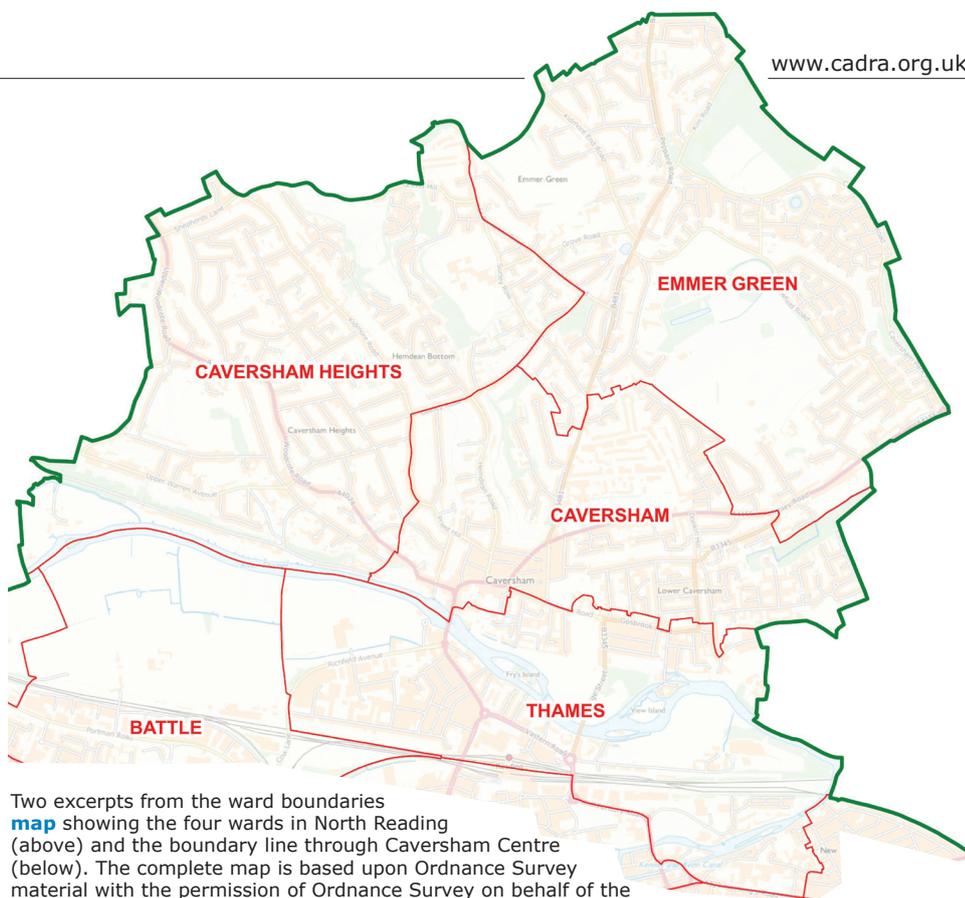


Ward Boundaries

The last electoral review took place in 2001/02. At that time, a new Mapledurham Ward was created. With a lower population than the other wards, it had just one councillor, and so a third of the number of elections held in all other wards. Reading Council is elected 'by thirds'.

The population of Reading Borough grew from 135,000 in 1981, to 163,000 in 2019. It is projected to increase 12.5% (to 181,900) by 2039. Last year, the Local Government Boundary Commission agreed an increase of two councillors which would maintain the ratio of 1 councillor per 2,400–2,500 electors. An increase from 46 to 48 councillors would allow all wards to have three councillors and the same pattern of elections. The Commission undertook a first consultation from August to November 2019 on the principle of 16 wards with a similar number of electors, each with three councillors, which would mean substantial changes to ward boundaries.



Two excerpts from the ward boundaries map showing the four wards in North Reading (above) and the boundary line through Caversham Centre (below). The complete map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Keeper of Public Records © Crown copyright and database right

A second consultation from February to April 2020 included a map with draft proposals showing four wards for North Reading: Caversham Heights, Emmer Green, Caversham and Thames, which spans the river, taking in part of Lower Caversham

and extending to parts of New Town. CADRA requested minor changes so that Caversham Centre, St Peters Conservation Area and Caversham Court all lie within Caversham Ward. This was accepted by the Commission and changes made.

It is now confirmed that the changes have become law and will come into force at the local elections in 2022.

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/berkshire/reading

