

Erewash Key Settlements Paper

March 2025

Background:

This Paper provides evidence which supports the identification of several Key Settlements in Erewash. A range of information is presented that justifies each Key Settlement's inclusion as part of the Borough's Spatial Strategy establishing where growth is directed to. Erewash's settlement hierarchy, including Erewash's newly-defined group of Key Settlements, is set out by **Strategic Policy 0** of an amended Core Strategy Review (CSR) which is currently subject to ongoing independent examination.

Linking to a wider Spatial Strategy:

In recognition of Erewash's inclusion as part of the Nottingham Core Housing Market Area (HMA), adopting a uniform approach with other Greater Nottingham councils in applying common terminology in order to define an appropriate settlement hierarchy is favoured. Together, Policies 2 and 3 of the Publication draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan (November 2024) set out a hierarchy which identifies a network of Key Settlements around the conurbation. Whilst some Key Settlements within Broxtowe, Gedling and Broxtowe (none are identified within Nottingham City) are somewhat larger in population than those identified in Erewash, when taken generally, the size of the Borough's identified Key Settlements demonstrate a reasonable conformity in scale to the wider network across the Core HMA. Importantly, and as this Paper demonstrates, the Erewash settlements can all be shown to play a notable role in providing key services and facilities to their own populations.

Demographic data:

Focusing specifically on settlements within Erewash, the populations of the Borough's villages help to demonstrate a clear hierarchy, identifying the larger settlements which are expected, and which continue to, provide localised services and facilities for their residents. A table presenting these populations is set out below:

Table 1: Erewash village settlement populations

Village	Population (from 2021 Census)	Comments
Borrowash	5,700 (est.)	Individual populations breaking the Parish of Borrowash & Ockbrook's population cannot be obtained, so latest Census figure disaggregated based on localised knowledge.
West Hallam	4,458	
Breaston	4,369	
Draycott	3,029	
Little Eaton	2,390	
Ockbrook	1,500 (est.)	See Borrowash.
Stanley Common	1,500 (est.)	Individual populations for Parish of Stanley and Stanley Common cannot be obtained, so latest

		Census figure disaggregated based on local knowledge.
Dale Abbey	1,309	This is the Parish population which includes an urbanised area in NW Kirk Hallam (part of the Ilkeston urban area), significantly boosting the figure.
Breadsall	792	
Risley	761	
Stanley	750 (est.)	See Stanley Common.
Stanton-by-Dale	440	
Morley hamlets	399	

Table 1 is clear in showing the villages of Borrowash, West Hallam, Breaston, Draycott and Little Eaton as having populations that are sufficiently large in which a range of local services and facilities are expected to be present. Whilst other settlements may have some service provision, these are more modest and limited in their range and coverage. Whilst the populations of villages can sometimes be a secondary factor in the availability of facilities, the smallest Key Settlements identified by the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan at Awsworth (Broxtowe) and Bestwood Village (Gedling) have populations of 2,444 and 2,223 respectively. The population of Little Eaton, the smallest of the Borough's Key Settlements at 2,390 residents, reaffirms the appropriateness of the five villages within Erewash as Key Settlements, showing a strong level of consistency with the network identified by the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan across the wider Core HMA.

Public Transport links:

Additionally to providing localised services and facilities for its populations, larger settlements are also expected to demonstrate strong links to nearby larger towns and cities in order for residents to access employment, larger format retail facilities and a more comprehensive range of leisure and recreation destinations. With rail services only serving the towns of Ilkeston and Long Eaton within Erewash, it is appropriate to understand the accessibility of settlements to the bus network which extends across the Borough

The table below identifies whether the villages identified in **Table 1** are served by bus, and if so, then to what service frequency.

Table 2: Erewash village bus accessibility

Village	Served by bus?	Frequency	Service(s)
Borrowash	Yes	Every 10 mins	Indigo, i4
West Hallam	Yes	Every 60 mins	32
Breaston	Yes	Every 30 mins	Indigo
Draycott	Yes	Every 30 mins	Indigo
Little Eaton	Yes	Every 60 mins	Comet
Ockbrook	Yes	Every 120 mins	9
Stanley Common	Yes	Every 120 mins	59, 59A
Dale Abbey	No	-	-
Breadsall	Yes	Every 120 mins	59, 59A
Risley	Yes	Every 30 mins	i4
Stanley	Yes	Every 60 mins	32

Stanton-by-Dale	Yes	Every 60 mins	14A, 14B
Morley	Yes	Every 30 mins	H1

The table demonstrates that all identified Key Settlements have access to a bus service which runs at least on an hourly basis. Other settlements which have a more frequent service than those which serve the Key Settlements (Risley and Morley) are significantly smaller in population and have only minimal existing day-to-day Class E (Commercial, Business, Service) uses present that warrant or justify their definition as a Key Settlement.

Village Centres Healthcheck:

The final section of this Paper considers the availability of local facilities that are present within Erewash's villages. Consideration of adding further centres to the retail hierarchy adopted as part of the 2014 Core Strategy began back in 2018, with information and data collated to gain a more detailed understanding of the type and range of facilities and services that were present. Initial findings from this work supported identifying West Hallam, Breaston and Draycott as a new tier of centre sitting beneath the Borough's two Local Centres at Borrowash and Sandiacre. More recently, work carried out ahead of the formal identification of Village Centres as part of the Core Strategy Review, studied the availability of facilities at Little Eaton and established that a concentration of main town centre uses was also worthy of designation as a Village Centre.

The table below provides further details of the number of units present within each of the proposed Village Centres. The units incorporate those which offer retail services, leisure services, convenience goods, comparison goods and financial and business services (broadly consistent with an E-class in the Use Classes Order).

Table 3: Retail and Leisure units in Proposed Village Centres

Village	Number of Units
Breaston	28
Draycott	41
Little Eaton	24
West Hallam	14

The information in Table 3 helps demonstrate a notable number of units in E-class uses present within each proposed Village Centre. The concentration of such facilities helps to justify the designation of a Village Centre at each location.

A natural extension to the proposed designation of Village Centres at each of the four villages sees the emergence of a strong justification that each of the villages, along with Borrowash (a Local Centre), ought to be recognised at a spatial level as important settlements which are more able to provide for the day-to-day needs of a larger population.

Conclusion:

This Paper presents various data and information which suggests a clear, discernible difference exists in spatial roles between settlements in Erewash. Information on the relative sizes of settlements (both in relation to other defined Key Settlements elsewhere within the Core HMA and also in isolation within the Borough), the linkages and accessibility to public transport and the availability of important local services and facilities, all help strengthen a

position that settlements within the Borough function at two noticeably different levels. Borrowash, Breaston, Draycott, Little Eaton and West Hallam display noticeably advanced levels of service function, supporting larger resident populations through more comprehensive infrastructure of a localised scale, benefiting from bus services which connect settlements to larger nearby towns and cities, and the range of shops, services and community facilities that allow residents to obtain many of their day-to-day goods that reduces the need for longer, unsustainable car trips to major retail destinations.

This Paper therefore supports and recommends a distinction being applied within the Borough's spatial strategy, separating those Key Settlements which, as shown above, fulfil a more advanced role in supporting larger populations from those where services and facilities are more limited in scale. The evidence presented justifies the identification of Borrowash, Breaston, Draycott, Little Eaton and West Hallam as Key Settlements. These will be referred to as such within the Borough's revised spatial strategy, which forms part of an amended Core Strategy Review.