Chepstow Castle, Larkfield and St Kingsmark

55. The existing Chepstow Castle electoral ward is comprised of the Chepstow Castle ward of the Town of Chepstow. It has 1,369 electors (2,527 projected) represented by one councillor which is 14% below the recommended county average.

56. The existing Larkfield and St Kingsmark electoral ward is composed of the Larkfield, Mount Pleasant and St Kingsmark wards of the Town of Chepstow. It has 4,173 electors (4,173 projected) represented by two councillors which is 31% above the recommended county average.

57. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed that single-member wards were created from the five town wards of the Town of Chepstow. It proposed that the Bulwark, Thornwell, St Kingsmark and Mount Pleasant town wards form single-member wards. It was also proposed that the Larkfield and Maple Avenue town wards are combined to form a single-member ward.

58. The Commission received 14 representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from Monmouthshire County Council, Chepstow Town Council, County Councillor Armand Watts (Thornwell), County Councillor Paul Pavia (Larkfield), County Councillor Martin Brady (St Kingsmark), County Councillor Richard John (Mitchel Troy), County Councillor and MS for South Wales East Laura Jones (Wyesham), Town Councillor Yvonne Havard (Chepstow Town Council), Town Councillor Tom Kirton (Chepstow Town Council), Town Councillor Hilary Beach (Chepstow Town Council), Monmouthshire County Council Conservative Group, Monmouthshire Labour Party and two local residents.

59. Monmouthshire County Council supported the alternative proposals submitted by local county councillors which require changes to the County and Community boundaries. The Council stated that should the Commission not be minded to accept these proposals then the Commission should consider a multi-member ward for Thornwell and Bulwark.

60. Chepstow Town Council opposed the draft proposals for Chepstow. The Town Council proposed boundary changes and alternative arrangements for the Town.

61. County Councillor Armand Watts (Thornwell), Town Councillor Yvonne Havard (Chepstow Town Council), Town Councillor Hilary Beach (Chepstow Town Council), Town Councillor Tom Kirton (Chepstow Town Council), Monmouthshire Labour Party and two local residents opposed the draft proposals for Chepstow. They supported the boundary changes and alternative arrangements as proposed by Chepstow Town Council.

62. County Councillor Richard John (Mitchel Troy), County Councillor and MS for South Wales East Laura Jones (Wyesham), County Councillor Paul Pavia (Larkfield) and Monmouthshire County Council Conservative Group opposed the draft proposals for the Town of Chepstow. They supported the arrangement that was originally proposed by Monmouthshire County Council. This arrangement would see two two-member wards and two single-member wards in the Town.

63. County Councillor Martin Brady (St Kingsmark) opposed the proposals in relation to the St Kingsmark ward. Councillor Brady supported a larger St Kingsmark ward with two ward representatives to avoid communities being divided.

64. The Commission recommends that the Chepstow Castle and Larkfield wards of the Town of Chepstow are used to form an electoral ward of 2,435 electors (3,593 projected). If

represented by two councillors would result in a level of representation that is 24% below the recommended county average.

65. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Castell Cas-gwent a Larkfield** and the English language name of **Chepstow Castle and Larkfield**. The Welsh Language Commissioner agrees with the recommended names. Any comments on the recommended names can be sent to the Minister for Finance and Local Government.

66. As a consequence, the Commission recommends that the St Kingsmark ward of the Town of Chepstow is used to form an electoral ward of 1,535 electors (1,535 projected). If represented by one councillor would result in a level of representation that is 4% below the recommended county average.

67. The Commission proposed the single name of St Kingsmark. The Welsh Language Commissioner proposed the Welsh language name *Llangynfarch* stating that this name has been recorded since the twelfth century and despite falling out of wide use and circulation for centuries it is recorded in several standard reference works and there seems to be increasing local awareness of the name. The Commission received no representations regarding the name.

68. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the single name of **St Kingsmark**. The Welsh Language Commissioner proposed the Welsh language name of *Llangynfarch*. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Finance and Local Government.

69. As a further consequence, the Commission recommends that the Mount Pleasant ward of the Town of Chepstow is used to form an electoral ward of 1,572 electors (1,572 projected). If represented by one councillor would result in a level of representation that is 2% below the recommended county average.

70. The Commission proposed the single name of Mount Pleasant. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations regarding the name.

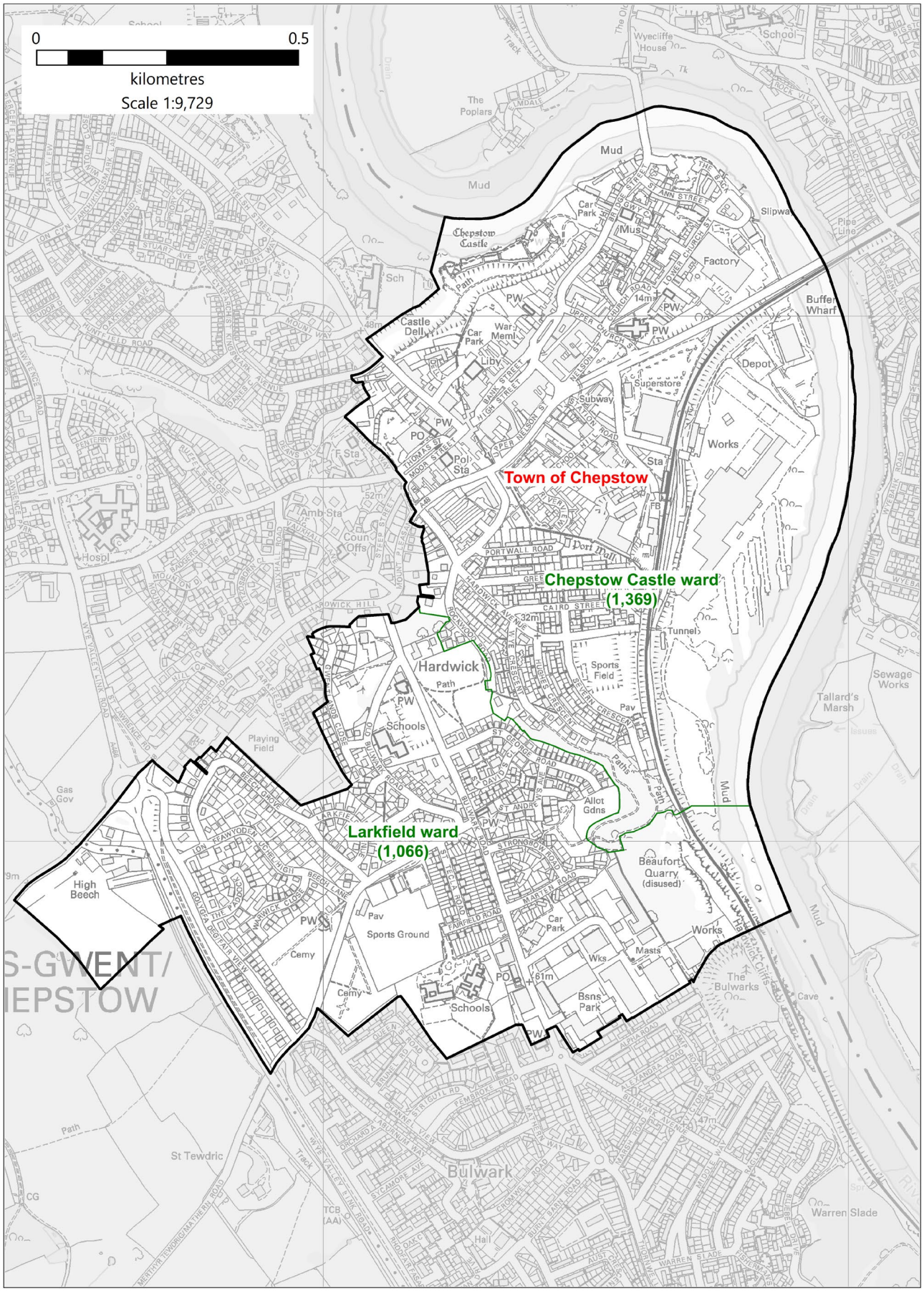
71. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the single name of **Mount Pleasant**. The Welsh Language Commissioner agrees with the recommended name. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Finance and Local Government.

72. The Commission considered the representations received and the alternative arrangements proposed by Chepstow Town Council which were supported by a number of the other representations received for the area. However, it is the view of the Commission that the recent community review addressed the issues within communities across Monmouthshire and to make further changes would add a degree of confusion to the electorate and would undermine the work of the community review. The Commission has also been unable to obtain substantive figures for the boundary changes as proposed by Chepstow Town Council from Monmouthshire County Council.

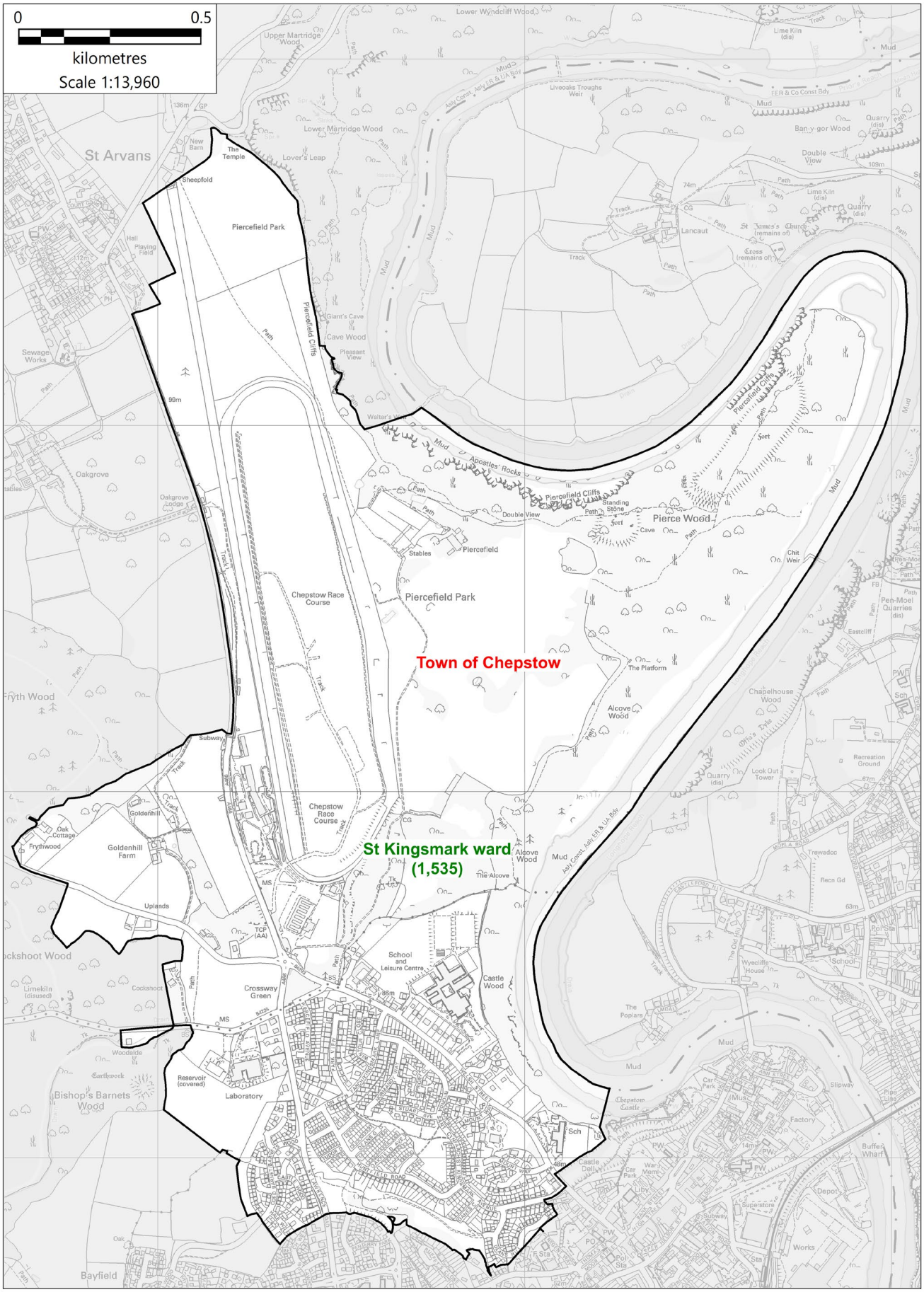
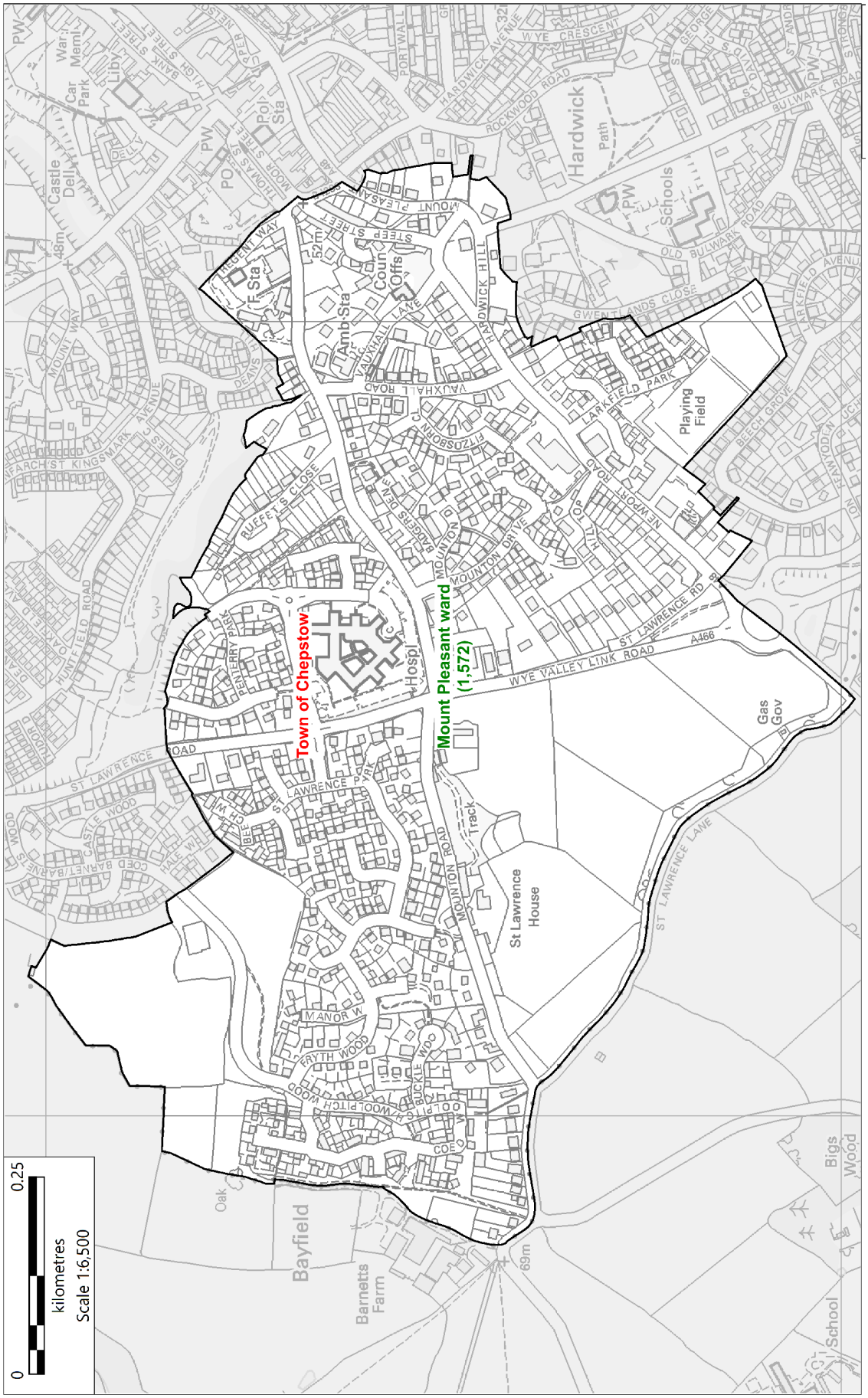
73. The Commission is recommending to retain the existing arrangements in the Bulwark and Thornwell electoral ward as stated in chapter 5 paragraph 5. The Commission considers that the recommended electoral wards would build on the established community,

communication and social links within the area and best address the existing and future electoral variance in the Town. The Commission considers that these recommended electoral wards would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

CHEPSTOW CASTLE AND LARKFIELD



ST KINGSMARK



MOUNT PLEASANT