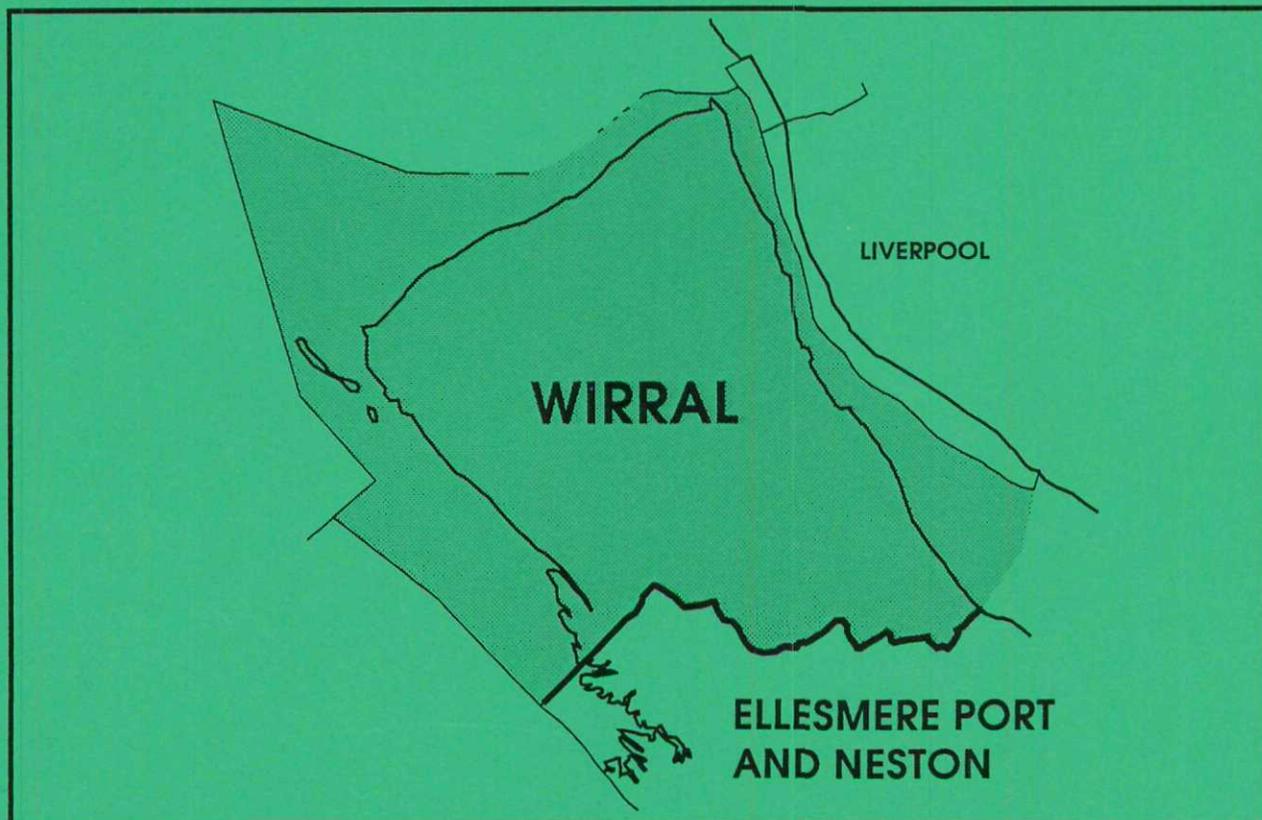


LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REVIEW OF MERSEYSIDE

THE BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

Boundary with:- ELLESMERE PORT
AND NESTON in the
COUNTY of CHESHIRE



REPORT NO. 612

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
REPORT NO 612

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

REVIEW OF MERSEYSIDE

THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL AND ITS BOUNDARY WITH THE
BOROUGH OF ELLESMERE PORT AND NESTON IN THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE

COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. On 1 September 1987 we wrote to the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral announcing our intention to undertake a review of Wirral as part of our review of the Metropolitan County of Merseyside and its Metropolitan Districts under section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. Copies of the letter were also sent to the adjoining Metropolitan District Councils; to the County and District Councils bordering the Metropolitan County; to Parish Councils in the adjoining districts; to the Local Authority Associations; to Members of Parliament with a constituency interest; and to the headquarters of the main political parties. In addition, copies were sent to those government departments, regional health authorities and statutory undertakers which might have an interest, as well as to the English Tourist Board, the local press and the local television and radio stations serving the area and to a number of other interested persons and organisations.

2. The Metropolitan Borough of Wirral was requested, in co-operation as necessary with other principal authorities, to assist us in publishing the start of the review by inserting a notice for two successive weeks in local newspapers so as to give a wide coverage in the areas concerned. The Councils were also asked to ensure that our consultation letter was drawn to the attention of those involved with services such as the police and administration of justice.

3. A period of seven months from the date of our letter was allowed for all local authorities, including those in the surrounding districts, and any person or body interested in the review, to send us their views on whether changes to the borough boundary were desirable and, if so, what those changes should be and how they would serve the interests of effective and convenient local government, the criterion laid down in the Act.

THE SUBMISSIONS MADE TO US

4. In response to our letter of 1 September 1987 we received representations from Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council and from Cheshire County Council. Wirral Borough Council was unable to agree upon suggestions but individual submissions were received from the Council's Conservative, Labour, and Social and Liberal Democrat Groups. We also received representations from other interested bodies and residents of the local authorities concerned.

5. On 12 January 1990 we issued a letter conveying our views on the Metropolitan County of Merseyside as a whole and indicating provisional proposals for radical changes. No proposals were made for Wirral but a number of representations were received from representative groups and individuals regarding the Borough.

SUGGESTIONS FOR MAJOR CHANGES AND OUR INITIAL CONCLUSIONS INTERIM DECISION TO MAKE NO PROPOSALS

6. As we indicated in our report "People and Places" (Report No 550), in considering representations in favour of major restructuring we must take into account our guidelines that "abolition or creation of a principal area will only be appropriate in very exceptional circumstances where present arrangements clearly fail to provide effective and convenient local government". While acknowledging the strength of local feelings which are, at times, expressed to us on the issue of restructuring, we take the view, bearing in mind our guidelines,

that it will be for those who seek major alteration to demonstrate how present arrangements have failed and how alternatives would be more in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

7. We received a number of suggestions for the restructuring of local government in the area, advocating the transfer of Wirral Borough Council to Cheshire as a district in that County; or its abolition as part of a return to the pre-1974 structure of local government; or the creation of new districts for discrete areas of that authority. These suggestions are dealt with below.

RETURN OF WIRRAL TO CHESHIRE

8. The Roots Heritage County Conservation had suggested that Wirral should be returned to the County of Cheshire. The main grounds given for the suggestion were that a petition containing 80,000 signatures favouring its return had been submitted to the Department of the Environment in 1982.

9. However, we did not consider there to be any evidence put to us during this review that the suggestion currently had widespread support; nor did we feel that any evidence had been submitted to suggest that effective and convenient local government had failed under the present system. We therefore took an interim decision to make no proposals in respect of this suggestion.

ABOLITION OF WIRRAL

10. A member of the public had proposed the abolition of the Borough and a return to the pre-1974 structure of local government in the area.

11. The Local Government Act 1972 had abolished county borough or urban district status for local government areas. No

evidence had been offered during our review to show any widespread public support for the abolition of Wirral or to indicate any benefits in terms of effective and convenient local government which would stem from its abolition. We therefore took an interim decision to make no proposal in respect of this suggestion.

BEBINGTON

12. The Bebington Residents Association had suggested that Bebington should become a separate district and be transferred to Cheshire.

13. We noted that the Association had provided no specific details of community ties with Cheshire or offered any evidence to suggest how more effective and convenient local government would result from such a radical change. Furthermore there was no indication of widespread support for the suggestion. We therefore took an interim decision to make no proposal in respect of this suggestion.

HOYLAKE

14. Hoylake and District Residents' Association had suggested that Hoylake should become a new district based on the area of the former urban district.

15. In considering this suggestion, we noted that the Association had not demonstrated any widespread public support for this suggestion, nor produced any evidence to show that any improvement in effective and convenient local government would result. We therefore took an interim decision to make no proposal.

SUGGESTIONS FOR MINOR REALIGNMENTS TO THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN WIRRAL AND ELLESMERE PORT AND NESTON

DRAFT PROPOSALS

(a) HOOTON/VAUXHALL MOTOR WORKS

16. The Labour Group on Wirral Council had suggested a realignment of Wirral's boundary to unite Hooton in Ellesmere Port and Neston. The Conservative and the Social and Liberal Democrat Groups, while supporting this suggestion, had suggested that it should be extended to unite the site of the Vauxhall Motor Works and an oil storage depot in Wirral.

17. Cheshire County Council and Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council had also submitted suggestions which would have the effect of uniting Hooton and the Vauxhall Motor Works and oil storage depot in Ellesmere Port and Neston.

18. A member of the public whose property is currently divided by the existing boundary had supported the suggestion that the boundary in the Hooton area be realigned. However, Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council, and Vauxhall Motors Limited, both objected to the proposal that the Motor Works should be united in Wirral on the grounds that the greater part of the Works was in Ellesmere Port and that a large part of its workforce resided in that borough. The Borough also pointed out that the proposal would transfer part of Cheshire County Council's Rivacre Waste Disposal Tip. Similar objections were raised by Cheshire County Council.

19. We noted the anomalies in the present boundary but felt that there was no case for the Vauxhall Motor Works site to be united in Wirral. We considered that effective and convenient local government in this area would be better served by the suggestion put forward by Ellesmere Port and Neston to unite Hooton and the Vauxhall Motor Works in its borough. We decided to adopt this as our draft proposal, taking into account an Ordnance Survey suggestion to align parts of the boundary to more clearly defined features.

(b) BOATHOUSE LANE/A540

20. All three political groups on Wirral Council had made suggestions for changes to the present boundary in the vicinity of Boathouse Lane, where it divides a number of properties.

21. The Labour and Social and Liberal Democrat Groups had suggested the realignment of Wirral's boundary with Ellesmere Port and Neston to unite properties on the northwestern side of Boathouse Lane in Wirral. The Conservative Group made a similar suggestion but with the addition that the boundary should also be realigned along the A540.

22. Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council put forward a suggestion which would place the properties on the north western side of Boathouse Lane in Wirral but leave their access in Ellesmere Port and Neston. This was opposed by a member of the public whose property is divided by the current boundary. He suggested that, as an alternative, all the properties in Boathouse Lane be united in Ellesmere Port and Neston.

23. We considered the various suggestions for this stretch of boundary. We felt that the properties to the south east had an affinity with Parkgate whereas those to the north west had an affinity with Gayton, in Wirral. We decided therefore to issue a draft proposal reflecting this division by using as a boundary the south eastern and north western sides of Boathouse Lane and the north eastern side of the A540. We also decided to adopt as our draft proposal the Wirral Conservative Group's suggestion to realign the boundary further along the north eastern side of the A540 and then east along a path to meet the existing boundary to the east of the B5136 Liverpool Road.

INTERIM DECISIONS TO MAKE NO PROPOSALS

(a) ROSELEA COTTAGE

(b) WHITE COTTAGE

(c) FIELDS TO THE EAST OF THE B5151

24. The Wirral Conservative Group had suggested minor realignments of the boundary in these areas on the grounds that it had become defaced by the removal of hedgerows.

25. We considered that these minor suggestions would produce no real gain in terms of effective and convenient local government. We therefore took interim decisions to make no proposals for these areas.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS/INTERIM DECISIONS

26. The letter announcing our draft proposals and interim decisions was published on 15 January 1991. Copies were sent to the local authorities concerned and to all those who had made representations to us. The Boroughs of Wirral and Ellesmere Port and Neston, and Cheshire County Council, were asked to publish a notice giving details of our draft proposals and interim decisions and to post copies of it at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place copies of our letter on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of eight weeks. Comments were invited by 12 March 1991.

**RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS/INTERIM DECISIONS
OUR FINAL PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS**

27. We received representations from 10 sources in response to our draft proposals. These included comments from Wirral Borough Council and from Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council. We also received comments from the Friends of Cheshire, Roots

Heritage County Conservation, British Gas (North Western), the Conservative Group on Wirral Borough Council and from four members of the public.

28. As required by section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, we have carefully considered all the representations made to us and set out below our final proposals.

INTERIM DECISIONS TO MAKE NO PROPOSALS

a) RETURN OF WIRRAL TO CHESHIRE

29. We noted that our interim decision to make no proposal for the return of Wirral to Cheshire had been opposed by the Friends of Cheshire and three members of the public, who claimed that Wirral has a natural affinity with Cheshire. We also noted the response from the Roots Heritage County Conservation. However, we felt that the objectors had provided no new evidence to suggest that there is any widespread support for the transfer of Wirral to Cheshire. We have therefore decided to confirm as final our interim decision.

b) ABOLITION OF WIRRAL

30. A member of the public had suggested splitting the Borough of Wirral into two parts, claiming that part of the existing Borough received more favourable treatment than the other part. However, his comments provided no evidence to suggest that the present arrangements failed to provide effective and convenient local government. In view of the lack of any evidence to justify splitting the Borough, we decided to confirm our interim decision as final.

c) **BEBINGTON**

31. No comments were received in respect of our interim decision not to propose the creation of a separate district of Bebington in Cheshire. We have therefore decided to confirm our interim decision as final.

d) **HOYLAKE**

32. As no comments were received in respect of our interim decision not to propose the creation of a new district based on the former urban district of Hoylake, we have decided to confirm our interim decision as final.

OUR FINAL PROPOSALS FOR MINOR BOUNDARY REALIGNMENTS

a) **HOOTON/VAUXHALL MOTOR WORKS**

33. Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council supported our draft proposal to unite Hooton and the Vauxhall Motor Works in Ellesmere Port. Wirral Borough Council would have preferred the unification of the Vauxhall Motor Works and an oil storage depot in its area and affirmed support for the original suggestion submitted by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups. However, the Conservative Group subsequently wrote to us clarifying its suggestion which, it claimed, would have retained in Wirral only that part of the Vauxhall Motor Works already situated in Wirral. A Hooton resident objected to our draft proposal on the grounds that she wished to remain in Wirral and for her children to continue to attend Wirral schools.

34. We noted the comments of Wirral Borough Council and the objection of a member of the public but we did not feel that any new evidence had been produced to justify changing our draft proposal which we believed to be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. We therefore decided to confirm it as final.

b) BOATHOUSE LANE/A540

35. Both Wirral and Ellesmere Port and Neston supported our draft proposal to realign the boundary to reflect the different affinities of residents in the vicinity of Boathouse Lane and the A540, and the proposed realignment along the north eastern side of the A540 to join a path going eastwards to meet the existing boundary near the B5136 Liverpool Road. In the absence of any opposition, we decided to confirm the draft proposal as final.

INTERIM DECISION TO MAKE NO PROPOSALS

- i) ROSELEA COTTAGE
- ii) WHITE COTTAGE
- iii) FIELDS TO EAST OF B5151

36. As no comments were received in respect of our interim decisions not to propose minor changes to remove areas of defaced boundary, we have decided to confirm our interim decisions as final.

CONCLUSIONS

37. We commend to you our final proposals and decisions as we set out in paragraphs 29 to 36 above as being in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

PUBLICATION

38. A separate letter is being sent to the Borough of Wirral, the Borough of Ellesmere Port and Neston, and Cheshire County Council, asking them to deposit copies of this report at their main offices for inspection for a period of six months. They are also being asked to put notices to that effect on public notice boards. Arrangements have been made for similar notices to be inserted in the local press. The text of the notice will explain that the Commission has fulfilled its statutory role in this matter and that it now falls to you to make an Order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, though not earlier than a period

of six weeks from the date our final proposals are submitted to you. Copies of this report, with attached maps illustrating the proposed changes, are being sent to all those who received our draft proposal letter of 15 January 1991, and to those who made written representations to us.

Signed

G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

K F J ENNALS

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

C W SMITH

PROFESSOR K YOUNG

R D COMPTON

Secretary

12 September 1991

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND
METROPOLITAN BOUNDARY REVIEW

WIRRAL MB

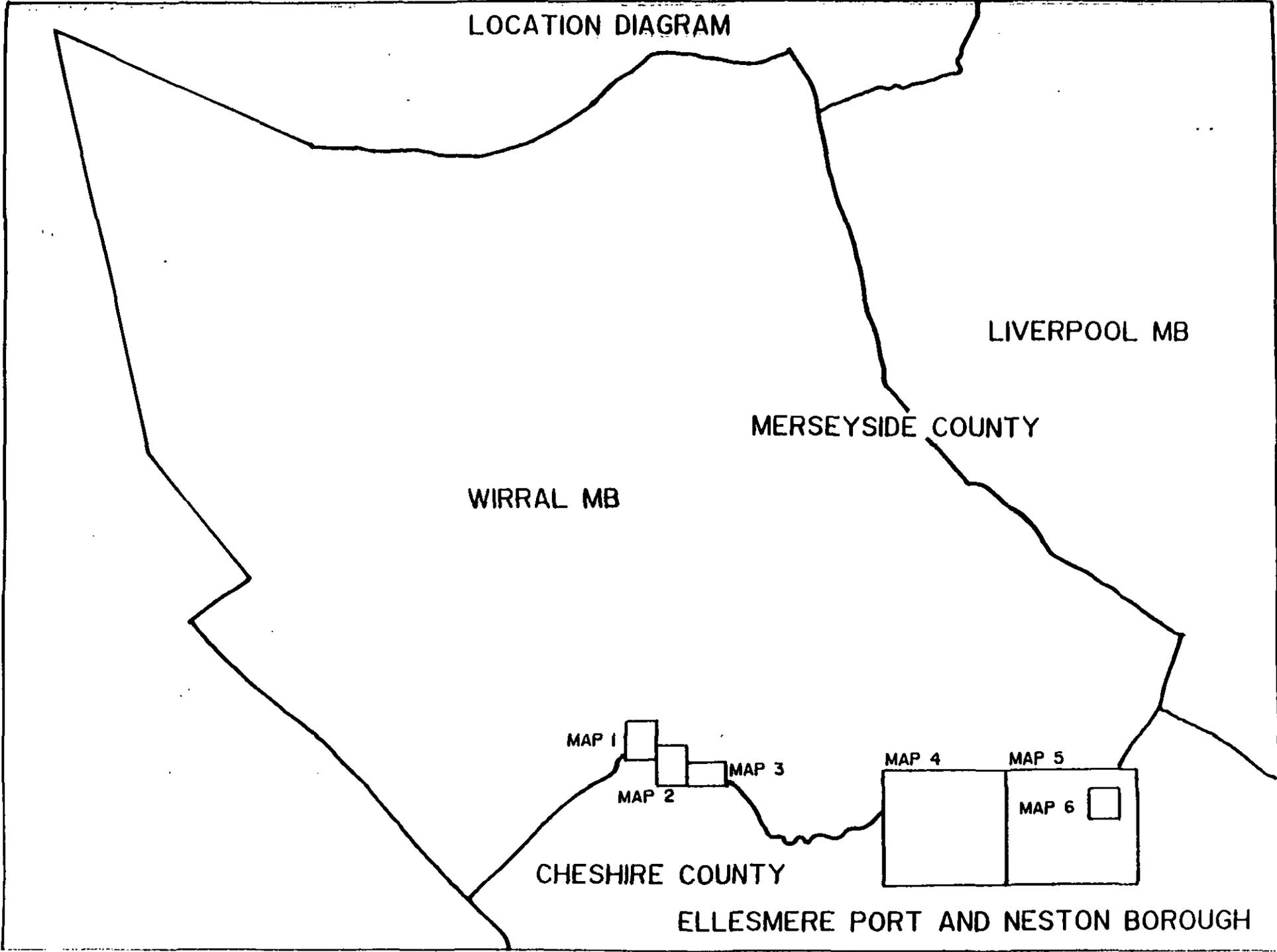
AFFECTING
ELLESMERE PORT AND NESTON BOROUGH IN CHESHIRE COUNTY

FINAL PROPOSALS

Existing Boundary	—————
Proposed Boundary	- - - - -
Other boundary divisions
Proposed other boundary	- . - . - .

Produced by Ordnance Survey for the
Local Government Boundary Commission for England

LOCATION DIAGRAM



LIVERPOOL MB

MERSEYSIDE COUNTY

WIRRAL MB

MAP 1

MAP 2

MAP 3

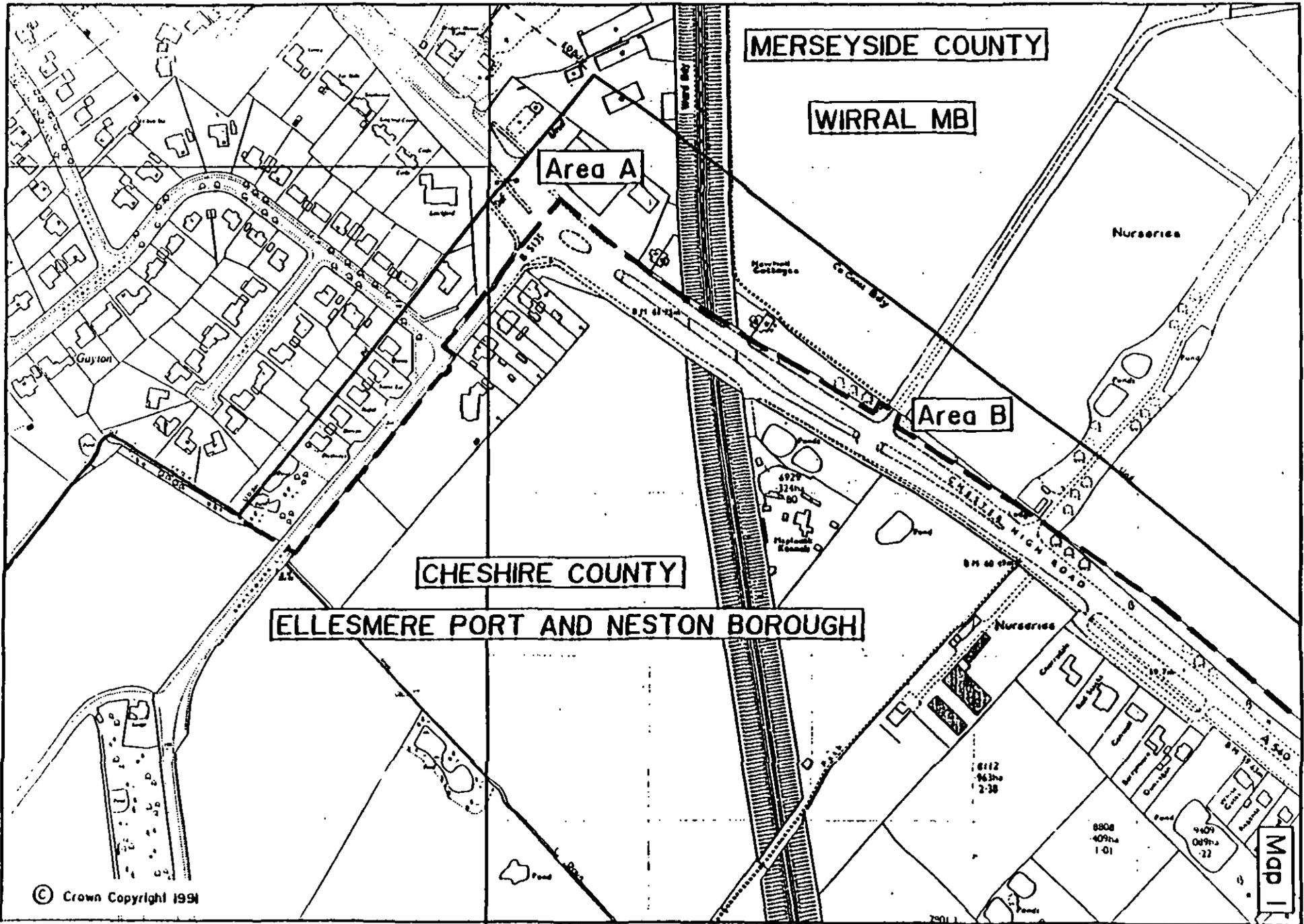
MAP 4

MAP 5

MAP 6

CHESHIRE COUNTY

ELLESMERE PORT AND NESTON BOROUGH



MERSEYSIDE COUNTY

WIRRAL MB

Area A

Area B

CHESHIRE COUNTY

ELLESMERE PORT AND NESTON BOROUGH

Nurseries

Guyton

Hartwood Cottages

6929
324ha
80

Hopton House

Nurseries

8112
963ha
2-38

8808
409ha
1-01

9465
009ha
22

Map 1

MERSEYSIDE COUNTY

WIRRAL MB

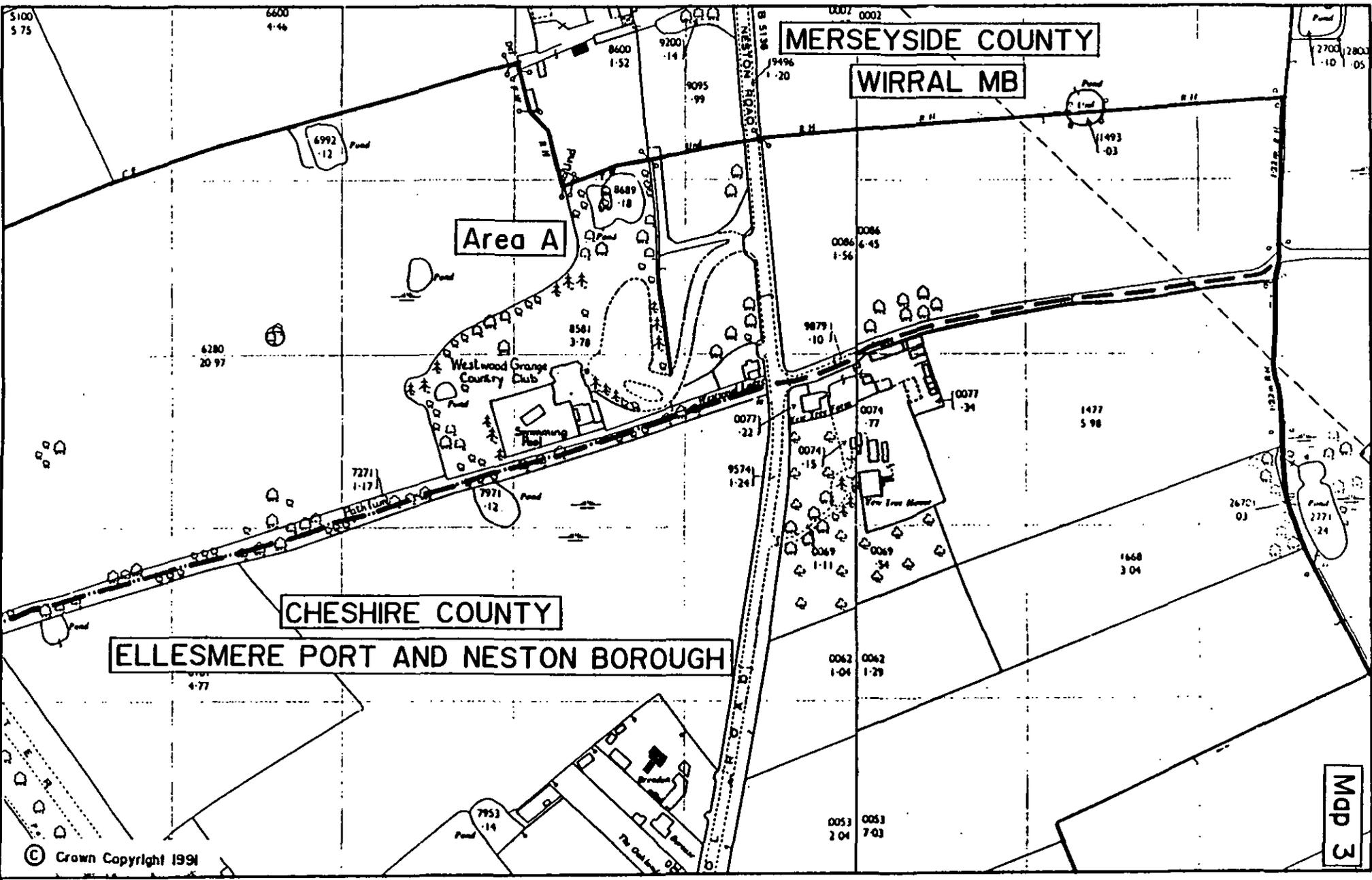
Area A

Westwood Grange
Country Club

CHESHIRE COUNTY

ELLESMERE PORT AND NESTON BOROUGH

Map 3



MERSEYSIDE COUNTY

WIRRAL MB

Area D

Area C

Area B

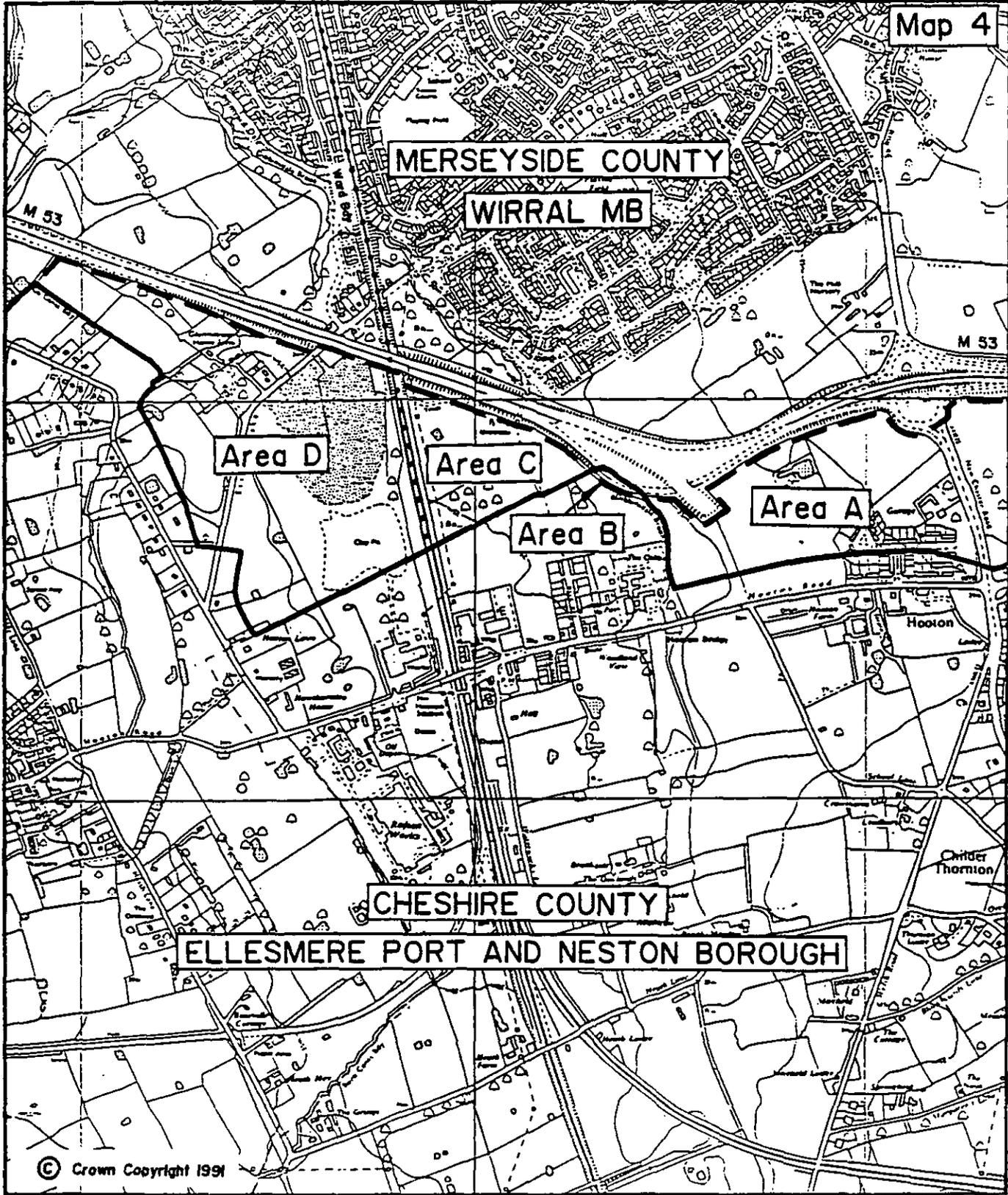
Area A

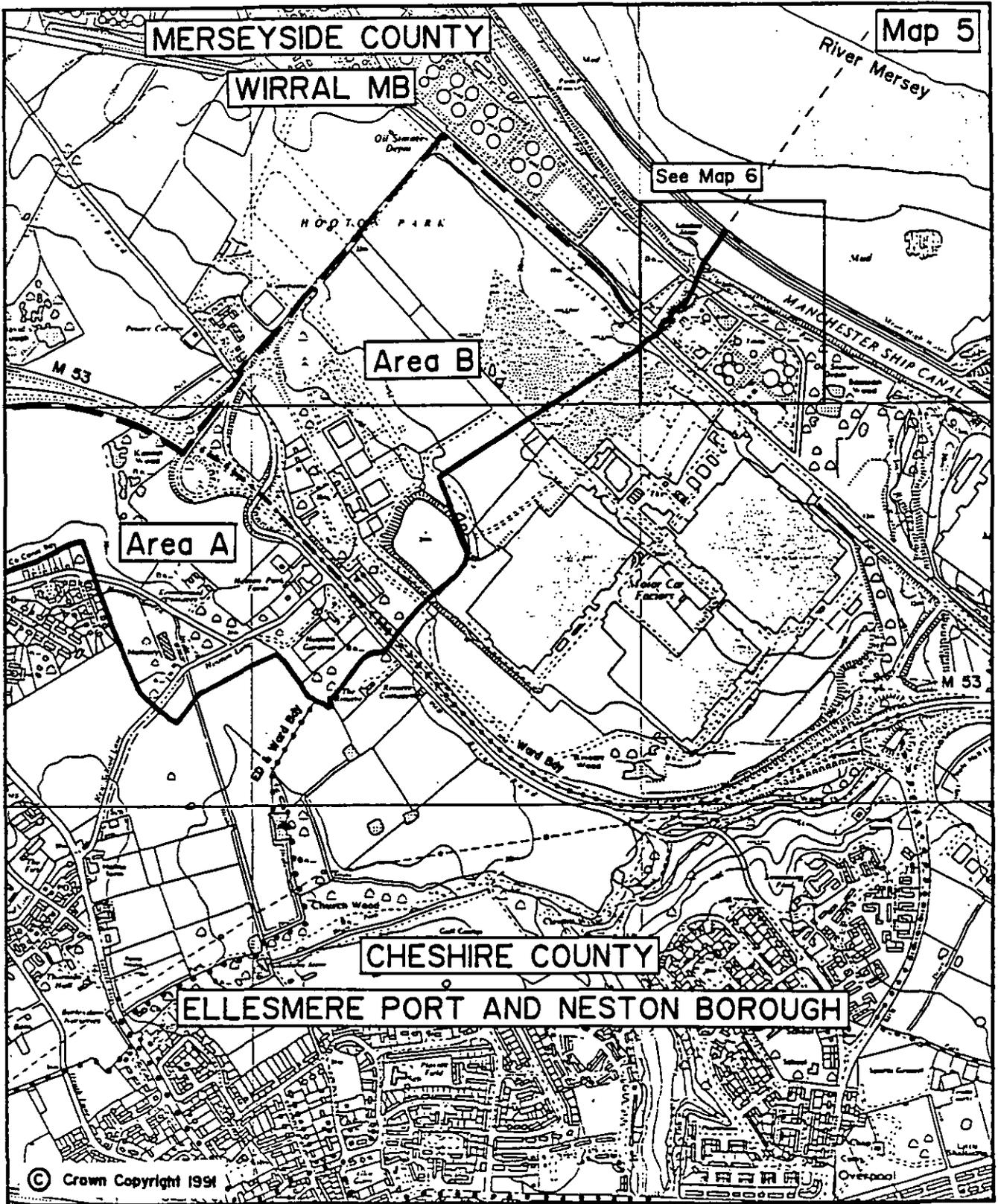
CHESHIRE COUNTY

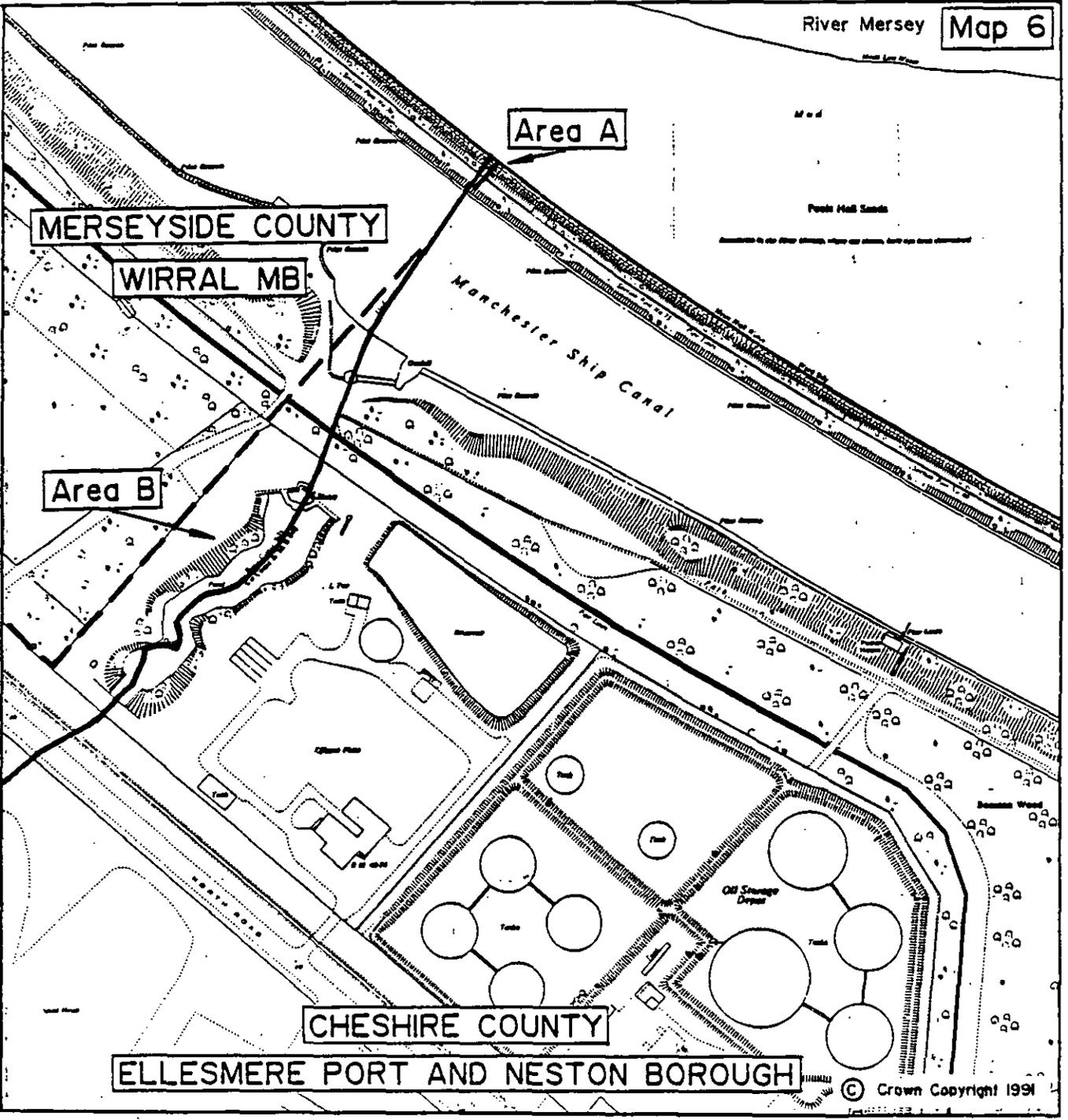
ELLESMERE PORT AND NESTON BOROUGH

Hooton

Chirder
Thornion







MERSEYSIDE COUNTY

WIRRAL MB

Area A

Area B

Manchester Ship Canal

CHESHIRE COUNTY

ELLESMERE PORT AND NESTON BOROUGH

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES

Map No.	Area Ref.	From	To
1	A	Cheshire County Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Parkgate Ward Neston and Parkgate ED	Merseyside County Wirral MB Heswall Ward
	B	Cheshire County Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Parkgate Ward Neston and Parkgate ED	Merseyside County Wirral MB Clatterbridge Ward
2	A	Cheshire County Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Neston Ward Neston and Parkgate ED	Merseyside County Wirral MB Clatterbridge Ward
	B	Cheshire County Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Parkgate Ward Neston and Parkgate ED	Merseyside County Wirral MB Clatterbridge Ward
3	A	Cheshire County Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Neston Ward Neston and Parkgate ED.	Merseyside County Wirral MB Clatterbridge Ward
4	AC	Merseyside County Wirral MB Eastham Ward	Cheshire County Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Willaston and Thornton Ward South Wirral ED
	B	Cheshire County Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Willaston and Thornton Ward South Wirral ED	Merseyside County Wirral MB Eastham Ward
	D	Merseyside County Wirral MB Clatterbridge Ward	Cheshire County Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Willaston and Thornton Ward South Wirral ED

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES

Map No.	Area Ref.	From	To
5	A	Merseyside County Wirral MB Eastham Ward	Cheshire County Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Willaston and Thornton Ward South Wirral ED
	B	Merseyside County Wirral MB Eastham Ward	Cheshire County Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Westminster Ward Grange and Rossmore ED
6	A	Cheshire County Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Westminster Ward Grange and Rossmore ED	Merseyside County Wirral MB Eastham Ward
	B	Merseyside County Wirral MB Eastham Ward	Cheshire County Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Westminster Ward Grange and Rossmore ED

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

BOUNDARY BETWEEN WIRRAL AND ELLESMERE PORT AND NESTON

Hooton/Vauxhall Works	Minor realignment to unite the works and Oil storage depot in Ellesmere Port and Neston	Paragraph 34 Maps 4,5 & 6
Boathouse Lane/A540	Minor realignment to remove anomalies in the existing boundary and to unite divided properties	Paragraph 35 Maps 1,2,& 3