

Gravesham Settlement Hierarchy Technical Paper 2017

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Introduction

- 1.1 Although the Gravesham Core Strategy prioritises development in the urban area, it acknowledges that there is insufficient land supply to meet the level of housing need over the whole plan period. A number of measures are proposed to address this issue, including a Green Belt boundary review, which will identify land that is unnecessary to keep permanently open, to provide land for development. The national and local purposes of including land in the Green Belt, the potential for adding land to and removing land from the Green Belt and consideration of wider sustainability principles will all be taken into account in the review process.
- 1.2 In 2010, the Council prepared a settlement hierarchy which identified those settlements which were most sustainable in terms of accessibility to local services, community facilities and public transport. A review of that study is the subject of this document and the results provide evidence to be taken into account as one of the inputs into the Green Belt boundary review. It should be noted that other considerations will also influence the future pattern of development in Gravesham and the results of the study should not be taken in isolation as an indication of what that pattern may be.
- 1.3 The Core Strategy also establishes a hierarchy of retail centres consisting of Gravesend Town Centre as the highest order centre with all other centres, some of which fall within rural settlements, categorised as local centres. The Core Strategy commits the Council to a review of local centres and their boundaries. The information gathered for this paper will also provide evidence for this review in respect of the rural area.

Policy Background

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.1 Paragraph 17: One of the core planning principles set out in paragraph 17 is the need to take account of the different roles and character of different areas, including support for thriving rural communities. Planning is also required to actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling and to focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable.
- 2.2 Paragraph 23: In ensuring the vitality of town centres, local planning authorities are required to define a network and hierarchy of centres that is resilient to anticipated future economic change.
- 2.3 Paragraph 28: Local plans should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development. They should promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- 2.4 Paragraphs 54 and 55: In rural areas, local planning authorities should be responsive to local services and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing. To promote sustainable

development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.

- 2.5 Paragraph 70: Policies should plan positively for the provision and use of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and guard against their unnecessary loss, whilst ensuring they can develop and modernise.

Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy

- 2.6 Policy CS02: In the rural area, development will be supported within those rural settlements inset from the Green Belt and defined on the Policies Map. Those settlements are:
Cobham, Culverstone Green, Higham, Lower Higham, Istead Rise, Hook Green Meopham, Meopham Green, Shorne, Shorne Ridgeway, Lower Shorne, Sole Street, Three Crutches and Vigo.
- 2.7 Policy CS08: The Council will seek to reinforce a sustainable network and hierarchy of centres by protecting and enhancing existing local centres. In support of this, the Council will:
- support development of a scale and type appropriate to the position of the centres in the hierarchy and their character;
 - resist development that would adversely affect the vitality and viability of centres and protect lone village shops; and
 - encourage the provision of a mix of units including opportunities for small shops and independent traders in all centres.

Higham, Istead Rise, Hook Green Meopham, Shorne and Vigo all contain local centres.

Methodology

- 3.1 With a population of 86,528 (2015 Mid-Year Estimates) and hosting most of the facilities, services and public transport within the Borough, the existing urban area of Gravesend/Northfleet is clearly the most sustainable area of the Borough. The Ebbsfleet development will be an extension to the existing urban area. As such, Gravesend/Northfleet/Ebbsfleet area constitutes the first tier of the settlement hierarchy. Consequently, this study focuses on the other settlements in the Borough, all of which lie within the rural area.
- 3.2 The settlements which contain at least one of the services listed in Table 1 below were included in the settlement hierarchy. These are services that meet people's everyday needs and contribute to the sustainability of settlements.
- 3.3 A survey of each settlement was undertaken to assess the service provision. In addition to the qualifying services in the table, the other services and facilities listed below the table were recorded and taken into account in considering which tier would be appropriate for each settlement. Bus and train timetables were used to list the availability and frequency of public transport provision. Output areas from the 2015 Mid-Year Population Estimates were used to approximate the population for each settlement. It should be noted that the output area boundaries do not always closely reflect the settlement boundaries and are an approximation only. Also the

settlements may have experienced minor population changes since the 2015 mid-year estimates but this is regarded as the most robust demographic data set available across all the settlements.

- 3.4 Three Second Tier settlements were identified on the basis of their larger populations of over 3,000 people, greater range of facilities and services and the availability of at least an hourly daytime bus/train service.
- 3.5 Three Third Tier settlements were identified on the basis of having a lower population of between about 1,500 and 2,000 people, some services or employment land and at least an hourly daytime bus/train service.
- 3.6 Three Fourth Tier settlements with populations of less than 1,000 people were identified on the basis of having a village shop and a bus service running several times daily.
- 3.7 In addition to the lack of services and facilities, the main characteristic of “other settlements” was the absence of a primary school. Sole Street, which would otherwise have warranted being included as an “other settlement”, is included as a fourth tier settlement due to the presence of a railway station.
- 3.8 The information is accurate at the time of survey and limitations of the data are recorded in the table below.

Table 1: Qualifying Services and Facilities

Facility/Service	Notes
Fresh food retail	Greengrocer, butcher or baker. The absence of such a facility does not necessarily mean that fresh food is not available from a general grocery store
General grocer	Typically a supermarket or general village store
Post office	Where this is located within a store, the post office and the store are counted separately
Chemist	Includes dispensaries located within GP surgeries
Public house	
Takeaway / Café / Restaurant	Includes sandwich bars
Petrol station	Includes small shop ancillary to the main petrol station which is counted separately.
Other shops	Includes uses operating from shop type premises, i.e. hairdressers, newsagents, estate agents, dry cleaners, florists, travel agents, gift shops, clothes shops, hardware shops, off licences, art shop but not vacant units
School	Primary and secondary schools but not independent or special schools
GP Surgery	Includes medical centres
Indoor sport/leisure	
Library	Includes mobile services
Meeting hall	Does not include church halls
Place of worship	
Other facility	Includes dentists, veterinary surgeries, nurseries providing full time child care
Transport	Train and bus services, with frequencies

Facility/Service	Notes
Employment sites	Employment estates where a number of employment premises are grouped together. Whilst the above list of services and facilities may provide employment, they are not classified as employment sites.

Other services and facilities

Other facilities recorded were individual employment premises, allotments, recreation grounds, playing fields, play areas, outdoor sports, church and scout halls, independent schools, private country clubs, working men's clubs, car repairs, car sales, car hire and public buildings.

Results

- 4.1 In accordance with the methodology outlined in the section above, the services/facilities available in the following settlements were reviewed:

Cobham
 Culverstone Green
 Harvel
 Higham (Upshire)
 Hook Green, Meopham
 Istead Rise
 Longfield Hill
 Luddesdown
 Lower Higham
 Meopham Green
 Lower Shorne
 Shorne
 Shorne Ridgeway
 Sole Street
 Three Crutches
 Vigo

The information was recorded between April 2017 and June 2017 and is set out in the appendices.

First Tier Settlements

- 4.2 As outlined in paragraph 3.1 above, Gravesend/Northfleet/Ebbsfleet form the first tier in the settlement hierarchy.

Second Tier Settlements

- 4.3 It is apparent from the Appendix that three settlements – Istead Rise, Hook Green Meopham and Higham – stand out from the rest by virtue of their population (each above 3,000) and the greater range of facilities and services they provide. These settlements typically offer a number of shops, a post office, a GP surgery, a primary school, and at least an hourly daytime bus and/or train service.
- 4.4 **Istead Rise** is located approximately 4.1km south of Gravesend town centre. It has the largest population of the rural settlements, with a total of approximately 3,400 people. It has a wide range of facilities including a

primary school, a GP surgery, a community centre, a small supermarket, a number of other shops, a post office and a place of worship. It is served by bus 306/308 which runs hourly daytime services to Gravesend, and Sevenoaks.

- 4.5 **Hook Green** extends from Meopham Railway Station in the north to the Primary School in the south. It is located between 6.2km and 7.5km south of Gravesend town centre. With an approximate population of about 3,200 people, it has a post office, a number of shops, an employment site at Meopham Sidings and places of worship. It has a primary school and shares Meopham Green's GP surgery, village hall, library and secondary school. It is served by bus 306/308 which runs hourly daytime services to Gravesend and Sevenoaks and by trains which run half hourly daytime services to the Medway Towns, Bromley and London Victoria.
- 4.6 **Higham** lies approximately 7.6km east of Gravesend town centre. There are approximately 3,200 residents. It has a number of facilities including a post office, a GP surgery, a library, a place of worship and a number of shops. It shares a primary school and a village hall with Lower Higham. It is served by bus 190 which runs three times an hour daytime services to Gravesend and the Medway Towns.

Third Tier Settlements

- 4.7 The settlements within this category lack some of the services necessary to make them more sustainable but they do provide either employment land or a number of other facilities such as a village store, a post office and a primary school, as well as at least an hourly daytime bus/train service. Culverstone Green, Meopham Green and Vigo fall within this category.
- 4.8 **Culverstone Green** lies approximately 11.1km south of Gravesend town centre. There are approximately 1,600 residents. It has a few facilities including a primary school, a post office, a small supermarket and a community centre. It is served by bus 306/308 which runs hourly daytime services to Gravesend and Sevenoaks.
- 4.9 **Meopham Green** extends for some 1.4km from The George Inn in the north to Meopham Veterinary Surgery in the south. At the green, it is located 9km south of Gravesend town centre. It has a population of approximately 1,600 and its facilities include employment sites at Bowes Industrial Estate and Lomer Farm and a place of worship. It has a GP surgery, village hall, library and secondary school and shares Hook Green's primary school. It is served by bus 306/308 which runs hourly daytime services to Gravesend and Sevenoaks.
- 4.10 **Vigo** lies approximately 12.3km south of Gravesend town centre, at the southernmost part of Gravesham Borough. It has an approximate population of 2,000. Its facilities include a primary school, a post office, a village store and a village hall. It is served by bus 306/308 which runs hourly daytime services to Gravesend and Sevenoaks.

Fourth Tier Settlements

- 4.11 The settlements within this category contain at least a village shop and a bus service running several times daily. Cobham, Shorne and Sole Street fall within this category.
- 4.12 **Cobham** is situated 6.3km south east of Gravesend town centre. It has a population of approximately 870 and it has a few facilities including a primary school, a village hall, a village store and a place of worship. It is served by the infrequent 416 bus service to Gravesend.
- 4.13 **Shorne** has a population of approximately 740. Shorne is located 5.9km east of Gravesend town centre. It contains a number of facilities including a primary school, a GP surgery, a village hall, a village store and a place of worship. However, it is only served by the infrequent 416/417 bus service to Gravesend.
- 4.14 **Sole Street** is located 7.2km south of Gravesend town centre. Its approximate population is just over 670. Apart from a village store and a public house, it has no facilities. However, it is served by trains which run half hourly daytime services to the Medway Towns, Bromley and London Victoria.

Other Settlements

- 4.15 The remaining settlements either have very few services and/or an infrequent bus service:
- Harvel
 - Lower Higham
 - Luddesdown
 - Lower Shorne
 - Shorne Ridgeway
 - Three Crutches
 - Longfield Hill

As Three Crutches and Longfield Hill lie on the borough boundaries, they are classified as cross boundary settlements in the hierarchy in Appendix 2.

- 4.16 **Harvel** lies in the south east of Gravesham Borough, approximately 11.1km from Gravesend town centre. It is not possible to estimate the population due to the nature of the Census Output Area Statistics. Apart from a village hall and a public house, it has no facilities and is only served by a community bus to Gravesend twice a week.
- 4.17 **Lower Higham** lies about 7km east of Gravesend town centre and has a population of approximately 700. The village itself contains limited facilities but it shares a primary school and a village hall with Higham. It is served by the infrequent 417 bus service to Gravesend and by trains which run half hourly daytime services to the Medway Towns, Gravesend, Dartford, London Bridge and London Charing Cross/Cannon Street.
- 4.18 **Luddesdown** is situated 8.9km south east of Gravesend town centre. It is not possible to estimate the population due to the nature of the Census

Output Area Statistics. Apart from a village hall, a place of worship and two public houses, it has no facilities and is not served by any bus service.

- 4.19 **Shorne Ridgeway** has a population of approximately 270. Shorne Ridgeway is situated 6.9km south east of Gravesend town centre. Apart from a public house, it has no facilities and is only served by the infrequent 416/417 bus service to Gravesend.
- 4.20 **Lower Shorne** lies 5.6km east of Gravesend town centre. It has a population of approximately 450. It has no facilities but is served by the infrequent 416/417 bus to Gravesend.

Other Settlements (Cross Boundary)

- 4.21 **Three Crutches** lies 9.3km east of Gravesend town centre, close to Strood. It has approximately 340 residents. Apart from a public house, it has no facilities. However, it is served by bus 700/701 which runs half hourly daytime services to the Medway Towns and Bluewater but no direct services to Gravesend railway station. Some services and facilities are available in Strood
- 4.22 **Longfield Hill** lies on the western boundary of the borough adjacent to the main part of the settlement in Dartford Borough. It is not possible to estimate its population. It has no services or facilities apart from a kennels/cattery and only has a bus service operating on two days a week. Some services and facilities are available in the main settlement.

Appendix 1 – Services and Facilities by Address

Cobham

2015 Population: 870

Address	Name	Function
Meadow Room, The Street	Meadow Room	Village Hall
Leather Bottle Public House, 54 The Street	The Leather Bottle Public House	Public House
Darnley Arms Public House, 40 The Street	Darnley Arms Public House	Public House
36 The Street	Cobham Village Store	Newsagent and convenience store
Cobham Primary School, The Street DA12 3BN	Cobham Primary School	Primary School
The Street	Bowling Green and Pavilion	
The Street	Veterans Club Pavilion	
Recreation Facilities	Football Pitches (x3), Cricket Pitches (x2), Bowling Green and Pavilion, Tennis Courts (x2), Playground (well stocked with equipment)	
Ship Inn Public House, 14 The Street DA12 3BN	Ship Inn Public House	Public House
St Mary Magdalene's Church, The Street	St Mary Magdalene's Church	Church
Allotments south of village	Allotments	Allotments
Surveyed on 24/04/2017		

Culverstone

2015 Population: 1,663

Address	Name	Function
Wrotham Road	Spar	Small supermarket and post office
Wrotham Road	Texaco/Londis	Petrol station, shop, car wash, car and van hire
Culverstone Green Primary School, Wrotham Road	Culverstone Green Primary School	Primary School
Culverstone Community Centre, White Post Lane	Culverstone Community Centre	Hall and children's play area.
Surveyed on 03/05/2017		

Harvel

Address	Name	Function
Harvel Street	Village Hall	Village Hall
Harvel Street	Amazon and Tiger	Public House
Harvel Street	Cricket Ground and Pavilion	Cricket Ground
Harvel Lane	Harvel House Farm Shop	Food Shop
Surveyed 03/05/2017		

Higham (Higham Upshire)

2015 Population: 3,277

Address	Name	Function
School Lane ME3 7JL	Higham Primary School	Primary School
School Lane ME3 7HP	The Knowle Country House	Restaurant
School Lane ME3 7JL	Higham Memorial Hall	Village Hall
School Lane	Recreation Ground	Club House, Recreation Ground, Tennis Courts, Children's Playground
2 Hermitage Road	Higham Post Office	Post Office & Stationers
2 Hermitage Road	Higham Mini-Market	General Store
3 Hermitage Road	Centre Circle Event Management Ltd. & Upshire Studios	Office & studio
Hermitage Road ME3 7NE	St John the Evangelist Church	Church
33 Hermitage Road	Higham Village Club	Working Men's Club
Rear of 33 Hermitage Road	Allotments	Allotments
1 Telegraph Hill	Telegraph Hill Garage	Car service and repairs
Hermitage Road	Highcliffe Medical Practice	Doctor's Surgery
2 School Lane	The Village Greengrocers	Greengrocers
4 School Lane	Marshlands Pharmacy	Pharmacy
6 School Lane	Taste House Chinese Takeaway	Chinese Takeaway
8 School Lane	Higham Oven Bakery	Sandwich Bar
10 School Lane	Village Fryers	Fish and Chip Takeaway
12 School Lane	Hair Care	Hairdresser
School Lane	Congregational Church	Church
2 Forge Lane	Gardeners Arms	Public House
18 Forge Lane	Meadows Grocery & Offlicence	General Store
21 Forge Lane	Nesco's Newsagents	Newsagent & General Store
Villa Road	Higham Library	Library
Gravesend Road	The Sir John Falstaff	Public House
Gads Hill Place, Gravesend Road	Gads Hill School	Independent Secondary School

Gravesend Road	Higham Garage	Second Hand Car Sales
Gravesend Road	Anija	Indian Restaurant
Surveyed 14/04/2017		

Hook Green, Meopham – West Side of Wrotham Road

2015 Population: 3,254

Address	Name	Function
Southdown Shaw, Wrotham Road	Meopham Allotments	Allotments
Wrotham Road	Bartellas	Restaurant
The Pippins/Evenden Road	Open Space	Open Space
Wrotham Road	St Paul's Roman Catholic Church	Church
16 The Parade	NFU Mutual	Insurance, pensions, investments
15 The Parade	Blue Cow Coffee Shop	Cafe
14 The Parade	China Garden	Chinese take away
12-13 The Parade	Tesco Express	Grocer/general store
11 The Parade	Shish Grill	Takeaway Kebabs
10 The Parade	The Salon	Hairdresser
9 The Parade	Walker Croft	Estate agents
8 The Parade	Spar	General store – produce, newsagent, off licence
7 The Parade	China Palace	Chinese restaurant
6 The Parade	Travel Vogue	Travel agent
4-5 The Parade	Fashion Scene	Clothes shop (women's)
3 The Parade	Humphrey's	Fish and chip take away
2 The Parade	Meopham Tandoori	Indian restaurant
1 The Parade	Hartley Estates	Estate Agent
Watmough House	Big M Motor Spares	Car spare parts
Meopham Community Academy, Longfield Road	Meopham Community Academy	Primary school
The Helen Allison School, Longfield Road	The Helen Allison School	Independent school run by the National Autistic Society
Surveyed on 08/05/2017		

Hook Green, Meopham – East Side of Wrotham Road

Address	Name	Function
Railway Station	Meopham Railway Station	Railway Station
Station Approach	India Palace	Indian restaurant
Station Approach	Ward and Partners	Estate agents
Coningsby House, Wrotham Road	Metsons Chartered Accountants	Chartered Accountants
Station Approach	Kings	Estate agents
Station Approach	Railway Cuttings	Hairdresser (women)
Station Approach	The Cut Above. 1st floor	Hairdresser (men)

	above Railway Cuttings	
Station Approach	Stone Willy's	Takeaway Pizza
Wrotham Road	Railway Tavern	Public house
2 Neville Place, Wrotham Road	McColls Newsagent	Newsagent and post office
3 Neville Place, Wrotham Road	Valeries	Coffee shop
1-1a Neville Place, Wrotham Road	Charisma	Gift shop
Neville Place, Wrotham Road	Meopham Pharmacy	Pharmacy
Railway Sidings, Station Approach	991 Hollywood House	Wholesale records and cds.
Railway Sidings, Station Approach	Meopham Garage	Car servicing and repairs
2b Railway Sidings, Station Approach	Supraman	Toyota specialist car repairs
3 Railway Sidings, Station Approach	Rim Tec	Alloys
Brunel House, Station Approach	Not known	Offices
5 Railway Sidings, Station Approach	Esprit International Limited	Rare CDs and records
Railway Sidings, Station Approach	Meopham Welding Supplies Limited	Welding Equipment
Railway Sidings, Station Approach	E & B Gas Control Systems Limited	Pressure control manufacturers
Scout Hall, Judson Recreation Ground	Scout Hall	Scout hall
Judson Recreation Ground	Judson Recreation Ground	Football pitch Swings x 2 (only the toddler one has swings on it) 2 other pieces of toddler play equipment within fenced off area (locked gates so no access) Pavilion (locked and vandalised)
Telephone Exchange, Green Lane	BT Telephone Exchange	Telephone exchange
St John's Church and Centre, Wrotham Road	St John's Church and Hall	Church and Hall
Surveyed on 08/05/2017		

Istead Rise

2015 Population: 3,413

Address	Name	Function
50 Istead Rise	GSS Hardware	Plumbing, electrical, DIY, household, garden goods
52 Istead Rise	Northfleet Dry Cleaning	Dry Cleaners

54 Istead Rise	Istead Rise Pharmacy	Chemist and Pharmacy
56 Istead Rise	Istead Rise Butchers	Butchers and produce
58 Istead Rise	Istead Rise Village Bakers	Bakery and café
60 Istead Rise	Kohinoor Spice	Indian restaurant
62 Istead Rise	Co-op and Post Office	Small supermarket and post office
8 Lewis Road	Quiffs Hair Design	Hairdresser
10 Lewis Road	Forever Daizy's	Florist
12 - 14 Lewis Road	Istead Rise Dental Clinic	Dentist
Downs Road	Scout's Hall	Hall opposite School
St Barnabas Church, Upper Avenue	St Barnabas Church	Church
Infant and Primary School, Downs Road	Istead Rise Infant and Primary School and Kiddiecare Kindergarden	School and kindergarden
Community Hall, Worcester Close	Community Centre	Large hall (2 badminton courts and stage), small hall, kitchen, bar
Istead Rise Surgery, Worcester Close	Medical Centre and Dispensary	Medical Centre and Dispensary
Recreation Ground, Worcester Close	Recreation ground	Play equipment (well equipped), skate park, football pitch
Recreation Ground off Lewis Road	Recreation Ground	One goal post and no other facilities. Dog walking area
Memorial Hall, Lewis Road	Memorial Hall	1948 built hall facility – limited parking
Surveyed 04/05/2017		

Longfield Hill

Address	Name	Function
Hollybush Buildings, Longfield Road, Longfield Hill	Concrete Garage Centre	Displays and sells domestic garages
Highview, Longfield Road, Longfield Hill	Atlas Truck and Plant Sales	Commercial vehicle sales
Aveling, Longfield Road, Longfield Hill	Aveling Boarding Kennels and Cattery	Boarding kennels and cattery
Surveyed on 01/06/2017		

Accessible facilities located within Dartford Borough in Longfield Hill include allotments, scout hall, the Green Man public house, Longfield Hill Village Garage (car repairs), children's play area and cricket ground.

Luddesdown

Address	Name	Function
Henley Street Luddesdown	The Cock Inn	Pub
Luddesdown Road	The Golden Lion	Pub
Luddesdown	St. Peter and St. Paul Church	Church

Luddesdown	Village Hall	Village hall
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Lower Higham

2015 Population: 703

Address	Name	Function
Lower Higham	Lower Higham Service Station	Second hand car sales
Lower Higham	Higham Railway Station	Railway Station

Lower Shorne

Address	Name	Function
	None identified	None identified

Lower Shorne has no services or facilities but is served by a mobile library and an infrequent bus service

Meopham Green – East Side of Wrotham Road

2015 Population: 1,663

Address	Name	Function
Whitehill Limited, Wrotham Road	Whitehill Limited, Independent Skoda Specialists	Car sales and repairs
Meopham Village Hall, Wrotham Road	Meopham Village Hall	1 large and 1 small hall
Meopham Country Club, Wrotham Road	Meopham Country Club	Bar, snooker, darts
Meopham Lawn Tennis Club, Wrotham Road	Meopham Lawn Tennis Club	5 all weather courts, clubhouse and changing room
Meopham Table Tennis Club, Wrotham Road	Meopham Table Tennis Club	Table tennis
Kings Arms, Wrotham Road	Kings Arms Public house	Public house
The Old Bakery, Wrotham Road	Ideal Fires	Wood burning and other stoves
Compass House, Bowes Estate, Wrotham Road	Tiga Communications Ltd	Graphic design agency
Compass House, Bowes Estate, Wrotham Road	North Downs Instrument Company Ltd	Manufacturing of instruments
Compass House, Bowes Estate, Wrotham Road	SIRS Navigation Ltd	Manufacturing of navigation equipment
Bowes Estate, Wrotham Road	Tripod Management Ltd.	Car rental
Bowes Estate, Wrotham Road	Moolands Engineers	Engineers
Units 9-10 Bowes Estate, Wrotham Road	Arc Office Systems	Office equipment supplier

Bowes Estate, Wrotham Road	KRA Brown Electrical Services	Electrical Services
Bowes Estate, Wrotham Road	CGI's HV and LV Cable Jointers	Cable Installation
Logix House, Wrotham Road, Meopham Green	Meopham Fencing Works Ltd Benning Brothers	Fencing company Property Development
Units 1-2 The Mews, Wrotham Road	Meopham Dental Care	Dentists
Unit 4 The Mews, Wrotham Road	MCS Ltd	Data inputting and Finance
Unit 3 The Mews, Wrotham Road	Vacant	Vacant
Satellite House, The Mews, Wrotham Road	NFU Mutual	Insurance
Surveyed on 11/05/2017		

Meopham Green – West Side of Wrotham Road

Address	Name	Function
The George, Wrotham Road	The George Public House	Public house
Meopham Fitness and Tennis Centre, Wrotham Road	Meopham Fitness and Tennis Centre	Various indoor and outdoor leisure facilities
Meopham School, Wrotham Road	Meopham School	Secondary school
Meopham Day Nursery, Meopham School Grounds, Wrotham Road	Meopham Day Nursery	Nursery
Meopham Medical Centre, Meopham School Grounds, Wrotham Road	Meopham Medical Centre	Medical centre
Meopham Library, Meopham School Grounds, Wrotham Road	Meopham Library	Library
Unit B1, C3, D4, Lomer Farm, Wrotham Road	GNS Solid Surfaces	Kitchen Worktops
Unit B2	European Postal Systems	Postal equipment Suppliers
Unit C2	Thameside Test and Research	Testing construction materials
Unit C4	Somabuild Shopfitters	Shopfitters
Unit D2	Kitchen Solutions	Kitchen designers
Softwater Services, Wrotham Road	Softwater Services	Water softeners and filters

Barnside Cattery, Wrotham Road	Barnside Cattery	Cattery
Windmill, Wrotham Road	Meopham Parish Council	Parish Offices
Wrotham Road	The Cricketers Inn	Public House
Wrotham Road	Sugar Craft School and Studio	Cake decorating classes
Wrotham Road	Police Station adjacent to Mount Zion Baptist Church	Police station
Mount Zion Baptist Church, Wrotham Road, Meopham Green	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Church
Meopham Veterinary Surgery, Killarney, Wrotham Road	Meopham Veterinary Surgery	Vets
Surveyed on 11/05/2017		

Shorne

2015 Population: 743

Address	Name	Function
32 The Street	Rose and Crown	Public House
9 – 11 The Street	Contrasts	Hairdresser
13 The Street	Shorne Village Store	Newsagent and Convenience Store
The Street	Shorne Village Hall	Village Hall
Crown Lane	Shorne Village Surgery	Doctor's Surgery
Mill Hill Lane	Recreation Ground and Hall	Recreation Ground
Cob Drive	Shorne CE Primary School	School
Butcher's Hill	St Peter & St Paul Church	Church
The Street	Mobile Library Service Weekly Wednesdays	Mobile Library
Surveyed 14/04/2017		

Shorne Ridgeway

2015 Population: 271

Address	Name	Function
See Ho Public House, Pear Tree Lane DA12 3JX	See Ho Public House	Public House
Recreation Ground, The Ridgeway/Pondfield Lane	Recreation Ground	Recreation Ground – football pitch
Surveyed on 05/06/2017		

Sole Street

2015 Population: 672

Address	Name	Function
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Sole Street	The Little Shop	Newsagent and convenience store
Sole Street	St Mary's Church Room	Church hall
Sole Street	Railway Station	Railway station
Sole Street	The Railway Inn Public House	Public house
Surveyed on 24/04/2017		
Cobham Parish Council operates a minibus services on Thursdays, leaving at 9.30am and returning from Gravesend at 12.30pm.		

Three Crutches

2015 Population: 342

Address	Name	Function
The Three Crutches Public House, Old Watling Street ME2 3UG	The Three Crutches Public House	Public House
Surveyed on 05/06/2017		
N.B. Close to recreation ground comprising tennis, bowling and football facilities (part GBC, part Medway). Also close to primary and secondary schools (Medway)		

Vigo

2015 Population: 2,028

Address	Name	Function
1 The Bay	Vigo Grill	Fish and chip take away
2 The Bay	LK Hair Station	Hairdresser
3-4 The Bay	Londis Village Store, Newsagents and Post Office	General store and post office
5 The Bay	Little Indian	Indian take away
6 The Bay	Vacant: Formerly Shumi Unisex Hair and Beauty	Vacant
7 The Bay	Vigo Pharmacy	Chemist and pharmacy
8 The Bay	Vacant Formerly Village Florist	Vacant
The Bay	Village Hall and Library	Village Hall and Library
Erskine Road	The Villager	Public house
Erskine Road	Vigo Village School Infants and Juniors	Infants and junior school
North of Ball Park	Scout Hall	Scout hut
St Mary's Stansted with Fairseat and Vigo	Held in Village Hall 2 nd and 4 th Sundays of month	Church
Vigo Rugby Football Club	Swanswood Fields, Harvel Road	Sports field
Erskine Road	Netball court north of car park	Outdoor sports
Rear of The Bay	Children's Play Area Rear of The Villager	Play area
Rear of The Bay	Recreation Ground Rear of The Villager	Recreation Ground

Surveyed on 03/05/2017		
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Appendix 2 – Settlement Classification in the Hierarchy

Second Tier

	Istead Rise	Hook Green	Higham
Population	3413	3254	3277
Fresh Food	2	1	1
General Grocer	1	2	3
Post Office	1	1	1
Chemist	1	1	1
Pub	1	1	2
Takeaway/Café/Restaurant	2	9	5
Petrol Station			
Other Shop	4	12	1
School	Primary	Primary	Primary
GP Surgery	1		1
Indoor Sport			
Library	Mobile	Mobile	1
Meeting Hall	2		1
Place of Worship	1	2	2
Other Service	1		
Employment Site		1	
Other			
Business Premises		9	1
Car Sales/Repair/Hire		2	3
Allotments			1
Playing Fields			
Outdoor Sports			
Recreation Grounds	2	1	1
Children's Play Area	1	1	
Church/Scout Halls	1	2	
Independent Schools		1	1
Private Clubs			1
Public Buildings			

Bus Services

Principal Service Number	306/308	306/308	190
Weekdays Total Daily to Gravesend Railway Station	18	18	41
Frequency 7am to 7pm	1 per hour	1 per hour	3 per hour
Saturday Service	Yes	Yes	Yes
Journey time to Gravesend	15 mins	23 mins	21 mins

Rail Services	No	2 per hour	See Lower Higham
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Third Tier

	Culverstone Green	Meopham Green	Vigo
Population	1663	1663	2028
Fresh Food			
General Grocer	1		1
Post Office	1		1
Chemist			1
Pub		3	1
Takeaway/Café/Restaurant			2
Petrol Station	1		
Other Shop	1	2	1
School	Primary	Secondary	Primary
GP Surgery		1	
Indoor Sport		2	
Library	Mobile	1	1 + Mobile
Meeting Hall	1	1	1
Place of Worship		1	1
Other Service		4	
Employment Site		2	
Other			
Business Premises		17	
Car Sales/Repair/Hire	1	2	
Allotments			
Playing Fields			1
Outdoor Sports		1	1
Recreation Grounds			1
Children's Play Area	1		1
Church/Scout Halls			1
Independent Schools			
Private Clubs		1	
Public Buildings		2	

Bus Services

Principal Service Number	306/308	306/308	306/308
Weekdays Total Daily to Gravesend Railway Station	18	18	18
Frequency 7am to 7pm	1 per hour	1 per hour	1 per hour
Saturday Service	Yes	Yes	Yes
Journey Time to Gravesend	32 min	28 min	42 min

Rail Services	No	No	No
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Fourth Tier

	Cobham	Shorne	Sole Street
Population	870	743	672
Fresh Food			
General Grocer	1	1	1
Post Office			
Chemist			
Pub	3	1	1
Takeaway/Café/Restaurant			
Petrol Station			
Other Shop		1	
School	Primary	Primary	
GP Surgery		1	
Indoor Sport			
Library	Mobile	Mobile	Mobile
Meeting Hall	1	1	
Place of Worship	1	1	
Other Service			
Employment Site			
Other			
Business Premises			
Car Sales/Repair/Hire			
Allotments	1		
Playing Fields	2		
Outdoor Sports	2		
Recreation Grounds		1	
Children's Play Area	1		
Church/Scout Halls			1
Independent Schools			
Private Clubs			
Public Buildings			

Bus Services

Principal Service Number	416	416	416
Weekdays Total Daily to Gravesend Railway Station	5	5	5
Frequency 7am to 5 pm	1 per 2 hours	1 per 2 hours	1 per 2 hours
Saturday Service	Yes	Yes	Yes
Journey Time to Gravesend	30 min	26 min	34 min

Rail Services	No	No	2 per hour
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Other Settlements

	Harvel	Lower Higham	Luddesdown	Lower Shorne	Shorne Ridgeway
Population		703			
Fresh Food	1				
General Grocer					
Post Office					
Chemist					
Pub	1		2		1
Takeaway/Café/ Restaurant					
Petrol Station					
Other Shop					
School					
GP Surgery					
Indoor Sport					
Library	Mobile			Mobile	Mobile
Meeting Hall	1		1		
Place of Worship			1		
Other Service					
Employment Site					
Other					
Business Premises					
Car Sales/Repair/Hire		1			
Allotments					
Playing Fields	1				
Outdoor Sports					
Recreation Grounds					1
Children's Play Area					
Church/Scout Halls					
Independent Schools					
Private Clubs					
Public Buildings					

Bus Services

Principal Service	MC1	417	None	416	416
Weekdays Daily Total to Gravesend R. S.		4 on school days only (SDO)	None	5	5
Frequency	2 per week	4 SDO 3 on other days	None	1 per 2 hours	1 per 2 hours
Saturday Service	No	Yes	None	Yes	Yes

Time to Gravesend R.S.	35 min	27 min	None	19 min	24 min
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Rail Services	No	2 per hour	No	No	No
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Other Settlements (Cross Boundary)

	Three Crutches	Longfield Hill
Population	342	
Fresh Food		
General Grocer		
Post Office		
Chemist		
Pub	1	
Takeaway/Café/Restaurant		
Petrol Station		
Other Shop		
School		
GP Surgery		
Indoor Sport		
Library		
Meeting Hall		
Place of Worship		
Other Service		1
Employment site		
Other		
Business Premises		
Car Sales/Repair/Hire		
Allotments		
Playing Fields		
Outdoor Sports		
Recreation Grounds		
Children's Play Area		
Church/Scout Halls		
Independent Schools		
Private Clubs		
Public Buildings		

Bus Services

Principal Service	700/701	
Weekdays Daily Total to Gravesend Railway Station	No Direct Service to Gravesend Railway Station	No Direct Service to Gravesend Railway Station
Frequency	N.A.	N.A.
Saturday Service	N.A.	N.A.
Time to Gravesend Railway Station	N.A.	N.A.

Rail Services

There are three railway stations serving the rural settlements in the hierarchy. Trains from Sole Street and Meopham provide a half hourly service to the Medway Towns and to Bromley South and Victoria. Trains from Higham provide a half hourly service to the Medway Towns, Gravesend and the North Kent line to Charring Cross (from May 2018 Thameslink to London Bridge, Farringdon, St Pancras and Luton).

Sample journey times include:

- Higham to Gravesend 7 minutes
- Higham to Chatham 15 minutes
- Meopham to Chatham 18 minutes
- Meopham to Bromley South 24 minutes