

SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY TECHNICAL PAPER

JULY 2019



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT - SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY TECHNICAL PAPER

INTRODUCTION

The Local Development Plan must identify a settlement hierarchy for the District. The settlement hierarchy should be supported by robust evidence.

This paper sets out the background to the settlements within the District and provides a recommendation as to a suitable settlement hierarchy for use in the District's Local Plan. The paper reviews the services and facilities which are currently available within the settlements across the District. The evidence presented here demonstrates that the Settlement Hierarchy is the most suitable for accommodating the growth for the District. The evidence will be updated if and when changes occur in the provision of services and facilities within the District.

The main role of this technical paper is, therefore, to:

- Provide the necessary background evidence to support the proposed settlement hierarchy

WHAT IS A SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY?

Settlements have traditionally provided a range of services for their populations. Generally, the larger the settlement in terms of population numbers, the larger the range of services it is likely to offer. Over time, a settlement hierarchy has been established within the District, with the three towns offering a large range of services and the surrounding villages offering a more restricted range of day-to-day services. As car ownership has increased, rural services have tended to decline. The role of the settlement hierarchy presented within the Local Plan Pre-submission publication (October 2018) is to direct growth to those areas which have the widest range of services in order to reduce the need to travel.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE PLANNING SYSTEM?

The District Council is required to produce a Local Development Plan to set the planning policy for the District up until 2036. The LDP must show where new homes are to be located. The number of new homes which the District has to plan for over the Plan period is 5520. This figure is based on the Housing Needs Study which calculates the district's housing need as 276 dwellings per annum.

The previous settlement hierarchy for the District was established within the Adopted Core Strategy which was adopted in 2010, the settlement hierarchy technical paper has been updated for the Local Plan Pre-submission publication in October 2018 and again July 2019 to reflect changes in facilities and updated information within the District.. There is now a greater emphasis in national planning policy on sustainable development, a major component of which is reducing the need to travel. Therefore, the District Council is required to identify the most sustainable locations for new development and these are considered to be the locations which offer the greatest range of services, including access to employment, education and healthcare. Undoubtedly, access to these services is greatest within the Strategic Centre of Kidderminster whilst the market towns of Stourport on Severn and Bewdley offer a smaller range of services. Some of the larger villages have retained their range of service provision, however, a number of smaller villages, particularly to the West of Bewdley offer a very restricted range of services.

NATIONAL GUIDANCE

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019

In July 2018 the MHCLG published the updated NPPF, this was updated again on 19th February 2019. Planning policy is required to be in favour of sustainable development as outlined in paragraph 11. The three overarching objectives as stated in paragraph 8 are-

*a) **an economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;*

*b) **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and*

*c) **an environmental objective** – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.*

Therefore any settlement hierarchy will need to be in favour of sustainable development. Settlement hierarchy is also discussed more specifically in paragraph 85-

‘Planning policies and decisions should support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation. Planning policies should:

define a network and hierarchy of town centres and promote their long-term vitality and viability – by allowing them to grow and diversify in a way that can respond to rapid changes in the retail and leisure industries, allows a suitable mix of uses (including housing) and reflects their distinctive characters’

Settlement hierarchies will also need to take into account sustainable transport as discussed in paragraph 103 in the NPPF- *‘Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes’*. Additionally in paragraph 79 it states that *‘planning policies and decisions should avoid the development of isolated homes in the countryside’* unless specific circumstances apply which are listed in paragraph 79.

National guidance, therefore, indicates the need to locate development in accessible locations, with some allowance in specific circumstances for development in other areas. This technical paper outlines the hierarchy of settlements so that policies can be appropriately targeted, to meet the needs of the individual settlements within Wyre Forest.

Access to the services people need is one of the most important determinants of quality of life in rural areas. A village shop, school, G.P's surgery and bank are likely to be important to most households, but many other services will be 'essential' to particular people, depending on their circumstances and stage in the life cycle. Where services are not provided locally, public transport to a service centre may be a vital lifeline.

It is therefore important that the emerging Local Development Plan takes account of these national and regional policies and ensures that they are translated into local requirements.

WYRE FOREST IN CONTEXT

Wyre Forest District is situated within North West Worcestershire. Covering 75 sq. miles, it has a population of approximately 100,715 (2017 based Subnational Population Projections Office for National Statistics (ONS)). The District comprises the three towns of Kidderminster, Stourport on Severn and Bewdley, together with a rural hinterland which includes a number of small villages. The three towns form a triangle of settlements at the centre of the District separated by narrow areas of open countryside. Despite their close proximity, each has its own particular character and community identity.

Kidderminster (approximately 56,200) is the main centre for commerce It developed rapidly in the

19th Century with the expansion of the carpet industry to become a world leading centre for carpet production. Since the 1970s the town's carpet industry has been in decline and a gradual process of economic diversification has taken place.

Stourport on Severn (approximately 20,500) developed as an important industrial Georgian Canal Town at the confluence of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal and the River Severn. For over 100 years this attractive town with its riverside meadows has been a popular day trip destination for residents from Birmingham and the Black Country.

Bewdley (approximately 9,000) is a Georgian riverside town, which saw significant development during the 1960s. Today Bewdley is an attractive historic market town and a popular visitor destination.

The District's rural settlements surround the 3 main towns. To the east, the larger, generally more accessible settlements include Chaddesley Corbett, Blakedown, Cookley, Fairfield and Wolverley. Whilst to the West of the River Severn the smaller settlements of Clows Top, Far Forest, Callow Hill, Bliss Gate and Rock provide limited services to rural residents. The rural areas are influenced by the adjacent conurbation in terms of attractiveness for commuting and house prices here are generally high.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

The first stage of the methodology was to determine which settlements were to be considered. Kidderminster, the main town within the District will be the focus for growth. The towns of Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn are both market towns; however, they are considerably different in their range of services and facilities and their ability to accommodate further growth. Therefore, information is presented to justify their different roles.

The District also has a number of outlying villages and hamlets and their level of service provision varies. This paper has identified the main villages and hamlets within the District which offer some services and facilities. The paper has also identified a range of services and facilities which are considered to indicate the potential sustainability of a settlement. Information was then gathered about which settlements had which facilities. The data has been collected using existing data sources including data collected for the purposes of providing a baseline for the Sustainability Appraisal, and data from existing evidence base studies. The

settlement hierarchy has been established based on the range of services and facilities available within each settlement and their potential to support housing growth in a sustainable manner.

The data collected and the reason for the inclusion of each indicator is set out in the table below.

Settlement Criteria

Criteria	Comment
Bus Stop/Bus Routes/Bus Frequency	Bus stops determine whether a settlement can be accessed by public transport and whether residents can use public transport to access larger settlements. The number of routes and destinations served as well as the frequency of services gives an indication of how reliant residents could be on public transport on access facilities which are not located within their home settlement.
GP	Access to a doctor is important to provide for the medical needs of the community.
Post office	Post offices have traditionally provided a range of services. Post Offices are considered to be particularly important for the elderly and those working from home.
Pub	The pub is often at the heart of a rural community, providing a place to socialise.
Dentist	Dentists are considered to be an important healthcare facility.
Railway Station	Railway stations offer the potential to access larger settlements by sustainable transport.
Convenience Store	A local food store reduces the need for residents to travel by car to access day-to-day essential shopping.
Primary School	Local schools are important to encourage children to walk or cycle to school.
Secondary School	Local schools are important to encourage children to walk or cycle to school.
Employment opportunities	Local employment opportunities are important to reduce the need to travel and also to help support local services.
Public Hall	A village hall or community centre can offer important social activities for all ages and reduce the need to travel.

A scoring system has been devised based on the availability of each of the services and facilities within each settlement. Where there is good provision of a service or facility within the settlement, 3 points were allocated. Where a service is accessible,

within 2 miles of the settlement, 2 points were awarded. Where there is no provision of a service or facility and the nearest alternative is less than 4 miles away, 1 point was awarded, where there is no provision of a service or facility and the nearest alternative is over 4 miles no points were awarded.

The scoring system for bus services is based on the frequency of the bus service serving the settlement. If the settlement has a bus service that runs half hourly or more frequently the score is 3. The figure reduces to 2 if the bus service is between half hourly and hourly. Where the bus service is every 1 - 2 hours the score is 1 and if the settlement has a bus less frequently than 2 hours the score is 0.

In some cases, the existence of a railway station or an employment area within a settlement might mean that the sustainability in terms of new development may be greater than if a settlement has, for example, a large number of public houses. In considering locations for new development, this potential weighting for the different issues was considered to be important.

The tables set out at Appendix A show the scores for each individual settlement. The results are displayed using a traffic light system. Green represents the most sustainable settlements, amber represents a settlement where some improvements would be needed to achieve a sustainable settlement and red indicates a settlement where major changes are needed to achieve a sustainable settlement.

The data was collected using desk-top analysis and existing local knowledge, supplemented by site visits where necessary.

PROPOSED HIERARCHY

The study carried out by Council Officers resulted in the following proposed hierarchy of settlements for the Wyre Forest:

Settlement	Proposed Classification
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Kidderminster	Strategic Centre
Stourport	Large Market Town
Bewdley	Small Market Town
Fairfield	Villages
Cookley	Villages
Blakedown	Villages
Wilden	Villages
Chaddesley Corbett	Villages
Wolverley	Villages
Clows Top	Villages
Rock	Villages
Bliss Gate	Villages
Far Forest	Villages
Callow Hill	Villages
Upper Arley	Villages

ALL OF THE REMAINING SETTLEMENTS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE 'HAMLETS' AS DUE TO THEIR SIZE DOES NOT WARRANT A SPECIFIC CLASSIFICATION AS DEVELOPMENT IS UNLIKELY TO BE DIRECTED HERE.

SETTLEMENT SERVICES AND PROVISION

The settlement hierarchy identified above is considered to be a useful indicator for the emerging Local Plan and will help to identify the locations which are considered most sustainable for locating new development.

The following section provides a summary of the main settlements within the District, with the full audit of facilities/services within each settlement provided in the appendices.

Strategic Centre - Kidderminster

Kidderminster is the largest settlement within the Wyre Forest. The town has a population of approx. approximately 56,200 (ONS 2016 based Subnational Population Projections)

people, which is more than double that of the next largest town in the District. Kidderminster has the full range of services and facilities including a main line railway station and scores the maximum of 33 points. Therefore, it is considered to be the most sustainable settlement within the District. Kidderminster also has the greatest potential to accommodate new development in terms of the availability of brownfield sites for both residential and employment/commercial redevelopment. Therefore, Kidderminster will be the main focus for future development within the District. In the Local Plan Pre-submission publication a Kidderminster Eastern Extension is proposed to create mixed tenure residential development of approximately 1400 homes. These are to meet local needs and would be set within an extensive area of green space, accessible to everyone in the area. The development would include a community hub, primary school, retail provision and a community facility to accommodate a meeting room, cafe and potentially a GP surgery.

Large Market Town – Stourport-on-Severn

Stourport is a large-sized market town with a population of approximately 20,500 (ONS 2016 based Subnational Population Projections). Stourport is considered to be the next most sustainable settlement in terms of the provision of services and facilities. The town has a range of shops and services which support the town but do not provide the range and choice available in Kidderminster. Stourport does offer a range of employment opportunities, including nearby industrial estates such as Sandy Lane. There is also direct public transport access to the Stourport Road Employment Corridor which links Stourport to Kidderminster. The bus service runs four times an hour along this route. Overall, given the size of the settlement and the facilities and services available, Stourport is considered to be the second most sustainable location within the District.

Market Town - Bewdley

Bewdley is a smaller market town to that of Stourport and offers a more limited range of services and facilities. Despite scoring only 2 fewer points than Stourport, Bewdley is considered to be less sustainable and less suitable for growth because of a number of factors. Bewdley has a range of small local shops but does not have a

large supermarket; therefore, Bewdley residents are reliant upon travelling to Kidderminster to access such a facility. Access to employment opportunities is also more limited in Bewdley, with many residents having to commute. Bewdley's ability to accommodate further growth is restricted for a number of reasons; there is little brownfield land available to develop either within or surrounding Bewdley, also topography, proximity to the River Severn and floodplain. Any new large scale residential development may increase pressure for growth of retail and commercial facilities which due to the above constraints would be difficult to achieve. For these reasons, Bewdley is considered to be the least sustainable of the three towns and therefore, growth here should be limited to that which is necessary to meet local housing needs.

Villages:

Fairfield

Fairfield is located to the north east of Kidderminster. There are a number of facilities that exist in and around this area. Fairfield lies within the ward of Wolverley and contains the majority of people that live within this ward. There are a number of key local facilities nearby and the access to and from this area is considered to be good. Fairfield also has close links with Wolverley and has good links to schools and community facilities.

Cookley

Cookley is one of the largest villages within the Wyre Forest District. Cookley has a wide range of services and facilities within the village boundaries. There are a number of local shops and pubs including a Tesco express, and takeaways. Cookley did have a post office which has recently closed, however an alternative location within the parish is being sought to reopen the facility. Cookley also has its own primary school and a community and sports centre. There are bus services directly into Kidderminster (Diamond Bus Service 9A- since April 2018) as well as pedestrian links via the canal towpath. Cookley is also home to a fairly large employer, with Titan Steel Wheels located to the north of the village. Overall, Cookley is considered to be a sustainable village with good access to services and facilities.

Blakedown

Blakedown is located to the north east of the District, along the main transport route into Birmingham. This settlement has a number of key facilities, including a primary school, post office, shops and public houses. Blakedown is the only village in the District that has a main line railway station. The railway station at Blakedown therefore provides sustainable access into larger settlements, such as Kidderminster and Birmingham and therefore increases the sustainability of this settlement.

Wilden

Wilden is a village located between Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn. The village has a number of services and facilities located within, or adjacent to, its boundaries. There is a sports club, public house and primary school. Additionally, Wilden is home to Wilden Lane Industrial Estate. This historic industrial estate is home to a wide variety of businesses and provides potential job opportunities within close proximity to the village residents. The existence of the industrial estate improves the sustainability of this village.

Chaddesley Corbett

Chaddesley Corbett is located to the east of the District, approx 4 miles from Kidderminster. The village has a number of services and facilities. This includes a post office, shops, primary school G.P surgery and public houses.

Wolverley

Wolverley is a small historic settlement located north-east of Kidderminster. The settlement has a number of facilities including a secondary school, and public houses. Local 'top-up' facilities are provided in Fairfield which is close by. Overall the settlement is fairly constrained and generally, this area is not seen as being suitable for large new development but could potentially accommodate small-scale development to meet local needs.

Clows Top

Clows top is the most westerly settlement within the District. The settlement straddles the District Boundary, with the remainder of the area falling into Malvern Hills District. The settlement is fairly remote in terms of location to other higher order centres. There are limited facilities within the area, but the settlement does benefit from a Post Office/convenience store. The other main facility is a community hall. Due to the fairly remote nature of this settlement it is considered that it would not be suitable for large new development.

Rock

Rock is located to the south west of the District and is a small settlement with few services and facilities. The only facilities are a pub, public hall, farm shop and cafe. Therefore, the potential for this area to accommodate new development is considered to be limited.

Bliss Gate

This settlement is located to the west of the District and contains very few facilities. Given the remote nature of the settlement it is not considered to be a suitable location for new development apart from identified local need.

Far Forest

This settlement is also located to the west of the District. Far Forest contains a number of facilities. The settlement has a convenience store including a Post Office, a Primary School, a Public House and a Village Hall. These facilities all provide important roles within the settlement and ensure that there remains an element of self-sufficiency. However, the settlement still relies on higher-order centres for a large number of services and facilities. Given the location and accessibility of the area it is not considered to be a suitable location to prioritise new development, aside from potentially catering for any identified local need.

Callow Hill

Callow Hill is located to the west of the District and its development is fairly linear in nature. There are fairly limited facilities within the settlement with only public houses and a sports hall providing the focus. Some of the other facilities are in fairly close proximity but require travel out of this settlement. Overall, it is considered that this settlement provides limited opportunities for new development, aside from potentially catering for any identified local need.

Upper Arley

Upper Arley is a settlement located on the River Severn, in the north west of the District. Upper Arley is a historic settlement which contains a number of limited service and facilities. Public Transport access to and from this area is fairly minimal with a bus service, but does have the potential for access along the Severn valley Railway which has a station stop within this area. Considering the limited access and facilities within this location it is not considered to be a suitable location for new development, aside from the potential for catering for identified local need.

Lea Castle Village

In the Local Plan Pre-submission publication a new village is proposed at Lea Castle. Lea Castle Village is centered on the former hospital site. Lea Castle Village is proposed to be a new sustainable village with enough housing to generate a new village centre with its own local shop, primary school, perhaps a G.P surgery, employment sites and new and upgraded sports pitches. Housing that will be provided should cater for many sections of the community with a mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures.

APPENDIX A

Individual Settlement Analysis

Bewdley	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office				Currently 1 post office located within the centre of settlement.	3
G.P				1 G.P's surgery close to centre of settlement.	3
Public House				Public houses within settlement.	3
Dentists				1 dentists surgery within the centre of settlement.	3
Convenience Store				A number of convenience stores.	3
Bus services frequency and destination				9 bus services in settlement. Hourly bus service to Kidderminster.	2
Primary School				2 primary schools within the settlement.	3
Secondary School				1 secondary school within the settlement.	3
Public Hall				Public or church halls within the settlement	3
Employment Opportunities			3.5 miles	Limited employment opportunities within parish, some opportunities at West Midlands Safari Park but more employment opportunities in Kidderminster.	2
Railway Station			3.5 miles	No commercial railway within this settlement. Nearest railway station Kidderminster which is 3.5 miles away. The Severn Valley Railway has a station at Bewdley.	1
Total Score					29

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Blakedown	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office				Post office in centre of settlement.	3
G.P surgery				Nearest GP is Stanmore House located in Kidderminster over 2 miles away.	1
Public House				2 public houses in centre of settlement.	3
Dentists				Nearest dentists in Kidderminster over 2 miles away.	1
Convenience Store				Convenience store in centre of settlement.	3
Bus services frequency and destination				Hourly bus service within the settlement.	2
Primary School				Primary school within settlement.	3
Secondary School				Nearest secondary school in Hagley just over 2 miles away, nearest secondary school within District is just over 3 miles away.	1
Public Hall				1 public hall within settlement	3
Employment Opportunities				Poor employment opportunities within settlement.	0
Railway Station				Railway station within settlement.	3
Total Score					23

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Bliss Gate	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office			1.8 miles	Far Forest post office.	2
G.P			Over 2 miles	Bewdley GP surgery.	1
Public House			Within 2 miles.	Public house at Long Bank and Callow Hill	2
Dentists			Over 2 miles	Dentists practice in Bewdley.	1
Convenience Store			1.8 miles	Far Forest shop	2
Bus services frequency and destination				Bus service with buses less frequent than 2 hours.	0
Primary School			1.8 miles	Far Forest Primary School	2
Secondary School			Over 2 miles	Bewdley High School	1
Public Hall			Within 2 miles	0 public halls in settlement, Sports hall in Callow Hill, Village Hall in Far Forest	2
Employment Opportunities			Over 1 mile to Bewdley business park. Over 4 miles to Kidderminster.	Some employment opportunities at Bewdley Business Park, more opportunities in Kidderminster.	2
Railway Station			Approx 5 miles	Nearest railway station Kidderminster.	0
Total Score					15

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Callow Hill	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office			Less than 1 mile	Post office in Far Forest	2
G.P			Over 2 miles	GP surgery in Bewdley	1
Public House				Public house in settlement	3
Dentists			Over 2 miles	Dentists practice in Bewdley	1
Convenience Store			Less than 1 mile	Shop in Far Forest	2
Bus services frequency and destination				Bus frequency with 2 hour intervals	1
Primary School			Less than 1 mile	Primary school in Far Forest	2
Secondary School			Over 2 miles	Secondary school in Bewdley	1
Public Hall				1 church hall in settlement also a sports club	3
Employment Opportunities			Bewdley business park approximately 1 mile, Kidderminster approximately 5 miles	Nearest employment opportunities Bewdley business park, more opportunities in Kidderminster	2
Railway Station			Kidderminster approximately 5 miles		0
Total Score					18

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Chaddesley Corbett	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office				Post office within farm shop in settlement	3
G.P				GP surgery in settlement	3
Public House				Public houses in settlement	3
Dentists			Approx 3.5 miles	Nearest dentists in Kidderminster	1
Convenience Store				Shops in settlement	3
Bus services frequency and destination				2 bus services within settlement at hourly intervals	2
Primary School				Primary school in settlement	3
Secondary School			Approx 3.5 miles	State secondary schools in Kidderminster	1
Public Hall				1 public hall within settlement	3
Employment Opportunities			Approx 3.5 miles	Few employment opportunities, more opportunities in Kidderminster	1
Railway Station			Approx 3.5 miles	Railway station in Kidderminster	1
Total Score					24

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Clows Top	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office				Post office in settlement	3
G.P			Approx 3.5 miles	Nearest GP surgery Cleobury Mortimer	1
Public House			1.1 miles	Nearest Public House Rock	2
Dentists			Approx 3.5 miles	Nearest dentists Cleobury Mortimer	1
Convenience Store				Shop in settlement	3
Bus services frequency and destination				Bus services in settlement less frequent than 2 hourly	0
Primary School			1.8 miles	Nearest Primary School Far Forest	2
Secondary School			Approx 3.5 miles	Nearest secondary school Cleobury Mortimer	1
Public Hall				1 village hall in settlement	3
Employment Opportunities			Bewdley Business Park approx 3.5 miles Kidderminster 8 miles	Few employment opportunities, some at Bewdley Business Park and more in Kidderminster	1
Railway Station			Approx 8 miles	Nearest railway station Kidderminster	0
Total Score					17

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Cookley	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office				Nearest Post Office approximately 2 miles Fairfield.	2
G.P				GP surgery within the centre of the settlement.	3
Public House				Public houses within the centre of the settlement.	3
Dentists			Approx 2.5 miles	Nearest dentist in Kidderminster	1
Convenience Store				Convenience stores within the centre of the settlement.	3
Bus services frequency and destination				Bus services within settlement at 2 hourly service	1
Primary School				Primary school within the centre of the settlement.	3
Secondary School				Located approximately 1.5 miles away in Wolverley.	2
Public Hall				1 village hall in settlement	3
Employment Opportunities				Currently a large employment site within the settlement.	3
Railway Station			Approx 2.5 miles	Nearest railway station is Kidderminster approximately 2.5 miles away.	1
Total Score					25

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Fairfield	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office				Post office in settlement.	3
G.P				GP's surgery located close to edge of settlement.	3
Public House				2 public houses close to edge of settlement.	3
Dentists				Dentist surgeries in Kidderminster approximately 2 miles away.	2
Convenience Store				1 convenience store in settlement.	3
Bus services frequency and destination				4 bus services within settlement with 2 hour intervals	1
Primary School				Primary school located on edge of settlement.	3
Secondary School				Secondary school located in Wolverley less than a mile away.	2
Public Hall				Public hall in Wolverley	2
Employment Opportunities				No major employment opportunities within this settlement, nearest large centre is Kidderminster approximately 2 miles away.	2
Railway Station				Nearest railway station in Kidderminster just over 2 miles away.	1
Total Score					25

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Far Forest	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office				Post office in settlement	3
G.P			Approx 4 miles	Nearest GP Bewdley (within District) and Cleobury Mortimer (Outside District)	1
Public House				Public house in settlement	3
Dentists			Approx 4 miles	Nearest dentists Bewdley (within District) and Cleobury Mortimer (Outside District)	1
Convenience Store				Shop in settlement	3
Bus services frequency and destination				2 hourly bus service within 2 hour intervals	1
Primary School				Primary school in settlement	3
Secondary School				Nearest secondary school Cleobury Mortimer (Outside District)	1
Public Hall				1 village and 1 church hall within settlement	3
Employment Opportunities			Approx 3.5 miles	Few within settlement, some Cleobury Mortimer.	1
Railway Station			Approx 7 miles	Nearest railway station Kidderminster	0
Total Score					20

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Kidderminster	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office				Post offices within settlement	3
G.P				GP surgeries within settlement	3
Public House				Public houses within settlement	3
Dentists				Dentists within settlement	3
Convenience Store				Many convenience stores within settlement	3
Bus services frequency and destination				27 bus services within settlement most frequent every 15 minutes (Kidderminster – Stourport)	3
Primary School				Primary schools within settlement	3
Secondary School				2 state secondary schools within settlement	3
Public Hall				Public and church halls within settlement	3
Employment Opportunities				Employment opportunities within settlement.	3
Railway Station				Railway station within settlement.	3
Total Score					33

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Rock	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office			Approx 1 mile	Nearest Clows Top	2
G.P			Approx 3.9 miles	Nearest GP Bewdley	1
Public House				Public house within settlement	3
Dentists			Approx 3.9 miles	Nearest GP Bewdley	1
Convenience Store			0.7 miles	Colliers shop and cafe	2
Bus services frequency and destination				Bus service less frequent than 2 hourly.	0
Primary School			Approx 2.1 miles	Nearest Far Forest	1
Secondary School			Approx 3.9 miles	Nearest secondary school Bewdley	1
Public Hall				2 village or church halls within settlement	3
Employment Opportunities			Kidderminster approx 7 miles	Few employment opportunities more in Kidderminster	0
Railway Station			7 miles	Nearest railway station Kidderminster	0
Total Score					14

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Stourport on Severn	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office				Post offices within settlement	3
G.P				2 G.P's surgeries within settlement	3
Public House				Public houses within settlement	3
Dentists				Dentist practices within settlement	3
Convenience Store				Many convenience stores within settlement.	3
Bus services frequency and destination				8 bus services with settlement with half hourly or better services	3
Primary School				6 primary schools	3
Secondary School				1 secondary school	3
Public Hall				Public or village halls in settlement	3
Employment Opportunities				Some employment areas, Hartlebury Trading Estate just outside District main employer.	3
Railway Station			2.5 and 3.5 miles	Nearest Hartlebury (2.5 miles ouside District) and Kidderminster 3.5 miles.	1
Total Score					31

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Upper Arley	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office				Post office within settlement	3
G.P			Approx 4 miles	Nearest GP Kidderminster	1
Public House				Public house via pedestrian bridge	3
Dentists			Approx 4 miles	Nearest dentists Kidderminster	1
Convenience Store				Shop within settlement	3
Bus services frequency and destination				1 bus service within settlement with 2 hour intervals	1
Primary School				Primary school within settlement	3
Secondary School			Approx 4 miles	Nearest secondary school Kidderminster	1
Public Hall				1 public hall within settlement	3
Employment Opportunities			Approx 4 miles	Few employment opportunities,	1
Railway Station			Approx 4.9 miles	Nearest railway station Kidderminster	0
Total Score					20

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Wilden	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office				Post office in settlement has recently closed down however less than 1 mile from Stourport	2
G.P				Less than 1 mile from Stourport	2
Public House				Public house on Wilden Lane	3
Dentists				Less than 1 mile from Stourport	2
Convenience Store				Shop has recently closed down however less than 1 mile from Stourport .	2
Bus services frequency and destination				3 bus services within settlement with 2 hour intervals	1
Primary School				Primary school within settlement	3
Secondary School				Less than 1 mile from Stourport High School	2
Public Hall				1 village hall within settlement	3
Employment Opportunities				Wilden Industrial estate within settlement and Summerfield approx 1.2 miles	3
Railway Station			Less than 2 miles	Nearest railway station Hartlebury.	2
Total Score					25

All measurements taken as the crow flies

Wolverley	Availability		Distance to nearest alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office				Nearest post office in Fairfield less than 0.5 miles away	2
G.P				GP surgery within settlement	3
Public House				2 public houses within settlement	3
Dentists			Approx 2 miles	Nearest dentists in Kidderminster	2
Convenience Store				Nearest shop in Fairfield less than 0.5 miles away	2
Bus services frequency and destination				4 bus services within settlement with 2 hour intervals	1
Primary School				Primary school on edge of settlement	3
Secondary School				Wolverley High school within settlement	3
Public Hall				2 village and church halls within settlement	3
Employment Opportunities			Approx 2 miles	Few employment opportunities within settlement, Kidderminster miles away	2
Railway Station			Approx 2 miles	Nearest railway station Kidderminster	2
Total Score					26

All measurements taken as the crow flies