



**Somerset
Council**

Topic Paper: Role and Function of Settlements

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Disclaimer

Please note that this paper documents the process to date and is subject to change. The paper will be reviewed and updated at numerous points along the way as the Local Plan progresses through its development, both in response to consultation comments, availability and analysis of data and information, updated national and local contexts and otherwise. It will be finalised at the point of submission of the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination.

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Executive Summary

This Settlement Role and Function Study provides a comprehensive assessment of 176 settlements' role and function across Somerset to form a key part of the evidence base for the emerging Somerset Local Plan 2045. The Study updates the current settlement hierarchies for each of the former district councils, establishing a single, Council-wide hierarchy that reflects current policy as well as up to date data, though a snapshot in time. The study analyses settlement size (population), employment role and economic activity, community facilities and services, sustainable accessibility and connectivity and high level environmental constraints to development.

The Study has been prepared in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (2026), with a core focus on promoting sustainable development through reducing the need to travel, promoting sustainable accessibility to jobs, services and facilities, while recognising the need to reflect the mix of urban and rural areas with differing characteristics and opportunities. The Settlement Role and Function Study also builds on the work completed within the Somerset West and Taunton (SWT) Issues and Options Document, which proposed a new settlement hierarchy, and the abandoned draft South Somerset Local Plan Review Preferred Options Document, where work was done to reassess the status of its rural villages. All of the above has been brought together to establish a Somerset-wide settlement hierarchy that supports the formulation of a spatial strategy for the Local Plan that will guide the distribution of development in a way that promotes sustainable patterns of growth.

Identifying settlements for inclusion in the study

The Study generated a list of settlements to include based on the existing Local Plans, Settlement Role and Function Studies, Built Up Area (BUA) classifications with a residential role, and other key evidence base documents. Some of the settlements have been merged based on their proximity to one another and their close functional relationship. The methodology follows a similar approach to that taken in the abandoned South Somerset Preferred Options Document, whereby a settlement must have four out of the six key services i.e. local convenience store/ post office, pub/restaurant/café, primary school, village hall or meeting space, health centre and children's play area in order to be considered a rural settlement (sitting within the settlement hierarchy), as it was considered unlikely they would play a wider role in their surrounding area, and to be included in the Study. For the purposes of this Study, settlements without four out of six of these services were excluded early on. However, within our methodology, we later proposed one step further whereby one out of these four services must include a primary school to take account of the regularity of access though settlements without this have, therefore, been analysed in the Study.

Data sources and classifications

The Study is desk-based, using readily available data sourced from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and NOMIS from the 2021 Census, and for the travel to work data the 2011 Census supplements this, as well as our own Somerset Council evidence base studies. Statistics for each settlement have been aggregated from figures relating to Output Area (OA), Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) and Middle Super Output Area (MSOA). Each of the table of findings have then been ‘classified’ from Band 1 (highest category) to Band 7 (lowest category) to determine the ranking of each settlement in terms of its size (population), employment role, level of community services and facilities, and sustainable accessibility. The development constraints are set out within the settlement summaries to provide high-level context.

Settlement size

The first analysis chapter specifically examines the size of each settlement looking at its population figures and number of dwellings, age structure and forecast population growth to 2045. The data set out that the largest five settlements in Somerset in order are Taunton, Bridgwater, Yeovil, Frome and Highbridge & Burnham. The settlements with a higher proportion of dwellings to their total population include Stratton-On-The-Fosse and Cotford St Luke (not exhaustive). Furthermore, settlements with a higher proportion of people aged 0-15 include settlements such as Ilchester, Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Cotford St Luke, Sparkford and Bridgwater. Settlements with a large proportion of working age people (16-64) include Cotford St Luke, Bridgwater, Ilchester, Shepton Mallet and Yeovil. In contrast, settlements such as Blue Anchor, Hinton St George, Bicknoller and Charlton Horethorne have an ageing population (65+) with smaller proportions of working age and younger people. Looking at Band 4 and above, typically these settlements had a larger proportion of working age people.

Subnational population forecasts suggest the population of Somerset will increase of 12.4% by 2045 (79,168 people) with a decrease in young people, a small increase in its working age population and a large amount of growth to be those aged 65+. Settlements with the highest percentage population change forecast to 2045 are mainly those with ageing populations such as Blue Anchor, West Quantoxhead and Bicknoller. No settlements have been forecast to have a declining population, however, those with the smallest forecast population growth levels are Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Cotford St Luke, Bruton and Yeovil typically with larger proportions of young people and working aged people. However, it is important to note that these scenarios do not account for the location of new development or inward migration levels so this may not come to fruition.

Employment role

The following chapter looks at the settlements’ employment role including the factors of economically active population and working age population level, number of local jobs, whether a settlement has a net import or export of workers, employment density (number of jobs to workers) and its employment ratio (economic activity). The travel

to work patterns have also been analysed. The employment role classification of each settlement is subjective based on a reflection of these factors and local knowledge. The settlements with the highest ranking employment role included most of the larger settlements in the Study such as Taunton, Bridgwater and Yeovil. Taunton by some way had the largest net import and largest number of jobs. Yeovil also has a large net-import of workers with both Taunton and Yeovil having more than one job per worker recorded. Frome has the largest net-export of workers, followed by Highbridge & Burnham. A number of other settlements had a high employment density such as Street, Wells, Minehead & Alcombe and Glastonbury, but also a number of smaller settlements such as Brent Knoll, Rooks Bridge, Spaxton, Faulkland and Mells.

Looking at the travel to work figures, the settlements with the largest proportion of people travelling less than 2km for work are Chard, Minehead and Yeovil. Bridgwater, Street and Taunton also have a large proportion of people remaining in their local area for work. North Petherton, Glastonbury and Highbridge & Burnham also have high proportions of people travelling 2-5km, suggesting trips to settlements within close proximity for work. Settlements with a smaller proportion of workers remaining in their immediate locality for work are all the rural clusters and Bruton, Castle Cary and Langport. Therefore, settlements identified as having a highest ranking draw for employment include settlements such as Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater, Chard, Minehead, Street, North Petherton, Glastonbury and Highbridge & Burnham.

Services and facilities

The services and facilities chapter provides a detailed assessment on the town centre role and retail hierarchy of settlements, the provision of strategic and local community services and facilities, and the coverage of ultrafast broadband. A number of settlements (18) have a full retail offering including a supermarket, 5+ comparison shops, and local convenience stores such as (and not exhaustive) Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater and Frome. Both Taunton and Yeovil have the highest retail spend acting as large scale, sub-regional centres, followed by Bridgwater, Shepton Mallet and Wells. Looking at community services and facilities, the scoring framework covered healthcare services, financial services, educational facilities, shops and recreational and cultural facilities. The Study differentiated between 'strategic' services, those that tend to serve a wider catchment and which may not need to be used regularly, and 'local' which meet every day needs and may be used more regularly. Taunton and Yeovil have the full suite of identified strategic and local services including a district (acute) hospital. Bridgwater comes in close behind, as does Frome, Minehead and Wells. There are 73 settlements that meet the 'core' local role i.e. four out of six local facilities including a primary school. Out of the total 176 settlements, 61 did not meet the 'core' role.

Accessibility and connectivity

The Study also assessed the relative sustainable accessibility and connectivity of each settlement, analysing the ability for residents to reach nearby 'big towns' and large

employment sites (1000+ workers) within 20 minutes on foot, by bike or using public transport (bus and rail). The data collected also includes the availability of bus and rail services 'public transport access' with a score including their frequency and the number of unique trips, and 'rail access', which counts the number of 'big towns' accessible within 60 minutes by rail using a 5km radius around the train stations. These 'access' scores have been separately added together to get an additional ranking based purely on a settlements' bus and rail provision.

Taunton was the highest ranked settlement by some way with the greatest accessibility score and best access to local jobs by active travel and public transport as well as public transport access and rail access. This is followed by Bridgwater, then Yeovil, with slightly lower rankings for Glastonbury and Wells. When looking purely at public transport access and rail access, Frome comes in 4th place (behind Taunton, Bridgwater and Yeovil) though ranking slightly lower when looking at the full picture. Most of the smaller and rural settlements did rank lower for their sustainable accessibility with a higher probability of being car dependent with exceptions for those in close proximity to big towns such as The Coxleys, Walton, Ashcott, Chilcompton, Ruishton, Ilchester, Chilthorne Domer (among others). Interestingly, several larger settlements scored among one of the lower categories for their public transport and rail access including Chard, Wincanton and Ilminster.

Bringing it all together

The data for settlement size, employment role, services and facilities, and accessibility are then added together in 'The Matrix' table to give each settlement a final score and therefore a place in the new settlement hierarchy. To do this, a weighting is applied to the resultant classification (score/ranking) each settlement has for these categories and then added together i.e. Band 1 = 6, Band 7 = 0 and multiplied by two to ensure enough range between the final scores. The final settlement scores were then grouped based on a range relating to a resultant tier, as follows:

- Tier 1 = 51-60
- Tier 2 = 38-50
- Tier 3a = 28-37
- Tier 3b = 20-27
- Tier 4 = <20 (must have 4/6 key services including a primary school)
- Open Countryside = settlements that do not have 4/6 key services including a primary school.

The Study then sets out a short summary for each of the settlements within Tier 1-4 covering the data analysed plus the environmental constraints, which cover designations like international wildlife designations, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Wildlife Sites, Flood Zones and Conservation Areas. Finally, the proposed settlement hierarchy is set out:

- **Tier 1** = Taunton, Yeovil and Bridgwater

- **Tier 2** = Chard, Cheddar, Crewkerne, Frome, Glastonbury, Highbridge & Burnham, Minehead & Alcombe, Shepton Mallet, Street, Wellington, Wells, and Wincanton
- **Tier 3a** = Bruton, Castle Cary, Ilminster, Langport, North Petherton and Somerton
- **Tier 3b** = Abbas & Templecombe, Axbridge, Berrow & Brean, Bishops Lydeard, Cannington, Chilcompton, Cotford St Luke, Creech St Michael, Evercreech, Ilchester, Martock, Milborne Port, Nether Stowey, South Petherton, Watchet, Williton and Wiveliscombe.
- **Tier 4** = remaining settlements with 4/6 key services including a primary school such as Coleford, Merriott, Wedmore, Tatworth and Woolavington.
- **Open countryside** = other settlements without 4/6 key services including a primary school.

1. Purpose and scope

Introduction

- 1.1 Having a good understanding of the nature of the towns and villages in Somerset is an important part of the evidence base to inform the new Local Plan. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local plans to provide a positive vision for the future of each area, a framework for accommodating housing needs as well as addressing other economic, social environmental priorities, including improving the environment at a local level. It should also allow people to influence development in their area¹. As such, understanding existing settlement roles provides valuable insight into what actions are needed to deliver positive outcomes for communities.
- 1.2 This study collates detailed information on individual settlements regarding the settlement size and population, access to services and facilities, employment role and economic activity and environmental sensitivities (development constraints). This information is used to assess the relative sustainability of settlements and to identify constraints that may influence future growth. By comparing the characteristics and functionality of individual settlements, the study helps to establish a robust spatial strategy and informs decisions about the pattern, scale and nature of future development.
- 1.3 Care has been taken to ensure the information gathered in this study is an accurate reflection of the settlements in Somerset. Parish Councils were consulted to verify local information while recognising that facilities and services are subject to change over time. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge that this assessment is a snapshot in time.
- 1.4 The main objectives of the study are set out below:-
- Combine the current Local Plan settlement hierarchies, for the former district councils (Mendip, Sedgemoor, South Somerset, Taunton Deane and West Somerset), to create a joint methodology for the role and function of the settlements, and to understand the functional relationship and future roles of the settlements.
 - Promote sustainable communities by bringing housing, employment opportunities and services closer together with sustainable accessibility and connectivity at their core (reducing the need to travel).
 - Build on the settlement strategy proposed in the Somerset West and Taunton Local Plan Issues and Options Document and in the abandoned draft South Somerset Local Plan Preferred Options.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2026) draft text for consultation - [National Planning Policy Framework: draft text for consultation](#)

- To enable monitoring for future reference and analysis.

1.5 In broad terms, this study comprises a new methodology for the now unified Somerset Council area, which has been subsequently applied through desk based analysis of information. This will help to provide a justification for the settlement strategy presented in the Somerset Local Plan by establishing an evidence base and will enable future monitoring of data allied to this subject to support future analysis.

Policy Context

National Planning Policy Context

1.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. In December 2025, the Government published a new consultation draft of the NPPF which proposes radical updates to the Framework. This clearly identifies national policy requirements for plan-making and decision-making separately. The plan-making policies must be read as a whole and taken into account in preparing any part of the development plan. Each chapter of the updated Framework contains relevant objectives, but these should not be applied as policy themselves. The NPPF¹ and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)² are the starting point for the determination of where growth and change should happen. The PPG has not been updated to reflect the consultation draft NPPF but presumably will be once the final revised NPPF is published later this year. At this point, any further guidance will be reflected in this Study. The key messages on the role and function of settlements in Government policy are:

- **Paragraphs 14 to 17 set out that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development**, by managing the use and development of land in the long-term public interest. This objective of sustainable development means meeting the needs of the present without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, with a particular reference across to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals. The planning system has three mutually dependent objectives (economic, social, environmental). Achieving sustainable development requires a balanced approach which responds to all three objectives in mutually supporting ways. Development plans should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area. This ensures that the economic, social and environmental objectives are at the core of this methodology.

² Planning Practice Guidance (revised 2024) - [Planning practice guidance - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-practice-guidance)

- ‘Plan-making policies’ (Chapter 2) sets out the national plan-making policies and that **the preparation of development plans allows people to influence development in their area, including directing growth to the most appropriate and sustainable locations, supporting regeneration and conserving and enhancing the quality of the built and natural environment.** It is noted that Somerset has a mix of urban and rural areas, with different characteristics and areas with opportunities. This means a one-size-fits-all approach to guiding development is not appropriate and must take account of local circumstances and sustainability.
- **Achieving sustainable development, S1 ‘positive plan-making’** – states that the development plan should **plan positively for future growth and change** by providing for new development and improvement of the environment in a way which promotes **sustainable patterns of growth** and **seeks to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects**, and fundamentally seeking to **meet the development needs of their area** by providing for objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses (including supporting infrastructure), as well as needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas. This is the case unless the presence of areas or assets of particular importance³ provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development, or the adverse impacts of doing so would substantially outweigh the benefits of doing so.
- **Producing a spatial strategy, S2** - states that plans should set out a spatial strategy setting **clear expectations for the location of development** and where land should be protected or enhanced for specific purposes. It should do so by identifying (at the appropriate scale):
 - Settlements (whether existing or proposed) and their boundaries (or clear criteria for identifying their extents);
 - Location and boundary of town centres within settlements;
 - Land that is protected or is proposed to be enhanced for specific purposes (e.g. habitat improvement) and which places limits on acceptability of development proposals; and
 - Sites allocated for development to meet identified need for housing and other uses, local and strategic infrastructure (with a particular reference to enabling development of land around stations).

³ Habitats sites and/or Sites of Special Scientific Interest; Green Belt; Local Green Space; National Landscapes; National Parks; Heritage Coast; irreplaceable habitats; designated heritage assets; and areas at risk of flooding or coastal change

It explains that this should be illustrated on a key diagram with boundaries identified on a policies map

- **S3 ‘Presumption in favour of sustainable development** – decisions on development proposals should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development. This means:
 - Policy S4 in this Framework should be applied when considering development proposals within settlements;
 - Outside settlements, policy S5 should be applied (‘principle of development outside settlements’);
 - In all locations, development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan and also the decision-making policies in this Framework should be approved without delay.
- **S4 ‘Principle of development within settlements’** – states that development proposals within settlements should be approved unless the benefits of doing so would be substantially outweighed by any adverse effects, when assessed against the national decision-making policies in this Framework. In applying this policy, the circumstances in which benefits of approving development are likely to be substantially outweighed by adverse effects include (but are not restricted to) situations where the development proposals would:
 - Have an unacceptable impact in relation to:
 - the allocation or safeguarding of land for particular uses in the development plan, unless there is no reasonable prospect of an application coming forward for the allocated use, or there is evidence that the safeguarding is no longer appropriate;
 - the application of the policies in this Framework for safeguarding existing open space, sport and recreation facilities (HC7), Local Green Space (HC8), designated wildlife habitats (N6) and for managing development within residential curtilages (L2);
 - Involve the whole or partial loss of undeveloped land which is used for a cemetery or burial ground; or for water storage and/or flood risk management (unless suitable compensatory provision is made which does not increase the risk of flooding either on or off-site);
 - Fail to comply with one of the national decision-making policies which state that development proposals should be refused in specific circumstances.
- **Meeting the challenge of climate change, CC1 ‘Planning for climate change’** – states that plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating climate change and supporting the transition to net zero. This is in line with the objectives and provisions of the Climate Change Act

(2008), which as amended sets out a legally binding national target of net zero by 2050. Plans should take a proactive approach to adapting to climate change, including in relation to overheating, wildfires, drought, flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes. Plans should do this by proposing development patterns in spatial strategies which help contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and avoid increased vulnerability and improve resilience to effects of climate change. Through undertaking the study, we have been able to identify at this stage where the most sustainable settlements are located including highlighting any high-level environmental constraints.

- **Delivering a sufficient supply of homes, HO4 ‘land for large scale residential and mixed-use development’** – the development plan should identify suitable locations for large scale development, such as new settlements, new urban quarters or significant extensions to existing settlements. These locations should:
 - Be capable of being supported by necessary infrastructure and facilities, with an explicit reference across to TR1 (vision-led approach to planning for transport) and TR3 (locating development in sustainable locations), and taking advantage of any opportunities presented by existing or planned infrastructure investment;
 - Support sustainable communities with sufficient access to services and employment opportunities within the site (where realistic) or in larger towns with good access by sustainable transport modes;
 - Address strategic environmental opportunities and safeguards including those set out in LNRS.
- **HO6 – Planning for a diverse mix of sites** – allocate sites which will support and enhance the vitality of rural communities and enable villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services. Much of the county is rural, containing extensive areas of countryside. To identify such opportunities we need an assessment of village facilities and connectivity in Somerset.
- **E1 – Providing the conditions for long term economic growth** - states that plans should set out a clear economic vision and strategy, which takes a positive, proactive and realistic approach to encouraging sustainable economic growth in both urban and rural areas. To assist with the retention and development of employment, services and facilities, in both urban and rural areas, we need to understand where these are and what the picture looks like.

- **TR1 – Vision-led approach to planning for transport** - states that sustainable transport should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making, being reflected in the plan vision and proposals, and forming an integral part of the plan’s strategy. This should be done by (amongst other things):
 - Making sustainable transport considerations part of early engagement so that proposals reflect local views, evidence on accessibility, capacity and services, and take account of opportunities for prioritising and maximising sustainable movement across the area. Plans should align with Local Transport Plans (LTPs), Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) and Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs) and investment in transport.
 - Locating development where it can support sustainable patterns of movement and make effective use of existing or proposed transport infrastructure.
- TR1 and HO4 signpost to TR3, which is a national decision-making policy ‘**locating development in sustainable development**’ – sets out a series of principles that development proposals should reflect in order that new development can support sustainable patterns of movement, enable good accessibility for different users and make the most of existing and proposed transport infrastructure:
 - Development proposals which could generate a significant amount of movement, in the context of the area within which they would be situated, should be in locations that are, or can be made sustainable, by limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes for residents and users;
 - Opportunities should be taken to utilise existing or proposed transport infrastructure in optimising the amount of density of development which can be accommodated in different locations, especially where this can support more walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport use;
 - In rural areas, opportunities to improve wheeling, cycling and public transport and enhance the connectivity of an area should be taken where they exist and can be supported by the development proposed.
- **HC1 – Planning for healthy communities** – states that plans should promote the creation of healthy and inclusive places by (amongst other things) identifying wider opportunities to promote good health, prevent ill-health and support social interaction through their spatial strategy and

allocations, including through policies to strengthen town centres, locate development where it will support walking and cycling, and promote mixed-use developments. We need to understand the picture of retail and the town centres as well as where the walking and cycling opportunities are.

- 1.7 A settlement hierarchy needs to reflect the government's core planning principles, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), of plan-led sustainable development that takes account of the roles and character of different areas. Our settlement assessment and subsequent hierarchy considered local circumstances, character, needs and opportunities alongside indicators of service provision and accessibility when appraising the role and rank of different settlements in Somerset. The settlement hierarchy policy promotes the vitality of the larger urban areas while recognising the intrinsic character of the countryside and smaller villages.

Role of the settlement assessment

- 1.8 Our emerging **Somerset Local Plan 2045** will set out a strategy for delivering sustainable growth across the county. It guides the type and location of new housing and employment, identifying appropriate areas and sites for development alongside the infrastructure needed to support this growth. The Local Plan will also set the policies used to determine planning applications.
- 1.9 This **Settlement Role and Function Study** forms a key part of the evidence base for the Somerset Local Plan. It classifies settlements into a hierarchy based on their current level of services, facilities, and accessibility. The assessment provides a snapshot of how well each settlement is equipped to support its community, highlighting those that are more self-contained and those where development could lead to increased reliance on car travel. This helps us understand the different roles settlements play and group them accordingly – from larger towns with the greatest range of functions and sustainability, to smaller villages with more limited provision. Importantly, this classification is not a judgement on the value of any place; every settlement is vital to the people who live and work there.
- 1.10 The purpose of this assessment is to:
- Establish a **settlement hierarchy** based on services, infrastructure, and functional role;
 - Provide an **up-to-date picture** of facilities and accessibility across Somerset;
 - Create an **evidence base** to identify gaps in provision and inform future development requirements.
- 1.11 By delivering these outputs, the study supports the formulation of a spatial strategy for the Local Plan, ensuring development needs are distributed in a

way that promotes a sustainable pattern of growth – focusing investment in the most accessible and well-served locations.

- 1.12 It is important to note that this assessment does **not** determine the capacity of individual settlements or set housing numbers. The overall scale and distribution of development will be established through the Local Plan policies, informed by this study and other evidence.

Previous classifications and methodologies

- 1.13 All four previous district councils have existing settlement hierarchies (with Somerset West and Taunton split into Taunton Deane and West Somerset hierarchies), adopted within the current Local Plans. However, each Council has a different description of their settlement classifications and a different methodology in determining the hierarchy.
- 1.14 Work had also been done on the Somerset West and Taunton Local Plan 2040 to create a new settlement hierarchy, which was not adopted, but this piece of work considers the recommendations that were made. South Somerset also produced a Local Plan Review Preferred Options Document, which reassessed the status of rural settlements to determine if they have the potential to be designated ‘Villages’ and have an identified level of growth in the Local Plan. The Preferred Options Document also proposed altering the number of services a settlement should contain if a limited level of development should be considered acceptable in Rural Settlements.

Area North (Sedgemoor)

- 1.15 The adopted settlement hierarchy as set out in Policy S2 in the Sedgemoor Local Plan (2011-2032)⁴, adopted in 2019, classified settlements as Principal Town, Market Town, Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4. All other settlements fall within the countryside, locations which are not considered sustainable locations for growth and are listed in the ‘Role and Function – 2016 Update’⁵.
- 1.16 For the existing Local Plan, part of the evidence base was a ‘Role and Function’ study (2015)⁶, with a subsequent update ‘Role and Function – 2016 Update’⁵, which fed into the Local Plan and reviewed the following criteria:
- The levels of services and facilities on offer in each settlement including the categories of community, connectivity, retail, employment, sports and recreation, healthcare, education and financial and professional services.
 - Proximity to district or strategic town or town neighbouring district.

⁴ Sedgemoor Local Plan 2011-2032 - [Sedgemoor Local Plan 2011-2032 Adoption Version](#)

⁵ Sedgemoor Role and Function Update (2016) - somersetcc.sharepoint.com/:b/s/SCCPublic/EQycpTewoyFGpqg00Inu-z0BAOckEitQkxAnfqu_GVnhDw?e=fnXaDt

⁶ Sedgemoor Role and Function study (2015) - somersetcc.sharepoint.com/:b/s/SCCPublic/EaLUchAIW1pPn09EOHMyOy8Bmfe3ZrsCoi_EullcosvbMQ?e=Chc7da

- Access to public transport (bus and rail services).

Table 1 – Area North adopted settlement hierarchy

Current Classification	Settlement
Principal Town	Bridgwater
Market Town	Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge
Tier 1	Cheddar, North Petherton
Tier 2	Axbridge, Cannington, Nether Stowey, Puriton, Wedmore, Woolavington
Tier 3	Ashcott, Berrow, Brean, Brent Knoll, Combwich, East Brent & Rooksbridge, East Huntspill, Edington, Lympsham, Mark, Middlezoy, Pawlett, Shipham, Spaxton, Wembdon, West Huntspill, Westonzoyland
Tier 4	Bawdrip, Blackford, Catcott, Chedzoy, Chilton Polden, Cossington, North Newton, Othery, Shapwick, Weare and Lower Weare

Area East (Mendip)

- 1.17 The currently adopted settlement hierarchy for the former Mendip area is set out in Core Policy 1 of the Mendip Local Plan Part 1 (2006-2029)⁷, adopted in 2014. This classifies settlements as Market Town, Primary Village and Secondary Village. All development in other villages and hamlets must accord with the provisions set out in Core Policy 4. The other villages and hamlets are listed in the Key Services and Facilities in Mendip Villages (2017)⁸ and 'Mendip District Rural Settlement Services and Facilities Study: Draft Village Profiles' (October 2022)⁹.
- 1.18 The former study fed into existing Local Plan for the Mendip area and reviewed the following criteria:
- Settlements included in the study as a Primary, Secondary or Other settlement had to have a population of more than 200 people.
 - Facilities such as a journey to work weekday bus that arrived before 9am and returned after 5pm to/from an employment centre e.g. one of the five Mendip towns or other major centre outside the District, shop that meets daily needs, village hall or meeting place (pub) and primary school.

⁷ Mendip Local Plan Part 1 - [Mendip Adopted Local Plan](#)

⁸ Key services and facilities in Mendip Villages – April 2017
somersetcc.sharepoint.com/:b/s/SCCPublic/Ef311oW418hJmbklqAHza1IBy5x6bVHy11N3sWtIK8dksA?e=8SMBfm

⁹ Mendip District Rural Settlement Services and Facilities Study: Draft Village Profiles (October 2022)
somersetcc.sharepoint.com/:b/s/SCCPublic/EULyU3tnq5JJvk6BXdeoELwBpVEYCKUh5B7L5YQoXAJGEQ?e=AW1PJh

Table 2 – Area East adopted settlement hierarchy

Current Classification	Settlement
Market Town	Frome, Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet, Street, Wells
Primary Village	Baltonsborough, Beckington, Butleigh, Chewton Mendip, Chilcompton, Coleford, Croscombe, Ditcheat, Draycott, Evercreech, Mells, Norton St Philip, Nunney, Rode, Stoke St Michael, Westbury Sub Mendip
Secondary Village	Binegar & Gurney Slade, Coxley, Doultling, Faulkland, Holcombe, Kilmersdon, The Lydfords, Meare / Westhay, Oakhill, Walton, West Pennard, Wookey, Wookey Hole

1.19 The ‘Mendip District Rural Settlement Services and Facilities Study: Draft Village Profiles’ (October 2022)⁹ also looks in more detail at all Mendip’s rural settlements i.e. Primary, Secondary and Other settlements. It provides an update to the services and facilities on offer for all rural villages. The study does not change the adopted classification of Primary and Secondary Villages set out in the Local Plan Part 1. However, it helps to inform the evidence base for developing a new settlement hierarchy for Somerset. The study reviewed the following settlement characteristics:

- Number of dwellings within the settlement.
- Environmental sensitivities, designations and constraints.
- Connectivity via proximity to nearest big town, broadband and mobile services, and bus services and routes.
- Community facilities such as schools, healthcare, financial services, meeting spaces, sports facilities, shops and others.

Area South (South Somerset)

1.20 The settlement hierarchy for South Somerset is set out in Policy SS1 of the South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028)¹⁰, adopted in 2015. This classifies the settlements within this former district area as Principal Town, Primary Market Towns, Local Market Towns and Rural Centres. The remaining settlements are considered Rural Settlements, part of the countryside, subject to exceptions identified in Policy SS2. This sets out that Rural Settlements that offer a range of (i.e. two or more) of the following services, or that provide these within a cluster of settlements, are suitable for housing development:

- Local convenience store / post office
- Primary School
- Health Centre
- Village hall, community centre or faith facility with a community meeting space
- Children’s play area

¹⁰ South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028) - [South Somerset Local Plan 2006 - 2028](#)

1.21 The South Somerset Role and Function Study (2009)¹¹ sets out the methodology that underpins the settlement hierarchy in the adopted Local Plan. The criteria for determining the classifications included analysis on employment, housing, retail, community facilities and travel.

Table 3 – Area South adopted settlement hierarchy

Current Classification	Settlement
Strategically Significant Town	Yeovil
Primary Market Town	Chard, Crewkerne, Ilminster, Wincanton (inc. Bayford)
Local Market Town	Ansford & Castle Cary, Langport & Huish Episcopi, Somerton
Rural Centre	Bruton & Pitcombe, Ilchester, Martock & Bower Hinton, Milborne Port, South Petherton, Stoke sub Hamdon
Rural Settlements (set out under Policy SS2) – housing development only permitted in Rural Settlements that have access to two or more key services (para 5.41). ¹⁰	Not specifically identified in the Local Plan.

1.22 As part of a Local Plan Review, the former district council carried out an assessment of ‘Rural Settlements’ in 2018 to determine if any had the potential to be designated villages, due to higher housing delivery in these smaller settlements than what was anticipated. These recommendations and the preferred option from the Local Plan Review feeds into an updated Settlement Role and Function Study (2021)¹². It should be noted, that the (abandoned) South Somerset Local Plan Review proposed in the Preferred Options Consultation¹³ to redefine Yeovil from ‘Strategically Significant Town’ to ‘Principal Town’ and define a new tier of 12 ‘Village’ settlements, with Stoke sub Hamdon due to move from the list of Rural Centres into this new tier:

- Abbas & Templecombe
- Broadway & Horton
- Charlton Adam & Charlton Mackrell
- Combe St Nicholas
- Curry Rivel
- Henstridge
- Keinton Mandeville
- North Cadbury
- Queen Camel

¹¹ South Somerset Role and Function Study (2009) - [SSDC - Settlement Role and Function Study \(Apr 2009\)](#)

¹² South Somerset Role and Function Study (2021) - [SSDC - Settlement Role and Function Study \(2021\)](#)

¹³ South Somerset District Council (2019) South Somerset Local Plan Review 2016-2036 Preferred Options Consultation, available at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/south-somerset-local-plan-2020-to-2040/>

- Sparkford
 - Stoke sub Hamdon
 - Tatworth
- 1.23 This sets out that development through a new Policy SS4 should only be located in those Rural Settlements that have at least four out of six services. Those that do are regarded as a qualifying Rural Settlement. Settlements that did not qualify were excluded from the new Settlement Role and Function study as it was considered it is unlikely they would play a wider role in the surrounding area. The study sets out that it is not realistic to expect a small hamlet with few services to be made a more sustainable location through new development, as a significant quantum of development would be required, which would impact on the character of the settlement, and would not be considered sustainable development or good placemaking.
- 1.24 Therefore a number of Villages and preferred option Rural Settlements were suggested, included in the 2021 study where Built Up Area (BUA) data allowed. The methodology for this followed, similarly, the 2009 study:
- Settlement size
 - Housing
 - Economic role
 - Town centre roles and community facilities
 - Accessibility
 - Constraints

Area West (Taunton Deane)

- 1.25 The hierarchy for the former Taunton Deane area is set out in the Settlement Strategy in Policy SP1 of the Adopted Core Strategy 2011-2028¹⁴, adopted in 2012. The settlements are classified as Strategic Urban Area, Market Town, Major Rural Centres, Minor Rural Centres and Villages. The bulk of growth outside Taunton is directed to the Market Town of Wellington and Major Rural Centres to take advantage of employment and service opportunities available in these settlements; minimise the infrastructure investment required across the district; and increase the level of self-containment. There is no settlement role and function study for the former Taunton Deane area, however; a Structure Plan¹⁵ was undertaken for the Taunton Deane Borough Council Local Plan (2004), which was carried over to the Adopted Core Strategy. This set out that settlements were classified into a hierarchy based on size, location, level of services and employment and sustainable transport.

¹⁴ Taunton Deane Borough Council Adopted Core Strategy (2011-2028) - [SWT - Taunton Core Strategy 2011-2028](#)

¹⁵ Somerset and Exmoor National Park Joint Structure Plan Review – Adopted April 2000

Table 4 – Area West (Taunton Deane) adopted settlement hierarchy

Current Classification	Settlement
Strategic Urban Area	Taunton
Market Town	Wellington
Major Rural Centre	Bishop's Lydeard, Wiveliscombe
Minor Rural Centre	Churchinford, Cotford St Luke, Creech St Michael, Milverton, North Curry
Village	Ashbrittle, Ash Priors, Bishopswood, Blagdon Hill, Bradford-on-Tone, Burrowbridge, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Combe Florey, Corfe, Fitzhead, Halse, Hatch Beauchamp, Henlade, Kingston St Mary, Langford Budville, Lydeard St Lawrence, Nynehead, Oake, Pitminster, Ruishton, Sampford Arundel, Stoke St Gregory, Stoke St Mary, West Bagborough, West Buckland, West Monkton

Area West (West Somerset)

- 1.26 For the West Somerset area, the settlement hierarchy is set out in Policy SC1 of the West Somerset Local Plan (2032)¹⁶, adopted 2016. New development will be concentrated within the Main Centre and Rural Service Centres. Limited development will be considered in the primary villages, and development is to be permitted in the secondary villages where it can be demonstrated to contribute to wider sustainability benefits.
- 1.27 Development within 50 metres to the contiguous built-up areas of all the settlements will only be considered for reasons such as that it is well-related to existing essential services and that there is safe and easy pedestrian access to the essential services. Development in land not adjacent or in close proximity to the listed settlements will be considered 'open countryside' and may only be permitted if it is considered beneficial for the community and local economy and a number of other circumstances. There is no adopted settlement role and function study for the former West Somerset area; however, the Structure Plan¹⁵ also fed into the settlement hierarchy for the West Somerset Local Plan. This set out that settlements were classified into a hierarchy based on size, location, level of services and employment and sustainable transport.

Table 5 – Area West (West Somerset) adopted settlement hierarchy

Current Classification	Settlement
Main Centre	Minehead & Alcombe
Rural Service Centre	Watchet, Williton

¹⁶ West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 - [SWT - West Somerset Local Plan](#)

Primary Village	Bicknoller, Carhampton, Crowcombe, Kilve, Stogumber, Stogursey, Washford, West Quantoxhead
Secondary Village	Battleton, Brompton Ralph, Brushford, Dunster Marsh, Holford

Area West (Somerset West and Taunton)

1.28 As part of the originally planned Local Plan 2040 for the Somerset West and Taunton District Council¹⁷, a joint settlement hierarchy was proposed, combining the Taunton Deane and West Somerset settlement hierarchies. This was set out in the associated Issues and Options Study Consultation (Topic Paper 1)¹⁸. This looked to provide a new coherent, combined hierarchy for the area. However, it was early in development and noted as being based on very high level assessment, to be supplemented by further work on the role and function of settlements. The proposed hierarchy extended to seven tiers as follows:

1. Strategic Growth Garden Town – Taunton
2. Sub-strategic Town – Wellington
3. Coastal Town – Minehead/Alcombe
4. Rural Centres – Bishop’s Lydeard, Watchet, Williton, Wiveliscombe
5. Minor Rural Centres – Bicknoller, Carhampton, Churchinford, Cotford St Luke, Creech St Michael, Crowcombe, Kilve, Milverton, North Curry, Stogumber, Stogursey, West Quantoxhead, Washford
6. Villages – Ashbrittle, Ash Priors, Battleton, Bishopswood, Blagdon Hill, Bradford-on-Tone, Brompton Ralph, Brushford, Burrowbridge, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Combe Florey, Corfe, Dunster Marsh, Fitzhead, Halse, Hatch Beauchamp, Henlade, Holford, Kingston St Mary, Langford Budville, Lydeard St Lawrence, Nynehead, Oake, Pitminster, Ruishton, Sampford Arundel, Stoke St Gregory, West Bagborough, West Buckland, West Monkton
7. Other smaller settlements and communities – not listed

1.29 The assessment considered factors that were thought to contribute to the sustainability of the settlement such as:

- Population and household estimates
- Housing delivery rates, and completion/housing market assessment data
- Housing land availability (land supply)
- Proximity to higher tier settlements
- Community services and facilities including education, sports, leisure and recreation, arts and cultural offer, healthcare and retail
- Public transport services

¹⁷ Somerset West and Taunton Local Plan 2040 - [Somerset West and Taunton Local Plan 2040](#)

¹⁸ Somerset West and Taunton Local Plan 2040 Issues and Options Topic Paper 1 - [issues-and-options-topic-paper-1](#)

- Environmental protections, opportunities and constraints
- Heritage assets and historic environment.

1.30 A number of suggestions for improvement were fed back as comments on the proposed settlement hierarchy during consultation on the Somerset West and Taunton Local Plan Issues and Options Report¹⁷ which have been noted within this Study as considerations. Some of these suggestions included:

- Should be fewer tiers, and tiers should be simplified.
- Work needed to define the sustainability of settlements in close proximity to larger settlements.
- Consideration on pressures of road network and local services.

Understanding the current hierarchies

1.31 Figure 1 shows the current settlement hierarchies for each former district Council area, as they are in the current Local Plans, though this takes account of the proposed settlement hierarchy within the (abandoned) South Somerset Local Plan review. There is some alignment though not neat or absolute.

Table 6 – Combined adopted settlement hierarchies (indicative)

Taunton Deane Core Strategy	West Somerset Local Plan	South Somerset Local Plan	Sedgemoor Local Plan	Mendip Local Plan Part I
Strategic Urban Area	Main Centre	Principal Town	Principal Settlement	Market Towns
Market Town		Primary Market Towns	Market Towns	
Major Rural Centres	Rural Service Centres	Local Market Towns	Tier 1	
Minor Rural Centres		Rural Centres	Tier 2	
Villages	Primary Villages	Rural Settlements (2 or more specific services)	Tier 3	
	Secondary Villages		Tier 4	Secondary Villages
Open Countryside	Countryside (other smaller settlements)	Open Countryside - Rural settlements fewer than 2 specific services	Countryside	"Unclassified"

Somerset Combined Adopted Settlement Hierarchies Map

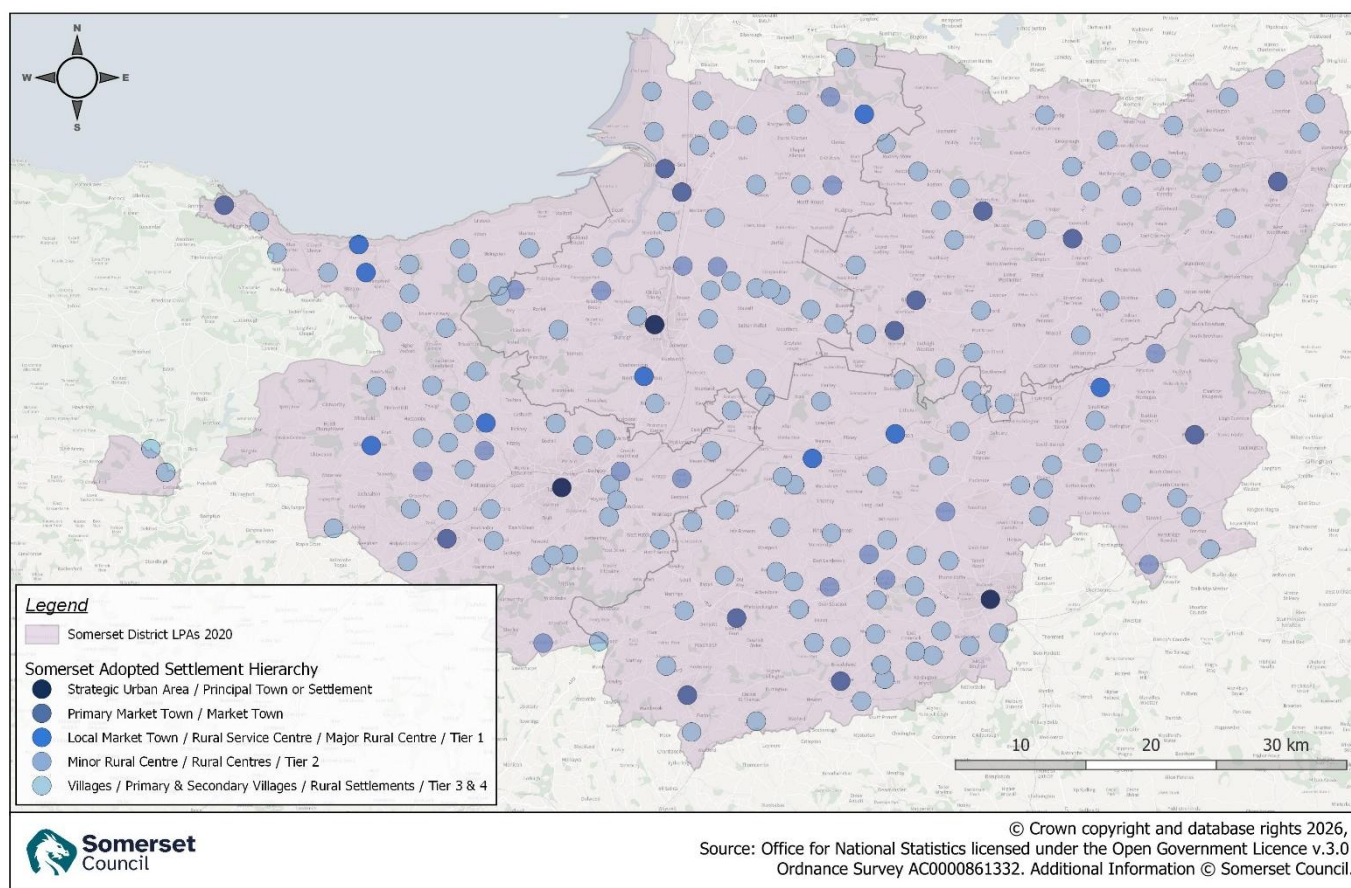


Figure 1 – Adopted settlement hierarchy across Somerset

- 1.32 Figure 1 shows that the adopted settlement hierarchies for Taunton Deane, South Somerset and Sedgemoor currently respond to the fact there is a clear principal town function within the area. West Somerset and Mendip hierarchies respond to the fact they do not have a principal town/settlement or urban area and are reliant on a single main centre or collection of market towns. The former Mendip area is also missing a small market town/major rural centre type definition, which exists across the other areas – potentially because of the more distributed top tier of market towns negating this as a necessary role and function in the former Mendip area.
- 1.33 Now that we are planning across four former district areas (with five adopted settlement hierarchies), this settlement role and function study has reviewed the data for settlement size, employment, services and facilities, accessibility and connectivity in all settlements in Somerset and proposes a new hierarchy with numbered tiers (see Section 7). Our approach uses a wider range of indicators and datasets than those that have been used to inform the currently adopted Local Plans. This has been done to improve our assessment of the relative sustainability of our settlements.

Considerations for the new methodology

- 1.34 From previous settlement role and function iterations and Local Plan reviews (SWT Local Plan Issues and Options Report¹⁷ and South Somerset Local Plan Review¹³), a number of suggestions that came through the consultation have been fed into the methodology of this study including:
- Simplifying/minimising the number of tiers.
 - Ensuring development in rural settlements is sustainable by reducing the need to travel (for a settlement to be classified as a rural settlement it must have 4 out of the 6 key community facilities).
 - Consideration of settlements in close proximity to larger settlements.
 - Considering the level of development within the same tier and that there may be possible variations.
- 1.35 In consideration of these responses, an update of this study is necessary to evaluate the role and function of the settlements with the intention of underpinning the proposed spatial strategy to go forward into the new Local Plan. It will also look more closely at potential constraints to development.

2. Methodology

Identifying the settlements included in the Study

- 2.1 To establish a list of settlements to undertake an assessment on we first identified all the settlements within the current Local Plan settlement hierarchies. We also added in all rural settlements that had been identified within settlement hierarchy evidence base work. For example, this included:
- Sedgemoor = Role and Function Study⁵
 - Mendip = Mendip Village Study⁹
 - South Somerset = Settlement Role and Function Study¹²
 - Somerset West and Taunton = Rural Settlements List¹⁹
- 2.2 We also gathered a list of settlements in Somerset that had an associated Built Up Area (BUA) classification²⁰. Any BUA that was primarily an employment area was excluded as we considered these not to serve the purpose and scope of this study, which is looking at settlements with a large residential element to determine a settlement hierarchy (see Appendix 2). Then, on the basis of sustainable development, using the proposed Policy SS4 as part of the South Somerset Local Plan review, all settlements were assessed as to whether they had 4 out of the 6 key community facilities i.e. local convenience shop/post office, pub, children’s play area, village hall or meeting space including faith facility, health centre and primary school.
- 2.3 Then the following approach was taken, any settlement that did not have a BUA designation must have four out of these six local services. Where a settlement did have a BUA designation they must have at least two out of these six services²¹. There were a few exceptions whereby settlements that were previously identified within one of the current Local Plans and were situated in very close proximity to another settlement in one of the top tiers was included such as Edithmead. Any settlement that did not meet this criteria was, therefore, excluded from the Study. Any settlement that did not have 4 out of the 6 key facilities and did not have an associated BUA classification was, therefore, excluded from the Study.
- 2.4 This meant that some settlements that were previously identified in the current Local Plans have now been excluded and some additional settlements have been brought in (see Table 25 and Appendix 3 for where this applies).

¹⁹ List of Tier 7 ‘other smaller settlements, Appendix C to Somerset West and Taunton Local Plan 2040

²⁰ ‘Built-Up Area’ (BUA) – an Ordnance Survey designation that represents the built up areas across Great Britain. Geographically based on the physical built environment of a settlement - [OS Open Built Up Areas - data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk)

²¹ Note that this does not mean that because a settlement has a BUA designation that it is more appropriate for development or that it has been given an advantage. All the identified settlements are assessed on the same basis, against the same factors, in terms of determining their position within the settlement hierarchy.

Following this approach we identified 176 settlements across Somerset ranging from the principal settlements down to smaller settlements currently considered to be within open countryside. Some of these settlements have been merged depending on proximity and function, as set out in Table 7. Looking at BUA boundaries (for 2022) and the approach in the current Local Plans and where available, the existing Settlement Role and Function Studies, enabled us to decide whether or not to merge, or keep separate, certain settlements. However, in some instances, the data available under LSOA or OA level meant some settlements had automatically been combined.

Table 7 – Merged settlements in this Study

Merged settlements and/or LSOAs/OAs encompassing multiple settlements	Reason	Settlement known as for this study
Taunton with Bathpool, Monkton Heathfield, Staplegrove, Trull, Comeytrove, Bishops Hull, Norton Fitzwarren	<i>Policy SP1 of the TDBC Core Strategy treats all the following as the Taunton Urban Area – Bathpool, Bishops Hull, Monkton Heathfield, Norton Fitzwarren, Staplegrove, Staplehay and Trull. Therefore, the outer neighbourhoods/villages of Taunton have been combined into one to give a more accurate reflection of the town – despite having separate BUA boundaries. All these neighbourhoods share the services of Taunton and functionally closely on a local level.</i>	<i>Taunton</i>
Bridgwater with Wembdon, Compass, Dunball/ Downend, and Huntworth	<i>For the purposes of this study, Wembdon has been considered as part of Bridgwater considering the share of services and how it functions locally. Downend has been previously considered with Puriton, however, it does not appear to be closely linked in terms of walking and cycling, though we recognise that this it to be improved with the Gravity development with improved links from Puriton to Downend across the M5 from the Gravity site. Therefore, it was deemed logical to extend the Bridgwater boundary to include the Dunball employment sites, which includes Downend where data is available. Compass (which has a separate BUA) is also included under Bridgwater as it is within Bridgwater settlement boundary and acts as an employment destination for the town. The OA covering Compass also covers Huntworth.</i>	<i>Bridgwater</i>
Highbridge, Burnham-On-Sea and Alstone	<i>No advantages seen in splitting the two towns in the Study. Both function closely together. LSOAs over Highbridge also cover Alstone (as does the BUA), so this has been considered together as one with Highbridge & Burnham-on-Sea.</i>	<i>Highbridge & Burnham</i>
Wellington, Rockwell Green and Chelston	<i>Settlements have been merged to form one 'Wellington' for the purposes of the Study (despite having separate BUAs) considering the share of services and close function. Policy SP1</i>	<i>Wellington</i>

Merged settlements and/or LSOAs/OAs encompassing multiple settlements	Reason	Settlement known as for this study
	<i>of the TDBC Core Strategy also treats Rockwell Green and Westford as part of Wellington. Chelston is mentioned under the Vision for Wellington, which is under Policy SP3.</i>	
Minehead & Alcombe	<i>Have historically been considered together and share a BUA. Therefore, with their close function and share of services considered as one.</i>	Minehead & Alcombe
Wincanton & Bayford	<i>BUA boundary (and LSOA/OA boundaries) includes Wincanton and Bayford both of which have therefore been considered as one considering their joint function. Historically they have also been considered together.</i>	Wincanton
Langport & Huish Episcopi	<i>BUA (and LSOA/OA) boundary includes Langport and Huish Episcopi both of which have therefore been considered as one for the purposes of this study considering their joint function. They have also been considered together historically (in SSDC Local Plan).</i>	Langport
Ansford and Castle Cary	<i>BUA (and LSOA/OA) boundary includes Ansford and Castle Cary, both of which have been considered as one within this study. Also, they have historically been considered together.</i>	Ansford & Castle Cary
Bruton & Pitcombe	<i>BUA (and therefore used LSOA/OAs) boundary includes Bruton and Pitcombe, both of which therefore have been considered as one for the purposes of this study.</i>	Bruton & Pitcombe
Martock and Bower Hinton	<i>BUA boundary (and therefore used OAs) includes Martock and Bower Hinton, both of which therefore have been considered as one for the purposes of this study.</i>	Martock
Berrow and Brean	<i>Factors that have led us to combine Berrow and Brean in this Study: Berrow and Brean share a BUA (continuous built form) and are situated very close together. Residents in Brean are likely to use some of the services in Berrow. They are linked by the Coast Road, which terminates at Brean. We also need to consider the role of Brean in providing accommodation for Hinkley workers (for example) such as that at Brean Sands. Factors that might mean we separate Berrow and Brean in this Study: Looking at Berrow in isolation it has around the core/broad provision of local services, but only a limited bus service, but it benefits from the proximity to Burnham-On-Sea. Brean, has very few local facilities including only a pub and food shop, without a primary school, which would mean it would be categorised as Open</i>	Berrow & Brean

Merged settlements and/or LSOAs/ OAs encompassing multiple settlements	Reason	Settlement known as for this study
	<i>Countryside on its own. The public transport availability, looking at only Brean, is very limited. At this moment in time, we have considered Berrow and Brean as one settlement, using OA/LSOA boundaries that cover both.</i>	
Abbas and Templecombe	<i>LSOA boundary used includes Abbas Combe, Horsington and Templecombe (the BUA also combines Abbas & Templecombe).</i>	Abbas & Templecombe
Charlton Mackrell and Charlton Adam 'The Charltons'	<i>OAs used have been merged to form one settlement within the study considering the close proximity of the villages and their share of services (despite having two separate BUAs).</i>	Charlton Mackrell & Charlton Adam 'The Charltons'
Coxley, Upper Coxley and Coxley Wick	<i>OAs used have been merged to form one settlement within the study considering the close proximity of the villages and their share of services (despite having two separate BUAs).</i>	Coxley (with Upper Coxley and Coxley Wick) 'The Coxleys'
Catcott and Edington	<i>Merged OAs used to form one settlement for the purposes of this study, as the villages merge into each other and share services.</i>	Catcott and Edington
Mark and Mark Causeway	<i>Currently treated as one settlement, despite having two distinct settlement boundaries to resist ribbon development joining the places together. However, they share facilities so for the purposes of this study they have been combined as they function closely.</i>	Mark and Mark Causeway
Burton, East Coker and North Coker	<i>The BUA of 'Burton' covers North Coker but does not cover East Coker. However, North Coker and East Coker function closely together considering their close proximity and share of services. They have also been considered together historically. Therefore, the OAs used for this settlement cover both villages and have been joined together for this Study, known as North Coker & East Coker.</i>	North Coker & East Coker
Lydford-on-Fosse, West Lydford, East Lydford and Lydford Fair Place	<i>Lydford-on-Fosse, West Lydford and East Lydford have been considered as one settlement for the purposes of this study considering their close proximity and sharing of the services, which are accessible on foot.</i>	The Lydfords
Tatworth, Chard Junction, South Chard	<i>The BUA boundary includes Tatworth, South Chard and Chard Junction all of which, therefore, have been considered as one for the purposes of this study considering the share of services – using combined OAs to cover each area. They have also been considered together historically.</i>	Tatworth (inc. South Chard & Chard Junction)
Ruishton & Henlade	<i>Ruishton BUA boundary includes Henlade, therefore, using OA data for the Study, both villages have been considered as one due to their close proximity and share of local services.</i>	Ruishton inc. Henlade

Merged settlements and/or LSOAs/OAs encompassing multiple settlements	Reason	Settlement known as for this study
Combe St Nicholas and Wadeford	<i>Combe St Nicholas and Wadeford have separate BUA boundaries, however, given their close proximity and share of services have been considered as one for this study using OA data that combines the settlements together. They have also been considered together historically.</i>	<i>Combe St Nicholas inc. Wadeford</i>
Nunney & Nunney Catch	<i>Nunney BUA includes Nunney Catch therefore, using OA data, both villages have been considered as one for the purposes of this study due to their close proximity, share of services and pedestrian access.</i>	<i>Nunney and Nunney Catch</i>
Barwick and Stoford	<i>Barwick and Stoford share a BUA and therefore we were able to identify that they should be considered as one settlement for the Study, particularly considering their close proximity and share of services. They have also been considered together historically.</i>	<i>Barwick and Stoford</i>
Huntspill, West Huntspill	<i>The BUA of Huntspill does not cover West Huntspill but using OA data these two settlements have been combined considering their proximity and share of services.</i>	<i>Huntspill inc. West Huntspill</i>
Montacute, East Stoke	<i>Looking at Montacute BUA and Stoke Sub-Hamdon BUA as at 2022 both do not include the area of East Stoke. However, Montacute BUA covers the Hyde Road area (northern area of the village), which shares an OA with parts of East Stoke, therefore this area has been combined with Montacute for the purposes of this Study.</i>	<i>Montacute inc. East Stoke</i>
Horton and Broadway	<i>Horton and Broadway share a BUA and have therefore been considered as one settlement for the purposes of this study using OA data. They have also been considered together historically.</i>	<i>Horton and Broadway</i>
Compton Dundon and Dundon	<i>Compton Dundon and Dundon have been considered together for this study considering their close proximity and share of services. The Compton Dundon BUA doesn't include Dundon, but where data is available they have been considered as one settlement. They have also been considered together historically.</i>	<i>Compton Dundon and Dundon</i>
Binegar & Gurney Slade	<i>Gurney Slade BUA doesn't include Binegar, however, considering their close proximity and share of services, the OAs used cover both villages and therefore, they have been considered as one settlement for this Study.</i>	<i>Binegar and Gurney Slade</i>
Meare and Oxenpill	<i>Meare BUA encompasses Oxenpill, therefore using OA we have combined both villages and they are considered as one settlement for the purposes of this study, as they function in close proximity and share services.</i>	<i>Meare and Oxenpill</i>

Merged settlements and/or LSOAs/ OAs encompassing multiple settlements	Reason	Settlement known as for this study
Weare and Lower Weare	<i>Weare and Lower Weare have separate BUAs, but they have been considered together when using OA data considering their close proximity, pedestrian access and share of services.</i>	<i>Weare and Lower Weare</i>
Hillcommon, Oake	<i>Hillcommon BUA encompasses Oake, therefore, on this basis using OA data these settlements have been considered as one taking account of their close proximity, share of services and pedestrian access between the two villages.</i>	<i>Hillcommon inc. Oake</i>
Stoke St Gregory, Meare Green	<i>The BUA of Meare Green doesn't include Stoke St Gregory; however, they have been considered together in this study when using OA data due to their close proximity and share of local services particularly those available in Stoke St Gregory.</i>	<i>Stoke St Gregory inc. Meare Green</i>
Hardington Moor, Hardington Mandeville	<i>Hardington Mandeville BUA does not encompass Hardington Moor, however, considering their close proximity and share of services they have been considered as one using OA data for the purposes of this study. They have also been considered together historically.</i>	<i>Hardington Moor and Hardington Mandeville</i>
High Ham and Low Ham	<i>Villages have been considered together for the purposes of this Study as the OA boundaries for High Ham also cover Low Ham.</i>	<i>High Ham</i>
Long Sutton and Upton	<i>OAs also include Upton so both villages have been considered together for the purposes of this Study. The BUA for Long Sutton also includes areas of Upton (mainly southern).</i>	<i>Long Sutton</i>
Seavington St Michael and Seavington St Mary	<i>The OAs used in the Study for Seavington St Michael also cover Seavington St Mary. They have been considered together for this Study considering their share of services.</i>	<i>Seavington St Michael</i>
Spaxton and Four Forks	<i>The OAs used in the Study for Spaxton also cover Four Forks. The villages have been considered together for this Study especially with their close function and proximity.</i>	<i>Spaxton</i>
West Chinnock and Middle Chinnock	<i>The OAs used in the Study for West Chinnock also cover Middle Chinnock. The villages have been considered together especially with their close function and proximity.</i>	<i>West Chinnock</i>

2.5 Some settlements identified within the Built Up Areas (BUA) mapping were primarily employment destinations and have also been excluded as they do not fit the scope of the Study considering it is primarily looking at 'lived in' places. This is set out in more detail in Appendix 2.

Establishing the methodology (determining the criteria for assessment)

- 2.6 This study is desk-based, which refers to and analyses existing evidence and readily available data. The study covers 176 settlements across Somerset ranging from the principal settlements down to some settlements previous considered in open countryside, where data is available.
- 2.7 We pulled together some of the criteria that was used in the previous role and function studies (see Table 8) and other examples to identify the key topic areas we wanted to analyse in order to produce the settlement hierarchy. Somerset West and Taunton is excluded from Table 8 as there is not a Settlement Role and Function Study for these areas (rather the Structure Plan). The data included in this new Study did depend on its availability across the former district council areas, as each Council had been in some instances collecting different data or monitoring things in different ways.
- 2.8 As part of the Local Plan early engagement in October 2024, we held an Officers' Workshop, which set out the draft methodology for settlement assessment. Similarly to the existing and more recently adopted settlement role and function study for South Somerset, the draft methodology focused on four main criteria:
- Settlement size and growth, population and demography.
 - Employment role and economic activity.
 - Access to (and provision of) retail and community services and facilities.
 - Sustainable accessibility and connectivity
 - Development constraints/environmental considerations.
- 2.9 The study has undertaken statistical analysis within five main topic areas, with the aim of producing a profile of the settlements, identifying their main roles, how they function and how this might change in the future:

Table 8 – The chapters in this Study compared to previous role and function studies within Somerset and key examples looked at

Population and settlement size: <i>Important to understand what level of services and growth the population can support, how it fits into the wider hierarchy, and it reveals local demand and future needs.</i>	SDC	MDC	SSDC	Other examples looked at	SC
Providing an indication of the scale of each settlement and where it lies within a Council-wide 'hierarchy'	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
Analysis of the demographic characteristics of each settlement	x	x	x	x	✓
Analysis of predicted population projection for each settlement	x	x	✓	x	✓
Analysis of housing supply (dwelling numbers)	x	✓	✓	✓	✓

Employment role: <i>The scale and location of existing employment provision and concentrations of economically active people has a strong bearing on the sustainability of settlements.</i>	SDC	MDC	SSDC	Other examples looked at	SC
Identifying settlements with a strong employment role in terms of the number of jobs provided locally	x	x	✓ (yes, but not discussed)	✓	✓
Level of economic activity and size of working-age population in each settlement	x	x	✓	✓	✓
Identifying which settlements are net importers of workers and which are net exporters: which settlements are 'dormitory'?	x	x	x	✓	✓
Employment density: number of jobs to workers by settlement	x	x	✓	x	✓
Services and facilities, connectivity and accessibility: <i>Self-containment is a key sustainability consideration with regard to settlement role and function. Settlements which offer people the opportunity to live and work close together, and which provide the best access to vital services and facilities, operate in the most sustainable way.</i>	SDC	MDC	SSDC	Other examples looked at	SC
Identification of the location, scale and diversity of community facilities and services, including retail, and broadband connectivity in each settlement	✓	✓	✓ (not broadband)	✓	✓
Identify those settlements with a 'strategic' role in providing services and facilities, including retail, to communities across Somerset and those with a more limited 'local' role	x	x	✓ (to some extent in definitions)	✓	✓
Analysis of travel-to-work patterns, both for working residents and for those commuting into Somerset	x	x	✓	✓	✓
Assessment of the accessibility to key services and facilities using sustainable modes and looking at travel times both within settlements and proximity to neighbouring settlements including employment, community facilities, public transport stops/stations.	✓	✓ (only partly)	✓ (only partly)	✓	✓
Development constraints <i>Understanding high level environmental constraints to development helps identify an areas' capacity to absorb the impact of built form.</i>	SDC	MDC	SSDC	Other examples looked at	SC
High-level identification and analysis of key environmental constraints to development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International wildlife designations (SAC/SPA/Ramsar) • SSSI – Sites of Special Scientific interest • Local Wildlife Sites • Flood Zones 2,3,3b • Conservation Areas • Historic Parks and Gardens • Scheduled Monuments • National Landscapes 	x	✓	✓	x	✓

- 2.10 Much of the data in this Study is presented in tabular form. Most of these tables have a common format, either presenting the figures for each settlement in a colour-coded ranking of highest-to-lowest or best-to-worst. The 'legends' shown below set out the format of the Study.

Table 9 - Key to Tables throughout the Study

	Band 1 / 'Highest' category / Largest / Fully Comprehensive (weighting = 6)
	Band 2 / 'Upper' category / Very Large / Substantial (weighting = 5)
	Band 3 / 'Upper centre' category / Large / Broad (weighting = 4)
	Band 4 / 'Central' category / Medium-Large / Core (weighting = 3)
	Band 5 / 'Lower centre' category / Medium / Minimal (weighting = 2)
	Band 6 / 'Lower' category / Small / Limited (weighting = 1)
	Band 7 / 'Lowest' category / Very Small / None (weighting = 0)

Producing the settlement hierarchy

- 2.11 Using Table 9 to help 'rank' or 'classify' each settlement based on the four key themes of (1) settlement size (population), (2) employment role, (3) community services and facilities provision both strategic role and local role, and (4) sustainable accessibility and connectivity settlements are listed in order of their total score (see Table 24). The chapter 'A Matrix for Somerset' summarises each of these key themes, the data analysed within these and how and where the scores have been applied in order to produce a final score for each of the settlements (see 'settlement hierarchy at 4.11). However, to summarise, a weighting has been applied based on a settlements' respective ranking (see Table 9), which was then summed and multiplied by 2.
- 2.12 Based on these results, the settlements were then listed in order of their total score from highest to lowest. The settlements with similar scores have been grouped together to form a 'tier'. There tended to be larger gaps between the settlements at the higher end of the total scores, which allowed us to clearly determine where a tier boundary should fall. However, this was more challenging for settlements on the lower end. Therefore, we have conducted some analysis to determine the typical characteristics for each of the remaining tiers based on the four key themes. This allowed us to define the boundaries of each of the tiers into a best fit.
- 2.13 For the services and facilities scoring, it is important to note here that we have not considered the quantity of services and facilities rather whether a settlement purely has that service or facility or not. Also, the overall score of a settlement is not solely based on its provision services and facilities (as long as a settlement meets the four out of six criterion including a primary school) and a settlements' overall score also looks at the other three factors i.e. settlement size (population), level of employment, and sustainable accessibility. It may therefore be that while a settlement in Tier 4, for example,

ranks higher or the same as than one in Tier 3b for the services element, the scores for the other themes differ, therefore resulting in a lower score overall.

- 2.14 Tier 1: Scores 51-60 – features tend to look like largest or very large settlements with a Band 1 or 2 employment role, with a fully comprehensive or substantial strategic role and fully comprehensive local role. Accessibility and connectivity is either the highest ranking or upper ranking. This scoring range captures the previously designated strategic urban areas and principal towns. Possible scenarios for a Tier 1 settlement include the following:

Table 10 – Typical classifications/rankings for settlements in Tier 1

Population classification	Employment role	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role	Services and facilities classification: Local role	Accessibility / connectivity classification
LARGEST / VERY LARGE	BAND 1 / BAND 2	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE / SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	HIGHEST (1) / UPPER (2)

- 2.15 Tier 2: Scores 38-50 – features tend to look like large or medium-large sized settlements with a Band 3 or 4 employment role, with a substantial or broad strategic role and fully comprehensive local role (with the exception of Glastonbury that has a substantial role for both, therefore scoring the same as settlements with a broad strategic role and fully comprehensive local role), the overall accessibility and connectivity score sits within the ranking upper-centre (Band 3) or central (Band 4). This scoring range tended to capture most settlements previously designated as towns or primary market towns.

Table 11 – Typical classifications/rankings for settlements in Tier 2

Population classification	Employment role	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role	Services and facilities classification: Local role	Accessibility / connectivity classification
LARGE / MEDIUM-LARGE	BAND 3 / BAND 4	SUBSTANTIAL / BROAD	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE / SUBSTANTIAL	UPPER-CENTRE (3) / CENTRAL (4)

- 2.16 Tier 3a: Scores 28-37 – features of these settlements tend to look like medium large or medium sized settlements with a Band 4 employment role ranking. They tend to have a core strategic role, though some settlements have a broad with a fully comprehensive local role and a lower accessibility ranking; whereas the medium sized settlements have either a broad or minimal strategic role with a fully comprehensive or substantial local role and either a central or lower accessibility ranking. The scoring range tended to capture those previously designated as local market towns with a few exceptions such as for a primary market town and rural centre.

Table 12 – Typical classifications/rankings for settlements in Tier 3a

Population classification	Employment role	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role	Services and facilities classification: Local role	Accessibility / connectivity classification
MEDIUM-LARGE / MEDIUM	BAND 4	BROAD / CORE / MINIMAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE / SUBSTANTIAL	CENTRAL (4) - LOWER (6)

2.17 Tier 3b: Scores 20-27 – this tier features settlements that are of medium or small sized, Band 4 or 5 for employment role, have a core to none ranking for its strategic role, and fully comprehensive to core local role. These settlements must have at least a core local role (4/6 local services including a primary school). Accessibility and connectivity is ranked within the central category to lowest category. This score band tends to capture previously designated rural centres and rural service centres.

Table 13 – Typical classifications/rankings for settlements in Tier 3b

Population classification	Employment role	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role	Services and facilities classification: Local role	Accessibility / connectivity classification
MEDIUM / SMALL	BAND 4 / BAND 5	CORE / MINIMAL / NONE	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE / SUBSTANTIAL / BROAD / CORE	CENTRAL (4) - LOWER (6)

2.18 Tier 4 settlements: Scores <20 – must have 4//6 key services including a primary school. Differ to Tier 3b. Medium to very small settlements. Band 5 to 7 for employment. Minimal or no strategic role. substantial to core local role. variation for accessibility from upper centre to lowest. The higher of Tier 4 settlements tended to differ from Tier 3b on the lower end due to a worse provision of sustainable accessibility or a lower employment role.

Table 14 – Typical classifications/rankings for settlements in Tier 4

Population classification	Employment role	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role	Services and facilities classification: Local role	Accessibility / connectivity classification
MEDIUM / SMALL	BAND 5 - 7	MINIMAL / NONE	SUBSTANTIAL / BROAD / CORE	UPPER-CENTRE (3) / LOWEST (7)

2.19 Open countryside settlements: these settlements have varying scores, but in principle they do not have four out of six of the key community facilities including a primary school. These settlements tend to be small or very small and rank within the lower categories for employment role, services and facilities and accessibility. However, because of the lack of access to services and facilities, these settlements have not been identified as having a suitable role to be considered within a 'tier' the hierarchy. A significant quantum of new development would be required in order to provide these services, and this would significantly alter the character of such settlements, which would not be appropriate. As a result, they have been considered as open countryside within the new settlement hierarchy. This approach is in line with our Local Transport Plan (LTP) and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which sets out aims around reducing the need to travel.

How did we come up with the tiers?

2.20 Based on the feedback received from the SWT Local Plan Issues and Options Document and South Somerset Local Plan Review; in order to establish the settlement hierarchy and the 'tiers' a number of considerations have been factored into the methodology (see 1.34) .

- Keeping the number and names of tiers simple – we propose a Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4 of settlements keeping ‘Tier’ and defining the tiers based on the typical rankings (functions) and features of the settlements rather than ‘principal town’ or ‘market town’ for example.
- Reflecting the need for a core number of local community facilities within smaller settlements. Based on the approach from South Somerset’s Local Plan Review we have built on the proposed criteria that was proposed. Therefore, for settlements to be considered within the hierarchy they must have four out of six of the following: GP surgery, primary school, food shop/post office, pub/restaurant/café, village hall or meeting space and a children’s play area. One of these facilities must include a primary school considering the regularity of trips to this facility, than the other services identified for many people, and the need to consider home-to-school travel availability. We considered that schools are important facilities that reduce the need to travel, encouraging a behaviour shift early on, and strongly support the vitality of the local community. Finally, we have expanded the ‘pub’ facility to include a cafe or restaurant considering their opportunity to provide spaces to meet up.
- Recognising the variation within the tiers – this was particularly the case for Tier 3, which contains a total of 23 settlements and include some degree of variation. Therefore, we have proposed the option of creating sub-groups within Tier 3. We thought it sensible to sub-divide Tier 3 settlements into Tier 3a and Tier 3b to recognise such variation, but also keeping the number of Tiers to a minimum.

2.21 Tiers 1 and 2 were easier to determine considering the higher scoring settlements had a greater variation in their scores, with a smaller number of settlements ranking on the higher end and we also considered their previous designations. Tier 4 was also relatively simple as we had the 4 out of 6 local services including a primary school criteria as a basis and settlements in this tier tend to sit either on or ever so slightly above this provision. Where they were above, the settlements ranked lower for the other factors and therefore sat on par with the other Tier 4 settlements. However, the settlements sitting around the Tier 3 level had a large amount of variation in their scores, with differing rankings for their size, employment, services and facilities and accessibility, therefore, setting out the need to distinguish and sub-divide.

2.22 We then looked at the key features of settlements scoring on the higher end of Tier 3. These settlements were a mix of medium-large or medium sized and ranking in Band 4 for employment (1000+ jobs). The towns tended to have a core or broad range of strategic facilities e.g. secondary school or supermarket or were situated in close proximity to Tier 1 settlements with a wider variety of these services (while still having a substantial range of their

own local services). The settlements have a reasonably good level of accessibility with access to a railway station within 5km or with the opportunity for sustainable accessibility improvements considering their location along major transport corridors.

- 2.23 Settlements on the lower end of Tier 3b were medium to small sized, with the majority having fewer than 1000 local jobs. These settlements typically had minimal or no strategic facilities but still had a good range of local facilities (more than Tier 4 settlements in most cases) though are more reliant on higher tier settlements than perhaps those in Tier 3a. However, for the most part accessibility scores on the lower end. Certainly there are anomalies for some factors within both of these sub-groups though overall, both Tier 3a and Tier 3b settlements offer key local facilities. Tier 3a settlements offer a slightly broader range with strategic facilities and/or have greater accessibility to these elsewhere in comparison to those in Tier 3b.

Data and evidence sources

- 2.24 The data used for this desk-based analysis came from a variety of sources, including:

- National statistics, in particular Census data from 2021 (and 2011 for travel to work purposes). Sourced from Office of National Statistics (ONS) and NOMIS (which provides official labour market statistics).
- Feedback from City, Town and Parish Councils.
- The Council's own evidence base studies including:
 - Town Centre Health Check (2025)²²
 - Retail & Leisure Needs Assessment (RLNA) (2016)²³
 - Existing Settlement Role and Function Studies (see Section 1)
 - WSP Accessibility Tool Technical Note²⁴
 - Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA)²⁵

- 2.25 Statistics for each settlement have generally been aggregated from figures relating to 'Output Area' (OA) and 'Lower Super Output Areas' (LSOA) or 'Middle Super Output Areas' (MSOA). These are geographical areas, defined by the ONS as a means of presenting localised census data in a consistent way (rather than by parish or ward, the boundaries of which are more prone to change and the scale of which is inconsistent). These geographies are also used to present a range of other national statistics:

- Output Areas (OAs): these are the smallest census output areas, with a minimum size of 100 residents and 40 households.

²² Somerset Town Centre Health Checks 2025 - [Somerset Town Centre Health Checks report June 2025 V2](#)

²³ Somerset RLNA 2026 - [Somerset Retail and Leisure Needs Assessment - Volume 1 Main report](#)

²⁴ WSP Accessibility Tool for Somerset Council (2026)

²⁵ LHNA 2026 - [Somerset Local Housing Needs Assessment 2025 \(LHNA\)](#)

- Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are aggregations of OAs. They have a minimum size of 1,000 residents and 400 households.
- Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs) are aggregations of LSOAs, with a minimum size of 5,000 residents and 2,000 households.

2.26 Most of the statistical data used in this report is available at LSOA level, and OA level for smaller settlements to improve accuracy. However, almost all OAs, LSOAs and most MSOAs do not correspond exactly with individual settlement boundaries (and many cover more than one settlement and/or surrounding rural areas), it is rarely possible to attribute figures precisely to specific settlements. Instead, totals (or averages) for each settlement have been estimated by aggregating the figures for all the OAs, LSOAs (or MSOAs) that cover/sit within each settlement boundary. They must therefore be viewed as indicative, rather than exact. See Appendix 1 for further details of the methodology used here and where overlap has been noted.

2.27 Finally, it should be stressed that the data used in the Settlement Role and Function Study is “policy off” i.e. forecasts do not take account of future policy decisions, for example, to locate future development at certain settlements. The study provides an indication of the baseline picture for each settlement, and it is for the Local Plan to determine the actions required to meet needs, address issues and realise opportunities in the future.

3. Analysis

Settlement size (population) and projected growth

- 3.1 The first theme is the consideration of settlement size and related data for population. This provides an indication of the scale of each settlement and where it lies within a Somerset-wide hierarchy.
- 3.2 Population statistics provide a good indication of a settlement's size and sustainability. Generally, larger settlements are more sustainable, because with a greater population, a greater range of services and facilities can generally be supported such as schools, shops, public transport and healthcare.
- 3.3 The 2021 census provided the population data for a variety of geographies within England and Wales including for Output Areas (OA) and Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA). The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces population estimates by single year of age, for which OA and LSOA data for 2021 is available. This reveals the Council's main centres of population are:
- Taunton – population 74,104
 - Bridgwater – population 51,051
 - Yeovil – population 50,529
 - Frome – population 28,970
 - Highbridge & Burnham – population 21,747
- 3.4 As Table 15 shows, as at 2021, Taunton had by some way the largest population of all settlements in Somerset. Bridgwater is the next largest individual settlements, followed very closely behind by Yeovil, which is also 'very large'. Both Frome and Highbridge & Burnham, when considered together, are of similar sizes considered 'large' in relation to the total population and number of dwellings though still significantly smaller than Taunton, Yeovil or Bridgwater.
- 3.5 There is a large variation between the settlements classified as 'medium large' with Wellington the largest down to Somerton in terms of population and a difference of 11,000+ people and 5,000+ dwellings. This variation reduces towards the medium, small and very small settlements.
- 3.6 Building on the demographic make-up of settlements, the proportion of people of different ages who live there is a revealing indicator in terms of how a place functions. For example, a settlement with a higher number of people of working age may indicate that the settlement has an employment role and function, which can be further identified through the rate of economic activity, number of jobs or whether it has good connectivity to other employment areas. There may also be a high proportion of children and young people living in a settlement, as it may be a place that is attractive to working families. Alternatively, some places have a

high proportion of older people, which might therefore show a lower rate of economic activity and a higher retired population among the residents.

- 3.7 It is important to identify these factors as they impact the settlements' role and function just as much as the size. This feature can also be self-perpetuating i.e. as settlement's facilities will attract certain types of people, who will in turn demand and sustain particular facilities and characteristics.
- 3.8 Looking closely at the dwelling numbers helps to reveal possible patterns within a settlements' age structure. Settlements can be identified whereby there may be a fewer number of dwellings, but more people per household indicating perhaps a larger younger population, working families, or households of multiple occupancy where there may be a high job concentration. The settlements that stand out as having a lower number of dwellings in proportion to their total population include Stratton-On-The-Fosse and Cotford St Luke. However, this is not the case for all the settlements with a high household ratio and therefore digging deeper into the age structure of each settlement is important.
- 3.9 Looking at the settlements that have a high proportion of people aged 0-15, Ilchester comes out highest at 25%, Stratton-On-The-Fosse has 24% of its total population aged 0-15. Cotford St Luke is at 23% of the population aged 0-15 followed by Sparkford at 23%, Bruton at 22% and Bridgwater at 20%. Other settlements such as Meare, Stoke St Michael and Frome also have a high proportion of people aged below 16. The average proportion of people aged 0-15 among settlements in the Study is 15%.
- 3.10 Some of the settlements also have a high proportion of working aged people aged 16-64, suggesting family orientated locations such as Cotford St Luke at 65%, Bridgwater at 64%, and Ilchester at 62%. Other settlements with a high working age population, but with a lower younger population include Wookey Hole, Chedzoy, Rooks Bridge, North Newton and Bawdrip. Shepton Mallet and Yeovil also have relatively high working age populations, with a relatively high younger population when compared to the other settlements in the study. The average proportion of people aged 16-64 out of the settlements in the Study is 56%.
- 3.11 Looking towards the older population, many of these settlements have a lower proportion of people aged 65 and over. This includes Cotford St Luke, Ilchester, Bridgwater, Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Shepton Mallet, Yeovil, Bruton and Frome. East Huntspill also has a lower older population, with a higher proportion of people aged 0-15 and 16-64 as does Faulkland. The average proportion of people aged 65 and over among the settlements in the Study is 29%.
- 3.12 There are also a number of settlements that have a high proportion of dwellings relative to their population size. These include Faulkland with around 78 dwellings per 100 people, Blue Anchor with about 76 dwellings per 100 people, Hinton St George at 61 dwellings per 100 people, West Quantoxhead at 56 per 100 people,

and Crowcombe at 55 dwellings per 100 people. This may be due to an older population with in turn a larger proportion of smaller or single-occupancy households, or households where people have ‘aged in place’.

- 3.13 This may apply to Faulkland, which has a high proportion of working aged people (16-64) at 65%, one of the highest in the study, but with a high number of dwellings in proportion to the population. In contrast, Blue Anchor has a low proportion of people aged 16-64 at 44%, as does Hinton St George at 45%. Other settlements with a low working age population include Bicknoller and Charlton Horethorne. This trend continues into the 65+ age profile with Blue Anchor having 65% of people aged over 65, the highest in the dataset, Bicknoller at 48%, West Quantoxhead at 47% and Hinton St George at 44%, Charlton Horethorne at 40% and Crowcombe at 39%, which is unsurprising given the coastal or rural retirement-type locations of many of these places.
- 3.14 Looking at our ‘medium-large’ to ‘largest’ settlements in particular, all of them have working age (aged 16-64) populations of 52% or more in proportion to their total population. Minehead, Somerton, Ilminster, Wells and Highbridge & Burnham have the lowest proportions. These settlements also have the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over. Those with the greatest proportion of working aged people are Bridgwater, Shepton Mallet, Yeovil, Taunton, Frome, Street, Glastonbury and Wincanton. Unsurprisingly these settlements also have the highest proportion of people aged below 16 with the exception of Glastonbury. Minehead, Glastonbury, Wells, Highbridge & Burnham, Crewkerne and Somerton have the lowest proportions of people aged 0-15 when looking at these settlements with 5000+ people.
- 3.15 It is important to note certain level of population does not necessarily guarantee a relative degree of functionality. The way a settlement functions can be affected by spatial issues, such as proximity and connectivity to neighbouring settlements, the services available and the accessibility via transport modes.

Table 15: Settlement size and demographic make-up

Settlement	Classification ¹	Total Population ²	No. of dwellings ³	Ages 0-15	(%)	Ages 16-64	(%)	Ages 65+	(%)
Taunton	LARGEST	74,104	33,979	13,740	19%	45,044	61%	15,320	21%
Bridgwater	VERY LARGE	51,051	22,416	10,277	20%	32,608	64%	8,166	16%
Yeovil	VERY LARGE	50,529	22,727	9,455	19%	31,423	62%	9,651	19%
Frome	LARGE	28,970	13,131	5,638	19%	17,402	60%	5,930	20%
Highbridge & Burnham	LARGE	21,747	10,548	3,352	15%	11,882	55%	6,513	30%
Wellington	MEDIUM LARGE	17,074	7,842	3,011	18%	10,063	59%	4,000	23%
Chard	MEDIUM LARGE	14,290	6,590	2,561	18%	8,370	59%	3,359	24%
Street	MEDIUM LARGE	13,116	5,632	2,490	19%	7,811	60%	2,815	21%
Wells	MEDIUM LARGE	11,819	6,071	1,797	15%	6,446	55%	3,576	30%
Minehead & Alcombe	MEDIUM LARGE	11,814	6,099	1,582	13%	6,142	52%	4,090	35%
Shepton Mallet	MEDIUM LARGE	10,565	4,895	1,938	18%	6,655	63%	1,972	19%
Glastonbury	MEDIUM LARGE	8,916	4,755	1,253	14%	5,364	60%	2,299	26%

Settlement	Classification ¹	Total Population ²	No. of dwellings ³	Ages 0-15 (%)	Ages 16-64 (%)	Ages 65+ (%)
Wincanton (inc. Bayford)	MEDIUM LARGE	6,776	3,102	1,248 18%	4,035 60%	1,493 22%
Crewkerne	MEDIUM LARGE	6,683	3,333	1,059 16%	3,739 56%	1,885 28%
Cheddar	MEDIUM LARGE	6,301	2,830	1,072 17%	3,537 56%	1,692 27%
Ilminster	MEDIUM LARGE	5,645	2,796	971 17%	3,030 54%	1,644 29%
Somerton	MEDIUM LARGE	5,469	2,619	900 16%	2,906 53%	1,663 30%
Martock & Bower Hinton	MEDIUM	4,391	2,182	609 14%	2,528 58%	1,254 29%
Watchet	MEDIUM	3,986	2,037	639 16%	2,150 54%	1,197 30%
Langport & Huish Episcopi	MEDIUM	3,605	1,743	563 16%	1,980 55%	1,062 29%
Ansford & Castle Cary	MEDIUM	3,444	1,707	483 14%	1,869 54%	1,092 32%
Milborne Port	MEDIUM	3,203	1,498	521 16%	1,848 58%	834 26%
North Petherton	MEDIUM	3,200	1,490	516 16%	1,732 54%	952 30%
South Petherton	MEDIUM	3,097	1,528	508 16%	1,510 49%	1,079 35%
Bruton & Pitcombe	MEDIUM	2,849	1,211	626 22%	1,662 58%	561 20%
Tatworth (inc. South Chard & Chard Junction)	MEDIUM	2,747	1,216	386 14%	1,507 55%	854 31%
Wiveliscombe	MEDIUM	2,717	1,273	436 16%	1,500 55%	781 29%
Williton	MEDIUM	2,440	1,209	399 16%	1,242 51%	799 33%
Cotford St Luke	MEDIUM	2,429	961	557 23%	1,573 65%	299 12%
Creech St Michael	MEDIUM	2,345	986	453 19%	1,273 54%	619 26%
Woolavington	MEDIUM	2,343	1,066	393 17%	1,263 54%	687 29%
Chilcompton	MEDIUM	2,326	959	417 18%	1,364 59%	545 23%
Berrow & Brean	MEDIUM	2,255	1,211	223 10%	1,168 52%	864 38%
Coleford	MEDIUM	2,249	992	423 19%	1,327 59%	499 22%
Evercreech	MEDIUM	2,170	1,030	361 17%	1,251 58%	558 26%
Curry Rivel	MEDIUM	2,155	981	342 16%	1,127 52%	686 32%
Ilchester	MEDIUM	2,106	927	522 25%	1,307 62%	277 13%
Merriott	MEDIUM	2,078	962	301 14%	1,155 56%	622 30%
Bishop's Lydeard	MEDIUM	2,047	970	284 14%	1,151 56%	612 30%
Cannington	MEDIUM	2,047	928	286 14%	1,175 57%	586 29%
Axbridge	MEDIUM	2,005	922	331 17%	1,194 60%	480 24%
Abbas & Templecombe	SMALL	1,989	934	329 17%	1,150 58%	510 26%
Henstridge	SMALL	1,918	879	365 19%	1,018 53%	535 28%
Horton (and Broadway)	SMALL	1,884	852	284 15%	966 51%	634 34%
Westonzoyland	SMALL	1,858	812	307 17%	1,072 58%	479 26%
Nether Stowey	SMALL	1,819	923	281 15%	939 52%	599 33%
Misterton	SMALL	1,679	753	266 16%	895 53%	518 31%
Puriton	SMALL	1,674	777	264 16%	936 56%	474 28%
Stoke sub Hamdon	SMALL	1,660	796	263 16%	985 59%	412 25%
Ruishton (inc. Henlade)	SMALL	1,533	705	228 15%	773 50%	532 35%
Mark (and Mark Causeway)	SMALL	1,435	613	182 13%	862 60%	391 27%
Wedmore	SMALL	1,425	687	204 14%	687 48%	534 37%
Combe St Nicholas (inc. Wadeford)	SMALL	1,378	685	164 12%	679 49%	535 39%


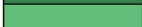





Settlement	Classification ¹	Total Population ²	No. of dwellings ³	Ages 0-15 (%)	Ages 16-64 (%)	Ages 65+ (%)
Brent Knoll	SMALL	1,269	535	158 (12%)	698 (55%)	413 (33%)
West Coker	SMALL	1,259	618	184 (15%)	722 (57%)	353 (28%)
Barwick (inc. Stoford)	SMALL	1,227	586	207 (17%)	653 (53%)	367 (30%)
Keinton Mandeville	SMALL	1,226	481	195 (16%)	692 (56%)	339 (28%)
North Coker & East Coker	SMALL	1,150	555	158 (14%)	574 (50%)	418 (36%)
Huntspill (inc. West Huntspill)	SMALL	1,136	513	153 (13%)	588 (52%)	395 (35%)
Walton	SMALL	1,136	488	214 (19%)	639 (56%)	283 (25%)
Milverton	SMALL	1,116	529	157 (14%)	611 (55%)	348 (31%)
Shipham	SMALL	1,107	490	160 (14%)	619 (56%)	328 (30%)
Rode	SMALL	1,085	513	151 (14%)	638 (59%)	296 (27%)
Coxley & Upper Coxley & Coxley Wick	SMALL	1,079	487	162 (15%)	662 (61%)	255 (24%)
North Curry	SMALL	1,066	507	173 (16%)	535 (50%)	358 (34%)
Baltonsborough	SMALL	1,065	476	170 (16%)	616 (58%)	279 (26%)
Draycott	SMALL	1,062	458	157 (15%)	606 (57%)	299 (28%)
Norton St Philip	SMALL	1,034	475	149 (12%)	550 (52%)	335 (36%)
The Charltons	SMALL	1,034	489	129 (14%)	534 (53%)	371 (32%)
Stoke St Gregory (inc. Meare Green)	SMALL	1,012	476	158 (16%)	564 (56%)	290 (29%)
Pawlett	SMALL	1,005	448	141 (14%)	551 (55%)	313 (31%)
Beckington	SMALL	995	474	178 (18%)	552 (55%)	265 (27%)
Meare (inc. Oxenpill)	SMALL	994	426	203 (20%)	586 (59%)	205 (21%)
Holcombe	SMALL	964	437	118 (12%)	544 (56%)	302 (31%)
High Ham	SMALL	945	415	118 (12%)	545 (58%)	282 (30%)
Tintinhull	SMALL	932	433	136 (15%)	492 (53%)	304 (33%)
Catcott & Edington	SMALL	927	398	91 (10%)	500 (54%)	336 (36%)
Ashcott	SMALL	897	419	114 (13%)	473 (53%)	310 (35%)
East Huntspill	SMALL	887	376	167 (19%)	542 (61%)	178 (20%)
Nunney & Nunney Catch	SMALL	876	396	129 (15%)	499 (57%)	248 (28%)
Montacute (inc. East Stoke)	SMALL	875	422	149 (17%)	500 (57%)	226 (26%)
Long Sutton	SMALL	841	402	97 (12%)	448 (53%)	296 (35%)
Stratton-On-The-Fosse	SMALL	824	283	195 (24%)	485 (59%)	144 (17%)
Carhampton	SMALL	811	398	118 (15%)	391 (48%)	302 (37%)
Wookey	SMALL	807	376	124 (15%)	457 (57%)	226 (28%)
Westbury Sub Mendip	SMALL	796	369	116 (15%)	416 (52%)	264 (33%)
Stogursey	SMALL	788	388	108 (14%)	446 (57%)	234 (30%)
Compton Dundon & Dundon	SMALL	768	331	115 (15%)	417 (54%)	236 (31%)
Stoke St Michael	SMALL	764	323	155 (20%)	441 (58%)	168 (22%)
Oakhill	SMALL	757	321	127 (17%)	442 (58%)	188 (25%)
Winsham	SMALL	756	369	114 (15%)	383 (51%)	259 (34%)
Odcombe	SMALL	754	352	102 (15%)	436 (55%)	216 (30%)
Shepton Beauchamp	SMALL	754	368	114 (14%)	417 (58%)	223 (29%)
Butleigh	SMALL	752	364	101 (13%)	423 (56%)	228 (30%)
Haselbury Plucknett	SMALL	745	343	98 (13%)	409 (55%)	238 (32%)

Settlement	Classification ¹	Total Population ²	No. of dwellings ³	Ages 0-15	(%)	Ages 16-64	(%)	Ages 65+	(%)
Hillcommon (inc. Oake)	SMALL	744	350	110	15%	420	56%	214	29%
Rooks Bridge	SMALL	736	306	109	15%	464	63%	163	22%
Norton Sub Hamdon	SMALL	734	343	98	13%	391	53%	245	33%
Middlezoy	SMALL	716	336	78	11%	412	58%	226	32%
Pilton	SMALL	713	320	111	16%	382	54%	220	31%
Blackford	SMALL	699	291	102	15%	406	58%	191	27%
West Pennard	SMALL	693	295	86	12%	413	60%	194	28%
Othery	SMALL	690	289	132	19%	380	55%	178	26%
Easton	SMALL	684	308	101	15%	392	57%	191	28%
Kingsbury Episcopi	SMALL	682	306	123	18%	378	55%	181	27%
East Brent	SMALL	681	278	109	16%	389	57%	183	27%
Spaxton	SMALL	674	299	127	19%	376	56%	171	25%
North Cadbury	SMALL	670	315	87	13%	385	57%	198	30%
Chilton Polden	SMALL	668	321	97	15%	335	50%	236	35%
Weare and Lower Weare	SMALL	664	284	108	16%	338	51%	218	33%
Bradford-on-Tone	SMALL	660	299	67	10%	381	58%	212	32%
Binegar & Gurney Slade	SMALL	657	287	105	16%	400	61%	152	23%
Combwich	SMALL	653	306	87	13%	352	54%	214	33%
Cossington	SMALL	648	317	65	10%	379	58%	204	31%
North Newton	SMALL	647	275	80	12%	407	63%	160	25%
Hatch Beauchamp	SMALL	640	272	91	14%	334	52%	215	34%
Mells	SMALL	634	307	121	19%	338	53%	175	28%
Barton St David	SMALL	619	274	78	12%	337	50%	204	38%
Fivehead	SMALL	619	291	73	13%	308	54%	238	33%
Ash	SMALL	613	279	82	17%	377	53%	154	30%
Kilmersdon	SMALL	613	258	92	13%	380	62%	141	25%
West Chinnock	SMALL	613	270	102	15%	326	62%	185	23%
Ilton	SMALL	608	266	81	13%	352	58%	175	29%
Croscombe	SMALL	594	282	54	9%	315	53%	225	38%
Hardington Moor/ Hardington Mandeville	SMALL	592	263	73	12%	336	57%	183	31%
Charlton Horethorne	SMALL	585	296	65	11%	287	49%	233	40%
Lympsham	SMALL	585	237	94	16%	335	57%	156	27%
Washford	SMALL	585	290	86	15%	303	52%	196	34%
Chewton Mendip	SMALL	574	235	87	12%	343	50%	144	38%
Queen Camel	SMALL	574	292	67	15%	289	60%	218	25%
Brushford	SMALL	555	276	64	12%	298	54%	193	35%
Marston Magna	SMALL	553	215	81	15%	289	52%	183	33%
Sparkford	SMALL	549	252	124	23%	303	55%	122	22%
Leigh-On-Mendip	SMALL	547	259	84	15%	319	58%	144	26%
Blagdon Hill	SMALL	540	247	74	14%	312	58%	154	29%
Edithmead	SMALL	527	263	51	10%	293	56%	183	35%
Lydeard St Lawrence	SMALL	527	218	97	18%	313	59%	117	22%
Chilthorne Domer	SMALL	524	231	83	16%	309	59%	132	25%
Hambridge	SMALL	524	244	73	14%	322	61%	129	25%
Langford Budville	SMALL	523	242	72	14%	290	55%	161	31%


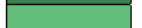

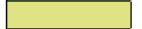



Settlement	Classification ¹	Total Population ²	No. of dwellings ³	Ages 0-15 (%)	Ages 16-64 (%)	Ages 65+ (%)			
The Lydfords	SMALL	514	223	83	16%	283	55%	148	29%
East Chinnock	SMALL	504	248	71	14%	293	58%	140	28%
Seavington St Michael	SMALL	501	254	69	14%	248	50%	184	37%
Wanstrow	VERY SMALL	494	212	82	17%	283	57%	129	26%
Stoke St Mary	VERY SMALL	483	215	65	13%	262	54%	156	32%
Bawdrip	VERY SMALL	465	207	46	10%	291	63%	128	28%
Hinton St George	VERY SMALL	463	283	51	11%	207	45%	205	44%
Chedzoy	VERY SMALL	454	186	57	13%	289	64%	108	24%
Crowcombe	VERY SMALL	451	249	52	12%	221	49%	178	39%
Shapwick	VERY SMALL	448	205	59	13%	264	59%	125	28%
West Camel	VERY SMALL	447	232	44	10%	230	51%	173	39%
Barrington	VERY SMALL	442	220	43	10%	259	59%	140	32%
Churchinford	VERY SMALL	429	203	79	18%	218	51%	132	31%
Stogumber	VERY SMALL	426	202	74	17%	207	49%	145	34%
Witham Friary	VERY SMALL	416	167	73	18%	251	60%	92	22%
Batcombe	VERY SMALL	409	193	70	17%	222	54%	117	29%
Ditcheat	VERY SMALL	395	171	71	18%	218	55%	106	27%
Faulkland	VERY SMALL	395	309	58	15%	258	65%	79	20%
Kingston St Mary	VERY SMALL	382	192	52	14%	196	51%	134	35%
Drayton	VERY SMALL	377	172	50	13%	200	53%	127	34%
Kingsdon	VERY SMALL	374	176	48	13%	213	57%	113	30%
Bicknoller	VERY SMALL	373	207	21	6%	174	47%	178	48%
Theale	VERY SMALL	373	148	60	16%	196	53%	117	31%
Curry Mallet	VERY SMALL	349	151	67	19%	200	57%	82	23%
Kilve	VERY SMALL	347	190	30	9%	187	54%	130	37%
Buckland Dinham	VERY SMALL	343	170	44	13%	195	57%	104	30%
Galhampton	VERY SMALL	326	140	49	15%	168	52%	109	33%
Horsington	VERY SMALL	323	147	47	15%	171	53%	105	33%
Priddy	VERY SMALL	322	145	49	15%	195	61%	78	24%
West Quantoxhead	VERY SMALL	320	180	28	9%	142	44%	150	47%
Halse	VERY SMALL	313	144	46	15%	179	57%	88	28%
Wookey Hole	VERY SMALL	307	170	30	10%	197	64%	80	26%
Cross	VERY SMALL	295	136	33	11%	160	54%	102	35%
North Perrott	VERY SMALL	285	129	39	14%	153	54%	93	33%
Fitzhead	VERY SMALL	271	126	46	17%	148	55%	77	28%
Blue Anchor	VERY SMALL	164	124	0	0%	58	35%	106	65%

Key to Table 15:


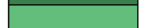


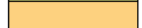


Population total

	Population 70,000+
	Population 40,000 – 70,000
	Population 20,000 – 39,999
	Population 5,000 – 19,999
	Population 2000 – 4,999
	Population 500 – 1,999
	Population less than 500

Number of dwellings

	Number of dwellings 30,000+
	Number of dwellings 20-30k
	Number of dwellings 10-20k
	Number of dwellings 2.5-10k
	Number of dwellings 1000-2.5k
	Number of dwellings 250-1000
	Number of dwellings less than 250

Population as % of total population (0-15 / 16-64 / 65+)

	20% / 60% / 40% or more
	18-19% / 58-59% / 35-39%
	16-17% / 55-57% / 30-34%
	14-15% / 53-54% / 28-29%
	12-13% / 50-52% / 25-27%
	10-11% / 45-49% / 20-24%
	Less than 10% / 45% / 20%

¹ Classifications are set out based on the groupings in the key to Table 15. The population ranges are loosely based on the BUA population ranges set out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) along with the BUA size classifications - [Towns and cities, characteristics of built-up areas, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#). However, the categories have been divided where appropriate to cater to variations in settlement size seen in Somerset - [Towns and cities, characteristics of built-up areas, England and Wales Census 2021 \(1\).pdf](#).

² Census (2021) [Nomis - Query Tool - Population estimates - small area \(2021 based\) by single year of age - England and Wales](#) and [PP012 - Age - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) – population totals for each settlement have been estimated by using the Output Area (OA) boundaries and Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA), which may not be exact and rely on best fit areas. OA boundaries include, where it applies, the Built Up Area (BUA) figure plus, where relevant, additional OA figures where these areas cover parts of the settlement in question. Some settlements that are close by but have not been grouped for the purposes of this study may share an OA such as Street and Walton. Some settlements have been grouped depending on the proximity to other settlements and may encompass settlements historically considered as separate. Please see Table 7 for details on which settlements this includes.

There are settlements that have a differing figure to the BUA figure alone, and this is due to the addition of an OA in the figure or the use of Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) figures instead. Settlements for which this applies include Abbas & Templecombe, Baltonsborough, Barton St David, Barwick and Stoford, Bridgwater, Brushford, Cannington, Charlton Horethorne, Cheddar, Chilcompton, Coxley & Upper Coxley & Coxley Wick, Crewkerne, Crowcombe, Curry Rivel, Easton, Frome, Glastonbury, Hardington Moor/Hardington, Mandeville, Hatch Beauchamp, Henstridge, High Ham, Horton (and Broadway), Huntspill (inc. West Huntspill), Ilton, Kilmersdon, Long Sutton, Mark (and Mark Causeway), Martock & Bower Hinton, Mells, Misterton, Nether Stowey, North Coker & East Coker, North Newton, Pilton, Puriton, Rode, Rooks Bridge, Seavington St Michael, Shepton Mallet, South Petherton, Spaxton, Stoke sub Hamdon, Street, Tatworth (inc. South Chard & Chard Junction), Taunton, Watchet, Weare and Lower Weare, Wells, West Coker, West Pennard, Westonzoiland, Williton, Wiveliscombe and Yeovil. All figures must be considered indicative of settlement population based on reasonably defined boundaries.

³ Census (2021) [TS041 - Number of Households - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) – number of dwelling totals have been estimated based on Output Area and Lower Super Output Area boundaries. This Census-based baseline is an estimate and, therefore, the number of dwellings should be regarded as indicative of number of dwellings based on reasonably defined boundaries. New development will have been completed since 2021 for some settlements and therefore the figures will now be different.

Population growth and changing demographics

3.16 The Office for National Statistics periodically generates population projections to give an indication of the future size and age structure of the population. This is based on the analysis of mid-year population estimates and assumptions of future births (fertility), deaths and migration. These are used to inform household projections, which in turn are used in a standard methodology to provide a housing requirement figure for local planning authorities to plan for sufficient levels of housing growth in their local plans.

3.17 The most recent 2022-based subnational population projections are used in this Study to provide an indication of the future size of the population for Somerset and the settlements within. When compared against population statistics from the 2021 Census it is expected that Somerset's population will have grown by 12.14% by 2045 – an increase of 79,168 people from 573,100 people in 2021 to 652,268

people in 2045²⁶. These projections are based on recent trends, but do not take account of potential changes that may influence the local or national economy that may lead to inwards or outwards migration or planned new development that might attract people to live in Somerset.

3.18 The latest Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA)²⁷ for Somerset sets out that Somerset is projected see a net in-migration of households. The LHNA concludes that there should be more provision of, for example:

- Affordable housing including dwellings for social rent.
- Need to provide additional older persons housing.
- More adapted housing for those with health problems or disabilities including wheelchair users.
- Significant demand for student accommodation with opportunities to expand the University Centre Somerset and Yeovil College.
- Plots for self-build and custom housebuilding.

3.19 The increase in population will not be spread evenly across all age groups. Based on current trends (birth rates, death rates, patterns of inwards and outwards migration), it is predicted that Somerset's population will age significantly i.e. the proportion of older people amongst the total population will increase significantly (see Figure 2 for trends for all age groups):

- The number of young people (aged 0-15) is projected to decrease by 12.34%, a decrease of 10,588 people from 96,415 people in 2021 to 85,827 people in 2045. In terms of the overall projected population figure for Somerset this age group will decrease in proportion to the total population from 16.82% in 2021 to 13.16% in 2045.
- The number of working age people (16-64) is projected to increase by 7.65% between 2021 and 2045 (27,637 more people). As a proportion of the overall projected figure for Somerset this is a decrease from these ages making up 58.25% in 2021 to 55.42% in 2043.
- The largest proportion of population growth is projected to be in age groups of 65 and over, with an increase by 30.31% from 2021 to 2045, which is 62,115 more people. This is a large increase in the proportion of the projected population for 2045 from 24.92% in 2021 to 31.42%. The most significant growth is for those aged 75 and over.

²⁶ Census 2021 - [Population and household estimates, England and Wales](#) and [Sub-national population projections 2022-based for 2045](#)

²⁷ Somerset Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) April 2026 - [Somerset Local Housing Needs Assessment 2025 \(LHNA\)](#)

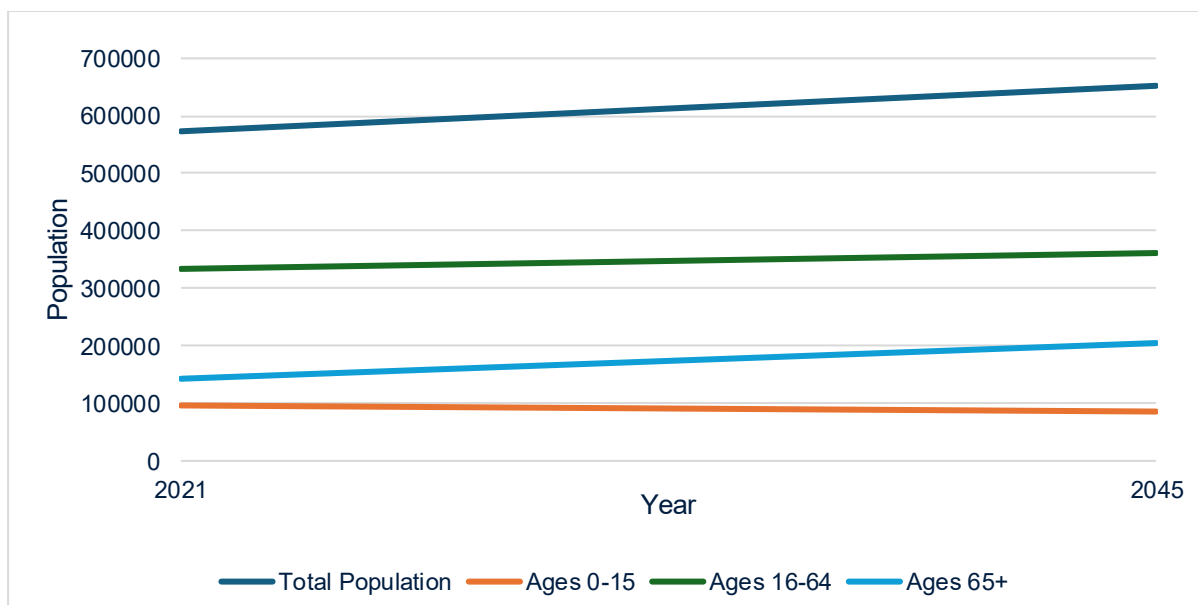


Figure 2 - Population Projection from 2021-2045 for Somerset, total vs age groups²⁶

3.20 The settlements with the highest percentage change in population to 2045 are nearly all within Area West (the former West Somerset area) including Blue Anchor (28.27%, 46 people), West Quantoxhead (27.48%, 88 people), Bicknoller (25.64%, 96 people). While these are small settlements, there is a large proportion of older residents, and this is projected to increase steeply to 2045 with no or little change to the younger age groups. However, it is important to note, that it is unlikely that these settlements will see this level of growth as the level of development needed to support this would be unsustainable and would significantly impact the character of these settlements. These population projections are also dependent on the inward migration of people from other local authorities in England, and this may not apply to the same extent to all settlements in Somerset²⁸.

3.21 No settlements have been predicted to have a declining population, however, the settlements with the smallest predicted population increase include Ilchester at 5.97% increase, an increase in 126 people, largely due to a decline in the younger and middle-aged age groups (0-64) followed by Stratton-On-The-Fosse at 8.14%, Cotford St Luke at 8.98%, Bruton at 9.4% and Yeovil at a 9.77% increase.

3.22 Looking at our 'medium' to 'largest' settlements in particular, there is considerable variation in the projected population change. Yeovil has the smallest projected growth at 9.77%, followed by Bridgwater at 10.84% and Shepton Mallet at 10.68%, which indicates their larger working age populations and younger age groups (those below 16). Those predicted to see the highest population increase include Minehead at 20.42%, Wells at 18.02%, Highbridge & Burnham at 16.22% and Somerton at 16.16%. It is important to note that the increase in population is

²⁸ Reasons for projected change for each local authority - [Subnational population projections for England - Office for National Statistics](#)

also impacted by inward migration levels and the location and level of new development, and therefore, the increase may not come to fruition.

3.23 It is important to note that the projected growth of settlements has considerable variation when applied. This policy-off scenario also does not account for allocated sites or other housing commitments within/adjoining the settlements.

Table 16 – Projected population in Somerset up to 2045













Settlement	Total Population (2021) ⁴	2045 Projection ⁵	% Change
Taunton	74,104	84,108	13.50%
Bridgwater	51,051	56,586	10.84%
Yeovil	50,529	55,464	9.77%
Frome	28,970	32,423	11.92%
Highbridge & Burnham	21,747	25,275	16.22%
Wellington	17,074	19,493	14.17%
Chard	14,290	16,054	12.34%
Street	13,116	14,750	12.45%
Wells	11,819	13,948	18.02%
Minehead	11,814	14,227	20.42%
Shepton Mallet	10,565	11,694	10.68%
Glastonbury	8,916	10,212	14.54%
Wincanton	6,776	7,543	11.32%
Crewkerne	6,683	7,641	14.34%
Cheddar	6,301	7,263	15.27%
Ilminster	5,645	6,523	15.56%
Somerton	5,469	6,353	16.16%
Martock	4,391	5,022	14.37%
Watchet	3,986	4,628	16.11%
Langport	3,605	4,143	14.94%
Ansford & Castle Cary	3,444	4,053	17.68%
Milborne Port	3,203	3,611	12.74%
North Petherton	3,200	3,727	16.47%
South Petherton	3,097	3,652	17.92%
Bruton	2,849	3,117	9.40%
Tatworth	2,747	3,146	14.54%
Wiveliscombe	2,717	3,173	16.77%
Williton	2,440	2,885	18.23%
Cotford St Luke	2,429	2,647	8.98%
Creech St Michael	2,345	2,705	15.35%
Woolavington	2,343	2,683	14.53%
Chilcompton	2,326	2,604	11.97%
Berrow and Brean	2,255	2,667	18.27%
Coleford	2,249	2,510	11.62%
Evercreech	2,170	2,516	15.93%
Curry Rivel	2,155	2,499	15.94%
Ilchester	2,106	2,232	5.97%
Merriott	2,078	2,379	14.48%
Bishops Lydeard	2,047	2,390	16.76%
Cannington	2,047	2,393	16.90%
Axbridge	2,005	2,272	13.31%
Abbas & Templecombe	1,989	2,217	11.47%
Henstridge	1,918	2,147	11.94%
Horton and Broadway	1,884	2,196	16.58%
Westonzoyland	1,858	2,101	13.07%

Settlement	Total Population (2021) ⁴	2045 Projection ⁵	% Change
Nether Stowey	1,819	2,127	16.93%
Misterton	1,679	1,914	14.00%
Puriton	1,674	1,917	14.53%
Stoke sub Hamdon	1,660	1,861	12.13%
Ruishton	1,533	1,832	19.50%
Mark & Mark Causeway	1,435	1,644	14.58%
Wedmore	1,425	1,692	18.77%
Combe St Nicholas (inc. Wadeford)	1,378	1,645	19.38%
Brent Knoll	1,269	1,492	17.60%
West Coker	1,259	1,440	14.39%
Barwick and Stoford	1,227	1,393	13.49%
Keinton Mandeville	1,226	1,407	14.80%
North Coker & East Coker	1,150	1,364	18.60%
Huntspill	1,136	1,310	15.31%
Walton	1,136	1,290	13.54%
Milverton	1,116	1,322	18.47%
Shipham	1,107	1,285	16.08%
Rode	1,085	1,263	16.44%
Coxleys	1,079	1,225	13.57%
North Curry	1,066	1,266	18.81%
Baltonsborough	1,065	1,195	12.24%
Draycott	1,062	1,258	18.48%
Norton St Philip	1,034	1,209	16.89%
The Charltons	1,034	1,202	16.20%
Stoke St Gregory (inc. Meare Green)	1,012	1,175	16.08%
Pawlett	1,005	1,162	15.60%
Beckington	995	1,145	15.07%
Meare	994	1,104	11.06%
Holcombe	964	1,110	15.14%
High Ham	945	1,079	14.14%
Tintinhull	932	1,079	15.80%
Catcott and Edington	927	1,087	17.27%
Ashcott	897	1,040	15.92%
East Huntspill	887	991	11.74%
Nunney	876	1,015	15.86%
Montacute	875	995	13.76%
Long Sutton	841	979	16.38%
Stratton-on-the-Fosse	824	891	8.14%
Carhampton	811	959	18.25%
Wookey	807	931	15.35%
Westbury-sub-Mendip	796	923	15.92%
Stogursey	788	918	16.47%
Compton Dundon and Dundon	768	877	14.24%
Stoke St Michael	764	851	11.40%
Oakhill	757	858	13.40%
Winsham	756	881	16.53%
Odcombe	754	875	15.99%
Shepton Beauchamp	754	861	14.13%
Butleigh	752	867	15.28%
Haselbury Plucknett	745	865	16.07%
Hillcommon (inc. Oake)	744	855	14.91%
Rooks Bridge	736	823	11.79%
Norton sub Hamdon	734	845	15.10%

Settlement	Total Population (2021) ⁴	2045 Projection ⁵	% Change
Middlezoy	716	825	15.27%
Pilton	713	839	17.64%
Blackford	699	787	12.59%
West Pennard	693	790	14.07%
Othery	690	783	13.50%
Easton	684	790	15.52%
Kingsbury Episcopi	682	764	12.02%
East Brent	681	776	13.95%
Spaxton	674	755	12.03%
North Cadbury	670	758	13.07%
Chilton Polden	668	794	18.81%
Weare and Lower Weare	664	765	15.22%
Bradford-on-Tone	660	779	18.01%
Binegar & Gurney Slade	657	744	13.23%
Combwich	653	763	16.87%
Cossington	648	751	15.88%
North Newton	647	730	12.81%
Hatch Beauchamp	640	768	19.97%
Mells	634	732	15.47%
Barton St David	619	710	14.68%
Fivehead	619	715	15.44%
Ash	613	691	12.74%
Kilmersdon	613	693	13.00%
West Chinnock	613	703	14.74%
Ilton	608	698	14.87%
Croscombe	594	720	21.23%
Hardington Mandeville	592	689	16.34%
Charlton Horethorne	585	704	20.26%
Lympsham	585	664	13.44%
Washford	585	683	16.75%
Chewton Mendip	574	644	12.28%
Queen Camel	574	689	20.07%
Brushford	555	659	18.74%
Marston Magna	553	642	16.06%
Sparkford	549	612	11.46%
Leigh-On-Mendip	547	614	12.34%
Blagdon Hill	540	623	15.39%
Edithmead	527	606	15.02%
Lydeard St Lawrence	527	597	13.21%
Chilthorne Domer	524	589	12.33%
Hambridge	524	579	10.52%
Langford Budville	523	602	15.11%
The Lydfords	514	590	14.84%
East Chinnock	504	578	14.69%
Seavington St Michael	501	576	15.03%
Wanstrow	494	560	13.30%
Stoke St Mary	483	572	18.35%
Bawdrip	465	526	13.19%
Hinton St George	463	562	21.40%
Chedzoy	454	508	11.85%
Crowcombe	451	540	19.65%
Shapwick	448	506	12.93%
West Camel	447	539	20.62%
Barrington	442	513	16.01%
Churchinford	429	511	19.03%

Settlement	Total Population (2021) ⁴	2045 Projection ⁵	% Change
Stogumber	426	501	17.51%
Witham Friary	416	458	10.15%
Batcombe	409	468	14.50%
Ditcheat	395	446	12.99%
Faulkland	395	435	10.22%
Kingston St Mary	382	461	20.70%
Drayton	377	436	15.55%
Kingsdon	374	433	15.72%
Bicknoller	373	469	25.64%
Theale	373	424	13.58%
Curry Mallet	349	389	11.51%
Kilve	347	419	20.74%
Buckland Dinham	343	404	17.85%
Galhampton	326	375	15.18%
Horsington	323	371	14.86%
Priddy	322	367	13.95%
West Quantoxhead	320	408	27.48%
Halse	313	366	16.89%
Wookey Hole	307	358	16.70%
Cross	295	350	18.51%
North Perrott	285	333	17.00%
Fitzhead	271	314	15.99%
Blue Anchor	164	210	28.27%

Key to Table 16:

	Population 70,000+		% change 20% or more
	Population 40,000 – 70,000		% change between 16-19.99%
	Population 20,000 – 39,999		% change between 13-15.99%
	Population 5,000 – 19,999		% change between 10-12.99%
	Population 2000 – 4,999		% change less than 10%
	Population 500 – 1,999		
	Population less than 500		

⁴ Census (2021) [Nomis - Query Tool - Population estimates - small area \(2021 based\) by single year of age - England and Wales](#) and [PP012 - Age - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) – population totals for each settlement have been estimated by using the Output Area (OA) boundaries and Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA), which may not be exact and rely on best fit areas. OA boundaries include, where it applies, the Built Up Area (BUA) figure plus, where relevant, additional OA figures where these areas cover parts of the settlement in question. Some settlements that are close by but have not been grouped for the purposes of this study may share an OA such as Street and Walton. Some settlements have been grouped depending on the proximity to other settlements and may encompass settlements historically considered as separate. Please see Appendix 1 (or Table 7) for details on which settlements this includes.

⁵ Census (2021) [Subnational population projections for England: 2022-based - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) – population projections to 2045 have been calculated using the 2022-based subnational population projections on a local authority level. Figures by each former local authority (Sedgemoor, Mendip, South Somerset and Somerset West and Taunton) have been extracted based on the 5 year age bands. A percentage change has been calculated between the 2021 population figures for each former local authority (found here [Population and household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021 - Office for National Statistics](#)) to the projected 2045 figures. The percentage change is then applied to the five year age band 2021 population figures (using the OA/LSOA combination for population) to calculate the figures for 2045 for each settlement. By calculating the total population projection for 2045 for each settlement, a settlement specific percentage change figure can then be identified against the 2021 total population for each settlement.

Employment role and economic activity

- 3.24 A certain population of a settlement does not necessarily result in a particular level of functionality. By also looking at the economic characteristics of a settlement, further insight into how the settlement functions can be ascertained in terms of how many people are working. The number of economically active people in a settlement compared to the number of jobs based there (employment ratio) is generally a good indicator of the sustainability of a settlement and increases the potential for residents to live and work in the same settlement. There are of course anomalies, which can impact the conclusions drawn on such ratios. However, these can often be attributed to large rural employment zones such as Hinkley Point, and the quarries in the Mendip Hills as examples.
- 3.25 Somerset's settlements vary greatly in terms of their employment function and make-up of their working population. Not every settlement plays a role in providing local jobs. Some settlements act more-so as 'dormitory' settlements i.e. people mainly commute-out elsewhere to work, while others have a high proportion of retired residents or low levels of economic activity. There are only a select few settlements that attract a substantial number of workers from elsewhere or offer a high number of jobs for workers close-by. This section highlights which settlements are Somerset's main employment centres; and which settlements have a net-export or net-import of workers.
- 3.26 The consideration of employment and the ability to live and work within close proximity is a central issue for settlement function and contributes greatly towards ensuring the sustainability of a settlement. The identification of strong employment centres should be a defining feature of a robust settlement hierarchy.
- 3.27 This section of the Study looks at employment issues in Somerset. The section covers the following key indicators and potential issues for change:
- Employment role of Somerset's settlements
 - Economically active population and working age population
 - Number of local jobs (workplace population)
 - Net import or export of workers
 - Employment density (jobs to workers)
 - Economic activity rate / employment ratio

Employment role

- 3.28 Table 17 ranks each of Somerset's settlements according to the strength of their employment role. This ranking is subjective, based on a reflection of balance between the number of jobs available within a settlement, the size of its working population, employment density and local knowledge about employment locations. Note that a smaller settlement that imports a larger number of workers may be considered to have a stronger employment role than a larger settlement that offers a similar number of jobs but has a larger out-commuting population.

However, when considered holistically i.e. factoring in settlement size, and the following sections covering community services and accessibility, it will balance the score out where it is impacted by local large employment draws.

- 3.29 The study looked at the net-export and net-import of workers across Somerset and found that overall Somerset is a net-exporter of workers, exporting 20,407 workers as at 2021. This study also analysed the number of jobs to workers for each individual settlement. This helps to identify opportunities to live and work in close proximity with settlements offering a higher number of jobs to works tending to have a better capability of sustainable living (reducing the need to travel).
- 3.30 While the situation of a settlement's role and function is more nuanced than a simple surplus or deficit of jobs, there is always likely to be significant movement of workers as people travel to roles that suit their skills and wherever those opportunities arise. Not everyone will choose, or can choose, to live and work within a small, local area. However, settlements that provide around 1 job per person do tend to provide the strongest potential for people to do so. With a lower 'employment density' score, there are fewer opportunities for residents' to work close to home. As a result, settlements with lower scores inevitably limits residents' choice and make commuting more of a necessity. The average employment density across all settlement in the Study is 0.78 jobs per worker.
- 3.31 Looking at the larger settlements in the study, those with 5,000+ people, the data shows a clear hierarchy of employment centres. Taunton is by some way the strongest (Band 1) employment centre with the largest number of local workers and local jobs. The settlement also attracts an additional 1,878 workers into the town for work, the largest figure out of all the settlements, indicating it is the strongest hub for employment. This is also supported by a high employment density at 1.05 jobs to workers. Bridgwater and Yeovil also have a strong employment role (Band 2) with similar numbers of workers and jobs though Bridgwater is a net-exporter and Yeovil is a large net-importer. Both towns have a large employment density though Yeovil offers more than one job per worker.
- 3.32 Most of the large and medium-sized towns with a Band 3 employment role tend to be net exporters of workers, though offering still a large number of local jobs. Frome is by some way the largest net exporter of workers suggesting a commuter-town scenario, likely given the relationship with Bath, Bristol and the nearby Wiltshire towns of Trowbridge, Westbury and Warminster. This may also be the case for Highbridge & Burnham, which is close to Weston-Super-Mare, Bridgwater and Bristol and finally, Wellington, which is of close proximity to Taunton. Shepton Mallet is also of close proximity to the Mendip Hill quarries and has a higher workforce than Wells and Minehead, despite these towns have a higher overall population. Street is quite balanced in relation to local jobs and workers indicating the town is quite self-sustaining in terms of employment.

3.33 Both Wells and Minehead import a relatively high amount of workers and offer high employment density suggesting a stronger than average employment function for their size. Though on a smaller scale in relation to the number of jobs and workers, Glastonbury and Cheddar are also net importers for local workers, also with high employment densities which may indicate their tourist functions. In contrast to settlements of a similar scale, Wincanton, Crewkerne, Ilminster and Somerton all export a relatively large number of workers with lower employment densities, particularly for the latter two, reflecting their role as commuter settlements. Looking at the medium-large settlements, there are a few which also import workers and have a relatively high employment density. These include Langport and Bruton, and on a smaller scale Berrow and Brean. Castle Cary and Wiveliscombe, while they are net-exporters offer a near 1:1 employment ratio.

3.34 There are a number of smaller settlements that are net-importers of workers with a high employment density. These include Mells, Rooks Bridge, West Chinnock, Faulkland, Spaxton, Wanstrow, Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Seavington St Michael, Brent Knoll, Edithmead, Hatch Beauchamp, North Perrott, Blackford, North Cadbury, Blue Anchor and Weare and Lower Weare. All of these settlements are situated close to employment draws including businesses along the M5, A303, A38 or A39, large schools, Mendip Hill quarries or holiday parks. The settlements with the lowest employment density and relatively high net export of workers include Sparkford, Stogursey, Barwick and Stoford, Chilton Polden, Puriton, Combwich, Coleford, Woolavington, Watchet, Chedzoy and Carhampton.

Table 17 – Somerset settlements' employment role

Settlement	Total Population (2021) ⁶	Employment role ⁷	Local workers (number of economically active residents) ⁸	Local jobs (workplace population) ⁹	Net import or export of workers ¹⁰	Employment density (ratio of jobs to workers) ¹¹
Taunton	74,104	BAND 1	37,572	39,450	1,878	1.05
Bridgwater	51,051	BAND 2	26,697	26,081	-616	0.98
Yeovil	50,529	BAND 2	26,100	27,264	1,164	1.04
Frome	28,970	BAND 3	14,697	12,998	-1,699	0.88
Highbridge & Burnham*	21,747	BAND 3	9,562	8,532	-1,030	0.89
Wellington	17,074	BAND 3	8,418	7,781	-637	0.92
Chard	14,290	BAND 3	6,848	6,414	-434	0.94
Street	13,116	BAND 3	6,076	6,081	5	1.00
Wells	11,819	BAND 3	5,257	5,607	350	1.07
Minehead & Alcombe	11,814	BAND 3	4,867	5,085	218	1.04
Shepton Mallet	10,565	BAND 3	5,878	5,262	-616	0.90
Glastonbury	8,916	BAND 4	4,482	4,809	327	1.07
Wincanton (inc. Bayford)	6,776	BAND 4	3,421	3,229	-192	0.94
Crewkerne	6,683	BAND 4	3,128	3,022	-106	0.97
Cheddar	6,301	BAND 4	3,009	3,123	114	1.04
Ilminster	5,645	BAND 4	2,626	2,324	-302	0.88
Somerton	5,469	BAND 4	2,434	2,073	-361	0.85
Martock & Bower Hinton	4,391	BAND 4	2,088	1,450	-638	0.69

Settlement	Total Population (2021) ⁶	Employment role ⁷	Local workers (number of economically active residents) ⁸	Local jobs (workplace population) ⁹	Net import or export of workers ¹⁰	Employment density (ratio of jobs to workers) ¹¹
Watchet	3,986	BAND 5	1,715	903	-812	0.53
Langport & Huish Episcopi	3,605	BAND 4	1,679	1,800	121	1.07
Ansford & Castle Cary	3,444	BAND 4	1,595	1,572	-23	0.99
Milborne Port	3,203	BAND 5	1,536	945	-591	0.62
North Petherton	3,200	BAND 4	1,525	1,207	-318	0.79
South Petherton	3,097	BAND 4	1,273	1,071	-202	0.84
Bruton & Pitcombe	2,849	BAND 4	1,285	1,436	151	1.12
Tatworth (inc. South Chard & Chard Junction)	2,747	BAND 5	1,256	804	-452	0.64
Wiveliscombe	2,717	BAND 4	1,295	1,280	-15	0.99
Williton	2,440	BAND 5	963	745	-218	0.77
Cotford St Luke	2,429	BAND 5	1,304	718	-586	0.55
Creech St Michael	2,345	BAND 5	1,086	719	-367	0.66
Woolavington	2,343	BAND 5	984	512	-472	0.52
Chilcompton	2,326	BAND 5	1,150	923	-227	0.80
Berrow & Brean*	2,255	BAND 4	972	1,003	31	1.03
Coleford	2,249	BAND 5	1,100	565	-535	0.51
Evercreech	2,170	BAND 5	1,097	722	-375	0.66
Curry Rivel	2,155	BAND 5	929	660	-269	0.71
Ilchester	2,106	BAND 5	1,104	867	-237	0.79
Merriot	2,078	BAND 5	1,015	619	-396	0.61
Cannington	2,047	BAND 5	962	727	-235	0.76
Bishop's Lydeard	2,047	BAND 5	995	656	-339	0.66
Axbridge	2,005	BAND 5	988	744	-244	0.75
Abbas & Templecombe	1,989	BAND 5	983	768	-215	0.78
Henstridge	1,918	BAND 5	882	739	-143	0.84
Horton (and Broadway)	1,884	BAND 5	876	670	-206	0.76
Westonzoyland	1,858	BAND 5	927	571	-356	0.62
Nether Stowey	1,819	BAND 5	820	525	-295	0.64
Misterton	1,679	BAND 5	812	511	-301	0.63
Puriton	1,674	BAND 6	824	400	-424	0.49
Stoke sub Hamdon	1,660	BAND 5	825	549	-276	0.67
Ruishton (inc. Henlade)	1,533	BAND 6	629	366	-263	0.58
Mark (and Mark Causeway)	1,435	BAND 5	723	579	-144	0.80
Wedmore	1,425	BAND 6	602	458	-144	0.76
Combe St Nicholas (inc. Wadeford)	1,378	BAND 5	598	519	-79	0.87
Brent Knoll	1,269	BAND 5	570	620	50	1.09
West Coker	1,259	BAND 6	610	357	-253	0.59
Barwick (inc. Stoford)	1,227	BAND 6	558	259	-299	0.46
Keinton Mandeville	1,226	BAND 6	617	415	-202	0.67
North Coker & East Coker	1,150	BAND 6	495	360	-135	0.73
Huntspill (inc. West Huntspill)	1,136	BAND 6	480	306	-174	0.64
Walton	1,136	BAND 6	527	293	-234	0.56

Settlement	Total Population (2021) ⁶	Employment role ⁷	Local workers (number of economically active residents) ⁸	Local jobs (workplace population) ⁹	Net import or export of workers ¹⁰	Employment density (ratio of jobs to workers) ¹¹
Milverton	1,116	BAND 6	495	298	-197	0.60
Shipham	1,107	BAND 6	522	444	-78	0.85
Rode	1,085	BAND 6	528	379	-149	0.72
Coxley & Upper Coxley & Coxley Wick	1,079	BAND 6	572	390	-182	0.68
North Curry	1,066	BAND 6	465	321	-144	0.69
Baltonsborough	1,065	BAND 6	513	446	-67	0.87
Draycott	1,062	BAND 6	503	326	-177	0.65
The Charltons - Charlton Adam & Charlton Mackrell	1,034	BAND 6	471	460	-11	0.98
Norton St Philip	1,034	BAND 6	451	394	-57	0.87
Stoke St Gregory (inc. Meare Green)	1,012	BAND 6	516	364	-152	0.71
Pawlett	1,005	BAND 6	465	329	-136	0.71
Beckington	995	BAND 6	458	437	-21	0.95
Meare (inc. Oxenpill)	994	BAND 6	499	333	-166	0.67
Holcombe	964	BAND 6	479	312	-167	0.65
High Ham	945	BAND 6	466	319	-147	0.68
Tintinhull	932	BAND 6	421	272	-149	0.65
Catcott & Edington	927	BAND 6	395	381	-14	0.96
Ashcott	897	BAND 6	383	304	-79	0.79
East Huntspill	887	BAND 6	457	265	-192	0.58
Nunney & Nunney Catch	876	BAND 6	394	310	-84	0.79
Montacute (inc. East Stoke)	875	BAND 6	385	381	-4	0.99
Long Sutton	841	BAND 6	424	344	-80	0.81
Stratton-On-The-Fosse	824	BAND 6	353	422	69	1.20
Carhampton	811	BAND 7	309	163	-146	0.53
Wookey	807	BAND 7	371	217	-154	0.58
Westbury Sub Mendip	796	BAND 6	354	296	-58	0.84
Stogursey	788	BAND 7	383	170	-213	0.44
Compton Dundon and Dundon	768	BAND 7	346	238	-108	0.69
Stoke St Michael	764	BAND 6	387	333	-54	0.86
Oakhill	757	BAND 6	386	322	-64	0.83
Winsham	756	BAND 7	319	198	-121	0.62
Odcombe	754	BAND 7	372	221	-151	0.59
Shepton Beauchamp	754	BAND 7	354	208	-146	0.59
Butleigh	752	BAND 7	338	237	-101	0.70
Haselbury Plucknett	745	BAND 6	336	268	-68	0.80
Hillcommon (inc. Oake)	744	BAND 6	370	321	-49	0.87
Rooks Bridge	736	BAND 5	408	632	224	1.55
Norton Sub Hamdon	734	BAND 7	308	181	-127	0.59
Middlezoy	716	BAND 7	349	220	-129	0.63
Pilton	713	BAND 7	361	241	-120	0.67
Blackford	699	BAND 6	346	376	30	1.09
West Pennard	693	BAND 6	340	288	-52	0.85

Settlement	Total Population (2021) ⁶	Employment role ⁷	Local workers (number of economically active residents) ⁸	Local jobs (workplace population) ⁹	Net import or export of workers ¹⁰	Employment density (ratio of jobs to workers) ¹¹
Othery	690	BAND 7	335	191	-144	0.57
Easton	684	BAND 6	347	281	-66	0.81
Kingsbury Episcopi	682	BAND 7	335	181	-154	0.54
East Brent	681	BAND 7	313	222	-91	0.71
Spaxton	674	BAND 6	323	490	167	1.52
North Cadbury	670	BAND 6	343	368	25	1.07
Chilton Polden	668	BAND 7	304	147	-157	0.48
Weare and Lower Weare	664	BAND 6	313	315	2	1.01
Bradford-on-Tone	660	BAND 6	327	282	-45	0.86
Binegar & Gurney Slade	657	BAND 6	355	333	-22	0.94
Combwich	653	BAND 7	298	148	-150	0.50
Cossington	648	BAND 7	324	192	-132	0.59
North Newton	647	BAND 6	377	281	-96	0.75
Hatch Beauchamp	640	BAND 6	285	332	47	1.16
Mells	634	BAND 5	277	638	361	2.30
Fivehead	619	BAND 7	282	197	-85	0.70
Barton St David	619	BAND 7	240	187	-53	0.78
West Chinnock	613	BAND 5	321	516	195	1.61
Ash	613	BAND 7	310	199	-111	0.64
Kilmersdon	613	BAND 7	262	151	-111	0.58
Ilton	608	BAND 7	290	228	-62	0.79
Croscombe	594	BAND 7	273	191	-82	0.70
Hardington Moor/Hardington Mandeville	592	BAND 7	279	185	-94	0.66
Washford	585	BAND 7	301	217	-84	0.72
Charlton Horethorne	585	BAND 7	277	184	-93	0.66
Lympsham	585	BAND 7	247	155	-92	0.63
Queen Camel	574	BAND 6	294	278	-16	0.95
Chewton Mendip	574	BAND 7	257	165	-92	0.64
Brushford	555	BAND 7	259	144	-115	0.56
Marston Magna	553	BAND 7	219	169	-50	0.77
Sparkford	549	BAND 7	260	109	-151	0.42
Leigh-On-Mendip	547	BAND 7	279	233	-46	0.84
Blagdon Hill	540	BAND 7	265	160	-105	0.60
Edithmead	527	BAND 6	227	276	49	1.22
Lydeard St Lawrence	527	BAND 7	269	177	-92	0.66
Hambridge	524	BAND 7	274	176	-98	0.64
Chilthorne Domer	524	BAND 7	265	170	-95	0.64
Langford Budville	523	BAND 7	245	195	-50	0.80
The Lydfords	514	BAND 7	254	206	-48	0.81
East Chinnock	504	BAND 7	242	143	-99	0.59
Seavington St Michael	501	BAND 6	233	301	68	1.29
Wanstrow	494	BAND 6	243	320	77	1.32
Stoke St Mary	483	BAND 7	245	182	-63	0.74

Settlement	Total Population (2021) ⁶	Employment role ⁷	Local workers (number of economically active residents) ⁸	Local jobs (workplace population) ⁹	Net import or export of workers ¹⁰	Employment density (ratio of jobs to workers) ¹¹
Bawdrip	465	BAND 7	246	185	-61	0.75
Hinton St George	463	BAND 7	179	158	-21	0.88
Chedzoy	454	BAND 7	256	135	-121	0.53
Crowcombe	451	BAND 7	209	161	-48	0.77
Shapwick	448	BAND 7	216	130	-86	0.60
West Camel	447	BAND 7	182	115	-67	0.63
Barrington	442	BAND 7	206	151	-55	0.73
Churchinford	429	BAND 7	191	125	-66	0.65
Stogumber	426	BAND 7	174	116	-58	0.67
Witham Friary	416	BAND 7	223	187	-36	0.84
Batcombe	409	BAND 7	202	184	-18	0.91
Faulkland	395	BAND 6	182	353	171	1.94
Ditcheat	395	BAND 7	226	173	-53	0.77
Kingston St Mary	382	BAND 7	167	130	-37	0.78
Drayton	377	BAND 7	164	158	-6	0.96
Kingsdon	374	BAND 7	163	110	-53	0.67
Bicknoller	373	BAND 7	143	126	-17	0.88
Theale	373	BAND 7	181	101	-80	0.56
Curry Mallet	349	BAND 7	155	109	-46	0.70
Kilve	347	BAND 7	138	104	-34	0.75
Buckland Dinham	343	BAND 7	179	167	-12	0.93
Galhampton	326	BAND 7	154	96	-58	0.62
Horsington	323	BAND 7	148	94	-54	0.64
Priddy	322	BAND 7	177	124	-53	0.70
West Quantoxhead	320	BAND 7	111	108	-3	0.97
Halse	313	BAND 7	143	88	-55	0.62
Wookey Hole	307	BAND 7	179	162	-17	0.91
Cross	295	BAND 7	141	95	-46	0.67
North Perrott	285	BAND 7	132	174	42	1.32
Fitzhead	271	BAND 7	144	97	-47	0.67
Blue Anchor	164	BAND 7	53	63	10	1.19

Key to Table 17:

Population

Population 70,000+
Population 40,000 – 70,000
Population 20,000 – 39,999
Population 5,000 – 19,999
Population 2000 – 4,999
Population 500 – 1,999
Population less than 500

Employment Role

BAND 1	Settlement ranks in 'highest' category for its employment role
BAND 2	Settlement ranks in 'upper' category for its employment role
BAND 3	Settlement ranks in 'upper-centre' category for its employment role
BAND 4	Settlement ranks in 'central' category for its employment role
BAND 5	Settlement ranks in 'lower-centre' category for its employment role
BAND 6	Settlement ranks in 'lower' category for its employment role
BAND 7	Settlement ranks in 'lowest' category for its employment role

Net import/export of workers

Biggest net importer (1700+)
Significant importer (500-1100)
Modest importer (100-500)
Balanced (+100 to -100)
Modest exporter (-100 - -500)
Significant exporter (-500 - -1100)
Biggest net exporter (-1100+)

No. of local jobs

30k+ jobs
10-20k jobs
5-20k jobs
1-5k jobs
500-1k jobs
250-500 jobs
Fewer than 250 jobs

Employment density

Settlements with 1 or more jobs to workers
Settlements with 0.95+ jobs to workers
Settlements with 0.9-0.94 jobs to workers
Settlements with 0.8-0.89 jobs to workers
Settlements with 0.7-0.79 jobs to workers
Settlements with 0.6-0.69 jobs to workers
Settlements with fewer than 0.6 jobs to workers

⁶ Census (2021) [Nomis - Query Tool - Population estimates - small area \(2021 based\) by single year of age - England and Wales](#) and [PP012 - Age - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) – population totals for each settlement have been estimated by using the Output Area (OA) boundaries and Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA), which may not be exact and rely on best fit areas. OA boundaries include, where it applies, the Built Up Area (BUA) figure plus, where relevant, additional OA figures where these areas cover parts of the settlement in question. Some settlements that are close by but have not been grouped for the purposes of this study may share an OA such as Street and Walton. Some settlements have been grouped depending on the proximity to other settlements and may encompass settlements historically considered as separate. Please see Table 7 / Appendix 1 for details on which settlements this includes.

⁷ This is a subjective assessment, based on weighing the number of jobs each settlement offers against the size of its working population, the health of its jobs: workers ratio, and local knowledge about key employment locations.

⁸ Local workers - [Nomis - Query Tool - TS066 - Economic activity status](#) (economically active people including full time students for those who are over 16, excluding those are economically inactive). This is calculated based on the Output Areas (OA) or Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) for each settlement.

⁹ Local jobs - [Workplace population, England and Wales: Census 2021 - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) used to determine the number of jobs in each settlement by matching to a settlements' OA and LSOA boundaries.

¹⁰ Calculated by subtracting the number of economically active residents from workplace population to identify where there is a net import or export of workers (more workers commute in than out and vice-versa).

¹¹ Employment density is calculated by local jobs divided by local workers.

Economic Activity

3.35 The 'economic activity rate' represents the proportion of a population, both employed and unemployed, who are generally available to work known as 'working age population'. Those typically considered to be of 'working age' are people aged between 16 and 64. The 'economic activity rate' of a population is different to the employment rate, as it measures the potential supply of workers rather than the number of people actually in employment. The average economic activity rate out of all the settlement in the Study is 84.88%.

3.36 Paragraphs 3.1-3.15 of the study analysed the proportion of the working age population (16-64), average being 56%, with the settlements containing largest proportions of their population within such ages being Faulkland, Cotford St Luke, Wookey Hole, Bridgwater, Chedzoy, Rooks Bridge, Shepton Mallet, North Newton, Bawdrip, Yeovil and Kilmersdon. There are also a number of larger settlements with the proportion of people aged 16-64 at 60% or greater including Taunton, Glastonbury, Frome, Street, Axbridge and Wincanton.

3.37 Table 18 shows that the lowest rates of economic activity are seen in: Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Kilve, Martson Magna, Kingsdon, Montacute, Bruton, Edithmead, Curry Mallet, Williton and Street compared to Somerset's average of 84.88%. With the exception of Street, Bruton and Stratton-On-The-Fosse all these settlements have a relatively average to low proportion of people of working age.

3.38 The settlements with the highest rates of economic activity are shown in Fitzhead, Charlton Horethorne, Long Sutton, Crowcombe, Pilton, Seavington St Michael, Stoke St Mary, North Newton, Weare and Lower Weare and Theale. With the exception of North Newton all these settlements have a lower proportion of people aged 16-64. This suggests that the correlation between settlement size and economic activity is much less easily identifiable. A big settlement does not necessarily guarantee higher levels of economic activity, and a small settlement does not guarantee lower levels of economic activity.

3.39 Some of the settlements with the lowest proportion of people aged 16-64 had some of the highest levels of economic activity including Blue Anchor, Charlton Horethorne, Hinton St George, Wedmore, Crowcombe, Combe St Nicholas including Wadeford and Seavington St Michael. Only three out of the 'medium' to 'largest' settlements in Somerset have above average levels of economic activity and these are Shepton Mallet, Cheddar and Ilminster.

Table 18 – Economically Active Population

Settlement	Total Population (2021) ¹²	Working Age Population (Ages 16-64)	Working Age Population (%) of Total Population	Economically Active Population ¹³	Economic Activity Rate/ Employment Ratio ¹⁴
Taunton	74,104	45,044	61%	37,572	83.41%
Bridgwater	51,051	32,608	64%	26,697	81.87%
Yeovil	50,529	31,423	62%	26,100	83.06%
Frome	28,970	17,402	60%	14,697	84.46%
Highbridge & Burnham	21,747	11,882	55%	9,562	80.47%
Wellington	17,074	10,063	59%	8,418	83.65%
Chard	14,290	8,370	59%	6,848	81.82%
Street	13,116	7,811	60%	6,076	77.79%
Wells	11,819	6,446	55%	5,257	81.55%
Minehead & Alcombe	11,814	6,142	52%	4,867	79.24%
Shepton Mallet	10,565	6,655	63%	5,878	88.32%
Glastonbury	8,916	5,364	60%	4,482	83.56%
Wincanton (inc. Bayford)	6,776	4,035	60%	3,421	84.78%
Crewkerne	6,683	3,739	56%	3,128	83.66%
Cheddar	6,301	3,537	56%	3,009	85.07%
Ilminster	5,645	3,030	54%	2,626	86.67%
Somerton	5,469	2,906	53%	2,434	83.76%
Martock & Bower Hinton	4,391	2,528	58%	2,088	82.59%
Watchet	3,986	2,150	54%	1,715	79.77%
Langport & Huish Episcopi	3,605	1,980	55%	1,679	84.80%
Ansford & Castle Cary	3,444	1,869	54%	1,595	85.34%
Milborne Port	3,203	1,848	58%	1,536	83.12%
North Petherton	3,200	1,732	54%	1,525	88.05%
South Petherton	3,097	1,510	49%	1,273	84.30%
Bruton & Pitcombe	2,849	1,662	58%	1,285	77.32%

Settlement	Total Population (2021) ¹²	Working Age Population (Ages 16-64)	Working Age Population (%) of Total Population	Economically Active Population ¹³	Economic Activity Rate/ Employment Ratio ¹⁴
Tatworth (inc. South Chard & Chard Junction)	2,747	1,507	55%	1,256	83.34%
Wiveliscombe	2,717	1,500	55%	1,295	86.33%
Williton	2,440	1,242	51%	963	77.54%
Cotford St Luke	2,429	1,573	65%	1,304	82.90%
Creech St Michael	2,345	1,273	54%	1,086	85.31%
Woolavington	2,343	1,263	54%	984	77.91%
Chilcompton	2,326	1,364	59%	1,150	84.31%
Berrow & Brean	2,255	1,168	52%	972	83.22%
Coleford	2,249	1,327	59%	1,100	82.89%
Evercreech	2,170	1,251	58%	1,097	87.69%
Curry Rivel	2,155	1,127	52%	929	82.43%
Ilchester	2,106	1,307	62%	1,104	84.47%
Merriott	2,078	1,155	56%	1,015	87.88%
Bishop's Lydeard	2,047	1,151	56%	995	86.45%
Cannington	2,047	1,175	57%	962	81.87%
Axbridge	2,005	1,194	60%	988	82.75%
Abbas & Templecombe	1,989	1,150	58%	983	85.48%
Henstridge	1,918	1,018	53%	882	86.64%
Horton (and Broadway)	1,884	966	51%	876	90.68%
Westonzoyland	1,858	1,072	58%	927	86.47%
Nether Stowey	1,819	939	52%	820	87.33%
Misterton	1,679	895	53%	812	90.73%
Puriton	1,674	936	56%	824	88.03%
Stoke sub Hamdon	1,660	985	59%	825	83.76%
Ruishton (inc. Henlade)	1,533	773	50%	629	81.37%
Mark (and Mark Causeway)	1,435	862	60%	723	83.87%
Wedmore	1,425	687	48%	602	87.63%
Combe St Nicholas (inc. Wadeford)	1,378	679	49%	598	88.07%
Brent Knoll	1,269	698	55%	570	81.66%
West Coker	1,259	722	57%	610	84.49%
Barwick (inc. Stoford)	1,227	653	53%	558	85.45%
Keinton Mandeville	1,226	692	56%	617	89.16%
North Coker & East Coker	1,150	574	50%	495	86.24%
Huntspill (inc. West Huntspill)	1,136	588	52%	480	81.63%
Walton	1,136	639	56%	527	82.47%
Milverton	1,116	611	55%	495	81.01%
Shipham	1,107	619	56%	522	84.33%
Rode	1,085	638	59%	528	82.76%
Coxley & Upper Coxley & Coxley Wick	1,079	662	61%	572	86.40%
North Curry	1,066	535	50%	465	86.92%
Baltonsborough	1,065	616	58%	513	83.28%








Settlement	Total Population (2021) ¹²	Working Age Population (Ages 16-64)	Working Age Population (%) of Total Population	Economically Active Population ¹³	Economic Activity Rate/ Employment Ratio ¹⁴
Draycott	1,062	606	57%	503	83.00%
Norton St Philip	1,034	550	53%	471	85.64%
The Charltons	1,034	534	52%	451	84.46%
Stoke St Gregory (inc. Meare Green)	1,012	564	56%	516	91.49%
Pawlett	1,005	551	55%	465	84.39%
Beckington	995	552	55%	458	82.97%
Meare (inc. Oxenpill)	994	586	59%	499	85.15%
Holcombe	964	544	56%	479	88.05%
High Ham	945	545	58%	466	85.50%
Tintinhull	932	492	53%	421	85.57%
Catcott & Edington	927	500	54%	395	79.00%
Ashcott	897	473	53%	383	80.97%
East Huntspill	887	542	61%	457	84.32%
Nunney & Nunney Catch	876	499	57%	394	78.96%
Montacute (inc. East Stoke)	875	500	57%	385	77.00%
Long Sutton	841	448	53%	424	94.64%
Stratton-On-The-Fosse	824	485	59%	353	72.78%
Carhampton	811	391	48%	309	79.03%
Wookey	807	457	57%	371	81.18%
Westbury Sub Mendip	796	416	52%	354	85.10%
Stogursey	788	446	57%	383	85.87%
Compton Dundon & Dundon	768	417	54%	346	82.97%
Stoke St Michael	764	441	58%	387	87.76%
Oakhill	757	442	58%	386	87.33%
Winsham	756	383	51%	319	83.29%
Odcombe	754	436	58%	354	81.19%
Shepton Beauchamp	754	417	55%	372	89.21%
Butleigh	752	423	56%	338	79.91%
Haselbury Plucknett	745	409	55%	336	82.15%
Hillcommon (inc. Oake)	744	420	56%	370	88.10%
Rooks Bridge	736	464	63%	408	87.93%
Norton Sub Hamdon	734	391	53%	308	78.77%
Middlezoy	716	412	58%	349	84.71%
Pilton	713	382	54%	361	94.50%
Blackford	699	406	58%	346	85.22%
West Pennard	693	413	60%	340	82.32%
Othery	690	380	55%	335	88.16%
Easton	684	392	57%	347	88.52%
Kingsbury Episcopi	682	378	55%	335	88.62%
East Brent	681	389	57%	313	80.46%
Spaxton	674	376	56%	323	85.90%
North Cadbury	670	385	57%	343	89.09%

Settlement	Total Population (2021) ¹²	Working Age Population (Ages 16-64)	Working Age Population (%) of Total Population	Economically Active Population ¹³	Economic Activity Rate/ Employment Ratio ¹⁴
Chilton Polden	668	335	50%	304	90.75%
Weare and Lower Weare	664	338	51%	313	92.60%
Bradford-on-Tone	660	381	58%	327	85.83%
Binegar & Gurney Slade	657	400	61%	355	88.75%
Combwich	653	352	54%	298	84.66%
Cossington	648	379	58%	324	85.49%
North Newton	647	407	63%	377	92.63%
Hatch Beauchamp	640	334	52%	285	85.33%
Mells	634	338	53%	277	81.95%
Barton St David	619	337	54%	282	83.68%
Fivehead	619	308	50%	240	77.92%
Ash	613	377	62%	310	82.23%
Kilmersdon	613	380	62%	321	84.47%
West Chinnock	613	326	53%	262	80.37%
Ilton	608	352	58%	290	82.39%
Crocombe	594	315	53%	273	86.67%
Hardington Moor/ Hardington Mandeville	592	336	57%	279	83.04%
Charlton Horethorne	585	287	49%	277	96.52%
Lympsham	585	335	57%	301	89.85%
Washford	585	303	52%	247	81.52%
Chewton Mendip	574	343	60%	294	85.71%
Queen Camel	574	289	50%	257	88.93%
Brushford	555	298	54%	259	86.91%
Marston Magna	553	289	52%	219	75.78%
Sparkford	549	303	55%	260	85.81%
Leigh-On-Mendip	547	319	58%	279	87.46%
Blagdon Hill	540	312	58%	265	84.94%
Edithmead	527	293	56%	227	77.47%
Lydeard St Lawrence	527	313	59%	269	85.94%
Chilthorne Domer	524	309	59%	274	88.67%
Hambridge	524	322	61%	265	82.30%
Langford Budville	523	290	55%	245	84.48%
The Lydfords	514	283	55%	254	89.75%
East Chinnock	504	293	58%	242	82.59%
Seavington St Michael	501	248	50%	233	93.95%
Wanstrow	494	283	57%	243	85.87%
Stoke St Mary	483	262	54%	245	93.51%
Bawdrip	465	291	63%	246	84.54%
Hinton St George	463	207	45%	179	86.47%
Chedzoy	454	289	64%	256	88.58%
Crowcombe	451	221	49%	209	94.57%
Shapwick	448	264	59%	216	81.82%
West Camel	447	230	51%	182	79.13%








Settlement	Total Population (2021) ¹²	Working Age Population (Ages 16-64)	Working Age Population (%) of Total Population	Economically Active Population ¹³	Economic Activity Rate/ Employment Ratio ¹⁴
Barrington	442	259	59%	206	79.54%
Churchinford	429	218	51%	191	87.61%
Stogumber	426	207	49%	174	84.06%
Witham Friary	416	251	60%	223	88.84%
Batcombe	409	222	54%	202	90.99%
Ditcheat	395	218	55%	182	83.49%
Faulkland	395	258	65%	226	87.60%
Kingston St Mary	382	196	51%	167	85.20%
Drayton	377	200	53%	164	82.00%
Kingsdon	374	213	57%	163	76.53%
Bicknoller	373	174	47%	143	82.18%
Theale	373	196	53%	181	92.35%
Curry Mallet	349	200	57%	155	77.50%
Kilve	347	187	54%	138	73.80%
Buckland Dinham	343	195	57%	179	91.79%
Galhampton	326	168	52%	154	91.67%
Horsington	323	171	53%	148	86.55%
Priddy	322	195	61%	177	90.77%
West Quantoxhead	320	142	44%	111	78.17%
Halse	313	179	57%	143	79.89%
Wookey Hole	307	197	64%	179	90.86%
Cross	295	160	54%	141	88.13%
North Perrott	285	153	54%	132	86.27%
Fitzhead	271	148	55%	144	97.30%
Blue Anchor	164	58	35%	53	91.38%

Key to Table 18:







Population

	Population 70,000+
	Population 40,000 – 70,000
	Population 20,000 – 39,999
	Population 5,000 – 19,999
	Population 2000 – 4,999
	Population 500 – 1,999
	Population less than 500

Working Age Population as % of total population

	60% or more
	58-59%
	55-57%
	53-54%
	50-52%
	45-49%
	Less than 45%

Economic activity rate

	95%
	90%-94.99%
	85-89.99%
	80-84.99%
	75-79.99%
	Less than 75%

¹² Census (2021) [Nomis - Query Tool - Population estimates - small area \(2021 based\) by single year of age - England and Wales](#) and [PP012 - Age - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) – population totals for each settlement have been estimated by using the Output Area (OA) boundaries and Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA), which may not be exact and rely on best fit areas. OA boundaries include, where it applies, the Built Up Area (BUA) figure plus, where relevant, additional OA figures where these areas cover parts of the settlement in question. Some settlements that are close by but have not been grouped for the purposes of this study may share an OA such as Street and Walton. Some settlements have been grouped depending on the proximity to other settlements and may encompass settlements historically considered as separate. Please see Appendix 1 / Table

7 for details on which settlements this includes. The working age population (16-64) is taken from this data with the percentage of total population calculated by dividing the total population from the working age population.

¹³ 'Local workers' [Nomis - Query Tool - TS066 - Economic activity status](#) (economically active people including full time students for those who are over 16, excluding those are economically inactive). This is calculated based on the Output Areas (OA) or Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) for each settlement.

¹⁴ Calculated by dividing the total working age population from the sum of economically active persons.

Travel to work patterns

3.40 As well as the number of jobs, the study looked at travel to work data²⁹ to see where the resident workforce was travelling and how far. This highlighted which settlements required a larger proportion of people to travel further for work, and which provided the opportunity to live and work locally, ensuring the need to travel was reduced, contributing to the sustainability of a place.

3.41 Before examining the travel to work flows at a settlement level, it was important to understand the broader patterns of movement that operated across each of the former district areas. These larger geographies provide a helpful context by highlighting the main commuting relationships across the now one Council area including the balance of inward and outward flows helping to highlight whether certain areas are a draw for employment or commuter based. Such strategic movements help to establish the key underlying employment locations that shape such commuting behaviour and offers a helpful base for a more detailed settlement-level analysis that follows.

Area North (Sedgemoor)

3.42 Area North experiences significantly more people commuting out of the area for work than those arriving in the area for work, resulting in a large net outward flow. While the largest inflows were from Taunton Deane (now part of Area West) at 2,385 of the inflow, North Somerset at 2,359 and Mendip (now Area East) at 1,247 these were also the largest outward flows with Taunton Deane at 4,936, North Somerset at 3,423 and Mendip at 2,023 along with Bristol, South Somerset (now Area South) and West Somerset (now part of Area West). This suggests that the surrounding areas of Somerset and draw along the M5 or main railway line to North Somerset and Bristol have a strong employment pull. As this is 2011 census data, it does not account for the significant investment in employment opportunities around Bridgwater that have taken place since. However, the individual settlement summaries from 3.51 onwards incorporate the 2021 data, which will likely reflect this more so.

²⁹ For Figures 3-7, the data from the 2011 Census (using the 2011 specification) has been used, as the 2021 census data did not collect information on the specific destinations people travelled to for work - [Location of usual residence and place of work by method of travel to work - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

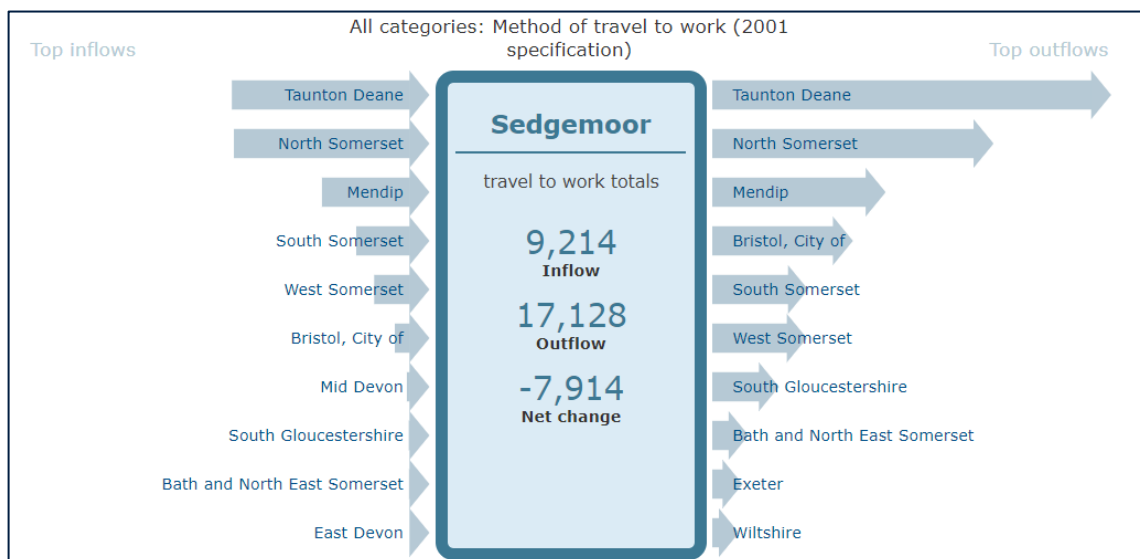


Figure 3: location of usual residence and place of work flow chart for Sedgemoor

Area East (Mendip)

3.43 Area East has a notable net outward flow of local workers with more resident workers travelling elsewhere for work than people commuting into the area. Most commuters travelling into the area come from Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) at 2,900 people, South Somerset (now Area South) at 2,038, Sedgemoor (now Area North) at 2,023 and Wiltshire at 1,828 people being the largest flows. While these inward flows are substantial they are smaller than the corresponding outward flows with the exception of Area North. The largest flows out of Area East are to B&NES at 4,285 people, Wiltshire at 3,121, Area South at 2,252 and Bristol at 1,369 followed by Area North at 1,247 people. Notable is the more prominent movement outwards to the City of London (148 people) and less movement to Area West when compared to Area North (519 people commute from Area East to the Taunton Deane area of Area West).

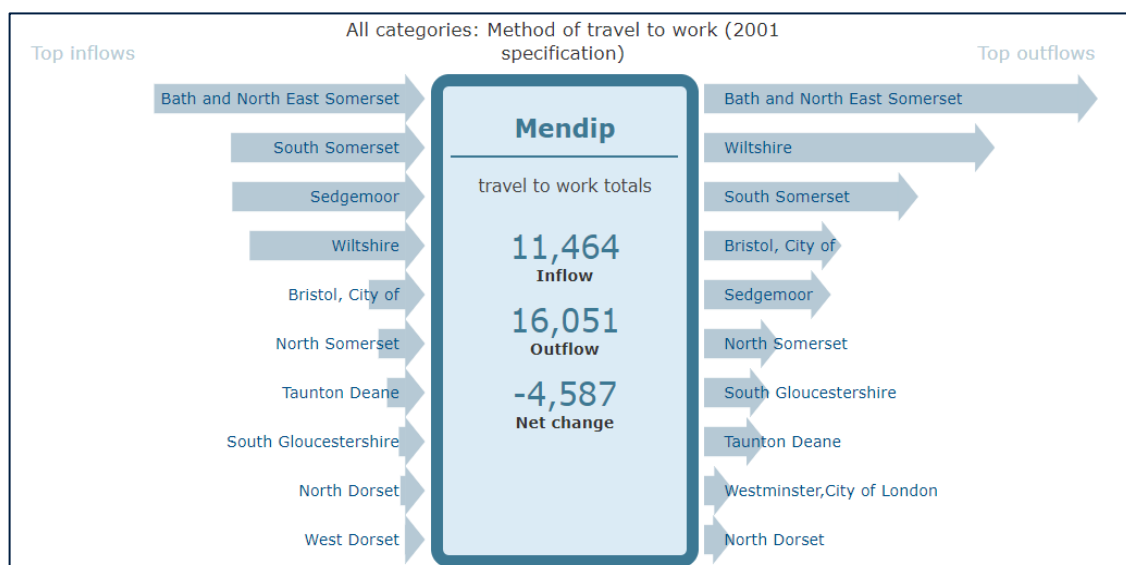


Figure 4: location of usual residence and place of work flow chart for Mendip

Area South (South Somerset)

3.44 Area South has a relatively balanced pattern of commuting compared to the other areas of Somerset with only a small net outward flow. The largest inward flows are from West Dorset (now part of Dorset Council) at 3,410 people, Mendip (now Area East) at 2,252 and Taunton Deane (now part of Area West) at 1,916, identifying particularly strong links to the south alongside movement to other parts of the Council area. Outward flows are only slightly higher such as that to the former West Dorset area at 3,721 people, with flows into Taunton Deane (now part of Area West) at 3,114 higher than those travelling into Area South, and Mendip (Area East) at 2,038 people. Much smaller flows of people to Wiltshire, Bristol and B&NES compared to the some of their Somerset counterparts.

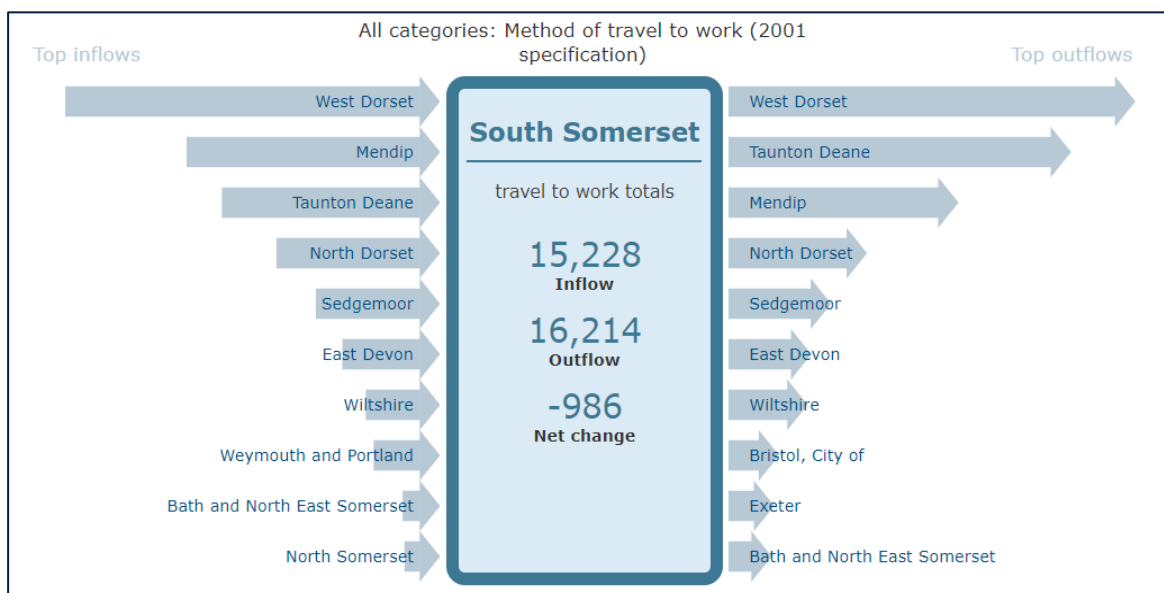


Figure 5: location of usual residence and place of work flow chart for South Somerset

Area West (Taunton Deane and West Somerset i.e. Somerset West and Taunton)

3.45 For Taunton Deane (now part of Area West) there is a strong inward flow of workers, the only area of Somerset for where this is the case. This indicates that this part of Area West acts as a significant employment centre. The largest inward flows of workers are from Sedgemoor (now Area North) at 4,936 people, followed by Area South at 3,114 people, Mid-Devon at 1,773 people and West Somerset (now part of Area West) at 1,516 people. The largest outward flows are to Area North (now Sedgemoor) at 2,385 people followed by Area South at 1,916 people and Exeter at 799 people as well as West Somerset at 758 people.

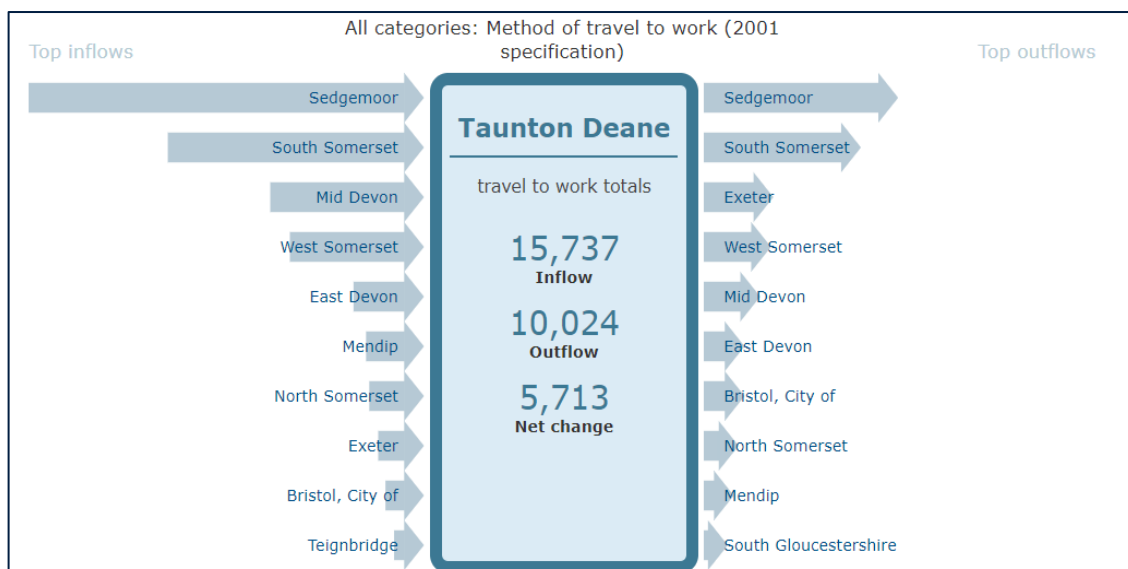


Figure 6: location of usual residence and place of work flow chart for South Somerset

3.46 For West Somerset (now part of Area West), there is a net outward flow of commuters to other parts of Somerset and beyond. The largest inward flow of workers are from Area North at 1,000 people and Taunton Deane (also Area West) at 758 people. The outward flows are similar albeit larger with 1,516 people commuting into Taunton Deane and 587 people commuting to Area North.

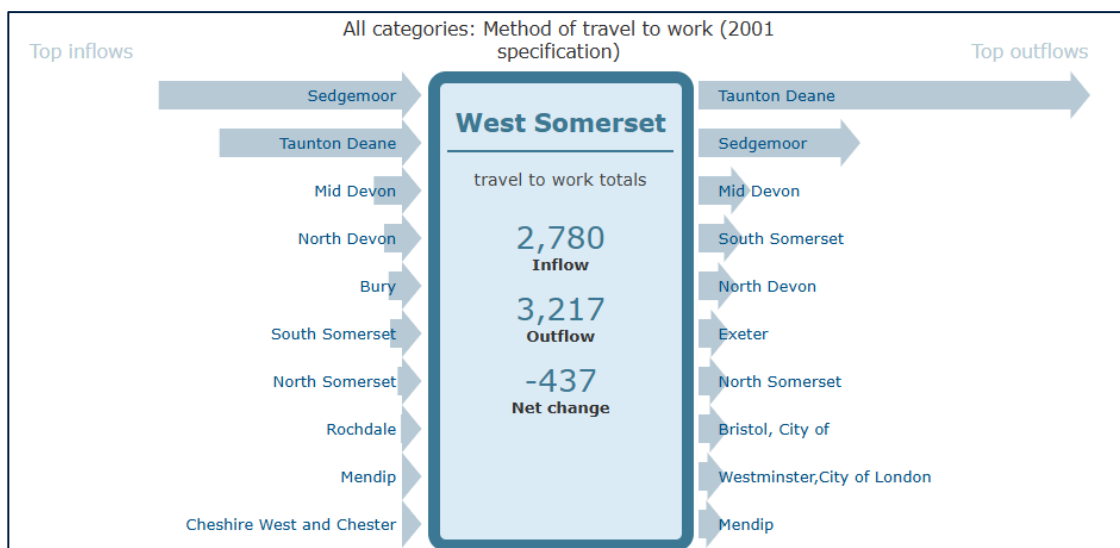


Figure 7: location of usual residence and place of work flow chart for South Somerset

Overall settlement trends by distance travelled

3.47 The data from the latest Census in 2021 does not show the exact place of work unlike the 2011 data. Therefore, analysis at a settlement level is still dependent on using the earlier datasets, which remains the most recent source containing precise workplace destinations. However, to strengthen and update this picture, the analysis is supplemented with the 2021 Census data³⁰ on distance travelled

³⁰ Census 2021 – distance travelled to work - [TS058 - Distance travelled to work - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

to work, offering a more current understanding of how far people are commuting to work, which gives some insight as to where they are commuting, despite precise destinations not being specified. Together these datasets provide a robust basis for examining settlement-level commuting patterns allowing older, destination-specific flows to be contextualised against the newer evidence available. However, it is worth noting that the 2021 Census data for travel to work flows was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with an increased number of people selecting working from home as their usual place of work. Therefore, the figures may be slightly skewed, and the 2011 data helps balance reliability.

3.48 Table 19 sets out the 2021 census data on distance travelled to work by settlement for all the settlements in Somerset the data is available for. The settlements with the largest proportion of people travelling less than 2km for work include Chard, Minehead and Yeovil and this is significantly higher than other settlements in Somerset. Other settlements with a larger proportion of resident workers remaining in their local area for work include Bridgwater, Street and Taunton, which is not necessarily surprising given their strong or very strong employment role. Those with a smaller proportion of resident workers staying in their immediate locality for work include Bruton, Castle Cary and Langport along with all the North, East, South and West rural 'clusters' with a fair or lower employment role classification (see Table 19).

3.49 There were also a number of settlements with a high proportion of resident workers travelling 2-5km to work including Yeovil, Taunton, Bridgwater followed closely by North Petherton, Glastonbury, Highbridge & Burnham, rural settlements in Area South as well as Street. This indicates local workers travelling across larger settlements for work given their larger scale or to close proximate settlements that are major employment hubs. In order to identify smaller settlements whereby residents may be commuting relatively short distances to work, given the scale of the settlements in some cases, those also located conveniently close i.e. 5-10km have also been identified. This showed a high proportion of workers in Area North rural settlements, Wellington and Shepton Mallet commuting this distance in order to get to their place of work.

3.50 Therefore, it seems that those settlements that are strongest in terms of providing an employment role to the local community include:

- Taunton
- Yeovil
- Bridgwater
- Chard
- Minehead
- Street
- North Petherton
- Highbridge & Burnham
- Glastonbury

3.51 Only a small proportion of people travel long distances for work, however, the settlements with the greatest proportion of people travelling 40-60km were Wincanton, Bruton, North Petherton and Minehead. For 60km+ this was Minehead, Somerton, Taunton followed by Wellington and Bruton.

Table 19 – Distance travelled to work for larger settlements and rural clusters (Census, 2021)

Distance travelled to work	Less than 2km	2km to less than 5km	5km to less than 10km	10km to less than 20km	20km to less than 30km	30km to less than 40km	40km to less than 60km	60km and over	<10km total	>10km total	Works mainly from home	Works mainly at an offshore installation, in no fixed place, or outside the UK
Bridgwater	20.39%	16.61%	4.47%	16.82%	3.75%	1.88%	2.25%	1.18%	41.47%	25.87%	17.21%	15.45%
Bruton	9.69%	4.89%	7.09%	11.73%	7.33%	2.97%	3.50%	1.91%	21.67%	27.45%	35.40%	15.48%
Castle Cary	7.56%	4.92%	8.14%	18.61%	4.15%	2.89%	1.77%	1.74%	20.62%	29.16%	34.31%	15.92%
Chard	31.81%	4.08%	6.68%	11.61%	8.46%	1.67%	2.16%	1.57%	42.57%	25.47%	16.43%	15.54%
Cheddar	11.06%	6.14%	4.59%	13.84%	10.03%	3.54%	0.78%	1.19%	21.79%	29.37%	33.55%	15.28%
Crewkerne	17.40%	4.19%	6.23%	23.68%	4.79%	3.36%	1.43%	1.64%	27.81%	34.91%	21.01%	16.26%
East Rural	4.94%	7.43%	11.19%	12.58%	5.56%	2.83%	1.26%	1.33%	23.55%	23.55%	36.29%	16.61%
Frome	17.83%	6.27%	6.92%	13.68%	4.15%	2.86%	1.62%	1.29%	31.02%	23.61%	29.12%	16.25%
Glastonbury	14.86%	9.72%	8.04%	7.84%	6.43%	3.12%	0.90%	1.01%	32.62%	19.30%	31.47%	16.61%
Highbridge & Burnham	15.69%	8.75%	7.97%	15.41%	4.95%	4.20%	2.07%	1.70%	32.41%	28.33%	21.57%	17.68%
Ilminster	12.09%	3.26%	10.33%	16.09%	7.80%	2.17%	2.07%	1.84%	25.68%	29.96%	27.82%	16.55%
Langport	7.30%	4.40%	6.06%	19.66%	6.99%	1.28%	1.56%	1.80%	17.76%	31.29%	32.99%	17.96%
Minehead	31.06%	4.07%	3.67%	3.85%	3.34%	11.34%	2.38%	2.35%	38.79%	23.25%	20.89%	17.06%
North Petherton	11.94%	14.01%	1.03%	19.69%	4.85%	2.11%	2.73%	1.50%	26.98%	30.88%	25.84%	16.30%
North Rural	3.70%	6.69%	14.95%	14.70%	5.52%	2.19%	2.04%	1.73%	25.34%	26.18%	31.50%	16.97%
Shepton Mallet	16.09%	5.40%	12.43%	13.76%	6.46%	2.17%	0.81%	1.13%	33.92%	24.33%	26.11%	15.64%
Somerton	10.41%	2.64%	10.74%	19.29%	7.25%	1.93%	1.04%	2.12%	23.78%	31.62%	27.20%	17.39%
South Rural	5.68%	8.75%	12.16%	14.44%	5.74%	2.28%	1.89%	1.82%	26.59%	26.16%	30.78%	16.47%
Street	20.35%	8.17%	6.36%	11.88%	7.01%	2.73%	1.07%	1.48%	34.88%	24.18%	24.98%	15.95%
Taunton	19.48%	17.03%	5.79%	8.86%	3.97%	2.55%	1.77%	2.07%	42.30%	19.21%	24.87%	13.61%
Wellington	16.64%	6.00%	12.91%	10.56%	5.73%	3.12%	1.24%	1.98%	35.55%	22.63%	24.75%	17.07%
Wells	12.77%	5.40%	8.91%	10.55%	8.91%	2.71%	0.49%	1.07%	27.07%	23.73%	33.55%	15.64%
West Rural	6.33%	5.98%	11.25%	13.80%	7.46%	2.35%	1.72%	1.84%	23.57%	27.18%	32.33%	16.93%
Wincanton	15.80%	1.87%	9.16%	15.78%	7.26%	2.67%	4.09%	1.62%	26.83%	31.43%	23.64%	18.10%
Yeovil	25.97%	17.07%	8.23%	7.64%	5.30%	2.39%	1.28%	1.80%	51.27%	18.40%	18.36%	11.97%

Key to Table 19:

	Settlements with largest proportion of population
	Settlements with smallest proportion of population

3.52 The following section summarises the travel to work patterns for each of the settlements and rural clusters in Table 19 above combining the census data for both 2011 and 2021 to identify the travel to work destinations and patterns:

Bridgwater

- Total = 28,144 people (2021)

- High proportion work locally with around 47% of people working within 10km including 37% less than 5km and 20% less than 2km. Draws may include the town centre, local schools and other business parks e.g. North Petherton.
- High levels of movement to Taunton and Highbridge & Burnham and West Somerset (may be Hinkley Point), 17% work between 10-20km.
- Longer commutes are less common with around 26% people travelling more than 10km to work, which is low on average.
- Proportion working from home is low on average.

Cheddar including Axbridge & Shipham

- Total = 4,378 people (2021)
- Only 11% people work within 2km, 17% within 5km and 22% within 10km, which is a low proportion compared to other settlements.
- 29% work more than 10km, which is high in comparison. There is widespread movement across Somerset and into North Somerset and Bristol.
- Key locations include Bridgwater, Taunton, Wells and Weston-Super-Mare.
- High proportion of people working from home.

Highbridge & Burnham including Berrow/Brean

- Total = 11,801 people (2021)
- Higher proportion of people work locally, 16% within 2km, 24% within 5km and 32% within 10km. Large movement between Highbridge and Burnham.
- High level of movement to Bridgwater, Taunton and Weston-Super-Mare, which may account for 15% of people working 10-20km away.
- Smaller travel patterns to Bristol.
- One of the highest proportions of people having no fixed place of work.

North Petherton

- Total = 5,460 people (2021)
- Very large movements to Bridgwater and Taunton for work.
- Lower proportion of people working within 10km at 27%, however proportion of people working within 2-5km is one of the highest, which indicates the large flow of people commuting to Bridgwater for work.
- Flows are one of the highest for working within 10-20km which may pick up Taunton commuters, workers at Hinkley Point and Highbridge & Burnham.
- Higher proportion of resident workers working more than 10km away at 31%.

Area North Rural Settlements

- Settlements in Area North's rural area had the lowest levels of those travelling less than 2km for work at 4%.
- Highest levels of workers travelling 5-10km for work, which may indicate commuting to nearby large towns and employment sites.
- 26% of people travel more than 10km for work and 15% travel 10-20km.
- Relatively high levels of home working.

Cannington & Nether Stowey & Combwich

- Large movement to Bridgwater and West Somerset (likely Hinkley Point).
- Movement to Taunton and Highbridge & Burnham quite prominent.

Puriton, Pawlett, Woolavington, Huntspill

- Large proportion commute to Bridgwater, Highbridge & Burham, North Petherton and Taunton with smaller movements to Weston-Super-Mare, Bristol and Street.
- Smaller commute patterns to West Somerset (likely Hinkley).

Westonzoyland, Ashcott, Catcott, Shapwick & Cossington

- Very high levels of travel to work to Bridgwater, Taunton and Street.
- Other notable commute destinations are Highbridge & Burnham, Glastonbury, North Petherton, West Somerset, Wells, North Somerset, Bristol and Yeovil.

Mark, Weare & Wedmore

- Widespread movement across Somerset (mainly to Area North and Area East) and into North Somerset and Bristol.
- Notable travel to work destinations are Bridgwater, Bristol, Cheddar, Highbridge & Burham, Street, Wells and Weston-Super-Mare.

Frome

- Total = 13,272 people (2021)
- Higher levels of internal commuting in Frome with many people travelling to the centre of town – 18% of workforce work within 2km and 24% within 5km.
- High outward flow to Wiltshire including Warminster and Trowbridge, which may be partly for army related work with 31% working within a 10km distance.
- 14% work within 10-20km, which may capture flows to Bath, Trowbridge, Wells, Shepton Mallet (and the surrounding rural areas).
- Large number of people work from home at 29%.

Wells

- Total = 7,487 people (2021)
- Slightly lower number of people work within Wells itself – 13% work within 2km, 18% within 5km and 27% work less than 10km away.
- Movements from Wells to work (outward commute) are mainly people travelling to the nearby towns such as Cheddar, Street, Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet, for which some of these towns pick up the 11% people working 10-20km away.
- High proportion of people working 20-30km away (9%), which captures Bristol, Bath, Bridgwater, Frome and Yeovil.
- Large number of people are working from home – 34%.

Street

- Total = 7,829 people (2021)

- High numbers staying in Street for work – 20% work within 2km, 29% within 5km and 35% within 10km. Large flows to Glastonbury and Somerton.
- 12% people working 10-20km away, which captures key movements to Bridgwater, Shepton Mallet, Wells and parts of Yeovil.
- The 7% working 20-30km may include Taunton and Yeovil as destinations.
- Lower numbers of people working from home at 25%.

Glastonbury

- Total = 3,559 people (2021)
- Local trips are common with 25% working within 5km and 15% within 2km, commuters to Street are common (more travelling to Street than vice-versa).
- Key destinations within 10km include Wells, with 33% working within 10km.
- Flows to Bridgwater, Shepton Mallet and the surrounding rural areas, Taunton, Yeovil and Frome for work though on a smaller scale (10-30km).
- Smaller proportion of people travelling more than 10km for work at 19% with only Taunton and Yeovil ahead of this.
- Majority of people are working from home – 31%.

Shepton Mallet

- Total = 8,664 people (2021)
- 16% work within 2km, 21% within 5km and 34% within 10km.
- Large flows for work within 5-10km at 12%, which may indicate commutes to the surrounding rural areas which feature the Mendip quarries and to Wells.
- Other destinations for resident workers include Bath, Bristol, Midsomer Norton, Glastonbury, Street and Yeovil.
- Lower levels of people working from home within the town at 26% or having no fixed place of work than other towns studied in Somerset (16%).
- Interestingly, Shepton Mallet has one of the lowest proportions of people working more than 40km away, which is similar for all the Area East settlements, which may be an indication of lack of access to a motorway and mainline railways.

Area East Rural Settlements

- Low in terms of commutes made within 2km at 5%, 12% within 5km and 24% within 10km. Workplace destinations within 5-10km is one of highest figures out of all settlements at 11%, which indicates movements to nearby big towns or quarries.
- 13% people work 10-20km away, however, 24% work over 10km away, which surprisingly is one of lowest and nearly on par with the largest settlements in Somerset and lower than other rural clusters. This may be due to the availability of work at nearby quarries along with points made about regarding accessibility.
- Highest levels of working from home seen in these settlements.

Baltonsborough, Butleigh, Pilton, Ditcheat & West Pennard

- Most prevalent work destinations include Street, Glastonbury, Wells, Shepton and the rural Mendip areas around the quarry sites.
- Other destinations travelled to on a smaller scale include London, likely due to the close proximity of Castle Cary as well as Bath, Bridgwater, Bristol, Bruton, Frome, Wincanton, Somerton, Taunton and Yeovil.

Evercreech & Stoke St Michael

- Widespread inward commuting from nearby towns and villages.
- Flows to Shepton, Wells and other nearby rural areas with employment sites, Bristol, Bath, Midsomer Norton, Frome, Glastonbury, Street, into Wiltshire including Trowbridge, Yeovil and London.

Chilcompton, Holcombe & Coleford

- Common destinations are Midsomer Norton, Bath, Bristol, Wells and Frome.
- Other notable destinations include Street, Shepton and the rural Mendip areas likely to include the quarry works employment sites.
- People are also travelling into Wiltshire and North Somerset.

Norton St Philip, Rode & Beckington

- Largest commuter route is into Frome.
- Other key work destinations are Bath, Trowbridge, Westbury and Warminster as well as the surrounding Wiltshire area, Midsomer Norton and Bristol.
- In the Somerset Council area, key workplace destinations are Shepton Mallet and Wells (including the surrounding rural areas), Street and Glastonbury.

Yeovil

- Total = 24,941 people (2021)
- Yeovil has the highest proportion of people working within 10km at 51%, 43% work within 5km and 26% of the workforce commute within 2km.
- Widespread flows across to Norton Sub Hamdon, Martock, Langport, Somerton, Castle Cary, Chard, Crewkerne, Wincanton and Yeovilton.
- Some travel into Dorset such as Beaminster, Dorchester and Sherborne.
- Other key destinations in Somerset include Bridgwater, Taunton, Glastonbury, Street, Shepton Mallet and Wells.
- 18% work more than 10km away again which is the lowest in Somerset.
- Low levels of working from home and having no fixed place of work (12%).

Chard

- Total = 6,512 people (2021)
- Highest proportion working within 2km at 32%. One of highest proportions of people working within 5km at 36% and 2nd highest for within 10km at 43%.
- Patterns of travel out to Yeovil, Taunton, Axminster, Ilminster, Honiton, Beaminster and Crewkerne with 12% working 10-20km away.

- Work patterns further afar include to/from Bridport, Exeter, Bridgwater, and Castle Cary and parts of Yeovil, with 25% working more than 10km away.
- Lowest number of people working from home at 16%.

Castle Cary including Keinton Mandeville

- Total = 4,191 (2021)
- Low levels of local working – 8% work within 2km, 12% work within 5km and 21% under 10km. Close prominent destinations are Bruton and Wincanton.
- Highest proportion of people work 10-20km away at 19% which captures Yeovil and Yeovilton, Somerton, Street, Glastonbury, Wells, Shepton Mallet and parts of Frome, Sherborne, Gillingham.
- Small number of people travelling to London likely due to train service availability. Dorchester, Bristol, Taunton and Chard are other destinations.
- Many people work from home (34%), 3rd highest out of settlements.

Wincanton including Charlton Horethorne

- Total = 4,006 (2021)
- Large proportion work locally, 16% under 2km, 18% under 5km, 27% less than 10km, though this is quite low when compared to other settlements. More local prominent destinations for work include Castle Cary and Bruton.
- 31% work over 10km away, which is one of the highest proportions in Somerset – high proportion of people working 10-20km at 16%. Yeovil is a large draw as well as Yeovilton, Sherborne, Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Sturminster Newton.
- One of highest proportions of people working over 40km at 6%.
- Lower proportion of people work from home (24%).
- Highest levels of people working offshore, no fixed place or outside the UK.

Ilminster

- Total = 3,922 people (2021)
- Around 12% work within 2km, 15% under 5km and 26% under 10km, on the lower end. Close prominent destinations include Chard and Crewkerne.
- Destinations for work further afar include Exeter.
- High proportion of people working between 5-30km at 34%, which captures Taunton and Yeovil as prominent destinations, plus Bridgwater.
- Average numbers of people working from home (28%).

Crewkerne

- Total = 3,775 (2021)
- Just over one fifth work within 5km (22%), 17% work under 2km, which is relatively high compared to other settlements and 28% under 10km with local destinations including Ilminster, Norton Sub Hamdon and Beaminster.
- Very high proportion of people working 10-20km at 24%, which captures Yeovil (a prominent location), Chard and Ilchester.

- Other workplace draws are to Bridport and Taunton.
- High levels of people working from or mainly at home.

Langport including Long Sutton

- Total = 2,889 (2021)
- Only 7% work locally (under 2km), which is one of the lowest and comparable to rural settlements in Somerset, 12% work within 5km and 18% within 10km which is the lowest out of the settlements in Somerset.
- 31% work over 10km away, which is one of the highest in Somerset - 20% work specifically between 10-20km away, which captures Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater, Glastonbury, Street as prominent destinations for work.
- 18% have no fixed place, one of the highest proportions.
- 33% work from home, also very high.

Somerton

- Total = 2,691 (2021)
- 10% work under 2km away, 13% under 5km, 24% under 10km, again some of the lowest proportions of Somerset's settlements.
- Prominent nearby destinations include Street, Yeovilton and Langport.
- 32% work more than 10km away, one of the highest in Somerset – a high proportion of people work 10-20km away at 19%. Yeovil is a key destination.
- 27% work from home.

Bruton

- Total = 2,455 (2021)
- 10% work under 2km which is very low, 15% under 5km and 22% under 10km, one of the lowest figures out of all settlements.
- 12% work within 10-20km including destinations such as Yeovilton, Sherborne, Gillingham and 7% 20-30km, which may include Yeovil.
- One of highest proportions of people working over 40km at 5% - some commuting flows to London, which may be due to the nearby rail services.
- Over one third work at home at 35%.

Area South Rural Settlement Summaries

- 25,552 people (2021)
- 6% work within 2km, one of lowest and on par with other rural settlements, and 14% within 5km and 27% work less than 10km both very low.
- High number of trips made between 5-10km at 12%, which indicates travel to nearby large towns and sites such as Yeovil, Chard, Crewkerne and Yeovilton.
- 26% work more than 10km away, which indicates travel to Taunton.
- 31% work from home.

Ilchester, Sparkford & Mudford

- Many people travel into Yeovil for work, and a substantial proportion of people travel here for work likely due to Yeovilton employment area.

- Travel patterns further afar include into Dorset such as Weymouth, Portland and Dorchester and towns such as Street.

Tatworth & Combe St Nicholas

- Main locations for work appear to be Chard, Yeovil and the local area.
- Some travel to East Devon; Exeter, Dorset and Taunton.

South Petherton, Seavington & Kingsbury

- Large numbers travel into Yeovil.
- Other destinations include Ilminster, Yeovilton, Taunton, Chard and Crewkerne.

Templecombe, Henstridge & Milborne Port

- Many travel to Wincanton and Yeovil, but there are high flows to Sherborne, Dorchester, Sturminster Newton and Gillingham and to a lesser extent, Wiltshire.

Martock

- Large numbers travel into Yeovil.
- Otherwise fairly widespread patterns of travel to other parts of Area South such as Crewkerne, Yeovilton, Ilminster, Chard, Langport and Somerton.

Stoford & The Cokers

- A large proportion work in Yeovil.
- A very low proportion work locally, but a significant number work at or from home.
- Some travel into Dorset.

Curry Rivel and Fivehead

- Large proportion travelling to Area West such as to Taunton.
- Otherwise other prominent destinations include to Yeovil, Chard, Ilminster, Langport, Crewkerne and Yeovilton.

Merriott & Stoke Sub Hamdon

- Large proportion work in Yeovil.
- Other key patterns of movement to Crewkerne, Taunton and Yeovilton.

Taunton

- Total = 39,168 (2021)
- Very high proportion work within 2km at 19% and 37% work within 5km.
- 42% work within 10km, the 3rd highest proportion in Somerset.
- 19% work over 10km away, one of the lowest proportions in Somerset.
- Major employment destinations likely include Musgrove Park Hospital, the town centre and UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) and the many schools, colleges and business parks.
- Otherwise, widespread patterns of travel to Wellington, Bridgwater, West Somerset (may indicate Hinkley Point), Chard, Yeovil, Exeter and Bristol.

- 4% work over 40km away, which is high in proportion and may indicate access to the M5 and mainline railway services.
- 25% of people work from home, which is on the lower end.

Wellington

- Total = 9,995 people (2021)
- Large proportion of local trips with 17% made under 2km, 23% under 5km and 36% under 10km.
- 23% work 5-20km which indicates commuting to Taunton, Bridgwater and Tiverton.
- Widespread patterns of travel further afar for work including to Exeter, Bristol, Honiton, Chard, Yeovil and Minehead.
- 25% work from home.

Minehead

- Total = 5,457 (2021)
- Very high proportion work locally with 31% within 2km. Likely destinations include the town centre, hospital or Butlins. 35% work within 5km and 39% within 10km.
- 11% work 30-40km away, indicates commuting to Taunton and Bridgwater.
- Total proportion of people working over 10km away is 23%, which is quite low overall and on par with trends seen in some of the larger settlements.
- 5% work more than 40km away though, one of the highest levels in Somerset.
- Lower levels of working from home at 21%.

Area West Rural Settlements

- Total = 18,675 people (2021)
- 6% work within 2km, 12% within 5km, 23% within 10km, low on average.
- 21% work 10-30km indicating commuting to nearby larger towns.
- High levels of people commuting 5-10km, similar to rural settlements at 11%.
- 27% work more than 10km away, which is higher than other rural settlements.
- 32% work from home (high).

Williton, West Quantoxhead, Bicknoller, Stogursey & Stogumber

- Common destinations for work include Minehead, Wiveliscombe, Watchet and Taunton and Bridgwater.
- This is also a key destination for employment with Hinkley Point.
- Some trips to Tiverton, Exeter, Yeovil, Bristol and London.

North Curry, Creech St Michael, Ruishton

- Very high proportion of people work in Taunton.
- Some movements to Bridgwater and North Petherton, Langport, Yeovil, Chard, Wellington and Street. Exeter, Bristol and Tiverton are among other destinations.

Bishops Lydeard & Cotford St Luke

- Large number of people work in Taunton and some widespread patterns of movement to Wellington, Minehead and Bridgwater.
- Movements further afar to Chard, Yeovil, Bristol and Exeter.

Watchet, Washford & Carhampton

- Very large numbers of people work in Minehead.
- Large movement of people work within the settlements of Watchet, Washford or Carhampton or other smaller settlements nearby.
- Widespread movements noticeably to Bridgwater, Williton, Wellington and Taunton. Movement outside this area include and Tiverton.

Wiveliscombe and Milverton

- Widespread movement to Taunton, Wellington, Minehead and Williton.
- Some movements further afar to Bridgwater, Bristol and Exeter.

Brushford

- Widespread movement to Minehead, Watchet and Williton.
- Taunton remains a popular destination for work.
- Some movements further afar including to Bridgwater and Exeter.

Access to, and provision of, services and facilities

Town Centres & Retail Hierarchy

3.53 Table 20 below shows the status and extent of retail provision in each of the settlements in Somerset included in this Study. This section looks at the retail hierarchy, as to whether each settlement has a recognised retail centre and a supermarket and/or local convenience store. The study also picks up whether each settlement has a range of comparison shops (5 or more high street retailers) present. The table below highlights the retail provision specifically.

Table 20 – Town centre hierarchy and retail facilities

Settlement	Current adopted ranking or Local Plan policy text (relating to retail hierarchy) ¹⁵	Status of retail centre set out in RLNA ¹⁶	Supermarket ¹⁷	5+ Comparison shops ¹⁸	Food Shop (Local convenience store) ¹⁹	Total Centre Spend (£m) ²⁰
Taunton	Main Town Centre	Tier 1	Y	Y	Y	£354.4
Yeovil	Principal Town Centre	Tier 1	Y	Y	Y	£241.2
Bridgwater	Town Centre (plus various Neighbourhood Centres)	Tier 2	Y	Y	Y	£116.8
Frome	Market Town	Tier 3	Y	Y	Y	£41.3
Minehead & Alcombe	Town Centre (Alcombe Local Centre)	Tier 3	Y	Y	Y	£40.4
Wells	Market Town	Tier 2	Y	Y	Y	£80.3

Settlement	Current adopted ranking or Local Plan policy text (relating to retail hierarchy) ¹⁵	Status of retail centre set out in RLNA ¹⁶	Supermarket ¹⁷	5+ Comparison shops ¹⁸	Food Shop (Local convenience store) ¹⁹	Total Centre Spend (£m) ²⁰
Highbridge & Burnham	District Centre/Town Centre	Tier 3	Y	Y	Y	£1.2 / £32.9
Chard	Market Town	Tier 3	Y	Y	Y	£13.1
Glastonbury	Market Town	Tier 3	Y	Y	Y	£5.1
Street	Market Town	Tier 3	Y	Y	Y	£28.1
Cheddar	District Centre	Tier 4	Y	Y	Y	No data
Wellington (inc. Rockwell Green)	Secondary town centre	Tier 3	Y	Y	Y	£23.6
Crewkerne	Market Town	Tier 3	Y	Y	Y	£17.5
Wincanton (inc. Bayford)	Market Town	Tier 3	Y	Y	Y	£6.8
Langport & Huish Episcopi	District Centre	Tier 4	Y	Y	Y	No data
Shepton Mallet	Market Town	Tier 2	Y	Y	Y	£99.3
Somerton	District Centre	Tier 4	Y	Y	Y	No data
Ilminster	Market Town	Tier 3	Y	Y	Y	£10.2
Ansford & Castle Cary	District Centre	Tier 4	n	Y	Y	No data
Williton	Local Centre	Tier 4	n	n	Y	No data
Wiveliscombe	Rural Centre	Tier 3	n	n	Y	No data
Martock & Bower Hinton	Local Centre	Tier 4	n	n	Y	No data
North Petherton	District Centre	Tier 4	n	n	Y	No data
Bruton (inc. Pitcombe)	Local Centre	Tier 4	n	Y	Y	No data
Wedmore	District Centre	Tier 4	n	Y	Y	No data
Milborne Port	Local Centre	Tier 4	n	n	Y	No data
Watchet	Local Centre	Tier 4	n	n	Y	No data
South Petherton	Local Centre	Tier 4	n	n	Y	No data
Ilchester	Local Centre	Tier 4	n	n	Y	No data
Bishops Lydeard	Rural Centre	Tier 4	n	n	Y	No data

Key to Table 20:

Y	Settlements with a supermarket and/or 5+ comparison shops and/or a local food shop
n	Settlements without a supermarket and/or 5+ comparison shops and/or a local food shop

¹⁵ Town centre hierarchy taken from either an adopted retail hierarchy or text used within existing Local Plans describing the role and function of the town. Not all adopted Local Plans have an adopted retail hierarchy and instead describe their function within Local Plan text. **Please note that this is not the same as the settlement hierarchy tiers, which is the end point of this Study. This relates solely to retail hierarchy.**

¹⁶ Somerset Retail & Leisure Needs Assessment (RLNA) Vol 1 2026 - [Somerset Retail and Leisure Needs Assessment - Volume 1 Main report](#). This is a hierarchy suggestion given spend data (convenience, comparison and food and beverage) and geographic distribution, which has been completed for the current main/principal town centres and market/secondary town centres in Somerset's adopted Local Plans.

¹⁷ Supermarkets – the number of these are not counted and ‘Y’ = yes, is simply marked whether a settlement has a supermarket or not. Supermarkets might include Aldi, Asda, Lidl, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Tesco and Waitrose. Settlements marked with ‘n’ = no, do not have a supermarket. This only includes large food shops.

¹⁸ Comparison shops – ‘Y’ = yes, settlements marked with this do have five or more comparison shops. Comparison shops sell non-essential goods that people typically buy at lower frequencies such as clothes shops, gift shops, book shops. This excludes service shops such as funeral directors, pharmacies, hair salons and hot foot takeaways as well as cafes and restaurants.

¹⁹ Local convenience store – the number of local convenience stores is not counted, and ‘Y’ = yes, is simply marked as to whether a settlement has a local food shop that sells essential goods. This excludes shops like farm shops, butchers or other food shops that do not sell any essential goods.

²⁰ Total centre spend – includes the total convenience expenditure, total comparison expenditure and total food and beverage (F&B) expenditure including online for each town centre in the RLNA.

3.54 Looking at Table 20, the retail offerings within the settlements of Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater, Frome, Minehead & Alcombe, Wells, Highbridge & Burnham, Chard, Glastonbury, Street, Cheddar, Wellington, Crewkerne, Wincanton, Langport, Shepton Mallet, Somerton and Ilminster all include a supermarket, 5+ comparison shops and local convenience shops. These places function as strong retail destinations. The retail centres missing a supermarket but offering comparison shops and a local convenience store or stores include Castle Cary, Bruton and Wedmore that offer a middling level of retail services. The settlements that have been previously recognised in the adopted Local Plans to have a local, rural or district centre, but do not have a supermarket or five or more comparison shops with only a local food shop include Williton, Wiveliscombe, Martock & Bower Hinton, North Petherton, Milborne Port, Watchet, South Petherton, Ilchester and Bishops Lydeard offering more so a core convenience or ‘top up’ role, which is important for rural access and reducing reliance on longer trips.

3.55 Both Taunton and Yeovil had the highest retail spend in Somerset with Taunton some way ahead. Both of these settlements act as large scale, sub-regional centres offering a full retail offer with the highest comparison shop spend. Taunton has the highest comparison shop expenditure and is the largest service centre in Somerset with a diverse range of uses with a robust evening economy. The town also boasts a wide range of supermarkets. Yeovil also has the highest convenience shop spend and is the largest centre in south Somerset. The town centre offers a diverse range of uses including the weekly Yeovil market and offers a wide range of comparison shops and supermarkets.³¹

3.56 In relation to expenditure, Bridgwater, Shepton Mallet and Wells offer a strong role for the centre of Somerset. These towns provide a wide range of comparison shops, as well as several large supermarkets that serve their local population and

³¹ Information on town centres and retail status for the settlements is supplemented by: SSSDC Retail and Main Town Centre Uses Study Update 2021 - [SSDC - Retail and Town Centre Study Update 2021 \(Aug 2021\)](#) and Somerset Town Centre Health Checks (2025) - [Somerset Town Centre Health Checks report June 2025 V2](#)

large rural hinterlands. Bridgwater is a key town with a strong industrial base with a mix of retail and large commercial spaces featuring a variety of shops. The town has a range of popular markets too as well as a neighbourhood centre on St Johns Street. Shepton Mallet has the 4th largest expenditure out of all the town centres in Somerset with a historic market town. The town hosts a market every Friday and has a large retail space close to the high street, which includes supermarkets as well as several convenience stores around the town. Wells is England's smallest city and hosts markets every Wednesday and Saturday. Visitor numbers have been steadily rising, showing a vibrant town centre with pubs and cultural venues contributing to an evening economy plus the town has several large supermarket names and convenience stores.

3.57 There are several settlements that act more as traditional market towns with a strong convenience offer, moderate comparison offer also with a variety of supermarkets. There is large variation, however, between these settlements in terms of their role and function. The largest of these is Frome with a large focus on independent retailers and specialist shops with multiple supermarkets, smaller convenience stores and large out of town retail areas. Minehead and Burnham-On-Sea (and Highbridge) act as seasonal, coastal tourist towns while Glastonbury also offers visitor attractions and independent shopping with a strong supermarket base. Street also stands out as offering a 'dual role' with Clarks Village outlet drawing people from further afar, providing a large comparison offer and a higher footfall than perhaps other towns. The town also provides a strong supermarket base and out of town retail offering.

3.58 The remaining market towns include Chard, Crewkerne, Ilminster, Wellington and Wincanton with a modest provision of convenience stores and one to three supermarkets available offering day-to-day services. There is a more prominent comparison shop presence within Crewkerne, Wellington and Chard. The following section examines the services and facilities within each settlement in more detail, looking at not only retail but a breadth of essential services that help to contribute to the sustainability a settlement and identify its role and function.

Community services and facilities

3.59 Provision of community services and facilities within settlements forms a key component of their role and function. Understanding how services are distributed, and the extent to which they meet the day-to-day needs of their local community is fundamental to assessing the relative sustainability of each settlement. Put simply, the greater the provision of certain services, the less need for people to travel to be able to access their everyday needs. Settlements that contain the full range of facilities required on a regular basis, typically demonstrate a stronger and more self-sufficient role. Whereas residents in some settlements may need to travel elsewhere to access essential services, therefore demonstrating a more limited role while helping to determine which places have a stronger role.

3.60 This section sets out an audit of services and facilities available within each settlement covering healthcare provision, financial services, education, retail and shops, and recreational and cultural provision. The audit distinguishes between ‘strategic’ services, which are those that tend to serve a wider catchment and people may not need to use them on a regular basis and ‘local’ services, which meet every day needs and may be used on a more regular basis. The strategic services include the following (see the endnotes for Table 21 for definitions):

- Acute/district hospital
- Community hospital
- Bank or building society
- Further education or college facility
- State secondary schools
- Supermarket
- Five or more comparison shops
- Library
- Leisure centre
- Entertainment venue(s)

3.61 The local services include:

- GP surgery or health centre
- Pharmacy
- Local convenience store/food shop
- Primary school (or first and/or middle school)
- Pre-school or nursery
- Dentist and opticians
- Post office or mobile post office
- ATM
- Restaurant, café or pub
- Recreation ground
- Village hall (or meeting space facility)
- Place of worship or faith facility
- Children’s equipped play area

3.62 Each of these services and facilities are ‘weighted’ to reflect the relative ‘importance’ or ‘draw’ of each facility because some services have wider catchments, and/or are more essential and/or used more frequently than others. For example, schools and food shops are important facilities, used frequently and reduce the need to travel that help support the vitality of communities. There are other facilities such as a village hall or recreation ground that do not as significantly contribute to peoples day to day needs or reduce their need to travel in quite the same way, though they are still important and contribute to the social objective of sustainable development. See Table 21 for the weightings.

- 3.63 The settlements with all the services in the study are Taunton and Yeovil including a district (acute) hospital. Taunton stands out as the most comprehensively serviced settlement in Somerset, offering a full suite of strategic and local services including a district hospital, alongside extensive healthcare provision, further education and secondary schools, large retail areas and extensive comparative shopping. Yeovil sits closely behind, while on a slightly smaller scale scoring the same, providing the full range of identified services including a district (acute) hospital. The town has large retail areas including extensive comparative shopping and further education facilities and the full range of local community services serving the local population and its wider hinterland, particularly within the southern area of Somerset.
- 3.64 Bridgwater has all the identified strategic and local facilities minus the district (acute) hospital and instead has a community hospital, bringing the settlement score down slightly less than Taunton and Yeovil. However, it is still one of the strongest centres in terms of service and facility provision in Somerset with a comprehensive range of shops, healthcare centres, secondary and further education, leisure facilities and other recreational spaces indicating it plays a significant role to its local community and wider hinterlands.
- 3.65 Frome, Minehead and Wells while on a smaller scale, sit closely to Bridgwater in terms of service and facility provision, only scoring down on an element of the recognised entertainment venues and are the most facility supplied settlements outside the town as well as Taunton and Yeovil. All three settlements provide an extensive, well-rounded suite of local and strategic services including a range of comparison shops, healthcare facilities, secondary and further education, leisure and cultural facilities and recreational spaces. Frome functions as a major service centre for the eastern areas of Somerset, Minehead for the west Somerset and Exmoor area and Wells performs well considering its historical role for the central areas of Somerset.
- 3.66 Highbridge & Burnham, Chard and Street, also have a substantial range of strategic services and facilities and ‘fully comprehensive’ range of local services with some variation in community hospital provision, further education and entertainment venues bringing the scores down in some cases. Glastonbury is the only larger settlement that does not score ‘strongest’ for its local services due to the absence of an opticians. However, it is important to consider the close functional relationship between Street and Glastonbury, with Street’s more extensive service provision helping to serve the town.
- 3.67 Crewkerne, Wincanton, Cheddar, Wellington, Langport and Shepton Mallet all have a ‘fully comprehensive’ supply of local services, with a ‘broad’ strategic role (containing more than half of the recognised strategic facilities). The greatest reductions and variations come from the provision of further education, a bank, community hospital and entertainment venues. The settlements with a ‘core’ strategic role and a ‘fully comprehensive’ or ‘substantial’ local role are Somerton,

Ilminster, Castle Cary, Williton and Bruton. Many of these settlements do not have a community hospital (with the exception of Williton), a bank (with the exception of Somerton) or an entertainment venue. These settlements don't tend to have further education provision, leisure centres, and there is a mix of those with secondary schools and supermarkets. Martock is the only remaining settlement with all the local services though with minimal provision of strategic ones.

3.68 The following settlements have a 'substantial' or 'broad' local service provision and a 'minimal' provision of strategic facilities i.e. 1 or 2, Wiveliscombe, North Petherton, Wedmore, Milborne Port, Watchet, South Petherton, Cannington, Nether Stowey and Bishop's Lydeard. The settlements with a 'substantial' local service provision, but with no strategic provision include Berrow and Brean, Ilchester, Coleford and Highbury, Creech St Michael, Evercreech and Axbridge.

3.69 The remaining settlements with more than four out of six key community services (primary school ((must have)) GP surgery, food shop or post office with local convenience goods, restaurant, café or pub, meeting space and play area) and therefore having a 'broad' local role are Woolavington, Chilcompton, Merriott, Abbas & Templecombe, Stoke Sub Hamdon, North Curry and Queen Camel.

3.70 There are 73 settlements that meet the core local role criteria, i.e. four out of six key community facilities including a primary school with Cotford St Luke and Nunney/Nunney Catch being the only two settlements with some strategic facility type. The other settlements include (and is not limited to) the following: Stogursey, Horton and Broadway, Catcott and Edington, Puriton, Tatworth, Curry Rivel, Henstridge, Ruishton, Montacute, Westbury Sub Mendip, and Hillcommon.

3.71 There are 61 settlements that did not meet the core local role criteria including Churchinford, Pilton, Kingsbury, Episcopi, Binegar and Gurney Slade as well as smaller locations like Blue Anchor, Theale and Edithmead.

Table 21 – Audit of community services and facilities

Settlement	Healthcare ²¹						Financial ²²					Education ²³					Shops ²⁴				Recreational and cultural ²⁵							Strategic total score	Local total score	Total score								
	9	7	Strategic total score	5	5	3	3	Local total score	7	Strategic Total Score	5	3	1	Local Total Score	9	9	Strategic Total Score	7	5	Local Total Score	9	7	Strategic Total Score	7	Local Total Score	9	7				7	Strategic Total Score	5	3	3	1	1	Local Total Score
	Acute / District Hospital	Community Hospital		GP/ Health Centre	Pharmacy & Walk-ins	Dentist	Opticians		Bank / building society		Post Office (permanent only)	Limited hours / Mobile Post Office	ATM		Further Education (College/ 6th Form)	Secondary School (state)		Primary School/First/ Middle School (state)	Nursery/ Pre-School or playgroup		Supermarket	5+ Comparison shops		Food Shop (Local convenience store)		Entertainment Venue - cinema or theatre or bowling complex (permanent only)	Sports / Leisure Centre				Library (in a building)	Restaurant/ cafe/ pub	Recreation Ground (publicly accessible)	Village / Community Hall (meeting space for community use)	Place of Worship/ Faith Facility	Children's Play Area (equipped playground)		
Taunton	9	n	9	5	5	3	3	16	7	7	5	n	1	6	9	9	18	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	9	7	7	23	5	3	3	1	1	13	73	54	127
Yeovil	9	n	9	5	5	3	3	16	7	7	5	n	1	6	9	9	18	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	9	7	7	23	5	3	3	1	1	13	73	54	127
Bridgwater	n	7	7	5	5	3	3	16	7	7	5	n	1	6	9	9	18	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	9	7	7	23	5	3	3	1	1	13	71	54	125
Frome	n	7	7	5	5	3	3	16	7	7	5	n	1	6	9	9	18	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	6	7	7	20	5	3	3	1	1	13	68	54	122
Minehead & Alcombe	n	7	7	5	5	3	3	16	7	7	5	n	1	6	9	9	18	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	6	7	7	20	5	3	3	1	1	13	68	54	122
Wells	n	7	7	5	5	3	3	16	7	7	5	n	1	6	9	9	18	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	6	7	7	20	5	3	3	1	1	13	68	54	122
Highbridge & Burnham	n	7	7	5	5	3	3	16	7	7	5	n	1	6	9	9	18	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	n	7	7	14	5	3	3	1	1	13	62	54	116
Chard	n	7	7	5	5	3	3	16	7	7	5	n	1	6	n	9	9	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	6	7	7	20	5	3	3	1	1	13	59	54	113
Street	n	n	0	5	5	3	3	16	7	7	5	n	1	6	9	9	18	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	3	7	7	17	5	3	3	1	1	13	58	54	112
Glastonbury	n	7	7	5	5	3	n	13	7	7	5	n	1	6	n	9	9	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	6	7	7	20	5	3	3	1	1	13	59	51	110
Crewkerne	n	7	7	5	5	3	3	16	7	7	5	n	1	6	n	9	9	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	n	7	7	14	5	3	3	1	1	13	53	54	107
Wincanton (inc. Bayford)	n	7	7	5	5	3	3	16	7	7	5	n	1	6	n	9	9	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	n	7	7	14	5	3	3	1	1	13	53	54	107
Cheddar	n	n	0	5	5	3	3	16	n	0	5	n	1	6	9	9	18	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	3	7	7	17	5	3	3	1	1	13	51	54	105
Wellington (inc. Rockwell Green)	n	7	7	5	5	3	3	16	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	9	9	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	3	7	7	17	5	3	3	1	1	13	49	54	103
Langport & Huish Episcopi	n	n	0	5	5	3	3	16	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	9	9	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	6	7	7	20	5	3	3	1	1	13	45	54	99
Shepton Mallet	n	7	7	5	5	3	3	16	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	9	9	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	n	n	7	7	5	3	3	1	1	13	39	54	93
Somerton	n	n	0	5	5	3	3	16	7	7	5	n	1	6	n	n	0	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	n	n	7	7	5	3	3	1	1	13	30	54	84
Ilminster	n	n	0	5	5	3	3	16	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	n	0	7	5	12	9	7	16	7	7	3	n	7	10	5	3	3	1	1	13	26	54	80
Ansford & Castle Cary	n	n	0	5	5	3	3	16	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	9	9	7	5	12	n	7	7	7	7	n	n	7	7	5	3	3	1	1	13	23	54	77
Williton	n	7	7	5	5	3	n	13	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	9	9	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	7	7	5	3	3	1	1	13	23	51	74

Settlement	Healthcare ²¹							Financial ²²					Education ²³					Shops ²⁴				Recreational and cultural ²⁵							Strategic total score	Local total score	Total score							
	9	7	Strategic total score	5	5	3	3	Local total score	7	Strategic Total Score	5	3	1	Local Total Score	9	9	Strategic Total Score	7	5	Local Total Score	9	7	Strategic Total Score	7	Local Total Score	9	7	7				Strategic Total Score	5	3	3	1	1	Local Total Score
	Acute / District Hospital	Community Hospital		GP/ Health Centre	Pharmacy & Walk-ins	Dentist	Opticians		Bank / building society		Limited hours / Mobile Post Office	Post Office (permanent only)	ATM		Further Education (College/ 6th Form)	Secondary School (state)		Primary School/First/ Middle School (state)	Nursery/ Pre-School or playgroup		Local Total Score	Supermarket	5+ Comparison shops		Food Shop (Local convenience store)		Local Total Score	Entertainment Venue - cinema or theatre or bowling complex (permanent only)				Sports / Leisure Centre	Library (in a building)		Strategic Total Score	Restaurant/ cafe/ pub	Recreation Ground (publicly accessible)	Village / Community Hall (meeting space for community use)
Bruton (inc. Pitcombe)	n	n	0	5	5	3	n	13	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	9	9	7	5	12	n	7	7	7	7	n	n	7	7	5	3	3	1	1	13	23	51	74
Wiveliscombe	n	n	0	5	5	n	n	10	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	9	9	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	7	7	5	3	3	1	1	13	16	47	63
Martock & Bower Hinton	n	n	0	5	5	3	3	16	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	7	7	5	3	3	1	1	13	7	54	61
North Petherton	n	n	0	5	5	3	n	13	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	7	7	5	3	3	1	1	13	7	51	58
South Petherton	n	7	7	5	5	n	n	10	n	0	n	n	1	1	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	7	7	5	3	3	1	1	13	14	43	57
Watchet	n	n	0	5	5	3	n	13	n	0	n	n	1	1	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	3	n	7	7	5	3	3	1	1	13	10	46	56
Wedmore	n	n	0	5	5	n	n	10	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	7	7	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	7	48	55
Milbome Port	n	n	0	5	5	n	n	10	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	7	7	5	3	3	1	1	13	7	48	55
Cannington	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	5	n	1	6	9	n	9	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	9	43	52
Berrow & Brean	n	n	0	5	5	3	n	13	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	51	51
Ilchester	n	n	0	5	5	3	n	13	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	50	50
Nether Stowey	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	7	7	5	3	3	1	1	13	7	42	49
Coleford (inc. Highbury)	n	n	0	5	5	n	n	10	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	48	48
Bishop's Lydeard	n	n	0	5	n	3	n	8	n	0	n	n	1	1	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	7	7	5	3	3	1	1	13	7	41	48
Creech St Michael	n	n	0	5	5	n	n	10	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	47	47
Evercreech	n	n	0	5	5	n	n	10	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	47	47
Axbridge	n	n	0	5	5	n	n	10	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	47	47
Woolavington	n	n	0	5	5	n	n	10	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	43	43
Chilcompton	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	43	43
Merriott	n	n	0	n	5	n	n	5	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	43	43
Abbas & Templecombe	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	43	43
Stoke sub Hamdon	n	n	0	5	5	n	n	10	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	42	42
North Curry	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	42	42

Settlement	Healthcare ²¹						Financial ²²					Education ²³					Shops ²⁴				Recreational and cultural ²⁵							Strategic total score	Local total score	Total score								
	9	7	Strategic total score	5	5	3	3	Local total score	7	Strategic Total Score	5	3	1	Local Total Score	9	9	Strategic Total Score	7	5	Local Total Score	9	7	Strategic Total Score	7	Local Total Score	9	7				7	Strategic Total Score	5	3	3	1	1	Local Total Score
	Acute / District Hospital	Community Hospital		GP/ Health Centre	Pharmacy & Walk-ins	Dentist	Opticians		Bank / building society		Post Office (permanent only)	Limited hours / Mobile Post Office	ATM		Further Education (College/ 6th Form)	Secondary School (state)		Primary School/First/ Middle School (state)	Nursery/ Pre-School or playgroup			5+ Comparison shops	Supermarket		Food Shop (Local convenience store)						Entertainment Venue - cinema or theatre or bowling complex (permanent only)	Sports / Leisure Centre	Library (in a building)		Restaurant/ cafe/ pub	Recreation Ground (publicly accessible)	Village / Community Hall (meeting space for community use)	Place of Worship/ Faith Facility
Queen Camel	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	42	42
Cotford St Luke	n	7	7	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	1	1	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	7	33	40	
Nunney & Nunney Catch	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	3	1	4	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	3	n	n	3	5	3	3	1	1	13	3	36	39
Stogursey	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	1	6	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	38	38
Horton (and Broadway)	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Catcott & Edington	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Puriton (inc. Dunball/Downend)	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Tatworth (inc. South Chard & Chard Junction)	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Curry Rivel	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Henstridge	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Ruishton (inc. Henlade)	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Montacute (inc. East Stoke)	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Westbury Sub Mendip	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Hillcommon (inc. Oake)	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Lymphsham	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Washford	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Long Sutton	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Hinton St George	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
Mells	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	37	37
North Cadbury	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	3	n	3	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	35	35

Settlement	Healthcare ²¹						Financial ²²					Education ²³					Shops ²⁴				Recreational and cultural ²⁵							Strategic total score	Local total score	Total score								
	9	7	Strategic total score	5	5	3	3	Local total score	7	Strategic Total Score	5	3	1	Local Total Score	9	9	Strategic Total Score	7	5	Local Total Score	9	7	Strategic Total Score	7	Local Total Score	9	7				7	Strategic Total Score	5	3	3	1	1	Local Total Score
	Acute / District Hospital	Community Hospital		GP/ Health Centre	Pharmacy & Walk-ins	Dentist	Opticians		Bank / building society		Post Office (permanent only)	Limited hours / Mobile Post Office	ATM		Further Education (College/ 6th Form)	Secondary School (state)		Primary School/First/ Middle School (state)	Nursery/ Pre-School or playgroup		Local Total Score	Supermarket	5+ Comparison shops		Food Shop (Local convenience store)						Entertainment Venue - cinema or theatre or bowling complex (permanent only)	Sports / Leisure Centre	Library (in a building)		Restaurant/ cafe/ pub	Recreation Ground (publicly accessible)	Village / Community Hall (meeting space for community use)	Place of Worship/ Faith Facility
Churchinford	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	n	5	5	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	n	1	12	0	34	34
Beckington	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	n	1	1	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	33	33	
Westonzoyland	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	32	32	
Keinton Mandeville	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	32	32
Milverton	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	32	32
Mark (and Mark Causeway)	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	32	32
Norton St Philip	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	32	32
Rode	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	32	32
Stoke St Michael	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	32	32
Winsham	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	32	32
Norton Sub Hamdon	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	32	32
Middlezoy	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	32	32
Combe St Nicholas (inc. Wadeford)	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	32	32
Stogumber	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	32	32
Crowcombe	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	32	32
West Coker	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	30	30
East Brent	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	30	30	
Pilton	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	n	5	5	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	30	30
Shepton Beauchamp	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	3	n	3	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	30	30
Ash	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	30	30

Settlement	Healthcare ²¹							Financial ²²					Education ²³					Shops ²⁴				Recreational and cultural ²⁵							Strategic total score	Local total score	Total score							
	9	7	Strategic total score	5	5	3	3	Local total score	7	Strategic Total Score	5	3	1	Local Total Score	9	9	Strategic Total Score	7	5	Local Total Score	9	7	Strategic Total Score	7	Local Total Score	9	7	7				Strategic Total Score	5	3	3	1	1	Local Total Score
	Acute / District Hospital	Community Hospital		GP/ Health Centre	Pharmacy & Walk-ins	Dentist	Opticians		Bank / building society		Limited hours / Mobile Post Office	Post Office (permanent only)	ATM		Further Education (College/ 6th Form)	Secondary School (state)		Primary School/First/ Middle School (state)	Nursery/ Pre-School or playgroup		Supermarket	5+ Comparison shops		Food Shop (Local convenience store)			Entertainment Venue - cinema or theatre or bowling complex (permanent only)	Sports / Leisure Centre				Library (in a building)		Restaurant/ cafe/ pub	Recreation Ground (publicly accessible)	Village / Community Hall (meeting space for community use)	Place of Worship/ Faith Facility	Children's Play Area (equipped playground)
Stoke St Gregory (inc. Meare Green)	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	3	n	3	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	28	28
Weare and Lower Weare	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	n	3	1	n	9	0	28	28
Draycott	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	27	27
Brent Knoll	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	27	27
Baltonsborough	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	27	27
Combwich	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	27	27
Spaxton	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	27	27
Blackford	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Oakhill	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	5	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Kingsbury Episcopi	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Binegar & Gurney Slade	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Walton	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Shipham	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Ilton	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Ashcott	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Huntspill (inc. West Huntspill)	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Wookey	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	Y	n	5	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
North Coker & East Coker	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Coxley & Upper Coxley & Coxley Wick	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
West Chinnock	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25

Settlement	Healthcare ²¹							Financial ²²					Education ²³					Shops ²⁴				Recreational and cultural ²⁵							Strategic total score	Local total score	Total score							
	9	7	Strategic total score	5	5	3	3	Local total score	7	Strategic Total Score	5	3	1	Local Total Score	9	9	Strategic Total Score	7	5	Local Total Score	9	7	Strategic Total Score	7	Local Total Score	9	7	7				Strategic Total Score	5	3	3	1	1	Local Total Score
	Acute / District Hospital	Community Hospital		GP/ Health Centre	Pharmacy & Walk-ins	Dentist	Opticians		Bank / building society		Limited hours / Mobile Post Office	Post Office (permanent only)	ATM		Further Education (College/ 6th Form)	Secondary School (state)		Primary School/First/ Middle School (state)	Nursery/ Pre-School or playgroup		Local Total Score	Supermarket	5+ Comparison shops		Food Shop (Local convenience store)		Local Total Score	Entertainment Venue - cinema or theatre or bowling complex (permanent only)				Sports / Leisure Centre	Library (in a building)		Strategic Total Score	Restaurant/ cafe/ pub	Recreation Ground (publicly accessible)	Village / Community Hall (meeting space for community use)
Chewton Mendip	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Leigh-On-Mendip	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Hambridge (inc. Westport)	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Kingston St Mary	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
North Newton	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Hatch Beauchamp	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	25	25
Charlton Horethorne	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	3	n	3	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	25	25
Kilve	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	n	12	0	24	24
Chilthorne Domer	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	3	n	3	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	23	23
Ditcheat	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	22	22
Barwick (inc. Stoford)	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	n	1	1	10	0	22	22
Lydfords	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	1	1	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	21	21
Hardington Moor/ Hardington Mandeville	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	20	20
Sparkford	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	20	20
Kingsdon	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	20	20
Bicknoller	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	20	20
Seavington St Michael	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	20	20
Pawlett	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	20	20
Tintinhull	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	20	20
East Huntspill	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	20	20
Haselbury Plucknett	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	20	20

Settlement	Healthcare ²¹							Financial ²²					Education ²³					Shops ²⁴				Recreational and cultural ²⁵							Strategic total score	Local total score	Total score							
	9	7	Strategic total score	5	5	3	3	Local total score	7	Strategic Total Score	5	3	1	Local Total Score	9	9	Strategic Total Score	7	5	Local Total Score	9	7	Strategic Total Score	7	Local Total Score	9	7	7				Strategic Total Score	5	3	3	1	1	Local Total Score
	Acute / District Hospital	Community Hospital		GP/ Health Centre	Pharmacy & Walk-ins	Dentist	Opticians		Bank / building society		Post Office (permanent only)	Limited hours / Mobile Post Office	ATM		Further Education (College/ 6th Form)	Secondary School (state)		Primary School/First/ Middle School (state)	Nursery/ Pre-School or playgroup			Supermarket	5+ Comparison shops		Food Shop (Local convenience store)			Entertainment Venue - cinema or theatre or bowling complex (permanent only)				Sports / Leisure Centre	Library (in a building)		Restaurant/ cafe/ pub	Recreation Ground (publicly accessible)	Village / Community Hall (meeting space for community use)	Place of Worship/ Faith Facility
Charlton Adam & Charlton Mackrell 'The Charltons'	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	5	12	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	20	20
Kilmersdon	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	20	20
Croscombe	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	20	20
Langford Budville	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	20	20
High Ham	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	20	20
Priddy	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	n	12	0	19	19
Meare (inc. Oxenpill)	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	3	n	3	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	18	18
Compton Dundon and Dundon	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	18	18
Barrington	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	5	5	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	18	18
Curry Mallet	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	n	3	1	1	10	0	17	17
Wanstrow	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	3	n	3	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	16	16
Bradford-on-Tone	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	n	3	1	n	9	0	16	16
West Quantoxhead	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	5	n	3	1	n	9	0	16	16
West Pennard	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	n	3	1	n	9	0	16	16
Butleigh	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	15	15
Brushford	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	7	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	15	15
Othery	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	15	15
Horsington	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	15	15
Lydeard St Lawrence	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	15	15
Misterton	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13

Settlement	Healthcare ²¹							Financial ²²					Education ²³					Shops ²⁴				Recreational and cultural ²⁵							Strategic total score	Local total score	Total score								
	9	7	Strategic total score	5	5	3	3	Local total score	7	Strategic Total Score	5	3	1	Local Total Score	9	9	Strategic Total Score	7	5	Local Total Score	9	7	Strategic Total Score	7	Local Total Score	9	7	7				Strategic Total Score	5	3	3	1	1	Local Total Score	
	Acute / District Hospital	Community Hospital		GP/ Health Centre	Pharmacy & Walk-ins	Dentist	Opticians		Bank / building society		Post Office (permanent only)	Limited hours / Mobile Post Office	ATM		Further Education (College/ 6th Form)	Secondary School (state)		Primary School/First/ Middle School (state)	Nursery/ Pre-School or playgroup			Supermarket	5+ Comparison shops		Food Shop (Local convenience store)			Entertainment Venue - cinema or theatre or bowling complex (permanent only)				Sports / Leisure Centre	Library (in a building)		Restaurant/ cafe/ pub	Recreation Ground (publicly accessible)	Village / Community Hall (meeting space for community use)	Place of Worship/ Faith Facility	Children's Play Area (equipped playground)
Holcombe	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13	
Stratton-On-The-Fosse	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13	
Odcombe	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13	
Chilton Polden	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13	
Cossington	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13	
Fivehead	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13	
East Chinnock	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	Y	n	5	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	13	13
Stoke St Mary	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13	
West Camel	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13	
Batcombe	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13	
Buckland Dinham	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13	
Galhampton	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13	
Barton St David	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13	
Fitzhead	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	1	13	0	13	13	
North Perrott	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	3	1	n	12	0	12	12	
Bawdrip	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	7	n	7	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	n	3	1	n	4	0	11	11	
Marston Magna	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	n	3	1	1	10	0	10	10	
Witham Friary	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	n	1	1	10	0	10	10	
Faulkland	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	n	n	1	9	0	9	9	
Blagdon Hill	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	3	n	n	1	9	0	9	9	
Rooks Bridge	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	5	n	n	5	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	3	n	n	1	4	0	9	9	
Drayton	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	n	3	1	n	9	0	9	9	
Halse	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	5	n	3	1	n	9	0	9	9	

Settlement	Healthcare ²¹							Financial ²²					Education ²³					Shops ²⁴				Recreational and cultural ²⁵								Strategic total score	Local total score	Total score						
	9	7	Strategic total score	5	5	3	3	Local total score	7	Strategic Total Score	5	3	1	Local Total Score	9	9	Strategic Total Score	7	5	Local Total Score	9	7	Strategic Total Score	7	Local Total Score	9	7	7	Strategic Total Score				5	3	3	1	1	Local Total Score
	Acute / District Hospital	Community Hospital		GP/ Health Centre	Pharmacy & Walk-ins	Dentist	Opticians		Bank / building society		Limited hours / Mobile Post Office	Post Office (permanent only)	ATM		Further Education (College/ 6th Form)	Secondary School (state)		Primary School/First/ Middle School (state)	Nursery/ Pre-School or playgroup		Local Total Score	Supermarket	5+ Comparison shops		Food Shop (Local convenience store)		Entertainment Venue - cinema or theatre or bowling complex (permanent only)	Sports / Leisure Centre	Library (in a building)					Restaurant/ cafe/ pub	Recreation Ground (publicly accessible)	Village / Community Hall (meeting space for community use)	Place of Worship/ Faith Facility	Children's Play Area (equipped playground)
Carhampton	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	8	8
Chedzoy	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	8	8
Shapwick	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	8	8
Easton	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	3	3	1	1	8	0	8	8
Cross	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	n	3	n	n	8	0	8	8
Wookey Hole	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	n	n	1	n	6	0	6	6
Blue Anchor	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	5	n	n	n	n	5	0	5	5
Theale	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	3	1	n	4	0	4	4
Edithmead	n	n	0	n	n	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	n	0	n	0	n	n	n	0	n	n	n	1	n	1	0	1	1

Key to Table 21:

Strategic role

FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	Fully comprehensive (all 9 strategic facilities located there including a district hospital)
SUBSTANTIAL	Substantial (most strategic facilities located there i.e. 8-9 with a community hospital)
BROAD	Broad (over half strategic facilities located there i.e. 5-7)
CORE	Core (some strategic facilities located there i.e. 3-4)
MINIMAL	Minimal (very few strategic facilities located there i.e. 1 or 2)
NONE	None (no strategic facilities located there out of those identified as key within study)

Scoring:

The audit represents either a 'yes' or 'no' where a settlement has a highlighted score. It does not count the number of local food shops for example, or secondary schools and play areas, instead a score has been given simply based on whether a settlement has one or there is one within accessible, safe walking distance from the settlement edge meaning that realistically local residents would use it e.g. a pub. The scoring for entertainment is '3' for each facility e.g. if a settlement has only a cinema they score 3, however, if they have a cinema, theatre and bowling complex they score 9. The strategic and local total columns are the totals of the preceding strategic or local total columns. Strategic facilities score either 7 or 9 depending on their scale and local facilities score 1, 3, 5, or 7. Note that the accessibility to employment destinations as well as broadband, and other large towns has been calculated separately. City, Town and Parish Councils in Somerset contributed to the information displayed here from responses to our early Local Plan engagement consultation in Autumn 2024. Note that represents a snapshot in time and is subject to change.

Local role

FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	Fully comprehensive (has all local facilities identified, scoring 54)
SUBSTANTIAL	Substantial (most local facilities located there)
BROAD	Broad (more than 4/6 of the key 'core'* community facilities)
CORE	Core (some i.e. 4 out of 6 of key 'core' facilities including a primary school)
MINIMAL	Minimal (very few local facilities i.e. 2-4)
LIMITED	Very few facilities (less than 2 basic community facilities) most settlements likely excluded before the study

*Core community facilities include a local convenience store/post office, primary school, health centre, pub/restaurant/café, village hall or faith facility with community meeting space and children's play area (recreation ground included). When counting four out for six, a primary school must be one. Provision of these core facilities enable residents to access their everyday needs and live as sustainably as possible.

²¹ Healthcare facility definitions and notes:

- Acute / District hospital (9) – strategic health facility, usually within a main settlement providing acute health services and specialist services.
- Community hospital (7) – community health facility providing specialist services often with an urgent treatment centre and/or outpatient care and/or inpatient care.
- GP surgery / Health Centre (5) – GP services at an accessible community health facility, first point of contact for health issues and locally important.
- Pharmacy & Walk-ins (5) – facilities for medication access and health advice often located with or nearby to a GP surgery.
- Dentist (3) – dental clinics providing specialist services supplementing GPs, hospitals and pharmacies, locally important though less universal than GPs and pharmacies.
- Opticians (3) – specialised services supplementing healthcare provision, locally important though often less universal than facilities like GP surgeries.

²² Financial facility definitions and notes:

- Bank / Building Society (7) – essential financial services. Post offices are excluded, as they have been counted in their own right, while recognising their importance in providing financial services.
- Post Office (5) – local postal services, this includes only permanent facilities.
- Limited hours / Mobile Post Office (3) – local postal services with limited hours (often situated within village halls) i.e. one day a week or mobile postal services serving communities once a week.
- ATM (1) – local access to cash withdrawal, essential for those who are less mobile or habitual to online banking and communications. Post offices excluded to avoid double counting.

²³ Education facility definitions and notes:

- Further education (college / 6th form) (9) – strategic education facility, attract students regionally, free and accessible to all.
- State Secondary School (9) – strategic education facility usually located in main urban centres with wide catchment areas, must be free and accessible to all.
- State Primary school (Middle School / First School) (7) – local education facility for young people who should not need to travel far, within settlement and accessible on foot.
- Nursery / pre-school or playgroup (5) – nurseries, infant/pre-schools, supporting working parents and to prepare children for school. Less universal than primary schools.

²⁴ Shops definitions:

- Supermarket (9) – strategic facility often located in larger settlements serving a wide area providing a wide range of goods and specialist products.
- 5+ comparison shops (7) – providing a strategic retail role with five or more shops, which include more specialist shops less frequented known as comparison shops. These include things like electronic stores, clothes shops, furniture stores, department stores, bookstores, jewellery shops, sports shops, charity shops, gift shops and toy shops. Convenience stores are excluded here.
- Food shop / local convenience store (7) – local access to essential convenience goods counting only smaller stores like corner shops, local shops or express shops. Specialist shops that do not sell convenience goods such as farm shops, bakeries, butchers, delicatessens, fishmongers and health food shops have been excluded.

²⁵ Recreational and cultural definitions:

- Entertainment venue (9) – three types of cultural venue including cinema, theatre and bowling complex. Facilities must be permanent (excludes outdoor cinemas). Serve as a strategic facility contributing to the vitality and evening economy of a settlement.
- Sports / leisure centre (7) – centres providing a range of facilities for health and wellbeing. To be included these centres must include more than one facility i.e. gym and a swimming pool.
- Library (7) – educational resource, includes all services accessible to the public, often seen as strategic hubs within the main settlements in Somerset. Small book exchanges are excluded.
- Restaurant / café / pub (5) – hospitality establishments providing a range of food and drink options contributing to social and cultural life. Hot food takeaways have been excluded.
- Recreation ground (3) – sports fields and areas of green space accessible to the public for physical activity or community engagement.
- Village / community hall (3) – meeting room space for local people, events, important for local community cohesion.
- Place of worship (1) – spaces offering various religious and spiritual activities, of cultural significance, tend to be relatively widespread
- Play area (1) – local children's play provision, equipped facility, situated within a settlement, accessible by foot and publicly accessible, relatively widespread

Ultrafast broadband coverage and availability

- 3.72 To inform the services and facilities analysis, the coverage of ultrafast broadband (UFBB) for each settlement has been identified. This analysis has been undertaken by part of the work commissioned to transport consultants WSP to understand each settlements' accessibility and connectivity. The classification in Table 22 (final two columns), has not been incorporated into the final score for each settlement in 'The Matrix', as it is not considered a core determinant of a settlements' role and function. The scoring framework we have used focused on established and consistently available factors: settlement size, employment role, provision of services and facilities and sustainable accessibility and connectivity. We think these factors directly reflect how settlements function and a day-to-day basis, helping to reduce the need to travel and to support a sustainable pattern of growth around the most well-served locations.
- 3.73 UFBB is still emerging and is rapidly changing with coverage levels subject to ongoing rollout projects, which can alter coverage in a short period of time. Therefore, while our scoring helps to provide a snapshot in time of recent coverage status, including it within the methodology could risk introducing a level of instability within the results as settlements may be marked up or down based on infrastructure that is in the process of being rolled out. Furthermore, while digital connectivity is increasingly important, it does not directly determine (or link to) the presence of key community infrastructure or the ability of a settlement to function independently on a day-to-day basis in the same way as physical services and facilities do. For these reasons, UFBB availability has been presented as contextual analysis, which allows us to highlight significant variation in digital connectivity to identify areas where future improvement may be needed, without influencing the outcomes presented in the hierarchy.
- 3.74 The data in the final columns of Table 22 show the UFBB availability as a percentage of premises, and an overall assigned score (see the key to Table 22 for how the coverage aligns to a score). Out of 176 settlements, 100 settlements have full coverage of UFBB (75% or more coverage) and a further 15 settlements have good coverage of UFBB (50-74% coverage). Out of the 100 settlements with full coverage there are 12 settlements with 100% coverage. These are all smaller settlements such as Cotford St Luke, Marston Magna, Churchinford, Chilthorne Domer, Ditchat, Cross, Shipham and Keinton Mandeville. There are 14 settlements that have limited coverage of UFBB (25-49% coverage) and 68 settlements have no UFBB coverage (less than 25% coverage). Out of these 68 settlements, 36 of them had 0% coverage and 53 had less than 10% coverage. Settlements with no coverage include Barton St David, Langport, Queen Camel, Tatworth, Wiveliscombe, Williton, Milverton, North Curry and Carhampton.
- 3.75 It is worth noting also that there are much fewer settlements with a more middling coverage (so good or limited) than those that either have full or nearly full

coverage and those that have no or nearly no coverage of UFBB. This may suggest that the rollout of UFBB tends to occur in more distinct phases with the bulk of settlements showing quite clearly that they either do or don't have UFBB.

3.76 The percentage of premises with UFBB coverage reveals a clear pattern across many of the settlements in the Study – the larger settlements tend to have better coverage of UFBB. All settlements with the largest number of households, Taunton, Yeovil and Bridgwater had full coverage of UFBB. All large sized settlements or medium large settlements, with the exception of Somerton at 10% coverage, have good or full coverage of UFBB. Most of these larger sized settlements have full coverage though Crewkerne, Chard and Minehead & Alcombe have good coverage ranging from 56%-69% respectively. See Figure 8 for this pattern. There are also notable 'gaps' in UFBB coverage – such as the central area of Somerset where Somerton is located.

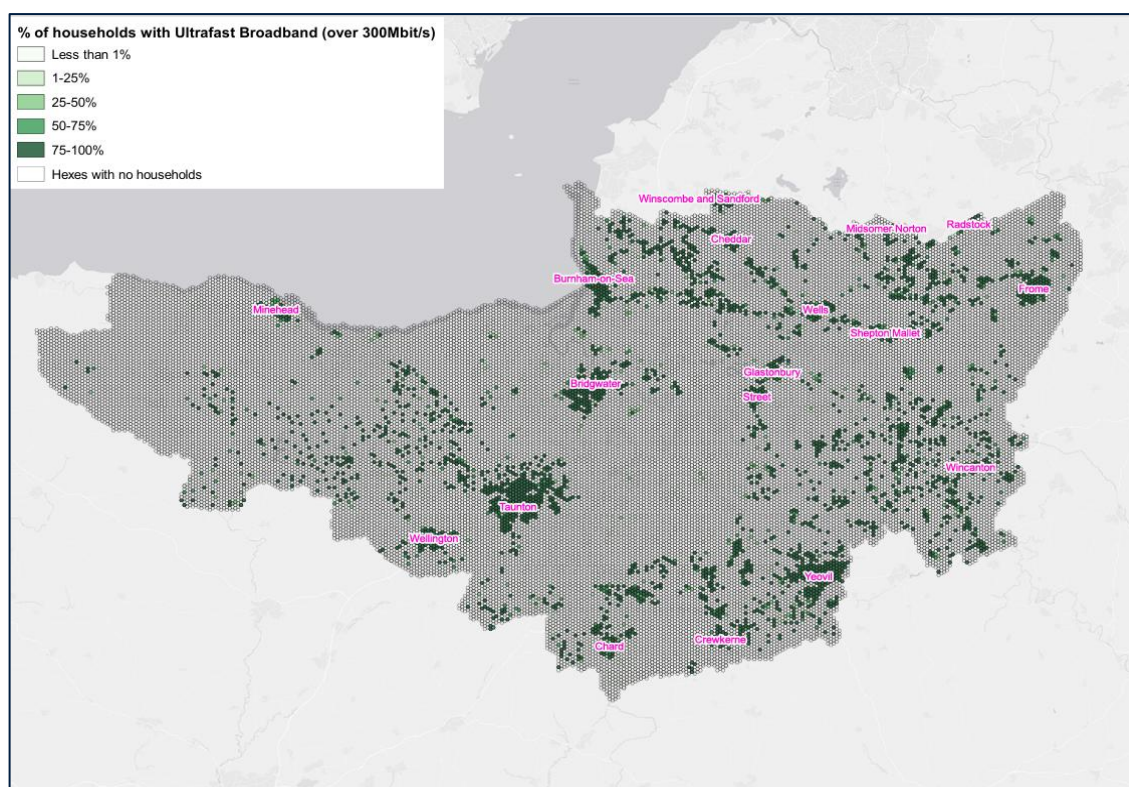


Figure 8 – Ofcom data by hex showing % households with UFBB (2024)³²

3.77 Coverage for the medium sized settlements is more varied. Out of these 24 settlements, only 10 have full coverage including Cotford St Luke, Creech St Michael, Merriott, Martock & Bower Hinton, South Petherton, Chilcompton, Bruton & Pitcombe, Ansford & Castle Cary, Axbridge and Ilchester. There are three medium settlements that have good coverage at the time of Study, and these are Evercreech, Berrow & Brean and Milborne Port. The two settlements with limited coverage are Bishops Lydeard and Coleford & Highbury. Finally, there are 9 medium sized settlements without UFBB connectivity, and this

³² WSP Accessibility Tool – ultrafast broadband connectivity by hex using Ofcom data (2024)

includes Woolavington, Watchet, Cannington, North Petherton, Curry Rivel, Langport, Tatworth, Wiveliscombe and Williton. Interestingly, the results show a mixed bag for the medium sized settlements – the medium sized settlements with a higher number of households such as Martock & Bower Hinton, Watchet, Ansford & Castle Cary, North Petherton, Williton and South Petherton have ‘full/good’ or ‘no’ coverage respectively (in turn).

3.78 For the smaller and very small settlements, more settlements tend to have limited or no UFBB coverage with 71 out of 136 having limited to no coverage and the remaining 65 having good to full coverage. A high proportion have less than 10% coverage with 47 settlements having less than 10% coverage. However, it is still quite split with 38 settlements having over 90% coverage and 10 of the 12 settlements with 100% coverage are either a small or very small settlement. Furthermore, the larger settlements within this category such as Puriton, Abbas & Templecombe, Westonzoyland and Stoke Sub Hamdon have a mixed coverage i.e. ‘full/good’ or ‘no’ coverage respectively (in turn). This means overall, that while the largest to medium large settlements tend to see very good levels of UFBB coverage, the coverage among the smaller settlements (medium to very small) tends to be more mixed and may likely vary on their proximity to larger settlements as well as level of services and facilities. There are many smaller settlements in close proximity to the largest to medium large places with full UFBB coverage such as Marston Magna, Chilthorne Domer, Ditchheat, Cross, Shipham, Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Chedzoy, Creech St Michael and Ruishton.

Table 22 – number and percentage of households with ultrafast broadband

Settlement	Settlement size classification (based on OA/LSOA data)	Number of households ²⁶	# of premises with 30<300Mbit/s download speed ²⁷	# of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed ²⁷	% of premises with 30<300Mbit/s download speed ²⁸	% of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed ²⁸	UFBB (% of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed)	Score
Taunton	LARGEST	32,031	731	31,280	2%	98%	98%	4
Yeovil	VERY LARGE	21,582	162	21,417	1%	99%	99%	4
Bridgwater	VERY LARGE	20,128	127	19,965	1%	99%	99%	4
Frome	LARGE	12,417	514	11,688	4%	94%	94%	4
Wellington	MEDIUM LARGE	7,244	87	7,155	1%	99%	99%	4
Chard	MEDIUM LARGE	6,260	2,457	3,777	39%	60%	60%	2
Highbridge & Burnham ³³	LARGE	6,192	699	5,488	11%	89%	89%	4
Wells	MEDIUM LARGE	5,622	1,053	4,512	19%	80%	80%	4
Minehead & Alcombe	MEDIUM LARGE	5,490	1,666	3,814	30%	69%	69%	2
Street	MEDIUM LARGE	5,220	258	4,958	5%	95%	95%	4
Shepton Mallet	MEDIUM LARGE	4,493	678	3,750	15%	83%	83%	4
Glastonbury	MEDIUM LARGE	4,163	492	3,639	12%	87%	87%	4
Crewkerne	MEDIUM LARGE	3,364	1,466	1,892	44%	56%	56%	2

³³ This is the highest figure as the data was calculated separately for Highbridge and Burnham-On-Sea. This is why the number of households are lower than Wellington and Chard, but the settlement size classification is larger (as in Table 15, we have combined the data for Highbridge & Burnham together).

Settlement	Settlement size classification (based on OA/LSOA data)	Number of households ²⁶	# of premises with 30<300Mbit/s download speed ²⁷	# of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed ²⁷	% of premises with 30<300Mbit/s download speed ²⁸	% of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed ²⁸	UFBB (% of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed)	Score
Wincanton (inc. Bayford)	MEDIUM LARGE	2,803	210	2,593	7%	92%	92%	4
Ilminster	MEDIUM LARGE	2,740	271	2,466	10%	90%	90%	4
Cheddar	MEDIUM LARGE	2,419	343	2,071	14%	86%	86%	4
Somerton	MEDIUM LARGE	2,012	1,796	207	89%	10%	10%	0
Martock & Bower Hinton	MEDIUM	1,974	30	1,935	2%	98%	98%	4
Watchet	MEDIUM	1,833	1,609	220	88%	12%	12%	0
Ansford & Castle Cary	MEDIUM	1,449	132	1,315	9%	91%	91%	4
North Petherton	MEDIUM	1,409	1,356	51	96%	4%	4%	0
Milborne Port	MEDIUM	1,312	610	696	46%	53%	53%	2
Williton	MEDIUM	1,285	1,284	0	100%	0%	0%	0
Langport & Huish Episcopi	MEDIUM	1,250	1,233	4	99%	0%	0%	0
South Petherton	MEDIUM	1,250	26	1,221	2%	98%	98%	4
Bishops Lydeard	MEDIUM	1,062	641	411	60%	39%	39%	1
Wiveliscombe	MEDIUM	1,039	964	1	93%	0%	0%	0
Woolavington	MEDIUM	1,006	802	202	80%	20%	20%	0
Cotford St Luke	MEDIUM	957	0	957	0%	100%	100%	4
Tatworth (inc. South Chard & Chard Junction)	MEDIUM	954	785	1	82%	0%	0%	0
Creech St Michael	MEDIUM	942	4	938	0%	100%	100%	4
Evercreech	MEDIUM	918	279	615	30%	67%	67%	2
Curry Rivel	MEDIUM	900	853	30	95%	3%	3%	0
Bruton & Pitcombe	MEDIUM	888	65	822	7%	93%	93%	4
Coleford & Highbury	MEDIUM	881	624	250	71%	28%	28%	1
Axbridge	MEDIUM	851	140	703	16%	83%	83%	4
Merriott	MEDIUM	816	14	800	2%	98%	98%	4
Cannington	MEDIUM	807	636	35	79%	4%	4%	0
Puriton	SMALL	781	672	63	86%	8%	8%	0
Ilchester	MEDIUM	778	137	641	18%	82%	82%	4
Abbas & Templecombe	SMALL	736	71	660	10%	90%	90%	4
Chilcompton	MEDIUM	719	17	702	2%	98%	98%	4
Westonzoyland	SMALL	716	548	167	77%	23%	23%	0
Stoke sub Hamdon	SMALL	672	5	666	1%	99%	99%	4
Henstridge	SMALL	668	83	583	12%	87%	87%	4
Berrow & Brea ³⁴	MEDIUM	612	239	346	39%	57%	57%	2
Horton (and Broadway)	SMALL	607	166	439	27%	72%	72%	2
Nether Stowey	SMALL	605	575	30	95%	5%	5%	0
Wedmore	SMALL	579	55	521	10%	90%	90%	4

³⁴ This is the highest figure as the data was calculated separately for Berrow and Brea. This is why the number of households are lower than Wellington and Chard, but the settlement size classification is larger (as in Table 15, we have combined the data for Highbridge & Burnham together).

Settlement	Settlement size classification (based on OA/LSOA data)	Number of households ²⁶	# of premises with 30<300Mbit/s download speed ²⁷	# of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed ²⁷	% of premises with 30<300Mbit/s download speed ²⁸	% of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed ²⁸	UFBB (% of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed)	Score
Barwick (inc. Stoford)	SMALL	531	3	524	1%	99%	99%	4
West Coker	SMALL	495	325	168	66%	34%	34%	1
Misterton	SMALL	478	391	87	82%	18%	18%	0
North Coker & East Coker	SMALL	475	164	299	35%	63%	63%	2
Milverton	SMALL	468	459	0	98%	0%	0%	0
Combe St Nicholas (inc. Wadeford)	SMALL	467	354	111	76%	24%	24%	0
North Curry	SMALL	461	433	0	94%	0%	0%	0
Huntspill (inc. West Huntspill)	SMALL	451	49	402	11%	89%	89%	4
Keinton Mandeville	SMALL	447	1	445	0%	100%	100%	4
Ruishton	SMALL	421	2	419	0%	100%	100%	4
Beckington	SMALL	420	72	347	17%	83%	83%	4
Brent Knoll	SMALL	411	230	179	56%	44%	44%	1
Draycott	SMALL	409	48	346	12%	85%	85%	4
Charlton Adam & Charlton Mackrell 'The Charltons'	SMALL	395	377	8	95%	2%	2%	0
Rode	SMALL	392	95	260	24%	66%	66%	2
Holcombe	SMALL	386	5	381	1%	99%	99%	4
Ilton	SMALL	381	62	318	16%	83%	83%	4
Norton St Philip	SMALL	375	212	156	56%	42%	42%	1
Meare & Oxenpill	SMALL	374	35	329	9%	88%	88%	4
Stogursey	SMALL	370	269	98	73%	27%	27%	1
Mark (and Mark Causeway)	SMALL	367	7	350	2%	95%	95%	4
Walton	SMALL	367	259	91	71%	25%	25%	1
Carhampton	SMALL	363	362	0	100%	0%	0%	0
East Huntspill	SMALL	363	273	90	75%	25%	25%	1
Coxley & Upper Coxley & Coxley Wick	SMALL	360	41	279	11%	77%	77%	4
Tintinhull	SMALL	350	332	6	95%	2%	2%	0
Shepton Beauchamp	SMALL	342	309	0	90%	0%	0%	0
Nunney & Nunney Catch	SMALL	333	52	280	15%	84%	84%	4
Pawlett	SMALL	331	205	125	62%	38%	38%	1
Queen Camel	SMALL	316	300	1	95%	0%	0%	0
Westbury Sub Mendip	SMALL	312	40	272	13%	87%	87%	4
Shipham	SMALL	311	1	310	0%	100%	100%	4
Ashcott	SMALL	310	308	0	99%	0%	0%	0
Odcombe	SMALL	306	235	70	77%	23%	23%	0
Norton Sub Hamdon	SMALL	305	25	280	8%	92%	92%	4
Wookey	SMALL	304	31	272	10%	90%	90%	4
Stoke St Michael	SMALL	301	24	277	8%	92%	92%	4

Settlement	Settlement size classification (based on OA/LSOA data)	Number of households ²⁶	# of premises with 30<300Mbit/s download speed ²⁷	# of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed ²⁷	% of premises with 30<300Mbit/s download speed ²⁸	% of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed ²⁸	UFBB (% of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed)	Score
Haselbury Plucknett	SMALL	299	22	277	7%	93%	93%	4
Pilton	SMALL	294	243	2	83%	1%	1%	0
Chilton Polden	SMALL	291	289	0	99%	0%	0%	0
Combwich	SMALL	291	291	0	100%	0%	0%	0
Cossington	SMALL	286	226	57	79%	20%	20%	0
Washford	SMALL	274	273	0	100%	0%	0%	0
Stoke St Gregory (inc. Meare Green)	SMALL	267	195	0	73%	0%	0%	0
East Brent	SMALL	265	240	25	91%	9%	9%	0
Long Sutton	SMALL	265	198	32	75%	12%	12%	0
Baltonsborough	SMALL	251	209	41	83%	16%	16%	0
Oakhill	SMALL	251	8	242	3%	96%	96%	4
Winsham	SMALL	241	236	2	98%	1%	1%	0
Croscombe	SMALL	236	37	199	16%	84%	84%	4
Middlezoy	SMALL	236	236	0	100%	0%	0%	0
Kingsbury Episcopi	SMALL	235	232	3	99%	1%	1%	0
Othery	SMALL	234	231	0	99%	0%	0%	0
Binegar & Gurney Slade	SMALL	231	5	224	2%	97%	97%	4
Butleigh	SMALL	229	228	0	100%	0%	0%	0
Sparkford	SMALL	229	124	104	54%	46%	46%	1
Stratton-On-The-Fosse	SMALL	229	1	228	0%	100%	100%	4
Fivehead	SMALL	227	223	3	98%	2%	2%	0
Compton Dundon and Dundon	SMALL	224	2	219	1%	98%	98%	4
West Chinnoek	SMALL	219	214	0	98%	0%	0%	0
Charlton Horethorne	SMALL	212	22	189	10%	89%	89%	4
Easton	SMALL	212	62	148	29%	70%	70%	4
Hatch Beauchamp	SMALL	210	184	0	88%	0%	0%	0
East Chinnoek	SMALL	206	124	81	60%	39%	39%	1
Barton St David	SMALL	204	193	1	95%	0%	0%	0
Ash	SMALL	201	180	20	90%	10%	10%	0
Hillcommon (inc. Oake)	SMALL	198	123	5	62%	2%	2%	0
North Cadbury	SMALL	196	136	60	69%	31%	31%	1
Barrington	VERY SMALL	192	6	177	3%	92%	92%	4
Mells	SMALL	191	2	188	1%	99%	99%	4
Marston Magna	SMALL	190	0	190	0%	100%	100%	4
Montacute (inc. East Stoke)	SMALL	190	186	2	98%	1%	1%	0
Hinton St George	VERY SMALL	189	188	0	100%	0%	0%	0
Stogumber	VERY SMALL	188	29	159	15%	85%	85%	4
Lympsham	SMALL	185	3	180	2%	97%	97%	4
Leigh-on-Mendip	SMALL	184	2	181	1%	98%	98%	4

Settlement	Settlement size classification (based on OA/LSOA data)	Number of households ²⁶	# of premises with 30<300Mbit/s download speed ²⁷	# of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed ²⁷	% of premises with 30<300Mbit/s download speed ²⁸	% of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed ²⁸	UFBB (% of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed)	Score
Kingston St Mary	VERY SMALL	178	44	23	25%	13%	13%	0
Edithmead	SMALL	171	0	100	0%	58%	58%	2
Brushford	SMALL	170	169	0	99%	0%	0%	0
Churchinford	VERY SMALL	170	0	170	0%	100%	100%	4
North Newton	SMALL	169	163	2	97%	1%	1%	0
Blagdon Hill	SMALL	164	140	24	85%	15%	15%	0
Weare and Lower Weare	SMALL	162	13	148	8%	91%	91%	4
West Camel	VERY SMALL	157	1	155	1%	99%	99%	4
Kingsdon	VERY SMALL	155	147	2	95%	1%	1%	0
Faulkland	VERY SMALL	150	36	114	24%	76%	76%	4
Chedzoy	VERY SMALL	149	0	148	0%	100%	100%	4
Shapwick	VERY SMALL	149	142	0	95%	0%	0%	0
Wookey Hole	VERY SMALL	149	113	35	76%	23%	23%	0
Cross	VERY SMALL	148	0	148	0%	100%	100%	4
Chilthorne Domer	SMALL	147	0	147	0%	100%	100%	4
Hambridge	SMALL	144	140	0	97%	0%	0%	0
Galhampton	VERY SMALL	142	0	141	0%	99%	99%	4
Wanstrow	VERY SMALL	140	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0
High Ham	SMALL	138	133	0	96%	0%	0%	0
Seavington St Michael	SMALL	138	67	71	48%	52%	52%	2
Bradford-on-Tone	SMALL	135	135	0	100%	0%	0%	0
Buckland Dinham	VERY SMALL	135	0	133	0%	99%	99%	4
Langford Budville	SMALL	134	0	75	0%	56%	56%	2
Bicknoller	VERY SMALL	132	0	129	0%	98%	98%	4
Bawdrip	VERY SMALL	130	5	121	4%	93%	93%	4
Spaxton	SMALL	130	76	51	58%	39%	39%	1
Blackford	SMALL	127	5	118	4%	93%	93%	4
Drayton	VERY SMALL	126	126	0	100%	0%	0%	0
Ditcheat	VERY SMALL	120	0	120	0%	100%	100%	4
Rooks Bridge	SMALL	120	5	115	4%	96%	96%	4
West Quantoxhead	VERY SMALL	115	106	0	92%	0%	0%	0
Catcott & Edington	SMALL	112	108	0	96%	0%	0%	0
West Pennard	SMALL	111	54	56	48%	51%	51%	2
Kilve	VERY SMALL	110	106	0	96%	0%	0%	0
North Perrott	VERY SMALL	102	1	101	1%	99%	99%	4
The Lydfords	SMALL	101	0	100	0%	99%	99%	4
Horsington	VERY SMALL	100	55	42	55%	42%	42%	1
Batcombe	VERY SMALL	99	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0
Hardington Moor/ Hardington Mandeville	SMALL	99	83	16	84%	16%	16%	0
Crowcombe	VERY SMALL	96	3	93	3%	97%	97%	4
Stoke St Mary	VERY SMALL	95	95	0	100%	0%	0%	0

Settlement	Settlement size classification (based on OA/LSOA data)	Number of households ²⁶	# of premises with 30<300Mbit/s download speed ²⁷	# of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed ²⁷	% of premises with 30<300Mbit/s download speed ²⁸	% of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed ²⁸	UFBB (% of premises with >=300Mbit/s download speed)	Score
Kilmersdon	SMALL	94	0	66	0%	70%	70%	2
Blue Anchor	VERY SMALL	92	88	2	96%	2%	2%	0
Chewton Mendip	SMALL	83	20	63	24%	76%	76%	4
Theale	VERY SMALL	78	0	70	0%	90%	90%	4
Fitzhead	VERY SMALL	66	0	65	0%	98%	98%	4
Lydeard St Lawrence	SMALL	58	58	0	100%	0%	0%	0
Priddy	VERY SMALL	58	0	54	0%	94%	94%	4
Witham Friary	VERY SMALL	56	0	54	0%	97%	97%	4
Halse	VERY SMALL	54	53	0	98%	0%	0%	0
Curry Mallet	VERY SMALL	50	20	0	40%	0%	0%	0

Key to Table 22:

Settlement size

	Population 70,000+
	Population 40,000 – 70,000
	Population 20,000 – 39,999
	Population 5,000 – 19,999
	Population 2000 – 4,999
	Population 500 – 1,999
	Population less than 500

Broadband Connectivity

4	Ultra-fast (100mbps) broadband coverage 75% and higher
2	Ultra-fast (100mbps) broadband coverage between 50% and 74%
1	Ultra-fast (100mbps) broadband coverage between 25% and 49%
0	Ultra-fast (100mbps) broadband coverage less than 25% coverage

²⁶ Number of households – the number of households by postcode for each of the settlements (using settlement limits or development limits where available) have been totalled. Where such boundaries are not applicable, the Built Up Area (BUA) boundaries have been used. This is different to the methodology we have followed in Table 15 (number of dwellings), which uses data by Output Area (OA) and Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) matched to each settlement so the figures here may differ.

²⁷ # of premises columns – the data source is from Ofcom who collected and analysed coverage data from nearly 70 fixed networks and fixed wireless access (FWA) providers. This data is based on a snapshot as at July 2024 for fixed coverage and May 2024 for FWA. The data collected on our behalf from WSP, transport consultants, included the number of premises with (1) superfast broadband (SFBB) set at 30 Mbit/s or greater coverage, (2) number of premises with ultrafast broadband set at 100 M<bit/s or greater coverage (not shown in this table) and (3) number of premises with ultrafast broadband of more than 300 Mbit/s or greater coverage. The latter is the data we have taken forward in order to establish a score for each of the settlements considering this is commonly the speed that is considered to be ultrafast broadband.

²⁸ % of premises columns – data source as above. The percentages are calculated using the total number of households. We collected this information for (1) superfast broadband (SFBB) set at 30 Mbit/s or greater coverage, (2) number of premises with ultrafast broadband set at 100 M<bit/s or greater coverage (not shown in this table) and (3) number of premises with ultrafast broadband of more than 300 Mbit/s or greater coverage. The latter is the data we have taken forward in order to establish a score for each of the settlements considering this is commonly the speed that is considered to be ultrafast broadband.

Settlement accessibility and connectivity

3.79 To inform the services and facilities analysis, the relative accessibility and connectivity of each settlement has been identified. This analysis has been undertaken by utilising an Accessibility Tool developed for the Council by transport consultants WSP. This tool focused on assessing how many different

types of destinations could be reached within a 20 minute travel time (one way) on foot, by bike, and by public transport (bus and train), summing and weighting these to calculate an overall score for each settlement.

- 3.80 The study homed in on the nearest ‘big towns’ and key employment sites, considering analysis had already covered the provision of community services and facilities within a settlement. The resultant scoring of each settlement has contributed towards the overall settlement score through the resulting classification i.e. highest category (Band 1) to lowest category (Band 7) (see endnotes for Table 25), which has been weighted (see ‘The Matrix’ key). However, accessibility and connectivity are just contributing factors alongside the other considerations set out in this study such as settlement size, employment and economic activity, and provision of community services and facilities, all of which need to be weighed up.
- 3.81 It is important to note that the Accessibility Tool also assessed settlements accessibility and connectivity to different destinations by car. However, it was not considered appropriate to include such data within the analysis reflecting the need to ensure development comes forward at sustainable locations – those that reduce the need to travel. This reflects relevant national policies (see Section 1). The emerging Local Transport Plan (LTP)³⁵, along with the Transport Planning Policy Guiding Principles³⁶, also adopt a vision-led approach, which focuses on reducing the need to travel and a sustainable travel hierarchy. Table 23 sets out the weightings we have applied to each mode of travel, which have been used to calculate the overall score for each settlements’ ability to access key employment destinations (sites with over 1000 jobs) as well as ‘big towns’, including those outside of the Somerset Council area, within 20 minutes. Table 24 sets out the overall score for each of the settlements’.
- 3.82 In order to achieve this final score, a maximum number (10) is applied to highest possible number from any one settlement for each category. This ensures that the numbers returned are not too big and makes the scoring balanced across the board. For example, the number of jobs that might be accessible within 20 minutes can be in the tens of thousands whereas the number of big towns accessible in 20 minutes might be less than 10. Assigning these scores on a number from 1 to 10 means that the weighting can be applied to a much more manageable and similar number for each category allowing our weighting to take precedence. The weightings we have used (Table 23) help differentiate access by mode and reflect the importance of access to different facilities by each of these modes. These weightings act as multipliers to achieve the overall score. See footnotes for more details on the methodology used here.

³⁵ Local Transport Plan 4 (June 2025) Draft for Consultation - [Somerset Local Transport Plan 4.pdf](#)

³⁶ Transport Planning Policy Guiding Principles - [Item 7 Transport and Planning Policy Guiding Principles.pdf](#)

Table 23 – Methodology used within the Accessibility Tool to determine accessibility and connectivity/proximity for all settlements in the study

Method of travel ²⁹	Nearest big town ³⁰	Employment 2011 (excluding home workers) ³¹	Employment 2021 (excluding home workers) ³²	Public transport access (availability) ³³	Rail access ³⁴
Walk	10	12	8	-	-
Cycle	15	10	6	-	-
Public transport	15	8	4	30	10

²⁹ Method of travel includes walking, cycling and public transport. The analysis looks at which settlements' can reach a 'big town' and/or key employment destination within 20 minute (one way) journey time. The start point is calculated from a central pinpoint within the settlement or between several settlements if they have been grouped. Podaris (an industry-standard transport planning software platform) has been used to assess access on foot, bike and public transport along public highways and rights of way and looking at bus and train timetables as at December 2024 for public transport access for arrival on weekday mornings. A public transport trip that requires a walk of more than 500m to the bus stop or train station has been excluded. Note that the nearest big town score access increases for someone travelling by bike or by public transport. This is because it is unlikely that many, if any, settlements will be accessible to the centre of a nearby big town within 20 minutes on foot. However, it is much more realistic to expect this by bike and by public transport. The opposite approach was taken for employment destinations considering it is realistic to expect a large proportion of people to be able to walk to work and settlements are most sustainable when the need to travel is reduced, with the scores following such approach. **Please note that the methodology for walking and cycling uses all adopted highway. In some cases, this will not be suitable for some or most users considering the type of road it may be and/or the availability of cycle paths or footpaths. This study rather purely looks at the ability to undertake these trips within 20 minutes, and, therefore, what may be possible. Further work would need to be undertaken in order to ensure that the routes are safe, inclusive for all and still within the 20 minute timeframe.**

³⁰ The nearest 'big towns and cities' are towns/cities within, and outside of, Somerset, including Axminster, Bath, Bridgwater, Bristol, Chard, Cheddar, Crewkerne, Cullompton, Dorchester, Exeter, Frome, Gillingham, Glastonbury, Honiton, Langport & Huish Episcopi, Midsomer Norton, Minehead & Alcombe, Shaftesbury, Shepton Mallet, Sherborne, Somerton, Street, Taunton, Tiverton, Trowbridge, Warminster, Wellington, Wells, Westbury, Weston-Super-Mare, Wincanton and Yeovil. The 'big towns/cities' were selected, as they are the centres with the greatest provision of services and facilities (as shown in Table 21). For the cities and towns outside Somerset, these are notable, larger sized settlements typically close to the Somerset border (exception for Bristol and Exeter) that act as a key draw for employment and services and facilities for people within Somerset.

³¹ Access to employment (2011) includes the workplace population where the number of workers exceeds 1000. In other words, the data counts the number of jobs accessible by each mode of transport from each settlement, counted as those jobs within areas of higher concentrations i.e. Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) workplace population is more than 1000. The decision was taken to use the dataset that excludes those that work from home or mainly at home to avoid skewing the data. Instead the focus is purely on employment sites, identified as those areas with high concentrations of jobs. Census 2011, (a) Workplace population at LSOA level, (b) Distance travelled to work by age using all ages and identifying those who work at / mainly at home. Subtract (B) from (A) to calculate 2011 workplace population excluding those who work from home.

³² Access to employment (2021) includes the workplace population where the number of workers exceeds 1000. In other words, the data counts the number of jobs accessible by each mode of transport from each settlement, counted as those jobs within areas of higher concentrations i.e. Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) workplace population is more than 1000. The decision was taken to use the dataset that excludes those that work from home or mainly at home to avoid skewing the data. Instead the focus is purely on employment sites, identified as those areas with high concentrations of jobs. Census 2011, (a) Workplace population at LSOA level, (b) Distance travelled to work by age using all ages and identifying those who work at / mainly at home. Subtract (B) from (A) to calculate

2021 workplace population excluding those who work from home. Note that a lesser weighting has been applied to the 2021 dataset as this census took place during the coronavirus pandemic. The data is, therefore, not directly comparable due to definitional and behavioural differences. The government guidance during this time will have increased the number of people in 2021 who selected the 'work from home' box for their place of work compared with the 2011 census. No information was collected regarding workplace address for those working from home. This means that a smaller proportion of the population in employment have been recorded at a workplace address in 2021 compared to 2011. Greater weight has been given to the 2011 data instead. Please see the [WSP Technical Note on the Accessibility Tool](#) for further information. Employment locations are those within Somerset.

³³ Public transport access (availability) is calculated in Podaris as a count of unique bus and train trips through the centre of each settlement, totalled across a typical weekday. In more detail, the service level measures the public transport service level by frequency for zones for a Wednesday. It provides the number of unique trips made by public transport in each zone. Zones are defined as the centre point of each settlement surrounded by a 500m (crow-flies) buffer. The measure used is 'unique trips' which sums departures from all stops in the zone, then removes duplicates where the same bus calls at more than one stop in the zone. For example, where a bus calls at more than bus stop in a town on its trip you only count one unique trip. The [Technical Note provided by WSP](#) sets this out in more detail with examples. Put simply though settlements where buses and trains stop more frequently will score better than those settlements where public transport services stop less often or not at all. Public transport access has been awarded a greater weighting than rail access considering it encompasses both bus and train unique trips, whereas rail access looks at only rail destinations. The flexible Slinky services across Somerset are not included in this data though we recognise they help people not served by public transport or unable to access other types of public transport and can be considered in the context of each settlement.

³⁴ Rail access is calculated in Podaris as a count of the number of 'big towns' with railway stations that are accessible within 60 minutes by train from each of the settlements. Note the extended journey time used in calculating this metric (60 minutes compared with 20 minutes for most metrics), which reflects the general willingness to accept longer travel times by train than other modes (especially bus). Access to the station is also up to 5km as it is recognised people may choose to travel from their home settlement to a nearby station by bike, bus or by car in order to catch a train. Only the big towns with a train station accessible from the settlements have been included in the count. This scores settlements with a rail station and faster and more frequent trains to major settlements more favourably than those with slower and/or less frequent train services, or no services at all. Table 24 sums public transport access and rail access together to get a total score, which reflects a baseline public transport connectivity. The West Somerset Heritage Railway has been excluded given it is a specialist service.

3.83 Based on the weightings in Table 23, the outputs were analysed and settlements were ranked into seven bands based on the same format as the previous tables in the study from 'highest' to 'lowest' (see the key to Table 24). A separate category was also created that sums the scores for public transport access and rail access, to understand purely the public transport connectivity of each settlement. The full results of these categories are shown in Table 24.

3.84 Taunton sits within the highest ranking category overall, with an accessibility score of 1,130, some way above the next highest score which was for Bridgwater (711). Taunton had the best accessibility to local jobs by walking, cycling and public transport. The public transport availability and rail access is by far and some way the best out of all settlements in Somerset highlighting the variety and frequency of services in the town scoring 400 compared to the next highest which was Bridgwater at 164, which is only slightly less than the scores of Bridgwater, Yeovil and Frome scores combined (482). Taunton can access seven large towns within 20 minutes by rail, highlighting a strong strategic connectivity.

- 3.85 Bridgwater and Yeovil are next highest ranking settlements ('upper' category) in relation to accessibility with a score 711 and 691 respectively. Bridgwater ranked 2nd on accessibility to large employment areas by foot and using public transport, though Yeovil had better cycling connectivity to employment sites. Bridgwater has better rail access to large towns within 60 minutes compared to Yeovil, though the difference is small – accessing 6 large towns within 60 minutes compared to 5 for Yeovil. This is the opposite for public transport availability though again the scores are relatively comparable. Frome is the only other settlement that ranks as 'highest' on public transport and rail access with availability of bus and rail routes stronger than Bridgwater and closer to Yeovil's provision, however, railway access falls lower with only 3 large towns accessible in 60 minutes.
- 3.86 Frome scores similarly to other 'large' and 'medium large' settlements in Somerset such as Highbridge & Burnham, Glastonbury, Wells, Street, Wellington, Shepton Mallet and Cheddar. Highbridge & Burnham falls closely to Frome in terms of public transport and rail access, unsurprisingly given their similarity in settlement size. However, it's rail access scores much higher than Frome with six large towns accessible within 60 minutes, but with worse availability of unique trips by bus and train. The remainder of these settlements score zero for their rail access, which is unsurprising given their lack of proximity to the closest railway station. However, there is some variety in terms of their public transport availability, as Cheddar scores lower here. The bulk of the scores for these settlements comes from their walking, cycling and public transport to the nearest big towns and key employment sites within a 20-minute journey time.
- 3.87 Surprisingly, 'The Coxleys' also fall within this category scoring over 300+ in terms of accessibility. While access to employment and large towns on foot is absent, access to these places by bike or public transport is high, which is likely reflected in its close proximity to Wells, Street and Glastonbury. This could also be said of other smaller settlements either due to their position on main transport corridors and/or their proximity to larger settlements or employment sites. For example, Walton, Ashcott, Chilcompton, Ruishton, Ilchester, Chilthorne Domer, Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Chedzoy, Easton, Beckington and Othery all scored relatively high when looking at cycle or public transport access to larger towns or employment sites within 20 minutes. Some of these settlements scored higher than the largest settlements in the study when looking at public transport.
- 3.88 The methodology followed within the 'Accessibility Tool' highlights some interesting things in relation to public transport accessibility. In particular, some of the larger settlements, previously classified as what may be considered as 'tier 2 settlements' or 'market towns' such as Chard, Wincanton, and Ilminster have performed very poorly in relation to their public transport availability with no rail access at all and only a few unique bus services. Chard scores the lowest of these towns and is within the lowest category overall for public transport and rail access. For these towns public transport access to nearby jobs or big towns within

20 minutes was almost non-existent with Ilminster scoring the best here, but much worse on walking/cycle accessibility compared to Chard and Wincanton.

- 3.89 Other larger towns ranking within the lower-centre category, in relation to their public transport and rail access only, include Langport, Cheddar³⁷ and Somerton. Conversely, some very small settlements like Misterton, Horsington and Barwick (inc. Stoford) in particular score very well due to their proximity to rail stations (Crewkerne, Templecombe and Yeovil Junction respectively). Misterton even scores slightly better than Crewkerne overall because of Crewkerne station's location meaning that this inhibits the number of larger settlements that can be reached within one hour by rail from residents of Crewkerne, compared to those of Misterton. Also, when looking purely at rail, Misterton performs on a similar level to the stations at Bridgwater and Highbridge & Burnham. On a similar note, other high scoring settlements for rail access include Abbas & Templecombe, Horsington, Barwick including Stoford, Ansford & Castle Cary, Bruton, Henstridge, Chedzoy, Haselbury Plucknett, North Perrott, Edithmead, Huntspill (including West Huntspill) and East Huntspill, which isn't surprising given they are situated close to a railway station. Many of these settlements scored much lower when looking solely at the availability of public transport services, meaning for proximate settlements, access to these stations would likely be car dependent.
- 3.90 Other settlements that scored among the highest purely in relation to their availability of bus and/or rail services are North Petherton, Wellington, Wells, Street, Glastonbury, Beckington, Shepton Mallet and Minehead. Other settlements that are not far behind include Abbas & Templecombe, Bishops Lydeard, Highbridge & Burnham, The Coxleys, Williton and Watchet. However, these scores come in much lower than Taunton, and even much lower than Yeovil and Bridgwater (with the exception of North Petherton)
- 3.91 Looking at the ranking of settlements for public transport and rail access, there were several medium-large settlements that also ranked quite low. Settlements like Martock, Coleford & Highbury, Evercreech, Axbridge, Tatworth, Berrow and Brean, Wiveliscombe, Creech St Michael, Cannington, Merriott, Curry Rivel, Woolavington all scored less than 10 here. There were 124 settlements that scored less than 10 for public transport and rail access performance with 66 of these settlements scoring less than 10 overall for its complete accessibility. Examples of these 'lowest' ranked settlements include Baltonsborough, Blue Anchor, Crowcombe, Fitzhead, Hambridge, Mark and Mark Causeway, Priddy, Stogursey, Witham Friary and Woolavington (not exhaustive).
- 3.92 As expected, none of the settlements were within walking distance to a nearby large town, though looking on a wider scale, residents within these towns such as Taunton, Bridgwater, Frome, Highbridge & Burnham may be within a 20-

³⁷ Note Cheddar's overall score is higher in relation to 20 minute access to nearby large towns and employment sites, however when looking purely at the public transport elements it performs poorly.

minute walk to other parts of the town with an employment cluster – though this wasn't focused on within this study.

Table 24 – Accessibility and connectivity to services and facilities

Settlement	Population (2021)	TOTAL Accessibility Score (ranked) ³⁵	Walk (jobs / big town) ²⁹	Cycle (jobs / big town) ²⁹	Public transport (jobs / big town) ²⁹	PT access (availability) ³³	Rail access ³⁴	PT Access + Rail Access ³⁶
Taunton	74,104	1,130	300	235	195	300	100	400
Bridgwater	51,051	711	208	193	136	88	86	174
Yeovil	50,529	691	188	206	127	99	71	170
Glastonbury	8,916	483	130	188	116	49	0	49
Wells	11,819	482	140	104	183	55	0	55
Frome	28,970	476	115	104	119	95	43	138
Street	13,116	471	131	188	101	51	0	51
Wellington	17,074	454	129	93	176	56	0	56
Highbridge & Burnham	21,747	397	140	104	42	25	86	111
Shepton Mallet	10,565	345	119	87	104	35	0	35
Cheddar	6,301	341	100	75	153	13	0	13
Coxley & Upper Coxley & Coxley Wick	1,079	316	0	100	191	25	0	25
Minehead & Alcombe	11,814	291	143	102	12	34	0	34
Walton	1,136	286	0	104	165	17	0	17
Ashcott	897	271	0	94	165	12	0	12
North Petherton	3,200	270	0	128	57	85	0	85
Chilcompton	2,326	266	0	104	149	13	0	13
Langport & Huish Episcopi	3,605	260	100	75	68	17	0	17
Ruishton	1,533	254	0	180	72	2	0	2
Crewkerne	6,683	253	107	80	4	5	57	62
Chard	14,290	234	124	95	11	4	0	4
Chilthorne Domer	524	228	0	158	63	7	0	7
Stratton-On-The-Fosse	824	226	0	99	105	22	0	22
Chedzoy	454	224	0	91	100	4	29	33
Barwick (inc. Stoford)	1,227	216	0	159	0	0	57	57
Easton	684	203	0	100	101	2	0	2
Beckington	995	202	17	85	64	36	0	36
Buckland Dinham	343	193	0	88	85	20	0	20
Wincanton (inc. Bayford)	6,776	191	100	79	0	12	0	12
Somerton	5,469	186	100	75	0	11	0	11
Ilchester	2,106	175	0	33	126	16	0	16
Misterton	1,679	169	0	80	0	3	86	89
Othey	690	165	0	0	150	15	0	15
West Coker	1,259	153	0	151	0	2	0	2
Abbas & Templecombe	1,989	151	0	0	52	28	71	99
Tatworth (inc. South Chard & Chard Junction)	2,747	146	0	90	52	4	0	4
Kingston St Mary	382	143	0	137	0	6	0	6
Pilton	713	142	0	87	47	8	0	8

Settlement	Population (2021)	TOTAL Accessibility Score (ranked) ³⁵	Walk (jobs / big town) ²⁹	Cycle (jobs / big town) ²⁹	Public transport (jobs / big town) ²⁹	PT access (availability) ³³	Rail access ³⁴	PT Access + Rail Access ³⁶
Stoke St Mary	483	141	0	141	0	0	0	0
North Coker & East Coker	1,150	138	0	124	0	0	14	14
Edithmead	527	133	0	104	0	0	29	29
Huntspill (inc. West Huntspill)	1,136	129	0	100	0	0	29	29
Chewton Mendip	574	125	0	4	101	20	0	20
Kingsdon	374	120	0	75	38	7	0	7
Horsington	2,047	118	0	4	38	5	71	76
Bishops Lydeard	323	118	0	5	85	28	0	28
Haselbury Plucknett	745	110	0	80	0	1	29	30
North Perrott	285	110	0	80	0	1	29	30
Compton Dundon and Dundon	768	107	0	94	7	6	0	6
Marston Magna	553	103	0	18	79	6	0	6
Binegar & Gurney Slade	657	102	0	4	94	4	0	4
Wookey	807	102	0	100	0	2	0	2
Wookey Hole	307	102	0	100	0	2	0	2
Combe St Nicholas (inc. Wadeford)	1,378	97	0	95	0	2	0	2
Creech St Michael	2,345	96	0	21	72	3	0	3
Butleigh	752	94	0	94	0	0	0	0
Milborne Port	594	92	0	85	0	7	0	7
Croscombe	3,203	92	0	87	0	5	0	5
Tintinhull	932	91	0	21	63	7	0	7
Bradford-on-Tone	660	90	0	90	0	0	0	0
Shapwick	523	89	0	0	82	7	0	7
Langford Budville	448	89	0	89	0	0	0	0
Sparkford	2,255	87	0	0	79	8	0	8
Berrow & Brean	549	87	0	79	4	4	0	4
Queen Camel	574	85	0	0	79	6	0	6
Axbridge	2,005	81	0	75	0	6	0	6
Stogursey	788	81	49	30	0	2	0	2
West Chinnock	613	81	0	80	0	1	0	1
Hinton St George	463	80	0	80	0	0	0	0
Merriott	2,078	80	0	80	0	0	0	0
Norton St Philip	1,034	79	0	0	60	5	14	19
Cannington	2,047	78	0	75	0	3	0	3
Draycott	1,062	77	0	75	0	2	0	2
High Ham	945	76	0	75	0	1	0	1
Cross	295	75	0	75	0	0	0	0
Curry Rivel	2,155	75	0	75	0	0	0	0
Drayton	377	75	0	75	0	0	0	0
Long Sutton	841	75	0	75	0	0	0	0
Henstridge	1,918	74	0	0	38	7	29	36
Bawdrip	465	68	0	68	0	0	0	0





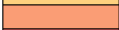


Settlement	Population (2021)	TOTAL Accessibility Score (ranked) ³⁵	Walk (jobs / big town) ²⁹	Cycle (jobs / big town) ²⁹	Public transport (jobs / big town) ²⁹	PT access (availability) ³³	Rail access ³⁴	PT Access + Rail Access ³⁶
Ansford & Castle Cary	3,444	56	0	0	0	13	43	56
Ilminster	5,645	56	6	4	31	15	0	15
East Huntspill	887	54	0	25	0	0	29	29
Oakhill	757	53	0	4	44	5	0	5
West Pennard	693	52	0	0	44	8	0	8
Bruton & Pitcombe	2,849	50	0	0	0	7	43	50
Williton	2,440	40	6	4	6	24	0	24
Brent Knoll	1,269	39	0	25	0	0	14	14
Ditcheat	395	38	0	0	3	6	29	35
Puriton	1,674	38	0	38	0	0	0	0
Nether Stowey	1,819	33	0	30	0	3	0	3
Lympsham	585	30	0	0	26	4	0	4
Odcombe	754	30	0	28	0	2	0	2
Cofford St Luke	2,429	29	0	5	11	13	0	13
Watchet	347	28	0	4	0	24	0	24
Kilve	875	28	0	25	0	3	0	3
Montacute (inc. East Stoke)	3,986	28	0	28	0	0	0	0
Pawlett	1,005	27	0	27	0	0	0	0
Westonzoyland	1,858	26	0	18	0	8	0	8
Nunney & Nunney Catch	876	25	0	19	0	6	0	6
Evercreech	2,170	24	6	8	3	7	0	7
Kilmersdon	613	23	0	15	0	8	0	8
Galhampton	326	21	0	0	0	7	14	21
Meare & Oxenpill	994	19	0	19	0	0	0	0
East Brent	681	16	0	14	0	2	0	2
North Newton	647	16	0	16	0	0	0	0
Weare and Lower Weare	664	16	0	0	16	0	0	0
Rooks Bridge	736	14	0	0	0	14	0	14
Bicknoller	373	12	0	4	0	8	0	8
South Petherton	3,097	10	0	0	0	10	0	10
Martock & Bower Hinton	4,391	9	0	0	0	9	0	9
Stoke sub Hamdon	1,660	9	0	0	0	9	0	9
Barrington	442	8	0	4	0	4	0	4
Shepton Beauchamp	754	8	0	4	0	4	0	4
Ash	613	7	0	0	0	7	0	7
Brushford	555	7	0	0	0	7	0	7
Coleford & Highbury	2,249	7	0	0	0	7	0	7
Faulkland	395	7	0	0	0	7	0	7
Holcombe	744	7	0	0	0	7	0	7
Middlezoy	964	7	0	0	0	7	0	7
Hillcommon (inc. Oake)	716	7	0	5	0	2	0	2
North Cadbury	670	6	0	0	0	6	0	6
Cossington	409	4	0	0	0	4	0	4

Settlement	Population (2021)	TOTAL Accessibility Score (ranked) ³⁵	Walk (jobs / big town) ²⁹	Cycle (jobs / big town) ²⁹	Public transport (jobs / big town) ²⁹	PT access (availability) ³³	Rail access ³⁴	PT Access + Rail Access ³⁶
Ilton	648	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
Leigh-on-Mendip	608	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
Mells	547	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
North Curry	634	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
Stoke St Gregory (inc. Meare Green)	1,066	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
Stoke St Michael	501	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
The Lydfords	1,107	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
Wedmore	1,012	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
Wiveliscombe	764	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
Batcombe	514	4	0	4	0	0	0	0
Seavington St Michael	585	4	0	4	0	0	0	0
Shipham	1,425	4	0	4	0	0	0	0
Washford	2,717	4	0	4	0	0	0	0
West Quantoxhead	320	3	0	0	0	3	0	3
Blagdon Hill	540	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
Catcott & Edington	927	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
Chilton Polden	668	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
Hatch Beauchamp	640	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
Horton (and Broadway)	1,884	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
Kingsbury Episcopi	682	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
Milverton	1,116	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
Theale	373	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
Westbury Sub Mendip	796	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
Charlton Adam & Charlton Mackrell 'The Charltons'	1,034	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Charlton Horethorne	585	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Churchinford	429	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Hardington Moor/Hardington Mandeville	592	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Keinton Mandeville	1,226	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Spaxton	674	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Wanstrow	494	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
West Camel	447	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Baltonsborough	1,065	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barton St David	619	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackford	699	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Anchor	164	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carhampton	811	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Comwich	653	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crowcombe	451	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curry Mallet	349	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Chinnock	504	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fitzhead	271	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fivehead	619	0	0	0	0	0	0	0




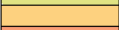



Settlement	Population (2021)	TOTAL Accessibility Score (ranked) ³⁵	Walk (jobs / big town) ²⁹	Cycle (jobs / big town) ²⁹	Public transport (jobs / big town) ²⁹	PT access (availability) ³³	Rail access ³⁴	PT Access + Rail Access ³⁶
Halse	313	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hambridge	524	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lydeard St Lawrence	527	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mark (and Mark Causeway)	1,435	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norton Sub Hamdon	734	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Priddy	322	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rode	1,085	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stogumber	426	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winsham	756	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Witham Friary	416	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woolavington	2,343	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Key to Table 24:






Population

	Population 70,000+
	Population 40,000 – 70,000
	Population 20,000 – 39,999
	Population 5,000 – 19,999
	Population 2000 – 4,999
	Population 500 – 1,999
	Population less than 500

Total Accessibility Score

	Highest ranking category (>1000)
	Upper category (601-1000)
	Upper centre (301-600)
	Central category (151-300)
	Lower centre category (76-150)
	Lower category (10-75)
	Lowest ranking category (less than 10)

Public transport and rail access scores

	Highest ranking settlements for connectivity (>125)
	Upper-centre ranking settlements for connectivity (81-125)
	Central ranking settlements for connectivity (24-80)
	Lower-centre ranking settlements for connectivity (10-23)
	Lowest ranking settlements for connectivity (<10)

³⁵ This is the overall score for each settlement for its sustainable accessibility and connectivity, which is colour coded based on which category their total score falls within (see key above). The scores for all columns (except the final column) have been added together. This score determines the classification (and associated) weighting to contribute to a settlements' overall score, which in turn informs its position in the hierarchy.

³⁶ The PT access (availability) and rail access scores added together. This allows us to look at the provision of public transport only and how much of the score is made up by this. This includes the frequency of bus and rail services, the variation in routes and the number of big towns that can be reached by rail within 60 minutes. The settlements with a higher combined score here may indicate those places that are on key transport corridors.

4. A Matrix for Somerset: a comparison of settlements' roles and functions

- 4.1 Table 25 sets out a comparison of all the settlements in Somerset that have been analysed as part of settlement role and function study. This table is known as a 'Matrix' and sets out some of the core datasets that have been pulled together for this Study, which help to demonstrate and contribute towards a settlements' role(s) and function(s).
- 4.2 Based upon the adopted settlement hierarchies in the current Local Plans for each of the former district Councils, there has been some change in how the settlements sit within the new hierarchy. These changes will likely be due to this new methodology that has been put forward for determining a settlement's 'rank'. For example, for a settlement to be considered within a tier of the hierarchy, it must have four out of six key community facilities (primary school, food shop, health centre, pub/café/restaurant, village hall or meeting space, and children's play area) and services, and one of these must include a primary school. This differs to the previous methodology in the adopted Local Plans (see Page 18 onwards). In addition, certain community facilities in settlements may have opened or closed such as a village shop or a pub. The study also looks at a more comprehensive overview of community facilities and services, taking into account the strategic and local provision. Furthermore, the Accessibility Tool that has been developed, looks at the settlements' connectivity, accessibility and proximity in much more detail.

Settlement size, demographic make-up and projected growth

- 4.3 The study first undertook an assessment of a settlement's size (in terms of population and number of dwellings), demographic make-up and projected population growth. Such information makes up part of understanding the role and function of a settlement. Put simply, the larger the settlement, generally, the greater the sustainability because the higher population can support a wider range of services, facilities and employment thus reducing the need to travel. However, settlement size does not necessarily guarantee the functionality of a settlement, and this must be looked at in conjunction with the proximity to other settlements, employment destinations and accessibility.
- 4.4 The methodology and data sources used to determine the overall classification (see column a) and information on how it fed into the total score (see column s) for this section is set out below. The full methodology is shown below Table 15 in the key.
- (a) A weighting has been applied to each population range, so the largest settlements score 6, whereas the smallest settlements score 0.

- (b) Population totals have been determined using Census (2021) data, with totals estimated based on Output Area (OA) and Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA). Note that the OA and LSOA boundaries do not fit settlement boundaries exactly and in some cases cover much wider areas. Therefore, the figures should be taken as indicative rather than exact.
- (c) Number of dwellings, Census (2021), based on OA and LSOA data. Figures are a baseline estimate and should be regarded as indicative rather than exact. Things will have moved on since 2021 with regards to new development for some settlements. These figures do not factor into the overall settlement size classification and are rather an indicator of the demographic make-up (along with other impacting factors).

Employment role and economic activity

- 4.5 The study also examined the employment role and rates of economic activity for each settlement. The analysis identified the number of economically active residents, the working age population for each settlement, the number of local jobs, which was key in determining the employment role of a settlement. These indicators helped determine how well each settlement supports local residents to live and work within the same area thus reducing the need to travel. The employment density ratios also offered a strong indication of a settlements' sustainability, with larger settlements often providing a greater provision of jobs per person though the conclusions can be affected by specific anomalies, such as major rural employment sites (see Section 3.28-3.34). The Study also covered whether particular settlements are net importers and exporters of workers, which again highlighted their roles as employment centres. The study looked at the travel to work data to identify how far and where people may be travelling for work, however, this was for context and has been included within the settlement summaries (Section 6).
- 4.6 This noted that some settlements act as key employment centres while others act as dormitory settlements, which primarily export workers and others act as relatively self-sufficient, offering a similar number of jobs to workers. However the picture will be more complex than this with people commuting inwards or outwards to certain settlements to travel to jobs that match their skills, professions and their interests and this depends on where they may be available. Not everyone will choose to, or can, live and work within their local area. However, settlements that have at least one job for every economically active resident offer the best opportunity to do so. A lower score indicates fewer opportunities for local residents to access employment in their local area. Places with lower scores inevitably restrict residents' options and reduce their ability to avoid commuting elsewhere. Whereas settlements with higher ratios tend to be more balanced and therefore more sustainable. The methodology and data sources used here is summarised below:
- (d) See Table 17 (page 58). The employment role is a subjective assessment, based on weighing the number of jobs each settlement offers against the size of its working population, and the health of its jobs: workers ratio and local knowledge about key employment locations in Somerset. The classification given here is a weighting based

on a settlements' relative ranking i.e. 6 = highest ranking (Band 1), whereas 0 = lowest ranking (Band 7). See column (s) for further information.

- (e) 'Local workers' - Census 2021. Number of economically active residents (economic activity status) based on Output Areas (OA) and Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA). Data includes those who are ages 16-64 and full time students but excludes those who are economically inactive. This data should be viewed as indicative rather than exact considering these areas do not match a settlements exactly and are rather a best fit. See Appendix 1 for what OA/LSOAs cover each settlement. Table 17 (page 58).
- (f) 'Local jobs' – Census 2021. Workplace population based on OA and LSOA boundaries. This is a count of everyone aged over 16 who works within these areas. See Table 17 (page 58) and the endnotes for further information.
- (g) Net import and export of workers is calculated by subtracting local workers (e) from local jobs (f), which equals (g). The figures used are from Census 2021 LSOA/OA boundaries and therefore should be viewed as an indicative baseline. See Table 17 (page 58).
- (h) Economic activity rate/employment ratio. Census 2021. This is the percentage of working age population (16-64) who are economically active. See Table 18 (page 64).
- (i) Employment density. Census 2021. The ratio of jobs to workers. Calculated by local jobs divided by local workers. See Table 17 (page 58).

Audit of community facilities and services

4.7 The following section looked at the provision of certain community facilities and services within each of the settlements (see Table 21, page 90). The availability of certain facilities is crucial in determining the role and function, and thus the sustainability of a settlement. In most cases, the larger settlements will have fully comprehensive provision of services and facilities, and smaller settlements will have less provision, as they are dependent on a certain level of population to support their viability. Where a wide range of essential services are provided locally, residents are better able to meet their daily needs without having to travel demonstrating a stronger and more self-sufficient settlement function. In contrast, settlements with a more limited provision rely more heavily on larger settlements.

4.8 The audit identified the presence of key services and facilities within each settlement: healthcare facilities, educational services, financial services, shops and retail, and recreational and cultural provision. It also distinguished between strategic and local services, those which draw on a wider catchment and those that support everyday needs. This assessment helped to establish which settlements offered a comprehensive provision and which settlements depend on others'. The methodology is set out below:

- (j) Strategic role – the classification for strategic role is based on the number of 'strategic' facilities a settlement has. There are 9 in total (with a settlement either having a district/acute hospital or community hospital, which is the differing facility between a 'strongest' and 'very strong' score. Strategic facilities include district hospital, community hospital, bank or building society, further education facility, secondary school, supermarket, 5+ comparison shops, entertainment venue, sports and leisure centre and a library. See the key to Table 21 (page 99). A weighting has been applied to a settlements' classification. See column (s) for further information.
- (k) Local role – the classification for strategic role is based on the number of 'local' facilities a settlement has. There are 15 in total, with a maximum score of 54, including a GP

surgery, pharmacy, dentist, opticians, post office (permanent) or mobile post office, ATM, primary school, nursery, food shop (local convenience store), restaurant/café/pub, recreation ground, village hall, place of worship, and children's play area. Note that for a settlement to have scored 'core' they must have four out of six of the key facilities including a primary school. See the key to Table 21 (page 99). A weighting has been applied to a settlements' classification. See column (s) for further information.

- (l) Services and facilities score – each service and facility has been given a weighting/score based on their importance or significance to a settlement. This can be found in Table 21. These have then been summed to create a total score for the settlement. This hasn't been used in necessarily in the final hierarchy score and instead the weighting for the strategic and local classifications have been carried forward. Instead this score helps to identify the overall provision within each settlement.
- (m) Broadband connectivity – the coverage of ultrafast broadband (≥ 300 Mbit/s) has been scored based on the coverage across each settlement in Table 22. Where coverage was above 75% the settlement scored 4 (full), 50-74% coverage is 'good', 25-49% is 'limited', and less than 25% coverage is considered 'no coverage'. This is not included in the settlements' overall services score but is rather discussed in the summaries.

Settlement accessibility and connectivity

4.9 The third section in the Study looked at the relative connectivity and accessibility of each of settlement. Typically, the largest and most significant settlements in terms of their position within a settlement hierarchy, offer the best access to public transport and active travel (walking, cycling and wheeling) because these are where many of the services and facilities as well as employment is concentrated. The smaller settlements tend to have lower accessibility rankings due to their remoteness (making regular services less viable), though this might not always be as straight forward as it may depend on the location of settlements along key transport corridors. Accessibility to local services and facilities by sustainable travel (public transport, by bike or on foot) tends to use a maximum of a 20 minute journey as a key baseline for propensity to travel. It is important to note that this also includes 'proximate' settlements – meaning an important consideration for accessibility is ensuring there are good transport links between smaller settlements and larger settlements as these are key destinations for such settlements.

4.10 An Accessibility Tool was developed for the Council by WSP (transport consultant) that used the 20-minute time frame (one-way) to determine whether settlements could reach key 'big towns' and large employment areas in this time. This included all settlement' connectivity on foot, by bike and public transport to 'big towns' in Somerset and outside the Council border. The tool also enabled settlements to be ranked in terms of their availability of public transport (buses and trains) and rail access i.e. to 'big towns' within a 60 minute time frame. The methodology is set out below:

- (n) Accessibility/connectivity classification – the overall classification is based on the overall scores, an output from the Accessibility Tool, shown in column (o). These are ranked from highest to lowest with other categories such as 'upper' or 'lower'.
- (o) Accessibility/connectivity score – accessibility score as an output from the accessibility tool. The score is based on each of the settlements ability to reach large employment

areas and nearby big towns within 20 minutes on foot, by bike or by public transport. The score also looks at the availability of public transport i.e. the number of unique trips servicing the settlements by bus or train, as well as the access to a railway station within 5km, looking at the number of large towns that can be accessed within 1 hour.

Settlement hierarchy

- 4.11 The last four columns look at the current (adopted) settlement hierarchies, the proposed settlement hierarchy for Somerset, any changes that are being proposed whether that be a settlement has moved up or down a ‘tier’ as well as the overall score for each of the settlements, which are based on the results from this study and have informed the new hierarchy.
- 4.12 The information set out within this study, which has included settlement size and demographics, employment role and economic activity, community services and facilities and accessibility and connectivity. However, these factors only reveal part of the picture of a settlement. There are also important considerations regarding the distinctive characteristics of a settlement as well as environmental/developmental constraints that may limit the potential growth that can take place. The settlement summaries in Section 6 touch upon this information in more detail. The methodology for the final columns of shown in the Matrix are set out below:
- (p) Current classification – the current classifications with the adopted settlement hierarchies in each of the former district council Local Plans. These are shown in more detail on page 18 and on Figure 9 below (see ‘The Matrix’ also).
 - (q) Proposed classification – this is the proposed new classification of each settlement in the Somerset Local Plan settlement hierarchy. The proposal is for Tier 1 to Tier 4 with any remaining settlements classified as open countryside (see Figure 9 below).
 - (r) Any changes – this based on whether settlements have moved up or down a ‘tier’ from the adopted settlement hierarchy to new settlement hierarchy (see Figure 9).
 - (s) Total score – this is the final score for each settlement totalled by weighting each of the classifications for settlement size, employment role, services and facilities and accessibility/ connectivity and summing them with a multiplier of 2. See Table 9 for weighting information and the key for ‘The Matrix’.

Taunton Deane Core Strategy	West Somerset Local Plan	South Somerset Local Plan	Sedgemoor Local Plan	Mendip Local Plan Part I	Somerset Local Plan
Strategic Urban Area	Main Centre	Principal Town	Principal Settlement	Market Towns	Tier 1
Market Town		Primary Market Towns	Market Towns		Tier 2
Major Rural Centres	Rural Service Centres	Local Market Towns	Tier 1		Tier 3a
Minor Rural Centres		Rural Centres	Tier 2		Tier 3b
Villages	Primary Villages	Rural Settlements (2 or more specific services)	Tier 3	Primary Villages	Tier 4
	Secondary Villages		Tier 4	Secondary Villages	
Countryside (other smaller settlements)	Countryside (other smaller settlements)		Open Countryside - Rural settlements fewer than 2 specific services.	Countryside	"Unclassified"

Figure 9 - Adopted Settlement Hierarchies vs. proposed hierarchy

Table 25 – The Matrix: a comparison of settlements' roles and functions

Settlement	Population classification ^(a)	Population ^(b)	Number of Dwellings ^(c)	Employment role ^(d)	Local workers (number of economically active residents) ^(e)	Local jobs (workplace population) ^(f)	Net Import (+) or export (-) of workers ^(g)	Economic activity rate (% working age population economically active) ^(h)	Employment density (jobs to workers) ⁽ⁱ⁾	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role ^(j)	Services and facilities classification: Local role ^(k)	Services & facilities score ^(l)	Broadband Connectivity score ^(m)	Accessibility / connectivity classification ⁽ⁿ⁾	Accessibility / connectivity score ^(o)	Current Classification ^(p)	Proposed new classification ^(q)	Any changes? ^(r)	Total Score ^(s)
Taunton	LARGEST	74,104	33,979	BAND 1	37,572	39,450	1,878	83.4%	1.05	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	127	4	HIGHEST (1)	1130	Strategic Urban Area	Tier 1	SAME	60
Yeovil	VERY LARGE	50,529	22,727	BAND 2	26,100	27,264	1,164	83.1%	1.04	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	127	4	UPPER (2)	691	Principal Town	Tier 1	SAME	54
Bridgwater	VERY LARGE	51,051	22,416	BAND 2	26,697	26,081	-616	81.9%	0.98	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	125	4	UPPER (2)	711	Principal Town	Tier 1	SAME	52
Frome	LARGE	28,970	13,131	BAND 3	14,697	12,998	-	84.5%	0.88	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	122	4	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	476	Town	Tier 2	SAME	46
Highbridge & Burnham*	LARGE	21,747	10,548	BAND 3	9,562	8,532	1,030	80.5%	0.89	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	116	4	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	397	Market Town	Tier 2	SAME	46
Street	MEDIUM LARGE	13,116	5,632	BAND 3	6,076	6,081	5	77.8%	1.00	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	112	4	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	471	Town	Tier 2	SAME	44
Wells	MEDIUM LARGE	11,819	6,071	BAND 3	5,257	5,607	350	81.6%	1.07	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	122	4	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	482	Town	Tier 2	SAME	44
Chard	MEDIUM LARGE	14,290	6,590	BAND 3	6,848	6,414	-434	81.8%	0.94	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	113	2	CENTRAL (4)	234	Primary Market Town	Tier 2	SAME	42
Minehead & Alcombe	MEDIUM LARGE	11,814	6,099	BAND 3	4,867	5,085	218	79.2%	1.04	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	122	2	CENTRAL (4)	291	Main Centre	Tier 2	SAME	42
Wellington	MEDIUM LARGE	17,074	7,842	BAND 3	8,418	7,781	-637	83.7%	0.92	BROAD	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	103	4	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	454	Market Town	Tier 2	SAME	42
Shepton Mallet	MEDIUM LARGE	10,565	4,895	BAND 3	5,878	5,262	-616	88.3%	0.90	BROAD	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	93	4	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	345	Town	Tier 2	SAME	42
Cheddar	MEDIUM LARGE	6,301	2,830	BAND 4	3,009	3,123	114	85.1%	1.04	BROAD	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	105	4	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	341	Tier 1	Tier 2	UP	40
Glastonbury	MEDIUM LARGE	8,916	4,755	BAND 4	4,482	4,809	327	83.6%	1.07	SUBSTANTIAL	SUBSTANTIAL	110	4	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	483	Town	Tier 2	SAME	40
Wincanton (inc. Bayford)	MEDIUM LARGE	6,776	3,102	BAND 4	3,421	3,229	-192	84.8%	0.94	BROAD	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	107	4	CENTRAL (4)	191	Primary Market Town	Tier 2	SAME	38
Crewkerne	MEDIUM LARGE	6,683	3,333	BAND 4	3,128	3,022	-106	83.7%	0.97	BROAD	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	107	2	CENTRAL (4)	253	Primary Market Town	Tier 2	SAME	38
Somerton	MEDIUM LARGE	5,469	2,619	BAND 4	2,434	2,073	-361	83.8%	0.85	CORE	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	84	0	CENTRAL (4)	186	Local Market Town	Tier 3a	SAME	36
Langport & Huish Episcopi	MEDIUM LARGE	3,605	1,743	BAND 4	1,679	1,800	121	84.8%	1.07	BROAD	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	99	0	CENTRAL (4)	260	Local Market Town	Tier 3a	SAME	36
Ilminster	MEDIUM LARGE	5,645	2,796	BAND 4	2,626	2,324	-302	86.7%	0.88	CORE	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	80	4	LOWER (6)	56	Primary Market Town	Tier 3a	DOWN	32

Settlement	Population classification ^(a)	Population ^(b)	Number of Dwellings ^(c)	Employment role ^(d)	Local workers (number of economically active residents) ^(e)	Local jobs (workplace population) ^(f)	Net import (+) or export (-) of workers ^(g)	Economic activity rate (% working age population economically active) ^(h)	Employment density (jobs to workers) ⁽ⁱ⁾	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role ^(j)	Services and facilities classification: Local role ^(k)	Services & facilities score ^(l)	Broadband Connectivity score ^(m)	Accessibility / connectivity classification ⁽ⁿ⁾	Accessibility / connectivity score ^(o)	Current Classification ^(p)	Proposed new classification ^(q)	Any changes? ^(r)	Total Score ^(s)
North Petherton	MEDIUM	3,200	1,490	BAND 4	1,525	1,207	-318	88.0%	0.79	MINIMAL	SUBSTANTIAL	58	0	CENTRAL (4)	270	Tier 1	Tier 3a	UP	30
Ansford & Castle Cary	MEDIUM	3,444	1,707	BAND 4	1,595	1,572	-23	85.3%	0.99	CORE	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	77	4	LOWER (6)	56	Local Market Town	Tier 3a	SAME	30
Bruton & Pitcombe	MEDIUM	2,849	1,211	BAND 4	1,285	1,436	151	77.3%	1.12	CORE	SUBSTANTIAL	74	4	LOWER (6)	50	Rural Centre	Tier 3a	UP	28
Milborne Port	MEDIUM	3,203	1,498	BAND 5	1,536	945	-591	83.1%	0.62	MINIMAL	SUBSTANTIAL	55	2	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	92	Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	26
Williton	MEDIUM	2,440	1,209	BAND 5	963	745	-218	77.5%	0.77	CORE	SUBSTANTIAL	74	0	LOWER (6)	40	Rural Service Centre	Tier 3b	SAME/DOWN	26
Martock & Bower Hinton	MEDIUM	4,391	2,182	BAND 4	2,088	1,450	-638	82.6%	0.69	MINIMAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	61	4	LOWEST (7)	9	Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	26
Ilchester	MEDIUM	2,106	927	BAND 5	1,104	867	-237	84.5%	0.79	NONE	SUBSTANTIAL	50	4	CENTRAL (4)	175	Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	24
Bishop's Lydeard	MEDIUM	2,047	970	BAND 5	995	656	-339	86.4%	0.66	MINIMAL	BROAD	48	1	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	118	Major Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	24
Cannington	MEDIUM	2,047	928	BAND 5	962	727	-235	81.9%	0.76	MINIMAL	BROAD	52	0	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	78	Tier 2	Tier 3b	SAME	24
Berrow & Brean*	MEDIUM	2,255	1,211	BAND 4	972	1,003	31	83.2%	1.03	NONE	SUBSTANTIAL	51	2	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	87	Tier 3	Tier 3b	UP	24
South Petherton	MEDIUM	3,097	1,528	BAND 4	1,273	1,071	-202	84.3%	0.84	MINIMAL	BROAD	57	4	LOWER (6)	10	Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	24
Watchet	MEDIUM	3,986	2,037	BAND 5	1,715	903	-812	79.8%	0.53	MINIMAL	SUBSTANTIAL	53	0	LOWER (6)	28	Rural Service Centre	Tier 3b	DOWN	24
Wiveliscombe	MEDIUM	2,717	1,273	BAND 4	1,295	1,280	-15	86.3%	0.99	MINIMAL	SUBSTANTIAL	63	0	LOWEST (7)	4	Major Rural Centre	Tier 3b	DOWN	24
Chilcompton	MEDIUM	2,326	959	BAND 5	1,150	923	-227	84.3%	0.80	NONE	BROAD	43	4	CENTRAL (4)	266	Primary Settlement	Tier 3b	SAME/UP	22
Creech St Michael	MEDIUM	2,345	986	BAND 5	1,086	719	-367	85.3%	0.66	NONE	SUBSTANTIAL	47	4	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	96	Minor Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	22
Axbridge	MEDIUM	2,005	922	BAND 5	988	744	-244	82.7%	0.75	NONE	SUBSTANTIAL	47	4	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	81	Tier 2	Tier 3b	SAME	22
Abbas & Templecombe	SMALL	1,989	934	BAND 5	983	768	-215	85.5%	0.78	NONE	BROAD	38	4	CENTRAL (4)	151	Proposed Village	Tier 3b	SAME/UP	20
Cotford St Luke	MEDIUM	2,429	961	BAND 5	1,304	718	-586	82.9%	0.55	MINIMAL	CORE	40	4	LOWER (6)	29	Minor Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	20
Nether Stowey	SMALL	1,819	923	BAND 5	820	525	-295	87.3%	0.64	MINIMAL	BROAD	49	0	LOWER (6)	33	Tier 2	Tier 3b	SAME	20

Settlement	Population classification (a)	Population (b)	Number of Dwellings (c)	Employment role (d)	Local workers (number of economically active residents) (e)	Local jobs (workplace population) (f)	Net import (+) or export (-) of workers (g)	Economic activity rate (% working age population economically active) (h)	Employment density (jobs to workers) (i)	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role (j)	Services and facilities classification: Local role (k)	Services & facilities score (l)	Broadband Connectivity score (m)	Accessibility / connectivity classification (n)	Accessibility / connectivity score (o)	Current Classification (p)	Proposed new classification (q)	Any changes? (r)	Total Score (s)
Evercreech	MEDIUM	2,170	1,030	BAND 5	1,097	722	-375	87.7%	0.66	NONE	SUBSTANTIAL	47	2	LOWER (6)	24	Primary Settlement	Tier 3b	SAME/UP	20
Coxley & Upper Coxley & Coxley Wick	SMALL	1,079	487	BAND 6	572	390	-182	86.4%	0.68	NONE	CORE	25	4	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	316	Secondary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	18
Tatworth (inc. South Chard & Chard Junction)	MEDIUM	2,747	1,216	BAND 5	1,256	804	-452	83.3%	0.64	NONE	CORE	37	0	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	146	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	18
Merriot	MEDIUM	2,078	962	BAND 5	1,015	619	-396	87.9%	0.61	NONE	CORE	43	4	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	80	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	18
Wedmore	SMALL	1,425	687	BAND 6	602	458	-144	87.6%	0.76	MINIMAL	SUBSTANTIAL	55	4	LOWEST (7)	4	Tier 2	Tier 4	DOWN	18
Coleford	MEDIUM	2,249	992	BAND 5	1,100	565	-535	82.9%	0.51	NONE	SUBSTANTIAL	48	1	LOWEST (7)	7	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	18
Ruishon (inc. Henlade)	SMALL	1,533	705	BAND 6	629	366	-263	81.4%	0.58	NONE	CORE	37	4	CENTRAL (4)	254	Village	Tier 4	SAME	16
West Coker	SMALL	1,259	618	BAND 6	610	357	-253	84.5%	0.59	NONE	CORE	30	1	CENTRAL (4)	153	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	16
Walton	SMALL	1,136	488	BAND 6	527	293	-234	82.5%	0.56	NONE	CORE	25	1	CENTRAL (4)	286	Secondary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	16
Beckington	SMALL	995	474	BAND 6	458	437	-21	83.0%	0.95	NONE	CORE	33	4	CENTRAL (4)	202	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	16
Ashcott	SMALL	897	419	BAND 6	383	304	-79	81.0%	0.79	NONE	CORE	25	0	CENTRAL (4)	271	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	16
Misterton	SMALL	1,679	753	BAND 5	812	511	-301	90.7%	0.63	NONE	MINIMAL	13	0	CENTRAL (4)	169	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	16
Combe St Nicholas (inc. Wadeford)	SMALL	1,378	685	BAND 5	598	519	-79	88.1%	0.87	NONE	CORE	32	0	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	97	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	16
West Chinnock	SMALL	613	270	BAND 5	321	516	195	84.5%	1.61	NONE	CORE	25	2	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	81	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	16
Queen Camel	SMALL	574	292	BAND 6	294	278	-16	85.7%	0.95	NONE	BROAD	42	2	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	85	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	16
Nunney & Nunney Catch	SMALL	876	396	BAND 6	394	310	-84	79.0%	0.79	MINIMAL	CORE	39	4	LOWER (6)	25	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	16
Curry Rivel	MEDIUM	2,155	981	BAND 5	929	660	-269	82.4%	0.71	NONE	CORE	37	0	LOWER (6)	75	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	16
Woolavington	MEDIUM	2,343	1,066	BAND 5	984	512	-472	77.9%	0.52	NONE	BROAD	43	0	LOWEST (7)	0	Tier 2	Tier 4	DOWN	16

Settlement	Population classification (a)	Population (b)	Number of Dwellings (c)	Employment role (d)	Local workers (number of economically active residents) (e)	Local jobs (workplace population) (f)	Net import (+) or export (-) of workers (g)	Economic activity rate (% working age population economically active) (h)	Employment density (jobs to workers) (i)	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role (j)	Services and facilities classification: Local role (k)	Services & facilities score (l)	Broadband Connectivity score (m)	Accessibility / connectivity classification (n)	Accessibility / connectivity score (o)	Current Classification (p)	Proposed new classification (q)	Any changes? (r)	Total Score (s)
Chilthorne Domer	SMALL	524	231	BAND 7	265	170	-95	82.3%	0.64	NONE	CORE	23	4	CENTRAL (4)	228	Rural Settlement (OC)	Tier 4	UP	14
Barwick (inc. Stoford)	SMALL	1,227	586	BAND 6	558	259	-299	85.5%	0.46	NONE	MINIMAL	22	4	CENTRAL (4)	216	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	14
Stratton-On-The-Fosse	SMALL	824	283	BAND 6	353	422	69	72.8%	1.20	NONE	MINIMAL	13	4	CENTRAL (4)	226	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	14
Easton	SMALL	684	308	BAND 6	347	281	-66	88.5%	0.81	NONE	MINIMAL	8	4	CENTRAL (4)	203	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	14
North Coker & East Coker	SMALL	1,150	555	BAND 6	495	360	-135	86.2%	0.73	NONE	CORE	25	2	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	138	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	14
Huntspill (inc. West Huntspill)	SMALL	1,136	513	BAND 6	480	306	-174	81.6%	0.64	NONE	CORE	25	4	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	129	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	14
Draycott	SMALL	1,062	458	BAND 6	503	326	-177	83.0%	0.65	NONE	CORE	27	4	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	77	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	14
Norton St Philip	SMALL	1,034	475	BAND 6	451	394	-57	84.5%	0.87	NONE	CORE	32	1	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	79	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	14
High Ham	SMALL	945	415	BAND 6	466	319	-147	85.5%	0.68	NONE	CORE	20	2	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	76	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	14
Tintinhull	SMALL	932	433	BAND 6	421	272	-149	85.6%	0.65	NONE	CORE	20	2	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	91	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	14
Haselbury Plucknett	SMALL	745	343	BAND 6	336	268	-68	82.2%	0.80	NONE	CORE	20	4	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	110	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	14
Henstridge	SMALL	1,918	879	BAND 5	882	739	-143	86.6%	0.84	NONE	CORE	37	4	LOWER (6)	74	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	14
Westonzoyland	SMALL	1,858	812	BAND 5	927	571	-356	86.5%	0.62	NONE	CORE	32	2	LOWER (6)	26	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	14
Brent Knoll	SMALL	1,269	535	BAND 5	570	620	50	81.7%	1.09	NONE	CORE	27	1	LOWER (6)	39	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	14
Stoke sub Hamdon	SMALL	1,660	796	BAND 5	825	549	-276	83.8%	0.67	NONE	BROAD	42	4	LOWEST (7)	9	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	14
Othery	SMALL	690	289	BAND 7	335	191	-144	88.2%	0.57	NONE	MINIMAL	15	0	CENTRAL (4)	165	Tier 4	Countryside	DOWN	12
Wookey	SMALL	807	376	BAND 7	371	217	-154	81.2%	0.58	NONE	CORE	25	4	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	102	Secondary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	12
Stogursey	SMALL	788	388	BAND 7	383	170	-213	85.9%	0.44	NONE	CORE	38	2	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	81	Primary Village	Tier 4	SAME	12
Croscombe	SMALL	594	282	BAND 7	273	191	-82	86.7%	0.70	NONE	CORE	20	4	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	92	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	12

Settlement	Population classification ^(a)	Population ^(b)	Number of Dwellings ^(c)	Employment role ^(d)	Local workers (number of economically active residents) ^(e)	Local jobs (workplace population) ^(f)	Net import (+) or export (-) of workers ^(g)	Economic activity rate (% working age population economically active) ^(h)	Employment density (jobs to workers) ⁽ⁱ⁾	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role ^(j)	Services and facilities classification: Local role ^(k)	Services & facilities score ^(l)	Broadband Connectivity score ^(m)	Accessibility / connectivity classification ⁽ⁿ⁾	Accessibility / connectivity score ^(o)	Current Classification ^(p)	Proposed new classification ^(q)	Any changes? ^(r)	Total Score ^(s)
Chewton Mendip	SMALL	574	235	BAND 7	257	165	-92	88.9%	0.64	NONE	CORE	25	4	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	125	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	12
Langford Budville	SMALL	523	242	BAND 7	245	195	-50	84.5%	0.80	NONE	CORE	20	2	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	89	Village	Tier 4	SAME	12
Bradford-on-Tone	SMALL	660	299	BAND 6	327	282	-45	85.8%	0.86	NONE	MINIMAL	16	0	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	90	Village	Countryside	DOWN	12
Binegar & Gurney Slade	SMALL	657	287	BAND 6	355	333	-22	88.8%	0.94	NONE	MINIMAL	25	4	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	102	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	12
Puriton	SMALL	1,674	777	BAND 6	824	400	-424	88.0%	0.49	NONE	CORE	37	0	LOWER (6)	38	Tier 2	Tier 4	DOWN	12
Montacute (inc. East Stoke)	SMALL	875	422	BAND 6	385	381	-4	77.0%	0.99	NONE	CORE	37	2	LOWER (6)	28	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	12
Long Sutton	SMALL	841	402	BAND 6	424	344	-80	94.6%	0.81	NONE	CORE	37	0	LOWER (6)	75	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	12
Oakhill	SMALL	757	321	BAND 6	386	322	-64	87.3%	0.83	NONE	CORE	25	4	LOWER (6)	53	Secondary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	12
Weare and Lower Weare	SMALL	664	284	BAND 6	313	315	2	92.6%	1.01	NONE	CORE	28	2	LOWER (6)	16	Tier 4	Tier 4	SAME	12
North Newton	SMALL	647	275	BAND 6	377	281	-96	92.6%	0.75	NONE	CORE	25	2	LOWER (6)	16	Tier 4	Tier 4	SAME	12
Horton (and Broadway)	SMALL	1,884	852	BAND 5	876	670	-206	90.7%	0.76	NONE	CORE	37	2	LOWEST (7)	2	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	12
Mark (and Mark Causeway)	SMALL	1,435	613	BAND 5	723	579	-144	83.9%	0.80	NONE	CORE	32	4	LOWEST (7)	0	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	12
Mells	SMALL	634	307	BAND 5	277	638	361	82.0%	2.30	NONE	CORE	37	2	LOWEST (7)	4	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	12
North Curry	SMALL	1,066	507	BAND 6	465	321	-144	86.9%	0.69	NONE	BROAD	42	2	LOWEST (7)	4	Minor Rural Centre	Tier 4	DOWN	12
Chedzoy	VERY SMALL	454	186	BAND 7	256	135	-121	88.6%	0.53	NONE	MINIMAL	8	4	CENTRAL (4)	224	Tier 4	Countryside	DOWN	10
Buckland Dinham	VERY SMALL	343	170	BAND 7	179	167	-12	91.8%	0.93	NONE	MINIMAL	13	4	CENTRAL (4)	193	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	10
Hinton St George	VERY SMALL	463	283	BAND 7	179	158	-21	86.5%	0.88	NONE	CORE	37	2	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	80	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	10
Kingston St Mary	VERY SMALL	382	192	BAND 7	167	130	-37	85.2%	0.78	NONE	CORE	25	2	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	143	Village	Tier 4	SAME	10
Compton Dundon and Dundon	SMALL	768	331	BAND 7	346	238	-108	83.0%	0.69	NONE	MINIMAL	18	4	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	107	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	10

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Butleigh	SMALL	752	364	BAND 7	338	237	-101	79.9%	0.70	NONE	MINIMAL	15	2	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	94	Primary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	10
Pilton	SMALL	713	320	BAND 7	361	241	-120	94.5%	0.67	NONE	MINIMAL	30	0	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	142	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	10
Marston Magna	SMALL	553	215	BAND 7	219	169	-50	75.8%	0.77	NONE	MINIMAL	10	4	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	103	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	10
Sparkford	SMALL	549	252	BAND 7	260	109	-151	85.8%	0.42	NONE	MINIMAL	20	1	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	87	Proposed Village	Countryside	DOWN	10
Edithmead	SMALL	527	263	BAND 6	227	276	49	77.5%	1.22	NONE	LIMITED	1	2	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	133	Countryside	Countryside	SAME	10
East Brent	SMALL	681	278	BAND 7	313	222	-91	80.5%	0.71	NONE	CORE	30	2	LOWER (6)	16	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	10
Kilmersdon	SMALL	613	258	BAND 7	262	151	-111	80.4%	0.58	NONE	CORE	20	2	LOWER (6)	23	Secondary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	10
Lympsham	SMALL	585	237	BAND 7	247	155	-92	81.5%	0.63	NONE	CORE	37	4	LOWER (6)	30	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	10
Pawlett	SMALL	1,005	448	BAND 6	465	329	-136	84.4%	0.71	NONE	MINIMAL	20	1	LOWER (6)	27	Tier 3	Countryside	DOWN	10
Meare (inc. Oxenpill)	SMALL	994	426	BAND 6	499	333	-166	85.2%	0.67	NONE	MINIMAL	18	4	LOWER (6)	19	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	10
East Huntspill	SMALL	887	376	BAND 6	457	265	-192	84.3%	0.58	NONE	MINIMAL	20	1	LOWER (6)	54	Tier 3	Countryside	DOWN	10
West Pennard	SMALL	693	295	BAND 6	340	288	-52	82.3%	0.85	NONE	MINIMAL	16	2	LOWER (6)	52	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	10
Rooks Bridge	SMALL	736	306	BAND 5	408	632	224	87.9%	1.55	NONE	LIMITED	9	4	LOWER (6)	14	Tier 3	Countryside	DOWN	10
Keinton Mandeville	SMALL	1,226	481	BAND 6	617	415	-202	89.2%	0.67	NONE	CORE	32	2	LOWEST (7)	1	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	10
Milverton	SMALL	1,116	529	BAND 6	495	298	-197	81.0%	0.60	NONE	CORE	32	2	LOWEST (7)	2	Minor Rural Centre	Tier 4	DOWN	10
Shipham	SMALL	1,107	490	BAND 6	522	444	-78	84.3%	0.85	NONE	CORE	25	2	LOWEST (7)	4	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	10
Rode	SMALL	1,085	513	BAND 6	528	379	-149	82.8%	0.72	NONE	CORE	32	2	LOWEST (7)	0	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	10
Baltonsborough	SMALL	1,065	476	BAND 6	513	446	-67	83.3%	0.87	NONE	CORE	27	2	LOWEST (7)	0	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	10
Stoke St Gregory (inc. Meare Green)	SMALL	1,012	476	BAND 6	516	364	-152	91.5%	0.71	NONE	CORE	28	2	LOWEST (7)	4	Village	Tier 4	SAME	10

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Catcott & Edington	SMALL	927	398	BAND 6	395	381	-14	79.0%	0.96	NONE	CORE	36	2	LOWEST (7)	2	Tier 4	Tier 4	SAME	10
Westbury Sub Mendip	SMALL	796	369	BAND 6	354	296	-58	85.1%	0.84	NONE	CORE	37	2	LOWEST (7)	2	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	10
Stoke St Michael	SMALL	764	323	BAND 6	387	333	-54	87.8%	0.86	NONE	CORE	32	2	LOWEST (7)	4	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	10
Hillcommon (inc. Oake)	SMALL	744	350	BAND 6	370	321	-49	88.1%	0.87	NONE	CORE	37	2	LOWEST (7)	7	Village	Tier 4	SAME	10
Blackford	SMALL	699	291	BAND 6	346	376	30	85.2%	1.09	NONE	CORE	25	2	LOWEST (7)	0	Tier 4	Tier 4	SAME	10
Spaxton	SMALL	674	299	BAND 6	323	490	167	85.9%	1.52	NONE	CORE	27	2	LOWEST (7)	1	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	10
North Cadbury	SMALL	670	315	BAND 6	343	368	25	89.1%	1.07	NONE	CORE	35	2	LOWEST (7)	6	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	10
Hatch Beauchamp	SMALL	640	272	BAND 6	285	332	47	85.3%	1.16	NONE	CORE	25	2	LOWEST (7)	2	Village	Tier 4	SAME	10
Stoke St Mary	VERY SMALL	483	215	BAND 7	245	182	-63	93.5%	0.74	NONE	MINIMAL	13	0	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	141	Other smaller settlements	Countryside	SAME	8
Shapwick	VERY SMALL	448	205	BAND 7	216	130	-86	81.8%	0.60	NONE	MINIMAL	8	0	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	89	Tier 4	Countryside	DOWN	8
Kingsdon	VERY SMALL	374	176	BAND 7	163	110	-53	76.5%	0.67	NONE	MINIMAL	20	0	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	120	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	8
Horsington	VERY SMALL	323	147	BAND 7	148	94	-54	86.5%	0.64	NONE	MINIMAL	15	1	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	118	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	8
Wookey Hole	VERY SMALL	307	170	BAND 7	179	162	-17	90.9%	0.91	NONE	MINIMAL	6	0	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	102	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	8
North Perrott	VERY SMALL	285	129	BAND 7	132	174	42	86.3%	1.32	NONE	MINIMAL	12	4	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	110	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	8
Ditcheat	VERY SMALL	395	171	BAND 7	226	173	-53	87.6%	0.77	NONE	CORE	22	2	LOWER (6)	38	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	8
Odcombe	SMALL	754	352	BAND 7	372	221	-151	89.2%	0.59	NONE	MINIMAL	13	0	LOWER (6)	30	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	8
Winsham	SMALL	756	369	BAND 7	319	198	-121	83.3%	0.62	NONE	CORE	32	2	LOWEST (7)	0	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	8
Shepton Beauchamp	SMALL	754	368	BAND 7	354	208	-146	81.2%	0.59	NONE	CORE	30	2	LOWEST (7)	8	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	8
Norton Sub Hamdon	SMALL	734	343	BAND 7	308	181	-127	78.8%	0.59	NONE	CORE	32	2	LOWEST (7)	0	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	8
Middlezoy	SMALL	716	336	BAND 7	349	220	-129	84.7%	0.63	NONE	CORE	32	2	LOWEST (7)	7	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	8

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Combwich	SMALL	653	306	BAND 7	298	148	-150	84.7%	0.50	NONE	CORE	27	2	LOWEST (7)	0	Tier 3 Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	8
Ash	SMALL	613	279	BAND 7	310	199	-111	82.2%	0.64	NONE	CORE	30	2	LOWEST (7)	7	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	8
Ilton	SMALL	608	266	BAND 7	290	228	-62	82.4%	0.79	NONE	CORE	25	2	LOWEST (7)	4	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	8
Washford	SMALL	585	290	BAND 7	301	217	-84	89.9%	0.72	NONE	CORE	37	2	LOWEST (7)	4	Primary Village	Tier 4	SAME	8
Charlton Horethorne	SMALL	585	296	BAND 7	277	184	-93	96.5%	0.66	NONE	CORE	25	2	LOWEST (7)	1	Rural Settlement (OC)	Tier 4	UP	8
Leigh-On-Mendip	SMALL	547	259	BAND 7	279	233	-46	87.5%	0.84	NONE	CORE	25	2	LOWEST (7)	4	Unclassified	Tier 4	UP	8
Hambridge	SMALL	524	244	BAND 7	274	176	-98	88.7%	0.64	NONE	CORE	25	2	LOWEST (7)	0	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	8
The Charltons - Charlton Adam & Charlton Mackrell	SMALL	1,034	489	BAND 6	471	460	-11	85.6%	0.98	NONE	MINIMAL	20	0	LOWEST (7)	1	Proposed Village	Countryside	DOWN	8
Holcombe	SMALL	964	437	BAND 6	479	312	-167	88.1%	0.65	NONE	MINIMAL	13	4	LOWEST (7)	7	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	8
Seavington St Michael	SMALL	501	254	BAND 6	233	301	68	94.0%	1.29	NONE	MINIMAL	20	2	LOWEST (7)	4	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	8
Drayton	VERY SMALL	377	172	BAND 7	164	158	-6	82.0%	0.96	NONE	MINIMAL	9	0	LOWER (6)	75	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	6
Bicknoller	VERY SMALL	373	207	BAND 7	143	126	-17	82.2%	0.88	NONE	MINIMAL	20	4	LOWER (6)	12	Primary Village	Countryside	DOWN	6
Kilve	VERY SMALL	347	190	BAND 7	138	104	-34	73.8%	0.75	NONE	MINIMAL	24	0	LOWER (6)	28	Primary Village	Countryside	DOWN	6
Galhampton	VERY SMALL	326	140	BAND 7	154	96	-58	91.7%	0.62	NONE	MINIMAL	13	4	LOWER (6)	21	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	6
Cross	VERY SMALL	295	136	BAND 7	141	95	-46	88.1%	0.67	NONE	MINIMAL	8	4	LOWER (6)	75	Countryside	Countryside	SAME	6
Crowcombe	VERY SMALL	451	249	BAND 7	209	161	-48	94.6%	0.77	NONE	CORE	32	2	LOWEST (7)	0	Primary Village	Tier 4	SAME	6
Stogumber	VERY SMALL	426	202	BAND 7	174	116	-58	84.1%	0.67	NONE	CORE	32	2	LOWEST (7)	0	Primary Village	Tier 4	SAME	6
Curry Mallet	VERY SMALL	349	151	BAND 7	155	109	-46	77.5%	0.70	NONE	CORE	17	2	LOWEST (7)	0	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	6
Wanstrow	VERY SMALL	494	212	BAND 6	243	320	77	85.9%	1.32	NONE	MINIMAL	16	0	LOWEST (7)	1	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	6

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Faulkland	VERY SMALL	395	180	BAND 6	182	353	171	83.5%	1.94	NONE	MINIMAL	9	4	LOWEST (7)	7	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	6
Carhampton	SMALL	811	398	BAND 7	309	163	-146	79.0%	0.53	NONE	MINIMAL	8	0	LOWEST (7)	0	Primary Village	Countryside	DOWN	6
Kingsbury Episcopi	SMALL	682	306	BAND 7	335	181	-154	88.6%	0.54	NONE	MINIMAL	25	0	LOWEST (7)	2	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	6
Chilton Polden	SMALL	668	321	BAND 7	304	147	-157	90.7%	0.48	NONE	MINIMAL	13	0	LOWEST (7)	2	Tier 4	Countryside	DOWN	6
Cossington	SMALL	648	317	BAND 7	324	192	-132	85.5%	0.59	NONE	MINIMAL	13	0	LOWEST (7)	4	Tier 4	Countryside	DOWN	6
Fivehead	SMALL	619	291	BAND 7	282	197	-85	83.7%	0.70	NONE	MINIMAL	13	0	LOWEST (7)	0	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	6
Barton St David	SMALL	619	274	BAND 7	240	187	-53	77.9%	0.78	NONE	MINIMAL	13	0	LOWEST (7)	0	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	6
Hardington Moor/ Hardington Mandeville	SMALL	592	263	BAND 7	279	185	-94	83.0%	0.66	NONE	MINIMAL	20	0	LOWEST (7)	1	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	6
Brushford	SMALL	555	276	BAND 7	259	144	-115	86.9%	0.56	NONE	MINIMAL	15	0	LOWEST (7)	7	Secondary Village	Countryside	DOWN	6
Blagdon Hill	SMALL	540	247	BAND 7	265	160	-105	84.9%	0.60	NONE	MINIMAL	9	0	LOWEST (7)	2	Village	Countryside	DOWN	6
Lydeard St Lawrence	SMALL	527	218	BAND 7	269	177	-92	85.9%	0.66	NONE	MINIMAL	15	0	LOWEST (7)	0	Village	Countryside	DOWN	6
The Lydfords	SMALL	514	223	BAND 7	254	206	-48	89.8%	0.81	NONE	MINIMAL	21	4	LOWEST (7)	4	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	6
East Chinnock	SMALL	504	248	BAND 7	242	143	-99	82.6%	0.59	NONE	MINIMAL	13	1	LOWEST (7)	0	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	6
Bawdrip	VERY SMALL	465	207	BAND 7	246	185	-61	84.5%	0.75	NONE	LIMITED	11	4	LOWER (6)	68	Tier 4	Countryside	DOWN	4
West Camel	VERY SMALL	447	232	BAND 7	182	115	-67	79.1%	0.63	NONE	MINIMAL	13	4	LOWEST (7)	1	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	4
Barrington	VERY SMALL	442	220	BAND 7	206	151	-55	79.5%	0.73	NONE	MINIMAL	18	4	LOWEST (7)	8	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	4
Churchinford	VERY SMALL	429	203	BAND 7	191	125	-66	87.6%	0.65	NONE	MINIMAL	34	4	LOWEST (7)	1	Minor Rural Centre	Countryside	DOWN	4
Witham Friary	VERY SMALL	416	167	BAND 7	223	187	-36	88.8%	0.84	NONE	MINIMAL	10	4	LOWEST (7)	0	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	4
Batcombe	VERY SMALL	409	193	BAND 7	202	184	-18	91.0%	0.91	NONE	MINIMAL	13	0	LOWEST (7)	4	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	4

Settlement	Population classification (a)	Population (b)	Number of Dwellings (c)	Employment role (d)	Local workers (number of economically active residents) (e)	Local jobs (workplace population) (f)	Net import (+) or export (-) of workers (g)	Economic activity rate (% working age population economically active) (h)	Employment density (jobs to workers) (i)	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role (j)	Services and facilities classification: Local role (k)	Services & facilities score (l)	Broadband Connectivity score (m)	Accessibility / connectivity classification (n)	Accessibility / connectivity score (o)	Current Classification (p)	Proposed new classification (q)	Any changes? (r)	Total Score (s)
Priddy	VERY SMALL	322	145	BAND 7	177	124	-53	90.8%	0.70	NONE	MINIMAL	19	4	LOWEST (7)	0	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	4
West Quantoxhead	VERY SMALL	320	180	BAND 7	111	108	-3	78.2%	0.97	NONE	MINIMAL	16	0	LOWEST (7)	3	Primary Village	Countryside	DOWN	4
Halse	VERY SMALL	313	144	BAND 7	143	88	-55	79.9%	0.62	NONE	MINIMAL	9	0	LOWEST (7)	0	Village	Countryside	DOWN	4
Fitzhead	VERY SMALL	271	126	BAND 7	144	97	-47	97.3%	0.67	NONE	MINIMAL	13	4	LOWEST (7)	0	Village	Countryside	DOWN	4
Theale	VERY SMALL	373	148	BAND 7	181	101	-80	92.3%	0.56	NONE	LIMITED	4	4	LOWEST (7)	2	Countryside	Countryside	SAME	2
Blue Anchor	VERY SMALL	164	124	BAND 7	53	63	10	91.4%	1.19	NONE	LIMITED	5	0	LOWEST (7)	0	Other smaller settlements	Countryside	SAME	2

Key to Table 25:

Columns (a) (d) (j) (k) (n)

Classifications and weightings

BAND 1 / HIGHEST CATEGORY / LARGEST / FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	= 6
BAND 2 / UPPER CATEGORY / VERY LARGE / SUBSTANTIAL	= 5
BAND 3 / UPPER CENTRE CATEGORY / LARGE / BROAD	= 4
BAND 4 / CENTRAL CATEGORY / MEDIUM LARGE / CORE	= 3
BAND 5 / LOWER CENTRE CATEGORY / MEDIUM / MINIMAL	= 2
BAND 6 / LOWER CATEGORY / SMALL / LIMITED	= 1
BAND 7 / LOWEST CATEGORY / VERY SMALL / NONE	= 0

Columns (b) (c)

Population total

Population 70,000+
Population 40,000 – 70,000
Population 20,000 – 39,999
Population 5,000 – 19,999
Population 2000 – 4,999
Population 500 – 1,999
Population less than 500

Number of dwellings

Number of dwellings 30,000+
Number of dwellings 20-30k
Number of dwellings 10-20k
Number of dwellings 2.5-10k
Number of dwellings 1000-2.5k
Number of dwellings 250-1000
Number of dwellings less than 250

Column (f)

No. of local jobs

Biggest employment hub (30k+ jobs)
10-20k jobs
5-20k jobs
1-5k jobs
500-1k jobs
250-500 jobs
Fewer than 250 jobs

Columns (g) (h) (i)

Net import/export of workers

Biggest net importer (1700+)
Significant importer (500-1100)
Modest importer (100-500)
Balanced (+100 to -100)
Modest exporter (-100 - -500)
Significant exporter (-500 - -1100)
Biggest net exporter (-1100+)

Economic activity rate

95%
90%-94.99%
85-89.99%
80-84.99%
75-79.99%
Less than 75%

Employment density

Settlements with 1 or more jobs to workers
Settlements with 0.95+ jobs to workers
Settlements with 0.9-0.94 jobs to workers
Settlements with 0.8-0.89 jobs to workers
Settlements with 0.7-0.79 jobs to workers
Settlements with 0.6-0.69 jobs to workers
Settlements with fewer than 0.6 jobs to workers

Column (m)

Broadband Connectivity

4	Ultra-fast (100mbps) broadband coverage 75% and higher
2	Ultra-fast (100mbps) broadband coverage between 50% and 74%
1	Ultra-fast (100mbps) broadband coverage between 25% and 49%
0	Ultra-fast (100mbps) broadband coverage less than 25% coverage

5. Environmental constraints

- 5.1 Settlements may be constrained by flood risk; or sites designated as being of ecological or heritage importance could be affected by growth. The locations of these potential constraints to growth are set out in the settlement summaries (Section 6).
- 5.2 The constraints are not exhaustive, but are some of the main considerations for planning new development, and include the following:
- International wildlife designations: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar Sites
 - SSSI – Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 - National Nature Reserves (NNR)
 - Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)
 - Flood Zones 2 and 3 (a/b)
 - Conservation Areas
 - Listed Buildings
 - Historic/Registered Park and Garden
 - Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)
 - National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty)
 - National Parks
 - Coastal designations or coastal change risks
 - Airfield Safeguarding Zones / Noise exposure
- 5.3 The information has been gathered through previous settlement role and function studies, village studies and the existing Local Plans. This information has also been updated where necessary and collected for settlements previously considered open countryside using our GIS mapping layers.
- 5.4 Such information on the sensitivity of the local landscape character enabled us to gain a high-level understanding of an area's capacity to absorb an impact of new development.

6. Settlement summaries

6.1 Section 6 brings together the analysis and recommendations set out in the previous sections for each of the settlements in the Study. A short summary is provided for each settlement based on their recommended tier shown in Table 25 (and Tables 26-30) alongside some high level considerations given to developmental constraints. This grouping has potential to become the basis for a new settlement hierarchy for the Somerset Local Plan.

Tier 1

6.2 The Tier 1 settlements of Taunton, Yeovil and Bridgwater represent the most strategically significant towns in Somerset. All of these settlements accommodate the largest concentrations of population, offer tens of thousands of jobs and high employment density, extensive services and facilities, and the best accessibility and connectivity overall. Each of these settlements performs as a key employment destination, offering diverse job opportunities and sustaining strong labour markets. They also provide the most comprehensive range of strategic and local services, including healthcare, education, retail and cultural facilities, serving not only their resident populations but their extensive hinterlands. Their accessibility and connectivity is set way above that of the other settlements, with high-quality public transport links, strong active travel networks and good connectivity to major employment destinations and other large urban areas within Somerset or outside the Council area. There are fewer constraints to new growth.

Table 26 – Summary of classifications for Tier 1 settlements

Settlement	Population classification	Employment role	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role	Services and facilities classification: Local role	Accessibility / connectivity classification	Current Classification	Proposed new classification	Any changes?	Total Score
Taunton	LARGEST	BAND 1	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	HIGHEST (1)	Strategic Urban Area	Tier 1	SAME	60
Yeovil	VERY LARGE	BAND 2	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	UPPER (2)	Principal Town	Tier 1	SAME	54
Bridgwater	VERY LARGE	BAND 2	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	UPPER (2)	Principal Town	Tier 1	SAME	52

Taunton

6.3 Taunton is the largest settlement in Somerset, with a population of around 74,100 people. The town has one of the highest proportions of working aged people at 61% and a very high proportion of people aged under 16. This is reflected in a relatively reasonable growth forecast to 2045 at a 13.5% increase, which is the highest forecast growth for the Tier 1 settlements. The town ranks highest for its employment role in Somerset, offering nearly 39,500 jobs for its residents and many other people across Somerset and beyond.

This amounts to a significant net import of nearly 1,900 workers with a very high employment density in the town at over 1 jobs to workers.

6.4 As the largest settlement in Somerset, the town has one of the strongest provisions of strategic and local services and facilities, on par with Yeovil. There is an extensive selection of healthcare services (including a large district/acute hospital, a wide range of comparison retail, secondary and further education, supermarkets, and leisure, cultural and entertainment venues. The town supports its local residents as well as a very large hinterland across Somerset and beyond. Taunton has the highest accessibility score out of all the settlements in the study, by some way with exceptional access on foot, by bike and by public transport to key employment destinations as well as other large towns across the south-west and beyond. The availability of public transport (bus and rail) is over three times that of the next best scoring settlement (Yeovil) and performs significantly better in terms of rail access too. Its overall score for public transport availability and rail access is over double that of the next best town, Bridgwater. In-fact the combined scores for Yeovil, Bridgwater and Frome regarding public transport access are only slightly higher than Taunton's overall. Taunton also has very good coverage of ultra-fast broadband. The town also has the highest centre spend (convenience, comparison and food and beverage expenditure) among town centres in Somerset.

6.5 There are some environmental constraints in and around the town. There is a small Special Area of Conservation to the north, which is Hestercombe House & Gardens, with a large, impacted area, as it is a maternity roost for Lesser Horseshoe Bats, and Maidenbrook Country Park sits to the north and Special Landscape Features such as Norton Hill Fort. Land alongside the River Tone is in Flood Zones 2 and 3. Large Area(s) of National Landscape and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to the north and south of the town including Quantock Hills and Blackdown Hills. There are several, large Conservation Areas within the town as well as many Listed Buildings such as St Mary Magdalene's Church. There are also several Scheduled Ancient Monuments including that for Taunton Castle, and Borough Bank.

Yeovil

6.6 Yeovil is a very large settlement with a population of over 50,000 people, making it one of the top three largest settlements in Somerset, similar to Bridgwater in size and behind Taunton, which is considerably larger. The town has a very high proportion of younger residents and one of the highest proportions of a working-age population out of all the settlements in Somerset, with a lower proportion of older residents. In comparison to the other Tier 1 settlements, the forecast population growth is modest. The town ranks in Band 2 for its employment role with tens of thousands of local jobs, many people working locally, and with the second highest net import of workers in

Somerset. Yeovil's economy is distinctively shaped by its industrial and manufacturing base, including aerospace, along with major retail and healthcare sectors. This supports a diverse local labour market, helping to anchor Yeovil's role in the southern area of Somerset.

- 6.7 Yeovil shares the highest services and facilities score in Somerset along with Taunton considering the presence of a district/acute hospital. The town has further education facilities, multiple secondary schools, supermarkets, major comparison retails and a wide range of leisure and cultural venues, which provide an extensive strategic and local function for a large number of residents in Yeovil and across the southern/central areas of Somerset. The town ranks in the 'upper' category for its accessibility with strong active travel and public transport links – both bus and rail. Although its public transport and rail access are not as strong as Taunton's, Yeovil remains one of the best-connected places in Somerset, offering a meaningful choice of sustainable travel modes and a high level of access to jobs and key services. The town also has second highest centre spend (convenience, comparison and food and beverage expenditure) among town centres in Somerset.
- 6.8 In terms of constraints, there are several Conservation Areas and many Listed Buildings. The Country Park to the south includes many Local Wildlife Sites here and to the south west and west of the town. There is an adjoining Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest and one at the Brympton d'Evercy estate nearby to the west. Land alongside the River Yeo is in Flood Zones 2 and 3. There is a small area of land close to the A30 to the east of the town which is designated a SSSI. The town adjoins the border to Dorset to the east. There are also notable constraints placed development by Yeovil aerodrome both in terms of operational safety and noise with a large noise exposure zone across the town and the need to consider the Airfield Safeguarding Zone.

Bridgwater

- 6.9 Bridgwater is one of two very large settlements in Somerset, with a population of around 51,000 people, similar to Yeovil, and the 2nd largest town in Somerset overall. The town has a much younger-leaning population with one of the highest proportions of working aged people at 64%, with 20% of people aged under 16 and only 16% aged 65 and over. This is reflected in the more modest population growth at just under 11% to 2045. The town ranks in Band 2 for its employment role with nearly 26,100 workers and a relatively high employment density at nearly 1 job to each worker though lower than the other Tier 1 settlements. Bridgwater is the only Tier 1 settlement that is a net exporter of workers, which may be due to its proximity to Taunton and may indicate the large number of workers travelling to the Hinkley Point Campus, for example. The town will also have Gravity (Smart Campus) as a future source of jobs located just outside the town near Puriton and, therefore, the

town may see increased outward commuting, though the wider area around Bridgwater hosts a significant number of jobs.

- 6.10 Bridgwater has one of the highest services and facilities scores out of all the settlement in Somerset, only marginally below Taunton and Yeovil, as it does not have a district/acute hospital (rather a community hospital). However, it has a substantial provision of strategic services and a fully comprehensive provision of local services (making it one of the strongest out of all the settlements in Somerset). Bridgwater has a range of secondary schools, further education opportunities, a strong retail centre, multiple supermarkets, and a wide range of leisure, cultural and entertainment opportunities. The town has the second highest accessibility score in Somerset, and out of the Tier 1 settlements. It has strong links by foot, by bike and by public transport to key employment destinations and nearby big towns. While the availability of bus and rail services is not as good as Yeovil, the ability to access other large towns by rail is better than that of Yeovil, though still quite significantly behind the scores seen in Taunton. Bridgwater has a very good coverage of ultra-fast broadband connectivity. The town has the third highest centre spend (convenience, comparison and food and beverage expenditure) among town centres in Somerset. There are several Conservation Areas in Bridgwater plus many Listed Buildings, and a significant area of the town is in Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 with only some south westerly areas sitting above.

Tier 2

- 6.11 The Tier 2 settlements of Frome, Highbridge & Burnham, Wells, Street, Shepton Mallet, Wellington, Chard, Minehead & Alcombe, Cheddar, Glastonbury, Wincanton and Crewkerne act as key focal points for their area of Somerset with large or medium-large level of population, strong employment concentrations with local employment opportunities, and generally substantial to fully comprehensive service provision with good healthcare, education, retail and leisure facilities and good levels of accessibility across Somerset. Although smaller and less strategically dominant than the Tier 1 settlements, they play a vital sub-regional role by supporting their surrounding rural areas, maintaining connectivity with the larger towns. Some of these towns face some degree of environmental/physical constraints to new growth.

Table 27 – Summary of classifications for Tier 2 settlements

Settlement	Population classification	Employment role	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role	Services and facilities classification: Local role	Accessibility / connectivity classification	Current Classification	Proposed new classification	Any changes (approx.)	Total Score
Frome	LARGE	BAND 3	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	Town	Tier 2	SAME	46

Highbridge & Burnham*	LARGE	BAND 3	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	Market Town	Tier 2	SAME	46
Street	MEDIUM LARGE	BAND 3	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	Town	Tier 2	SAME	44
Wells	MEDIUM LARGE	BAND 3	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	Town	Tier 2	SAME	44
Chard	MEDIUM LARGE	BAND 3	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	CENTRAL (4)	Primary Market Town	Tier 2	SAME	42
Minehead & Alcombe	MEDIUM LARGE	BAND 3	SUBSTANTIAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	CENTRAL (4)	Main Centre	Tier 2	SAME	42
Wellington	MEDIUM LARGE	BAND 3	BROAD	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	Market Town	Tier 2	SAME	42
Shepton Mallet	MEDIUM LARGE	BAND 3	BROAD	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	Town	Tier 2	SAME	42
Cheddar	MEDIUM LARGE	BAND 4	BROAD	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	Tier 1	Tier 2	UP	40
Glastonbury	MEDIUM LARGE	BAND 4	SUBSTANTIAL	SUBSTANTIAL	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	Town	Tier 2	SAME	40
Wincanton (inc. Bayford)	MEDIUM LARGE	BAND 4	BROAD	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	CENTRAL (4)	Primary Market Town	Tier 2	SAME	38
Crewkerne	MEDIUM LARGE	BAND 4	BROAD	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	CENTRAL (4)	Primary Market Town	Tier 2	SAME	38

Frome

- 6.12 Frome is the largest of the Tier 2 settlements, with a population around nearly 29,000 people and one of two 'large' settlements in Somerset along with Highbridge & Burnham. The town has a large proportion of working aged people at 60% and a relatively high proportion of people aged under 16, with a lower proportion of older people (one of the lowest in Tier 2). This is reflected in the more modest projected population growth to 2045 at around a 12% forecast increase, driven by the attractiveness of the town to working age residents and families. The town performs a strong employment role with nearly 13,000 jobs. However, the town is the largest net exporter of workers in Somerset likely due to its proximity to many larger centres, particularly being on the railway line, such as Bath, Bristol, Trowbridge, Westbury and Warminster, plus its close proximity to the Mendip Hill quarries. The town has the lowest employment density of the Tier 2 settlements, indicating a reliance on other large towns and more of a dormitory role.
- 6.13 Frome has one of the strongest scores for services and facilities among the Tier 2 settlements (joint with Wells and Minehead) with substantial provision of strategic services and a fully comprehensive provision of local services supporting local residents and a wider hinterland. It has a range of comparison shops, supermarkets, entertainment venues, secondary and further education and recreational provision. The town has one of the highest accessibility and connectivity scores in Somerset, with the 3rd highest public transport availability score (behind Taunton and Yeovil) and 4th highest score for bus and rail access and availability (behind all Tier 1 towns). The town has strong levels of walking, cycling and public transport access to nearby big towns and employment destinations. The town has full ultra-fast broadband coverage. Frome has the sixth highest town centre spend among in Somerset

- 6.14 Frome is situated on the eastern edge of the Mendip Hills on land of varying gradient. The River Frome runs through the town, posing flood risk of both zones 2 and 3 and constraining growth to the north west and south east of the town. The A361 runs along the south and east of Frome and Cranborne Chase National Landscape is also close to the town. There are several large Conservation Areas covering large areas of the town including many Listed Buildings. Registered Parks & Gardens to the north and south.

Highbridge & Burnham

- 6.15 Highbridge & Burnham is a large coastal settlement with a combined population of around 21,700 people. It is one of the larger Tier 2 settlements, behind Frome, and has a high proportion of people aged 65 and over. There is a smaller proportion of younger and working aged people in comparison to many of the other Tier 2 settlements, reflecting its coastal location. The forecast for population growth is around 16% increase by 2045, which is driven by an ageing population, behind that for Wells and Minehead. The town ranks in Band 3 for its employment role, with 8,500 local jobs. However, there is a large net export of workers here, the second largest export behind Frome and with a lower employment density than many of the other Tier 2 settlements. This is likely due to the age structure of the town, the coastal and seasonal employment opportunities and its nearby location to Tier 1 settlements such as Bridgwater as well as proximity to major transport corridors such as the M5, A38 and a key railway line to Weston-Super-Mare, Bristol and beyond. The combined settlement has the eighth highest centre spend among town centres in Somerset.
- 6.16 Highbridge & Burnham offers an extensive range of strategic services and one of the strongest provision of local services with a wide range of retail, healthcare, education, leisure and cultural facilities. The town(s) sits in the 'upper centre' category for its accessibility with reasonable access to key employment locations on foot and by bike within 20 minutes. Bus availability, however, is poorer than many other Tier 2 towns, though this is supplemented by a railway station that enabled quick access to nearby large towns and employment opportunities. The town(s) has full/ very good coverage of ultra-fast broadband connectivity. The Highbridge area falls entirely under Flood Zones 2 and 3, and the Severn Estuary Ramsar Site, Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and SSSI extends up the River Brue estuary towards the town centre. For Burnham-On-Sea, a large proportion is covered by Flood Zones 2 and 3, there is a small conservation area here and an SSSI to the north west as well as Somerset Wetlands National Nature Reserve to the west associated with the Severn Estuary. Several Listed Buildings.

Wells

- 6.17 Wells is a historically significant city, the only city in Somerset and the smallest city in England, with a population of around 11,800 people. The town

has a large older population with 30% of people aged 65 and over with similar proportions of younger people, working aged people and older people as Highbridge & Burnham. This is reflected in the forecast population growth with a high forecast population growth of around 18% to 2045, which is the 2nd highest among the Tier 2 settlements (behind Minehead). The town ranks in Band 3 for its employment role (strong) with around 5,600 jobs making it a net importer of workers with a robust employment density of more than 1 job to worker, which is one of the highest ratios among the Tier 2 settlements.

- 6.18 Wells has a substantial strategic service role and a fully comprehensive local role (strongest) for services and facilities including healthcare services, secondary education and further education, extensive retail provision and cultural attractions that host a key visitor economy. Behind the Tier 1 settlements, Wells has one of the strongest retail centres in Somerset. Wells demonstrates a good level of accessibility and connectivity to other large towns and employment destinations with one of the highest scores out of the Tier 2 settlements, just behind Glastonbury. Public transport availability is reasonable, however, bus links to nearby large towns (like Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet, and Cheddar) and employment brings up the score for the town with also relatively good access to employment on foot and by bike. While it lacks a railway station, bus connectivity to key services and facilities is important for local accessibility. The town also has a very good coverage of ultra-fast broadband connectivity and has the fifth the highest centre spend among town centres in Somerset.
- 6.19 There are some significant physical constraints in Wells that would impact the ability for new growth. The town has a historic town character and sits within an important landscape setting. It is important to ensure the maintenance of the heritage value of the city. There are large Conservation Areas within Wells and many Listed Buildings. Bishops Palace (Scheduled Ancient Monument) and Milton Lodge are Registered Parks & Garden, which sit to the south and north of the town. The Mendip Hills National Landscape boundary runs along the northern edge of Wells where the city sits, on the foot of the southern boundary as it meets the Somerset Levels. Flood risk is extensive in the centre of the town and to the south, west and east associated with streams passing through from the Mendip Hills. Furthermore, topography is a challenge. The city is very hilly being situated in a valley. Several National Nature Reserves sit to the south east of Wells.

Street

- 6.20 Street is another medium-large settlement within the East area of Somerset. It has a population of over 13,100 people with one of the largest working age populations among settlements in Somerset at 60% of people aged 16-65. The older population proportion is on the lower end, while the younger population is on the higher side. The forecast population growth is relatively

modest compared to some of the other Tier 2 settlements at around 12.5% by 2045. Street has a strong employment role (Band 3) with nearly 6,100 jobs and one of the highest employment densities out of all the settlements in Somerset with exactly 1 job per person. There is a small net import of workers into Street though it is relatively balanced, indicating a good level of self-sufficiency. However, economic activity levels are one of the lowest among Tier 2 settlements. The town has a higher proportion of people working within the town many of the other Tier 2 settlements with many more people staying relatively local (within 10km for work) as opposed to travelling further.

- 6.21 Street contains a substantial level of strategic services and one of the strongest levels of key local services for its residents including major retail units (including those associated with Clarks Village), supermarkets, secondary schools and further education as well as leisure and cultural facilities that attract people across Somerset and the UK. Street has a particularly strong role for education and as a shopping destination. The town performs well in relation to accessibility and connectivity with reasonable availability of bus services, and very good access to local jobs and nearby large towns within 20 minutes on foot, by bike and by bus. While the town does not have access to a nearby railway station (within 5km), its proximity to Glastonbury as well as other Tier 2 settlements enhance its connectivity. The town also has very good coverage of ultra-fast broadband connectivity. Street has the ninth highest spend among town centres in Somerset.
- 6.22 The town has fewer environmental constraints compared to nearby Glastonbury. There is flood risk zones 2 and 3 to the north/ north east and west of the town associated with the River Brue and Somerset Levels and Moors (Ramsar site) along with a large Local Wildlife Site to the north. There are two conservation areas in the centre and south area of the town with many Listed Buildings in and around. There is also Scheduled Ancient Monument to the north as well and several SSSIs to the south on Walton Hill.

Shepton Mallet

- 6.23 Shepton Mallet is a medium-large settlement with a population of over 10,500 people. The town has a large working age population, one of the largest of all the settlements in the study, a smaller older population and a reasonable proportion of people aged under 16. This is reflected in the population forecast, with around an 11% increase projected to 2045, relatively modest. The town has a strong employment role (Band 3) with around 5,300 jobs and a reasonable employment density, with a strong level economic activity, the highest level among the Tier 2 towns. However, the town is a large net exporter of workers with slightly lower levels of people working within the town compared to larger settlements in the study (though fairly comparable to the Tier 2 towns), with a higher proportion of people travelling between 5-10km,

likely due to its proximity to the quarries in the Mendip Hills, as well as its close proximity to many other Tier 2 towns.

- 6.24 Shepton Mallet provides a broad range of strategic services and facilities, as well as a fully comprehensive level of local services for its residents such as supermarkets, comparison shops, healthcare services and recreational facilities, though scoring on the lower end for Tier 2 towns. Accessibility and connectivity in Shepton Mallet ranks in the ‘upper centre’ category, with reasonable bus services with access to local jobs and nearby big towns. Walking and cycling access to nearby work is also of a reasonable level. The town does not have nearby access (within 5km) to a railway station. Nevertheless, it performs relatively well in sustainable connectivity due to its links to neighbouring towns. There is also a very good coverage of ultra-fast broadband across Shepton Mallet. The town also has the fourth highest centre spend (convenience, comparison and food and beverage expenditure) among town centres in Somerset.
- 6.25 There are large Conservation Areas within the town, as well as Local Wildlife Sites in and around the town, with some surface water flood risk (zones 2 and 3) through and the north and centre of the town. There are also many Listed Buildings in the town. There is a Scheduled Ancient Monument to the south east. The Somerset & Dorset Railway historic railway line and associated viaducts run from the east and across the north of the town while the old East Somerset railway line runs through the south of the town and is a designated Monument though parts of this has now been built over. In terms of topography, the town is situated on a significant gradient, built within a valley.

Wellington

- 6.26 Wellington is a medium-large settlement (the largest within this classification), with a population of over 17,000 people. The age structure of Wellington is relatively balanced though with a slightly larger working age population and a slightly smaller older population (of those aged 65 and over). Population forecast to 2045 is around a 14% increase, which is reasonable, which may suggest a higher proportion of people who are middle aged. The town has a Band 3 (strong) employment role with over 7,700 local jobs and a reasonable employment density. However, the town is a large net exporter of workers likely due to its proximity to Taunton (as reflected in the travel to work data), as well as to major transport corridors (the M5 and A38) though Wellington still acts as an employment destination in its own right.
- 6.27 The town offers a broad range of strategic services with a range of retail units, educational facilities and entertainment venues, along with the full range of key local community facilities, though scoring lower overall compared to its other Tier 2 counterparts. The town has good accessibility and connectivity, scoring higher than many of the other Tier 2 settlements. Wellington has a reasonable bus service, which connects to some nearby larger towns and key

employment sites and local jobs can be reached by many residents within a 20 minute walking and cycling journey. While the town does not have a railway station, there is opportunity for improvement regarding rail access with the proposed reopening of Wellington station. The town has very good coverage of ultra-fast broadband. Wellington has the tenth highest town centre expenditure among towns in Somerset.

- 6.28 The town is reasonably constrained, with Flood Zones 2 and 3 to the north, west and south of the town associated with the River Tone and its tributaries. There is a Park and Garden of Special Historical Interest to the north of the rail line associated with Nynehead Court and one associated with Wellington Park in the centre of town. There is also a Special Landscape Feature to the south west on the Green Wedge between the built-up area of Wellington and Rockwell Green. There is another Green Wedge between Wellington and Chelston. A number of Local Wildlife Sites are designated around the town, often associated with Flood Risk Zones. The settlement also sits between the River Tone and the main rail line to the north and the A38 and M5 to the south. There is a Conservation Area in Wellington along with many Listed Buildings.

Chard

- 6.29 Chard is a medium-large town in the southern area of Somerset with around 14,000 people. It has a younger-leaning population with quite a high proportion of younger people, working-aged people, and a smaller proportion of older people. The town has a modest forecast population growth, often similar to the other Tier 2 towns. Chard has a strong (Band 3) employment role with over 6,000 local jobs, and one of the highest proportions of people staying for work in the town seen in this study. However, it is an overall net exporter of workers and with a relatively high ratio of jobs to workers suggests that while it provides good employment opportunities there is still a draw elsewhere for work.
- 6.30 The town provides a wide range of services and facilities, quite typical of Tier 2 towns, including a substantial range of strategic services such as secondary schools, a retail centre and supermarkets, healthcare facilities and all the identified local services, which contributes to its ability to serve wide catchment area. Chard performs fairly overall in terms of accessibility and connectivity overall, with access possible to employment and other large towns, however, when looking at public transport/rail access availability (i.e. frequency) exclusively, the town ranks in the lowest category. Chard town centre has the twelfth highest spend among Somerset towns. There are two Conservation Areas in the town with areas of land adjoining the settlement designated Local Wildlife Sites, which are partly within Flood Zones 2 and 3. There are many Listed Buildings in the town too. The eastern boundary of the Blackdown Hills National Landscape lies nearby to the south west of the town.

Minehead & Alcombe

- 6.31 Minehead & Alcombe is a coastal town in the north-western area of Somerset bordering Exmoor National Park. The town is medium-large in size, with a population of around 11,800 people. The town has a very high proportion of older residents at 35% and a more modest level of younger and working age residents. This is reflected in the large forecast population growth at over 20%, one of the highest out of all the settlements in the study and the highest out of all the Tier 2 settlements. The town provides over 4,800 jobs for its resident workers giving it a net import of over 200 jobs making it one of the highest net importers within this tier. Minehead also has a high employment density at over 1 job to worker. The economy in Minehead is heavily influenced by the tourism industry with Butlins Holiday Park located in the town along with other strategic services. The town plays a strong role in the north western area of Somerset as a key centre here for nearby smaller settlements including those within Exmoor National Park.
- 6.32 The town offers a wide range of strategic and local services and facilities, with the highest score here among all Tier 2 settlements, joint with Wells and Frome. Minehead has a range of retail services, educational and healthcare facilities as well as cultural and recreational venues – with a substantial strategic role and fully comprehensive local role. The town is less well connected than some of the other Tier 2 settlements, which is reflected in the lack of a railway station (with the closest being Taunton around 45 minutes away in driving distance). Public transport availability is reasonable, though the greatest scores come from the ability for residents to walk and cycle to nearby employment sites within 20 minutes. Minehead has the seventh highest town centre expenditure among towns in Somerset.
- 6.33 Minehead is a highly constrained Tier 2 settlement. The town is surrounded by Exmoor National Park boundary, including some areas that are SSSI designations with the exception of the eastern area, however this area is a designated Local Wildlife Site. There are two more Local Wildlife Sites to the west of the settlement. Much of the town is within a Zone 3 Flood Risk Area. There are also a number of Conservation Areas in the town with a larger one to the north and many Listed Buildings. Dunster Castle sits to the south east of Minehead, which is a large Registered Park and Garden.

Cheddar

- 6.34 Cheddar, classified as a medium-large town, has a population of around 6,300 people with a relatively balanced population age structure though slightly older leaning. This is reflected in the around 15% forecast population growth to 2045, which is one of the higher forecasts for Tier 2 towns. The town has a fair employment role (Band 4), on the lower side for Tier 2, with around 3,100 jobs just above that of Crewkerne. It is a small net importer of workers and has one of the strongest employment densities in Somerset and

strong economic activity, which may be a reflection of the tourist industries present particularly for Cheddar Gorge and the caves.

- 6.35 Cheddar has the lowest overall score for services and facilities out of the Tier 2 settlements, which may be a reflection its previous lower designation within the Sedgemoor Local Plan. However, the town has a broad presence of strategic services and facilities and a fully comprehensive provision of local services with a range of educational, retail and leisure facilities reinforced by the tourist economy of the area. Cheddar sits within the ‘upper centre’ category for its ‘good’ accessibility/connectivity with walking, cycling and public transport access possible to employment areas and large towns within 20 minutes, however, the availability of public transport (buses, as Cheddar has no rail access) is quite limited i.e. infrequent, which brings the score down. There is a conservation area in the south of the settlement, including many Listed Buildings, while flood zones 2 and 3 cover an area around the river which flows through Cheddar. The settlement is also adjacent to the Mendip Hills National Landscape, SSSI, SAC and NNNR, which runs closely to the north and east boundaries, as well as being close to the SSSI at Cheddar Reservoir. There is a Scheduled Ancient Monument in the centre.

Glastonbury

- 6.36 Glastonbury has a population of around 8,900 people and is classified as a medium large scale settlement. In comparison to many of the other Tier 2 settlements, it has a lower proportion of people aged under 16, and a higher proportion of people aged 65 and over. The proportion of people of working age, however, is at 60%, which is one of the highest in the study. The town is forecast to have a reasonable level of growth at around 14.5% by 2045, considering the older-leaning population. The town has a reasonable middling employment role (Band 4) with around 4,800 jobs and is a net importer of workers, the 2nd highest among Tier 2 settlements and only one of four that are net importers. Glastonbury has a one of the strongest employment densities in the study, and out of the Tier 2 settlements likely supported by the tourist sectors.
- 6.37 Glastonbury has a substantial provision of strategic and local community services and facilities including extensive healthcare services, retail provision, educational facilities and cultural and recreational facilities. The town also functions very closely with Street, which helps to strengthen its overall service provision. Although the town is not served by a railway station, Glastonbury sits in one of the highest categories for its accessibility and connectivity. The town has the 4th highest score in the study, behind that of the Tier 1 settlements, with good links within 20 minutes to employment sites, and nearby large towns as well as reasonable public transport availability. Around 24% of people are working within 5km, which rises to 32% within 10km, which suggests the close functional relationship with Street and Wells. Fewer people

are travelling longer distances for work in Glastonbury. There is also a very strong level of ultra-fast broadband coverage across the town. Glastonbury has the fifteenth highest town centre spend among towns in Somerset.

- 6.38 Glastonbury has a significant number of environmental and physical constraints that limit the potential for future growth and is one of the most constrained settlements in Tier 2. There is extensive flood plain in flood risk zone 2 and 3 to the north, west and south of the town associated with the Somerset Levels and Moors (Ramsar site) and the River Brue. It is also constrained by its topography and the landscape quality of Glastonbury Tor and Wearyall Hill. There are also conservation and heritage designations to the east of the Tor – the town centre, the Tor, Glastonbury Abbey and the surrounding area are within a Conservation Area with a number of Listed Buildings. Glastonbury Abbey and Glastonbury Tor are both a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There is also a large local wildlife site to the south of the town, which constrains its expansion along with the flood risk.

Wincanton

- 6.39 Wincanton is a medium-large settlement with a population of over 6,500 people. The town has one of the highest proportions of working aged people with a relatively high proportion of people under 16 and a low proportion of older people. The town has a modest forecast population growth to 2045, similar to most of the other Tier 2 settlements. The town has a fair employment role (Band 4) with around 3,200 local jobs resulting in a small net export of workers to elsewhere. With a 'strong' employment density overall, with just under 0.95 jobs to workers indicating a moderate level of self-sufficiency. Wincanton has modest levels of short-distance commuting with higher proportions of people travelling more than 10km for work and one of the highest for those travelling more than 40km. This suggests the town has more of a dormitory function and given its proximity to the A303 as well as railway stations at Castle Cary, Bruton and Templecombe may not be surprising.
- 6.40 In terms of services and facilities, the town has a broad strategic role and is fully comprehensive for local facilities with a range of retail, educational, healthcare and recreational facilities within the town, which support its local residents and residents within the surrounding villages. Wincanton sits within the central category for the accessibility and connectivity, though scoring the lowest overall among Tier 2 towns, and scores low when looking solely at access to rail and availability of public transport – suggesting car dependency. Wincanton has the fourteenth highest town centre spend among towns in Somerset. There is a Conservation Area and extensive areas in Flood Zones adjoining to the south, together with land alongside the stream through the centre of the settlement and the A303 runs along the southern boundary.

Crewkerne

- 6.41 Crewkerne is a medium-large settlement with a population of over 6,600 people. The town has more of a balanced population with a high proportion of younger people and working-aged people, but also a fair amount of older people, one of the highest out of the Tier 2 settlements. It is projected to have quite a fair population growth by 2045, considering the slightly higher older population. The town has a fair employment role with around 3,000 jobs and a very high employment density, resulting in a small net export of workers. The town has more modest levels of people working locally with a higher proportion of people travelling 10-20km, which suggests a draw to either nearby Tier 2 settlements or into Yeovil. The town also has the highest proportion of people travelling more than 10km for work. Crewkerne town centre has the eleventh highest spend in 2025 among Somerset towns.
- 6.42 Crewkerne offers a broad range of strategic services and a fully comprehensive provision of local services including further education (sixth form), secondary education, retail, healthcare facilities, and leisure facilities, supporting its role as a key centre for the surrounding rural areas. The town benefits from its railway station located at nearby Misterton, which enhances its public transport and rail access connectivity compared to other Tier 2 towns, however, ranking within the central category for its accessibility score overall, one of the lower scores for Tier 2. There is a Conservation Area in the town with many Listed Buildings and dispersed areas of land designated as Local Wildlife Sites in and around the town mainly to the south/south-west except Bincombe Hill; and a small SSSI to the north west of the town centre. There is some Flood Risk (Zones 2 and 3) running along the east and west/north west of Crewkerne.

Tier 3a

- 6.43 The Tier 3a settlements of Somerton, Langport & Huish Episcopi, Ilminster, Ansford & Castle Cary, North Petherton, and Bruton & Pitcombe are made up of primarily medium sized market towns and larger rural centres. The settlements have the potential for improvements to their accessibility and connectivity due to where they are located (i.e. located near to higher tiered settlements, major transport corridors and/or railway lines). The settlements generally only play a core strategic function but still hold a substantial local role with all or nearly all of the key local community facilities. They tend to have only a Band 4 (fair) employment role with residents often travelling to other settlements to reach their employment, acting as 'dormitory'. Many of these settlements have environmental/physical constraints to their growth.

Table 28 – Summary of classifications for Tier 3a settlements

Settlement	Population classification	Employment role	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role	Services and facilities classification: Local role	Accessibility / connectivity classification	Current Classification	Proposed new classification	Any changes (approx.)	Total Score
Somerton	MEDIUM LARGE	BAND 4	CORE	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	CENTRAL (4)	Local Market Town	Tier 3a	SAME	36
Langport & Huish Episcopi	MEDIUM	BAND 4	BROAD	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	CENTRAL (4)	Local Market Town	Tier 3a	SAME	36
Ilminster	MEDIUM LARGE	BAND 4	CORE	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	LOWER (6)	Primary Market Town	Tier 3a	DOWN	32
North Petherton	MEDIUM	BAND 4	MINIMAL	SUBSTANTIAL	CENTRAL (4)	Tier 1	Tier 3a	UP	30
Ansford & Castle Cary	MEDIUM	BAND 4	CORE	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	LOWER (6)	Local Market Town	Tier 3a	SAME	30
Bruton & Pitcombe	MEDIUM	BAND 4	CORE	SUBSTANTIAL	LOWER (6)	Rural Centre	Tier 3a	UP	28

Somerton

6.44 Somerton is a medium-large, one of only two which are part of the Tier 3a, with a larger population of nearly 5,500 people. The town has a smaller proportion of younger aged residents and people of working age, with a higher proportion of people aged over 65 at nearly 30%, though this is similar to most of the other settlements in this tier. This is reflected in the population projection with high population growth forecast up to 2045 at around 16%. The town has a core strategic role with some cultural and retail facilities; however, it has a fully comprehensive local role with a primary school, GP surgery and food shops, with the second highest score for its services and facilities out of the Tier 3a settlements.

6.45 Somerton has around 2,000 local jobs giving it a fair employment role (Band 4), the same for all towns in this tier. It has a net export of several hundred workers and a lower employment density, one of the lowest for Tier 3a settlements. Travel to work data showed low levels of short-distance commuting with only around 10% of people working within the town or just beyond with over 30% commuting more than 10km suggesting reliance on nearby larger towns such as Street or Yeovil. Somerton ranks within the central category for its accessibility and connectivity, with reasonable walking and cycling access to employment destinations within 20 minutes. However, public transport availability is limited in comparison to other larger settlements and scores lower than some Tier 3b and Tier 4 settlements. There is no nearby rail access from the town. Limited coverage of ultra-fast broadband connectivity. There is a Conservation Area with many Listed Buildings mainly

across the eastern area of the settlement and extensive areas of land in Flood Zones 2 and 3 nearby to the northeast and some areas of risk to the south.

Langport & Huish Episcopi

- 6.46 Langport & Huish Episcopi is a medium sized settlement with a population of just over 3,600 people. The settlement has a lower proportion of younger and working-age residents, similar to other Tier 3a settlements. There is a higher proportion of people over 65 at nearly 30%. The forecast population growth to 2045 is fair at nearly 15% considering this larger older population. Langport is only one of two settlements that acts as a net importer of workers with around 1,800 local jobs and one of the strongest employment densities out of the settlements in Somerset likely due to its broad strategic role (offering a wider range than the other Tier 3 settlements). The town also has all of the identified key local community facilities with a secondary school and further education, GP services, a supermarket, and a range of comparison shops making it well served rural hub, serving its local residents and the nearby villages, scoring the highest here out of all the Tier 3a settlements.
- 6.47 The accessibility and connectivity of Langport & Huish Episcopi ranks higher than the other Tier 3a settlements. Public transport access is modest in terms of buses; there is no nearby access to a railway station. However, access to nearby employment on foot, by bike and by public transport up the score plus it is relatively close to Somerton. However, there are very low levels of local commuting and higher levels of people travelling further afar for work suggesting a reliance on more significant employment centres likely Taunton and Yeovil given its location directly between the two. There is also a significant proportion of people working from home. There is poor ultra-fast broadband coverage across the town. There is a Conservation Area with many Listed Buildings in the centre; a small SSSI alongside the railway line; and extensive areas of land in Flood Zones 2 and 3 adjoining the settlement particularly to the north and south with smaller areas dotted across Langport and Huish Episcopi. The Somerset Levels and Moors SPA/ Ramsar site is in relatively close proximity to the west. Many Local Wildlife Sites to the north and South and one to the east.

Iminster

- 6.48 Iminster is the largest settlement within Tier 3a, classified as medium-large, one of only two in the Tier 3a settlements, with a population of just over 5,600 people. The settlement has a relatively balanced population with a slightly higher proportion of younger people; a middling proportion of working age people and slightly higher proportion of people aged over 65 at nearly 30%. This is reflected in the reasonable forecast population growth at just over 15.5% increase by 2045. The town has around 2,300 jobs with a net export of several hundred workers and a fair employment density giving it a Band 4 (fair) employment role, similar to the other Tier 3a settlements. However, the

economic activity rate is one of the highest among this tier indicating a stronger engagement in the labour market. Similar to the other Tier 3a settlements, there are low levels of local commuting with only around 12% of Ilminster's residents working within 2km with around 30% travelling over 10km likely to the nearby towns of Chard and Crewkerne or further distances to Yeovil and Taunton considering the close proximity to the A303 and A358.

- 6.49 The town has a core strategic role but is fully comprehensive for its local provision with a supermarket, healthcare services, primary education, retail provision and cultural venues. The town has a very good coverage of ultra-fast broadband speeds. Ilminster sits in the lower category for its accessibility and connectivity score, as while it benefits from close proximity to main roads, it has limited public transport services and no access to a railway station within close proximity. There is some access using public transport to employment sites, however, access to local employment on foot or by bike is very limited, indicating its role as predominantly a dormitory town. Ilminster has the thirteenth highest town centre spend among towns in Somerset. There are two Conservation Areas including many Listed Buildings and areas nearby designated as Local Wildlife Sites such as Dillington Park and Herne Hill. Land to the north west of the settlement is in Flood Zone 3 with areas to the south and centre also in Flood Zones 2 and 3.

North Petherton

- 6.50 North Petherton is classified as a medium-sized settlement, located close to Bridgwater, and between both Bridgwater and Taunton on the A38. The town has a population of 3,200 people with a higher proportion of people aged 65 and over, and a working aged population and younger population on the lower side. This is reflected in its moderate forecast population growth of around 16.5%, the second largest growth forecast out of the Tier 3a settlements. North Petherton also provides a fair employment role with around 1,200 jobs in the town, though the fewest out of Tier 3a. The town is an overall net exporter of workers and while employment density is on the lower side, the economic activity rate in North Petherton is the highest out of the Tier 3a settlements. The town functions primarily as a commuter settlement with only around 12% working within 2km, with larger numbers working within 2-5km and 10-20km distances highlighting a draw to Taunton and Bridgwater.
- 6.51 The settlement has the smallest provision of services and facilities in Tier 3a, with a minimal strategic role and a substantial local role. There is a good everyday provision in the town such as primary schools, local food shops, healthcare facilities and other cultural and recreational facilities. The town's close proximity to Bridgwater enhances the number of strategic and local services that are available within a short distance. North Petherton has a Band 4 (fair) accessibility ranking with reasonable public transport availability (mainly bus) and some access to larger employment centres and large towns

within a 20-minute timeframe by bike and on foot considering its proximity to Bridgwater and Taunton. However, being situated close to key transport corridors, there is opportunity for improvement. There are no conservation areas within the settlement, or designated sites in or adjacent to the town. There are a number of Listed Buildings across the town. A small area across the centre and south/west of the settlement is in flood zones 2 and 3.

Ansford & Castle Cary

6.52 Ansford & Castle Cary is a medium-sized settlement with a population of over 3,400 people. The settlement has an older population with 32% of people aged 65 and over, the highest proportion in Tier 3a. This is reflected in the projected growth at over 17.5% increase forecast by 2045, considering the ageing population. The settlement has around 1,500 jobs with a balanced net import/export figure and a near 1:1 employment density figure. The town also has a high economic activity rate. However, there are few people working within the settlement at around 8% of people travelling less than 2km for work and nearly 30% travelling more than 10km for work. There is, therefore, a strong reliance on employment beyond the town and also, a high proportion of people working from home.

6.53 Castle Cary like many other Tier 3a settlements has a core strategic role in terms of community services and facilities with a secondary school and a range of comparison shops as well as cultural amenities. The settlements has a fully comprehensive local facilities classification with a range key community amenities, which support a wide rural catchment area. Despite hosting a railway station to the north of the town, Castle Cary has a lower accessibility and connectivity ranking. While rail access makes up most of this score, the frequency and time taken to access other large towns, may bring the score down. Public transport, walking and cycling access to nearby towns and employment centres is very limited. However, the presence of a railway station, means there is opportunity for improvement. There are three Conservation Areas (Ansford, Castle Cary and Flax Mills) and a post-medieval lock-up known as The Round House, situated on Bailey Hill, north-west of the Market Place, is a Scheduled Monument. There are many Listed Buildings in the town and some flood risk to the west with a larger area north of the station within Flood Zones 2 and 3. LWS to the east (Ham Hill Farm).

Bruton & Pitcombe

6.54 Bruton & Pitcombe is a medium sized settlement, the smallest out of the Tier 3a settlements, with a population of around 2,800 people. The town has the largest proportion of people aged under 16 and of working-age out of all the Tier 3a settlements and the lowest proportion of people aged 65 and over at 20%. This is reflected in the modest forecast population growth at 9.4%, which is the lowest among Tier 3a. The town has a fair employment function (Band 4); however, it still remains important for its scale. There are around 1,400

jobs, resulting in a net import of workers, the largest import among Tier 3a despite being the smallest settlement. It also has one of the strongest employment densities in the study, though a lower economic activity rate.

- 6.55 Bruton has a core strategic function in terms of the facilities on offer, but a substantial local role. There are a range of secondary schools (though one state school), healthcare services, local food shops, and comparison shops helping it to function as a small market town. Despite having a railway station, the town scores in the lower category in terms of accessibility and connectivity. Much of this score makes up its rail access, but there is virtually no access on foot, by bike or public transport to large employment areas or other large towns within 20-minutes, reflecting infrequent services and its rural geography. This is reflected in the low proportions of people working within a 10km radius, high proportions of people working more than 40km away and the 2nd highest proportion of people homeworking. However, given the presence of a railway station means there is opportunity for improvement.
- 6.56 There is a Conservation Area across much of Bruton including many Listed Buildings, small areas of land designated as Local Wildlife Sites adjacent to the centre and an area of land alongside the stream in Flood Zones 2 and 3 running from the south west to north east. Bruton Dovecote, immediately to the south of the settlement, is a Scheduled Monument, as are a large Augustinian Priory and pillow mound at Kings School. The train station and parts of land alongside the railway are a designated SSSI. There is a large SSSI and LWS to the east of Bruton over Cogley Wood.

Tier 3b

- 6.57 The Tier 3b settlements are Milborne Port, Martock & Bower Hinton, Williton, Bishop's Lydeard, Wiveliscombe, Ilchester, Berrow & Brean, Cannington, Watchet, Chilcompton, South Petherton, Axbridge, Evercreech, Nether Stowey, Abbas & Templecombe, and Cotford St Luke represent a group of generally medium-sized rural centres, with a few exceptions of smaller centres, with populations typically between 1,800 and 4,400. They are characterised by Band 4-5 employment roles (roughly fair to minimal), with most acting as net exporters of workers, except for Ilchester and Berrow & Brean. These settlements all contain a broad range of local services such as primary schools, GP surgeries, food shops and pubs, but lack strategic facilities like secondary schools or supermarkets. Accessibility is generally ranked within the central to lower categories though there are a few exceptions. Only a few settlements benefit from close proximity to railway stations. Overall, Tier 3b settlements fulfil a modest but important function by providing day-to-day services for rural communities while depending heavily on larger towns for employment and a wider range of services and facilities.

Table 29 – Summary of classifications for Tier 3b settlements

Settlement	Population classification	Employment role	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role	Services and facilities classification: Local role	Accessibility / connectivity classification	Current Classification	Proposed new classification	Any changes?	Total Score
Milborne Port	MEDIUM	BAND 5	MINIMAL	SUBSTANTIAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	26
Williton	MEDIUM	BAND 5	CORE	SUBSTANTIAL	LOWER (6)	Rural Service Centre	Tier 3b	SAME/DOWN	26
Martock & Bower Hinton	MEDIUM	BAND 4	MINIMAL	FULLY COMPREHENSIVE	LOWEST (7)	Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	26
Ilchester	MEDIUM	BAND 5	NONE	SUBSTANTIAL	CENTRAL (4)	Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	24
Bishop's Lydeard	MEDIUM	BAND 5	MINIMAL	BROAD	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Major Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	24
Cannington	MEDIUM	BAND 5	MINIMAL	BROAD	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Tier 2	Tier 3b	SAME	24
Berrow & Brean*	MEDIUM	BAND 4	NONE	SUBSTANTIAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Tier 3	Tier 3b	UP	24
South Petherton	MEDIUM	BAND 4	MINIMAL	BROAD	LOWER (6)	Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	24
Watchet	MEDIUM	BAND 5	MINIMAL	SUBSTANTIAL	LOWER (6)	Rural Service Centre	Tier 3b	DOWN	24
Wiveliscombe	MEDIUM	BAND 4	MINIMAL	SUBSTANTIAL	LOWEST (7)	Major Rural Centre	Tier 3b	DOWN	24
Chilcompton	MEDIUM	BAND 5	NONE	BROAD	CENTRAL (4)	Primary Settlement	Tier 3b	SAME/UP	22
Creech St Michael	MEDIUM	BAND 5	NONE	SUBSTANTIAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Minor Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	22
Axbridge	MEDIUM	BAND 5	NONE	SUBSTANTIAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Tier 2	Tier 3b	SAME	22
Abbas & Templecombe	SMALL	BAND 5	NONE	BROAD	CENTRAL (4)	Proposed Village	Tier 3b	SAME/UP	20
Cotford St Luke	MEDIUM	BAND 5	MINIMAL	CORE	LOWER (6)	Minor Rural Centre	Tier 3b	SAME	20
Nether Stowey	SMALL	BAND 5	MINIMAL	BROAD	LOWER (6)	Tier 2	Tier 3b	SAME	20
Evercreech	MEDIUM	BAND 5	NONE	SUBSTANTIAL	LOWER (6)	Primary Settlement	Tier 3b	SAME/UP	20

Milborne Port

6.58 Milborne Port is a medium-sized settlement with a population of around 3,200 people making it one of the larger Tier 3b settlements. Its working-age population makes up 58% of its total, which is also one of the higher proportions out of all the settlements in this tier. The settlements has a lower proportion of older people (though larger compared to some Tier 3b settlements) and a modest proportion of younger people. Milborne Port is forecast to have a smaller population growth at around 13% by 2045. The village ranks in Band 5 for its smaller employment role, being a relatively large net exporter of workers with a low employment density. The village is on the lower end in terms of level of economic activity compared to other Tier 3b settlements. Milborne Port is situated within the 'south rural' area for travel to work showing a smaller proportion of people working within 2km and a larger proportion of people working within 5-10km suggesting a close proximity to employment perhaps in larger towns such as Yeovil or Sherborne.

6.59 Milborne Port has a minimal strategic role with a substantial local role providing services and facilities such as a GP surgery, primary school, local food shop, pub and children's play area. The village falls within the 'lower

centre' category for accessibility, though scoring higher than many of the other Tier 3b settlements for cycle access to large employment sites within 20 minutes and for proximity to railway stations within 5km. However, the village is primarily car dependent. Milborne Port has good strong coverage of ultra-fast broadband. The village has an area of land within Flood Zones 2 and 3, which runs through the settlements; there are two Conservation Areas with many Listed Buildings; and the grounds of Venn House are designated as a Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest. There is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument in the centre (early Medieval remains). Number of Local Wildlife Sites to the east and west of the village a smaller site by New Town.

Williton

- 6.60 Williton is a medium-sized settlement with a population of around 2,400 people. The village has a smaller proportion of working aged people, reasonable proportion of younger people with a larger proportion of older people at 30% of people aged 65 and over. This is reflected in the forecast population growth of over 18% by 2045. Williton has a Band 5 (quite minimal) employment role with fewer than 1000 jobs within the settlements and an overall net export of workers. The village also has the lowest levels of economic activity out of all the Tier 3b settlements and a relatively low employment density. Williton is located in the 'west rural' travel to work area identifying very low levels of people staying local for work and a higher proportion of people travelling 5-30km e.g. Minehead and Taunton, as well as working from home.
- 6.61 The settlement has a core level of strategic services, the only settlement in Tier 3b with this classification and a substantial level of local facilities, scoring the highest overall for its provision of services and facilities within this tier. However, the town has no coverage of ultra-fast broadband. Accessibility sits within the lower category, with some access to bus services, but only minimal access on foot, by bike or by bus to large employment sites within 20 minutes. There are a number of environmental constraints with a Battlegore Archaeological Protection designation to the west, and a Zone 3 Flood Risk Area surrounds the settlement associated with Doniford Stream and a number of tributaries and covers a central area of the town. Two Local Wildlife Sites sit to the north and west of the settlement. There are several Listed Buildings in Williton and a Scheduled Monument to the west.

Martock & Bower Hinton

- 6.62 Martock & Bower Hinton is a medium sized settlement with a population of around 4,400 people, the largest of the Tier 3b settlements. The village has a larger working age population, making up 58% of the total and an older population on the higher end. The proportion of younger people in the village is one of the lowest among the Tier 3b settlements at 14%. The forecast population growth is modest at nearly 14.5% increase by 2045. In terms of

employment role, Martock's ranks in Band 4 (middling), one of four Tier 3b settlements with this classification due to the larger number of jobs. However, the village has a low employment density and is the 2nd largest net exporter of workers within this tier. The village is on the lower end of economic activity levels for Tier 3b. Martock is situated within the 'south rural' area for travel to work showing a smaller proportion of people working within 2km and a larger proportion of people working within 5-10km suggesting a closer proximity to employment in larger towns such as Yeovil and an overall dormitory role.

- 6.63 Martock scores has a fully comprehensive provision of local services and facilities, the only Tier 3b settlement with this classification, due to the presence of all the identified local facilities. However, it scores minimal for strategic services. The town has a very good coverage of ultra-fast broadband. Martock is one of the three settlements sitting within the 'lowest' category for accessibility. There is very limited public transport and no access to large employment areas on foot, bike or public transport and no access to a rail service within 5km making the village very car dependent. There is a Conservation Area in Martock including many Listed Buildings and an area of land in Flood Zones 2 and 3 running through the centre of the settlement, which stretches across a large area of land to the west.

Bishop's Lydeard

- 6.64 Bishop's Lydeard sits within the medium population classification with a population of just over 2000 people. The village has a reasonable working age population and proportion of older people at 56% and 30% respectively. The village has a small proportion of younger people. This is reflected in the reasonable forecast population growth at nearly 17% by 2045. It ranks in Band 5 for its employment role, and like most Tier 3b settlements, it exports workers to nearby larger towns. Economic activity levels area are relatively high though employment density is low. Bishop's Lydeard is located in the 'west rural' travel to work area identifying very low levels of people staying for work within 2km and a higher proportion of people travelling within a 5-30km range as well as working from home.
- 6.65 The village has a minimal strategic role and broad local role scoring on the lower end for provision of services and facilities for Tier 3b settlements. Bishop's Lydeard has very limited coverage of ultra-fast broadband. Accessibility sits within the lower centre category, though scoring higher than many of the settlements in this tier with a good level of bus availability and access to large employment sites/big towns by bus, likely due to its proximity to Taunton. Access on foot and by bike to large employment areas is very limited suggesting its role as a dormitory village. There is a large Local Wildlife Site to the south west of the settlement. Flood Zones 2 and 3 run from the north west to south east associated with Back Stream. West Somerset railway

line also runs west of the settlement from north to south. There are two Conservation Areas in the village including many Listed Buildings.

Wiveliscombe

- 6.66 Wiveliscombe is a medium sized settlement with population of over 2,700 people. The population is reasonably spread though older leaning with 29% of the population aged 65 and over and 55% of working age with 16% below the age of 16. This is reflected in the forecast population growth at nearly 17% increase by 2045. The town has a middling employment role (Band 4), one of four with classification due to the larger number of jobs available and has a relatively balanced import/export of workers. It also has one of highest employment densities of all the Tier 3b settlements at a near 1 to 1 ratio of jobs to workers and a high level of economic activity. Wiveliscombe is located in the 'west rural' travel to work area identifying very low levels of people staying for work within 2km and a higher proportion of people travelling within a 5-30km range such as to Taunton, as well as working from home.
- 6.67 The strategic role of the town in terms of services and facilities is minimal; however it has a substantial local role, scoring second highest for provision overall among Tier 3b settlements, meaning it provides a strong role in supporting the day-to-day needs of its local residents. However, the town has almost no coverage of ultra-fast broadband. Wiveliscombe sits in the lowest category for its accessibility, with no large employment centres or 'big towns' within a 20 minute journey on foot, by bike or bus, and very limited public transport options with no access to rail within 5km. The town is, therefore, likely very car dependent. There is a large Local Wildlife Site to the west. Much of the town centre is covered by a Conservation Area including many Listed Buildings. There is a Scheduled Monument to the east (Castle Hill).

Ilchester

- 6.68 Ilchester is a medium-sized settlement with a population of around 2,100 people. The village has a younger-leaning age profile with 25% of people aged under 16, the highest proportion of all Tier 3b settlements and one of the highest in the study. The proportion of working aged people is 62%, which is also one of the highest in the study. The village as a result has one of the smallest proportions of older people at only 13% aged 65 and over. As a result the forecast population growth is the smallest in the study at around only 6% growth by 2045. Ilchester ranks in Band 5 for its employment role (quite minimal) though with a larger number of jobs for its size, however, it is a reasonable net export of workers with a lower employment density likely due to its proximity to Yeovil and surrounding large employment sites. Ilchester is situated within the 'south rural' area for travel to work showing a smaller proportion of people working within 2km and a larger proportion of people working within 5-10km suggesting a close proximity to employment within larger towns such as Yeovil and an overall dormitory role.

6.69 Ilchester has no identified strategic role, but a substantial local role for community services and facilities, supporting the day-to-day needs of local residents. The village also has full coverage of ultra-fast broadband. In terms of accessibility, Ilchester scores in the central category, one of the highest scores out of all the Tier 3b settlements with a reasonable bus service and a high score for proximity to large employment sites and nearby big towns within a 20 minute public transport ride or by bike, suggesting the close proximity to Yeovil and Yeovilton. However, there is no rail access and with limited availability of a bus service, there is continued reliance on the private car for travel. There is a relatively large Conservation Area that encapsulates the historic southern extent of the settlement, many Listed Buildings and extensive areas of land adjoining and within the settlement are in Flood Zones 2 and 3. There are several Scheduled Monuments in the centre of the historic area of the settlement linked to parts of the Roman small town, Anglo-Saxon burh, medieval town and ecclesiastical foundations. Ilchester is also close by to Yeovilton Airfield with the need to consider safeguarding.

Berrow & Brean

6.70 Berrow & Brean fall within the ‘medium’ population classification with a population of nearly 2,300 people. There is a noticeable ageing demographic profile, unsurprising given its coastal location, with 38% of people aged 65+ and only 10% aged under 16, which is the largest and smallest proportions respectively within Tier 3b. This is reflected in the high forecast population growth at over 18%, the highest increase for all Tier 3b settlements. Berrow & Brean is the only settlement within this tier with an employment density of over one job to worker and an overall net-import of workers. This is likely due to the leisure and tourist (holiday) destinations within Brean giving it a Band 4 (quite fair) employment role. The coastal village is situated within the ‘north rural’ travel to work area, which highlights fewer travel to work trips that are within 2km and higher levels of people travelling 5-20km to reach their job such as to Highbridge & Burnham and Bridgwater.

6.71 The village has no strategic services (of those identified in the study), and a substantial provision of local facilities, which are able to support the day-to-day needs of its local residents. The village also has a good coverage of ultra-fast broadband. In terms of accessibility, Berrow & Brean sits in the lower category reflecting the limited public transport availability, both bus and rail. The village mainly scores for access to large employment sites or nearby big towns by bike within 20 minutes with access on foot or by bus virtually non-existent (likely due to its adjacent proximity to Highbridge & Burnham). There are significant areas of the village covered by Flood Zones 2 and 3. There is also an SSSI just outside the settlement to the west associated with the Severn Estuary. There are some Listed Buildings in Berrow and Brean. To the north of Brean is Brean Down, which is SPA, SAC, SSSI, SAM and NNR.

Cannington

- 6.72 Cannington is a medium sized settlement with a population of just over 2,000 people. The village has an older-leaning population with 29% aged 65+ and 57% of working age and only 14% aged below 16. This is again reflected in the reasonable population growth forecast at nearly 17%, which is a common population increase for Tier 3b settlements. The village has a Band 5 (quite minimal) employment role, with an overall net-export of workers likely to nearby Bridgwater, Taunton and Hinkley Point campus for work. Economic activity levels are one of the lowest among Tier 3b and employment density is also relatively low. The village is situated within the 'north rural' travel to work area, which highlights fewer travel to work trips within 2km and higher levels of people travelling 5-20km to reach their job/
- 6.73 Cannington has a minimal strategic role in terms of services and facilities provision; however, it has a broad local role, providing an extensive range of key community facilities. The village does not have coverage of ultra-fast broadband. Looking at accessibility, the village sits in the lower centre category with a very limited bus availability, no access to rail within 5km, and only access by bike to large employment sites or nearby big towns contributing to its score, likely due to the proximity to Bridgwater, which reinforces its car dependent function. The central area of Cannington is covered by a Conservation Area with many Listed Buildings. Other areas of the settlement fall under Flood Zones 2 and 3 namely to the north east, east, south and west. There is a Scheduled Monument to the north west associated with Cynwit Castle. The A39 runs to the south of the settlement.

Watchet

- 6.74 Watchet is a medium-sized coastal town with a population of nearly 4,000 people, making it one of the largest settlements in Tier 3b. The age profile is older leaning with 30% of residents aged 65 and over. The working age and younger residents proportions are more modest at 54% and 16% respectively. This is reflected in the relatively high forecast population growth at 16% increase by 2045, though similar to many Tier 3b settlements. The town has a Band 5 (relatively minimal) employment role and is the highest net-exporter of workers out of all the Tier 3b settlements and with the lowest employment density within this tier at only around 0.5 jobs to one worker. This is reflected in the low economic activity level. Watchet is located in the 'west rural' travel to work area identifying very low levels of people staying for work within 2km and a higher proportion of people travelling within a 5-30km range such as to Minehead and Taunton, as well as working from home.
- 6.75 The town has minimal provision of strategic services and a substantial provision of key local community services, giving it a strong day to day function for its local residents. There is no ultrafast broadband coverage across Watchet. For accessibility, the town ranks in the lower category, with

good bus availability, however almost no accessibility on foot, by bike or by bus to large employment sites within 20 minutes and no rail access within 5km. There are a number of environmental constraints in Watchet, with Blue Anchor SSSI to the north, there are several large Local Wildlife Sites to the west, south and east of the settlement. Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 runs through the centre of the settlement associated with Washford River. A Conservation Area is also designated on much of the central and coastal areas of the settlement including quite a few Listed Buildings. Furthermore, there is coastal erosion risk associated with the B3191 Cleeve Hill, which links the town to Blue Anchor, which has been closed permanently to vehicles. Daw's Castle Scheduled Monument is situated to the west of Watchet.

South Petherton

- 6.76 South Petherton is a medium size settlement with a population of nearly 3,100 people with a large older population at 35% and a smaller working age population (the lowest out of Tier 3b at 49%) though a relatively average younger population at 16%. This is reflected in one of the higher forecast population growth out of this tier at nearly 18% increase by 2045. The village has a Band 4 (fair) employment role, offering a larger number of jobs and higher employment density at 0.84 jobs to workers. The village is a net exporter of workers and has a relatively average level of economic activity. South Petherton is situated within the 'south rural' area for travel to work showing a smaller proportion of people working within 2km and a larger proportion of people working within 5-10km suggesting a close proximity to employment in larger towns such as Yeovil and an overall dormitory role.
- 6.77 South Petherton has a minimal strategic role and a broad local role scoring quite highly in terms of provision of services and facilities in comparison to many other settlements in this tier. The village has a community hospital, library, food shop, primary school, pub, GP surgery, children's play area and village hall. The village has full coverage of ultra-fast broadband. Accessibility in South Petherton sits in the lower category with one of the lowest scores for Tier 3b, despite having one of the highest scores in this tier for services and facilities. There is no access on foot, by bike or by bus to large employment areas or nearby large towns within 20 minutes. There is only a limited availability of bus services. No rail access within 5km. There is a large Conservation Area in the village with many Listed Buildings and pockets of land in Flood Zones 2 and 3 to the north.

Creech St. Michael

- 6.78 Creech St Michael is a medium-sized settlement of around 2,350 residents with a relatively balanced age structure though with a higher proportion of people aged under 16 compared to many settlements of similar size at 19%. Population growth is projected at around 15% by 2045, which is an average rate within Tier 3b. The village has a Band 5 (quite minimal) employment role

and is a reasonable net-exporter of workers and with a low employment density. However, levels of economic activity are strong. Creech St Michael is located in the ‘west rural’ travel to work area identifying very low levels of people staying local for work i.e. within 2km and a higher proportion of people travelling within a 5-30km range as well as working from home. For Creech St Michael, Taunton is in very close proximity.

- 6.79 There are no strategic services and facilities in the village; however, there is a substantial local role for the village with facilities such as a food shop, primary school, village hall, GP surgery, pub, and children’s play area. The village has full coverage of ultra-fast broadband. The accessibility score sits within the lower centre category indicating the limited access to employment sites and nearby large towns within 20 minutes on foot, by bike and on public transport as well as limited bus availability. There is a very limited bus service, with some access to employment and nearby large towns (mainly Taunton) within 20 minutes by bike and bus reflected in the scoring. There is no access to a railway station within 5km. Overall, the accessibility score suggests a largely car dependent settlement though with potential. There are a number of environmental constraints, with large areas of Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 along the south and east of the settlement associated with the River Tone and its tributaries. The M5 runs along the west of the settlement, and the south west rail line and Bridgwater & Taunton Canal runs to the south. The Somerset Levels and Moors SPA/ Ramsar Site is within 2.5km of the settlement. There are a number of Listed Buildings in Creech St Michael.

Chilcompton

- 6.80 Chilcompton is a medium-sized settlement with a population of over 2,300 people. The village has a larger working age and younger population and a smaller older population (those 65 and over) at 23%. This is reflected in the more modest population forecast at around 12% projected increase by 2045, which is one of the lowest forecasts for Tier 3b settlements. The village has a Band 5 (quite minimal) employment role, with an overall net export of workers, a relatively average level of economic activity and average employment density though one of the higher densities within this tier. Chilcompton is located within the ‘east rural’ travel to work areas, with low levels of residents staying within 2km for work and higher levels of people travelling 5-10km to reach their work and high numbers of people working from home. Possible locations are the Mendip Hill quarries and nearby large towns like Radstock.
- 6.81 Chilcompton has no strategic facilities, but broad local provision to support local residents’ day-to-day needs though scoring one of the lowest for provision among this tier of settlements. The village has a primary school, pub, food shop, GP surgery, children’s play area and village hall. It also has full coverage of ultra-fast broadband. Chilcompton has the highest accessibility score out of all the Tier 3b settlements, by some way, ranking in

the central category. There is some access to a bus service from the village, no rail access, however, most of the score comes from access to large employment sites and large towns within 20 minutes by bike and bus. This is likely due to the proximity to Midsomer Norton and Radstock as well as the Mendip Hill quarries. For environmental constraints, there is a small band of Flood Zone 3 and 3b to the north associated with the River Somer. There are also a number of Listed Buildings in Chilcompton.

Axbridge

- 6.82 Axbridge is a medium sized settlement with a population of around 2,000 people. The town has a larger working age population at 60% of its total and more modest levels of younger and older people at 17% and 24% respectively. The forecast population growth to 2045 is, therefore, expected to be somewhat smaller in comparison to many of the other Tier 3b settlements at just over 13%. The town has a Band 5 (minimal) employment role, being a net exporter of workers and with an average employment density and level of economic activity when looking at this tier as a whole. Axbridge is situated within the 'north rural' travel to work area, which highlights fewer travel to work trips that are within 2km and higher levels of people travelling 5-20km to reach their job such as to Bridgwater, Wells and Weston-Super-Mare. However, it is likely there will be reasonable levels of movement for work to Cheddar considering the town's close proximity to this larger town.
- 6.83 The town has no strategic facilities, among those identified as key, but a substantial provision of local facilities. This includes a food shop, first school, children's play area, GP surgery, pub and town hall. The town has full coverage of ultra-fast broadband. Accessibility and connectivity for Axbridge ranks in the lower centre category (quite low). There is very limited bus availability and no access to a railway service within 5km. Most of the score for Axbridge is made up of access to large employment sites and nearby large towns such as Cheddar within a 20 minute journey by bike. A large proportion of Axbridge is covered by a Conservation Area including many Listed Buildings. Axbridge is also surrounded by Flood Zones 2 and 3, particularly to the south with Cheddar reservoir as well as the Mendip Hills National Landscape (and NNR/SSSI) boundary running along the north.

Evercreech

- 6.84 Evercreech is a medium-sized settlement with a population of around 2,200 people. It has a reasonably large proportion of people of working age with more balanced proportions of younger and older people. This is reflected in its relatively average forecast population growth of 16% by 2045. The village has a Band 5 (relatively minimal) employment role with an overall net export of workers and a low employment density though with the highest levels of economic activity out of all the Tier 3b settlements. Evercreech is located within the 'east rural' travel to work areas, with low levels of residents staying

within 2km for work and higher levels of people travelling 5-10km to reach their work and high numbers of people working from home. Possible locations are the Mendip Hill quarries and nearby large towns like Shepton Mallet.

- 6.85 Evercreech has none of the identified strategic services, however, it offers a substantial local role with provision of a GP surgery, primary school, food shop, children's play area, pub and village hall among others. The village has very good coverage of ultra-fast broadband. Accessibility in the town ranks 'lower', with a very limited bus service and minimal access on foot, by bike and by bus to nearby jobs and large towns within a 20 minute time frame. There is no access to a railway station within 5km. Therefore, it is likely that Evercreech is predominantly car dependent. A Conservation Area encompasses the southern half of the village with many Listed Buildings and there are two bands of Flood Zone 3/3b sitting east and west of the village.

Nether Stowey

- 6.86 Nether Stowey is a small sized settlement, one of only two within Tier 3b. The village has a population of around 1,800 people, the smallest within this tier. The village has a larger older population, making up 33% of its total, with smaller proportions of younger and working aged people. This is reflected in its slightly larger forecast population growth at around 17% by 2045. The village has a Band 5 (minimal) employment role with a net export of workers, and a low employment density though with one of the highest rates of economic activity out of Tier 3b settlements. Nether Stowey is situated within the 'north rural' travel to work area, which highlights fewer travel to work trips that are within 2km and higher levels of people travelling 5-20km to reach their job such as to Bridgwater, Taunton and to the Hinkley Point Campus.
- 6.87 Nether Stowey has a minimal provision of strategic services and facilities and a broad provision of local services. These include a primary school, food shop, village hall, library, pub, GP surgery and a children's play area. The village is not covered by ultrafast broadband. Accessibility in Nether Stowey sits in the lower category, with a very limited bus service available, and some access to large employment within a 20 minute bicycle journey. However, there is no rail access within 5km and access to employment and large towns on foot or by bus within 20 minutes is limited. There is, therefore, strong reliance on the car for residents to undertake their regular journeys. Nether Stowey has three Conservation Areas including several Listed Buildings and is located on the edge of the Quantock Hills National Landscape. There is a Scheduled Monument to the south west associated with Stowey Castle. The A39 also runs through the village.

Abbas & Templecombe

- 6.88 Abbas & Templecombe is a small settlement, one of two of this classification within Tier 3b, with a population of just under 2,000 people. The village has a

larger working age population at 58% of its total aged 16-64 with a more balanced older and younger population, though it is younger leaning. This is reflected in its smaller forecast population growth of 11.5%, on the lower end of the Tier 3b settlements. The village has a Band 5 (minimal) employment role, being an overall net exporter of workers and with a modest employment density. However, the village does have higher levels of economic activity. Abbas & Templecombe is situated within the ‘south rural’ area for travel to work showing a smaller proportion of people working within 2km and a larger proportion of people working within 5-10km suggesting a close proximity to employment within larger towns such as Yeovil and an overall dormitory role.

- 6.89 The village lacks any strategic services, however, it does have a broad provision of local services, though scoring the lowest overall for provision out of the Tier 3b settlements. Provision includes a food shop, GP surgery, café, primary school, village hall and a children’s play area, among others. The village has full coverage of ultra-fast broadband. Unlike all other settlements within this tier, Abbas & Templecombe benefits from access to a railway station, situated within the settlement. This contributes to its ‘central’ ranking, 3rd highest overall in this tier, along with general public transport availability as well as accessibility to large employment sites and nearby large towns by public transport within 20 minutes. There is limited access to local jobs on foot or by bike within 20 minutes, however. There are several Listed Buildings in the village and a few Local Wildlife Sites to the west.

Cotford St Luke

- 6.90 Cotford St Luke is the final settlement within Tier 3b with a medium sized population of around 2,400 people. The village has a younger leaning population, with the largest proportion of working aged people within Tier 3b at 65% and the second largest proportion of young people at 23%. It has the lowest proportion of people aged 65 and over at 12%. The forecast population growth to 2045 reflects this at only a 9% increase. The village has a Band 5 (quite minimal) employment role, with a significant worker outward flow, and one of the lowest employment densities and only a fair level of economic activity. This suggests the villages’ role as dormitory – Cotford St Luke is located in the ‘west rural’ travel to work area identifying very low levels of people staying local for work i.e. within 2km and a higher proportion of people travelling within a 5-30km range as well as working from home. Taunton is in very close proximity – suggesting a role as a commuter/dormitory settlement.
- 6.91 The village provides a minimal strategic role and only a core local role, the only Tier 3b settlement with this classification. The village has a community hospital, food shop, primary school, pub, children’s play area and village hall. There is no GP surgery in the village. Ultrafast broadband coverage is extensive across the village. Accessibility ranks in the lower category, with Cotford St Luke being mostly car dependent. There is a limited bus service,

and some access to large employment sites or nearby big towns (Taunton) by bike or bus within 20 minutes though very limited. There is no rail station within 5km. There is a large flood risk area to the south including Zones 2 and 3 and a few Listed Buildings in the village.

Tier 4

6.92 The Tier 4 settlements include those such as Merriott, Wedmore, The Coxleys, Tatworth, Coleford, Combe St Nicholas, West Coker, Beckington, Curry Rivel, Ruishton and Ashcott. See Table 30 for the full list. These settlements are generally small sized settlements with a few exceptions with some classified as medium sized or very small sized settlements. Populations typically range between 340 and 2750. These settlements generally have a Band 6 to 7 ranking for their employment role with a few settlements offering a Band 5 'minimal' role. Most settlements are net exporters of workers with some exceptions such as Mells, West Chinnock, Spaxton, Brent Knoll, Hatch Beauchamp, Blackford, North Cadbury and Weare and Lower Weare likely due to large employment sites close by.

6.93 These settlements all contain at least a core level of community services i.e. four out of the six community facilities including a primary school (must have), food shop, GP surgery, pub/restaurant/café, village hall or meeting place, and children's play area. There are only a few settlements in Tier 4 that have a slightly wider offering and that includes Wedmore, Coleford & Highbury, Woolavington, Queen Camel, North Curry and Stoke Sub Hamdon. Generally these settlements lack strategic facilities like secondary schools, supermarkets, libraries or comparison shops with some exception for Wedmore. Accessibility is generally lower to lowest with only one settlement ranking within the 'upper centre' category (generally good) and six rating as 'central' all likely due to their proximity to nearby larger settlements offering a range of services and employment opportunities. Most are heavily car dependent. These settlements offer a day-to-day role for their communities while depending heavily on larger towns for employment and a wider range of services and facilities and typically face environmental constraints.

Table 30 – Summary of classifications for Tier 4 settlements

Settlement	Population classification	Employment role	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role	Services and facilities classification: Local role	Accessibility / connectivity classification	Current Classification	Proposed new classification	Any changes (approx.)	Total Score
Tatworth (inc. South Chard & Chard Junction)	MEDIUM	BAND 5	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	18
Coleford	MEDIUM	BAND 5	NONE	SUBSTANTIAL	LOWEST (7)	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	18

Merriot	MEDIUM	BAND 5	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	18
Wedmore	SMALL	BAND 6	MINIMAL	SUBSTANTIAL	LOWEST (7)	Tier 2	Tier 4	DOWN	18
Coxley & Upper Coxley & Coxley Wick	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	UPPER-CENTRE (3)	Secondary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	18
Woolavington	MEDIUM	BAND 5	NONE	BROAD	LOWEST (7)	Tier 2	Tier 4	DOWN	16
Curry Rivel	MEDIUM	BAND 5	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	16
Ruishton (inc. Henlade)	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	CENTRAL (4)	Village	Tier 4	SAME	16
Combe St Nicholas (inc. Wadeford)	SMALL	BAND 5	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	16
West Coker	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	CENTRAL (4)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	16
Walton	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	CENTRAL (4)	Secondary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	16
Beckington	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	CENTRAL (4)	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	16
Ashcott	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	CENTRAL (4)	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	16
Nunney & Nunney Catch	SMALL	BAND 6	MINIMAL	CORE	LOWER (6)	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	16
West Chinnock	SMALL	BAND 5	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	16
Queen Camel	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	BROAD	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	16
Henstridge	SMALL	BAND 5	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	14
Westonzoyland	SMALL	BAND 5	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	14
Stoke sub Hamdon	SMALL	BAND 5	NONE	BROAD	LOWEST (7)	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	14
Brent Knoll	SMALL	BAND 5	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	14
North Coker & East Coker	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	14
Huntspill (inc. West Huntspill)	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	14
Draycott	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	14
Norton St Philip	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	14
High Ham	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	14
Tintinhull	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	14
Haselbury Plucknett	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	14
Chilthorne Domer	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	CENTRAL (4)	Rural Settlement (OC)	Tier 4	UP	14
Horton (and Broadway)	SMALL	BAND 5	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	12
Puriton	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Tier 2	Tier 4	DOWN	12
Mark (and Mark Causeway)	SMALL	BAND 5	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	12
North Curry	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	BROAD	LOWEST (7)	Minor Rural Centre	Tier 4	DOWN	12
Montacute (inc. East Stoke)	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	12
Long Sutton	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	12
Wooskey	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Secondary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	12
Stogursey	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Primary Village	Tier 4	SAME	12
Oakhill	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Secondary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	12
Weare and Lower Weare	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Tier 4	Tier 4	SAME	12

North Newton	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Tier 4	Tier 4	SAME	12
Mells	SMALL	BAND 5	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	12
Croscombe	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	12
Chewton Mendip	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	12
Langford Budville	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Village	Tier 4	SAME	12
Keinton Mandeville	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	10
Milverton	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Minor Rural Centre	Tier 4	DOWN	10
Shipham	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	10
Rode	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	10
Baltonsborough	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	10
Stoke St Gregory (inc. Meare Green)	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Village	Tier 4	SAME	10
Catcott & Edington	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Tier 4	Tier 4	SAME	10
Westbury Sub Mendip	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	10
Stoke St Michael	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	10
Hillcommon (inc. Oake)	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Village	Tier 4	SAME	10
Blackford	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Tier 4	Tier 4	SAME	10
East Brent	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	10
Spaxton	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	10
North Cadbury	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Proposed Village	Tier 4	SAME	10
Hatch Beauchamp	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Village	Tier 4	SAME	10
Kilmersdon	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Secondary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	10
Lympsham	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	10
Hinton St George	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	10
Kingston St Mary	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Village	Tier 4	SAME	10
Ditcheat	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWER (6)	Primary Settlement	Tier 4	SAME	8
Winsham	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	8
Shepton Beauchamp	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	8
Norton Sub Hamdon	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	8
Middlezoy	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	8
Combwich	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Tier 3	Tier 4	SAME	8
Ash	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	8
Ilton	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	8
Washford	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Primary Village	Tier 4	SAME	8
Charlton Horethorne	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (OC)	Tier 4	UP	8
Leigh-On-Mendip	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Unclassified	Tier 4	UP	8
Hambridge	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	8
Crowcombe	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Primary Village	Tier 4	SAME	6
Stogumber	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Primary Village	Tier 4	SAME	6

Curry Mallet	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	CORE	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Tier 4	SAME	6
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Tatworth (inc. South Chard & Chard Junction)

6.94 Tatworth, incorporating South Chard and Chard Junction, is a medium-sized settlement with a 2021 population of around 2,750, the largest settlement in Tier 4. Tatworth has a reasonably sized working aged population and older population at 55% and 31% respectively with a smaller younger population at 14%. Forecast growth is relatively average at 14.5% increase to 2045. It ranks in Band 5 for its employment role (quite limited) with a large net export of workers and very low employment density. Likely locations for work are nearby Chard and Yeovil. Services and facilities are at a core level with four of the six key community services including a primary school, with no strategic services. Tatworth has no (or very limited) coverage of ultrafast broadband. Accessibility is limited sitting within the 'lower centre' category, with very limited bus services and only some access by bike and bus to nearby big towns and employment (likely Chard). Tatworth is overall likely a commuter-orientated village with a strong dependency on car use and services in Chard. There is a small Conservation Area to the north-west of the settlement close to the A358 with several Listed Buildings. There are areas of land in Flood Zones 2 and 3 in close proximity to the east and the Blackdown Hills National Landscape is nearby to the west and the Dorset National Landscape to the south-east. There is a SSSI to the north east.

Coleford & Highbury

6.95 Coleford & Highbury is a medium-sized settlement, one the larger settlements in this tier, with a population of 2,250 people. The settlement has a lower proportion of older people at 22% with higher proportions of younger and working aged people at 19% and 59% respectively. This is reflected in the lower forecast population growth at just under 12% by 2045. The village ranks in Band 5 for its employment role (quite limited) with over 500 jobs recorded but a substantial net export of workers, the largest of the Tier 4 settlements, and one of the lowest employment densities. The village is situated close to many employment destinations such as Midsomer Norton and Radstock, Bath, Bristol, Wells, Frome, Shepton Mallet and the quarries in the Mendip Hills. Coleford is one of two settlements with a substantial provision of local services with all six of the key services. There is limited coverage of ultrafast broadband. The accessibility here ranks 'lowest' with only a very limited bus service. Coleford is primarily car dependent. There are various Local Wildlife Sites around the village, including to the east and south. A SSSI lies to the south and west of the village and a small band of Flood Zones 3 and 3b runs east to west along Mells River corridor to the south of the village. There is a small Scheduled Monument to the south east and Mell's Park Registered House and Garden is to the east of the village.

Merriott

6.96 Merriott is a medium-sized rural settlement with a population of around 2,100 people, one of the larger settlements within Tier 4. The village has a modest younger population (14%) with a higher proportion of working age (56%) and older residents (30%) highlighting a slightly older leaning profile. In turn the forecast is relatively average in at 14.5%. The village has a Band 6 (quite minimal) employment role, exporting a large number of workers and a low employment density, with most residents likely commuting to nearby centres such as Yeovil and Crewkerne for employment. Despite this, its economic activity rate among working-age residents is comparatively strong. Service provision in Merriott is core, meeting essential local needs, but offering no strategic facilities. Merriott has full coverage of ultrafast broadband. Accessibility ranks in the 'lower centre' category, with some access to employment by bike within 20 minutes but no bus or rail access. Residents will likely travel by car for most of their trips. There is an area designated as Flood Zone 3 to the south and two Conservation Areas within the settlement with a number of Listed Buildings. Plus, a small LWS near the centre.

Wedmore

6.97 Wedmore is a small but service-rich rural settlement with a population of just over 1,400 people. The settlements has a small working age population and younger population, 48% and 14% respectively. It has a notably high proportion of older residents (35%), contributing to a projected population increase of nearly 19% by 2045, one of the highest rates for settlements off a similar scale. Out of the Tier 4 settlements, it performs most strongly for services and facilities provision, with a minimal strategic provision and a substantial local provision with a first school, GP surgery, food shop, several comparison shops, pub, village hall, and children's play area. The settlement has full coverage of ultrafast broadband. However, the settlement ranks within Band 6 for its employment role, with a net overall export of workers, and only around 0.76 jobs per worker available. The economic density levels are, however, reasonable. Accessibility is 'lowest', with only a very limited bus availability and no access to large employment areas in a 20-minute walk, cycle or bus ride. A high proportion of residents likely commute by car to surrounding large centres such as Cheddar, Bridgwater, Wells and Highbridge & Burnham for work. Wedmore has been downgraded to Tier 4, reflecting its smaller size, more limited employment role and lower connectivity despite strong local service provision. A significant area of Wedmore is covered by a Conservation Area with many Listed Buildings. There is also an area of Flood Zones 2 and 3 in the centre and north east and a small LWS to the north of the village.

Coxley, Upper Coxley & Coxley Wick (Coxley)

6.98 This clustered settlement is classified as small with a population of nearly 1,100 people. The village has a high proportion of working aged residents at 61% though smaller levels of younger people and older people – perhaps more households where families have aged in place. This is reflected in the middling forecast population growth at 13.6% by 2045. Employment opportunities within the settlement are somewhat limited. It functions primarily as a commuter location with outward commuting to Wells, Glastonbury and Street. Service provision is of the core local level with four out of the six key community facilities and no strategic facilities. The village has full coverage of ultrafast broadband. Coxley is the only settlement with an ‘upper centre’ rating (quite good) for accessibility within Tier 4. The settlement has a reasonable bus service with access to large employment sites and nearby big towns in 20 minutes possible by bike and bus, being situated on a key transport corridor (Wells Road). There is no nearby rail access. Hay Hill Local Wildlife Site sit to the north of Coxley Wick. Further to the north west lies the Ben Knowle Local Wildlife Site and SSSI. There is a medium sized band of Flood Zone 3 and 3b which divides Coxley and Upper Coxley with Coxley Wick. There are a few Listed Buildings in the village.

Woolavington

6.99 Woolavington is one of the larger Tier 4 settlements with around 2,340 residents. The village has a reasonably balanced population profile with 29% people aged 65+, 54% working age and 17% under 16. This is reflected in the relatively average forecast population growth to 2045 at 14.5%. The village has a Band 6 (relatively minimal) employment role with over 500 jobs recorded, but one of the largest net exports of workers in this tier and low economic activity and employment density. It is likely residents are commuting to Bridgwater, Highbridge & Burnham or elsewhere to access employment. Woolavington contains a broad level of local community facilities, with one of the highest scores in the tier, but does not have any of the identified strategic facilities. Woolavington has been identified as not having sustainable access to nearby large employment sites and large towns on foot, by bike and by public transport within 20 minutes nor is there a bus service available. Flood Zone 2 and 3 covers the very northern edge of the village. There are several Listed Buildings here too along with a few Local Wildlife Sites to the north and north west.

Curry Rivel

6.100 Curry Rivel is a medium-sized settlement with a population of around 2,150 people, one of the larger settlements in Tier 4. The village is older leaning with 32% of people aged 65 and over and with more balanced levels of people of working age and under the age of 16, at 54% and 16% respectively. The forecast population growth is around 16% to 2045. Curry Rivel has a Band 6

(quite minimal) employment role, with around 660 jobs recorded, but a large proportion of people travelling elsewhere for work such as to nearby Langport or to Taunton, Yeovil or Bridgwater. Economic activity and employment density is on the lower side. The settlement provides a core level of local services for its residents to support day-to-day needs. Curry Rivel does not have coverage of ultrafast broadband. Accessibility is ranked within the lower category with access to large areas of employment or ‘big towns’ only available by bike within 20 minutes. No public transport access has been identified (albeit it is very limited). Drayton Conservation Area immediately to the east includes Grade II listed Victorian Tudor Gothic manor and grounds of Midelney Place. There are designated Local Wildlife Sites and Historic Parks and Gardens to the west and north with a small LWS adjoining the south west of the village. To the south-east is a Scheduled Monument. The Somerset Levels and Moors SPA/Ramsar Site is within 1km of the village. There are a number of Listed Buildings in Curry Rivel.

Ruishton (inc. Henlade)

6.101 Ruishton, incorporating Henlade, is a small settlement with a population around 1,530 people. The village has a very high proportion of older residents at 35% of the total population aged 65 and over, with lower proportions of people aged 0-15 and of working age at 15% and 50% respectively. This is reflected in its significant population forecast with a 19.5% increase to 2045. The village has a Band 6 employment role with a large number of people commuting out for work. Economic activity levels are reasonable, low employment density is one of the lowest due to very limited local job provision with many people likely travelling into Taunton. Ruishton offers a core level of local services, the four out of six key community facilities, including a primary school. There are no strategic facilities. Full coverage of ultrafast broadband. Accessibility is one of the highest rated in Tier 4, likely due to its location near strategic road corridors and proximity to Taunton – while this is accessible by bike and by bus, the bus service in the village is very limited. Much of the north and east of Ruishton is within Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3. The A358 runs along the south of the settlement (between Ruishton and Henlade). In Henlade, there are Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 running through the centre and north east. There are a number of Listed Buildings in the settlement.

Combe St Nicholas (inc. Wadeford)

6.102 Combe St Nicholas, including Wadeford, is a small settlement cluster with a population of nearly 1,400 people. The village is marked by an older demographic structure with 39% of people aged 65 and over, and only 49% of working age and 12% under 16. Projected growth is as a result, large, at nearly 19.4% by 2045. Its employment role ranks within Band 6 (minimal) with nearly 600 jobs recorded in the village, with a smaller number of people outward commuting to likely nearby towns such as Chard for work. Economic

activity is quite high, and employment density is reasonable. The village maintains a core level of local services to support the day-to-day needs of local residents but lacks any strategic facilities. The village lacks coverage of ultrafast broadband. Accessibility is within the 'lower centre' category, with some access to a nearby big town and employment within 20 minutes by bike and only very limited bus access reinforcing a reliance on the car to access other essential services. A small part of the centre of Combe St Nicholas is a Conservation Area with another in the centre of the cluster (west of Wadeford), which includes a Scheduled Monument. There is a designated SSSI to the north east of Wadeford and some Local Wildlife Sites to the south-east of the settlement. Blackdown Hills National Landscape lies less than 1km to the east of Combe St Nicholas. Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 run through the centre of Wadeford, with a large area covered in the centre of the cluster.

West Coker

6.103 West Coker is a small settlement of around 1,260 residents. The demographic structure is relatively balanced (slightly older leaning) with 15% of people aged 0-15, 57% of working age and 28% aged 65 and over. This leads to a reasonable projected growth of around 14.4% increase to 2045. It ranks within Band 6 for its employment role with a very low employment density and a large proportion of people outward commuting likely to nearby large towns such as Yeovil. Economic activity is reasonable. The village only provides a core level of services for its local residents. There are no strategic services and residents would need to travel elsewhere to reach these. Accessibility relies somewhat on use of the private car, scoring in the 'central' category, among the highest of Tier 4 settlements, likely due to its proximity to Yeovil. Public transport availability is, however, in the lowest category, but the village is within a 20-minute bike ride to nearby Yeovil and associated employment. There is no access by bus or on foot to large employment areas or nearby large towns. West Coker has very limited coverage of ultrafast broadband. Much of the centre of the settlement is a Conservation Area with many Listed Buildings and there are pockets of land in Flood Zones 2 and 3 along the northern edge. There is a SSSI and NNR nearby to the south. Chessels Roman Villa to the east of the settlement is a Scheduled Monument. There are several Local Wildlife Sites to the west of West Coker.

Walton

6.104 Walton is a small settlement with around 1,140 residents. The village has a high proportion of working aged people (56%) and younger people (19%) as opposed to people over 65 (25%). The village has a Band 6 (quite limited) employment function, with workers likely travelling to nearby Street and Glastonbury or further afar. It has a large number of people commuting out of the village, with an average economic activity level, but low employment density. Walton has a core level of community facilities including a primary

school but remains dependent on nearby larger settlements. The village has a limited coverage of ultrafast broadband. The village benefits from its proximity to Street and Glastonbury, with a score ranking in the ‘central’ category (one of the highest scores for Tier 4). It has a reasonable bus service, but a strong score for public transport and bicycle access to large towns and employment sites. The Somerset Levels and Moors Special Protection Area is to the north along with the associated National Nature Reserve and SSSI. Walton and Ivythorn Hills SSSI is to the south of the village. A Local Wildlife Site is situated south east of the village, adjacent to Street and another west of the village. Flood Zones 3 and 3b are to the north and east of the village. There are several Listed Buildings in Walton.

Beckington

6.105 Beckington is a small settlement of nearly 1,000 people, the population is slightly younger leaning (18%) though with still a reasonably sized working aged population at 55%. The proportion of people aged 65 and over is at 27%. This is reflected in the forecast population growth to 2045, which is projected at around a 15% increase (relatively average). The settlement is situated close to Frome and many other large towns in Wiltshire and Bath and North East Somerset. The village itself has a Band 6 employment role (quite limited), with an overall net export of workers though it has a high employment density at nearly one job per worker available. Beckington has a core level of local services to offer for its local residents including the four out of six key community facilities including a primary school. There is full coverage of ultrafast broadband across Beckington. Accessibility sits in the ‘central’ category, one of the highest ratings for Tier 4 settlements, likely due to its proximity to the nearby large towns such as Frome and its location on a key transport corridor. There is a good bus service, and residents are able to access employment and/or large towns within 20 minutes on foot, by bike or by bus. A small Local Wildlife Site is situated to the south. A small band of Flood Zones 3 and 3b is within 500m of the western side of the village along the River Frome corridor. The A36 and A361 runs to the east and south of the village. There is a Conservation Area across the village including many Listed Buildings. Orchardleigh Registered Park & Garden is to the west.

Ashcott

6.106 Ashcott is a small settlement of around 900 residents, with an older population demographic. Around 35% of residents are aged 65 and over, the working age population is reasonable at 53%, but the proportion of younger residents is smaller at 13%. This is reflected in the more reasonable population growth at 16%. The villages’ employment role is within Band 6 (quite small), with limited job availability, an overall net export of workers, and a low employment density. Economic activity is modest. Residents are likely to commute elsewhere for work such as Bridgwater, Street and Glastonbury. The village

offers a core range of community facilities, to support the day to day needs of residents, including a primary school, but without any strategic services indicating a dependence on larger centres. The village is not covered by ultrafast broadband. Accessibility scores in the 'central' category, with the village scoring 3rd out of all Tier 4 settlements. The bus service is fairly limited, but with access to large employment sites and nearby large towns by bike and bus possible in 20 minutes. There are a few Listed Buildings in the village, but no other notable designations or constraints in Ashcott.

Nunney & Nunney Catch

6.107 Nunney and Nunney Catch together form a small settlement of around 880 people. The proportion of people aged 65 and over is relatively average at 28% of the total, with a larger working age population of 57% and average younger population. The population is slightly older leaning, with a forecast population projection at nearly 16% to 2045. The villages' employment role ranks in Band 6 (quite limited), with an overall net export of workers, lower economic activity and lower employment density. Much of the employment draw is likely to Mendip Hill quarries as well as nearby large towns such as Frome. Nunney and Nunney Catch is only one two settlements with some level of strategic facilities due to the presence of the community cinema. The village provides a core level of community facilities including a primary school. It also has full coverage of ultrafast broadband. Accessibility is ranked as lower, with some access to large employment sites and nearby large towns possible by bike within 20 minutes, although the bus services are very limited. Nunney Combe Local Wildlife Site (LWS) is to the north west; Mendip Woodlands Special Area of Conservation is to the west. Other LWSs are situated to the south. There is a Conservation Area in the village with many Listed Buildings and Nunney Castle Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) is within the village with a further SAM to the north east. There is a band of flood zone 3 and 3b running from the south west to the north, through the centre.

West Chinnock

6.108 West Chinnock has a population of just over 600 people with an older-leaning population. 30% of its residents are 65+ with 53% of working age and 17% aged under 16. The village has a minimal employment role, despite its scale, due to the larger number of jobs compared to its population meaning it has a net increase of workers – one of the only settlements in Tier 4 where this is the case. Economic activity levels are average, but employment density is very high at around 1.6 jobs per worker. The settlement has the core set of community facilities including a primary school, but none of the strategic facilities we have identified in the study. Coverage of ultrafast broadband is good. Accessibility ranks in the 'lower centre' category with only access to nearby employment sites and large towns within 20 minutes only possible by bike and the bus services virtually non-existent. No rail access within 5km.

There is a Conservation Area across much of the village and a further one over Middle Chinnock to the east; and a substantial swathe of land to the north is within Flood Zones 2 and 3. Many Listed Buildings in the village.

Queen Camel

6.109 Queen Camel is a small settlement of approximately 570 residents, the smallest of the settlement scoring 16 in total in the Matrix. The village has a very high proportion of older residents at 38% of its total, with smaller proportions of younger and working age residents at 12% and 50% respectively. As a result, the village has one of the highest forecast population growth rates out of all the settlements at 20% increase by 2045. The settlement has a Band 6 (lower) employment role, with a net export of workers, but a higher economic activity level and a very high employment density at nearly one job to worker. Workers are likely commuting to nearby large employment sites or into Yeovil. The local community facilities available are of a broad level with more than four out of six core facilities, but reliance on other larger centres for more comprehensive services. Coverage of ultrafast broadband coverage is good. The settlement ranks in the 'lower centre' category for its accessibility, with a very limited bus service, but access is possible to nearby towns and employment in 20 minutes by bus, but not on foot or by bike. No nearby rail access. Likely that car dependency is high. Part of the settlement lies within Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 (mainly to the north and east), and much of the village is in a Conservation Area. There are also many Listed Buildings in the village, and it is located near to Yeovilton airfield so noise exposure and safeguarding may need to be considered.

Henstridge

6.110 Henstridge has a population of just over 1,900 residents with a relatively balanced demographic mix with a larger younger population at 19%. Working age population is at 53% of the total, and those aged 65 and over is at 28%. This is reflected in the lower population forecast at nearly 12% increase to 2045. Henstridge has a Band 6 employment role (quite minimal), with a higher number of local jobs than many other settlements in this tier, but with a net export of workers, a higher level of economic activity, and a reasonable employment density. Workers tend to travel to nearby towns for work such as Wincanton, Sherborne and Yeovil. The village has the core provision of community facilities, four out of the six including a primary school, but depends on larger settlements for a more comprehensive range including strategic facilities. The village is fully covered by ultrafast broadband. The accessibility and connectivity score ranks in the 'lower centre' category, with very limited bus services, which does connect residents to larger towns and employment sites within 20 minutes (but not possible on foot or by bike). The village does have access to a railway station within 5km and can reach a

number of large towns within one hour. There are few environmental constraints although there is a small Conservation Area and Listed Buildings.

Westonzoyland

6.111 Westonzoyland has a population of around 1,860 people, with a larger proportion of people of working age at 58%, the proportion of older people is more modest at 26% while the younger population is average at 17%. This is reflected in the more average population forecast to 2045, which is a 13% increase. The village ranks in Band 6 for its employment role (relatively minimal), while providing over 500 jobs, it exports a larger number of people than it imports, with a lower employment density, but also a strong level of economic activity. The settlement contains the core local services, four out of the six including a primary school. However, it is likely it relies on larger towns such as Bridgwater for a more comprehensive range of facilities and strategic services. Ultrafast broadband coverage is good. Accessibility ranks in the lower category, with a limited bus service, however, it does not reach large towns and employment sites in 20 minutes – this is only possible by bike. The settlement is likely heavily dependent on the use of the private car. Flood Zones 2 and 3 cover significant parts of the settlement, particularly to the north and west. There are some Listed Buildings in the settlement and there is a large Local Wildlife Site to the north of the village.

Stoke sub Hamdon

6.112 Stoke sub Hamdon has a population of around 1,660 people with a slightly younger leaning population with a large working age population at 59% of the total ages 16-64, 16% under 16 and 25% aged 65 and over. Therefore, it has a lower forecast population growth at just over 12% increase to 2045. The village ranks in Band 6 for its employment function (quite limited), with a large net export of workers, a modest level of economic activity and a low employment density. Workers are likely travelling to nearby Yeovil for work among other places. The village has a broad level of community facilities including a primary school and food shop among others. The village is unique in that there is a secondary school situated in the East Stoke area. However, a wider range of strategic services are not available. There is full coverage of ultrafast broadband. Accessibility is within the lowest scoring category with only a limited bus service and no recorded access to large employment sites within a 20 minute walk, cycle or bus ride. Ham Hill Country Park SSSI, SAM and LWS, immediately adjoining the settlement to the south is a constraint to growth, as is the A303 trunk road to the north-west. Parsonage Farm, a medieval secular college in the settlement is also a Scheduled Monument. There are two Conservation Areas covering the settlement centre and centre of East Stoke including many Listed Buildings.

Brent Knoll

6.113 Brent Knoll has a population of around 1,270 people, with an older leaning age structure. Out of the total, 33% of people are aged 65 and over, 55% are of working age and only 12% are aged under 16. The population forecast is therefore higher at around 17.6% projected increase to 2045. Brent Knoll has a Band 6 (quite minimal) employment role, but despite its smaller size, the village has a stronger-than-typical employment density, with a small net-import of workers, and a modest level of economic activity. This is likely due to its location adjacent to Junction 22 of the M5. The village has the core level of community services and facilities, including a primary school, but has limited coverage of ultrafast broadband. The village has a lower level of sustainable accessibility, with no bus service recorded, some cycle access within 20 minutes to large employment sites and/or large towns is possible, and a small level of rail access likely due to its proximity within 5km of Highbridge Station. Most of the settlement falls in Flood Zones 2 and 3. However, some areas north of Brent Street are not in the flood zone due to their elevation. There are a number of Listed Buildings in the village and Brent Knoll hillfort is a Scheduled Monument. There are also a number of Local Wildlife Sites covering some of Brent Knoll.

North and East Coker

6.114 North and East Coker is a combined settlement has a population of around 1,150 people. The settlement is has an older age structure, with 36% of people aged 65 and over, 50% of working age and 14% people under 16. This is reflected in the larger forecast growth to 2045 at an 18.6% projected increase to 2045. The village ranks in Band 6 for its employment role (i.e. quite limited), with an overall net export of workers, a smaller level of employment density, but a high level of economic activity. There are strong commuting flows into Yeovil. The provision of local community facilities is of the core level, providing four out of the six key services including a primary school. Coverage of ultrafast broadband is of a good level across the village. Accessibility ranks in the 'lower centre' category is poor, though scoring higher than many other Tier 4 settlements due to its proximity to Yeovil. There is no bus service recorded, with some rail access within 5km and only access to large employment sites and/or large towns is possible by bike within 20 minutes. Therefore, car dependency is likely high. There two Conservation Areas including many Listed Buildings and an area within Flood Zones 2 and 3 alongside the stream running between the settlements. There are two Scheduled Monuments (Roman villas) to the north. There are several Local Wildlife Sites to the south of East Coker.

Huntspill (inc. West Huntspill)

6.115 Huntspill, including West Huntspill, have a population together of around 1,140 people. The population is older leaning, with 35% aged 65 and over,

whereas the working age population is at 52% and younger population at 13%. The forecast population growth is reasonable at 15.3% increase to 2045. The village has a somewhat limited employment role (ranking in Band 6), with an overall net export of workers, a modest level of economic activity and a lower employment density. The village is situated between Highbridge & Burnham and Bridgwater, likely employment destinations for residents. The provision of community facilities is of a core level for local services, with a primary school available, and with full coverage of ultrafast broadband. Accessibility ranks in the 'lower centre' category, likely benefiting from its proximity to nearby large towns. Large employment sites and/or access to nearby big towns is possible within 20 minutes by bike and the village benefits from being within 5km of Highbridge railway station. The entire settlement falls under Flood Zones 2 and 3. There are several Listed Buildings covering Huntspill and the Somerset Wetlands NNR runs between the two villages, which is also a LWS. There is also a small LWS to the south west of Huntspill.

Draycott

6.116 Draycott is a small village with a population of around 1,060 residents. The population is older leaning, with a slightly larger working age population, with 57% residents aged 16-64, and 15% younger residents and 28% age 65 and over. The village has a high forecast population growth at 18.5% increase to 2045. There is an overall net export of workers from the village to their employment, modest levels of economic activity and a lower employment density. Many people are commuting to Cheddar, Wells and other nearby larger centres. The village has the core level of services, including a primary school, and has full coverage of ultra-fast broadband. The sustainable accessibility for Draycott is among the lower categories, with a very limited bus service, but benefits from being within a 20 minute cycle ride to nearby large towns and employment. Therefore, it is likely the village is heavily car dependent. Mendip Hills National Landscape boundary runs across the north west to south west of the village. Mendip Woodlands Special Area of Conservation lies to the east of the village along with the Rodney Stoke National Nature Reserve which is also a SSSI. The Rodney Stoke Meadows Local Wildlife Site sits to the east. The Draycott Sleights SSSI is to the north of the village. There is an extensive area of Flood Zone 3 and 3b to the south of the village. There are several Listed Buildings within the village and a number of Scheduled Monuments quite close by.

Norton St Philip

6.117 Norton St Philip has a population of around 1,030 residents, with an older age structure. As a proportion of the total, 36% residents are aged 65 and over, 52% are of working age and 12% are under 16. The forecast growth is high at nearly 17% projected increase to 2045. The settlement has a Band 6 (quite limited) employment role, with fewer jobs available compared to the number

of workers resulting in an overall net export of people to their job. Economic activity levels are relatively average, as is the employment density in the village. Residents are likely commuting to the many nearby large towns and cities that are situated within close proximity such as Bath, Frome and Wiltshire towns. The village has the core provision of local services, including a primary school though a limited coverage of ultrafast broadband. Accessibility ranks within the ‘lower centre’ category overall, with a limited bus service, but access to rail is possible within 5km at Freshford. Access to large employment sites and/or large towns within 20 minutes by public transport is also possible. Cleaves Wood SSSI and Hinton Charterhouse Pit SSSI, are to the north of the village. Peart Wood LWS and Down Wood LWS are to the south of the village. There is a Conservation Area in the village including many Listed Buildings. An area of green belt is situated north of the village too. There is a small area of Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 to the north west.

High Ham

6.118 High Ham is a small rural settlement of around 950 people. It has an older leaning age profile with 30% of residents aged 65 and over and 58% of people of working age. Only 12% of people are under 16. The population forecast to 2045 is relatively average at just over 14% increase to 2045. There is a Band 6 (quite limited) employment role in the village, with an overall net export of workers, and a low employment density. Economic activity levels are strong. The village has the core facilities, including a primary school, but High Ham residents likely rely on larger towns for a wider range of services and strategic facilities as well as for employment such as Somerton and Langport. There is good coverage of ultrafast broadband across High Ham. Accessibility ranks in the ‘lower centre’ category, with a very limited bus service and only access to large employment sites and/or large towns is possible by bike within 20 minutes. Therefore, it is likely that there is a high reliance on private vehicles. Part of the centre of the settlement is a Conservation Area including many Listed Buildings and there are several areas of land in the vicinity that are designated Local Wildlife Sites. There is an SSSI to the west near Beer.

Tintinhull

6.119 Tintinhull has around 930 residents, with a demographic split of approximately 53% working age residents, 33% older residents and 15% younger residents suggesting an older leaning population. The population forecast is relatively average at around 16% increase to 2045. The village doesn’t have a notable employment role, with an overall net export of workers, and a lower employment density. Economic activity levels are strong, however. The village has the core level of local services, including a primary school. There is a good level of ultrafast broadband coverage across Tintinhull. The village has a ‘lower centre’ rating for sustainable accessibility and connectivity, with a limited bus service. There is some access by bike to nearby large towns

such as Yeovil, within 20 minutes, however, most of the score is made up of the ability for residents to reach large towns (and jobs) by bus in 20 minutes. There is a Conservation Area covering the village including many Listed Buildings and the grounds of Tintinhull House are Grade II Parks and Gardens are of Special Historic Interest.

Haselbury Plucknett

6.120 Haselbury Plucknett is a small village with around 750 residents as at 2021. There is an older-leaning population with 32% of residents aged 65 and over, 55% of working age and 13% under 16. The forecast population growth is high at just over 16%. The village has a Band 6 (quite limited) employment role with an overall net export of workers, with a more average level of economic activity and employment density. The village has the core local services to serve its residents day to day needs, including a primary school. However, residents are likely reliant on larger towns such as Crewkerne or Yeovil for the remainder of their essential services and employment. There is full coverage of ultrafast broadband connectivity. Accessibility sits within the 'lower centre' category - there is a very limited bus service and access to nearby employment sites and/or large towns is only possible by bike within a 20 minute time frame, suggesting a high likelihood of car dependency. However, there is rail access with Crewkerne station within 5km. There is a Conservation Area in the village including many Listed Buildings and a small area to the north east situated within Flood Zones 2 and 3.

Chilthorne Domer

6.121 Chilthorne Domer has a population of around 525 people as of 2021. The age structure is relatively young leaning with 59% of people of working age and 16% under 16, 25% of people are 65 and over. This is reflected in the smaller forecast population growth of just over 12% increase to 2045. The settlement doesn't have a notable employment role in its local area, exporting a large proportion of its workers to jobs elsewhere and with only an average level of economic activity and lower employment density. Community services on offer at the core level, including a primary school, with residents relying on nearby larger towns such as Yeovil for a wider range of services and strategic facilities. There is full coverage of ultrafast broadband across Chilthorne Domer. However, accessibility is of an average level - it has a very limited bus service, with most of its score coming from the ability for residents to cycle into Yeovil or use the bus to access employment within a 20 minute journey time. There are few constraints associated with the village – an area of Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 to the east of the village. Small LWS to the south east. There several Listed Buildings dotted across Chilthorne Domer.

Horton (and Broadway)

6.122 Horton and Broadway is a combined settlement which has a population of just over 1,880 residents with an ageing population. The settlement consists of

34% of people aged 65+, 51% of working age, and 15% of people below the age of 16. The projected population to 2045 is, therefore, relatively high at nearly 16.6% increase forecast. The settlement has a Band 5 (quite minimal) employment role, with around 670 jobs identified, but an overall net export of workers and an employment density on the lower end. However, economic activity is one of the highest among the Tier 4 settlements. The village has the core level of local services, including a primary school, but none of the strategic services. Horton and Broadway has a good coverage of ultrafast broadband. The settlement is heavily car dependent, with a very limited bus service and no access to large towns or large scale employment areas within a 20 minute journey on foot, by bike or by public transport. An area of land in Flood Zones 2 and 3 runs along the stream between Horton and Broadway. There are a few Listed Buildings dotted across the settlement. There is also a small LWS (Drakes Meadow and Weir) to the west.

Puriton

6.123 Puriton is a small sized village with a population of 1,670 people and relatively balanced population – 28% of people are 65+, 56% are of working age and 16% are age 0-15. As a result, the population forecast to 2045 is quite average among the settlements in Somerset at a 14.5% increase forecast. The village has a Band 6 (very limited) employment function in itself, however, with the Somerset Agratas (Gravity) site under construction to the north east of the village, access to large local employment is likely to change in the near future. The village has a large net export of workers and a very low employment density at the moment, and a relatively high economic activity. The community facilities provision are of the core level, with four out of the six key facilities within the village including a primary school. There is no coverage of ultrafast broadband across the settlement. However, sustainable accessibility is rating among one of the lower categories with access to nearby large towns and/or employment sites only possible by bike within 20 minutes at present. No bus service or rail access identified (within 5km). Flood Zone 2 and 3 covers the north east of Puriton. There are four Listed Buildings and a number of Local Wildlife Sites located around the village.

Mark (and Mark Causeway)

6.124 Mark and Mark Causeway have a combined population of 1,435 people with a large proportion of people (60%) of working-age and smaller proportions of younger and older people at 13% and 27% respectively. The village has a Band 5 (quite minimal) employment role, with around 580 jobs identified, but with an overall net export of workers, and a relatively average level of economic activity and employment density. Local community facility provision is at the core level, with a primary school (first school), among other key services. The settlement has full coverage of ultrafast broadband. In terms of sustainable accessibility, the village does not score well with no identified bus

service or rail access and access to large towns or employment sites on foot, by bike or public transport is not possible within 20 minutes. Parts of the north west and west of Mark falls under Flood Zones 2 and 3 and much of Mark Causeway is within these flood zones. There are a number of Listed Buildings across the combined settlement.

North Curry

6.125 North Curry has nearly 1,070 residents, with 50% of working-age, 34% aged 65+ and 16% age 0-15 suggesting the settlement is more so older leaning. This is reflected in the higher population forecast to 2045, which is just over an 18.8% projected increase. Employment opportunities in the village are very limited, making it an overall net exporter of workers, with a low employment density though economic activity is quite high. North Curry is one of only a few settlements in this tier with a wider range of local services, including a primary school. The village has good coverage of ultrafast broadband. The village scores very low in terms of sustainable accessibility, with only a limited bus service. Residents are not able to access large employment sites or nearby 'big towns' on foot, by bike, or by bus within 20 minutes. Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 sit close to the north of the settlement. North Curry is also within 1km of Curry and Hay Moors SSSI to the north and Somerset Levels and Moors RAMSAR/SPA/SSSI to the south east (including Somerset Wetlands NNR). North Curry Meadow SSSI sits to the east. The Scheduled Monument associated with Moredon House sits within 1km to the north. There is a Conservation Area in the village including many Listed Buildings.

Montacute (inc. East Stoke)

6.126 Montacute has a population of 875 people with a relatively balanced age structure. Out of the total, 26% of people are 65+, 57% are 16-64 and 17% are under 16. The population growth to 2045 is forecast at around a 13.8% increase, fairly average compared to many of the other settlements in the study. Employment opportunities in the village are generally limited, but although there is an overall net export of workers it is quite balanced and employment density is nearly one job per worker. Economic activity levels are lower though. The village has the core range of local services, including a primary school, and it does have a good coverage of ultrafast broadband. The settlement ranks lower on its sustainable accessibility with only large employment sites/nearby 'big towns' accessible by bike within 20 minutes. Therefore, the settlement is likely to be car dependent with next to no bus service and no nearby rail access. It is severely constrained by the Ham Hill Country Park SSSI and Scheduled Ancient Monument nearby to the west and by the National Trust Property of Montacute House with its historic gardens and parkland; all Grade 1 Listed. Parts along the Mill Stream are in Flood Zone 3. The settlement lies almost entirely within a Conservation Area and includes a Scheduled Monument (site of a Cluniac Priory).

Long Sutton

6.127 Long Sutton's population of around 840 people includes an older leaning age structure, with 35% aged 65+, 53% ages 16-64 and 12% under 16. The forecast growth to 2045 is a 16.4% increase. The employment role of the village is ranked among one of the lower categories with an overall net export of workers though it is fairly balanced. Employment density is also fairly average too, while economic activity levels are high. The village has the core provision of local services, including a primary school, but depends on large settlements for a wider range and the more strategic facilities. The village does not have coverage of ultrafast broadband. The sustainable accessibility is ranked within one of the lower categories with only access to nearby employment sites and/or 'big towns' within 20 minutes only possible on a bike. The village is likely, therefore, heavily car dependent given the lack of suitable cycle infrastructure available to these locations. The settlement is constrained by land immediately to the west being in Flood Zone 2 and 3 and by being close to the West Moor SSSI, which is also part of the Somerset Levels and Moors SPA and Ramsar Site of international ecological importance, itself within Flood Zone 3 and being designated Flood Storage Area. Part of the centre of the settlement is a Conservation Area with Listed Buildings.

Wookey

6.128 Wookey village has a small population of just under 810 people. The working age population is of a larger proportion compared to the older and younger populations at 57%. The forecast population growth to 2045 is fairly average at a 15.4% increase. For the employment role, the village scores in the lowest category considering the number of jobs recorded is below 250. There is an overall net export of workers, an average level of economic activity, however, employment density is also within the lowest ranked category. The village provides the core range of services, including a primary school, as well as full coverage of ultrafast broadband. The sustainable accessibility of the village is ranked in the lower centre category (relatively limited), with a limited bus service, however a large town and/or employment sites are accessible within 20 minutes by bike, likely those within Wells. Such access is not possible on foot or by bus. There is no rail service within 5km of the village. Somerset Levels and Moors Special Protection Area sits to the west of Wookey. Two Local Wildlife Sites and an SSSI are located to the south, and the River Axe Local Wildlife Sites runs through the village. There is a Scheduled Ancient Monument within the village (Bishop's Palace), and Flood Zones 3 and 3b within the southern part of the village. There are a number of Listed Buildings.

Stogursey

6.129 Stogursey has nearly 790 residents, with an older leaning population. 30% of people are 65+, 57% are 16-64 and 14% are under 16. The forecast population growth to 245 is just under a 16.5% predicted increase, which

reflects the age structure. The settlement tanks within the lowest category in regard to its employment role with a large net export of workers, very low employment density (0.44 jobs per worker) though economic activity levels are quite high. The village has the core range of services, including a primary school, and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. the settlements sustainable accessibility is within band 5 (lower centre category) with a limited bus service available, and some level of access to large employment sites within a 20 minute walk or cycle, which is likely due to its proximity to Hinkley. However, given the lack of active travel infrastructure, it is likely heavily car dependent. There are a number of environmental constraints with a Conservation Area that covers a large part of the centre of the settlement including many Listed Buildings. There is also two Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the south including Stogursey Castle. Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 run from north to south along the eastern edge of the village.

Oakhill

6.130 Oakhill has a population of nearly 760 people, with a larger working age population at 57% of its total between the ages of 16 and 64 and a higher younger population (17% under 16). As a result, the population projection is fairly average at around 13.4% increase forecast to 2045. The employment role of Oakhill is ranked within band 6 'lower' band, with an overall net export of workers although fairly balanced, and an average employment density. Economic activity levels are fairly strong. The local community facilities within Oakhill are of the core level, with a primary school and the coverage of ultrafast broadband is widespread. There is a limited bus service, which serves Oakhill which provides access to nearby big towns within 20 minutes such as Shepton Mallet, however, this is primarily for college students. Therefore, it is likely that the village is heavily car dependent. Mells Valley Special Area of Conservation sits to the east. An ancient woodland is north east of the village, which is a designated Local Wildlife Site though separated by the A367. There is a Conservation Area within the village including some Listed Buildings and a Special Ancient Monument to the south and west.

Weare and Lower Weare

6.131 Together, these villages have over 660 residents with an older leaning population with 33% aged 65+. The proportion of people of working age is smaller at 51%. The population projection forecast to 2045 is set to be a 15.2% increase, which is fairly average among the settlements in Somerset. The settlement ranks within the 'lower' category (band 6) for employment as it has fewer than 500 jobs recorded. However, it does have a small net import of workers, though still fairly balanced, a high level of economic activity and one of the strongest employment densities likely due to employment sites nearby that sit on the A38. The village has the core level of local community facilities including a primary school. Residents would need to travel to nearby

big towns for a wider range of local services and strategic facilities. It has a good coverage of ultrafast broadband connectivity. For sustainable accessibility, the village ranks in band 6, one of the lower categories only scoring for connectivity to nearby employment sites within 20 minutes by bus. Flood Zone 2 and 3 covers a small part of Lower Weare and extends to cover a large area to the north east. Weare has a Conservation Area covering the south east area of the settlement including several Listed Buildings. There is also a Local Wildlife Site to the south of Weare.

North Newton

6.132 North Newton is a small village with around 650 residents. There is a high proportion of people of working age at 63% and lower proportions of younger and older people. This is reflected in the lower forecast population growth to 2045 at 12.8%. The village ranks in Band 6, 'lower' category, for its employment role with an overall net export of workers, though still somewhat balanced, which may be due to its smaller scale. There are high economic activity levels though modest employment density. North Newton has the core level of services, including a primary school. There is a good coverage of ultrafast broadband. The village also ranks in the 'lower' category for its sustainable accessibility, with only access to local jobs or large towns possible by bike within a 20 minute time frame. Therefore, it is likely to be heavily car dependent. Flood Zone 3 covers the eastern edge of the settlement with an SSSI nearby to the east. There are a few Listed Buildings in the village.

Mells

6.133 Mells is a small settlement with a population of just over 630 people. It has a high proportion of younger people at 19% below the age of 16, and a more balanced proportion of working age and older populations. This results in a more average level overall, of population growth to 2045 at a nearly 15.5% forecast. The settlement ranks in Band 4 or the 'lower centre' category for employment, however, for its scale it has a large proportion of jobs with an overall net import of workers, which is unusual for settlements within Tier 4. There are average levels of economic activity in Mells, however, employment density is one of the highest among all settlements in Somerset. This is likely due to the several quarries and aggregates businesses in the vicinity. The settlement has the core range of local services here, including a primary school, and a good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Only a limited bus service is available, which does not connect to large sites of employment or big towns within 20 minutes. The village is quite constrained, with a LWS associated with Mells River running through the centre. This is Flood Zone 3. There are Local Wildlife Sites to the north east and east. Tedbury Camp and Wadbury Camp Scheduled Ancient Monuments are situated to the east with a smaller one to the south. Mells Park and Mells Manor House Registered

Park and Garden sit to the west and north respectively. There is a Conservation Area in the village including Listed Buildings.

Croscombe

6.134 Croscombe has a population just under 600 people including a very small proportion of young people at 9%, with an ageing population at 38% aged 65+. As a result, the village ranks in the 'highest' band for forecast population growth at just over a 21.2% increase to 2045. The village ranks within the lowest category for employment (band 7) considering it has fewer than 250 jobs identified. There is an overall net export of workers, good economic activity, but a lower employment density. Croscombe has the core level of community services, including a primary school, with full coverage of ultrafast broadband. Accessibility ranks in Band 5 'lower centre' with a limited bus service and access to employment and/or large towns only possible within 20 minutes if travelling by bike. Therefore, it is likely that the village is heavily car dependent. There is a Local Wildlife Site situated close to north, east, south and west of the settlement. There is a Conservation Area within Croscombe as well including many Listed Buildings, and a small band of Flood Zone 3 runs east to west through the centre of the village along the River Sheppey.

Chewton Mendip

6.135 Chewton Mendip is a small rural village of just over 570 people. In terms of age structure, the settlement is older leaning with 38% of people aged 65+ and smaller proportions of younger and working aged people at 12% and 50% respectively. The population forecast is smaller, however, at just under a 12.3% increase to 2045. Employment opportunities are limited in the village, ranking in the 'lowest' category for its role, with an overall net export of workers, and lower employment density. Economic activity levels are strong. Chewton Mendip has the core range of local services, including a primary school, and full coverage of ultrafast broadband. It has a reasonable bus service, which connects residents to large employment sites and/or large towns with some access to these by bike possible within 20 minutes. Mendip Hills National Landscape boundary runs through the centre of the village with most of the built up area within the boundary. There are Local Wildlife Sites situated to the north, west and south west of the village. There is a Conservation Area within the village as well as many Listed Buildings. A small band of Flood Zone 3 runs from the north west into the village. Three small Scheduled Monuments are situated close to the east of the village.

Langford Budville

6.136 Langford Budville is the smallest of the settlements scoring '12' overall within The Matrix for Somerset's settlement hierarchy. It has a population of just over 520 residents, with 55% of working age and 31% of people 65+, making it more older leaning. It has a relatively average population growth forecast to 2045 at around 15.1%. The village ranks in the lowest category for its

employment role with only a small number of recorded jobs available, an overall net export of workers, but a middling level of economic activity and employment density. The community facilities in Langford Budville are of the core level, with four out of the six key local services including a primary school. It also has good coverage of ultrafast broadband. There is limited sustainable accessibility, no bus service recorded. Access to employment sites and nearby large towns is only possible by bike within 20 minutes. To the west of the settlement is a large Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) known as Langford Heathfield. There is a Conservation Area covering the centre of the settlement including several Listed Buildings.

Keinton Mandeville

6.137 Keinton Mandeville is a small rural settlement with a population of nearly 1,230 people. It has a reasonably balanced age structure though is slightly younger leaning with a large working age population at 56%, 28% aged 65+ and 16% between 0-15. There is an average population growth forecast to 2045 at 14.8%. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (lower category), with an overall net export of workers, higher level of economic activity, but a low employment density. There is the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Keinton Mandeville ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with only a limited bus service available. There are few environmental constraints, but there is a SSSI to the south west and two small areas designated Local Wildlife Sites with one to the north and the other to the west. There are several Listed Buildings across the village.

Milverton

6.138 Milverton is a small rural settlement with a population of nearly 1,120 people. It has an older leaning age structure with a large working age population at 55%, 31% aged 65+ and 14% between 0-15. There is a high population growth forecast to 2045 at 18.5%. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (lower category), with an overall net export of workers, average level of economic activity, but a low employment density. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Milverton ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with only a limited bus service available. There is a large swathe of floodplain within Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 to the north of the settlement associated with Hillfarrance Brook, which also partially covers the centre of the village. The B3227 also runs to the north. There is a Conservation Area across most of the village, which includes many Listed Buildings.

Shipham

6.139 Shipham is a small rural settlement with a population of nearly 1,110 people. It has an older leaning age structure with a large working age population at approximately 56%, 30% aged 65+ and 14% between 0-15. There is a high

population growth forecast to 2045 at just under 16.1%. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (lower category), with an overall net export of workers, and an average level of economic activity and an average employment density. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Shipham ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with access to large towns and/or large employment sites only possible on a very limited basis by bike. It is likely therefore, heavily car dependent. The settlement does not have any planning constraints within (except for several Listed Buildings), however Shipham is surrounded by a National Landscape. There is also a Scheduled Monument adjoining the settlement to the south east.

Rode

6.140 Rode is a small rural settlement with a population of 1,085 people. It has a large working age population at approximately 59%, 27% aged 65+ and 14% between 0-15. There is a high population growth forecast to 2045 at just over 16.4%. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (lower category), with an overall net export of workers, an average level of economic activity, but a lower employment density. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Rode ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with no identified bus or rail access. Access to employment or large towns is also not possible within 20 minutes on foot, by bike or using public transport. To the north west of the village is Higher Rocks Farm Reservoir Local Wildlife Site. There is a Registered Park and Garden to the south west. There are two Conservation Areas within the village including many Listed Buildings. A band of Flood Risk Zone 3 sits close to the west of Rode. There is a small Scheduled Monument to the south east.

Baltonsborough

6.141 Baltonsborough is a small rural settlement with a population of 1,065 people. It has a large working age population at approximately 58%, 26% aged 65+ and 16% aged between 0-15. There is a low population growth forecast to 2045 at just over 12.2% increase projected. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (lower category), with an overall net export of workers and an average level of economic activity and employment density. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Baltonsborough ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with no identified bus or rail access. Access to employment or large towns is also not possible within 20 minutes on foot, by bike or using public transport. There is a Local Wildlife Site to the south west of the village and a band of Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 to the west of the village. There are a number of Listed Buildings in Baltonsborough.

Stoke St Gregory (inc. Meare Green)

6.142 Stoke St Gregory is a very small rural settlement with a population of just over 1,010 people. It has a relatively balanced age structure with a larger working age population at approximately 56%, 29% aged 65+ and 16% aged between 0-15. There is a high population growth forecast to 2045 at just under 16.1% increase projected. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (lower category), with an overall net export of workers, a high level of economic activity and a lower employment density. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Residents will need to travel further afar to access a wider range of services and for more strategic facilities. Stoke St Gregory ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with a limited bus service and no access to rail within 5km. Access to employment or large towns is not possible within 20 minutes on foot, by bike or using public transport. Therefore, it is likely to be a heavily car dependent village. The Somerset Levels and Moors (RAMSAR/SSSI) and Curry and Hay Moors (SSSI) are within 1km of the settlement, to the north and to the south. This includes large areas within Flood Risk Zone 3 with small areas of Flood Risk Zone 2 in and around the village. There are a few Listed Buildings in the village.

Catcott & Edington

6.143 Catcott & Edington is a very small rural settlement with a population of just less than 930 people. It has an older leaning age structure with a larger older population at approximately 36% aged 65+, 54% aged 16-64 and only 10% aged between 0-15. There is a high population growth forecast to 2045 at around 17.3% increase projected. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (lower category), with an overall net export of workers (though quite balanced), a lower level of economic activity and a high employment density with nearly one job available per worker identified. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Residents will need to travel further afar to access a wider range of services and for more strategic facilities. Stoke St Gregory ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with only a limited bus service and no access to a railway station within 5km. Access to employment or large towns is also not possible within 20 minutes on foot, by bike or using public transport. Therefore, it is likely to be a heavily car dependent village. There are several Listed Buildings in the village. Somerset Levels and Moors SSSI/ NNR and Flood Zones 2 and 3 sit closely to the north of the combined settlement. There are a number of Scheduled Monuments to the north east.

Westbury Sub Mendip

6.144 Westbury Sub Mendip is a very small rural settlement with a population of around 800 people. It has an older leaning age structure with a larger older population at approximately 33% aged 65+, 52% aged 16-64 and 15% aged

between 0-15. There is a more reasonable population growth forecast to 2045 at around 15.9% increase projected. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (lower category), with an overall net export of workers (though quite balanced), a strong economic activity level and a relatively middling score for employment density. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Residents will need to travel further afar to access a wider range of services and for more strategic facilities. Westbury Sub Mendip ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with only a limited bus service and no access to a railway station within 5km. Access to employment or large towns is also not possible within 20 minutes on foot, by bike or using public transport. Therefore, it is likely to be a heavily car dependent village. Mendip Hills National Landscape boundary encompasses much of the east, west and north of the village (and parts of the centre). Mendip Woodlands Special Area of Conservation lies to the north along with an NNR/ SSSI. A LWS sits to the north of the village. There is a Scheduled Ancient Monument to the north east and a Conservation Area in the village including some Listed Buildings.

Stoke St Michael

6.145 Stoke St Michael is a very small village with a population of around 760 people. It has a younger age structure with a larger proportion of people aged between 0-15 at 20%, 58% aged 16-64 and 22% aged 65+. There is a lower population growth forecast to 2045 with a 11.4% increase projected. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (lower category), with an overall net export of workers (though quite balanced), a strong economic activity level and a relatively middling score for employment density. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Residents will need to travel further afar to access a wider range of services and for more strategic facilities. Stoke St Michael ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with only a limited bus service and no access to a railway station within 5km. Access to employment or large towns is also not possible within 20 minutes on foot, by bike or using public transport. Therefore, it is likely to be a heavily car dependent village. St Dunstan's Well Catchment SSSI is north east of the village. There is a designated Local Wildlife Site to the north east, along with Edford Combe Meadows SSI and Local Wildlife Site. Moon's Hill Quarry SSSI is to the south of the village and the Mendip Woods Special Area of Conservation is to the south east. There is a Scheduled Ancient Monument to the north east too.

Hillcommon (inc. Oake)

6.146 Hillcommon including Oake is a very small village with a population of around 740 people. It has a relatively balanced age structure with people aged between 0-15 at 15%, 56% aged 16-64 and 29% aged 65+. As a result there is a more middling ranked population growth forecast to 2045 with a 14.9%

increase projected. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (lower category), with an overall net export of workers (though quite balanced), a strong economic activity level and a relatively middling score for employment density. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Residents will need to travel further afar to access a wider range of services and for more strategic facilities. Hillcommon and Oake ranks within the lowest category for its sustainable accessibility with only a limited bus service and no railway station access within a 5km radius. Residents can only access a large employment site and/or large town (on a very limited basis) within 20 minutes by bike. It is not possible on foot or by bus. Therefore, it is likely to be a heavily car dependent village. There are very few environmental/planning constraints including only a few Listed Buildings and a band of Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 running along the south of Oake.

Blackford

6.147 Blackford is a very small village with a population of around 700 people. It has a relatively balanced age structure though with a slightly larger proportion of people of working age, with people aged between 0-15 at 15%, 58% aged 16-64 and 27% aged 65+. There is a lower population growth forecast to 2045 with a 12.6% increase projected. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (lower category) due to the availability of fewer than 500 jobs, with an overall net import of workers (though quite balanced), a strong economic activity level and sits within the highest category for employment density. This is likely due to some larger employment sites in and around the settlement such as the middle school. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Residents will need to travel further afar to access a wider range of services and for more strategic facilities. Blackford ranks within the lowest category for its sustainable accessibility with no bus service identified and no rail access within 5km. Residents cannot access large scale employment sites or nearby big towns within 20 minutes on foot, by bike or by bus. Therefore, it is likely to be a heavily car dependent village. There are a few Listed Buildings in the village and Scheduled Monument (Blackford Manor House) adjoining the north. Small areas of Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 are situated to the west.

East Brent

6.148 East Brent is a very small village with a population of around 680 people. It has a relatively balanced age structure with people aged between 0-15 making up 16%, 57% aged 16-64 and 27% aged 65+. There is an average population growth forecast to 2045 with just under a 14% increase projected. The village ranks in the lowest category (Band 7) for its employment role, due to its availability of fewer than 250 jobs with an overall net export of workers, a middling level of economic activity and a low employment density. It has the

core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Residents will need to travel further afar to access a wider range of services and for more strategic facilities. East Brent ranks in Band 6 'lower' category for its sustainable accessibility. There is a limited bus service and some access to large employment sites and/or nearby 'big towns' within 20 minutes by bike is possible. However, this is unlikely given the nature of the roads connecting the settlement to nearby locations. There is no rail access within 5km. Therefore, it is likely to be a heavily car dependent village. Significant parts of the settlement fall under Flood Zones 2 and 3. There are several Listed Buildings here and the Scheduled Monument of Brent Knoll lies to the south. There are also several Local Wildlife Sites to the south associated with Brent Knoll and a small one to the north of the village.

Spaxton (and Four Forks)

6.149 Spaxton is a very small village with a population of around 675 people. It has a relatively balanced age structure though slightly younger with people aged between 0-15 making up 19%, 56% are aged between 16-64 and 25% are aged 65+. There is a lower population growth forecast to 2045 with a 12% increase projected. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (lower category) due to the availability of fewer than 500 jobs, however, it does have a large net import of workers which is less common among Tier 4 settlements, a strong economic activity level and sits within the highest category for employment density with just over 1.5 jobs per worker available. This is likely due to the larger area covered within the data including some larger employment sites in and around the A39. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Residents will need to travel further afar to access a wider range of services and for more strategic facilities. Blackford ranks within the lowest category for its sustainable accessibility with a very limited bus service and no rail access within 5km. Residents cannot access large scale employment sites or nearby big towns within 20 minutes on foot, by bike or by bus. Therefore, it is likely to be a heavily car dependent village. There is an area in the North of Spaxton that is marked as a Conservation Area including several Listed Buildings. There is a small band of Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 running through the north of Spaxton.

North Cadbury

6.150 North Cadbury is a very small village with a population of 670 people. It has an older leaning age structure with people aged 65+ making up 30%, 57% are aged between 16-64 and 13% are aged 0-15. The population forecast is relatively average though at 13.1% increase projected to 2045. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (lower category) due to the availability of between 250-500 jobs. However, North Cadbury does have a small import of workers (though relatively balanced), a strong level of

economic activity and it sits within the highest category for employment density with over 1 job available per worker. This is likely due to the larger area covered within the data including some larger employment sites around the A359. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Residents will need to travel further afield to access a wider range of services and for more strategic facilities. North Cadbury ranks within the lowest category for its sustainable accessibility with a very limited bus service and no rail access within 5km. Residents cannot access large scale employment sites or nearby big towns within 20 minutes on foot, by bike or by bus. Therefore, it is likely to be a heavily car dependent village. Agricultural land and parts along the River Cam running to the north of the settlement are in Flood Zones 2 and 3. This extends to the south of the village too. The grounds of North Cadbury Court, itself a Grade 1 Listed Building, are a designated Local Wildlife Site. A Conservation Area extends over most of the settlement including many Listed Buildings.

Hatch Beauchamp

6.151 Hatch Beauchamp is a very small village with a population of 640 people. It has an older leaning age structure with people aged 65+ making up 34%, 52% are aged between 16-64 and 14% are aged 0-15. The population forecast is high with a near 20% increase projected to 2045. The village ranks among Band 6 for its employment role (the lower category) due to its availability of 250-500 jobs. It has a small net-import of workers (though quite balanced), a high economic activity level, and sits in the highest category for its employment density with more than 1 job per worker. This is likely due to large employment sites in and around the village. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Hatch Beauchamp ranks in the lowest category for its sustainable accessibility with a very limited bus service and no rail access within 5km. Therefore, it is likely to be a heavily car dependent village. The site is relatively constrained with a large swathe of land contained within a Registered Park associated with Hatch (Beauchamp) Court, which is Grade II Listed. There is also a large Local Wildlife Site to the north east and south east of the settlement. There is also a Conservation Area in the settlement including some Listed Buildings. Large areas of land within Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 cover the southern areas of the settlement.

Kilmersdon

6.152 Kilmersdon is a very small village with a population of over 610 people. It has a large proportion of working age people (16-64) making up 62% of its total, 25% are aged 65+ and 13% are aged under 26. The settlement has a more average population forecast at 13% increase projected to 2045. The village ranks in the lowest category for its employment role, having fewer than 250 jobs. It has a large net export of workers, a middling ranking level of economic

activity and sits in the lowest category for employment density with fewer than 0.6 jobs to workers. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Kilmersdon sits in Band 6, the ‘lower’ category’ for its sustainable access with a limited bus service and access to large employment sites and/or nearby ‘big towns’ is possible within 20 minutes by bike. There is no rail access within 5km. Therefore, it is likely to be a heavily car dependent village. There is a Local Wildlife Site and two Registered Park and Gardens to the east of the village. There are also several other Local Wildlife sites to the south and south east of the village. A Conservation Area is present within Kilmersdon including some Listed Buildings. An area of Flood Risk Zone 2 and 3 runs from the north to south east and south west covering the central areas of the settlement.

Lympsham

6.153 Lympsham is a very small village with a population of 585 people. It has a relatively balanced age structure with 57% of people of working age (16-64), 27% aged 65+ and 16% of people below the age of 16. The settlement has a more average population forecast at 13.4% increase projected to 2045. The village ranks in the lowest category for its employment role, having fewer than 250 jobs. It has a net export of workers, a middling ranking level of economic activity and sits in the lower category for employment density. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and full coverage of ultrafast broadband. Lympsham sits in Band 6, the ‘lower’ category’ for its sustainable access with a limited bus service, but which does connect residents to nearby big towns and/or employment sites within 20 minutes to some extent. There is no rail access within 5km. Flood Zones 2 and 3 covers the entire settlement and Lympsham has a Conservation Area including several Listed Buildings. There is a small LWS to the west.

Hinton St George

6.154 Hinton St George is one of the smallest villages in Tier 4, with a population of just over 460 people. The village has a significant ageing population, with 44% of people aged 65+ and smaller proportions of working age people at 45% and 11% aged 0-15. As a result, it has a high forecast population growth to 2045 at 21.4% increase projected. The village ranks within Band 7 for its employment role (lowest category), with an overall net export of workers (though quite balanced), a strong economic activity level and a relatively middling score for employment density. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. The village ranks in Band 5 ‘lower centre’ category for its sustainable accessibility with no bus service identified, but access to large employment sites and/or big towns possible within 20 minutes by bike. There is no railway station within 5km. Therefore, it is likely to be a heavily car dependent village. Much of the settlement is a Conservation Area including many Listed Buildings. The

grounds of Hinton House adjoining the settlement immediately to the south west are a designated Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden. There is a Local Wildlife Site to the south and to the north.

Kingston St Mary

6.155 Kingston St Mary is one of the smallest villages in Tier 4, with a population of just over 380 people. The village has an older leaning population, with 35% of people aged 65+ and smaller proportions of working age people at 51% and 14% aged 0-15. As a result, it has a high forecast population growth to 2045 at 20.7% increase projected. The village ranks within Band 7 for its employment role (lowest category), with an overall net export of workers (though quite balanced), a strong economic activity level and a lower ranking for employment density. It has the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. The village ranks in Band 5 'lower centre' category for its sustainable accessibility with a limited bus service, but access to large employment sites and/or big towns possible within 20 minutes possible by bike. There is no railway station within 5km. Therefore, it is likely to be a heavily car dependent village. There are a number of environmental constraints, with a large area of the northern part settlement within Quantock Hills National Landscape. Part of the settlement sits in Flood Zones 2 and 3 associated with the stream that runs from north to south. A Conservation Area covers most of the village including some Listed Buildings.

Winsham

6.156 Winsham is a small rural settlement with a population of just under 760 residents. The population is older leaning with 34% aged 65 and over, 51% of working age and 15% under 16. The village has a high forecast population growth projection at around 16.5% increase to 2045. The settlement ranks in the lowest category for employment role, with fewer than 250 jobs recorded, an overall net export of workers, average level of economic activity and a lower employment density. Local facilities on offer are at the core level, including a primary school, but residents must travel further afar for a wider offering. Ultrafast broadband coverage is of a good level. Sustainable accessibility from the village has not been recorded i.e. access to large towns and employment on foot, by bike or bus/rail is not possible within 20 minutes. Much of the centre of the settlement is a Conservation Area including some Listed Buildings. There two Local Wildlife Sites nearby. The Dorset boundary and National Landscape lies directly to the south, with Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 following this boundary.

Shepton Beauchamp

6.157 Shepton Beauchamp is a small village with around 750 residents. The population is relatively balanced, though with a larger working age population at 58% of the total aged 16-64. The forecast population growth to 2045 is average at just over 14%. The settlement is in the lowest ranking in terms of

employment role, exporting a large number of its workers, with one of the lowest employment densities. Economic activity levels are average. The village has the core level of services and facilities, including a primary school. There is a good coverage of ultrafast broadband connectivity. Accessibility also ranks in the lowest category with only a limited bus service, and some access to large employment sites/nearby 'big towns' within 20 minutes. Therefore, car dependency is likely high. There is a small Conservation Area and some Listed Buildings in the settlement but few other constraints.

Norton Sub Hamdon

6.158 Norton Sub Hamdon has a population of just over 730 people with an older leaning age structure. As a proportion of the total, 33% of people are aged 65+, 53% are of working age (16-64) and 13% are ages 0-15. The village has an average population forecast when compared to the other settlements at 15.1% increase to 2045 projected. It ranks in the lowest category for employment role with fewer than 250 jobs identified, an overall net export of workers, lower levels of economic activity and sits within the lowest category for employment density. The core range of services are available, including a primary school, with a good coverage of ultrafast broadband connectivity. No recorded bus service, or access to jobs or large towns within 20 minutes on foot, by bike or by bus. No rail access within 5km. There is a Conservation Area in the centre of the settlement including some Listed Buildings and an extensive LWS and SSSI and Scheduled Monument at Ham Hill Country Park a short distance to the north-east. There is an area of land in Flood Zones 2 and 3 alongside the stream that runs through the centre of the settlement.

Middlezoy

6.159 Middlezoy is a small settlement with a population of nearly 720 people. It has an older leaning age structure with a large working age population at 58%, 23% aged 65+ and 11% between 0-15. There is an average population growth forecast to 2045 at 15.3%. Middlezoy has the lowest ranking for its employment role, with an overall net export of workers, average economic activity and a low employment density. There is the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Middlezoy ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with only a limited bus service available. Flood Zones 2 and 3 cover small parts of the south west corner of Middlezoy and sit very close to the western and southern areas of the village. There is also a SSSI to the north west. There are a few Listed Buildings within the village.

Combwich

6.160 Combwich is a small settlement with a population of just over 650 people. It has an older leaning age structure with 33% of people aged 65+, a working age population at 54% of the total, and 13% of people between the ages of 0-15. There is a high population growth forecast to 2045 at 16.9%. Combwich

has the lowest ranking for its employment role, with an overall net export of workers, average economic activity and a low employment density. There is the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Combwich ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with no bus or rail access identified nor access via sustainable modes to large towns or employment sites. A significant portion of the south and east of the settlement is covered by Flood Zones 2 and 3. Somerset Wetlands NNR and an SSSI and SAC sit directly to the north and east of the village. There are several large Local Wildlife Sites to the south. There are also a few Listed Buildings in Combwich.

Ash

6.161 Ash is a small settlement with a population of just over 610 people. It has an older leaning age structure with 30% of people ages 65 and over, the working age population makes up 53%, and 17% are between 0-15. There is a low population growth forecast to 2045 at 12.7%. Ash has the lowest ranking for its employment role, with an overall net export of workers, average economic activity and a low employment density. There are the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Ash ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with only a limited bus service available. There are few environmental constraints – only several Listed Buildings dotted across the village.

Ilton

6.162 Ilton is a small settlement with a population of nearly 610 people. It has an older leaning age structure with a large working age population at 58% of people aged 16-64, 29% aged 65+ and 13% between 0-15. There is an average population growth forecast to 2045 at 14.9%. Ilton has the lowest ranking for its employment role, with an overall net export of workers, average economic activity and a low employment density. There is the core range of local services, including a primary school and good coverage of ultrafast broadband. Ilton ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with only a limited bus service available. Part of the business park is within Flood Zone 3; and there is a further area of Flood Zone 3 land nearby to the southeast. RNAS Merryfield is located just to the north of the settlement. There are a few Listed Buildings in Ilton. There is a small SAM to the west and several small Local Wildlife Sites to the north west as well.

Washford

6.163 Washford, with a population around 585, is made up of 52% working age residents and 34% older residents. The population forecast is high at nearly 16.8% forecast increase to 2045. It has a Band 6 (very limited) employment role, exporting more workers than it attracts. It has a strong level of economic activity, but a low employment density. Community facilities are limited to the core services only, including a primary school. Coverage of ultrafast

broadband is good. Washford ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with only access to nearby employment and/or large towns possible by bike within 20 minutes. There is no identified bus service or rail access. It is likely the village is heavily car dependent. There are a number of environmental constraints, with several Local Wildlife Sites around the settlement with one north of the railway line, to the south west and south east. There are also large swathes of Flood Risk Zone 3 to the north east and south. There are a few Listed Buildings in Washford. Cleeve Abbey Scheduled Monument sits directly to the south of the village. The West Somerset Heritage Railway line runs directly along the northern edge of the village.

Charlton Horethorne

6.164 Charlton Horethorne, with a population around 585, has a significant proportion of older residents with 40% of people over the age of 64, and only 49% of people between the ages of 16 and 64 and 11% below the age of 16. The population forecast is, therefore, very high at nearly 20.3% forecast increase to 2045. It has a Band 6 (very limited) employment role, exporting more workers than it attracts. It has a very strong level of economic activity, but a low employment density. Community facilities include the core services only, including a primary school. Coverage of ultrafast broadband is good. The village ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with only a limited bus service, which does not connect to nearby big towns and/or employment within 20 minutes. There is a Local Wildlife Site to the west and east of the village. A Conservation Area covers the centre of the village including some Listed Buildings. Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 run from the centre of settlement to the south. There is a small Scheduled Monument to the east.

Leigh-On-Mendip

6.165 Leigh-On-Mendip, with a population around 550, has a large working age population at 58%, with the older residents making up 26% and younger residents making up 15%. The population forecast is quite low at a 12.3% forecast increase to 2045. It has a Band 6 (very limited) employment role, exporting more workers than it attracts. It has a strong level of economic activity, but a more middling ranked employment density. Community facilities are limited to the core services only, including a primary school. Coverage of ultrafast broadband is good. The village ranks lowest for its sustainable accessibility with only a limited bus service, which does not connect to nearby big towns and/or employment within 20 minutes. Mells Valley Special Area of Conservation sits to the north and west, adjacent to an SSSI in both cases. To the south east of the village, there is another Special Area of Conservation (Mendip Woodlands) along with a Local Wildlife Site. There is also a Registered Park and Garden to the east of Leigh-On-Mendip. There are a number of Listed Buildings in the village.

Hambridge

6.166 Hambridge, with a population of just over 520 people, is a small settlement that has a very large working age population at 61%, and an average proportion of young people making up 14% of its total, with the older residents making up 25%. The population forecast is low at a just over 10.5% forecast increase to 2045. It ranks within the lowest category in regard to employment role, exporting more workers than it attracts. It has a strong level of economic activity, but a lower ranked employment density. Community facilities include the core services only, including a primary school. Coverage of ultrafast broadband is good. The village ranks in the 'lowest' category for its sustainable accessibility with no identified bus service or rail access. Large towns and employment sites are also not accessible through active travel or public transport within 20 minutes. There are small areas that are within Flood Zone 2, but more extensive areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3 to the east, with a Flood Storage Area to the north. The grounds and parkland of Earnshill House to the west of the settlement are designated a Local Wildlife Site. There are a few Listed Buildings within Hambridge.

Ditcheat

6.167 Ditcheat, with a population of just under 400 people, is a very small settlement that has a large working age population at 55%, and a large proportion of young people making up 18% of its total, with the older residents making up 27%. The population forecast is quite low at a just under 13% forecast increase to 2045. It has a Band 6 (very limited) employment role, exporting more workers than it attracts. It has a strong level of economic activity, but a lower ranked employment density. Community facilities include the core services only, including a primary school. Coverage of ultrafast broadband is good. The village ranks in the 'lower' category for its sustainable accessibility with only a limited bus service, which does connect to nearby big towns and/or employment within 20 minutes to some extent. The village also has access to a railway station with 5km (Castle Cary). There is a large area of Flood Zone 3 that lies to the south west. There are a few Listed Buildings in the village.

Crowcombe

6.168 Crowcombe is one of the smallest settlements out of Tier 4 with around 450 residents. It has a very high proportion of older residents at 39%, with much smaller levels of working age and younger residents at 49% and 12% respectively. The village does not have an identified employment role (Band 7), with an overall net export of workers, and a lower employment density. Economic activity levels are high, however. The village provides the core level of local community facilities, including a primary school. There is a good coverage of ultrafast broadband. The settlement scores lowest for accessibility, with no bus or rail access recorded and no sustainable access within 20 minutes to large employment sites or large towns. The village is

significantly constrained by The Quantocks SSSI and sits within Quantock Hills National Landscape. There is also a Registered Park and Garden to the east associated with Crowcombe Court. Crowcombe Church, which is Grade II* Listed is a Scheduled Ancient Monument with another small SAM in the village. There is also a Local Wildlife Site west of Crowcombe Court. There are a number of Listed Buildings within the village.

Stogumber

6.169 Stogumber is one of the smallest settlements within Tier 4, with a population around 430 people as at 2021. The settlement is older leaning with 34% of people aged 65 and over with a smaller working age population at 49% with a more reasonable proportion of young people at 17% in comparison to other settlements in Somerset. The population forecast highlights this ageing demographic with a projected growth to 2045 at 17.5%. The village does not have an identified employment role with only a small number of jobs recorded, an overall net export of workers and a low employment density. Economic activity rates are fairly average. Community services including the core local provision, four out of the six key facilities including a primary school, with a good coverage of ultrafast broadband. The accessibility score for the village is zero, with no sustainable access to employment or large towns within 20 minutes and no bus or rail access recorded. The majority of the settlement is within a Conservation Area including many Listed Buildings. Exmoor National Park sits just over 1km to the west of the settlement. There is a small area of Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 to the north.

Curry Mallet

6.170 Curry Mallet is the smallest settlement out of all the Tier 4 villages with around 350 residents. The village has a much smaller proportion of people aged 65 and over at only 23% with a higher working age and younger population. This is reflected in the more modest forecast population growth to 2045 at around 11.5%. The settlement is recorded as not having an employment role, with an overall net-export of workers and lower economic activity and employment density. Services and facilities are of the core local provision, including a primary school. Accessibility sits in the lowest category for public transport availability/access with no access to employment and large towns within 20 minutes using sustainable modes, suggesting a high car dependency. There is good coverage of ultrafast broadband. A large area of Flood Zone 2 and 3 runs to the south east of the village and through the central area of the village. There are two SSSIs close by, one to the north and one to the north east. There is also a large LWS to the south west and many to the north. There are also several Listed Buildings within the settlement.

Open Countryside settlements

6.171 There are 61 settlements within the Study that have been considered ‘Open Countryside’; however, this excludes those that were initially excluded from the study (see Appendix 3 for the full list that includes all settlements considered within Open Countryside). Out of the 61 settlements, 40 of these were previously considered within the current settlement hierarchies in the adopted Local Plans and have, therefore, fallen out of the hierarchy due to the new criteria we have established. In other words, these settlements do not have four out of six of the core local facilities including a primary school.

Table 31 – Summary of classifications for open countryside settlements

Settlement	Population classification	Employment role	Services and facilities classification: Strategic role	Services and facilities classification: Local role	Accessibility / connectivity classification	Current Classification	Proposed new classification	Any changes (approx.)	Total Score
Misterton	SMALL	BAND 5	NONE	MINIMAL	CENTRAL (4)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	16
Barwick (inc. Stoford)	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	CENTRAL (4)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	14
Easton	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	CENTRAL (4)	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	14
Stratton-On-The-Fosse	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	CENTRAL (4)	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	14
Othery	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	CENTRAL (4)	Tier 4	Countryside	DOWN	12
Bradford-on-Tone	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Village	Countryside	DOWN	12
Binegar & Gumeys Slade	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	12
Sparkford	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Proposed Village	Countryside	DOWN	10
Chedzoy	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	CENTRAL (4)	Tier 4	Countryside	DOWN	10
East Huntspill	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER (6)	Tier 3	Countryside	DOWN	10
Meare (inc. Oxenpill)	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER (6)	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	10
Pilton	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	10
Compton Dundon and Dundon	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	10
Butleigh	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Primary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	10
Pawlett	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER (6)	Tier 3	Countryside	DOWN	10
Marston Magna	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	10
West Pennard	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER (6)	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	10
Buckland Dinham	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	CENTRAL (4)	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	10
Edithmead	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	LIMITED	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Countryside	Countryside	SAME	10
Rooks Bridge	SMALL	BAND 5	NONE	LIMITED	LOWER (6)	Tier 3	Countryside	DOWN	10
Odcombe	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER (6)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	8
Shapwick	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Tier 4	Countryside	DOWN	8
Horsington	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	8
Holcombe	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	8
Kingsdon	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	8

Stoke St Mary	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Other smaller settlements	Countryside	SAME	8
Wookey Hole	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	8
The Charltons - Charlton Adam & Charlton Mackrell	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Proposed Village	Countryside	DOWN	8
Seavington St Michael	SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	8
North Perrott	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER-CENTRE (5)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	8
Chilton Polden	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Tier 4	Countryside	DOWN	6
Carhampton	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Primary Village	Countryside	DOWN	6
Kingsbury Episcopi	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	6
Brushford	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Secondary Village	Countryside	DOWN	6
East Chinnock	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	6
Cossington	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Tier 4	Countryside	DOWN	6
Blagdon Hill	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Village	Countryside	DOWN	6
Galhampton	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER (6)	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	6
Lydeard St Lawrence	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Village	Countryside	DOWN	6
Hardington Moor/ Hardington Mandeville	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (PO)	Countryside	DOWN	6
Cross	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER (6)	Countryside	Countryside	SAME	6
Fivehead	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	6
Kilve	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER (6)	Primary Village	Countryside	DOWN	6
Barton St David	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	6
The Lydfords	SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	6
Bicknoller	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER (6)	Primary Village	Countryside	DOWN	6
Drayton	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWER (6)	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	6
Wanstrow	VERY SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	6
Faulkland	VERY SMALL	BAND 6	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Secondary Settlement	Countryside	DOWN	6
Halse	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Village	Countryside	DOWN	4
West Camel	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	4
Churchinford	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Minor Rural Centre	Countryside	DOWN	4
Fitzhead	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Village	Countryside	DOWN	4
Priddy	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	4
Barrington	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Rural Settlement (OC)	Countryside	SAME	4
Bawdrip	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	LIMITED	LOWER (6)	Tier 4	Countryside	DOWN	4
Witham Friary	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	4
Batcombe	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Unclassified	Countryside	SAME	4
West Quantoxhead	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	MINIMAL	LOWEST (7)	Primary Village	Countryside	DOWN	4
Theale	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	LIMITED	LOWEST (7)	Countryside	Countryside	SAME	2
Blue Anchor	VERY SMALL	BAND 7	NONE	LIMITED	LOWEST (7)	Other smaller settlements	Countryside	SAME	2

7. A Settlement Hierarchy for Somerset

Table 32 – Proposed Settlement Hierarchy for Somerset

Tier	Settlements				
Tier 1	Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater				
Tier 2	Chard, Cheddar, Crewkerne, Frome, Glastonbury, Highbridge & Burnham, Minehead & Alcombe, Shepton Mallet, Street, Wellington, Wells, Wincanton				
Tier 3a	Bruton, Castle Cary, Ilminster, Langport, North Petherton, Somerton				
Tier 3b	Abbas & Templecombe Axbridge Berrow & Brean Bishops Lydeard Cannington	Chilcompton Cotford St Luke Creech St Michael Evercreech Ilchester	Martock Milborne Port Nether Stowey South Petherton Watchet	Williton Wiveliscombe	
Tier 4 All settlements have 4 out of 6 key services including a primary school.	Ash Ashcott Baltonsborough Beckington Blackford Brent Knoll North Coker & Easter Coker Cattcott & Edington Charlton Horethorne Chewton Mendip Chilthorne Domer Coleford Combe St Nicholas Combwich Coxley Croscombe	Crowcombe Curry Mallet Curry Rivel Ditchat Draycott East Brent Hambridge Haselbury Plucknett Hatch Beauchamp Henstridge High Ham Hillcommon Hinton St George Horton (and Broadway) Huntspill Ilton	Keinton Mandeville Kilmersdon Kingston St Mary Langford Budville Leigh-On-Mendip Long Sutton Lympsham Mark Mells Merriott Middlezoy Milverton Montacute North Cadbury North Curry North Newton	Norton St Philip Norton Sub Hamdon Nunney & Nunney Catch Oakhill Puriton Queen Camel Rode Ruishton Shepton Beauchamp Shipham Spaxton Stogumber Stogursey Stoke St Gregory Stoke St Michael Stoke Sub Hamdon	Tatworth Tintinhull Walton Washford Weare and Lower Weare Wedmore West Chinnock West Coker Westbury Sub Mendip Westonzoyland Winsham Wookey Woolavington
Open Countryside	Others that have 4/6, but not a primary school in the village: Binegar & Gurney Slade, Churchinford, Compton Dundon, Hardington Moor/Mandeville, Kilve, Kingsbury Episcopi, Kingsdon, The Lydfords, Pawlett, Pilton, Seavington St Michael, Sparkford				
	All remaining settlements				

Appendices

Appendix 1: Output Area (OA), Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) and Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) by Settlement

Table 33 – Area North settlements by LSOA and OA (2022)

Settlement	Type	BUA Code	Settlement	Type	BUA Code
Ashcott	OA	E00148371	East Brent	OA	E00148155
	OA	E00148369		OA	E00148153
	OA	E00148372	East Huntspill	OA	E00148397
Axbridge	LSOA	E01029085		OA	E00148396
Bawdrip	OA	E00186556		OA	E00148399
Berrow & Brean	LSOA	E01032633	Edithmead	OA	E00148429
Blackford	OA	E00148478	Highbridge & Burnham (inc. Burnham Marine)	LSOA	E01029113
	OA	E00148471		LSOA	E01029114
Brent Knoll	OA	E00148424		LSOA	E01029115
	OA	E00148426		LSOA	E01029116
	OA	E00148425		LSOA	E01029117
	OA	E00148427		LSOA	E01029118
	OA	E00148434		LSOA	E01029119
Bridgwater	OA	E00148450		LSOA	E01029120
	OA	E00148458		LSOA	E01029131
	OA	E00165986		LSOA	E01029132
	OA	E00165992	LSOA	E01029133	
	LSOA	E01029091	LSOA	E01029134	
	LSOA	E01029092	LSOA	E01035113	
	LSOA	E01029093	OA	E00148408	
	LSOA	E01029094	Huntspill (inc. West Huntspill)	OA	E00148407
	LSOA	E01029095		OA	E00148405
	LSOA	E01029096		OA	E00148409
	LSOA	E01029097		OA	E00148406
	LSOA	E01029098	Lympsham	OA	E00148157
	LSOA	E01029099		OA	E00148158
	LSOA	E01029100	Mark (and Mark Causeway)	LSOA	E01029149
	LSOA	E01029101	Middlezoy	OA	E00148412
	LSOA	E01029102		OA	E00148413
	LSOA	E01029103	Nether Stowey	LSOA	E01029124
	LSOA	E01029104	North Newton	OA	E00148446
	LSOA	E01029105		OA	E00165988
	LSOA	E01029106	North Petherton	LSOA	E01029142
	LSOA	E01029107		LSOA	E01029143
	LSOA	E01029108		OA	E00148439
	LSOA	E01029109	Othery	OA	E00148414
	LSOA	E01029110		OA	E00148415
	LSOA	E01029111	Pawlett	OA	E00148401
	LSOA	E01029112		OA	E00148404
	LSOA	E01032631		OA	E00148403

	LSOA	E01032634		OA	E00148400
	LSOA	E01035114	Puriton	OA	E00148454
	LSOA	E01035115		OA	E00148452
	LSOA	E01035116		OA	E00148453
	LSOA	E01035117		OA	E00148451
	LSOA	E01035118		OA	E00148456
	LSOA	E01035119		OA	E00148455
Cannington	LSOA	E01029123		Rooks Bridge	OA
	OA	E00148324		OA	E00148152
	OA	E00148327	Shapwick	OA	E00148374
	OA	E00148328		OA	E00148367
Catcott & Edington	OA	E00148486	Shipham	OA	E00148366
	OA	E00148481		OA	E00148368
	OA	E00148480	Spaxton	OA	E00148344
Cheddar	LSOA	E01029127		OA	E00148345
	LSOA	E01029126	Theale	OA	E00148469
	LSOA	E01029129	Weare and Lower Weare	OA	E00148143
	OA	E00148354		OA	E00148144
	OA	E00148350		OA	E00148472
Chedzoy	OA	E00148411		OA	E00148473
Chilton Polden	OA	E00148483	Wedmore	OA	E00148476
	OA	E00148482		OA	E00148477
Combwich	OA	E00148342		OA	E00148474
	OA	E00148339	Westonzoyland	LSOA	E01029138
	OA	E00148340		OA	E00148417
Cossington	OA	E00148484		OA	E00148418
	OA	E00148485			
Cross	OA	E00148142	Woolavington	LSOA	E01029152

Table 34 – Area East settlements by LSOA and OA (2022)

Settlement	Type	Code	Settlement	Type	Code
Baltonsborough	OA	E00147788	Kilmersdon	OA	E00148048
	OA	E00147787		OA	E00148049
	OA	E00147789	Leigh-On-Mendip	OA	E00147800
Batcombe	OA	E00147988		OA	E00147801
Beckington	OA	E00147808	Meare (inc. Oxenpill)	OA	E00147966
	OA	E00147807		OA	E00147965
	OA	E00147805		OA	E00147964
Binegar & Gurney Slade	OA	E00147779	Mells	OA	E00147957
	OA	E00147783		OA	E00147956
Buckland Dinham	OA	E00147981		OA	E00147985
Butleigh	OA	E00147791	Norton St Philip	OA	E00147986
	OA	E00147793		OA	E00147987
	OA	E00147792			OA
Chewton Mendip	OA	E00147973	Nunney & Nunney Catch	OA	E00147990
	OA	E00147974		OA	E00147989
Chilcompton	LSOA	E01029024	Oakhill	OA	E00147782
Coleford	OA	E00147823		OA	E00147781

	OA	E00147824	Pilton	OA	E00148000
	OA	E00147827		OA	E00147998
	LSOA	E01029025	Priddy	OA	E00148003
Coxley & Upper Coxley & Coxley Wick	OA	E00148014	Rode	OA	E00147812
	OA	E00148013		OA	E00147811
	OA	E00148012		OA	E00147810
Croscombe	OA	E00147995	Shepton Mallet	OA	E01029062
	OA	E00147996		OA	E01029063
Ditcheat	OA	E00148090		OA	E01029064
Draycott	OA	E00148005		OA	E01029065
	OA	E00148007		OA	E01029066
	OA	E00148004		OA	E01029067
Easton	OA	E00148008		Stoke St Michael	OA
	OA	E00148009	OA		E00147804
Evercreech	OA	E00186652	Stratton-On-The-Fosse	OA	E00165857
	OA	E00186581		OA	E00165862
	OA	E00147832		OA	E00148051
	OA	E00147833	Street (some overlap with Walton)	LSOA	E01029070
	OA	E00147828		LSOA	E01029071
	OA	E00147835		LSOA	E01029072
	OA	E00147834		LSOA	E01029073
Faulkland	OA	E00147983	LSOA	E01029074	
Frome	LSOA	E01029036	LSOA	E01029075	
	LSOA	E01029037	LSOA	E01029076	
	LSOA	E01029038	OA	E00147970	
	LSOA	E01029039	The Lydfords	OA	E00148093
	LSOA	E01029040	Walton (some overlap with Street)	OA	E00147969
	LSOA	E01029041		OA	E00147971
	LSOA	E01029042		OA	E00147968
	LSOA	E01029043		OA	E00147970
	LSOA	E01029044	Wanstrow	OA	E00147993
	LSOA	E01029045	Wells	LSOA	E01029078
	LSOA	E01029029		LSOA	E01029079
	LSOA	E01029030		LSOA	E01029080
	LSOA	E01029031		LSOA	E01029081
	LSOA	E01029032		LSOA	E01029082
	LSOA	E01029033		LSOA	E01029083
	LSOA	E01029034		LSOA	E01029084
	LSOA	E01035110		OA	E00186618
	LSOA	E01035111	West Pennard	OA	E00186658
	OA	E00147809		OA	E00147794
	Glastonbury	LSOA	E01029046	Westbury Sub Mendip	OA
LSOA		E01029047	OA		E00147949
LSOA		E01029050	OA		E00147948
LSOA		E01029051	Witham Friary	OA	E00147950
LSOA		E01032627	Wookey	OA	E00147994
				OA	E00147952

Holcombe	OA	E00148046		OA	E00147951
	OA	E00148047		OA	E00147953
	OA	E00148045	Wookey Hole	OA	E00148010

Table 35 – Area South settlements by LSOA and OA (2022)

Settlement	Type	Code	Settlement	Type	Code
Abbas & Templecombe	LSOA	E01029156	Martock & Bower Hinton	LSOA	E01029205
Ansford & Castle Cary	LSOA	E01029168		OA	E00148766
	LSOA	E01029167		OA	E00148777
Ash Ash	OA	E00148761		OA	E00148763
	OA	E00148760		OA	E00148764
Barrington	OA	E00148550		OA	E00148771
Barton St David	OA	E00148797		OA	E00148773
	OA	E00148796		OA	E00148774
Barwick (inc. Stoford)	LSOA	E01029179		OA	E00148776
	OA	E00148632		OA	E00148775
Bruton & Pitcombe	LSOA	E01029157	Merriott	LSOA	E01029189
	OA	E00148522		OA	E00148696
	OA	E00148525		OA	E00148695
	OA	E00148530		OA	E00148694
	OA	E00148851	Milborne Port	LSOA	E01029206
Burton (inc. North Coker & East Coker)	OA	E00148641		OA	E00148781
	OA	E00148640		OA	E00148779
	OA	E00148637		OA	E00148785
	OA	E00148638	OA	E00148783	
Chard	LSOA	E01029169	Misterton	LSOA	E01029182
	LSOA	E01029170	Montacute (inc. East Stoke)	OA	E00148815
	LSOA	E01029171		OA	E00148817
	LSOA	E01029172		OA	E00148816
	LSOA	E01029173	North Cadbury	OA	E00148585
	LSOA	E01029174		OA	E00148584
	LSOA	E01029175	North Perrott	OA	E00148810
	LSOA	E01029176	Norton Sub Hamdon	OA	E00148699
E01029177		OA		E00148698	
Charlton Horethorne	OA	E00148509	Odcombe	OA	E00148645
	OA	E00148508		OA	E00148644
Chilthorne Domer	OA	E00148814		OA	E00148646
	OA	E00148813	Queen Camel	OA	E00148562
Combe St Nicholas (inc. Wadeford)	OA	E00148498		OA	E00148560
	OA	E00148497	Seavington St Michael	OA	E00148823
	OA	E00148496		OA	E00148822
	OA	E00148500	Shepton Beauchamp	OA	E00148825
OA	E00148499	OA		E00148826	
Compton Dundon and Dundon	OA	E00148864	Somerton	OA	E00148824
	OA	E00148865		LSOA	E01029226

Crewkerne	LSOA	E01029183		LSOA	E01029225	
	LSOA	E01029184		OA	E00148881	
	LSOA	E01029185		OA	E00186584	
	LSOA	E01029186		OA	E00186568	
Curry Mallet	OA	E00148727		OA	E00148880	
Curry Rivel	OA	E00148678	South Petherton	LSOA	E01029218	
	OA	E00148687		OA	E00148835	
	OA	E00148686		OA	E00148832	
	OA	E00148683		OA	E00148836	
		OA	E00148682	Sparkford	OA	E00148565
		OA	E00148680	Stoke sub Hamdon	OA	E00148706
		OA	E00148679		OA	E00148700
		OA	E00148681		OA	E00148701
Drayton	OA	E00148688	OA		E00148704	
East Chinnock	OA	E00148806		OA	E00148702	
	OA	E00148807		OA	E00148705	
Fivehead	OA	E00148728	Tatworth (inc. South Chard & Chard Junction)	LSOA	E01029220	
	OA	E00148730		LSOA	E01029219	
	OA	E00148729		OA	E00148800	
Galhampton	OA	E00148586	The Charltons	OA	E00148798	
Hambridge	OA	E00148737		OA	E00148799	
		OA	E00148738		OA	E00148818
Hardington Moor/Hardington Mandeville	OA	E00148643	Tintinhull	OA	E00148819	
	OA	E00148642		OA	E00148820	
Haselbury Plucknett	OA	E00148809	West Camel	OA	E00148566	
	OA	E00148808		OA	E00148567	
Henstridge	LSOA	E01029154	West Chinnock	OA	E00148811	
High Ham	OA	E00148857		OA	E00148812	
		OA	E00148858		OA	E00148650
Hinton St George	OA	E00148690	West Coker	OA	E00148648	
	OA	E00148689		OA	E00148647	
Horsington	OA	E00148519		OA	E00148649	
Horton (and Broadway)	LSOA	E01029208		Wincanton (inc. Bayford)	LSOA	E01029229
	OA	E00148793	LSOA		E01029227	
	OA	E00148790	OA		E00148854	
Ilchester	LSOA	E01029198		LSOA	E01029228	
	OA	E00148739	Winsham	OA	E00148905	
	OA	E00148744		OA	E00148906	
	OA	E00148745		OA	E00148904	
Ilminster	LSOA	E01029194	Yeovil	LSOA	E01029231	
	OA	E00148724		LSOA	E01029232	
	OA	E00148714		LSOA	E01029233	
	OA	E00148711		LSOA	E01029235	
	OA	E00148708		LSOA	E01029236	
	OA	E00148713		LSOA	E01029237	

	OA	E00148712		LSOA	E01029238
	OA	E00148709		LSOA	E01029239
	OA	E00148707		LSOA	E01029240
	OA	E00148717		LSOA	E01029241
	OA	E00148719		LSOA	E01029242
	OA	E00148718		LSOA	E01029243
Ilton	OA	E00148731		LSOA	E01029244
	OA	E00148732		LSOA	E01029245
Keinton Mandeville	OA	E00148803		LSOA	E01029246
	OA	E00148802		LSOA	E01029247
	OA	E00148801		LSOA	E01029248
Kingsbury Episcopi	OA	E00148551		LSOA	E01029249
	OA	E00148553		LSOA	E01029250
Kingsdon	OA	E00148804		LSOA	E01029251
Langport & Huish Episcopi	LSOA	E01029200		LSOA	E01029252
	LSOA	E01029201		LSOA	E01029254
	OA	E00166020		LSOA	E01029255
Long Sutton	OA	E00148861		LSOA	E01029159
	OA	E00148862		LSOA	E01029161
	OA	E00148860		LSOA	E01029162
Marston Magna	OA	E00148558		LSOA	E01035121
	OA	E00148559		LSOA	E01035122
				LSOA	E01035123
				LSOA	E01035124
				LSOA	E01035125
				LSOA	E01035126
				OA	E00148639

Table 36 – Area West settlements by LSOA and OA (2022)

Settlement	Type	Code	Settlement	Type	Code
Bicknoller	OA	E00149512	Taunton	LSOA	E01029256
Bishop's Lydeard	OA	E00149052		LSOA	E01029257
	OA	E00149054		LSOA	E01029263
	OA	E00149057		LSOA	E01029264
	OA	E00149055		LSOA	E01029265
	OA	E00149046		LSOA	E01029266
	OA	E00149058		LSOA	E01029276
	OA	E00149059		LSOA	E01029277
	Blagdon Hill	OA		E00149064	LSOA
OA		E00149067		LSOA	E01029281
OA		E00149065		LSOA	E01029282
Blue Anchor	OA	E00149419		LSOA	E01029283
Bradford-on-Tone	OA	E00149069		LSOA	E01029284
	OA	E00149070		LSOA	E01029285
Brushford	OA	E00149429		LSOA	E01029286
	OA	E00149428		LSOA	E01029287

Carhampton	OA	E00149421		LSOA	E01029288	
	OA	E00149422		LSOA	E01029289	
	OA	E00149420		LSOA	E01029290	
Churchinford	OA	E00149062		LSOA	E01029291	
Cotford St Luke	LSOA	E01029260		LSOA	E01029292	
Creech St Michael	OA	E00149143		LSOA	E01029293	
	OA	E00149139		LSOA	E01029294	
	OA	E00149136		LSOA	E01029295	
	OA	E00149140		LSOA	E01029296	
	OA	E00186636		LSOA	E01029297	
	OA	E00149141		LSOA	E01029298	
	OA	E00149142		LSOA	E01029299	
Crowcombe	OA	E00149424		LSOA	E01029301	
	OA	E00149425		LSOA	E01029302	
Fitzhead	OA	E00149098		LSOA	E01029303	
Halse	OA	E00149099		LSOA	E01029304	
Hatch Beauchamp	OA	E00149117		LSOA	E01029305	
	OA	E00149116		LSOA	E01029306	
Hillcommon (inc. Oake)	OA	E00149074		LSOA	E01029307	
	OA	E00149075		LSOA	E01029300	
Kilve	OA	E00149488		LSOA	E01029319	
Kingston St Mary	OA	E00149155		LSOA	E01029308	
	OA	E00149154		LSOA	E01032651	
Langford Budville	OA	E00149071		LSOA	E01032652	
	OA	E00149072		LSOA	E01035128	
Lydeard St Lawrence	OA	E00149100		LSOA	E01029317	
	OA	E00149101		OA	E00149378	
Milverton	OA	E00149102		OA	E00149376	
	OA	E00149104		OA	E00149381	
	OA	E00149103		OA	E00149472	
Minehead & Alcombe	LSOA	E01029322		Washford	OA	E00149477
	LSOA	E01029324		Watchet	LSOA	E01029339
	LSOA	E01029329			LSOA	E01029341
	LSOA	E01029330			OA	E00149506
	LSOA	E01029331			OA	E00149507
	LSOA	E01029333			OA	E00149505
	LSOA	E01032636			OA	E00149504
North Curry	OA	E00149126			Wellington	LSOA
	OA	E00149124		LSOA		E01029311
	OA	E00149125	LSOA	E01029312		
Ruishton (inc. Henlade)	OA	E00149147	LSOA	E01029313		
	OA	E00149145	LSOA	E01029315		
	OA	E00149144	LSOA	E01029316		
	OA	E00149148	LSOA	E01035129		
	OA	E00149146	LSOA	E01035130		
Stogumber	OA	E00149427	LSOA	E01035131		

Stogursey	OA	E00149493	West Quantoxhead	LSOA	E01035132	
	OA	E00149492		OA	E00149110	
	OA	E00149491		OA	E00149515	
Stoke St Gregory (inc. Meare Green)	OA	E00149166	Williton	OA	E00149524	
	OA	E00149167		OA	E00149525	
	OA	E00149168		OA	E00149521	
Stoke St Mary	OA	E00149120		OA	E00149523	
				OA	E00149520	
				OA	E00149519	
				OA	E00149516	
				OA	E00149517	
				OA	E00149514	
				Wiveliscombe	LSOA	E01029320
					OA	E00149392
					OA	E00149397
					OA	E00149389

Table 37 – Area North settlements by MSOA (2011)

Main Settlement(s)	Areas / other settlements within	MSOA Code
Cheddar & Axbridge	Shipham	E02006061
Burnham & Highbridge	Berrow & Brean	E02006062
Mark, Weare & Wedmore	-	E02006063
Burnham & Highbridge	Burnham	E02006064
Burnham & Highbridge	Highbridge	E02006065
Puriton, Pawlett, Woolavington & Huntspill	-	E02006066
Cannington, Nether Stowey & Combwich	-	E02006067
Bridgwater	(town)	E02006068
Bridgwater	(town)	E02006069
Bridgwater	(town)	E02006070
Bridgwater	Wembdon & Chilton Trinity	E02006071
Westonzoyland, Ashcott, Catcott, Shapwick & Cossington	-	E02006072
Bridgwater	(town)	E02006073
Bridgwater	North Petherton (note overlap)	E02006074
North Petherton	Bridgwater (note overlap)	E02006074

Table 38 – Area East settlements by MSOA (2011)

Main Settlement(s)	Areas / other settlements within	MSOA Code
Norton St Philip, Rode & Beckington	-	E02006047
Chilcompton, Holcombe & Coleford	-	E02006048
Frome	(town)	E02006049
Frome	(town)	E02006050

Wells	Wookey, Westbury sub Mendip, Draycott & Coxley	E02006051
Shepton Mallet	Oakhill, Binegar & The Horringtons	E02006052
Frome	(town)	E02006053
Wells	(town)	E02006054
Shepton Mallet	(town)	E02006055
Evercreech & Stoke St Michael	-	E02006056
Glastonbury	(town)	E02006057
Street	Walton, Westhay & Oxenpill	E02006058
Baltonsborough, Butleigh, Pilton, Ditcheat & West Pennard	-	E02006059
Street	(town)	E02006060

Table 39 – Area South settlements by MSOA (2011)

Main Settlement(s)	Areas / other settlements within	MSOA Code
Bruton	(town)	E02006075
Castle Cary & Keinton Mandeville	-	E02006076
Somerton	(town)	E02006077
Langport & Long Sutton	-	E02006078
Wincanton	(town)	E02006079
Yeovilton, Sparkford, Marston Magna, Queen Camel & Ilchester	-	E02006080
Curry Rivel, Drayton, Fivehead & Ilton	-	E02006081
Abbas & Templecombe, Henstridge & Milborne Port	-	E02006082
Martock	-	E02006083
South Petherton, Shepton Beauchamp & Kingsbury Episcopi	-	E02006084
Yeovil	North East	E02006085
Yeovil	Lufton, Hollands & Yeovil Marsh	E02006086
Yeovil	(town)	E02006087
Yeovil	(town)	E02006088
Yeovil	(town)	E02006089
Yeovil	Preston Plucknett & Summerlands	E02006090
Merriott, Tintinhull & Stoke/Norton sub Hamdon	-	E02006091
Yeovil	South	E02006092
Ilminster, Horton & Broadway	-	E02006093
Barwick, Odcombe & The Cokers	-	E02006094
Crewkerne	(town)	E02006095
Chard	North & East	E02006096
Chard	West	E02006097
Tatworth & Combe St Nicholas	-	E02006098

Table 40 – Area West settlements by MSOA (2011)

Main Settlement(s)	Areas / other settlements within	MSOA Code
Minehead	Town	E02006113
Minehead	Outer, Porlock	E02006114
Watchet, Washford & Carhampton	-	E02006115
Williton, Stogursey & Quantock Hills	-	E02006116
Dunster, Dulverton & Exmoor	-	E02006117
Bishops Lydeard & Cotford St Luke	-	E02006099
Taunton	Staplegrove, Maidenbrook, Kingston St Mary	E02006100
Wiveliscombe & Milverton		E02006101
Taunton	Pyrland, Priorswood	E02006102
Ruishton, Creech St Michael, North Curry & Stoke St Gregory		E02006103
Taunton	Halcon, Bathpool, Monkton Heathfield, West Monkton	E02006104
Taunton	Firepool, North Town	E02006105
Taunton	Bishop's Hull, Norton Fitzwarren	E02006106
Taunton	Holway, Lambrook	E02006107
Taunton	Wilton	E02006108
Taunton	Galmington, Comeytrowe, Trull	E02006109
Wellington	North	E02006110
Wellington	South, Rockwell Green & West Buckland	E02006111
Taunton	Dowlands, Blackdown Hills	E02006112

Appendix 2: Excluded settlements in the study

Table 41: excluded settlements based on BUA identification and reasons for exclusion

Excluded BUAs	Reason
Chilton Cantelo BUA	<i>BUA is predominantly employment, with Chilton Farm and Chilton Bridge School and only a few residences otherwise and no services. Study is looking at the role and function of settlements and therefore the BUA does not fit the scope.</i>
Henstridge Marsh BUA	<i>BUA is predominantly employment, industrial and includes Henstridge Airfield. Appears to be no residences within the BUA and therefore does not fit within the Study scope.</i>
Pecking Mill BUA	<i>BUA does not relate to a settlement and instead covers primarily an employment and industrial area. Appears to be only a few residences within the BUA and few services. Therefore, it does not fit within the scope of the study.</i>
Shurton BUA	<i>BUA covers Hinkley Point Site, predominantly an employment and nuclear energy site with no residences or community services within. Outside scope of study.</i>
Yeovilton BUA	<i>BUA does not cover the settlement of Yeovilton itself but rather covers the Royal Naval Air Station site. The BUA includes minimal housing and few publicly accessible services. Therefore, it the BUA was considered to be outside the scope of the study.</i>
Meare Green BUA	<i>BUA had no community services or facilities and therefore, it was agreed that the settlement is playing minimal role or function for the surrounding area. An agreement was reached that settlements with a BUA designation that had zero services should be excluded otherwise those without a BUA designation also with zero services may also need to be brought into the Study, which does feel appropriate and would lead to a large number of included settlements. There are larger settlements in the vicinity, which are not included in this Study.</i>
Long Load BUA	<i>BUA had no community services or facilities and therefore, it was agreed that the settlement is playing minimal role or function for the surrounding area. An agreement was reached that settlements with a BUA designation that had zero services should be excluded otherwise it would be difficult to argue the exclusion of those without a BUA designation.</i>
South Horrington and East Horrington BUA	<i>BUA sits adjacent to Wells; however the settlement has minimal community facilities and services that are considered to play an important role in the function of a settlement for the community. These settlements appear to be primarily retirement communities as well. It was agreed that this BUA be excluded from the study.</i>
Edgarley BUA	<i>BUA sits adjacent to Glastonbury (to the east); however it is primarily made up of Millfield Preparatory School (independent school) with minimal housing and community facilities. Therefore it was considered to be outside the scope of this study as it didn't necessarily provide a role to broader community based on the services we have included.</i>

Appendix 3: Open Countryside Settlements

Table 42 – proposed open countryside settlements included in Study

Settlement	Current Local Plan designation
Barrington	Rural Settlement (OC)
Barton St David	Rural Settlement (OC)
Barwick (inc. Stoford)	Rural Settlement (PO)
Batcombe	Unclassified
Bawdrip	Tier 4
Bicknoller	Primary Village
Binegar & Gurney Slade	Secondary Settlement
Blagdon Hill	Village
Blue Anchor	Other smaller settlements
Bradford-on-Tone	Village
Brushford	Secondary Village
Buckland Dinham	Unclassified
Butleigh	Primary Settlement
Carhampton	Primary Village
Chedzoy	Tier 4
Chilton Polden	Tier 4
Churchinford	Minor Rural Centre
Compton Dundon and Dundon	Rural Settlement (PO)
Cossington	Tier 4
Cross	Countryside
Drayton	Rural Settlement (OC)
East Chinnock	Rural Settlement (PO)
East Huntspill	Tier 3
Easton	Unclassified
Edithmead	Countryside
Faulkland	Secondary Settlement
Fitzhead	Village
Fivehead	Rural Settlement (OC)
Galhampton	Rural Settlement (OC)
Halse	Village
Hardington Moor/Hardington Mandeville	Rural Settlement (PO)
Holcombe	Secondary Settlement
Horsington	Rural Settlement (PO)
Kilve	Primary Village
Kingsbury Episcopi	Rural Settlement (PO)
Kingsdon	Rural Settlement (PO)
Lydeard St Lawrence	Village
Marston Magna	Rural Settlement (OC)
Meare (inc. Oxenpill)	Secondary Settlement
Misterton	Rural Settlement (PO)
North Perrott	Rural Settlement (PO)
Odcombe	Rural Settlement (PO)
Othery	Tier 4

Pawlett	Tier 3
Pilton	Unclassified
Priddy	Unclassified
Rooks Bridge	Tier 3
Seavington St Michael	Rural Settlement (OC)
Shapwick	Tier 4
Sparkford	Proposed Village
Stoke St Mary	Other smaller settlements
Stratton-On-The-Fosse	Unclassified
The Charltons - Charlton Adam & Charlton Mackrell	Proposed Village
The Lydfords	Secondary Settlement
Theale	Countryside
Wanstrow	Unclassified
West Camel	Rural Settlement (OC)
West Pennard	Secondary Settlement
West Quantoxhead	Primary Village
Witham Friary	Unclassified
Wookey Hole	Secondary Settlement

Table 43 – proposed open countryside settlements excluded from study

Settlement	Current Local Plan designation
Alhampton	Unclassified
Aller	Rural Settlement
Angersleigh/Howleigh	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Appley	Other smaller settlements
Ash Priors	Village
Ashbrittle	Village
Ashill	Rural Settlement
Ashington	Open Countryside
Asney	Unclassified
Babcary	Rural Settlement
Badgworth	Countryside
Bagley & Mudgley	Countryside
Bathealton	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Battleton	Secondary Village
Beer/Bere	Open Countryside
Beercrocombe	Open Countryside
Berhill	Unclassified
Berkley	Unclassified
Berkley	Unclassified
Bickenhall	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Biddisham	Countryside
Bilbrook	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Biscombe	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Bishopswood	Village
Blackford	Open Countryside
Bleadney	Unclassified

Bowden	Open Countryside
Brewham	Rural Settlement
Brompton Ralph	Secondary Village
Broomfield	Countryside
Buckland St Mary	Rural Settlement
Burnworthy	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Burrowbridge	Village
Burtle	Countryside
Buscott	Unclassified
Chaffcombe	Rural Settlement
Chantry	Unclassified
Chapel Allerton and Stone Allerton	Countryside
Chapel Cleeve (inc. Cleeve Park)	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Charlton Musgrove	Open Countryside
Charterhouse	Unclassified
Cheddon Fitzpaine	Village
Chesterblade	Unclassified
Chilton Cantelo	Open Countryside
Chilton Trinity	Countryside
Chipley	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Chipstable	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Chiselborough	Rural Settlement
Churchstanton	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Clapton	Unclassified
Clapton	Open Countryside
Clapton	Open Countryside
Clatworthy	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Cocklake (inc. Crickham)	Countryside
Combe Florey	Village
Compton Bishop	Countryside
Compton Pauncefoot	Open Countryside
Corfe	Village
Corton Denham	Rural Settlement
Cothelstone/Terhill	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Cranmore	Unclassified
Creech Heathfield	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Cucklington	Rural Settlement
Curload	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Cushuish	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Dean	Unclassified
Dinder	Unclassified
Doniford	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Donyatt	Rural Settlement
Doultling	Secondary Settlement
Dowlish Wake	Rural Settlement
Downhead	Unclassified
Dulcote	Unclassified

Dunster Marsh	Secondary Village
Durleigh	Countryside
East Combe	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
East Compton	Unclassified
East Lambrook	Rural Settlement
East Nynehead	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
East Pennard	Unclassified
East Quantoxhead	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Emborough	Unclassified
Enmore	Countryside
Farleigh Hungerford	Unclassified
Fennington	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Fiddington	Countryside
Ford Street	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Foxcote	Unclassified
Goathurst	Countryside
Godney	Unclassified
Great Elm	Unclassified
Green Ore	Unclassified
Greenham/Higher Greenham	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Greenway	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Greinton	Countryside
Hadspen	Open Countryside
Hadspen	Unclassified
Ham	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Hamdown	Open Countryside
Hassage	Unclassified
Haybridge	Unclassified
Haydon	Unclassified
Heathfield	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Hemington	Unclassified
Henley	Open Countryside
Henton (inc. Bleadney & Yarley)	Unclassified
Higher Durston/Lower Durston	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Higher Nynehead/Nynehead	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Hillfarrance	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Holford	Secondary Village
Holman Clavel/Whitewall Corner	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Holton	Open Countryside
Holywell Lake	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Hornblotton	Unclassified
Huish Champflower	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Hungerford	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Isle Abbots	Rural Settlement
Isle Brewers	Open Countryside
Ivythorn	Unclassified
Kittisford	Other smaller settlements

Knapp/Lower Knapp	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Lamyatt	Unclassified
Langley	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Langley Marsh	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Laverton	Unclassified
Leigh Common	Open Countryside
Limington	Rural Settlement
Litton	Unclassified
Long Load	Rural Settlement
Lopen	Open Countryside
Lottisham	Unclassified
Lovington	Rural Settlement
Low Ham	Open Countryside
Lullington	Unclassified
Lyng	Countryside
Lytes Cary	Open Countryside
Maperton	Open Countryside
Meare Green	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Milborne Wick	Open Countryside
Milton Clevedon	Unclassified
Monksilver	Open Countryside
Moorland	Countryside
Moorlinch	Countryside
Mudford	Rural Settlement
North Barrow	Rural Settlement
North Cheriton	Rural Settlement
North Wootton	Unclassified
Nynehead	Village
Nythe	Unclassified
Old Cleeve	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Oldford	Unclassified
Orchard Portman	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Otterford	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Over Stowey	Countryside
Over Stratton (inc. Watergore)	Rural Settlement
Paradise	Open Countryside
Pedwell	Unclassified
Pen Selwood	Rural Settlement
Picts Hill (partial)	Open Countryside
Pitminster	Village
Pitney	Rural Settlement
Polsham	Unclassified
Poole/Ham	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Poundisford/Duddleston	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Prestleigh	Unclassified
Puckington	Countryside
Pylle	Unclassified

Rimpton	Rural Settlement
Rodney Stoke	Unclassified
Royston Water	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Rudge	Unclassified
Runnington	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Sampford Arundel	Village
Sampford Brett	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Sampford Moor	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Seavington St Mary	Rural Settlement
Sharpham	Unclassified
Shepton Montague	Rural Settlement
Shoreditch	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Shurton	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Skilgate	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Slough Green	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
South Barrow	Rural Settlement
South Cadbury	Rural Settlement
South Cheriton	Open Countryside
South Horrington & East Horrington	Unclassified
Standerwick	Unclassified
Staple Fitzpaine	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Stapley	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Stathe	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Stawell	Countryside
Stawley	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Stear	Countryside
Stembridge	Rural Settlement
Stockland Bristol	Countryside
Stocklinch	Rural Settlement
Stoke Trister	Open Countryside
Ston Easton	Unclassified
Stringston	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Sutton Mallet	Countryside
Sutton Montis	Rural Settlement
Tarnock	Countryside
Tellisford	Unclassified
Theale	Unclassified
Thorne Coffin	Rural Settlement
Thornfalcon	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Thurlbear	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Thurloxton	Countryside
Tolland/East Town	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Trudoxhill	Unclassified
Tytherington	Unclassified
Upper Cheddon	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Upton	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Upton Noble	Unclassified

Vobster	Unclassified
Wag Drove (partial)	Open Countryside
Walford	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Watchfield	Countryside
Wayford	Open Countryside
West Bagborough	Village
West Bradley	Unclassified
West Buckland	Village
West Charlton	Open Countryside
West Compton	Unclassified
West Hatch	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
West Horrington	Unclassified
West Monkton	Village
Westhay	Secondary Settlement
Whatley	Unclassified
Whitelackington	Rural Settlement
Willand	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Withycombe	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Woolverton	Unclassified
Worth	Unclassified
Wrantage	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Wraxall	Unclassified
Yarford	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Yarford	Tier 7 - other smaller settlements
Yarley	Unclassified
Yarlinton	Rural Settlement
Yenston	Open Countryside