



The future of Atherstone District

**Consultation on the arrangements
of Groups in North Warwickshire**

Warwickshire Scouts
www.warwickshirescouts.org.uk

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Context

This consultation seeks views on the future arrangements of the District structure for groups currently within Atherstone District, Warwickshire.

Atherstone District, located in the north of Warwickshire, has been without a substantive District Lead Volunteer since January 2025. Despite repeated attempts to fill the vacancy, no suitable candidate or long-term solution has been found. In the interim, the County has appointed an interim District Lead Volunteer, with Sam Marshall, the County Programme Lead, covering the role. However, this is not a sustainable long-term solution.

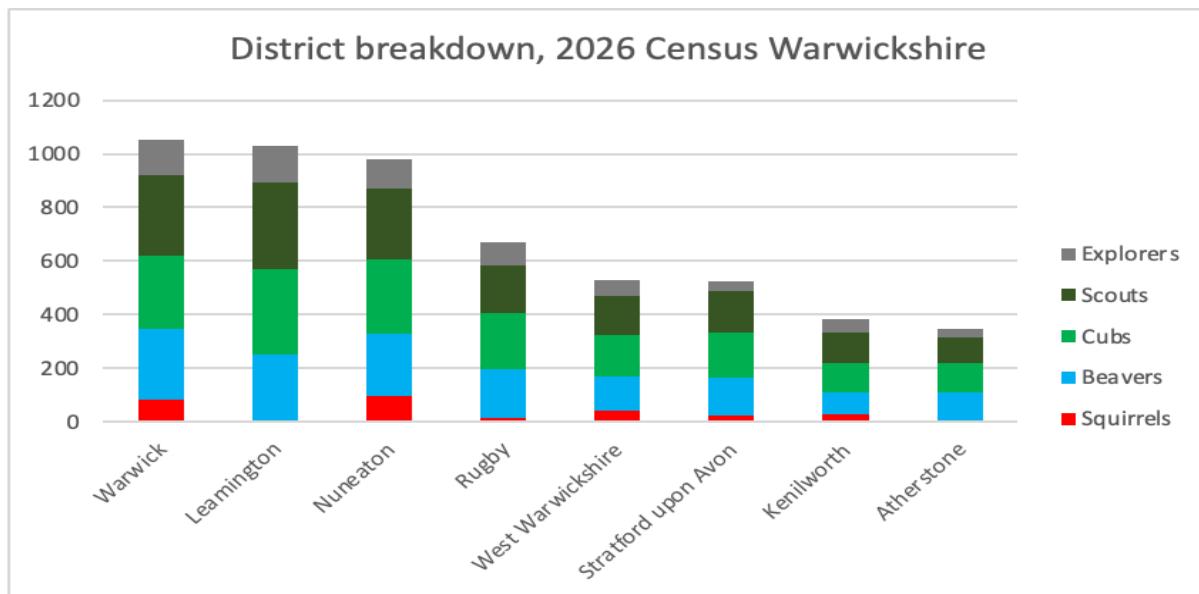
At its meeting in April 2026, the County Trustee Board resolved to undertake a consultation on the future of Atherstone District, with a view to finding a long-term resolution to the absence of permanent leadership.

Ultimately, the County Trustee Board is responsible for determining how Districts are organised within the County, following the process outlined in POR. As part of this consultation, we are seeking views on options for changes to Atherstone District and gathering feedback from affected parties, as well as from other interested stakeholders.

Warwickshire Scouts

Warwickshire Scouts is divided into eight districts, covering the administrative county of Warwickshire, largely following the boundaries created by local government reorganisation in 1974. Warwickshire Scouts does not cover the City of Coventry, Solihull, or Birmingham, as these are separate Scout counties.

Atherstone is the smallest district in Warwickshire by number of young people. Although the district has grown, it has not matched the growth seen elsewhere in the county. The district's small size means there is not a large pool of adults to draw from, and the district team is limited in number.



This consultation

Warwickshire Scouts is considering options for the long-term leadership of Atherstone District.

The feedback gathered through this consultation will be reviewed, and a proposal will be presented by the County Lead Volunteer to the October County Trustee Board meeting for approval, in line with POR 4.8.4.7.

Depending on the option agreed following consultation, changes would be implemented from October onwards, with completion targeted by Census 2027.

The scope of this consultation covers the district structure supporting the eight Groups and four Explorer units within Atherstone District. It does not cover any other Groups or Districts within or outside Warwickshire Scout County.

How to respond

There are 3 questions in this consultation, and a response form is available at <https://forms.gle/wC4B5TLDZNpeRMmb8>

Please submit your responses by 31 August 2026. This allows more than two months for the consultation process.

Background to Atherstone District

There are eight Groups in Atherstone District, and 4 Explorer Scout Units who have partnership agreements with the local groups.

Area		Groups / Units
Near Atherstone		1st Hartshill / Ballers ESU
		1st Mancetter (St Peter's)
		2nd Sheepy Magna / Sheepy ESU ¹
		1st Atherstone
South of Tamworth		1st Wood End
M42/HS2 Corridor		Coleshill Scout Group
		Water Orton Scout Group / Coleshill & Water Orton ESU
Meriden		1st Meriden / Odyssey ESU ²

There are two further scout groups in the geographical area covered by North Warwickshire Council, but these are not part of Warwickshire Scouts or Atherstone District - 2nd Coventry (1st Fillongley) and Polesworth (Abbey) Scout Group. For the avoidance of doubt, these two groups are **not** part of the consultation.

These groups / units are shown approximately on the following map. The outline is the borough council boundary of North Warwickshire.

¹ 2nd Sheepy is actually located in the County of Leicestershire, but has historically been part of Warwickshire Scouts due to the ties between the village and Atherstone as the nearest urban centre.

² 1st Meriden is actually located in the Solihull Metropolitan borough, understood to be a choice at the point of local government reorganisation.



The size of the sections across the groups as recorded at Census 2026 is as follows:

Census 2026	Squirrels	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts	Explorers	Total
1st Atherstone		17	12	5		34
1st Mancetter		13	10	12		35
1st Meriden		11	18	16		45
Water Orton		9	14	16		39
1st Hartshill		16	20	18		54
2nd Sheepy		6	4	9		19
1st Wood End		16	16	6		38
Coleshill	5	15	17	15		52
Ballers ESU					10	10
Odyssey ESU					8	8
Sheepy ESU					6	6
Coleshill & Water Orton					8	8
	5	103	111	97	32	348

Breakdown of Groups / Sections from Census 2026

Consultation Options

To provide sustainable leadership and support for the Groups currently within Atherstone District, three options are being considered:

Option 1 – Status quo

No changes would be made to the current structure of Atherstone District and its Groups. This option would require the appointment of a sustainable District leadership team to support the continued operation of Atherstone District.

Option 2 – Atherstone District merges completely into Nuneaton District

The eight groups and four Explorer units in Atherstone would become part of an expanded Nuneaton District within Warwickshire.

The most likely method of transfer would be for the groups, units, and assets of Atherstone District to transfer to Nuneaton District, after which Atherstone District would be wound down. The enlarged Nuneaton District would cover the areas of North Warwickshire and the Borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth, together with the part of Rugby Council District west of the Fosse Way.

Option 3 – Atherstone District groups move to neighbouring districts based on geographical proximity

The eight groups and four Explorer units in Atherstone would become part of different Districts (some potentially outside Warwickshire), based on geographical proximity and existing community or social links. Atherstone District would then be wound down.

There are two suboptions for Options 2, which change where Water Orton / Coleshill Groups may move to, recognising they are near the border of Birmingham, Solihull and Warwickshire.

See overleaf for suboptions associated with Option 3.

Table of suboptions for Option 3:

Group / Unit	Option 3a. Proposed District	Option 3b. Proposed District
1st Hartshill / Ballers ESU	Nuneaton, Warwickshire	
1st Mancetter (St Peter's)		
2nd Sheepy Magna / Sheepy ESU		
1st Atherstone		
1st Wood End	Tamworth, Staffordshire	
Coleshill Scout Group	Spitfire District, Birmingham	Cole District, Solihull
Water Orton Scout Group / Coleshill & Water Orton ESU		
1st Meriden / Odyssey ESU	Cole District, Solihull	

Future groups opening in what is now geographically Atherstone District would be considered on a case-by-case basis as to which district they best fit in, with the default being Nuneaton.

Other options considered

The County also considered a number of alternative arrangements. These are not being consulted upon because they were assessed as not meeting the objectives of the review. These options were:

- an option retaining the four Groups in/near Atherstone as Atherstone District, but the other Groups becoming part of Staffordshire, Birmingham or Solihull Counties. This option was discounted as the remaining Atherstone district would be even smaller than its current form.
- Options moving to other combinations of Districts within Warwickshire, are not viable, as Atherstone District only borders Nuneaton District.

Consultation Questions

- Question 1. Do you have a preference for Option 1, Option 2, Option 3a or Option 3b?
- Question 2. Are there any other options that you feel that Warwickshire Scouts should consider?

Other considerations

Depending on how the District is split (if at all), then assets may need to be split.

The guiding principles for how this would happen is:

- District equipment 'belonging' to one ESU will stay with that ESU.
- Any further district equipment will be transferred to Warwickshire Scouts, to be reallocated to further the aims of Scouting in Warwickshire.
- Any District funds will be allocated to the Groups receiving Districts, pro-rated to the number of children in each group as at Census 2026, once the District has been wound up.

Consultation Questions

- Question 3. Do you have any comments on the other considerations?
- Question 4. Do you have any further points we should consider on this consultation?

Who is being consulted:

The consultee list is as follows:

- The consultation is being sent to all members in Atherstone District, in particular to:
 - Group Lead Volunteer and Trustee Board of all Groups in Atherstone District
 - District Lead Volunteer and Trustee Board of Atherstone District
 - District Lead Volunteer and Trustee Board of Nuneaton District
 - District Lead Volunteer and Trustee Board of Cole District, Solihull County
 - District Lead Volunteer and Trustee Board of Bablake District, Coventry County
 - District Lead Volunteer and Trustee Board of Spitfire District, Birmingham County
 - District Lead Volunteer and Trustee Board of Tamworth District, Staffordshire County

The consultation will also be published on the County Website (warwickshirescouts.org.uk/consultations), and any interested party is welcome to respond.