

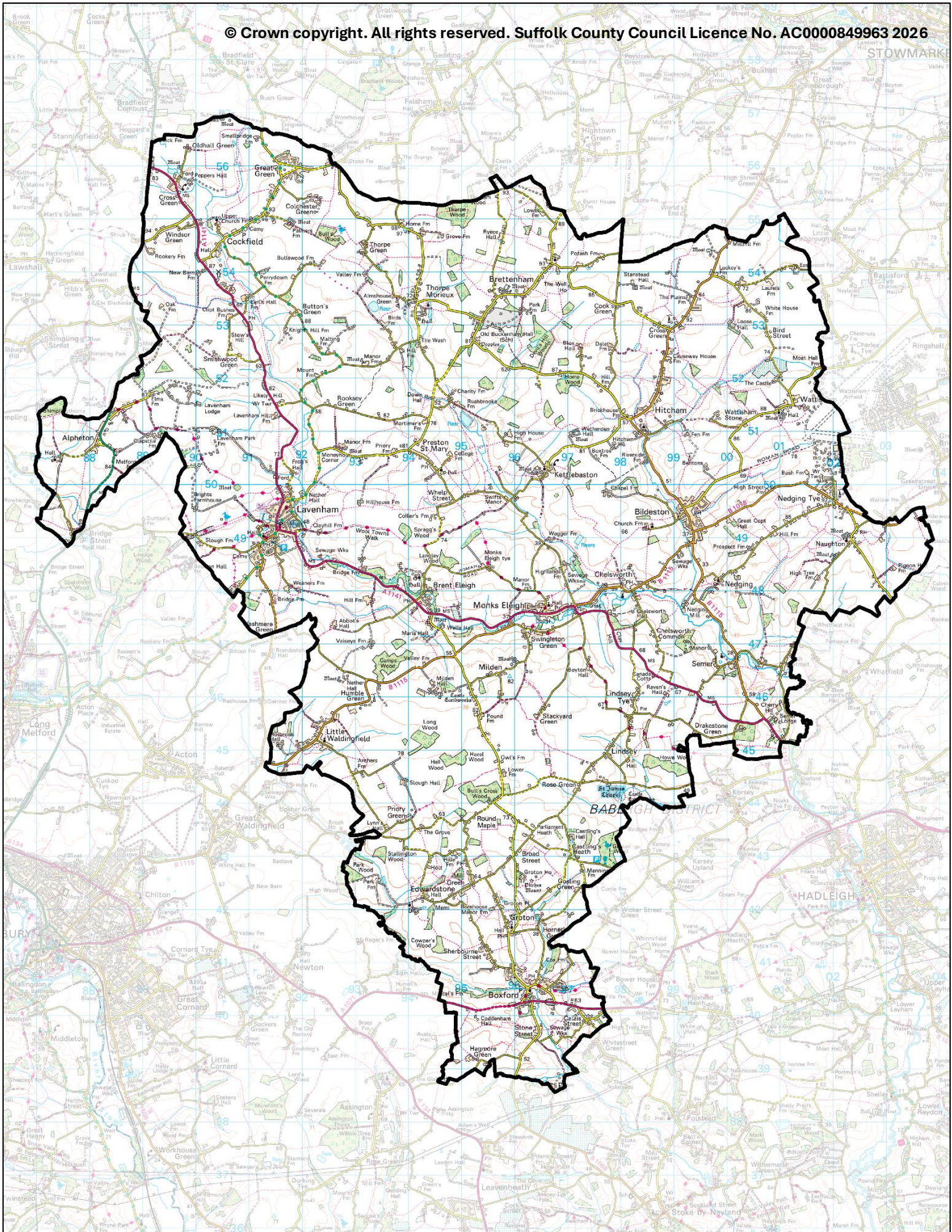
Cosford

County Electoral Division profile

May 2026

This division comprises Box Vale and North West Cosford Wards in their entirety, and parts of Lavenham, Long Melford, and South East Cosford Wards





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Electoral Division Profiles: an introduction

These profiles have been produced to support elected members, constituents and other interested parties in understanding the demographic, economic, social and educational profile of their neighbourhoods. We have used the latest data available at the time of publication.

Much more data is available from national and local sources than is captured here, but it is hoped that the profile will be a useful starting point for discussion, where local knowledge and experience can be used to flesh out and illuminate the information presented here.

The profile can be used to help look at some fundamental questions e.g.

- Does the age profile of the population match or differ from the national profile?
- Is there evidence of the ageing profile of the county in all the wards in the Division or just some?
- How diverse is the community in terms of ethnicity?
- What is the impact of deprivation on families and residents?
- Does there seem to be a link between deprivation and school performance?
- What is the breakdown of employment sectors in the area?
- Is it a relatively healthy area compared to the rest of the district or county?
- What sort of crime is prevalent in the community?

A vast amount of additional data is available on the **Suffolk Observatory**

www.suffolkobservatory.info

The Suffolk Observatory is a free online resource that contains all Suffolk's vital statistics; it is the one-stop-shop for information and intelligence about Suffolk. Through data, reports and maps, the Suffolk Observatory provides a comprehensive picture of the County. It is a great source for useful facts and figures that can be used for writing reports and presentations, informing strategic and business planning, preparing funding applications or supporting academic research. Data is presented around the key themes of population, children and young people, health and social care, housing, crime and community safety, deprivation, economy and employment and environment. All areas of the county are covered, right down to district, electoral division, ward and parish level, with information easily accessible in a variety of formats. You can also build your own reports for custom areas.

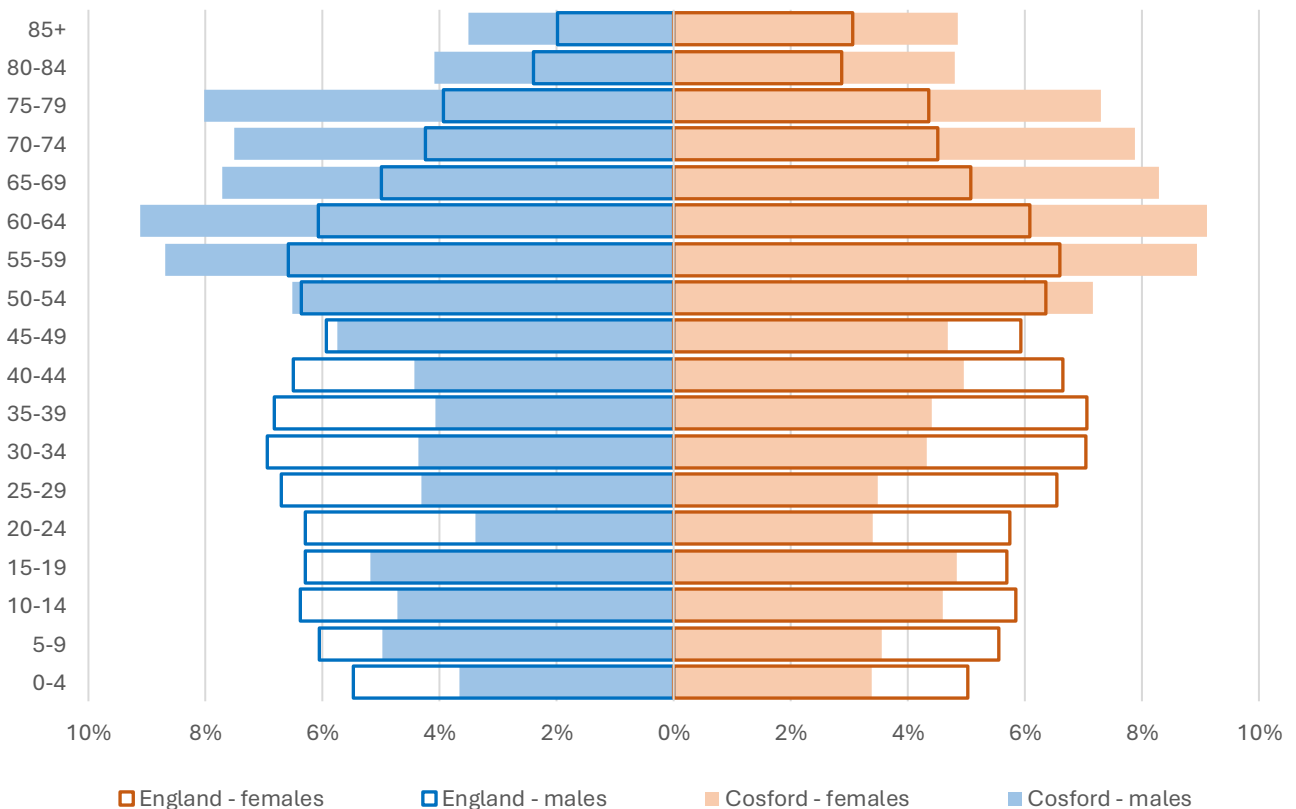
Technical Notes:

1. Where electoral divisions do not exactly match the boundaries at which the data is available (e.g. ward, Output Area or Lower Super Output Area), we have adopted a "best-fit" approach to produce a dataset.
2. District, county and national level data is provided where possible to provide a context for comparisons.

Demographic Profile - Age

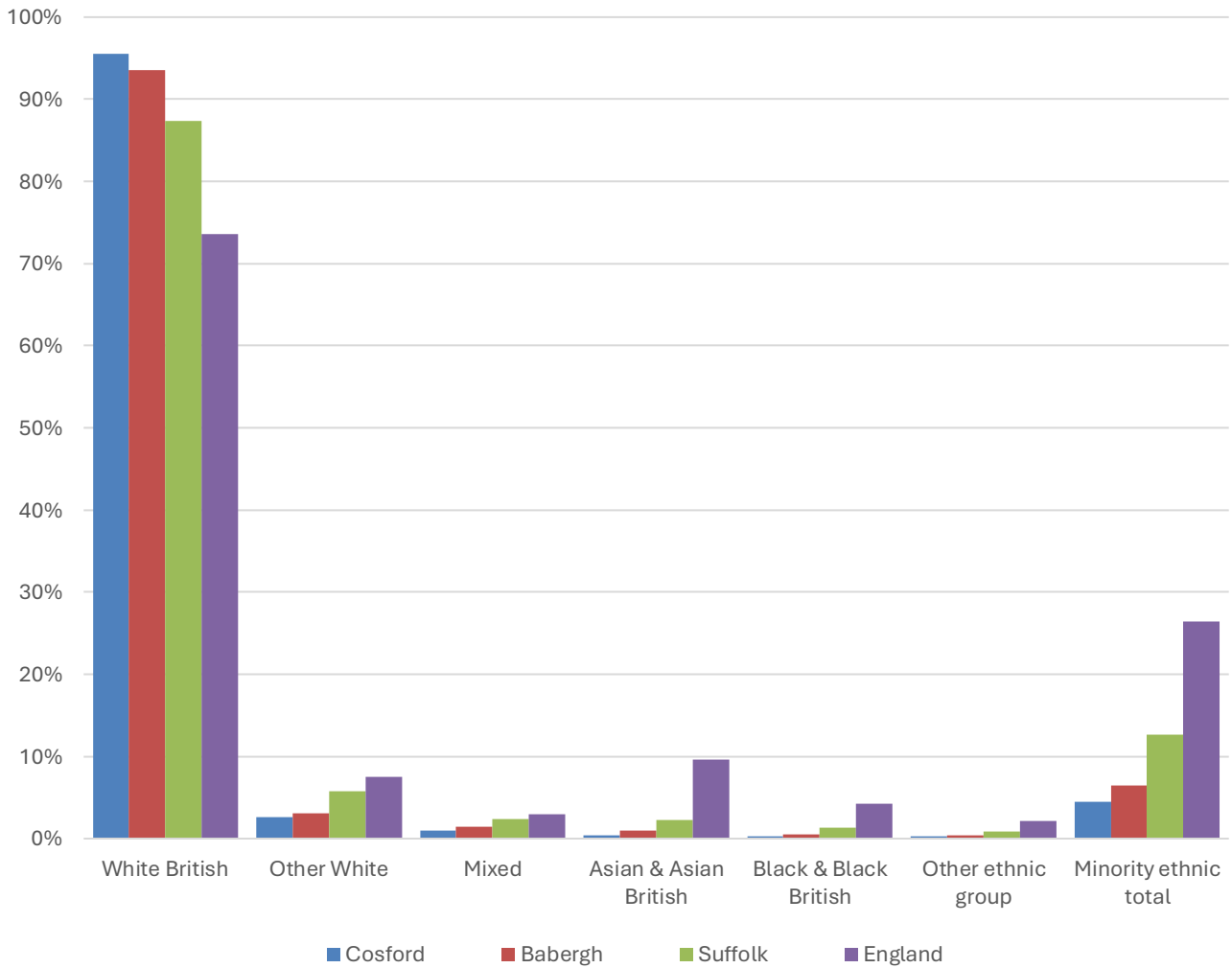
In mid-2024, the estimated population of Cosford stood at 10,334, an increase of 8.8% over the past decade. The age structure of the component wards and the division as a whole is set out below.

	Cosford Division	Lavenham Ward	Box Vale Ward	North West Cosford Ward	South East Cosford Ward	Long Melford Ward
All Ages	10,334	3,445	2,925	2,705	979	280
0-4	364	118	109	112	19	6
5-9	440	132	140	128	31	9
10-14	481	128	147	153	38	15
15-19	518	141	181	127	44	25
20-24	351	104	112	81	40	14
25-29	402	150	94	111	38	9
30-34	449	172	112	120	35	10
35-39	438	157	116	117	38	10
40-44	485	159	140	134	42	10
45-49	539	171	183	129	44	12
50-54	707	203	211	198	76	19
55-59	911	270	257	258	100	26
60-64	942	328	242	234	99	39
65-69	827	264	215	217	110	21
70-74	796	309	209	199	62	17
75-79	791	277	228	185	79	22
80-84	460	177	107	111	53	12
85+	433	185	122	91	31	4



- The age pyramid for Cosford division shows a considerably higher proportion of people aged 50 and over than seen in England as a whole.
- The most common age group in the division is 60-64-year-olds (9.1% of the local population), followed by 55-59-year-olds (8.8%) , and 65-69-year-olds (8%).
- Almost a third (32%) of the population of Cosford is of retirement age.
- There is a lower-than-average proportion of children and young people, and adults aged under 50.

Demographic Profile - Ethnicity

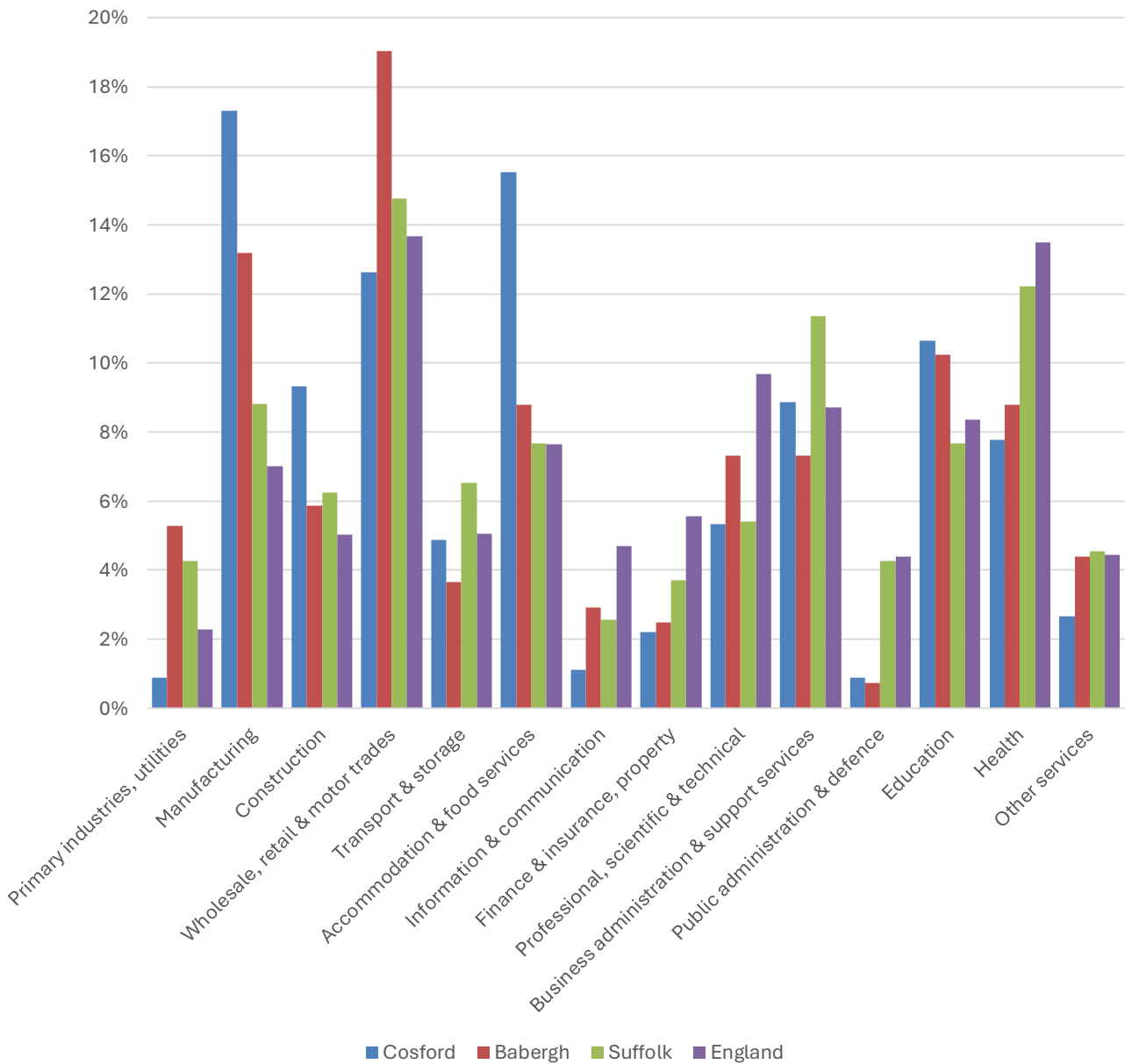


- According to the latest data (2021 Census), 95.5% of the population of Cosford are White British.
- There are around 450 (4.5%) people of minority ethnic origin in the division, less than the proportion in Suffolk as a whole and around a sixth of the England average.
- Cosford has a similar ethnic diversity profile to Babergh district, and lower proportions of all minority ethnic groups than Suffolk as a whole.

	All people		White British		Other White		Mixed		Asian and Asian British		Black and Black British		Other Ethnic Group		Total minority ethnic population	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Cosford	10,005		9,557	95.5	258	2.6	102	1.0	40	0.4	26	0.3	22	0.2	448	4.5
Babergh	92,342		86,418	93.6	2,851	3.1	1,351	1.5	875	0.9	503	0.5	344	0.4	5,924	6.4
Suffolk	760,687		664,205	87.3	44,066	5.8	17,807	2.3	17,483	2.3	10,168	1.3	6,958	0.9	96,482	12.7
England				73.5		7.5		3.0		9.6		4.2		2.2		26.5

Economy

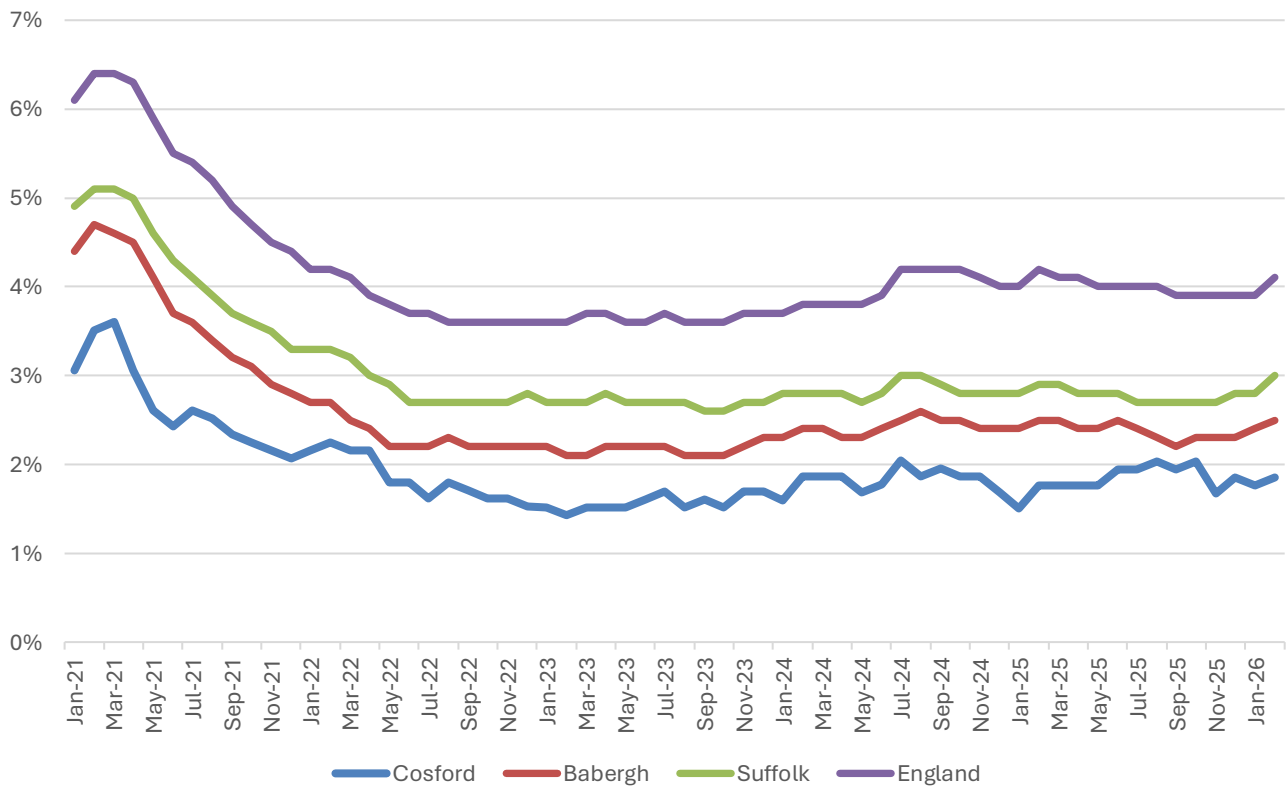
There are around 2,300 people employed in Cosford.



- Cosford has a good mix of employment sectors.
- Manufacturing is the most important sector in the division, providing around 1 in 6 local jobs.
- Accommodation and food services, wholesale, retail and motor trades, and education are also important employers, each accounting for more than 10% of jobs in Cosford.
- Construction provides a further 9% of local jobs; higher than the Babergh and Suffolk average of 6%.

Labour Market

Out-of-work Benefit Claimant Rate



- In common with Babergh, Suffolk and England as a whole, Cosford saw a steady decline in the proportion of the working age population claiming of out-of-work benefits during 2021 following a peak during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Since then, the claimant rate in the division has been stable at between 1.5% and 2%.
- The claimant rate in Cosford is consistently below the district, county and national benchmarks.

Schools

School Information

Schools in the Division

Name	Phase	Academy Status	No. pupils	Average cohort size at:			
				Foundation Stage (age 4-7)	KS2 (age 7-11)	KS4 (age 14-16)	KS5 (age 16-18)
Bildeston Primary School	Primary	LA	117	17	13		
Boxford CEVCP School	Primary	LA	178	24	26		
Cockfield C of E Primary School	Primary	AC	70	9	9		
Lavenham Community Primary School	Primary	LA	114	15	25		

Academy Status key: AS = Academy Sponsored, AC = Academy Converter, LA = LA Maintained, F = Free

Ofsted information

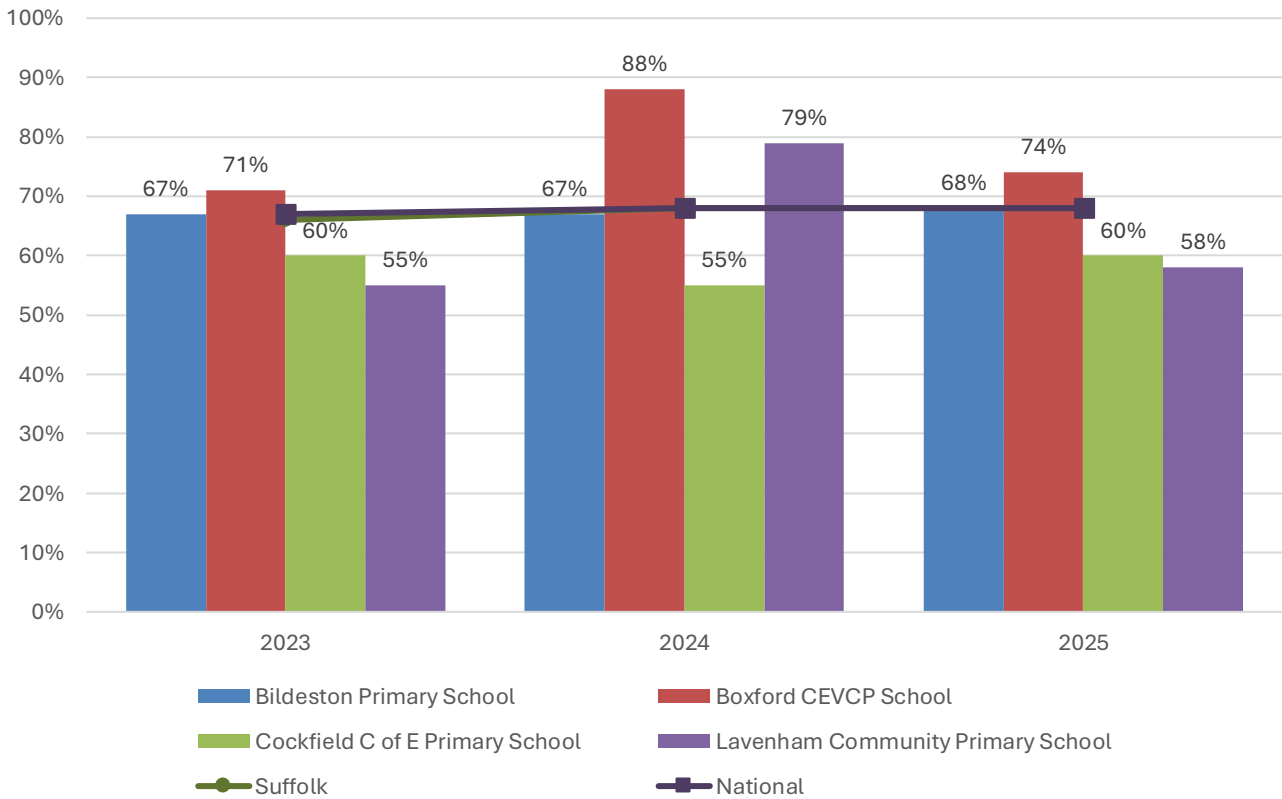
Name	Overall effectiveness	Effectiveness of leadership and management	Behaviour and attitudes	Personal development	Early years provision (if applicable)	Quality of education	Last inspection date
Bildeston Primary School	2	2	2	2	2	2	29/09/2022
Boxford CEVCP School	5	2	2	1	2	2	01/10/2024
Cockfield C of E Primary School	2	2	2	2	2	2	25/02/2020
Lavenham Community Primary School	2	2	9	9	2	9	27/02/2019

Code	Judgement	Code	Judgement
0	Insufficient evidence	SM	Special measures
1	Outstanding	8	Does not apply
2	Good	9	No judgement
3	Requires improvement	Null	No data available
4	Inadequate	Not judged	Not judged
SWK	Serious weaknesses	5	No overall grade

School Attainment

Foundation Stage Profile (reception)

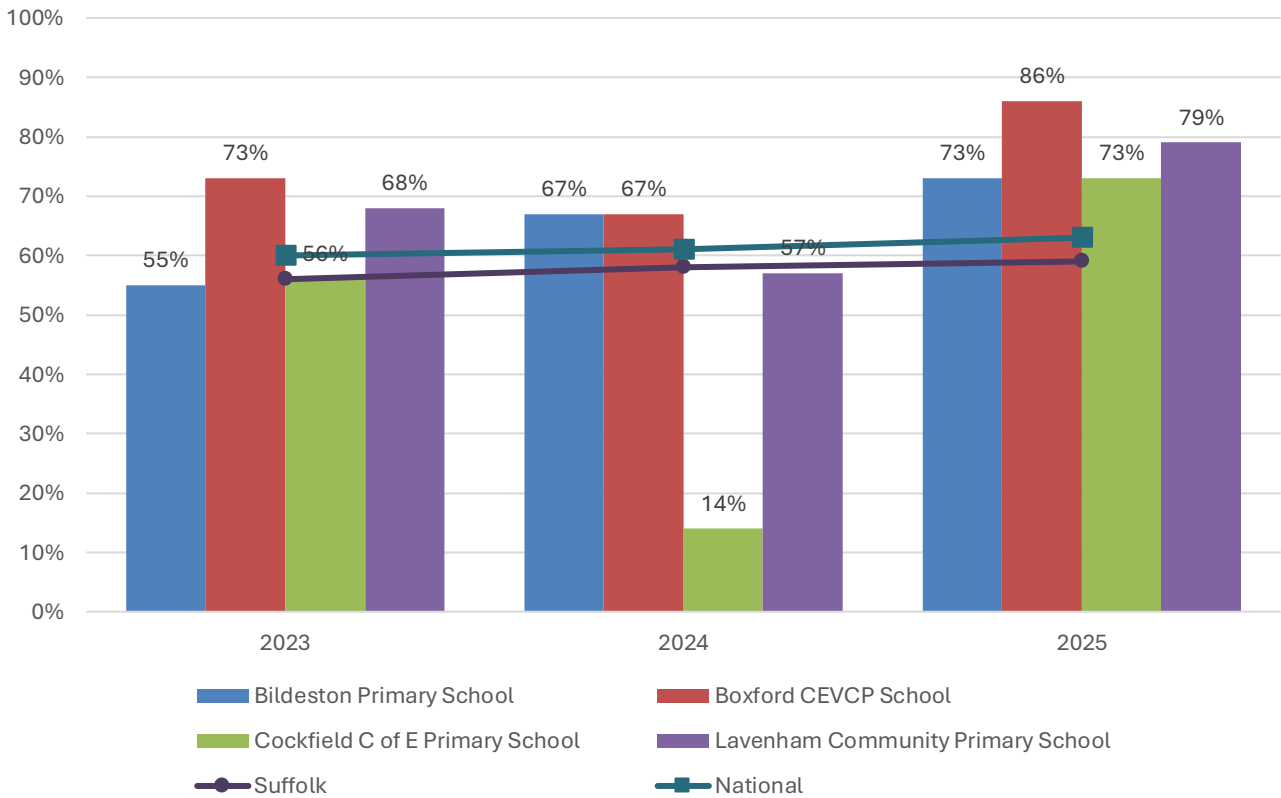
% pupils achieving Good Level of Development (GLD)



- Foundation Stage (FS) attainment at Boxford CEVCP School has been above the Suffolk and national average in each of the last three years of available data.
- The opposite is true of Cockfield Church of England Primary School, where FS attainment has been consistently below average.
- In 2025, 68% of pupils at Bildeston Primary School achieved a Good Level of Development at Foundation Stage, on par with the national figure. In fact, attainment at Bildeston Primary School has been consistently similar to the England average in each of the past three years.
- FS performance at Lavenham Community Primary School has been more variable, with attainment around 11 percentage points above the national average in 2024, but 12 percentage points below average in 2023 and 10 percentage points below average in 2025.

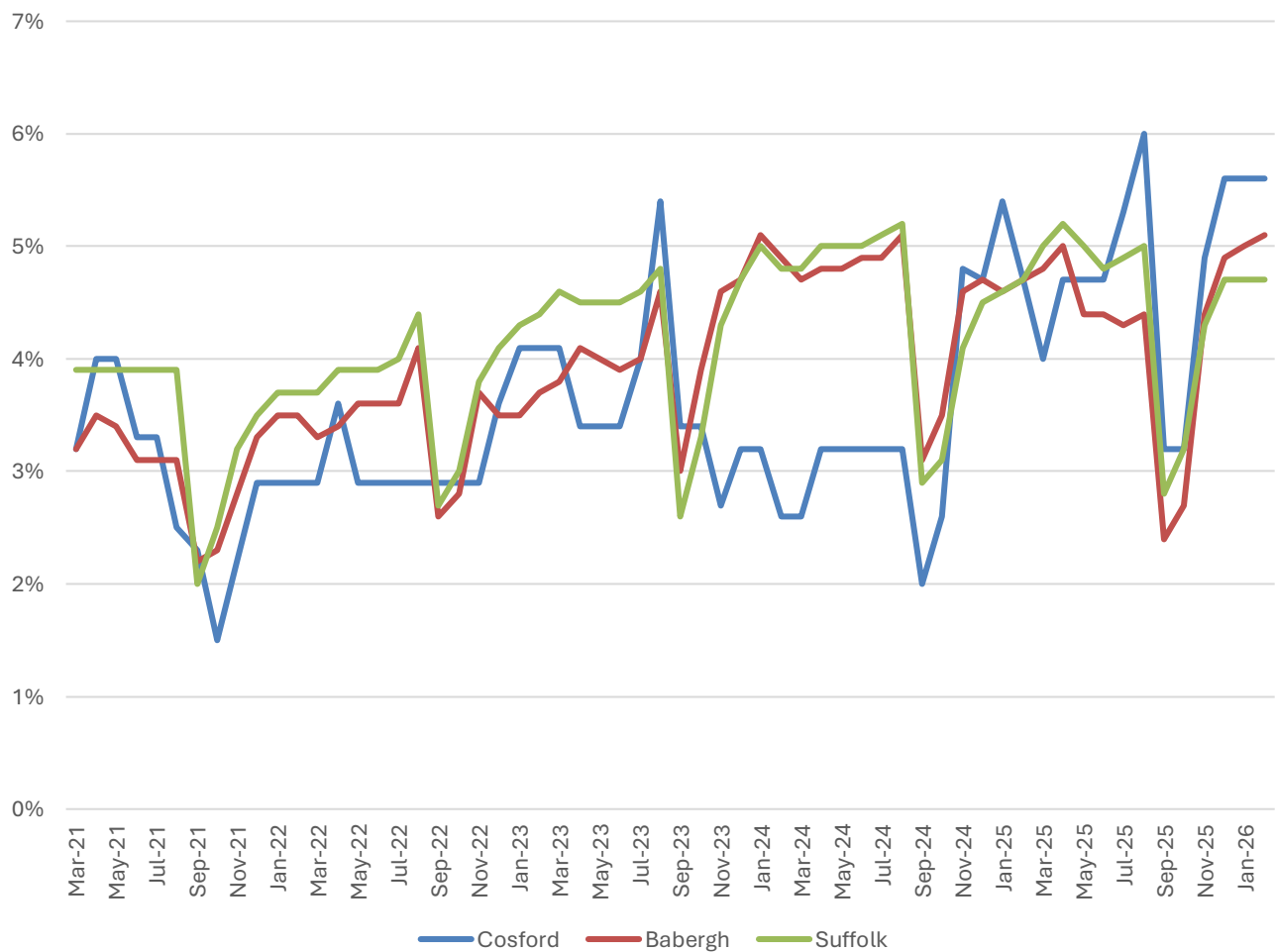
Key Stage 2 (age 11)

% pupils achieving the Expected Level or better in Reading, Writing and Mathematics



- Key stage 2 (KS2) attainment at all four primary schools in Cosford was above the Suffolk and national benchmarks in 2025.
- At Boxford CEVCP School, KS2 attainment has been consistently high throughout the last three years.
- At Bildeston Primary School, the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level or better in reading, writing and mathematics has steadily improved over the last three years, reaching 73% in 2025; 10 percentage points above the England benchmark.
- At Cockfield Church of England Primary School, KS2 attainment was on a par with the county average in 2023 before dipping markedly in 2024, before recovering to a position 10 percentage points above the England figure in 2025.
- It should be noted that cohort sizes at these schools are small and therefore more subject to significant fluctuations from one year to the next.

NEET % (Not in Education, Employment or Training)



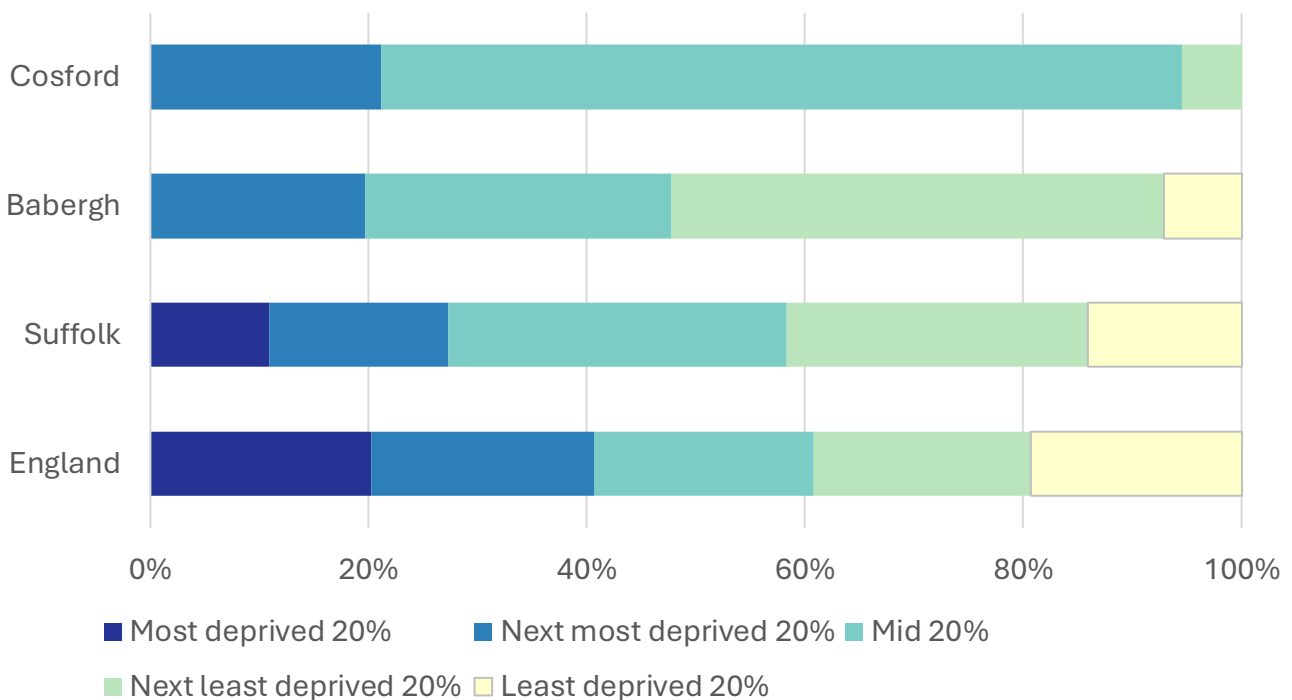
- In February 2026, 5.6% of 16–17-year-olds in Cosford were classified as NEET (not in education, employment or training), close to the highest level seen in the division over the last five years (6% in August 2025).
- NEET levels fluctuate considerably according to the time of year and due to small numbers of 16-17-year-olds in the division, typically being at their lowest at the beginning of a new school year.
- In Cosford, NEET levels have tended to be below the district and county averages over the last five years, though this has not been the case in 2025 or 2026 to date.

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2025 (see map overleaf)

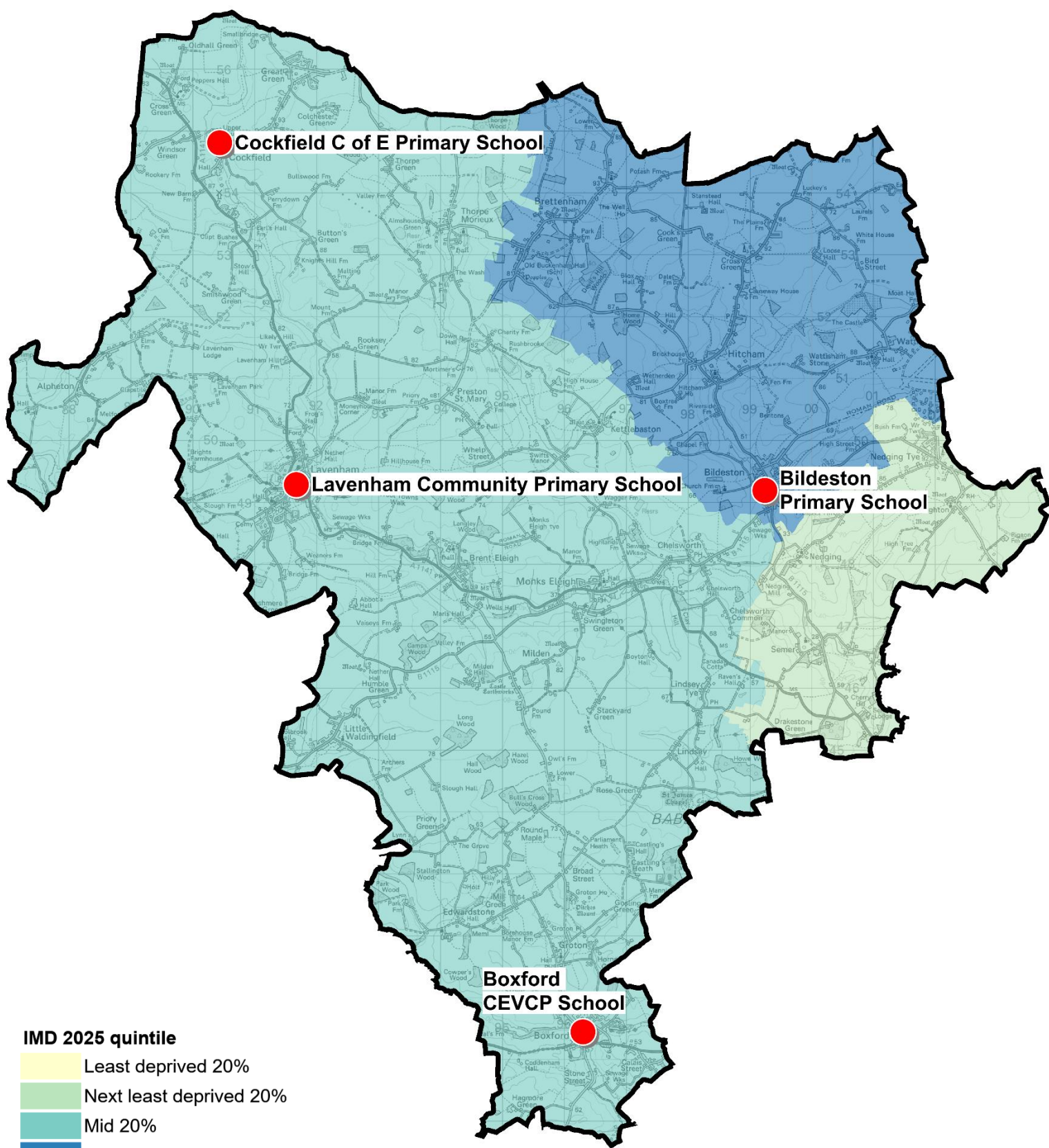
The IMD combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. This allows each area to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation. Small areas (Lower Super Output Areas, average population 1,700) are most commonly described as being in 1 of 5 quintile bands. The bottom quintile represents the 20% of areas that are the most deprived in England; these are shaded pale yellow on the map. The top quintile represents the least deprived areas in England and is shaded dark blue.

The Index is widely used to analyse patterns of deprivation, identify areas that would benefit from special initiatives or programmes and as a tool to determine eligibility for specific funding streams.

The chart below shows the percentage of the population of the division that live in areas ranked among each of the five quintiles of deprivation, alongside the district, county and England comparators.



- The 2025 IMD shows that deprivation levels in Cosford are generally moderate.
- Almost three-quarters of the population of the division live in areas that are ranked in the middle quintile of deprivation nationally.
- Smaller proportions of the division are in the second most deprived, and second least deprived quintiles.
- See the map overleaf for the distribution of IMD 2025 results across the division.



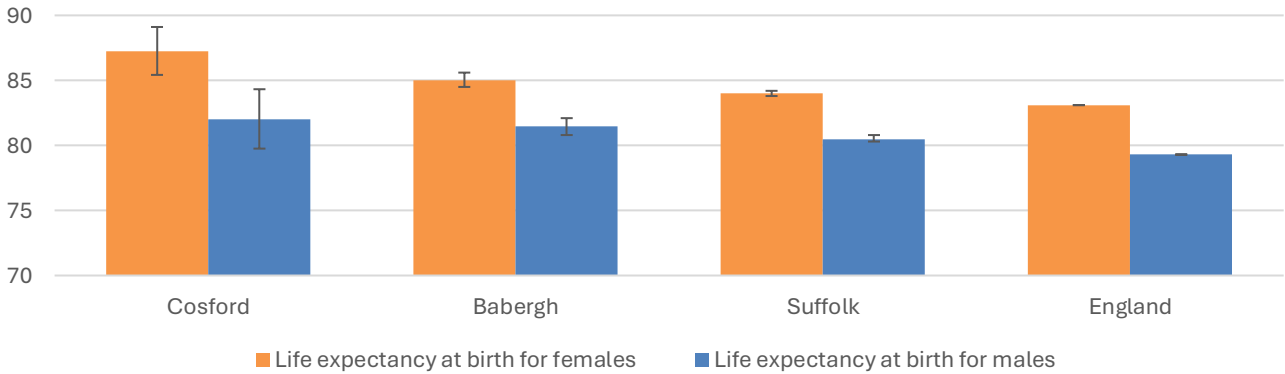
- IMD 2025 quintile**
- Least deprived 20%
 - Next least deprived 20%
 - Mid 20%
 - Next most deprived 20%
 - Most deprived 20%

- School Phase**
- Primary
 - Secondary
 - Special
 - Pupil referral unit/Alternative provision
 - Nursery

Health

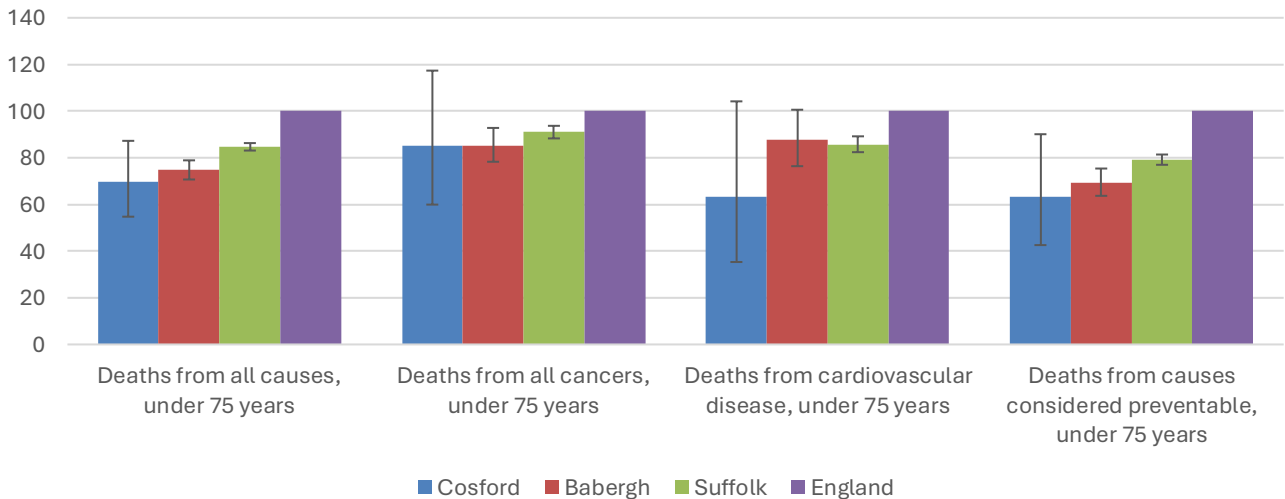
The local data used here is based on relatively small numbers. The confidence limits provide an indication of the reliability of the data. The 95% confidence intervals utilised on the chart provide a range within which there is 95% chance of the true result lying.

Life expectancy at birth



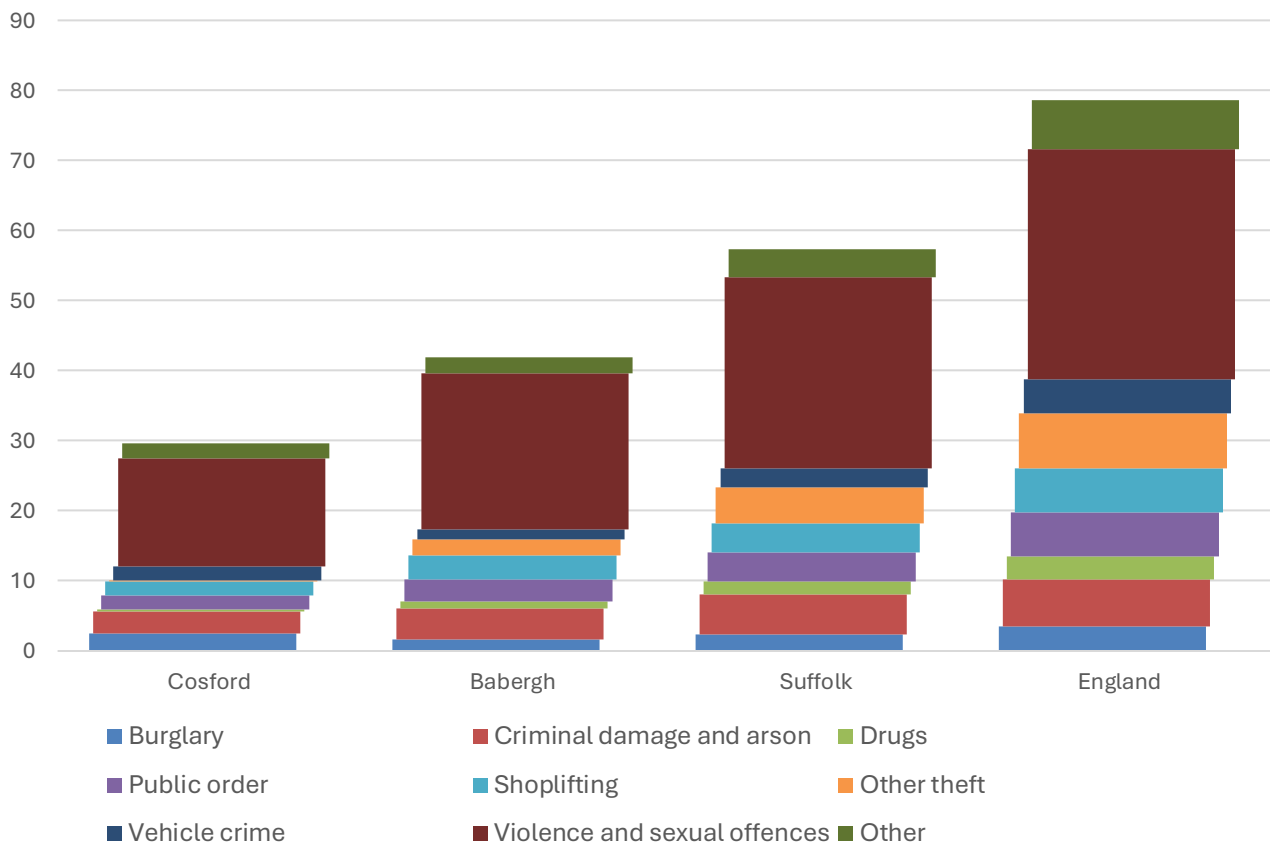
- Estimated life expectancy at birth for women in Cosford is statistically similar to the Babergh average, but statistically significantly higher than the Suffolk and England figures.
- For males, estimated life expectancy in Cosford is also statistically significantly higher than the national benchmark, but similar to the district and county figures.
- Current life expectancy at birth for females in Cosford is around 87 (the England average is 83.1), compared to just above 82 for males (compared to 79.3 nationally).

Deaths, under 75 years, standardised mortality ratio



- Estimated standardised mortality ratios for early deaths from all causes, cancers, cardiovascular disease and causes considered preventable in Cosford are below 100, indicating that deaths in under 75s due to these causes are lower than in England.
- Confidence intervals around these estimates are wide for local data, but the SMRs for deaths from all causes and from causes considered preventable are statistically significantly lower than England.
- The standardised mortality ratio data shown here means that for every 100 early deaths from all causes across England as a whole, there are an estimated 70 comparable deaths in Cosford.

Crime & Community Safety



- Crime levels in Cosford are low compared to both the district and county averages, with just under 30 crimes per 1,000 residents in the division in the 12 months to the end of January 2026, compared to 42 in Babergh and 57 countywide.
- Almost all types of crime occur at a lower rate in the division than the district and county average. Only burglary (2.5 crimes per 1,000 residents) has been recorded at a higher rate in Cosford than across the county overall (2.3 crimes per 1,000 residents).
- By far the most common type of crime recorded during this period was violence and sexual offences, which accounted for more than half of all recorded crimes in the division.

Additional Information

Parishes in Division

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Alpheton | Lavenham |
| Bildeston | Lindsey |
| Boxford | Little Waldingfield |
| Brent Eleigh | Milden |
| Brettenham | Monks Eleigh |
| Chelsworth | Nedging-with-Naughton |
| Cockfield | Preston St. Mary |
| Edwardstone | Semer |
| Groton | Thorpe Morieux |
| Hitcham | Wattisham |
| Kettlebaston | |

Data sources

Category	Indicator	Source
Demographic Profile	Quinary population table 2024	ONS 2024 mid-year population estimates
	Population pyramid 2024	ONS 2024 mid-year population estimates
	Ethnicity 2021	ONS 2021 Census
Economy	Employment by broad industrial sector 2024	ONS Business Register and Employment Survey via NOMIS
Labour market	Claimant count: The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit who are out of work (% 16-64 population) January 2021-February 2026	DWP via NOMIS
Education	School information and attainment 2023-2025	Suffolk County Council CYP iHub
	% 16-17-year-olds NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) March 2021 to February 2026	Suffolk County Council CYP iHub via the Suffolk Observatory
Deprivation	Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Health	Life expectancy at birth 2016-2020 (2018-2020 for comparator areas)	Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
Health	Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from all causes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and from causes considered preventable (under 75 years), 2016-2020 (2019-2023 for comparator areas). The standardised mortality ratio is the ratio of observed deaths in the study group to expected deaths in the general population	Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
Community Safety	Recorded crime rate per 1,000 resident population February 2025 to January 2026	Data.police.uk via the Suffolk Observatory

For more data and information about Cosford Electoral Division, see the Suffolk Observatory www.suffolkobservatory.info

