



State of Medway Report

Infrastructure

August 2009

- * Please note that this SOM (State Of Medway Report) was last updated in July 2009.**
- * Please also see our LDF evidence base studies. In some instances, these significantly update the information contained within SOM's.**

State of Medway Report: Infrastructure

August 2009

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State of Medway Reports

This is one of a series of factual reports that are being produced to inform the preparation of Medway's Local Development Framework or LDF. Each deals with a specific topic and draws together available information from a variety of sources.

The reports are intended to establish the current position and a baseline for further work. They also help in highlighting gaps in the information base. We would be pleased to hear from any interested party about any information sources that have not been referred to or gaps that should be addressed in future work.

At this preliminary stage no attempt has been made to identify issues arising from this research or options for addressing such issues. That will follow over the next few months but we would be happy to receive any initial suggestions now.

If you would like to comment on or respond to this report please use one of the methods set out in our 'Engagement Protocol', which is being widely publicised.

To monitor progress being made on the LDF please regularly check our website at www.medway.gov.uk/ldf.

Development Plans & Research Team
Regeneration, Community & Culture
Medway Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham
Kent ME4 4TR

Email: ldf@medway.gov.uk

1. SETTING THE CONTEXT

Medway in outline

- 1.1 Medway is a unitary authority based on the north Kent coast. At the heart of the Thames Gateway, only 30 miles from central London, Medway is the largest conurbation between the capital and continental Europe. The authority was made up of the Rochester upon Medway City Council and Gillingham Council, which merged in 1999.
- 1.2 Medway covers a total of 26,866 hectares. While 88 per cent of Medway's population lives in the urban areas, half of the land is rural. Medway boasts eight internationally or nationally designated areas of nature conservation. It had good access to the main road and rail network, lying north of the M20 with the M2 cutting through the west of the authority. The area is served by good rail connections to London and by 2011 will benefit from the high-speed rail link.

- 1.3 Medway is a city in the making. It is a unique urban area in the heart of the Thames Gateway, a national priority area for regeneration and growth. More than £120million of Government funding has been invested in sites to transform Medway over the coming 20 years.¹ Following many years of planning, the regeneration of Medway is now moving into the delivery phase. Recognised at national level for its potential as the city for the Thames Gateway, regeneration in Medway focuses on brownfield sites along the waterfront, the redevelopment of Chatham as Medway's city centre, development in Grain, Kingsnorth and Chattenden, as well as improvements to existing town centres. The regeneration will bring housing, jobs and investment in transport and community infrastructure.
- 1.4 The Community Plan, developed by the Local Strategic Partnership, for Medway sets out a vision for Medway up to 2010 to become "A city of learning culture tourism and enterprise". The Local Strategic Partnership has identified 10 priorities for the next three years. These priorities are:²
- Ensure the safety and well being of children and young people so they can play a productive part in Medway's society
 - Reduce anti-social behaviour to increase people's feelings of safety Increase and improve local employment opportunities so more local people can work in Medway
 - Increase vocational training opportunities available for all ages
 - Realise Medway's cultural ambitions as the City for the Thames Gateway
 - Deliver accessible and integrated transport options to support the regeneration of Medway
 - Enable people to remain healthy and independent, especially older people and other vulnerable groups
 - Empower local people to have greater participation and influence in local affairs
 - Improve the quality of life for existing and new communities by ensuring that regeneration and development is matched to the natural resources and infrastructure available
 - Cherish and enhance Medway's urban and rural heritage and the important resources of open space, countryside, and wildlife habitats

Population

- 1.5 The total number of people in Medway according to the 2001 Census was 249,488. Medway has the largest population of any unitary authority in the southeast. 67% were of working age, 23% were under the age of 16 and 10% were of retirement age³.
- 1.6 The 2006 mid-year population estimates for Medway (produced by the ONS) shows a 0.9% increase in population at 251,700 (rounded to the nearest 100) although an internal model shows an increase to 257,000⁴. By 2026 the population is estimated

¹ Medway Council, Regeneration Framework 2006-2016

² Medway Community Plan 2008-2010

³ Medway Council, Demography and Social State of Medway Report, November 2008

⁴ May be subject to revision. Data from the 2001 census is used as the base date. The actual dwelling completions between 2001 and 2008 and pipeline sites phased for completion between 2009-2026 for each

to have grown to just over 264,000⁵ as shown in Figure 1. The ONS have lower figures but their predictions have limitations; predicting the current level of inflow of migrants; student population has not been considered (10,000 students by 2010, although not all resident); and the level of development expected in the area.

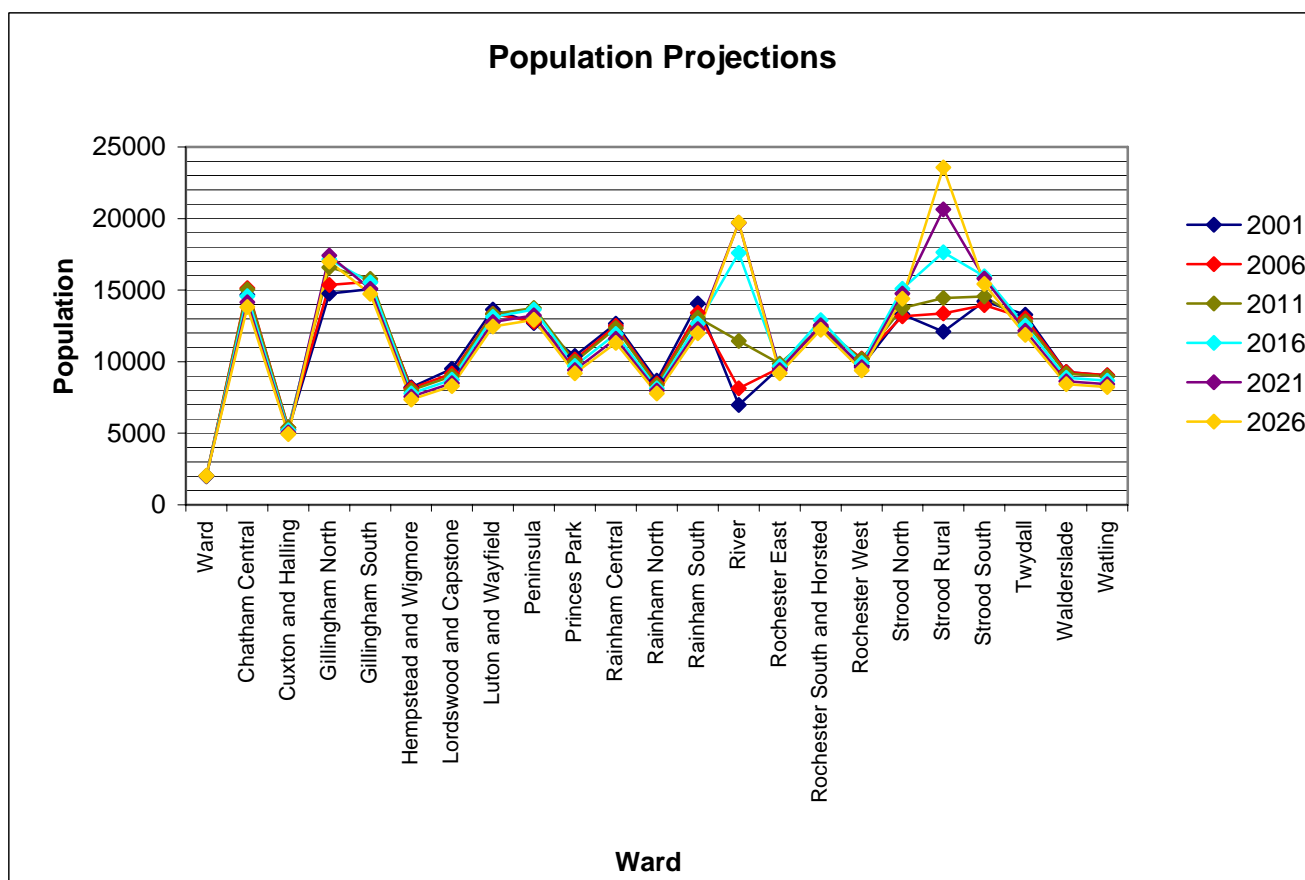


Figure 1.1: Population projections by ward

- 1.7 The mid-year estimates indicate that Medway has a younger population than the average for England and the south-east.
- 1.8 Medway’s population density at 13 people per hectare is considerably higher than the regional average of 4.2 and national average of 3.8. However, it is lower than many of the other south eastern unitary authorities such as Portsmouth at 46.4 and Brighton and Hove at 30. This is because of the inclusion of the Hoo Peninsula, which has a comparatively sparse population density⁶.
- 1.9 Single person homes now make up almost a third of total households in Medway, reflecting the changes in family structure and the numbers of older people living on their own. Conversely, the proportion of traditional family households has declined to 5%, although this is higher than the rest of the south-east⁷.

ward are added to the base data. Average household sizes (taken from the South East Plan) are then used to arrive at the projected population to 2026.

⁵ Medway Council, Development Plans and Research Team, Medway Council, April 2009

⁶ Medway Council, Demography and Social State of Medway Report, November 2008 p.

⁷ Medway Council, Demography and Social State of Medway Report, November 2008 p.

- 1.10 5.4% of the population come from ethnic minority communities, compared with 8.7% nationally. The proportion in the school population is higher – 9% in primary and 8% in secondary schools. The Indian community is the single largest at 2% of the population⁸.
- 1.11 In the 2001 census 37,497 people identified themselves as having a limiting long-term illness. This is a significant increase on the 1991 census where the figure was 24,435 people. Despite this increase, the incidence of people with a limiting long-term illness in Medway at 15% is still lower than the national average of 18%⁹.
- 1.12 Amongst the working age population in Medway, 81.3% are classed as economically active, compared to 82.0% in the South East region and a national average of 78.6%. The disparity between Medway and the region is most pronounced within the 20-24 age group, where 80.9% of the working age population is classed as economically active compared to 76.6% regionally. Higher levels of economic activity compared to the region were also found amongst both the 16-19 and 50+ age groups, with only the 35-49 working age population exhibiting a slightly lower rate of economic activity than the rest of the South East.¹⁰

Employment

- 1.13 Reflecting the picture in the South East, the Medway economy is heavily skewed towards the service sector with 83% of employees working in those fields.
- 1.14 The Medway economy generates Gross Value Added (GVA) less than the south east average and the average for the rest of Kent. The most recent figure (2005) shows that Medway's GVA stood at £2.96m. GVA per employee for Medway is £11,764 (66% of the UK average). Medway is significantly lower than the rest of Kent, which stands at 86% of the UK average whilst the South East as a whole is 9% higher than the UK average.

Tourism

- 1.15 With Rochester and Upnor Castles, Rochester Cathedral (the second oldest in England), Chatham Dockyard and defences, Dickens World and bird watching sites, Medway has a good tourism offer. However, there is very little river-based activity and none to cater for high spending individuals, in particular there is an absence of a high quality marina.
- 1.16 A study into the economic impact of tourism in Medway, undertaken in 2006¹¹, suggested that the sector was worth more than £265 million and supported around 3,900 full time equivalent jobs (around 8% of local employment).
- 1.17 Since 2006, Dickens World has opened, the first 'branded' hotel group (Ramada) has built new accommodation in Medway (with others set to follow) and events such as the Tour de France have come to the area. During 2008, Medway also hosted a number of festivals and concerts, several of them relating to Charles Dickens and his association with the local area. It can therefore reasonably be expected that the

⁸ Medway Council, Demography and Social State of Medway Report, November 2008 p.

⁹ Office National Statistics, Annual Population Survey, October 2006 to September 2007

¹⁰ Medway Council, Medway Economic Development Strategy 2009-2011 p.

¹¹ The Economic Impact of Tourism on Medway 2006, Tourism South East

already significant figures quoted above have increased further over the past couple of years.

- 1.18 Medway will be formulating a bid for World Heritage Site status for Chatham Dockyard and its defences. The bid includes Fort Amherst, Upnor Castle, Brompton Village and barracks and the Pembroke site – formerly naval barracks and now part of Medway’s university campus – as well as the Great Lines. There are proposals (and secured funding of £2m) to transform it into a community heritage park.
- 1.19 It is interesting to note the study into economic impact of tourism in Medway found that the majority of staying visitors stay with family or friends that, in part, may reflect the limited range and number of commercial options. Indeed, the availability of a good supply (number and range) of accommodation appears to be the major constraint on the development of the sector.
- 1.20 Overseas staying visitors account for 14% of trips, that they are responsible for 28% of spending by staying visitors, presumably a combination of longer stays and their propensity to spend.
- 1.21 There are a number of opportunities to further bolster the effectiveness of the tourism sector in Medway including the strengthening of visitor branding in conjunction with the Medway Tourism Association, Visit Kent, Tourism South East and Visit Britain in terms of national and international visitors. Coupled to this support and promotional work, there are a number of promising developments which should serve to bolster Medway’s tourism offer including:
- Increased accessibility via the high speed rail line via Ebbsfleet and Stratford – bring Medway closer to London;
 - The potential for business tourism including conferences and exhibitions;
 - Distinct events such as the Fuse (Medway Arts) Festival, the Rochester Food and Drink Festival, the Cathedral Son et Lumiere and the Chinese New Year celebrations;
 - The impact of the 2012 Olympics;
 - Eco Tourism based on the rural hinterland of the Hoo Peninsula and the North Downs;
 - The National Museums at Chatham which will incorporate the national collection of maritime ship models;
 - World Heritage Site Status and the Great Lines Heritage Park;
 - Royal Engineers Museum;
 - Medway Park, which will provide state-of-the-art facilities for gymnastics and a new Olympic training standard athletics track short listed as a possible training camp host for 13 Olympic sports;
 - Rochester Castle and Cathedral;
 - The Guildhall Museum and Temple Manor.

- 1.22 There are however a number of barriers to the successful development of the Medway tourism offer with a lack of hotel accommodation a key area for investment. Crucial will be Medway's ability to conclude deals with hotel operators, which could see the creation of 500 bed rooms across at least five sites, involving investments totalling around £50million.

2. RECREATION AND LEISURE

Allotments

- 2.1 Medway Council has 26 allotment sites with a capacity of approximately 1020 plots, covering just less than 22 hectares of land. The allotment sites are detailed in Figure 2.1. There are five other allotment sites, which can be accessed through the parish councils in rural areas.

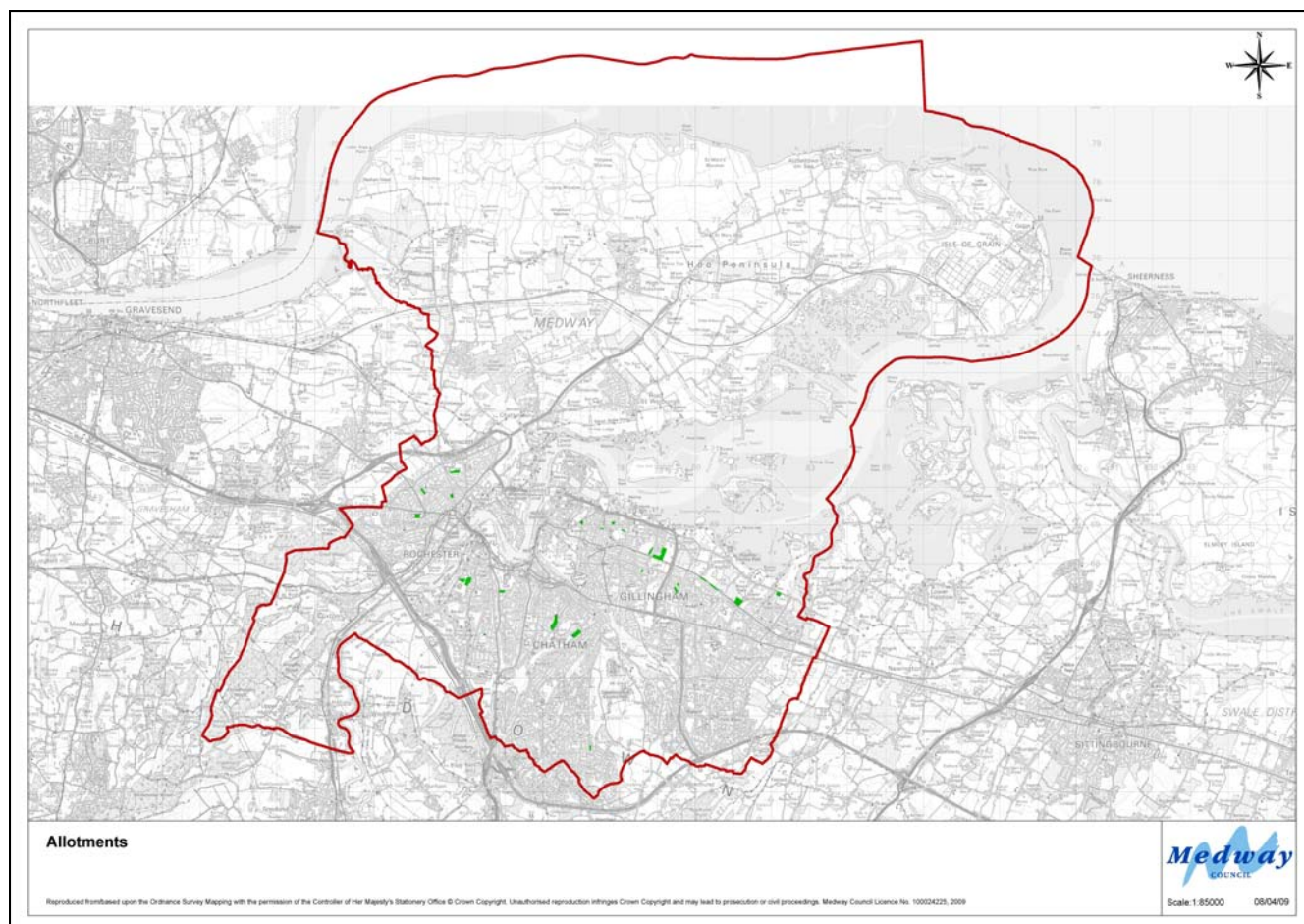


Figure 2.1: Allotment Sites in Medway

- 2.2 The sites rented directly from the council can be done so for a small annual fee as shown in figure 2.2. Allotments are available in various sizes ranging from 0.06ha with only 3 plots up to 4.02ha.

Category	Per m ²	100m ²	250m ²
1. Plot with water and council-provided shed	£0.14	£14.20	£35.50
2. Plot with water	£0.11	£11.30	£28.25
3. Plot only	£0.08	£9.00	£22.50

Figure 2.2: Cost of Allotment Site Rental

- 2.3 Currently the uptake for allotments is 99%. The waiting list across Medway is 1250, although some are on multiple lists for different sites.
- 2.4 The best coverage is in the north and west of urban Medway. Allotment sites are not evenly distributed across Medway; homes in the more recently developed parts of

Medway, such as Lordswood, Parkwood and Walderslade, have limited access to allotments.¹²T

- 2.5 Allotment quality varied from average to poor. The larger sites tend to be of better quality. All allotments suffer from acts of vandalism, arson, theft and fly tipping.
- 2.6 To assess the quantity of allotment provision in Medway it is possible to compare the number of plots available to the standard set by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG). The NSALG advocates a standard of 15 plots per 1,000 households; Medway currently has 9 plots per 1,000 households.
- 2.7 At present the policy for uncultivated plots is that a tenant is given 4 weeks to bring plot to required standard; failure to do so result in the termination of contract. In 2008 108 non-cultivation letters were issued and 59 termination letters issued.

Indoor Sports Facilities

- 2.8 Within Medway there are various public sports facilities¹³ as can be seen in figure 2.3. The area contains one regional and one-district sports centre, Black Lion Leisure Centre in Gillingham (currently under redevelopment as Medway Park) and Strood Sports Centre respectively. They provide a wide range of facilities including indoor swimming pools and an outdoor all weather sports pitch at Strood Sports Centre. There is also an international trampoline centre, Jumpers Rebound Centre situated next to the Black Lion Leisure Centre. There are a number of local sports centre, including the Stirling Centre in Rochester, Lordswood Leisure Centre and Deangate Indoor Bowls, Athletics and Golf Course. Swimming pools are also located at Hoo, St. Werburgh and Splashes Leisure Pool at Rainham. Other key facilities include an ice rink at Gillingham Business Park, a private all weather sports pitch (ATP) at Anchorians in Gillingham, Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School and 2 S/ATP's at Holcombe Hockey Club and one at the Army Garrison grounds (Gillingham).
- 2.9 Other facilities include a badminton centre of performance in Gillingham, an internationally recognised Indoor Bowls Club at Prince Arthur Road in Gillingham and the other indoor bowls centre at Deangate. A growing number of private health and fitness facilities are being established in Medway.
- 2.10 Medway Council has a Sports Development Strategy 2005-2010, which intends to guide sports development in Medway between 2005 and 2010. In addition to the strategy audits of all sporting and recreational provision, including private, voluntary, council, village halls community centres and publicly owned leisure centres are carried out regularly. There is a range in the quality and standard of provision.

¹² Medway Council, Wildlife Countryside and Open Space Strategy 2008-2016 p.

¹³ Medway Council, Medway Council Sports Development Strategy 2005-2010 p.

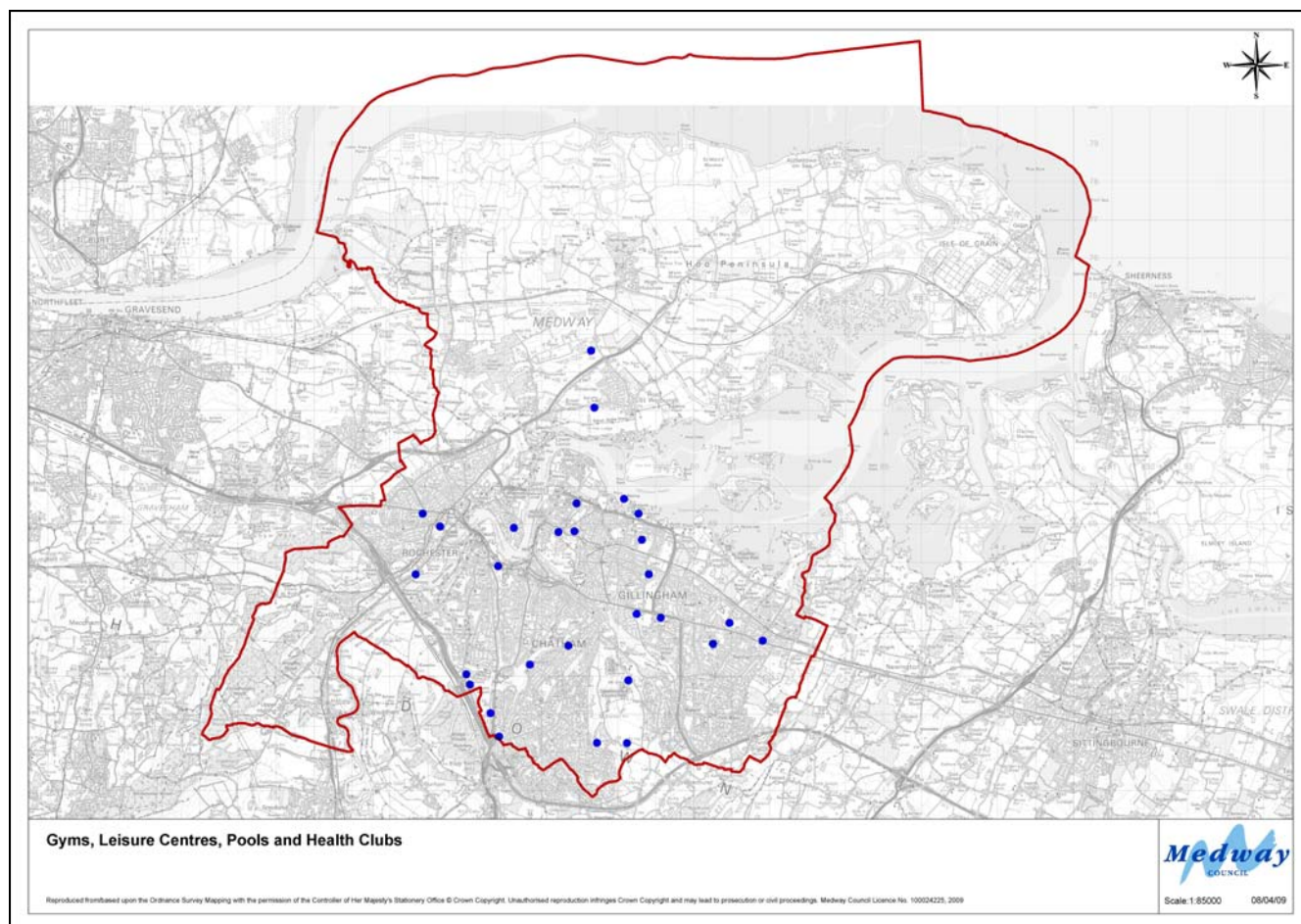


Figure 2.3: Leisure centres and other indoor facilities

- 2.11 Within the audit is an extensive range of school sport facilities used both during the day to teach PE to pupils, but also some schools are open both after school and early evening and some weekends and school holidays to the public for a hire charge. There is a large spectrum in the quality, standard and spread of provision and a vast difference in hire cost depending on the school.
- 2.12 The 2012 Olympics will boost Medway's regeneration programme, with the Black Lion Leisure Centre in Gillingham set to become a regional centre of sporting excellence – to be called Medway Park. Plans include an eight-lane athletics track, purpose-built gymnastics centre and the complete refurbishment of the Black Lion, which will provide lasting benefits for residents and enable Medway to offer pre-games training camps for more than 20 sports. In addition, Medway will be hosting top quality table tennis matches, as part of the Butterfly series and in 2010 will be the venue for the World Modern Pentathlon Championships.

Outdoor Sports Pitches

- 2.13 The Council has undertaken a Playing Pitch Study in 2002, which provided information about the quality, quantity and accessibility of Medway's playing pitches. It also identified the supply and demand of the pitches. It is intended that this study will inform the emerging Greenspaces for Sports Plan and has formed part of the Wildlife Countryside and Open Space Strategy 2006-2016.

2.14 Sports Pitches are looked at in terms of their geographic local; there are seven in Medway, Strood, Rochester. Chatham, Gillingham, Rainham, Rural 1 and Rural 2.

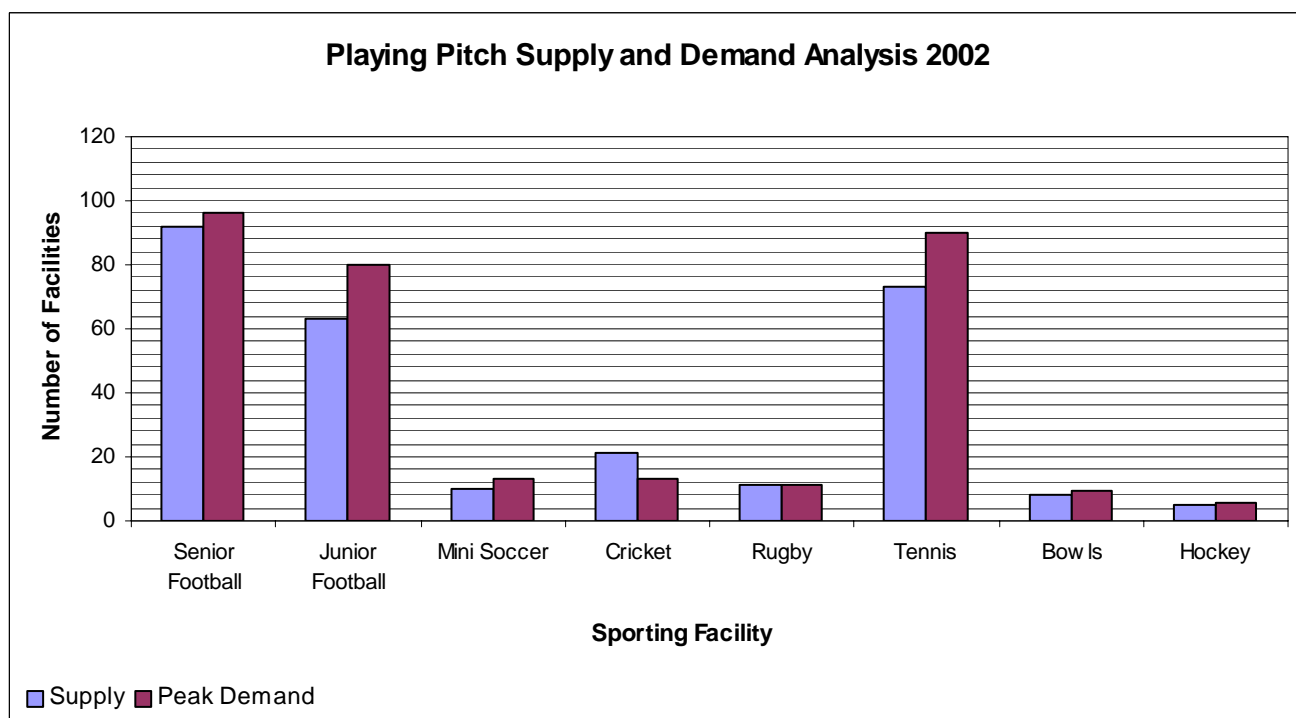


Figure 2.4: Playing Pitch Supply and Demand Analysis 2002

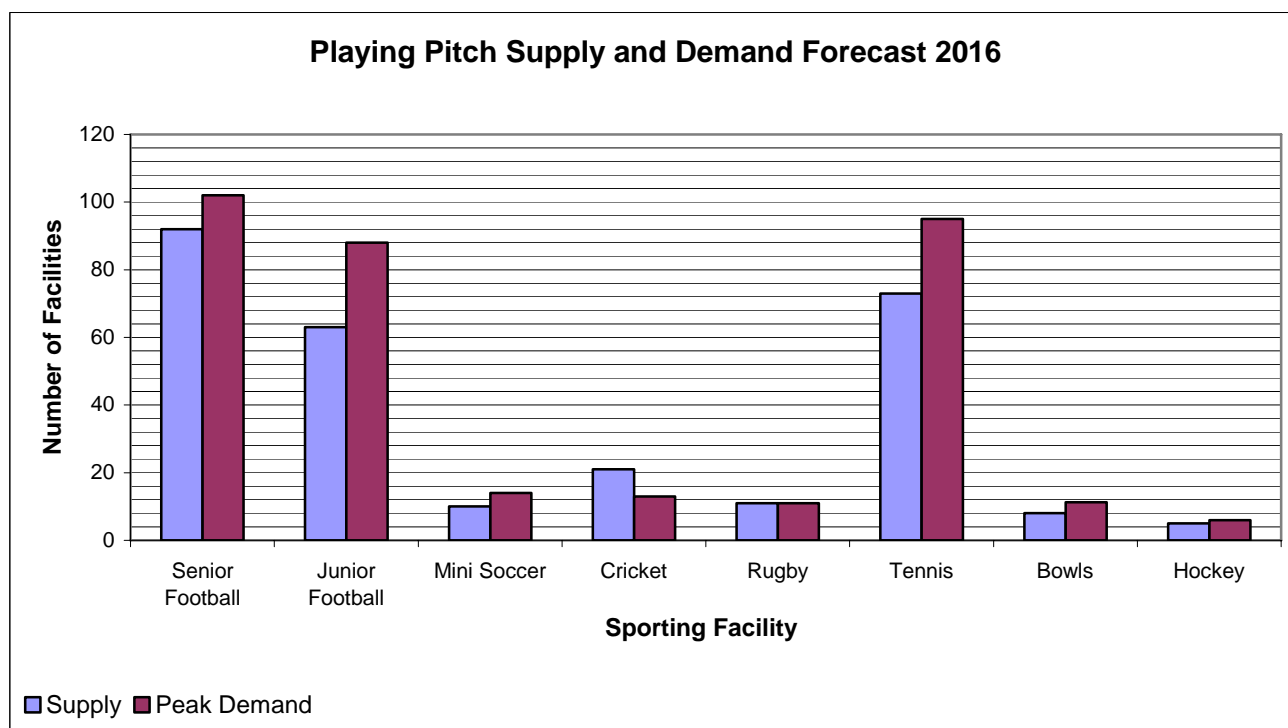


Figure 2.5: Playing Pitch Supply and Demand Forecast 2016

2.15 Figure 2.4 and 2.5 show the balance between supply and peak demand in 2002 (when the study was carried out) and a forecast for 2016. Surplus does not imply these facilities are not required (see PPG17) as they give opportunity for sports development activity, facilities improvement and pitch rotation. These graphs have been developed using NPFA and Sport England standards for supply and accessibility.

Other Outdoor Sports Facilities

- 2.16 There is a single outdoor pool complex in the area at the Strand Swimming Pool. In addition there is a six lane floodlit athletics track and ancillary facilities at Deangate; an artificial ski slope and toboggan run in the grounds of Capstone Country Park, Golf Clubs at Deangate (public) and Gillingham (private) and a number of marinas located along the Medway Estuary.

Parks

- 2.17 Medway has 25 urban parks and 62 amenity spaces¹⁴. The parks average about 2ha in size in Medway. Most are either 'Local' or 'Small Local' Parks (6 are Pocket Parks, 9 are Small Local Parks and 10 are Local Parks). The small size of the urban parks means that they are best placed to serve local communities but are not capable of delivering a strategic park destination serving Medway. The majority of urban parks occur in the built up areas of Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham. Strood and Rainham are less well served. The majority of sites are of average quality. The six sites with the lowest quality score (as ranked for overall quality and maintenance) are Temple Marsh, Luton Millennium Park, Broom Hill Park, Reed Common and Hillyfields Community Park. However, two of these sites (Temple Marsh and Hillyfields Community Park) are subject to significant investment programmes. The amenity spaces average less than 2ha in size (i.e. of Small Local or Pocket Park size). The amenity spaces are scattered fairly evenly across the urban parts of Medway. The larger amenity spaces tend to occur close to urban centres.
- 2.18 In general the amenity spaces are well located with respect to communities and are fit for purpose. Perhaps as a result they also performed well with respect to levels of vandalism and grounds maintenance. However the amenity spaces are also generally less well designed and are of poor quality with respect to stimulation and interest for users. In addition, there are minimal biodiversity features and grass habitats are poor. A key factor for amenity spaces is the lack of clarity as to who can use the spaces and therefore they can lack community ownership. The enhancement of biodiversity for amenity spaces will both improve the value and interest of the spaces as well as help achieve the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard. There are already some amenity spaces that stand out from the 'norm', for example spaces such as in Low Meadow in Halling, which score highly for biodiversity features and stimulation and interest¹⁵.
- 2.19 The Medway Parks Quality Audit (2004) concluded that facilities offered in open spaces are generally not appropriate to their size or location. Park furniture and buildings are generally not thought to be well designed or located; the quality of maintenance is generally poor; and the cleanliness is average to good.
- 2.20 Usage of open space is variable with Gillingham Park receiving about 500,000 visitors per annum¹⁶ while many amenity spaces are poorly used due to their ill-defined function. Few open spaces cater well for all ages

¹⁴ Includes green spaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens. It includes publicly accessible and private spaces but excludes space left over after planning (SLOAP) and other incidental areas of land such as road verges which are not intended for specific use.

¹⁵ Medway Council, Wildlife Countryside and Open Space Strategy 2008-2016 p.

¹⁶ Medway Council, Assessment for Gillingham Park Masterplan, 2006

Play Areas

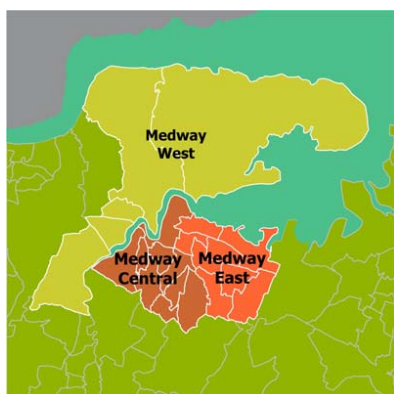
- 2.21 A comprehensive assessment of Medway's play facilities was carried out in summer 2004 and updated in 2005 and looked at quality, quantity and accessibility. It included Medway Council, parish council, housing providers and play areas managed by trusts established by developers.
- 2.22 Medway has 125 play facilities, including 9 LAPs (Local Areas for Play or doorstep facilities), 66 LEAPs (Local Equipped Areas for Play or local facilities), 36 NEAPs (Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play) and 14 individual teenage play facilities (which is inadequate). Of these facilities, 88 are owned and managed by Medway Council and 37 are owned by other providers.
- 2.23 Medway is deficient in play space¹⁷. According to the national Playing Fields association per 1000 people there should be 0.2 – 0.3 hectares of space. Using the lower benchmark of 0.2ha, Medway has a shortfall of 0.15 hectares, as currently the provision of equipped play is 0.05. The deficits are all across Medway, although Gillingham South is the ward with the most significant shortfall.
- 2.24 There is a significant variation in the level of the use of play areas. Overall there are more spaces with low levels of use, which may be as a result of poor quality, poor location or inaccessibility. A third of play areas have evidence of vandalism or other anti-social behaviour, which could explain and be result of the low usage of some pay areas. Around 50% are inaccessible to people with mobility impairments

¹⁷ Medway Council, Wildlife Countryside and Open Space Strategy 2008-2016 p.

3. EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police

- 3.1 Kent Police built a new police station in Gillingham in 2006, vacating their ailing facilities in Rochester and Rainham. This is supported by two local area help points where the Police have worked in partnership with Medway Council to make use of shared facilities and services. These offer the local community a staffed police point at set times of the week within their local area (Strood and Rainham) that they can easily access.
- 3.2 There are just fewer than 400 full time equivalent police officers in Medway¹⁸. They are supported by 69 Police Community Support Officers and 349 Special Constables.



Medway is one of the busiest areas in the county¹⁹. Medway Police have a neighbourhood policing strategy, which is split into three areas: Medway West, Medway Central and Medway East.

Each area is then split into further smaller zones with their own Neighbourhood officers. The priorities for the areas fall into a number of categories. Anti-social behaviour, speeding, problems with parking, damage and graffiti, drug related anti-social behaviour, vehicle related nuisance, alcohol related matters and dog fouling.

Figure 3.1: Police Area Map



Figure 3.2: Medway West Police Zones



Figure 3.3: Medway Central Police Zones



Figure 3.4: Medway East Police Zones

Fire

- 3.3 There are nine fire stations in Medway as shown in Figure 3.5. There are fourteen vehicles to support their work: 7 pumps; 1 reserve pump; 2 aerial appliances; 2 rescue pump ladders; 1 prime mover; and 1 water safety unit. The appliances range from 20 years in age to relatively new.

¹⁸ Kent Police, Annual Report 2007-2008 p.19

¹⁹ <http://www.kent.police.uk/YourNeighbourhood/area.do?areald=4>

- 3.4 The Kent Fire and Rescue Service is divided into three operational areas called Divisions which allow them to deliver fire and rescue services across such a broad area. Divisions are essentially aligned to local authority areas and these are shown in the small map in Figure 3.5. Medway is in the North Division with Dartford, Gravesham and Swale²⁰.

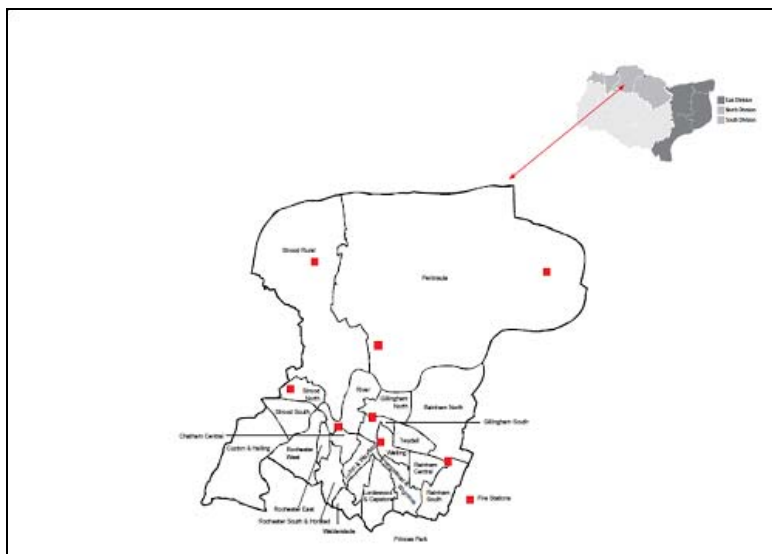


Figure 3.5: Fire Stations in Medway (insert showing Kent Fire and Rescue Divisions)

- 3.5 Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Service was confirmed as the best performing fire and rescue service in the country by the Audit Commission in 2008²¹.
- 3.6 They are currently looking at service improvement projects for the future. Many of these projects will be developed during 2009 to ensure they are able to respond to changes such as increased risk of flooding and new housing development.
- 3.7 Kent Fire and Rescue Service are also looking at opportunities for station renewal, to build a sound basis for the service for the next 25 years. This means that they will want to rebuild or refurbish existing stations, or in some places relocate them to reflect new development. The service understands that stations need to be up to modern standards: big enough for new vehicles and equipment; with good facilities for the crews; and flexible enough to meet changing demands in the future. They will also be environmentally friendly and easy to maintain.

Ambulance

- 3.8 Medway is part of the South East Coast Ambulance Service, which covers a geographical area of 3,600 square miles, providing accident and emergency services to the population of Kent, Surrey, Sussex and North East Hampshire. They also provide non-emergency patient transport services in Kent.
- 3.9 The main Ambulance Station in Medway is situated in Gillingham just off of the A2. There is also a small station with a single vehicle based in Strood, which serves the north end of the area. These are currently sufficient to serve the area.

²⁰ http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/Our_Plans_Policies_and_Performance/Area_Profiles/index.html

²¹ Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Service Plan 2008-2009 p.

- 3.10 The Ambulance Service are actively involved in discussions taking place in the local health economy to ensure that they are fit for the future²². Robust plans are in place to respond to changes and increase in demand in relation to the regeneration of the Thames Gateway.

²² South East Coast Ambulance Service, Five Year Business Plan 2008-2013 p.26

4. ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- 4.1 Medway has a rich mixture of natural assets and open spaces, which plays an important part in the lives of its residents as well as helping to define its sense of place²³. The scale of these areas varies from the broad sweep of the downs, estuaries and Marshes to the parks greens and allotments (both dealt with in Section 2) found throughout the urban area. As well as providing a valuable resource for recreation and learning, this network also provides an important habitat for wildlife.

Natural Areas

- 4.2 As shown in Figure 4.1, parts of three Natural Areas cover the whole of the Medway unitary area. These are:

1. The Greater Thames Estuary Natural Area

- 4.3 This area comprises the tidal Thames and most of the Essex coast to the River Stour. It reflects the geographical extent of a number of estuarine habitats, plants and insect communities, coastal processes, geomorphological features and internationally important bird populations²⁴.
- 4.4 A number of habitats are present within the natural area in Medway. These are: grazing marsh and associated habitats including sea walls and other grassland, reedbeds, ditches, pools and saline lagoons; intertidal sand and mud flats; saltmarsh; and arable farmland.

2. The North Kent Plain Natural Area

- 4.5 This is a strip of land between the North Downs and the Thames Estuary containing some of the most productive farmland in southeast England. It also includes large areas of woodland and marshland and the junction between it and the Greater Thames Estuary Natural Area is not always clearly defined. It stretches from the east Kent coast at Sandwich to the outskirts of London.²⁵
- 4.6 There are two habitat types, which predominate in the Medway area. The first is farmland, utilising highly fertile, easily worked, mainly Grade 1 agricultural land. It is an important part of the character of the area but does not have high nature conservation interest. The second is woodland, much of which is of high nature conservation interest, particularly a number of ancient woodlands.

3. The North Downs Natural Area

- 4.7 This extends from Farnham, in Surrey, to Dover and forms one of the most striking landscape features in the south-east. The chalk soils, the warm and dry climate, and long established farming and management practices have produced an area of outstanding nature conservation interest. The Downs have a south facing scarp slope and a dip slope to the north, which is cut through by a number of rivers, including the Medway. These valleys are treated as part of the same natural area.

²³ Medway Council, Natural Assets and Open Space SOM, 2008 par 1.1

²⁴ Medway Council, Natural Assets and Open Space SOM, 2008 par 2.3

²⁵ Medway Council, Natural Assets and Open Space SOM, 2008 par 2.5

Throughout the area, dry coombes and winterbourne valleys break up the topography. Some large settlements, including Medway, have spread up the dip slope, but generally, this is a landscape of small villages linked by narrow lanes.²⁶

- 4.8 Only a relatively small part of the North Downs is located within Medway, containing a number of habitat types, including chalk grassland, woodland, rivers and former chalk quarries.-

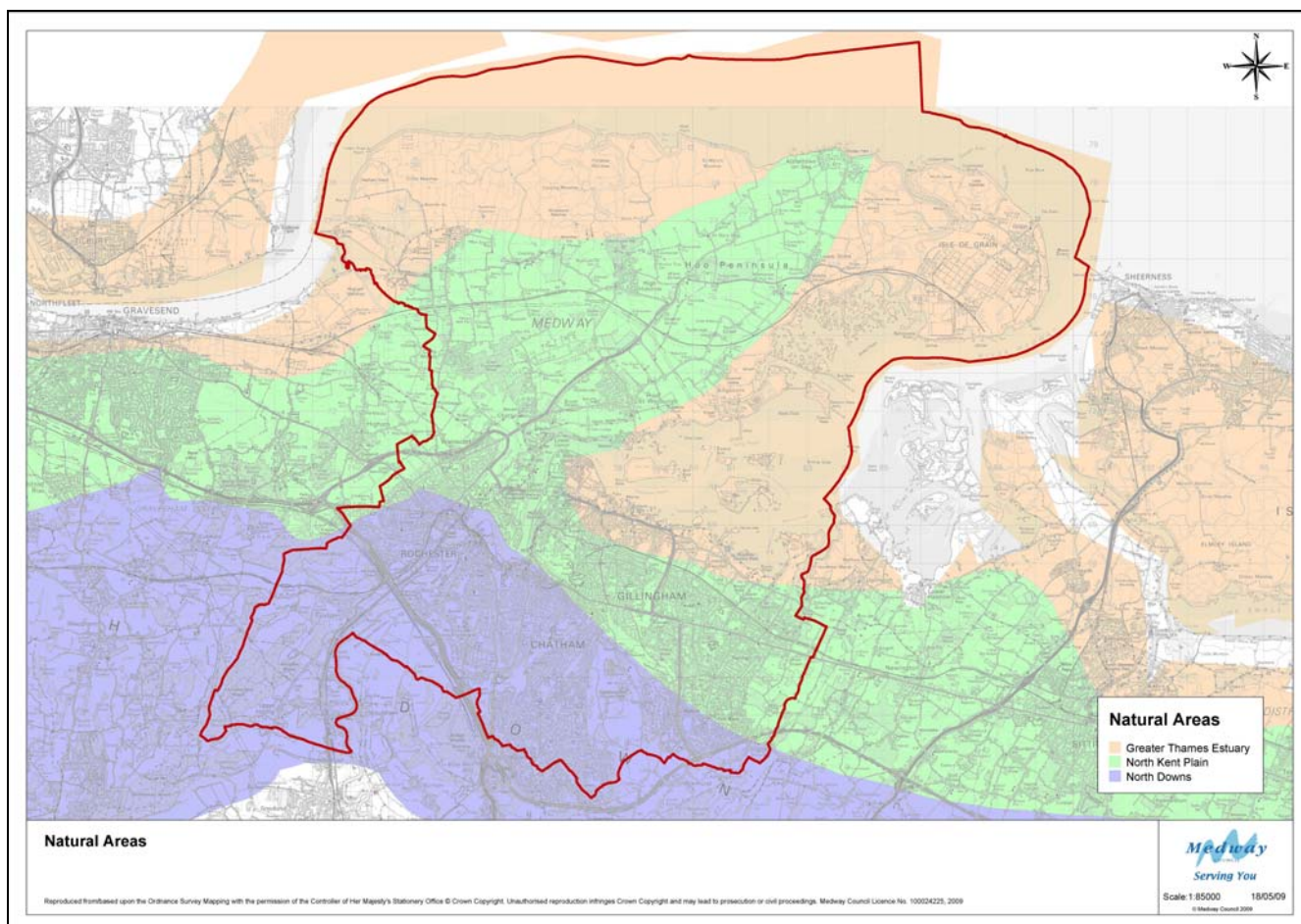


Figure 4.1: Natural Areas in Medway

Special Protection Areas, Ramsar Sites and Special Areas of Conservation

- 4.9 There are two Special Protection Area/Ramsar²⁷ sites in Medway as shown in Figure 4.2. The Medway Estuary and Marshes was classified as a Special Protection Area and listed as a Ramsar site in 1993. The Thames Estuary and Marshes was classified as a Special Protection Area and listed as a Ramsar site in 2000.

²⁶ Medway Council, Natural Assets and Open Space SOM, 2008 par 2.7

²⁷ Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention

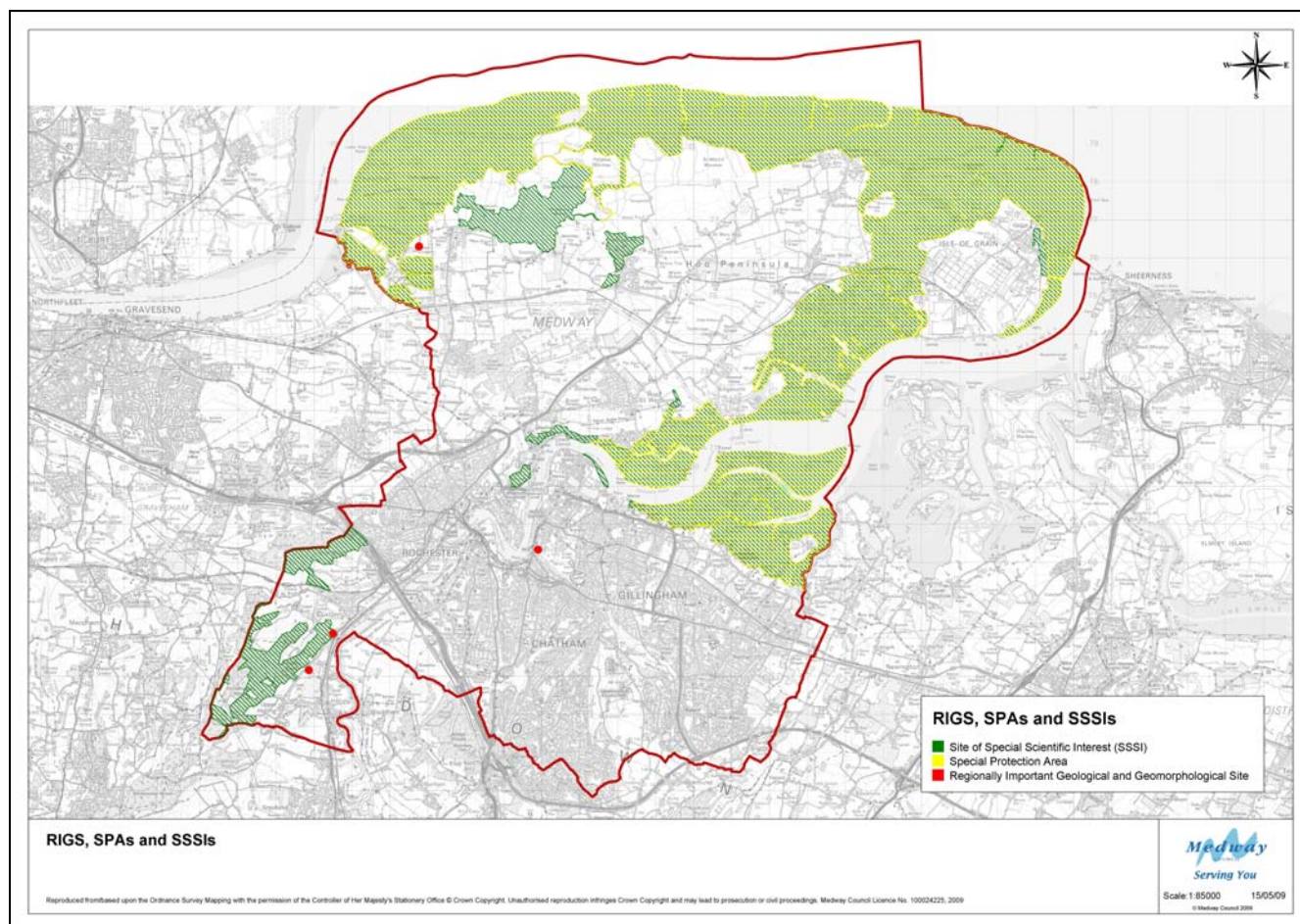


Figure 4.2: Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Areas

Sites of Special Scientific Interest²⁸

4.10 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are notified under section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. There are over 4000 in England constituting the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. Of these, there are eight in Medway as shown in Figure 4.2.

- South Thames Estuary and Marshes
- Medway Estuary and Marshes
- Cobham Woods
- Northward Hill
- Dalham Farm
- Chattenden Woods
- Tower Hill to Cockham Wood
- Halling to Trottscliffe Escarpment

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites²⁹

4.11 Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites were established in 1990 by the Nature Conservancy Council and continue to be supported by Natural

²⁸ Medway Council, Natural Assets and Open Space SOM, 2008 par 3.8

²⁹ Medway Council, Natural Assets and Open Space SOM, 2008 par 4.1

England. They are important sites, which underpin and complement the Sites of Special Scientific Interest coverage. As shown in Figure 4.2 there are four in Medway at:

- Bores Hole, Halling
- Francis Chalk Quarry, Cliffe
- Halling Chalk Pit, Halling
- Fort Amherst, Chatham

Local Nature Reserves

- 4.12 Local Nature Reserves are designated under section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, by local authorities. They must be in the ownership or otherwise under the control of local authorities. They should be of high natural interest in the local context (SSSI or near equivalent) or of some reasonable natural interest and of high value for environmental education or research or for the informal enjoyment of nature by the public and capable of being managed with the conservation of nature and/or the maintenance of special opportunities for study or research as a priority.
- 4.13 There are currently eight Local Nature Reserves in Medway at Baty's Marsh, South Wood, Berengrave Chalk Pit, Rainham Dock (east), Darland/Ambley Wood, Darland Banks, Foxburrow Wood and Levan Strice³⁰. The locations of these are shown in Figure 4.3.

Local Wildlife Sites

- 4.14 It is recognised that the protection and conservation of sites of significant nature conservation interest outside the network of statutorily protected sites is essential to the maintenance of the UK's natural heritage. Such sites are identified as local wildlife sites and in Kent they have been known as Sites of Nature Conservation Interest.³¹
- 4.15 In Medway there are seventeen local wildlife sites, which are identified as Sites of nature Conservation Interest in the Medway Local Plan, 2003. These are shown in Figure 4.3.

Ancient Woodlands

- 4.16 Ancient woodlands are those where there is believed to have been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. Before this, planting was uncommon, so a wood present in 1600 was likely to have developed naturally. Ancient semi-natural woodland is composed of native trees that have not obviously been planted although it may have been managed by coppicing or felling and allowed to regenerate naturally. Planted ancient woodland sites are ancient woods in which the former tree cover has been replaced, often with non-native trees. Important features of ancient woodland often survive in many of these woods, including characteristic flora and fauna, and archaeology.³²

³⁰ Medway Council, Natural Assets and Open Space SOM, 2008 par 5

³¹ Medway Council, Natural Assets and Open Space SOM, 2008 par 6

³² Medway Council, Natural Assets and Open Space SOM, 2008 par 7

- 4.17 Ancient woodlands vary in size and may be free standing or part of a wider area of woodland which is not ancient.

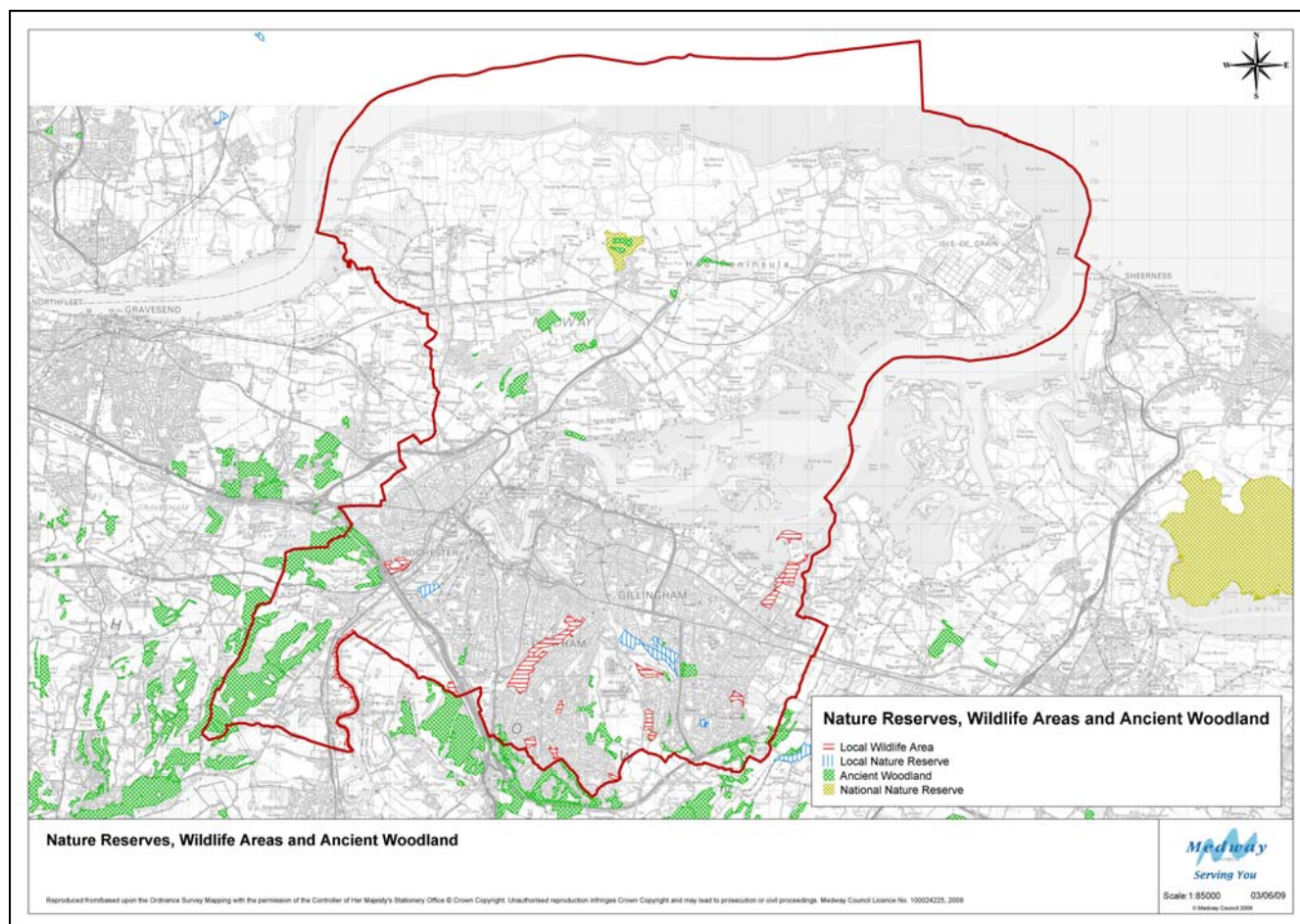


Figure 4.3: Local nature reserves, local wildlife sites and ancient woodlands

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- 4.18 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty³³ are nationally important landscapes that have a similar status to National Parks. The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was designated in 1968, under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949. It covers 878 sq. km. and stretches from the Surrey/Greater London Border to the Strait of Dover. It forms part of the North Downs ridge of chalk, which extends westwards to Farnham in Surrey.

Landscape Character Areas

- 4.19 In 2004, Kent County Council commissioned a study of landscape character areas throughout Kent, including Medway. For each character area, it provided a description of the landscape and a landscape strategy that directly reflected the condition and sensitivity of the area. Within Medway³⁴, it identified nine character areas, some of which were subdivided. Below they are listed and are shown in Figure 15:

- Eastern Thames Marshes

³³ Medway Council, Natural Assets and Open Space SOM, 2008 par 8

³⁴ Medway Council, Natural Assets and Open Space SOM, 2008 par 8.8-8.42

- Medway Marshes
- Hoo Peninsula
- Fruit Belt
- Mid Kent Downs – A Outskirts of Chatham
- Mid Kent Downs – B Nashenden Valley
- Capstone Valley
- West Kent Downs
- Kent Downs Medway
- Medway Valley

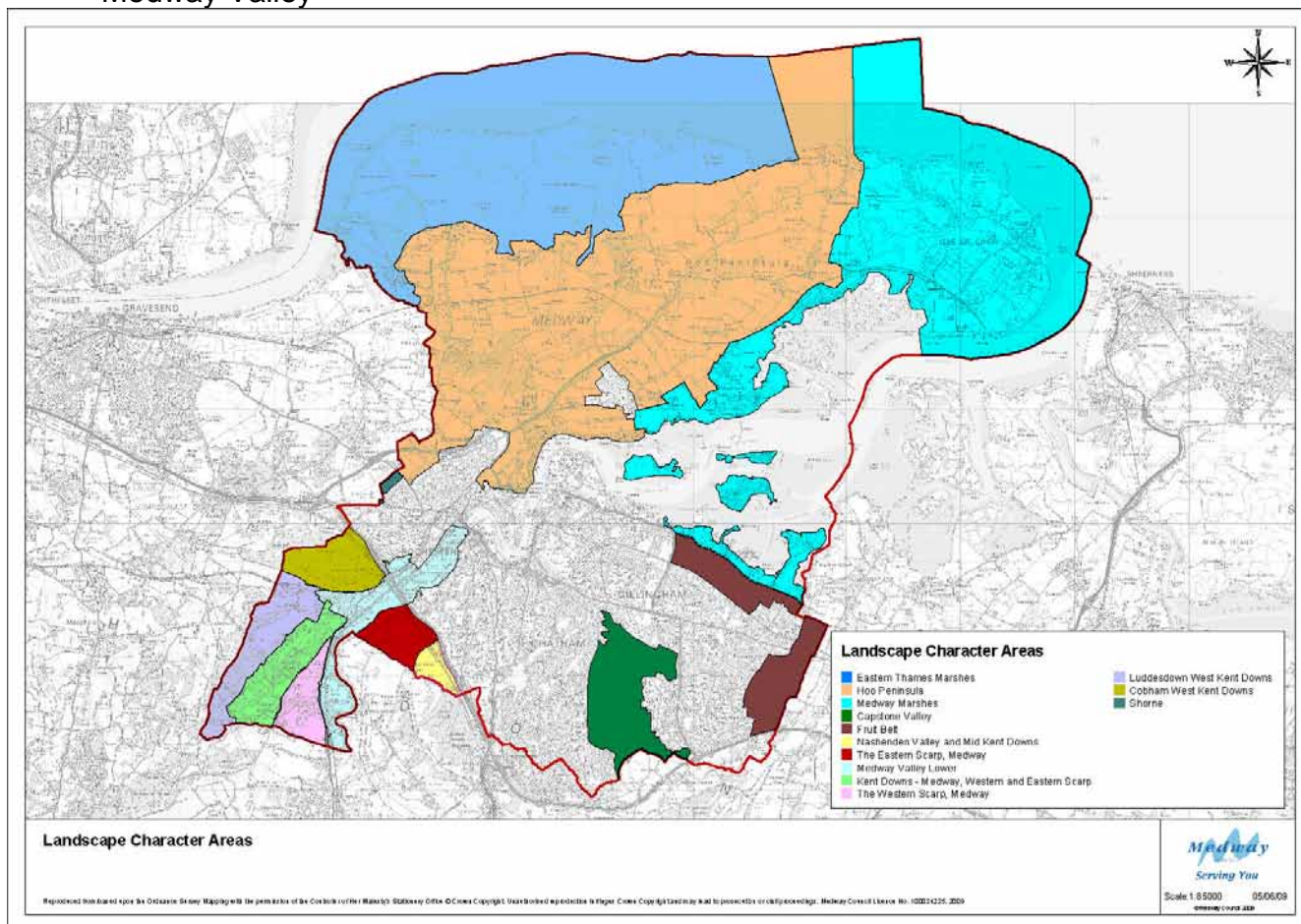


Figure 4.4: Landscape Character Areas

Other Open Space

4.20 Medway has other natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces; including woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (for example downlands, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land³⁵. There are 78 areas of accessible natural greenspaces and this figure includes non-Medway Council owned sites such as RSPB reserves and those owned by Parish Councils. Medway Council also supports 48 Countryside Sites and 3 Country Parks.

4.21 A Habitat Survey in 2003, identified the following other natural greenspaces: Tidal Waters (1858 ha), Marshes (142ha), Chalk grassland (50ha), Saltmarsh (484ha),

³⁵ Medway Council, Natural Assets and Open Space SOM, 2008 par 9

Mudflat (4305ha). However the overall, the natural green spaces are of poor to average quality, with almost 70% scoring less than 50% on quality ratings.

5. CONNECTIVITY

Telecom and Broadband Services

- 5.1 There are 10 local telecom exchanges serving Medway. These are shown in figure 5.1 along with their broadband coverage. The urban areas of Medway are well served by BT wholesale, LLU (local loop unbundling) and cable services. This means that customers have choice in their broadband and telephone provider, along with the option of receiving cable services. Rural Medway has a limited number of options in terms of broadband and telephone provider and do not have access to cable services.

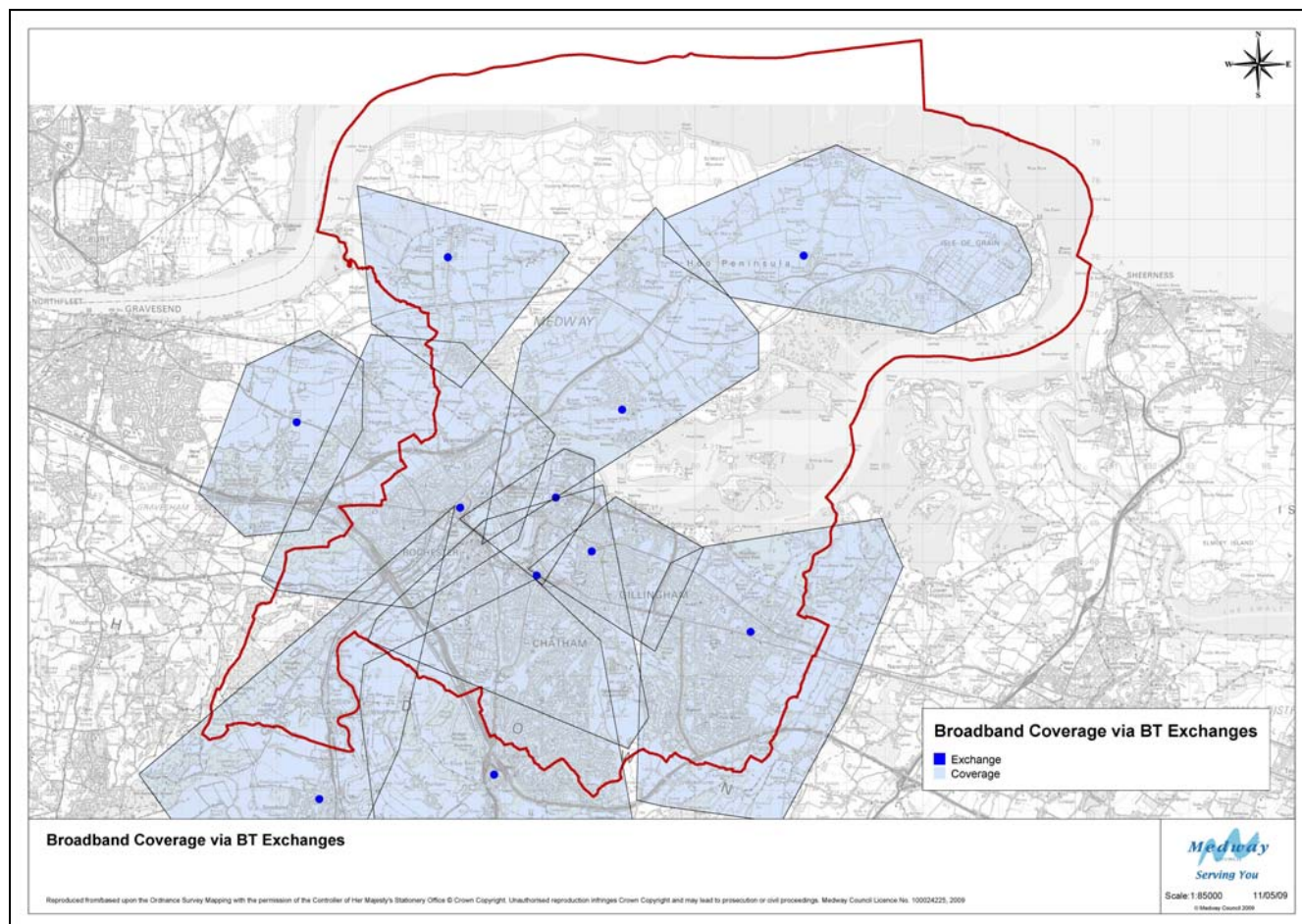


Figure 5.1: Telecom exchanges serving Medway and their coverage

Telephone Masts

- 5.2 All major mobile operators have masts in Medway. Currently there are 113 masts, the locations of which are shown in Figure 5.2.

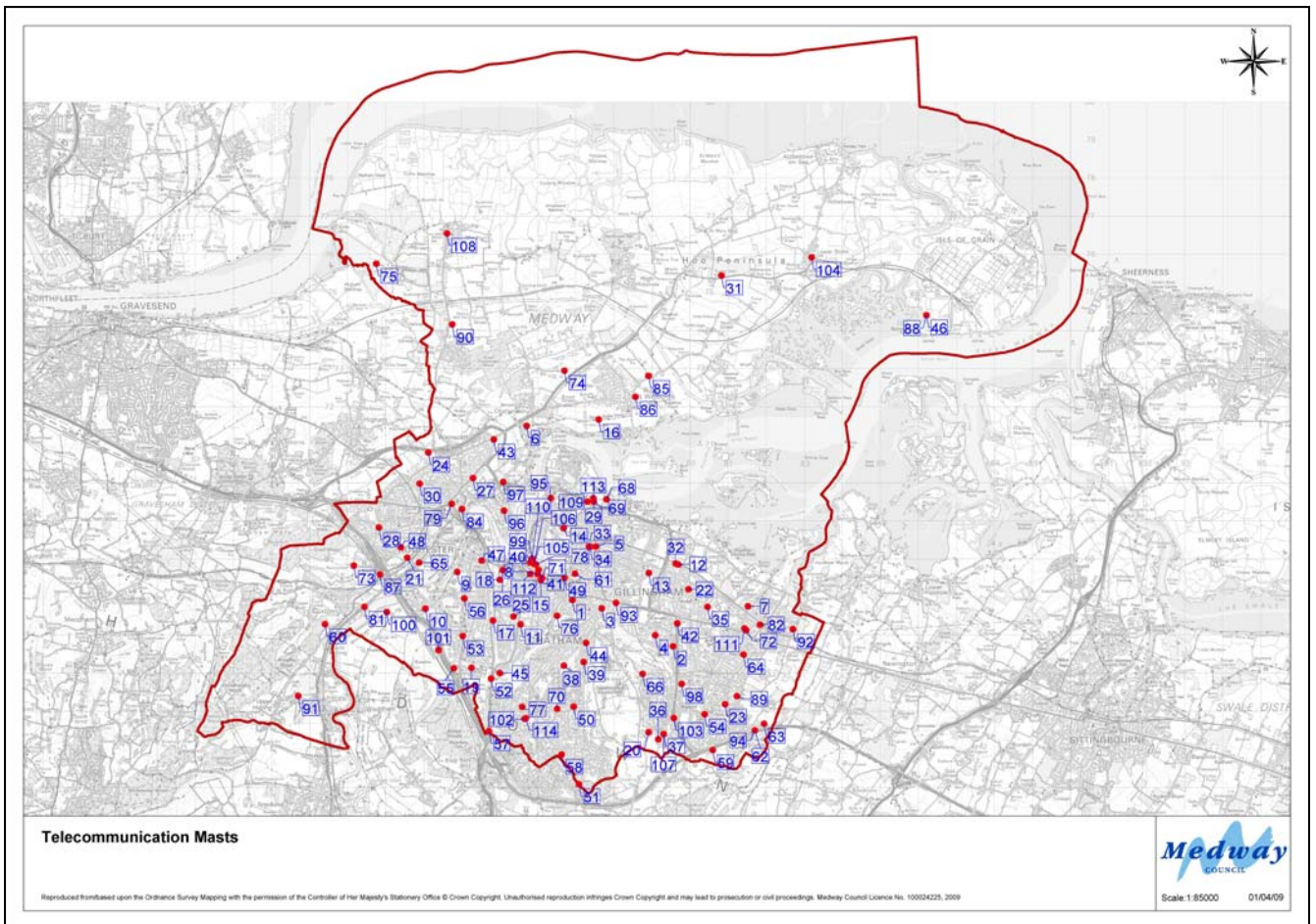


Figure 5.2: Location of telecom masts in Medway

6. TRANSPORT

- 6.1 Medway has an extensive primary route network, connections to the motorway network. Public transport links include rail and bus services and a freight railway line serves the Isle of Grain.
- 6.2 Transport movements in Medway have historically been restricted by the topography of the area and the River Medway follows a difficult course dividing up the urban area and creating steep dip slopes. This results in severely restricted route options and river crossings for road and rail.
- 6.3 It is vital that Medway's transport system can be maintained and improved to meet the expected regeneration and levels of development over the medium to long term. Medway has important business and commerce centres with major business parks at Gillingham and Medway City Estate, together with major tourist attractions. With the planned economic growth in Medway it is of paramount importance that the Medway conurbation does not suffer from increased congestion and that transport movements are sustainable.³⁶
- 6.4 The following diagram shows Medway's strategic transport network.

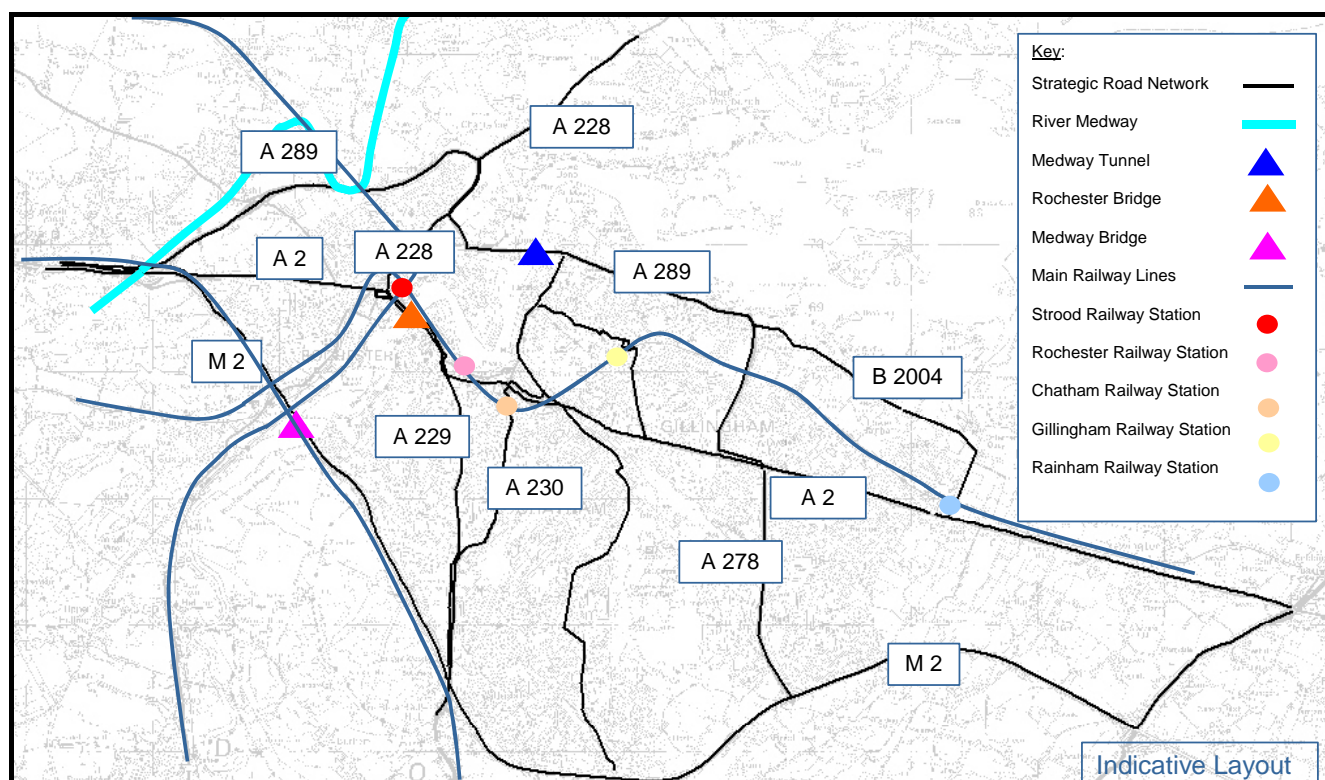


Figure 6.1: Medway's Strategic transport Network

Highways

- 6.5 Medway Council as a highway authority is directly responsible for the maintenance of

³⁶ Ibid N1 para 1.8.1 – 1.8.2

742.3km of roads. In addition the authority is unique in having the responsibility of a major asset in the form of the Medway tunnel. The main aim of highway maintenance is to preserve the integrity of the infrastructure and maintain the asset value of the network, whilst having regard to environmental, social and safety issues.

- 6.6 The A228 is a major north/south link through Medway from the authority's southern boundary at Snodland through to the north at Thamesport on the Isle of Grain. Although currently the Isle of Grain is a predominantly rural area, this provides a number of significant regeneration opportunities on brownfield sites. A major upgrade has taken place on the route between Main Road and Ropers Lane.³⁷

Car Use

- 6.7 Private car plays a significant role in the movement of people across the area. Figure 6.2 shows major vehicular movement. There has been a significant increase in car ownership in recent years; by 24.3% between the 1991 and the 2001 census.

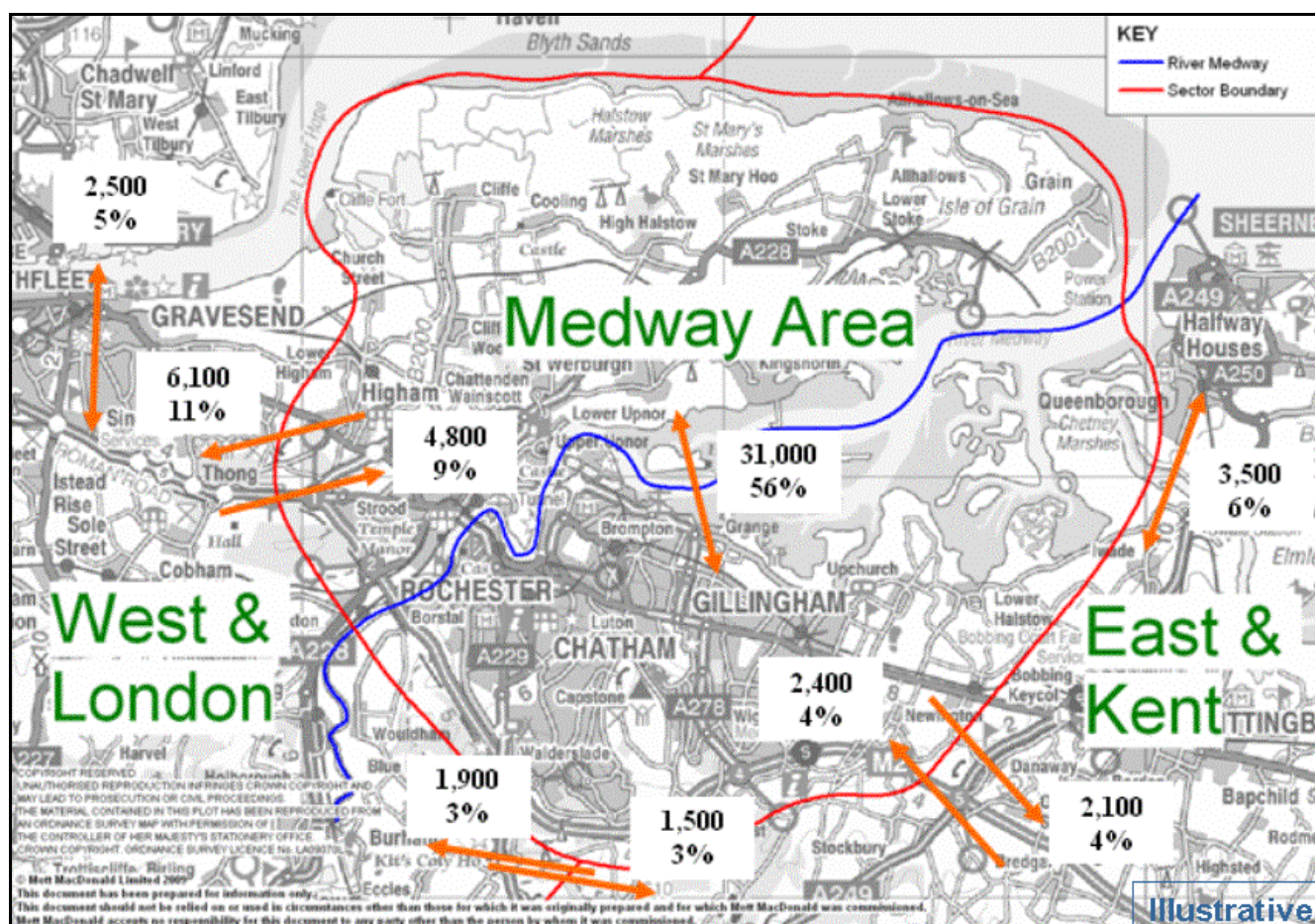


Figure 6.2: Major Vehicular Movement in Medway

- 6.8 The high usage of the car is also demonstrated in Figure 6.3 showing the mode of travel to work for people in Medway.³⁸

³⁷ Ibid N1 para 1.8.8

³⁸ Office of National Statistics, Census Data, 2001

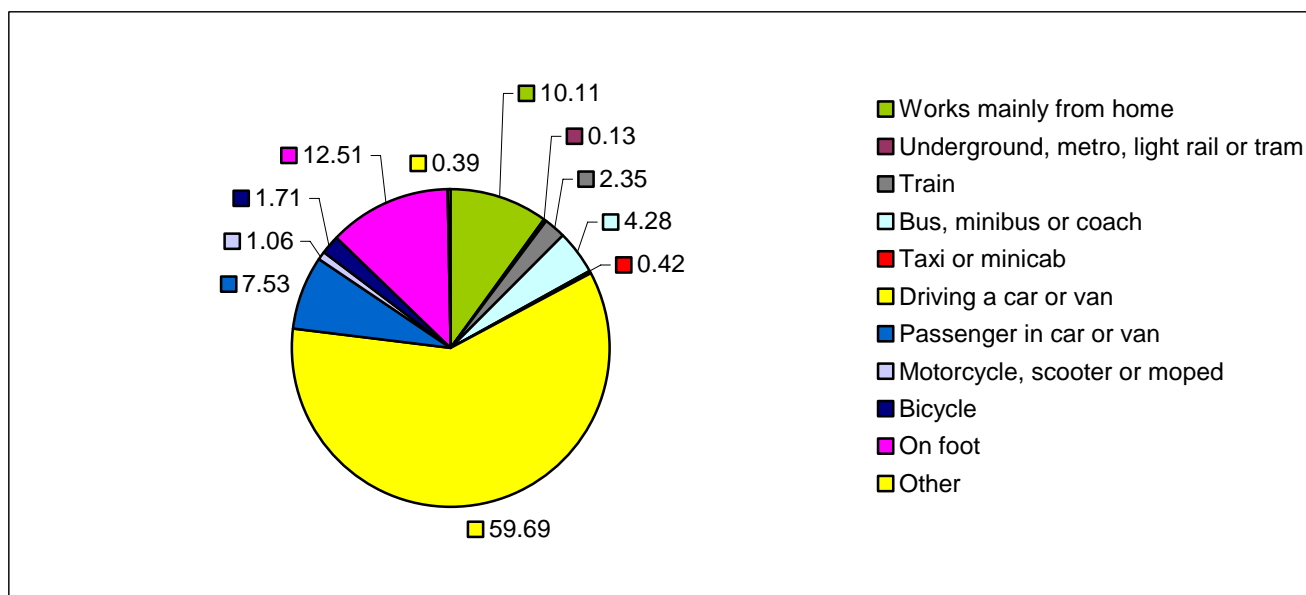


Figure 6.3: Mode of travel to work for people in Medway

Rail

- 6.9 The rail network is centered around the North Kent line, which serves Rainham, Gillingham, Chatham, Rochester and Strood. This provides services to the main London terminals of Victoria, Charing Cross, Waterloo, Cannon Street and London Bridge. There is also a secondary rail line through the Medway Valley serving Cuxton and Halling and through to Maidstone West³⁹.
- 6.10 Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) domestic services. In 2009 it is expected that high speed domestic rail services will travel from Kent to St Pancras using the CTRL. Services are proposed from Ebbsfleet, Ashford, Medway, Canterbury, Thanet, Folkestone and Dover.
- 6.11 Gillingham, Chatham, Strood and Rochester stations feature in the National Stations Improvement Programme. Medway Council is continuing to work with Network Rail on developing specific projects as part of the programme.⁴⁰ Strood and Rochester stations are not fit for purpose and studies are being undertaken to make recommendations as to how they are improved. Gillingham station will see some enhancements to the station building, the forecourt and access.

Bus

- 6.12 The bus network extends through the urban and rural area with a major terminal at Chatham. The network also extends to the neighbouring towns of Gravesend, Sittingbourne and Maidstone and the Bluewater shopping complex at Greenhithe. The majority of services are local urban routes with a length of under five miles from the principal core area to the outer suburbs, operating at a frequency of between

³⁹ Ibid N1

⁴⁰ http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browse_documents/StrategicBusinessPlan/Update/NSIP_update.pdf

two and eight buses per hour between 07.00 and 19.00 hours. More infrequent services extend into the rural areas of Medway in particularly the Grain peninsula.⁴¹

Coach Travel

- 6.13 A number of private companies provide commuter coach services from Medway to London, the predominant operators being Kings Ferry, Chalkwell and Clarkes. These primarily serve the southern peripheral areas of the Medway conurbation close to the M2. An hourly National Express Service runs from Dover to London and stops at the Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre en route.⁴²

Cycling Facilities

- 6.14 Medway has almost 110km of cycle network, which has grown from 70km in 2003/2004⁴³. Medway Council is continually looking to expand its cycle network, with both on and offroad lanes. Many of the primary road routes in Medway have cycle facilities and a series of other routes are proposed to increase take up of cycling. Cycling is encouraged at new developments by the provision of cycle parking, improving connections and shower facilities along with improved signing.⁴⁴

Parking

- 6.15 Car parking is a key consideration for people who travel by car in Medway. A mix of multi-story, on street and off-street car parking exists.
- 6.16 During 2009 – 2010 a strategy will be developed as to how car parking will be developed across the authority.

Rights of Way and Gateways

- 6.17 In terms of minor public highways, Medway has just over 177 miles (285 km) of Public Rights of Way (PROW), which are shown in Figure 6.5. They have differing roles and types of authorised usages. Figure 6.4 summarises the Public Rights of Way in Medway⁴⁵.

⁴¹ Ibid N1 para 1.8.3

⁴² Ibid N1 para 1.8.4

⁴³ Medway Council, Medway Cycling Action Plan 2006 p.45

⁴⁴ Ibid N1 para 1.8.6

⁴⁵ Medway Council, Movement in Medway: Medway's Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2017 p.4

Type	Quantity of sectional routes	Length in miles Km in brackets
Byways	11	7.5 (12)
Bridleways	24	11.6 (18)
Footpath	299	152.2 (245)
Road Used as a Public Path (RUPP)	13	6.1 (10)
Total	347	177.4 miles (285 kilometers)

Figure 6.4: Summary of Public Rights of Way in Medway

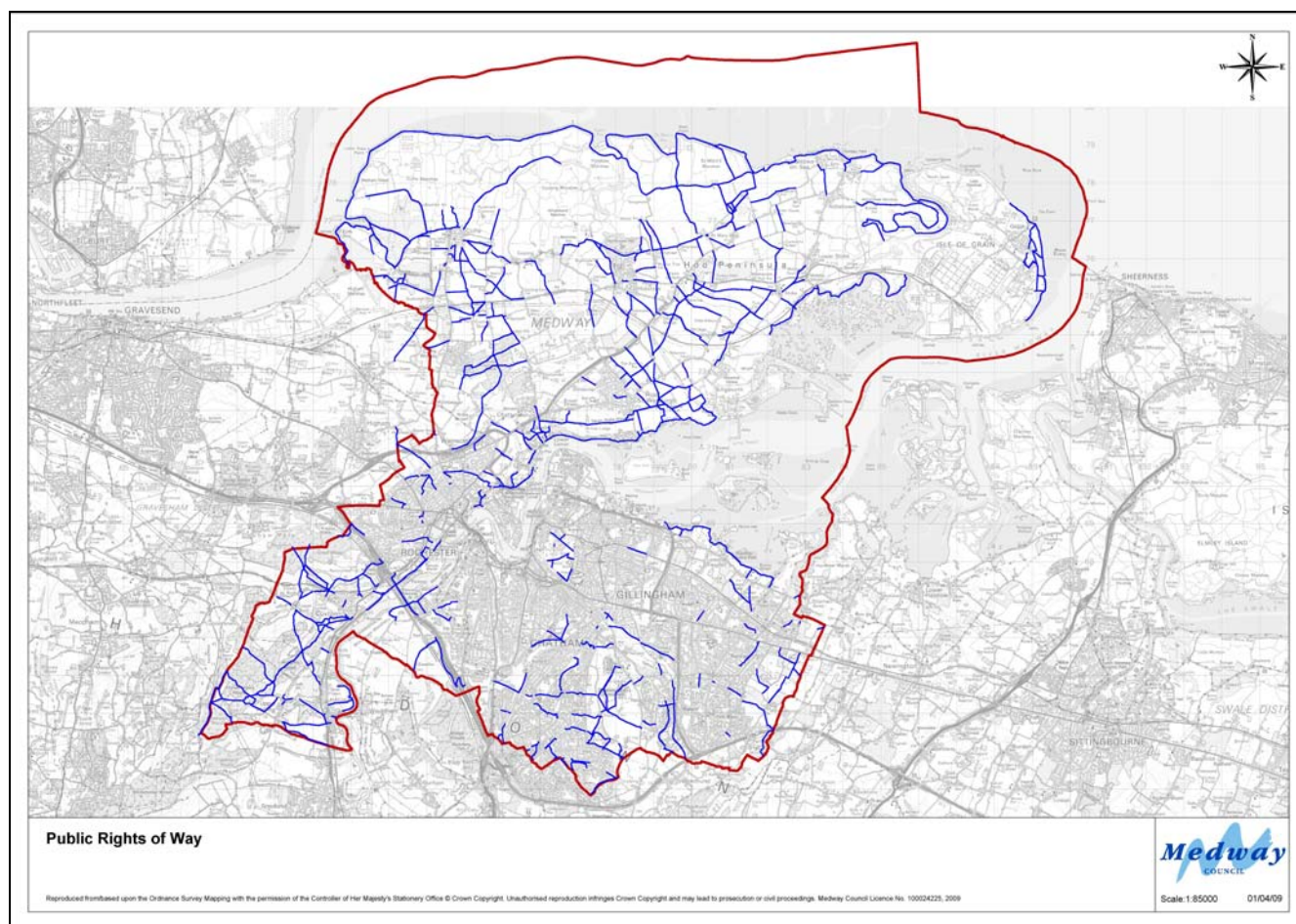


Figure 6.5: Public Rights of Way network

- 6.18 The public rights of way network is a major contributory factor to Medway's Green Grid Strategy⁴⁶ and in the facilitation of green space access in Medway. Medway's Green Grid Strategies development is being informed by the wider vision detailed in the governments sustainable community plan and the 'green in the gateway-Kent and Medway initiative.
- 6.19 The Green Grid draft Strategy identifies key green corridors across Medway. Green corridors include river and canal banks, cycleways, and rights of way. The River Medway and Thames Estuary are important accessible riverbanks. Medway has nearly 400km of public right of way. The Thames Estuary and River Medway are important assets with varying degrees of accessibility. The Saxon Shore Way recreational walk promotes both these important assets.

Sea, Docks and Wharfs

- 6.20 This sector embraces local haulage companies and operations at local ports. The Medway Ports handle in excess of 15 million tonnes of cargo each year, led by Thamesport, which is one of the largest container ports in the UK. A study by Drewry Shipping Consultants⁴⁷ concluded that the facilities spread throughout Medway were all commercially and operationally viable, noting the wide range of cargo types ('from coal to cars and gas to fruit') and the significant employment at Sheerness ('where cars and other conventional cargoes generate more jobs than elsewhere on the river').
- 6.21 Thamesport⁴⁸ is situated just 23 miles from the M25 London Orbital motorway. London Thamesport covers a total area of 85 hectares and includes container and cargo operations, highly automated secure container parks and modern warehousing.
- 6.22 In late 2004, the Port unveiled its brand new, purpose-built Border Inspection Post (BIP), which means that London Thamesport now comfortably exceeds the current EU guidelines on BIPs. This dedicated facility has been welcomed and heralds a revolutionary new era in foodstuffs handling at London Thamesport.
- 6.23 The Port has also made investments in infrastructure and equipment in recent years. The North Park underwent extensive renovation in 2003, and now provides empty storage for up to 3,270 TEUs. Complemented by six new Kalmar empty-handlers, the improvements to the Park have greatly increased productivity in the stacks for full containers. The introduction of eleven new Terberg terminal tractors at the Port in 2004 has significantly reduced turnaround times to and from the yard and quay, and an order for a further eight has been placed with Terberg, for delivery in March this year.
- 6.24 In the late spring of 2005, we will see the completion of an extensive programme at London Thamesport to upgrade five of our post-Panamax ship-to-shore gantry

⁴⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government, Creating sustainable communities: Greening the Gateway - a greenspace strategy for Thames Gateway, 2004

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/thamesgateway/pdf/146688.pdf>

⁴⁷ Medway Council, River Medway Report, June 2007

⁴⁸ <http://www.londonthamesport.co.uk/publications/journal/>

cranes, thereby enabling us to handle some of the largest container vessels in the world.

- 6.25 Total berth frontage is currently 655 metres with depth alongside at 15.5 metres at low water. The Port is making plans to extend to 750 metres. Fully integrated computer systems have been developed for inventory control, ship planning, accounting and management functions, linked directly to computer terminals in all mobile equipment. London Thamesport is connected to the UK's motorway system via the A228 and A2 roads. Work has begun on further improving the A228, with an additional 4km of dual carriageway opened in November 2005.
- 6.26 London Thamesport also benefits from a common-user dedicated rail terminal. This terminal is equipped with rail mounted gantry cranes (RMG's) with a safe working load of 35 tonnes. London Thamesport also offers daily services to/from the UK's major rail destinations of Leeds, Birmingham, Glasgow, Manchester & Doncaster.

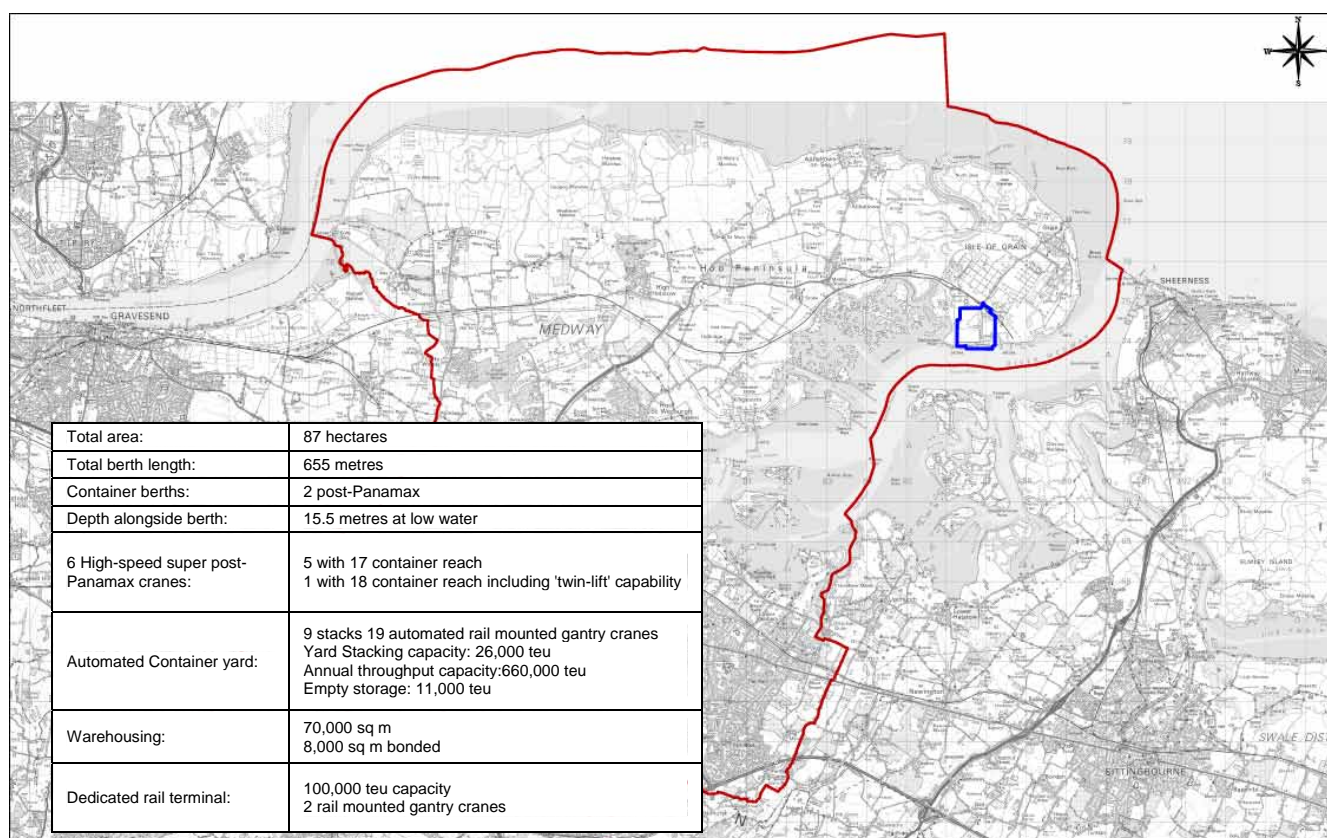


Figure 6.6: Summary of Thamesport facilities and map showing location

- 6.27 Recent improvements at London Thamesport have included new warehouse racking facilities for up to 8,200 pallets. The in-house Warehouse Management System has also been upgraded to provide full Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) coverage in all areas, ensuring goods are easily and securely stored and tracked.
- 6.28 London Thamesport boasts four modern, LIFFE-approved warehouses comprising a total of 17,280 sq m. Both wet and dry goods are catered for with 11,148 sq m of fully bonded warehousing, enabling customers to process goods under HM Customs supervision whilst also allowing Duty and VAT suspension. Storage

capacity is set to increase by a further 7,000 sq m with the construction of four additional bonded warehouses.

Rochester Airport

- 6.29 Aviation started at the airport in the early 1930s when Rochester City Council purchased the land at Rochester Airfield as the site for a municipal airport. It had been in various ownerships until 2004, when it reverted back to Council ownership.
- 6.30 A short-term lease between enthusiasts and the council was negotiated to enable the airfield to continue operation. A new five-year lease was signed early in 2009.
- 6.31 The airport has 2 runways and a relief runway, which are grass, as are the taxiways. Its operating hours are from 8am to 6pm.
- 6.32 Kent Police use the airport as a forward base for the helicopter it shares with Essex Police (which is in operation 24 hours). Local police officers and the Coastguard also use the airport as their base.
- 6.33 Land around the operational airport (see figure 6.7) has been identified as a high growth employment opportunity, underpinned by the presence of the large BAE Systems complex.

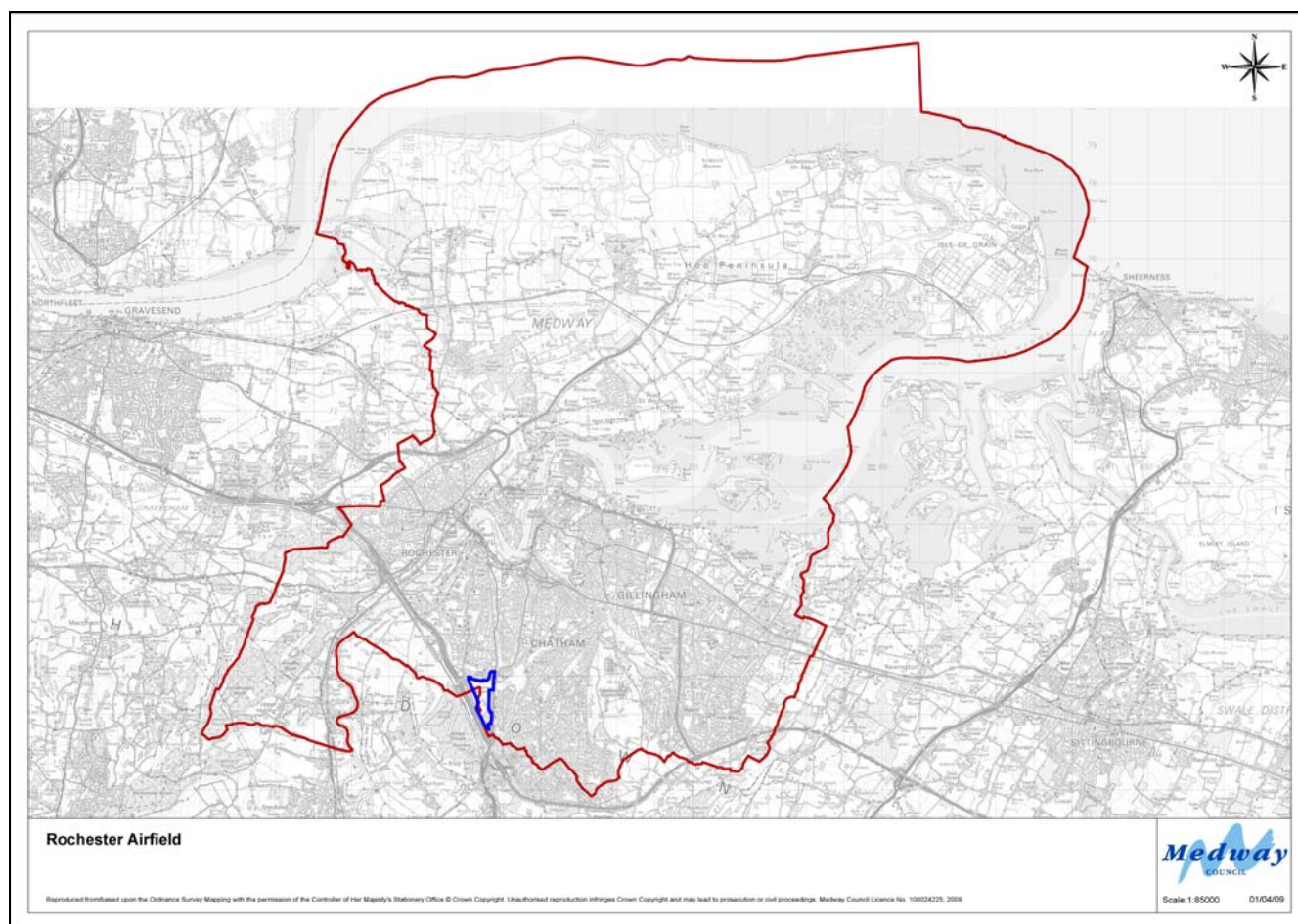


Figure 6.7: Rochester Airfield

7. EDUCATION AND LEARNING

Sure Start Centres

- 7.1 Most of Medway's Sure Start Children's Centres are part of local infant or primary schools making them easy to access for families with children aged under five. Sure Start Children's Centres coordinate and provide local services for local communities. The idea of a children's centre is that it will become a service hub within the community, offering a core service provision from the antenatal period until children start in reception or Year 1 at primary school. Services on offer will include midwifery appointments, health visitor drop-in sessions, benefits and job seeking advice from Jobcentre Plus and children's and adult's book libraries. As a minimum, each children's centre will have a multi-use space for child and family activities, a small children's library, a designated Community Liaison Officer and high quality education and care for three to five year-olds.
- 7.2 There are now 14 children's centres in Medway, four of which are original Phase One centres and ten are newly developed Phase Two centres, which opened, mid-2008. By Spring 2010 there will be a total of 21 children's centres in Medway, so that a local centre serves every community.
- 7.3 Each will serve a community of approximately 800 children under five years old and their families. With the exception of All Saints Children's Centre, all children's centres will be located on existing infant or primary school sites. The opening of a Sure Start Children's Centre at a school does not affect the number of places a school can provide for pupils.

Childcare

- 7.4 This section refers to early years childcare and out of school provision for children aged up until 14 (or 17 for disabled children).
- 7.5 The Childcare Act 2006 fulfils the government's commitment to give every child the best start in life and parents greater choice about how to balance work and life. The Act places duties on local authorities to improve outcomes for young children and reduce inequalities between them. The Act gives local authorities a key role in shaping the childcare market in their area.
- 7.6 An assessment regarding sufficiency has been conducted to determine the supply of childcare and parental demand for childcare to enable the Council to perform its Childcare Duty as outlined in the Act.
- 7.7 Medway has a wide variety of childcare provision; childminders, full day care nurseries, out of school clubs (breakfast clubs and after schools clubs), holiday playschemes, nannies (and other home based care); nursery schools and classes, crèches, pre schools. Figure 24 shows the locations of the provision for non-home or school based provision.

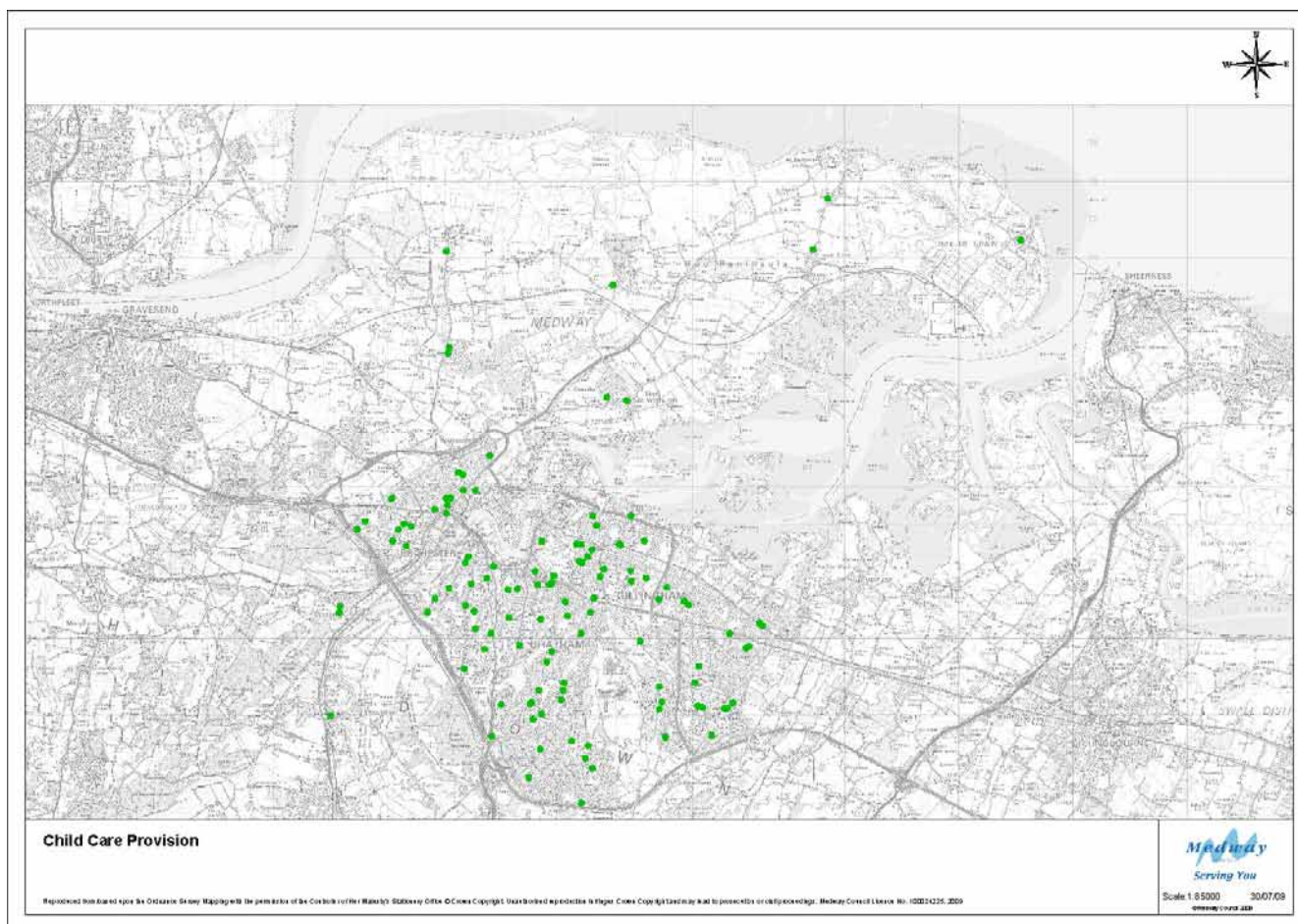


Figure 7.1: Location of childcare provision in Medway

7.8 An assessment of vacancies conducted in November 2007 highlighted 1,924 vacant childcare places across Medway. This constitutes 22.5% of the market. Figure 7.2 below shows the breakdown of vacancies by ward and by provider type.

Ward	Sessional Pre-school Nursery school	Childminders	Out of School Breakfast clubs Afterschool clubs Holiday clubs	Full Day Care	Crèches
	% Vacancy	% Vacancy	% Vacancy	% Vacancy	% Vacancy
Chatham Central	36	50	3	24	0
Cuxton and Halling	34	19	0	0	0
Gillingham North	14	31	19	27	0
Gillingham South	14	59	23	59	0
Hempstead and Wigmore	15	27	0	42	0
Lordswood and Capstone	12	41	20	34	0
Luton and Wayfield	26	51	0	55	35
Peninsula	14	32	0	11	0
Princes Park	8	47	24	9	0
Rainham Central	15	42	0	0	0

Rainham North	0	37	0	43	0
Rainham South	7	63	2	0	0
River	9	65	0	16	55
Rochester East	0	33	0	0	0
Rochester South and Horsted	19	59	8	9	0
Rochester West	10	41	0	39	0
Strood North	14	49	13	17	0
Strood Rural	15	57	6	9	0
Strood South	24	66	17	25	0
Twydall	0	39	11	13	0
Walderslade	14	42	4	23	0
Watling	23	46	0	41	46
Average	15	46	8	23	26

Figure 7.2: Childcare vacancies in Medway by provider type and by ward

- 7.9 The occupancy levels and vacancy rates across Medway indicate that there is sufficient childcare provision in Medway. However there are some areas where particular services or provisions may not be enough to meet the need of the local children population. These are areas where no vacancies have been recorded against a provider type.⁴⁹
- 7.10 The fact that there are very few places in particular wards and areas does not suggest that there is the need to develop new services. Vacancy rates in the area may suggest very low demand for childcare and creating a new service to complement population demographics could eventually lead to oversupply. There should be more focus on sustainability of provision, especially long term for childcare places in deprived areas.
- 7.11 There are currently very few childcare places for school aged children and 'out of school' care facilities in most areas are either full (no vacancies) or have very few vacancies. Parents who reported that there is not enough provision of childcare in Medway tend to cite lack of after school clubs and not enough provision during holidays.
- 7.12 The cost of childcare in Medway is low in comparison with the England and South East average. Parents in Medway pay less for childcare than their counterparts in the South East and England in general. Despite the low costs research⁵⁰ has shown that parents feel childcare is too expensive and cite it as a reason for not being able to work. Take-up of the free early years education entitlement is generally high, over 96%.

School Education

- 7.13 According to the department of Children Schools and Families Medway Council as a Local Education Authority have a statutory obligation to provide education.

⁴⁹ Medway Council, Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2007-2008

⁵⁰ Medway Council, Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2007-2008

- 7.14 Medway has 6 independent schools and also has children learning at home which are not subject to detail in this report. The location of all schools that Medway Council is responsible for administering is shown in Figure 3.3.

Primary schools

- 7.15 There are 85 Medway owned and primary schools, which are made up of community, voluntary controlled and voluntary aided. There are 20,890 children currently attending Medway primary, infant and junior schools.
- 7.16 The School Organisation Plan has in the past been the main vehicle for reviewing primary school provision although a new plan is being developed.
- 7.17 Since Medway became a unitary authority in 1998, two primary schools have been opened. Eight (four infant and four junior schools) schools have been amalgamated into four.
- 7.18 Currently Medway has 14 primary schools with surplus places. This is monitored by the DCSF who look at the schools with 25% or more surplus places.

Secondary Schools

- 7.19 There are 19 secondary schools, which are made up of community, foundation and voluntary aided. There are just under 20,000 pupils enrolled in Medway's secondary schools. Of the 19 mainstream secondary schools, six are selective, 10 are non-selective and 3 are wide ability. Nine of the 19 schools are single sex (4 boys, 5 girls) and 10 are co-educational.
- 7.20 In September 2009 we will have a new Academy opening in Strood, which merges two schools and will not be under local authority control when open. Therefore Medway will have 17 secondary schools. There are plans for other mergers and academies in Medway.

Special Schools

- 7.21 There are 4 special schools, which include a hospital school based in Gillingham. During the pupil count in Autumn 2008, there were 477 children enrolled in these schools.
- 7.22 One special school for the hearing impaired, has been closed since 1998.

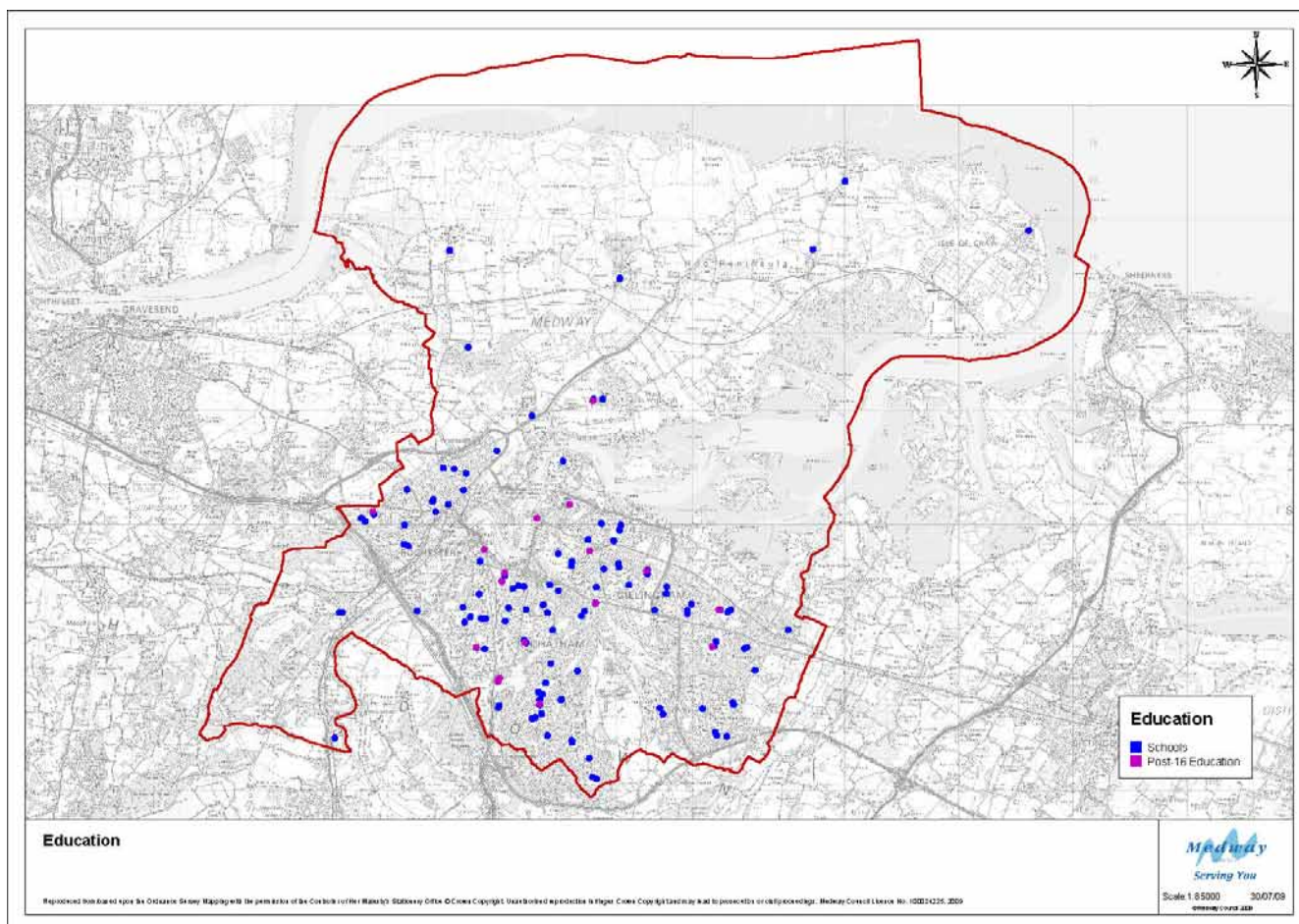


Figure 7.3: Location of schools and higher education establishments in Medway

Higher Education

- 7.23 'Universities at Medway' is a £120 million scheme, which is the first of its kind in the country. It is a unique partnership between the University of Greenwich, the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University and Mid Kent College.
- 7.24 In 2006/2007, there were 8,949 student places (5,016 FTE). The campus is continuing to grow and is well on track to exceed the 2012 target of over 10,000 student places (which will equate to over 6,000 FTE).
- 7.25 On the Medway campus, The University of Greenwich offers courses in 24 different subject areas including Engineering, Health and Social Care, Leisure and Tourism, Multimedia, Nursing, Science and Pharmacy. The University of Kent offers courses across 21 subject areas including Creative Events, Journalism, Music Technology and Sports Science. Courses offered by Canterbury Christ Church University span 13 subjects including Midwifery, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy. Mid Kent College courses cover 28 subject areas offering courses at all levels from GCSEs to Honours Degrees as well as many 'Access to Higher Education' courses and 'job-related' courses at NVQ level, GNVQ and BTECs.
- 7.26 The Medway campus has a new engineering research block specialising in bulk solid handling, additional laboratory facilities and a training dispensary for the School of Pharmacy as well as modern workshops including a computer-aided design studio.

- 7.27 One of these academic specialities is the Medway School of Pharmacy. This is a collaboration between the University of Greenwich and the University of Kent, which opened in 2004. It has won a prestigious seal of approval from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. The School has around 600 students and has designed an innovative patient focussed programme that addresses the needs of healthcare professionals.
- 7.28 Mid Kent College is currently based over three sites at Horsted (Chatham), City Way (Rochester) and Oakwood Park in Maidstone. The new campus being constructed at Chatham Maritime is due to be completed in September 2009; it will accommodate 30% more students than the existing two sites in Medway. The Oakwood Park site in Maidstone will remain open as a key part of the College's future, alongside the new Medway campus.
- 7.29 Medway also is home to The University for the Creative Arts (UCA). The UCA was formed through the union of The Surrey Institute of Art and Design, University College and the Kent Institute of Art and Design. It is one of the UK's leading providers of specialist art and design education, offering courses in 12 subject areas, with strengths in art, design, architecture, media and communication. The UCA has five campuses in Kent and Surrey, with the Medway campus at Rochester having approximately 1500 students.

Adult Education

- 7.30 There are currently five centres in Medway; Gillingham, Rochester, Rainham Mark Grammar School, Chatham South School and Chapter School (Strood).
- 7.31 Anyone aged 16 or over is able to enrol on Adult Education courses. The service offers a wide variety of courses available to all Medway residents as well as having a service for those wanting professional development. It also is part of the national 'Train to Gain' scheme that offers support to employers to develop a more skilled workforce.

8. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Crematoriums and Cemeteries

- 8.1 Medway has four cemeteries, which are run and maintained by Medway Council. The locations of these are shown in Figure 8.1. There are also 12 Church Yards open to burials, which are not owned by Medway Council, and the locations are also shown in Figure 8.1.
- 8.2 According to the Local Plan 2003 there was a need for further provision of land for cemetery use in the Gillingham area. This is still the case and a site has been reserved at the rear of the existing cemetery in Gillingham.
- 8.3 Medway Crematorium has served the people of Medway and the surrounding areas since 1959. The Crematorium covers 14 acres and is a mix of woodland, shrub beds, formal planting and grass beneath large and stately trees.

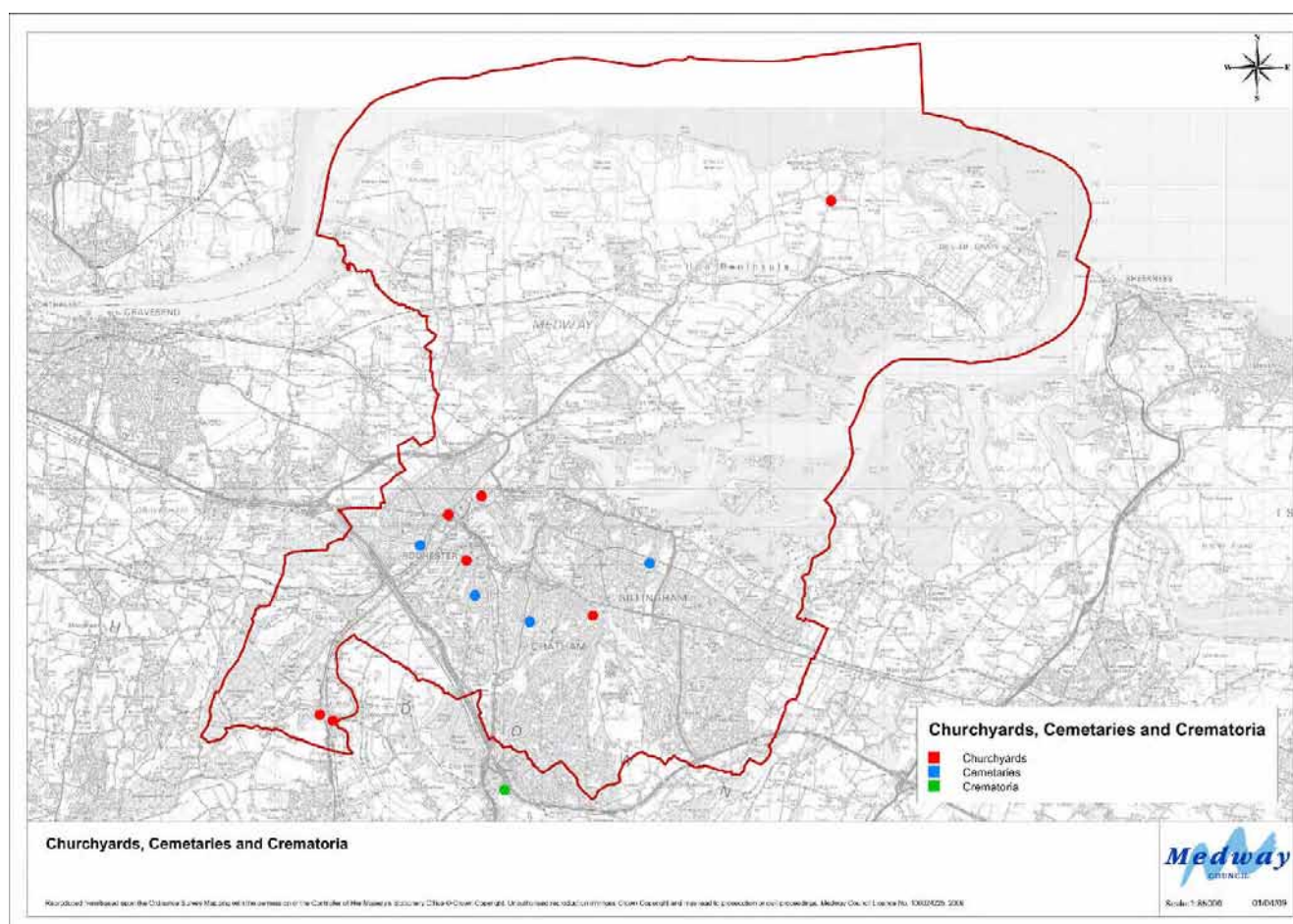


Figure 8.1: Locations of Open Church Yards, Cemeteries and the Crematorium

Community Centres

- 8.4 A community centre can be defined as a physical resource. This acts as a focal point for activities run by communities coming together as a result of a common

interest or because they live nearby. Centres provide a meeting place for local interest clubs.

- 8.5 There are numerous community centres in urban and rural Medway (as shown in Figure 8.3), which are operated by different organisations, mainly within the voluntary sector. Medway Council is responsible for the management of four local community centres across Medway. The four operated by Medway Council are (i) Chattenden Community Centre (ii) Hook Meadow Community Centre (iii) White Road Community Centre (iv) Woodside Community Centre.
- 8.6 An informal review of the quality of the facilities and buildings were carried out in 2006 as part of consideration on the cost effectiveness of each site. Funding was sought to update the buildings and ensure that the sites were safe and secure. None of these centres are financially self-sustaining but they do generate an income.

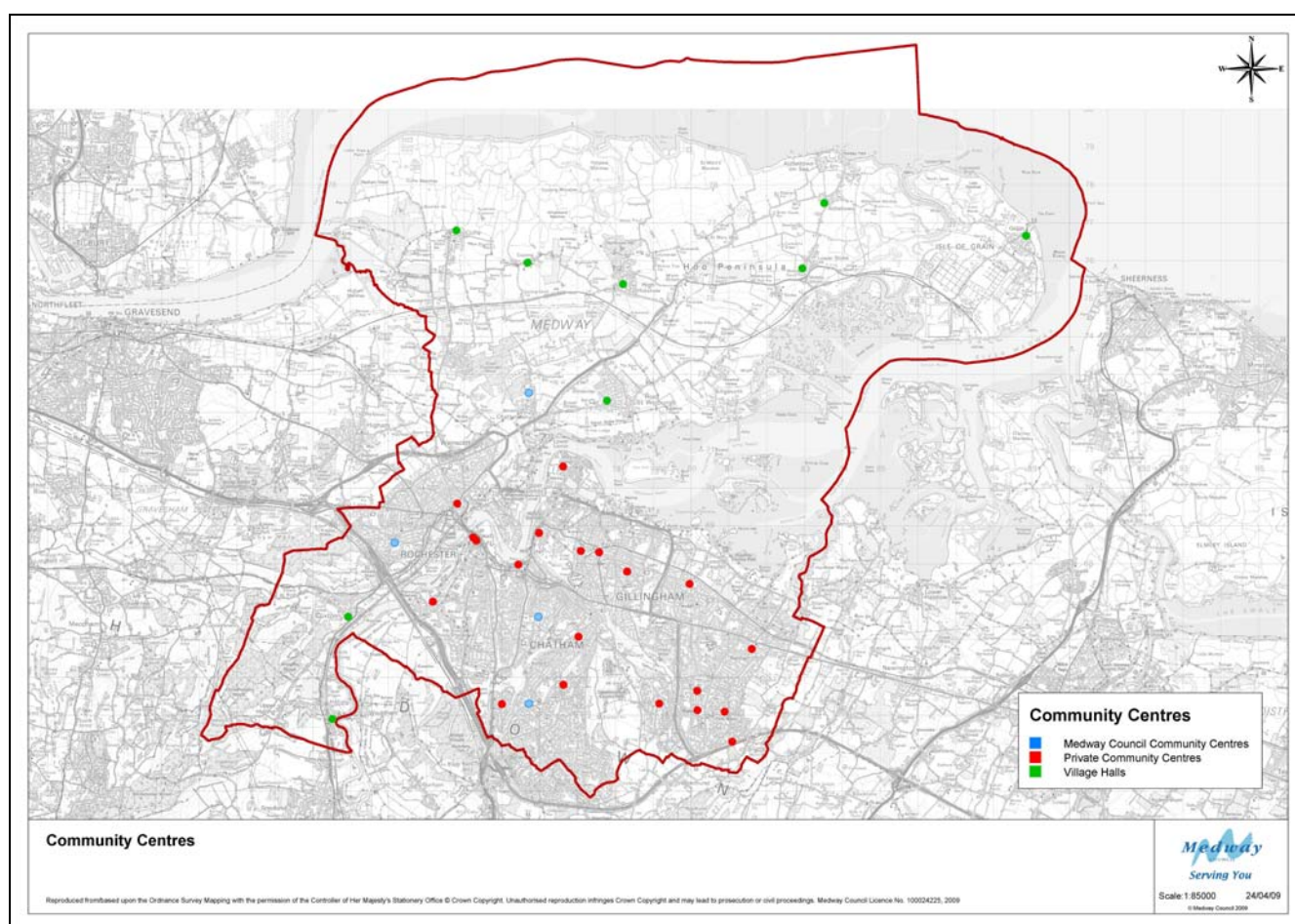


Figure 8.2: Location of Community Centres in Medway

Libraries

- 8.7 Figure 8.3 shows the locations of the 16 libraries. There is also one mobile library that travels to different locations within the area.

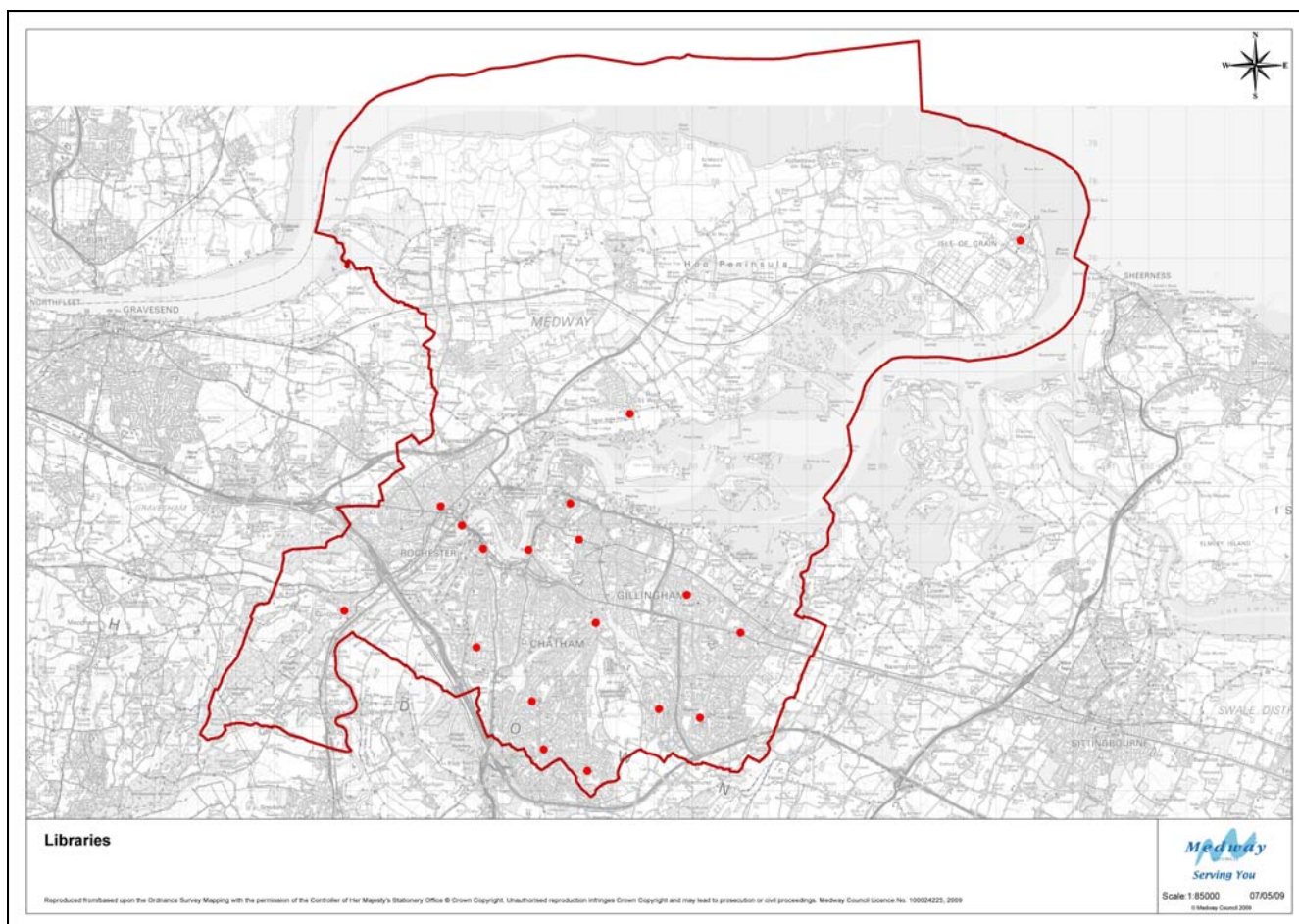


Figure 8.3: Locations of Libraries in Medway

- 8.8 Membership of the library is free. Once a member you are allowed to access a range of information and entertainment at the library and online. With full membership, you can borrow up to 30 items from the library, selecting from: Books; CDs; Spoken word cassettes; DVDs; Console games.
- 8.9 In terms of the operations of the Library Service, figure 8.4 shows the relationship between footfall and issues for the first three months for the time period 2007/2008 and 2008/2009. It shows 6 libraries that have shown an increase in issues rate and 10 libraries with a decrease in issues rate. Four libraries have shown an increase in footfall with 11 libraries showing a decrease. The relationship between footfall and issues is unclear. In the case of Cuxton it shows a big decrease in footfall but shows a large increase in issues. Rainham on the other hand shows a decrease in footfall and a decrease in issues and Hoo shows an increase in footfall but a decrease in issues.

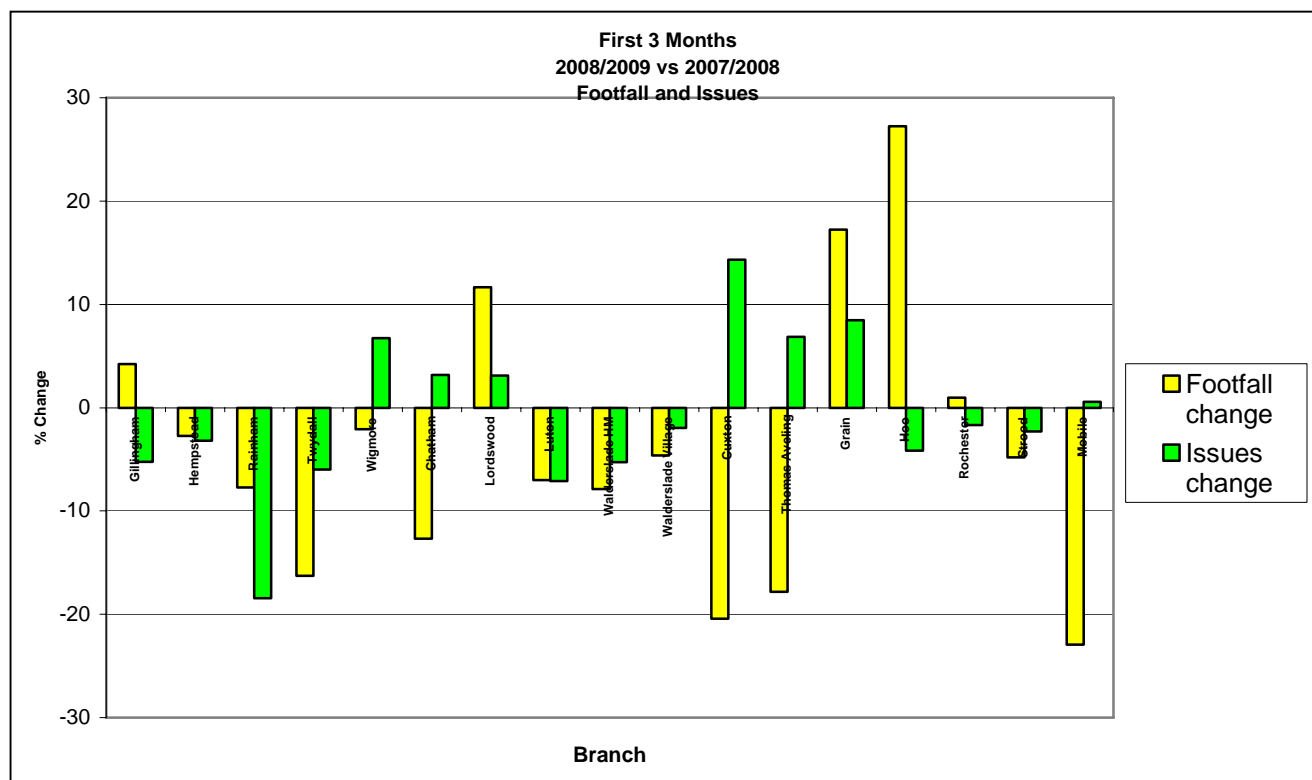


Figure 8.4: Percentage change of library footfall and issues by branch comparing 2008/07 and 2008/09

Council Contact Points

- 8.10 Medway Council's headquarters is at Gun Wharf in Chatham. However, to provide local services to the people in Medway there are 5 Contact Points based in each of the towns: Chatham; Rochester; Gillingham; Rainham; and Strood. The Rochester and Gillingham Contact Points are located with the library service and the Strood and Rainham Contact Points are located with Kent Police. These locations are shown in figure 8.5.
- 8.11 These one-stop shops will allow our customers to walk in and access information, request a council service, make payments or carry out any other council business.
- 8.12 Medway Council also have 6 kiosks throughout the area, which anyone can use to get free access to a range of local government and public service information. People can also make payments with debit or credit cards for council services. This means that if you don't want to go to one of the council's main buildings, you can carry out a transaction electronically close to home. The kiosks are normally available during the opening hours of the building they are in which are: Strood Leisure Centre; Hundred of Hoo Leisure Centre; Deangate Ridge Sports Complex; and in Strood, Chatham and Rainham Contact Points.

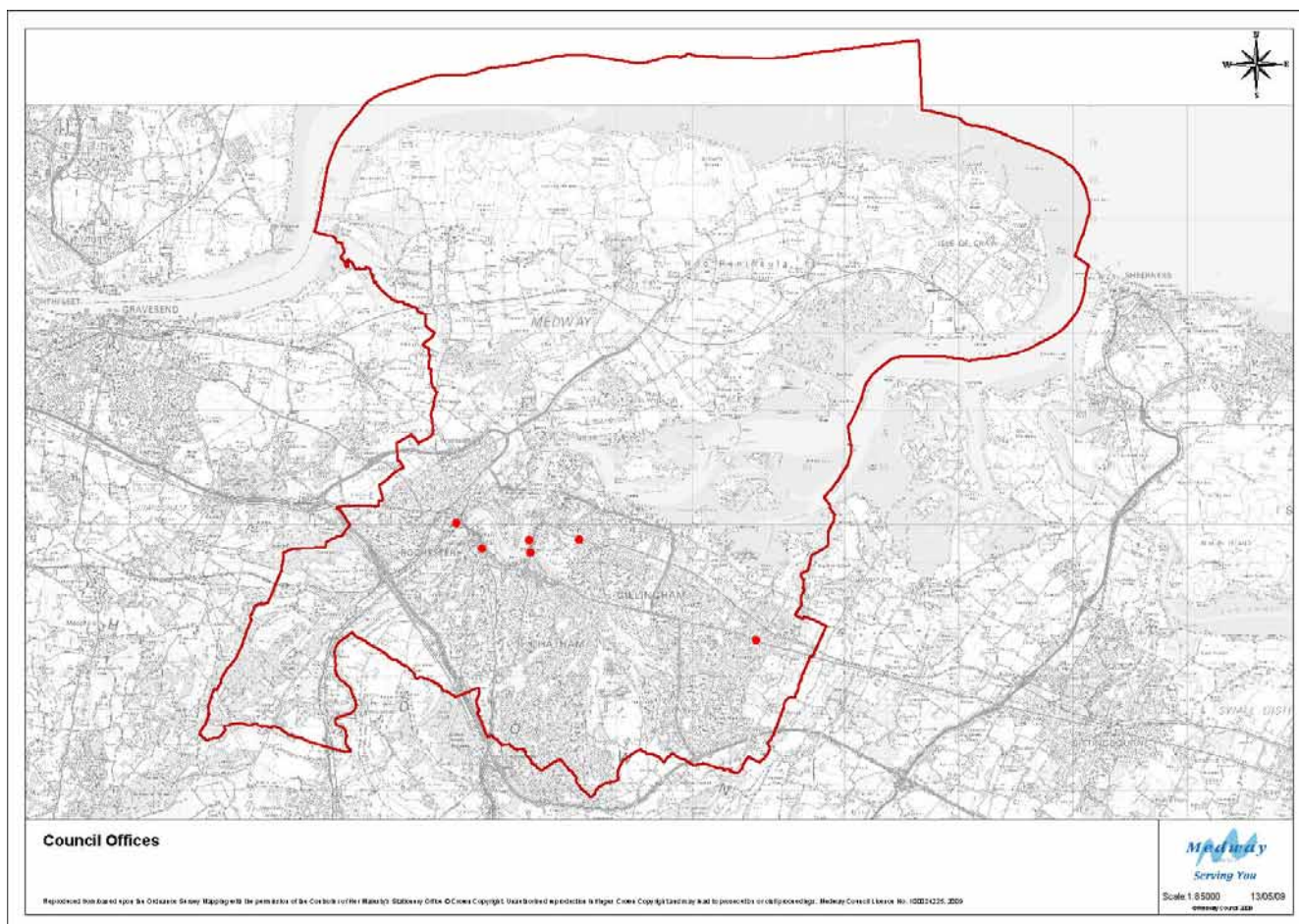


Figure 8.5: Location of Contact Points and Council Offices

Places of Worship

- 8.13 Figure 8.6 shows some of the current location of places of worship in Medway. There are places of worship for: Buddhists; Christian denominations; Hindus, Jewish, Muslims and Sikhs as well as some for smaller independent faiths. However, it is not clear whether the provision is adequate.

Voluntary Sector

- 8.14 Medway has in excess of 530 voluntary and community organisations with about 1,750 staff (full time equivalent) and over 42,000 volunteer hours per week. The voluntary sector in Medway contributes 3.4% to the GDP.
- 8.15 The Medway Council for Voluntary Service is an umbrella organisation, which offers a range of support services to the voluntary and community sector. In 2006 it developed a Local Infrastructure Development Plan for Medway's voluntary and community sector. It identified areas in which the sector needs to develop but recognised that the sector was strong.⁵¹

⁵¹ CVS Medway, Voluntary Infrastructure Consortium for Medway: Change Up in Medway – Local Infrastructure Development Plan, 2006

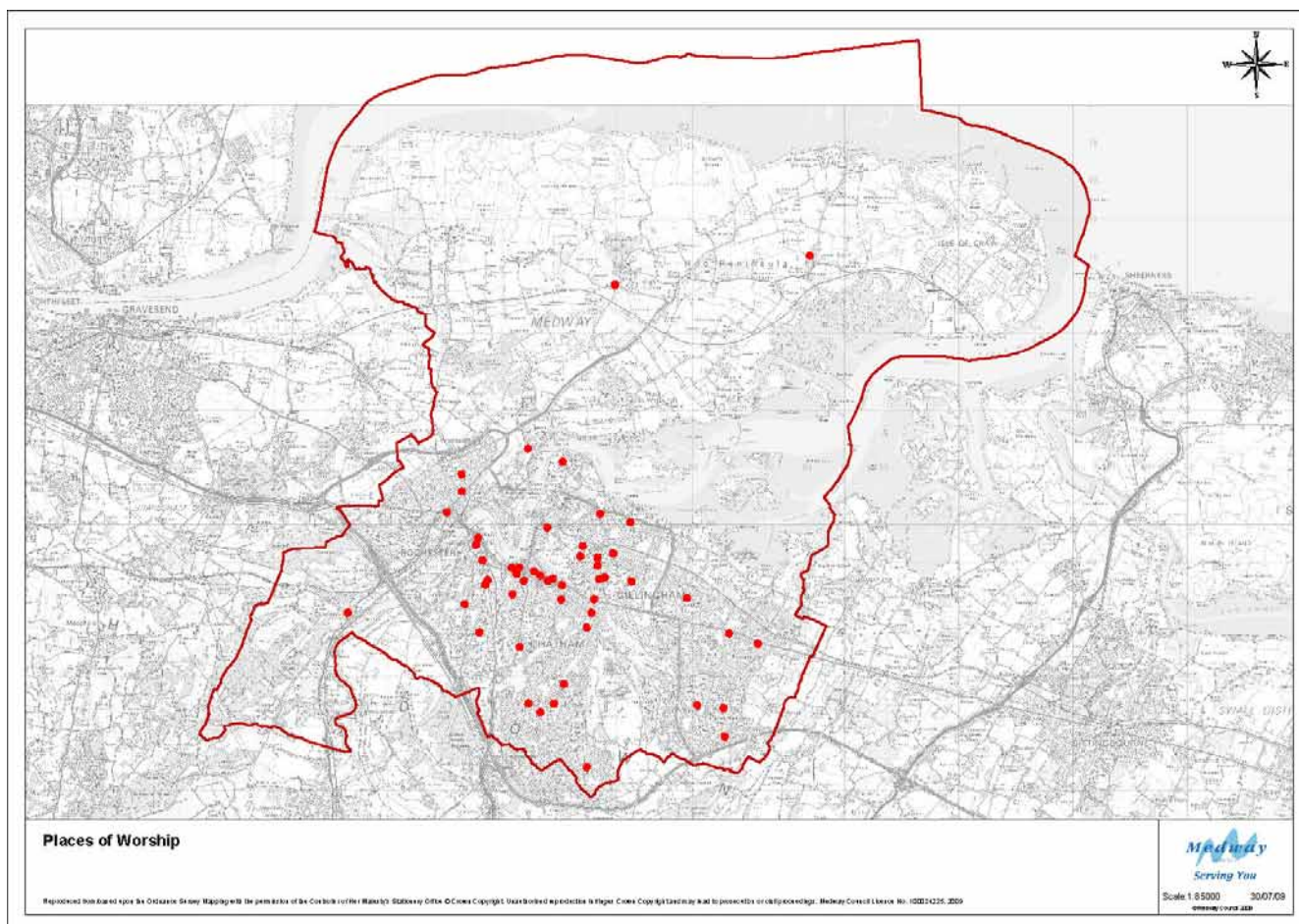


Figure 8.6: Location of places of worship in Medway

Post Offices

- 8.16 Figure 8.7 shows that Post Offices are evenly dispersed throughout Medway. Rural parts of Medway are served by Post Offices located in the villages. This meets the Government requirement of 95% of the total urban area to be within 1 mile of their nearest Post Office and 95% of the total rural population to be within 3 miles of their nearest Post Office.⁵²
- 8.17 The Government recognised that fewer people are using Post Office branches, partly because traditional service, including benefit payments are now available in other ways, such as online or directly through banks. It has concluded that the overall size and shape of the network of Post Office branches needs to change.
- 8.18 Post Office Ltd has now put in place a Network Change Programme to implement the measures proposed by the Government. The Programme has involved the compulsory compensated closure of up to 2,500 Post Office branches (out of a Network of 14,000 branches), with the introduction of about 500 service points known as “Outreaches” to mitigate the impact of the proposed closures.

⁵² Post Office Ltd, Network Change Programme (Area Plan Decision Booklet for Kent), 2008 p.8

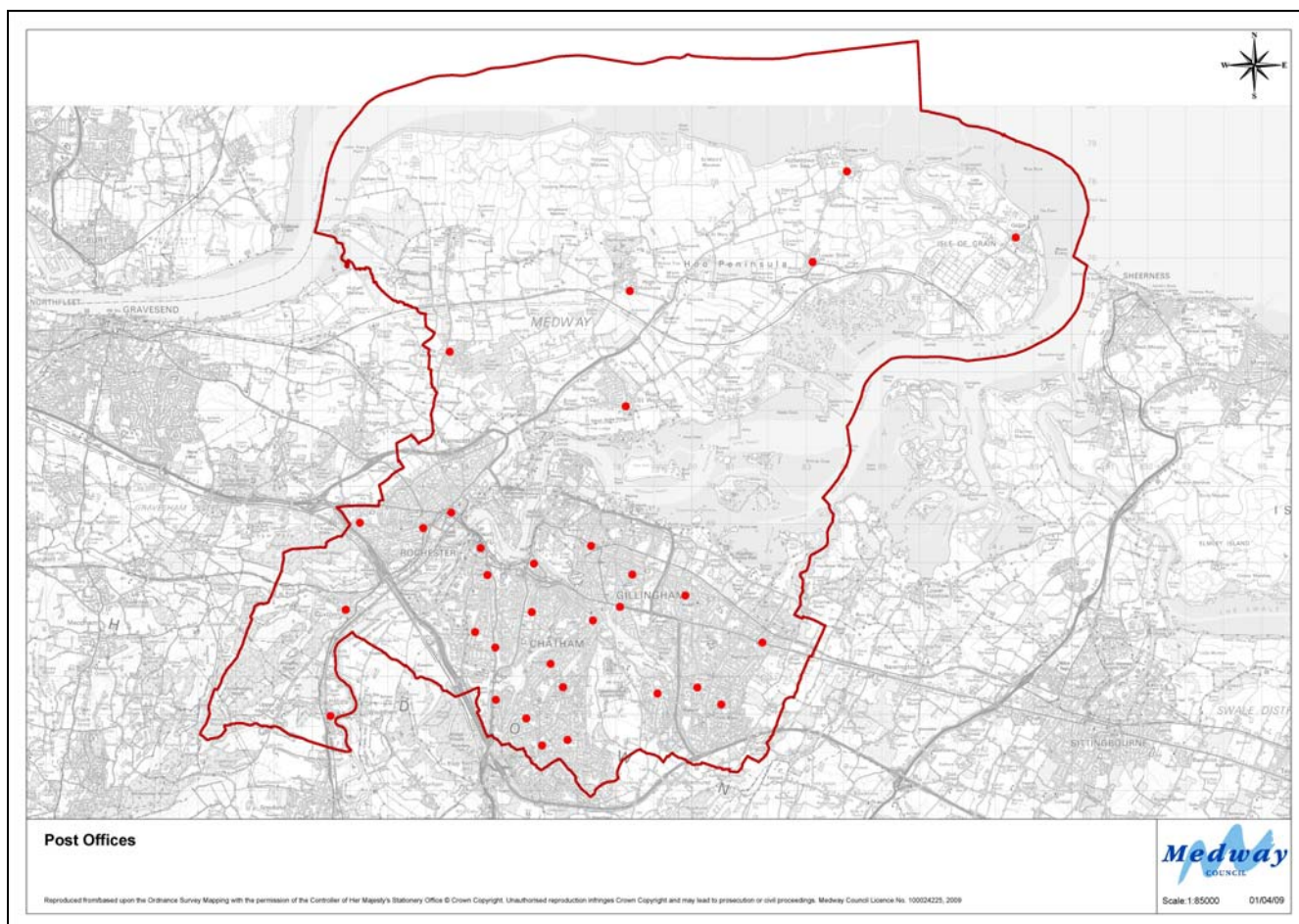


Figure 8.7: Post Offices in Medway

- 8.19 Each Area Plan Proposal was subject to local public consultation to ensure that the views of local people are taken into account before Post Office Ltd made any final decisions. The local public consultation on the Area Plan Proposal for Kent took place in May 2007.⁵³
- 8.20 The proposal was to retain a total of 33 Post Office branches across the area, but to close 4 branches. These were Brompton, Byron Road, and Station Road in Gillingham, and Bingham Road in Rochester.
- 8.21 Other branches has improvement works carried out to provide better disabled access or increase the number of counter positions to ensure that they have sufficient capacity for customers migrating from other branches. The branch in Gillingham High Street was reopened inside the premises of another High Street retailer.

Custodial Services

- 8.22 Medway has two prisons located within the local authority boundary which are part of the HM Prison Service and a young persons unit managed by Rebound Youth Justice Services.

⁵³ <http://www.postoffice.co.uk/portal/po/content1?catId=57600693&mediaId=57600697>

- 8.23 Rochester prison was originally built in 1874 and was rebuilt in the early 20th century as the Borstal Institution, which then converted to a youth custody centre in the early 1980s. In 1988 it became a remand centre for the Kent courts and sentenced category C and D adult males. Further changes in role resulted in a mixed site holding immigration detainees, a resettlement unit for adult male prisoners at the end of their sentences and a remand and allocation centre for under 21 year old males. In 2002 Rochester became a dedicated site for sentenced young men aged between 18 and 21. In September 2008 it opened a further four accommodation units as part of an expansion programme, increasing the population by 300 Young Offenders.
- 8.24 The accommodation is a mixture of single, double and some treble accommodation cells contained on 3 Victorian style wings and a further 1960's residential unit of mixed occupancy accommodation. Four further modular build units containing double and single accommodation, including a Resettlement Unit. As of 15th May 2009 it had an operational capacity of 620 convicted, sentenced young offenders serving up to 6 years.
- 8.25 It offers a work and activity based regime consisting of offending behaviour, education, drug rehab, NVQ based work places, weekend and evening association with access to gymnasium and sports related activities.
- 8.26 Cookham Wood Young Offenders Institute (Rochester) was built in the 1970s, originally for young men, but its use was changed to meet the growing need for secure female accommodation at the time. In July 2007, Ministers announced that Cookham Wood would undergo a change in function and accommodate 15 to 17 year old young men to reduce capacity pressures in London and the South East for this particular age group.
- 8.27 Cookham Wood recently underwent some redevelopment work in 2008 and now has an operational capacity of 157. The primary accommodation is single cells with some double. It focuses on providing education and vocational training and reducing reoffending.
- 8.28 The Medway Secure Training Centre also in Rochester is a unit for young children aged 8 to 15, although 82% of the children who are placed there are aged 14 to 15 years.
- 8.29 Medway has a Youth Offending Team, which is staffed by a multi-agency team working with children and young people who have demonstrated or are at risk of developing anti-social behaviour. The team includes officers from Kent Police, Kent Probation Service, Medway Primary Care Trust, Kent and Medway Connexions Service as well as staff from Medway Council's Children's Care Services. The team are based in premises (from where some services are offered) in Chatham.
- 8.30 The team works closely with young people and their families to provide an early intervention service to curtail anti-social behaviour and to prevent crime. It assists victims of crime and where appropriate, includes them in the youth justice process to take part in a restorative justice programme. YOT workers also provide intensive supervision and surveillance programmes for persistent young offenders and

operate effective plans for preparing young people to return into the community from custody and reduce the risk of them re-offending.

- 8.31 The parenting programmes provided by Medway YOT offer practical support and advice to enhance the skills of parents and thus reduce the risk of their children offending or re-offending.
- 8.32 Medway has a County Court in Chatham, which deals with admiralty, civil, family (divorce and adoption) and bankruptcy matters. There is also a Magistrates Court that deals with youth work and criminal matters.

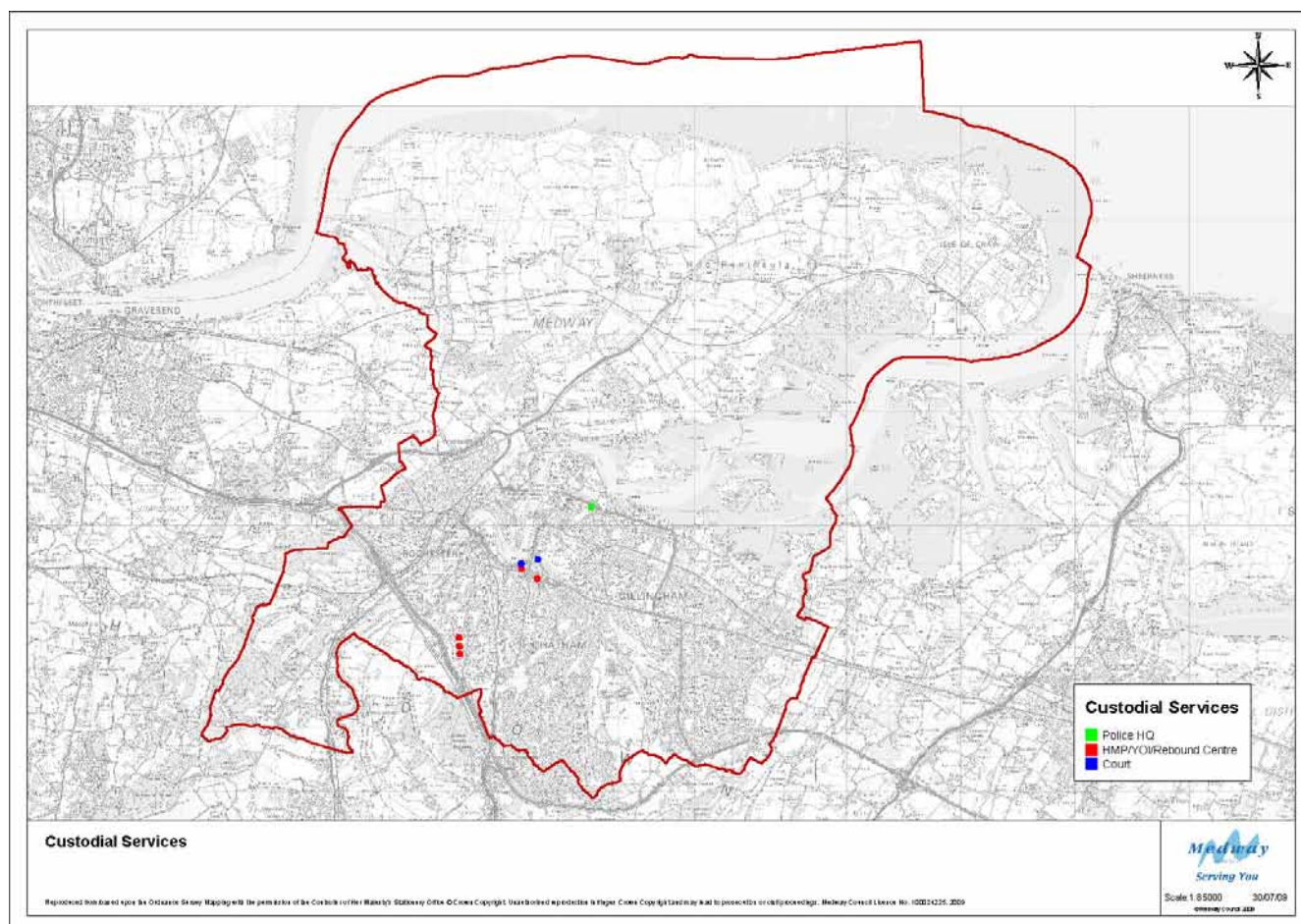


Figure 8.8: Custodial Services in Medway

Youth Services

- 8.33 No information was available when researching this report. Information will be added during summer 2009.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Refuse Collection and Recycling

- 9.1 Medway has 3 refuse sites and 54 recycling points across Medway. The locations of these are shown in figure 9.1.

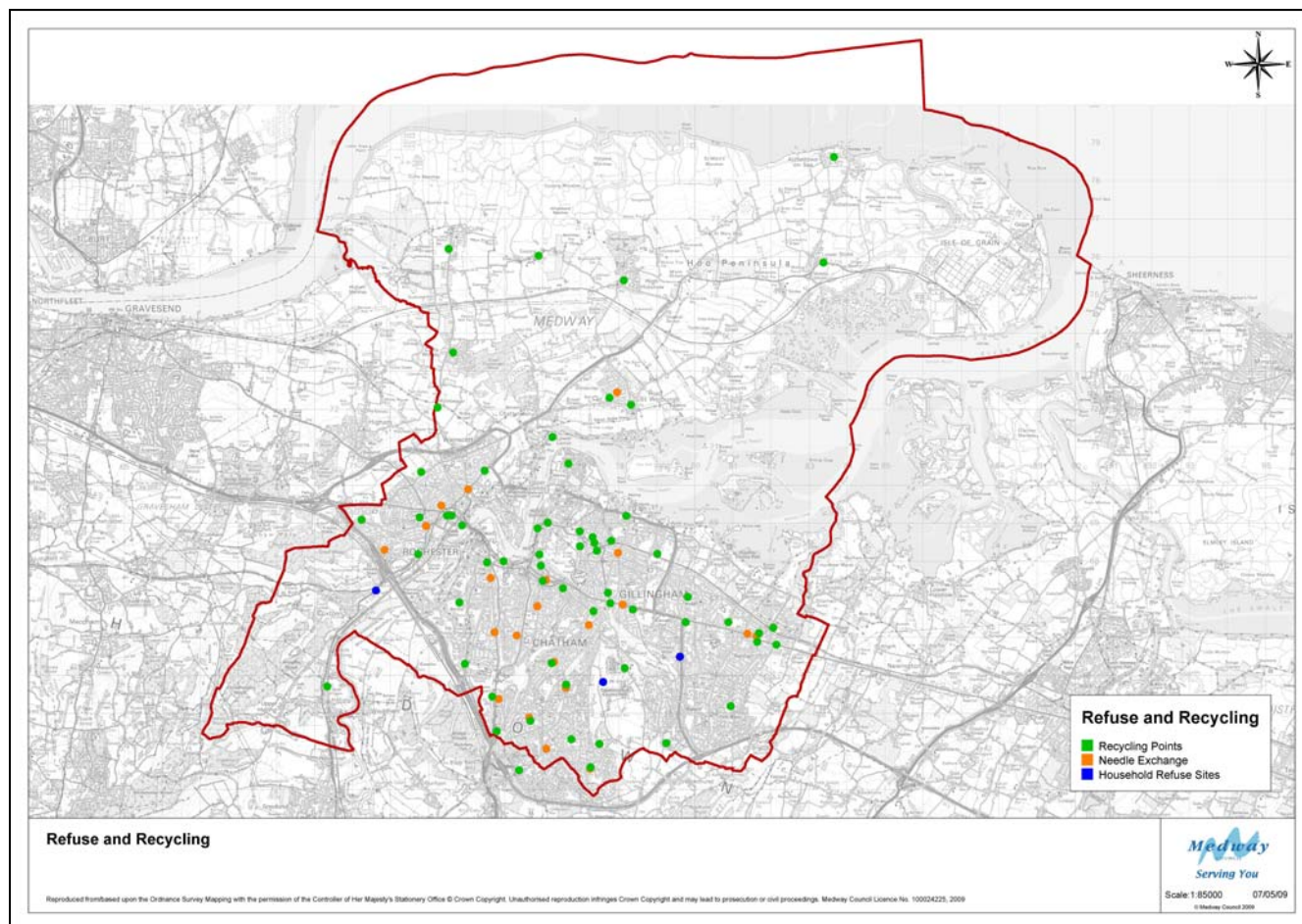


Figure 9.1: Locations of refuse and recycling points

- 9.2 Medway recycles more than ever before - in 2006 to 2007 almost a third of its rubbish. However Medway still buries more than 87,000 tonnes of rubbish in landfill annually and the environmental and financial costs of this increase each year.
- 9.3 Medway offers a doorstep collection of a range of recyclable materials as well as garden waste every fortnight. General household waste is collected each week. The Council offer assistance in the purchase of composting bins and has a collection service for bulky items.
- 9.4 Medway Council disposes of several waste streams: municipal solid waste; waste from commercial premises; waste from industrial premises and waste from construction and demolition activities. Also deals with a small number of household clinical waste disposals, abandoned vehicles and school waste.
- 9.5 All residential municipal waste currently collected in Medway is transported by road to the Rainham Landfill site facility in Essex. It has planning permission to allow

waste to be imported by road until 2012 and 2018 by river. The only alternative landfill sites with capacity near Medway are Canturbury, Kent or Redhill, Surrey.

- 9.6 It is Medway's policy that incinerators will not be used for the disposal of Medway's household waste unless an alternative environmental method of disposal cannot be achieved at a comparable cost.⁵⁴
- 9.7 There is a comprehensive Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005-2020, which outlines existing services and issues, alongside a plan to take into account anticipated development in the area.

Flood Prevention

- 9.8 The impacts of flooding can be both direct and indirect. Often the worst effects of flooding come from surface water flowing into inland streams from higher up the catchment and by flowing into sewers, so that they become overwhelmed.
- 9.9 Medway is located at the end of the Thames Estuary, with the main towns of Chatham, Rochester and some of Strood directly situated along the banks of the River Medway. The authority area also covers large sections of the North Kent coast, including many streams that run across Cliffe, Cooling and Halstow and Stoke Marshes. This means there are a large number of water bodies and streams that could potentially contribute to an overloading of both the natural and man-made water systems.
- 9.10 There have been a number of flooding incidents within the last century where water levels rose to a maximum of 4.6m AoD (above ordnance datum). Recently tidal surges caused low level flooding of Strood affecting Cuxton Marina, Janes Creek and Canal Road. In December 2007, the recorded level at Strood pier (200m downstream of the A2 bridge) was 4.22m AoD (above ordnance datum).⁵⁵
- 9.11 Within the Medway area there are 1551 properties at risk from the likelihood of fluvial flooding at some point during a 1 in 1000 years return period. 1,363 properties have also been identified as being within the likelihood of flooding in a timescale of 1 in 100 years⁵⁶. Figure 9.2 shows the areas that are currently defined as being within Flood Zones 1-3.
- 9.12 The Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan lays out the constraints to development that need to be accounted for in terms of flooding and coastal erosion. The plan considers the situation over the next 100 years. The policy is to 'hold the line' along most of the coastline on both sides of the Medway. This applies to all areas where there are either residential properties or industrial or infrastructure installations.

⁵⁴ Medway Council, Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005-2020 p.38

⁵⁵ Medway Council, State of Medway Report: Climate Change and Renewable Energy, 2008

⁵⁶ Mott MacDonald (on behalf of Medway Council), Medway Strategic Flood Assessment, August 2006

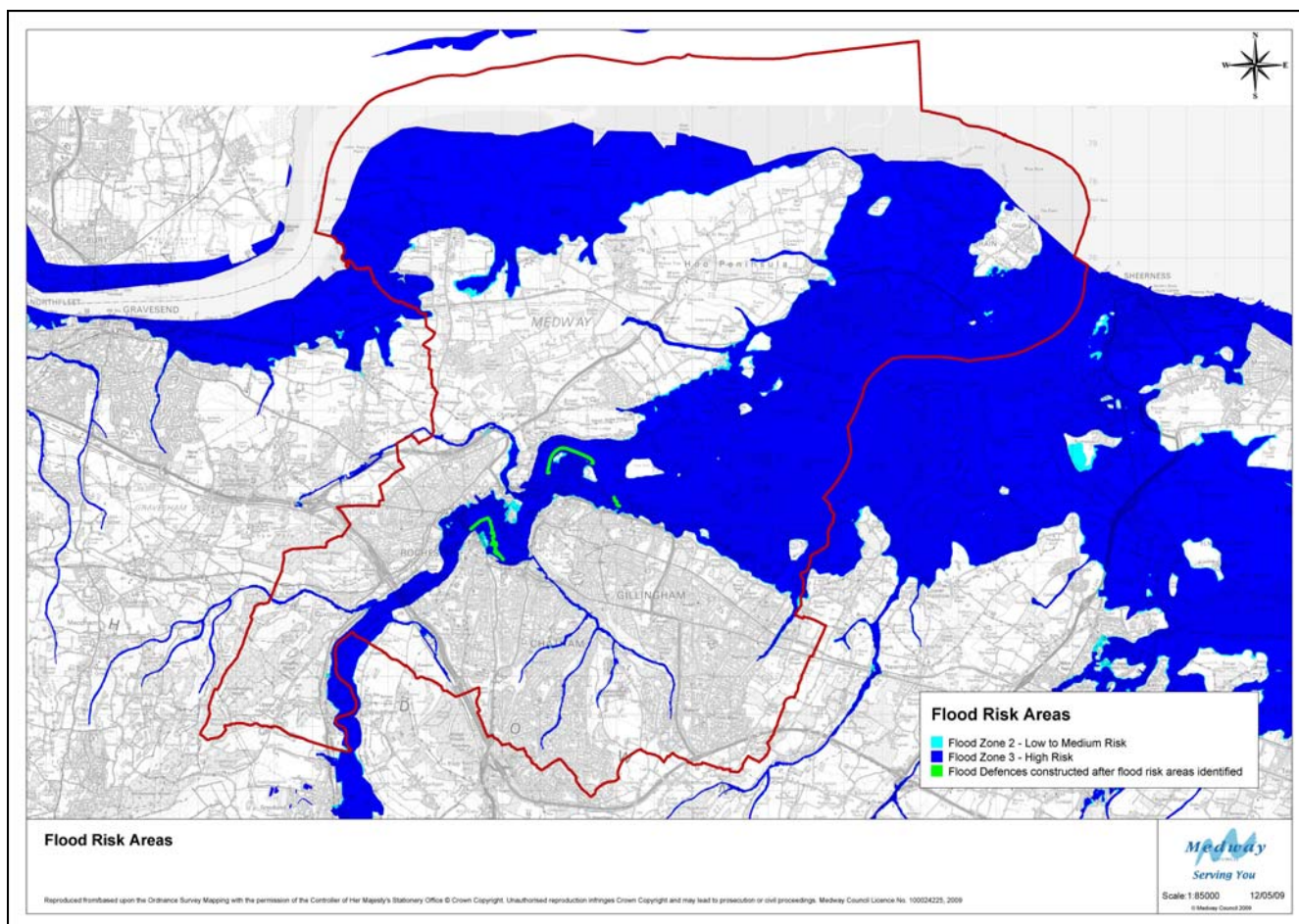


Figure 9.2: Areas at risk of flooding in Medway

- 9.13 In addition, there are limited lengths of coast where a policy of 'managed realignment' is to be applied. In these areas local strategies will be developed to set back the existing defences to allow more space for flood storage and inter-tidal habitats. However these may not be implemented for 50 years or more. Areas affected include the edge of Allhallows, some of Allhallows Marshes and some of the northern area of Grain Marsh.
- 9.14 There are also very limited sections where it is proposed there should be 'no active intervention', meaning that there will be no investment in coastal defences and natural processes will be allowed to take over.

10 HEALTH CARE

Primary Care in Medway

- 10.1 Health care remains the responsibility of central government through the Department of Health. NHS Medway (also known as Medway Primary Care Trust) was established in 2002 and covers the Medway Unitary Authority area. NHS Medway commissions, plans and pays for NHS healthcare for everyone living in Medway, and monitors the quality of that care.
- 10.2 Currently there are five key issues for the PCT: premises are located unevenly across Medway; there is an under utilisation of some buildings especially in the community outreach teams; there are areas of considerable development which are currently under provided; primary care services are provided in many smaller single-handed GP practices; and the location of GPs seem to indicate that some areas are overprovided and some under provided (as shown in figure 10.1).
- 10.3 Medway PCT are looking to develop a spatial strategy which will allow them to develop a tool to map public health requirements, influence planning policy throughout Medway and progress operational service development.

General Practitioners (GP)

- 10.4 It is estimated that NHS Medway serve an additional 20,000 people living outside of Medway who are registered with a Medway GP. It also includes people who are registered with a GP surgery just outside the Medway boundary, which for proximity and administrative reasons are classified as being in NHS Medway catchment area.
- 10.5 Medway PCT is responsible for 68 GP practices⁵⁷ the locations of these surgeries are shown in figure 10.1. There are 130 GPs (not including locums or other clinicians employed there) serving the 270,000 people in the Medway PCT area, which is roughly 2077 per GP. This is over the national average of 1800:1⁵⁸.
- 10.6 The PCT has reviewed its current portfolio of GP premises for compliance with legislation (such as DDA) and a large number do not meet the requirements. In addition primary care services are provided in many smaller single-handed GP practices, considerably higher than the national average.⁵⁹
- 10.7 The age profile of the GPs indicates that there will be a considerable loss of GPs due to retirement (34%) over the next 6 to 8 years.⁶⁰
- 10.8 80% of GPs are now providing care earlier, later and at weekends. However, Meddoc (Medway on Call Care) is the out-of-hours service which is operational from 6.30pm to 8am Monday to Friday and at weekends or Bank Holidays. This can be accessed from three sites in Gillingham, Rochester and Chatham.

⁵⁷ NHS Medway, Your Guide to Services, 2008 p.10

⁵⁸ <http://www.adastra.co.uk/content/about/documents/MedwaySDTCasestudy.pdf>

⁵⁹ Medway Primary Care Trust, Estate Review: Identification of Opportunities to Improve Service Delivery, November 2007 p.6

⁶⁰ Medway Primary Care Trust, Estate Review: Identification of Opportunities to Improve Service Delivery, November 2007 p.2

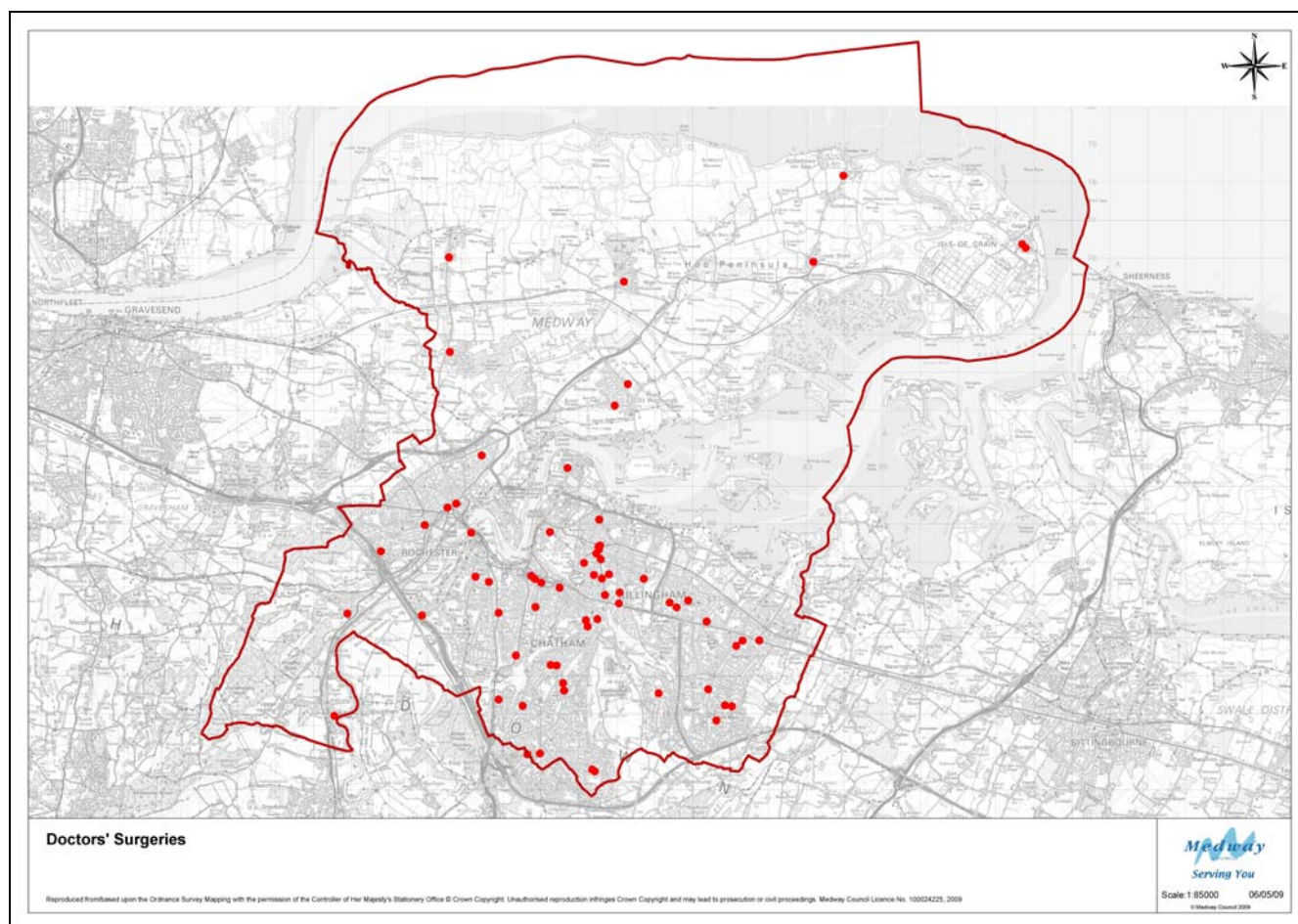


Figure 10.1: Location of GP practices

Healthy Living Centres and Health Centres

- 10.9 There are 15 healthy living centres and health centres in Medway the locations of which are shown in figure 10.2. These are the base for a number of integrated health services and some community facilities. Some are also co-located with GP practices.

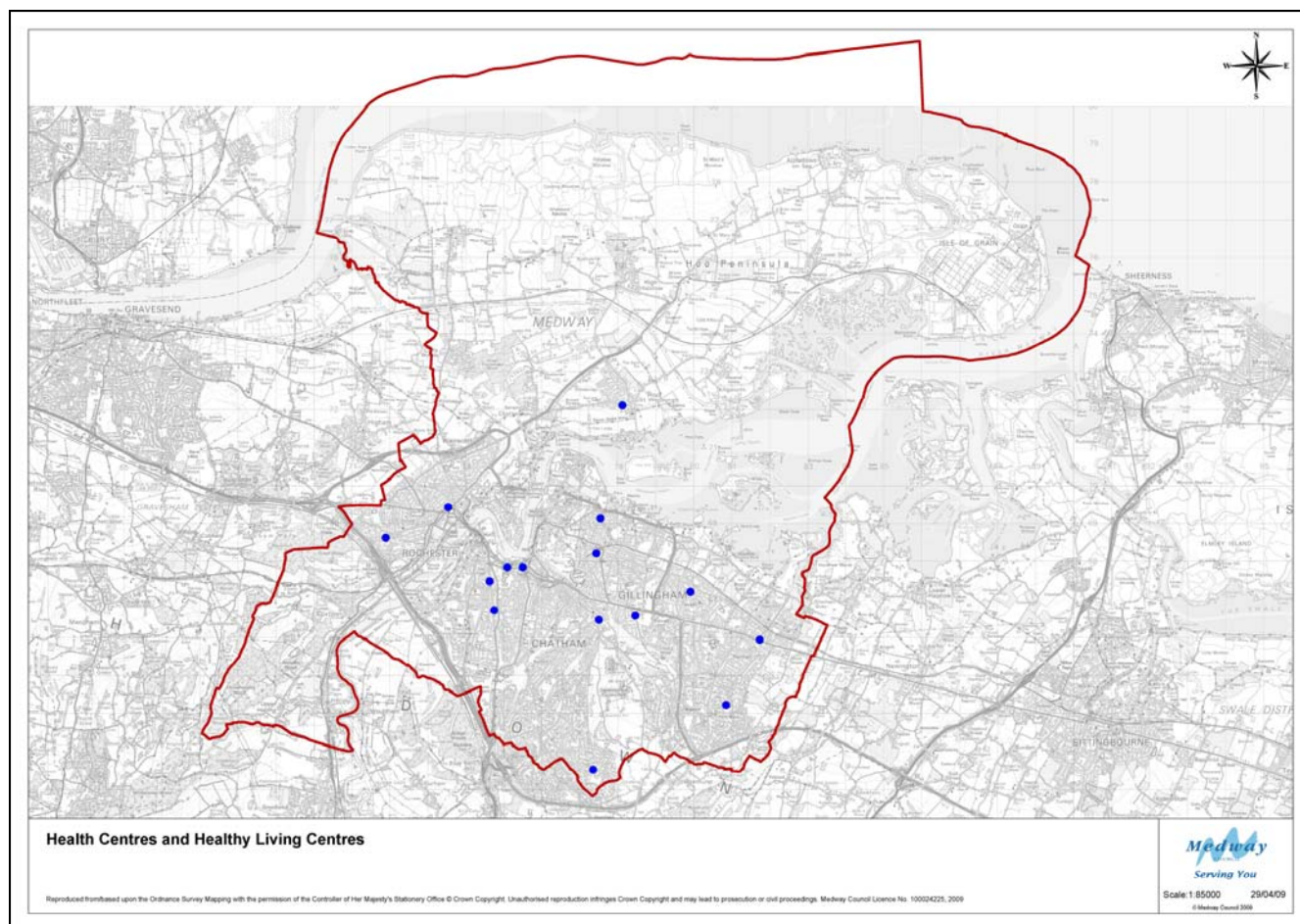


Figure 10.2: Health Centres and Healthy Living Centres

Dentists

- 10.10 The locations of all National Health Service (NHS) and private dentists across Medway are shown in figure 10.3. Each dental surgery measures the capacity of dentists at the surgery through units of dental activity. This information is collated by the Medway PCT and NHS Direct and the Medway PCT website has up-to-date information on dentists availability of accepting patients. There is no evidence to suggest under provision of dental services in Medway.
- 10.11 There is also a limited home treatment service available as well as specialist services for people with physical, mental, social or dental special needs, which require a referral from a GP. Medway also has an out-of-hours emergency dental service (locations on a rotational basis), which is accessed by appointment only.

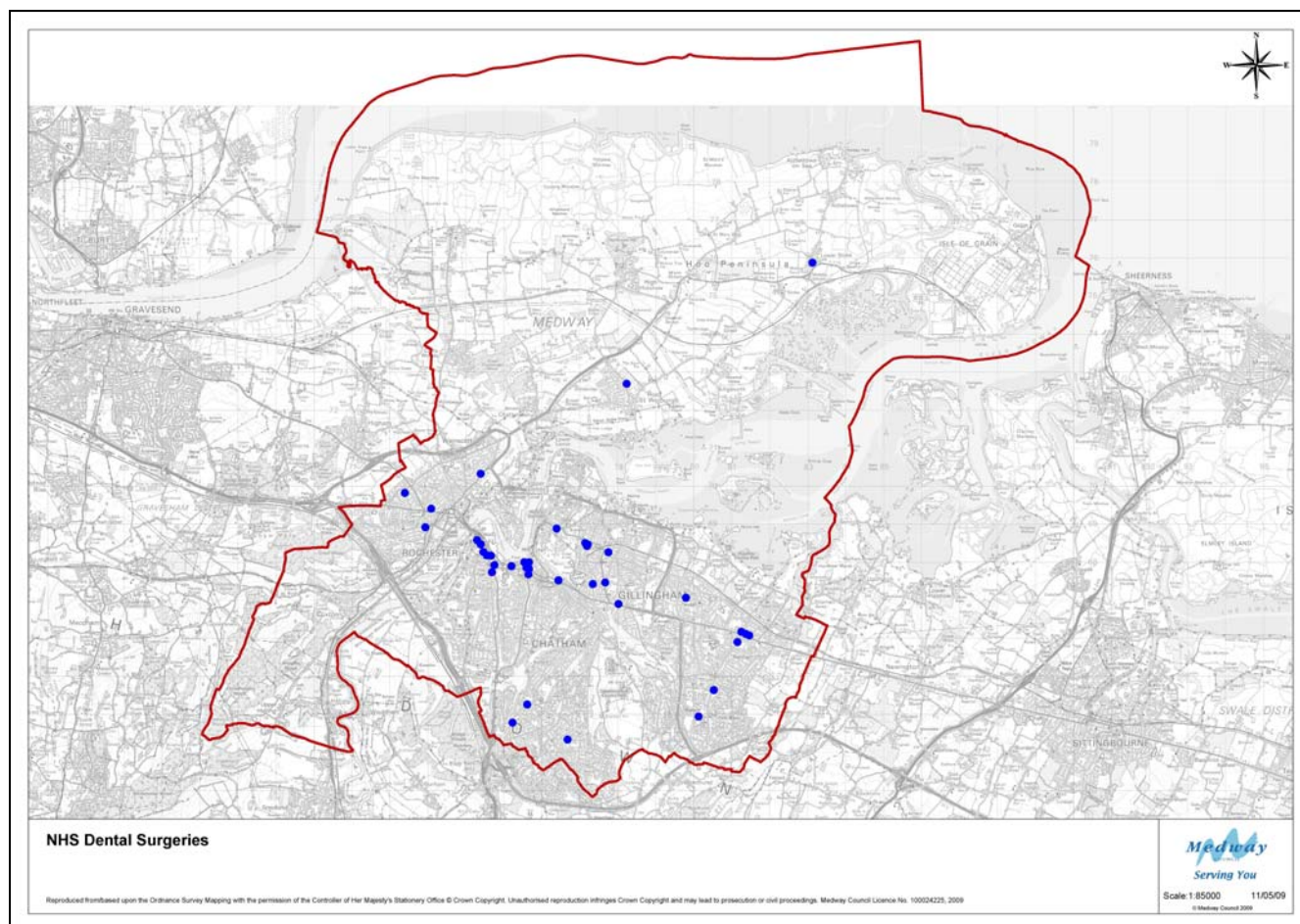


Figure 10.3: Location of NHS dentists in Medway

Pharmacies and Opticians

10.12 Figure 10.4 shows the distribution of opticians and pharmacies in Medway. The geographical spread of both in the rural areas of Medway is poor. Opticians are only found in town centres [retail areas], and pharmacies are even distributed throughout urban areas.

10.13 Information on the use of these facilities and associated capacity issues are not available.

Secondary Care in Medway

10.14 Medway secondary care is provided by the Medway NHS Foundation Trust and it employs over 3,500 staff in a wide variety of clinical and non-clinical roles.. NHS Foundation Trusts are a completely new kind of NHS organisation where they work more closely with its community rather than being run by central government. They are still accountable to parliament, but local people will have a much greater say in running their local hospital.

10.15 Medway is served by one hospital - Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham is the largest and busiest hospital in Kent. It treats around 400,000 patients each year mainly in Medway and Swale, but increasingly other parts of North and West Kent. Everyday it sees around 1,400 outpatients, about 200 patients in the accident and emergency department. Medway NHS Foundation Trust also provides outpatient

services in Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital, Sheppey Community Hospital, Maidstone Hospital and Darent Valley Hospital.

10.16 Some recent developments to Medway Maritime Hospital include:

- The start of a major building development programme, which will see some of the hospital's old blocks replaced with new, modern facilities;
- The completion of some construction work to add a new 250 spaces to the car park; and
- The start of £1.5m investment in the emergency department over the next three years, which plans to move the emergency department to a new building on the hospital site as part of the Trust's major redevelopment plan.

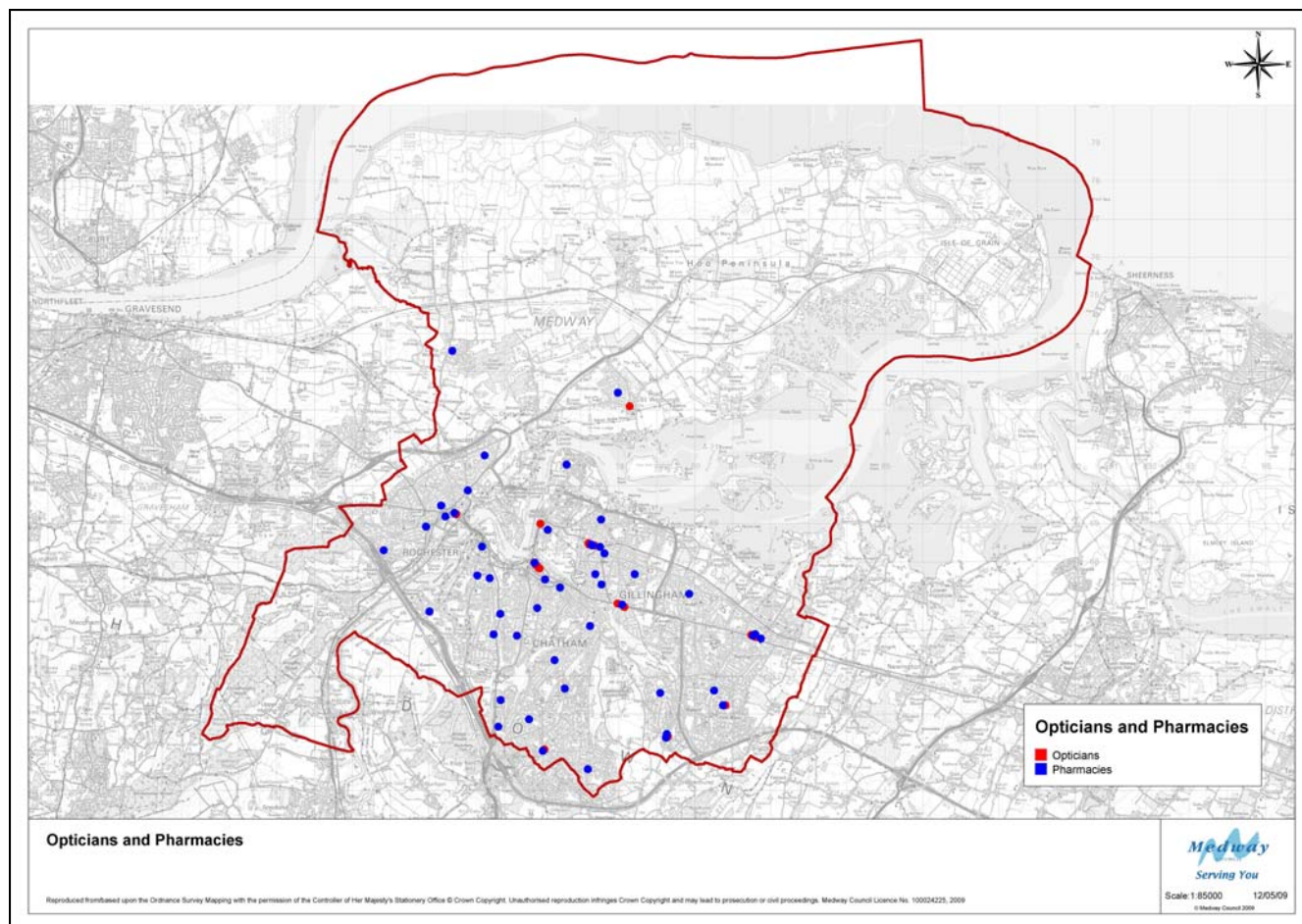


Figure 10.4: Locations of pharmacies and opticians in Medway

11. SOCIAL CARE

Adult Social Care

- 11.1 The adult social care services in Medway are currently undergoing transformation and modernisation. Medway Council tries to enable people to live as independently as possible. Adults (over the age of 18 years) for whom the Council can provide services will fall into one or more of the following categories: older people; people with learning disabilities; people who are blind or partially sighted; people who are deaf or hard of hearing people with other physical disabilities; people with mental health problems; and others adults who may be vulnerable due to their personal circumstances or lifestyle.
- 11.2 The council provides a wide range of services to meet the needs of people in the community who are eligible to receive them. These services include: community care; residential care and nursing home places; respite care; day care; occupational therapy assessments and supplying aids and adaptations; protecting vulnerable adults; and support at home. Services provided are based on an individuals need; anything that enables that individual to function, be safe and be well.
- 11.3 Based on the level of resources, Medway operates on the top 2 levels of the eligibility threshold; critical (risks that threaten life if action is not taken) and substantial (risks that represent a severe threat to health and well-being if action is not taken. Medway does also look at options for moderate and low risk cases
- 11.4 Medway Council provides some residential accommodation and associated services directly, while other services are purchased directly from the independent or voluntary sector.

Provision for older people

- 11.5 Progress has been made in developing a range of community-based services that enable very frail or vulnerable people to be cared for in the community. However the growth in Medway's older population and a reduction in residential care spaces means the council needs to change the way services are provided.
- 11.6 A revised older people's plan is being produced and has already identified programmes in a number of key areas that will help address the needs of Medway's growing older population. A start has been made on shaping future services through:
- the Rapid Response team;
 - the establishment of intermediate care beds at Platters Farm and the purchasing of rehabilitative care beds from the independent sector;
 - the application of telecare technology supporting people in their own homes;
 - Supporting People (SP) initiatives that are expected to help consolidate care services in a wider context of community support services;
 - the development of locality healthy living centres by the Primary Care Trust as part of the Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) programme - these centres will provide a range of healthcare services; and
 - plans are under way to develop three centres of excellence: Woodlands (Gillingham), Shaws Wood (Strood) and Churchlands (Chatham).

Provision for those with a learning disability

- 11.7 Medway Council's Care Management Learning Disabilities Team provides a dedicated service for people who have a learning disability. Broad ranges of services are co-ordinated through Chatham and Strood Opportunities Centre, providing employment and day activities. A day centre at Greatfield Lodge offer a range of activities such as personal development, social integration and community awareness. Two small residential homes provide respite and phased care for a range of learning disabled clients, while their main carers have a break from caring.

Provision for those with mental health

- 11.8 In Medway integrated mental health teams are primarily based at three sites in Gillingham, Chatham and Rochester. The teams are locality focused and provide a single point of entry for assessment, treatment and continuing care, both on an in-patient and outpatient basis. Support is also given to carers. There are also other day services provided by the trust; day resources (3 drop-in centres); therapeutic workshops at the Chaucer Centre in Gillingham; and a respite care service.

Young People's Social Care

- 11.9 On the 1st April 2009, the Medway Children's Trust was inaugurated and brings together a range of partners who provide facilities and services for young people.
- 11.10 Currently a new Young People and Children's plan is being developed. Once completed it will provide information about existing capacity and the way forward for service provision.

12. UTILITIES

Water Supply

- 12.1 The principal supplier of water to the Medway area is Southern Water with South East Water and Thames Water serving small parts of the area. At present water is provided from the following sources:
- Pumped groundwater – this is drawn from the water table, the level in the ground below which all porous spaces and cracks are filled with water. When rock formations (particularly chalk) yield usable amounts of water they are called aquifers.
 - Surface water – this comes from manmade reservoirs and by extracting some of the flow from rivers.
- 12.2 Currently 76% of Medway's supply comes from local groundwater sources and 24% from surface water sources outside the area.
- 12.3 There are 84 groundwater sources (as shown in figure 12.1) and 1 surface water source. The groundwater sources are exploited by a system of local pumping stations. There is limited, if any, potential to extract more groundwater. There are no reservoirs within Medway's boundaries although a supply of water comes from Bewl Water near Tunbridge Wells via the River Medway. Medway is not a suitable location for a surface water reservoir so any additional future demand will have to be met from sources outside the area or by introducing desalination.
- 12.4 Both Medway and the overall South East region has been categorised as an Area of Serious Water Stress. Areas within the South East are also considered to be over abstracted, meaning that existing abstraction is causing unacceptable damage to the environment at low flows and Medway is one of these areas.
- 12.5 Southern Water is investing £1.2 billion in the South East region⁶¹. Southern Water is implementing a number of measures. These include:
- Increasing and improving supply pipe leakage detection and repair strategies
 - Introducing water meters to both domestic and commercial properties. This programme will be expanded to ensure there is a water meter in all properties without technical constraints by the end of 2009.
- 12.6 Despite these measures, Southern Water predict within their draft Water Resources Management Plan⁶² that on the basis of the minimum deployable output alone, there will be a deficit within the Medway area at 2010-11. That would then go into surplus in 2014/15 and continue to be in surplus until the end of 2019/20. However, at the end of the period 2020-2025 supply is forecast to return to deficit.

⁶¹ <http://www.southernwater.co.uk/Environment/inYourArea/kent/>

⁶² Southern Water, Draft Water Resources Management Plan, April 2008

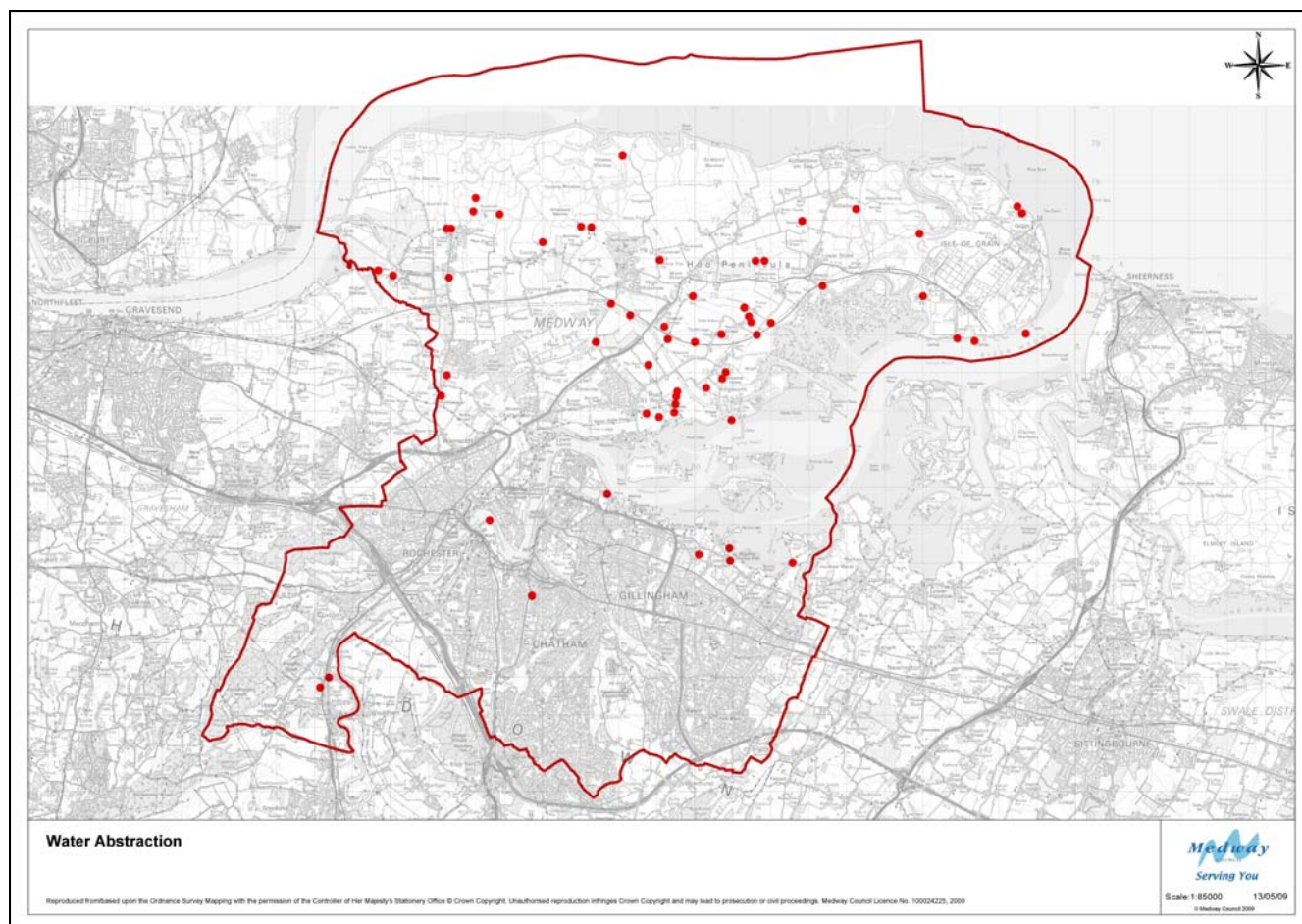


Figure 12.1: Groundwater sources in Medway

Waste Water

- 12.7 In 2008 Southern Water carried out a £20 million scheme in north Kent to improve the quality of recycled water returning to the River Medway. The wastewater from homes in Cuxton and Halling was collected and treated at small, ageing works in the villages. Southern Water has built an eight kilometre underground pipeline to link these works to the company's modern treatment works at Ham Hill where the wastewater can undergo several stages of treatment before being recycled to the River Medway. A new odour control system was also built and the works refurbished at Ham Hill to ensure the treated wastewater meets stringent European directives.⁶³

Gas

- 12.8 National Grid owns and operates the high pressure gas transmission system in the UK that consists of approximately 4,300 miles of pipelines and 26 compressor stations connecting to 8 distribution networks. National grid has a duty to develop and maintain an efficient co-ordinated and economical transmission system for the conveyance of gas.
- 12.9 Medway has one of the compressor stations on the Isle of Grain. The site occupies about 16 hectares, is approximately 1.5 miles (2.4km) west of Grain village. The

⁶³ <http://www.southernwater.co.uk/Environment/inYourArea/kent/>

terminal has facilities for unloading liquefied natural gas (LNG) from specially constructed ships. The LNG is stored in purpose-built tanks and is vaporised to form natural gas, which is supplied to consumers via one high pressure pipeline in the National Transmission System. The terminal also generates and handles natural gas for supply to lower pressure pipeline systems and this gas is odourised using a proprietary compound before supply to consumers.

- 12.10 National Grid Grain LNG Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid, owns and operates the terminal, which was the country's first modern day LNG importation terminal. The terminal consists of a purpose built LNG unloading jetty on the River Medway and a 4.5km cryogenic pipeline that connects the jetty to the four existing storage tanks, each capable of holding 50,000 cubic metres of LNG (there are plans to triple this by 2011). The current annual capacity is 3.3 million tonnes of LNG – equivalent to 4% of UK gas demand.

Electricity

- 12.11 National Grid, as the holder of a license to transmit electricity under the Electricity Act 1989, has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical transmission system of electricity and to facilitate competition in the supply and generation of electricity.
- 12.12 Medway has four power stations generating electricity all transmitting 400kV. These are Kingsnorth (Dual Fired), Damhead Creek (CCGT), Grain (Oil Fired) and Medway (CCGT). Figure 12.3 shows the network of electricity to and from the Medway area.
- 12.13 Kingsnorth is a 1940MW dual-fired power station owned by Eon. This means that each of its four main units is capable of using both coal and oil. Kingsnorth also has the capability to burn biomass products, which can replace up to 10% of the coal used in generation; this is dependent on coal type. Typically the biomass used is a cereal co-product which is sourced from the UK and Europe. Located on the Medway Estuary in Kent, Kingsnorth has a port facility which enables the importation of coal. This is particularly useful as it means low sulphur coal can easily be imported to this site. There is also a once-through cooling water system at Kingsnorth which means that there are no evaporation losses or concentration effect, thus reducing environmental impact on the river. The onsite waste management plan means that general waste is minimised and paper, cardboard, scrap metal and waste oils are recycled. Furnace bottom ash and pulverised fuel ash are sold to the construction industry; this reduces landfill requirements. In October 2006, Eon announced plans to build two new cleaner coal units at Kingsnorth.
- 12.14 Damhead Creek is a highly-efficient generator of electricity that can produce enough power to meet the daily needs of about 450,000 homes. The combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) station was built on a brownfield site at Hoo St Werburgh and it began commercial operation in January 2001. The plant burns natural gas in two gas turbines, while the hot exhaust gases created as part of this process are recovered to produce steam and generate additional electricity. Normally Damhead Creek runs continuously to meet market demand for electricity.

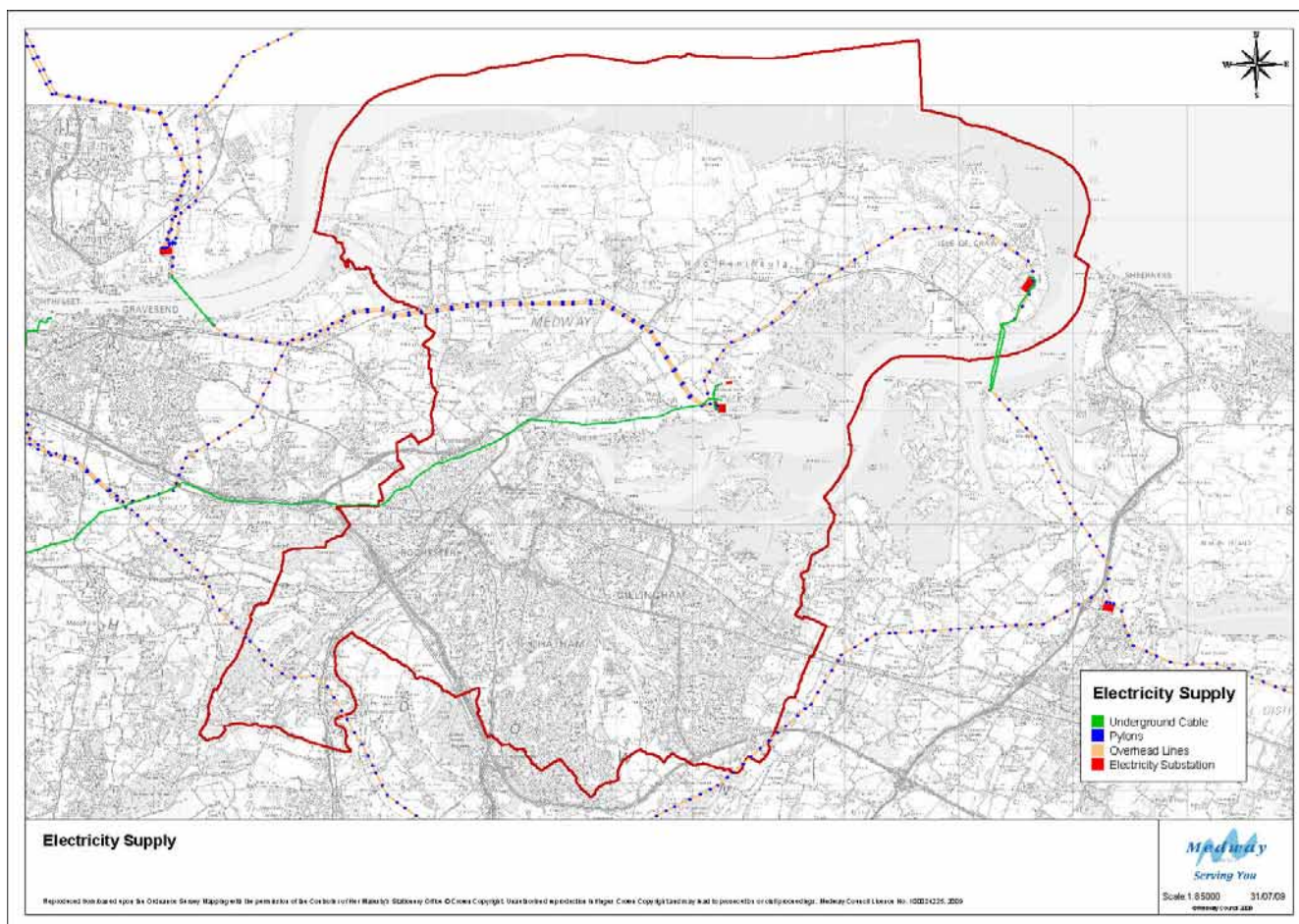


Figure 12.2: Electricity Supply in Medway

- 12.15 Grain Power Station also owned by Eon, is an oil-fired power station located on the River Medway. The station has two 675MW main units with a GRC of 1350 MW, and two open cycle gas turbines providing a further 58MW GRC. Two similar main units, and three gas turbine units, are held in reserve.
- 12.16 Medway Power Station on the Isle of Grain is owned by Scottish and Southern Energy plc and has a capacity of 700MW, enough to feed 1,250,000 homes.

Renewable energy

- 12.17 Figure 12.4 shows the number of planning applications that have been approved or recommended for household forms of renewable energy. There is no data on the expected demand (planning applications) for renewable energy however Medway Council has a non-means tested grant scheme for solar powered heating which may increase the number of households using renewable sources. Figure 12.4 does not show households that are using renewable sources that did not require planning permission.

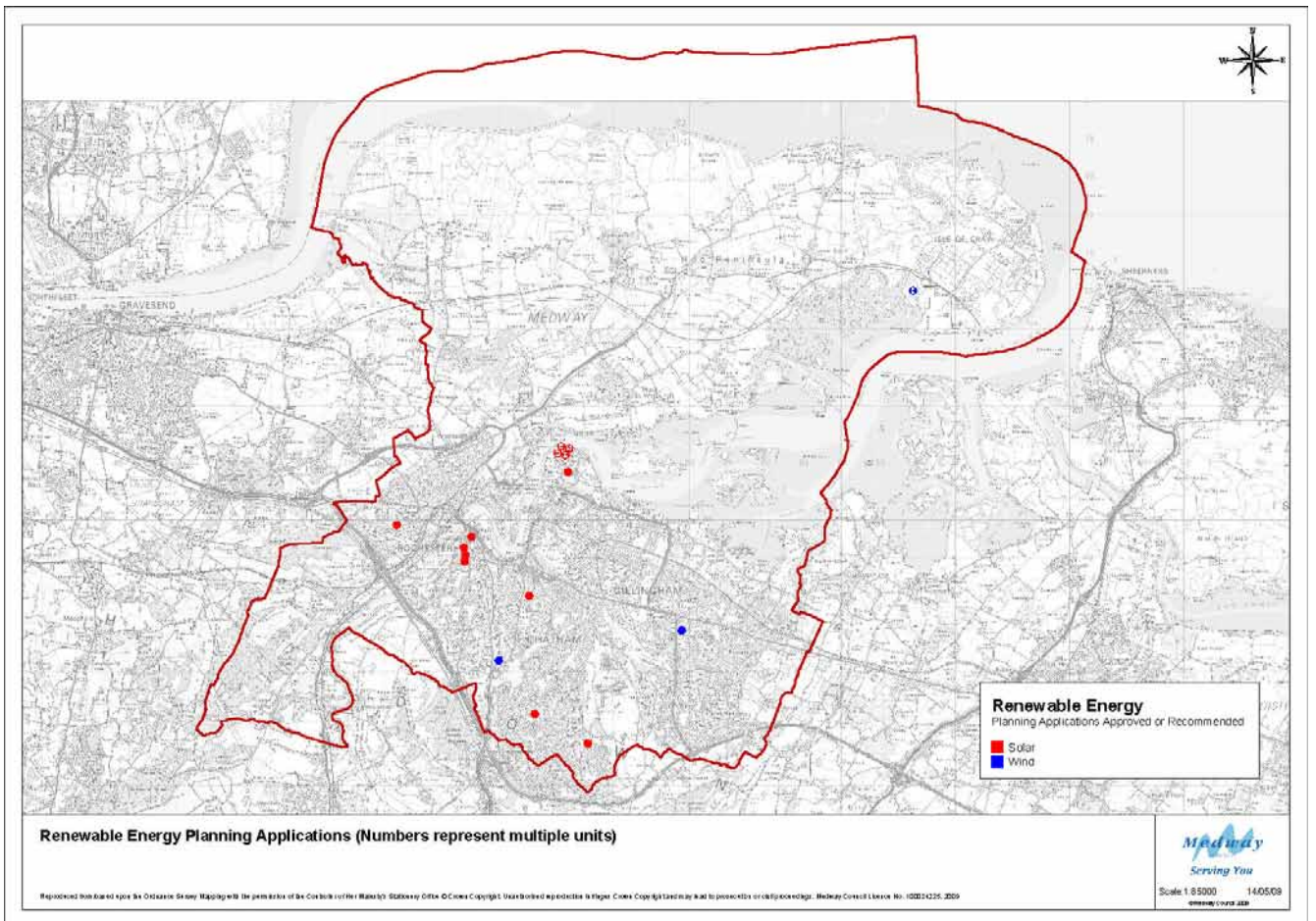


Figure 12.3: Renewable Energy Planning Applications

13. BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Conservation Areas

- 13.1 Medway has 26 Conservation Areas, which are shown in Figure 13.1. These are an area of special architectural or historic interest. Conservation areas vary in size, ranging from town centres to much smaller groups of buildings. They may be centred on listed buildings but other features of merit, such as open spaces, trees, historic street patterns or items of historic or archaeological interest, may also contribute to the special character of an area.

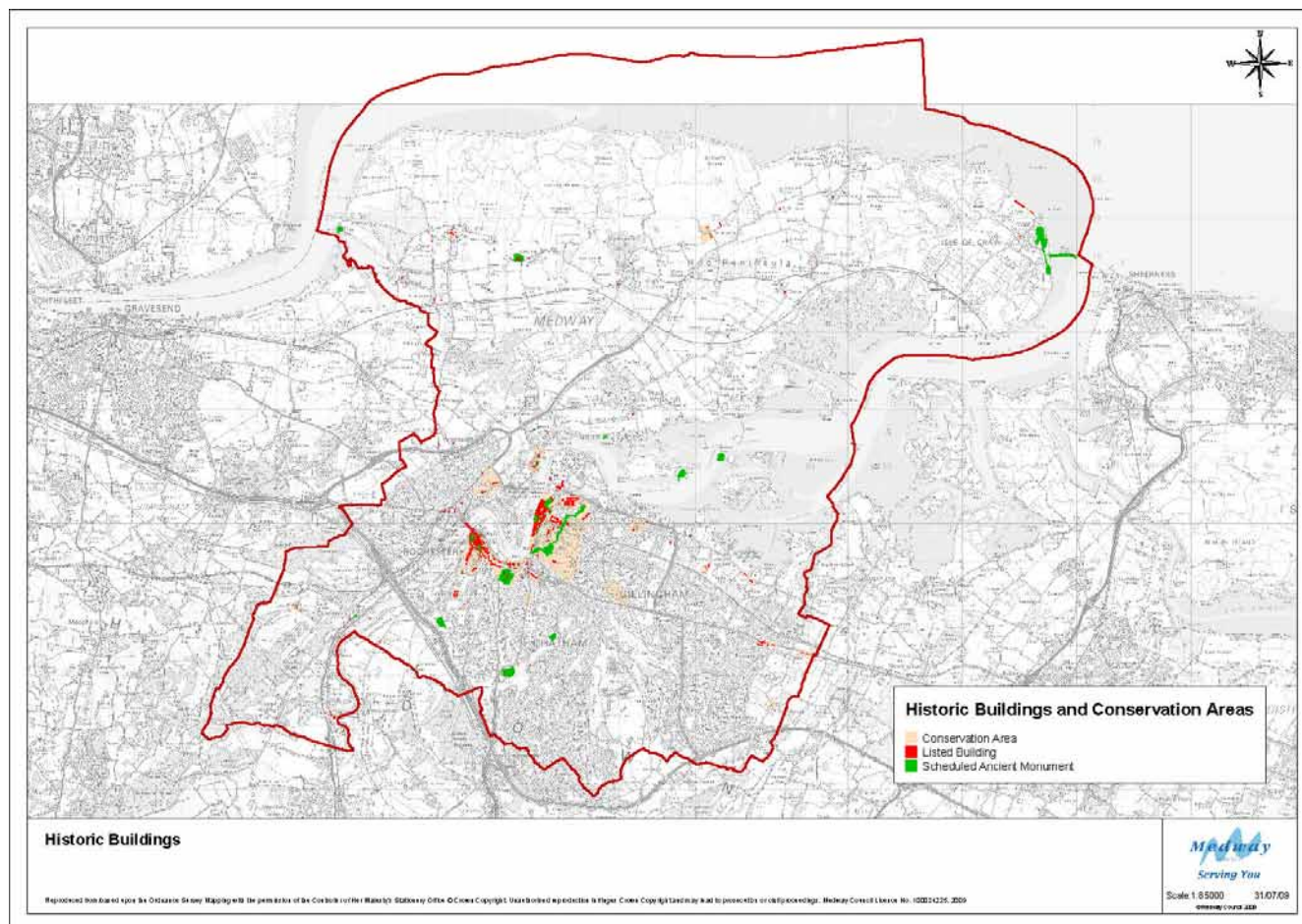


Figure 13.1: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas

Historic Buildings

- 13.2 There are 78 scheduled ancient monuments in Medway and approximately (English Heritage constantly updates this list therefore it is difficult to ascertain an exact figure) 780 listed buildings all of which are shown in Figure 13.1.