

Issue No.	19. Elm Farm and associated cottages, Assington Green, Stansfield
Area or Properties Under Review	Boundary between the parishes of Denston and Stansfield in vicinity of Elm Farm
Parishes	Denston Stansfield
Borough Wards	Cavendish
County Division	Clare
Method of Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to directly affected residents • Letter to stakeholders
Projected electorate and consequential impacts	11 electors are affected but there are minimal impacts on the parishes.
Analysis	There appears to be no consensus amongst the parish councils nor the electors. Therefore the Working Party will need to consider the evidence and determine, with further consultation purposes, whether to make any changes to the boundary.

Summary of comments received during Phase 1

A. Response of Stansfield Parish Council

Stansfield Parish Council requested a review of the parish boundary with Denston as it is of the view that Elm Farm and the properties nearby have closer links both geographically and socially to Stansfield and that changing the parish boundary so that the properties were in Stansfield parish would promote better community cohesion. These residents would also have improved participation in elections and a greater democratic voice in the decisions that affect them as they would be represented by a parish council and not a parish meeting.

B. Response of Denston Parish Meeting

The Chairman of Denston Parish Meeting has been unable to seek views of the parish as the review has fallen between meetings. He expressed the view that *"no one in the area concerned has spoken to me about this so I am not aware of their views on this matter. I think, even though small in numbers, we can ill afford to lose them from the register."*

C. Local electors

Seven electors from the properties in question made responses during the consultation.

- (a) **Four** electors were of the view that there should be no change to the boundary. They gave the following reasons:
- Create a strong sense of community identity (one elector)
 - Generate interest in parish/town affairs and improve participation in elections, local organisations and community activities (one elector)
 - Give easy access to good quality local services for new and existing residents (one elector)
 - Improve the capacity of a parish or town council to deliver better services

and to represent the community's interests effectively.

Supporting their preferences, these respondents commented:

- *"We have been in the Denston parish for hundreds of years...why does it need to change now. Denston is a lovely parish and I enjoy going to the church. Don't interfere."*
- *"Elm Farmhouse is roughly 600 years old and for its entire history has been part of Denston parish. To change it now for no obvious administrative benefit would be pointless and damage its historic integrity."*
- *"The wording of Question 4 all imply change – so how does it relate to a preference for not changing the boundary? The farm is closely integrated into the Denston Estate and separating it from the parish would be artificial and have no material benefit."*
- *"This is a total waste of time, money, paper and ink."*

(b) **Three** electors were of the view that the boundary should be moved so that the properties are in Stansfield parish. They gave the following reasons:

- Generate interest in parish/town affairs and improve participation in elections, local organisations and community activities (three electors)
- Give easy access to good quality local services for new and existing residents (three electors)
- Improve the capacity of a parish or town council to deliver better services and to represent the community's interests effectively (three electors)

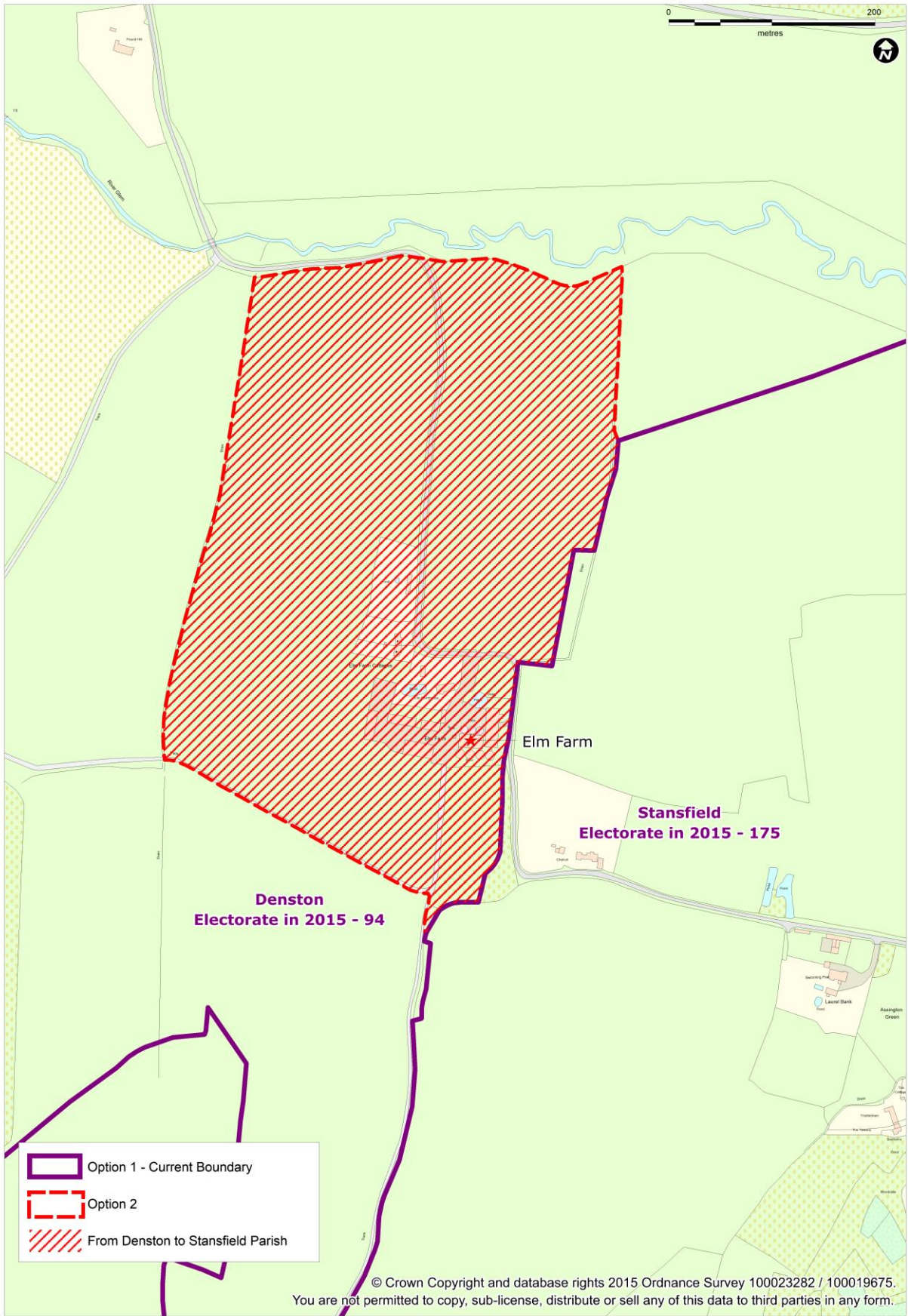
Supporting their preferences, these respondents commented:

- *"My immediate and extended family have resided here since the period of 1970 and early 80's. My commitments strongly lie here. We collectively have been involved with village hall events, the cricket club and the local pub. Great community spirit exists. Facilities and community opportunities allow this to continue."*
- *"My family have resided here since 1970 and early 1980s. I have been raised here all my life. We have strong commitments collectively here. The cricket club and village hall events included. We have a great sense of community spirit and support here."*
- *"For over 36 years my commitments have been within the village of Stansfield. My parents and I have resided here since 1979. My family and extended relations have been involved with village hall events, the cricket club and the local pub. A sense of great community spirit continues to thrive. The facilities offered and communication opportunities help this to continue."*

D. Cllr Mary Evans (Clare Division)

Cllr Evans is of the view that Elm Farm and cottages are more closely allied with Stansfield than Denston. Supporting comments: *"The properties would be better served by being included within the parish of Stansfield where there is a parish council as opposed to the parish meeting in Denston."*

Map overleaf



- Option 1 - Current Boundary
- Option 2
- From Denston to Stansfield Parish