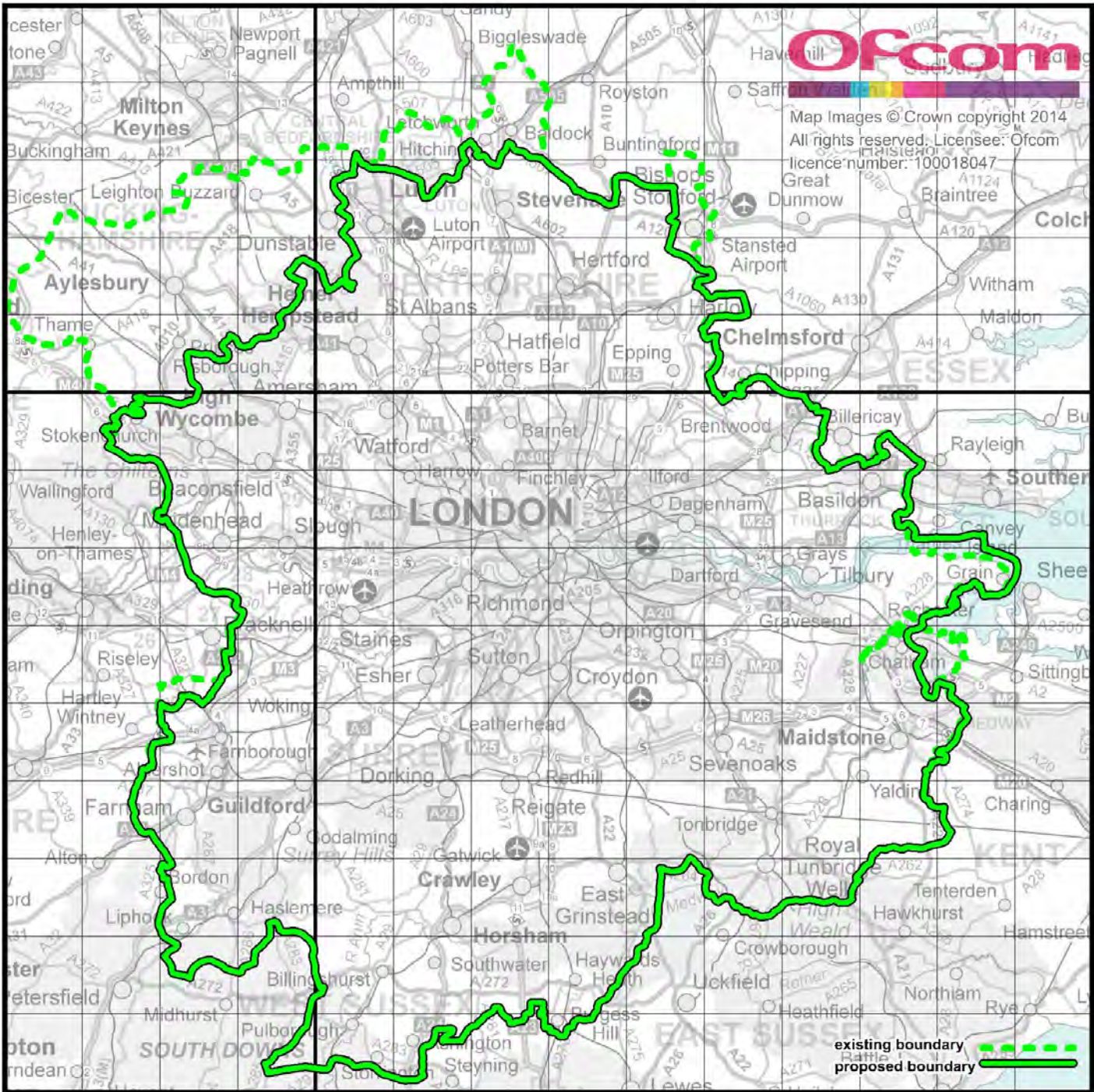
Lincolnshire



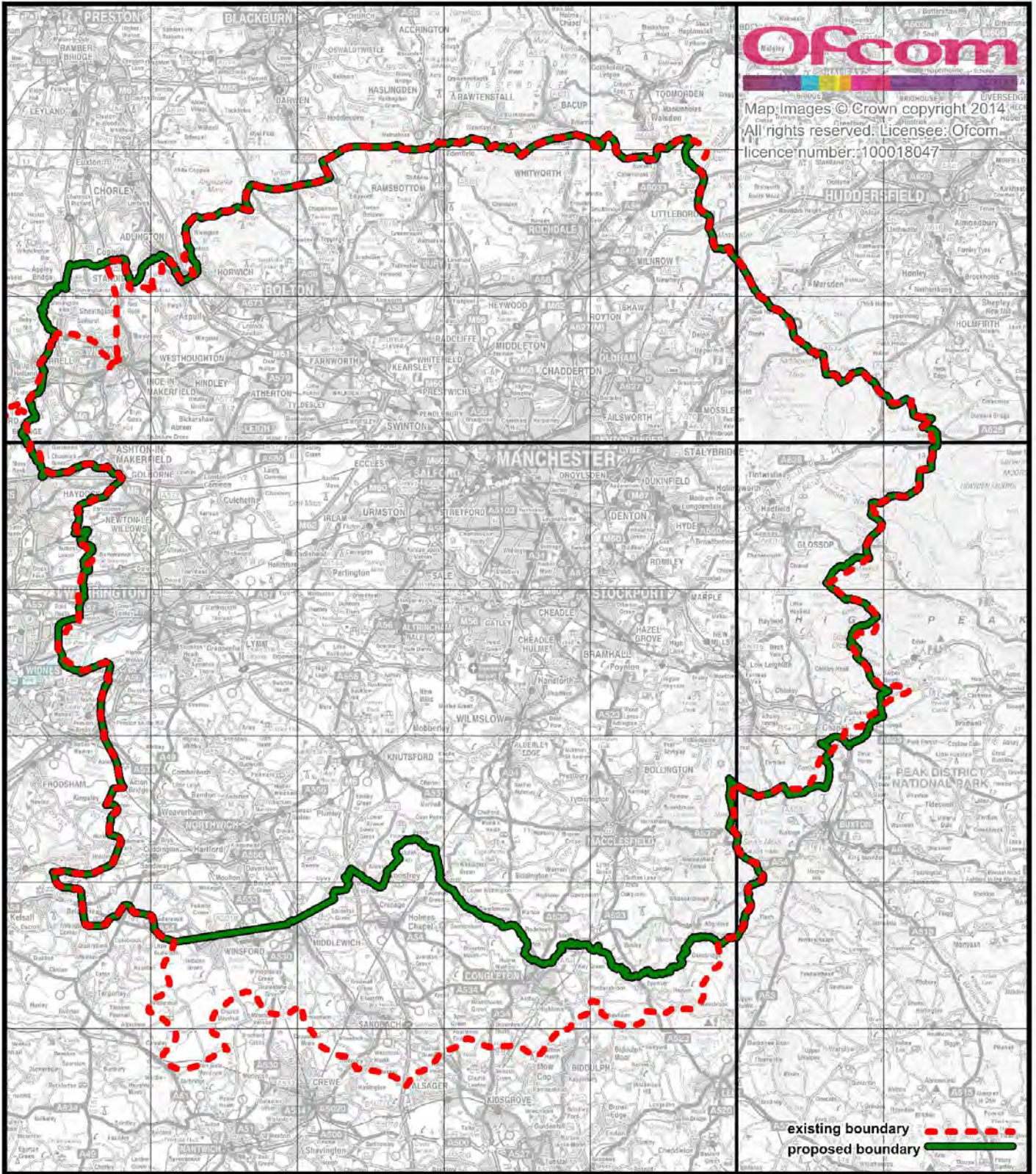
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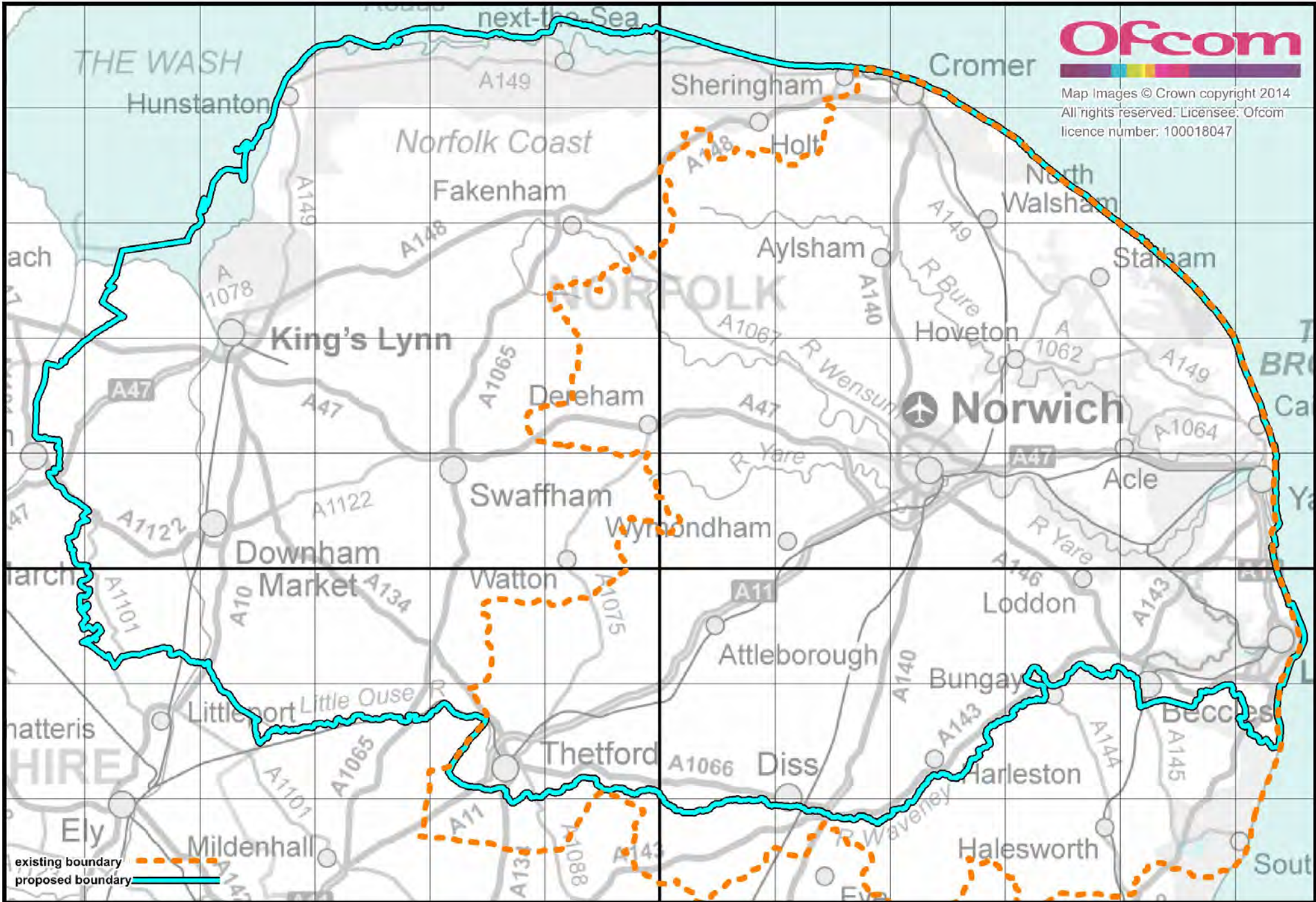
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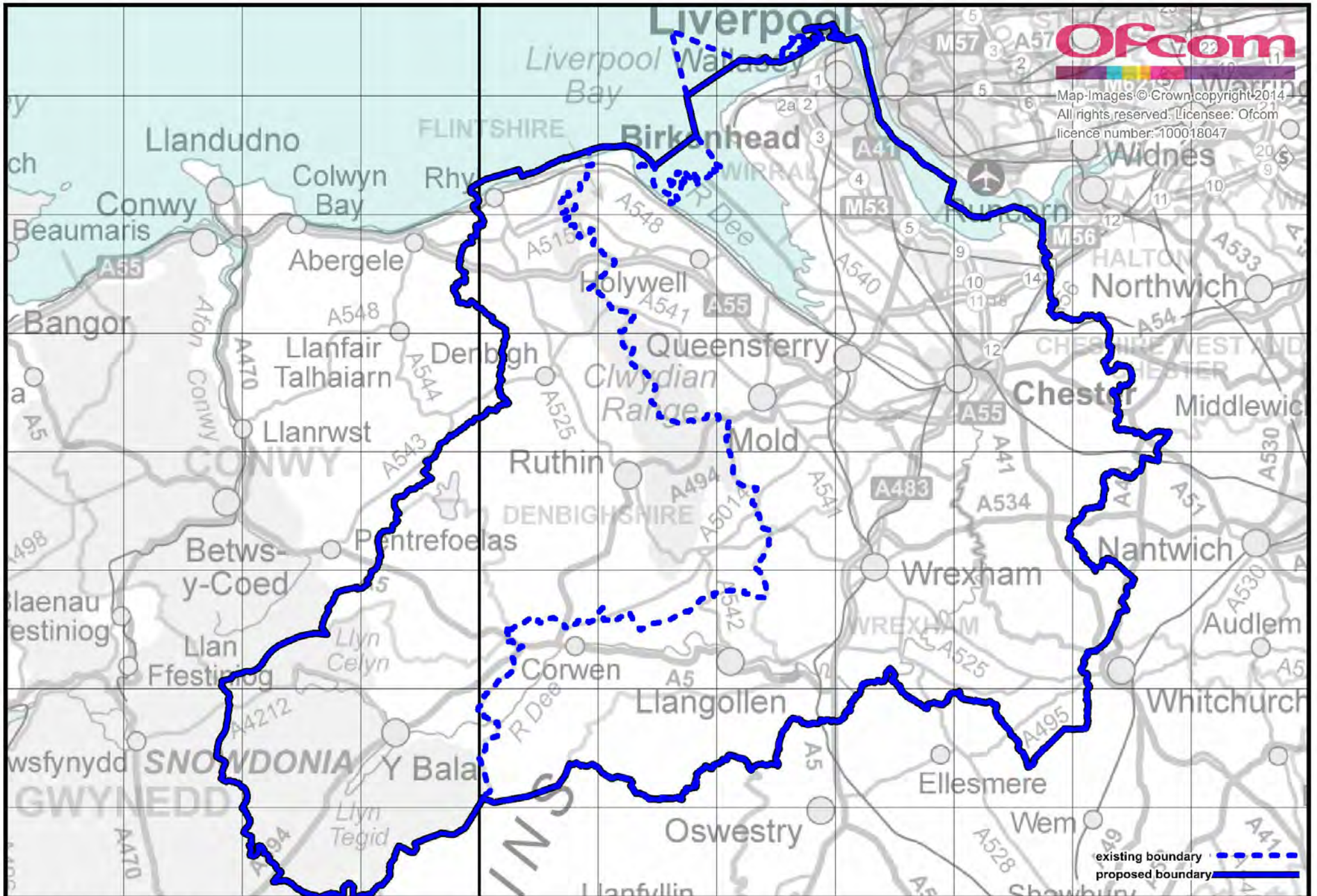
London 2



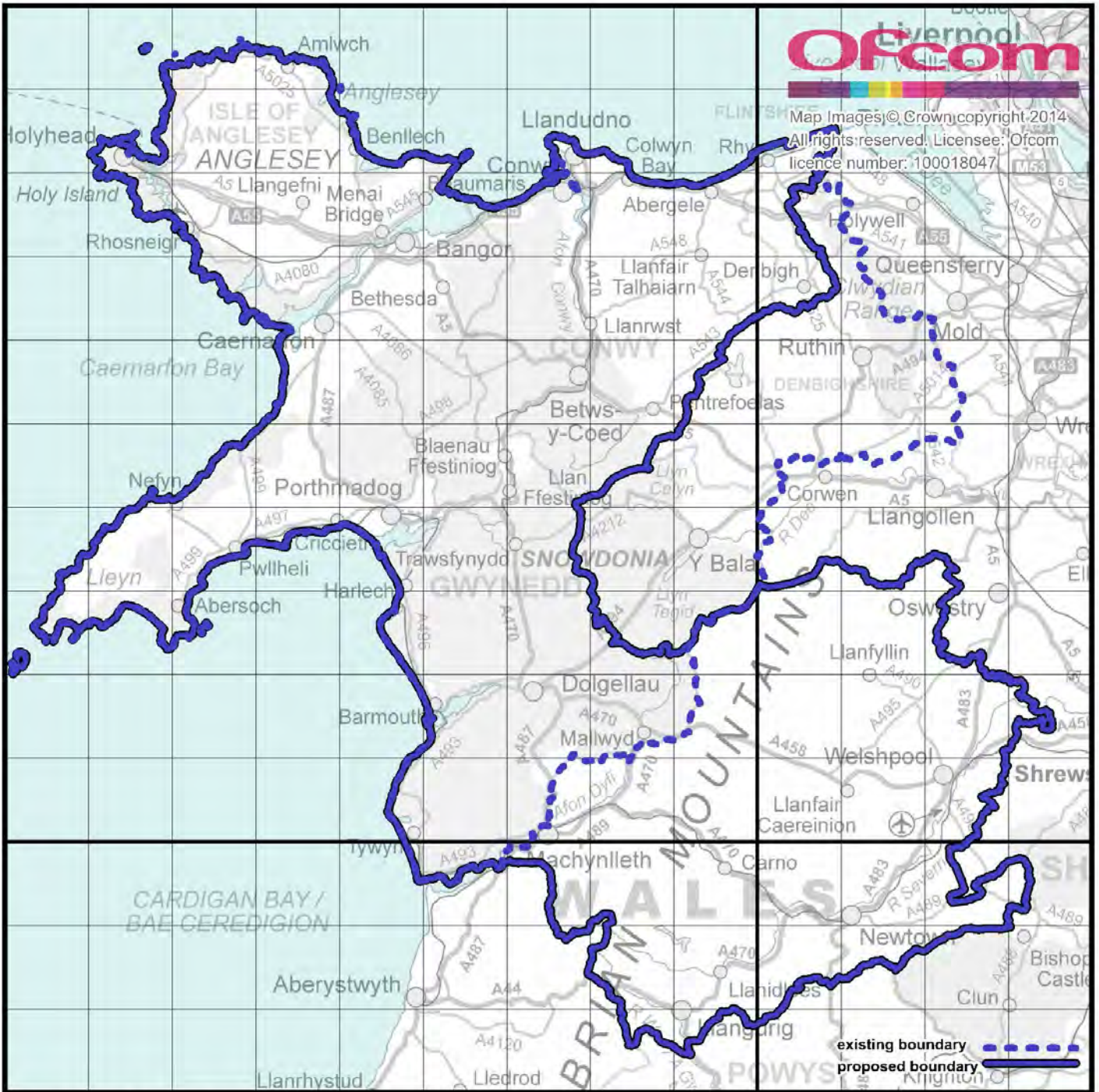
Manchester



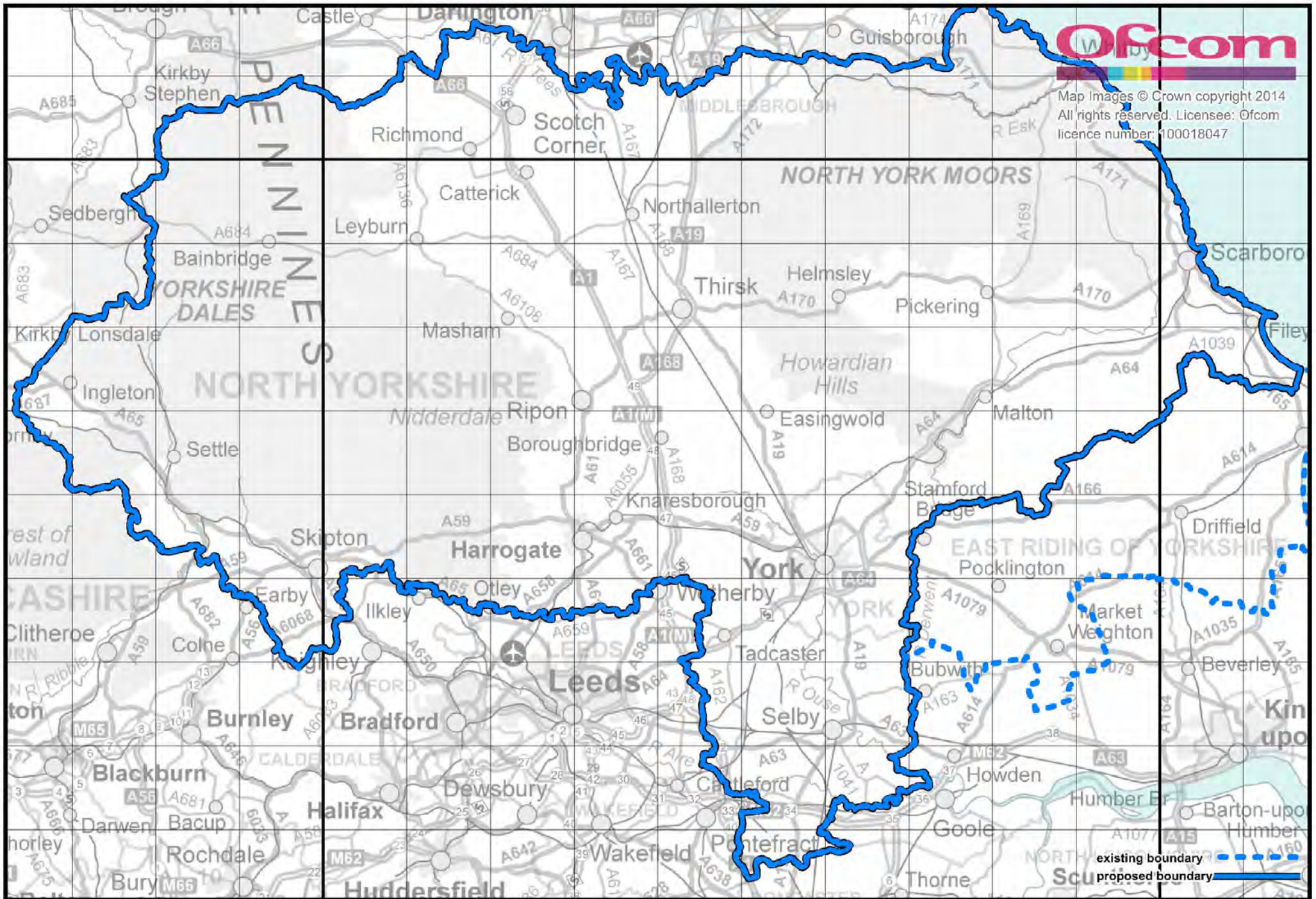
Norfolk



North east Wales & west Cheshire



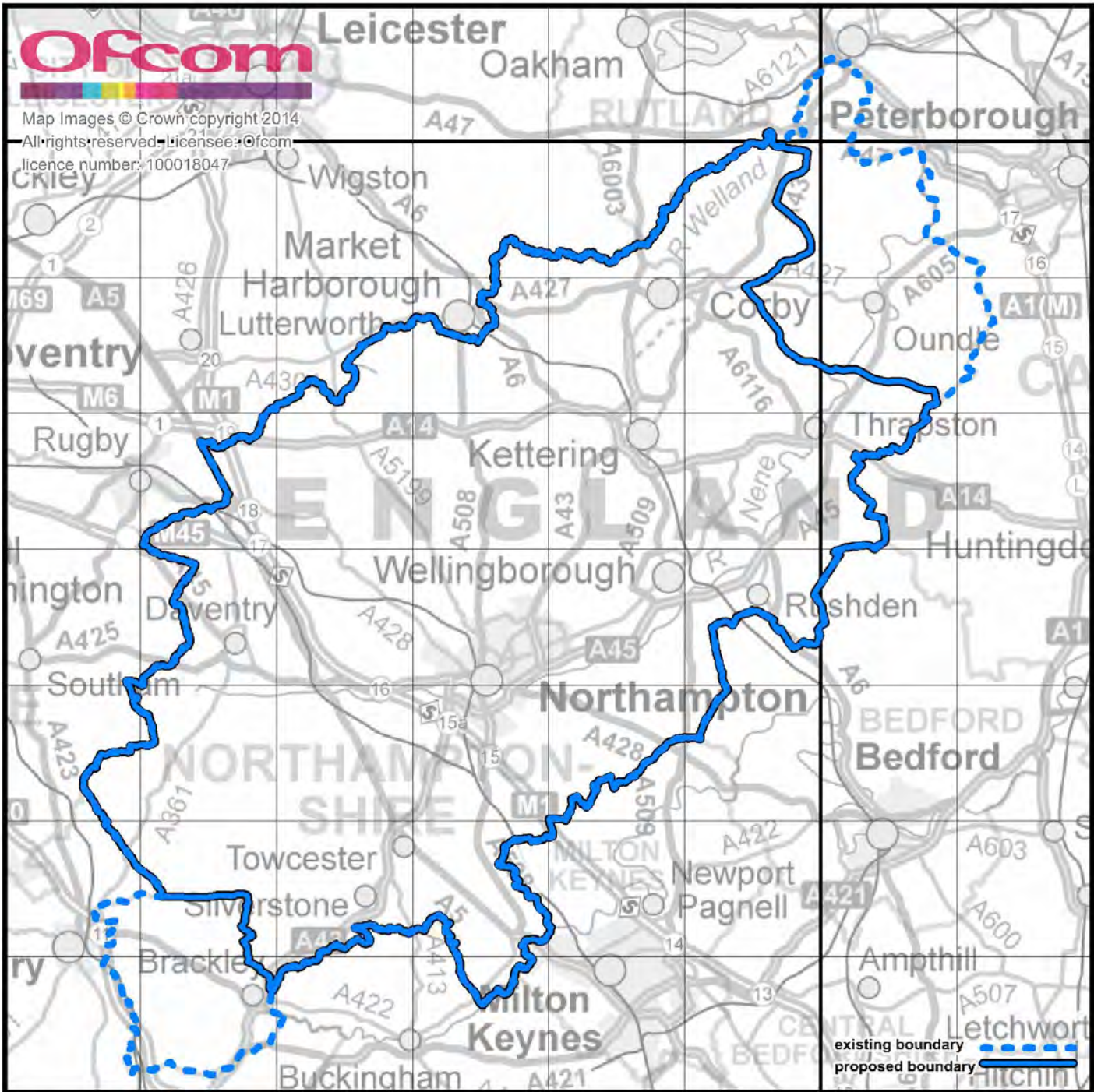
North west Wales



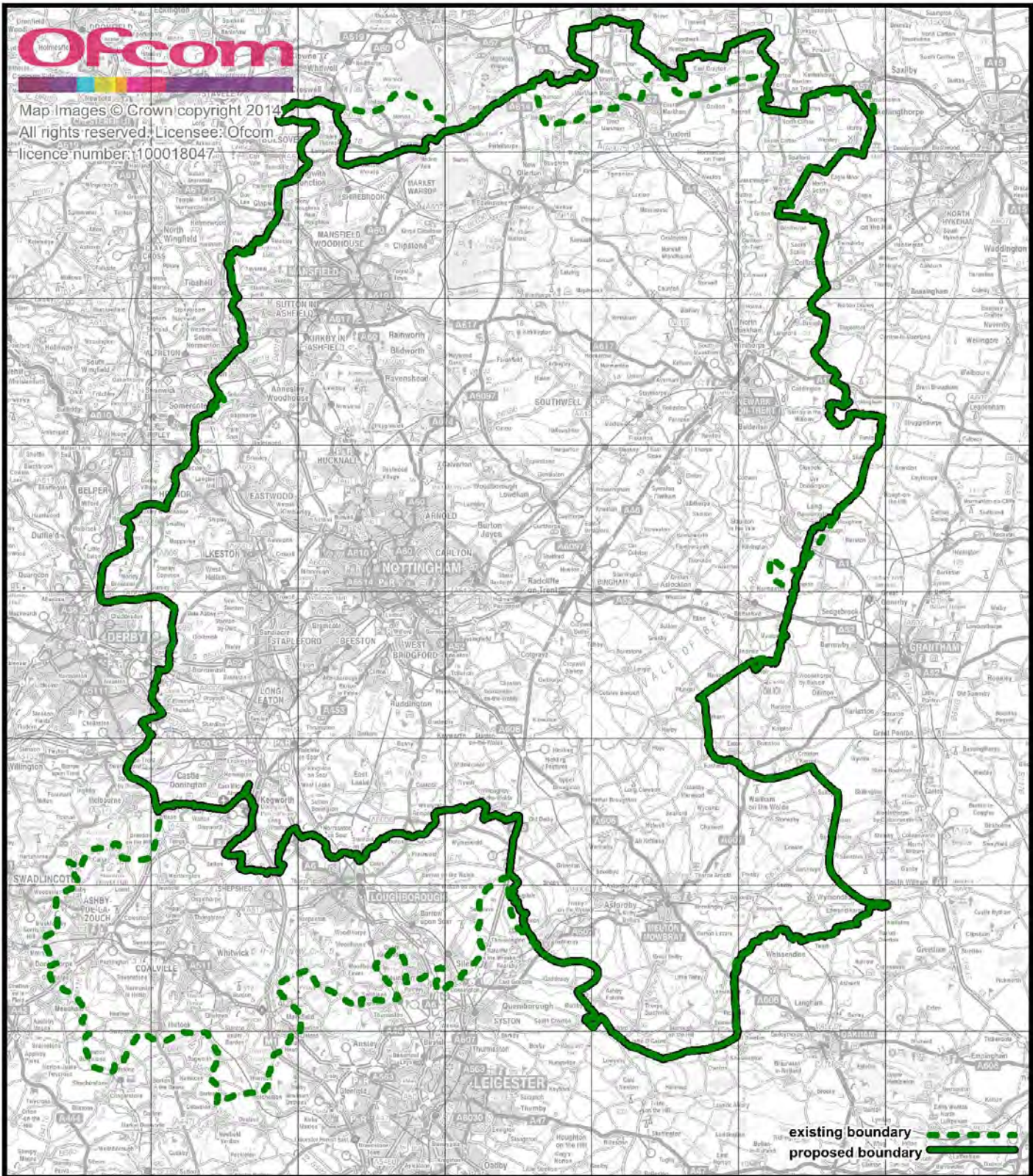
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existing boundary ———
 proposed boundary - - - -

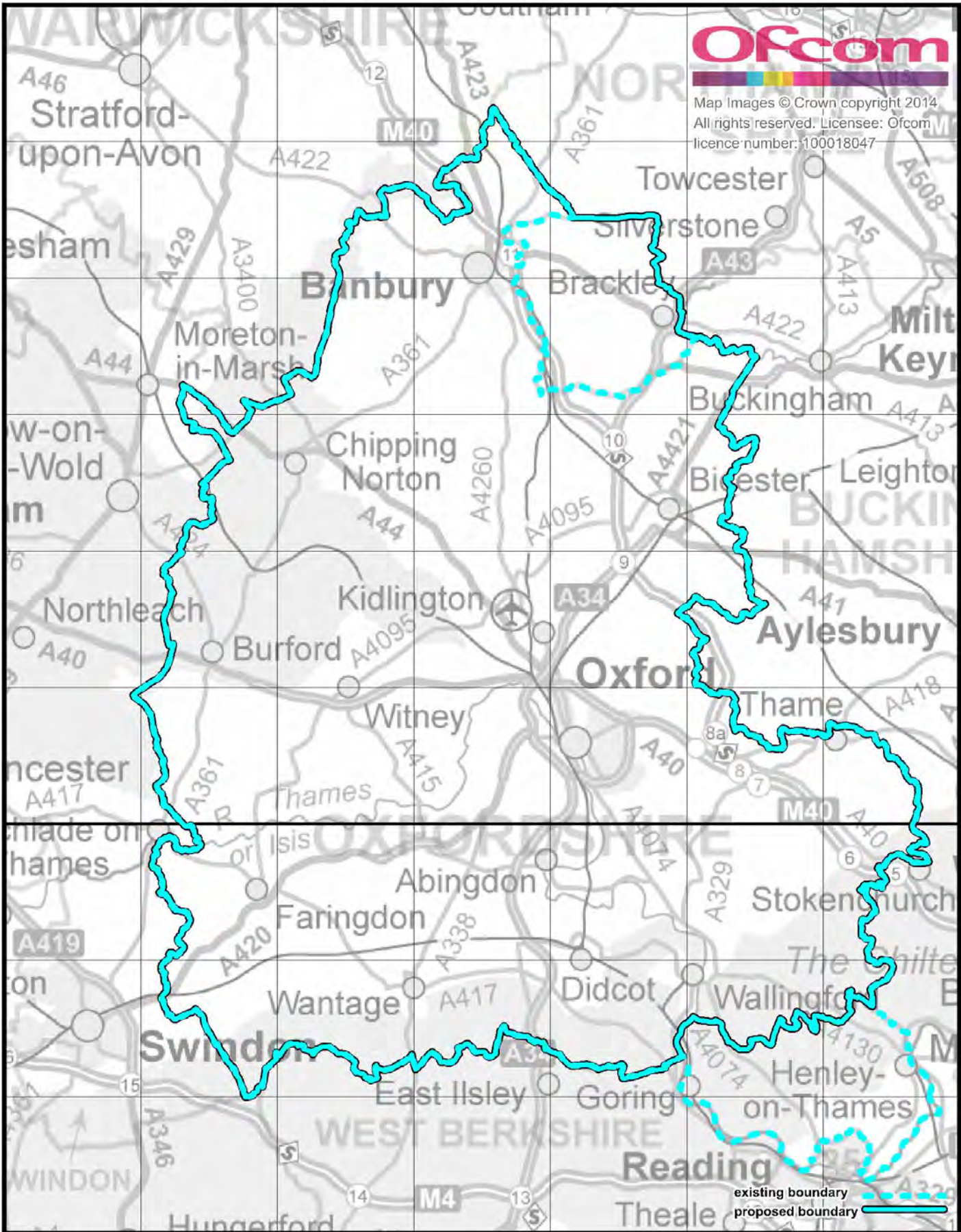
North Yorkshire



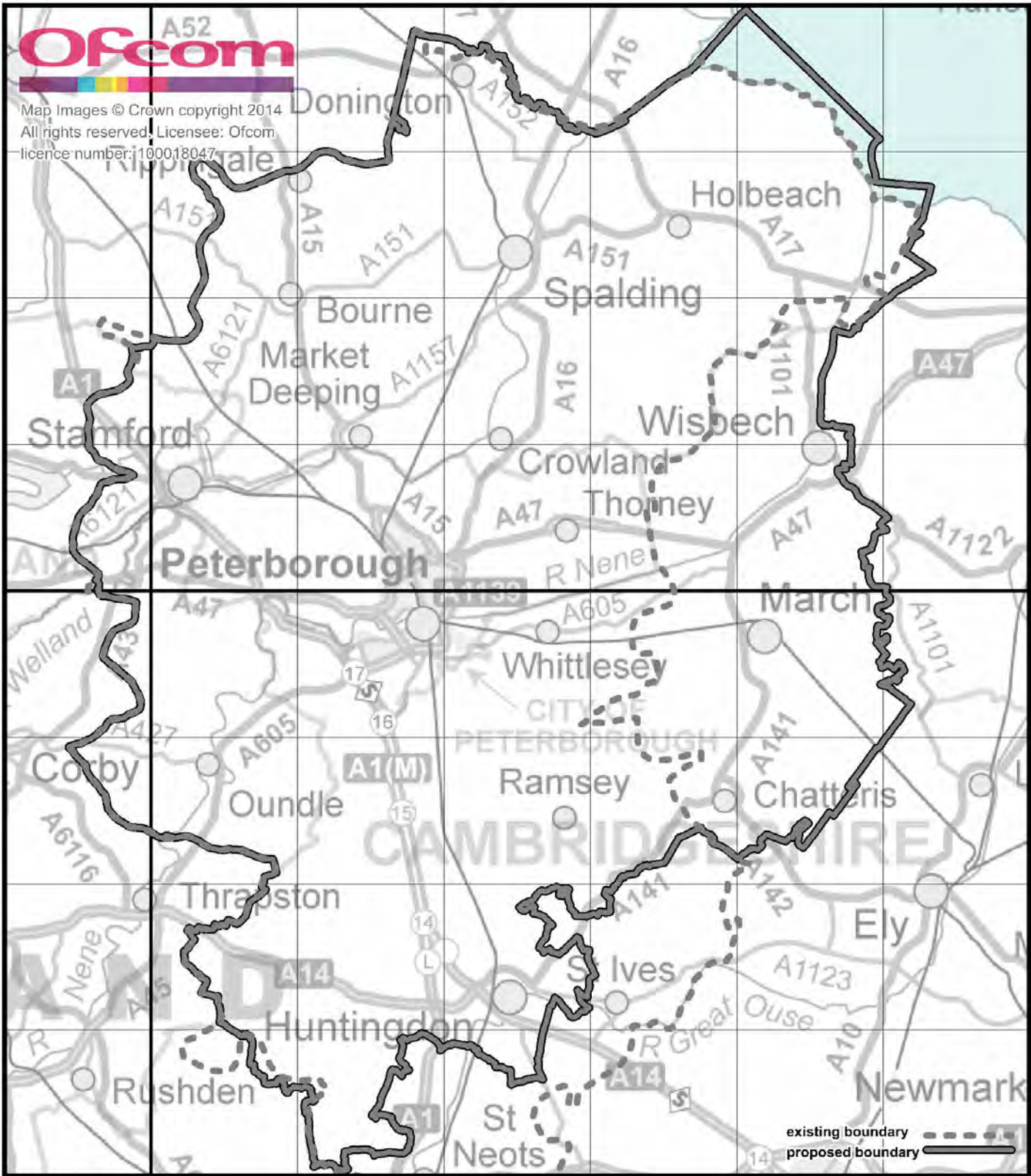
Northamptonshire



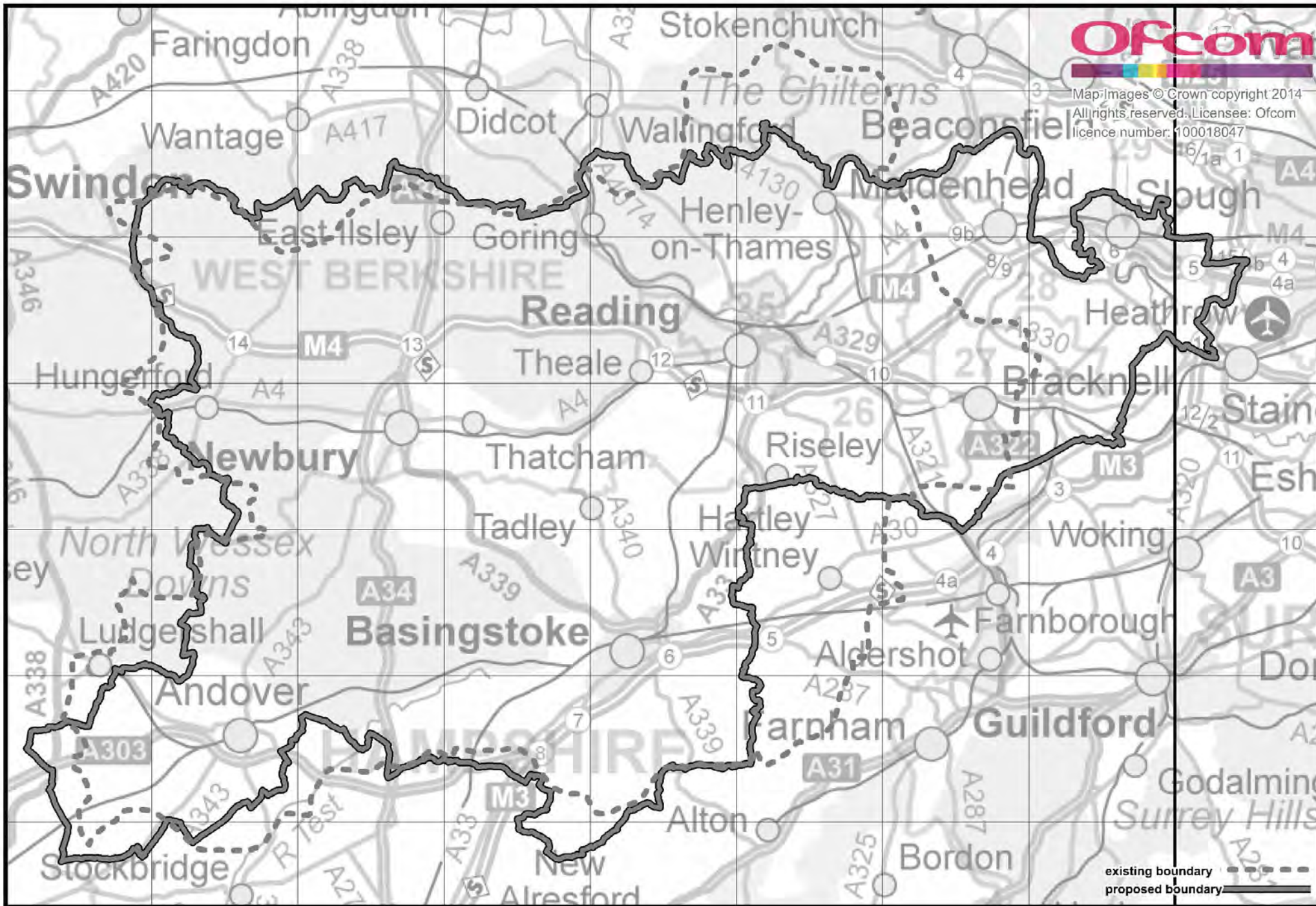
Nottinghamshire



Oxfordshire



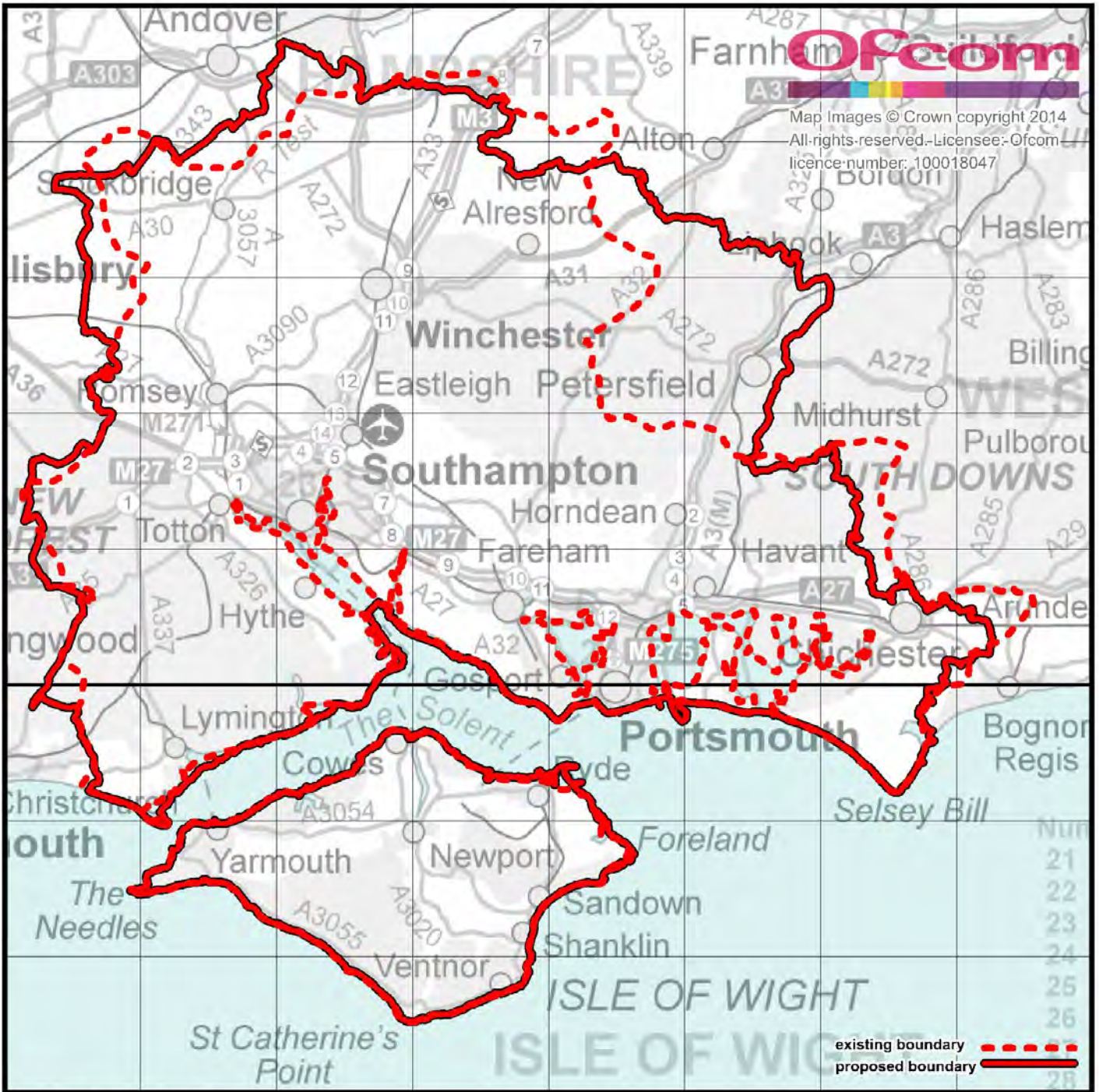
Peterborough



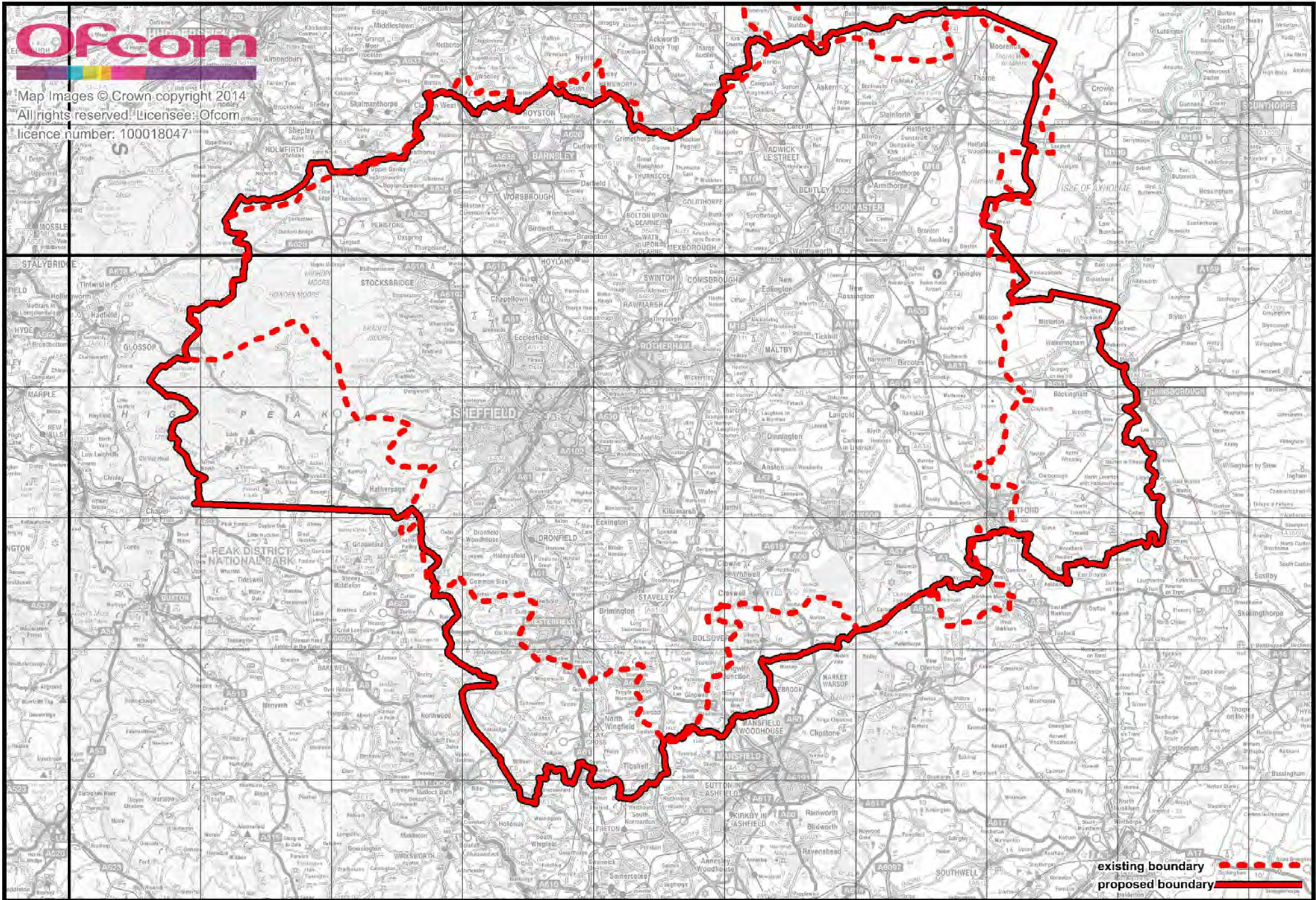
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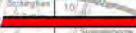
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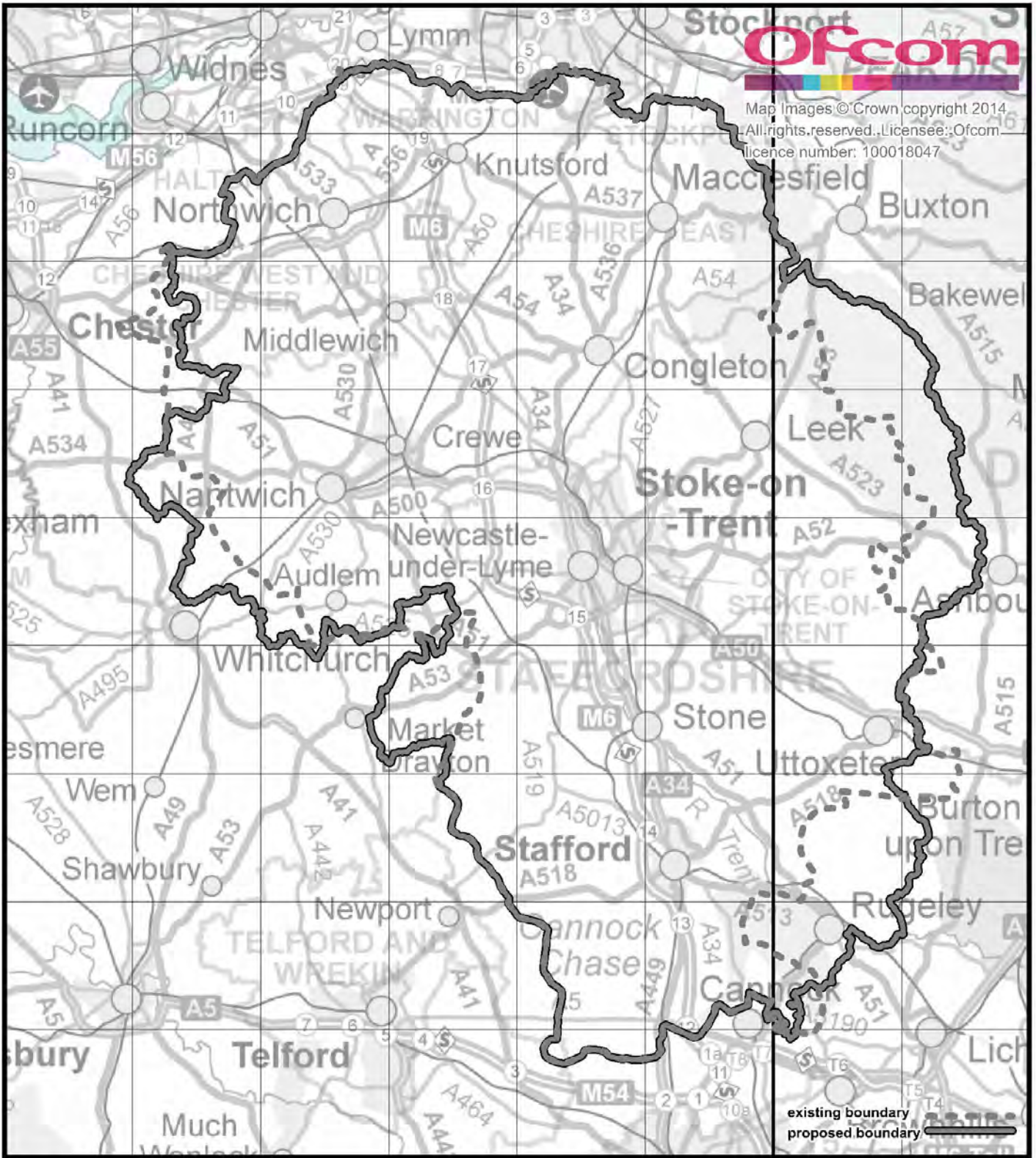
Reading & Basingstoke



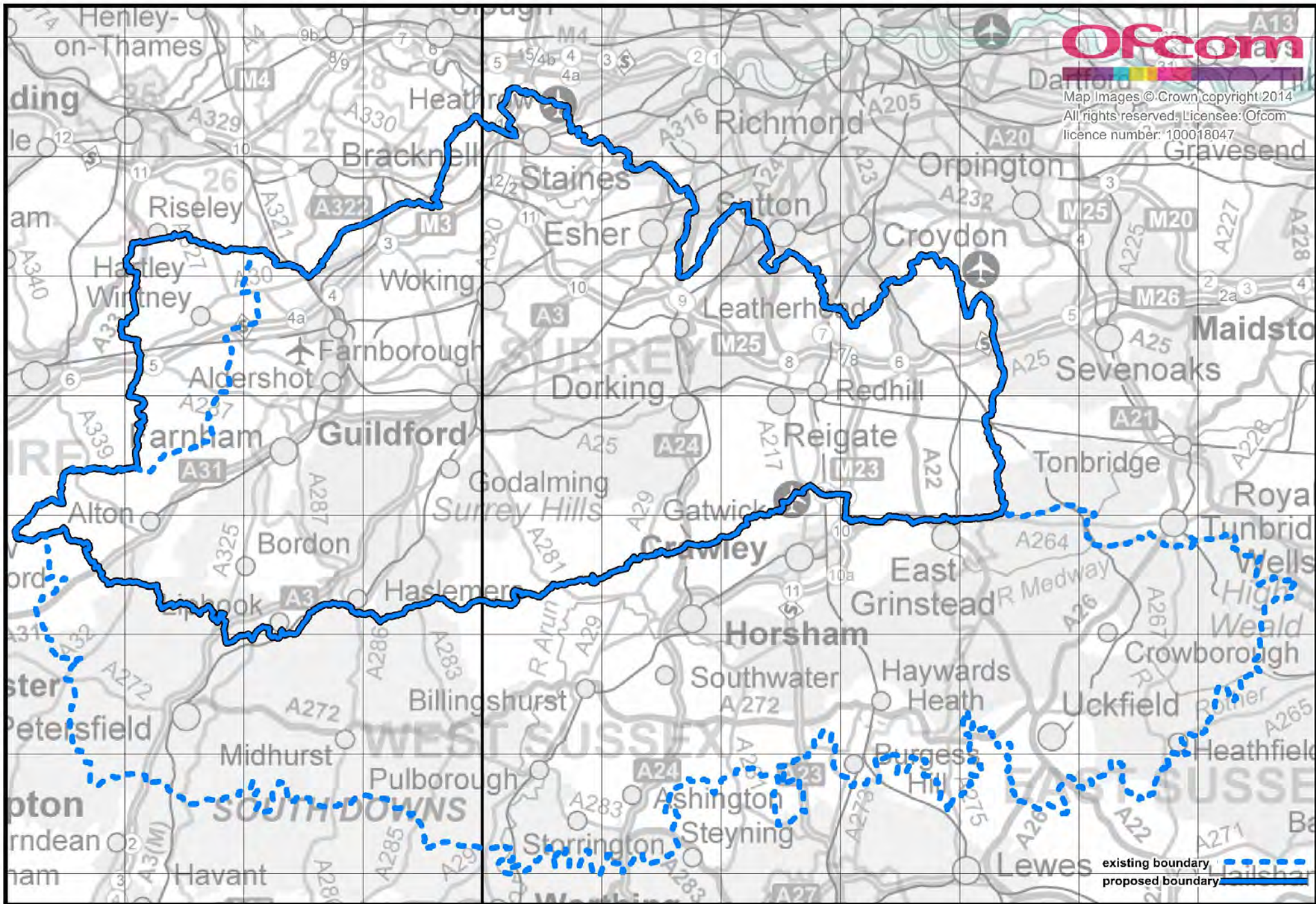
South Hampshire



existing boundary 
proposed boundary 



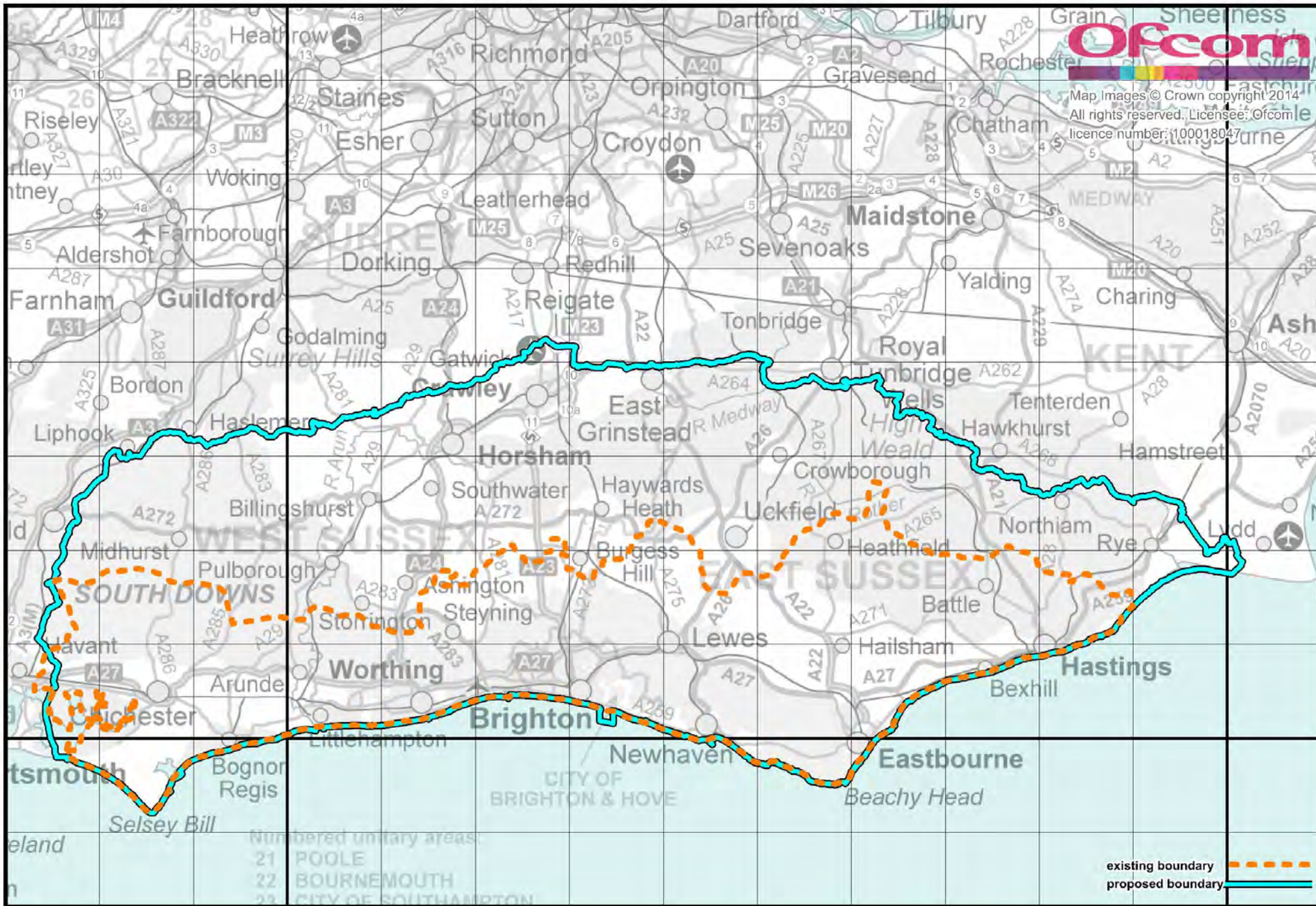
Stoke-on-Trent

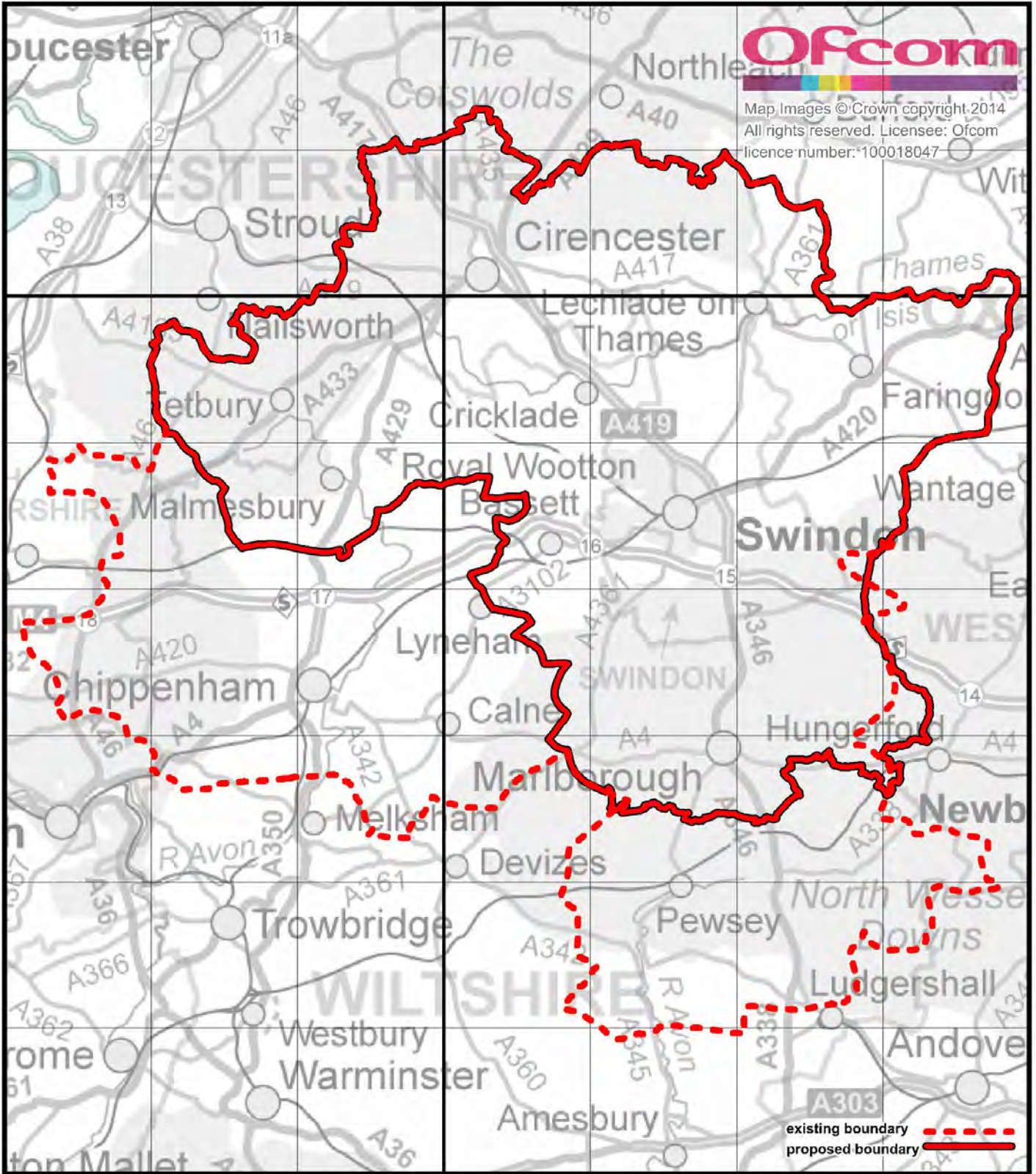


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Surrey

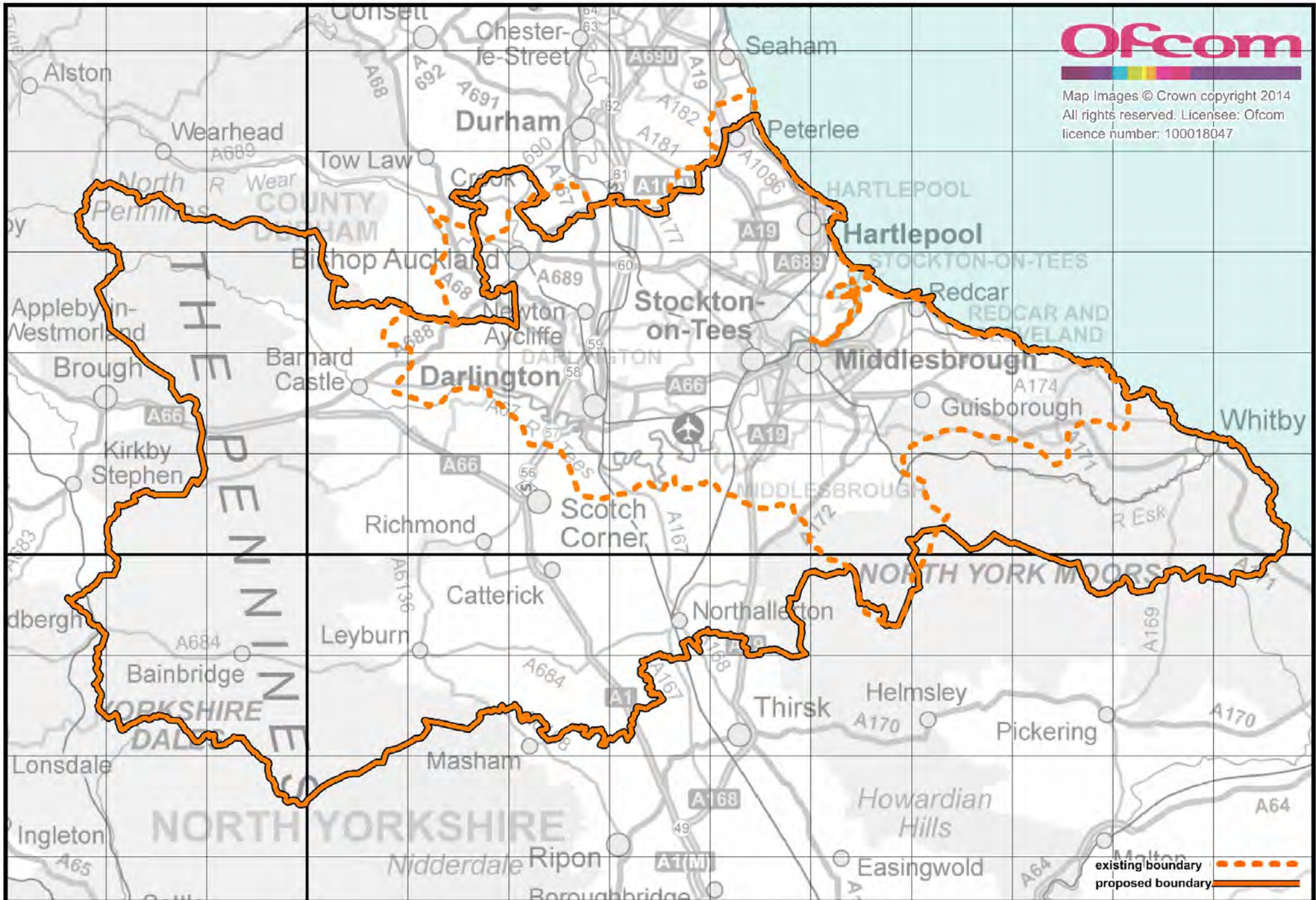




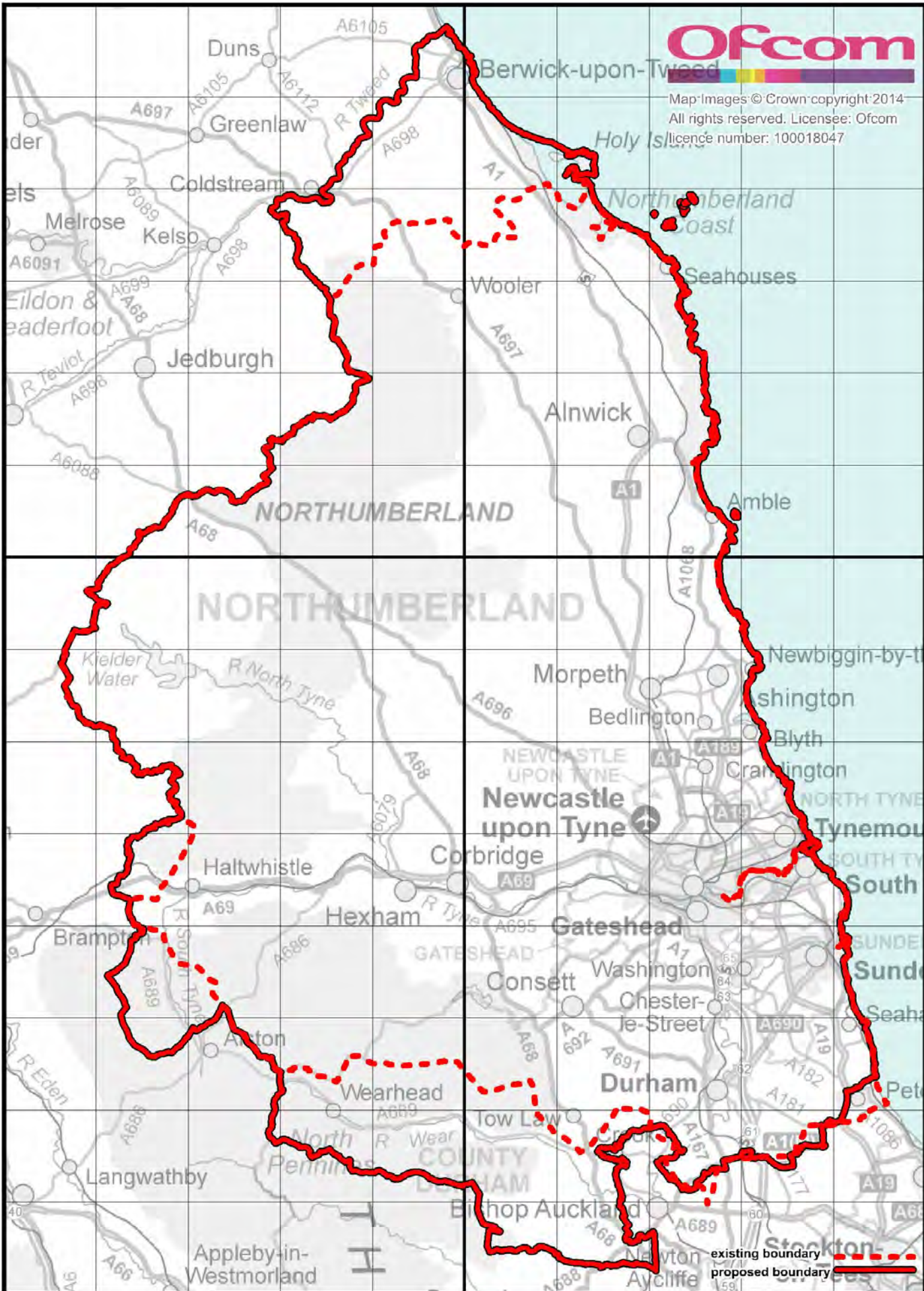
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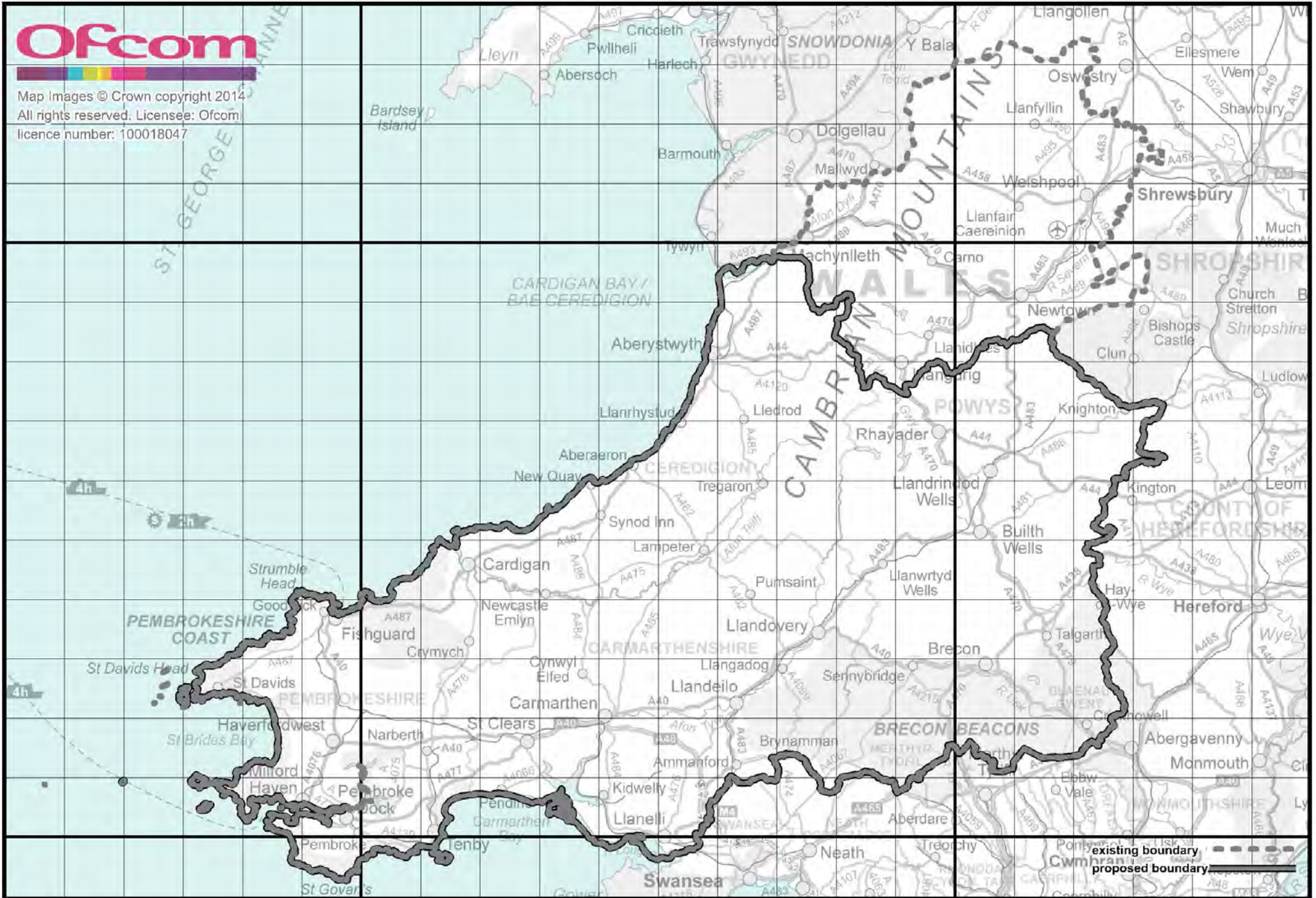
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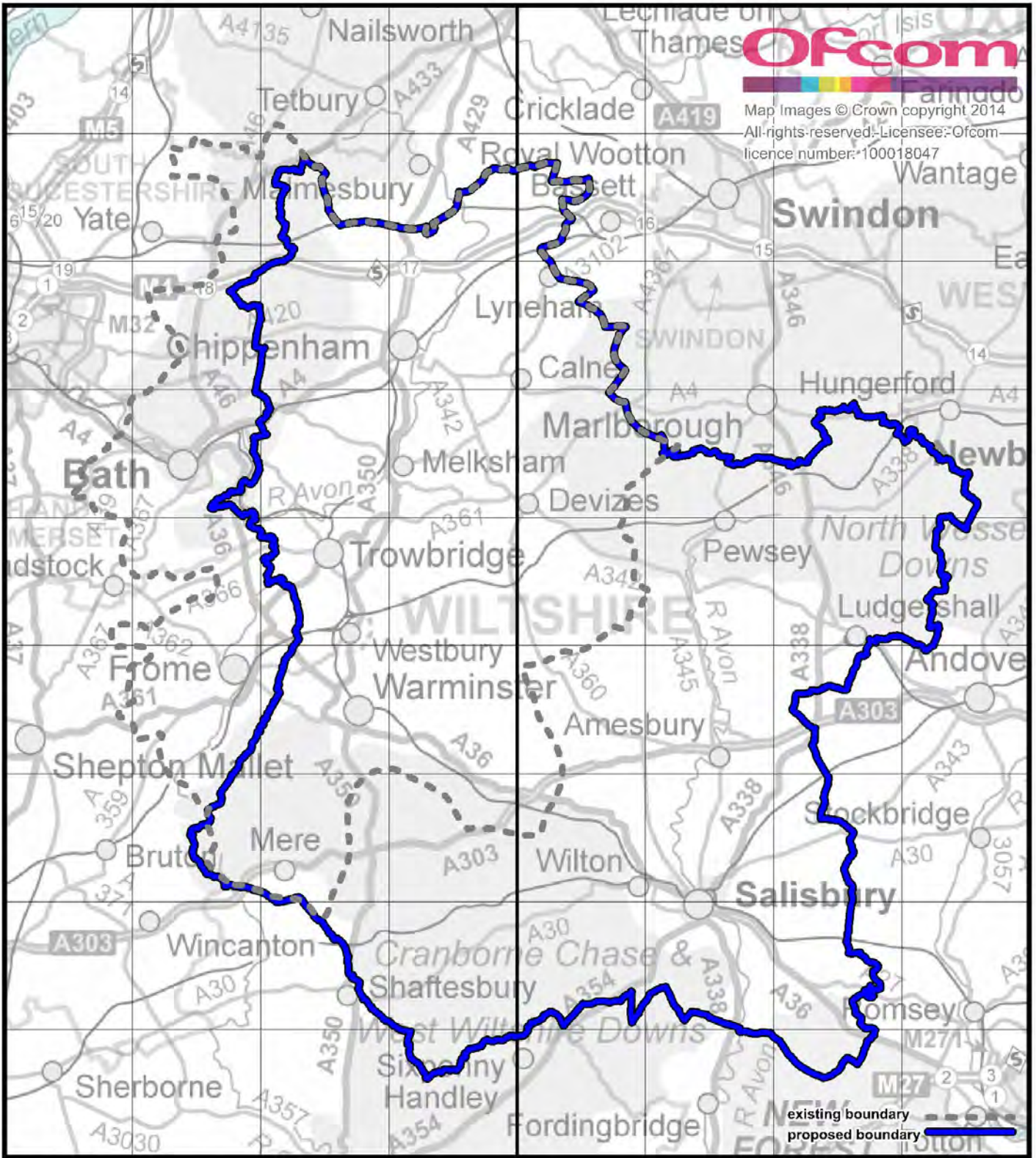
Teesside



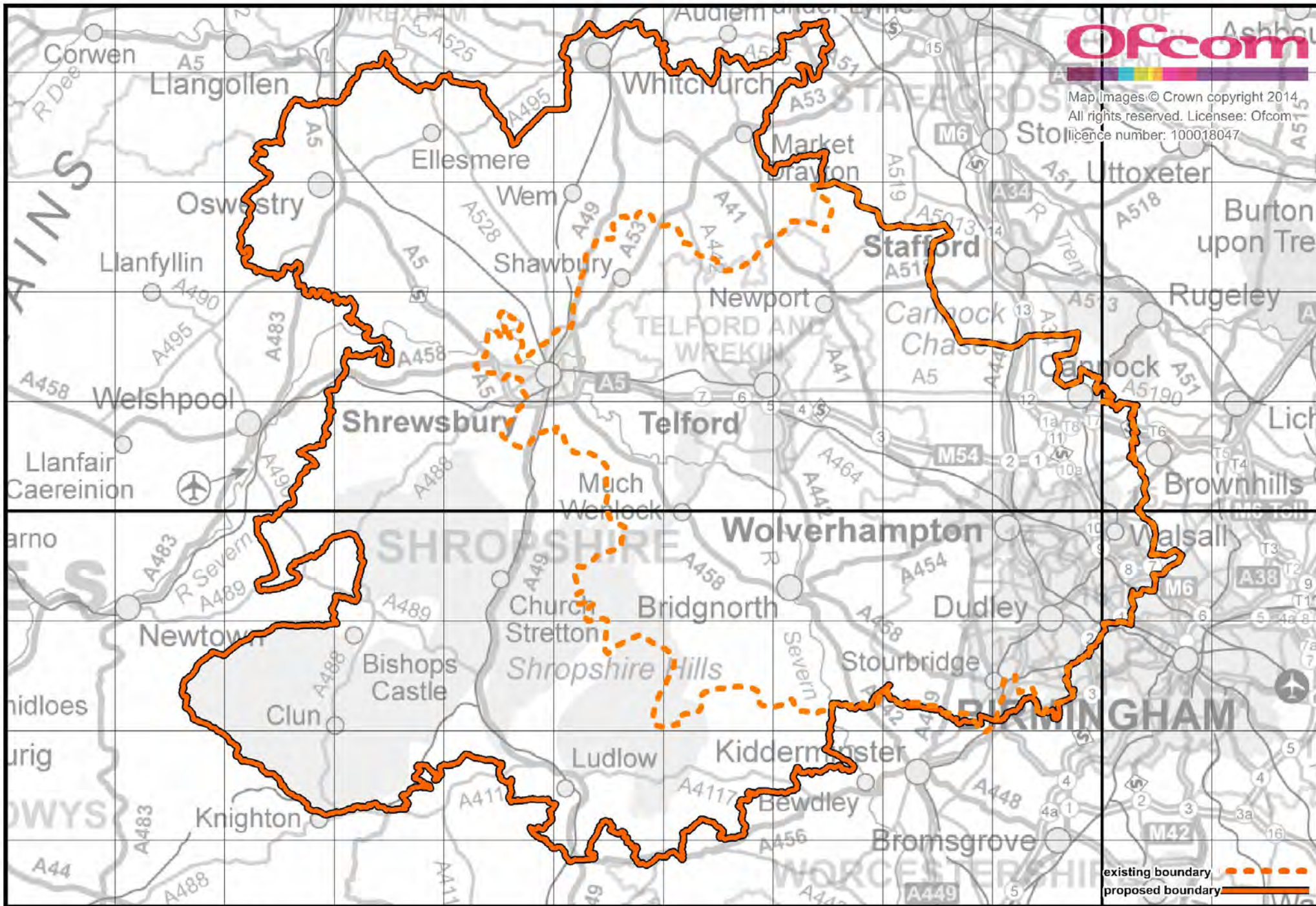
Tyne & Wear



West & mid Wales



West Wiltshire



Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury