



State of Medway Report

Infrastructure

Updated January 2012

State of Medway Report: Infrastructure (January 2012)

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State of Medway Reports

This is one of a series of factual reports that were first produced in 2008 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 were intended to establish the current position and a baseline for further work. They also helped in highlighting gaps in the information base.

This was updated in February 2012 to provide an updated baseline and inform the independent examination of the Medway Core Strategy.

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

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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 administrative area from west to east. The area is served by good rail connections to London and benefits 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 £210 million 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

¹ Medway Council, Regeneration Framework 2006-2016

now in 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 According to the latest figures from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), the population of Medway reached 254,800 in 2009, up by 1,300 people since 2008. Prior to that Medway's population stayed fairly static since the 2001 Census.

	Population	Population change	
		Nos	%
2001	249,700	-	-
2002	250,600	+900	+0.4
2003	251,300	+700	+0.3
2004	251,300	0	0.0
2005	251,300	0	0.0
2006	251,200	-100	0.0
2007	252,000	+800	+0.3
2008	253,500	+1,500	+0.6
2009	254,800	+1,300	+0.5

Fig 1.1 Medway Population

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.

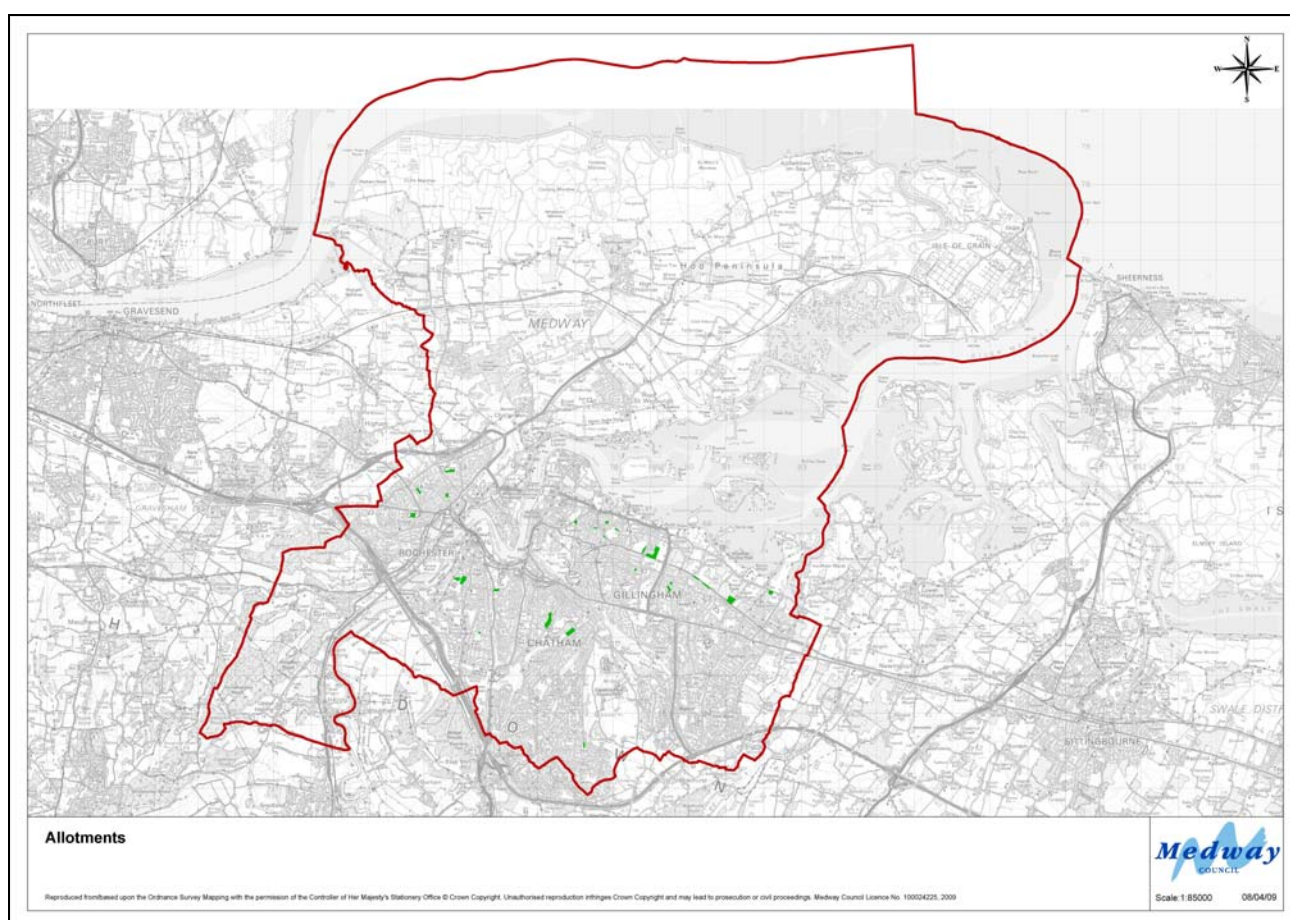


Figure 2.1: Allotment Sites in Medway

- 2.2 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 Lordwood, Parkwood and Walderslade, have limited access to allotments.²

² Medway Council, Wildlife Countryside and Open Space Strategy 2008-2016 p.

- 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 a plot to the required standard; failure to do so results 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 facilities³ as can be seen in figure 2.3. The area contains one regional and one-district sports centre, Medway Park Leisure Centre in Gillingham and Strood Sports Centre respectively. They provide a wide range of facilities including indoor swimming pools and an outdoor all weather sports track and pitches at Strood Sports Centre. There is also an international trampoline centre, Jumpers Rebound Centre situated next to the Medway Park Leisure Centre. There are a number of local sports centres, including the Sterling 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 that includes: Medway Games, Major Sports events and elite training, Club, coach and athlete development, Event volunteering, Medway Sports Award and London 2012. More information can be found from the Councils Sports development web page⁴. 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.

³ Medway Council, Medway Council Sports Development Strategy 2005-2010 p.

⁴ <http://www.medway.gov.uk/leisureandculture/sports/sportsdevelopment.aspx>

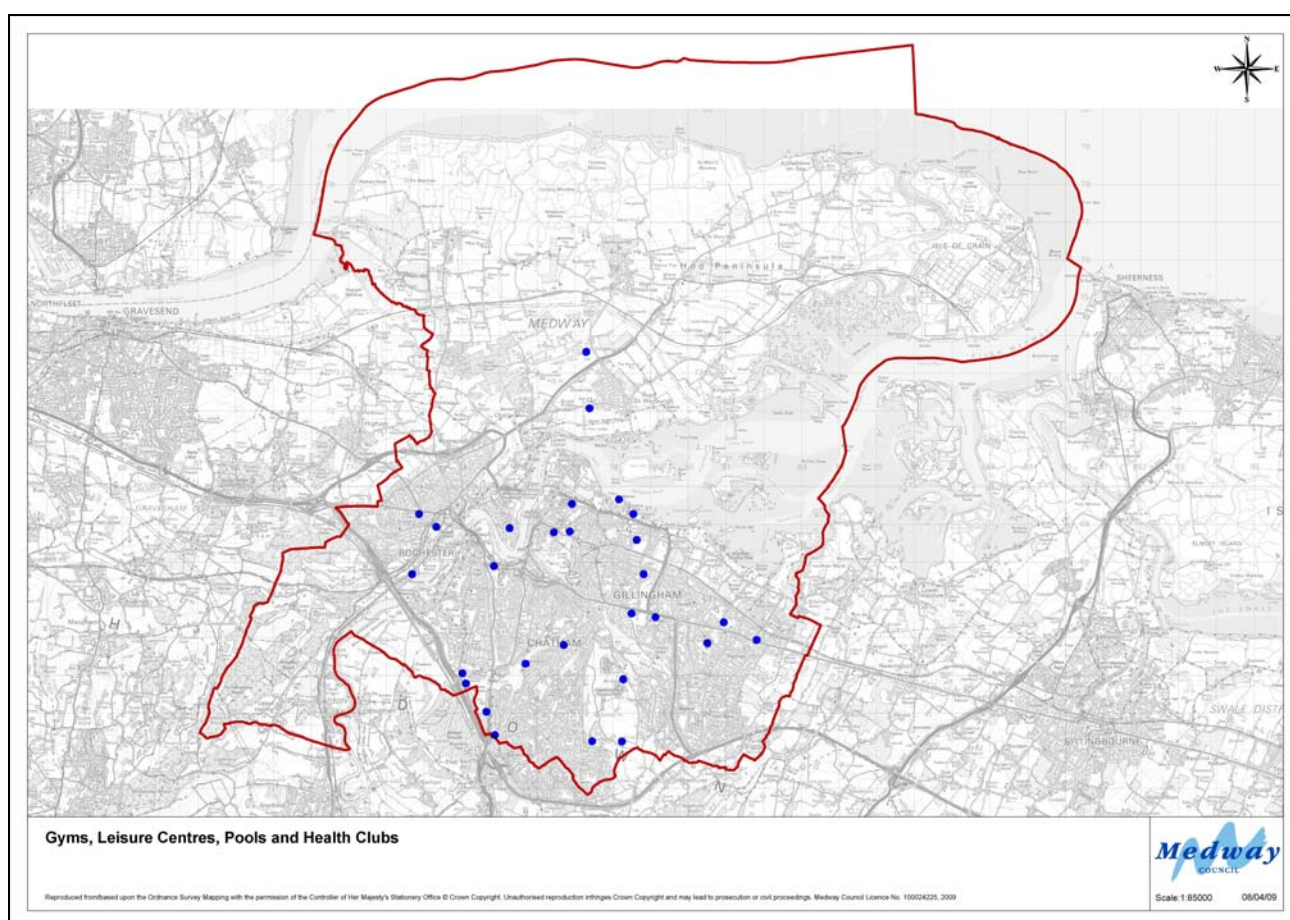


Figure 2.3: Leisure centres and other indoor facilities

- 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 boosted Medway's regeneration programme, with the Black Lion Leisure Centre in Gillingham set becoming a regional centre of sporting called Medway Park. Facilities include an eight-lane athletics track, purpose-built gymnastics centre and the complete refurbishment of the Black Lion. This 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 was the venue for the World Modern Pentathlon Championships.

Outdoor Sports Pitches

- 2.13 The Council undertook 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 for pitches. This study has informed the Greenspaces for Sports Plan and has formed part of the Wildlife Countryside and Open Space Strategy 2006-2016.

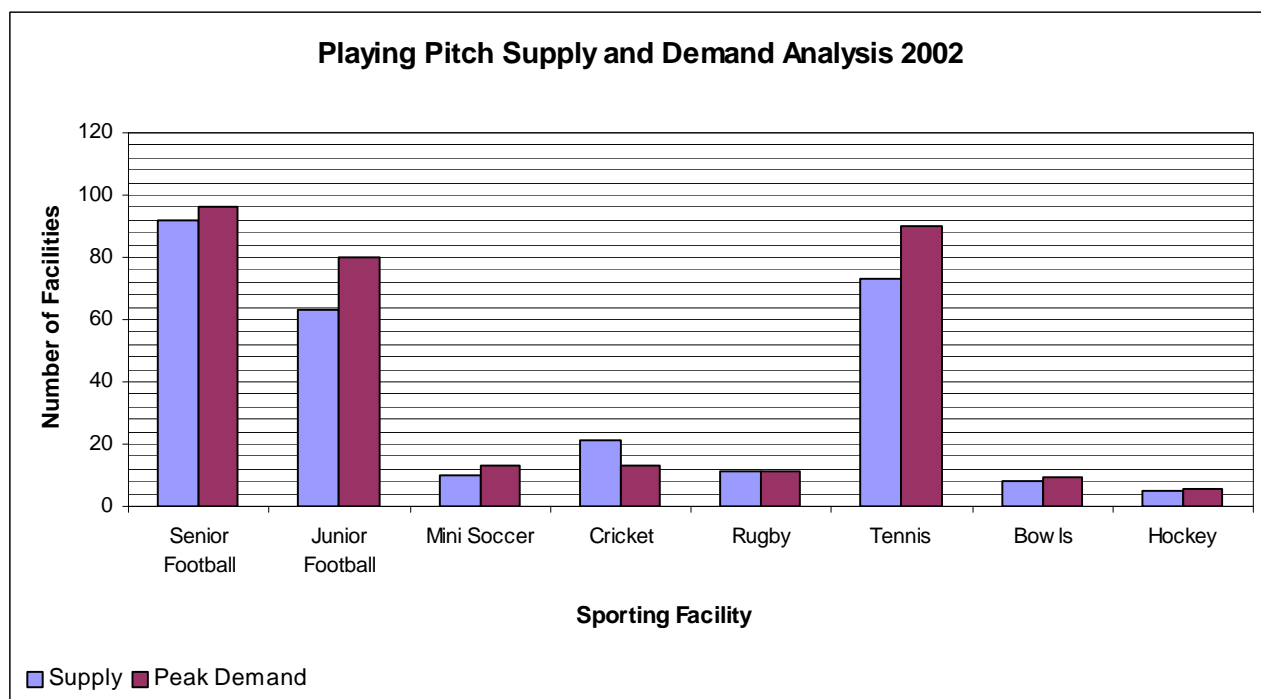


Figure 2.4: Playing Pitch Supply and Demand Analysis 2002

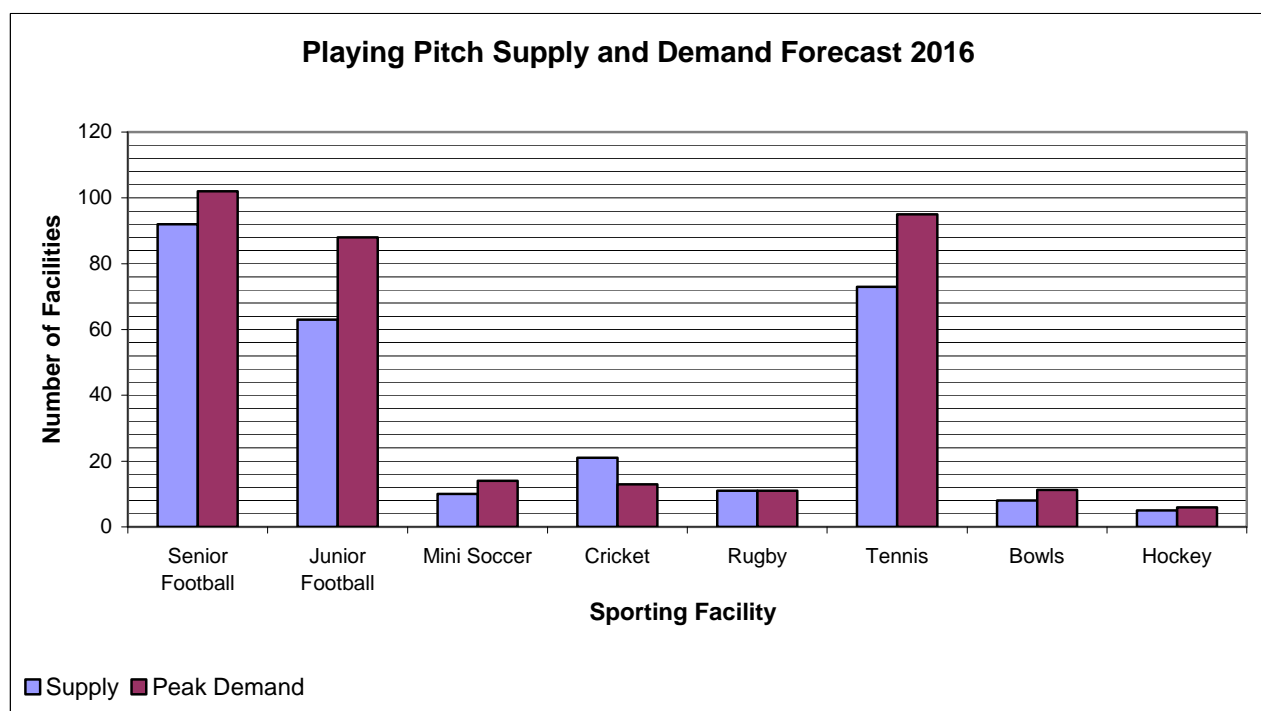


Figure 2.5: Playing Pitch Supply and Demand Forecast 2016

- 2.14 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

- 2.15 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

- 2.16 Medway has 25 urban parks and 62 amenity spaces⁵. 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.
- 2.17 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

⁵ 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.

Meadow in Halling, which score highly for biodiversity features and stimulation and interest⁶.

- 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 annum⁷ while many amenity spaces are poorly used due to their ill-defined function. Few open spaces cater well for all ages.

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 space⁸. 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 result in the low usage of some play areas. Around 50% are inaccessible to people with mobility impairments

⁶ Medway Council, Wildlife Countryside and Open Space Strategy 2008-2016 p.

⁷ Medway Council, Assessment for Gillingham Park Masterplan, 2006

⁸ 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 Medway⁹. They are supported by 69 Police Community Support Officers and 349 Special Constables.

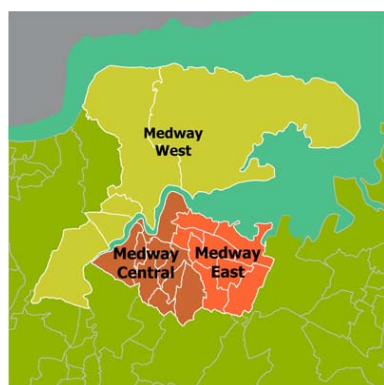


Figure 3.1: Police Area Map

Medway is one of the busiest areas in the county¹⁰. Medway Police has 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 3.2: 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

⁹ Kent Police, Annual Report 2007-2008 p.19

¹⁰ <http://www.kent.police.uk/YourNeighbourhood/area.do?areald=4>

pump ladders; 1 prime mover; and 1 water safety unit. The appliances range from 20 years in age to relatively new.

- 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 Swale¹¹.

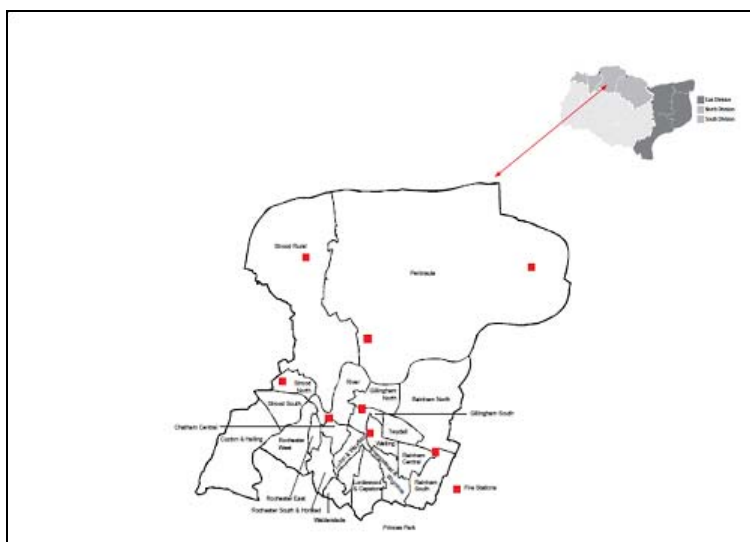


Figure 3.5: Fire Stations in Medway (insert showing Kent Fire and Rescue Divisions)

- 3.5 The Medway area, covering the fire stations at Watling Street, Chatham, Gillingham and Rainham is subject to review. Chatham and Gillingham stations are not currently being used but they will not formally close until two new stations in Medway are operational. The service is currently talking with Medway Council to identify suitable sites in the area for the two new stations required.
- 3.6 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

- 3.7 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

¹¹ http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/Our_Plans_Policies_and_Performance/Area_Profiles/index.html

to the population of Kent, Surrey, Sussex and North East Hampshire. They also provide non-emergency patient transport services in Kent.

- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 The Ambulance Service are actively involved in discussions taking place in the local health economy to ensure that they are fit for the future¹². Robust plans are in place to respond to changes and increase in demand in relation to the regeneration of the Thames Gateway.

¹² 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 place. 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 populations.
- 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.
- 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. 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.

- 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.

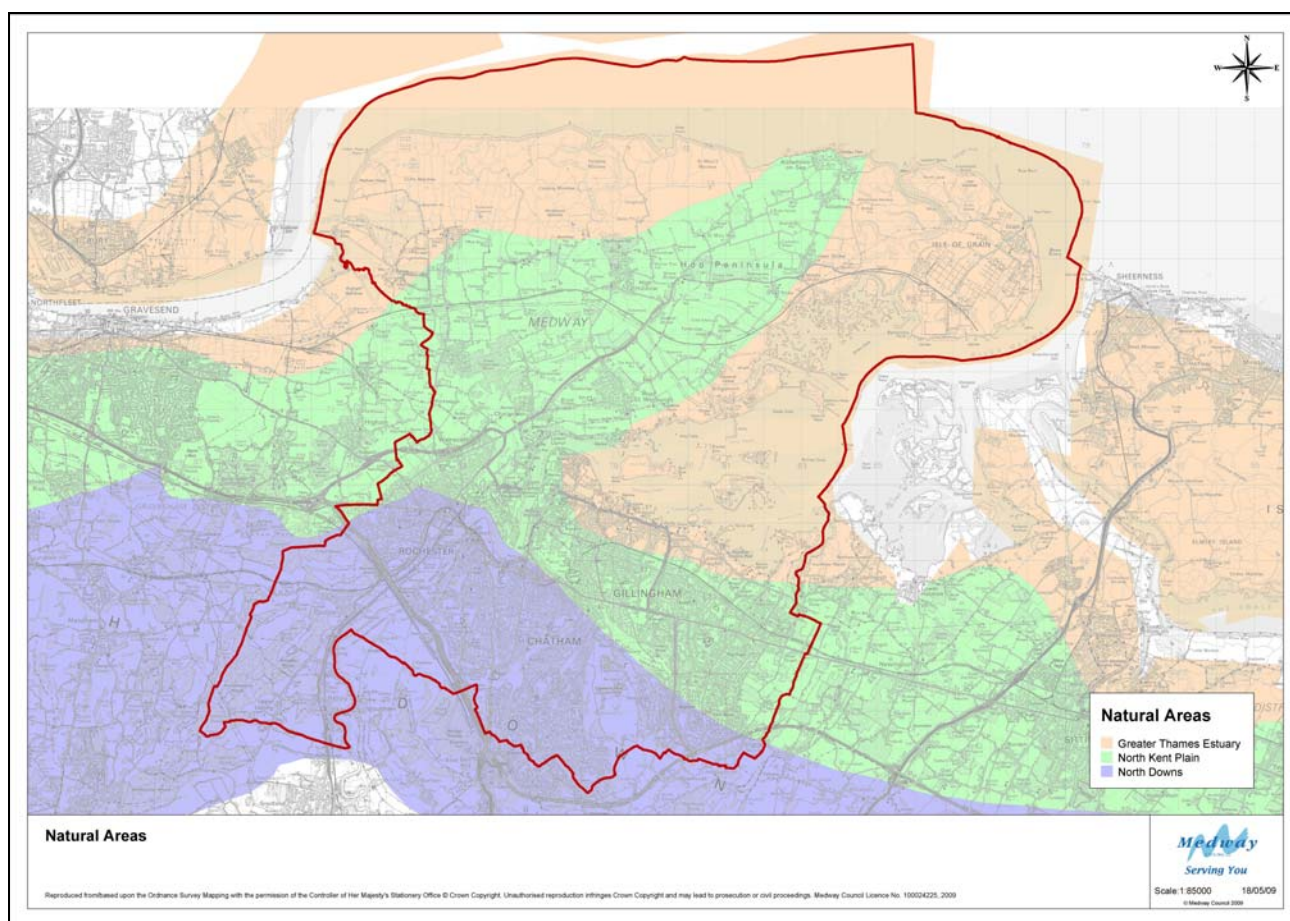


Figure 4.1: Natural Areas in Medway

Special Protection Areas, Ramsar Sites and Special Areas of Conservation

- 4.9 There are two Special Protection Area/Ramsar 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.

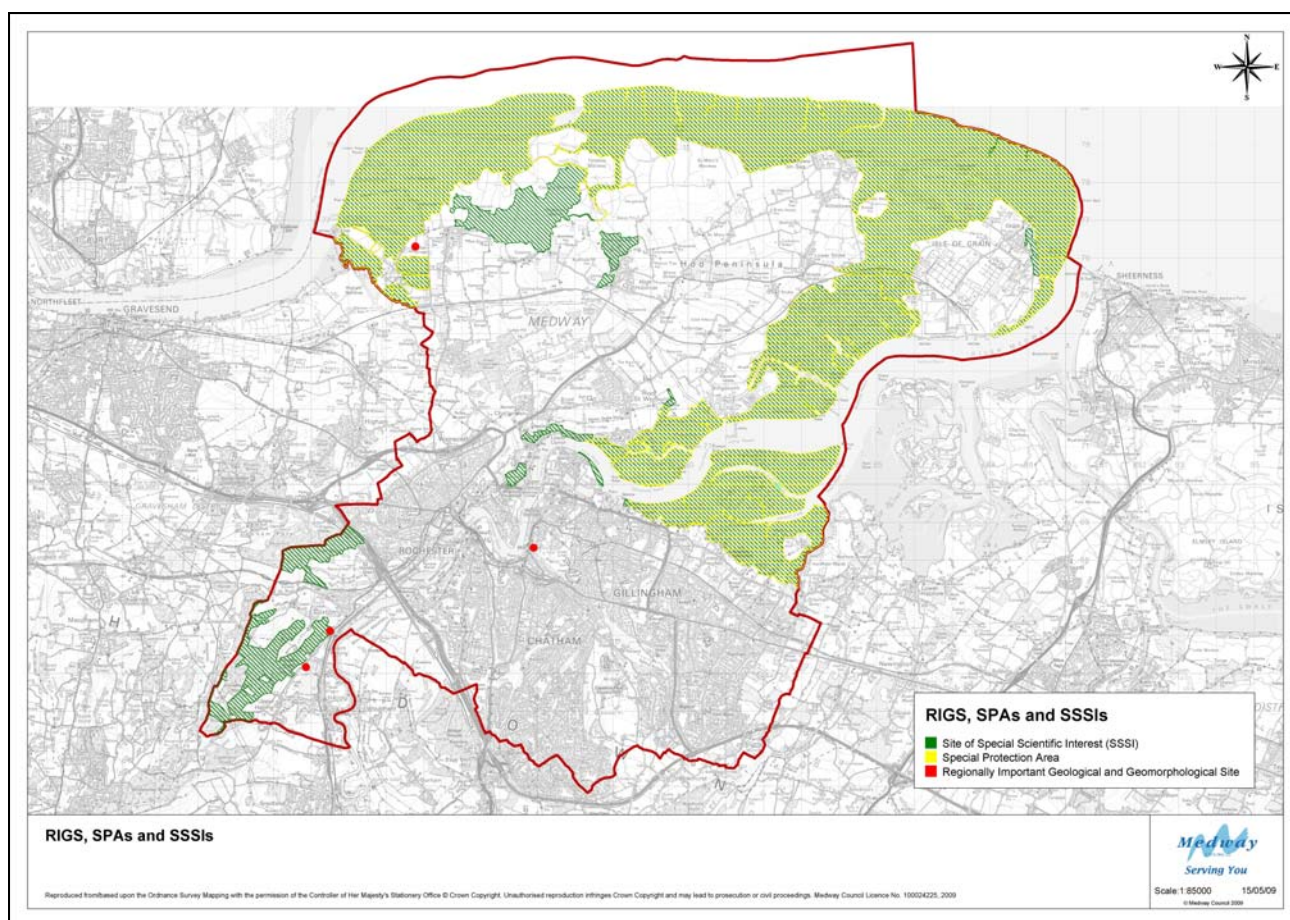


Figure 4.2: Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Areas

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

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 Trottiscliffe Escarpment

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites

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

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.

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

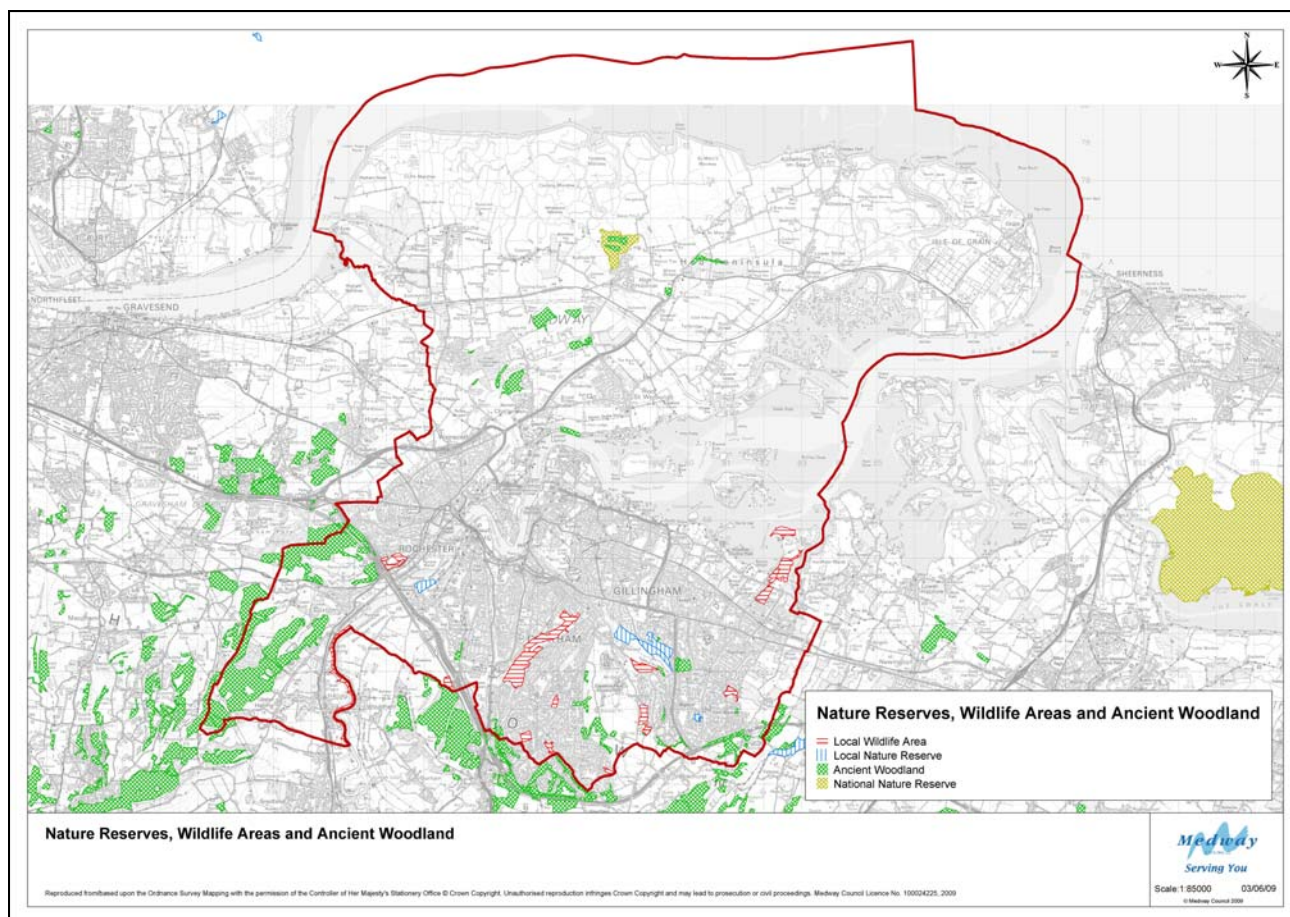


Figure 4.3: Local nature reserves, local wildlife sites and ancient woodlands

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- 4.18 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty 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 Medway, it identified nine character areas, some of which were subdivided. Below they are listed and are shown in Figure 15:

- Eastern Thames Marshes
- 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

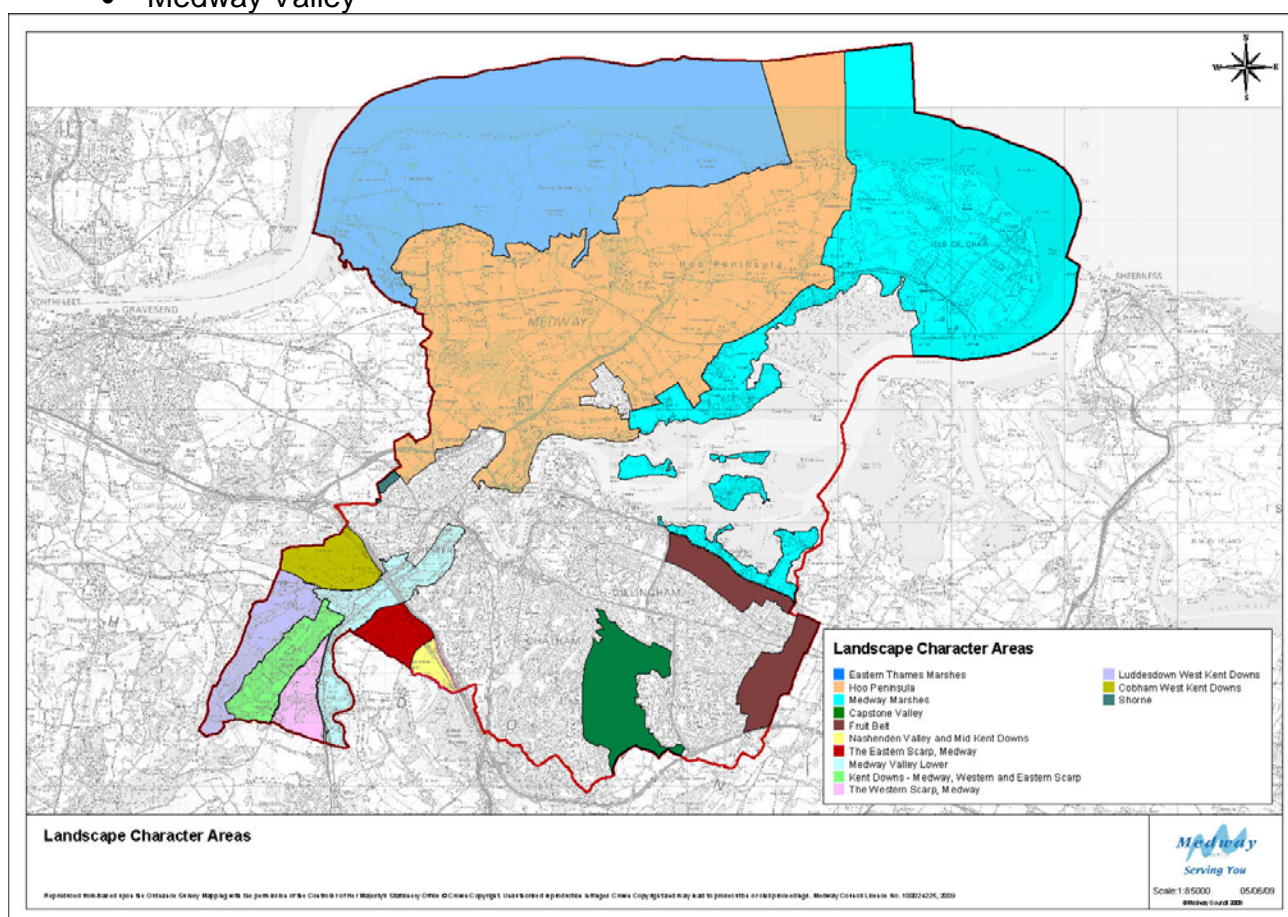


Figure 4.4: Landscape Character Areas

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 land. 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), Mudflat (4305ha). However overall, the natural green spaces were 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 does not have access to cable services.

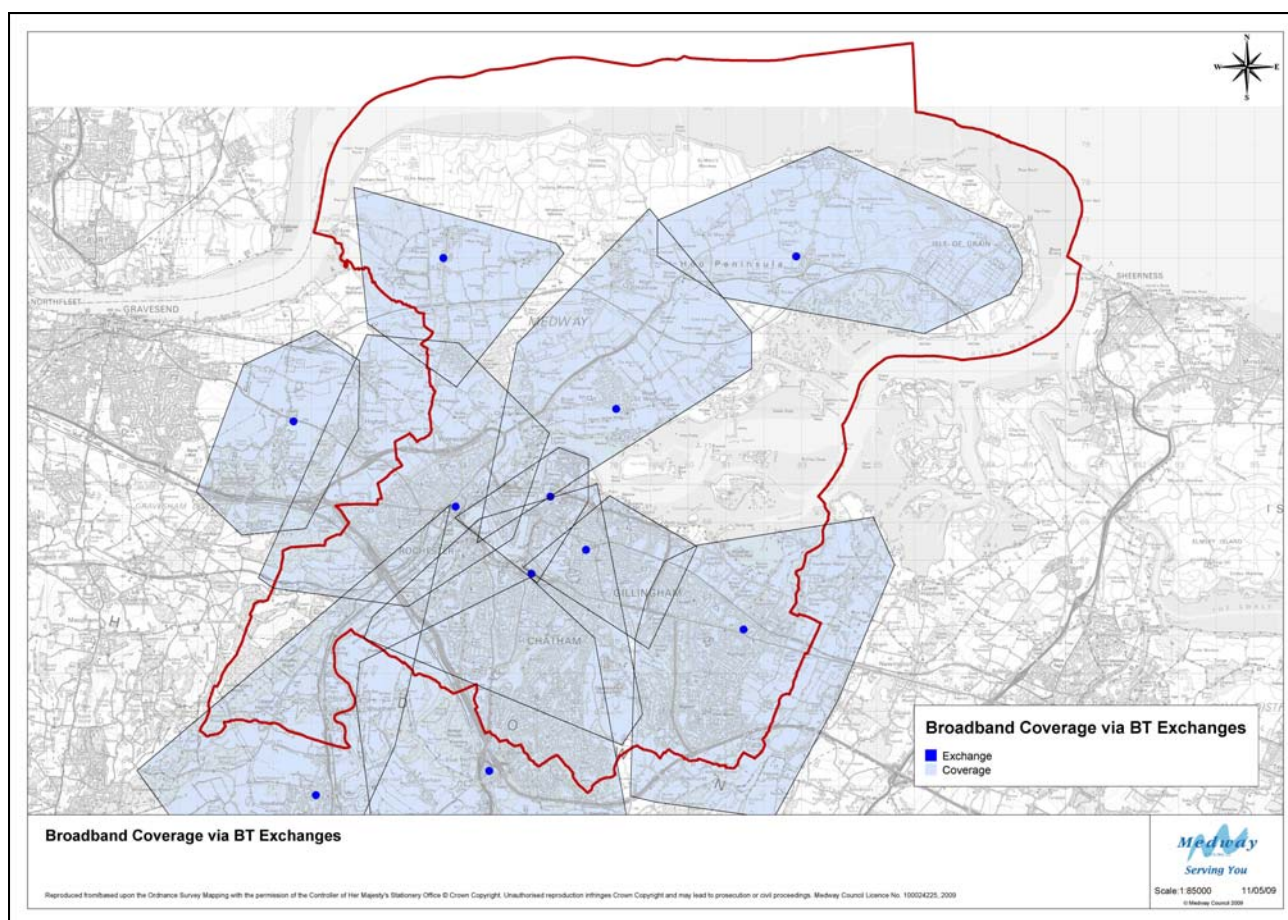


Figure 5.1: Telecom exchanges serving Medway and their coverage

- 5.2 Businesses located in rural Kent contribute an estimated £6.8 billion GVA to the economy every year (37% of Kent's GVA). The internet has enabled substantial diversification of the rural economy, with research indicating that rural economies have much higher rates of business start-ups than urban areas and that the internet has led to the growth of the rural knowledge economy. Yet most of rural Kent suffers poor broadband provision and is unlikely to be served in the current market, acting as a real brake on business growth and thereby job creation in locations in which business would otherwise like to invest.

- 5.3 More locally, the Medway Economic Development Strategy prioritises the provision of broadband to the same level as the rest of the South East, while a number of Kent Districts have adopted economic development strategies emphasising the importance of securing broadband infrastructure to key sites and to rural areas.
- 5.4 Kent and Medway are also part of the business-led Kent, Essex and East Sussex Local Enterprise Partnership, the country's largest LEP. Delivering high-speed broadband is a shared objective set out in the LEP's prospectus, *Unlocking the Potential*, and in its work programme, and LEP partners have endorsed this Local Broadband Plan.

Geographical Scope

- 5.5 The BDUK Broadband Delivery Project will deliver in areas of market failure across Kent and Medway. The Local Broadband Plan seeks to maximise the availability of technology to deliver greater control over public services for individuals, families and communities – and help transform public services. In particular, there are several major opportunities for Kent and Medway:
- Web-first approach in public service design: KCC, Medway Council and many of Kent's districts are seeking to implement a 'web first' and 'webcentric' approach to service design i.e. encouraging more users to self-service via the web, whilst reserving face-to-face and phone channels for the most complex enquiries or for those citizens who cannot interact via the web.
 - Expanding the Kent Gateway programme online: Throughout Kent and Medway, Gateways provide single points of access to a wide range of public services.
 - Increasing personalisation: Technology can play a critical role in driving the increased personalisation of services. For example, Kent has been a pioneer of assisted technologies such as Telecare and Telehealth, enabling people to maintain their independence for much longer than would otherwise be possible.
 - Reducing isolation: Isolation has been a long-standing issue in rural communities. No or poor quality broadband infrastructure compounds rural exclusion and isolation - especially for the younger Facebook and Twitter generation. The majority of children and young people now regard their online identity as vital to their feelings of worth and social inclusion.
- 5.6 This gives rise to three key opportunities:
- Increasing access to skills:
 - Improving educational outcomes
 - Tackling digital exclusion – especially for low income households

Telephone Masts

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

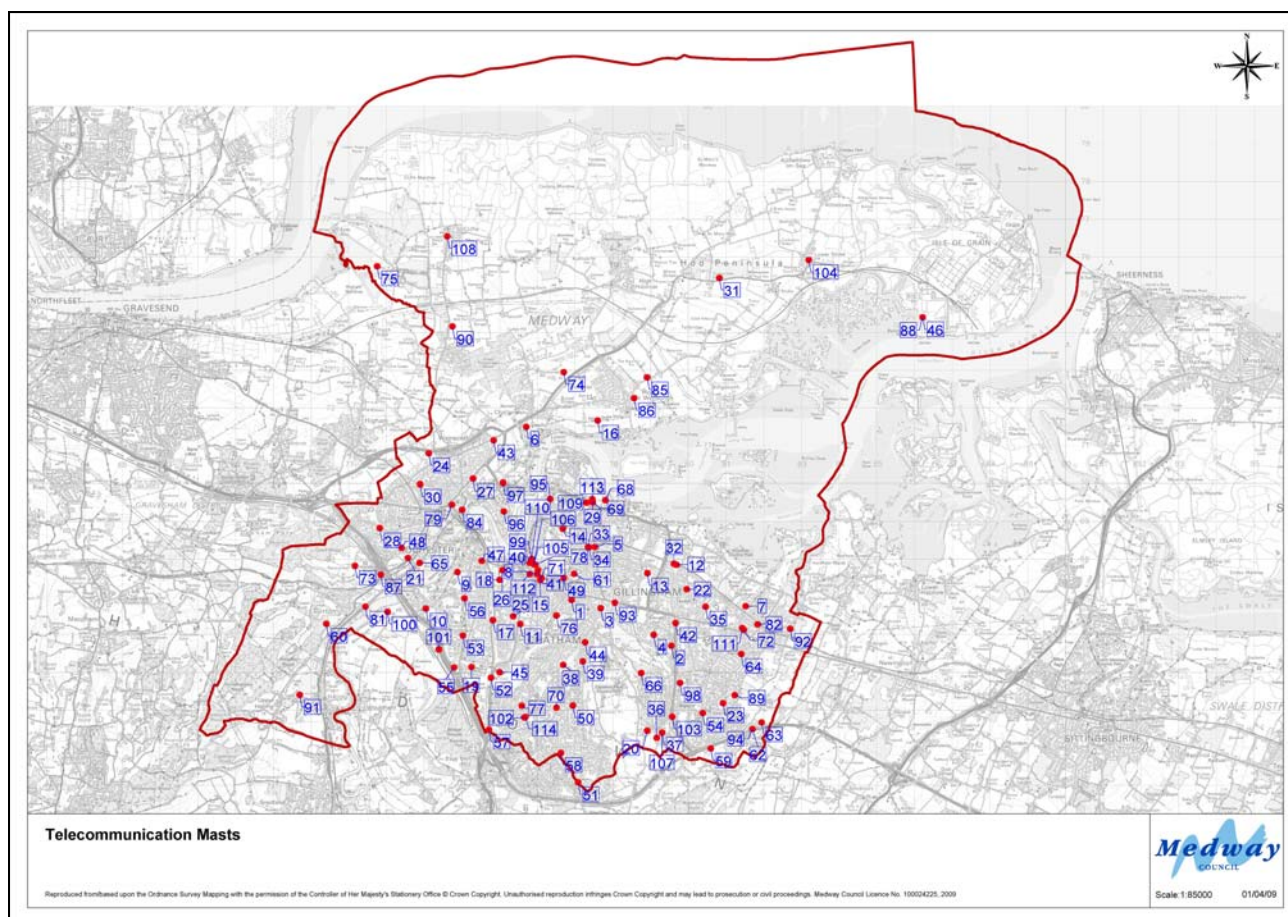


Figure 5.2: Location of telecom masts in Medway

6. TRANSPORT

- 6.1 Medway has an extensive primary route network with 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.
- 6.4 The following diagram shows Medway's strategic transport network.

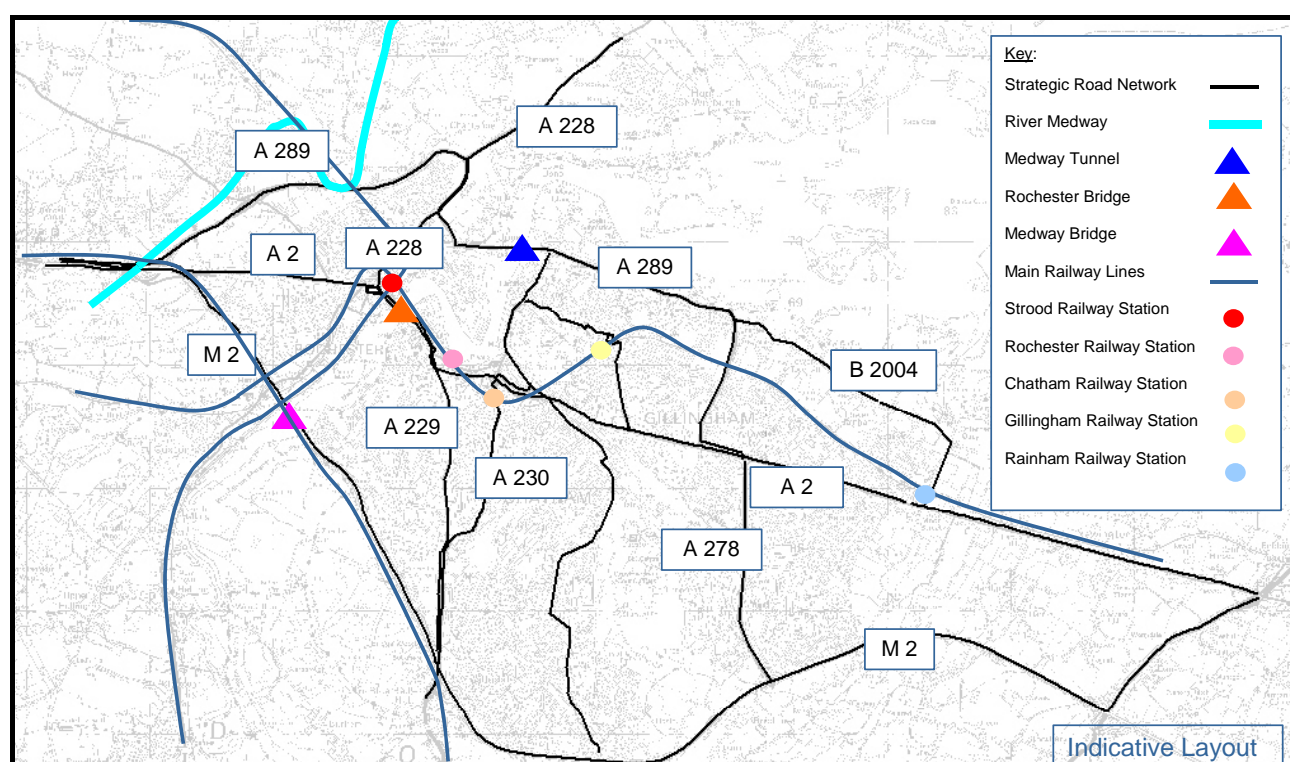


Figure 6.1: Medway's Strategic transport Network

Highways

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

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.

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.

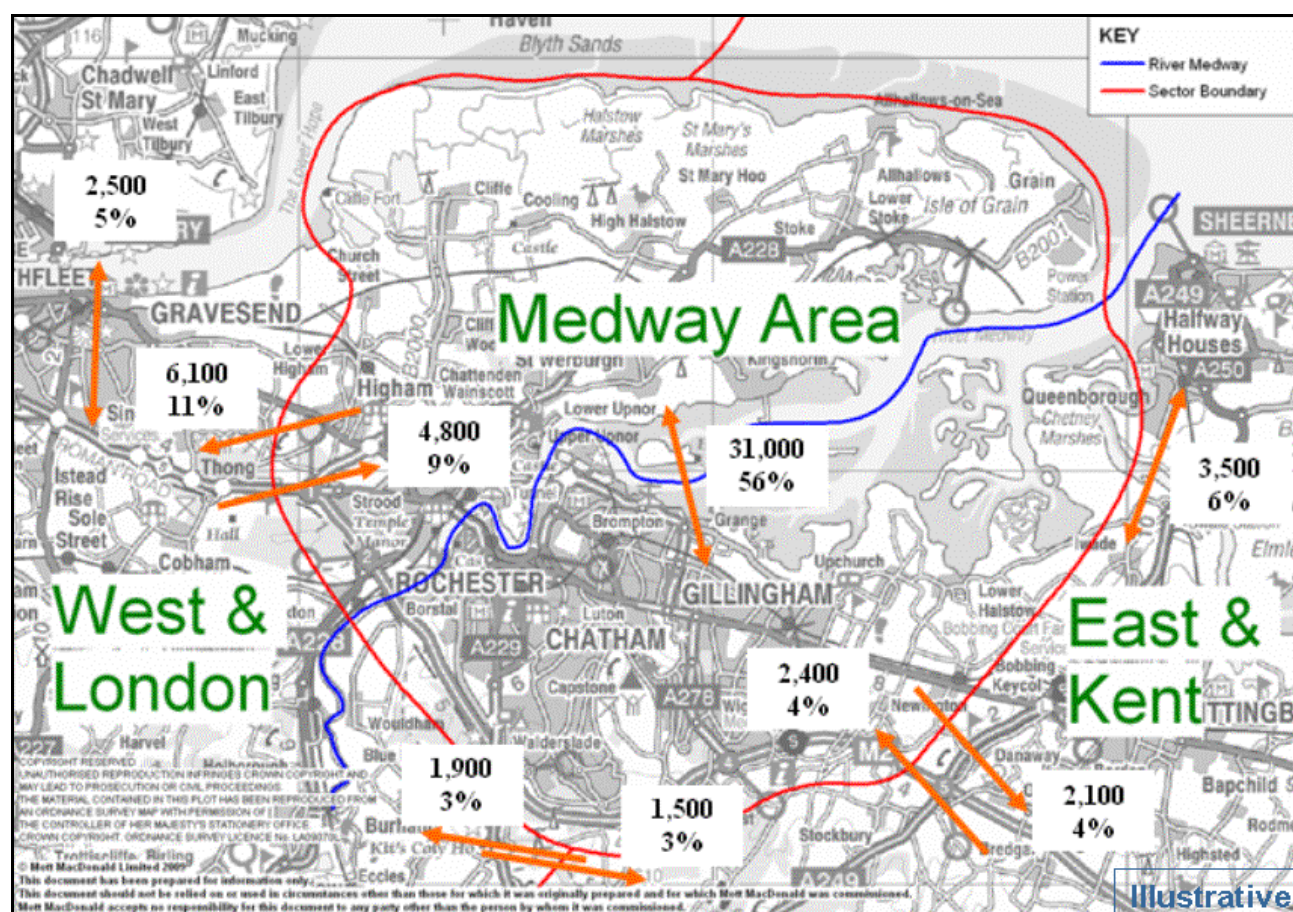


Figure 6.2: Major Vehicular Movement in Medway

- 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.

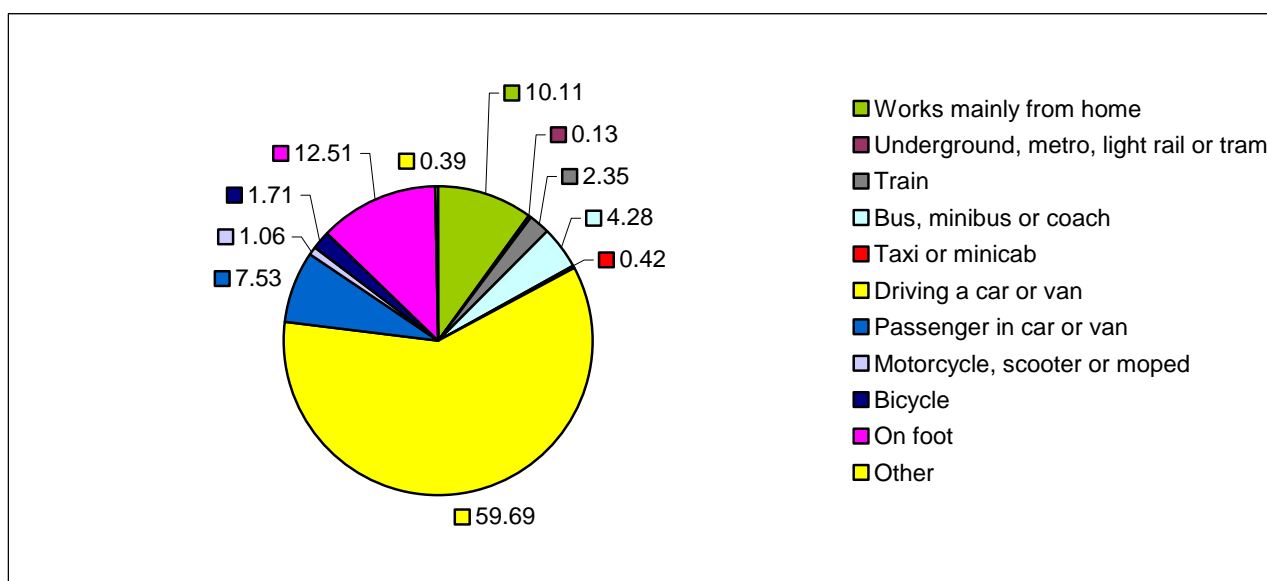


Figure 6.3: Mode of travel to work for people in Medway

Rail

- 6.9 The rail network is centred 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, London Bridge and now London St Pancras. There is also a secondary rail line through the Medway Valley serving Cuxton and Halling and through to Maidstone West. Its northern terminus is at Strood.
- 6.10 The Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) domestic services has completed a high speed domestic rail service that travels from Kent to St Pancras using the CTRL. Services run 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. 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 has seen recent 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 new 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 two and eight buses per hour between 07.00 and 19.00 hours. More infrequent services extend into the rural areas of Medway in particular the Isle of Grain.

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 but also villages on the Hoo Peninsula. An hourly National Express Service runs from Dover to London and stops at the Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre en route.

Cycling Facilities

- 6.14 Medway has almost 110km of cycle network, which has grown from 70km in 2003/2004. Medway Council is continually looking to expand its cycle network, with both on and off road 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.

Rights of Way and Gateways

- 6.15 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 Medway¹³.

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

¹³ Medway Council, Movement in Medway: Medway's Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2017 p.4

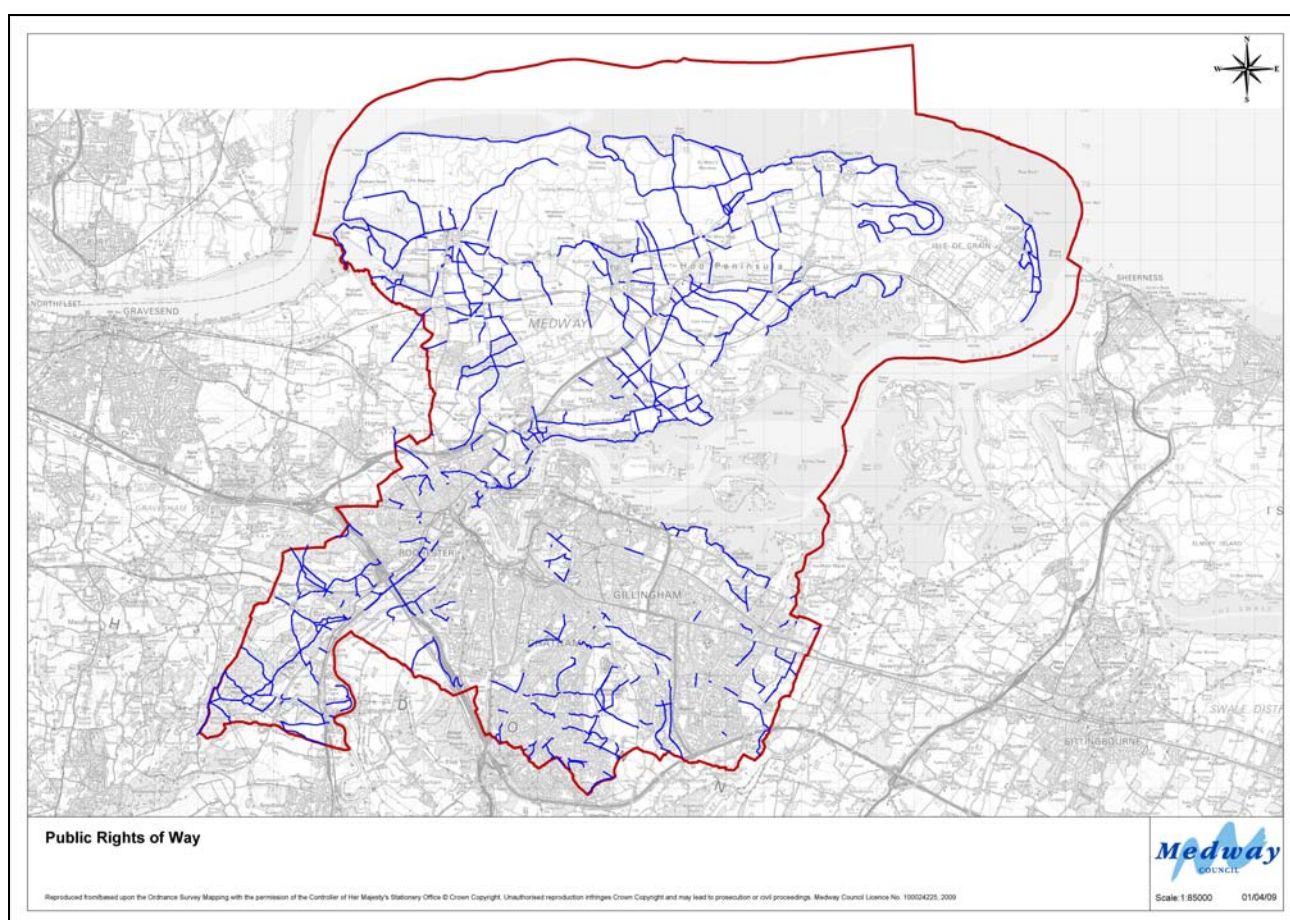


Figure 6.5: Public Rights of Way network

- 6.16 The public rights of way network is a major contributory factor to Medway's Green Grid Strategy and in the facilitation of green space access in Medway. Medway's Green Grid Strategy development is being informed by the wider vision detailed in the governments sustainable community plan and the 'greening the gateway Kent and Medway initiative.
- 6.17 The Green Grid Strategy identifies key green corridors across Medway. Green corridors include river and canal banks, cycleways, and rights 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

- 6.18 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 Consultants¹⁴ concluded that the facilities spread throughout Medway were all commercially and operationally viable, noting the wide range of cargo types ('from

¹⁴ Medway Council, River Medway Report, June 2007

coal to cars and gas to fruit') and the significant employment at Sheerness ('where cars and other conventional cargos generate more jobs than elsewhere on the river').

- 6.19 Thamesport 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.
- 6.20 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.
- 6.21 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.
- 6.22 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 cranes, thereby enabling us to handle some of the largest container vessels in the world.
- 6.23 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.
- 6.24 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.

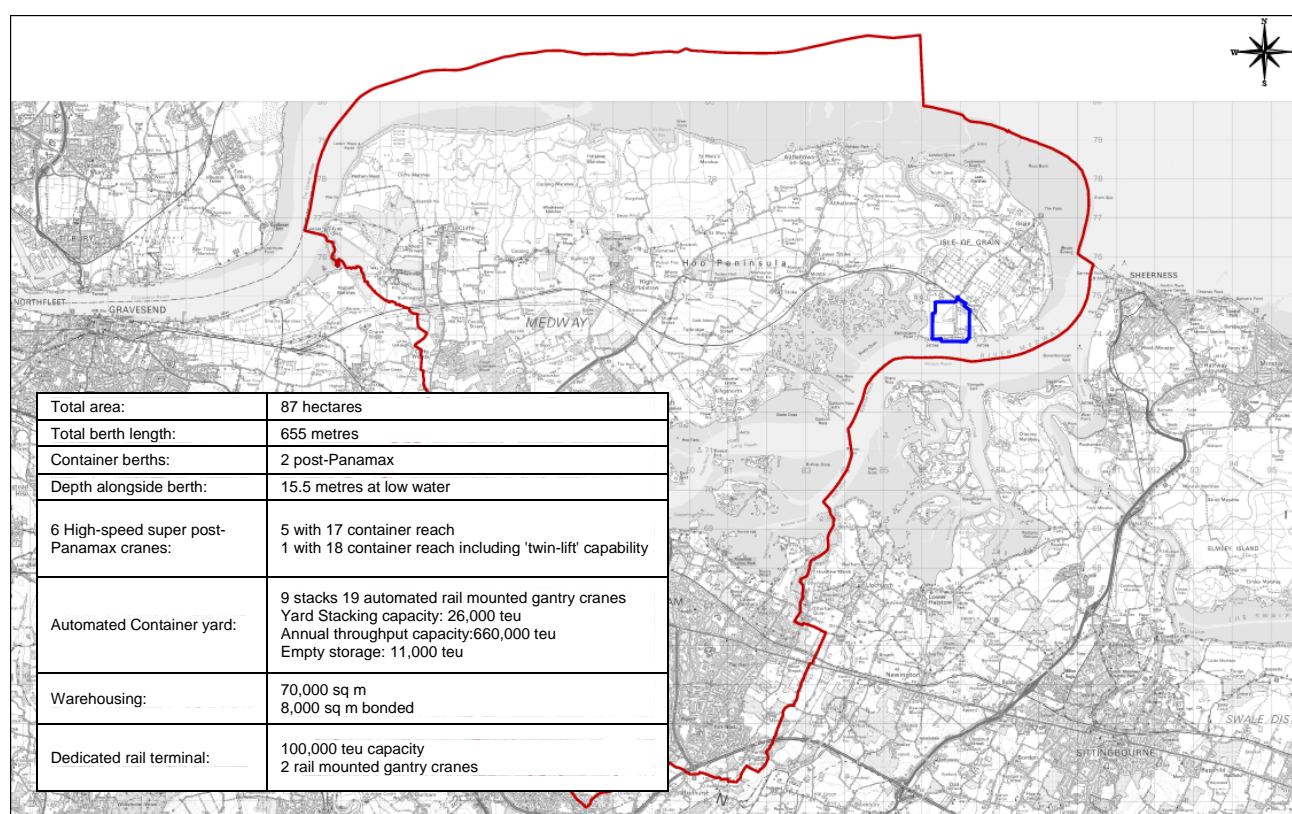


Figure 6.6: Summary of Thamesport facilities and map showing location

- 6.25 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.
- 6.26 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

- 6.27 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.
- 6.28 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.
- 6.29 The airport has 2 runways and a relief runway, which are grass, as are the taxiways. Its operating hours are from 8am to 6pm.

- 6.30 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.
- 6.31 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.

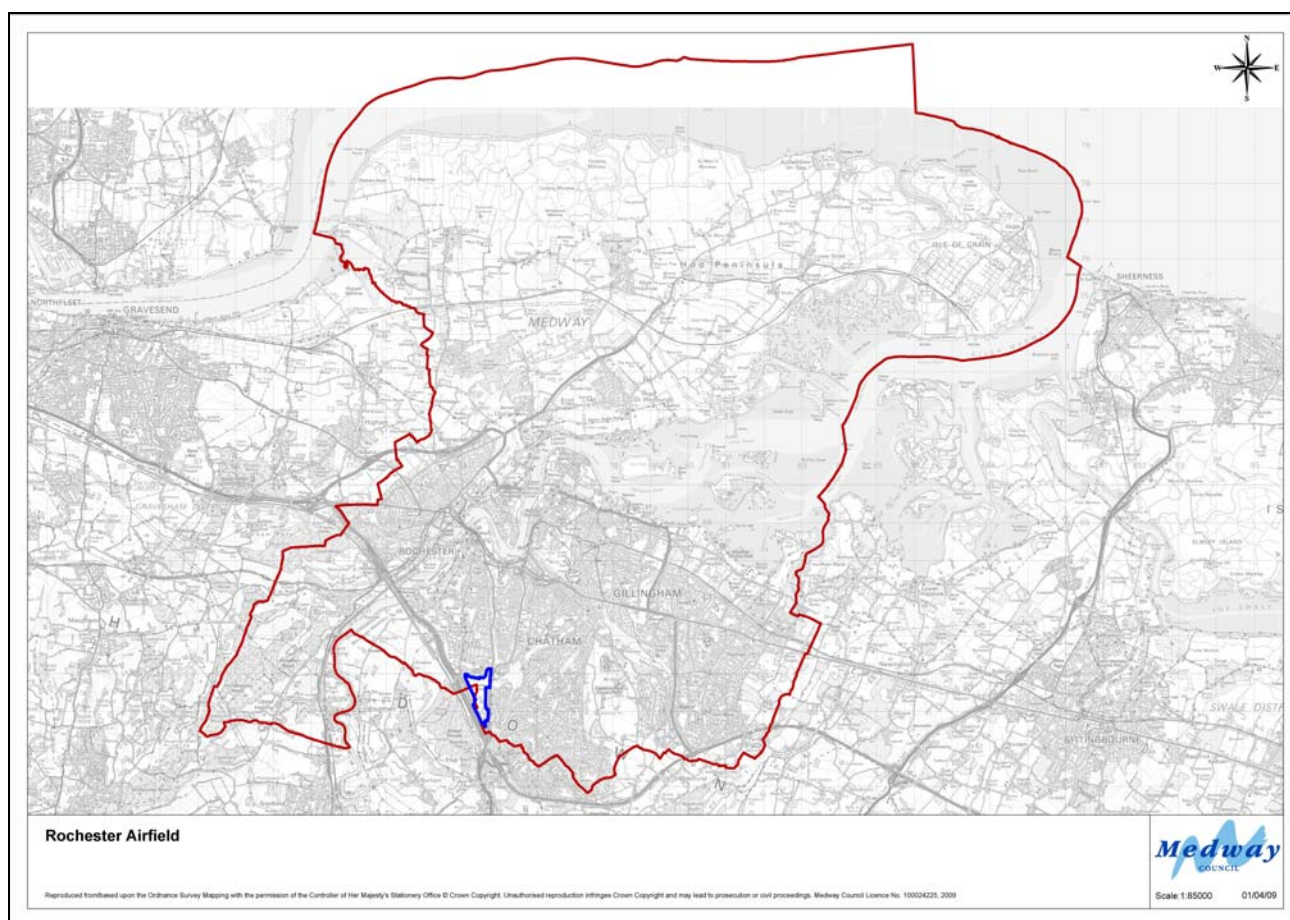


Figure 6.7: Rochester Airfield

7. EDUCATION AND LEARNING

7.1 Early Years Foundation Stage and Sure Start

7.2 Medway's Sure Start strategy – an integral part of the CYPP - seeks to improve the current wellbeing, and the future life chances, of children through a planned roll-out of evidence-based programmes and practices, and the delivery of coherent integrated early childhood services for local communities. Two strands of capital activity have been at the heart of this strategy and support the school organisation principles:

- development of a network of 19 Sure Start children's centres, co-located at primary schools that host a range of health, learning, care and guidance services for very young children and their parents and carers;
- expansion of the proportion of schools offering an integrated Foundation Stage of learning from the age of three years, starting first with those serving areas of greatest disadvantage and thereby helping to raise standards at Foundation Stage and ultimately Key Stage 1 and beyond.

7.3 Medway began with four children's centres in the most disadvantaged areas – and built on the lessons from the pilot Sure Start project in the All Saints area of Chatham. There are now 19 centres built, staffed and delivering services to local families, which serve all of Medway's communities as shown on the map below:

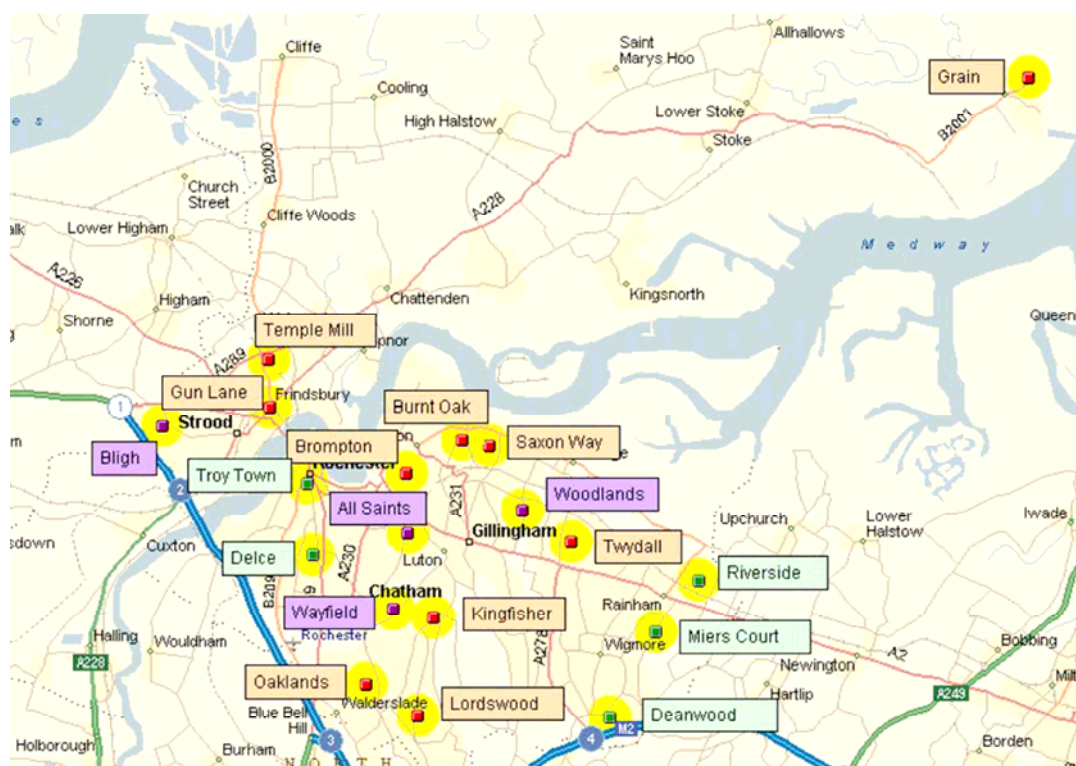


Fig 7.0

7.4 A total of 32 infant and primary schools offer some or all of their children the full Foundation Stage of learning from the age of three years, and 33 do not, which means

that we have almost met our target for more than half of all schools in Medway to offer the full Foundation Stage by 2010 compared with less than 20% in 2000. This development supports the school organisation principles to reduce the number of transition points for children.

Childcare

- 7.5 This section refers to early years childcare and out of school provision for children aged up until 14 (or 17 for disabled children).
- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 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.
- 7.8 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.

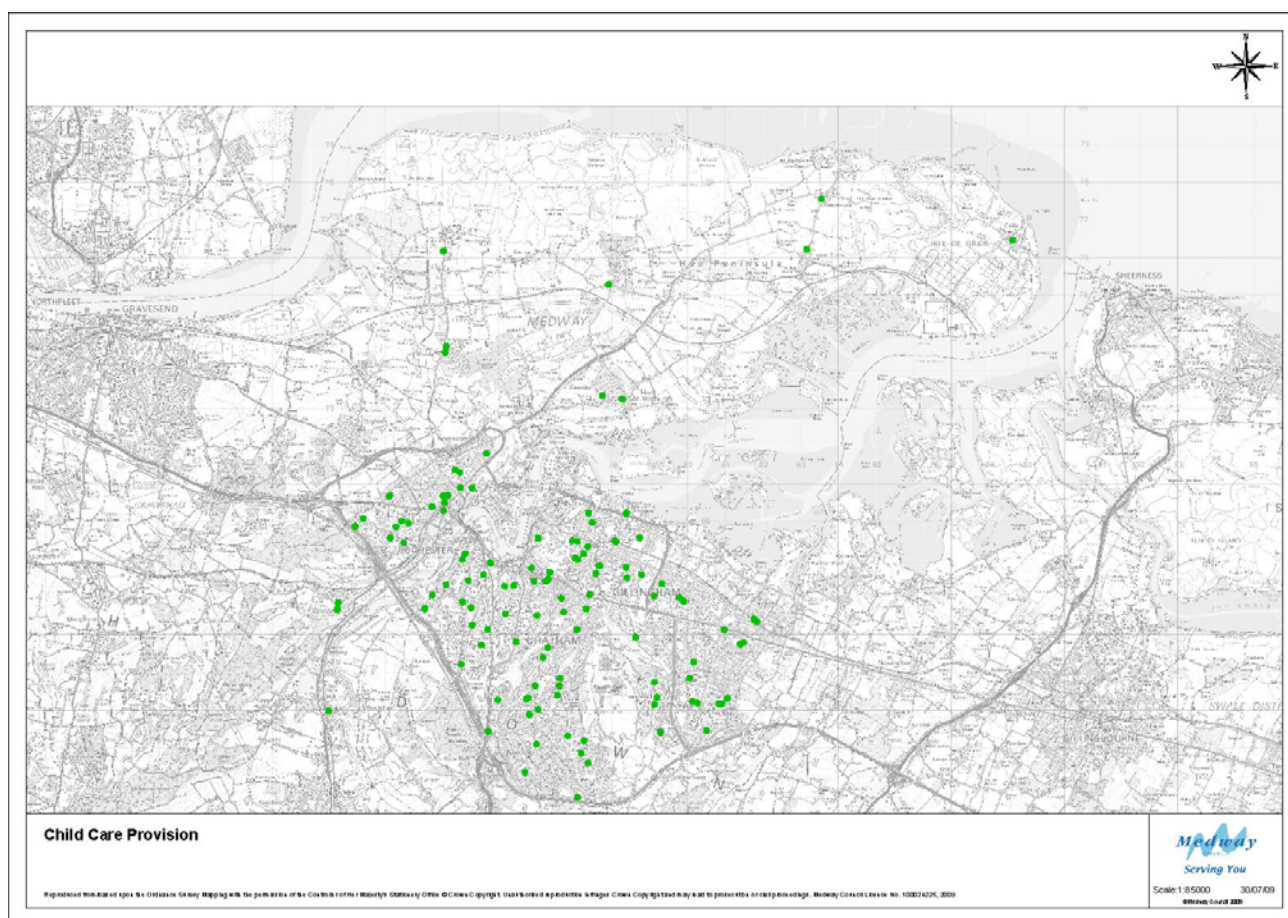


Figure 7.1: Location of childcare provision in Medway

- 7.9 Overall in Medway a total of 2,534 childcare places were currently vacant, with these being most common in holiday schemes (559 vacancies), pre-school playgroup (414 vacancies) and childminders (399 vacancies). In terms of ward, there were very few vacancies in Cuxton and Halling (8 vacancies) and whilst there were high numbers in Twydall (358 vacancies) and Rainham South (292).
- 7.10 Using the total number of childcare places and total number of vacancies we can estimate that 19% of all childcare places were currently vacant, a reduction of 4% since the last CSA where the vacancy rate stood at 23%.

WARD	Breakfast Club	Childminder	Crèche	Day Nursery	Holiday Scheme	Home Child carer	Maintained Nursery School	Out of School Care	Pre-School Playgroup	GRAND TOTAL
Chatham Central	25	24		5				9	23	86
Cuxton and Halling		6							2	8
Gillingham North	16	17	26	21	110			14	8	212
Gillingham South		30		31	5	1	10	4	6	87
Hempstead and Wigmore		11		37					25	73
Lordswood and Capstone	6	16			132		20		16	190
Luton and Wayfield		23	7						35	65
Peninsula		20		8			10		41	79
Princes Park		24		14	60		8	12	7	125
Rainham Central		16					8		11	35
Rainham North		11		3			7	10		31
Rainham South	85	31		50	2	1		89	34	292
River		16	6	31			15		5	73
Rochester East	10	5		5	42		5		34	101
Rochester South and Horsted		13		6			4		17	40
Rochester West		13		5	15				16	49
Strood North		9			10			36	23	78
Strood Rural	25	24		15	20			36	24	144
Strood South	70	27		9	15		11	30	52	214
Twydall	94	24		15	102		35	88		358
Walderslade	10	20		33	40			10	29	142
Watling	10	19		11	6				6	52
GRAND TOTAL	351	399	39	299	559	2	133	338	414	2,534

Source: Medway Provider Profile Survey 2010

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

School Education

- 7.11 Medway Council as a Local Education Authority has a statutory obligation to provide education.
- 7.12 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

- 7.13 As at June 2011 there are 83 primary phase schools educating 20,856 children and 2 special schools with primary phase. These include 38 infant and junior, 10 voluntary aided schools - 2 Church of England and 8 Roman Catholic and 7 Church of England voluntary controlled schools. There are currently no primary age Academies in Medway, although the first primary conversion is due to take place on 1 July 2011 and several other primary schools have expressed an interest in applying.

Secondary Schools

- 7.14 There are 17 secondary phase schools, which include 6 grammar schools educating 19,477 children, and 3 special schools with secondary phase. The secondary sector has undergone significant change in recent years with a number having converted to Academy status. There are currently one voluntary aided, 6 foundation, 2 community and 8 Academy secondary schools.

Special Schools

- 7.15 Medway has 2 special schools with primary phase, 3 special schools with secondary phase and a range of additionally resourced mainstream provision. Following consultation Medway Council published “Special Educational Needs An Inclusive policy and strategy for Medway 2009 – 2014”. Generally, provision for children with SEN in Medway is good and children with SEN make good progress. However, the number of children from Medway educated outside mainstream schools is too high, which includes a number of children educated outside the Medway area or in independent provision.

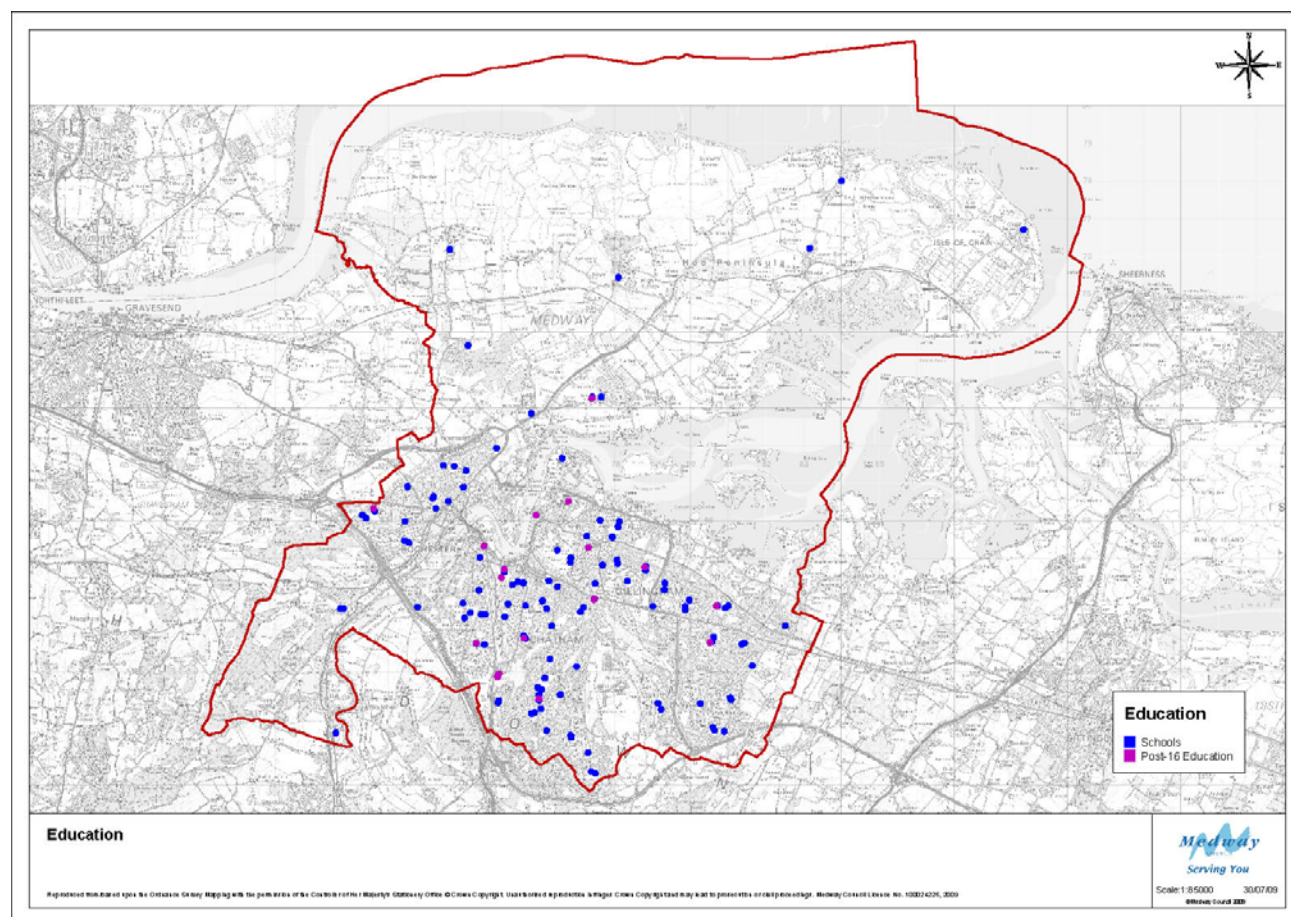


Figure 7.3: Location of schools and higher education establishments in Medway

Higher Education

- 7.16 'Universities at Medway' is a unique partnership which has brought together the University of Greenwich, the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University and Mid-Kent College at a shared campus at Chatham Maritime. The £120 million scheme is the first of its kind in the country and aims to increase student numbers in Medway to more than 10,000 by 2012.
- 7.17 Each of the four institutions offers its own range of courses, both full and part-time, drawing on its own individual academic strengths, and has its own buildings. By being on a shared campus, students have access to a wide range of first-class facilities.
- 7.18 Canterbury Christ Church University.
2012 will be a special year for Canterbury Christ Church University, as they celebrate a milestone in their history –their Golden Jubilee. They are the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the public services - notably teacher training, nursing, policing, health and social care - and a significant provider of programmes in a wide range of academic and professional areas. In total they offer over a thousand academic and professional study programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level.
- 7.19 The Medway Campus is also home to the University's Centre for Health and Social Care Research. The Centre carries out applied, practice focused and policy research and works in partnership with NHS and social care commissioning and provider organisations, voluntary and community groups, and industries in Kent, Medway and South East London.
- 7.20 University of Greenwich.
Extensive new laboratories and research facilities have been opened and the university has linked with other educational establishments to develop the campus as a major higher education centre in the Medway region known collectively as the Universities at Medway.
- 7.21 A massive expansion of facilities on the Medway Campus has brought about the renovation of two disused buildings, a new build and new laboratories. The centrepiece of the development is a magnificent learning resource centre, the Drill Hall Library, converted from a naval drill hall and offering 100,000 square feet of space. It houses a library, computers, study areas and teaching rooms. The Pilkington Building next door, converted from the naval canteen, contains a lecture theatre, exhibition space, teaching rooms, a bistro-style cafe and the base for the Universities at Medway Student Association. There is a new engineering research block, the Wolfson Centre, specialising in bulk solid handling, and additional laboratory facilities for Medway School of Pharmacy and the School of Science.
- 7.22 The campus has modern workshops and equipment, including a computer-aided design studio and a training dispensary for pharmacy students. The Centre for Sport & Exercise Science has the latest in 3D movement and force analysis equipment, enabling researchers to help professional athletes improve technique and avoid injury.
- 7.23 University of Kent.

The University of Kent's expansion at Medway is one of the most exciting developments in higher education in the United Kingdom. The University offers a vibrant and modern campus, with innovative buildings and facilities. You can expect outstanding teaching, learning and leisure opportunities, and an exceptional level of personal support.

7.24 The University has invested in new, purpose-built facilities. These include facilities for the Centre for Sports Studies, such as exercise suites and a private treatment clinic. The Department of Music and Audio, part of the School of Arts, offers a range of studios, recording areas, workstations and seminar rooms.

7.25 Mid Kent College.

Mid Kent College has two centres one in Gillingham and Maidstone.

7.26 They have a new £86 million Medway Campus in Gillingham – which opened in September 2009 – this boasts some of the best vocational training facilities in the country as well as its own fine dining restaurant, travel agency, staff and student social zones and more.

Adult Education

7.27 Medway Adult and Community Learning Service (MACLS)

MACLS is committed to providing a wide range of learning opportunities for adults in Medway. Whether you want to learn new skills for work, develop your creativity or participate in learning activities with your children, we will have a course for you. There are currently five centres in Medway; Gillingham, Rochester, Rainham Mark Grammar School, Chatham South School and Chapter School (Strood).

7.28 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 at Bluebell Hill in Tonbridge & Malling 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.

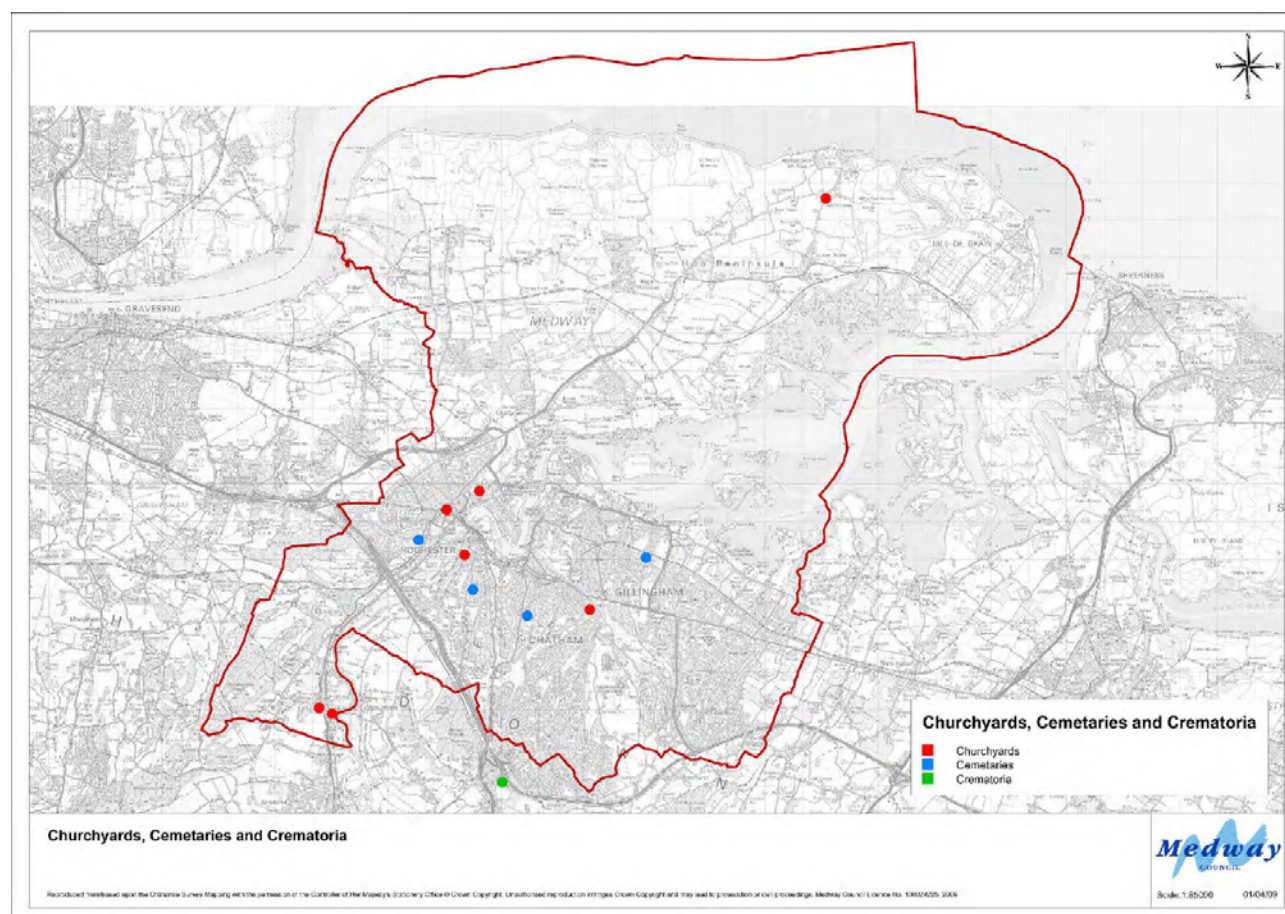


Figure 8.1: Locations of Open Church Yards, Cemeteries and the Crematorium

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.

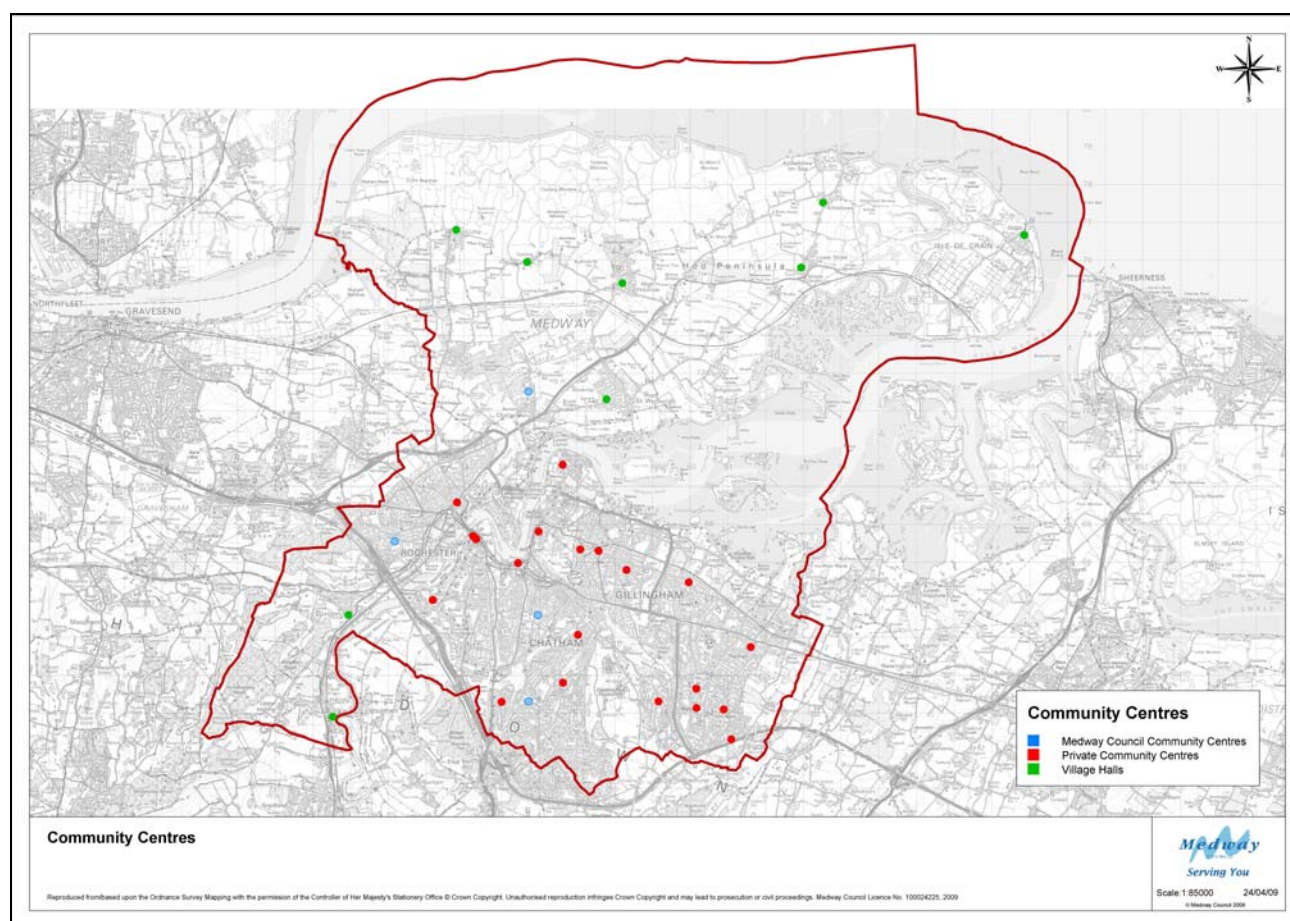


Figure 8.2: Location of Community Centres in Medway

Libraries

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

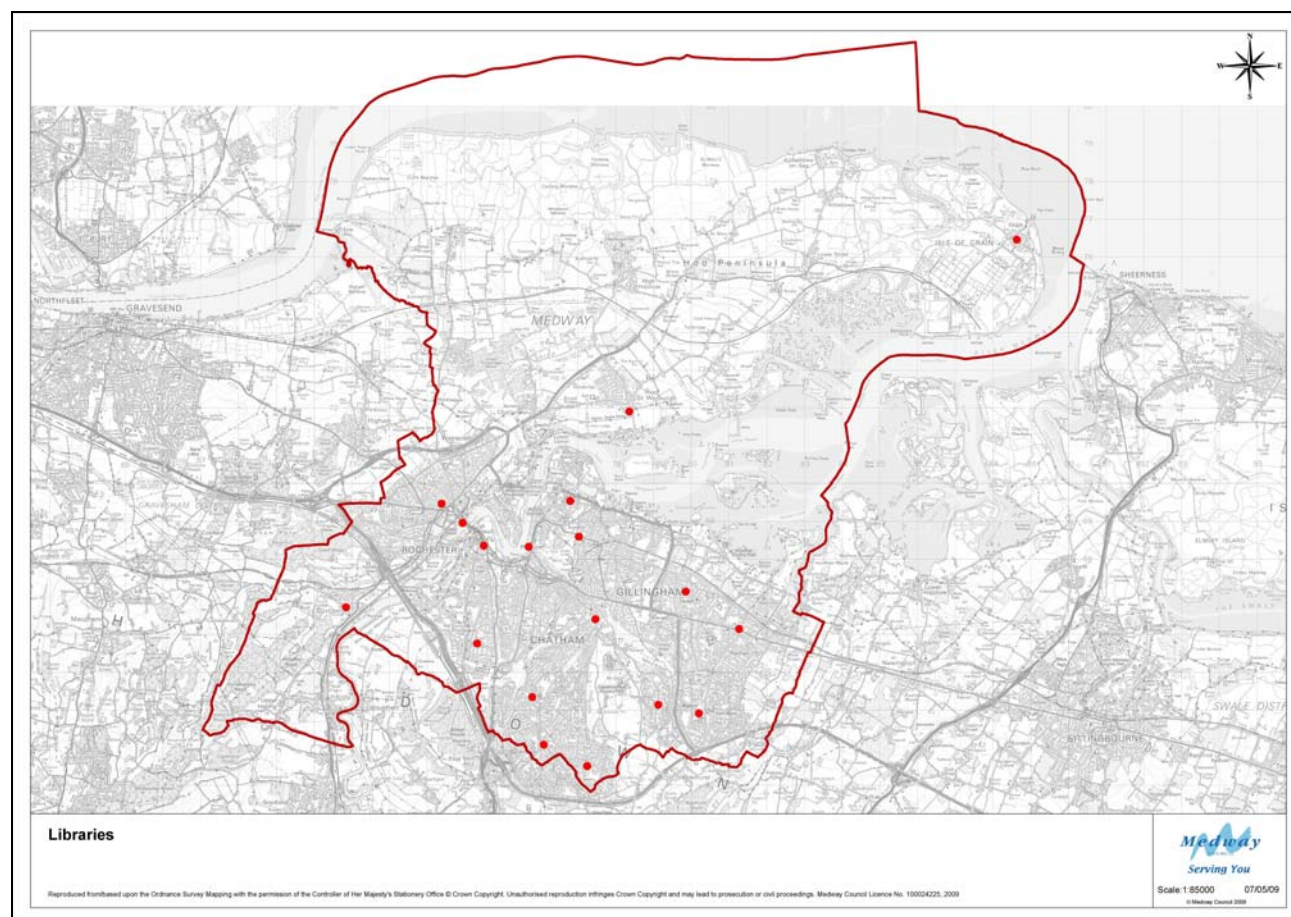


Figure 8.3: Locations of Libraries in Medway

- 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.

Council Contact Points

- 8.9 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.
- 8.10 These one-stop shops allow customers to walk in and access information, request a council service, make payments or carry out any other council business.

- 8.11 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. 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.

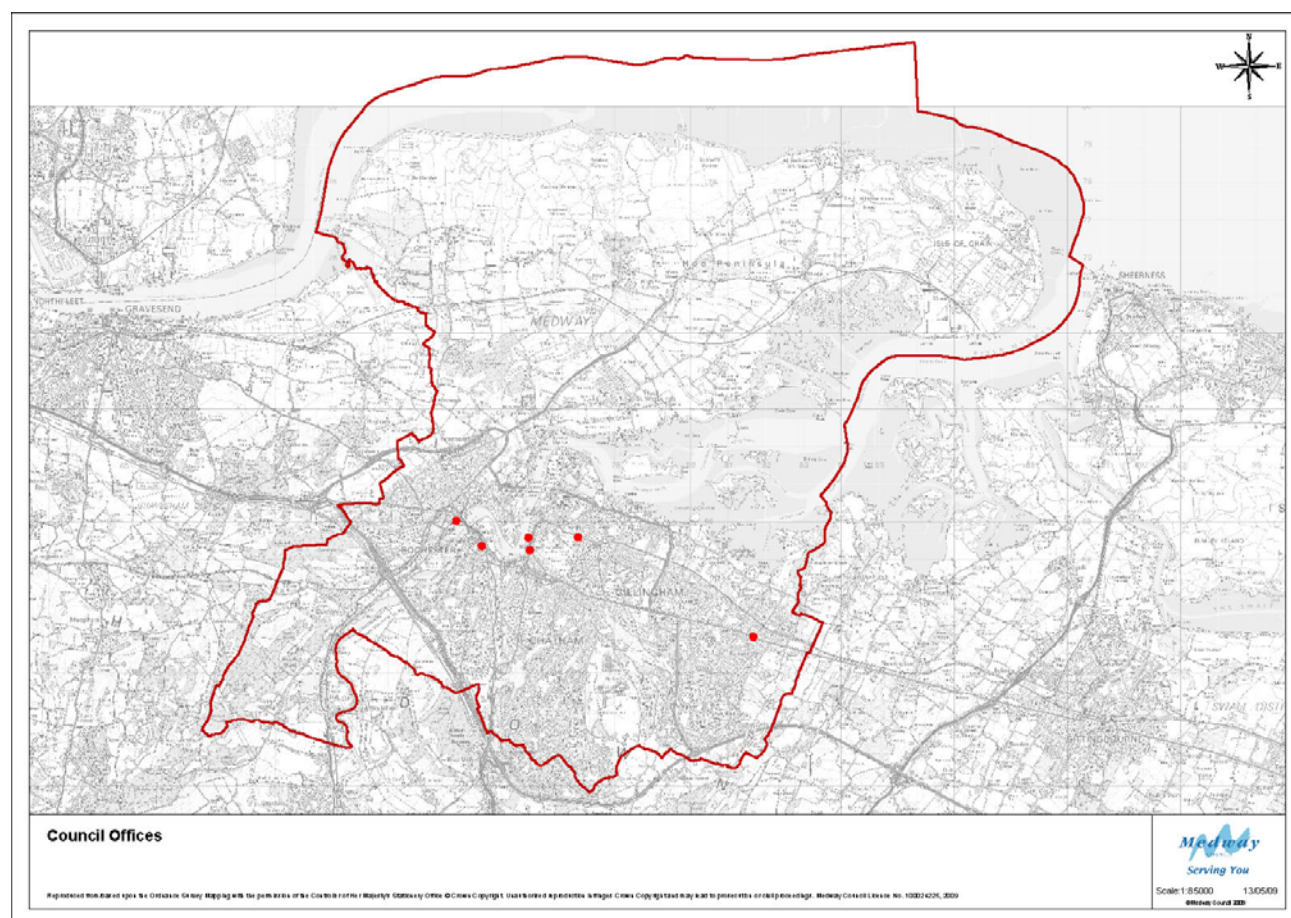


Figure 8.4: Location of Contact Points and Council Offices

Places of Worship

- 8.12 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

- 8.13 There are currently over 580 organisations in Medway; these organisations cover a wide range from small, grass roots community groups to branches of national charities. Medway Council provides funding support to the sector in excess of £2.3 million per year.
- 8.14 Medway Council along with other statutory organisations fund a relatively small number of voluntary and community organisations. This means that there are a huge number of organisations getting on with the job of supporting the people of Medway and providing opportunities for enjoyment and achievement without accessing funds from these statutory organisations

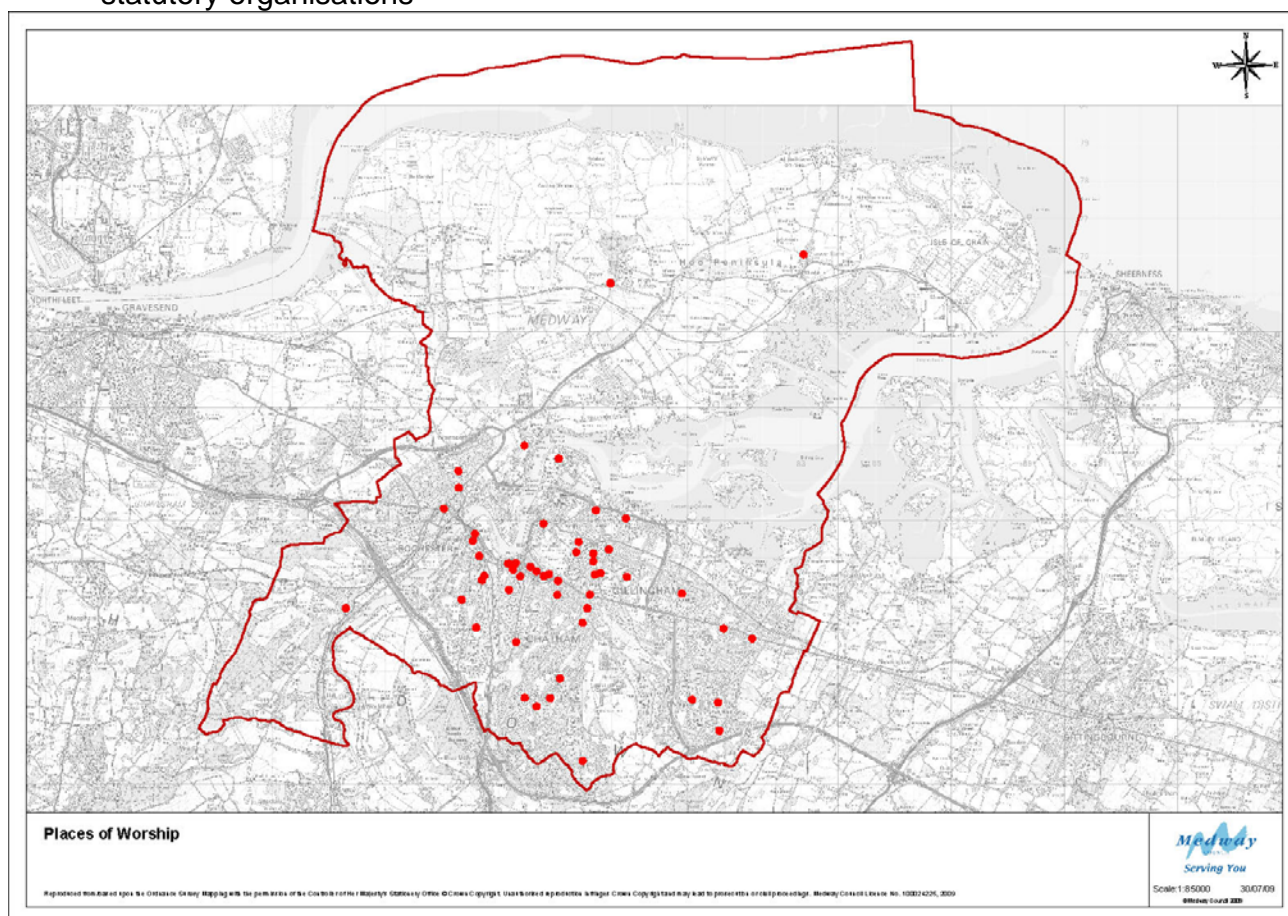


Figure 8.5: Location of places of worship in Medway

Post Offices

- 8.15 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.¹⁵

- 8.16 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.
- 8.17 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.

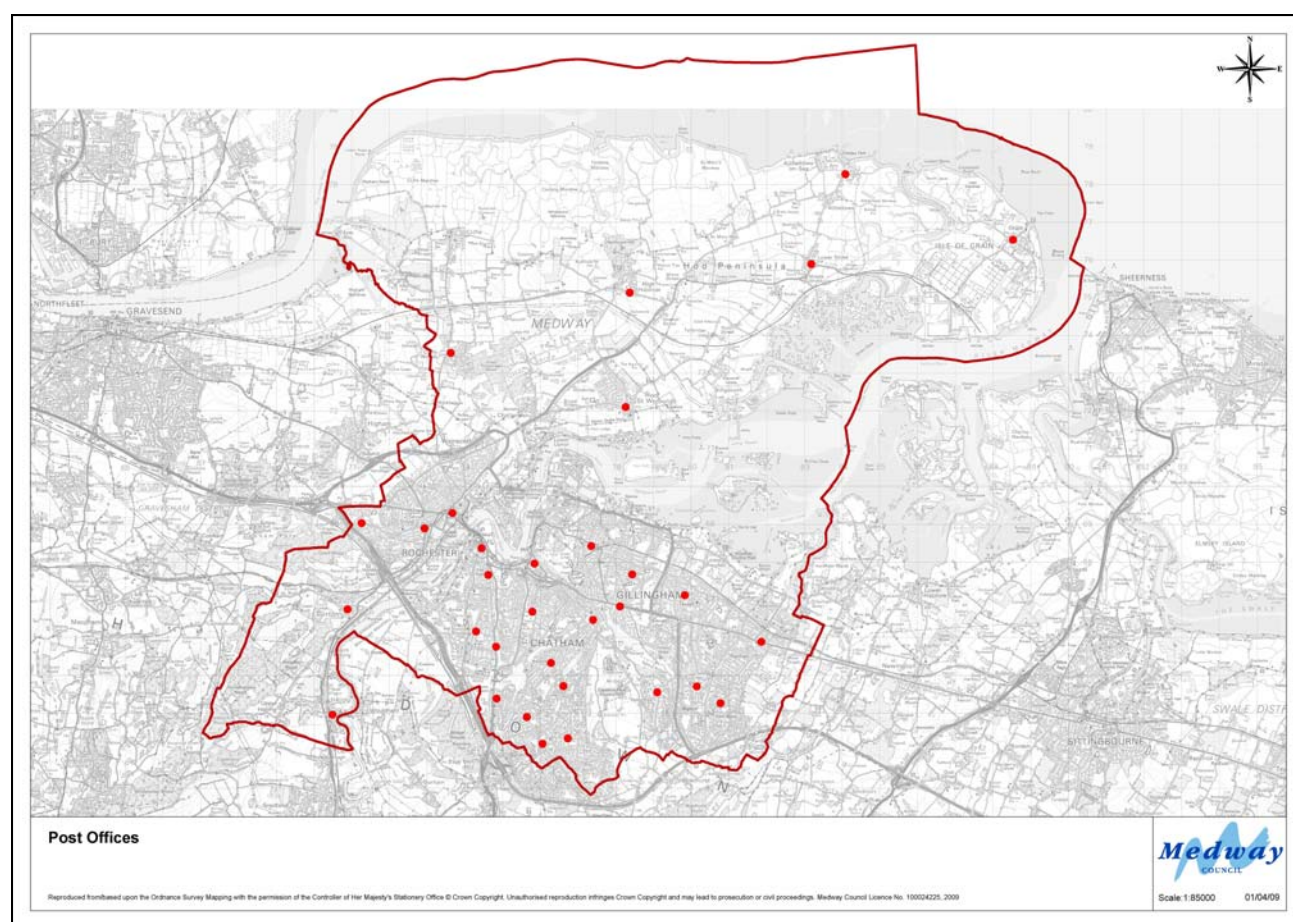


Figure 8.6: Post Offices in Medway

- 8.18 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

¹⁵ http://www.postoffice.co.uk/sites/default/files/C.3.4.0_pdf/Kent_Area_Plan_decision_booklet.pdf (Area Plan Decision Booklet for Kent), p.8

decisions. The local public consultation on the Area Plan Proposal for Kent took place in May 2007.¹⁶

- 8.19 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.
- 8.20 Other branches have had 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

- 8.21 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.
- 8.22 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.
- 8.23 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 May 2009 it had an operational capacity of 620 convicted, sentenced young offenders serving up to 6 years.
- 8.24 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.
- 8.25 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.

¹⁶ <http://www.postoffice.co.uk/portal/po/content1?catId=57600693&mediaId=57600697>

- 8.26 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 re-offending.
- 8.27 The Medway Secure Training Centre also in Rochester is a unit for young children aged 8 to 15, although some of the children who are placed there are aged 14 to 15 years.
- 8.28 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.
- 8.29 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.
- 8.30 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.
- 8.31 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.

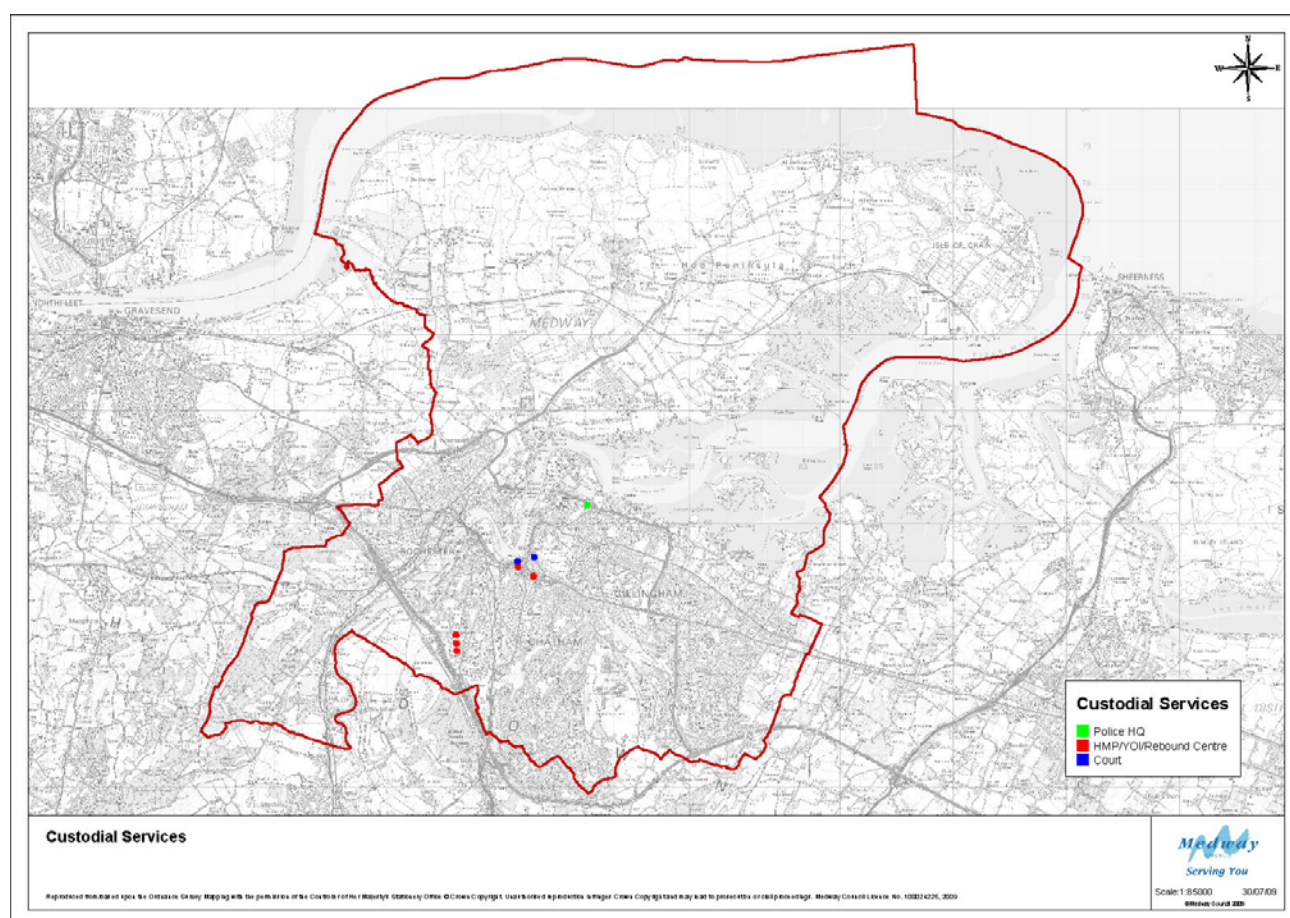


Figure 8.7: Custodial Services in Medway

Youth Services

- 8.32 Medway Youth Service¹⁷ work is designed to enable young people to gain confidence in their abilities and empowered to make decisions. The aim is to influence the most vulnerable and to divert those at risk into positive activities.
- 8.33 Working with an objective to support up to 25% of the 25,000 young people in Medway aged 13 to 19 is a significant challenge. Colleagues undertake their work with enthusiasm and commitment - tackling many difficult issues but also celebrating achievements. The strength of the service is drawn from their dedication and professionalism and the motivational influence this has on the young people who are engaged through the programmes on offer.
- 8.34 Medway Youth Service and Connexions Medway are planning to pilot an integrated universal youth support provision at a youth site in Medway that is open from 10am to 10pm six days per week in 2010/11.
- 8.35 Extended services are considering supporting primary school pupils to design and develop their own after school services through a junior Youth Opportunity Programme (YOP). The programme will fund after school and enrichment activities at the school for

¹⁷ <http://www.medway.gov.uk/educationandlearning/youngpeople/youth.aspx>

5 to 11-year-olds. Pupils from each primary school council would submit bids to a Medway junior YOP panel.

- 8.36 Youth Services provide programmes¹⁸ in Strood and the Hoo Peninsula, Chatham and Rochester, Gillingham and Rainham. For more detailed information visit:
<http://www.medway.gov.uk/educationandlearning/youngpeople/youth.aspx>

¹⁸ http://www.medway.gov.uk/pdf/medway_annual_report_2009.pdf

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.

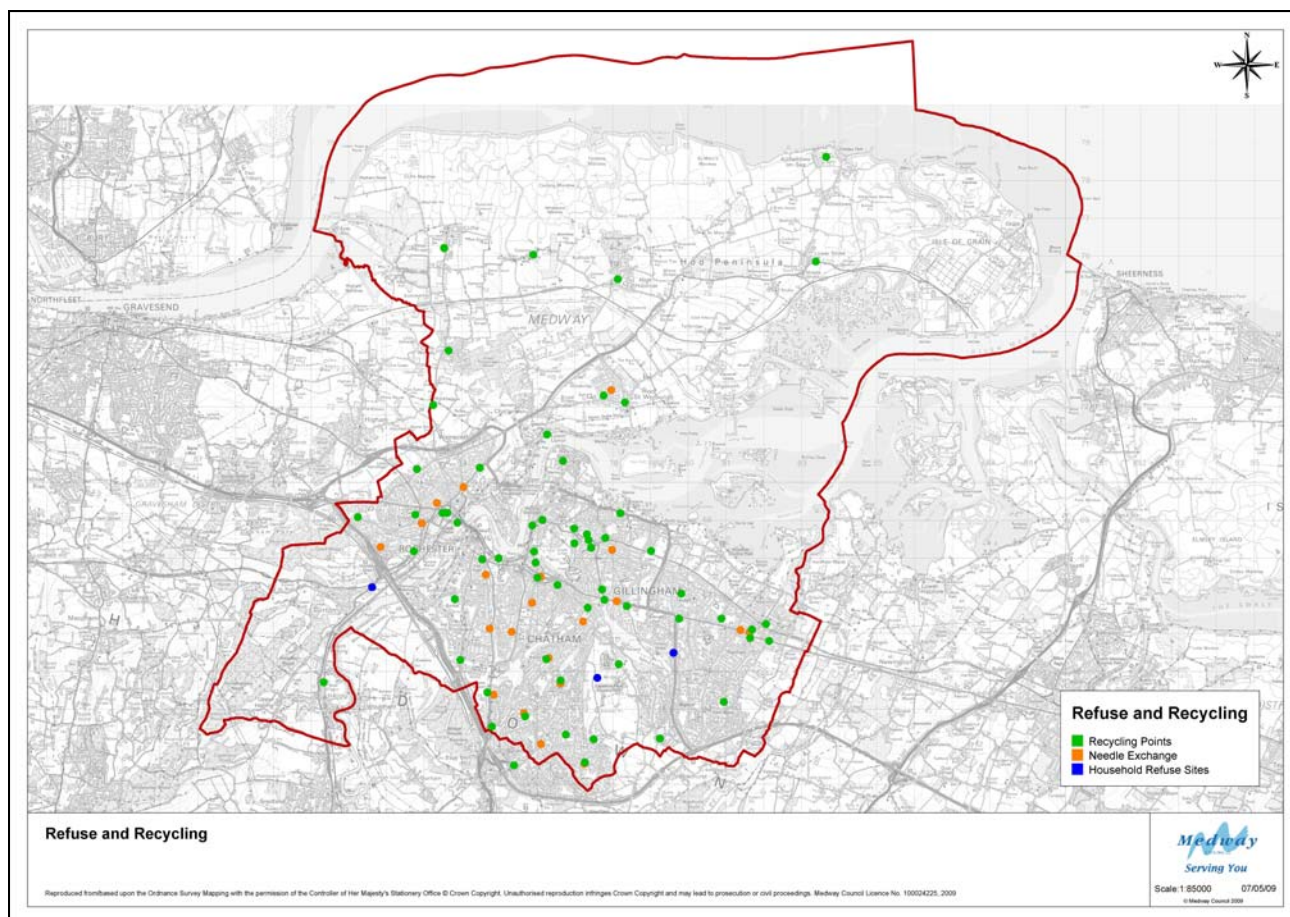


Figure 9.1: Locations of refuse and recycling points

- 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 Canterbury, 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.¹⁹
- 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 (For more detailed see the Climate Change, Renewable and flooding SOM)

- 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).²⁰
- 9.11 Figure 9.2 shows the areas that are currently defined as being within Flood Zones 1-3.

¹⁹ Medway Council, Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005-2020 p.38

²⁰ Medway Council, State of Medway Report: Climate Change and Renewable Energy, 2008

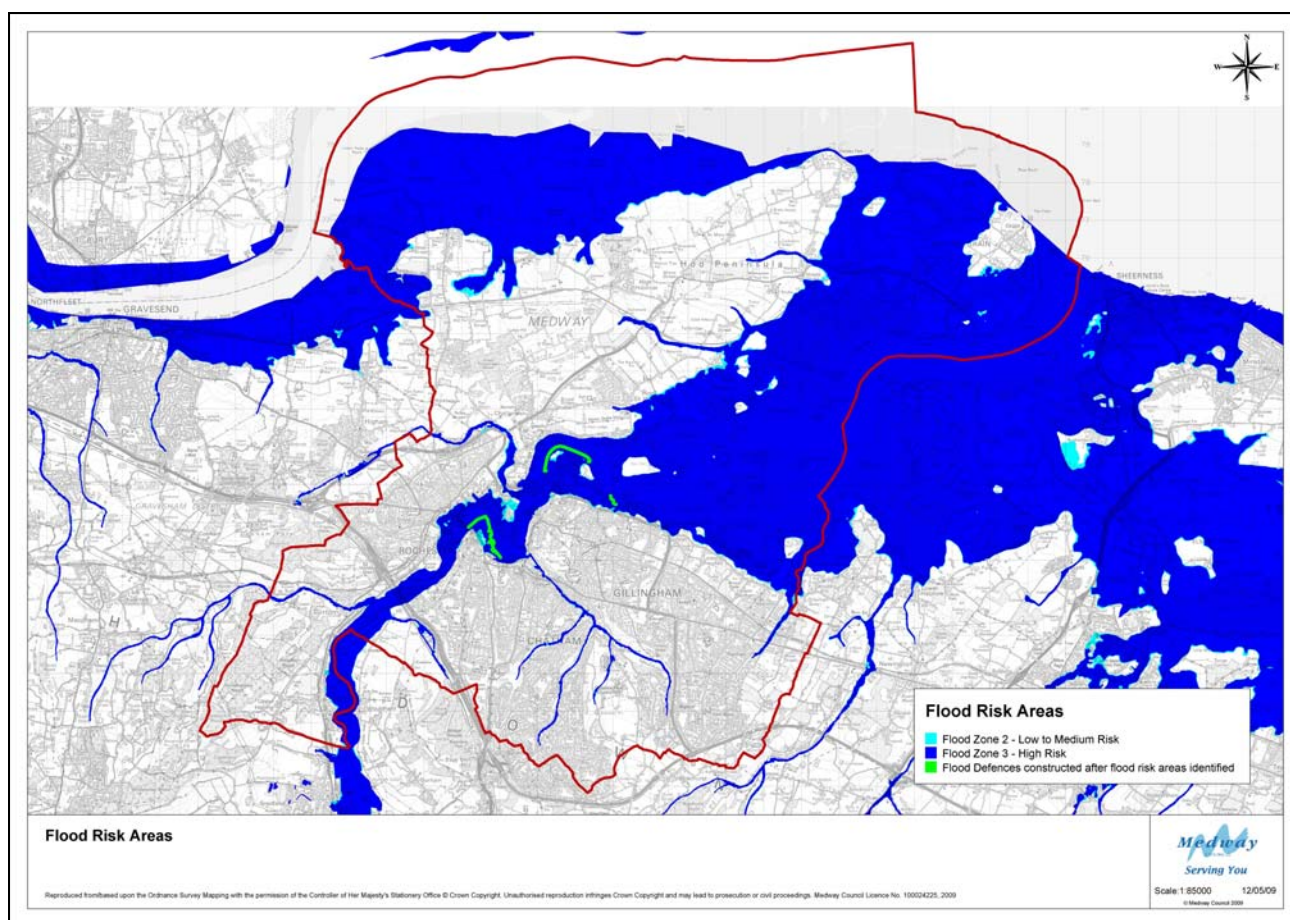


Figure 9.2: Areas at risk of flooding in Medway

- 9.12 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.
- 9.13 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 developing 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 practices²¹ 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 1800:1²².
- 10.6 The PCT has reviewed its current portfolio of GP premises for compliance with legislation (such as DDA) and a large number were found not meeting the requirements. In addition primary care services are provided in many smaller single-handed GP practices, considerably higher than the national average.²³
- 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.²⁴

²¹ NHS Medway, Your Guide to Services, 2008 p.10

²² <http://www.adastra.co.uk/content/about/documents/MedwaySDTCASEStudy.pdf>

²³ Medway Primary Care Trust, Estate Review: Identification of Opportunities to Improve Service Delivery, November 2007 p.6

²⁴ Medway Primary Care Trust, Estate Review: Identification of Opportunities to Improve Service Delivery, November 2007 p.2

- 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.

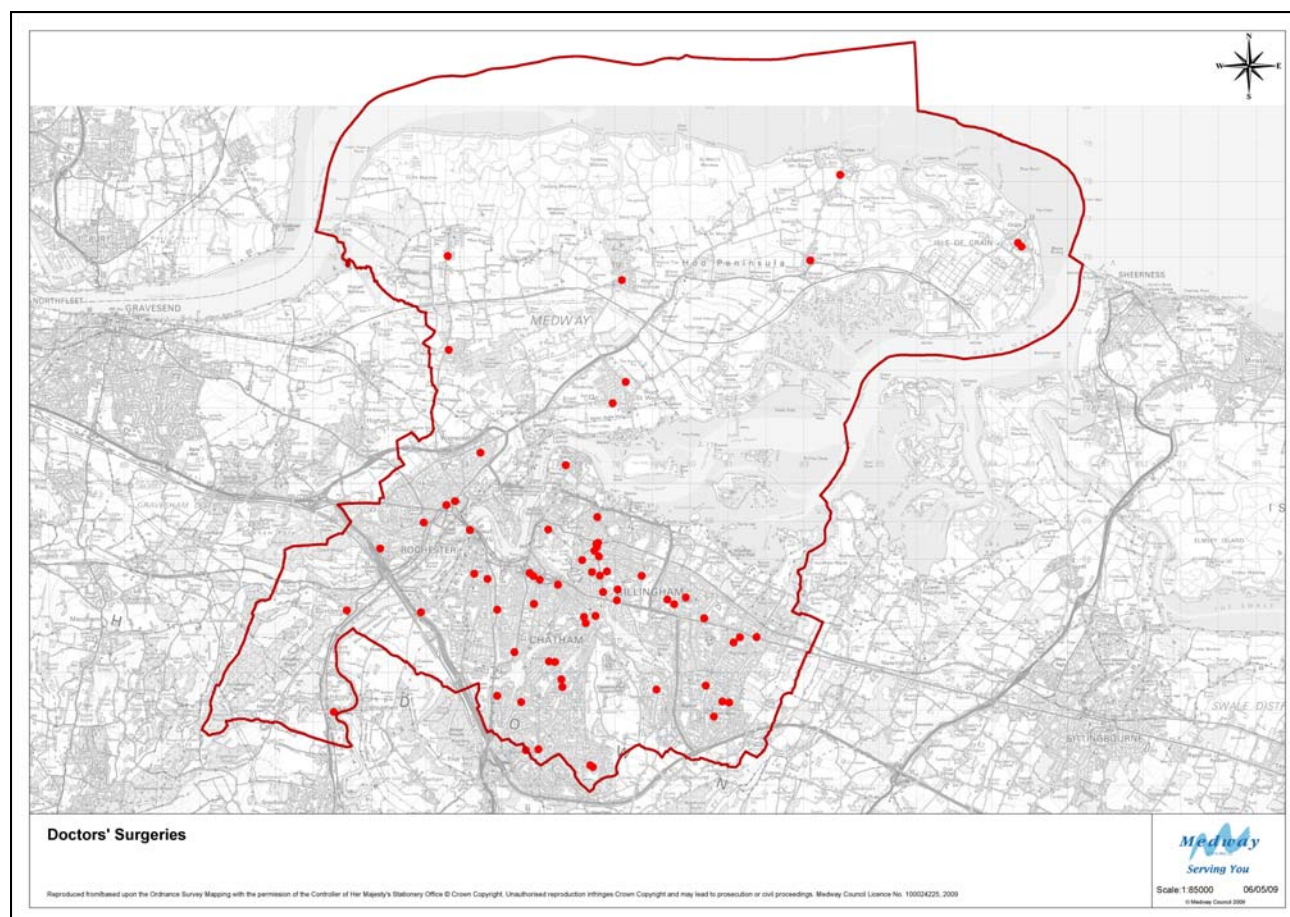


Figure 10.1: Location of GP practices

Healthy Living Centres and Health Centres

- 10.9 There are four healthy living centres and health centres in Medway the locations are one per principle town; at Rainham, Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham. These are the base for a number of integrated health services and some community facilities. Some are also co-located with GP practices.

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.

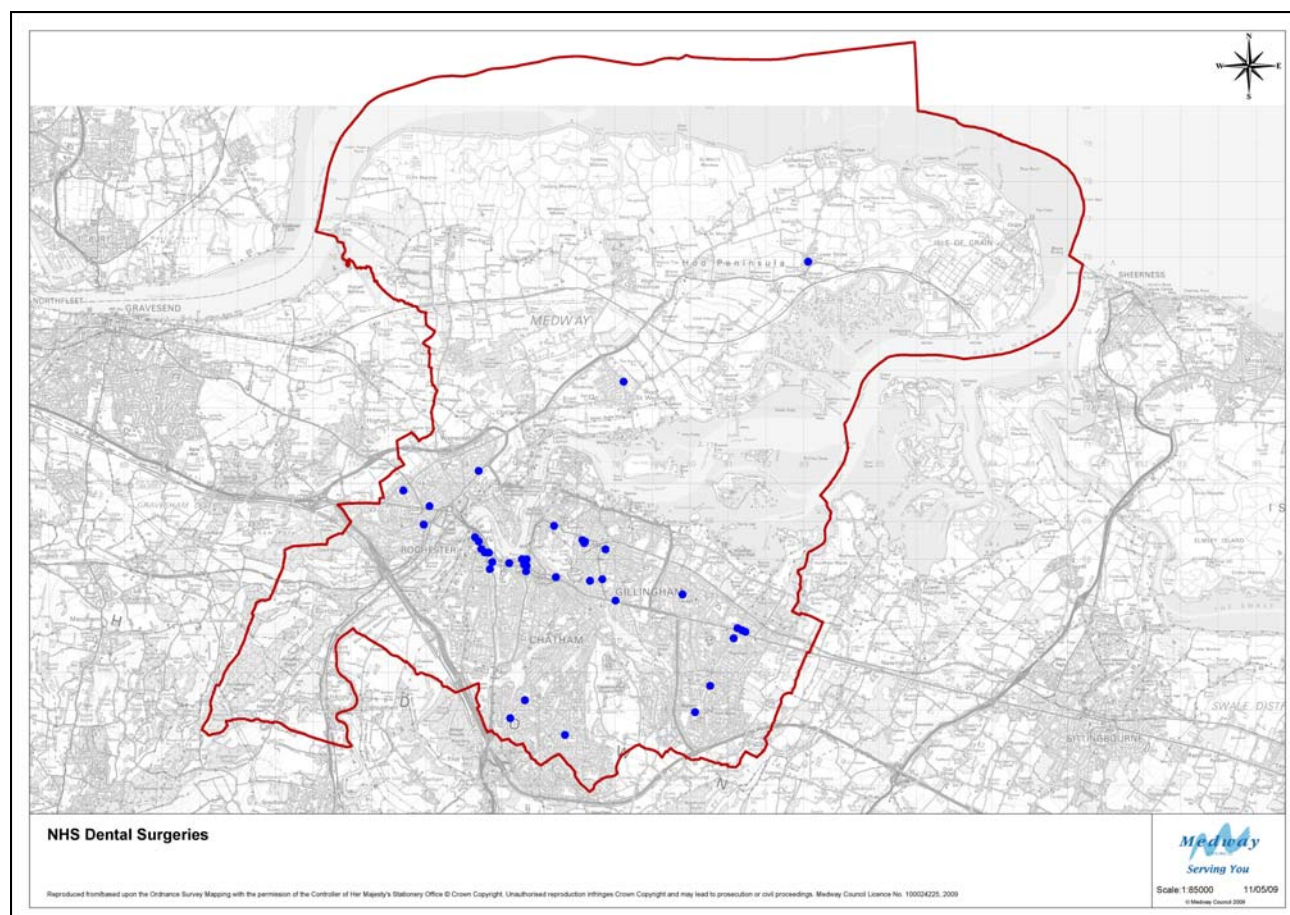


Figure 10.2: Location of NHS dentists in Medway

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 evenly distributed throughout urban areas.

- 10.13 Information on the use of these facilities and associated capacity issues is 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 from 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 Darenth 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.

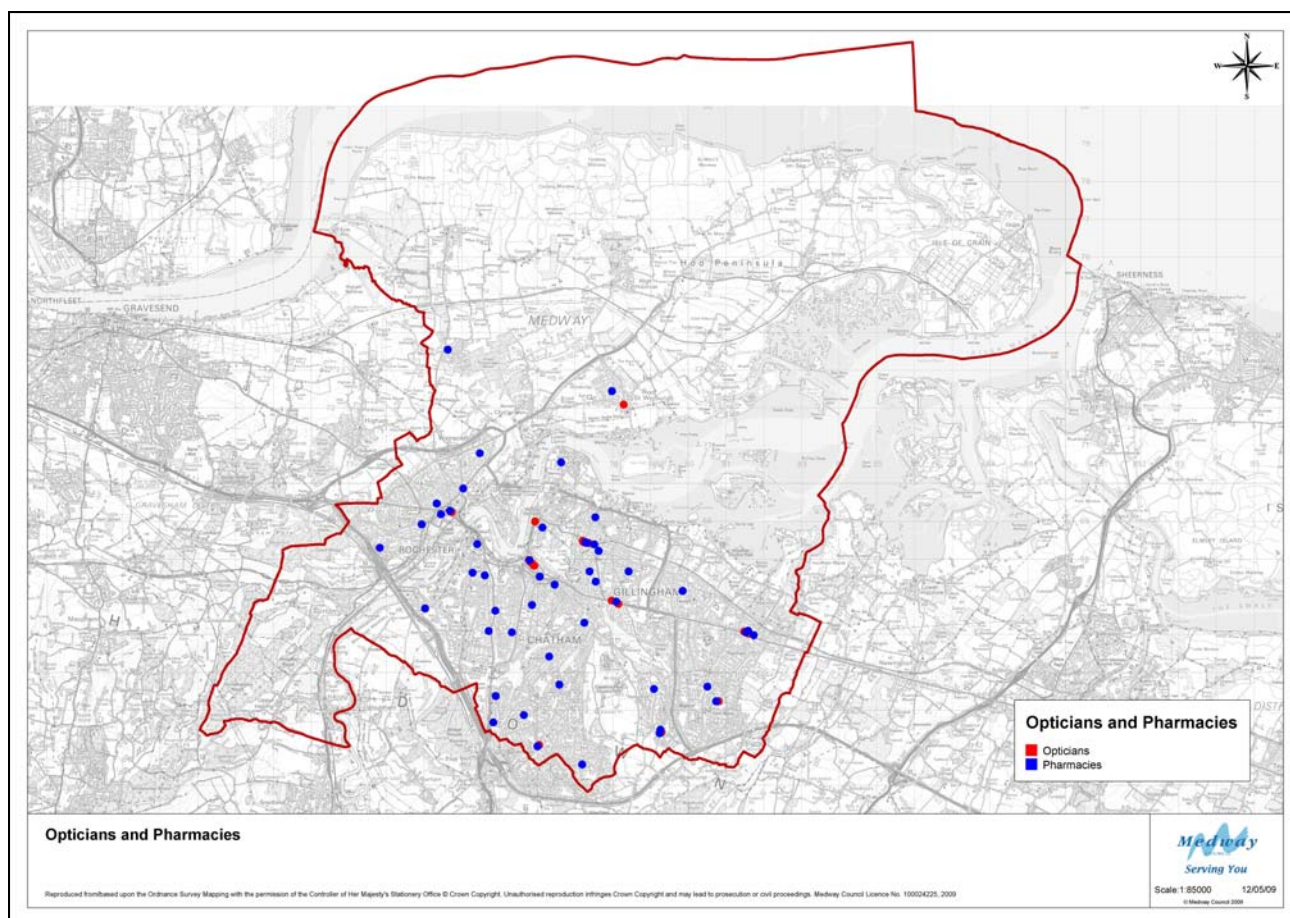


Figure 10.3: Locations of pharmacies and opticians in Medway

11. SOCIAL CARE

Adult Social Care

- 11.1 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 plan²⁵ had been 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

Six Key Priorities:

- Being healthy and feeling well
- Making ends meet
- Enjoy, achieve and contribute
- Being safe
- Having choice, dignity and control

²⁵ http://www.medway.gov.uk/pdf/report_1461_2308.pdf

- Support and care when and where it is needed.

Further detail can be found in the Older Peoples Plan: The Strategic Plan for Older People in Medway 2010-2013

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.

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 The majority (68%) of Southern Water's supplies come from groundwater, predominantly from the Chalk aquifer which is widespread across the region. A further 28% comes from river abstractions: most notably the Eastern Yar on the Isle of Wight; the Test and Itchen in Hampshire; the Western Rother in West Sussex; the Eastern Rother in East Sussex; and the Medway and Stour in Kent.
- 12.3 The remaining 4% of supplies come from the surface water impounding reservoirs, all of which are owned and operated by the company. The largest of these is Bewl Water. This is a pumped storage reservoir, with water being abstracted from the River Medway, stored and subsequently released as required for re-abstraction further downstream. The reservoir is owned and operated by Southern Water, but South East Water has an entitlement to 25% of the scheme yield.
- 12.4 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.
- 12.5 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.
- 12.6 The value of the 25-year company preferred regional strategy is £283.4 million (based on NPV costs), of which the majority, £175.6 million, will be for reducing our abstraction from the environment through the introduction of demand management measures, and £107.8 million for new resource developments.²⁶ Southern Water is implementing a number of measures. These include:
- Increasing and improving supply pipe leakage detection and repair strategies

²⁶ <http://www.southernwater.co.uk/Environment/inYourArea/kent/>

- 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.

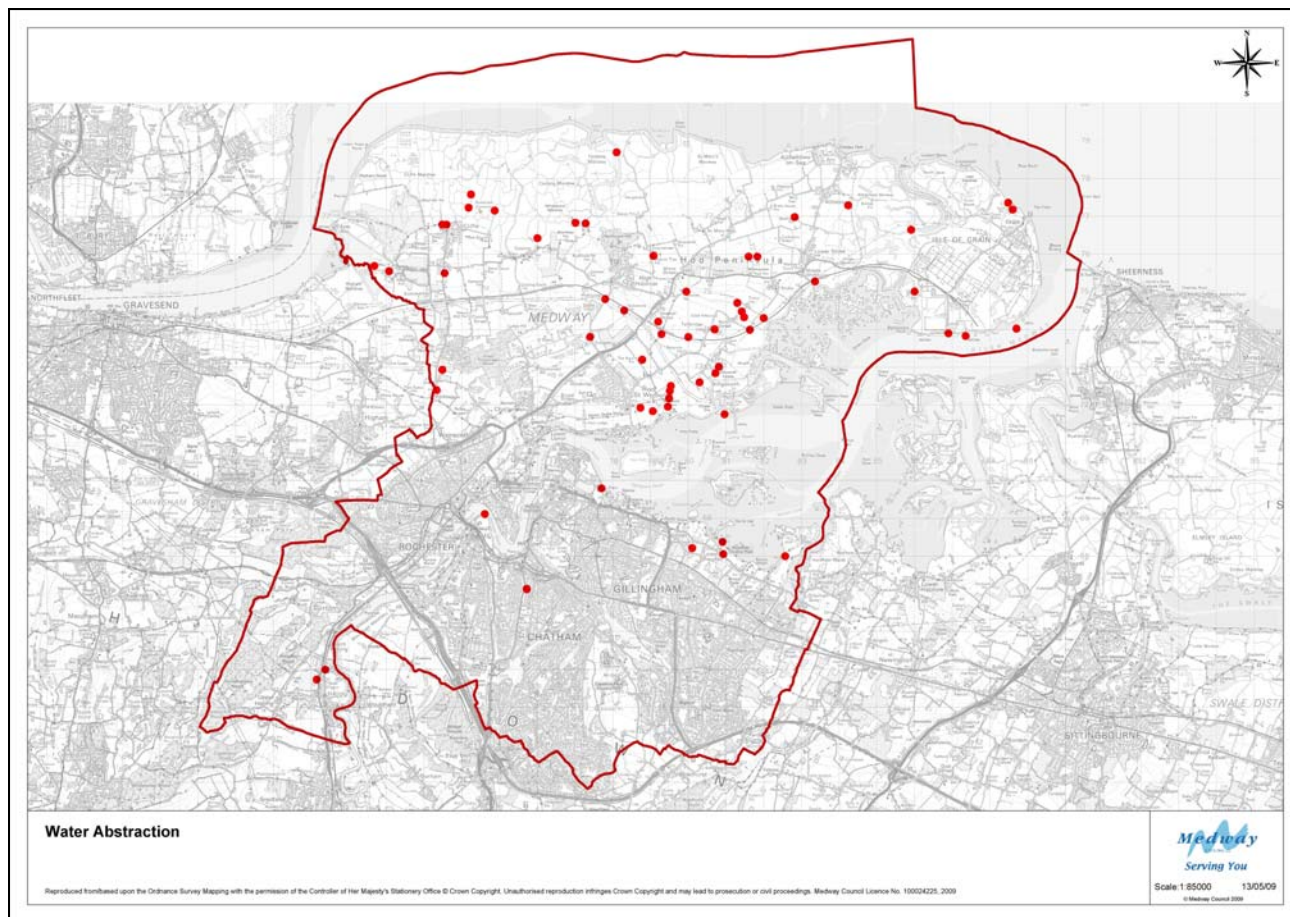


Figure 12.1: Groundwater sources in Medway

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.²⁷

²⁷ <http://www.southernwater.co.uk/Environment/inYourArea/kent/>

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 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 odorised 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.

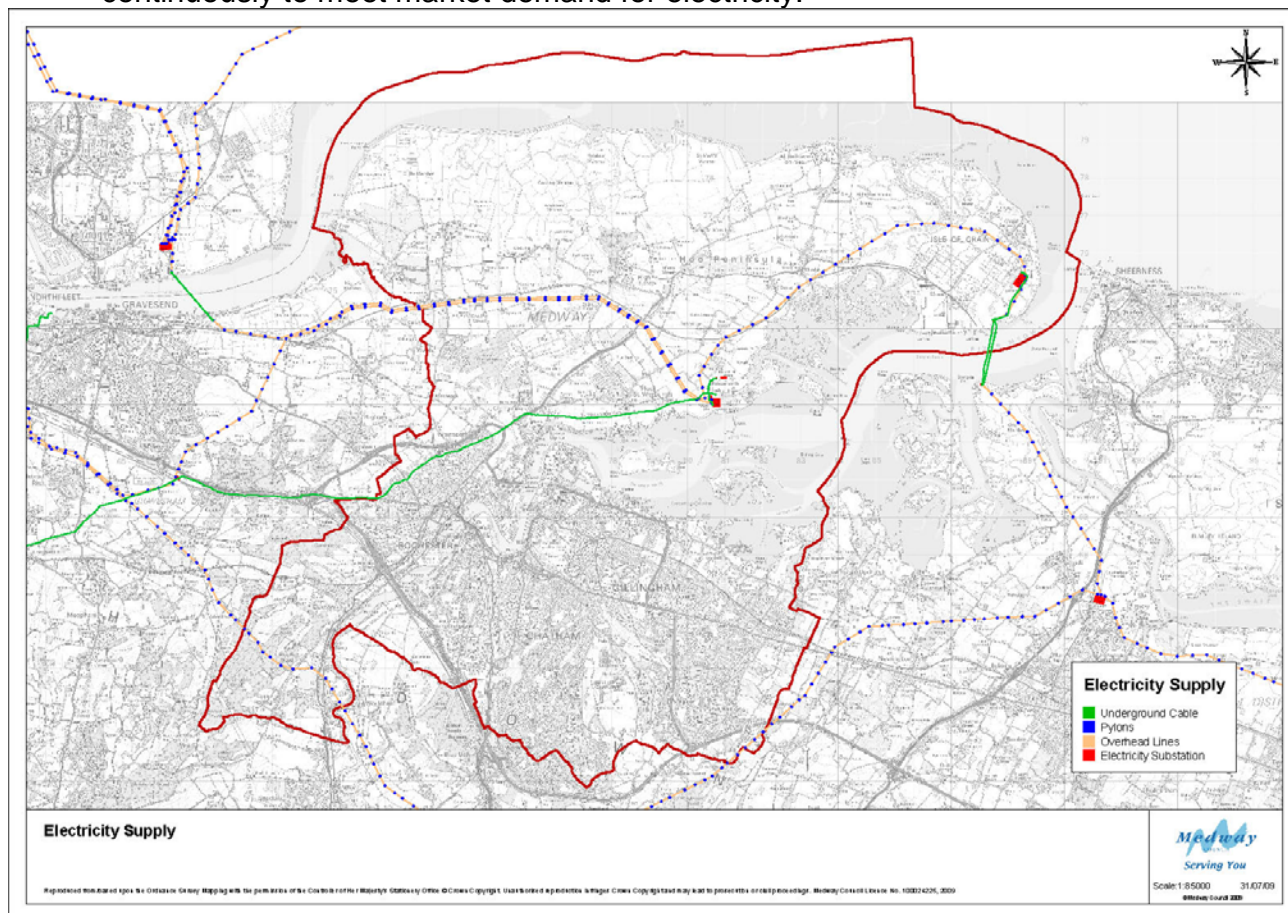


Figure 12.2: Electricity Supply in Medway

- 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.

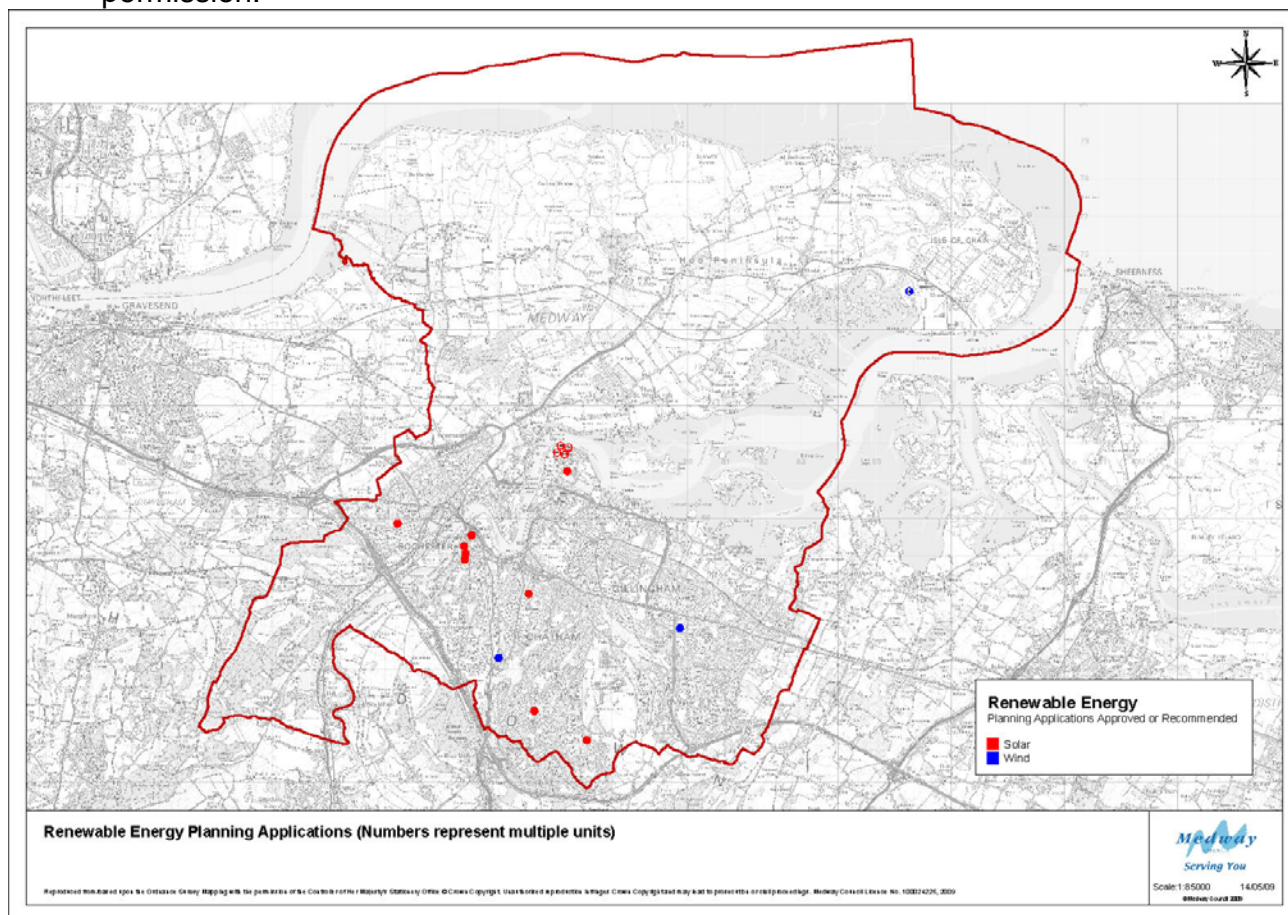


Figure 12.3: Renewable Energy Planning Applications

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.

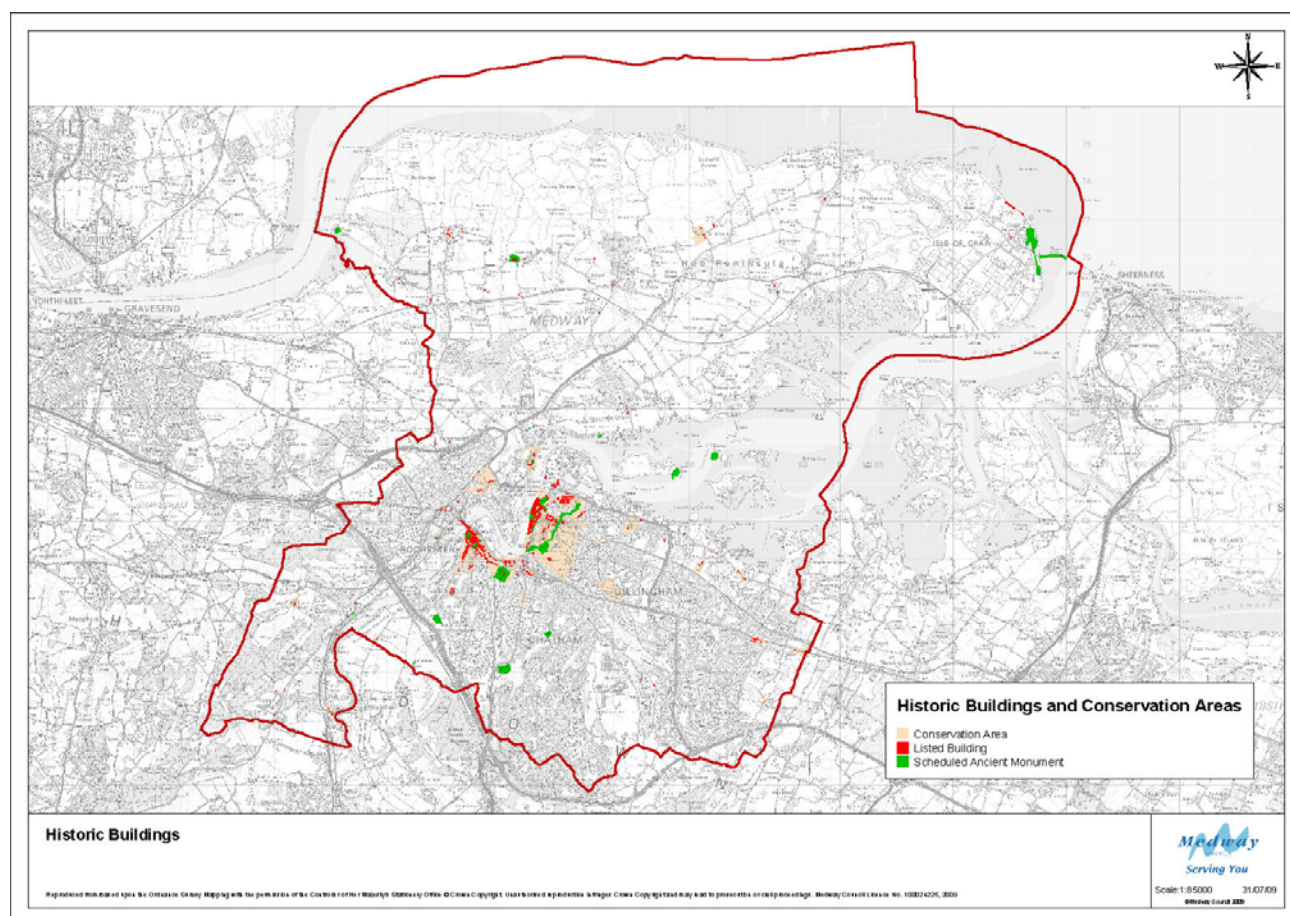


Figure 13.1: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas

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.