

# Wirral

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mr Pat Cleary

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:** Green Party group on Wirral Council (Political groups)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** This submission covers all of Wirral

Our full comments are included in the attached single pdf document.

## Attached Documents:

- green-party-cllr-group-submission.pdf

<b>Name of individual or Political Group</b>	This submission is on behalf of the 14 councillors who represent the Green Party group on Wirral Council
<b>The Boundary Commission have indicated that they are minded to endorse the Council's request that 66 Councillors represent Wirral Council. Can you confirm that you continue to support this proposal.</b>	<p>Not quite. Our detailed mapping along community lines as presented here suggests the best outcome for Wirral is 65 councillors. This would best reflect the make-up of Wirral while supporting effective local government. Maintaining 66 councillors would require a sub-optimal ward pattern in our view.</p> <p>We are opposed to any increase in the current number of councillors.</p>
<b>Do you wish to retain 22 wards with 3 councillors representing each ward? If you wish to change this, you can provide further details below.</b>	No. Please see our answer to the next question. We suggest a small increase to 24 wards – 17 three-member wards and 7 two-member wards.
<b>Are you content with the current ward names and patterns? If you wish to change this, you can provide further details below.</b>	<p>No. The historical need to have all 3-member wards has resulted in some ward patterns that do not sit very well with community identity and effective local government. While many existing ward boundaries work well, others do not. We view the switch to all-out elections and the flexibility to tweak councillor-per-ward numbers as an opportunity to achieve a better fit between ward size and community identity. This will in turn help deliver more effective local government. Furthermore, there are ongoing and planned increases in housing development/population in parts of East Wirral that require boundary changes to achieve fair numbers of electors per councillor.</p> <p>To address these factors we are recommending mainly 3-member wards with some small boundary changes but also some 2-member wards that will better reflect established community identities. These are mapped out in detail in the documentation below.</p> <p>In preparing these suggestions we have focused on community identity and what we regard as natural boundaries between Wirral's many interconnected but distinct settlements. We give no weight to parliamentary constituency boundaries and several of our suggestions cross existing parliamentary boundaries.</p>

	Our maps have been prepared with assistance from officers in the Democratic Services team at Wirral Council. We are grateful for their help. We would like to point out that the programs available to officers under licence do not appear as user friendly as would be expected in 2024. Consequently, the numbers provided to us for residents per ward include a small margin of error and may not be 100% accurate. We hope that in future local authority staff would have access to more easy-to-use software that would significantly streamline the process of calculating numbers for new ward boundaries.
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### Summary table for proposed changes

Current Ward Name	Proposed Ward Name (if applicable)	Proposed number of Cllrs to represent Ward	Proposed changes (see detailed proposals below the table)
Bidston & St James		3	Small boundary changes
Birkenhead & Tranmere	Birkenhead Central / Tranmere	2 x 2	Two 2-member wards
Claughton	Claughton / Noctorum	2 x 2	Two 2-member wards
Oxton		2	New 2-member ward
Rock Ferry	Rock Ferry & New Ferry	3	Significant boundary change
Pensby & Thingwall	Irby, Pensby & Thingwall	3	Significant boundary change
Bebington		3	Small boundary changes
Bromborough		3	Significant boundary change
Eastham		3	Significant boundary change
Clatterbridge		3	Significant boundary change
Prenton		3	Small boundary change
Upton		3	No change
Hoylake & Meols		2	Significant boundary change
Greasby, Frankby & Irby	Greasby & Frankby	2	Significant boundary change
West Kirby & Thurstaston	West Kirby	3	Significant boundary change
Heswall	Heswall & Thurstaston	3	Significant boundary change
Seacombe		3	No change
Leasowe & Moreton East		3	No change
New Brighton		3	No change
Wallasey		3	No change
Liscard		3	No change
Moreton West & Saughall Massie		3	Small boundary changes

This is our summary table for our new suggestions. **Wards with new names are in bold.** There is a very small discrepancy (rounding error) between our total electors for Wirral in 2030 (255,638) and the table contained in the consultation documents (255,679). Our detailed suggestions for each ward are below the table.

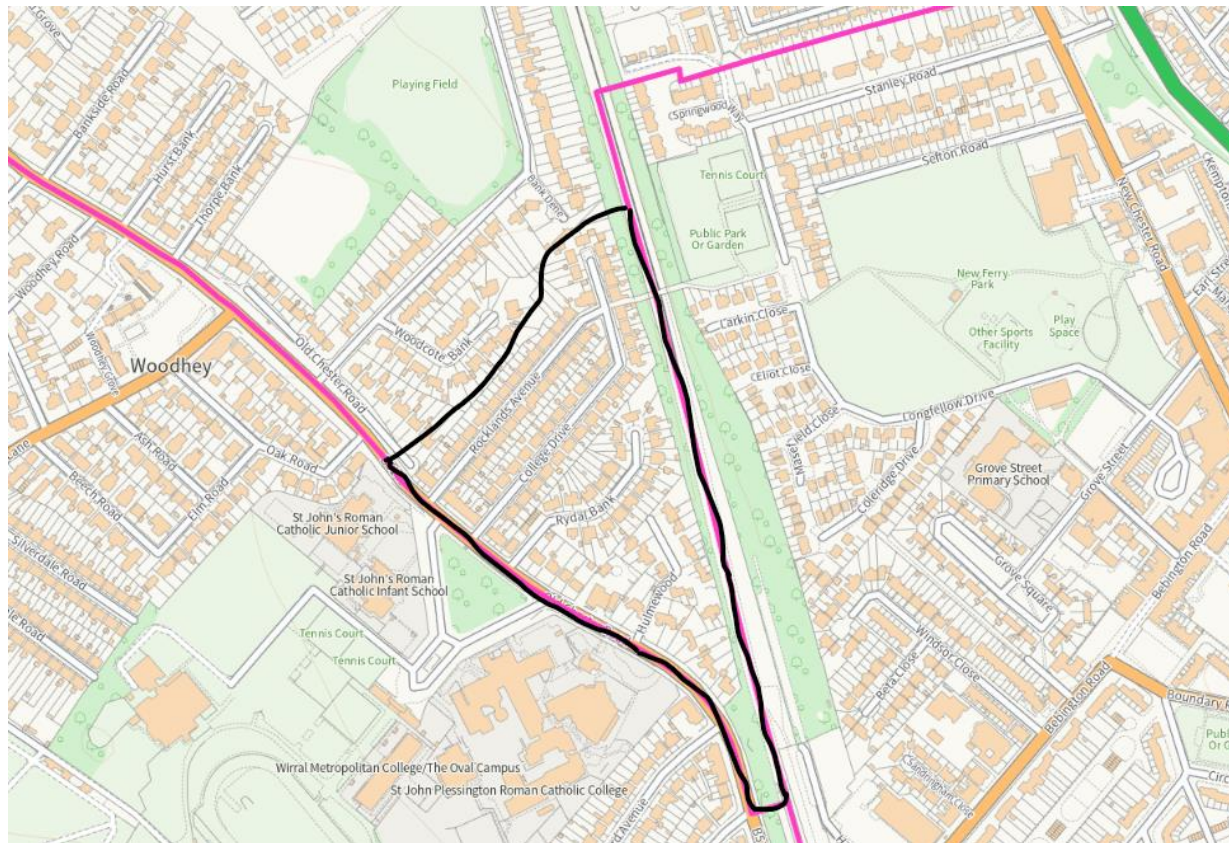
Name of ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2030	Variance 2030
Bebington	3	12,201	3%
Bidston & St James	3	10,800	-8%
<b>Birkenhead Central</b>	2	7,953	1%
Bromborough	3	12,954	10%
Clatterbridge	3	10,893	-8%
Claughton	2	7,472	-5%
Eastham	3	11,622	-2%
<b>Greasby &amp; Frankby</b>	2	8,500	8%
<b>Heswall &amp; Thurstaston</b>	3	11,844	0%
Hoylake & Meols	2	8,631	10%
<b>Irby, Pensby &amp; Thingwall</b>	3	12,572	7%
Leasowe & Moreton East	3	11,753	0%
Liscard	3	11,980	2%
Moreton West & Saughall Massie	3	10,874	-8%
New Brighton	3	11,575	-2%
<b>Noctorum</b>	2	7,374	-6%
Oxton	2	8,192	4%
Prenton	3	11,614	-2%
<b>Rock Ferry &amp; New Ferry</b>	3	11,399	-3%
Seacombe	3	12,035	2%
<b>Tranmere</b>	2	7,473	-5%
Upton	3	12,415	5%
Wallasey	3	11,670	-1%
<b>West Kirby</b>	3	11,842	0%

## Bebington – 3-member new borders

We propose two small changes for the existing Bebington ward.

1. Migrating the village of Storeton to the Clatterbridge ward so it sits in the same ward as all the other Wirral rural villages (-190 electors).
2. The following streets would migrate into Bebington from Rock Ferry: Hulmewood, Rydal Bank, College Drive, Rocklands Avenue and relevant section of Old Chester Road.  $31 + 70 + 123 + 103 + \sim 30 = \sim 357$ . This helps to better align the proposed new Rock Ferry and New Ferry ward with its natural geography. Also, this demographic fits better with that of the existing Bebington ward to which people here naturally relate being so close to local primary and secondary schools and The Oval leisure centre.

This change is shown below:

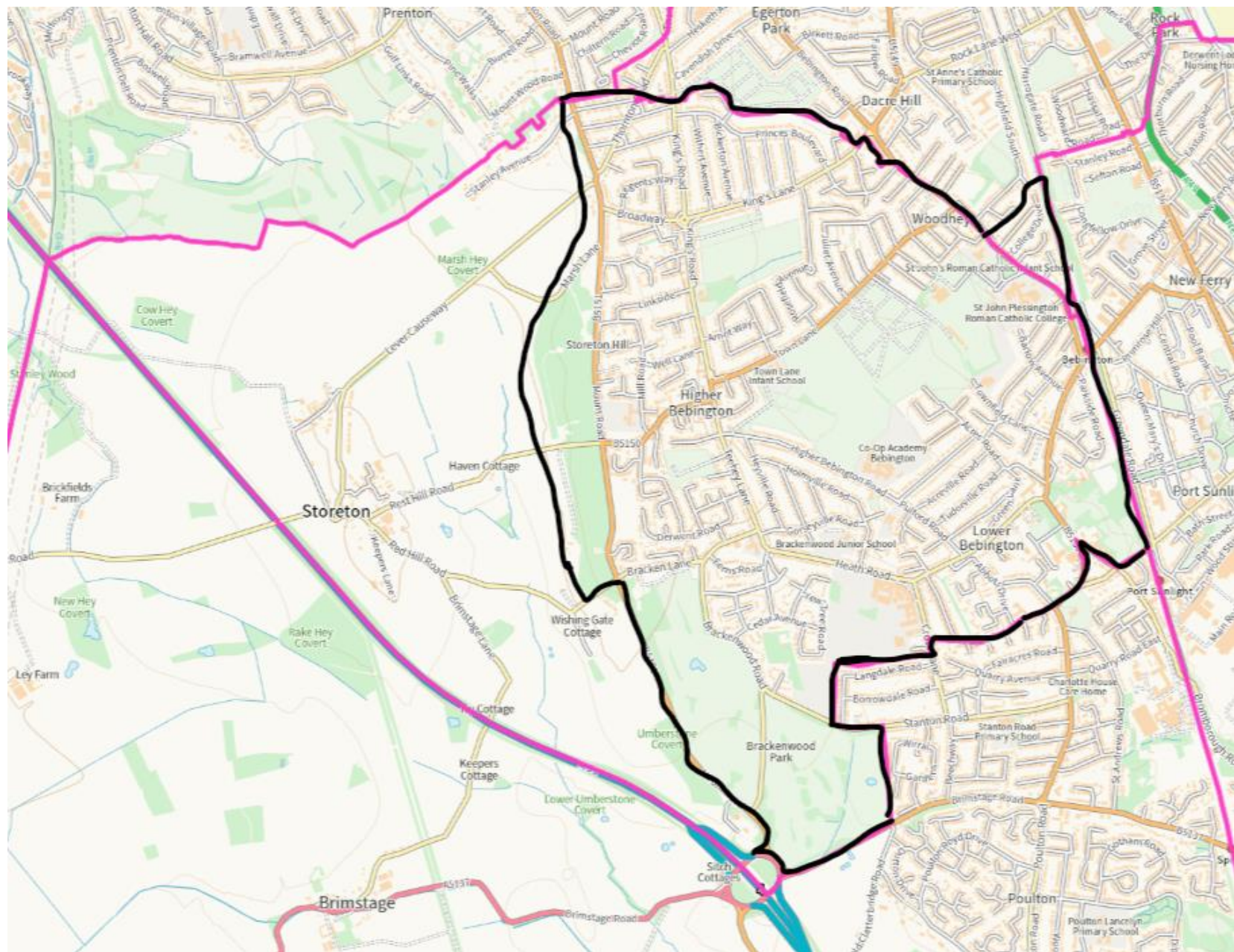


The overall change for Bebington is itemised below with the new ward map on the following page:

- Current 2030 electors for Bebington = 12,034
- Take away Storeton Village area = -190
- Add streets from Rock Ferry ward = +357

**New total electors for Bebington ward in 2030 =  $12,034 - 190 + 357 = 12,201$  = +3% variance.**





## **Bidston St James, Claughton, Noctorum and Oxton wards**

**Summary: We propose a three-ward (two members each) arrangement to far better reflect the distinct communities of Noctorum, Oxton and Claughton. Bidston St James would remain a 3-member ward but lose some streets to give clearer, more sensible borders.**

We have the following broad observations.

Claughton ward does not work in community terms. There is a large distance both geographically and socially between the Noctorum area (close to Upton station) and the streets close to Birkenhead town centre. The Noctorum community is sizeable and ill-served by being absorbed into “Claughton” ward. The Claughton Village area is much older in terms of housing stock, has a different demographic and very different feel to Noctorum where the housing stock is much newer.

Also, parts of Oxton ward feel more like Noctorum/Prenton. A far better community match would be established via three two member wards – Noctorum, Claughton and Oxton – than the current arrangement.

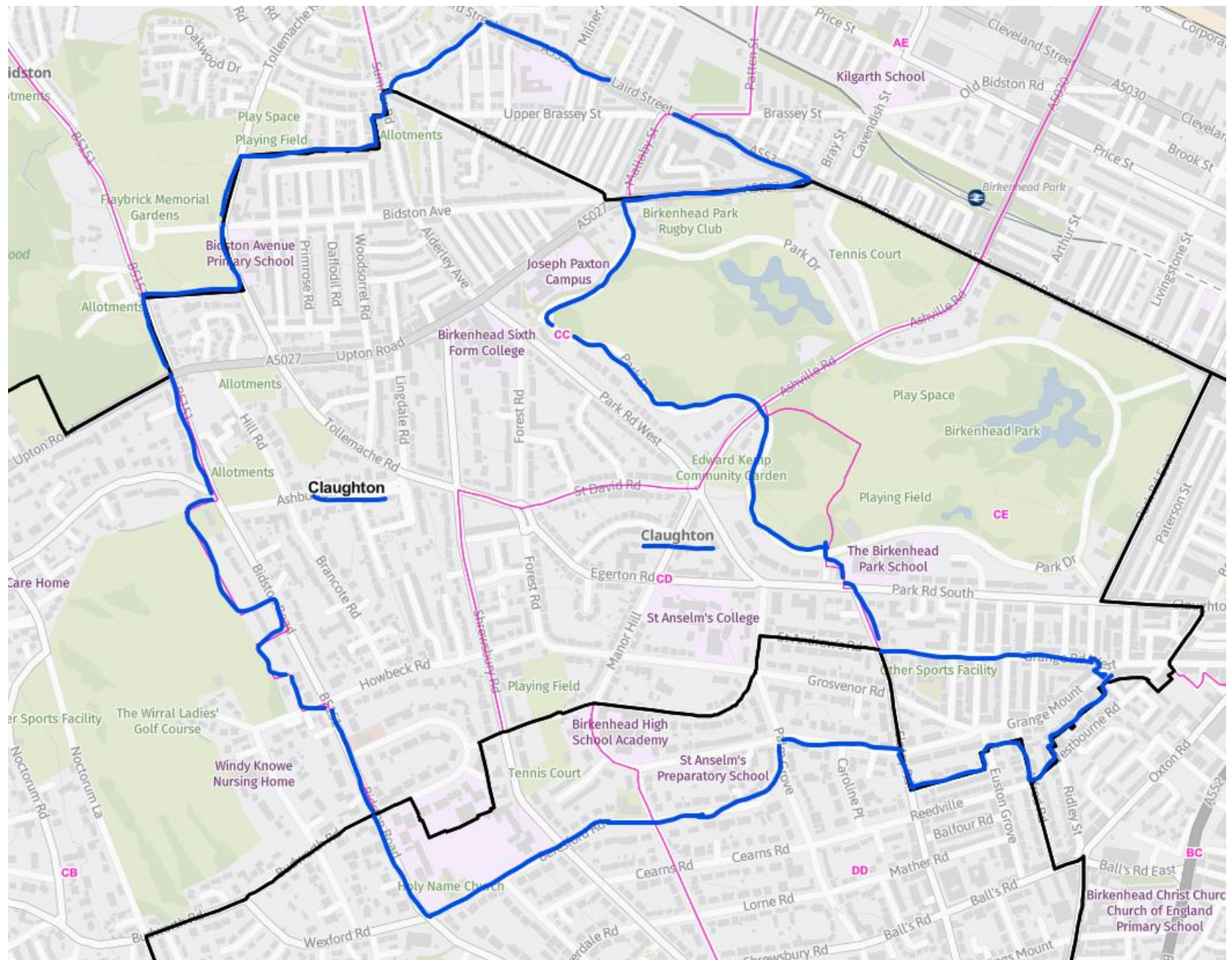
A **new 2-member Claughton ward** would absorb small parts of Bidston St James ward around the Upper Brassey Street area. Certainly, Laird Street would be a better dividing line here in terms of key routes than the current, rather arbitrary, Norman Street.

The border with Oxton would also shift slightly to produce a smoother border and better variances.

Finally, as outlined for the new Birkenhead Central ward, the Birkenhead Park area would leave Claughton ward. This ensures that all the town shopping centre area is part of Birkenhead Central along with the key town centre heritage asset that is Birkenhead Park.

This is mapped below and would have a figure for the newly defined Claughton ward of ~7,472 = -5% variance.



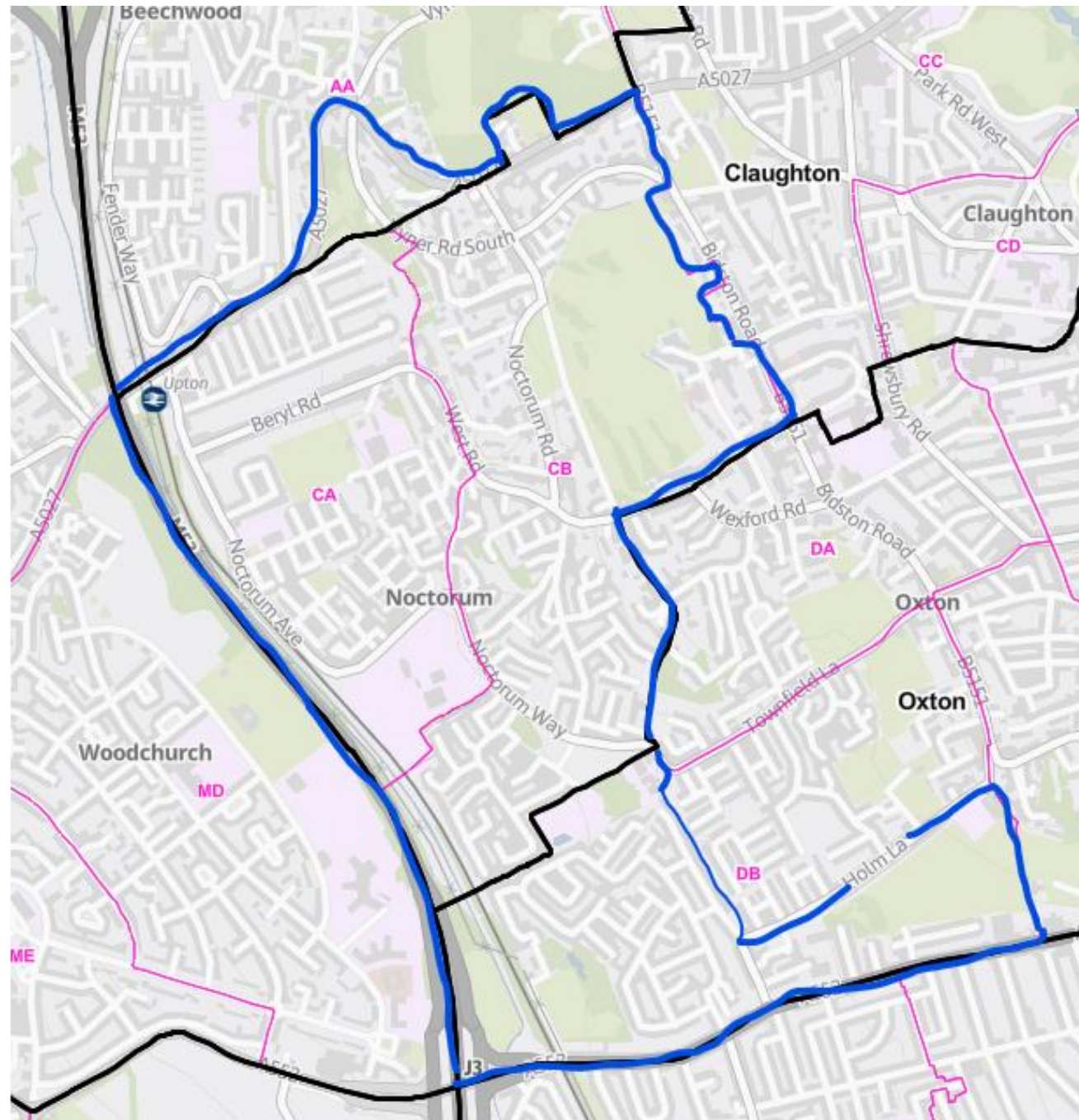


A **new 2-member Noctorum ward** would include all of the Noctorum estate and absorb the demographically similar areas that sit close to Woodchurch Road but do not identify as Oxton. This new ward would also absorb at least some of the area that includes Vyner Road North within Bidston ward. This area is socially very different from the vast majority of Bidston St James ward, one of the most deprived in the country. The switch in population is very small.

Overall, this new 2-member Noctorum ward would have a figure of ~7,374 and a variance of -6%.

This is mapped on the following page.





## **Oxton – new 2-member ward**

As currently configured Oxton ward is significantly larger than the geography of Oxton which centres around the Oxton Village area.

The current border between Oxton ward and both Prenton and Birkenhead and Tranmere wards makes sense both demographically/socially and/or in terms of key routes (Woodchurch Road) and should be retained. Woodchurch Road where it divides Prenton and Oxton wards is a major artery. Natural movements from either side are towards Birkenhead town centre. However, people living at the far end of the current Oxton ward near the M53 would not consider themselves as living in Oxton. This area has more in common with Noctorum demographically and in terms of demography and the age of housing stock.

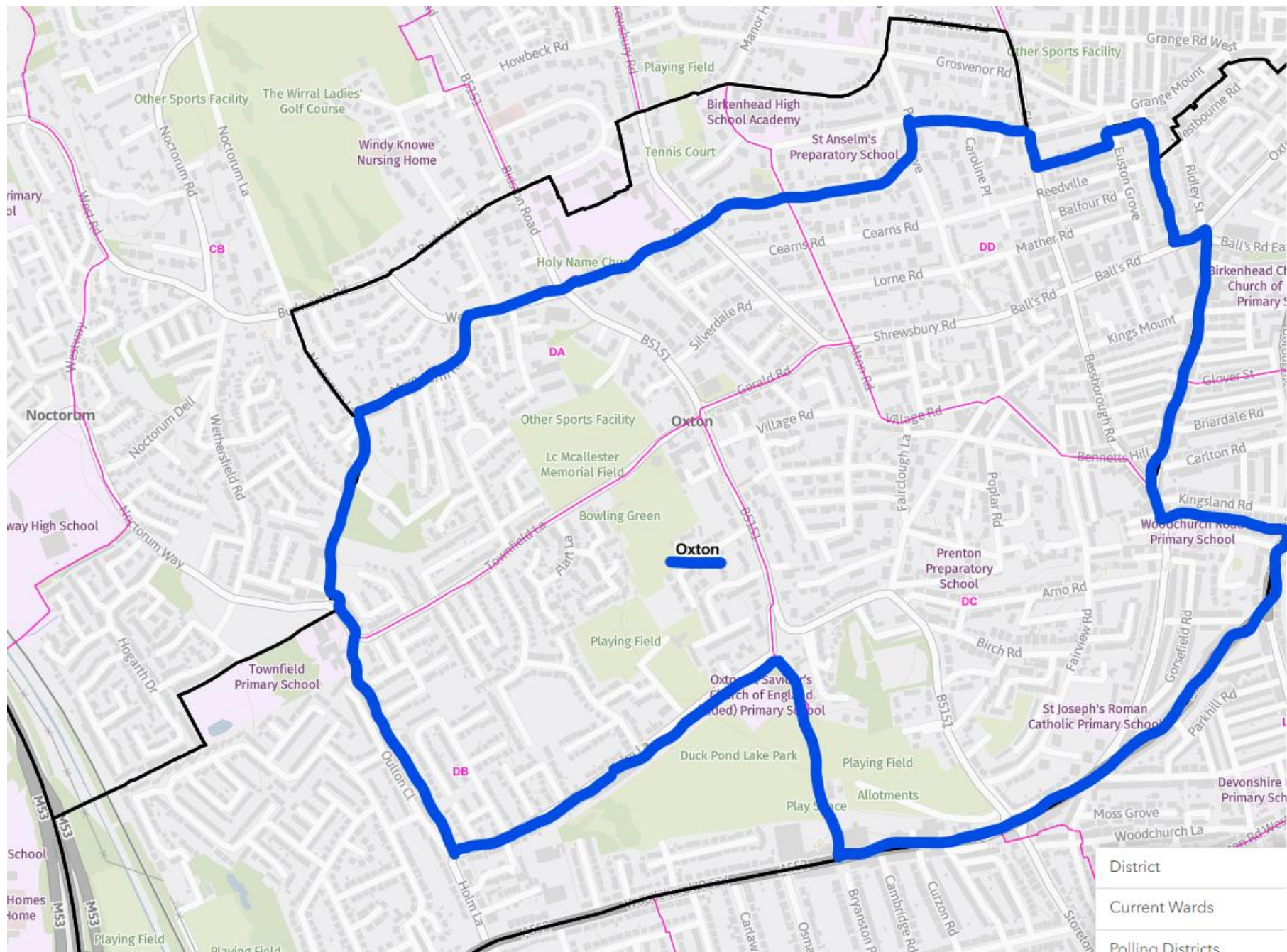
Closer to Birkenhead, Woodchurch Road represents a clear border and a good divide between more affluent areas in Oxton compared with lower income areas currently in Birkenhead and Tranmere. Although the streets that run between this section of Woodchurch Road and Borough Road have Oxton postal addresses they are generally very different in character and demography from the neighbourhood on the other side of Woodchurch Road and closer to Oxton village. It makes sense to retain these streets within the proposed new Tranmere ward.

However, the current border between Oxton and Claughton wards is haphazard, especially in the area close to Birkenhead town centre. A smoother line would be established as per our accompanying map.

This new 2-member ward yields a figure of ~8,192 and a variance of 4%.

This is shown in the map below.

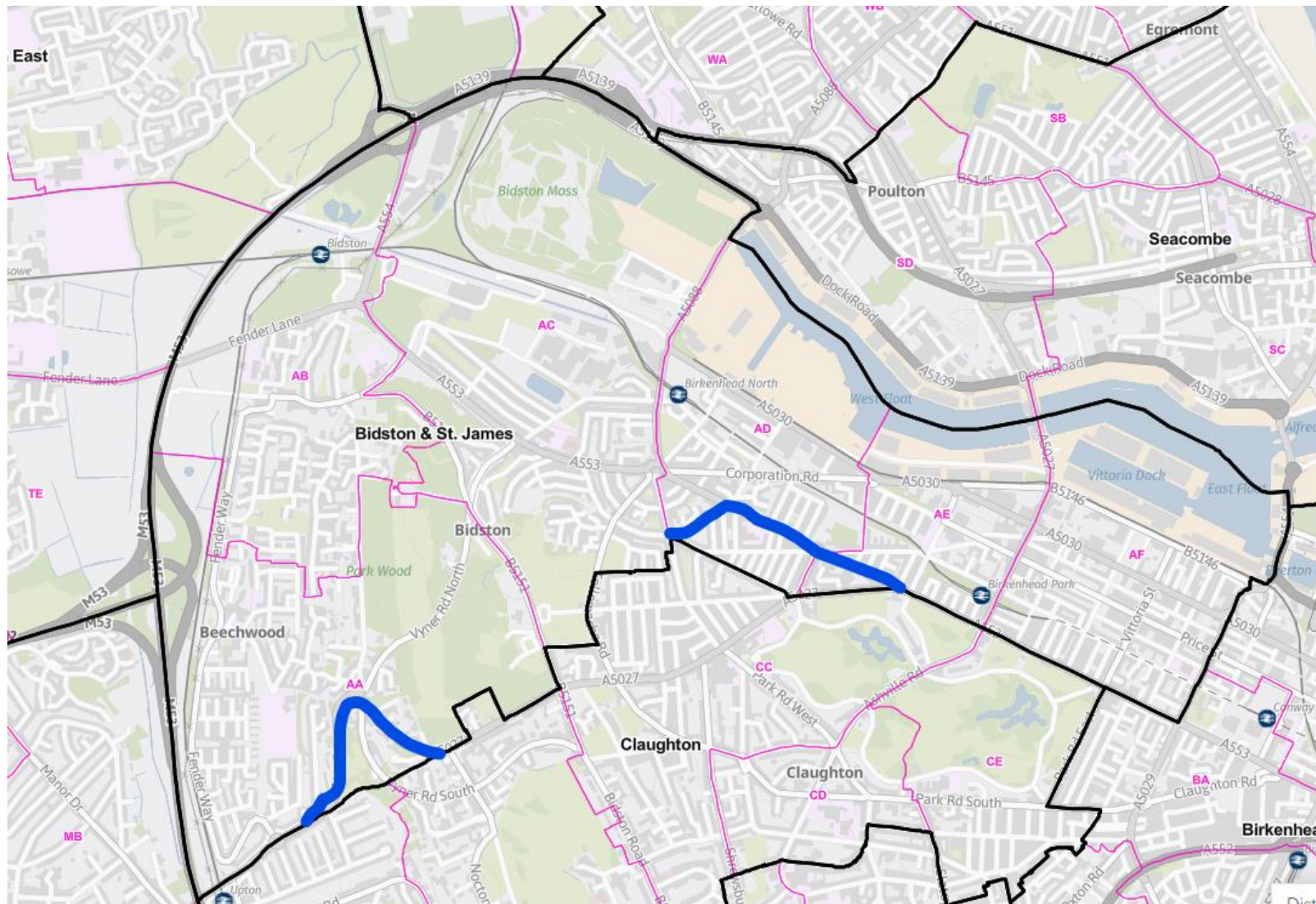






## Bidston St James – 3-member ward with new boundaries.

Bidston St James would lose some streets as per the drawings above but would remain largely unchanged and with clearer, more sensible borders. The new 2030 figure would be ~10,800 = variance of -7%. The areas lost to Claughton/Noctorum are marked in blue below. The new border with Claughton runs along the key route of Laird Street and up Lansdowne Road.





## **Birkenhead Central, Tranmere, Rock Ferry and New Ferry**

**Summary:** The current ward patterns have some significant weaknesses. Not all of Birkenhead town centre sits within the Birkenhead and Tranmere ward. Similarly, not all of Tranmere sits within the ward bearing its name. New Ferry is awkwardly paired with Bromborough rather than being part of Birkenhead which it naturally aligns with.

### **Birkenhead & Tranmere**

Currently most but not all of Tranmere sits together with most of central Birkenhead to make one ward. Other areas such as Bidston, Rock Ferry, Claughton or Oxton could have been twinned with the town centre. Tranmere is disadvantaged by this arrangement as the town centre gets far more attention, especially given the scale of regeneration spend. However, not all the town centre sits within the current Birkenhead and Tranmere ward. A section is in Claughton ward which includes the shopping area along Grange Road West. This is unsatisfactory. It would be sensible that all of the shopping areas associated with Birkenhead town centre are in the same ward. This also applies to Birkenhead Park which is a key heritage asset and a fundamental part of the identity of the town of Birkenhead.

Moreover, new housing developments (principally Hind Street) will significantly increase the population in and around Birkenhead town centre from 2027 onwards as per the new local plan.

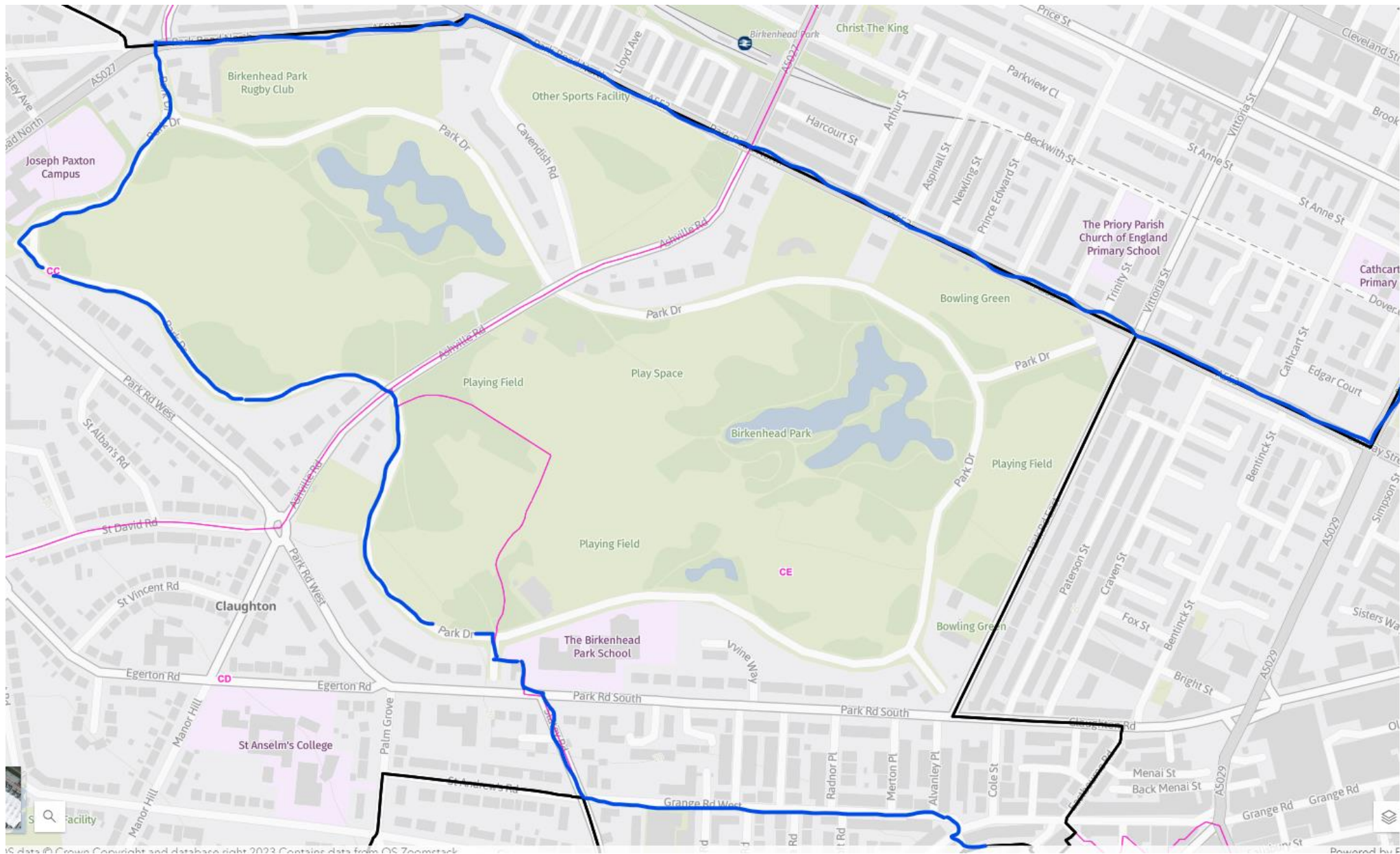
We therefore propose two 2-member wards that neatly represent both the full town centre and the complete geography of Tranmere. This has some knock-on implications for Rock Ferry and Claughton wards as currently defined.

**Birkenhead Central** – a new 2-member ward that covers the entire central area of Birkenhead including all its shopping areas well as Birkenhead Central Library and Birkenhead Park.

Our proposed changes are as follows:

A: Add the whole of Birkenhead Park and a handful of adjacent streets nearest the town centre to ensure all of the shopping area along Grange Road West is included in the new Birkenhead Central ward along with all of Birkenhead Park. This moves around 750 electors from the existing Claughton ward to the new Birkenhead Central ward.

This change is shown in the map below



B: New border between Birkenhead Central and Tranmere running from the top of Oxton Road along Balls Road East, past Central Library. This ensures that key town centre shopping areas (Oxton Road) and also Birkenhead Central Library sit within the ward along with the emerging town centre new build housing at Hind Street. This new build sits within the BD polling district. It's important to note BD would be split between the new wards of Birkenhead Central and Tranmere but the projected growth in the electorate would sit firmly within the Birkenhead Central area.





This would mean from the BC polling district the following streets would sit within Birkenhead Central:

Henthorne Street = 12, Westbourne Road = 96, Alfred Road = 24, Belmont Grove = 15, Carlisle Mews = 27, Cartmel Close = 8, Clarendon Close = 28, Grange View = 47, Maritime Park = 45, Quarrybank = 8, Ridley Street = 51, Shaw Street = 35, Tetbury Street = 1, Town View = 14, Town View Mews = 3, Balls Road East = 0, Warwick Close = 47, Oxton Road = 95, Penrith Street = 32, Oak Bank = 34, Belmont Grove = 15

Total = ~**637**

And from the BD polling district everything except the following would sit within Birkenhead Central:

Chesnut Grove = 67, Church Road 0, Convent Close = 22, Derby Road = 17, Elm Grove = 66, Fairfax Road = 5, Fairview = 12, Frodsham Street = 71, Hillside Road = 33, Holborn Hill = 38, Kingsdown Street = 14, Leighton Road = 38, Lightbound Road = 10, Marquis Street = 33, Old Chester Road = 32, Olive Crescent = 11, Olive Mount = 35, Queen Street = 32, Rectory Close = 31, Ripon Street = 11, Seymour Street = 28, Shewell Close = 26, Thompson Street = 71, Victoria Road = 29, Warrington Street = 77, Westbury Street = 10

Total = ~**819**

For clarity we suggest Birkenhead Central excludes all of Wellington Terrace and includes all of Whetstone Lane.

BD 2030 total = 3,012 – 819 = 2,193

### **New Birkenhead Central ward calculations.**

From BD (2193) + BA (2414) + BB (1959) + part of BC as above (637) + taken from Claughton = 750 = 7,953

**Total 2030 electors = 7,953 = 1% variance for 2 members**

*Note: Our communications with council officers revealed a software error which initially placed the growth in the BD electorate from new housing (Hind Street) in the wrong area. We understand this has been corrected. For the avoidance of doubt Hind Street new community falls within the Birkenhead Central area as defined by our map.*

## **Tranmere ward** – A new 2-member ward that covers the full area of Tranmere

This creates a 2-member ward that represents all the community that lives within the Tranmere area.

All of BE (**1,897**) and BF (**2,006**)

Parts of BC not in Birkenhead Central as above for the new Birkenhead Central ward =  $1865 - 637 = \sim\mathbf{1,228}$

Parts of BD not in Birkenhead Central as above =  $\sim\mathbf{819}$

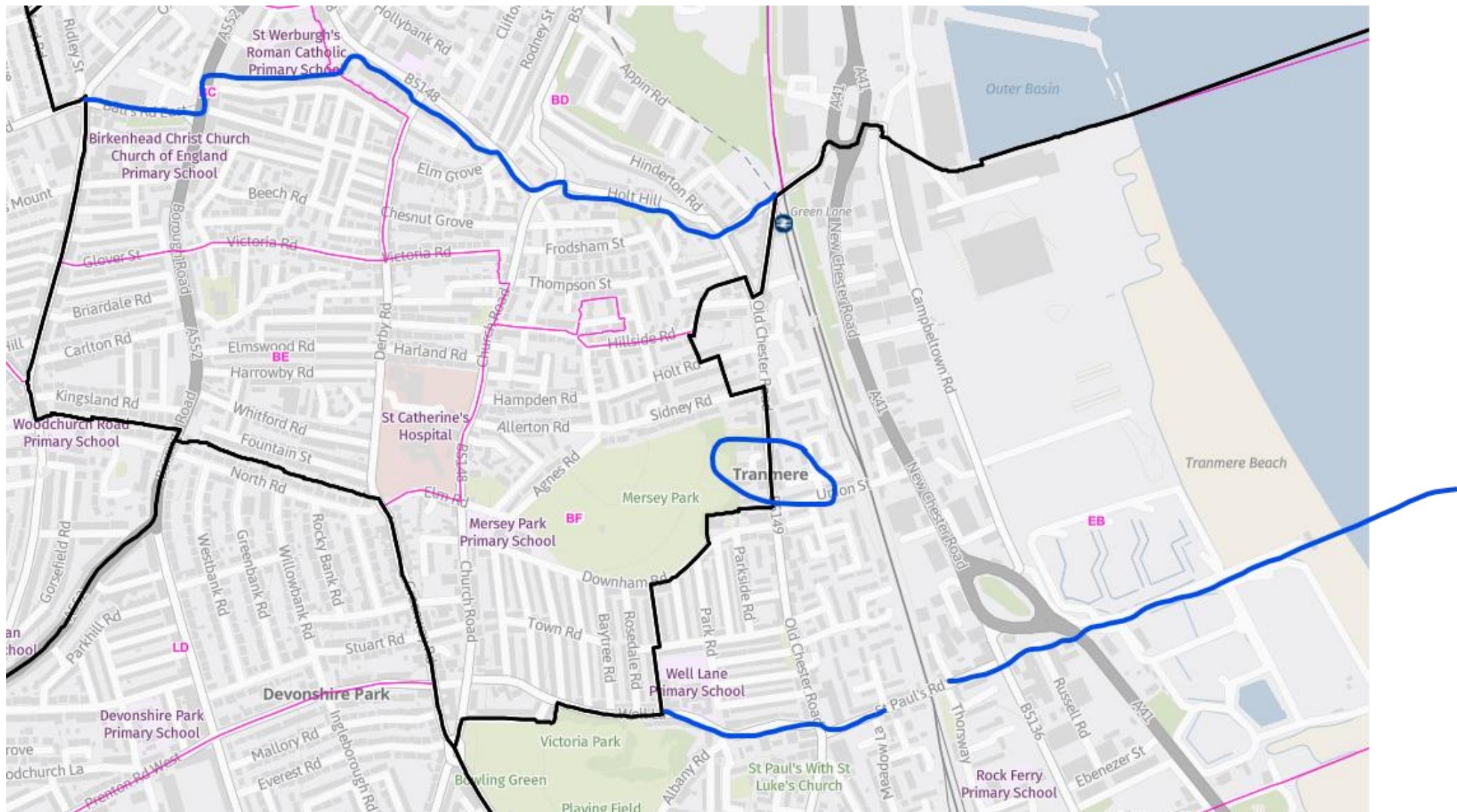
Taken from Rock Ferry ward as per the map below i.e. a new border running down all of Well Lane and St Pauls Road with lost streets migrating to the new Tranmere ward. Relevant organisations in this area have Tranmere postal addresses e.g. Involve North West, Swettenhams chemists, Orchard Quick Fit etc. The area includes Tranmere Beach. This would move  $\sim\mathbf{1,523}$  voters from Rock Ferry into the new Tranmere ward. Particularly important is that all of the area between Mersey Park and Victoria Park would now sit in the same ward bringing the community here together within one ward. Also, those streets currently and rather arbitrarily split between two wards (Ivydale Road, Sidney Road and Holt Road) would now all be in the same ward.

*Note: existing borders between Birkenhead & Tranmere ward and the Prenton and Oxtown wards would not change. Although the streets that run between Woodchurch Road and Borough Road have Oxtown postal addresses they are generally very different in character and demographic from the neighbourhood on the other side of Woodchurch Road and closer to Oxtown village. They therefore fit well demographically with Tranmere. Similarly, the current dividing line between the Birkenhead & Tranmere and Prenton wards (North Road) is sensible given the change in character and the beginning of the Devonshire Park neighbourhood as represented by this map: [Microsoft Word - Document 2 Map of Plan Area](#)*

New Tranmere ward calculations:  $1,897 + 2,006 + 1,228 + 819 + 1,523 = 7,473$

**Total electors in 2030 = 7,473 = -5% variance for 2 members**

Proposed Tranmere ward borders are represented in the following map





**Rock Ferry ward** – Still a 3-member ward but merged with its natural partner of New Ferry with borders closely aligned to the areas identified as Rock Ferry and New Ferry.

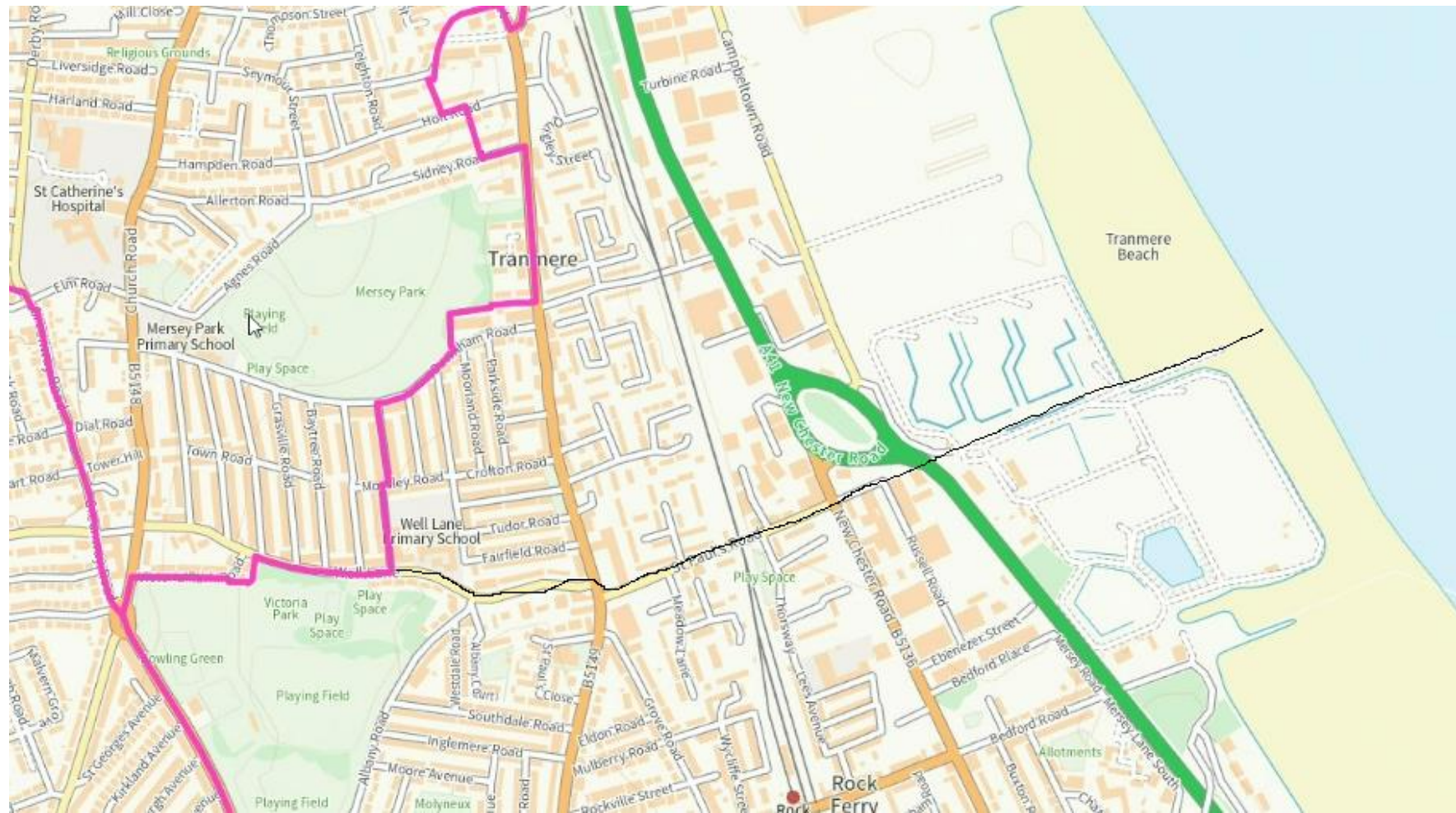
Rock Ferry ward as currently defined has 2030 total electors of 10,757 (-7% variance). However, these borders include parts of what people generally consider to be Tranmere, Prenton or Bebington.

Our suggestion is to create a 3-member Rock Ferry & New Ferry ward.

Note: Simply expanding the existing borders of Rock Ferry ward would further erode community cohesion. Basically, Rock Ferry is not large enough on its own to warrant a three-member ward.

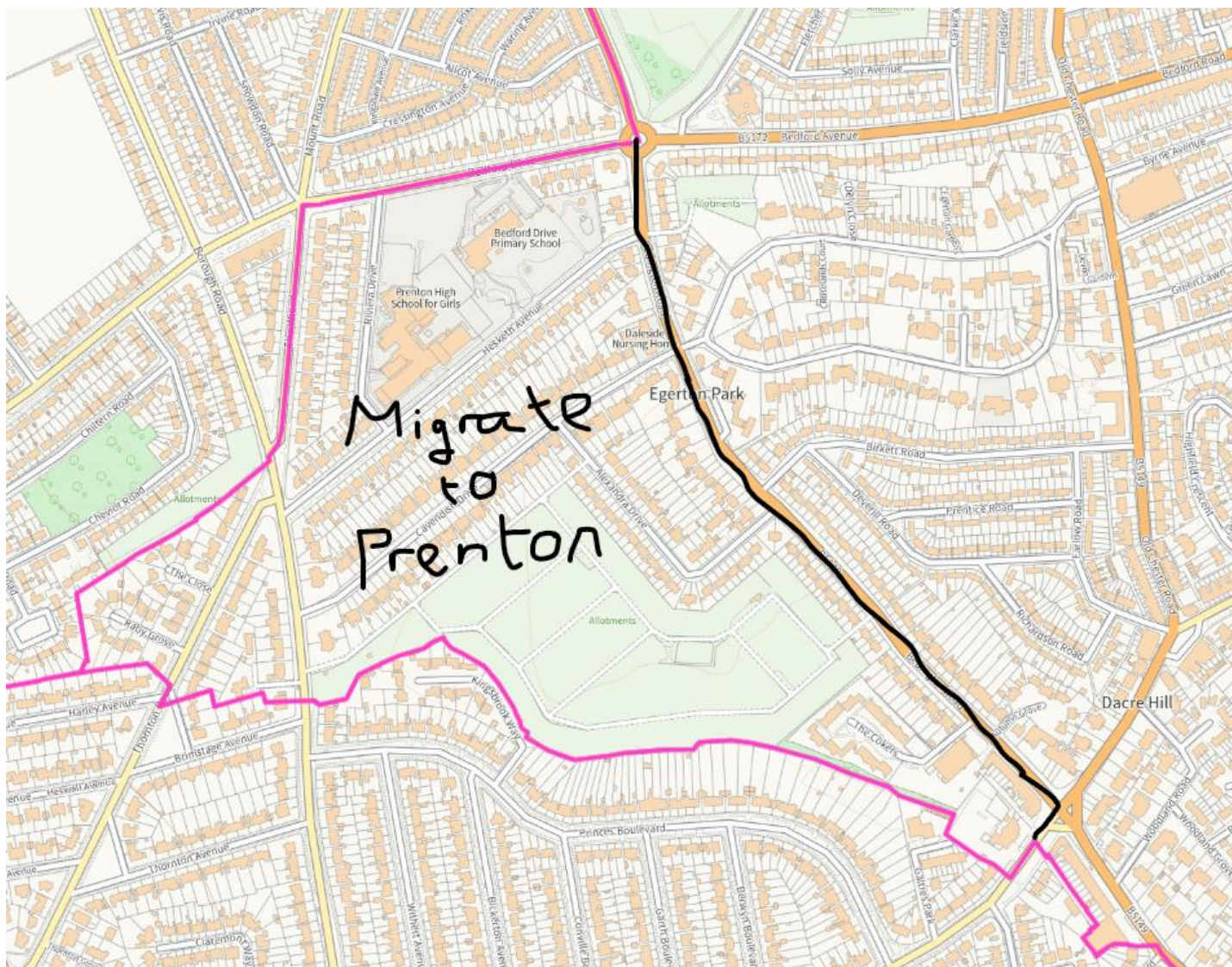
Specific suggestions for new arrangement.

A: The map below draws a new border down Well Lane and St Pauls Road with lost streets migrating to a new Tranmere ward as suggested above for the new Tranmere ward. This would move **~1,523** voters from Rock Ferry ward into the new Tranmere ward.



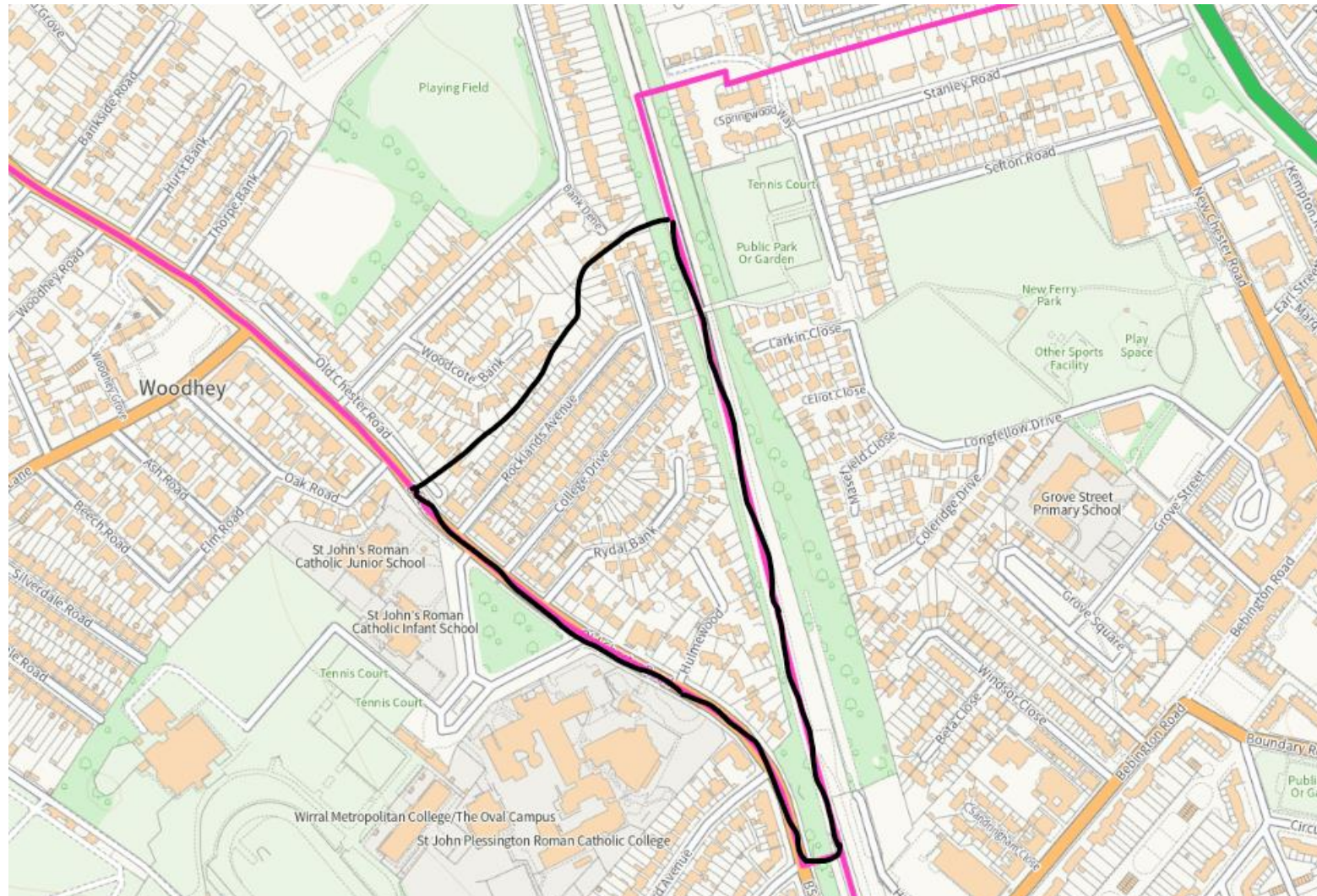


B: The part below (Cavendish, Hesketh etc.) would go into Prenton Ward with a new border along Bebington Road which is a main route through the area. The demographic here is a better fit with Prenton than Rock Ferry. The main advantage of this change is that it helps yield a better fit between Rock Ferry as a ward and as a community. It also yields a better variance for Prenton ward. This affects around **619** electors.





C: The triangle below including College Drive would migrate to Bebington ward. This demographic fits better with that of the existing Bebington ward to which people here naturally relate being so close to local primary and secondary schools and The Oval leisure centre. This affects around **357** electors.



**D:** Move New Ferry (polling district HA – 3,141 electors) to create a new Rock Ferry and New Ferry ward. New Ferry is adjacent to Rock Ferry and shares a very similar demographic. New Ferry has more in common with Rock Ferry than it does with Bromborough in its existing ward arrangement. Residents in New Ferry would generally consider themselves to be part of greater Birkenhead. Residents in Bromborough would not generally consider themselves to be part of Birkenhead. New Ferry has been a recipient of the Future High Streets (now Pathfinder) regeneration funding for the Birkenhead area.

### **Calculations for new Rock Ferry & New Ferry 3-member ward**

Current Rock Ferry ward 2030 population = 10,757 = -7% variance for three members.

**A:** Split at Well Lane/St Paul's Road = ~**1,523** reduction (moved to new Tranmere ward)

**B:** Migrate the following to Prenton ward:

Riviera Drive, Hesketh Avenue, Cavendish Drive, Alexandra Drive, The Close, Raby Grove, The Cokers plus relevant sections of Thornton Road and Borough Road. Also a small number from one side of Bebington Road which would form the new boundary.

$42 + 120 + 201 + 90 + 10 + 18 + 34 + 56 + 48 = \sim \mathbf{619}$ .

**C:** The following streets would migrate into Bebington: Hulmewood, Rydal Bank, College Drive, Rocklands Avenue and relevant section of Old Chester Road.

$31 + 70 + 123 + 103 + \sim 30 = \sim \mathbf{357}$ .

**D:** Add polling district HA (New Ferry) = 3,141 in 2030.

**$10,757 - 1,523 - 619 - 357 + 3,141 = 11,399 = -3\%$  variance for 3-member ward.**

This arrangement also facilitates the creation of a new 3-member Bromborough ward that much more closely aligns with the distinctive Bromborough area and community. It also gives a better variance for Prenton ward.



## Prenton ward – 3-member new boundaries

Prenton currently has a 2030 figure of 10,995 = -5% variance. We propose a small change to the border for Prenton. The part below (Cavendish, Hesketh etc.) would go into Prenton Ward with a new border along Bebington Road which is a main route through the area. The main advantage of this change is that it helps yield a better fit between Rock Ferry as a ward and as a community. It also yields a better variance for Prenton ward.

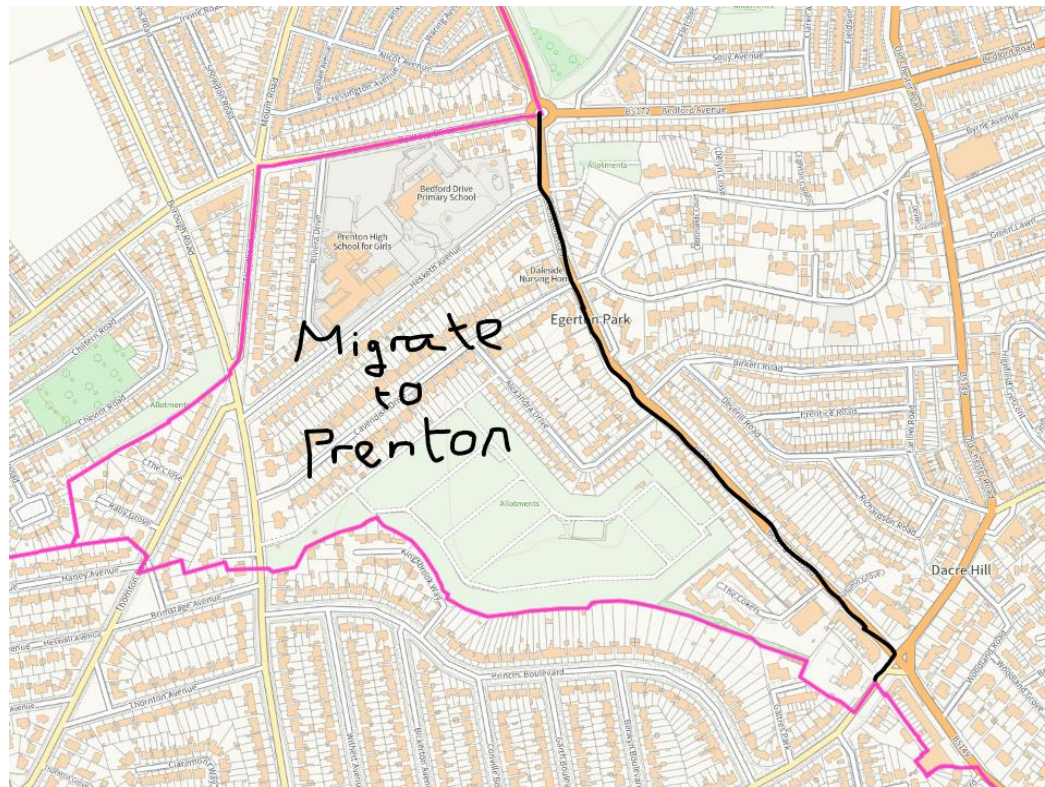
2030 figure for Prenton = **10,995**

Migrate the following to Prenton ward: Riviera Drive, Hesketh Avenue, Cavendish Drive, Alexandra Drive, The Close, Raby Grove, The Cokers plus relevant sections of Thornton Road and Borough Road. Also a small number from one side of Bebington Road which would form the new boundary.

$42 + 120 + 201 + 90 + 10 + 18 + 34 + 56 + 48 = \sim\mathbf{619}$ .

New 2030 electors:  $10,995 + 619 = \mathbf{11,614}$  = -2% variance

The remaining existing borders for Prenton would be unchanged.





## **Bromborough** Still a 3-member ward but with different boundaries

The current Bromborough ward boundary has a 2030 variance of +24% due to significant new housing developments. Clearly change is required to address this. Furthermore, the current ward excludes a significant part of the population that consider themselves to live in Bromborough (currently in Eastham ward). It also includes the New Ferry district which aligns naturally with the greater Birkenhead area. New Ferry has much more in common socially with the neighbouring ward of Rock Ferry than it does with the Bromborough area. Bromborough is largely defined by Bromborough and Bromborough Rake train stations, and its own vibrant district centre. Bromborough Village district centre is within 20 minutes walking distance for most Bromborough residents.

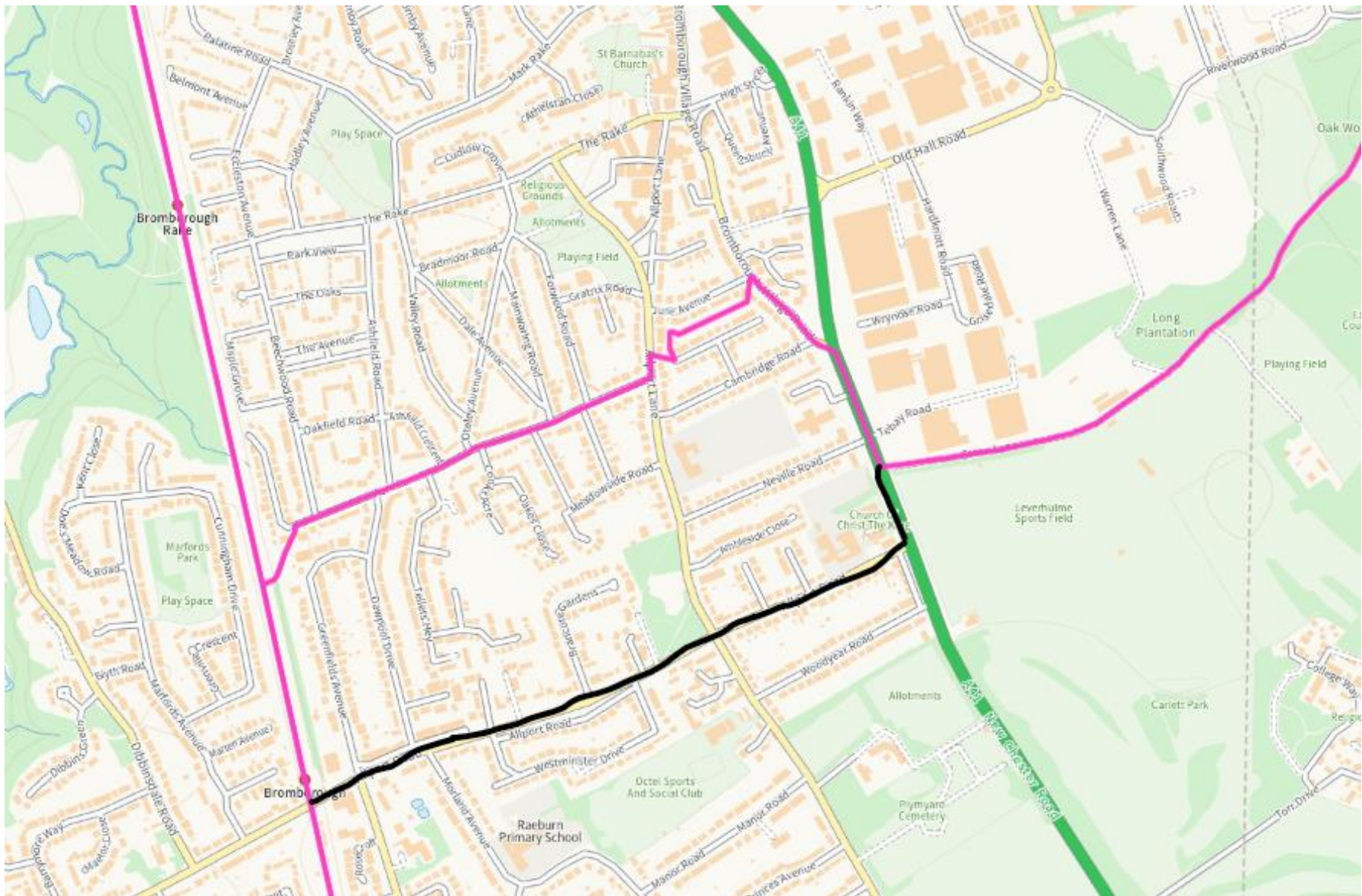
As proposed earlier we suggest merging New Ferry and Rock Ferry to create a new 3-member ward.

We also, as proposed elsewhere below, suggest changing the ward boundaries for Eastham ward so that the border with Bromborough shifts down to Allport Road. This yields a new ward border as displayed in the map below that much better aligns the geography of Bromborough with the new Bromborough ward and brings both Bromborough and Bromborough Rake railway stations within the ward.

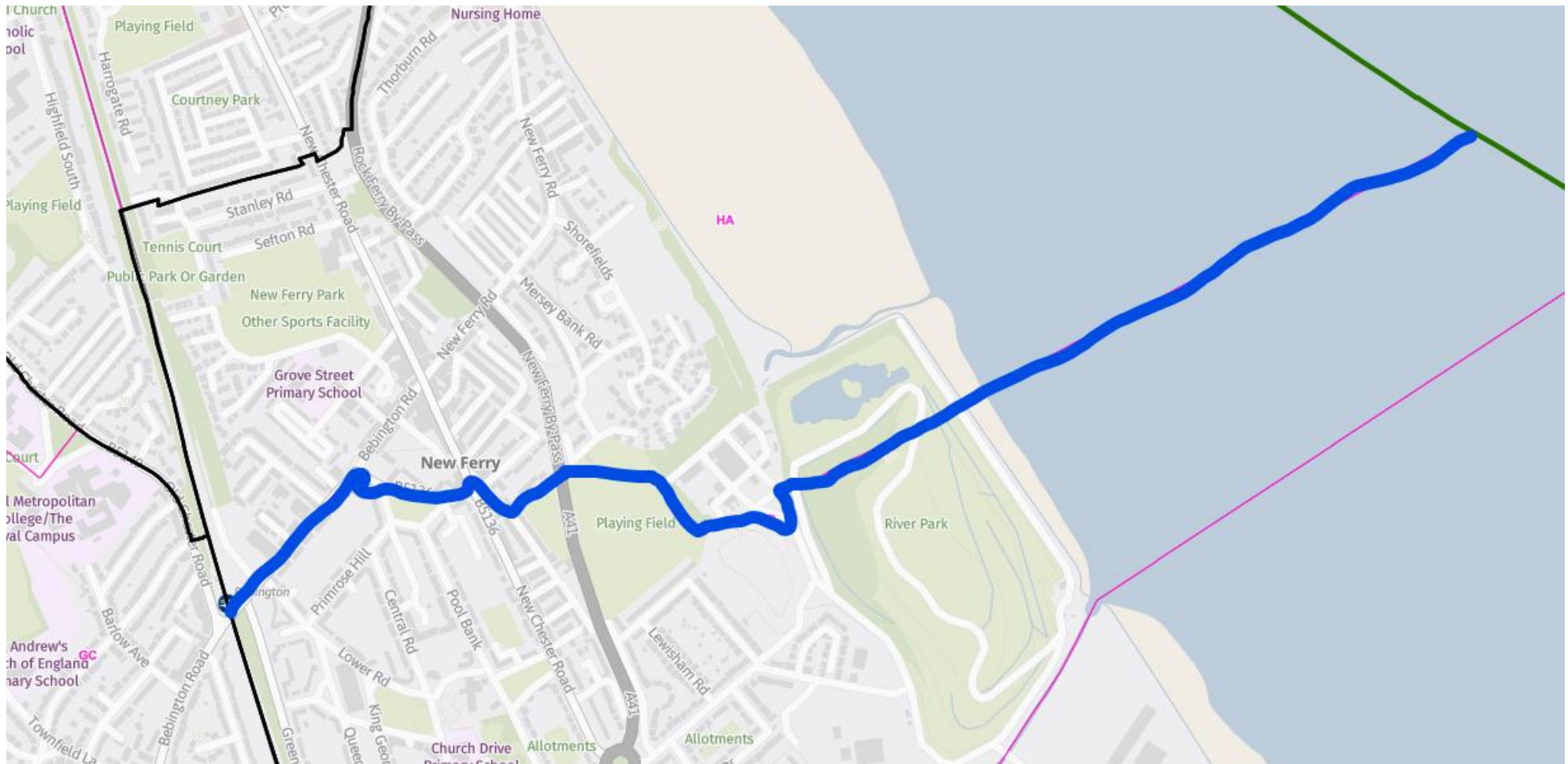
The 2030 electors for the new Bromborough ward would be as follows:

Current 2030 figure for Bromborough ward is **14,401** (=24%).

A: Extend border to Allport Road (currently Eastham ward) as per map below = **+1,694**.



The new border between Bromborough ward and New Ferry/Rock Ferry ward would be along the line currently represented by the HA polling district as mapped below.


$$14,401 + 1,694 - 3141 = \mathbf{12,954} = \text{variance} +10\%.$$

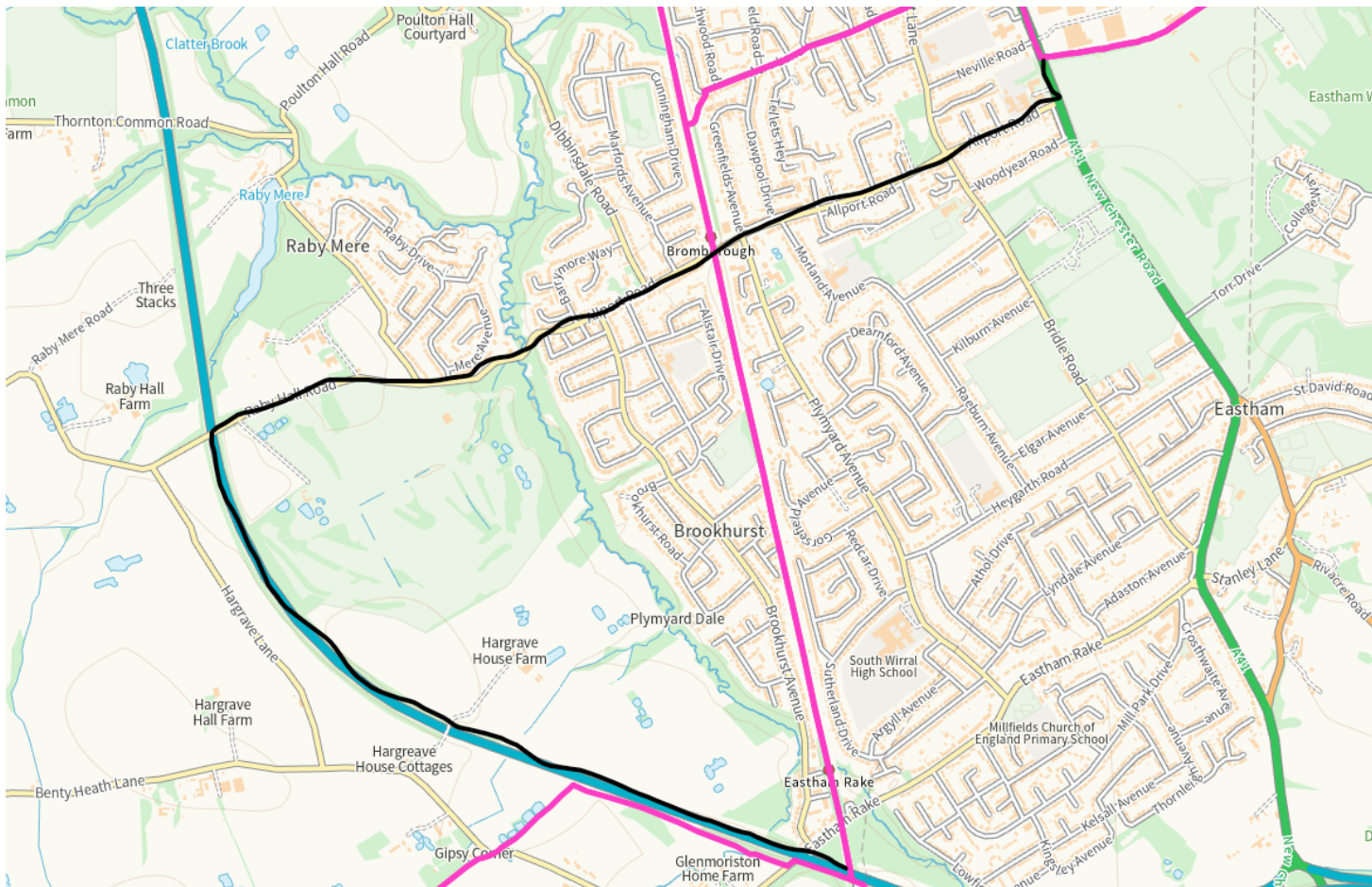


## Eastham – Still a 3-member ward but with new borders

The current ward boundary is unsatisfactory in community terms. It includes a significant area widely considered to be part of Bromborough but excludes the Brookhurst area which aligns naturally with Eastham. This includes a large amount of housing very close to Eastham Rake station but not currently in Eastham ward. Based on the map below we propose a new boundary running along Allport Lane, across the railway and incorporating Brookhurst. This would give up those streets which are clearly part of the Bromborough community and gain the Brookhurst area.

Lost electors to Bromborough ward = ~1,694. Gained from Brookhurst (currently Clatterbridge ward) = 1,961.

$11,355 - 1,694 + 1,961 = \mathbf{11,622}$  – variance = 2%.



**Hoylake & Meols** - A new 2-member ward representing all of Hoylake and Meols while removing the split through the middle of West Kirby.

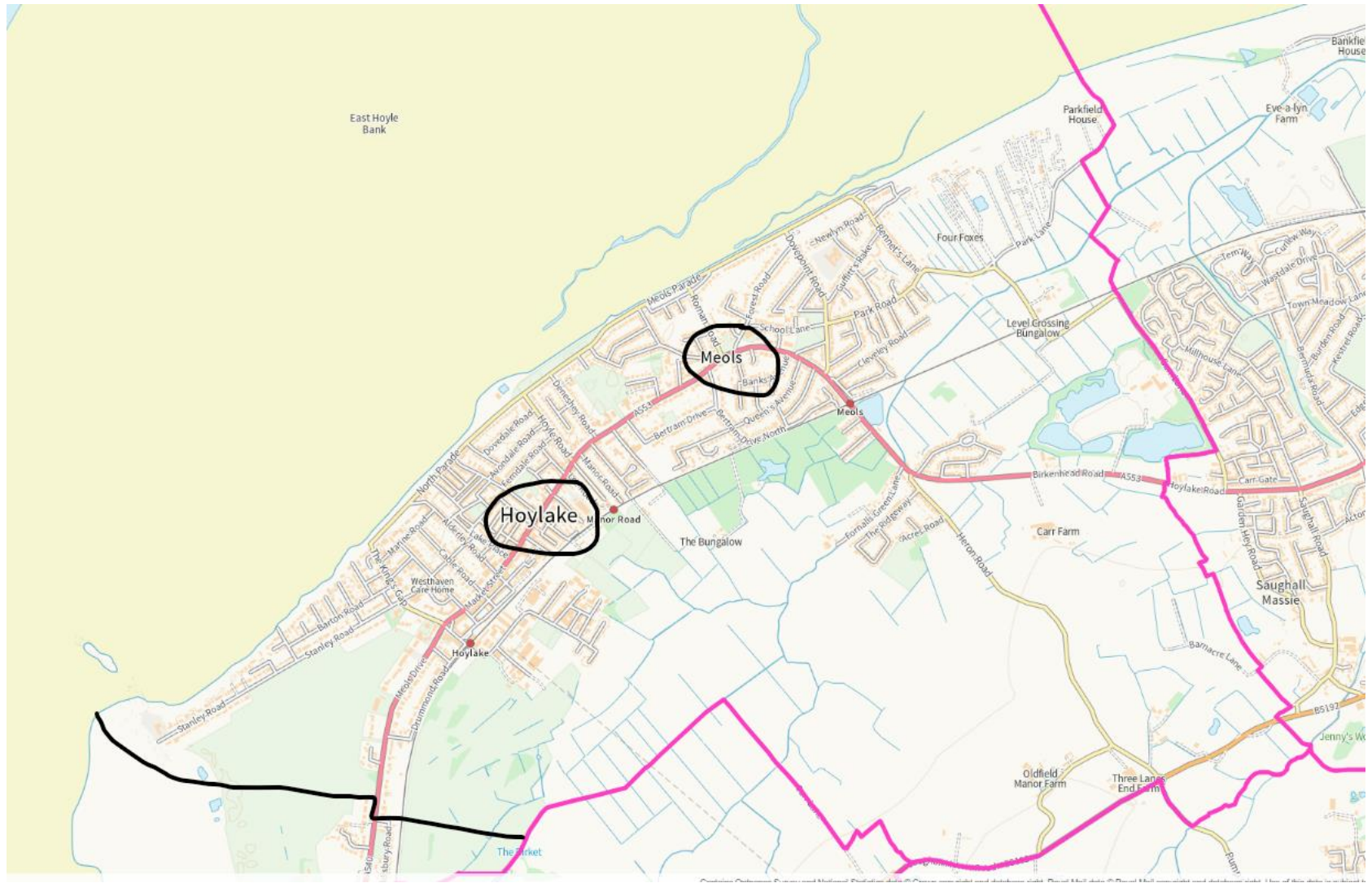
Currently the Hoylake and Meols ward includes a large part of West Kirby. This is very unsatisfactory from a community perspective as West Kirby and Hoylake are linked but very distinct communities. Our suggestion therefore is for a new two member Hoylake and Meols ward with all of West Kirby absorbed into a reformed 3- member West Kirby ward (excluding Thurstaston).

The border between the two wards would naturally fall along Meols Drive at Morpeth Road/public footpath.

This means the new ward of Hoylake and Meols would include all of polling districts NA (4,166) and NB (3,473) plus all of NC apart from some of Meols Drive (~150). And Barn Hey (26), Leas Park (38), Winnington Road (5) and Morpeth Road (14) from polling district ND.

**Total ward size for 2030 = 4166 (NA) + 3473 (NB) + 1225 (NC) – (150+26+38+5+14) = 8631 = variance of +10%.**

This is represented in the map below.

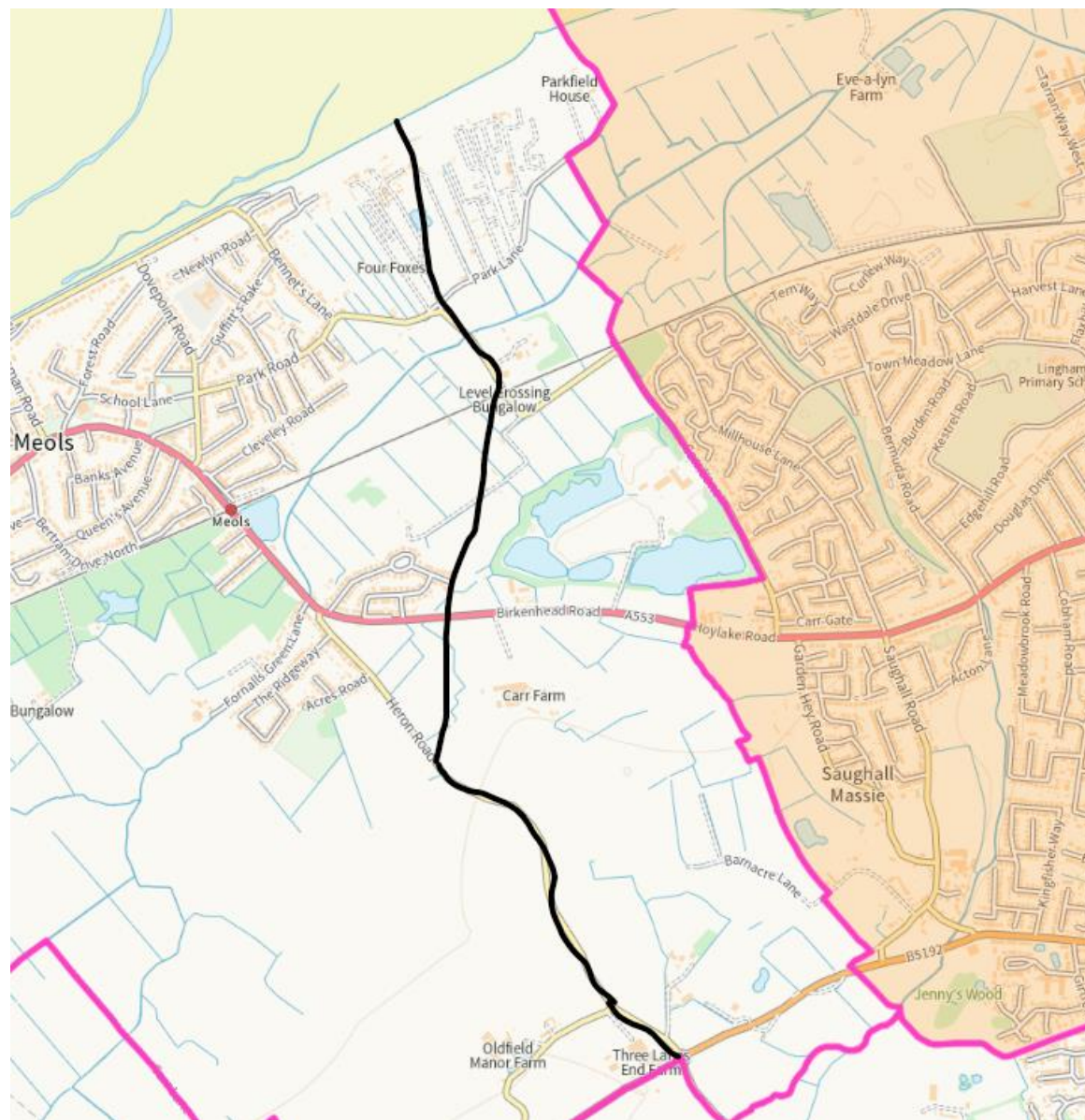


The variance can be decreased if necessary by extending the border slightly along Meols Drive to Airlie Road.

At the other end of the ward, it would be sensible to make a slight change by shifting LSOA013D (part of Park Lane) into the Moreton West and Saughall Massie ward given its social characteristics. More broadly, the border of Moreton West and Saughall Massie ward could shift westwards to incorporate



mainly rural areas and part of Birkenhead Road as per the map below. This would not impact community and would help achieve a better variance for both wards. We have not included this change in our calculations.



## **West Kirby – Still a 3-member ward but with new boundaries**

Currently the ward of West Kirby and Thurstaston excludes a large part of central West Kirby which sits within the Hoylake and Meols ward. This is very unsatisfactory from a community perspective as West Kirby and Hoylake are linked but distinct communities. Also, the Thurstaston area is closer to and more clearly linked with Heswall than with West Kirby.

Our proposal is to build on the creation of a 2-member Hoylake & Meols ward by creating a new 3-member West Kirby ward that encompasses all of West Kirby while dropping Thurstaston which can be incorporated within a reformed Heswall ward.

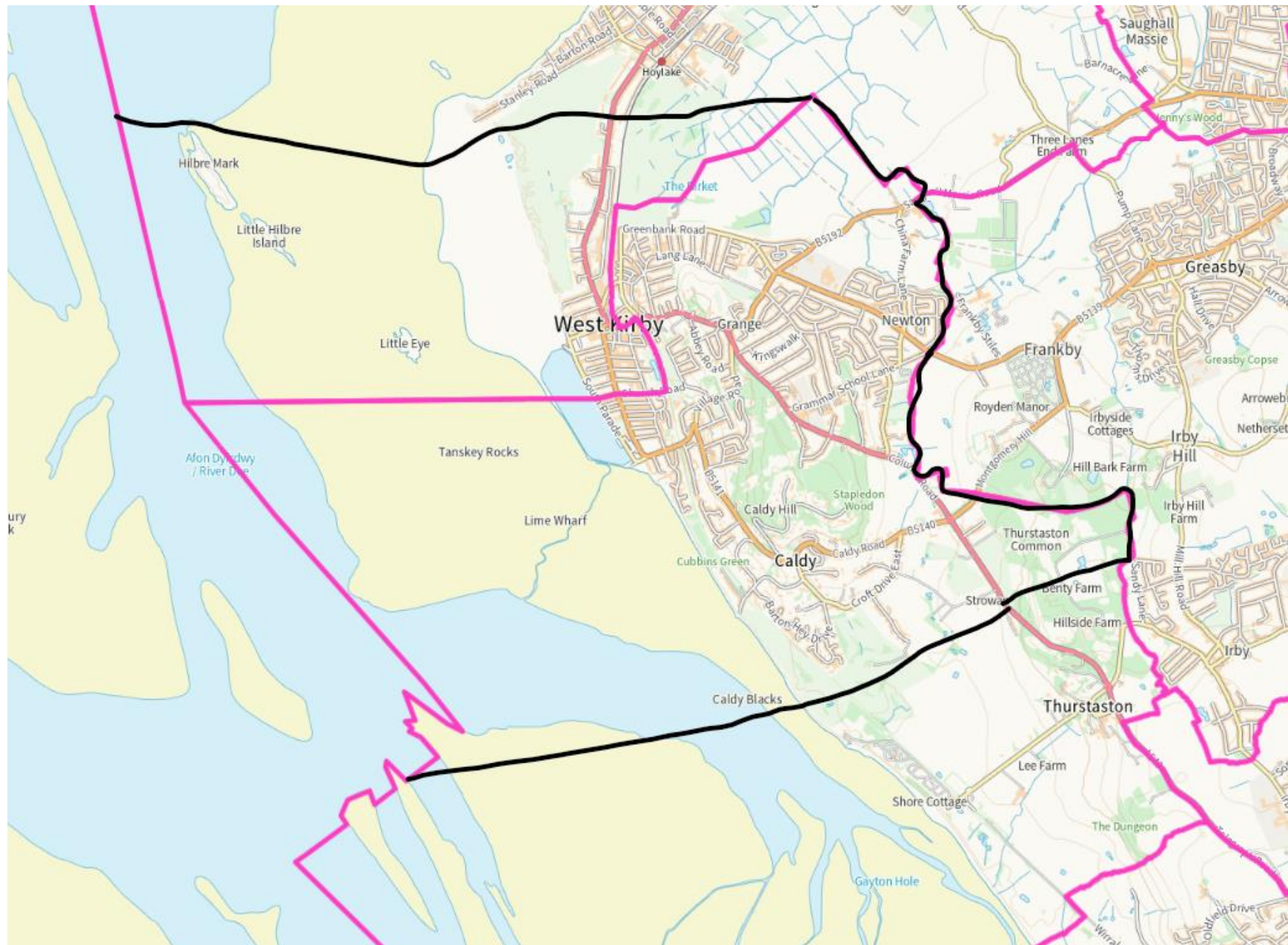
Currently the 2030 figure for West Kirby and Thurstaston is 10,489 (-10% variance)

The new border would sit along Meols Drive at Morpeth Road/public footpath. This adds ~1,775.

Removing Thurstaston takes away ~422

**New ward numbers = 10,489 + 1,775 - 422 = 11,842 = 0% variance**

The new borders are displayed in the map below





## **Heswall & Thurstaston** – a 3-member ward but with new borders

The current 2030 projection for Heswall ward is 11,050 (-5% variance).

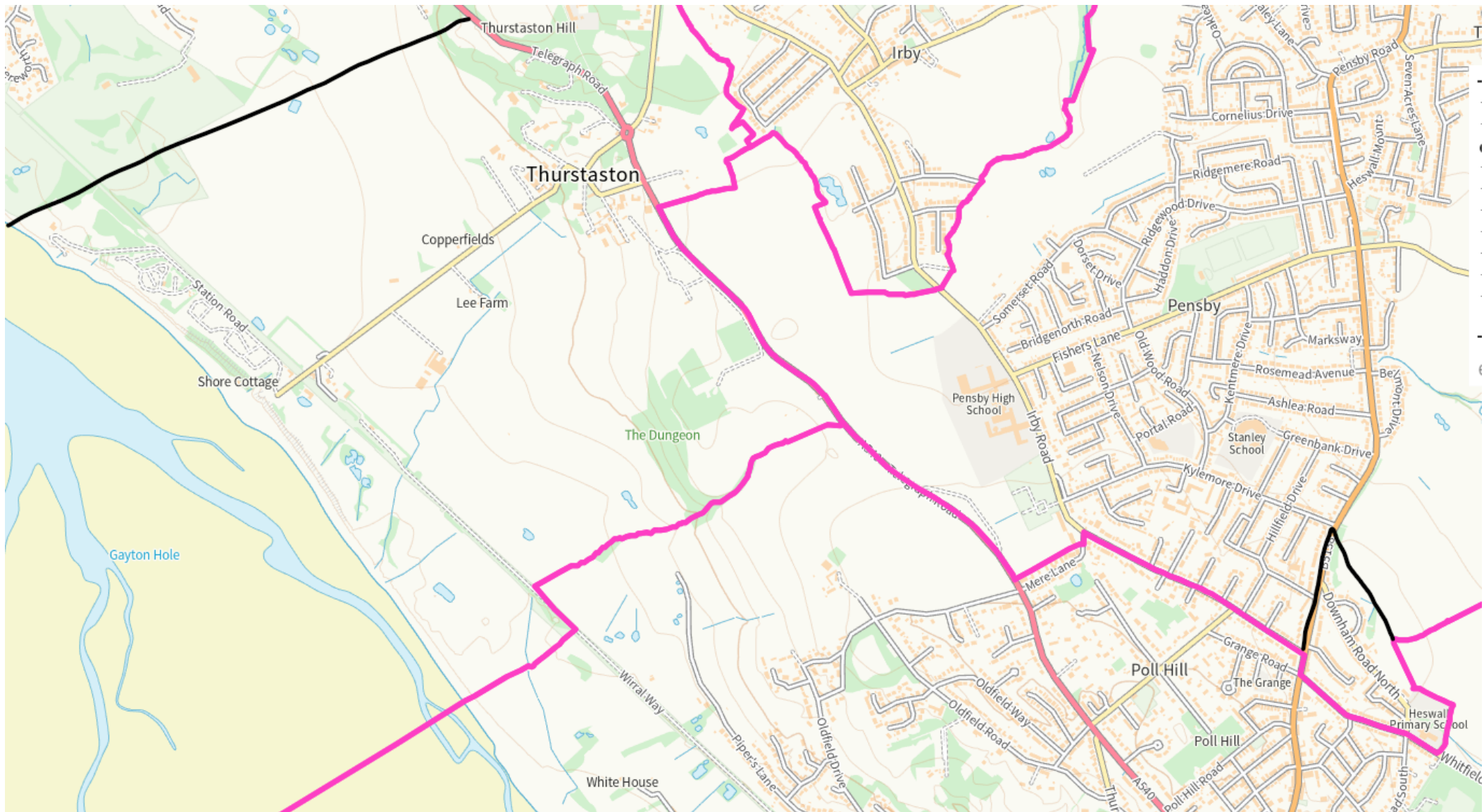
As detailed for the new West Kirby ward above, the Thurstaston area is closer to and more clearly linked with the Heswall area than with West Kirby. We therefore propose adding Thurstaston to Heswall to create a new **Heswall and Thurstaston ward**. This adds ~422 voters.

In addition, the area around Heswall Primary School extending along Downham Road North is currently in the Pensby and Thingwall ward but is clearly part of Heswall and therefore better added to Heswall ward. This adds ~372.

The remaining existing borders of the current Heswall ward would remain unchanged.

**New calculations:  $11,050 + 422 + 372 = 11,844 = 0\%$  variance.**

This preferred option is mapped out below.



## **Irby, Pensby and Thingwall – new 3-member ward**

Pensby & Thingwall ward currently has a 2030 projection of 10,562 (-9% variance).

As detailed elsewhere below, we suggest removing the current link between Greasby and Irby. This is unsatisfactory in community terms as Irby is closer to and looks naturally towards the Pensby and Heswall area. It makes more sense for Irby to be paired with its near neighbour Pensby. This adds ~3,270 to Pensby and Thingwall.

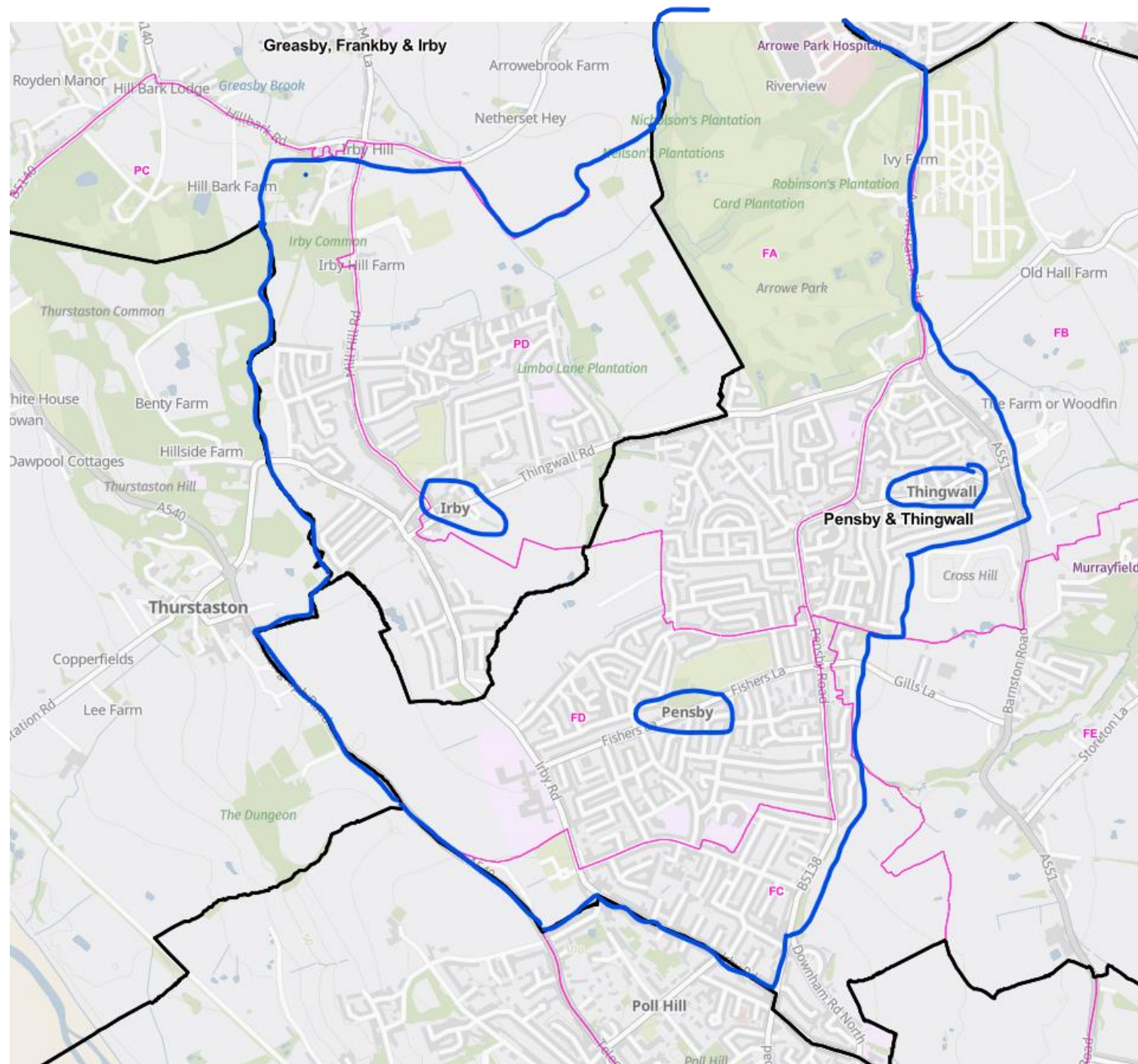
The area around Heswall Primary School extending along Downham Road North is currently in the Pensby and Thingwall ward but is part of Heswall and should be in the Heswall ward. This takes away 372.

Further reductions are made by a redrawing of the boundary to exclude the Barnston Village area which moves to Clatterbridge ward. This helps ensure that all of Wirral's rural villages sit in one ward.

This leaves the revised electors figure for all of Irby, Pensby and Thingwall at ~12,572 = +7% variance.

This is represented in the map below.





## **Greasby ward – new 2-member ward**

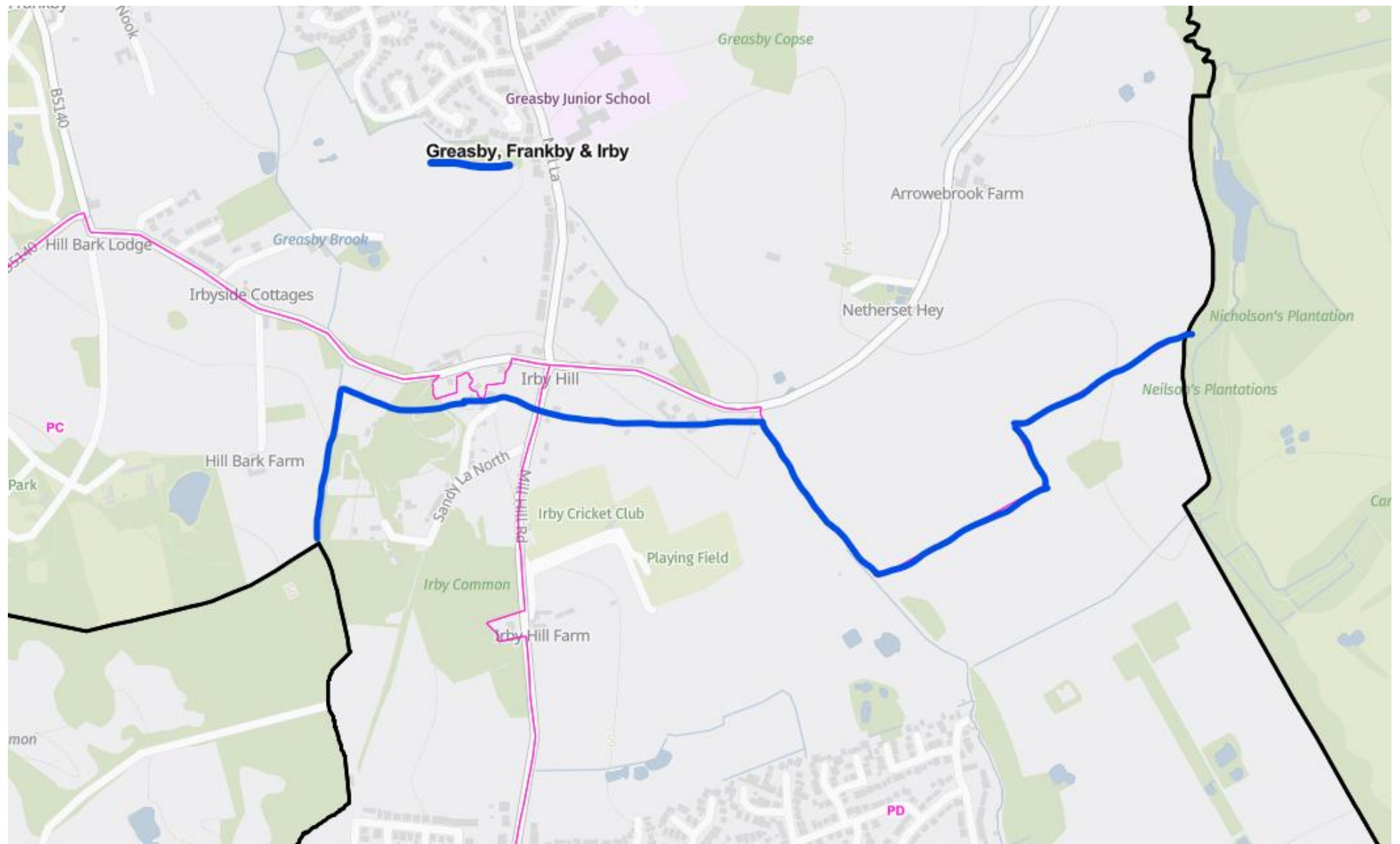
Currently Greasby is paired with Irby and the sparsely populated Frankby area. This is unsatisfactory in community terms as Irby is closer to and looks naturally towards the Pensby and Heswall area. Greasby on the other hand is better connected to West Kirby and Upton in terms of key routes. It makes more sense for Irby to be paired with its near neighbour of Pensby.

We suggest that all of Irby would go into Pensby and Thingwall ward as per the new suggested border below. The remaining existing borders (to Upton, Saughall Massie and West Kirby wards) would remain unchanged for the new Greasby ward.

~3,200 (virtually everything from polling station areas PC & PD) from the current Greasby, Frankby and Irby ward would be lost to new Irby & Pensby ward.

Population for new Greasby ward = ~8500 = variance of +8% for a 2-member ward.

This is represented in the following map.

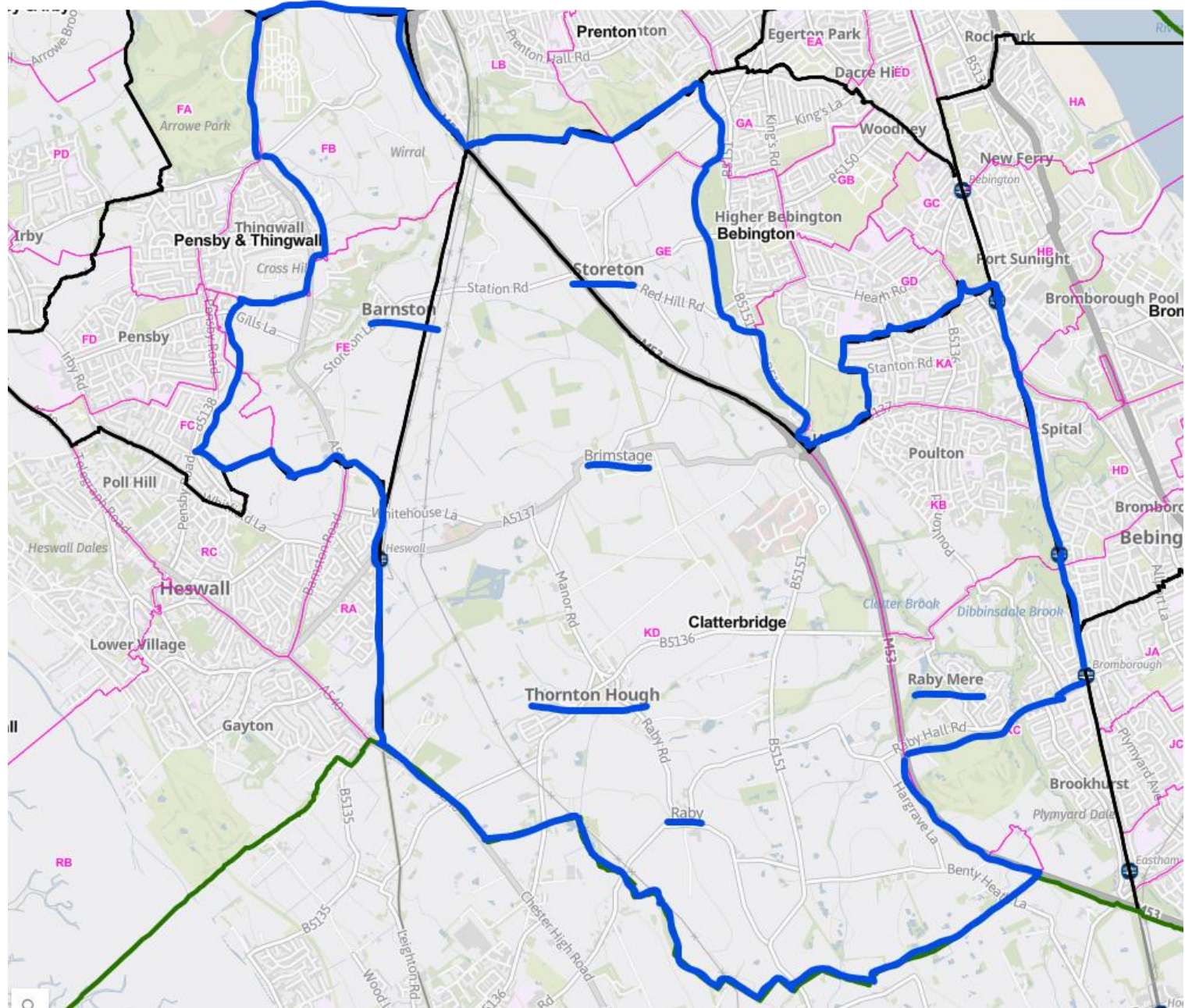




## **Clatterbridge – 3-member new boundaries**

The existing Clatterbridge ward incorporates most but not all of the rural villages in Wirral. Our suggestion is to change the existing borders to include the remaining villages of Storeton and Barnston and related rural areas but exclude the Brookhurst area which sits better in a revised Eastham ward as detailed previously.

This is outlined in the map below. This area has a total figure of ~10,893 = variance of -8%.



## Wallasey wards

The current ward split for the broader Wallasey constituency area works well. The distinct communities of Seacombe, Liscard, Wallasey Village and New Brighton are sensibly split and yield good variances. This also applies to Upton ward, part of which is in the Wallasey constituency.

We only have two comments regarding this area.

The Moreton area is currently split in two. This is not ideal for what is a significant and clearly defined community. It may be that there is a better configuration, possibly involving three 2-member wards across Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie. We have not mapped the detail of this.

The border of the Moreton West & Saughall Massie ward could shift slightly towards Meols as per our suggestion for the redrawn Hoylake & Meols ward and the map below. This would not impact community identity significantly, if at all and would help achieve a better variance for the Moreton West & Saughall Massie ward and the new 2-member Hoylake and Meols ward as suggested elsewhere.

