



Ribble Valley
Borough Council

Working Draft

Settlement Study

September

Local Plan Evidence

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this Settlement Study is to provide an understanding of the nature, role and function of settlements across Ribble Valley and how they interrelate to each other. It will form evidence to influence future spatial planning in Ribble Valley. The study was led by Ribble Valley Council's Planning Policy Team, with contributions from Ward Members and Parish & Town Councils.
- 1.2 Settlement studies can be used to inform decisions on the current and future roles of settlements, and their place within a settlement hierarchy. However, this is in the context of the fact that:
- Sustainability is relative not absolute. Sustainability needs to be defined according to the local circumstance. What is considered sustainable in a more urban environment will be different from that in a more rural area.
 - The role of a settlement and its place within a settlement hierarchy may also be dependent on its **potential** for development, including development that would support existing, or attract new, services and facilities. The settlement study is therefore designed to provide a baseline understanding of the nature and role of settlements – it is a piece of evidence that can inform the plan-making process.
- 1.3 Understanding the nature of different settlements and the relative roles they can play is critical to developing and delivering a spatial strategy (including a settlement hierarchy). With this in mind, the aim of the Study is -
- First, to establish a baseline position in terms of understanding the level of economic and social infrastructure present in each settlement and how this might influence the appropriate nature and scale of development.
 - Second, to identify, analyse and rank the district's settlements according to a range of indicators, and by doing so to inform the definition of a future local plan settlement hierarchy.

2.0 National Planning Policy

- 2.1 The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans should be produced.
- 2.2 The NPPF does not include specific requirements or expectations as to how the settlement hierarchy should be identified or reviewed within a Local Plan authority area. The NPPF does acknowledge that a range of site sizes will be required to deliver housing across a range of settlement types. It is important to understand the roles and relationships between settlements when planning for sustainable growth and ensuring the vitality of local services and communities.
- 2.3 The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, including the provision of homes, commercial development and supporting infrastructure in a sustainable manner (paragraph 7). A presumption in favour of sustainable development is at the heart of the NPPF (paragraph 10). Sustainability can be achieved through an economic objective, an environmental

objective and a social objective which involves supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities and accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs through supporting communities health, social and cultural wellbeing (paragraph 8).

2.4 Within the NPPF it is noted that planning policies should ‘define a network and hierarchy of town centres and promote their long-term vitality and viability – by allowing them to grow and diversify in a way that can respond to rapid changes in the retail and leisure industries, allows a suitable mix of uses (including housing) and reflects their distinctive characters’ (paragraph 90).

2.5 The NPPF also highlights that:

- Housing can enhance and maintain the vitality of rural settlements. In groups of smaller settlements, the addition of new housing can support local services in a village or other villages nearby (paragraph 83).
- Residential development often plays an important role in ensuring the vitality of centres and encourage residential development on appropriate sites (paragraph 90)
- Healthy, inclusive and safe communities can be achieved through promoting social interaction which can be achieved through strong neighbourhood centres (paragraph 96)
- Strategic policy-making authorities should identify suitable locations for such development where this can help to meet identified needs in a sustainable way’ – ‘they should ensure that their size and location will support a sustainable community, with sufficient access to services and employment opportunities’ (paragraph 77)
- Policies should enable the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings’ (paragraph 88)
- Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes’ (paragraph 110).

3.0 Project Management

3.1 The Study was undertaken and managed by the Council’s Planning Policy Team. The Council encouraged the involvement of representatives of local communities, Parish and Town Councils (PC/TC) and local Ward Members. It is important that representatives of local communities are involved. An Inquiry Form was sent to each Parish Council and Ward Member to verify information relating to existing facilities and services available within their settlements. Also, a map was sent to each Parish Council and Ward Member, enabling them to suggest any amendments to settlement boundaries they consider to be appropriate.

4.0 What is a Settlement?

4.1 Although many people will have an innate understanding of what a 'settlement' is there is no official definition of the term, nor is there a nationally recognised set of standard criteria that can be used to define whether a particular place can be described as a settlement or not.

4.2 However, in undertaking the study it is important in the first instance to define the term 'settlement'. Therefore, for the purposes of the Study it is proposed that a settlement is defined as:

A place of living which exhibits a level of physical coherence. A number of dwellings and other buildings exist in relatively close proximity to each other – for instance clustered together around a key point (node) such as a road intersection or village green, or taking a more linear form, along a key line of communication, such as a road, or an environmental feature, such as a river.

4.3 Some settlements, particularly those that are more substantial, may be formed around numerous nodes, lines of communication and environmental features.

4.4 It follows that for the purposes of this study; a settlement is more than a scattered collection of individual or clustered properties but is something much more tangible and recognisable as a significant location with a coherent collection of buildings and structures. It implies a cohesive place of living, normally but not necessarily incorporating supporting services or facilities.

4.5 Alternative definitions of 'settlements' have been used by different authorities. For example: by reference to the following criteria:

"A closely grouped or contiguous form of development which is physically separate from other settlements, **and**

a) Comprising a group of at least 20 dwellings, **and**

b) Including at least two of the following facilities:

- Community hall
- Place of worship
- Post office
- Shop
- Public House

Or one of the above facilities plus a primary school which is close to, and which serves the settlement.

4.6 It is considered that this alternative definition is too prescriptive and not appropriate for Ribble Valley. It is possible to have a small, cohesive settlement with fewer than 20 dwellings and no services.

5.0 What is a Settlement Hierarchy?

5.1 Settlements can be grouped together according to their economic and social role using a range of indicators such as population and the level of services and facilities provided. Within any defined area there tends to be a greater number of smaller settlements (lower population, fewer services) than larger ones (higher population, more services). Grouping similar settlements results in a hierarchy that tends to be pyramidal in shape (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Typical Settlement Hierarchy Pyramid - Relationship between Population and Services

Increase in size of settlement, higher population and more services \wedge	Conurbation	Decrease in frequency \vee
	City	
	Large Town	
	Small Town	
	Village	
	Isolated dwelling	

5.2 The place of a particular settlement in the hierarchy is simply a recognition of the fact that different settlements have different sizes and roles. All places – regardless of size, role or position in a hierarchy - are important to those that live and work in them and visit them.

5.3 It is important to note that the Study will not define the appropriate settlement hierarchy. This is a matter for the local plan process. The role of the Study is to inform that process.

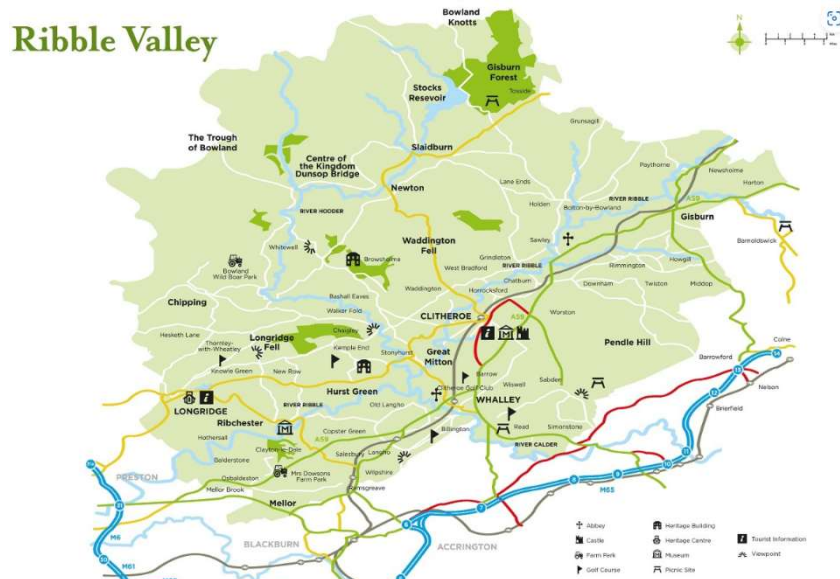
6.0 The Geography of the Ribble Valley – A Summary

6.1 The Ribble Valley is a predominantly rural area in the north east of Lancashire, covering an area of 585km² and is characterised by rolling hills, forests and attractive villages. The area is bisected by the River Ribble, which flows from the Pennines to the Irish Sea.

6.2 The geography of the Ribble Valley can be divided into two main regions:

- The Uplands: Located in the north-west of the valley and characterised by their high hills, moorland and forests.
- The lowlands: Located in the east and south of the valley. They are characterised by their fertile farmland, hills and picturesque villages.

Figure 2:



Note: Image from https://www.ribblevalleyfoodheaven.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/EXT_RibbleValley_Guide-2021-17142-Map-Copy-1.jpg (1527x1080) (ribblevalleyfoodheaven.com) 21.11.23

6.3 The geography of the Ribble Valley is one of its main attractions, with over 70% of it lying within a National Landscape; a unique and beautiful landscape to be explored and enjoyed. There are 16 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within Ribble Valley. North Pennine Dales Meadows, a Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), lies within the Parish of Slaidburn and to the north of the district is Bowland Fells, a Special Protection Area (SPA).

6.4 The population of the Ribble Valley in 2024 was 65,794. The three largest settlements, Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley have a combined population of approximately 35,002 which accounts for circa 53% of the borough's total population. The remaining circa 47% of the population reside within villages of varying size, hamlets and traditional cottages and farmsteads in the countryside.

7.0 Methodology

7.1 The Study aims to establish a simple methodology designed to create a ranking of settlements based on a small number of indicators that will be easy to update and that will inform a future local plan settlement hierarchy. It should be noted that the information will be correct at the time of collection and inevitably may change over time.

7.2 There are three main stages to the settlement study methodology as set out below.

Stage 1 – Settlement Identification

The aim of this is to identify settlements and communities which can be recognised and defined as “settlements” for the purpose of the study. This was carried out through the utilisation of the 2008 Local Plan and GIS mapping. As a result, an initial list of “candidate” settlements was produced.

Stage 2 – Settlement Indicators

The aim of this is to create a ranking of settlements within the borough through the assessment of the following indicators:

Indicator	Purpose of Indicator
Population	The size and capacity to sustain local services
Service and Facilities	The ability to meet the essential needs of a settlement's population.
Public Transport	How accessible public transport is within the settlement and the degree of connectivity with other key settlements within or outside of the borough.
Employment	The level of access to local jobs.

This included a review of desk-top data, including GIS mapping. Work on indicators took place in 2025.

Stage 3 – Final Settlement Ranking

The aim of this is to identify an overall ranking of settlements within the borough using the four settlement indicators previously identified. For each indicator, each settlement has been ranked using the following method:

Indicator	Scoring	Ranking
Population	Population size	Largest population ranks 1 Second largest ranks 2 etc.
Services and Facilities	Number of services and facilities	Largest number of services and facilities ranks 1 Second largest number ranks 2 etc.
Public Transport	Level of accessibility and connectivity through public transport	Highest level ranks 1 Second highest ranks 2 etc.
Employment	Number of businesses available; and Distance to nearest key service centre	Largest number of businesses ranks 1 Second highest ranks 2 etc. Shortest distance to nearest key service centre ranks 1 Second shortest ranks 2 etc.

The final settlement ranking is established by:

- 1) Calculating the combined ranking score across all four indicators for each individual settlement.
- 2) The individual settlements are then ordered on the basis of their combined score, the lowest being the highest-ranking settlement.

A dense ranking approach has been used at each stage and for the final ranking. Using this method, settlements that have an equal score receive the same ranking number, and the next settlement receives the immediately following ranking number. Ranks are therefore consecutive, and no ranks are skipped if multiple settlements are found to have the same score.

7.3 The Settlement Study is supported with a Settlement Profiles Document which presents the findings of the assessment in greater detail.

8.0 Results

8.1 Settlement Identification

The Ribble Valley Core Strategy¹ (adopted 2014) is used as the basis of identifying settlements for the purpose of the study. Key Statement DS1(Development Strategy) identifies 35 settlements and classifies these as either “Principal Settlements”, “Tier 1 Villages” or “Tier 2 Villages” as shown in the table below:

Table 1: Settlements identified in the Ribble Valley Core Strategy

Principal Settlements	Tier 1 Village	Tier 2 Village	
Clitheroe	Barrow	Bolton-by-Bowland	Pendleton
Longridge	Billington	Brockhall Village	Ribchester
Whalley	Chatburn	Calderstones	Rimington
	Gisburn	Chipping	Sabden
	Langho	Copster Green	Sawley
	Mellor	Downham	Slaidburn
	Mellor Brook	Dunsop Bridge	Tosside
	Read & Simonstone	Grindleton	Waddington
	Wilpshire	Holden	West Bradford
		Hurst Green	Wiswell
		Newton	Worston
		Osbaldeston	

8.2 Data relating to the settlement of Ramsgreave has been included within the figures of the closely related larger settlement of Wilpshire. It is noted that Wilpshire also forms a contiguous urban area with the Blackburn suburb of Brownhill. Therefore, data on valuable services and facilities located immediately over the border of Blackburn with Darwen has been considered for inclusion.

8.3 The settlement of Longridge lies partly within the boundaries of Preston City Council. The settlement of Mellor Brook lies partly within the boundaries of South Ribble and the settlement of Tosside lies partly within the boundaries of North Yorkshire. For the purpose of this study, data from outside the borough boundaries for these settlements has been included.

8.4 For the purposes of this study the contiguous settlements of Read and Simonstone have been regarded principally as one as they are both bounded within one settlement boundary.

8.5 Those settlements left without a boundary in the Adopted Core Strategy are rural settlements which are not considered large enough, or not to have sufficient facilities to allow for growth. Policies which relate to development in the open countryside are applied to these settlements. These areas may also have been too dispersed in form

¹ [Adopted Core Strategy – Ribble Valley Borough Council](#)

for a justifiable development boundary to have been drawn around them. Due to these factors these settlements have not been included in the hierarchy.

These settlements are:

Balderstone	Bashall Eaves
Chaigley	Little Town
Bay Gate	Whitwell
Hesketh Lane	Clayton le Dale
Lane End and Harrop Fold	Knowle Green and Ward Green Cross
Great Mitton	Paythorne
Newsholme	Horton

9.0 Settlement Indicators

- 9.1 The 35 settlements as set out in Table 1 were assessed and ranked according to the four indicators of population, services and facilities, public transport and employment. These rankings were combined to produce an overall ranking starting at a rank of 1.

9.2 Population

This indicator is a basic high-low ranking according to population size. The starting point for this was the Office of National Statistics (ONS) Output Areas (OAs) derived for the 2011 Census – these are the lowest geographical level at which Census estimates are provided. Although a robust basis for this type of analysis in more urbanised areas, a drawback of using OAs for the purposes of ranking settlements is that they are designed to have a specified minimum size to ensure the confidentiality of data. For the 2021 Census the minimum OA size was 40 resident households and 100 resident people, but the recommended size was rather larger at 125 households. In effect this sets a lower limit on the population hierarchy. Further, in rural locations OAs may be drawn so widely (to capture the minimum population/households) as to have questionable physical relevance to a particular settlement.

As a result, for the purposes of this study a locally generated solution has been used based on a GIS derived count of residential properties using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG). The LLPG count for each settlement was derived from GIS using the number of dwellings relevant to each post town or village. This count is a rough estimate and includes addresses outside each settlement's precise boundaries. The settlement population was calculated by multiplying the LLPG-derived count of dwellings by the average number of persons per dwelling across the borough which stands at 2.15 (derived from the mid-2024 population estimate of 65,794 persons divided by the total number of dwellings in Ribble Valley of 30,600 based on the LLPG). Hence a dwelling count of 100 x 2.15 persons would give a population of 215. This is evidently an estimate but is deemed to more closely reflect the actual position in relation to the settlement itself.

As mentioned previously, the three settlements of Longridge, Mellor Brook and Tosside occupy positions straddling local authority boundaries. For the purpose of this exercise, the total population has been estimated through counting the number of dwellings outside the borough's boundaries in these settlements.

The subsequent population ranking is set out in Appendix 1.

Key Findings:

- According to the 2021 Census, the total population for Ribble Valley was 61,500. Comparatively, the estimated population across the settlements defined in this study is 66,573 (which includes parts of cross-boundary settlements outside of the borough boundary, but excludes population outside of the defined settlements within rural areas)
- Clitheroe has by far the largest population. Longridge has the second largest population followed by Whalley in third.
- Wilpshire, Langho, Read and Simonstone, Barrow, Mellor and Billington have locally significant populations of over 2,000
- Ribchester, Sabden, Chipping, Waddington, Chatburn, and West Bradford have populations of over 1,000.
- The three smallest settlement populations in the borough with less than 100 persons are Holden, Worston and Tosside.

9.3 Services and Facilities

This indicator involved an audit of existing services and facilities within or close to each settlement. The approach is to identify key services and facilities that are considered important to the sustainability of a settlement. A set of 22 services and facilities forming eight broad categories were put forward (see Table 2 below). A review of other settlement studies undertaken by local authorities across the country demonstrates that there is no consistent methodology or set of indicators. However, the draft list of indicators recommended in the Study are not untypical and therefore there is a high degree of confidence that they offer a sound basis for analysis.

Table 2: Services and Facilities

No.	Category	Indicator	Comment
1.	Supermarket & Convenience	1a. Supermarket	
		1b. Convenience store	May include a farm shop if it is known to be

			serving a local population.
2.	Sport/Outdoor Recreation/Civic Space	2a. Public park, gardens and civic spaces	Civic space includes public areas where there is seating.
		2b. Outdoor formal sport provision	
		2c. Equipped play areas	
3.	Health	3a. Hospital	
		3b. GP Practice	
		3c. Dentist	
		3d. Pharmacy	
		3e. Optician	
4.	Education	4a. Nursery	
		4b. Primary school	
		4c. Secondary school	Includes private schools and specialist schools.
		4d. Further or higher education	
5.	Culture	5a. Libraries	Although some settlements are visited by a mobile library, this indicator refers to permanently located libraries only.
		5b. Faith buildings	Buildings where people congregate for religious purposes
6.	Finance	6a. Bank or building society/ATM	
		6b. Post office service	Full-time and part-time opening hours are included
7.	Leisure	7a. Pub/ social club/tea rooms	
		7b. Restaurant/ Bar/Takeaway	
		7c. Community or village hall	
8.	Miscellaneous	8a. Petrol station/EV Charging Points	Given the rural nature of the district travel by car is an important mode of transport which justifies the use of a petrol station indicator or EV charge points

The approach for this part of the study is one of 'auditing' rather than 'weighting'. This approach avoids making value judgements on the relative importance of a service and facility to an individual or community. It also reflects to some extent the degree of choice on offer. This is a different approach to some studies which score or weight the presence of services and facilities according to their perceived relative importance. A disadvantage of such an approach is that the scoring parameters are necessarily arbitrary and don't reflect the full extent of any one particular service or facility.

Each settlement was ranked according to the combined total of services and facilities present in each village.

It should be noted that the Study only seeks to identify the total number of services and facilities by type. It will not seek to determine the extent of the service on offer (e.g. opening times), nor will it seek to determine the degree of accessibility to that service (e.g. waiting times to see a G.P.).

The data was collected from PC/TCs, Ward Members, the use of existing Geographical Information Systems (GIS) layers and searches of the internet.

The subsequent services and facilities rankings are set out in Appendix 2.

Key Findings:

- The three principal settlements of Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley have the best services and facilities provision in the borough
- Wilpshire ranks 4th in terms of services and facilities. This is due to the settlement's relationship with Blackburn where many important services and facilities are located immediately over the boundary in Brownhill such as a dental practice and GP surgery.
- The best served villages outside of the three principal settlements are Wilpshire, Ribchester, Chipping, Langho, Sabden, Read and Simonstone, Mellor, Chatburn and Barrow.
- The poorest served settlements in the borough are Rimington, Tosside, Calderstones, Pendleton, Newton, Holden, Wiswell, Copster Green and Worston. Copster Green and Worston only possessing one facility each with a restaurant and public house respectively.
- The only settlements with a library are the three principal settlements alongside Chatburn and Mellor
- The only settlements with a GP surgery are the three principal settlements alongside Mellor, Sabden, Slaidburn and Wilpshire which is closely located to the GP surgery in Brownhill (Blackburn with Darwen).
- Only the three principal settlements have dental practices and opticians with some of these services located immediately over the borough boundary adjacent to Wilpshire.
- Mellor could be considered the most sustainable village community outside the three principal settlements with access to a GP surgery, library, pharmacy, post office, local shop and a school.

9.4 Transport Accessibility

This indicator involved assessing access to public transport, including the level of connectivity with other settlements both within and outside of the district. Public transport for the purposes of this Study is defined as bus and train.

For many communities the bus network provides the only, or primary, public transport option. As such, the number of services, their frequency and timing, and the destinations that the service provides access to, will define the level of public transport accessibility and connectivity that can be attributed to each settlement. This is reflected in the scoring matrix below.

To derive the public transport ranking a simple scoring system has been used as indicated in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Scoring Matrix

Indicator	Score
Bus*	
Number of Services	1 mark for each service
Frequency of service M - F daytime	Very frequent At least one service every 10-20 minutes - 5 marks
	Frequent At least one service at least every 30 minutes - 3 marks
	Regular At least one service every hour - 2 marks
	Poor More than one service operating at less than regular frequency - 1 mark
	Nil - no service - 0 marks
Evening service	2 marks
Weekend service - Sat only	1 mark
Weekend service - Sat & Sunday	2 marks
Number of key destinations served by at least one service	1 mark for each destination
Rail	10 marks

*Note: Bus services do not include school services. Assessments were based on published bus timetables correct as of the assessment date. Service provision, including number of services, destinations served and frequency, is likely to change over time.

The subsequent public transport rankings are set out in Appendix 3.

Key Findings:

- Clitheroe stands out as having the best public transport connections within the borough. The highest number of bus services and highest number of destinations are accessible from Clitheroe in addition to regular rail connections to Blackburn, Bolton and Manchester.
- Whalley ranks second for transport provision with a good number of services and destinations available alongside regular train services.

- Despite being the second largest settlement in the borough, Longridge ranks joint fifth for public transport provision in the Borough. The town enjoys very frequent bus services to Preston but lacks a rail service explaining its slightly lower ranking in regard to transport connections.
- Clitheroe, Whalley, Langho and Wilpshire are the only settlements in the borough with a railway station. As a result, these settlements rank highly for public transport connections.
- Barrow is the highest-ranking settlement without a railway station. The settlement benefits from a good number of bus services and has connections to a range of key destinations.
- The settlements of Mellor, Sabden, Waddington, West Bradford, Downham, Calderstones, Hurst Green, Brockhall Village, Tosside, Newton, Slaidburn and Dunsop Bridge all have relatively limited public transport provision. These settlements all have a total public transport score of lower than 10.
- Public transport provision is poor in the most rural parts of the borough. The settlements of Bolton by Bowland, Pendleton, Rimington, Holden, Wiswell and Worston all have no public transport provision. These therefore rank as the joint lowest in the borough

9.5 Employment

This indicator incorporated two elements, access by a settlement to a key service centre for employment and its services, and attempting to gain a measure of the local business activity in the settlement and its immediate area by considering the number of businesses located there. In using this scheme, it is understood that many residents will not work in local firms or businesses. Taking these measures together this indicator hopes to gain some idea of economic activity and help give some measure of a place's economic sustainability. It should also be remembered that business numbers do not take into account the size of individual firms or the fact that there are several significant employment sites in the area that do not fall within a settlement boundary, such as BAE Systems in Samlesbury.

Access to information regarding business counts was made using a locally generated solution based on a GIS derived count of business addresses from the LLPG (Local Land and Property Gazetteer). The LLPG business count for each settlement was derived from GIS using the number of commercial addresses relevant to each post town or village. As this count included all addresses relevant to each post town in the borough, the count is considered a rough estimate and includes business addresses outside each settlements exact boundaries including farms.

The three settlements of Longridge, Mellor Brook and Tosside occupy positions straddling local authority boundaries. For the purpose of this exercise, the total number of businesses has been estimated through accessing business rates records on each of the relevant neighbouring council's websites. The number of businesses addresses relevant to each settlement found in these records were added to the

LLPG derived count of businesses for each settlement within the borough's boundaries.

The second element of this indicator involved measuring the distance to a key service centre from each settlement. For the purpose of this study, key service centres were identified as any of the three principal settlements within the borough or any town located outside the borough's boundaries. The settlements of Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley were automatically placed at the top of this ranking as they, themselves are identified as principal settlements as part of this study.

Initially, the business count relative to each settlement and the distance to the nearest key service centre were ranked separately. The ranks for both indicators were then combined to create a total employment rank for each settlement.

The subsequent employment rankings are set out in Appendix 4.

Key Findings:

- Clitheroe has the largest number of businesses in the borough, and therefore the highest amount of employment opportunities.
- As the two other principal settlements in the borough, Longridge and Whalley rank second and third respectively regarding business counts.
- Despite a clear lack of services and facilities and inadequate public transport links, Calderstones ranks relatively high in terms of employment. Many businesses are located at the Mitton Road Business Park which is situated in the settlement with Calderstones also benefiting from being only 1.4km away from the principal settlement of Whalley.
- Read and Simonstone and Ribchester have high counts of businesses in relation to their sizes.
- The settlements of Calderstones, Billington and Wiswell all benefit from being less than 2 kilometres away from a key service centre.
- Tosside, Osbaldeston and Holden all rank the joint lowest in the borough for business counts with only 3 each. Tosside ranks the lowest overall in terms of employment with the greatest distance to a key service centre out of the three.
- Dunsop Bridge is the settlement furthest from a key service centre. The distance to Clitheroe is 11.6km.
- Settlements within the more rural parts of the borough and within the National Landscape generally rank lower due to the greater distances to key service centres and smaller settlement sizes leading to fewer business addresses.

10.0 Settlement Ranking

10.1 The final settlement rankings are set out in Appendix 5.

Key Findings:

- Clitheroe clearly stands out as the highest-ranking settlement overall. The town ranks first in terms of population, services and facilities, employment and transport provision.
- Longridge and Whalley rank joint second overall. Due to its larger size, Longridge places second in terms of population, services and facilities and employment. However, Longridge ranks fifth for public transport provision, mainly due to the absence of a railway station. Whalley ranks third in terms of population, services and facilities and employment but ranks second in terms of public transport provision. Unlike Longridge, Whalley has a railway station.
- The highest-ranking settlement outside the three principal settlements is Wilpshire. It ranks fourth across all indicators except for employment where it ranks eleventh.
- Further settlements that rank within the top ten include Barrow, Read and Simonstone, Langho, Ribchester, Billington, Chatburn and Sabden. All these settlements have high populations of over 1000 with good levels of services and facilities provision. Regular public transport connections are also provided in each settlement. However, the number of business addresses vary between each of these settlements.
- Tosside and Holden are the joint lowest ranking settlements in the borough. Both settlements have populations of less than 100, have poor public transport connections, have limited services and facilities and have few business addresses.
- Despite a high population and being one of the best served villages in the borough, Mellor ranks outside of the top ten overall. This is mainly due to inadequate public transport connections in addition to a low count of businesses.
- Settlements within the most rural parts of the Ribble Valley generally rank lower. Many of these are smaller in size and have smaller populations. In conjunction with this, the provision of services and facilities in these settlements is relatively limited and many have no access to public transport.

Appendix 1 – Population Ranking by Settlement

Settlement	LLPG Dwelling Count (Without settlement boundaries)	LLPG Derived Population	Rank
Clitheroe	9212	19806	1
Longridge	5450	11554	2
Whalley	1694	3642	3
Wilpshire (& Ramsgreave)	1571	3378	4
Langho	1261	2711	5
Read/Simonstone	1177	2531	6
Barrow	1116	2399	7
Mellor	1066	2292	8
Billington	982	2111	9
Ribchester	845	1817	10
Sabden	773	1662	11
Chipping	639	1374	12
Waddington	579	1245	13
Chatburn	554	1191	14
West Bradford	490	1054	15
Calderstones	458	985	16
Brockhall Village	411	884	17
Hurst Green	378	813	18
Grindleton	349	750	19
Gisburn	307	660	20
Rimington	252	542	21
Slaidburn	228	490	22
Copster Green	198	426	23

Newton	161	346	24
Sawley	144	310	25
Wiswell	139	299	26
Mellor Brook	112	241	27
Pendleton	110	236	28
Osbaldeston	79	170	29
Bolton by Bowland	70	151	30
Downham	70	151	31
Dunsop Bridge	64	138	32
Holden	41	88	33
Worston	36	77	34
Tosside	23	49	35

Appendix 2 – Services and Facilities Ranking by Settlement

	Supermarket & Convenience	Play Areas, Sports Facilities & Parks	Health	Education	Library	Faith Buildings	Finance	Public House/Coffee Shop/Restaurant/ Takeaway	Community/Village Hall	Petrol Station/ Charging Points	TOTAL	Rank
Clitheroe	12	24	12	10	1	9	12	69	2	6	157	1
Longridge	7	19	9	11	1	5	5	32	1	3	93	2
Whalley	2	8	7	6	1	3	3	19	2	2	53	3
Wilpshire	2	8	4	1	0	3	2	5	1	1	27	4
Ribchester	1	7	0	2	0	3	1	8	1	0	23	5
Chipping	1	4	0	4	0	3	1	6	2	1	22	6
Sabden	2	4	1	3	0	3	1	3	2	1	20	7
Barrow	1	4	0	4	0	0	1	7	1	1	19	8
Read & Simonstone	2	5	1	2	0	2	1	3	1	1	18	9
Langho	1	4	1	4	0	1	1	5	1	0	18	9
Mellor	1	4	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	16	10
Chatburn	1	3	0	2	1	2	1	4	0	0	14	11
Hurst Green	0	5	0	3	0	2	0	2	1	1	14	11
Waddington	0	5	0	1	0	2	0	4	1	1	14	11
Gisburn	1	3	0	1	0	1	1	3	1	1	12	12
Slaidburn	1	4	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	12	12
Bolton by Bowland	1	3	0	1	0	2	1	2	0	1	11	13

Brockhall Village (Old Langho)	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	9	14
Billington	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	8	15
Grindleton	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	8	15
Downham	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	7	16
Dunsop Bridge	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	7	16
Osbaldeston	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	6	17
West Bradford	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	6	17
Mellor Brook	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	5	18
Rimington	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	18
Tosside	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	5	18
Calderstones	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	19
Pendleton	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	4	19
Sawley	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	19
Newton	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	20
Holden	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	21
Wiswell	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	21
Copster Green	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	22
Worston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	22

Appendix 3 – Public Transport Accessibility Ranking by Settlement

Settlement	Bus						Rail	ALL	Rank
	No. Services	Frequency	Evening	Weekend	No. Key Destinations	TOTAL BUS			
Clitheroe	15	5	2	2	16	40	10	50	1
Whalley	6	5	2	2	13	28	10	39	2
Langho	3	5	2	2	8	20	10	30	3
Barrow	7	5	2	2	14	30	0	30	3
Wilpshire	3	5	2	2	7	19	10	29	4
Mellor Brook	2	5	2	2	9	20	0	20	5
Billington	3	5	2	2	8	20	0	20	5
Longridge	5	5	2	2	6	20	0	20	5
Chatburn	5	3	1	2	7	18	0	18	6
Ribchester	2	3	1	2	6	14	0	14	7
Osbaldeston	3	2	0	2	7	14	0	14	7
Read/Simonstone	1	3	2	2	5	13	0	13	8
Copster Green	2	2	0	2	7	13	0	13	8
Sawley	2	2	0	2	6	12	0	12	9
Gisburn	1	2	0	2	6	11	0	11	10
Chipping	2	2	1	2	3	10	0	10	11
Grindleton	3	2	0	2	3	10	0	10	11
Mellor	2	1	1	2	3	9	0	9	12
Sabden	1	2	0	2	4	9	0	9	12
Waddington	2	2	0	2	3	9	0	9	12

West Bradford	2	2	0	2	3	9	0	9	12
Downham	2	2	0	2	3	9	0	9	12
Calderstones	1	2	1	2	3	9	0	9	12
Hurst Green	1	2	1	2	2	8	0	8	13
Brockhall Village	1	1	0	1	3	6	0	6	14
Tosside	1	1	0	1	2	5	0	5	15
Newton	1	1	0	1	2	5	0	5	15
Slaidburn	1	1	0	1	2	5	0	5	15
Dunsop Bridge	1	1	0	1	2	5	0	5	15
Bolton-by-Bowland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Pendleton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Rimington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Holden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Wiswell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Worston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16

Appendix 4 - Employment Ranking by Settlement

Settlement	LLPG Business Count	Business Count Rank	Access to Key Service Centre by Distance	Key Service Centre Distance Rank	Business Rank + Key Service Centre Rank	Total Rank
Clitheroe	1018	1	0km	1	2	1
Longridge	495	2	0km	1	3	2
Whalley	245	3	0km	1	4	3
Read/Simonstone	201	4	2.3km	5	9	4
Calderstones	69	8	1.4km	2	10	5
Chatburn	73	6	3.2km	10	16	6
Barrow	43	14	2.2km	4	18	7
Billington	39	16	1.4km	2	18	7
Ribchester	170	5	4.9km	14	19	8
Sabden	67	9	3.8km	11	20	9
Waddington	39	16	2.4km	6	22	10
Gisburn	70	7	5.1km	16	23	11
Wilpshire (& Ramsgreave)	52	12	3.8km	11	23	11
Langho	51	13	3.8km	11	24	12
Wiswell	14	22	1.7km	3	25	13
Mellor	42	15	4.1km	12	27	14
Brockhall Village	24	19	3.1km	9	28	15
Grindleton	31	18	3.8km	11	29	16
Pendleton	13	23	2.5km	7	30	17
Chipping	54	11	6.3km	20	31	18
Hurst Green	43	14	5.2km	17	31	18
West Bradford	12	24	2.5km	7	31	18
Downham	15	21	4.6km	13	34	19

Worston	9	26	2.7km	8	34	19
Slaidburn	59	10	10.9km	26	36	20
Mellor Brook	12	24	5.2km	17	41	21
Rimington	22	20	6.5km	21	41	21
Newton	36	17	9.6km	25	42	22
Sawley	11	25	5.4km	18	43	23
Osbaldeston	3	28	5km	15	43	23
Bolton by Bowland	14	22	8.4km	23	45	24
Copster Green	8	27	5.7km	19	46	25
Holden	3	28	8.2km	22	50	26
Dunsop Bridge	12	24	11.6km	27	51	27
Tosside	3	28	9.2km	24	52	28

Appendix 5 – Final Settlement Ranking

Settlement	Population Rank	Services Facilities Rank	Employment Rank	Transport Rank	TOTAL	FINAL RANK
Clitheroe	1	1	1	1	4	1
Longridge	2	2	2	5	11	2
Whalley	3	3	3	2	11	2
Wilpshire (& Ramsgreave)	4	4	11	4	23	3
Barrow	7	8	7	3	25	4
Read/Simonstone	6	9	4	8	27	5
Langho	5	9	12	3	29	6
Ribchester	10	5	8	7	30	7
Billington	9	15	7	5	36	8
Chatburn	14	11	6	6	37	9
Sabden	11	7	9	12	39	10
Mellor	8	10	14	12	44	11
Waddington	13	11	10	12	46	12
Chipping	12	6	18	11	47	13
Calderstones	16	19	5	12	52	14
Gisburn	20	12	11	10	53	15
Brockhall Village	17	14	15	14	60	16
Hurst Green	18	11	18	13	60	16
Grindleton	19	15	16	11	61	17
West Bradford	15	17	18	12	62	18
Slaidburn	22	12	20	15	69	19
Mellor Brook	27	18	21	5	71	20
Wiswell	26	21	13	16	76	21
Rimington	21	18	21	16	76	21
Sawley	25	19	23	9	76	21
Osbaldeston	29	17	23	7	76	21
Downham	31	16	19	12	78	22

Copster Green	23	22	25	8	78	22
Pendleton	28	19	17	16	80	23
Newton	24	20	22	15	81	24
Bolton by Bowland	30	13	24	16	83	25
Dunsop Bridge	32	16	27	15	90	26
Worston	34	22	19	16	91	27
Tosside	35	18	28	15	96	28
Holden	33	21	26	16	96	28