

Thurrock Council

Provision of Facilities for Faith Groups in Thurrock

November 2009

Final report

TRANSPORT
TRAFFIC
DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING
URBAN DESIGN
ECONOMICS
MARKET RESEARCH

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Provision of Facilities for Faith Groups in Thurrock Final report

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1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Colin Buchanan has been commissioned by Thurrock Council to identify the current provision of premises for faith groups in the Borough, and to assess future premises and related needs. The study aims to understand faith groups' physical infrastructure needs up to 2026, in order to inform the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy. Although commissioned as part of the technical evidence base for the LDF, this study is being delivered in partnership with Thurrock Council's Strategic Planning department and the Corporate Diversity team and will be used more widely to assist the Council to review how it can better meet the needs of its residents as part of its Single Equalities Scheme.
- 1.1.2 Thurrock is projected to experience significant growth in the coming years. This growth will need to be supported with appropriate infrastructure from transport to schools and healthcare, along with social infrastructure to support community cohesion. Faith groups within existing and new communities will have an important role to play, recognised by central and local government as being crucial to how future development is planned.
- 1.1.3 The term 'Faith Group' encompasses a wide range of community and voluntary organisations, from formally organised groups with a large membership, to smaller informal groups of minority faiths. Faith groups are communities of interest sharing a common faith, and according to the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG), represent: "[...] *gateways to access the tremendous reserves of energy and commitment of their members, which can be of great importance to the development of civil society*" (CLG, 2004).
- 1.1.4 This study's objectives are:
- 1) to establish a database of faith groups in the Borough, identifying their size, catchments and key contacts
 - 2) to identify the distribution (locations) of premises used by faith groups in the Borough
 - 3) to identify the physical condition of premises used by faith groups in the Borough
 - 4) to identify faith groups' future growth aspirations and support needs
 - 5) to investigate funding and delivery options to meet future premises needs.
- 1.1.5 This Final Report sets out the results of the study, and is structured as follows:
- Chapter 1: Introduction
 - Chapter 2: Policy Background and Literature Review
 - Chapter 3: The Thurrock Context
 - Chapter 4: Study Methodology
 - Chapter 5: Research Findings
 - Chapter 6: Conclusions

2 Policy background and literature review

- 2.1.1 The role of faith groups in planning for sustainable communities has grown in significance in recent years. Faith groups are recognised as developing social cohesion, and places of worship are considered to be important spaces where the community can come together for a variety of purposes.

2.2 Policy context

- 2.2.1 PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005), states that “the Government is committed to developing strong, vibrant and sustainable communities ... this means meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities”.

- 2.2.2 Recent government documents have highlighted the importance of faith groups to community cohesion. In a 2007 publication, CLG stated that the role of faith groups should be maximised in leading or delivering community-cohesion based initiatives as “these organisations are best placed to understand key issues, and engage communities, especially where trust in mainstream institutions is lower”¹.

- 2.2.3 The 2006 Local Government White Paper ‘Strong and Prosperous Communities’ was produced with the aim of giving local people and local communities more influence and power to improve their lives. The document states:

Voluntary groups, faith groups, local businesses and other public agencies have an important part to play in the life of our towns and neighbourhoods.

- 2.2.4 Thurrock’s Core Strategy Preferred Options (2007) states that the preferred policy approach (CSTP10) is that the Council will work with partners and seek developer contributions to provide community and social infrastructure including community centres and cultural resource centres, places of worship, youth facilities, library services, social care and emergency services.

- 2.2.5 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Thurrock also highlights the importance of ensuring that services develop alongside growth to accommodate the needs of a diversifying community. The vision states:

Thurrock will be the location of choice – a place where people thrive and prosper; where residents can access services that will make a difference; and where development is sustainable and supports our new and existing communities as they regenerate and grow.

2.3 Literature review and best practice

National Practice

- 2.3.2 The RTPI publication “Shaping and Delivering Tomorrow’s Places: Effective Practice in Spatial Planning” (2007) states the following:

As spatial planning is about a community led approach this needs to be managed in this way from the outset, through community scoping and agenda setting processes and be part of the frontloading of LDF preparation ... it is also important to use the evidence available to understand the differences between people, business and

¹ ‘What works’ in Community Cohesion (CLG, 2007)

places. This assessment of differences between places, age, gender, cultural and faith groups needs to be considered in a systematic way that can be demonstrated to them transparently.

- 2.3.3 In 2008, the Local Government Association and the Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom published research investigating how local authorities are engaging with local inter faith and faith organisations (LIFO). This asserts that in recent years religion and belief issues have become much more prominent in the government agenda.
- 2.3.4 In May 2008 CAG Consultants, in association with Land Use Consultants and Diverse Ethics, produced 'Responding to the needs of faith communities: places of worship'. In this report, CAG Consultants conclude that most authorities in London had not undertaken an assessment of need before developing policy. It was reported that it is very difficult to assess needs in the absence of any reliable data and in the face of a rapidly changing population. Most of those who had undertaken an assessment had done so either qualitatively or on a case-by-case basis for major sites. CAG Consultants found that planning applications were therefore considered in light of generic policies - rather than on a needs assessment as is the case with housing and employment uses. This is suggested to be a key factor in the relatively high rate of refusals of planning applications.
- 2.3.5 The CAG study also identified that faith groups appear to make limited use of the opportunity to obtain pre-application advice, suggesting most groups are unfamiliar with the planning process.
- 2.3.6 A study by Three Dragons (Nov 2008) for Cambridgeshire Horizons analysed the needs of faith groups in new developments. This concludes that provision for faith groups should be provided in all developments of 2,000 or more dwellings. The report also recommends that 0.5 hectares of free or heavily discounted land per 3,000 homes be provided for faith use. This could be in the form of land or buildings depending on the location of development and the needs of the Faith Groups. Alternatively, another option is for a landowner to provide money equivalent to the value of the land which must be used to meet the faith needs of residents within the development (although the facility itself could be on a site that adjoins or is easily accessible to the development). As a further example, Three Dragons state that data from Christian Research suggests that 6% of the population attend a church.
- 2.3.7 The report for Cambridgeshire Horizons also highlights the differences in needs between larger faith organisations which often need a large building from which to provide a wide variety of services and smaller organisations which often cannot afford premises on the open market. For smaller groups, the possibility of using schools, employment sites and redundant or under-used churches should also be explored. In reference to the use of school sites, the report states that the Education and Inspections Act (2006) introduced a duty on all maintained schools to promote community cohesion, and that Government guidance on how to fulfil this duty encourages schools to develop strong links with religious groups as well as to provide a range of community facilities and requires that by 2010 school facilities are opened up to the wider communities. With regard to school sites, the Three Dragons report suggests that vacant school sites could be used for minority Faith Groups who find it difficult to compete for premises on the open market.
- 2.3.8 A similar study undertaken for Derbyshire County Council in 2006² concluded that faith groups make a significant collective contribution to local communities. They were found to contribute time, skills and premises to community groups as well as formal and informal projects. However, it was concluded that whilst some faith groups may have the

² 'Faith in Derbyshire' (ChangeUp, Government Office for the East Midlands and Diocese of Derby, 2006).

infrastructure and capacity to develop their involvement in local governance, others may not have the time, money or ability. Recommendations from the report are as follows:

- Develop accountability structures which are appropriate to faith communities while meeting the needs of funders and other statutory partners;
- Develop the skills base within faith communities to enhance the capacity to engage in community regeneration;
- Develop support, with other appropriate groups, for faith communities who struggle to maintain buildings to make them available and of an acceptable standard for community use. Increase availability of capital grants for these buildings;
- Develop the engagement of faith communities in local governance;
- Develop the understanding of the nature of faith communities, including their needs and potential;
- Develop an agenda for continuing research to refine the insights developed in this research.

Policy context

- 2.3.9 In 2005 a national survey of English Churches was undertaken, “The 2005 English Church Census”. This identified that nationally active membership of Christian churches is declining. However, there have been significant rises in denominations such as the Pentecostal Church. The report found that ethnicity was also an interesting factor in the figures, with black-majority churches, especially those that attract immigrants, having grown considerably over the past seven years. It was also shown that about 10 per cent of all churchgoers in England that responded to the survey were of non-white ethnic origin.
- 2.3.10 Most recently in 2009, CLG published ‘Churches and Faith Buildings: Realising the Potential’. Although the paper focuses mainly on the Church of England (due to its large network of buildings), the document is designed to be a resource for faith communities and the community sector more generally. It has been recognised that faith buildings represent assets which have the potential to contribute to wider Government objectives for public service provision. Increasingly, faith groups are expressing a desire to use their capital assets to benefit the wider community. However, research has shown that this can be limited due to the physical condition of the buildings and the capacity of faith groups to engage at a strategic level.
- 2.3.11 With the decision that there will be no new funding following the agreement of Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) settlements, the report suggests that there should be consideration of how faith buildings might be better integrated into existing Departmental programmes. The paper looks at how buildings can be used to deliver public services and where barriers may be hindering access to funding streams and how these can be overcome. The next steps from the Government will be to create a network of local authority leads in the Government Offices for the Regions by 2011. These will lead “on faith and cohesion to share best practice and better equip them [the Government Offices] to work with faith communities” (CLG *et al.*, 2009). This publication followed a number of CLG publications, including “Face to Face and Side by Side: A Framework for Partnership in our Multi Faith Society” (CLG, 2008). This aimed at supporting partnership working with faith communities to maximise their potential to contribute to local priorities.

Service delivery

- 2.3.12 Whilst the idea of co-location of services is popular within infrastructure planning as a means of providing a more efficient use of space and a cost effective solution to the need for service provision, it is difficult when considering faith groups. Whilst the sharing of

spaces for small groups from different denominations of the same faith group may be possible, sharing space can be contentious due to access constraints and a lack of a sense of ownership.

- 2.3.13 It should be noted that buildings that serve the needs of faith groups are often used for a variety of other functions, many of which can be non-faith related. This can include community space for activities such as youth clubs, nurseries, general meetings, and indoor sports. Research findings suggest that local faith communities do not always seek a traditional landmark building but rather a useable space for the community as a whole.
- 2.3.14 The changing nature and membership of faith groups is often very difficult to predict. The experience from the Christian churches suggests that making provision for faith groups will need to be flexible enough to adapt to change in the future.
- 2.3.15 Research conducted by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (2007) suggests that there is a renewal of interest in the contribution faith-based organisations can make to service provision. This is mainly centring around small-scale organisations and is forming part of the government's agenda for community cohesion and transferring responsibility for delivering services from the state to the voluntary sector.

3 Thurrock context

3.1 Demographics

3.1.1 Thurrock's population has been continually increasing and becoming more diverse. Thurrock currently has a population of approximately 149,000 people (ONS 2006 trend data). This is currently projected to increase beyond 175,000 by 2026. The following table illustrates how the ethnic make up of Thurrock's population changed between 2001 and 2006:

Table 3.1: Ethnic composition in Thurrock, 2001 - 2006

	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)	2005 (%)	2006 (%)
White	95.2	94.4	93.6	92.6	91.8	91
Mixed	1	1	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.5
Asian or Asian British	2	2.3	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.3
Asian or Asian British: Indian	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6
Black or Black British	1.2	1.6	2	2.4	2.9	3.2
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1

Source: ONS, 2001-2006 trend data; values represent percentage of total Thurrock population.

3.1.2 Table 3.1 shows that between 2001 and 2006 Thurrock experienced a change in ethnic composition with a decline in the percentage of people defining themselves as 'White' and an increase in all other ethnic groups, most notably in people defining themselves as 'Black or Black British', which has increased by over 100%.

3.1.3 A diverse ethnic composition is also reflected in the range of religions practised in Thurrock. The religions practiced by residents of the Borough in 2001 are identified in Table 3.2:

Table 3.2: Religions practised in Thurrock, 2001

	Thurrock (%)	East of England (%)	England (%)
People stating religion as: Christian	75.09	72.14	71.74
People stating religion as: Buddhist	0.17	0.22	0.28
People stating religion as: Hindu	0.55	0.58	1.11
People stating religion as: Jewish	0.17	0.56	0.52
People stating religion as: Muslim	1.07	1.46	3.1
People stating religion as: Sikh	0.7	0.25	0.67
People stating religion as: Other religions	0.21	0.29	0.29
People stating religion as: No religion	15.51	16.74	14.59
People stating religion as: Religion not stated	6.52	7.75	7.69

Source: ONS, 2001 Census data; values represent percentage of total population.

- 3.1.4 Table 3.2 shows that the majority (75.09%) of the population in Thurrock state Christianity as their religion. This compares to approximately 72% across the East of England region and England as a whole. Proportionally, the next most significant group are those who state they have no religion, which at 6.5% is lower for Thurrock than the regional and national averages. It should be noted that the Sikh population in Thurrock is, at 0.7%, almost three times the regional average (0.25%) and is marginally higher than the national average. The proportion of people stating their religion as Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist is, however, below the regional and national average.

3.2 Future housing growth

- 3.2.1 Thurrock is a national growth priority and has been identified as a key growth area. This will result in an increase in housing, jobs and public infrastructure to meet the needs of its growing and diversifying population.
- 3.2.2 The population of Thurrock will increase alongside housing growth. The Core Strategy Preferred Options (2007) for Thurrock stated that the population in 2007 was 149,000 and is predicted to reach 166,900 by 2021 - an increase of 17,900 (13%) from the 2001 Census.
- 3.2.3 The East of England Plan (2008) allocates a minimum of 18,500 homes to Thurrock to 2021. Of this total, 4,250 homes have already been built, leaving a minimum of 13,550 new homes still to be built to 2021 after taking account of existing planning approvals.
- 3.2.4 Substantial growth could potentially be accommodated in the following locations in Thurrock³:

³ See Thurrock Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Policies for Control of Development Preferred Options November 2007.

- Development within existing urban areas (Purfleet, West Thurrock, Lakeside, Grays, Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary)
- Possible urban extension at North East Grays (approx. 460 dwellings)
- Possible growth extension in Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham (approx. 920 dwellings)

3.2.5 However at time of writing (30 November 2009), the last of these growth locations in Stanford-le-Hope, Corringham and certain sites in Grays had been dropped for now and it remains uncertain when they might come forward.

Estimates of future demand for faith facilities

3.2.6 In terms of land for faith-based use in relation to new housing growth, using the Three Dragons recommendations for Cambridge Horizons (0.5 hectares of land per 3,000 homes), this would result in a requirement to reserve 2.26 hectares of new land from 2006-21.

3.2.7 We understand that housing allocations are likely to exceed the trigger for new faith facilities in only three locations in Thurrock. Indicative future need in these locations is as follows:

Table 3.3: Future need for faith premises (based on Three Dragons standards)

Location	Land required for faith facilities
Grays	0.5 ha. required between 11-15 years of the plan period with the potential for a further 0.5 ha. needed by the end of the plan period.
Purfleet	0.5 ha. required between years 6-10 of the plan period.
West Thurrock	0.5 ha. required between years 6-10 of the plan period.

3.2.8 The Three Dragons report suggests a site of less than 0.5 ha. is insufficient to serve growing congregations and support a range of community facilities. This would result in Thurrock needing to provide a minimum of four 0.5 ha. sites by 2021.

3.2.9 Housing allocations in North East Grays and Stanford-le-Hope/Corringham will accommodate fewer than the threshold for triggering a need for new facilities as defined in the Three Dragons report. In these locations, future need will therefore need to be identified on a local basis.

3.2.10 The Three Dragons report suggests that provision for Faith Groups could be in the form of land or buildings depending on the location of development and the needs of the Faith Groups. Alternatively, another option is for a landowner to provide money equivalent to the value of the land which must be used to meet the faith needs of residents within the development (although the facility itself could be on a site that adjoins or is easily accessible to the development).

This approach assumes the social and religious composition of new housing developments will be homogenous and should therefore be used with caution. Clearly, this will not be the case and demand for faith premises is likely to remain highly fragmented unless groups are willing to share facilities. It should also be noted that these standard assumptions do not account for worshippers coming from outside the borough and, in their report, Three Dragons stated that their approach needs further testing and development.

4 Study methodology

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Thurrock has a wide variety of faiths and cultures ranging from well established populations and institutions to new migrant communities and newly-formed worship groups. The methodology for this study was devised to make use of existing data and knowledge, and to build on the relationships between faith groups in the Borough and social and community infrastructure support organisations. The methodology was designed to engage faith groups directly in providing data and information relating to their premises needs, and for them to participate in the validation of findings and the development of recommendations.
- 4.1.2 The study methodology also provided for engagement with key stakeholders to identify sources of information and issues faced by faith groups in the Borough. Key stakeholders engaged in this process included the Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), the Changing Thurrock LSP's Community Involvement Board (CIB) and the Thurrock Community Empowerment Network (TCEN).
- 4.1.3 The need to reduce duplication of effort and consultation fatigue was also recognised in the study methodology. To ensure that best use was made of existing resources, information and relationships, and to ensure that faith groups would not have to participate in repeated consultation on behalf of the Council, the study aimed to make use of key stakeholders' networks.
- 4.1.4 Following the inception meeting with the client, it was agreed that the study would be delivered in partnership with the Council's Corporate Diversity Team, to ensure a more integrated approach to the Council's work in addressing the needs of faith groups as part of the Single Equalities Scheme. An informal project steering group was established, comprising staff from Strategic Planning and Corporate Diversity Team, to oversee the study.

4.2 Study approach

- 4.2.1 Our approach to the study was in three stages, using a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods:
- Stage 1:
 - engagement with stakeholders
 - literature review
 - identification of faith groups and key contacts
 - establishment of premises database
 - Stage 2:
 - survey questionnaire to faith groups
 - analysis of baseline position and assessment of future needs
 - mapping of premises
 - updating database with quantitative data
 - Stage 3:
 - further engagement (including a workshop) with key stakeholders and faith groups to validate findings and develop funding options.

- 4.2.2 The study programme was intended to be 12 weeks in duration, but due to the Council's reporting timetable for the LDF Stages 1 and 2 of the study were undertaken in 4 weeks in order to deliver interim results. This has resulted in difficulties gathering data and engaging with faith groups in the timescale required. However, it should be noted that consultation between the Council, stakeholders and faith groups is an ongoing process and this report is part of that ongoing dialogue.
- 4.3 Stage 1: Identification of faith groups and existing premises
- 4.3.1 An inception meeting was held with the client group on 4th June 2009 to review the brief and ensure a clear understanding of its terms, definitions, timescales, etc. The meeting was used to refine the proposed methodology and consultation/engagement techniques. A list of faith groups was provided by the Council as the basis for establishing a database. Other published sources were also investigated to cross-reference this data, including web resources such www.achurchnearyou.com, www.findachurch.co.uk, and various local search engines. Information was also supplied by the Thurrock Team Ministry, Church of England.
- 4.3.2 We began by using information gathered through existing engagement mechanisms in order to identify faith groups, the location of their various premises and key data sources. This included the Thurrock Compact and looking at the work undertaken during the preparation of Thurrock's Statement of Community Involvement.
- 4.3.3 Initial interviews were held with key stakeholders in order to understand the make-up and extent of faith-based groups in Thurrock. Other stakeholders were contacted to assist in the process of identifying faith groups which were not already known to the Council, and to ensure that these groups were encouraged to participate in the study.
- 4.3.4 These stakeholders included the Council's Community Development Manager, 'Ngage' (the Borough's community engagement and support organisation) – and through them TRUST (Thurrock Racial Unity Support Trust), and the Chairs/Secretaries of Thurrock's community forums. We also contacted the Thurrock CVS for a more detailed appreciation of the specific needs of the faith-based sector and actions being pursued.
- 4.3.5 The organisations contacted during this stage were:
- LSP Community Involvement Board (Chair)
 - Thurrock CVS (Director)
 - Thurrock Community Empowerment Network (Manager)
 - Ngage
 - Community Forums (Chairs/Secretaries)
 - TRUST Thurrock Racial Unity Support Trust (Director)
- 4.3.6 This helped to build an initial picture of the groups active in Thurrock and provide an insight into any areas of sensitivity to be aware of.
- 4.3.7 A database of faith groups and their facilities was then established, collating information from different sources. The draft database and list of groups/facilities to be considered for the purpose of the LDF-related work was circulated to the client group for review and endorsement on 10th June 2009.
- 4.3.8 At this stage we also reviewed all existing relevant research and policy material addressing the role of faith groups within a spatial planning context to distil key messages.

4.4 Stage 2: Baseline and future needs analysis

4.4.1 Using the faith groups database devised in Stage 1, data about faith groups' characteristics, and premises needs was collected by means of a questionnaire survey. A draft survey questionnaire was devised and circulated to the Steering Group on 10th June 2009, to ensure that additional issues of interest to the Corporate Diversity Team could be incorporated into the questionnaire.

4.4.2 The final questionnaire (see Appendix 3) was essentially designed as two parts, the first addressing faith groups' own characteristics, premises and growth aspirations, and the second dealing with feedback on their experience of, and engagement with various Council services. The survey questionnaire was dispatched on 15th June by email and by post on the 16th June, with a return deadline of 26th June 2009. Although the two week survey return period is less than the recommended consultation period agreed in the Thurrock Compact, it was agreed with the Steering Group that this was necessary to ensure that the Council's LDF reporting timetable could be met. The database contained email addresses for the vast majority of the faith groups. However, it is acknowledged that a small percentage of groups without email addresses would have received the survey questionnaire later and consequently had less time to complete it.

4.4.3 It was subsequently agreed to extend the survey return deadline to allow additional time for groups to respond. A final deadline of 27th July 2009 was agreed, representing six weeks from the start of the original survey period. The Council and the study team undertook a series of emails and follow-up telephone calls to encourage a greater response.

4.4.4 The survey gathered information in relation to:

- Characteristics of the faith groups listed on the database
- Membership/attendee numbers
- Current premises – extent and condition
- Future growth/expansion plans
- Future premises needs/aspirations
- Future funding/premises delivery options
- Other support needs

4.4.5 Following compilation of survey results, the data was analysed and mapped using GIS software. The data was added to the initial database prepared in Stage 1 and embedded in the GIS system, using weighted points (location markers) and 'traffic light' notation to indicate size of group and physical conditions of individual facilities (see mapping in Appendix 2).

4.4.6 It is worth noting that where we have recorded information on the condition of existing facilities, this has been obtained from the self-reported information from respondents' survey questionnaires. The budget for this study has not allowed an audit of existing facilities to be undertaken as part of this work.

4.5 Stage 3: Validation of Findings

4.5.1 The final stage of the study was used to engage with stakeholders and faith groups directly in order to review and validate the findings of the baseline research, and to discuss wider issues of needs, funding and delivery.

4.5.2 To achieve this, a workshop event with faith groups was held on 2nd September 2009 in Grays. All faith groups on the database were invited, and voluntary sector support organisations and umbrella faith groups were also involved in generating interest in the

workshop amongst Thurrock's faith group sector. The workshop was attended by 33 people representing 24 faith groups, as well as officers representing Strategic Planning, Corporate Diversity Team and Environmental Protection.

- 4.5.3 The workshop reviewed and tested the results of the mapping and faith groups survey conducted in Stages 1 and 2, aiming to improve its accuracy and identify gaps in the data, as well as provide a forum to explore future needs and delivery in more detail. Key areas explored were:
- Mapping of provision
 - Current and future issues facing faith groups
 - Current provision and future premises needs
 - Funding and delivery options
 - Key messages and policy recommendations
- 4.5.4 The event was also used to engage faith groups in on-going dialogue, by canvassing interest in establishing a Faith Forum to be supported by the Council. All the faith groups attending the event were invited to join the emerging Faith Forum.
- 4.5.5 A record of the workshop and an attendance list is provided in conjunction with this report.

5 Research findings

5.1 General issues relating to faith groups

- 5.1.1 Thurrock has well established mechanisms for engaging with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), with a track record of engaging the VCS through the development of the Thurrock Compact, the LDF, and other strategy and policy documents of relevance to the VCS. A number of informal networks and formal mechanisms exist for the support of faith groups (e.g. TRUST), or their participation in policy formulation (e.g. the statutory organisation SACRE – the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education). However, these mechanisms do not appear to systematically represent all faith groups. The Council's core databases developed by Strategic Planning and the Corporate Diversity Team are heavily representative of Christian denominations, with minimal representation of other faiths. This may be due to the absence such groups, or an unwillingness to participate on their part or an inability to reach and engage them effectively.
- 5.1.2 Discussions with stakeholders about the availability of information on faith groups in the Borough revealed that even VCS support organisations had little information on faith groups. Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service stated that this situation had been exacerbated by the London bombings of July 2007, in that organisations and individuals were reluctant to provide their personal information to institutions for fear of harassment.
- 5.1.3 It was reported that many 'faith groups' were informal and led by individuals who had co-ordinated efforts personally from their home addresses. This, again, was a reason for not wanting to be 'visible', as it put their whole household 'at risk'. The East of England Faith Council had also done some work on faith groups, but most of this has, to date, concentrated on capacity building.
- 5.1.4 The LSP's Community Involvement Board (CIB) had been set up to help the VCS/Third Sector feed into the work of the LSP. Discussions with the Chair revealed that the CIB had not been able to engage effectively with faith groups and that this had become worse since the London bombings and the tensions which surrounded this. This had led to people not wanting to be identified, or for their information to be held. The CIB had received some funding from the Council to run a conference in the autumn (day or half day event) aimed at bringing faith groups together. It is understood a survey of third sector groups as a whole has, however, been undertaken. It was suggested that third sector groups may need some form of financial incentive in order for them to make themselves known to the authorities.
- 5.1.5 TRUST (Thurrock Racial Unity Support Taskgroup) is the umbrella organisation for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community groups, organisation and individuals in Thurrock. It promotes equity and diversity and works for a just and harmonious society. TRUST represents BME groups generally as well as faith groups within its membership. It identified several issues facing faith groups, including the lack of an effective inter-faith dialogue. While attempts have been made at establishing inter-faith forums in the past, it was reported that there appears to be little appetite for dialogue on the ground from some quarters. There are different levels of participation and 'visibility', with some organisations adopting a low profile, while others had tried to engage with public services but been faced with barriers.
- 5.1.6 It was reported that there was a lack of trust between BME groups and the Council, and that this might further mitigate against effective participation in studies such as this. TRUST were critical of the consultation process for this study, as they considered the consultation period contravened the terms of the Thurrock Compact.

5.2 Survey response

- 5.2.1 The survey questionnaire was issued to 88 faith groups/organisations forming the combined database identified from the various contact lists and databases held by the Council and its voluntary and community sector partners. This combined database did, however, include a number of duplicate facilities and managing organisations that were listed in addition to their facilities. This has now been rectified.
- 5.2.2 The survey was also issued to the 19 Community Forums in Thurrock, and distributed by Ngage, Thurrock CEN and the Council's Community Development Manager to the faith groups on their mailing lists. Due to Data Protection issues these mailing lists could not be shared with the study team, however, in the future it may be possible – through the partners holding the lists - to request these groups to share their contact data directly with the Council for the purposes of supporting a faith groups network and addressing need.
- 5.2.3 The tight timescale for this project influenced the initial response rate to the survey, although the extension of the deadline helped improve the overall response. At the end of the survey phase, of the 88 groups recorded on the database (including duplicate entries), 22 responded representing a 25% survey return rate. The returns provided information on 26 places of worship or main facilities used by faith groups, together with general references to other locations in the community used on an occasional basis, e.g. schools and members' homes. The return rate in relation to information on facilities represents almost 30% of the total database population. One Community Forum also responded directly, but their responses have not been included in the analysis.
- 5.2.4 These interim findings following the survey phase represent a good return rate in terms of a postal/electronic survey. However, they should not be regarded as a fully representative response. The Council may wish to work with the partners to engage in on-going dialogue to build up a more representative sample. Stage 3 of the study - testing and exploring the results through a workshop - successfully engaged a wider range and greater number of faith groups.
- 5.2.5 The breakdown of survey responses, by faith denomination, is indicated below:

Table 5.1: Faith Groups consulted

Faith denomination	No. of faith groups consulted directly	No. of responses	% response
Church of England	29	3	10
Roman Catholic	8	0	0
Methodist	7	1	14
United Reformed	2	1	50
Baptist	5	4	80
Chapels	3	1	33
Pentecostal Churches	7	5	71
Other Christian Churches	18	4	22
Other	9	3	33

Note: Faith denominations categorised by Thurrock Council.

- 5.2.6 The greatest number of responses were received from groups in the 'Pentecostal Churches' category (5), followed by 'Baptist Churches' (4) and 'Other Christian Churches' (4). The response rate also represents a high proportion of the groups in each of these categories (71%, 80% and 22% respectively). The 'Other Christian Churches' group also includes some Evangelical Christian churches. The lowest percentage returns were from the Methodist Church (1 out of 7 - 14%), Church of England (3 out of 29 – 10%) and

Roman Catholic Church (nil return). The reason for such a low response rate from the Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches is unknown.

- 5.2.7 A small number of additional survey responses were received following the Stage 3 workshop. These have not been included in the survey analysis, but have been collated as part of the survey response database for use by the Council in future engagement with faith groups.

5.3 Survey results

- 5.3.1 The results of the survey are summarised below. Appendix 2 contains maps identifying the distribution and characteristics of faith groups and their premises across the Borough (Figures 1 – 16). This report is also accompanied by an interactive GIS (Geographic Information System) database with the address, contact details and survey responses for the 88 Faith Groups consulted.

Range of faith groups

- 5.3.2 The faith groups identified by the study comprise mainly of organisations established for the purpose of worship, related to a specific building or using a single place of worship at any one time. The overwhelming majority of the faith groups identified are from Christian denominations. The exceptions include one group each from the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh communities, and a non-denominational spiritualist group. The database also includes a small number of groups which act as umbrella organisations for facilitating dialogue between faith groups or providing services and support to faith-based organisations (e.g. Transform Thurrock, Faith and Freedom). Appendix 1 provides a list of the faith-based groups/facilities identified in the study. The full database and survey responses has been provided to the Council as reference data.

Location of premises

- 5.3.3 Facilities for faith groups are distributed evenly across the urban areas of the borough, with the main concentrations in the central Grays and Stanford-le-Hope areas. The West Thurrock and Purfleet areas are less well served. There is a concentration of Baptist Churches in Grays, with only one other in Corringham, while Chapels are well represented in West Thurrock, with one other location in South Ockendon. Pentecostal churches are well represented in the major urban areas, with Tilbury accommodating three facilities, as does Grays. Other Christian Churches are spread evenly across the Borough, although there is a group of three in Stanford-le-Hope.
- 5.3.4 Chadwell St. Mary Methodist Church was reported to have recently closed, and hence was removed from the current list of facilities, but should be noted as a vacant facility.
- 5.3.5 During the course of the survey work, some faith groups reported that the contacts for certain facilities had recently changed or would be changing again in the near future. Where possible we have recorded the most up to date information. The location of all faith group facilities is shown in Figure 2; and the breakdown of facilities by each faith / religious denomination is illustrated in Figs. 3 - 11.

Activities of faith groups

- 5.3.6 It is clear from the survey responses that whilst many faith-related facilities are used for religious services and worship, many are also used to provide a range of other activities and space for the wider community. A number of facilities are being used for community activities. The most commonly cited are:

- Worship
- Youth clubs
- Play groups
- Parent and toddler groups

5.3.7 Other activities undertaken include:

- Supporting uniformed organisations (e.g. Scouts and Guides)
- Coffee mornings
- Counselling on relationships, marriage, bereavement etc.
- Community meetings
- Social meetings for the elderly, including coffee mornings and Bowls
- Drop-in café
- Bible studies
- Alpha course
- Evangelical activities
- Dance schools
- Sales of second hand goods
- International charitable activities.

5.3.8 The wide variety of activities undertaken in facilities used by faith groups is an important consideration in regard to the analysis of wider infrastructure needs. In some cases, religious buildings are being used like community halls, and this should be considered in Thurrock Council's social and community infrastructure baseline and future needs report.

5.3.9 Some groups are less focussed on worship and are more engaged in supporting the community, promoting dialogue, or providing additional provision. Their premises needs reflect those of the voluntary and community sector generally, involving access to affordable, accessible and flexible space for administration as well as service provision.

Membership

5.3.10 Membership of the groups varies quite widely – the smallest of the groups who responded has just 12 regular attendees and the largest has over 600 people using the facility each month. Some of the Church of England churches report membership of 20,000 people, with 300 regular attendees. In contrast, other smaller Churches have larger active attendees than their members rolls, e.g. one Pentecostal Church has 150 members and 65 people who attend regularly, while a non-Christian group reported a membership of 200 with up to 50 people attending monthly religious meetings in a rented community hall, and on a weekly basis in members' homes.

5.3.11 The facilities with the largest attendances are two Baptist Churches located in central Grays, followed by two Pentecostal Churches in Aveley, and other premises in Grays, Tilbury and Corringham operated by Christian Fellowships and community Churches.

5.3.12 The wide range in membership obviously has a large impact on the requirements for facilities. The smallest groups meet in various venues across Thurrock, e.g. homes, schools, village halls, and some state that they do not require dedicated premises at present. Some groups with a membership of less than 75 do own their own premises.. However, some larger groups often operate from more than one location and also have more extensive growth aspirations. While most of these are focussed on securing one new building, one Pentecostal Church is investigating ways of meeting its need for six new buildings. Figure 12 illustrates the reported number of regular attendees at each identified locations.

Condition of premises

- 5.3.13 The data on the physical condition of premises is reliant on self-reporting by the groups themselves. The facilities reporting the poorest condition are Church of England facilities and a Baptist Church in Grays, and a Church of England facility in Stanford-le-Hope.
- 5.3.14 The results indicate that there is some variation in the condition of faith groups' facilities, both within religious denominations as well as between different faith denominations. It is interesting to note that while the Church of England groups mostly owned their premises, the condition of these premises, where reported, ranged from good to poor and needing considerable work. Groups in some other categories where premises were mostly rented, e.g. Pentecostal Churches and Other Christian Churches, reported mostly reasonable or good condition premises. The Baptist Churches which responded did, however, report premises in their ownership as mostly in good condition.
- 5.3.15 Whereas most premises were considered by respondents to be suitable for purpose and of good to average condition, others are in need of modernisation and improvement. Suggested improvements include improving kitchens, toilet facilities and replacing windows, along with improving disabled access and facilities. A map showing the distribution and condition of facilities is shown in Figure 13.

Ownership

- 5.3.16 Of the groups that responded, approximately half reported that their premises were owned, with half being rented. Many of the rented premises were owned or operated by community organisations, or were part of school premises. In many of these cases, therefore, the freeholder is ultimately the Council. The distribution of ownership is illustrated in Figure 14.

Catchment areas

- 5.3.17 While several of the Church of England respondents indicated that their catchment areas were local, reflecting the Parish boundary, other groups were more flexible in terms of their target catchments. The Baptist Churches reported no restriction in relation to 'parish' boundaries, while most of the groups in the other faith categories were both locally focussed but open to members from across the Borough and beyond. The catchment areas are represented by colour coding in Figure 15.

Growth aspirations

- 5.3.18 The majority of faith groups which responded are growing in terms of membership numbers, with aspirations to increase attendance and to make facilities more accessible to those who currently have difficulties. Approximately half of the groups (12 groups, or 54%) have aspirations to grow in the future and a number of respondents also wish to see an improvement to their existing facilities to accompany this growth. In regard to growth, about a quarter (6 groups) had undertaken a needs assessment or started to investigate the costs and mechanism for delivering their ambitions.
- 5.3.19 A total need of 38 new buildings or refurbished existing premises were identified from the survey responses. A summary of this is presented in Table 5.2:

Table 5.2: Summary of new premises/refurbishment requirements of responding faith groups

Faith denomination	No. of premises / buildings anticipated	Identified needs
Church of England	11	Extensions; purchase and refurbishment
Roman Catholic	-	-
Methodist	1	Refurbishment
United Reformed	1	Refurbishment
Baptist	1	Re-development
Chapels	-	-
Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	16	Site purchase / development (new land)
Other Christian Churches	3	Site purchase / development (new land)
Other	3	-
All groups	1	Multi-functional space for 1,000 people

Note: all costs and premises needs are estimated and relate to responding sample only.

- 5.3.20 In some cases, groups have not been able to forecast a specific number of buildings or amount of floorspace required over the period 2009-21. This study analysis has therefore assumed that groups with a growth aspiration but no specific floorspace target will only be able to deliver one substantial building in the period.
- 5.3.21 Specific requirements identified in the questionnaire responses are included in Table 5.3 overleaf:

Table 5.3: Identified needs of faith groups in Thurrock (from consultations)

Faith denomination	Name of organisation	Identified requirements	Work already undertaken
All	All	Multi-functional space for 1,000 people	None
Church of England	St Stephen's	Extension of existing building.	Architect plans ready for Council planners. It is expected that the total cost will be £150,000 - £180,000
Baptist	Grays Baptist Church	Extension of current facility to provide more community space	Looking to partner with the council
United Reformed	Grays United Reformed Church	Extension of existing facility.	Some costing undertaken.
Pentecostal/Gospel	The Restoration Centre	New place of worship	Premises identified in Tilbury. Need assistance with funding.
Pentecostal/Gospel	Grays Pentecostal Church	New place of worship – land required of 1-1.5 acres.	Unknown
Pentecostal/Gospel	Christ Apostolic Church – Noah's Ark	New place of worship around Tilbury – Chadwell St Mary or Grays.	None
Pentecostal/Gospel	The Kings Centre	6 new places of worship totalling 10,000 sq. feet.	Needs assessment for growth/premises in progress
Pentecostal/Gospel	New Covenant Church	4 new premises	None
Pentecostal/Gospel	Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministry	New place of worship	Unknown
Pentecostal/Gospel	Proclaimers Sanctuary	New place of worship	Would like to purchase property within Thurrock area – surveys undertaken on premises up to the value of £500,000
Pentecostal/Gospel	Redeemed Christian Church of God	New place of worship	Needs assessment undertaken. Want a building with the capacity for 500 people. Estimated cost £500,000 - £1 million.

Faith denomination	Name of organisation	Identified requirements	Work already undertaken
Other Christian	Transformation Thurrock	New office space	Unknown
Other Christian	Thurrock Christian Fellowship	Permanent premises in Tilbury	Have made attempts to acquire facilities but beaten by developers.
Other Christian	Christ Destiny Arena All Nation Christian Centre	New place of worship	Have identified vacant Methodist Church in Chadwell St Mary for refurbishment.
Other Christian	Chafford Hundred Community Church	New place of worship	Needs assessment undertaken.
Other	Sai Baba	Expansion of existing facilities	Unknown
Other	Hindu Sabha	New Hindu Temple	Unknown
Other	Open Door Christian Centre	New place of worship	Looked into moving to buildings but unable to gain council consent due to industrial location.

Note: all premises needs are estimated and relate to responding sample only.

5.3.22 Faith groups' premises requirements vary in size: one group is looking for a space with the capacity to take 500 people, while another group has identified a need for six new buildings. However, amongst most groups there appears a general perception that it is difficult to acquire space/facilities for religious buildings, and it appears that a level of capacity building of skills and resources may be required. Where work has been done to assess needs and premises availability, it includes research into where buildings are available/being disposed of. However, one respondent commented that it is difficult to proceed with any plans unless there are more concrete ideas about funding.

5.3.23 With an estimated need for four new sites on or adjacent to major housing developments identified by applying the Three Dragons standards; and 38 new premises identified through direct consultation with faith groups, Thurrock Council will need to work with faith groups to identify which needs are best met on strategic sites and which through other forms of provision – either through dedicated or shared facilities.

Funding

5.3.24 The most common source of funding for facilities for faith groups comes from donations from members and their congregations, together with gift aid and 'tithing' (a voluntary contribution of 10% of gross income). 60% of respondents (13 groups) cited donations as being a source of funding. Other common sources of funding listed in the responses included hiring fees, and occasional grants. Only two groups reported contracts as being a source of funding.

5.3.25 Faith groups' budgets appear to be proportional to their size, with the smallest having an annual average budget of between £10,000 and £25,000 and the largest having a budget of over £250,000 per year. A thematic map showing the range of Faith Groups budgets is shown in Figure 16. The majority of respondents do not anticipate there being a change

in their sources of funding in the foreseeable future. However, a couple of survey responses highlighted a concern that the recession may see a change in the levels of funding they receive.

Improvements to Council services

- 5.3.26 Of the groups that responded, some provided substantial comments to the questions in this section of the survey, while others provided very little feedback. The five areas addressed in the survey were: service delivery, democratic participation, access to buildings, communications and training.

Service Delivery

- 5.3.27 In terms of improvements to Council service delivery, a common theme amongst the responses was the issue of increased engagement by the Council with faith groups to develop mutual understanding of services and activities. One respondent also expressed interest in assisting the Council to deliver services. Information and communication was identified as an important aspect of service delivery, with suggestions made for improvements to the website, the introduction of SMS messaging and email to convey information, and an official directory of faith groups.

Democratic Participation

- 5.3.28 The theme of partnership also featured in responses to the question of improved democratic participation. While one group felt that participation worked well as local Councillors represented their views, others suggested improved partnership working with faith groups and increased engagement with all groups in the community. Other comments suggested improved communication of the value of Community Forums, and raising awareness of the role of various Council committees. Improved user consultation and feedback was also suggested.

Access to Buildings and the Built Environment

- 5.3.29 The question relating to access to buildings generated a strong consensus amongst those that responded around the use of the Council's asset base. Specific suggestions included producing a directory of all buildings available to faith groups to lease or buy at low cost or free, permitting faith groups to use the buildings identified, and making specific provision for mixed race groups as well as BME groups. Information on support to groups in relation to premises was also suggested. There was also a recommendation for improved wheelchair access/lifts in all Council buildings, and more security/police patrols in parks and recreation grounds known to be anti-social behaviour hotspots.

Communications

- 5.3.30 Responses to communications issues reflected the themes of increased engagement and better information raised under other questions. The improved use of existing media was suggested, including making the website more dynamic and accessible, as well as using traditional printed material, flyers and adverts where budgets allow. One respondent suggested improving awareness of 'who's who' in the Council and the responsibility for services between different departments. The view was also expressed that communication is mostly one-way, and that better engagement is needed to create dialogue.

Training

- 5.3.31 Feedback on training ranged from the very positive ('excellent'), to indifferent where groups had not experienced or used any Council training services. One respondent reported having received 'very helpful' support from the Thurrock CVS, but others felt that most training was within the sector and that the Council needed to provide more structured support, raising awareness of provision and addressing the specific needs of charities supporting social needs. Identified training needs included: health and safety, food hygiene, IT, legal, management, funding, and CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks.

5.4 Workshop results

- 5.4.1 This section outlines the issues emerging from the workshop with faith groups held in Stage 3 of the study to validate the baseline research and explore delivery issues.

Mapping of the faith sector

- 5.4.2 While the development of a combined database of faith groups and mapping their use of premises was useful to get a picture of the scale and distribution of the sector, the sector is likely to be much larger than this as many groups do not feature on official lists and have not engaged with the authorities in some cases. A number of additional groups were identified in the mapping review, and a list of these can be found in Appendix 1. The faith groups maps have been amended accordingly.

Growth issues

- 5.4.3 The workshop identified that faith groups have significant challenges in meeting current needs and securing appropriate premises for their activities. There was concern that with incremental growth through in-migration there would be a large increase in demand, irrespective of future planned population growth. Such incremental growth would not necessarily trigger thresholds for new provision, placing additional pressures on existing premises. The scarcity of appropriate premises is already leading to faith groups identifying non-traditional locations for their buildings and premises, e.g. industrial estates, but these often faced objection at planning stage on land use, parking or environmental grounds.
- 5.4.4 The nature of growth in the faith sector, led in large part by Pentecostal/Gospel churches, has led to a growth in demand for larger premises with higher tolerance for noise. This has caused some conflict with planning policies and environmental protection legislation, as several proposals have related to industrial premises. However, there is a case for introducing mixed uses into industrial areas to keep frontages alive and animate areas outside of office hours. With sensitive planning and appropriate environmental guidance, such locations might assist in meeting the need for premises while protecting the amenity of residential areas.
- 5.4.5 Most participants felt that in the future there would be a need to grow further. It was suggested that a key constraint is a lack of technical support to groups to negotiate the planning and funding process. Faith groups consider that there is a lack of clear guidance on which locations and types of premises are appropriate in planning and environmental terms. Further guidance and assistance from the Council is sought. Participants also felt the Council's planning department could work more closely with faith groups to help them resolve tensions on planning issues such as with English Heritage in relation to the adaptation of faith buildings (e.g. Churches).

Support needs

- 5.4.6 The participants felt that while faith groups make a big contribution to the community, this is not recognised appropriately by policy makers in the Borough. In particular, it was felt that a more co-ordinated and committed level of support from Thurrock Council was necessary, including ensuring that the Local Area Agreement indicators and targets reflected the activities of faith groups. A strong message from faith groups was that the Council should proactively support them by offering advice and support in regulatory issues, e.g. environmental health issues (noise), access, fire safety, and planning (land use policy, identifying appropriate sites, and establishing guidelines on suitable premises).
- 5.4.7 Overall, a key message was the need for improved dialogue with the Council. In light of the LDF's long term nature, there was a need expressed for improved communication and engagement to ensure that there can be better mutual understanding of faith group needs as well as the planning and regulatory framework.

Delivery issues

- 5.4.8 The issue of co-operation and partnership was raised as a key issue. A number of disused buildings were identified which could be brought back into use for faith groups if there was increased co-operation between faith groups, the Council and the Development Corporation. The possibility of faith groups, particularly Christian Groups, working together was also raised with regard to developing shared facilities.
- 5.4.9 Increasing the supply of premises could also be achieved by increased engagement with the extended schools agenda, including use of school premises at weekends. The asset base provided by libraries, community halls and theatres was also highlighted, with support from the Council required to promote this at a corporate level. A need for a large 1000-seat venue was also identified; the potential to bring the State Cinema back into use was suggested, reflecting its previous use for large religious gatherings (e.g. for Billy Graham meetings).
- 5.4.10 Some groups have resources available to invest in new premises, and require support from the Council to help them identify and secure the new sites. The need for support with funding applications and project plans was also identified, with Thurrock CVS highlighted as a key support resource.

Key policy messages

- 5.4.11 The key message arising from the workshop was one of dialogue and consultation. The Council was encouraged to engage with the sector on an on-going basis to identify the needs of specific groups and to help find solutions to individual issues. Participants felt that a range of flexible and open-minded planning policies, backed up with technical advice and proactive support and policies would be a strong way forward.

6 Conclusions and recommendations

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 This Final Report presents a broad analysis of future premises needs of faith groups in Thurrock. The report has identified that many faith groups are currently ill-equipped to advise on their specific premises needs; having limited knowledge of their own future needs and the planning system more generally. To ensure robust conclusions can be reached, comprehensive and on-going dialogue is required through representative and effective engagement of this sector by the Council. The scope of this goes beyond the brief for this study.
- 6.1.2 The study process highlighted the lack of a centralised database of all faith groups in the Borough and the paucity of evidence about their premises, their current issues and future needs. The study has enabled a database to be established, which can be developed as additional faith groups are identified. The study has also enabled general conclusions to be drawn about the distribution and condition of premises used by faith groups in the Borough, and about their growth aspirations and support needs. In particular, the report highlights the difficulty in making specific allocations of land and buildings to meet faith groups' needs over the next 15-20 years, as they face significant physical, bureaucratic and financial challenges in meeting even current needs and require technical assistance, financial resources, and bureaucratic support to grow successfully in the future.
- 6.1.3 The study has engaged faith groups in the debate about future needs and support requirements, and has established a directory of groups that wish to be involved in developing dialogue through a Faith Forum. The on-going process of engagement is likely to provide greater understanding of needs and ways of working together to meet these needs.
- 6.1.4 While the study results are not based on a comprehensive and fully representative response from faith groups in the Borough, a number of conclusions can be drawn about the sector and some key recommendations can be identified. These are presented below.

6.2 Research findings

- 6.2.1 Thurrock is growing – in both dwellings and population, and will continue to grow to 2021. This will place demands on existing faith facilities and will necessitate additional facilities in some locations where significant growth occurs; in particular as a result of growth in the existing urban areas, coupled with the possible urban extensions.

Planning policy context

- 6.2.2 A review of current planning policy and recent literature on faith groups and premises requirements revealed no clear guidance on providing for future needs to support growth and development.

Level of engagement

- 6.2.3 Non-Christian faith groups are less likely to be part of existing networks and to participate formally in the community and voluntary sector. The study has identified a very small number of non-Christian groups, with response from them being very limited at this stage. A higher proportion of Baptist churches and Pentecostal churches participated in the study than other groups. Increased and on-going engagement will be needed to ensure that the needs of all groups can be identified and addressed.

Existing premises

- 6.2.4 Faith groups premises are distributed evenly across the Borough, with no apparent pattern other than a small concentration of Chapels in West Thurrock, other denominations in Grays, and Pentecostal Churches in Tilbury. One of these Pentecostal Churches has one of the highest levels of regular attendance of any group in the borough. The main concentrations of all groups are in the urban areas, especially Grays. This distribution is likely to provide a good basis to meet the future needs of a growing population.
- 6.2.5 Most premises are used for a wide range of services by faith groups, for informal community activities to more organised social, religious and learning activities. Attendance at faith premises range from around ten into the hundreds. Some groups have large memberships but no permanent base.
- 6.2.6 The condition of existing premises cannot be conclusively assessed due to the nature of this study, however, it appears that the faith group facilities in the Borough are mainly in reasonable condition. Based on survey responses, most are adequate for their use in terms of size and capacity, although several groups wish to expand their activities and are searching for larger premises. Some groups feel under-provided for, and would welcome support to help them acquire new premises. Some facilities require substantial internal improvements, including disabled access.

Future premises needs

Future premises needs – based on standards

- 6.2.7 Future growth of the sector is difficult to assess. However, the context chapter and the responses to the questionnaires and workshop confirmed that Thurrock is expected to grow significantly to 2021 and this is likely to require the provision of new faith premises.
- 6.2.8 With the lack of formal guidelines for the provision of faith facilities, a set of standards has been devised by Three Dragons in their study for Cambridgeshire Horizons. Three Dragons have asserted that major new developments (of over 2,000 dwellings) should have faith premises planned from the start. Using the Three Dragons figure of 0.5 ha. of free or heavily discounted land per 3,000 new dwellings, this would result in the following need across Thurrock:
- Remaining housing growth to 2021 = 13,550
 - $13,550 / 3,000 = 4.52$
 - $4.52 \times 0.5 \text{ (ha.)} = 2.26$
 - Total of **2.26 ha. of land required to 2021**
- 6.2.9 The Three Dragons report suggests a site of less than 0.5 ha. is insufficient to serve growing congregations and support a range of community facilities. This would result in Thurrock needing to provide a minimum of **four 0.5 ha. sites by 2021**.
- 6.2.10 Using the Christian Research data, if 6% of the population were to attend a Christian Church (assuming 2,000 dwellings equated to 4,500 additional population), Thurrock would require land for faith premises for Christian groups alone to accommodate an additional 2,033 people by 2021.
- 6.2.11 As illustrated in Table 3.3 previously, we understand that in only three locations in Thurrock, housing allocations are likely to exceed the trigger for new faith facilities as defined by Three Dragons. Indicative future need in these locations is as follows:

- 6.2.12 Housing allocations in North East Grays and Stanford-le-Hope/Corringham will accommodate fewer than the threshold for triggering a need for new facilities as defined in the Three Dragons report. In these locations, future requirements will therefore need to be identified on a more local basis. Concerns were raised in the workshop that a number of smaller developments could cumulatively result in a need for a new premises which may not get addressed.

Future premises needs – based on consultation

- 6.2.13 The majority of groups that responded to the questionnaire have aspirations to grow. Over half of these believe they will need more premises to do so, but only a quarter of respondents have undertaken any planning or assessment of costs – and even where this exists, it is mostly on a basic level.
- 6.2.14 The nature of the sector and the changing ethnic and demographic structure of Thurrock makes it difficult for groups to identify specific future needs. The nature of potential growth is not clear and faith groups themselves generally do not plan in such a strategic way. Further dialogue is needed to identify specific premises needs.
- 6.2.15 The majority of respondents to the questionnaire and the workshop attendees were unable to identify specific future needs. The large catchment area of many faith premises, sometimes beyond the borough boundaries, makes it difficult to plan for future needs on the basis of population and demographic change. However, some specific buildings have been identified, together with a need for planning policy to be flexible.
- 6.2.16 A requirement for 38 new or refurbished buildings was identified by respondents. However, it should be noted that these responses were from individual organisations who may have their need satisfied by a new facility developed by another organisation. For example in responses from Pentecostal/Gospel churches it is unclear whether the identified need by one organisation for 6 new facilities and 4 new facilities identified by another could represent an element of double counting.
- 6.2.17 These 38 identified requirements are tabulated in table 5.3.

Support needs

- 6.2.18 The faith sector in Thurrock has expressed a desire for support from the public authorities to build their capacity to take part in the planning process, reduce delays and expense, and deliver successful projects.
- 6.2.19 Faith groups want stronger advice and direction on appropriate locations and what options are available, e.g. in industrial areas. They would benefit from closer contact within the Council and other authorities where they can direct advice, in advance of issues emerging rather than during the planning process.
- 6.2.20 Faith groups also want support from the Council, where appropriate, to challenge what is seen as inflexible treatment of religious buildings by English Heritage. There is a vast amount of expertise and skill within the sector, as well as technical expertise available from the Thurrock Voluntary and Community Sector. This could be capitalised upon to build up the skills of the sector.

Funding and delivery

- 6.2.21 Funding appears to be mainly self-generated through donations and hire fees. Most groups do not see this situation changing, and do not appear to be focussed on considering the capital funding implications of any growth requirements. Some groups

expressed a need for support in terms of finding premises and developing funding strategies.

6.2.22 Increased partnership and co-operation within the sector and with the Council and Development Corporation could also serve to meet premises needs. A number of vacant and defunct buildings could be brought back into use to service community and faith needs, subject to policy support and a commitment to the faith sector. Partnership between faith groups, especially in relation to Christian denominations working together, could also maximise resources and deliver shared space, rather than vying for resources in competition.

6.2.23 Where more than one Faith Group requires space, a process needs to be put in place to choose between them. There are various options for who could carry out this function including the landowner, the Local Authority, a community forum, a local Development Trust, a Parish Council or internally between the groups themselves via the new Faith Forum.

Co-location and sharing of facilities

6.2.24 Whilst co-location of facilities is a popular idea within infrastructure planning as a means of providing more efficient use of space and a cost-effective solution to service provision, further research is needed into the potential of sharing premises specifically for faith groups.

6.2.25 The use of new buildings for faith groups combined with community space should be seriously considered. The consultation with faith groups highlighted that existing buildings are already used, where possible, for the provision of activities such as youth clubs, nurseries, general meetings and indoor sports. Where appropriate, policies should allow for the use of employment land for faith communities, providing planning conditions (e.g. access, design etc.) are met.

6.2.26 The findings of the literature review and the consultation suggest school buildings could be used at weekends. For example, for Christian groups who worship on a Sunday a school hall could act as a suitable space. The use of schools for faith groups has been successfully achieved in other areas, such as in Dudley where the congregation of the The Church of St Mary and St Francis (a branch of Holy Trinity Church in Wordsley) has met in the Bell Vue Primary School's junior hall for Sunday services for many years⁴.

6.3 Recommendations

Planning policy

6.3.2 The Council's planning policy should provide clear guidance on the appropriate locations for faith-based activity and key issues to be addressed in any proposals for new facilities arising from new development or a change of use of existing premises. The LDF could usefully provide clear policy criteria for the determination of new, or conversion of existing premises for use by faith groups, particularly in relation to the change of use from employment land.

6.3.3 Policy could be made more flexible to acknowledge that the release of employment land could serve community needs as well as Council needs. Decisions on where such changes of use could occur should consider the Employment Land Review and be in consultation with those faith groups interested in large spaces.

⁴ <http://www.belle-vue.dudley.gov.uk/parents-carers/worship.htm>

Ongoing engagement

- 6.3.4 One of the key messages emerging from the study is that immediate and on-going dialogue with faith groups is needed to identify and meet their needs. This will help engage faith groups in assisting with the development of planning policy, identifying regeneration sites and funding, and integrating into other areas of public policy.

Identifying and planning for future premises needs

- 6.3.5 The literature review and consultation exercises highlighted the possibility of using disused industrial units to house faith related activities. However, it is understood that planning applications in such locations are often refused. This may be in part due to there being no current policy guidance from Thurrock Council and partly due to a lack of understanding of the planning sector by faith groups. Encouragement of pre-application discussions may improve this situation. As suggested by the Three Dragons study, there are sometimes limited opportunities for changes of use from employment land to faith facilities. Groups need assistance from the Council in identifying appropriate sites that have good transport links and are suitable for change of use to faith and community facilities.
- 6.3.6 For larger groups, combined needs could be explored between different denominations of the same Faith, for example Christian groups. This was an idea suggested during the workshop and it is recommended that this is explored further with the Christian groups. It should be noted that the concept of multi-faith space can be contentious due to difficulties of sharing consecrated or holy space. Any suggestions for multi-faith space will need to be explored with the faith groups through a mechanism such as the faith forum.
- 6.3.7 The cumulative requirements of smaller development will need to be monitored by the Council to ensure appropriate provision is planned.

Support for faith groups

- 6.3.8 The sector would appreciate clearer direction on appropriate site locations and premises in advance of site acquisition and planning applications. This could be achieved by having a dedicated planning officer to work with faith groups to identify development opportunities and arrange pre-application discussions with groups.

Funding and delivery

- 6.3.9 For those groups who cannot, or are unwilling, to share facilities the Council should facilitate access to rentable built spaces and advise on associated planning issues. The Council should consider using their asset base and the potential opportunities arising from new development to increase the supply of premises.

Co-location and sharing of facilities

- 6.3.10 With a need to provide four new sites as part of the development of major housing schemes (through the application of the Three Dragons standards) and 38 new premises identified through direct consultation with faith groups, Thurrock Council will need to work with a number of groups who are willing to share facilities to ensure a critical mass of need can be met in these locations.
- 6.3.11 Exploring future needs for faith groups should be undertaken in parallel with assessing the wider needs of the community and new buildings can be designed to accommodate these needs. Increased co-ordination with the extended schools programme, together

with use of libraries, community halls and theatres could also help to deliver space for a range of faith-based uses. This will result in the potential for a more efficient use of land.

- 6.3.12 For smaller faith groups, who often cannot afford premises on the open market, the possibility of using sites such as these should be investigated. We understand there are approximately 60 schools in the authority and the possibility for using their facilities should be explored further with the Education Authority.

Equality actions'

- 6.3.13 Faith groups highlight that the Council has made progress in engaging with the sector, examples including the History through Faith Event in 2008. However some highlight a need to further develop links between the statutory sector and faith groups through a faith forum.
- 6.3.14 Most faith groups indicated that the Single Equality Scheme should include actions to facilitate the involvement of the sector in promoting equality and cohesion. There was also interest in developing actions to facilitate understanding between faith groups.
- 6.3.15 Faith groups consulted were also keen to be involved in the delivery of community services and wanted a closer working relationship with the council. The establishment of a faith forum was regarded as an important way of facilitating this but there was concern that local arrangements including community forums were not inclusive and have not contributed to better relationships between community groups, so better community structures were needed to include in particular BME groups and black churches.
- 6.3.16 Stronger support was also identified amongst the sector for commissioning arrangements, which provides opportunities for the faith sector to develop services that respond to local needs. .

Appendix 1: List of Faith Groups

Figure 1: Faith groups

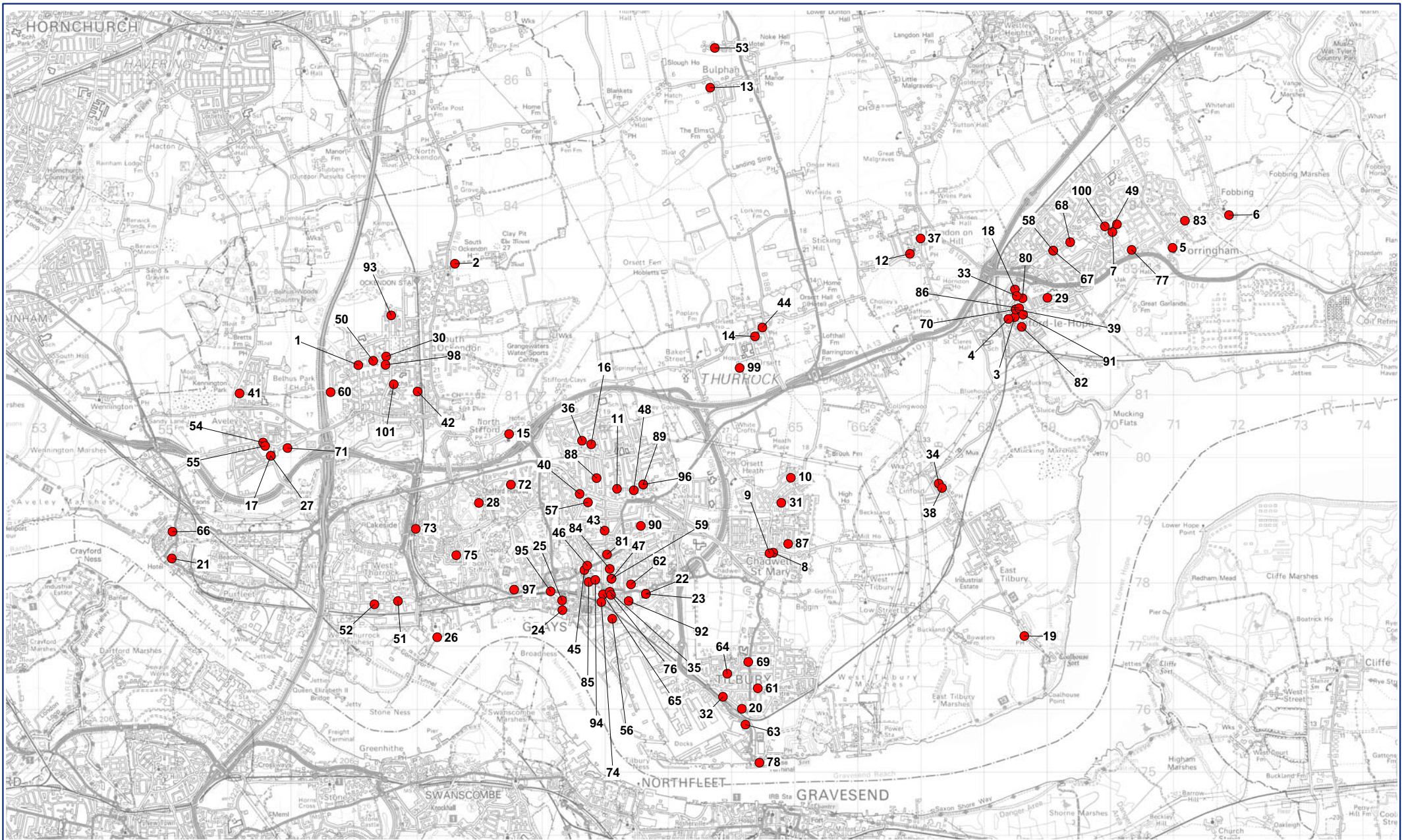
Map ref.	Faith Category	Name Of Facility	Postcode
1	Church of England	All Saints C of E Church	RM15 5HF
2	Church of England	St. Nicholas C of E Church	RM15 6SH
3	Church of England	St. Margaret's Parish Church,	SS17 0BY
4	Church of England	St. Margaret's Parish Hall	SS17 0EP
5	Church of England	St. Mary's Church	SS17 9AT
6	Church of England	St Michael's Church	SS17 9JW
7	Church of England	St. John the Evangelist	SS17 7PE
8	Church of England	St. Marys Church	RM16 4JS
9	Church of England	St. Mary	RM16 4DJ
10	Church of England	Emmanuel Church	RM16 4TP
11	Church of England	St. Johns Church	RM16 2RP
12	Church of England	St. Peter & St. Paul	SS17 8NS
13	Church of England	St. Mary the Virgin	RM16 3TU
14	Church of England	St. Giles, High Road, Orsett, Essex	RM16 3ER
15	Church of England	St. Mary's Church	RM16 5UE
16	Church of England	St. Cedd's Church	RM16 2AP
17	Church of England	St. Michaels Church	RM15 4HB
18	Church of England	St. Francis	SS17 0PQ
19	Church of England	St Catherine's Church	RM18 8PB
20	Church of England	St. Johns C of E Church	RM18 7PP
21	Church of England	St. Stephen's	RM19 1QD
22	Church of England	St. Mary the Virgin	RM17 6EX
23	Church of England	St Mary's Hall	RM17 6EX
24	Church of England	St. Peter & St. Paul	RM17 6LN
25	Church of England	St. Peter & St. Paul - Grays Parish Church Hall	RM17 6LL
26	Church of England	St. Clements	RM20 4AL
27	Church of England	St Michael's Church Aveley	RM15 4HB
28	Church of England	All Saints/Beacon Centre	RM16 6RW
29	Church of England	Fresh Hope Community	SS17 0NS
30	Roman Catholic	Holy Cross Church	RM15 5EJ
31	Roman Catholic	St. Joseph's R C Church	RM16 4QR
32	Roman Catholic	Our Lady Star of the Sea R C Church	RM18 7BT
33	Roman Catholic	Our Lady & St. Joseph R C Church	SS17 0PF
34	Roman Catholic	Linford R C Church	SS17 0QG
35	Roman Catholic	St. Thomas of Canterbury R C Church	RM17 6SR
36	Roman Catholic	St. Peter's R.C. Church	RM16 2JD
37	Methodist	Horndon on the Hill Methodist Church	SS17 8LN
38	Methodist	Linford Methodist Church	SS17 0QH
39	Methodist	Stanford le Hope Methodist Church	SS17 0EY
40	Methodist	Grays Methodist Church	RM17 5PU
41	Methodist	Aveley Methodist Church	RM15 4QX

Map ref.	Faith Category	Name Of Facility	Postcode
42	Methodist	South Ockendon Methodist Church	RM15 5PH
43	United Reformed	The Grays United Reformed Church	RM17 5XD
44	United Reformed	Orsett Congregational Church	RM16 3EO
45	Baptist	Grays Baptist Church	RM17 5HH
46	Baptist	Grays Baptist Community Facility	RM17 5JL
47	Baptist	Salisbury Road Baptist Church	RM17 6DG
48	Baptist	Socketts Heath Baptist Church	RM16 2SB
49	Baptist	Corringham & Stanford le Hope Baptist Church	SS17 7NG
50	Chapels	Belhus Park Chapel	RM15 5ET
51	Chapels	West Thurrock Chapel	RM20 3BJ
52	Chapels	Bulphan Zion Chapel	RM20 3HX
53	Chapels	Zion Mission Hall	RM14 3SP
54	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Kings Family Centre	RM15 4AX
55	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Kings Family Centre (2)	RM15 4BX
56	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Gates of Praise Christian Centre	RM17 6BG
57	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Kingsway International Christian Centre	RM17 5LL
58	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Corringham & SLH New Covenant Church	SS17 7DW
59	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Proclaimers Sanctuary	RM17 6DG
60	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Proclaimers Sanctuary Worship Centre	RM15 5JR
61	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Redeemed Christain Church of God (Tilbury Community Resource Centre)	RM18 8AD
62	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Redeemed Christain Church of God (House of Praise)	RM17 6SU
63	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Grays Pentecostal Church	RM18 7WA
64	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Resoration Centre Tilbury	RM18 7NX
65	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Spring of Life Chapel	RM17 6BZ
66	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	New Covenant Church (Purfleet Primary School)	RM19 1QE
67	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	New Covenant Church (Abbotts Hall Primary School, Corringham)	SS17 7DW
68	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Arthur Bugler Junior School	SS17 7BQ
69	Pentecostal/Gospel Churches	Christ Apostolic Church	RM18 8LH

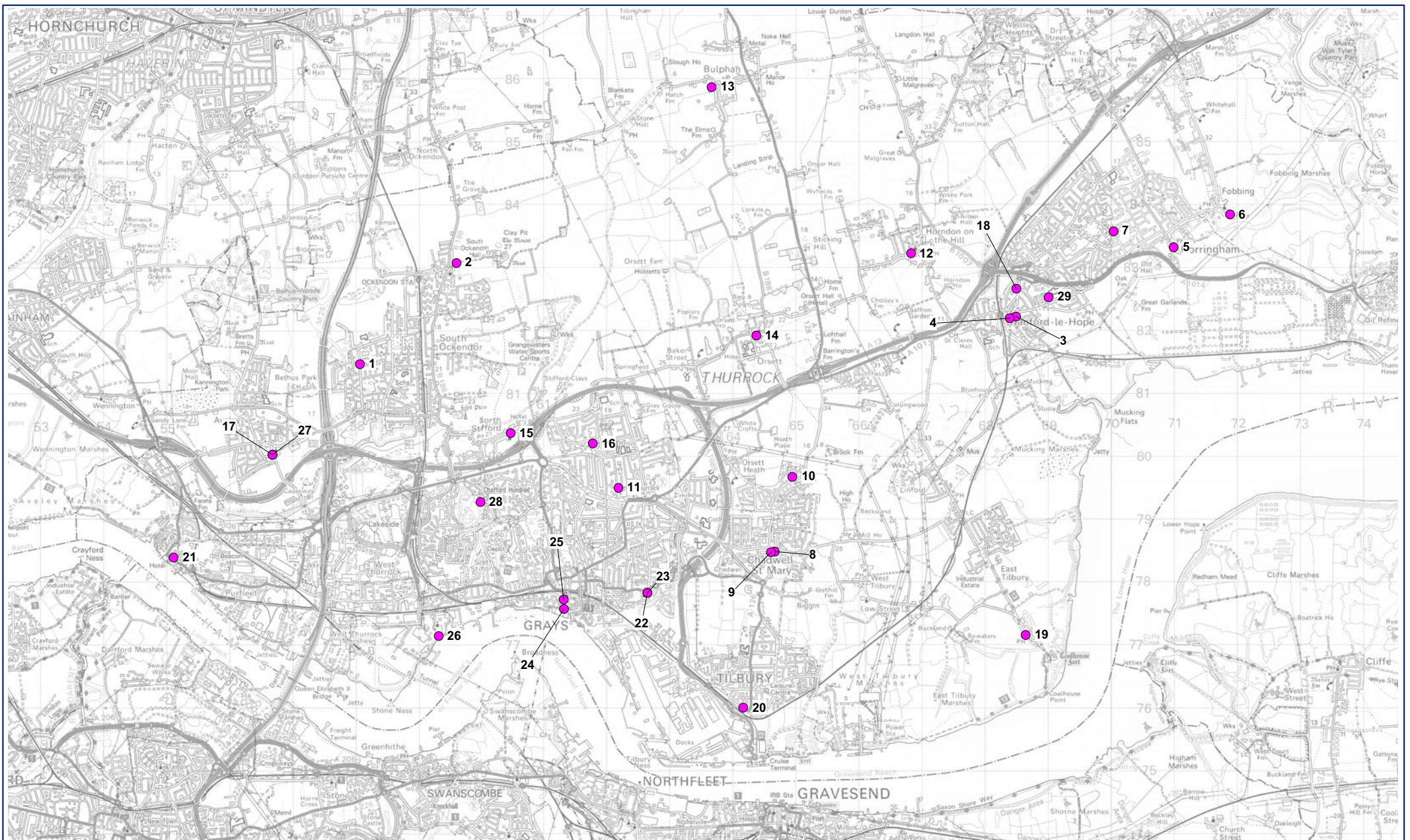
Map ref.	Faith Category	Name Of Facility	Postcode
70	Other christian churches	Gateway Community Church (Stanford)	SS17 0EY
71	Other christian churches	Aveley Christian Centre	RM15 4AB
72	Other christian churches	Chafford Hundred Community Church (Community Centre)	RM16 6PS
73	Other christian churches	Chafford Hundred Community Church (Church office)	RM16 6EW
74	Other christian churches	Celestial Light Church	RM17 6BU
75	Other christian churches	Victorious Faith Ministries	RM16 6EN
76	Other christian churches	Thurrock Christian Fellowship (All Saints Centre)	RM17 6ED
77	Other christian churches	Thurrock Christian Fellowship (Corringham Centre)	SS17 7PZ
78	Other christian churches	Thurrock Christian Fellowship (TRAAC Tilbury Riverside)	RM18 7NJ
79	Other christian churches	Faith and Freedom	
80	Other christian churches	Transformation Thurrock	SS17 0PA
81	Other christian churches	Transformation Thurrock	RM17 5UT
82	Other christian churches	Evangelical Church, Stanford-le-Hope	SS17 ODY
83	Other christian churches	Evangelical Church, Corringham	SS17 9BN
84	Other christian churches	Healing Rooms, The Old Tennis Courts	RM17 6DH
85	Other christian churches	Salvation Army (Grays)	RM17 6RA
86	Other christian churches	Salvation Army (Stanford-le-Hope)	SS17 0BX
87	Other christian churches	Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries	RM16 4NX
88	Other	Grays Seventh Day Adventists	RM16 2UJ
89	Other	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon)	RM16 2JU
90	Other	Grays Spiritualist Centre	RM17 5SJ
91	Other	Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses	SS17 0AH
92	Other	Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses	RM17 6EJ
93	Other	Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses	RM15 5AL
94	Other	Thurrock Jamme Masjeid (Mosque)	RM17 6RB
95	Other	Sikh Temple	RM17 6NF
96	Other	Mormon Church	RM16 2JU

Map ref.	Faith Category	Name Of Facility	Postcode
97	Other	Open Door Christian Centre	RM17 5YR
98	Other	Healing Touch	RM15 5EF
99	Other	Hindu Sabha	RM16 3JP
100	Other	Corring Hall (Spiritualist)	SS17 7LE
101	Other	The Culver Centre	RM15 5RR

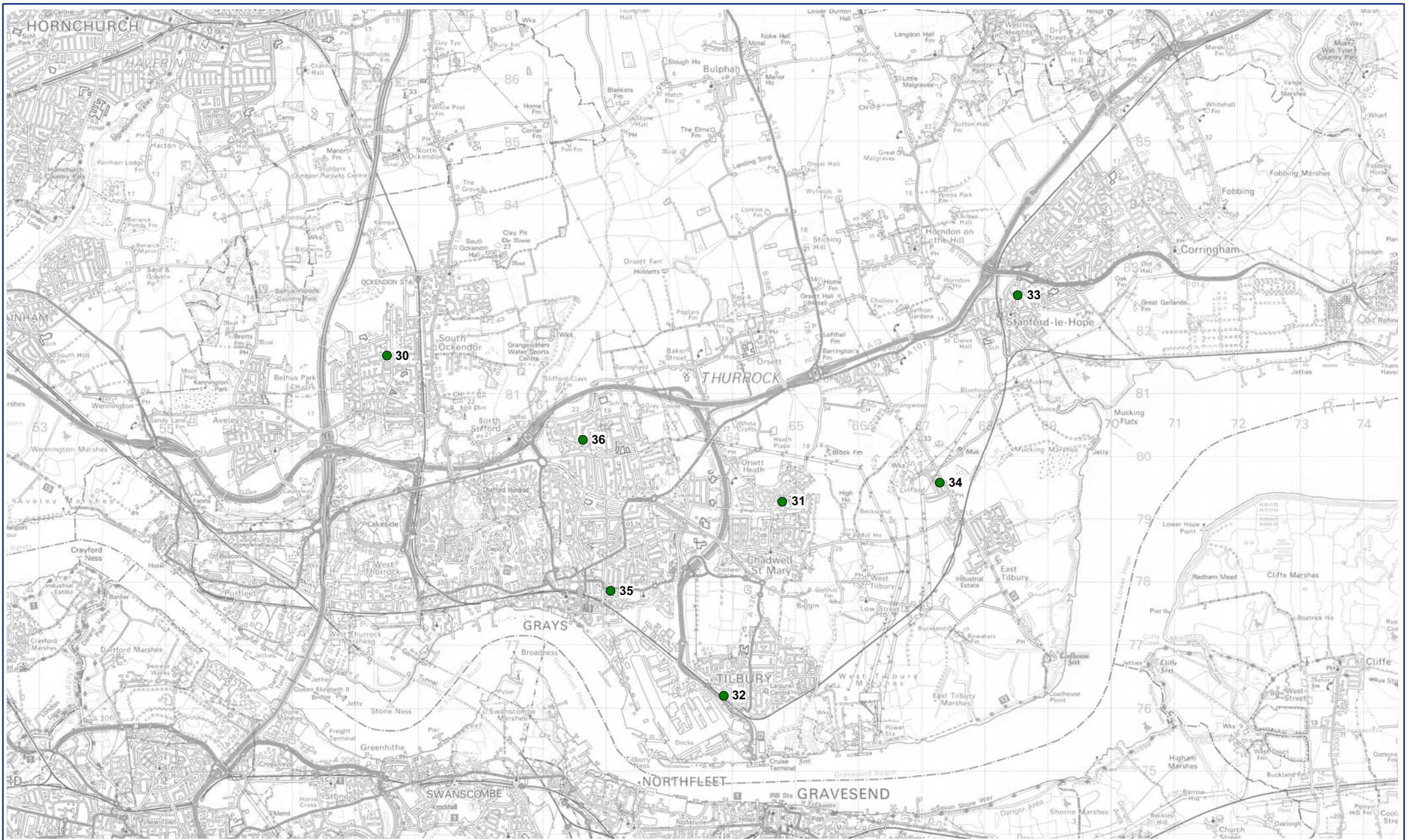
Appendix 2: Mapping of Faith Groups



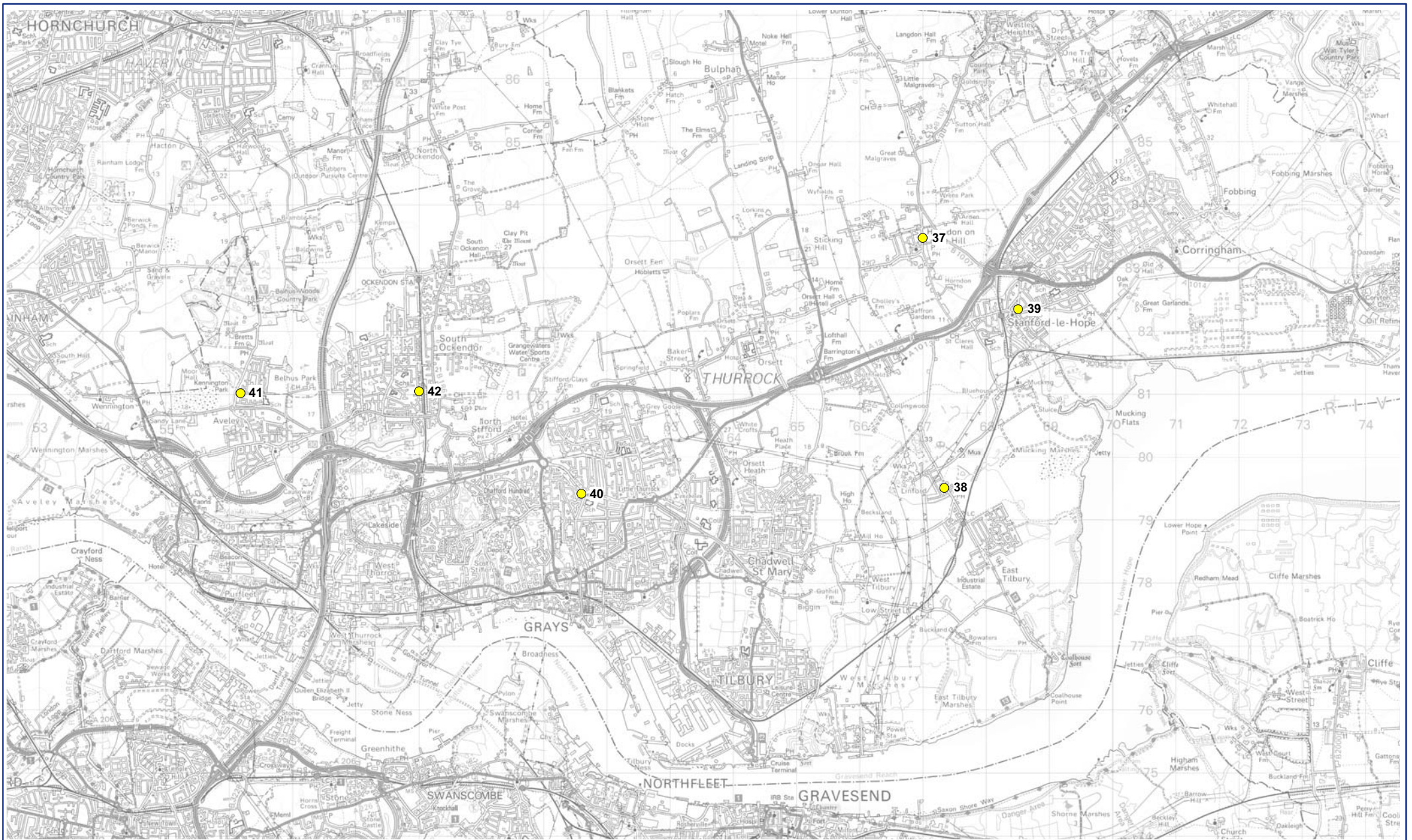
<p>Drawing Title</p> <p>Figure 2 - Location of faith groups' premises within Thurrock</p>	<p>Client</p> <p>Thurrock Borough Council</p> <p>Job Title</p> <p>Thurrock Faith Groups Infrastructure Study</p>	<p>10 Eastbourne Terrace Paddington London W2 6LG</p> <p>T 020 7053 1300 F 020 7053 1301 www.cbuchanan.co.uk</p>	<p>COLIN BUCHANAN</p>	<p>Scale: 1:55,000</p> <p>Designed by: TP</p> <p>Drawn by: TP</p> <p>Ckd/Appd: SA</p> <p>1st Issued: September 2009</p> <p>Job No: 16851-01-1</p>	<p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100017967</p>
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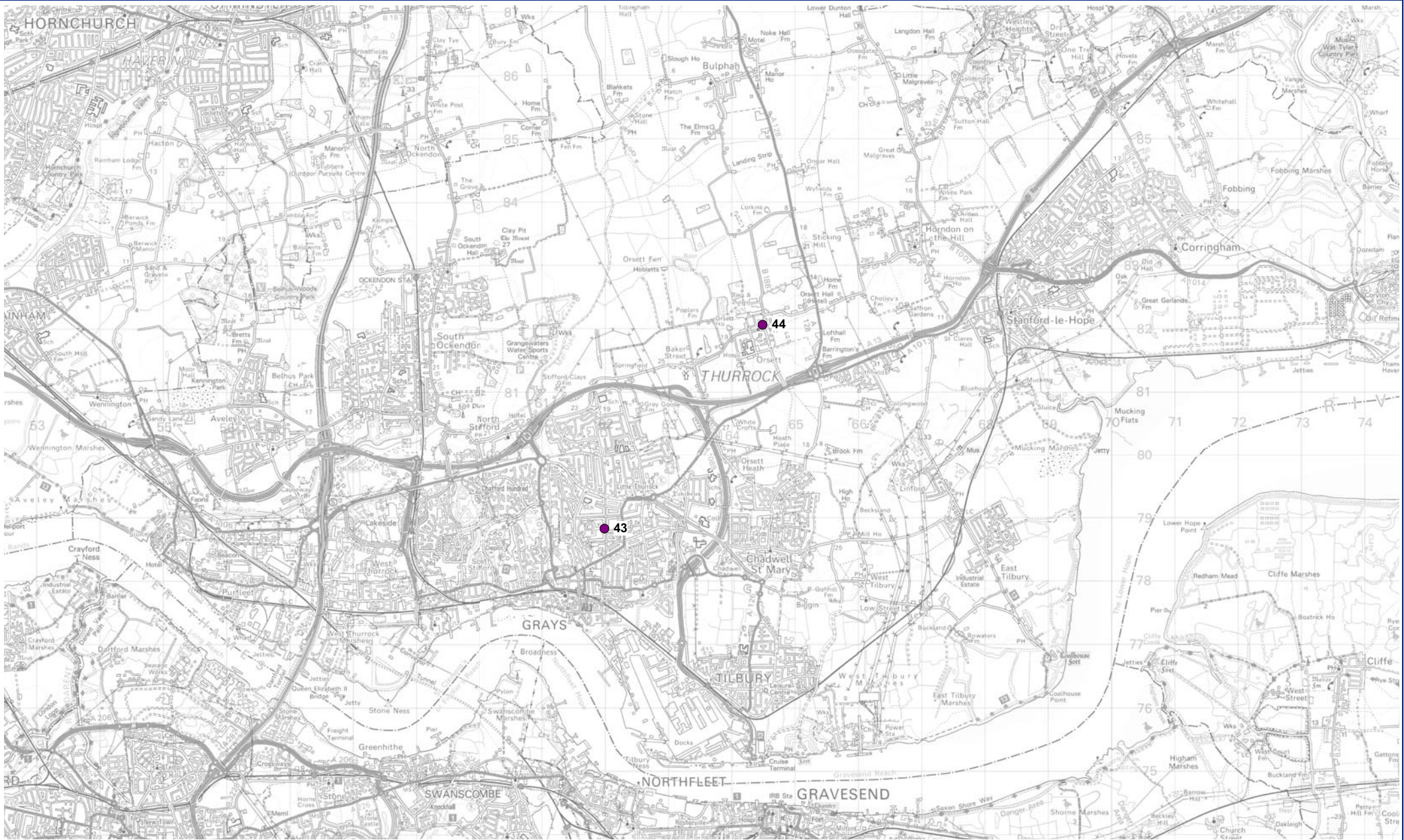
<p>Drawing Title</p> <p>Figure 3 Location of Church of England premises within Thurrock</p>	<p>Client</p> <p>Thurrock Borough Council</p> <p>Job Title</p> <p>Thurrock Faith Groups Infrastructure Study</p>	<p>10 Eastbourne Terrace Paddington London W2 6LG</p> <p>T 020 7053 1300 F 020 7053 1301 www.cbuchanan.co.uk</p>	<p>COLIN BUCHANAN</p>	<p>Scale: 1:55,000</p> <p>Designed by: TP</p> <p>Drawn by: TP</p> <p>Ckd/Appd: SA</p> <p>1st Issued: September 2009</p> <p>Job No: 16851-01-1</p>	<p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100017967</p>
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<p>Drawing Title</p> <p>Figure 4 - Location of Roman Catholic premises within Thurrock</p>	<p>Client</p> <p>Thurrock Borough Council</p> <p>Job Title</p> <p>Thurrock Faith Groups Infrastructure Study</p>	<p>10 Eastbourne Terrace Paddington London W2 6LG</p> <p>T 020 7053 1300 F 020 7053 1301 www.cbuchanan.co.uk</p>	<p>COLIN BUCHANAN</p>	<p>Scale: 1:55,000</p> <p>Designed by: TP</p> <p>Drawn by: TP</p> <p>Ckd/Appd: SA</p> <p>1st Issued: September 2009</p> <p>Job No: 16851-01-1</p>	<p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100017967</p>
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<p>Drawing Title</p> <p>Figure 5 - Location of Methodist premises within Thurrock</p>	<p>Client</p> <p>Thurrock Borough Council</p> <p>Job Title</p> <p>Thurrock Faith Groups Infrastructure Study</p>	<p>10 Eastbourne Terrace Paddington London W2 6LG</p> <p>T 020 7053 1300 F 020 7053 1301 www.cbuchanan.co.uk</p>	<p>COLIN BUCHANAN</p>	<p>Scale: 1:55,000</p> <p>Designed by: TP</p> <p>Drawn by: TP</p> <p>Ckd/Appd: SA</p> <p>1st Issued: September 2009</p> <p>Job No: 16851-01-1</p>	<p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100017967</p>



Drawing Title

Figure 6 - Location of United Reformed premises within Thurrock

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Thurrock Borough Council

Job Title

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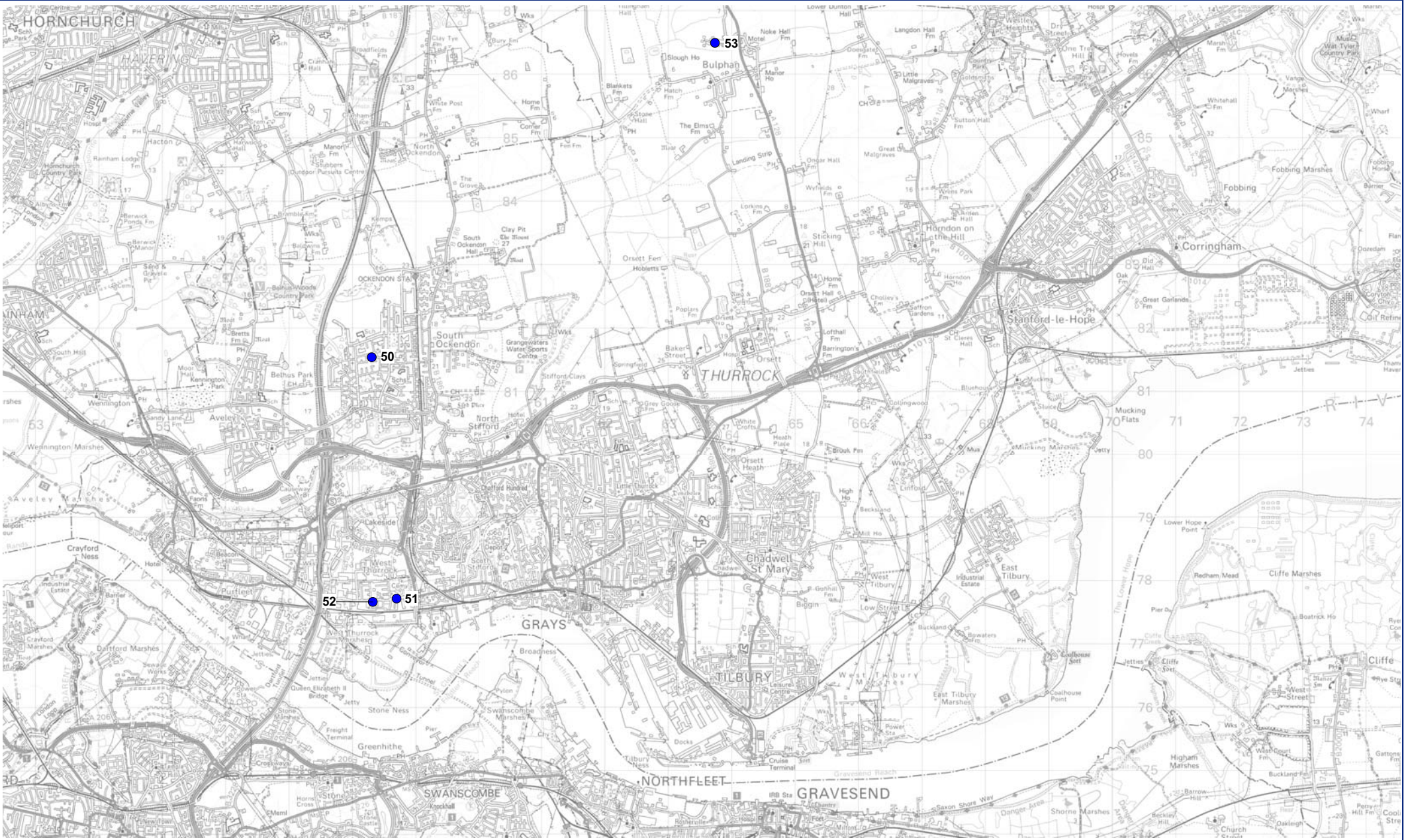
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<p>Drawing Title</p> <p>Figure 7 - Location of Baptist premises within Thurrock</p>	<p>Client</p> <p>Thurrock Borough Council</p>	<p>10 Eastbourne Terrace Paddington London W2 6LG</p> <p>T 020 7053 1300 F 020 7053 1301 www.cbuchanan.co.uk</p>	<p>COLIN BUCHANAN</p>	<p>Scale: 1:55,000</p> <p>Designed by: TP</p> <p>Drawn by: TP</p> <p>Ckd/Appd: SA</p> <p>1st Issued: September 2009</p> <p>Job No: 16851-01-1</p>	<p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100017967</p>
	<p>Job Title</p> <p>Thurrock Faith Groups Infrastructure Study</p>				



Drawing Title

Figure 8 - Location of Chapels within Thurrock

Client

Thurrock Borough Council

Job Title

Thurrock Faith Groups Infrastructure Study

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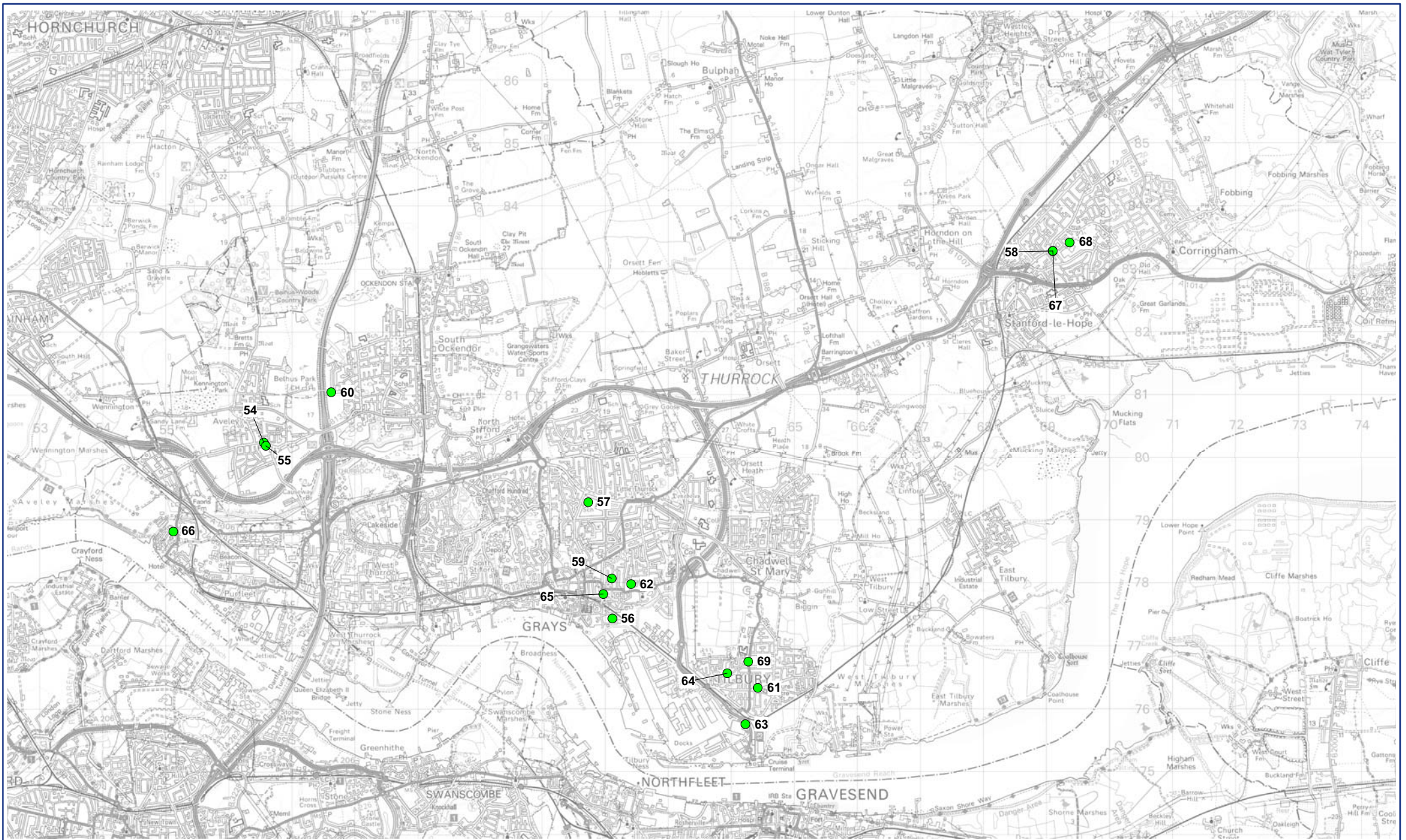
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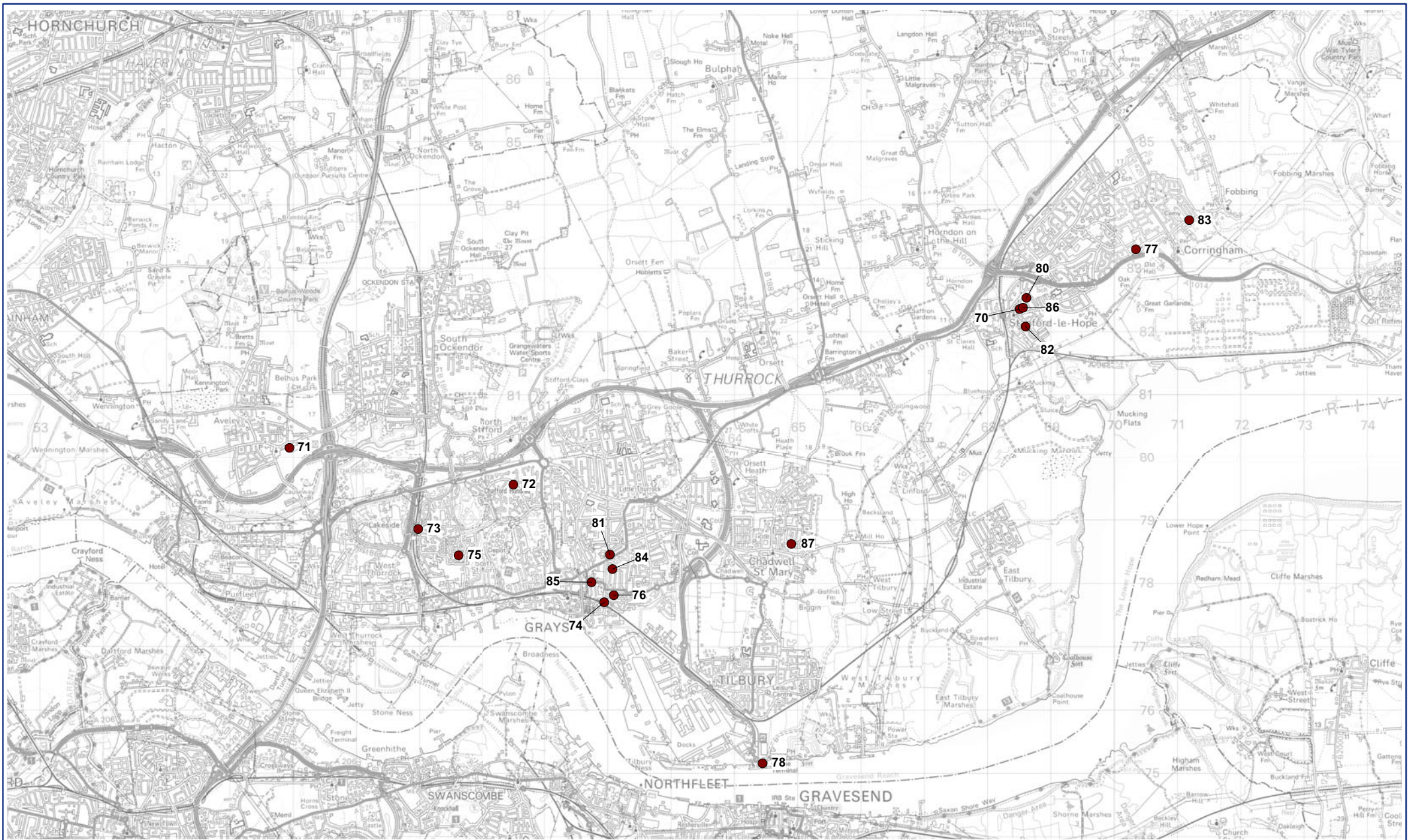
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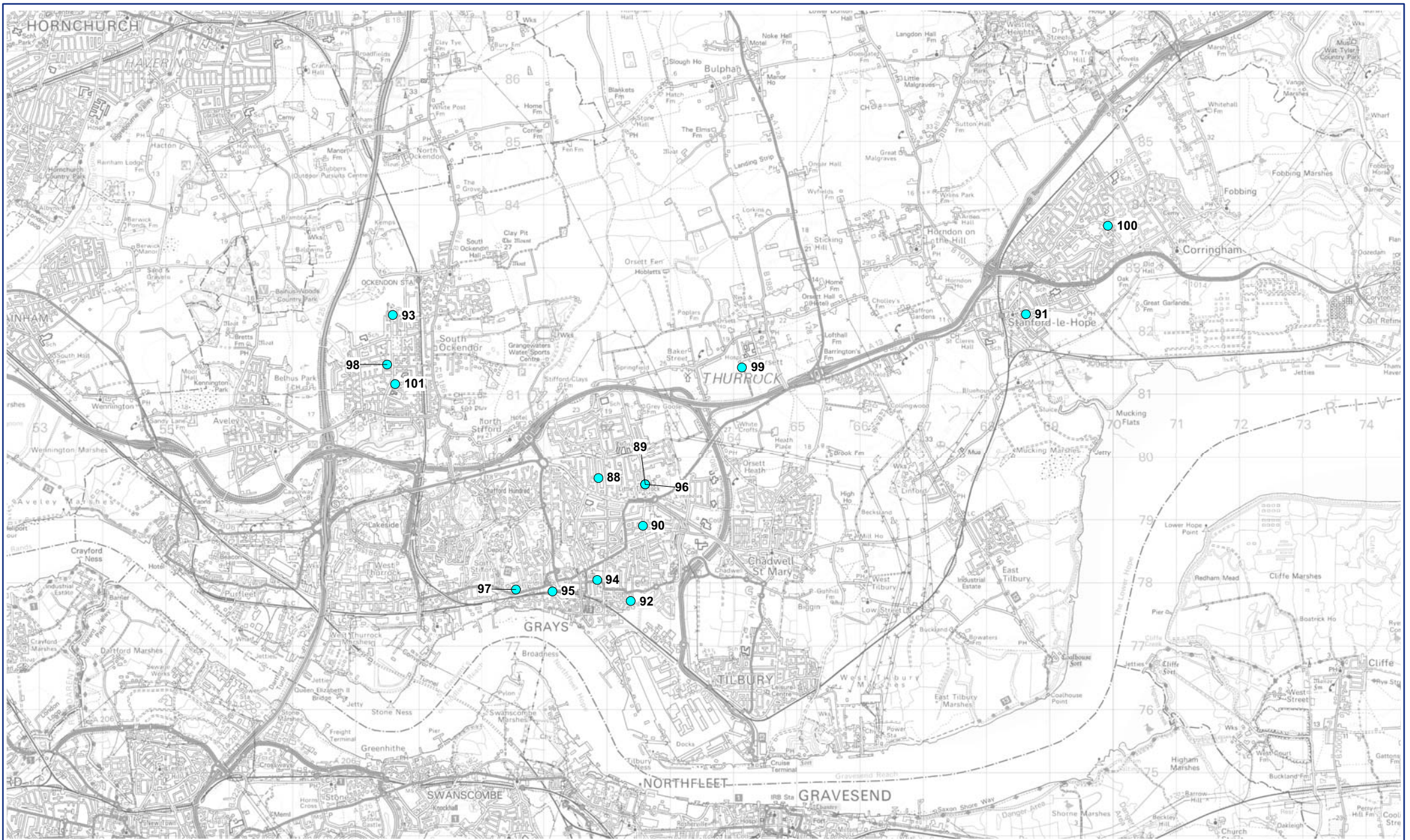
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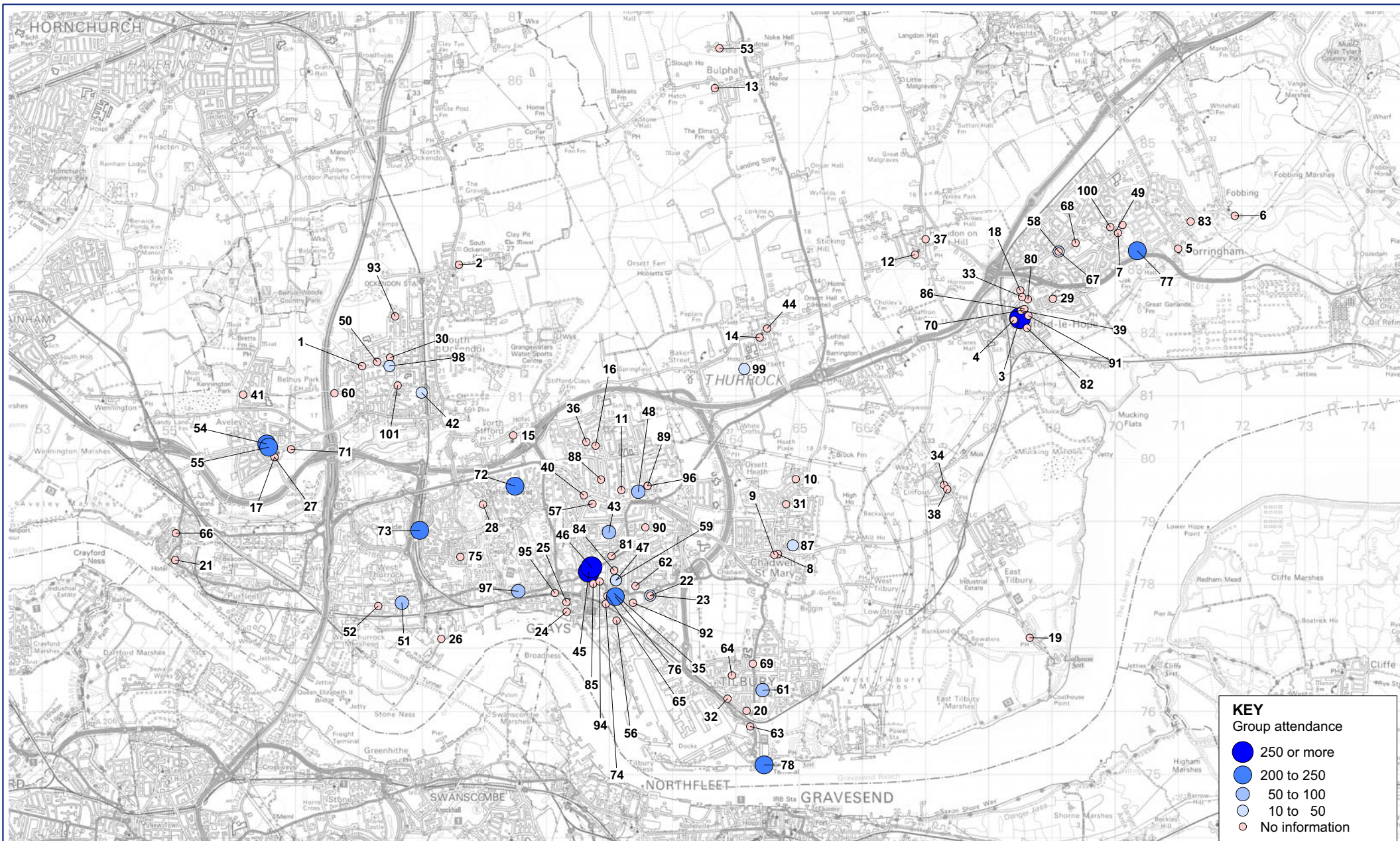
<p>Drawing Title</p> <p>Figure 9 - Location of Pentecostal /Gospel premises within Thurrock</p>	<p>Client</p> <p>Thurrock Borough Council</p> <p>Job Title</p> <p>Thurrock Faith Groups Infrastructure Study</p>	<p>10 Eastbourne Terrace Paddington London W2 6LG</p> <p>T 020 7053 1300 F 020 7053 1301 www.cbuchanan.co.uk</p>	<p>COLIN BUCHANAN</p>	<p>Scale: 1:55,000</p> <p>Designed by: TP</p> <p>Drawn by: TP</p> <p>Ckd/Appd: SA</p> <p>1st Issued: September 2009</p> <p>Job No: 16851-01-1</p>	<p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100017967</p>
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<p>Drawing Title</p> <p>Figure 10 - Location of other Christian Church premises within Thurrock</p>	<p>Client</p> <p>Thurrock Borough Council</p> <p>Job Title</p> <p>Thurrock Faith Groups Infrastructure Study</p>	<p>10 Eastbourne Terrace Paddington London W2 6LG</p> <p>T 020 7053 1300 F 020 7053 1301 www.cbuchanan.co.uk</p>	<p>COLIN BUCHANAN</p>	<p>Scale: 1:55,000</p> <p>Designed by: TP</p> <p>Drawn by: TP</p> <p>Ckd/Appd: SA</p> <p>1st Issued: September 2009</p> <p>Job No: 16851-01-1</p>	<p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100017967</p>
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<p>Drawing Title</p> <p>Figure 11 - Location of other religious premises within Thurrock</p>	<p>Client</p> <p>Thurrock Borough Council</p> <p>Job Title</p> <p>Thurrock Faith Groups Infrastructure Study</p>	<p>10 Eastbourne Terrace Paddington London W2 6LG</p> <p>T 020 7053 1300 F 020 7053 1301 www.cbuchanan.co.uk</p>	<p>COLIN BUCHANAN</p>	<p>Scale: 1:55,000</p> <p>Designed by: TP</p> <p>Drawn by: TP</p> <p>Ckd/Appd: SA</p> <p>1st Issued: September 2009</p> <p>Job No: 16851-01-1</p>	<p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100017967</p>
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Drawing Title

Figure 12 - Location of faith groups' premises within Thurrock with group attendance

Client

Thurrock Borough Council

Job Title

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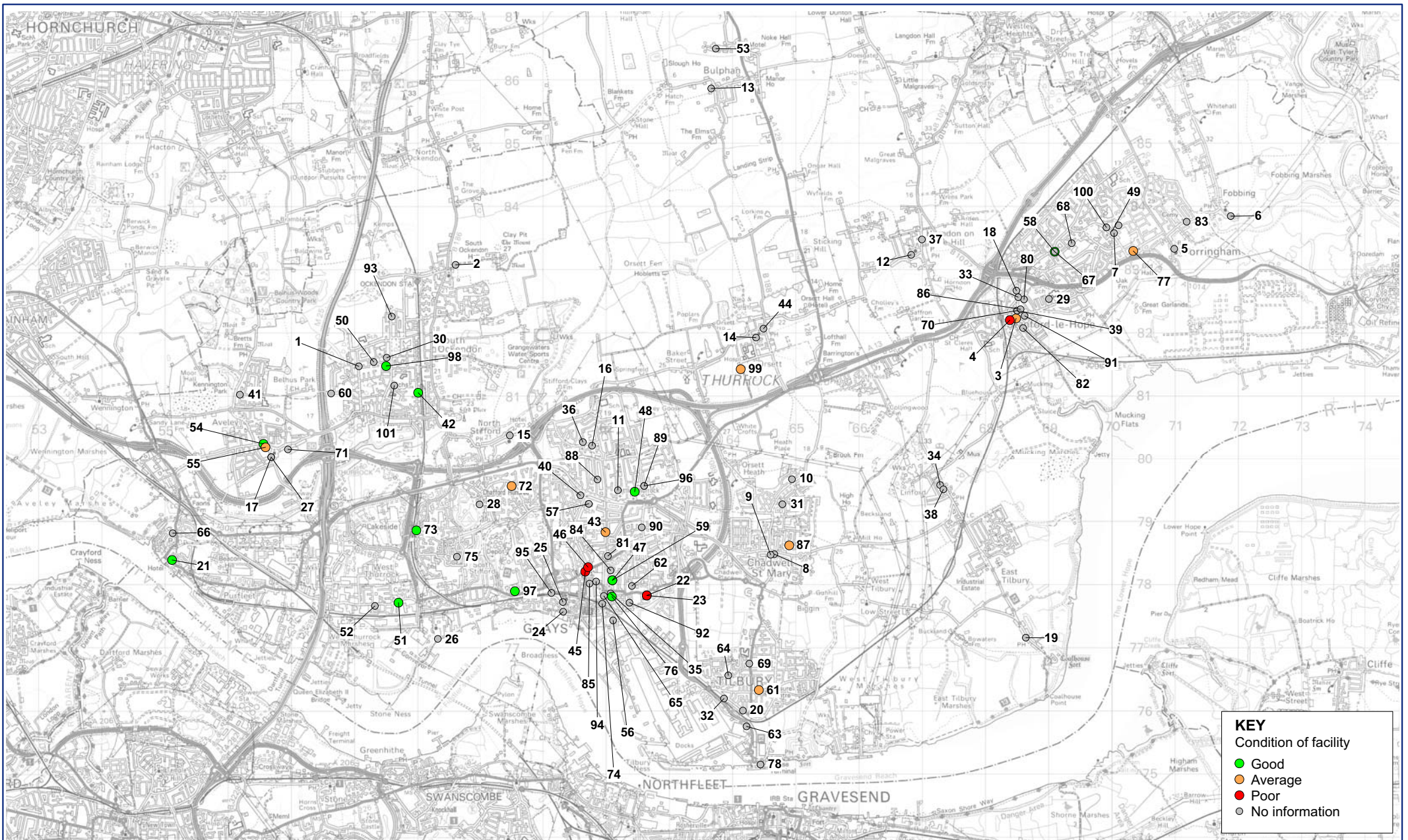
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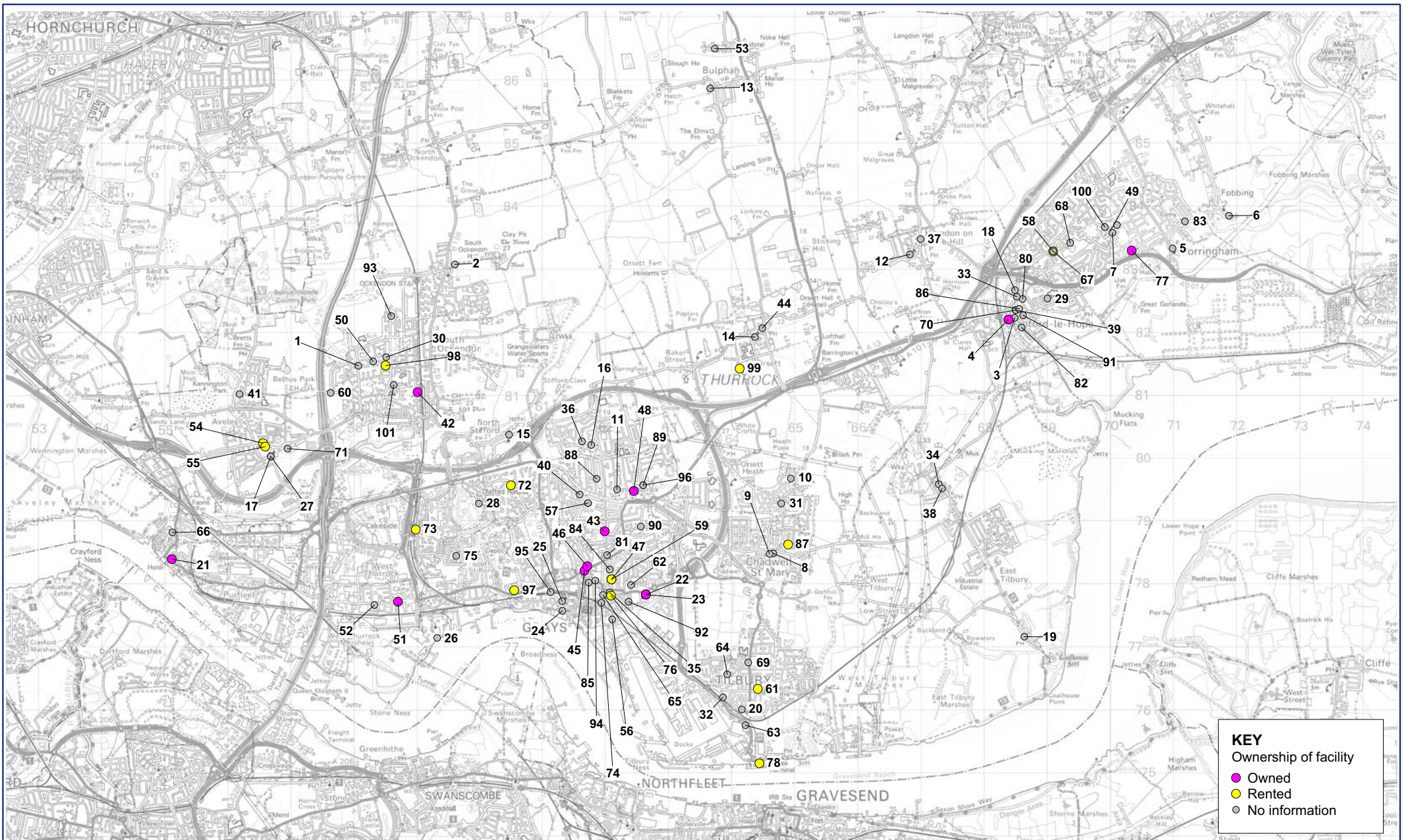
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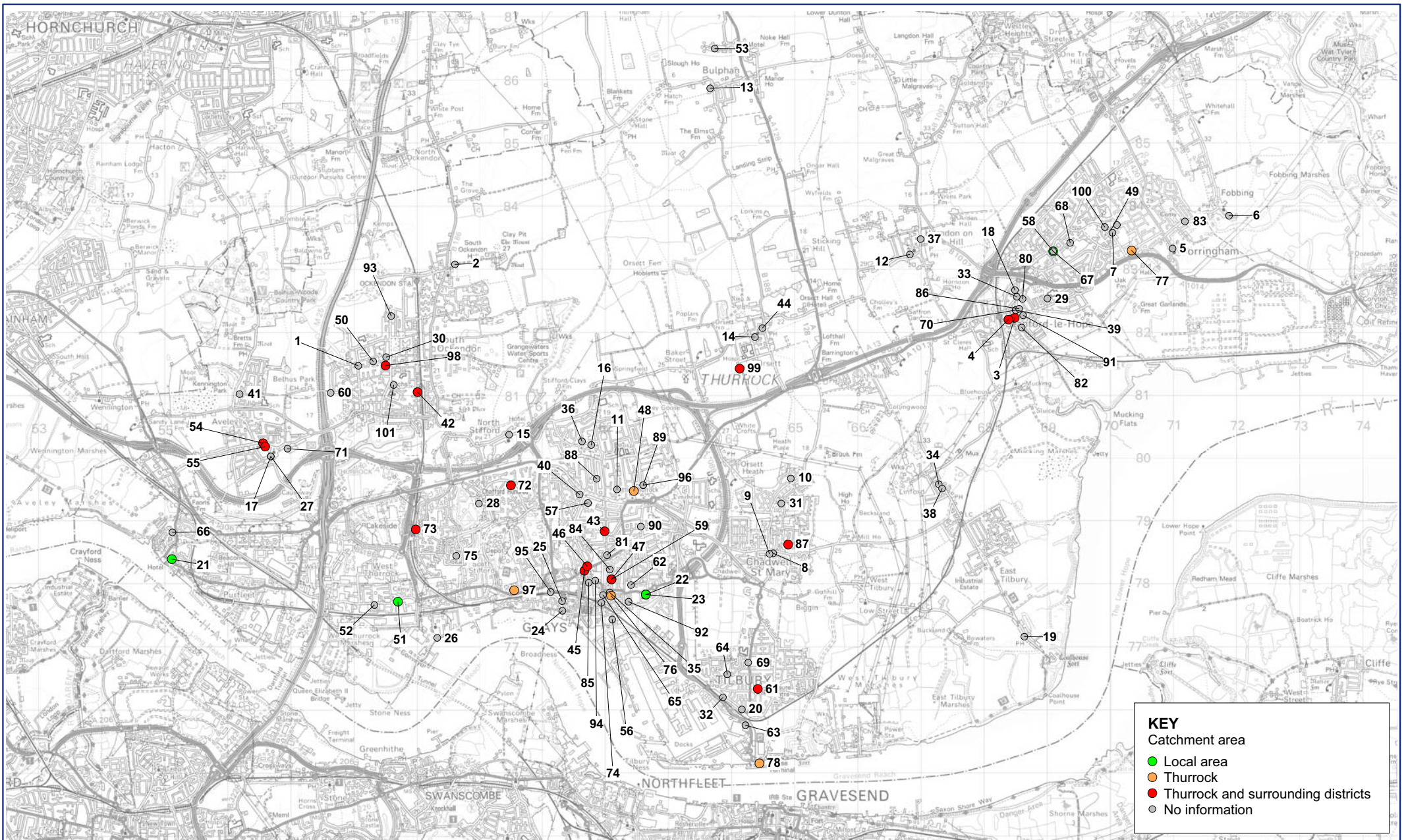
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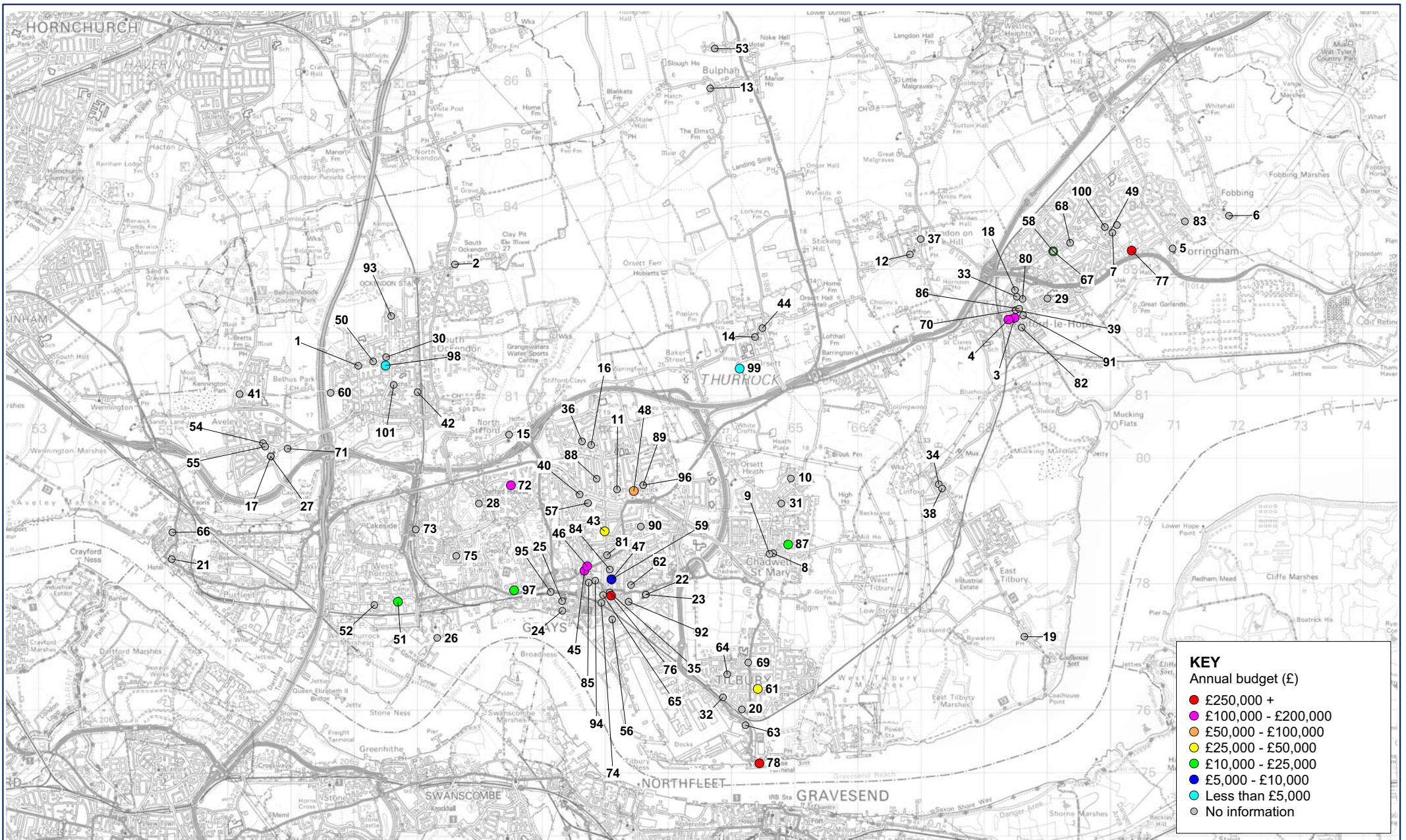
<p>Drawing Title</p> <p>Figure 13 - Location of faith groups' premises within Thurrock with condition of facility</p>	<p>Client</p> <p>Thurrock Borough Council</p> <p>Job Title</p> <p>Thurrock Faith Groups Infrastructure Study</p>	<p>10 Eastbourne Terrace Paddington London W2 6LG</p> <p>T 020 7053 1300 F 020 7053 1301 www.cbuchanan.co.uk</p>	<p>COLIN BUCHANAN</p>	<p>Scale: 1:55,000</p> <p>Designed by: TP</p> <p>Drawn by: TP</p> <p>Ckd/Appd: SA</p> <p>1st Issued: September 2009</p> <p>Job No: 16851-01-1</p>	<p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100017967</p>
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<p>Drawing Title</p> <p>Figure 14 - Location of faith groups' premises within Thurrock with ownership details</p>	<p>Client</p> <p>Thurrock Borough Council</p> <p>Job Title</p> <p>Thurrock Faith Groups Infrastructure Study</p>	<p>10 Eastbourne Terrace Paddington London W2 6LG</p> <p>T 020 7053 1300 F 020 7053 1301 www.cbuchanan.co.uk</p>	<p>COLIN BUCHANAN</p>	<p>Scale: 1:55,000</p> <p>Designed by: TP</p> <p>Drawn by: TP</p> <p>Ckd/Appd: SA</p> <p>1st Issued: September 2009</p> <p>Job No: 16851-01-1</p>	<p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100017967</p>
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<p>Drawing Title</p> <p>Figure 15 - Location of faith groups' premises within Thurrock with catchment areas</p>	<p>Client</p> <p>Thurrock Borough Council</p> <p>Job Title</p> <p>Thurrock Faith Groups Infrastructure Study</p>	<p>10 Eastbourne Terrace Paddington London W2 6LG</p> <p>T 020 7053 1300 F 020 7053 1301 www.cbuchanan.co.uk</p>	<p>COLIN BUCHANAN</p>	<p>Scale: 1:55,000</p> <p>Designed by: TP</p> <p>Drawn by: TP</p> <p>Ckd/Appd: SA</p> <p>1st Issued: September 2009</p> <p>Job No: 16851-01-1</p>	<p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100017967</p>
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<p>Drawing Title</p> <p>Figure 16 - Location of faith groups' premises within Thurrock with annual budgets</p>	<p>Client</p> <p>Thurrock Borough Council</p> <p>Job Title</p> <p>Thurrock Faith Groups Infrastructure Study</p>	<p>10 Eastbourne Terrace Paddington London W2 6LG</p> <p>T 020 7053 1300 F 020 7053 1301 www.cbuchanan.co.uk</p>	<p>COLIN BUCHANAN</p>	<p>Scale: 1:55,000</p> <p>Designed by: TP</p> <p>Drawn by: TP</p> <p>Ckd/Appd: SA</p> <p>1st Issued: September 2009</p> <p>Job No: 16851-01-1</p>	<p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100017967</p>
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Appendix 3: Survey Questionnaire

THURROCK FAITH GROUPS STUDY

A survey of Faith Groups' Premises Needs

Thurrock Council has commissioned consultants Colin Buchanan to investigate the premises needs of faith groups in Thurrock. The study will assess the current provision of premises and facilities for faith groups in Thurrock, and identify faith groups' future needs. This work will inform the Council's Local Development Framework and help the Council and 'Shaping Thurrock' – the Local Strategic Partnership - to plan how best to meet the needs of faith groups in the borough.

Please help us by completing this short questionnaire. You can return it to us by email to consultation@cbuchanan.co.uk, or in the enclosed pre-paid envelope **by Friday 26th June 2009**.

In accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998, the information provided in this questionnaire will be used solely for the purpose of this study for Thurrock Council and will not be passed to any third parties. The published report of this study will not identify the personal information of any contributor.

CONTACT DETAILS	
Name	
Position	
Organisation	
Telephone no.	
Email	
Date	

EXISTING PROVISION
1) Please briefly describe your organisation/group and the activities undertaken.
2) Group membership/attendance
<p>Approximately how many members does your group have? []</p> <p>Approximately how many attend regularly? []</p> <p>Comments:</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>

3) Current **facilities/locations** from which services are delivered (an additional table is attached if needed)

[illegible]

4) Catchment area

What is the catchment area served by your facilities/organisation?

Local area (e.g. Grays) [] Comments: _____
Thurrock []
Thurrock and surrounding districts [] _____

FUTURE NEEDS

5) Future aspirations

Does your organisation/group want to **grow** in the future? Please give details below of **how and where** it wants to grow.

6) Future plans

Do you anticipate that you will need **more buildings/premises** in the future? Yes [] No []

If yes, approximately **how many**? [] Do you know **how much space** you may need (in sq.metres/sq.feet)? []

Have you done a **needs assessment**? Yes [] (if yes, please attach details) No []

Please give details below.

7) Costs

Has any work been undertaken to calculate **costs** for providing additional space/facilities?

Yes [] No []

Please give details below.

8) Delivery of premises

Have you investigated how new premises could be **delivered**? Yes [] No []

If yes, please give details.

FUNDING

9) Budget

What is your approximate **annual operating budget**?

Less than £5,000 [] Please give details below:

£5,000 - £10,000 []

£10,000 - £25,000 []

£25,000 - £50,000 []

£50,000 - £100,000 []

£100,000 - £200,000 []

More than £250,000 []

10) What are the normal **sources of funding** for your organisation? (e.g. donations, grants, contracts, etc)

11) Do you anticipate these **sources of funding changing** in the foreseeable future?

COUNCIL SERVICES

12) How can the Council's services be improved to better meet your needs, in the following areas:

a) Service delivery (including access to Thurrock Council's services and making better use of technology)?

b) Democratic participation (including encouraging and supporting residents to be able to take part in the democratic process e.g. voting and influence of Council decisions)?

c) Access to buildings and the built environment (including access to Council premises and other facilities that Thurrock Council provides)?

d) Communications (including how the Council communicates with its customers and staff, and the provision of information in accessible formats)?

e) Training (the provision of training to support businesses, voluntary and community groups, e.g. does the Council support local organisations by providing relevant training)?

Please return your completed survey to consultation@cbuchanan.co.uk or post it in the prepaid envelope to Sorwar Ahmed, Head of Consultation, Colin Buchanan, 10 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LG.

(ADDITIONAL GRID IF NEEDED FOR Q3)

[illegible]