

Settlement hierarchy

Figure 5.6: Draft Settlement Hierarchy

Settlement Category	Settlement Name
Tier 1: Principal Service Centre	Tonbridge and Hilden Park, Medway Gap, Walderslade
Tier 2: Service Centre	Snodland, Borough Green, West Malling, Kings Hill
Tier 3: Primary Village	Hildenborough, Hadlow, East Malling, East Peckham, Wateringbury, Wouldham
Tier 4: Secondary Village	Aylesford Village, Hale Street, Burham, Snoll Hatch, Wrotham, Eccles, Leybourne Chase, Peter's Village, Plaxtol, Platt, Ightham, Birling, Ryarsh, Mereworth & Herne Pound
Tier 5: Other rural settlements	Stansted, Offham, Shipbourne, Fairseat, Addington, Addington Clearway, Golden Green, West Peckham, Wrotham Heath, Dunks Green, Crouch, Trottiscliffe, Blue Bell Hill

- ‘Most sustainable’ settlements are those where there are a greater range of services and facilities more easily accessible
- The hierarchy does not determine on its own how much growth could take place in a settlement – this hierarchy is considered alongside environmental issues, physical constraints, land availability and other factors
- Where there are Tier 1-4 settlements with no proposed sites, development could be proposed within the settlement confines, subject to other policies in the Plan
- Tier 5 settlements could have development through the Rural Exception Sites policy or through a Neighbourhood Plan.