

Sefton Council



Bootle Area Action Plan

Infrastructure Topic Paper

1. Introduction

1.1 This document is a topic paper produced to outline the existing infrastructure in Bootle which will support the implementation of the Bootle Area Action Plan.

What is Infrastructure?

1.2 The term infrastructure is broadly used for planning purposes to define all of the requirements that are needed to make places function efficiently and effectively and in a way that creates sustainable communities. Infrastructure is commonly split into three main categories; social, physical and 'green':

1.3 This existing infrastructure within Bootle, explored within this document are as follows:

- Social Infrastructure– Health, Education, Retail (including post offices), Community Centres (including libraires)
- Physical Infrastructure – Public Transport, Employment Areas
- Green Infrastructure – Parks and Playing Fields.

Context

1.4 The Bootle Area Action Plan (AAP) is a planning policy document that will influence how planning decisions will be made in the wider Bootle area. It will cover the period to 2040. The area includes Bootle and parts of Litherland and Seaforth that are south of Princess Way, Church Road and Dunningbridge Road.

1.5 The AAP will set out policies that are specifically aimed towards the needs, issues and opportunities within Bootle the area. It will supplement or supersede policies in the Sefton Local Plan. The area included within the AAP can be viewed as a map at www.sefton.gov.uk/bootleaap.

About Bootle

1.6 The Bootle Area Action Plan area covers 833.5 ha which is 5.38% of the area of Sefton. The area contains about 16% of Sefton's population with approximately 44,000 people in Bootle Area Action Plan area compared to 275,899 for Sefton as a whole (based on mid 2020 Population estimates, area selected as a best match of 2011 Census Output Areas to the Bootle AAP area).

1.7 The plan area is mainly residential in character with some pockets of industry, and is interspersed with public parks, the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and other open spaces, and shopping parades, schools and other services and facilities.

1.8 The age structure of this population is broadly similar to that of North West England, but is a younger population than the rest of Sefton. There is a higher proportion of children

under 16, and a lower proportion of over 50s (and notably over 75s) than in the rest of Sefton (2021 census).

1.9 The population of Sefton has been declining for decades (8.8% loss between 1981 and 2011), with the decline tailing off and reversing in recent years. This is matched by the population of Bootle. The population of Bootle & Netherton (rather than the AAP area) was over 80,000 in 1961 and by 2011 this had decreased to 51,394, a decline of 35% between 1961 and 2011. However, by 2021 the population had increased a little to 53,718 (census data).

1.10 Despite the trend of population loss, the number of households in Bootle increased by 8.8% between 1991 and 2021. This is a result of a reduction in average household sizes and reflects the national trend towards smaller household sizes. This is primarily driven by the increased number of single person households and smaller family units.

1.11 The health of the population of Bootle is generally poorer than that in Sefton as a whole, for example, in relation to heart disease, obesity, morbidity and mental health. There are also health inequalities within the plan area. Many people lead inactive lifestyles. Measured against national Indices of Multiple Deprivation (income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services and living environment), all of the plan area is ranked within the 20% most deprived nationally, with much of the area in the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally.

1.12 There are 12 primary schools and 3 secondary schools in the plan area, although others outside the area will be used by residents within the area. Hugh Baird College provides further education including vocational and academic courses, including degrees, and works with local employer partners.

1.13 Bootle relies heavily on the service sector employment, particularly public administration, education and health. Bootle Strand shopping centre is now owned by Sefton Council and the Council has plans to regenerate the shopping centre to make it the catalyst for the wider regeneration of the town. The Bootle Area Action Plan is one of the ways to help deliver those regeneration plans. Bootle needs to have a sufficient supply of good quality and well-located employment sites to provide opportunities for investment and jobs for local people. This includes within the Office Quarter, Town Centre and local shopping parades.

1.14 Bootle has as many as 50% of households without a car or van in some neighbourhoods (census 2021). However, much of Bootle has excellent public transport links, particularly to Liverpool in south and Southport in the north.

1.15 The Bootle Area Action Plan area is entirely urban. It is one of the most densely built-up parts of Sefton. The vast majority of the plan area currently comprises occupied or previously developed land; the exception being parks and amenity open spaces, the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Corridor and other open spaces. These areas, together with street trees and other trees, landscaped parks and open spaces, the canal and landscaping around some homes (private gardens) and commercial buildings are the main components of Bootle's

green and blue infrastructure. The larger parks date mainly from Victorian and Edwardian times and include South Park (and Centenary Gardens), North Park, Derby Park and Orrell Mount Park. Derby Park is on the national Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

1.16 The area within the Bootle Area Action Plan area is estimated to contribute approximately 1,500 dwellings between 2024 and 2040 to Sefton’s housing supply. This is expected to be provided from the following sources:

- a. The housing allocations identified below (some of which have planning permission).
- b. Other non-allocated sites with planning permission for housing development.
- c. Unanticipated or ‘windfall’ sites, including those within the Bootle Town Centre, Bootle Office Quarter and on Opportunity Sites.

Site Ref.	Site	Site size (ha)	Indicative No. of dwellings
BH1	Peoples’ site, Linacre Lane, Bootle	2.9	110
BH2	Coffee House Bridge	2.1	85
BH3	Site of the former Bootle Gas Works	5.3	210
BH4	Site of Litherland House, Litherland Road	3.0	110
BH5	Site of the former Johnson’s Cleaners	1.6	104
BH6	503-509 Hawthorne Road, Bootle	2.69	158
Total			777

1.17 The following sites may include new housing as part of wider development proposals. These would be included within a windfall assessment if they have not already secured planning permission:

- Bootle Town Centre (see policy BAAP4)
- Bootle Office Quarter (see policy BAAP5)
- Shopping Parades (see policy BAAP7)
- Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor (see policy BAAP20)
- Bootle Village (see policy BAAP21).

National Planning Policy Framework

1.18 The most recent revision to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), updated in December 2023, sets out Government’s key planning policies for development within England. The key policy themes contained with the updated NPPF which are of relevance to infrastructure are set out below-

Building a Strong, Competitive Economy

1.19 The NPPF confirms that planning decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Paragraph 85 states that “significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development”.

Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities

1.20 Paragraphs 96 and 97 of the NPPF state that planning policies should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which “promote social interaction... are safe and accessible... [and] enable and support health lifestyles” as well as provide “the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs”.

Promoting Sustainable Transport

1.21 Chapter 9 of the NPPF confirms that transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan making and development proposals, so that a number of matters can be considered and addressed including to identify and pursue opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport.

Sefton Local Plan

1.22 The Sefton Local Plan was adopted in April 2017. It sets out how new development will be managed in the period to 2030. It encourages sustainable development and economic growth and it gives current and future generations more opportunities to live and work in Sefton’s outstanding environment.

Specific policies within the local plan that relate to infrastructure within Bootle are-

ED1-The Port and Maritime Zone

ED2-Retail, leisure and other town centre uses

ED3-Existing Employment Areas

EQ9-Provision of public open space, strategic paths and trees

HC7-Education and care institutions

IN1-Infrastructure and developer contributions

IN2-Transport

NH1-Natural assets

NH5-Protection of open space

NH13- Registered parks and gardens

1.23 Further to the Local Plan are various Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and information notes which relate to infrastructure in Bootle-

1.24 Contributions to Education Provision Information Note (2023)

Control of Hot Food Takeaways and Betting Shops (2017)

Open Space SPD (2017)

Social Value SPD (2023)

Sustainable Travel and Development SPD (2018)

Bootle Area Action Plan

1.25 The Bootle Area Action Plan identifies a range of key issues that it is seeking to address. The are provided at page 20 of the document. The relevant issues in relation to this topic paper are:

- Bootle has a good network of public transport links and benefits from easy access by car to the wider area. However, walking and cycling links could be expanded to allow safe and pleasant routes between key services and facilities in and around Bootle.
- Existing and future communities must be supported by necessary and appropriate infrastructure and services.
- Bootle has a good network of parks and open spaces, however more investment would be welcomed to help maintain them. A wider range of facilities and activities in Bootle’s parks would make them more attractive to a wider range of residents.

1.26 To address these issues, the AAP includes a plan objective – To ensure that existing and future residents have access to a wide range of easily accessible and high quality services and facilities with all key facilities and services within a short, safe and attractive walk or cycle ride.

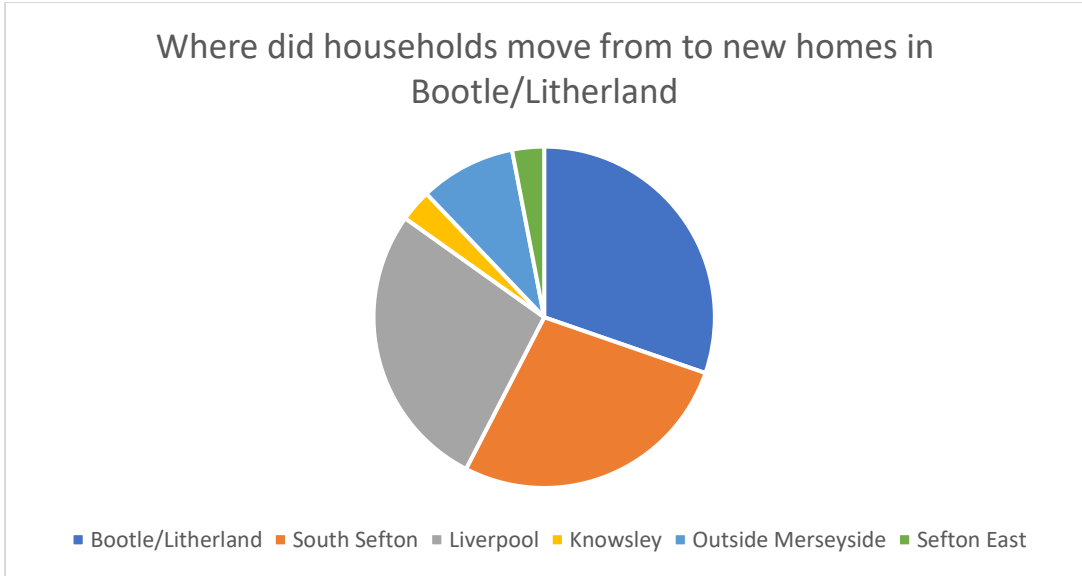
1.27 The Bootle AAP does not contain a specific policy on securing and delivering infrastructure and Local Plan policy IN1 ‘Infrastructure and developer contributions’ will remain. This paper intends to show that the level of growth proposed can be supported by Bootle’s existing range of infrastructure and services.

Sefton Movers Survey

1.28 It useful to refer to the Council’s recent Movers Surveys when considering the potential impact of new homes. This is a survey of all households that have moved into a home that was newly built over the past few years. The purpose of the survey is to provide information which will help us improve our plans for new and better homes and the services and facilities needed to support them. The most recent edition from [2024](#).

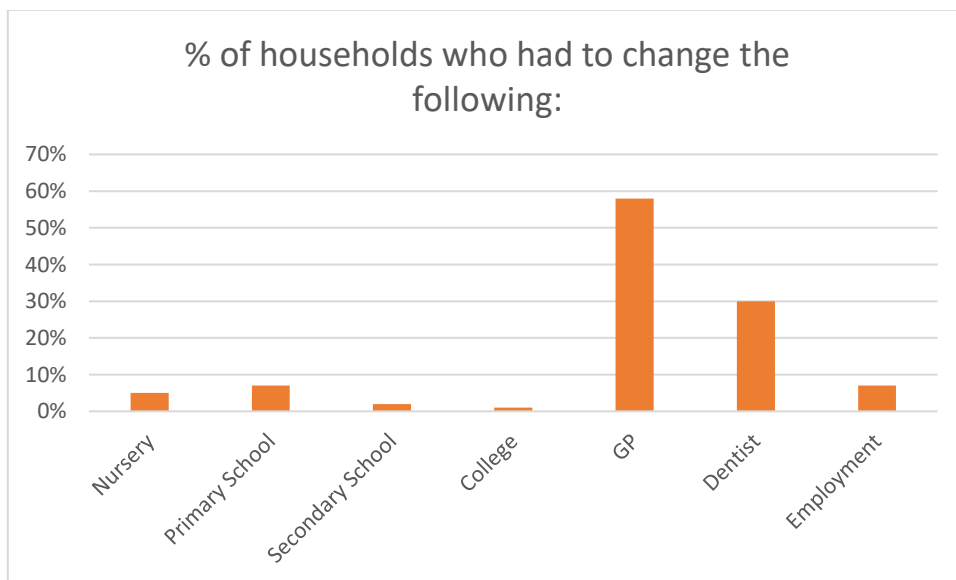
1.29 The chart below shows that the new build homes in the Bootle and Litherland area (which is little wider than the AAP area) are predominantly occupied by households who were from the same area of the immediately adjacent area (remaining parts of South Sefton and Liverpool). Only 15% of new households indicated that they moved to the area from further afield.

Where did households move from to new homes in Bootle/Litherland



Source: 2024 Sefton Movers Survey

1.30 These figures would suggest that demand on services and facilities from households in new homes in this area would be somewhat offset by households already using local services. The chart below shows the services and facilities respondents to the Movers Survey indicated they had to switch as a result of a move to a new built home in Sefton between 2018-23. Whilst this is for Sefton as whole, it shows that for most types of service, residents don't need to switch (or use that facility at all). It is only GP services that more than 50% of households have to change, which is probably a reflection that people often want a GP relatively close to their home if they need to go fairly regularly.



Source: 2024 Sefton Movers Survey

2. Social Infrastructure

Health

2.1 Overall, the main wards covered by the Bootle Area Action Plan have some of the highest levels of poor health within the Borough and the lowest levels of life expectancy.

2.2 Based on current life expectancy at birth, both men and women residing in Bootle could expect to live less than the England average, including up to 8 years fewer in Linacre ward. Three of the 4 wards covered by the AAP (Derby, Litherland and Netherton & Orrell) have a higher prevalence of child obesity than the Sefton and national average. Hospital admissions and mortality rates are higher for adults in many parts of Bootle, particularly for respiratory and circulatory diseases. Cancer incidence is also higher amongst many residents in Bootle.

Practice Name	Practice List Size	Total GP Headcount ¹	Comments	Currently accepting patients (NHS website, 22 November 2024)
Aintree Road Medical Centre (N84002)	2496	3		YES
Bootle Village Surgery (N84015)	5865	5		YES
Moore Street Medical Centre (N84016)	5865	3		NO
North Park (N84019)	6529	3		YES
Bridge Road Medical Centre (N84023)	7782	7		YES
The Strand Medical Centre (N84028)	7700	11		YES
Park St Surgery (N84034)	7350	5		YES
Concept House Surgery (N84038)	5688	5		YES
Litherland Practice/Seaforth (N84605)	8711	2	On two sites. Litherland Town Hall and 20 Seaforth Road	YES
TOTAL	57,986	44		1,317

2.3 Of the 9 GP practices within the AAP area, only one is not currently taking new patients. This indicates there is additional spare capacity within the existing GPs in the town. The

¹ Note that some GPs may work part time. Source GBPartnerships

Royal College of General Practitioners found the latest figures indicate that the registered patients per fully qualified GP FTE was significantly worse than the above list.

Region	Registered patients per fully qualified GP
South West	2023
East of England	2478
North West	2244
South East	2367
London	2562
North East and Yorkshire	2210
Midlands	2293

Source- <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/>

2.4 Bootle further has two Health Centres:

- Bootle Health Centre
- North Park Health Centre

2.5 These health centres offer-

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Community Services
- Phlebotomy
- Podiatry Service
- Treatment Rooms
- Mental Health Services

2.6 Whilst there are 4 dentists within the AAP area (Ventre & Ventre, Stanley Road; Sefton Dental Centre, Stanley Road; My Dentist, Stanley Road; and Tooth Talk, Seaforth Road), these are not currently taking any NHS patients according to NHS website. This is consistent with a national shortage which has led to at least 7 million fewer patients seeing an NHS dentist compared to pre-pandemic levels. The issue with hard to access NHS Dentistry appears to be a national issue rather than a local issue. Many of the NHS dentists also offer private treatments.

2.7 Community Pharmacy Contractors can be individuals who independently own one or two pharmacies; independent multiple pharmacies e.g. community pharmacy companies with between 5 and 300 branches; or large multinational companies e.g. Lloyds, Boots, Sainsbury's etc who may own many hundreds of pharmacies UK wide.

2.8 Bootle has 12 pharmacies which are spread across the AAP area, with a cluster in and around the town centre.

2.9 Optician is a general term that covers both optometrists and dispensing opticians. Optometrists carry out sight tests to check the quality of vision and eye health. They look for signs of eye disease that may need treatment from a doctor or eye surgeon and prescribe and fit glasses and contact lenses. Dispensing opticians' fit glasses and contact lenses, but do not test eyes. There are opticians located within Bootle Strand.

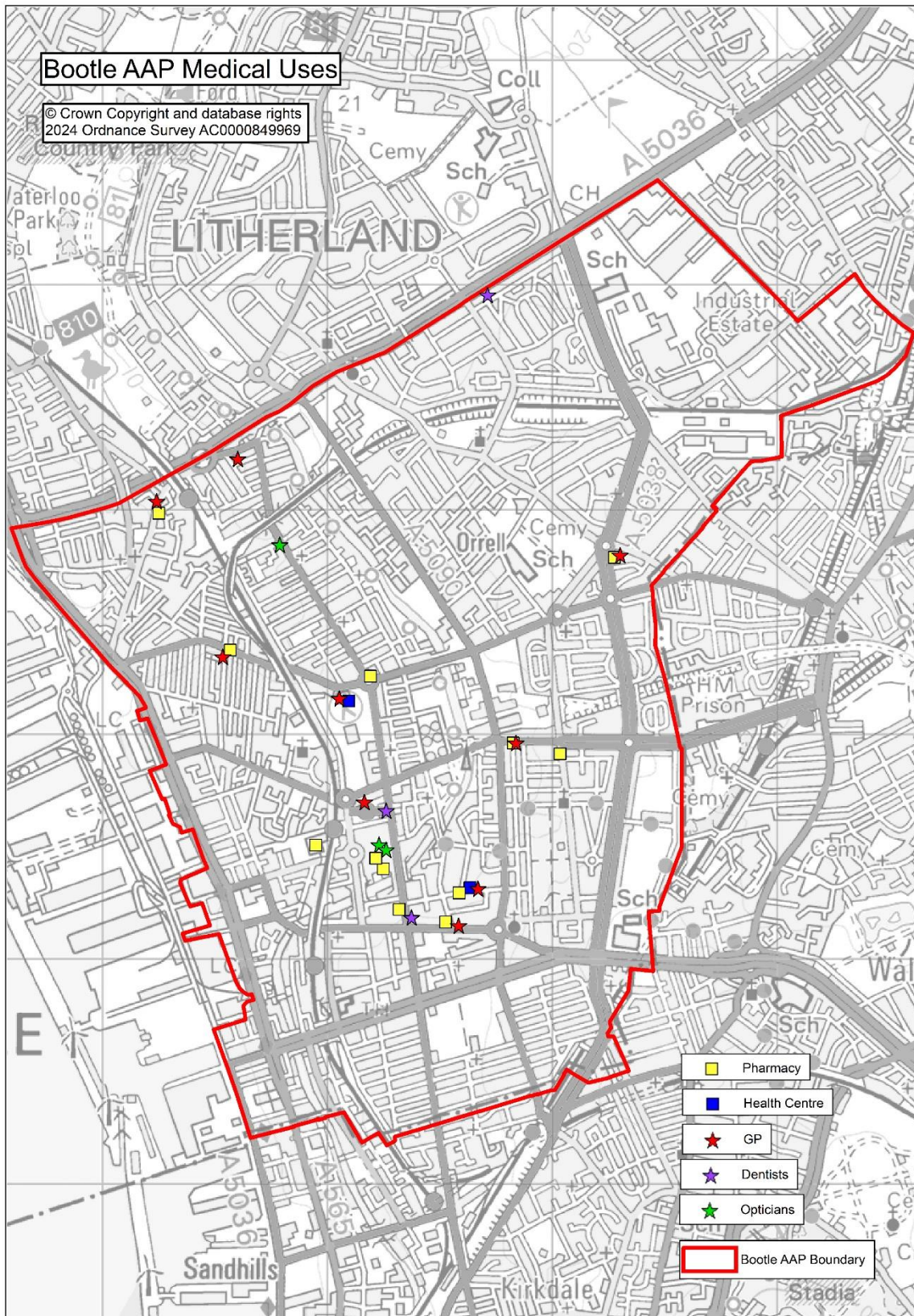
Summary

2.10 Whilst there are challenges in Bootle over the provision of some health care (notably dental), this does appear to be a national structural issue rather than a localised issue. It is not envisaged that the level of housing proposed in the Bootle AAP would generate much increase in demand for health services that would warrant significant investment. There is and will continue to be significant opportunities for health services to be located in the town centre to meet current and future demand. To this end the Council are exploring opportunities to locate health services within the re-purposed Bootle Strand shopping centre and the Council will be in a position to take advantage of the current government's plans, for example, to address the NHS dental crisis.

2.11 With 1,500 homes expected to be provided in Bootle to 2040, this equates to just 100 homes per year. In the context of several decades of population loss, this plan will not support a significant increase in the town's population. As a result, whilst issues around health service provision remain, they won't be exacerbated by local population growth, which, if anything, will be limited and gradual.

Bootle AAP Medical Uses

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Education

2.12 Much of the area around Balliol Road in Bootle is occupied by educational uses linked to Hugh Baird College. Hugh Baird College is a college and University Centre with several campuses in the South Sefton area. Three of those campuses are in the Civic and Education Quarter of Bootle.

These are:

- Balliol Road Campus, Balliol Road
- Healthcare Campus, Oriel Road
- University Centre, Stanley Road

2.13 Hugh Baird's Bootle accommodation supports 2,000 students and staff and these provide a significant benefit to the local economy. The college is important to the economic development and growth of Bootle and its residents and provides multiple pathways for educational attainment, often for those people who come from deprived backgrounds.

2.14 The Bootle AAP area contains 12 primary schools which currently offer 3,780 primary school places. Overall, there are 314 empty places at primary schools throughout the AAP area.

2.15 Sefton's Education Department use a ratio to calculate estimated number of children from housing developments. For primary pupils it is 17.5 pupils for new 100 homes. As there are 1,500 homes proposed within the AAP, this equates to 262.5 places needed, which is lower than the existing spare capacity. Additionally, a number of schools have the accommodation to increase pupil intake, if necessary, without the need for significant work. This is when they have reduced in take in the past to account for falling pupil numbers.

Primary Schools	School	Number of available places	Number of empty places	% empty places
	Bedford Community Primary	420	22	5.24%
	Linacre Community Primary	210	70	33.34%
	Springwell Park Community Primary	420	11	2.62%
	Thomas Gray Community Primary	210	14	6.67%
	Christ Church CE Primary	420	42	2.58%
	All Saints Catholic Primary	420	80	19.05%
	St Monica's Catholic Primary	420	2	0.48%

	St Robert Bellarmine Catholic Primary	210	3	1.43%
	Lander Road Community Primary	210	6	2.86%
	St Philip's CE Primary	210	12	5.72%
	Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary	210	17	0%
	St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary	420	35	8.34%
TOTAL		3,780	314	8.3%

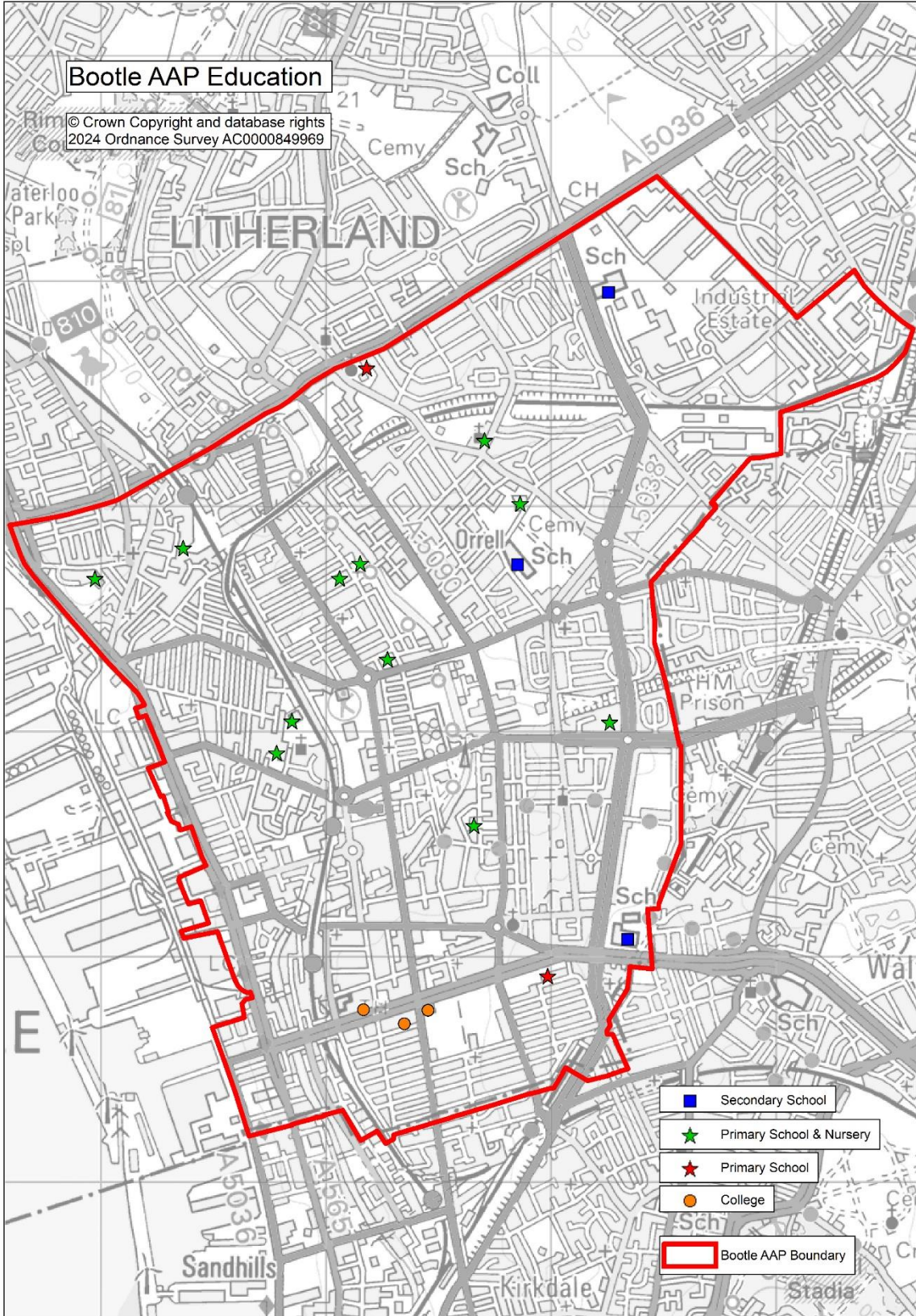
2.15 There are 3 secondary schools within the AAP area. These schools provide 2,245 places and have 467 empty places. Our secondary schools use the ratio 10.5 pupils for every 100 homes for years 7-11. As there are 1,500 approximate new homes proposed in the Bootle AAP this equates to 157 new secondary school places needed, which is well within the number of empty places available.

Secondary Schools	School	Number of available places	Number of empty places (May 2023)	% empty places
	Hillside High	970	296	30.52%
	King's Leadership Hawthorne's Free School	725	171	23.59%
	Salesian Academy of St John Bosco	465	0	0%
TOTAL		2,245	467	20.8%

2.16 Many of the school in the area offer nursery places, with 466 full time equivalent places either at the schools above or at specific nursery schools (such as Greenacres). There are also a number of private nurseries offering places for pre-school children. The Council would be supportive of additional facilities in appropriate locations if demand was there.

Bootle AAP Education

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Retail (including post offices)

Town Centre

2.17 Bootle Town Centre, as identified on the map below, is the main focus for shopping, leisure, cultural and community activity within Bootle. It is the hub for local convenience and comparison retail development and other uses appropriate for a town centre in the south of Sefton. The Council is committed to the regeneration of Bootle Town Centre, including the Strand Shopping Centre, and development within the centre must make a positive contribution to the regeneration of the wider Bootle area.

2.18 Bootle Strand Shopping Centre is located within Bootle Town Centre and has traditionally been the focus of shopping activity in the town since it was completed in 1968. Whilst shopping will continue to be a key activity in the shopping centre in the future, it is expected that activity will diversify in future years. In this regard, the Council has committed to the redevelopment of the centre and has commenced on plans for the centre. It is working in partnership with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, which has invested £500,000 from its Mayoral Towns Fund and £1.8m strategic investment funding in the Bootle Canalside project.

2.19 Retail development is focussed within the Primary Shopping area. To protect retail within the Primary Shopping Area, non-retail town centre developments are only acceptable within it so long as they do not undermine Bootle Strand Centre as a key retail centre, as well as making a positive contribution to the vitality and viability of the centre.

Shopping Parades

2.20 There are 21 existing shopping parades within the Bootle AAP area. These are dispersed between the towns residential areas. The most prominent area without a shopping parade within the plans boundary is the largely industrial area to the north-east.

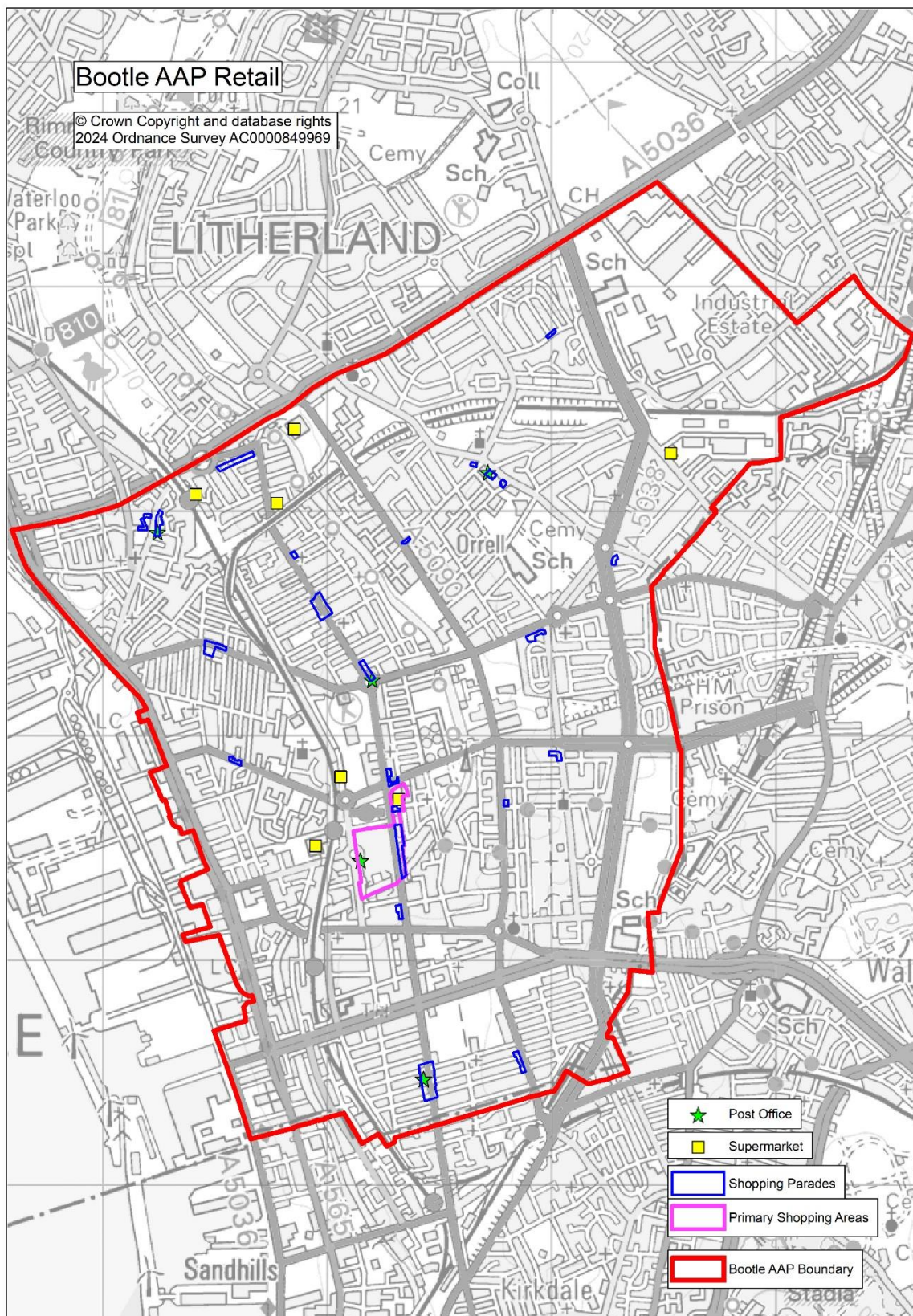
2.21 It is proposed to protect all the local shopping parades in the Bootle AAP area from being lost to inappropriate uses subject to permitted development rights. However, on a small number of the longer parades it is proposed to identify a core area for protection to provide local shops and services, with a more flexible approach to blocks outside these areas.

2.22 To protect existing shopping parades the Council are progressing an Article 4 Direction on a number of the shopping parades in the area to enable it to better manage the conversion of retail units into homes.

Post Offices

2.23 There are currently 5 post offices within the AAP area, all within densely populated areas. Post Office branches offer more than 170 different products and services, including telephone, financial services, bill payment, gas and electricity top-up, banking and travel

related products. Post Offices are now the largest provider of foreign currency in the UK and the leading independent provider of travel insurance.



Community Centres (including libraires)

2.24 Bootle has a range of community facilities that provide a valuable resource to local people. Some of these are owned and run by the Council, others are privately owned. These facilities vary from community centres, youth clubs, one stop shops, citizens advice, church halls, private sport clubs and others. It is often difficult to know exactly how many facilities there are at a given time as they change and move venue on occasion.

One stop shop

2.25 Sefton currently operates a 'One stop shop' in Bootle (Stanley Road) which serves the south of the Borough. This provides a wide range of Council services all under one roof, including:

- Advice on all Council services
- Full payment service, including Council rents and Council Tax.
- Queries about Housing benefit, Council Tax benefit, Council Tax and Business Rates
- Queries on Environmental Protection issues, such as refuse collection, street cleaning.
- Social Services queries
- Full range of Housing services
- Administration of Education Welfare Benefits including free school meals and school uniform grants
- Free phone links to all Council Departments.

Library

2.26 The main library within the AAP area is Bootle Library. This offer a number of services, including:

- Free book loans
- Reading groups for adults, teenagers and children
- A free public access internet service
- Story, rhyme time and sensory sessions for pre-school children
- Adult and community learning courses
- Artist led projects
- Community garden
- A Community Helpdesk – Those holding regular drop-in sessions include local MPs or Councillors, local Police Officers and Connexions or Work Links for job advice.

Leisure Centre

2.27 North Park Leisure Centre is readily accessible to the surrounding community and visitors and operates a gym, a 25-metre traditional pool and a leisure pool with flume ride and rapids.

Swim Offer

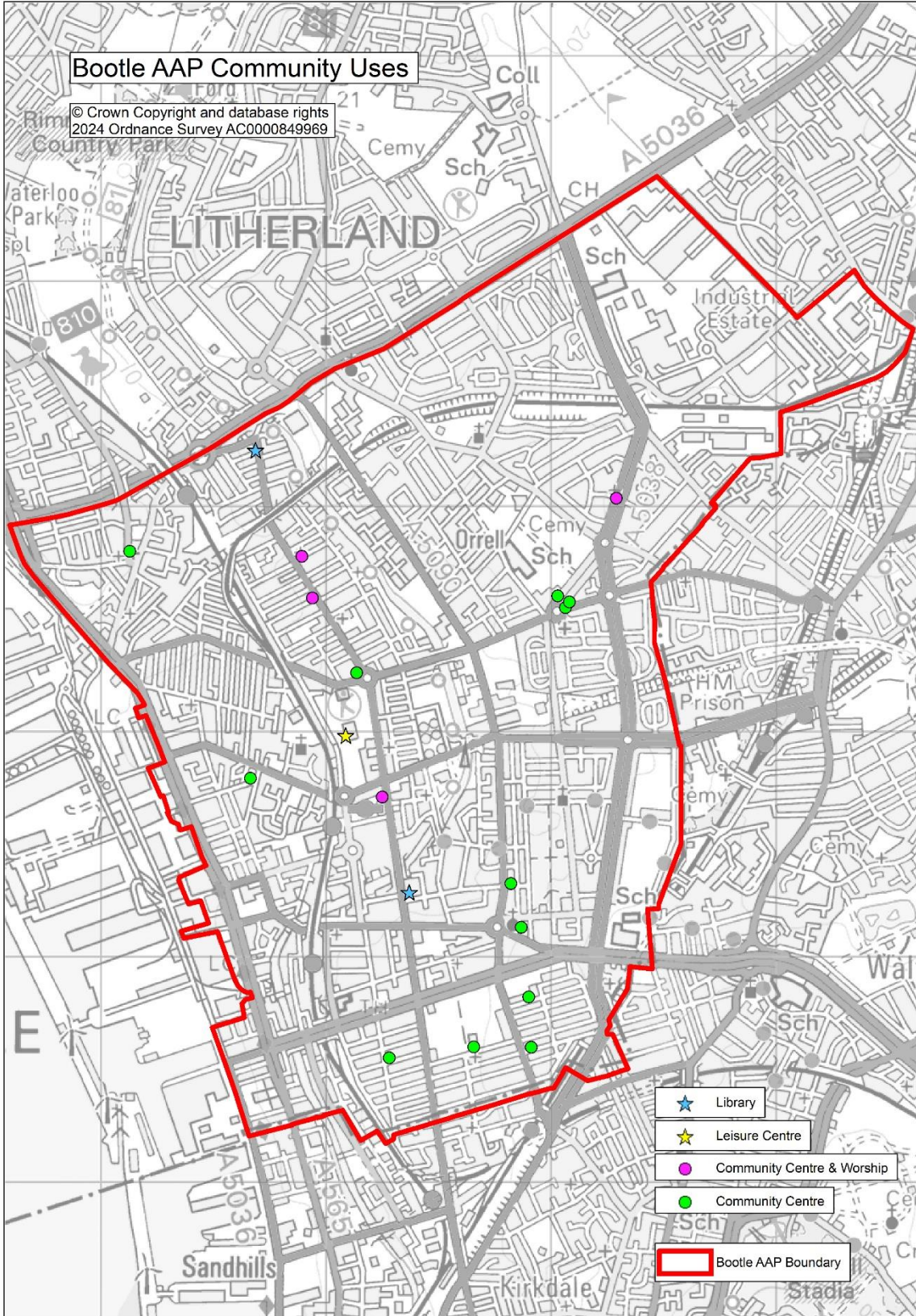
- Casual swimming
- Adults only swimming
- Swimming lessons
- Fun and floats for children
- Lane swimming
- Kayaking
- Subsidised swimming sessions
- Pool party packages
- Calm water sessions with relaxing music and mood lights
- Swim Fit classes

Fitness offer

- 16 Station Functional synergy training zone
- Free weights area
- Smith machines
- Hammer Strength plate loading kit
- Dance Studio offering an extensive class timetable
- Virtual Spinning sessions

Bootle AAP Community Uses

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- ★ Library
- ★ Leisure Centre
- Community Centre & Worship
- Community Centre
- Bootle AAP Boundary

3. Physical Infrastructure

Public Transport

3.1 Bootle has significantly lower levels of car ownership, and higher numbers of people with restricted mobility and health problems than the national average. To combat this, the town currently has a choice of travel to benefit all residents and particularly those with limited mobility by enabling a higher quality of life, allowing better access to shops, services and jobs.

3.2 Within the AAP area there are three train stations:

- Bootle Oriel Road
- Bootle New Strand
- Seaforth and Litherland

3.3 Additionally, a number of train stations are just over the border (in Liverpool) and within easy walking distance to many Bootle residents (Kirkdale, Bank Hall and Orrell Park).

3.4 These stations service the Northern Line on the Mersey Rail network. The trains terminate at Hunts Cross to the south (going through Liverpool city centre) and Southport to the North. In total it is possible to access 23 stations directly from these stations including Southport, Liverpool Central, Moorfields, Liverpool South Parkway (for Liverpool airport), Blundellsands & Crosby and Formby. The service further provides connecting services to Manchester (from Hunts Cross), Wigan and Manchester from Southport; and the Wirral and Chester from Liverpool Central.

3.5 Some statistics in the usage of the three train stations within the AAP boundary are as follows:

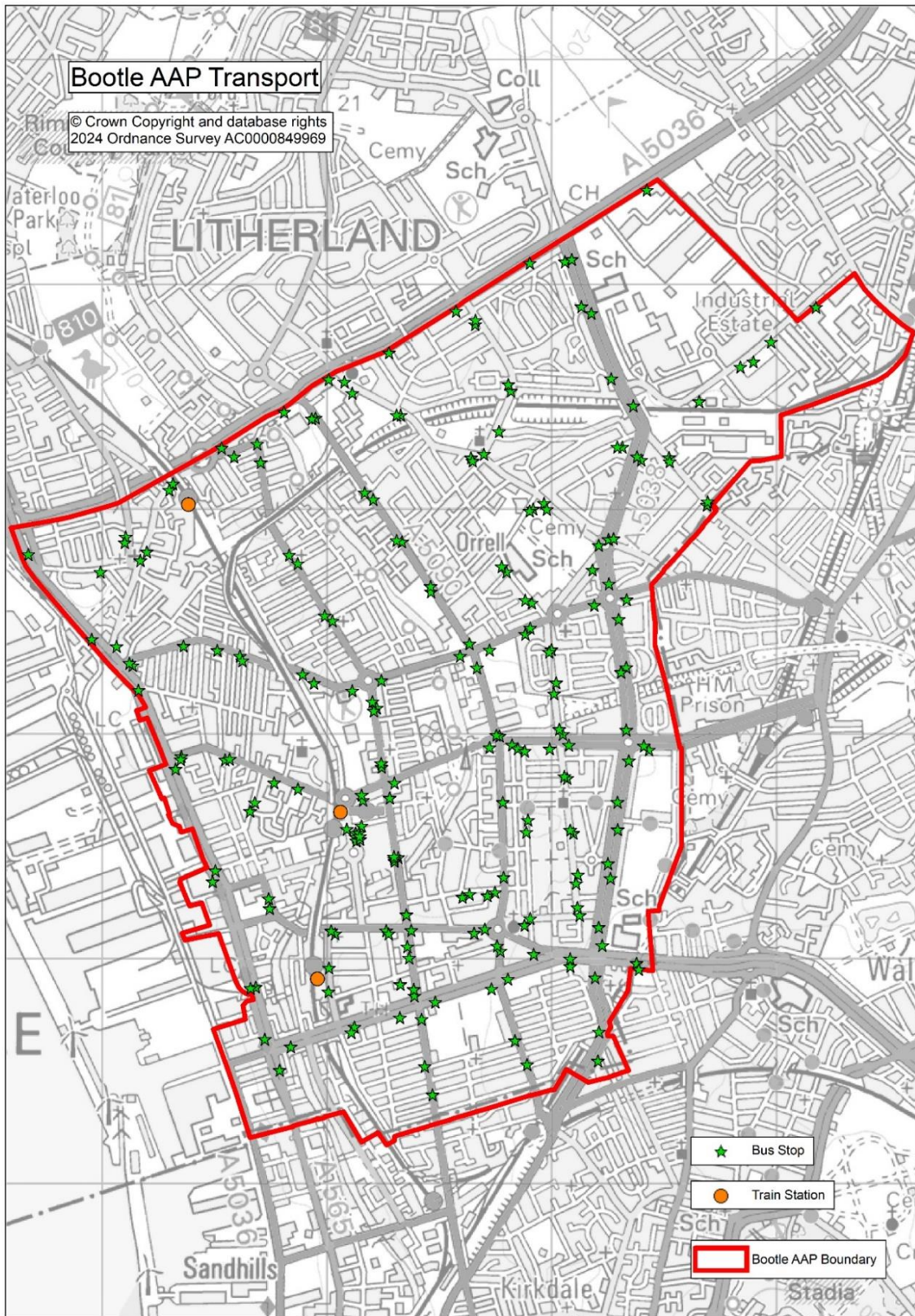
Station	Entries and exits to station 2023/24	Daily average of passengers entering or exiting station	Average passenger per service	Most used out of 2,581 in Great Britain
Bootle Oriel Road	601,644	1648.34	12.54	747 th most used.
Bootle New Strand	769,970	2109.51	16.04	625 th most used.
Seaforth and Litherland	922,282	2526.80	19.22	610 th most used.

Source: www.railwaydata.co.uk

3.6 There is an established bus network throughout Bootle, with bus stops well dispersed throughout the town (see map below).

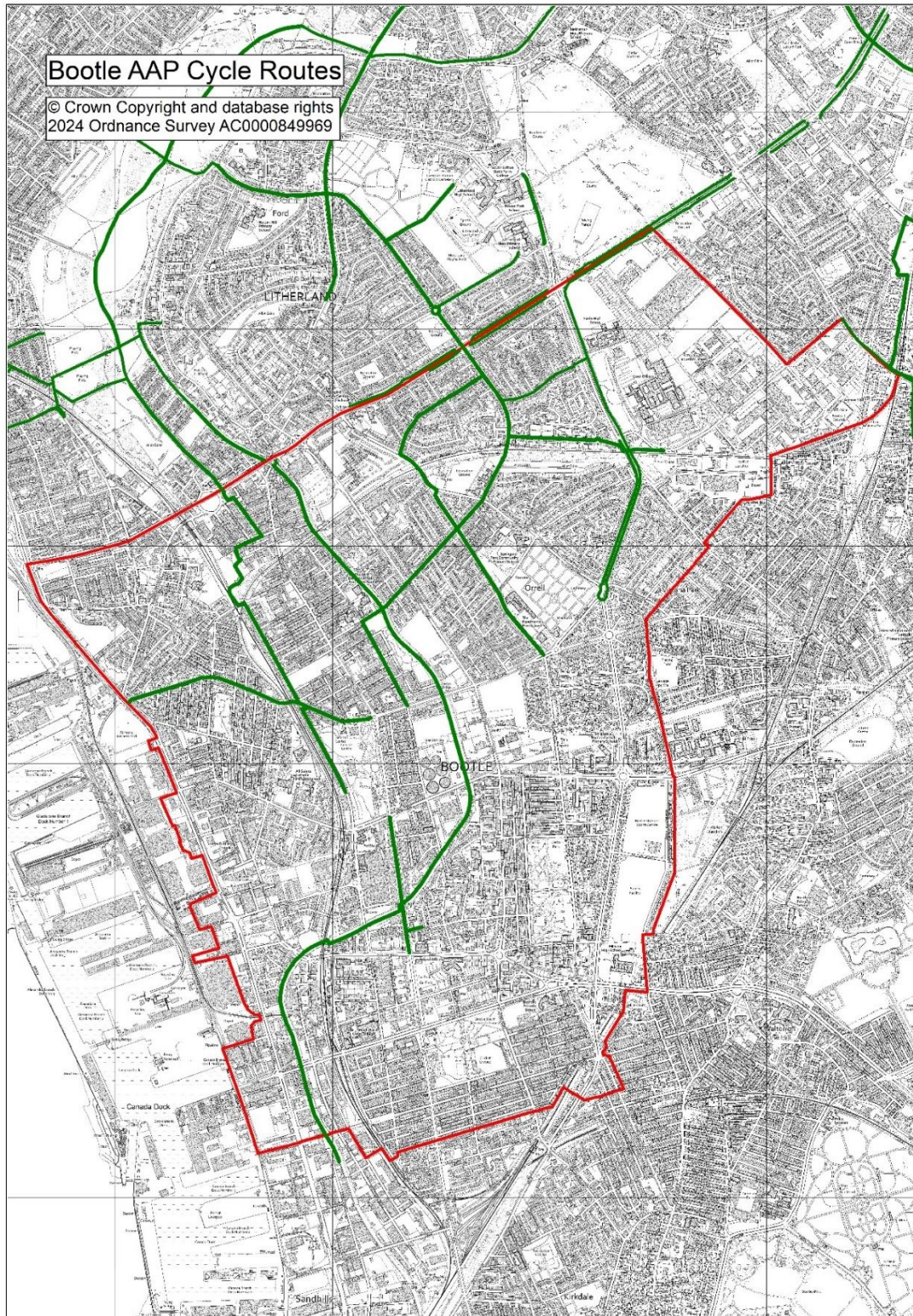
3.7 There are currently 38 bus routes going through Bootle to destinations including Preston, Liverpool City Centre, Liverpool John Lennon Airport, and Aintree University Hospital (www.bustimes.org). It is possible to get national express nationwide from

Liverpool One Bus station in Liverpool City Centre. All bus routes in Merseyside are capped at £2 per journey until September 2025.



Cycling Routes

3.8 There are some defined cycle routes that run through Bootle area (see map below). Whilst there are quite lot of cycle routes through the area, these are somewhat disjointed in parts and don't provide a comprehensive network.



Utilities

3.9 It is not considered the level of growth in the Bootle AAP would be of a scale that would warrant a more than modest use of energy and water. Many of the proposed development sites have already secured consent and/or are under construction (e.g. Atlantic Park Employment area, former Johnson's housing site, Hawthorne Road housing site). The provision of energy and water was not raised as a concern during any of these applications and neither have issues been raised through the Bootle AAP plan-making process.

3.10 In most cases the development types promoted under the Bootle AAP could have been secured under the current designations. In almost all cases, the sites allocated/designated for development are brownfield sites that had until recently been occupied by other uses that would have used utilities. The replacement with more energy and water efficient buildings would therefore be of benefit.

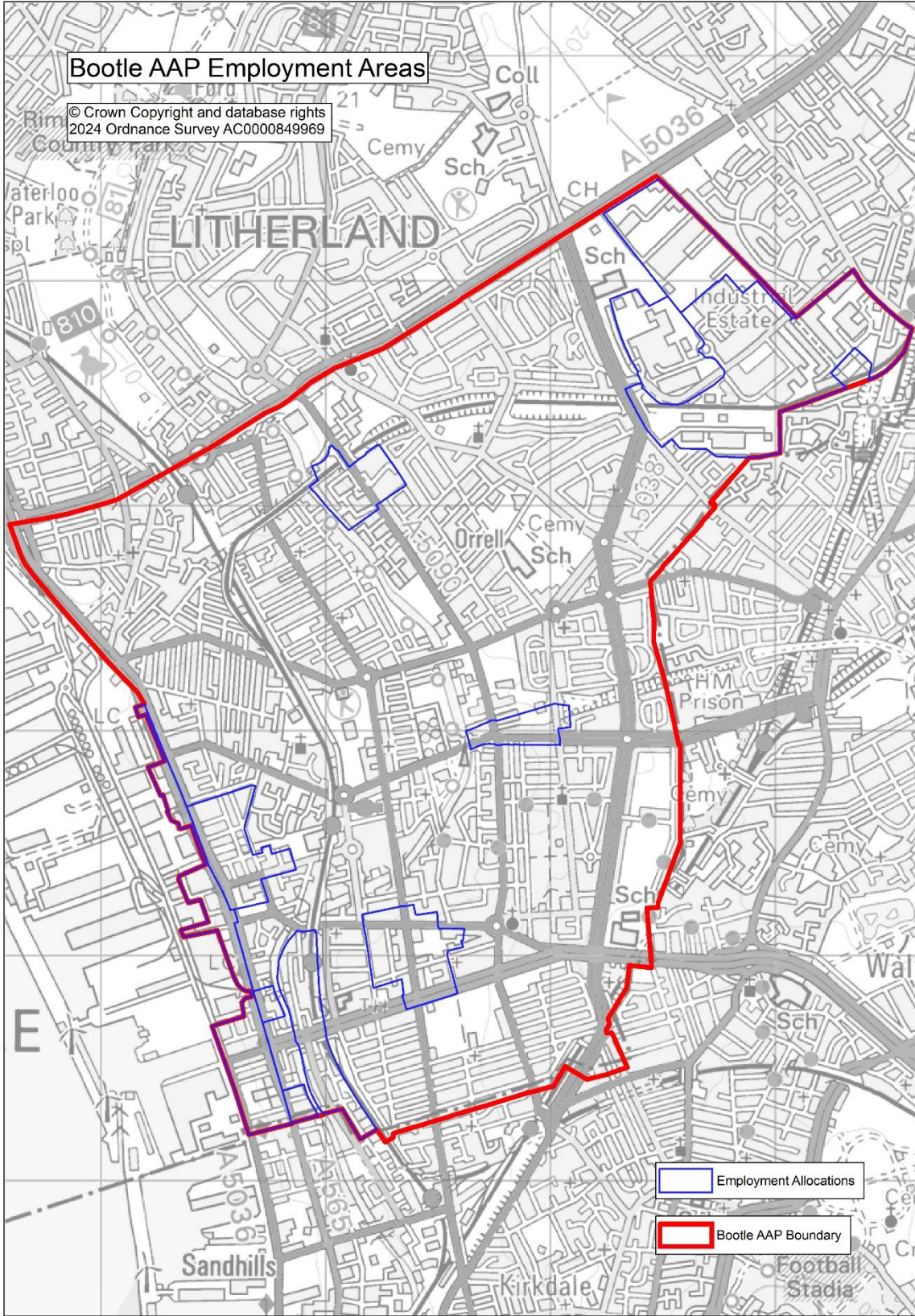
3.11 Notwithstanding this, the development management process does allow for upgrades if these are identified. The master planning of some of the key areas of change will also present a more detailed opportunity to engage with infrastructure providers to identify any potential 'pinch points' with utility provision.

Employment Areas and Jobs

3.12 Bootle contains a range of employment sites with a variety of characteristics and profiles in the type of businesses that tend to occupy them. Therefore, the types of jobs on offer are varied, with many jobs in the service sector in and around the centre with manufacturing jobs close to the docks and distribution jobs often close to the motorway network. The plan below shows the distribution of employment area in Bootle. Many Sefton residents will travel to work outside the borough, notably to Liverpool. Bootle residents in particular are well placed to access employment in Liverpool (particular the city centre) due to the excellent bus and rail links between Bootle and Liverpool – see above.

Bootle AAP Employment Areas

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Employment Allocations

Bootle AAP Boundary

4. Green Infrastructure

Parks

4.1 Bootle has a network of green spaces, including parks, open spaces, playing fields, allotments, and other green infrastructure (see plan below). The majority of these sites are in Council ownership. In addition to these sites, a number of schools playing fields are located within the Bootle AAP area.

4.2 There are four major parks within the Bootle AAP area:

- Derby Park
- North Park
- Kings Gardens
- South Park

Derby Park	<p>Derby Park is located within 10 minutes' walk from Bootle town centre.</p> <p>The park was built in 1895 and is an excellent example of an urban Victorian park. It is a very important cultural asset, and this has been recognised by its designation as part of the Derby Park Conservation Area and its listing on the National Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.</p> <p>Its cultural significance has been further recognised by regeneration agencies and, together with the Council and Sefton Children's Fund, £753,000 has been invested in the park to date.</p> <p>Works are still ongoing at Derby Park to improve the central steps and paths. Last year young people facilities were improved, including Sefton's largest play area and two ball courts.</p>
North Park	<p>A park with a sporting theme as it features Bootle Leisure Centre and other sports based facilities. The park also has allotment facilities and regularly holds events.</p>
Kings Gardens	<p>This is an ornamental garden in Bootle which features the Cenotaph. The First World War memorial, was erected in 1922 by the County Borough of Bootle and is Grade II* listed.</p>
South Park	<p>A park heavily associated with World War 2 as it was a relocation centre for those bombed in the Blitz. The park consists of a community garden which aims to become a hub for creativity, innovation and environmental learning for local residents and workers.</p>

4.3 Despite the network of public green spaces, Bootle has lower rates of provision of parks and other open space than Sefton as a whole, and no Countryside Recreation Areas. Thus, Bootle has significantly lower rates of accessible green space than the rest of Sefton. The physical and mental health and well-being benefits (and other benefits) of green space and

accessible nature space are widely accepted, and so there is a need to protect all existing publicly accessible parks, open spaces and playing fields in the plan area.

4.4 However, the Council does not consider that it is appropriate for additional parks, public open space or playing fields to be provided in relation to housing or other development in Bootle, even though Bootle has relatively few parks and open spaces per head of population. Bootle residents do have relatively easy access to the range of public open spaces and parks (see figure 16 of the Bootle AAP) and feedback from residents during the early part of the plan making process is that the quality of spaces should be improved.

4.5 The current pressures on local government funding locally and nationally mean that it is much better to protect and enhance existing parks and open spaces and their green and blue infrastructure benefits than to create additional small areas of public green space. A number of Bootle's parks, open spaces and playing fields need further investment to improve their quality or make them more accessible if they are to meet the recreation, sport, health and other needs of residents and other users of new development in Bootle during the plan period.