



Wirral's Children St Mary's CE

Consultation
January 2006

The meeting

- Short presentation about:
 - The Review process
 - The Options which affect this school
- Your comments

The Primary Places Review:

September 2004

Audit Commission report on Surplus Places

October 2004

Council begins reviewing North, South, Central Birkenhead and Beechwood

October 2005

Proposals published for North Birkenhead, Beechwood and South Birkenhead

The Primary Places Review:

October 2005

Council begins reviewing Bebington, Spital, Thornton Hough, Bromborough and Eastham

December 2005

Council decides to consult on options for Bromborough and Eastham

Important to:

- Focus on the needs of children not schools
- Think about the next generation
- Share information
- Trust one another
- What will work, and what will not work?

Surplus places – why do we need to act?

- Audit Commission says **surplus space** in schools should be **between 5% and 10%**
- Above 10%, wasting money supporting empty classrooms
- 4%-5% allows degree of parental choice
- No school should have more than 25% surplus – annual return to Government

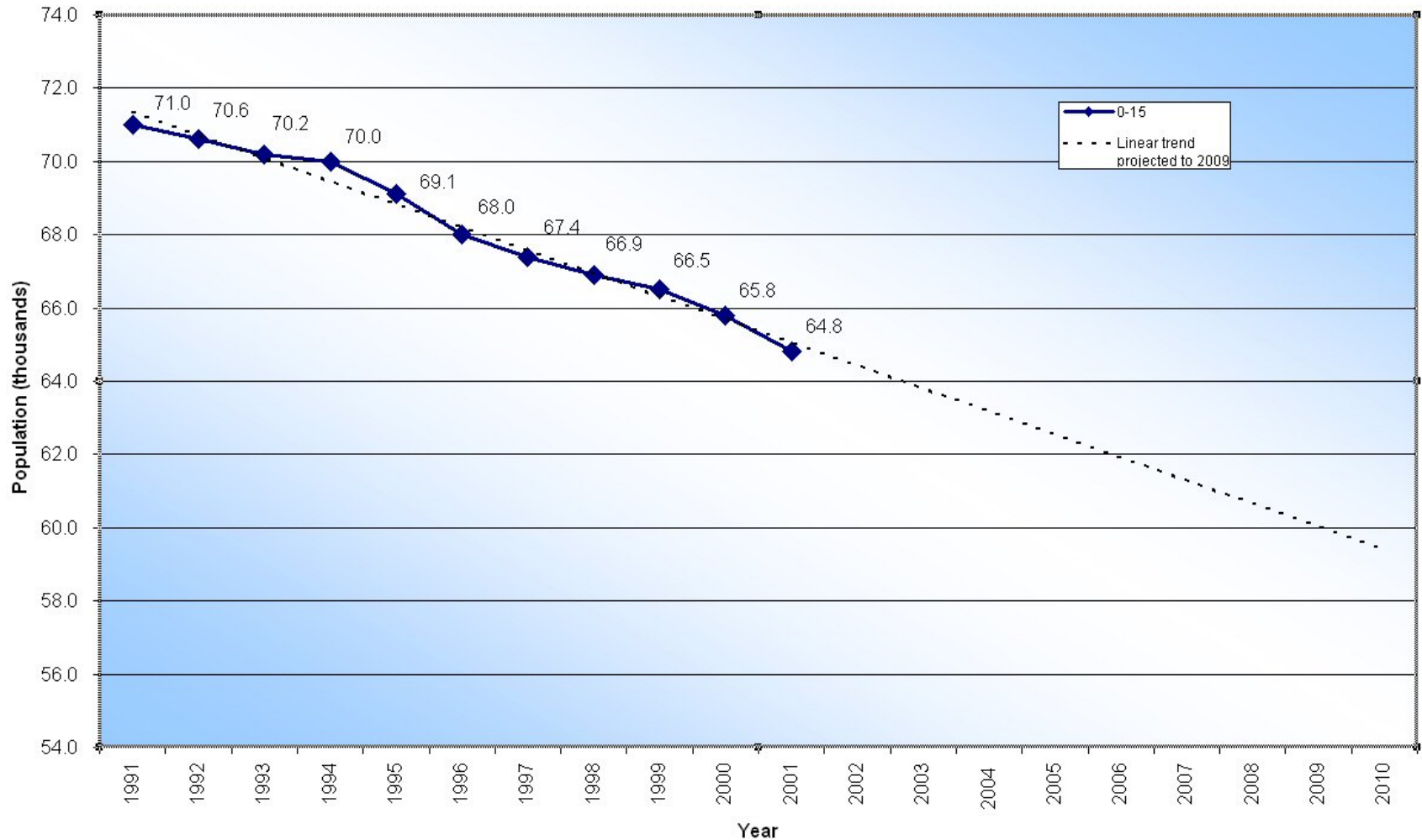
Outcome of Children's Services Inspection, December 2005

- In the primary sector there are too many surplus places.
- Progress in reducing surplus primary school places has been slow, but a clear strategy is now being implemented which is likely to involve some school closures.

Falling population - Wirral

Actual and estimated resident population for Wirral - Children aged 0-15 in line with 2001 Census

(Source: Office for National Statistics)



Surplus places in Wirral

In 2005

12% empty places

Spending £4.2 million pounds or £165 per primary pupil on empty spaces

By 2010

20% surplus places

Spending £7 million on empty spaces

1 in 3 schools will have more than 25% surplus places

Creative removal of surplus

LEA and Schools have created:

- ICT suites
- Libraries
- Parents rooms
- Pre-school playgroups
- Afterschool/Breakfast clubs
- Adult Learning facilities
- Bases for other services

And removed:

- Temporary mobiles

Many complicated factors

- Surplus places
- Small schools
- Location
- Where parents choose to send their children
- Value for money
- Catchment zones
- Housing changes
- Traffic and transport
- Denominational issues

How small is small?

- School Organisation Plan (2003) says under 210
- Wirral Policy (2005) says under 180
- DfES (2005) says under 150

Small Schools

- Financial – maintaining small school is at the expense of all children
- Organisational issues – mixed age classes
- Additional burden on staff
- Curriculum issues

Bebington, Spital and Thornton Hough

Brackenwood Infant
Brackenwood Junior
Church Drive Primary
Grove Street Primary
Higher Bebington Jr
Stanton Road Primary
Town Lane Infant

St Andrew's CE
St John's Infant
St John's Junior
Poulton Lancelyn
Thornton Hough

Surplus places in Bebington, Spital and Thornton Hough

In 2005

8% surplus places

By 2010

14% surplus places

No action at this time – continue to monitor situation

Bromborough and Eastham

Brookhurst

Bromborough Pool

Heygarth

Mendell

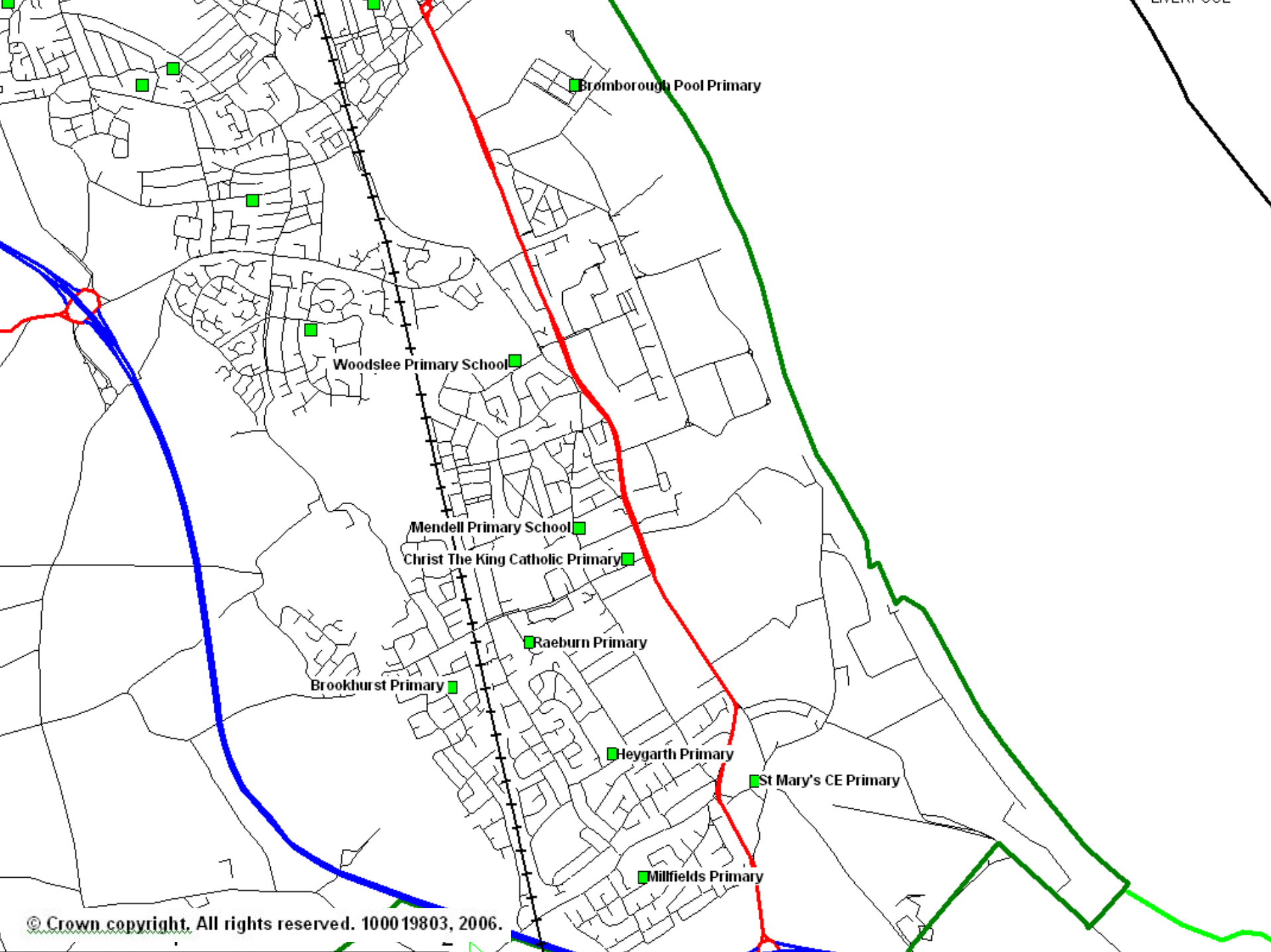
Millfields

Raeburn

Woodslee

St Mary's CE

Christ the King Catholic



Bromborough Pool Primary

Woodslee Primary School

Mendell Primary School

Christ The King Catholic Primary

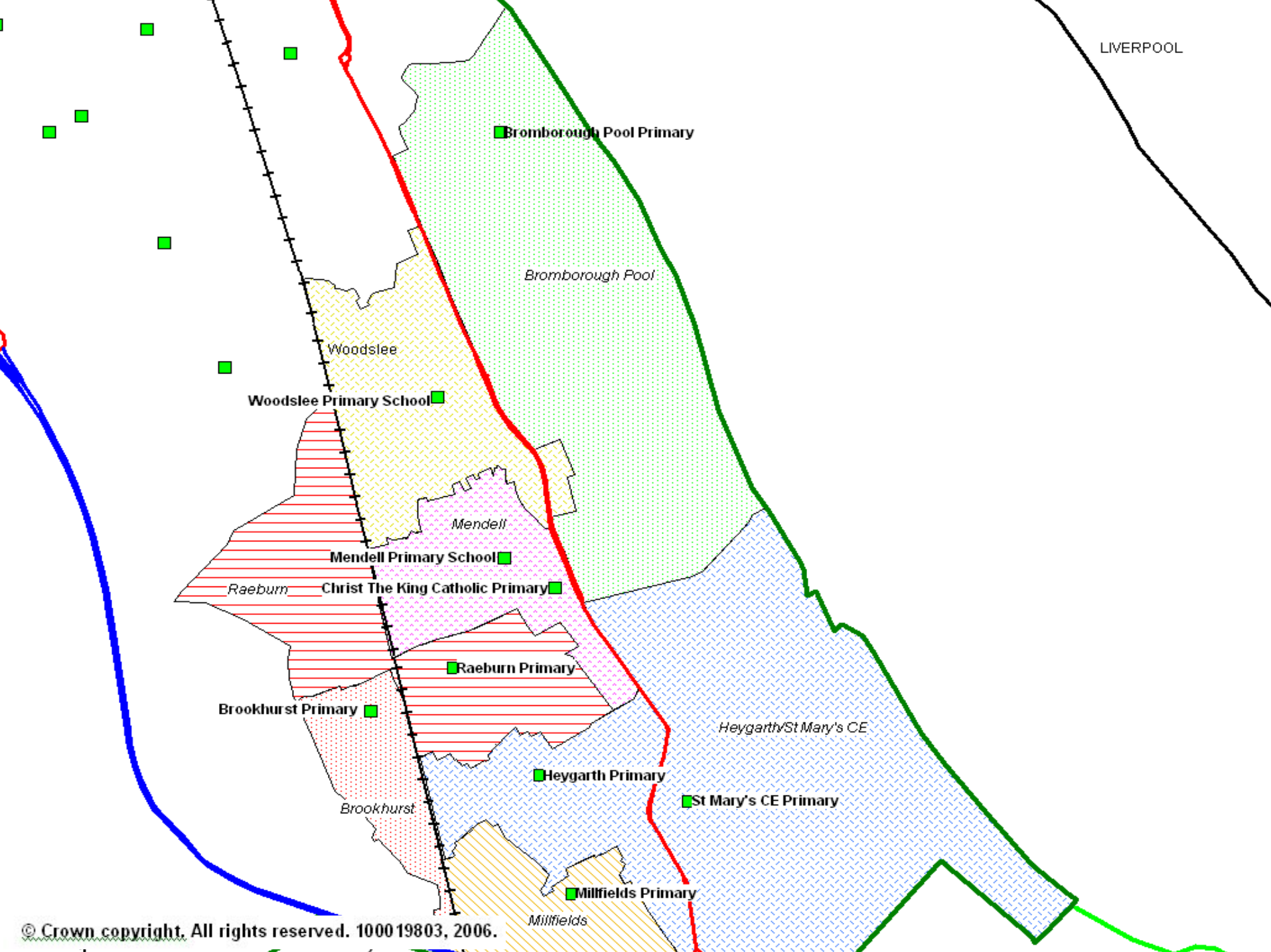
Raeburn Primary

Brookhurst Primary

Heygarth Primary

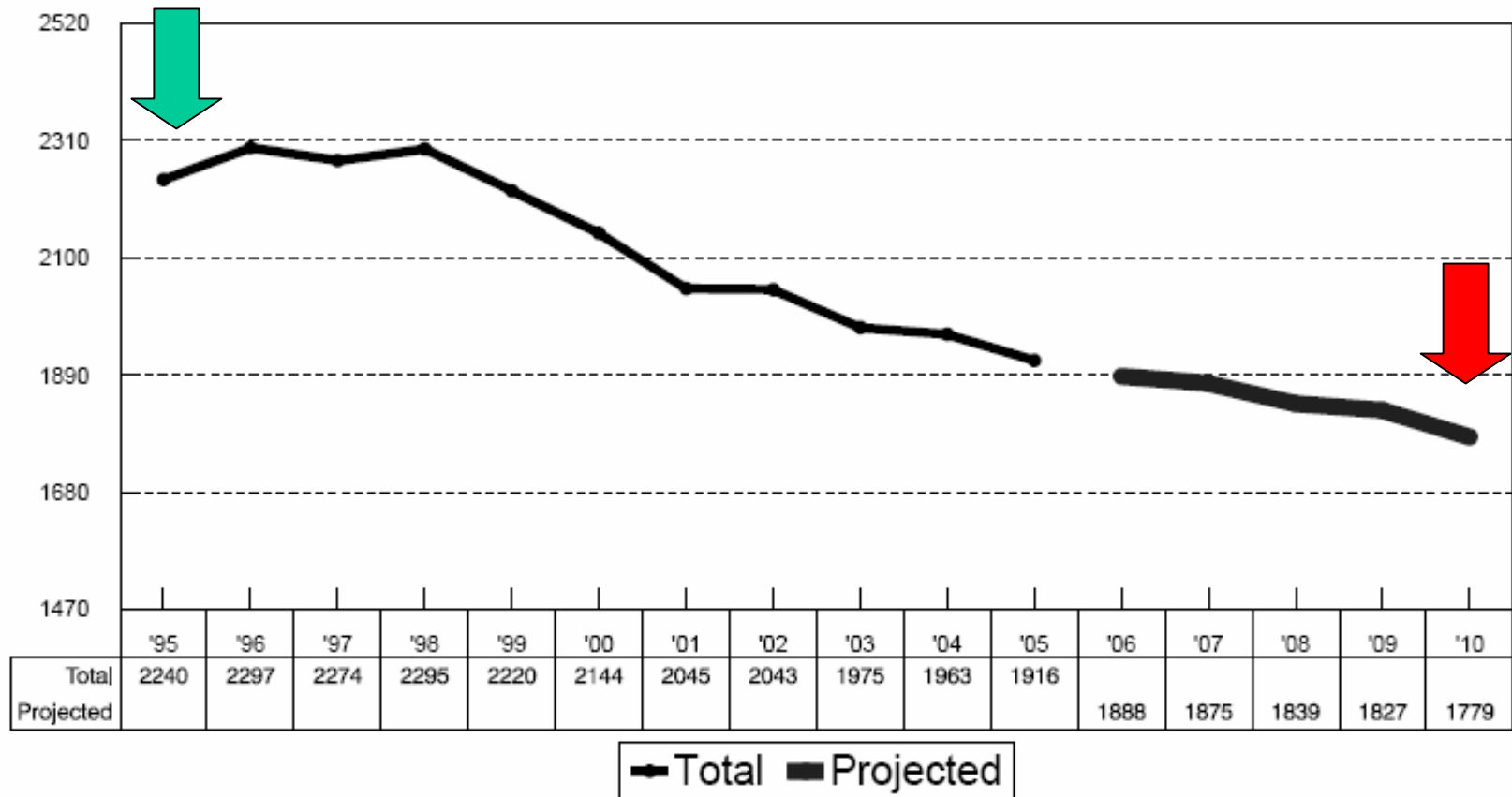
St Mary's CE Primary

Millfields Primary



Bromborough/Eastham Projections

Bromborough Primary Schools
Numbers on Roll 1995-2005 and proj to 2010



Surplus places in Bromborough/Eastham Area

In 2005

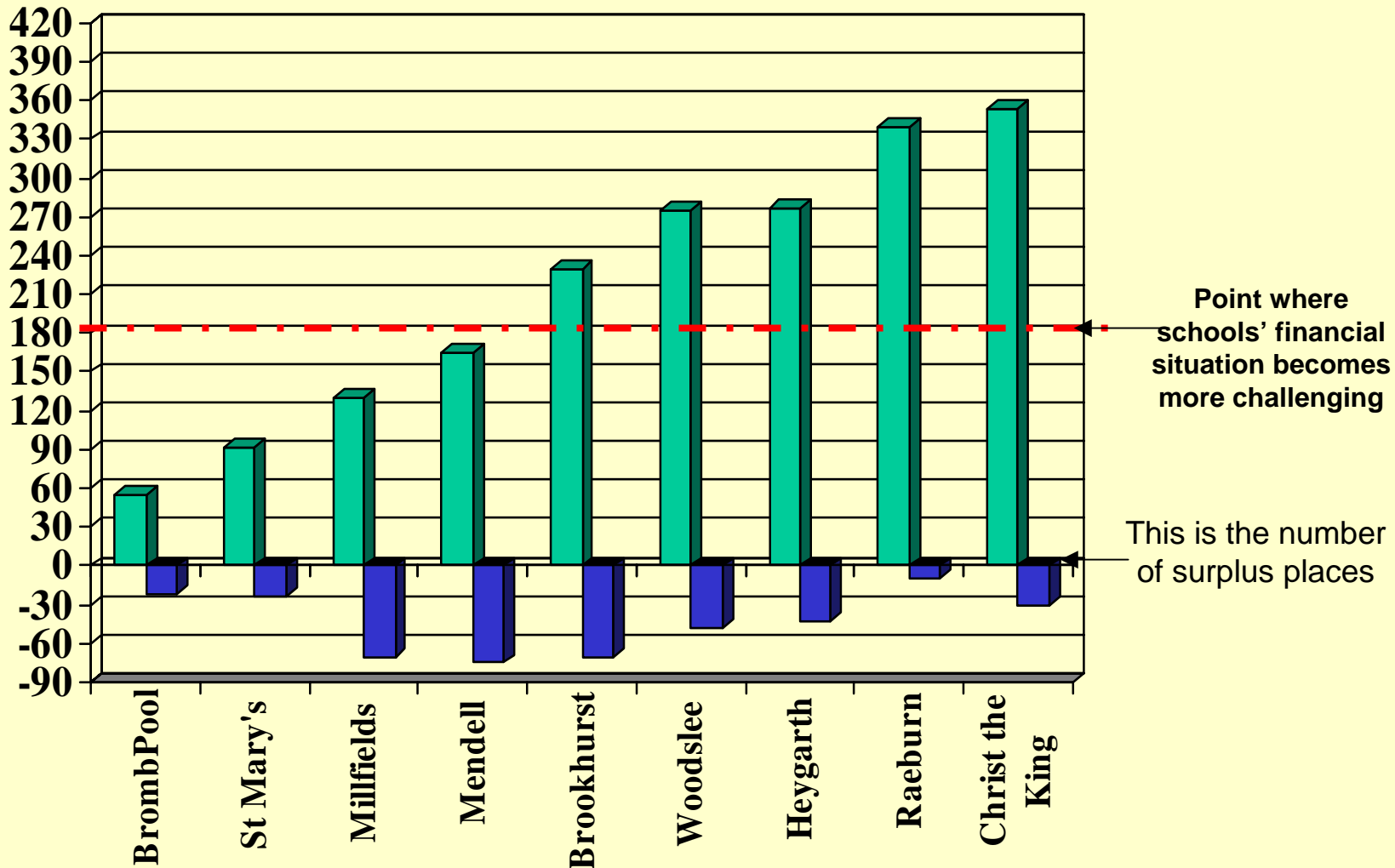
17% surplus places

By 2010

23% surplus places

We must act to reduce surplus places

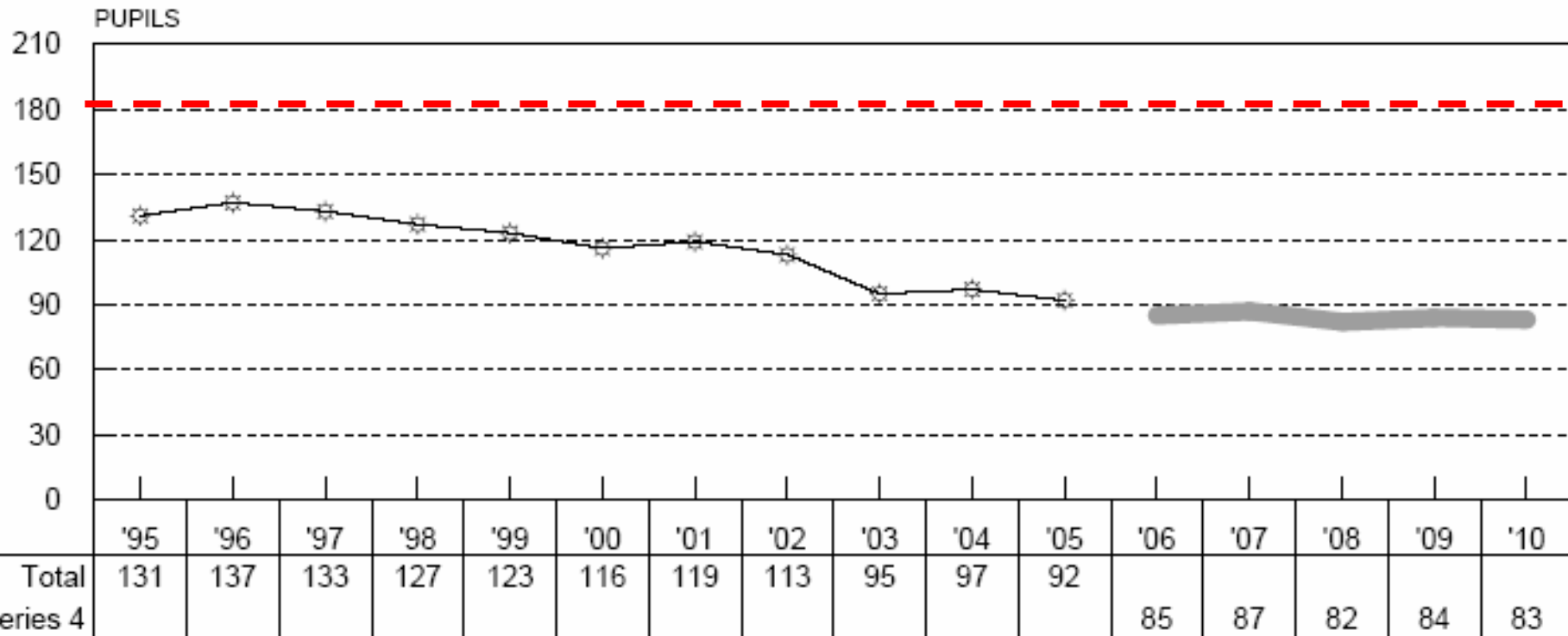
School size and surplus places



ST MARY'S CE CONTROLLED PRIMARY EASTHAM

NOR 1995-2005 and Projected to 2010

As at: January



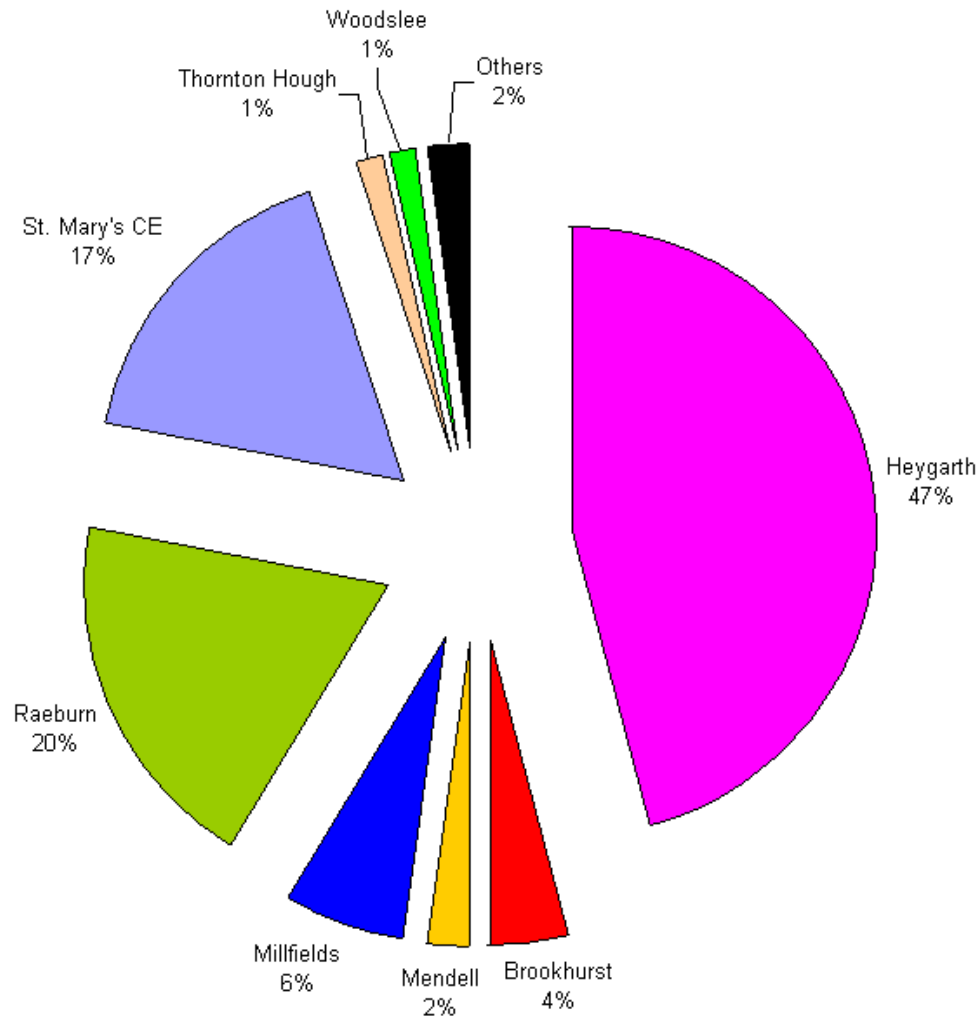
N.O.R.

✱ Total ■ Projected

Heygarth/St Mary's CE Catchment Area -Actual School attended

Total Community/CE pupils in catchment = 406

Number of pupils by school		(Reflux)
Heygarth	186	
Raeburn	79	(13)
St Mary's CE	69	
Millfields	26	(49)
Brookhurst	17	(4)
Mendell	9	(1)
Woodslee	6	(1)
Thornton Hough	5	(0)
Others	9	(8)

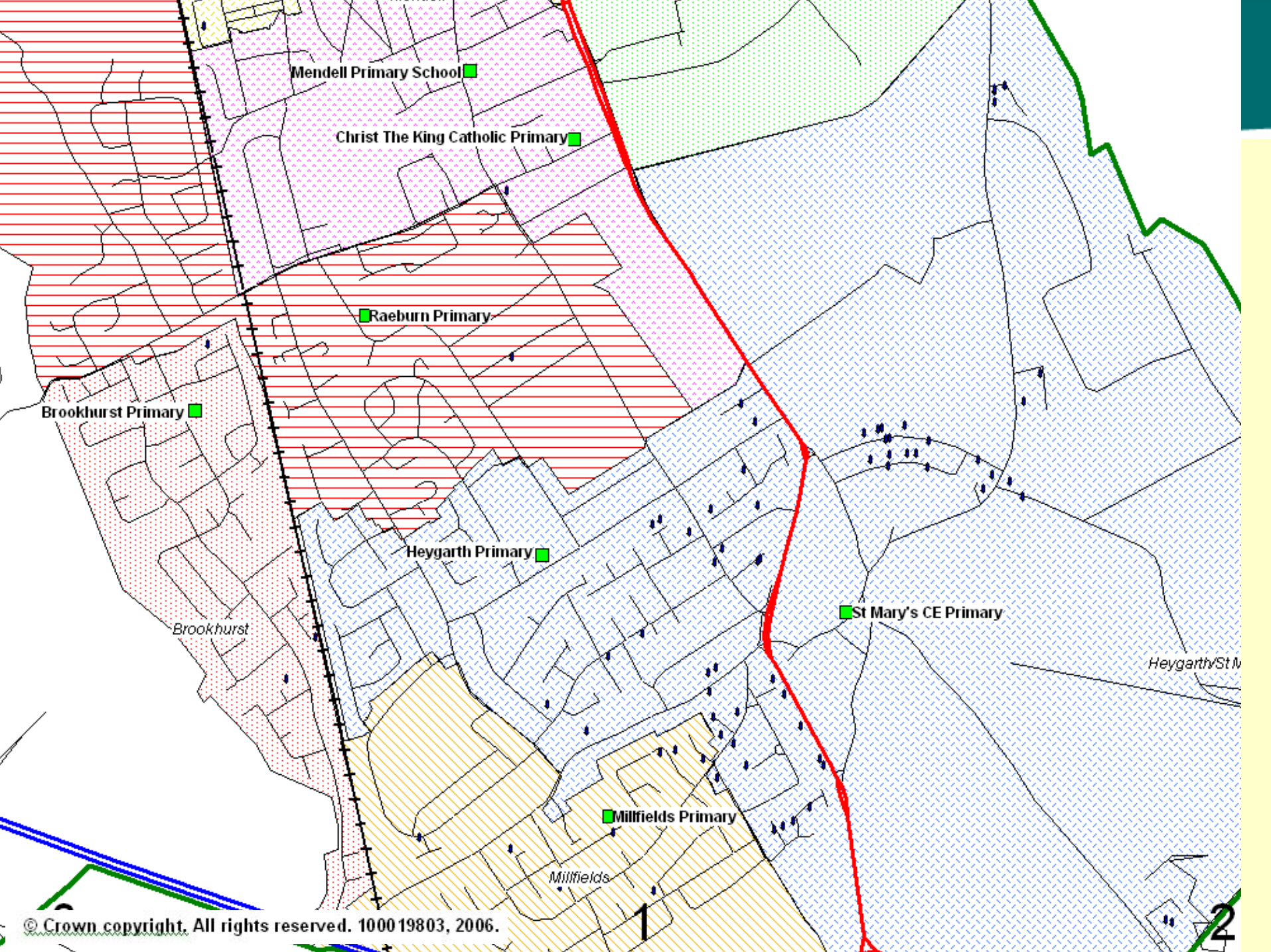


What Ofsted said (2002)

- School makes good provision for children in the Foundation Stage.
- Teaches its pupils effectively in most subjects.
- Ensures that pupils have good attitudes and behaviour and that relationships throughout the school are very good.
- Makes good provision for pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Takes good care of its pupils.
- Focuses effectively upon improving its performance.

The school could improve:

- Standards in spelling and handwriting throughout the school
- Standards in art and design and in design and technology in Years 3 to 6.
- The quality of homework.
- The views of a significant minority of parents about aspects of the school's performance.



Mendell Primary School

Christ The King Catholic Primary

Raeburn Primary

Brookhurst Primary

Heygarth Primary

St Mary's CE Primary

Millfields Primary

Brookhurst

Millfields

Heygarth/St M

Possible options for Bromborough and Eastham

- A Brookhurst
- B Bromborough Pool
- C Heygarth, St Mary's and Millfields
- D Mendell

- Options involve all the schools in this area directly, except:
- Christ the King - only Catholic school in this area
- Raeburn – stable school with few surplus places – it may be indirectly affected by some of the options

Options

All the C options relate to schools in Eastham

St Mary's CE, Heygarth and Millfields

These are the options we will explain in more detail

C1: Closure of St Mary's CE

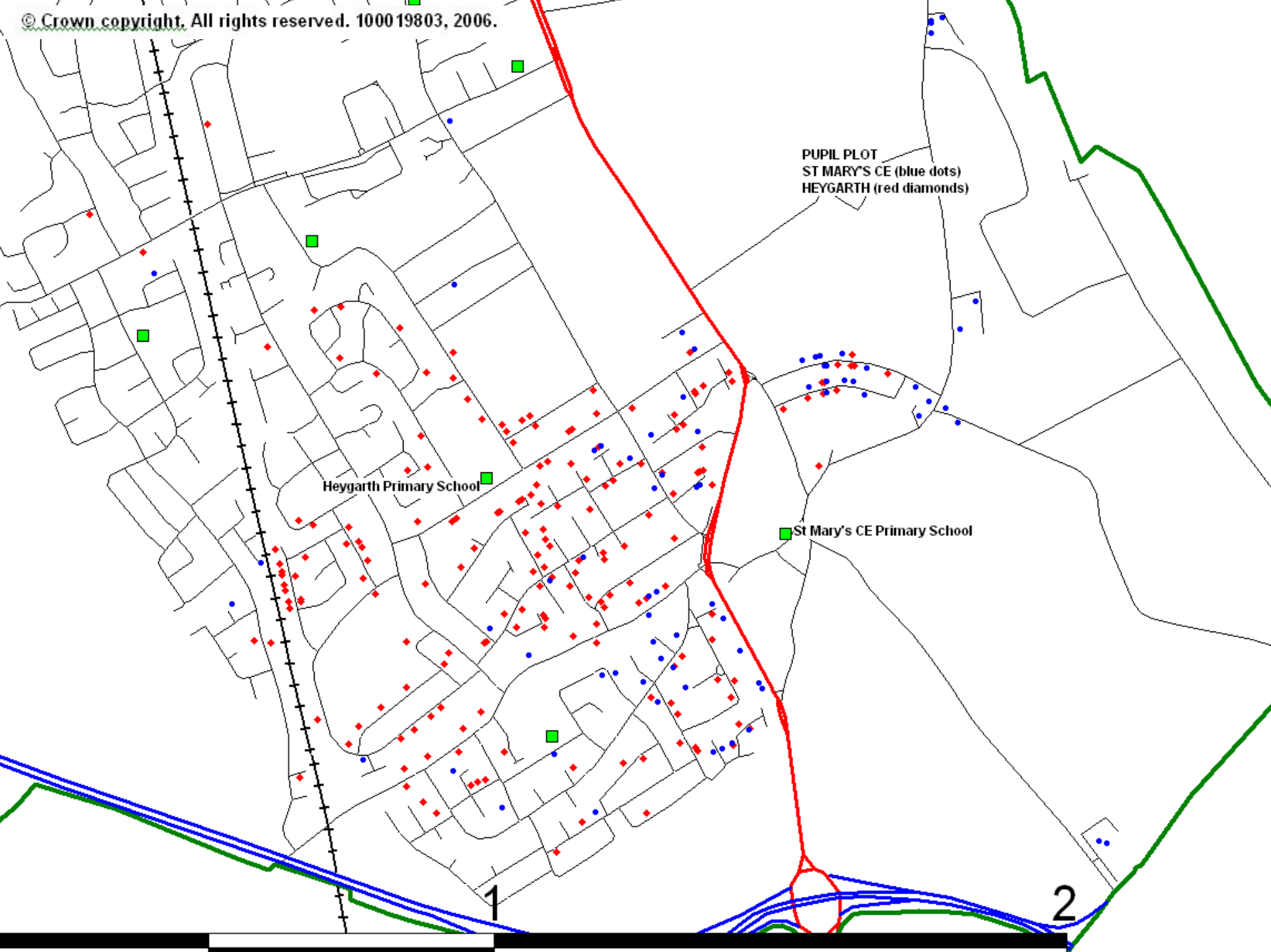
- Children in the catchment already attend Heygarth, Raeburn and others
- Shared catchment with Heygarth – no zone changes required
- Nearest CE schools would be Little Sutton CE and Willaston CE in Cheshire, St Andrew's CE in Bebington

C3: Build replacement CE school in Eastham, Close Millfields

- Millfields closes
- Replacement CE school built for St Mary's CE (210 pupils); in Eastham – cost £3-5 million
- Potential sites not yet investigated
- Catchments re-zoned – Millfields joins Heygarth/St Mary's zone
- Replacement building likely to be popular with parents - school likely to be full – may increase surplus elsewhere
- Trustees decide future of former St Mary's building

C4: Amalgamate Heygarth and St Mary's

- Two schools less than a mile apart
- Pupil populations overlap, same catchment area – no zone changes required
- St Mary's small, no further extension possible
- Heygarth site can cater for all the children from both schools with internal alterations
- Heygarth buildings would be enhanced
- Children can move together to the same school
- New school likely to be Church of England



PUPIL PLOT
ST MARY'S CE (blue dots)
HEYGARTH (red diamonds)

Heygarth Primary School

St Mary's CE Primary School

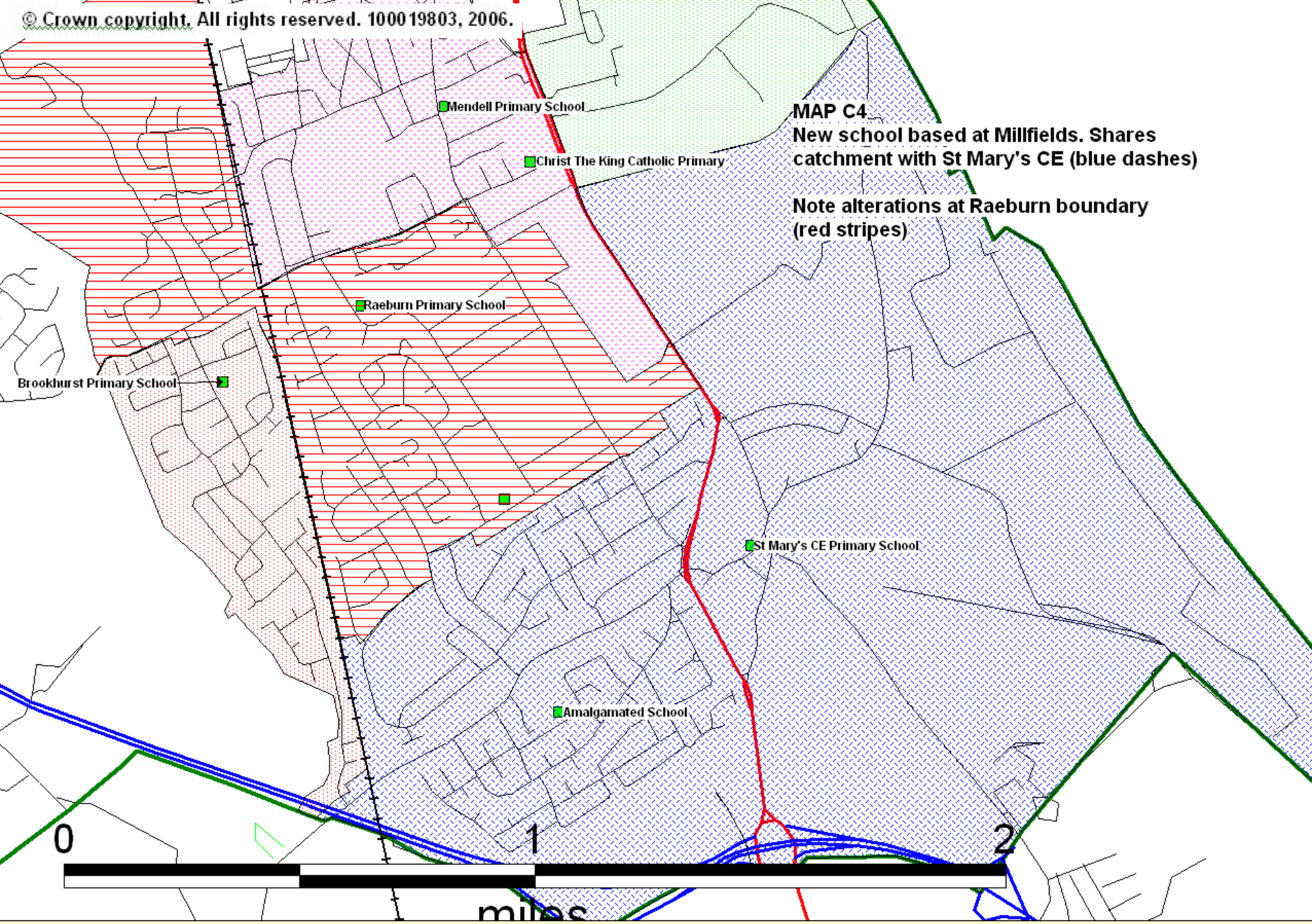
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2

C5: Amalgamate Millfields and Heygarth on either site

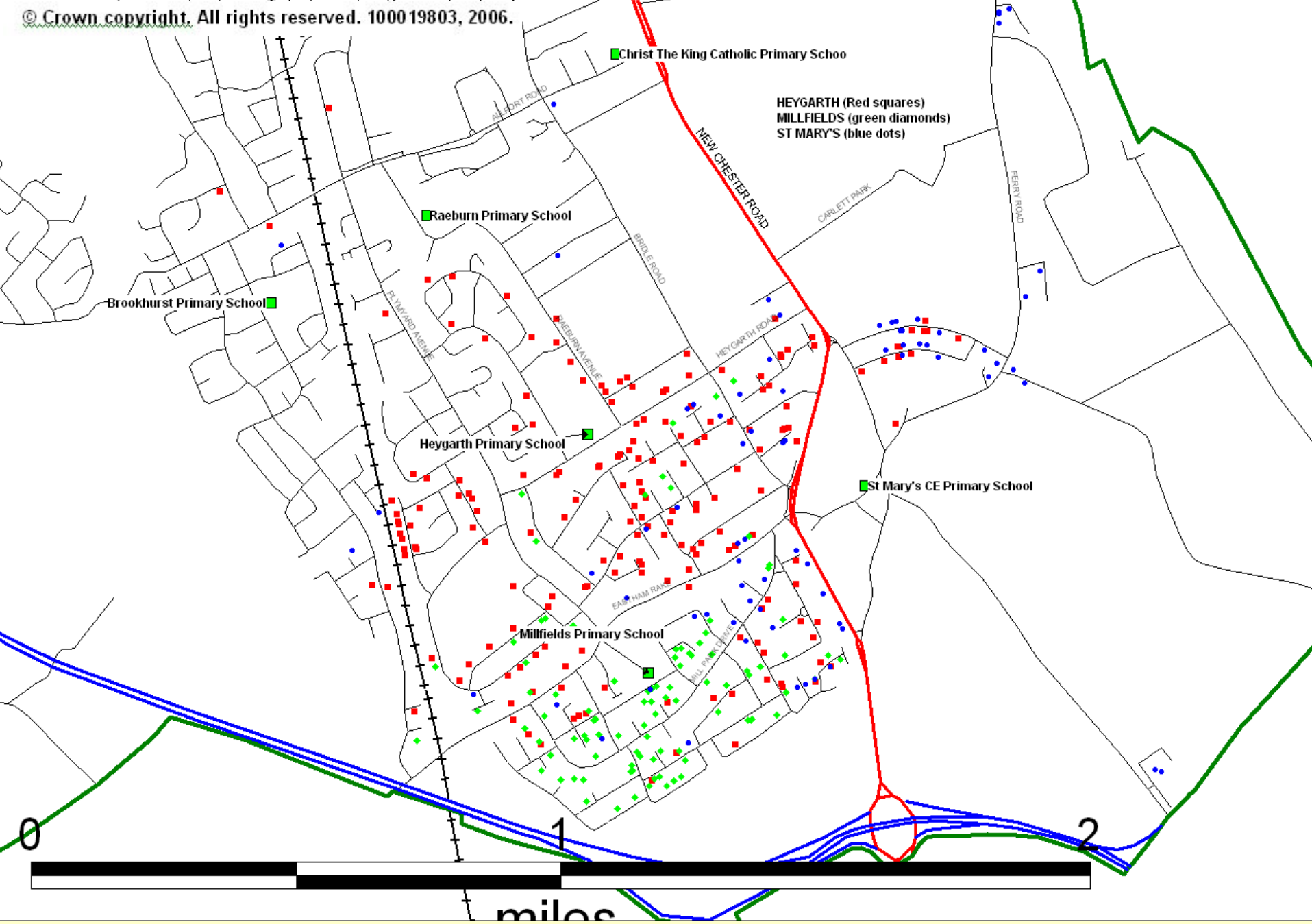
Internal alterations at Heygarth OR 4 to 6 new classrooms at
Millfields

- Pupil populations overlap
- Two schools just over half a mile apart
- Buildings would be improved
- Children can move together to the same school
- Catchment zones revised



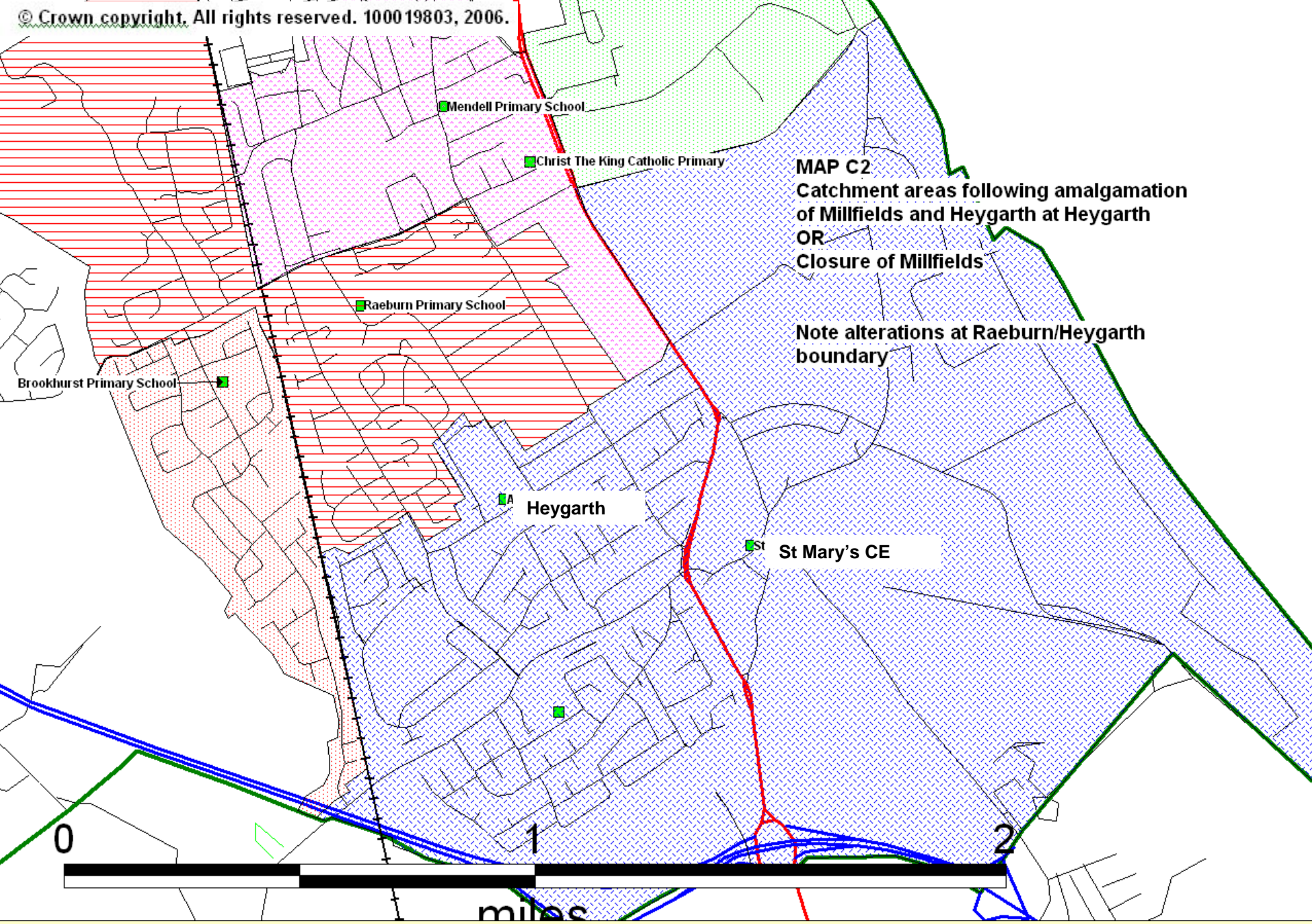
C6: Amalgamate all three schools

- **3 new classrooms at Heygarth OR**
- **7 new classrooms at Millfields OR**
- **New building for 480 pupils**
- **Pupil populations of three schools overlap**
- **All three buildings less than a mile apart**
- **Children can move together to the same school**
- **If new school CE Controlled, nearest community schools are Raeburn and Brookhurst**



C2: Closure of Millfields Primary

- A few Millfields children likely to transfer to St Mary's
- Millfields catchment joins Heygarth/St Mary's catchment: Some changes at boundary with Raeburn
- May require new classroom at Raeburn



In any option

- **Places for all the children in local schools**
- **Parents say which school they would prefer their child to attend**
- **Admissions criteria place the children**
- **Children move at same time so will have friends in their new school**
- **Enhancements to receiving schools**
- **Community/controlled catchment areas revised**
- **Staff redeployed**
- **Council decide future of any closed community site**
- **Trustees own St Mary's building**

Earliest date for any option is September 2007

What happens next?

January/February 2006

Meetings for directly interested parties – parents, staff, governors

Anyone can write and say what they think

All comments/responses must be made by the beginning of March

March/April 2006

Report goes to Council's cabinet.

Council will decide which (if any) options should become statutory proposals.

If proposals are agreed, notices are published. Six week representation period begins.

Anyone can send written comments or objections.

What happens next?

May/June 2006

Representation period ends.

Proposals go to multi-representative Wirral School Organisation Committee.

- May approve
- May approve with changes
- May give conditional approval – for example, pending planning permission
- May reject

If the SOC cannot agree, proposals are referred to the Schools Adjudicator

September 2007

Earliest date for implementation of proposals.

It could take longer, if building work is required, for example.

Remember:

- No change is not an option
- A decision has not yet been made
- Things will be better - and fairer - afterwards
- This is not about saving money for taxpayers: funding stays in the overall schools budget
- We must find sensible and effective solutions to high levels of empty places, based on all the factors involved.



■ Christ The King Catholic Primary

■ Raeburn Primary School

■ Brookhurst Primary School

■ Heygarth Primary

■ St Mary's CE Primary School

■ Millfields Primary