LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO 669

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by uniting it in the authority, Lambeth, which is responsible for its administration.

132. We considered Wandsworth's suggestion for the transfer to Lambeth of an additional area on the west side of the Common. However, this land is divided from the main part of the Common by Clapham Common West Side. We considered that the adoption of the Council's suggestion would have the consequence of dividing between the two authorities highway maintenance responsibility for this road, which forms part of the South Circular Road. We took the view that such division would not be in the interests of effective and convenient local government, and have decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

xiii) Tooting Bec Common Maps 9 and 10

Draft Proposal

133. Lambeth suggested aligning the boundary to the eastern perimeter of Tooting Bec Common, thereby uniting the Common in Wandsworth, on the grounds that Wandsworth is responsible for its management. Wandsworth did not comment on the suggestion.

134. We observed that the existing boundary is well-defined; in running along the Balham-Norbury railway line, it follows a clearly identifiable feature which has few crossing points. However, we agreed that, in view of Wandsworth's role in managing the Common, it would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government to unite it in that Borough. We therefore decided to adopt Lambeth's suggestion as our draft proposal.

Final Proposal

135. Our draft proposal was supported by Lambeth. However, it was opposed by Wandsworth, on the grounds that the existing boundary is well defined along the Balham to Streatham Common railway line, and that it would be in the interests of Wandsworth and Lambeth residents for both Boroughs to retain an influence over planning and licensing controls.

136. However, Wandsworth also said that if we were minded to confirm our draft proposal there were three additional areas which, in its view, formed part of the Common, and which should be transferred to its authority. These areas were Woodfield Recreation Ground, a grass verge on Tooting Bec Road and a triangular shaped area of land adjacent to Rastell Avenue.

137. We agreed that the present boundary is tied to firm ground detail, but we also reaffirmed our view that it would facilitate the maintenance and administration of the Common if it were to be united in one authority.

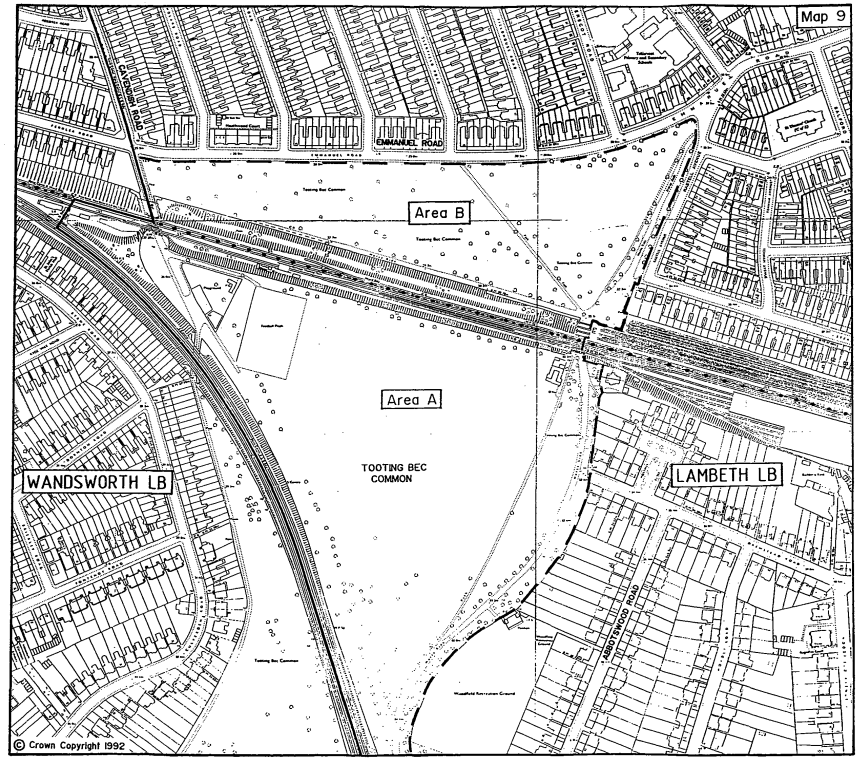
138. We gave careful consideration to the three additional areas identified by Wandsworth and concluded that:

a. while Woodfield Recreation Ground might form part of Tooting Bec Common, it is fenced off from the Common, and its primary access appears to be from Abbotswood Road, in Lambeth;

b. the grass verge on Tooting Bec Road is totally isolated from the Common by the highway. Although we accepted that the verge might, technically, form part of the Common, we considered that there would be little benefit to be gained, in terms of effective and convenient local government, by transferring this area to Wandsworth; and

c. the land adjacent to Rastell Avenue clearly formed part of the Common, and should be included in the area to be transferred to Wandsworth.

139. We therefore decided to confirm our draft proposal as final, subject to a minor modification to align the boundary to the Common perimeter, to the south of Rastell Avenue.


Map 9
Area B
Area A
WANDSWORTH LB
LAMBETH LB
TOOTING BEC COMMON
EMMANUEL ROAD
ABBOTSWOOD ROAD
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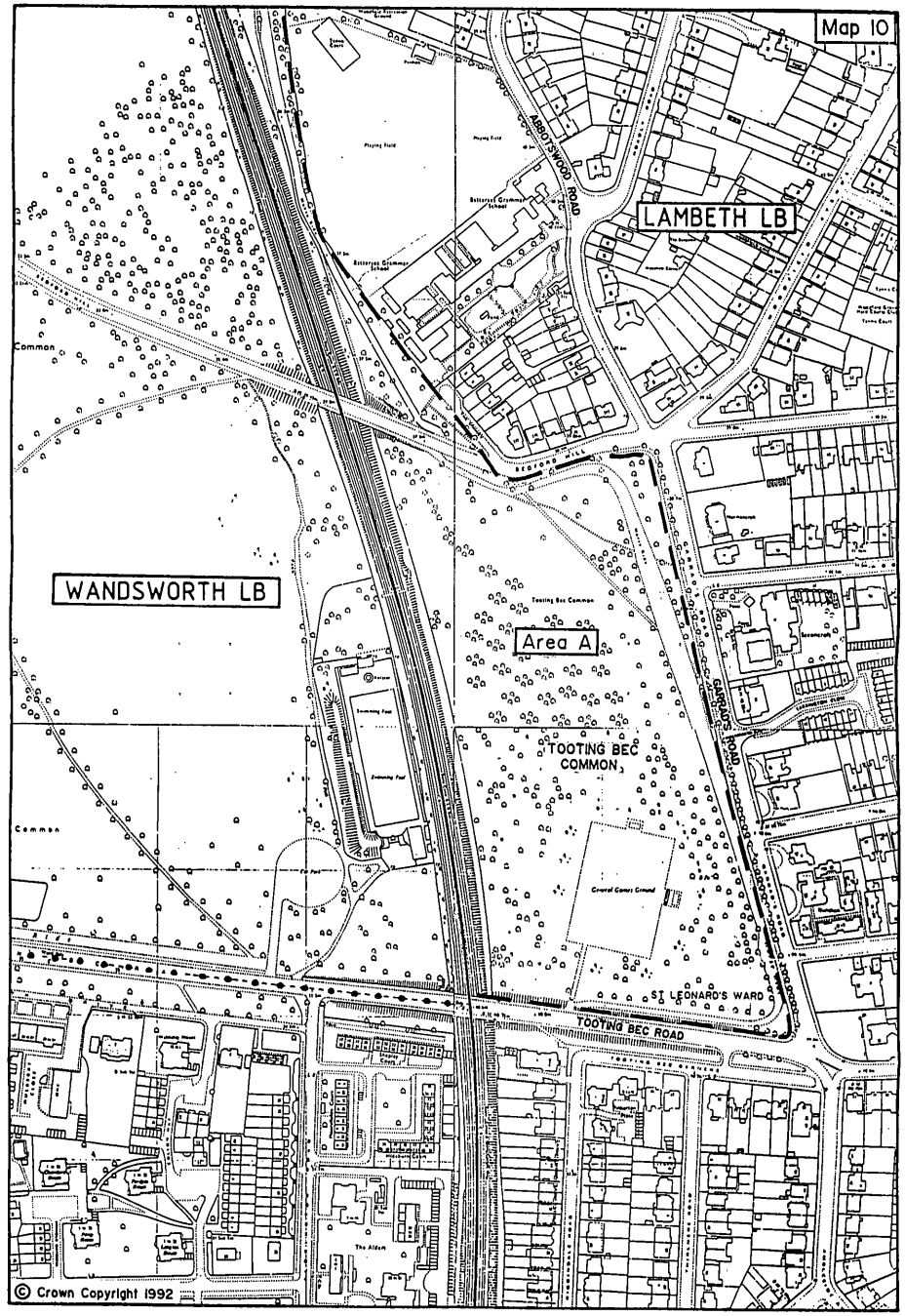
Map 10
LAMBETH LB
WANDSWORTH LB
Area A
TOOTING BEC COMMON
ABBOTSWOOD ROAD
GARRATT'S ROAD
ST LEONARD'S WARD
TOOTING BEC ROAD
Common
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MAP 10