

SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY TECHNICAL PAPER



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT - SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY TECHNICAL PAPER

INTRODUCTION

The Local Development Framework Core Strategy 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 Core Strategy. 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 which the Regional Spatial Strategy sets out 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 Core Strategy 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 Framework to set the planning policy for the District up until 2026. The LDF must show where new homes are to be located. The number of new homes which the District has to plan

for is set by the Regional Spatial Strategy. The District Council must use national and regional guidance to decide where these homes should be built.

The current settlement hierarchy for the District is established within the Adopted Local Plan which was adopted in 2004. However, 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 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

There are a number of documents that contain relevant sources of guidance on settlement strategy matters. Some of these have been outlined below.

PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Developments

The key principles guiding the development of sustainable settlements are included in PPS1.

PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas

This PPS indicates that, in order to promote more sustainable patterns of growth most development should be focussed in, or next to, existing towns and villages

PPS7 allows indicates that:

“Away from larger urban areas, planning authorities should focus most new development in or near to local service centres where employment, housing (including affordable housing), services and other facilities can be provided close together.

Accessibility should be a key consideration in all development decisions. Most developments which are likely to generate a large number of trips should be located in or next to towns or other service centres that are accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.”

PPG13: Transport

This PPG indicates that in order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans, local authorities should:

- Actively manage the pattern of urban growth to make the fullest use of public transport and focus major generators of travel demand in city, town and district centres and near to major transport interchanges.
- Locate day to day facilities which need to be near their clients in local centres so that they are accessible by walking and cycling.
- Accommodate housing principally within existing urban areas, planning for increased intensity of development for both housing and other uses at locations which are highly accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.
- Ensure that development comprising jobs, shopping, leisure and service provision offers a realistic choice of access by public transport, walking and cycling, recognising that this may be less achievable in some rural areas
- In rural areas, locate most development for housing, jobs, shopping, leisure and services in local service centres which are designated in the development plan to act as focal points for housing, transport and other services, and encourage better transport provision in the countryside.

National guidance, therefore, indicates the need to locate development in accessible locations, with some allowance made for development in other areas where this is not possible, in order to aid the sustainability of these areas. This technical paper will outline the hierarchy of settlements so that policies can be appropriately targeted, to meet the needs of the individual settlements within Wyre Forest.

REGIONAL GUIDANCE

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision

Policy UR3 and Policy PA11

Policy UR3 identifies the importance of enhancing the role of the regions Town and District Centres which seeks to encourage more people to live in or close to existing centres.

Policy PA11 Indicates a network of town and city centres – Birmingham is classed as a Tier 1 centre with Kidderminster considered to be a Tier 4 centre, highlighting the importance of Kidderminster within the region.

Market Towns (Policy RR3)

Policy RR3 identifies that Market Towns should be defined in development plans taking into account an assessment of the town's ability to accommodate development and the relationship with other settlements in the area.

Villages (Policy RR4)

Depending on definition, the region has approx. 2,300 villages. They perform an essential role in maintaining and enhancing the rural way of life by providing homes, jobs, services and other facilities for local people, many of who cannot reach the nearest town. Policy RR4 identifies that consideration should be given to the extent to which sustainable development, which is appropriate in scale and nature, would enable villages to remain viable.

Access to the services people need is one of the most important determinants of quality of life in rural areas. A village shop, school, doctors 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 Framework 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 98,200. 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 (56,000) is the main centre for commerce and is recognised in the Regional Spatial Strategy as a local regeneration area. 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. It is one of 25 strategic centres in the West Midlands.

Stourport on Severn (20,000) 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 (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 is designated a Strategic Centre within the Regional Spatial Strategy, therefore, it will be the focus for growth. The towns of Bewdley and Stourport are both designated market towns through the Regional Spatial Strategy, 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, data from the valuation office, 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 on the following page.

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, 2 points were allocated. Where a service is accessible close by but not located within the settlement itself, 1 point was awarded. Where there is no provision of a service or facility and the nearest alternative is over 2 miles away, 0 points were awarded.

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. The services and facilities have been mapped on the Council's GIS system to give a visual demonstration of the level of service provision within each settlement and the distance to the nearest alternative facilities.

PROPOSED HIERARCHY

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

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

THE REMAINING 'SETTLEMENTS' WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE ALL CONSIDERED TO BE OF A SIZE THAT DOES NOT WARRANT A SPECIFIC CLASSIFICATION FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT. ALL OF THE REMAINING SETTLEMENTS ARE THEREFORE CONSIDERED TO BE 'HAMLETS' 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 Core Strategy 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. 56,000 people, which is more than double that of the next largest town in the District. Kidderminster has the full range of services and facilities and scores the maximum of 22 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. Kidderminster is designated a regeneration area within the West Midlands RSS and as the Strategic Centre for the District is also required to provide new office and retail development as set out within the Regional Spatial Strategy. Therefore, Kidderminster will be the main focus for future development within the District.

Large Market Town – Stourport-on-Severn

Stourport is a large-sized market town with a population of approximately 19,713 (2001 Census). 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 and contains the only high frequency bus route in the District. Stourport also has a number of brownfield sites which may be suitable for future development. 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 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 as there is very little brownfield land available to develop within or surrounding Bewdley. Also, any new residential development may increase pressure for growth of retail and commercial facilities and due to the constraints presented within the historic town centre, this is likely to lead to pressure for out-of-centre retail development. 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 affordable 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 the 1,570 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, post office and takeaways. Cookley also has its own primary school and a new community and sports centre is currently being developed. There are bus services directly into Kidderminster 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 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. What sets Blakedown apart from the other villages that exist within the District is that it is home to the only other main line railway station within the area. 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 post office, sports club, public house and a local shop. There is also a local primary school, which is potentially to be replaced and improved within the future. 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.

Rural Settlements:

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 within its boundaries. This includes a post office, primary school and public houses. Although there are a number of important facilities and services located within this settlement, it is not considered to be as sustainable for new development as some of the other villages located within the District. It is not considered as accessible and therefore any large new residential development could exacerbate the trend of out-commuting.

Wolverley

Wolverley is a small historic settlement located north-east of Kidderminster. The settlement has a number of facilities including a secondary school, a post office and public houses. It provides local 'top-up' facilities but overall the settlement is fairly constrained and access in and around this village is not great. 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 and 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 of note that are identified through the audit are a pub and a public hall. 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. The only facility identified through the audit is the local Public House. Aside from this, access to a Post Office and convenience store is just less than 2 miles away. Given the remote nature of the settlement it is not considered to be a suitable location to prioritise new development.

Far Forest

This settlement is also located to the west of the District. Far Forest contains a number of facilities, as identified through the audit. The settlement has a fairly large convenience store (for the relative size of the village), there is also 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, however, there may be 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.

APPENDIX A

Individual Settlement Analysis

Kidderminster	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office	✓			Kidderminster has a total of 9 Post Offices located throughout the town.	2
GP	✓			There are currently 5 GPs registered within the settlement	2
Pub	✓				2
Dentists	✓			There are 8 available Dentist surgeries within Kidderminster at present	2
Bus Services Frequency Destination	✓				2
Convenience Store	✓				2
Primary School	✓			There are currently 13 primary schools within Kidderminster	2
Secondary School	✓			There are 4 secondary schools within Kidderminster (2 public and 2 private)	2
Employment Opportunities	✓				2
Public Hall	✓			There are 32 public halls within the settlement boundary of Kidderminster	2
Railway Station	✓			The one railway station in Kidderminster is the largest within the District, and is the focus for most of the travel by train by the residents of the District	2
Total Score					22

Stourport-on-Severn	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office	✓			There are currently 3 Post Offices serving the residents of Stourport	2
GP	✓			Currently 2 available	2
Pub	✓				2
Dentists	✓			Currently 4 available	2
Bus Services Frequency Destination	✓				2
Convenience Store	✓				2
Primary School	✓			There are 6 primary schools within the settlement	2
Secondary School	✓			There is 1 secondary school within the settlement	2
Employment Opportunities	✓			There are a number of industrial estates situated within and around the centre of Stourport, which provide employment opportunities	2
Public Hall	✓			There are currently 15 Public Halls within Stourport	2
Railway Station		✗	2.5miles (approx)	No available train station within Stourport itself. The closest alternative is at Hartlebury, which is approx 2.5miles from the centre of Stourport	1
Total Score					21

Bewdley	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office	✓			Currently 1 available, located within the centre of the settlement	2
GP	✓			Currently 1 available	2
Pub	✓				2
Dentists	✓			Currently 1 available	2
Bus Services Frequency Destination	✓				2
Convenience Store	✓				2
Primary School	✓			There are currently 2 primary schools within the settlement	2
Secondary School	✓			The settlement has 1 Secondary School within its boundary	2
Employment Opportunities		✗		There are employment opportunities available within the town but not on the same scale as the other two main settlements	1
Public Hall	✓			There are 8 Public Halls within Bewdley	2
Railway Station		✗	4 miles (approx)	No available commercial train station within this settlement. Nearest station is Kidderminster, which is located approx 4 miles away. However, there may be potential for future connections to the SVR railway station that exists within the settlement	1
Total Score					20

Fairfield	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office		x	0.7 miles	Under a mile away to the nearest Post Office (Wolverley)	2
GP		x		GP surgery located on the edge of the settlement	2
Pub		x		2 pubs in close proximity to the settlement	2
Dentists		x			0
Bus Services Frequency Destination		x			1
Convenience Store	✓				2
Primary School		x		School located on the edge of the settlement	2
Secondary School		x	1 mile (approx)	Wolverley Secondary School located just under 1 mile away	2
Employment Opportunities		x	2 miles (approx)	There are no major employment opportunities within this settlement. Nearest large centre is Kidderminster, which is approx 2 miles away	0
Public Hall		x		2 Public Halls located on the edge of the settlement	2
Railway Station		x	3 miles (approx)	Nearest station is Kidderminster, approx 3 miles away	0
Total					15

Cookley	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office	✓				2
GP	✓				2
Pub	✓				2
Dentists		✗			0
Bus Services Frequency Destination		✗			1
Convenience Store	✓				2
Primary School	✓				2
Secondary School		✗	1.5 miles (approx)	Located approx 1.5 miles away from the nearest secondary school (Wolverley)	1
Employment Opportunities		✗		Currently a large employment site within the village	2
Public Hall	✓			There are 2 public halls within this settlement	2
Railway Station		✗	3.2 miles	Nearest Station over 3 miles away	0
Total					16

Blakedown	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office	✓				2
GP		✗	2.5 miles (approx.)	Nearest GP is Stanmore House Surgery, located in Linden Avenue, Kidderminster	0
Pub	✓				2
Dentists		✗			0
Bus Services Frequency Destination		✗			1
Convenience Store	✓				2
Primary School	✓				2
Secondary School		✗	2 miles (Hagley) 3miles (King Charles)	Located just over 2 miles away from Hagley Secondary Schools. Nearest secondary school within the District is just over 3 miles away	1
Employment Opportunities		✗		Fairly poor opprotunities within the settlement'	0
Public Hall	✓				2
Railway Station	✓			Railway station within the village, is the only other commercial station in the District	2
Total					14

Wilden	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office	✓				2
GP		x			0
Pub	✓				2
Dentists		x			0
Bus Services Frequency Destination		x			1
Convenience Store	✓				2
Primary School	✓				2
Secondary School		x			0
Employment Opportunities	✓				2
Public Hall	✓				2
Railway Station		x			0
Total					13

Wolverley	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office	✓			One Post Office within the settlement	2
GP	✓			One GP Surgery within the settlement	2
Pub	✓			3 Pubs within the settlement	2
Dentists		✗			0
Bus Services Frequency Destination		✗			0
Convenience Store		✗			0
Primary School	✓			There is a Secondary school within the settlement boundary	2
Secondary School	✓			There is a Primary School located within the settlement	2
Employment Opportunities			2.2 miles	There are no major employment opportunities within this settlement. Nearest large centre is Kidderminster, which is just over 2 miles away	0
Public Hall	✓			There are 2 Public Halls within Wolverley	2
Railway Station		✗	3.2 miles	The nearest Station is located in Kidderminster, just over 3 miles away	0
Total					12

Chaddesley Corbett	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office	✓			Post Office located within the village	2
GP	✓			Village has its own GP surgery	2
Pub	✓			Settlement has 3 Public Houses	2
Dentists		✗	3.9 miles	No Dentists practice within the village - nearest surgery located on Comberton Road, Kidderminster	0
Bus Services Frequency Destination		✗			0
Convenience Store		✗			0
Primary School	✓			Primary school currently located within the village with a new one due to be built on the outskirts in the near future	2
Secondary School	✓		1.1 miles (Winterfold) 3.9 miles (King Charles)	There is a secondary school within the close vicinity - Winterfold (Although this is a private School) Nearest state secondary school is located much further away (King Charles)	1
Employment Opportunities		✗	Approx 5 miles to both Kidderminster and Bromsgrove	Village is fairly remote in terms of employment opportunities - nearest opportunities are in Kidderminster/Bromsgrove- Both located approx 5 miles away	0
Public Hall	✓			One public hall located on the outskirts of the village	2
Railway Station		✗	Kidderminster and Blakedown Stations are both just over 4 miles away from the settlement		0
Total					11

Upper Arley	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office	✓			There is a Post Office located within the village	2
GP		✗	4.3miles	Nearest GP located just over 4 miles away in Bewdley	0
Pub	✓			There is one pub located within the settlement, on the Western side of the River	2
Dentists		✗			0
Bus Services Frequency Destination		✗			0
Convenience Store		✗			0
Primary School	✓			The settlement has its own Primary School	2
Secondary School		✗	5.2 miles (approx)	The two schools which are the closest to the settlement are Wolverley and Bewdley, which are both just over 5 miles away from the settlement	0
Employment Opportunities		✗	5.7 miles	Nearest employment opportunities are within Kidderminster, approx miles away	0
Public Hall	✓			One within the settlement	2
Railway Station		✗	6.8 miles	Almost 7 miles to the nearest commercial station, Kidderminster	0
Total					8

Far Forest	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office	✓				2
GP		x	4 miles	Just over 4 miles away from the GP surgery in Bewdley	0
Pub	✓				2
Dentists			4 miles	Approx 4 miles away from the Dentists in Bewdley	0
Bus Services Frequency Destination		x			0
Convenience Store	✓				2
Primary School	✓			Far Forest Primary School is located within the settlement	2
Secondary School		x	5 miles	Nearest Secondary School is in Bewdley	0
Employment Opportunities		x		Not many employment opportunities in the area - one site located to the east of the settlement, approx 2 miles away	0
Public Hall	✓				2
Railway Station		x		Approx 8 miles to the nearest commercial Railway Station, Kidderminster	0
Total					10

Callow Hill	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office		x	1 mile (approx)	Nearest Post Office is in Far Forest - approx 1 mile away	1
GP		x	3 miles (approx)	Nearest GP is in Bewdley approx 3 miles away	0
Pub	✓			There are 2 pubs within the settlement	2
Dentists		x	3 miles (approx)	Nearest Dentail Surgery is in Bewdley	0
Bus Services Frequency Destination		x			0
Convenience Store		x	0 mile (approx)		1
Primary School		x	1 mile (approx)	Nearest Primary School is in Far Forest	1
Secondary School		x	4 miles	Bewdley is the nearest option from this settlement	0
Employment Opportunities		x	0.5 miles	There is an employment site to the east of the settlement, which could potentially provide jobs in this area	1
Public Hall		x	1 mile (approx)	Nearest option is in Far Forest	1
Railway Station		x	7.2 miles	Kidderminster Railway Station is the closest option from this settlement but is over 7 miles away	0
Total					7

Bliss Gate	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office		✘	1.8 miles	Nearest Post Office is in Far Forest, just under 2 miles away	1
GP		✘	3.8 miles	Just under 4 miles to the nearest facility (Bewdley)	0
Pub	✓			One pub in this settlement	2
Dentists		✘	3.8 miles	Nearest facility is just under 4 miles away (Bewdley)	0
Bus Services Frequency Destination		✘			0
Convenience Store		✘			0
Primary School		✘	1.9 miles	Nearest Primary School is just under 2 miles away (Far Forest)	1
Secondary School		✘	4.6 miles	Bewdley is the nearest Secondary School to this settlement, located approx 4.6 miles away	0
Employment Opportunities		✘	1.2 miles	No real employment opportunities within this area, the closest 'employment site' is just over a mile away	1
Public Hall		✘	1.4 miles	Nearest Public Hall is in Rock 1.4 miles away	0
Railway Station		✘	7.8 miles	Kidderminster Rail Station is the closest to this settlement but is approx 8 miles away	0
Total					5

Rock	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office		x	1.8miles	Nearest Post Office located in Clows Top	1
GP		x	4.8 miles	Almost 5 miles to the nearest alternative	0
Pub	✓			Rock Cross Inn located within the settlement	2
Dentists		x	4.8 miles	Almost 5 miles to the nearest alternative	0
Bus Services Frequency Destination		x			0
Convenience Store		x			0
Primary School		x	2.5 miles	Closest school is over 2.5 miles away in Far Forest	0
Secondary School		x	6.1 miles	Closest Secondary School is Bewdley, over 6 miles away	0
Employment Opportunities		x	3 miles	No real major employment opportunities within this area	0
Public Hall	✓			Rock village Hall is located within the settlement	2
Railway Station		x	9.2 miles	Nearest comercial railway station is Kidderminster - over 9 miles away	0
Total					5

Clows Top	Availability		Distance to Nearest Alternative	Comment	Score
	Yes	No			
Post Office	✓			Is one located within the settlement	2
GP		✗	4.4 miles	Closest alternative is in Cleobury Mortimer	0
Pub		✗	0.7 miles	None within the settlement - one just outside (Colliers Arms) located under a mile away	1
Dentists			4.4 miles	Closest alternative is in Cleobury Mortimer	0
Bus Services Frequency Destination		✗			0
Convenience Store	✓				2
Primary School		✗	2.5 miles	Nearest school located in Far Forest	0
Secondary School		✗	4.9 miles	Nearest school located in Cleobury, just under 5 miles away	0
Employment Opportunities		✗			0
Public Hall	✓			One located within the settlement	2
Railway Station		✗			0
Total					7