

Wirral

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Allan Brame

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Wirral Liberal Democrats (Political groups)

Comment text:

Related subject: Whole borough

Please see the attached document

Attached Documents:

- wirral-liberal-democrats-submission.pdf

Local Government Boundary Commission England

Review of the number of councillors, wards and ward names for Wirral Council

Joint submission by Wirral Liberal Democrats and the Wirral Liberal Democrat Council Group to the initial consultation on ward boundaries

Our Approach

Our approach has been to maintain existing ward and polling district boundaries where practicable. We believe the current set up of 22 x 3 member wards has served Wirral quite well, reflecting, for the most part, established communities.

These wards were established by the Boundary Commission in 2003 using very similar criteria to those being used for the current review. Despite the passage of more than 20 years, the variance in the electorate in each ward is, in almost all cases, reasonable. It is only the projected population growth in central Birkenhead and in Bromborough that will produce imbalances that need to be addressed.

The previous boundary review has withstood the test of time. We believe there is benefit in maintaining continuity and stability for local residents. Thus where it is possible to retain a ward within its current boundaries we have done so. Where this has not been possible, we have looked first, at the movement of polling districts from one ward to its neighbour. We have sought to minimise the number of polling districts that need to be broken up and assigned to different wards. Although this review is separate from the parliamentary review, we have only proposed one small change to a polling district boundary that is also a parliamentary constituency boundary.

We have also been mindful of the fact that small changes to ward boundaries in one part of the Borough can have a ripple effect which magnifies into a potential tidal wave across the other side of the Borough. We see no case for a full recast of ward and constituency boundaries, so the changes we propose to polling district and ward boundaries seek to minimise and contain this risk.

Based on this approach, our proposal is for 23 wards, that is 20 x 3 member wards and 3 x 2 member wards.

Our proposal should be viewed as an amendment to the current scheme, rather than as a recast of the whole Borough.

Overview

We start our analysis by dividing the Borough into 3 zones: North, West and East.

North - the wards of Seacombe, Liscard, New Brighton, Wallasey, Leasowe and Moreton East, Moreton West and Saughall Massie and Upton. The north zone has a projected 2030 electorate of 82,302 and is currently represented by 21 Councillors.

West - the wards of Hoylake and Meols, West Kirby and Thurstaston, Greasby Frankby and Irby, Pensby and Thingwall and Heswall. The west zone has a projected 2030 electorate of 54,559 and is currently represented by 15 Councillors.

East - the wards of Bidston and St James, Birkenhead and Tranmere, Cloughton, Oxtun, Prenton, Rock Ferry, Bebington, Bromborough, Clatterbridge and Eastham. The east zone has a projected 2030 electorate of 118,818 and is currently represented by 30 Councillors.

Based on the projected 2030 electorate, the number of electors per councillor is an average of 3,874.

On this basis, the North zone should have 21.2 Councillors, (compared with 21 currently), the West zone should have 14.1 Councillors, (compared with 15 currently), and the East zone 30.7 Councillors, (compared with 30 currently). To address this imbalance, we propose to reduce the number of councillors in the west and increase the number of councillors in the east by one.

Proposal for North Zone

Our proposal is for no change to the number of wards and the type of wards, i.e. that the North zone would remain 6 x 3 member wards.

We note that the following wards have a variance from the mean of less than 5%: Leasowe and Moreton East (+1%), Liscard (+3%), New Brighton (0%), Seacombe (+4%) and Wallasey (0%). Our proposal is therefore that there be no change to the boundaries or names of these wards.

In the case of the other 2 wards in the North zone, the variance is more than 5%, but less than 10%, Moreton West and Saughall Massie (-6%) and Upton (+7%). As these 2 wards share a boundary, it is possible to consider a small shift in that boundary to reduce that variance.

We suggest that the Boundary Commission consider moving the following streets from polling district MA to polling district YA - Gainsborough Road, Hereford Avenue, Inman Road, Kenilworth Gardens and Royden Road, along with the adjoining bit of Moreton Road. Our calculation is that this would move around 530 electors from Upton to Moreton West and Saughall Massie, a shift of 3.9%. This would reduce the variance to less than 3% in both wards.

If the Boundary Commission is not minded to make such a change, our proposal is that there be no change to these wards.

Proposal for West Zone

Our proposal is to have 4 x 3 member wards and 1 x 2 member ward as follows:

Heswall A small part of Polling District FC joins Heswall (from Pensby and Thingwall), which remains a 3 member ward. We suggest 23 to 27 Mere Lane and 109 to 127 Irby Road might be moved from Pensby & Thingwall (1 to 21 Mere Lane are already in Heswall). There is also a strong case for arguing that the area around Downham Road North has greater community connections with Heswall. This would include the east side of Pensby Road, the section of Whitfield Lane that is not currently in Heswall Ward, Oaklands Drive, Oaklands Terrace, Ravenswood Road and Napps Way.

Pensby, Thingwall & Irby Polling District PD joins Pensby and Thingwall (from Greasby, Frankby and Irby) and is renamed Pensby, Thingwall and Irby, and is a 3 member ward.

Greasby & Newton Polling District QA is reassigned to Greasby, along with PA and PB. The eastern part of QB bounded by Black Horse Hill, Birket Avenue and Greenbank Road is also reassigned to Greasby, which is renamed Greasby and Newton and is a 3 member ward.

Hoylake & Meols The western part of QB, bounded by Greenbank Road to the north, Grange Road to the south and Marine Park and Grange Hill to the east, is reassigned to Hoylake and Meols ward. Hoylake and Meols remains a 3 member ward.

West Kirby & Thurstaston Polling District PC (from Greasby, Frankby and Irby) is reassigned to West Kirby / Thurstaston, creating a 2-member ward, along with Polling Districts QC, QD, QE.

Proposal for East Zone

Our proposal is to have 9 x 3 member wards and 2 x 2 member wards as follows:

That there should be no or minimal change in the current boundaries of Bidston St James, Claughton, Oxton, Prenton, Bebington, Clatterbridge and Eastham wards.

That the Birkenhead and Tranmere ward be reduced in size by removing polling district BF, and renamed Birkenhead Central.

That the Bromborough ward be reduced in size by removing most of polling district HA.

That polling districts BF and part of HA are then added to the current Rock Ferry Ward, which would then be divided into 2 x 2 member wards.

The exact boundary and the names of the 2 Rock Ferry centred wards will need to be considered. Our initial proposals are set out in more detail in appendix 1, but the Boundary commission may wish to look at alternatives.

The Boundary Commission may also wish to consider whether some very small changes in the other ward boundaries could reduce the variance for those wards where we propose no change. Some suggestions are made in appendix 2.

In Summary

In summary, our proposals are to shift one councillor from the west side to the east side of the Borough by shrinking one ward in the west to a 2 member ward, and expanding one ward in the east into 2 x 2 member wards.

There are some consequential changes in adjacent wards, which are achieved where possible by moving polling districts from one ward to their neighbour. Detailed redrawing of polling districts is limited to polling districts AF, ED, QB and QE.

Overall this represents a minor redrawing of the map with the majority of wards unchanged.

Appendix 1

East Zone

Proposal for 2 x 2-member wards in the East zone.

The total area of the 2 wards would be the current polling districts: BF, EA, EB, EC, ED and part of HA.

The Rock Ferry and New Ferry Ward would initially comprise polling districts EC, ED and HA.

The Tranmere and Egerton Ward would initially comprise polling districts BF, EA and EB.

This would result in the 2 wards having projected electorates in 2030 of 8,616 and 7,288 respectively. This represents a variance of +11% for the Rock Ferry / New Ferry ward and -6% for the Tranmere / Egerton ward.

To address this problem we propose to move the following streets from polling district ED to polling district EA: Byrne Avenue, Green Lawn, Lawnside Close and that part of Old Chester Road between Bedford Avenue and Rock Lane West (area in green below).

We also propose moving that part of Bedford Road which is in polling district ED to polling district EB (area marked red). Our calculation is that this would move around 420 electors from Rock Ferry / New Ferry to Tranmere / Egerton, a shift of 5.8%. This would reduce the variance in the Rock Ferry / New Ferry ward to around +5% and the Tranmere / Egerton ward to near zero. Some suggestions are included in Appendix 4 for how minor changes in the ward boundary with Bebington ward could reduce the variance further.



We propose the following division of Polling District HA with the larger part transferring to the new Rock Ferry & New Ferry ward, while approximately 840 electors in the area shaded green remain in Bromborough ward. New Chester Road, New Ferry Road and Shorefields Nature Park form a boundary between the two wards.

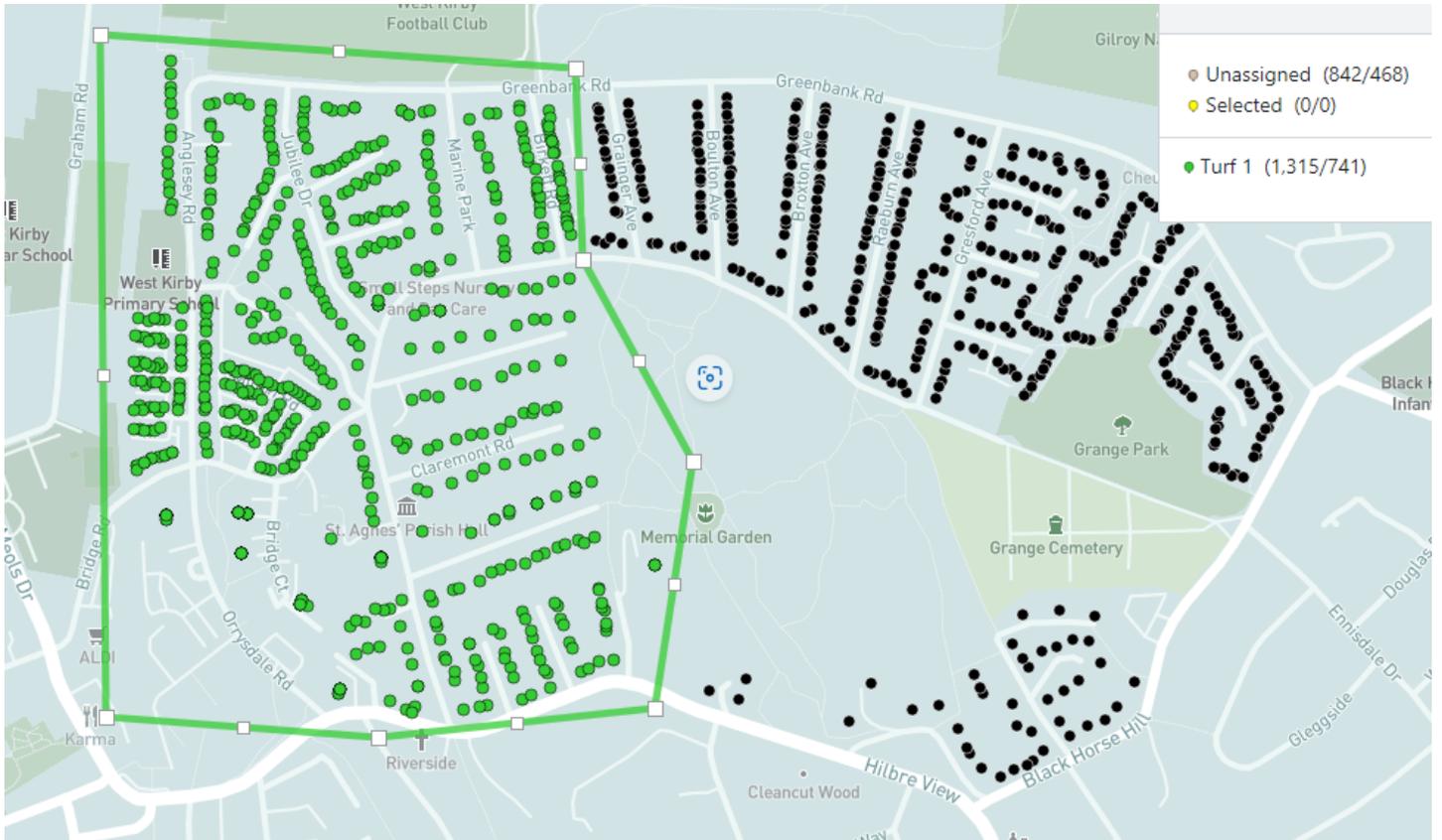


Appendix 2

West Zone

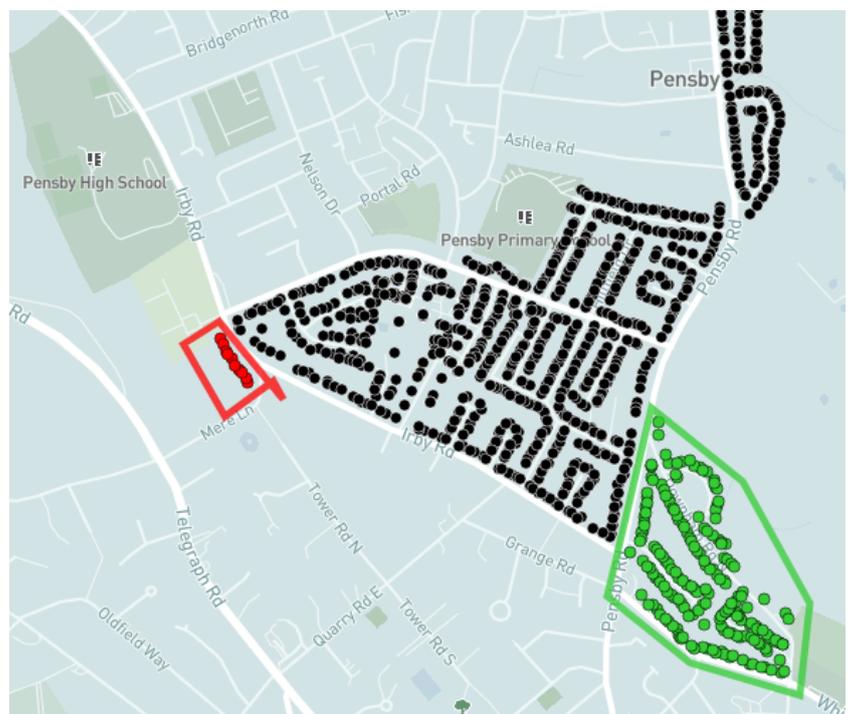
This map shows our proposed division of Polling District QB

The western green section (approximately 1300 electors) would become part of Hoylake & Meols ward. The eastern black section (850 electors) would form part of Greasby & Newton ward.



This is a map of Polling District FC (Pensby & Thingwall)

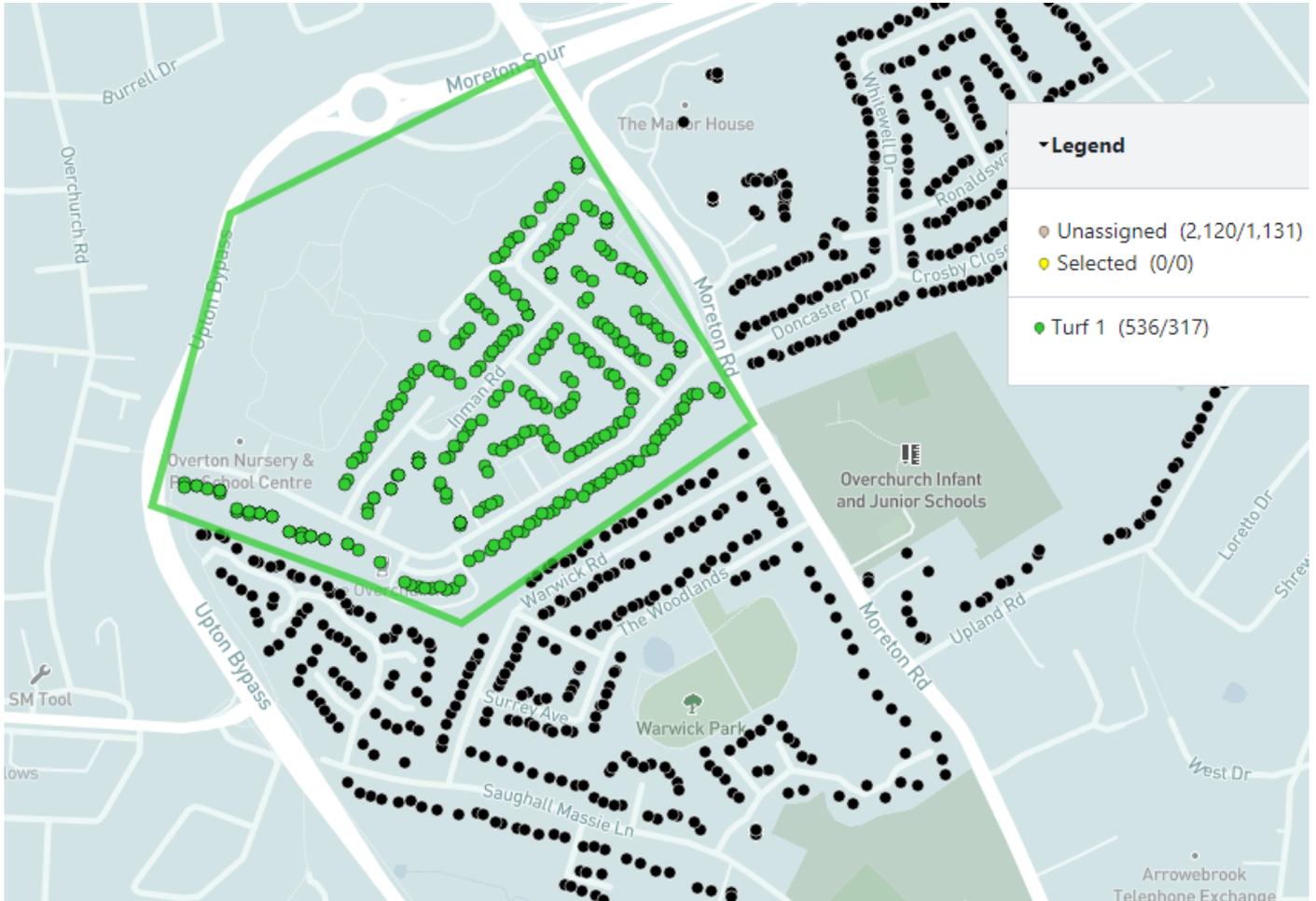
Our proposal is to move the green section east of Pensby Road and the smaller red section into Heswall ward. The area to the south of the map is part of the current Heswall ward. This would transfer approximately 400 electors in total.



Appendix 3

North Zone

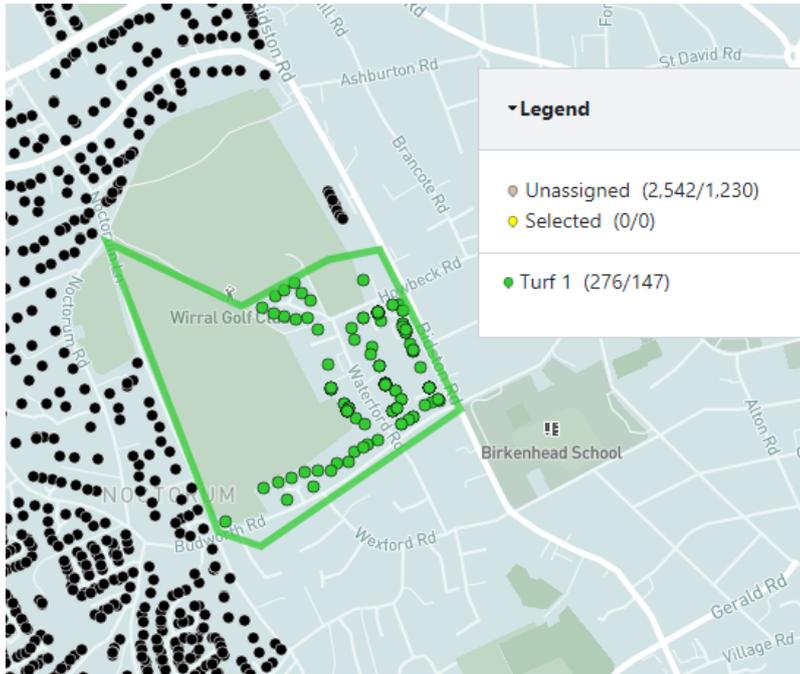
This map shows a possible section of MA (Upton) which might be transferred to Moreton West & Saughall Massie to bring the two wards closer to equality in the number of electors. We calculate this would transfer approximately 540 electors.



Appendix 4

This section lists some suggestions for additional minor changes to ward boundaries to reduce the variance and improve community connectivity.

Move the following from polling district CB (Claughton) to polling district DA (Oxton) - The north side of Budworth Road, the west side of Bidston Road, both sides of Waterford Road, Links View and Winthrop Park, along with both sides of Howbeck Road between Bidston Road and Waterford Road - a shift of approximately 280 electors. In this scenario, the variance in both Oxton and Claughton will be around - 2.5%.



The map shows the area (coloured green) which would be moved under this proposal.

This area was formerly part of Oxton prior to the last boundary changes.

Move the following from polling district ED (New 2-member ward of Rock Ferry / New Ferry) to polling district GC (Bebington) - Hulmewood and the short section of Old Chester Road adjacent to Hulmewood - a shift of approximately 50 electors. This ensures the variance in the new Rock Ferry / New Ferry ward is less than +5%.



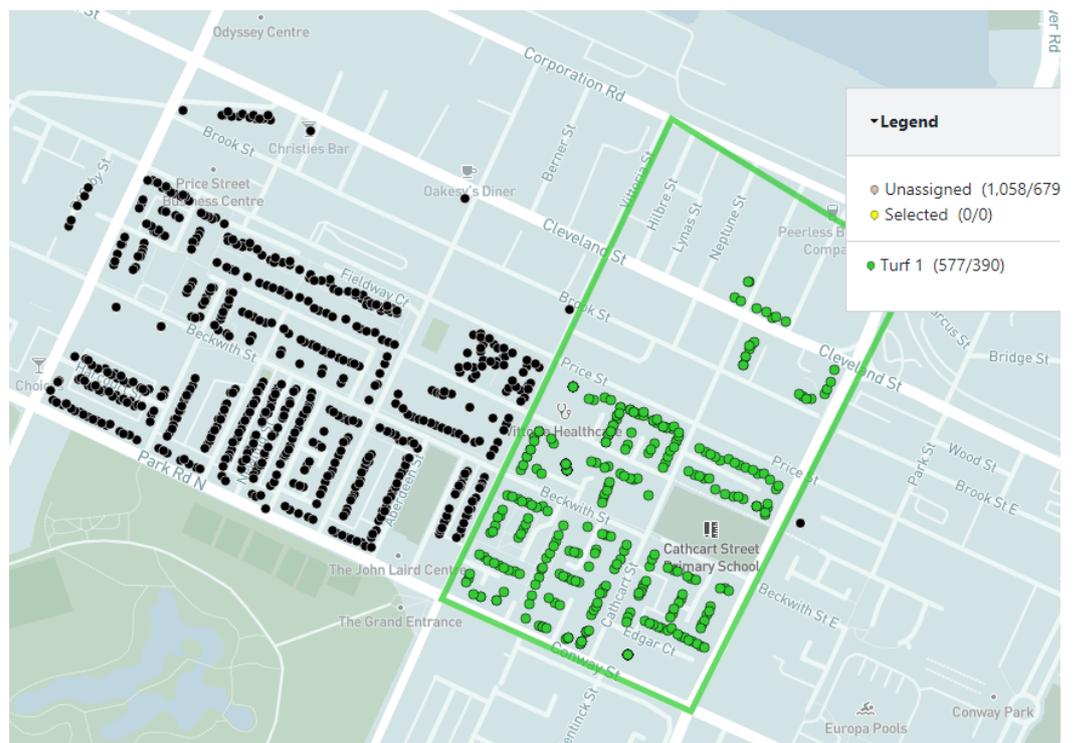
Move the following from polling district GA (Bebington) to polling district LA (Prenton) - Stanley Avenue - a shift of approximately 85 electors.

Move the following from polling district GA (Bebington) to polling district LB (Prenton) - Gayton Avenue, Harley Avenue and Heswall Avenue, along with the associated sections of Mount Road and Thornton Road - a shift of approximately 140 electors. (Together with the bullet point above, the variance in Prenton is reduced to -3%). (Together with the 2 bullet points above, the variance in Bebington is reduced to +1.7%).



The area marked in green is Stanley Road; the area marked red is the Mount Road / Thornton Road triangle. The current Prenton boundary is to the north of these two areas.

Move the section of AF bounded by Vittoria Street, Corporation Road, Watson Street and Conway Street from Bidston St James to Birkenhead Central (marked in green below). This would transfer approximately 580 electors.



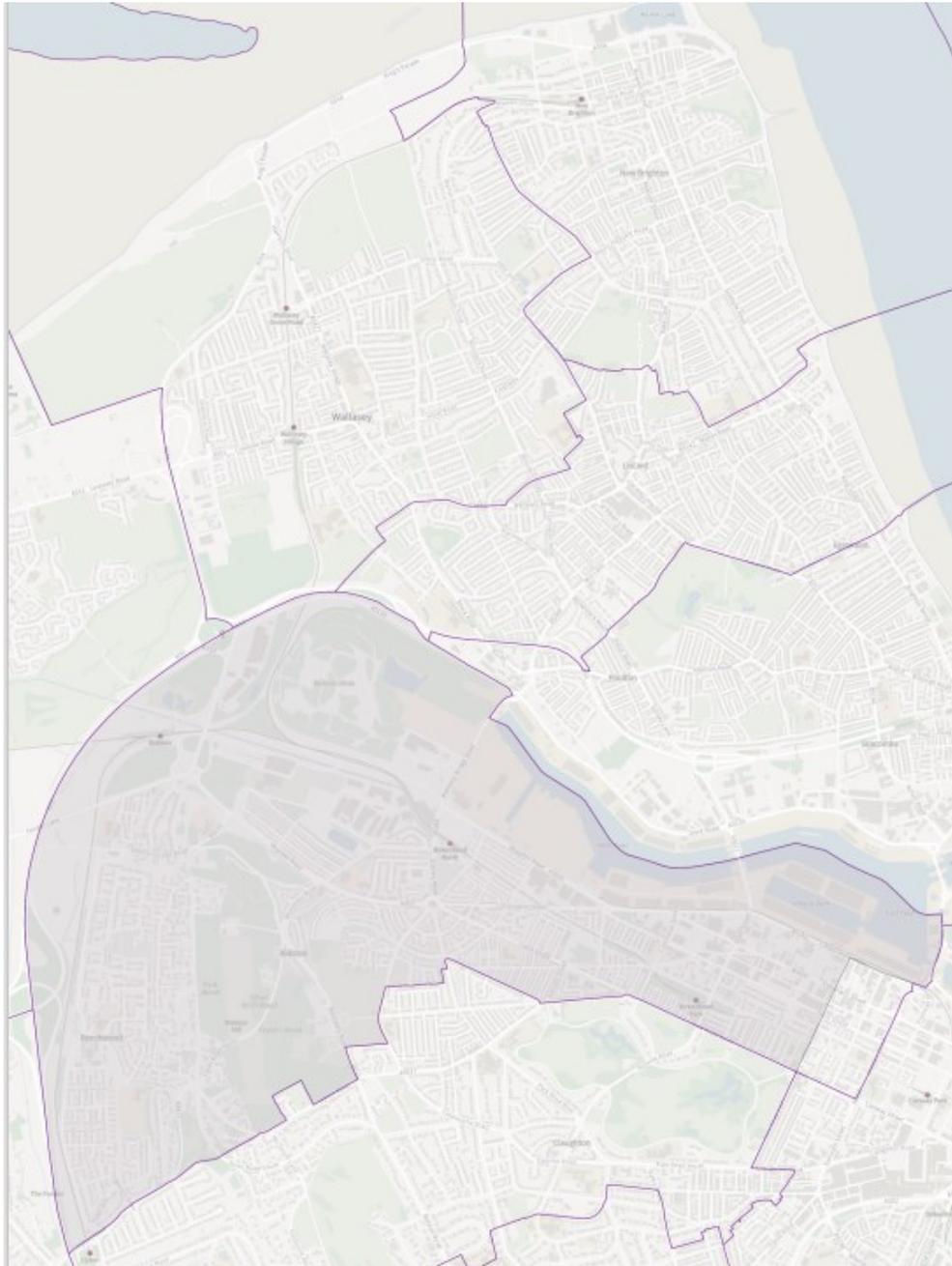
Appendix 5

Table of proposed ward numbers

The 'LD amended' column shows the estimated ward sizes under our proposals

Ward	Electorate on maps	Electorate on LGBCE website	LD amended	Difference	Notes
Bidston & St James	11910	11912	11301	-611	
Birkenhead & Tranmere	13152	13153	11490	-1663	Now called Birkenhead Central
Cloughton	11637	11638	11337	-301	
Oxton	11043	11042	11340	298	
Tranmere & Egerton			8004		Now two 2 member wards called Tranmere & Egerton
Rock Ferry	10758	10757	8058	-2699	and Rock Ferry & New Ferry
Pensby & Thingwall	10560	10562	12132	1570	Now called Pensby, Thingwall & Irby
Bebington	12033	12034	11871	-163	
Bromborough	14400	14401	11310	-3091	
Eastham	11355	11355	11355	0	
Clatterbridge	11532	11531	11532	0	
Prenton	10995	10995	11217	222	
Upton	12414	12415	12033	-381	
Hoylake & Meols	10713	10714	11943	1230	
Greasby, Frankby & Irby	11742	11744	11673	-71	Now called Greasby & Newton
West Kirby & Thurstaston	10488	10489	7330	-3159	2 member ward
Heswall	11049	11050	11442	393	
Seacombe	12036	12035	12036	0	
Leasowe & Moreton East	11754	11753	11754	0	
New Brighton	11577	11575	11577	0	
Wallasey	11670	11670	11670	0	
Liscard	11979	11980	11979	0	
Moreton West & Saughall Massie	10875	10874	11256	381	
TOTAL	255672	255679	255640		

Appendix 6 Proposed ward maps



Bidston and St. James Ward

Councillors: **3**
Property count: **7337**
Total Electorate: **11301**
Cllr electorate: **3767**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **05/11/2024 15:31**



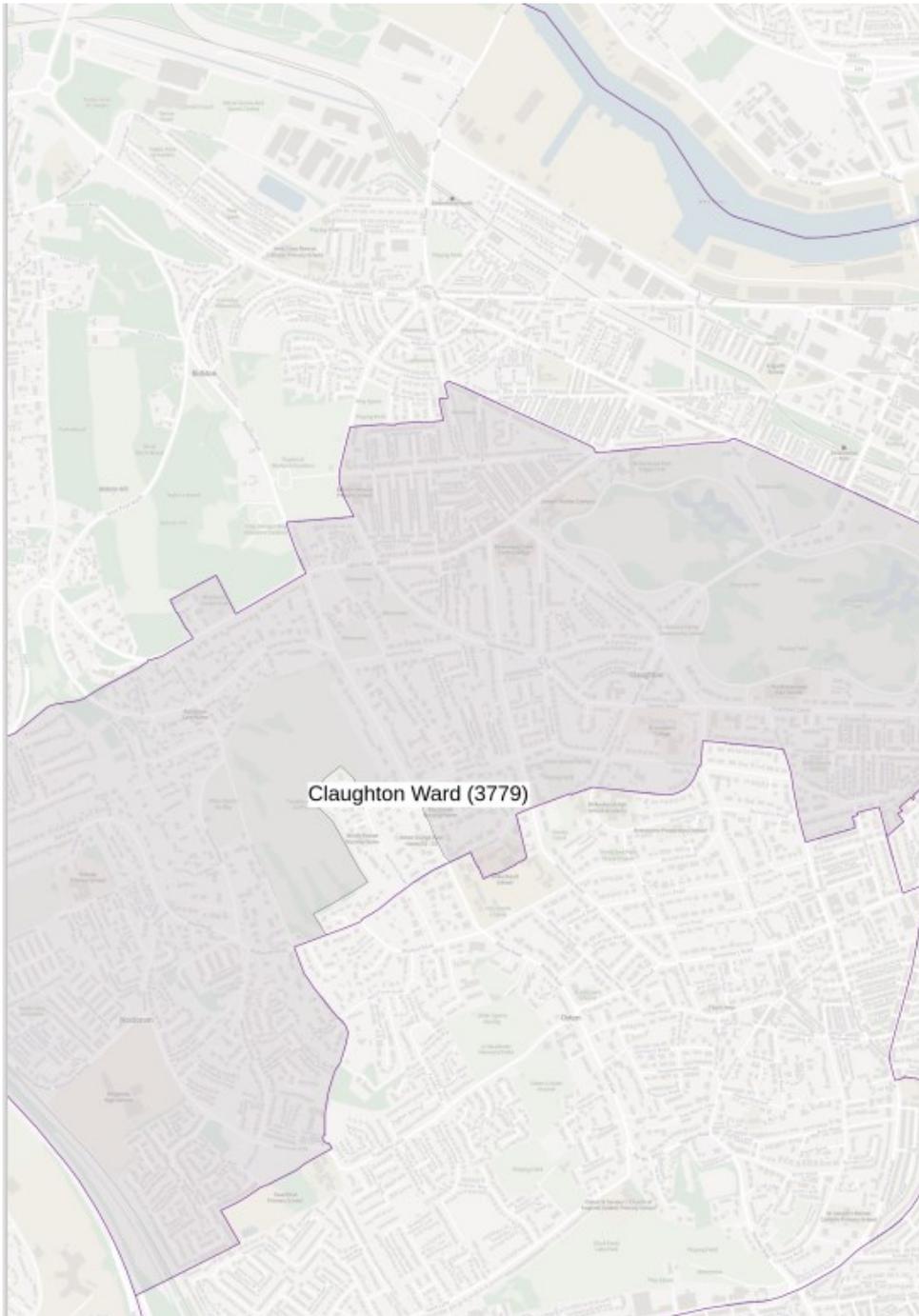
Birkenhead Central

Councillors: **3**
Property count: **7716**
Total Electorate: **11490**
Cllr electorate: **3830**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **05/11/2024 15:31**

Polling stations:
Birkenhead Town Hall

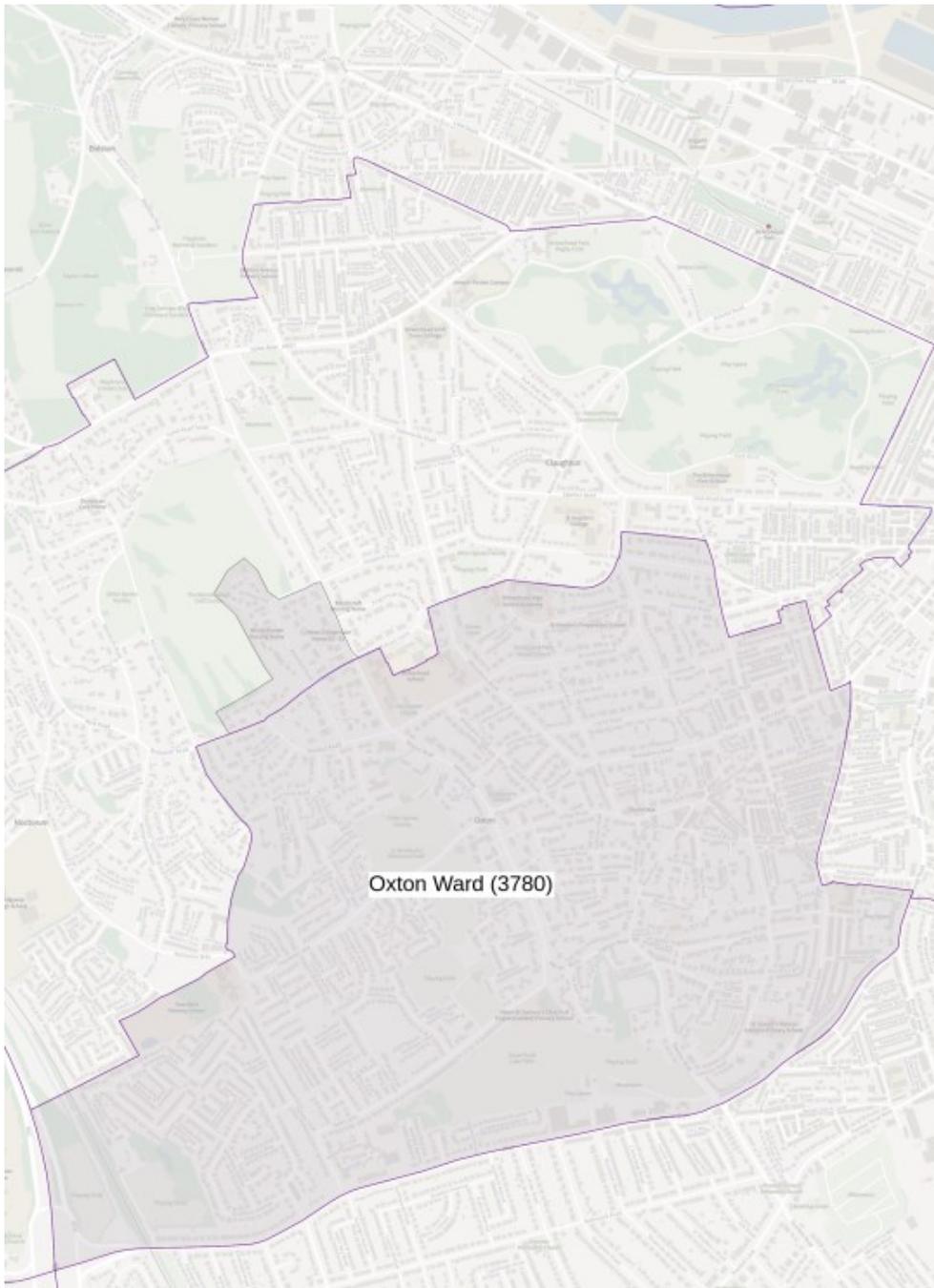
Claughton Ward

Councillors: **3**
Property count: **6726**
Total Electorate: **11337**
Cllr electorate: **3779**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **31/10/2024 09:08**



Oxton Ward

Councillors: **3**
Property count: **7304**
Total Electorate: **11340**
Cllr electorate: **3780**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **31/10/2024 09:08**





Tranmere & Egerton Ward

Councillors: 2
Property count: 5364
Total Electorate: 8004
Cllr electorate: 4002
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time 3430 - 4192
Submitted: 08/11/2024 13:38

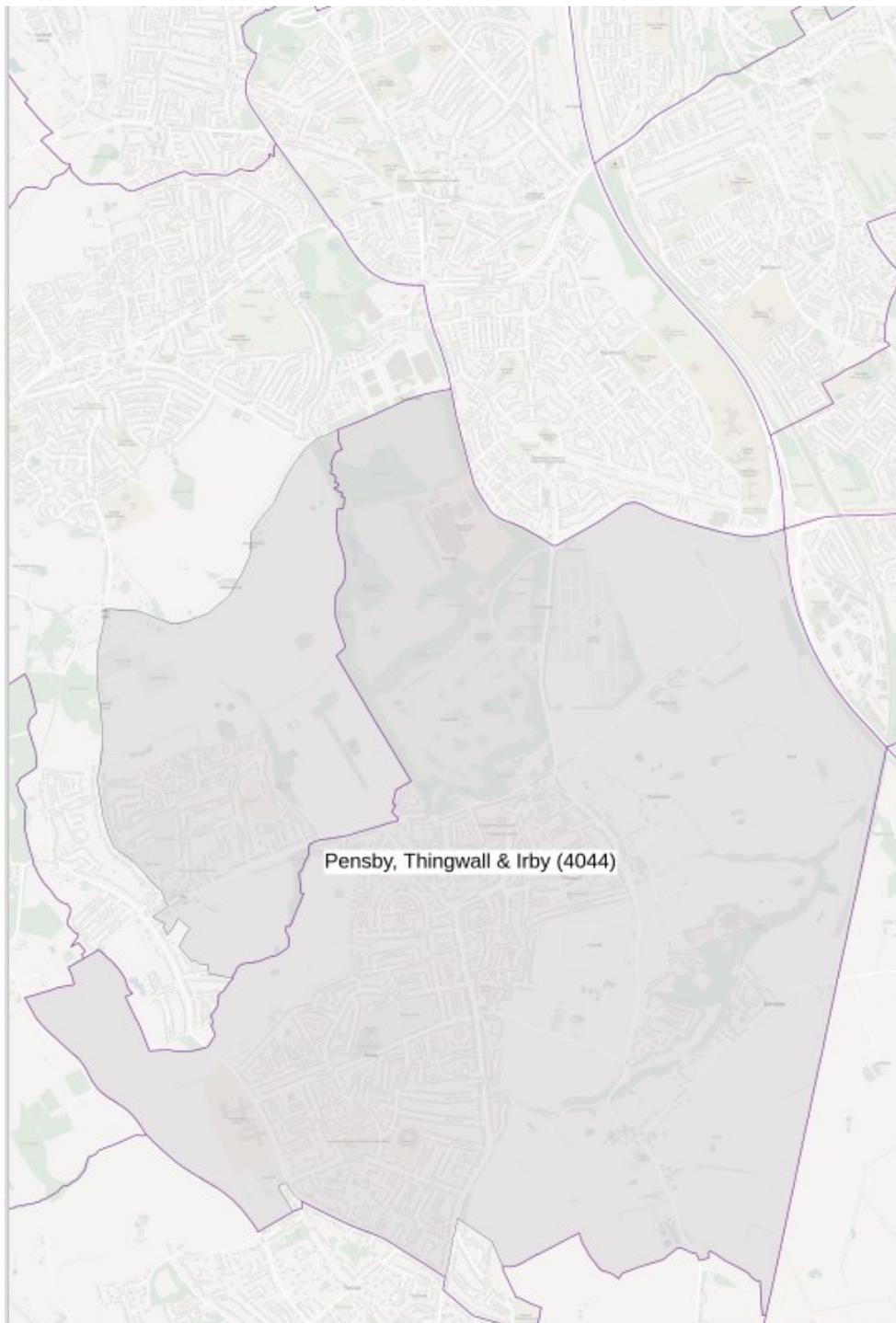


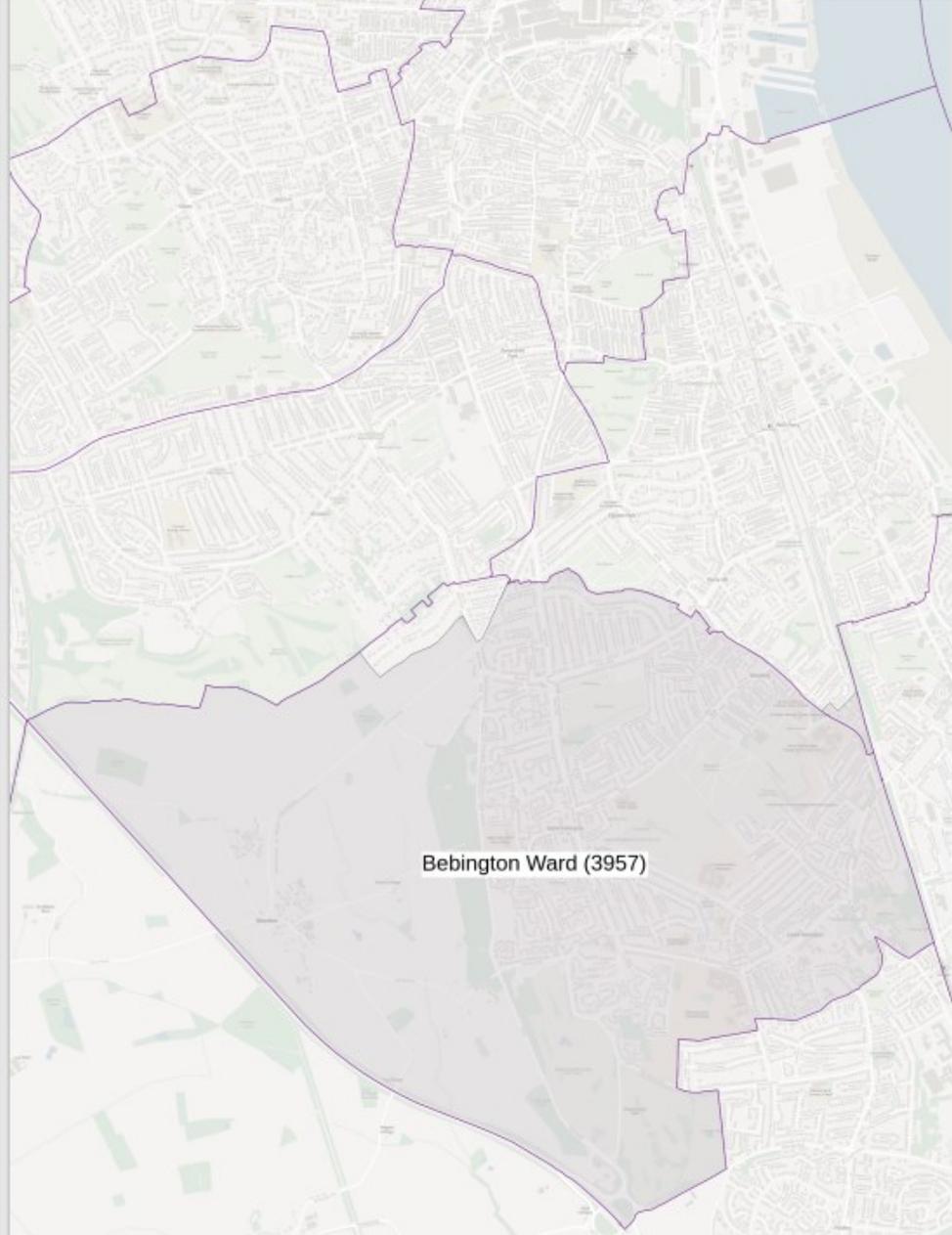
Rock Ferry and New Ferry Ward

Councillors: 2
Property count: 5401
Total Electorate: 8054
Cllr electorate: 4027
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time 3430 - 4192
Submitted: 08/11/2024 13:38

Pensby, Thingwall & Irby

Councillors: 3
Property count: 7011
Total Electorate: 12132
Cllr electorate: 4044
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time 3430 - 4192
Submitted: 31/10/2024 09:08



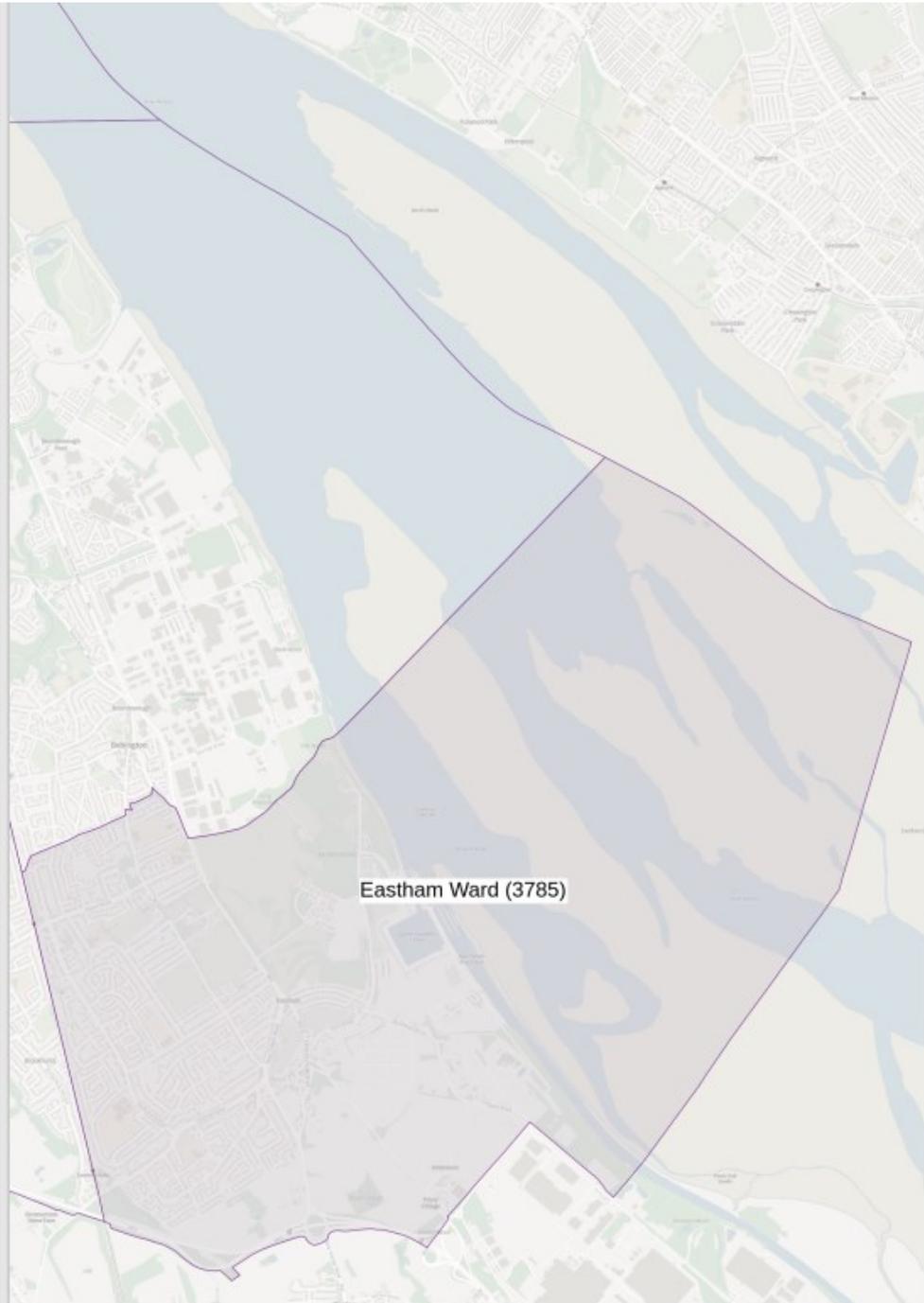


Bebington Ward

Councillors: **3**
Property count: **6699**
Total Electorate: **11871**
Cllr electorate: **3957**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **31/10/2024 09:08**

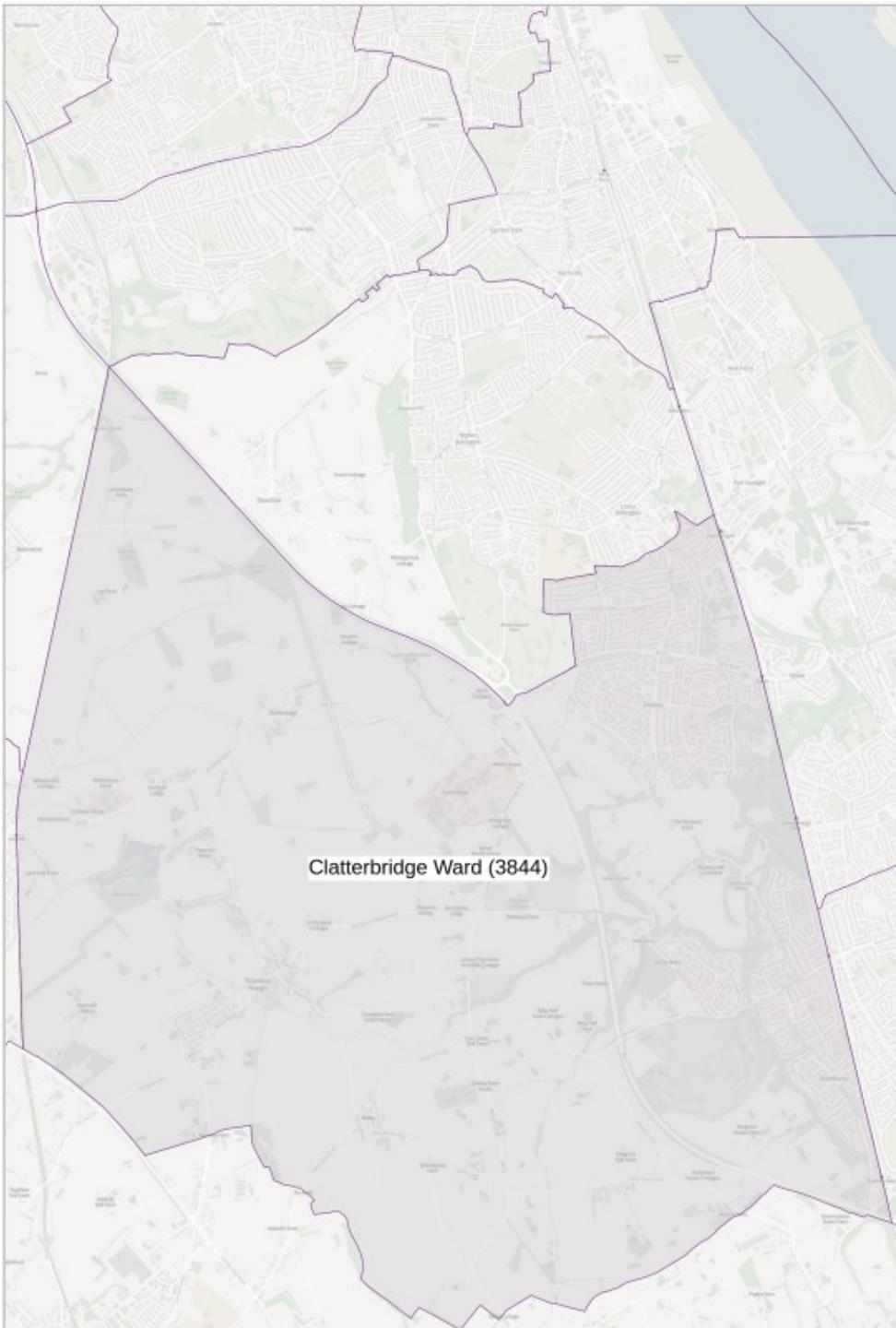
Eastham Ward

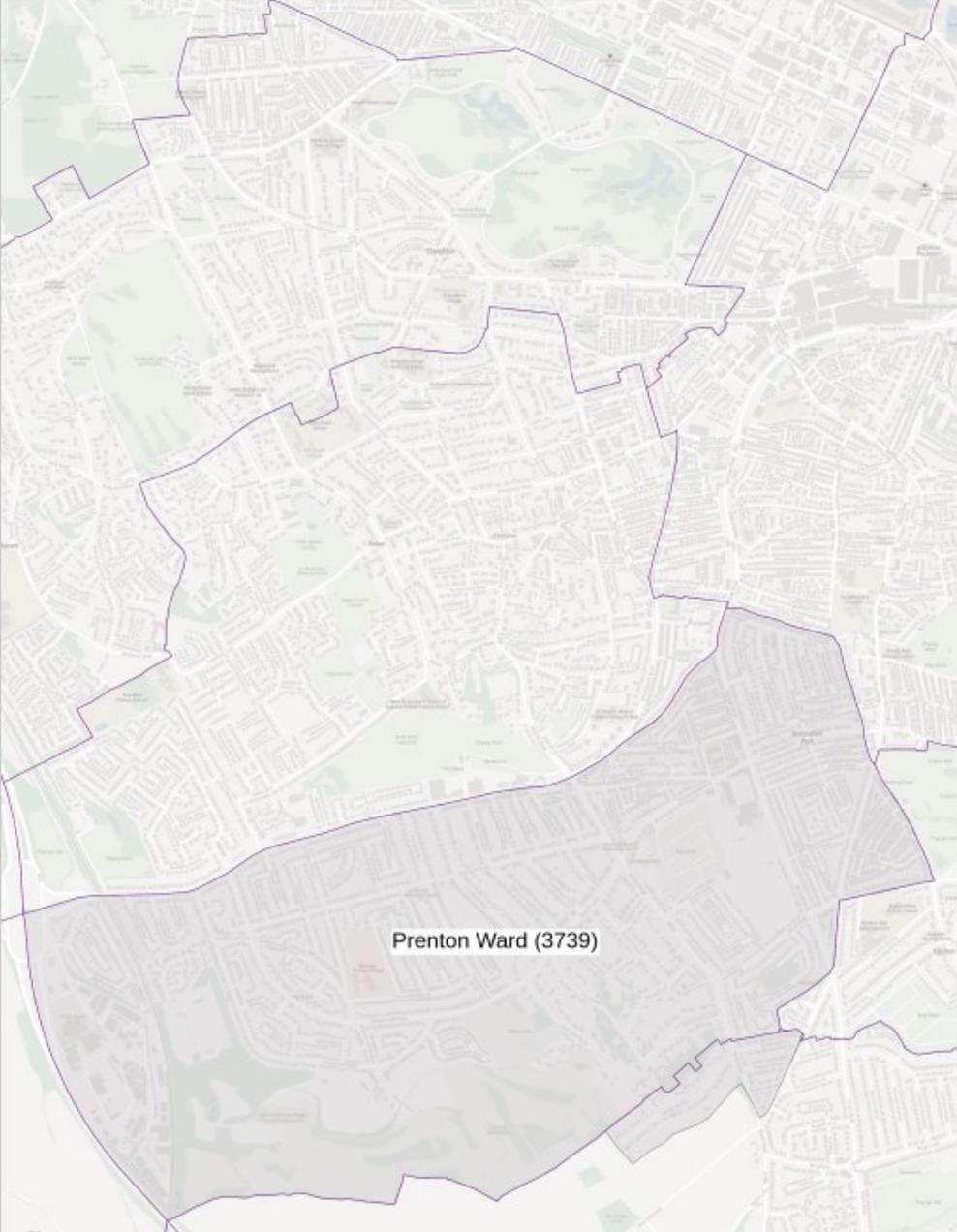
Councillors: **3**
Property count: **6609**
Total Electorate: **11355**
Cllr electorate: **3785**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **31/10/2024 09:08**



Clatterbridge Ward

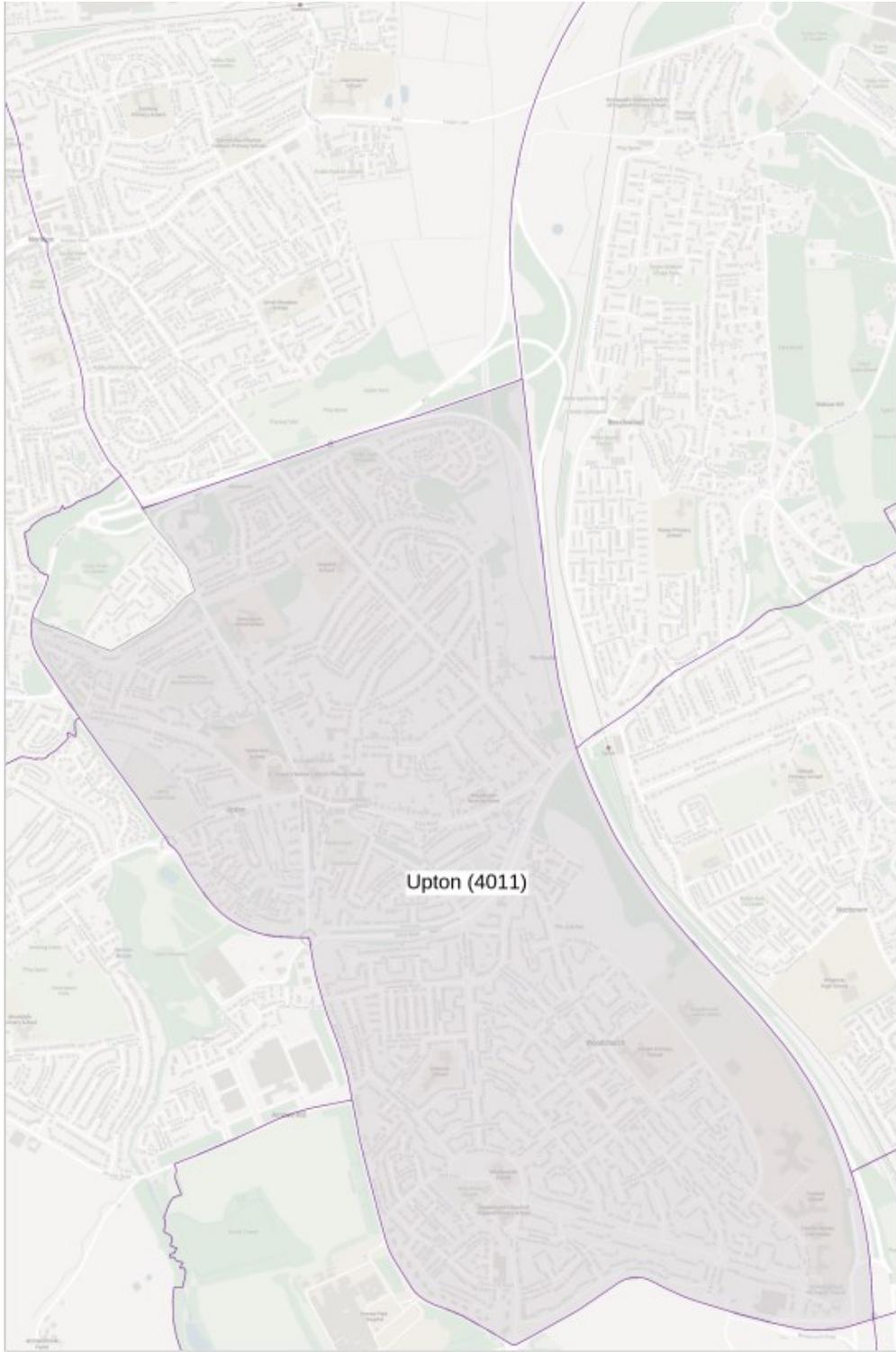
Councillors: **3**
Property count: **6079**
Total Electorate: **11532**
Cllr electorate: **3844**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **31/10/2024 09:08**





Prenton Ward

Councillors: **3**
Property count: **6396**
Total Electorate: **11217**
Cllr electorate: **3739**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **31/10/2024 09:08**

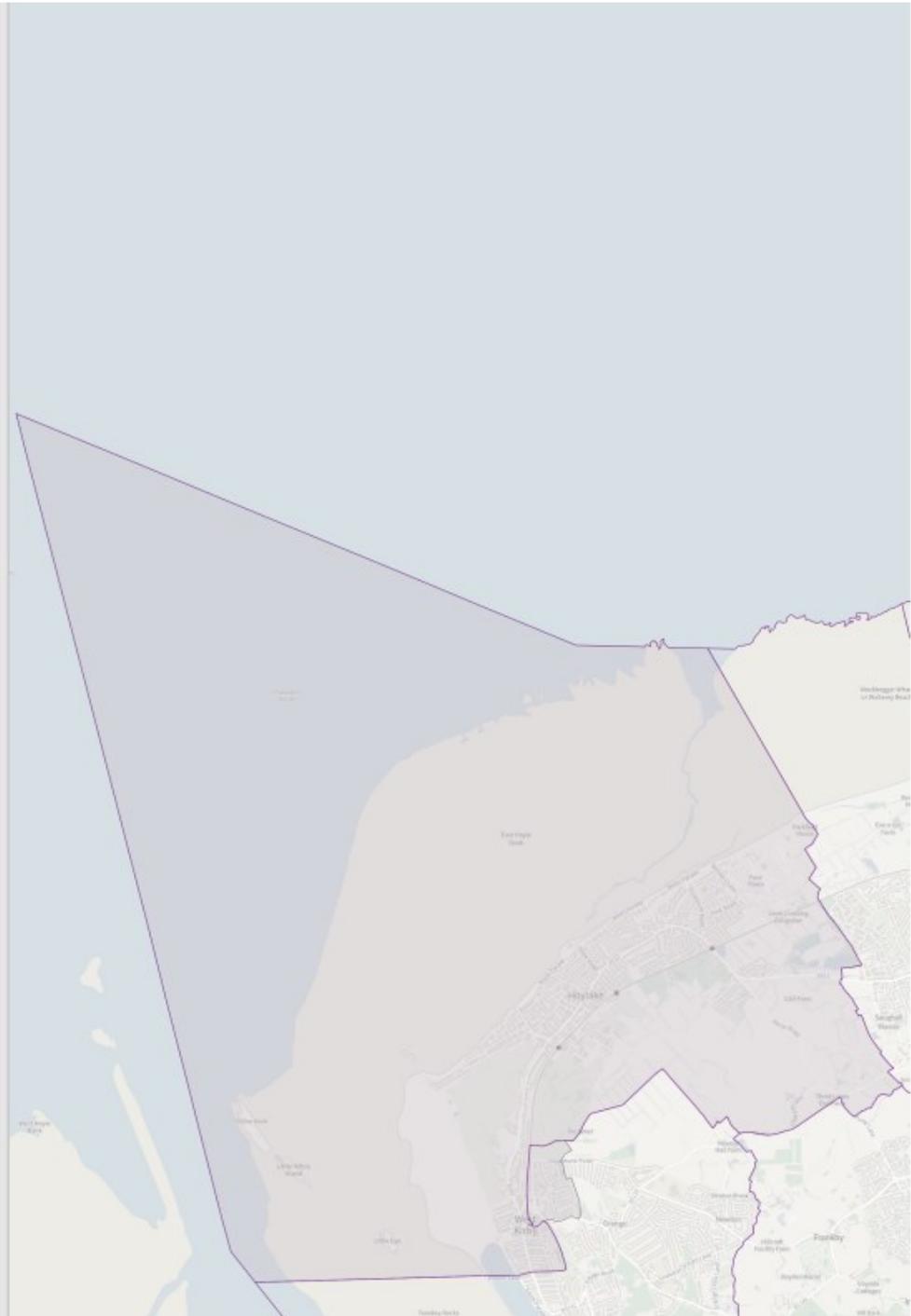


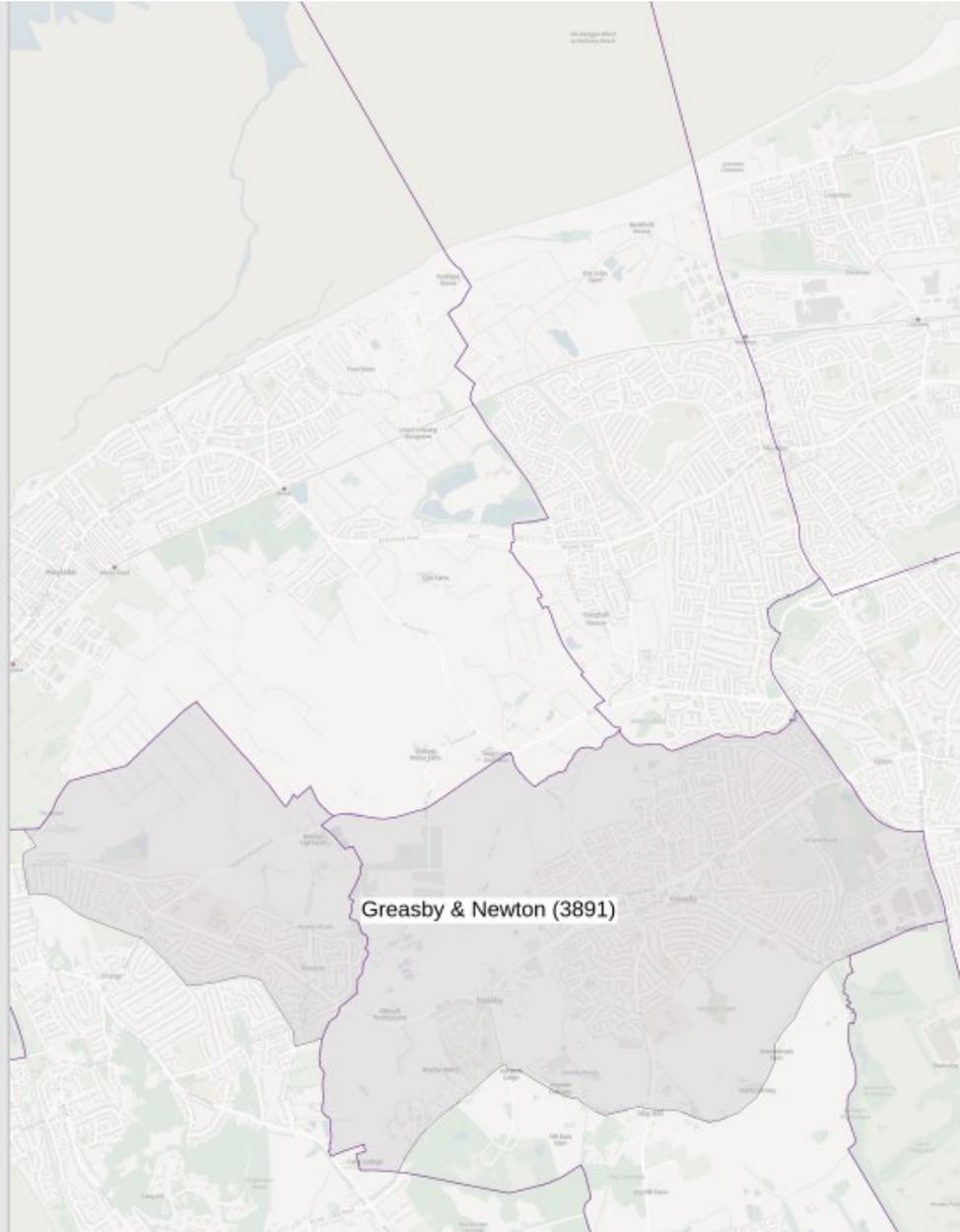
Upton

Councillors:	3
Property count:	7283
Total Electorate:	12033
Clr electorate:	4011
Electorate Status:	Balanced
Electorate Target:	
Date/Time	3430 - 4192
Submitted:	31/10/2024 09:08

Hoylake and Meols Ward

Councillors: **3**
Property count: **7012**
Total Electorate: **11943**
CILr electorate: **3981**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **05/11/2024 15:31**



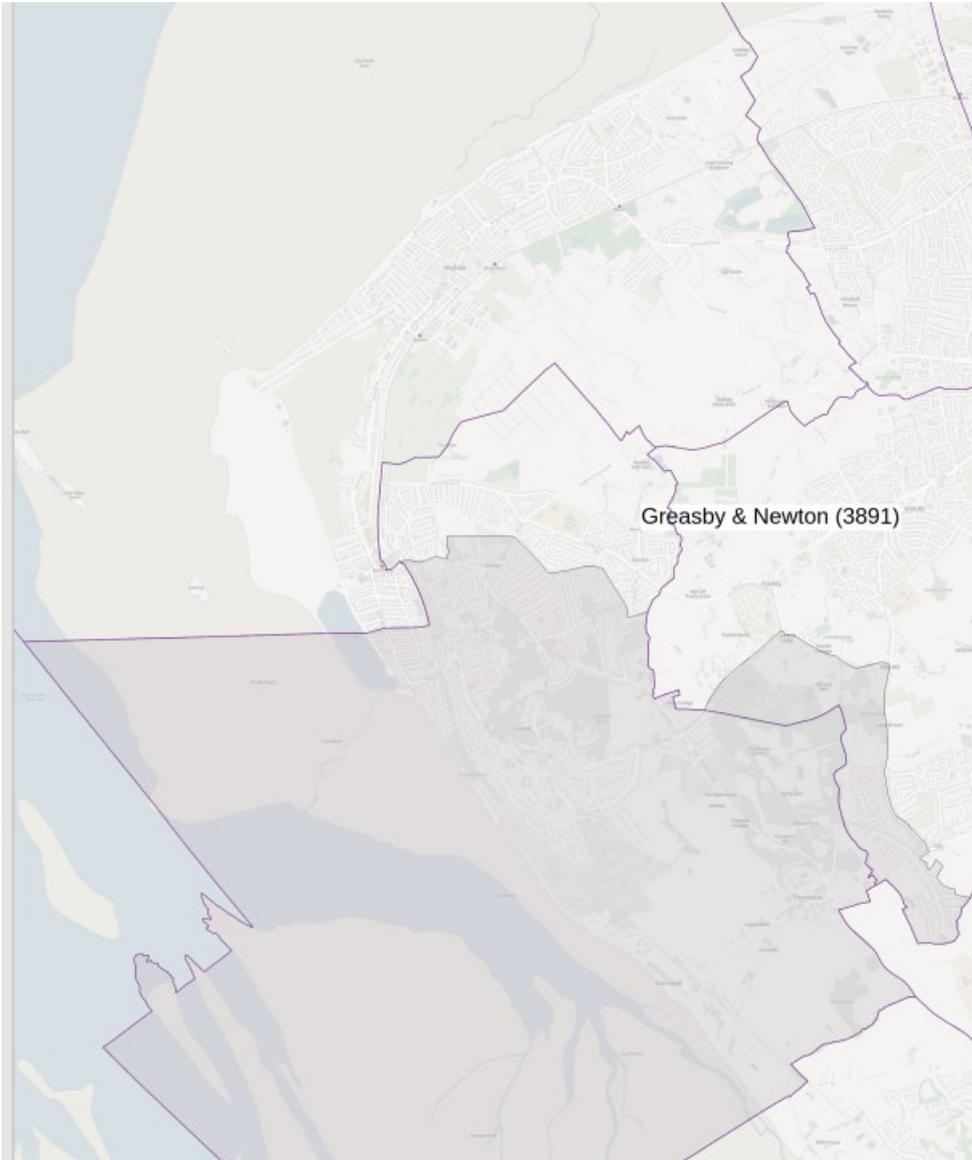


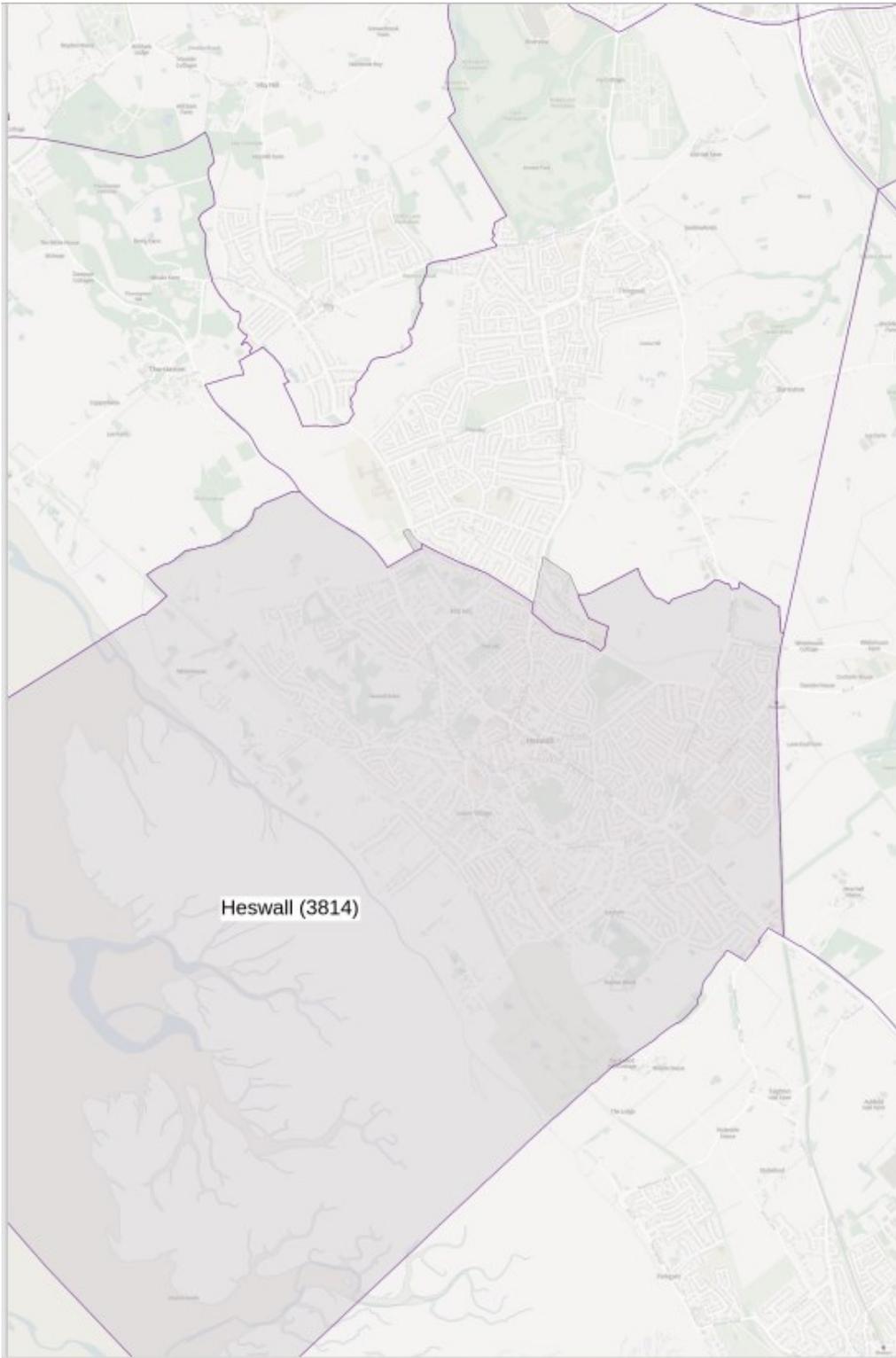
Greasby & Newton

Councillors: **3**
Property count: **6550**
Total Electorate: **11673**
CILr electorate: **3891**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **31/10/2024 09:08**

West Kirby & Thurstaston

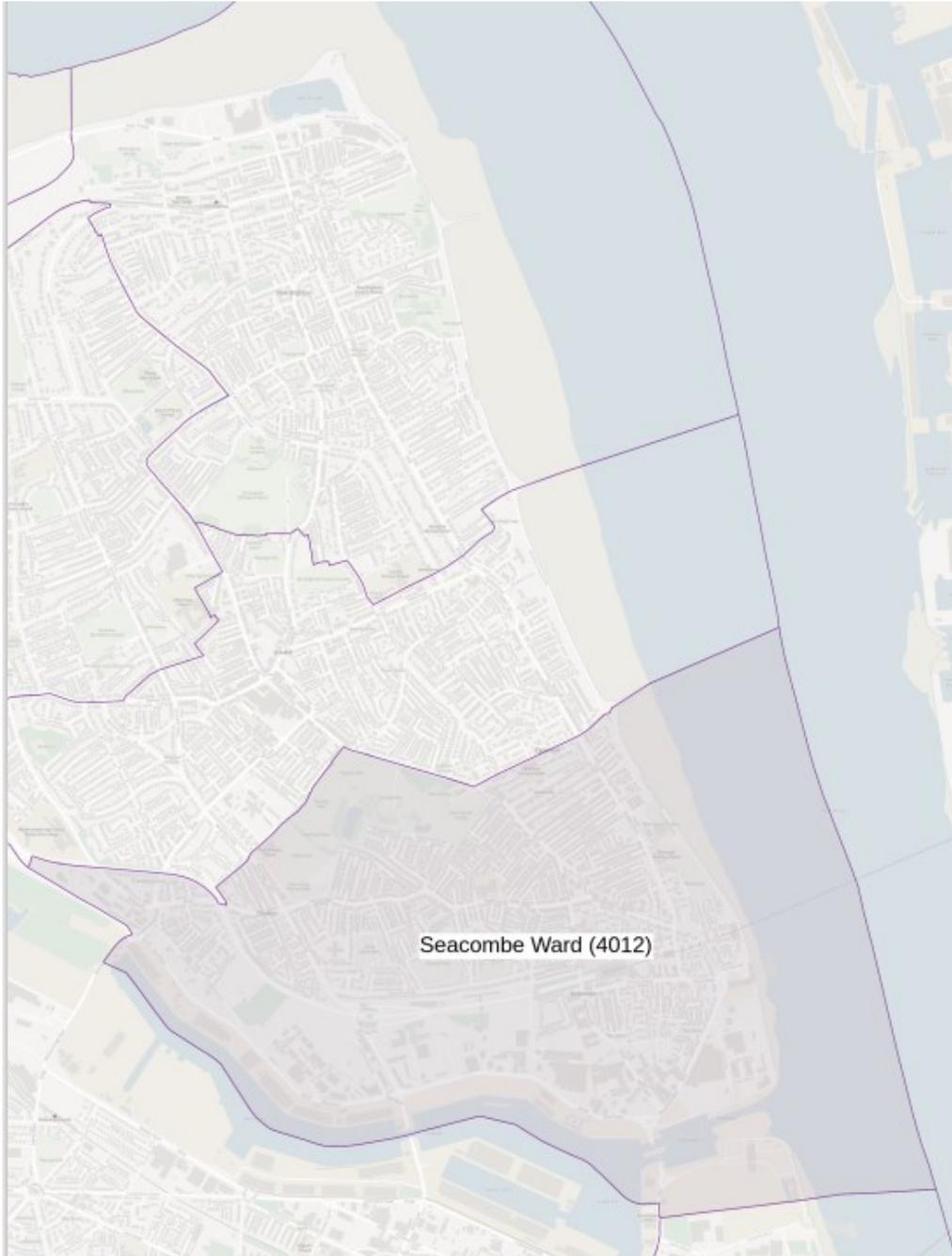
Councillors: 2
Property count: 3947
Total Electorate: 7330
Cllr electorate: 3665
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time 3430 - 4192
Submitted: 05/11/2024 15:31





Heswall

Councillors: **3**
Property count: **6416**
Total Electorate: **11442**
Cllr electorate: **3814**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **31/10/2024 09:08**

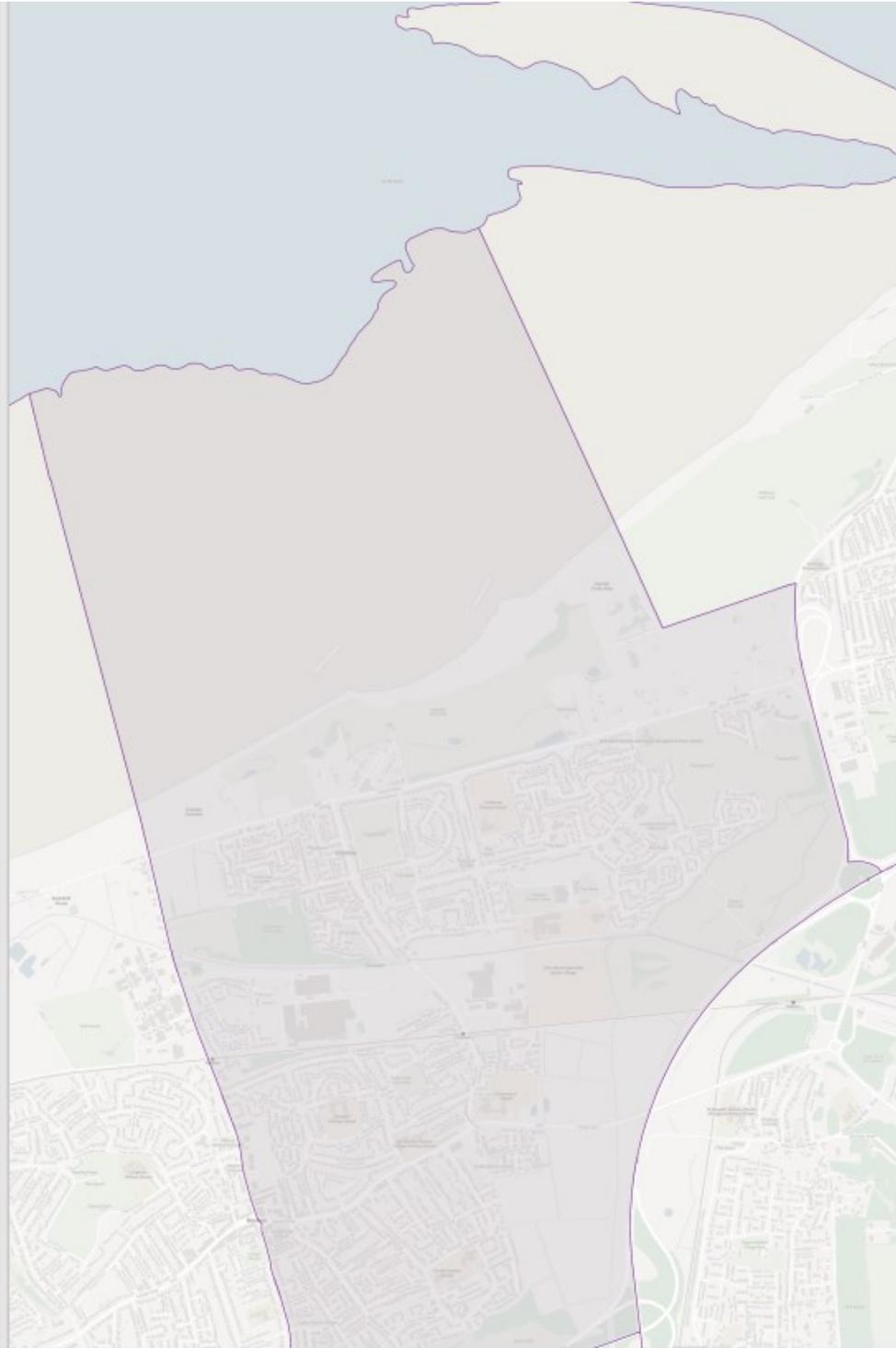


Seacombe Ward

Councillors: **3**
Property count: **8103**
Total Electorate: **12036**
Cllr electorate: **4012**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **31/10/2024 09:08**

Leasowe and Moreton East Ward

Councillors: **3**
Property count: **7081**
Total Electorate: **11754**
Cllr electorate: **3918**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **05/11/2024 15:31**



New Brighton Ward

Councillors: **3**
Property count: **7353**
Total Electorate: **11577**
Cllr electorate: **3859**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **31/10/2024 09:08**



Wallasey Ward

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **6551**

Total Electorate: **11670**

CLr electorate: **3890**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **3430 - 4192**

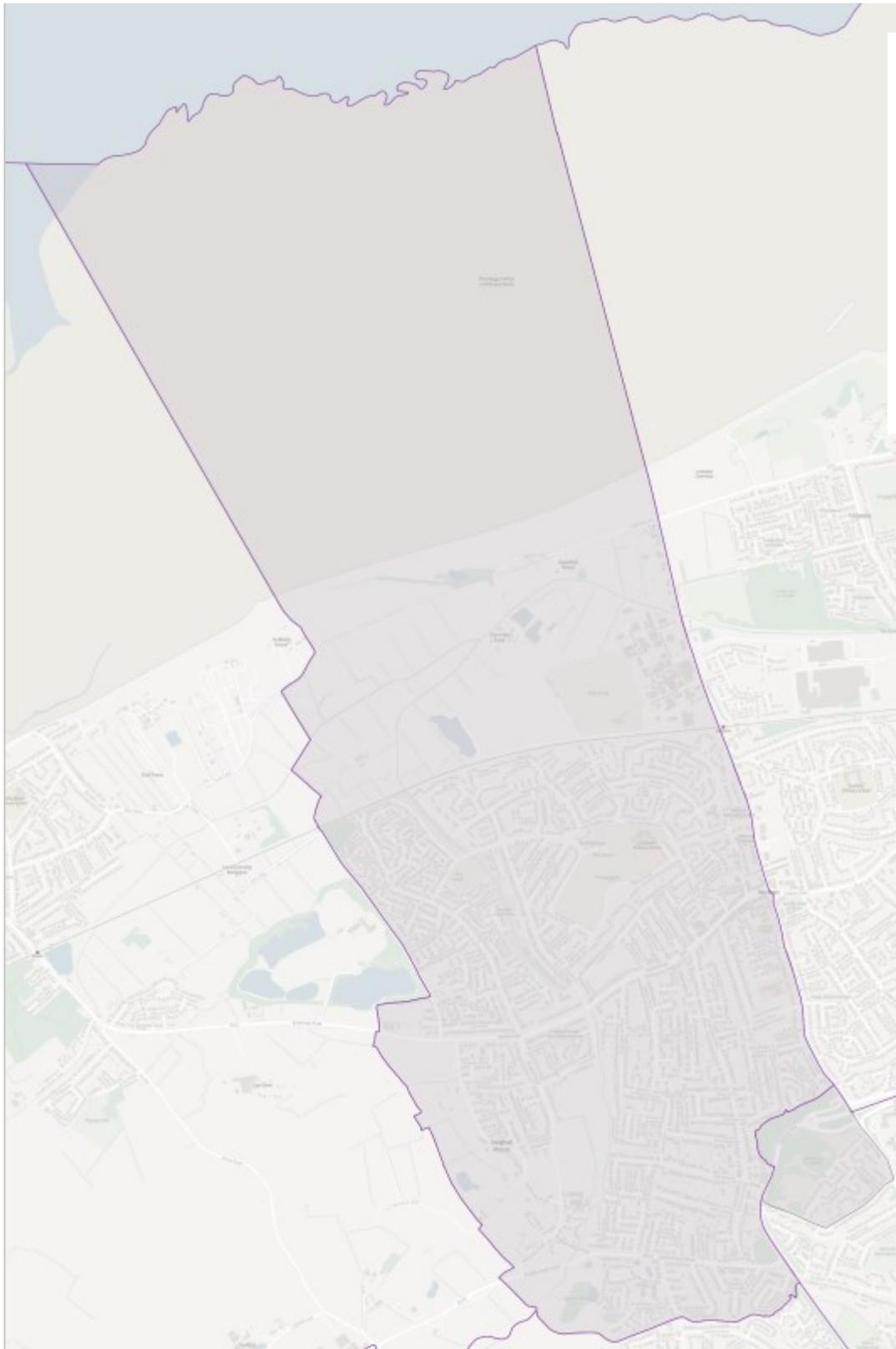
Submitted: **31/10/2024 09:08**



Liscard Ward

Councillors: 3
Property count: 7362
Total Electorate: 11979
Cllr electorate: 3993
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time 3430 - 4192
Submitted: 31/10/2024 09:08





Moreton West and Saughall Massie

Councillors: **3**
Property count: **6667**
Total Electorate: **11256**
Cllr electorate: **3752**
Electorate Status: **Balanced**
Electorate Target:
Date/Time **3430 - 4192**
Submitted: **05/11/2024 15:31**