

Settlement Hierarchy 2022 Update



April 2022

Contents

Chapter	Page
1. Executive Summary	3
2. Rural Facilities and Services Considered	4
3. Results of the 2022 Update	11
4. Update Conclusions	14

Important Note

This update uses the methodology agreed as part of the examination of the adopted local plan. To retain consistency with previous studies, the review of services and facilities was conducted in person by visiting each settlement in February 2022.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Planning authorities periodically review what services and amenities are available within settlements in their area. This helps to give a spatial context to planning decisions and plan making, and to help planners understand if changes have taken place which affect how accessible and sustainable locations are. For example, if a local shop closes, residents will need to go elsewhere for this service.
- 1.2 In 2012 East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) conducted a study of the settlements within the authority area and structured them into a hierarchy. These results were refreshed in 2014. This study, which contains the full methodology which was used both then and now, can be found here: [SettlementHierarchyUpdate2012Final.pdf \(eaststaffsbc.gov.uk\)](#)
- 1.3 Using the same methodology, a review of the settlements in the Borough was conducted in February 2022.
- 1.4 The Results are presented here in **appendix 1**.
- 1.5 Comparing the results of the survey against that conducted in 2014, there has been no changes to where in the tired hierarchy of settlement the villages and towns in the Borough are placed.
- 1.6 This means that the settlements that were the subject of the review still fall into the same classification of settlement that they did in 2014.
- 1.7 For there to be a change to the tier of settlement that a village or town is in, there would need to be a very significant change to its services or amenities, so that the settlement more closely resembled those of another tier. (For example, if a new supermarket, post office, school etc. were all built in a settlement since the last study). To change the settlement's tier, these changes would also need to affect the spatial relationships the settlement has with other settlements.

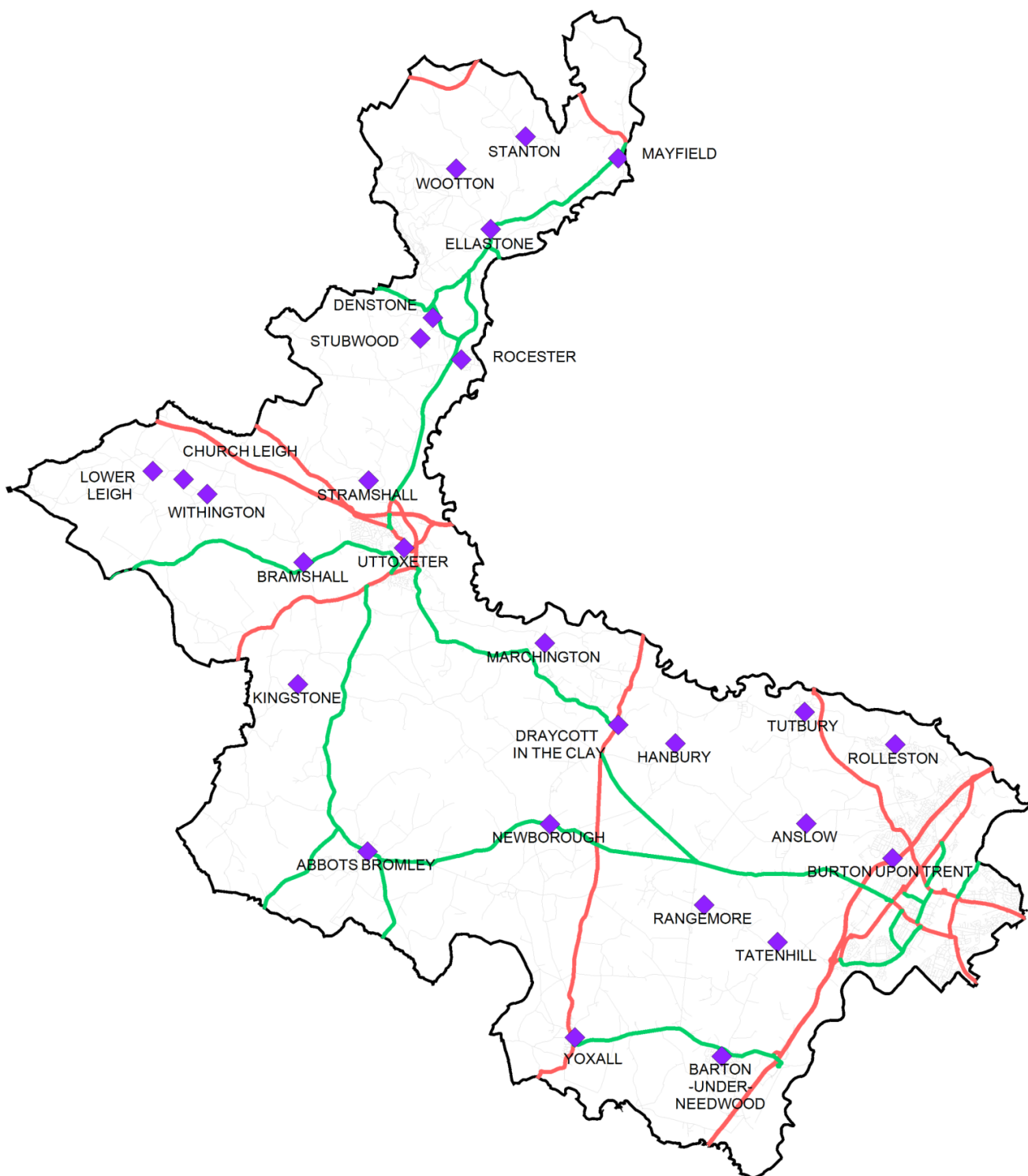
2. Rural Facilities and Services Considered

- 2.1 The following 25 settlements were the subject of the review, this maintained parity with the last study, no new significant settlements have been created since 2014.
- 2.2 It is important to read this update paper alongside the detailed methodology for ESBC's settlement hierarchy studies as established in 2014, which is set out here: [SettlementHierarchyUpdate2012Final.pdf \(eaststaffsbc.gov.uk\)](#)

Table 1: Settlements Assessed

Abbots Bromley	Newborough
Anslow	Rangemore
Barton under Needwood	Rocester
Bramshall	Rolleston-on-Dove
Church Leigh	Stanton
Denstone	Stramshall
Draycott in the Clay	Stubwood
Ellastone	Tatenhill
Hanbury	Tutbury
Kingstone	Withington
Lower Leigh	Wootton
Marchington	Yoxall
Mayfield	

Figure 1: Location of Settlements in East Staffordshire



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Scale:
1/160,000



2.3 Table 1 below lists the criteria used to assess the sustainability of settlements and it provides a brief explanation of why each criterion was selected.

Table 2: Settlement Criteria

Theme	Criteria	Comment
Accessibility	Bus Service	Where a settlement has a more frequent bus service, it can be considered more sustainable as they provide residents with a higher level of accessibility to urban and employment areas.
	Bus service suitable for daily commute	A bus service that runs from Monday to Friday and arrives within a main town before 9am and has a return service from the main town after 5pm provides opportunity to commute to work. This is more sustainable than driving.
	Distance to main towns	Access to a Town Centre is important for residents who need access to a wide range of services and facilities. Access to the Town Centre is also important in terms of employment provision.
	Access to main towns on public transport	Access to a Town Centre is important for residents who need access to a wide range of services and facilities. Access to the Town Centre is also important in terms of employment provision.
	Distance to employment sites	Distance to the nearest employment sites shows the potential minimum distance residents may have to travel to access work.
	Petrol station	Provide a valuable service and reduce the need to travel. They typically provide a limited range of comparison and convenience goods which will provide a daily 'top-up' shop of essentials thus reducing the need to travel.
Shopping and Retail	Post Office	Post offices have traditionally provided a valuable service to rural areas allowing access to a wide range of services. Especially important to the elderly who may not be able to easily travel outside the settlement and/or may not have access to internet services.
	Fresh food retail	Greengrocer, butcher or baker (separate from any other retail outlets). Provides specialist choice.
	General Store	A general convenience store with a range of food and general goods is seen as a basic requirement and important in determining the sustainability of a settlement.
	Chemist/ Pharmacy	Provides health care services and allows residents to pick up prescriptions without having to travel long distances.

	Other retail shops	Other retail outlets e.g. hairdressers, comparison goods etc can help to reduce the need for residents to travel.
	Car repair Garage	Can offer choice to residents and provide local employment opportunities
	Cafe/ restaurant/ take away	Provide residents with a choice of food Outlets.
	Bank/ Building Society	Can reduce the need for residents to travel.
	Cash points/ ATM	Where it is not feasible to have a bank and/or building society or post office in a rural area, the presence of a cash machine can provide access.
Community Facilities	Place of worship	Can play an important role in community cohesion.
	Village hall/ community centre or other similar space that can be used by the community	Provides a location for community activities and events.
	Library	A local community service provides information, allows people to make informed decisions, supports education and provides affordable access to literature and other media services.
	Mobile Library	Where there is no library, a mobile library can reduce the need to travel to access this service.
	Public Recreational Green Space and Facilities	Provides green space and recreational facilities for all and includes playing fields, nature reserves, bowling greens, equipped play areas, tennis courts, and sports pitches with changing rooms etc.
	Members Recreational Facilities	Provides access for club members to facilities such as bowling green, cricket pitches, football pitches, tennis courts, changing rooms etc.
	Public House	Can often be the heart of a local community. In smaller more isolated settlements pubs may be able to diversify and provide other essential services.
	Members Club	Similar to public houses as usually licenced to serve alcohol but membership based providing a focus for the community.
	Recycling Facilities	Encourages people to recycle and reduces the need to travel. Can also provide recycling banks for items not collected by the Local Authority.

	Post box	Post boxes allow people to correspond with others and to order goods and services which may not be available locally.
	Telephone box	Although mobile phones are now commonplace, their presence is considered a useful facility especially in areas with poor mobile phone reception.
Health Care	GP surgery/ Doctors health care	Access to a doctor is important to provide for the ongoing health needs of residents.
	Dentist	Dentists are an important healthcare facility.
	Opticians	Opticians are an important healthcare facility.
Education Provision	Playgroup/ Nursery	Local childcare can be particularly important for working families.
	Primary School	Reduces the need for children to travel long distances. Only publicly funded schools are being considered within this study since they meet local need.
	Secondary School	Reduces the need for children to travel long distances. Only publicly funded schools are being considered within this study since they meet local need.
	Middle School	Reduces the need for children to travel long distances. Only publicly funded schools are being considered within this study since they meet local need.

Data Collection

- 2.4 Data collection took place in accordance with the methodology in the 2014 paper, taking into account both primary and secondary sources of information, and by officers visiting each of the settlements.

Methodology Used to assess service Provision/ Scoring

- 2.5 To retain consistency between surveys, the way services were scored in settlements was kept the same as in 2014. Further information on scoring and methodology can be found here: [SettlementHierarchyUpdate2012Final.pdf \(eaststaffsbc.gov.uk\)](http://eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/SettlementHierarchyUpdate2012Final.pdf)

Table 3: Service Scoring

Theme	Indicator	Score
Accessibility	Bus Service	1 – One a week 2 – More than one a week 3 – More than one a day 4 – One an hour 5 – More than one an hour
	Bus service suitable for daily commute	3 – Bus service gets into a main town before 9am and has a return service after 5pm, Monday to Friday. 0 – no service or service does not provide the level of service mentioned above.
	Road distance to main towns	1 – more than 5 miles 2 – 2 – 5 miles 3 – up to 2 miles
	Access to main towns on public transport	0 – no service 1 – within 1 hour 2 – within 30 minutes 3 – within 15 minutes
	Road distance to main employment sites	1 – within 5 miles 2 – 1 – 2 miles 3 – within 1 mile
	Shopping and Retail	Post Office
Fresh Food Retail		2 – within settlement 3 – more than one within settlement
General Store		3 – within settlement 4 – more than one within settlement
Other shops		2 – one within settlement 3 – 2 to 9 within settlement 4 – 10 to 19 within settlement 5 – 20 to 49 within settlement
Pharmacy		2 – within settlement
Cafe/ restaurant/ take-away (other than pub)		2 – within settlement 3 – more than one within settlement
Bank/ Building society		2 – within settlement
Cash points/ ATM		1 – within settlement
Petrol Station		1 – within settlement
Car repair Garage		1– within settlement
Community Facilities	Place of worship	2 – within settlement 3 – more than one within settlement
	Village Hall/ Community Centre	3 – within settlement 4 – more than one within settlement
	Library	1 – mobile service within settlement 2 – within settlement
	Police Station	2 – within settlement
	Public Recreational Facilities	3 – within settlement 4 – more than one within settlement
	Member Recreational Facilities	2 – within settlement 3 – more than one within settlement
	Public House	2 – one within settlement 3 – more than one within settlement

Community Facilities continued..	Members Club	1 – within settlement
	Recycling Facilities	1 – within settlement
	Post Box	1 – within settlement
	Telephone Box	1 – within settlement
Health Care	Doctors	3 – within settlement
	Dentist	2 – within settlement
	Opticians	1 – within settlement
Education Provision	Pre-school/ Early Years Nursery	2 – within settlement 3 – more than one within settlement
	Primary School (publicly funded)	3 – within settlement 4 – more than one within settlement
	Middle School (publicly funded)	2 – within settlement
	Secondary School (publicly funded)	2 – within settlement

3. Results of the 2022 Update

3.1 The data collected was drawn together into a matrix of village services ([Appendix 1](#))

Settlement Hierarchy

3.2 As in the previous assessments the villages have been categorised into a three-tier hierarchy. The categories are defined in table 4 below:

Table 4: Service Scoring

Category 1	Strategic Village	Strategic Villages meet rural needs by providing a good range of facilities and services to their own populations and a wider rural catchment area.
Category 2	Local Service Village	Tier 2 villages meet local needs by providing a more limited range of facilities and services which sustain village life.
Category 3	Small Villages	Tier 3 – these are very rural and small and have very limited facilities and services.

3.3 The settlements have been grouped together to reflect the range of facilities and services available and where there is a notable difference in scores.

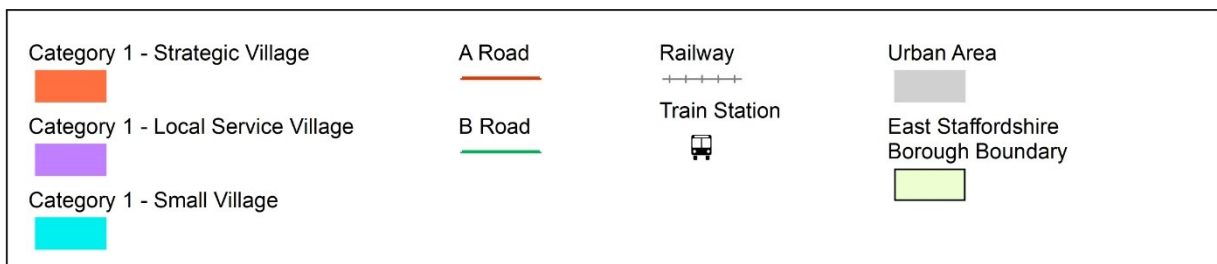
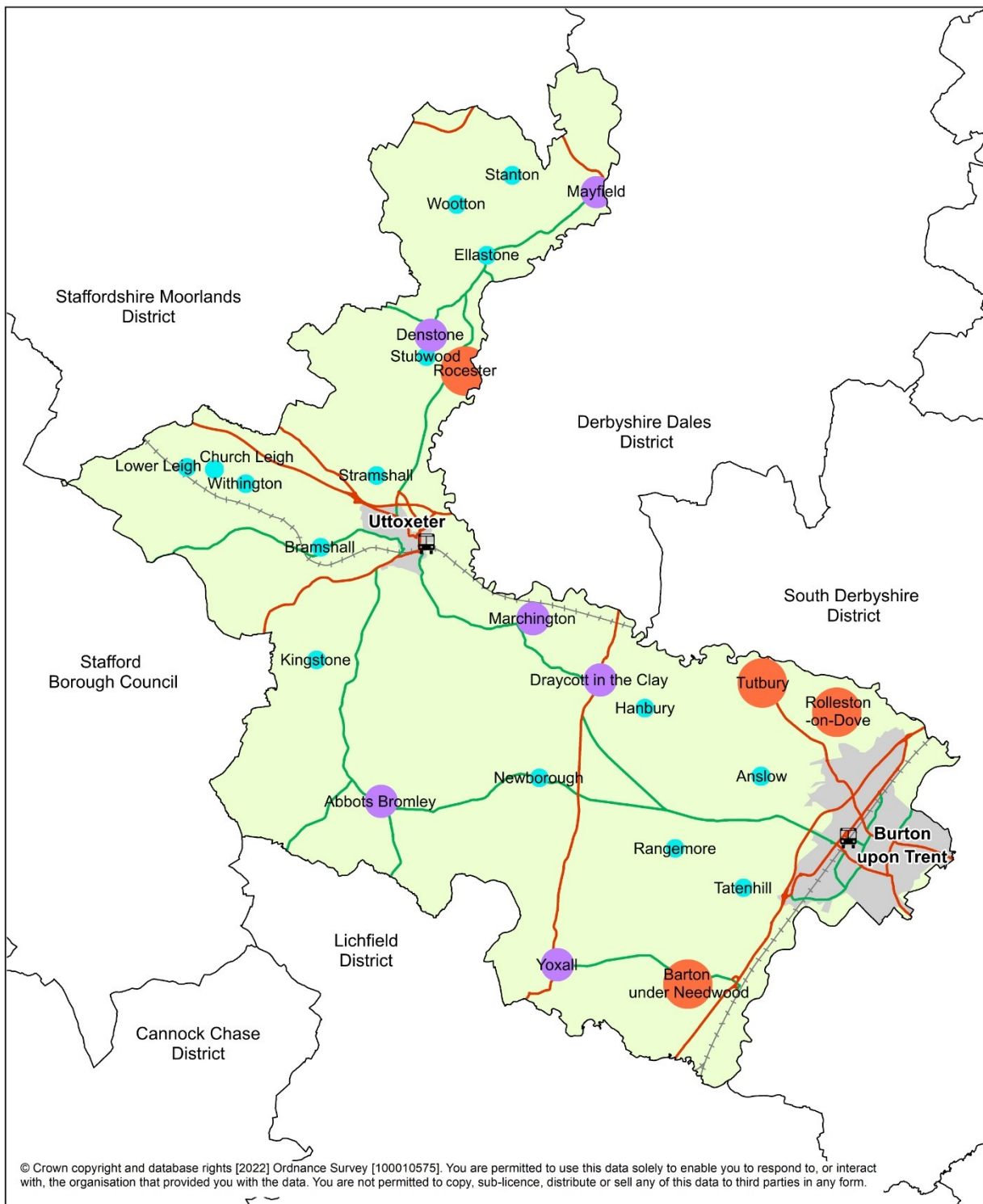
3.4 The analysis suggests that there is a group of larger villages within the Borough which are the most sustainable in terms of access to services and amenities, especially by sustainable or active travel, compared with smaller settlements. The scoring suggests that these villages are Tutbury, Barton under Needwood, Rolleston on Dove and Rocester. This comparative sustainability was noted by the 2014 study and informed the adopted plan.

Table 5: Hierarchy of Villages

Category	Village
Category 1 Villages – Strategic Villages	Barton under Needwood Tutbury Rocester Rolleston on Dove
Category 2 Villages – Local Service Villages	Yoxall Abbots Bromley Denstone Marchington Mayfield Draycott in the Clay
Category 3 Villages – Small Villages	Stubwood Bramshall

	Church Leigh Newborough Ellastone Hanbury Kingstone Stramshall Lower Leigh Anslow Rangemore Tatenhill Stanton Withington Wootton
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Figure 2: Settlement Hierarchy Map



4. Update Conclusions

- 4.1 The purpose of the 2022 update was to periodically check if any settlements in the borough had been subject to such significant change in amenities or services that they had changed tier since the 2014 study.
- 4.2 The survey work having been concluded, there was no change in tier justified by the survey results. Within each tier some settlements have changed slightly as to their overall score in relation to one another; but the tier system still represents a sensible classification identifying the functional relationships and size differences between types of settlement in the Borough.