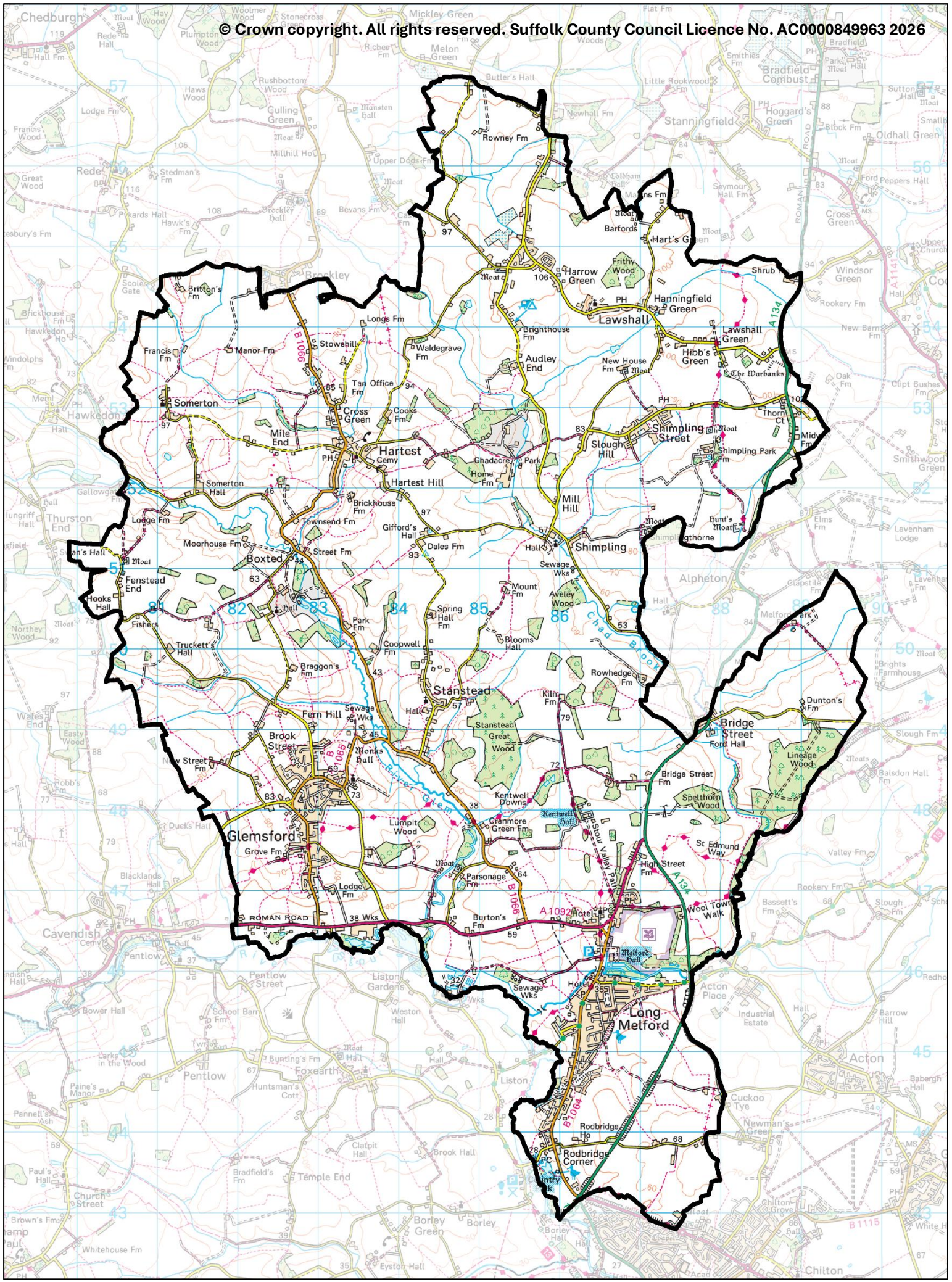


Melford

County Electoral Division profile
May 2026

This division comprises Chadacre Ward in its entirety, and part of Long Melford Ward





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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.

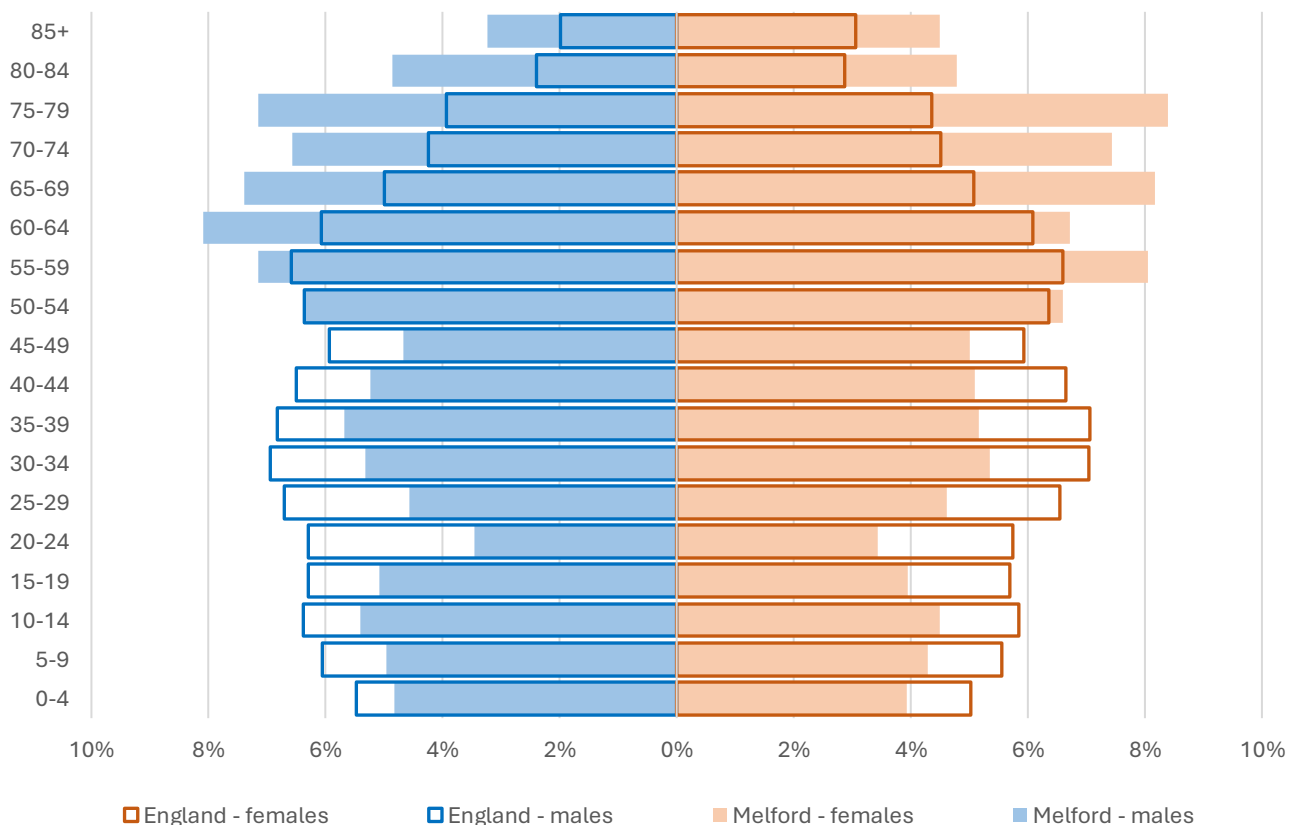
Technical Notes:

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

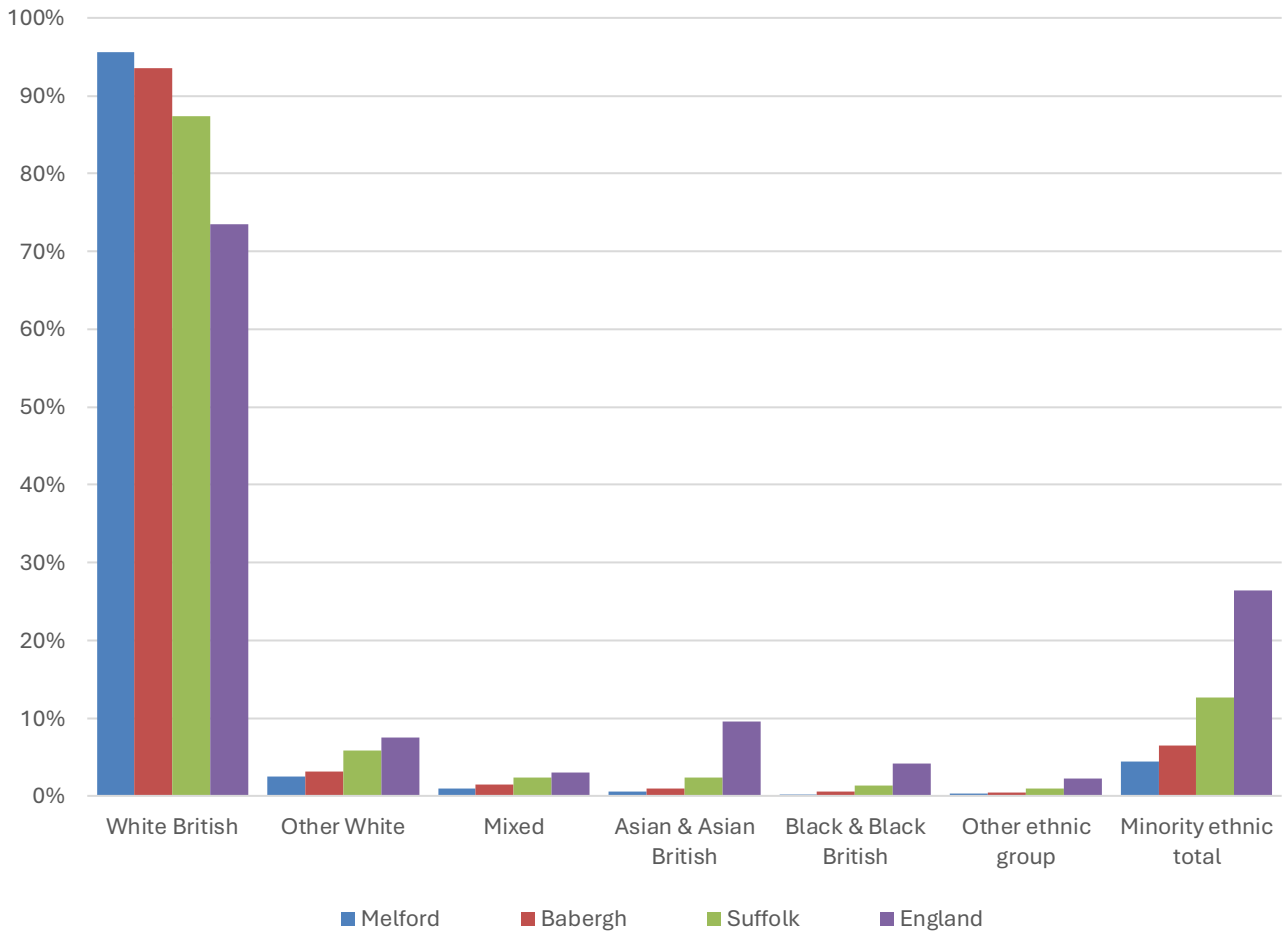
In mid-2024, the estimated population of Melford stood at 10,448, an increase of 9.8% over the past decade. The age structure of the component wards and the division as a whole is set out below.

	Melford Division	Chadacre Ward	Long Melford Ward
All Ages	10,448	6,265	4,183
0-4	456	299	157
5-9	482	310	172
10-14	516	344	172
15-19	470	286	184
20-24	360	231	129
25-29	480	266	214
30-34	558	346	212
35-39	566	358	208
40-44	539	316	223
45-49	506	327	179
50-54	678	439	239
55-59	795	474	321
60-64	773	488	285
65-69	814	498	316
70-74	733	404	329
75-79	813	449	364
80-84	504	237	267
85+	405	193	212



- The age pyramid for Melford division shows a considerably larger proportion of residents aged 55 and over than in England as a whole.
- The most common age group in the division is 65-69-year-olds, followed by 75-79-year-olds, and 55-59-year-olds. Each of these age groups account for between 7.5% and 8% of the local population.
- Just under a third (31.3%) of the population of Melford is of retirement age.
- There is a lower-than-average proportion of children and young people, and adults aged under 50. Younger adults aged 20-34 are particularly underrepresented.

Demographic Profile - Ethnicity

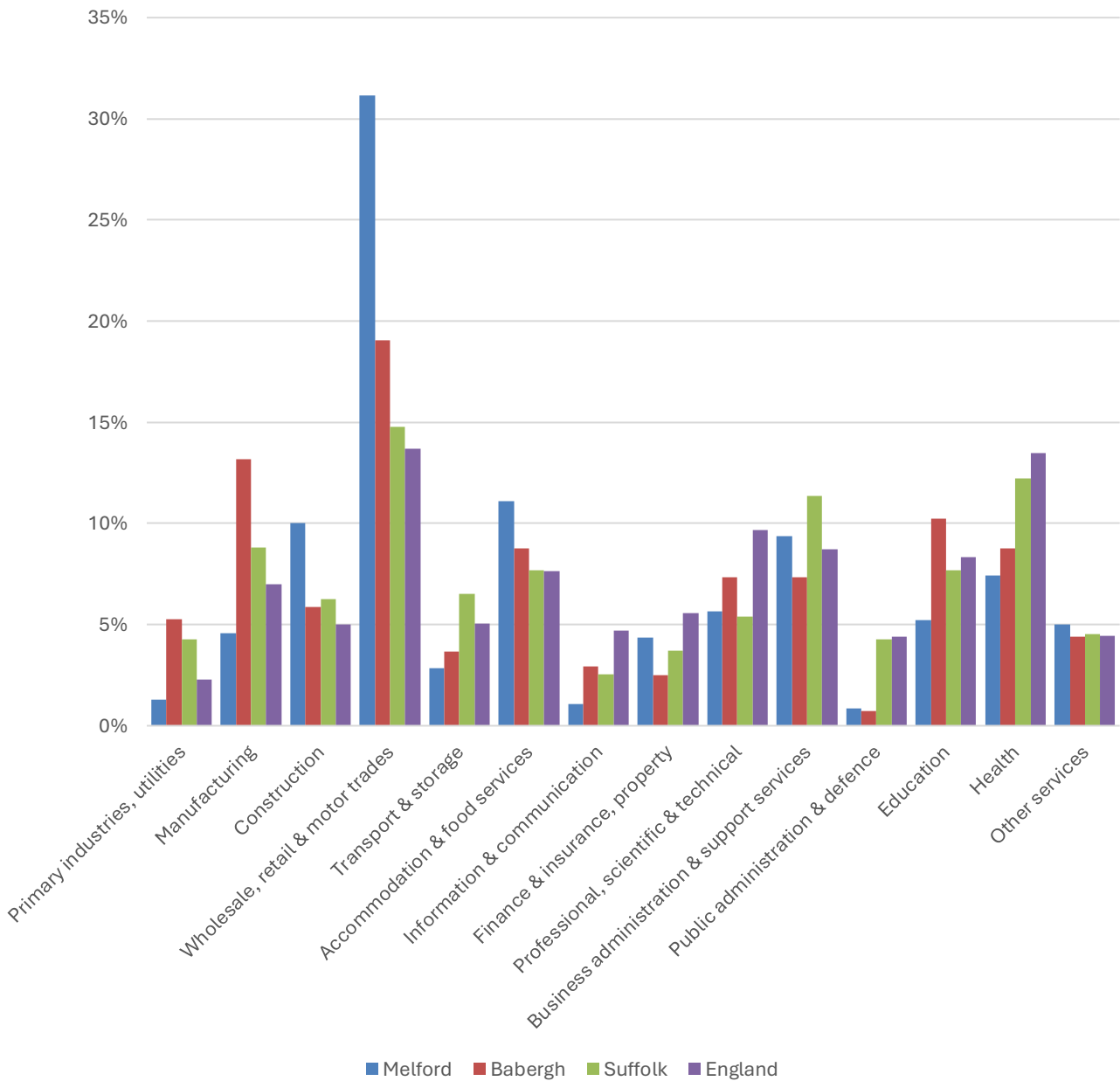


- According to the latest data (2021 Census), 95.6% of the population of Melford are White British.
- There are 440 (4.4%) people of minority ethnic origin in the division, less than the proportion in Babergh and Suffolk and around a sixth of the England average.
- All minority ethnic backgrounds are account for a smaller proportion of the local population in Melford than they do across Babergh 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	%
Melford	10,053	9,613	95.6	244	2.4	94	0.9	53	0.5	16	0.2	33	0.3	440	4.4
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

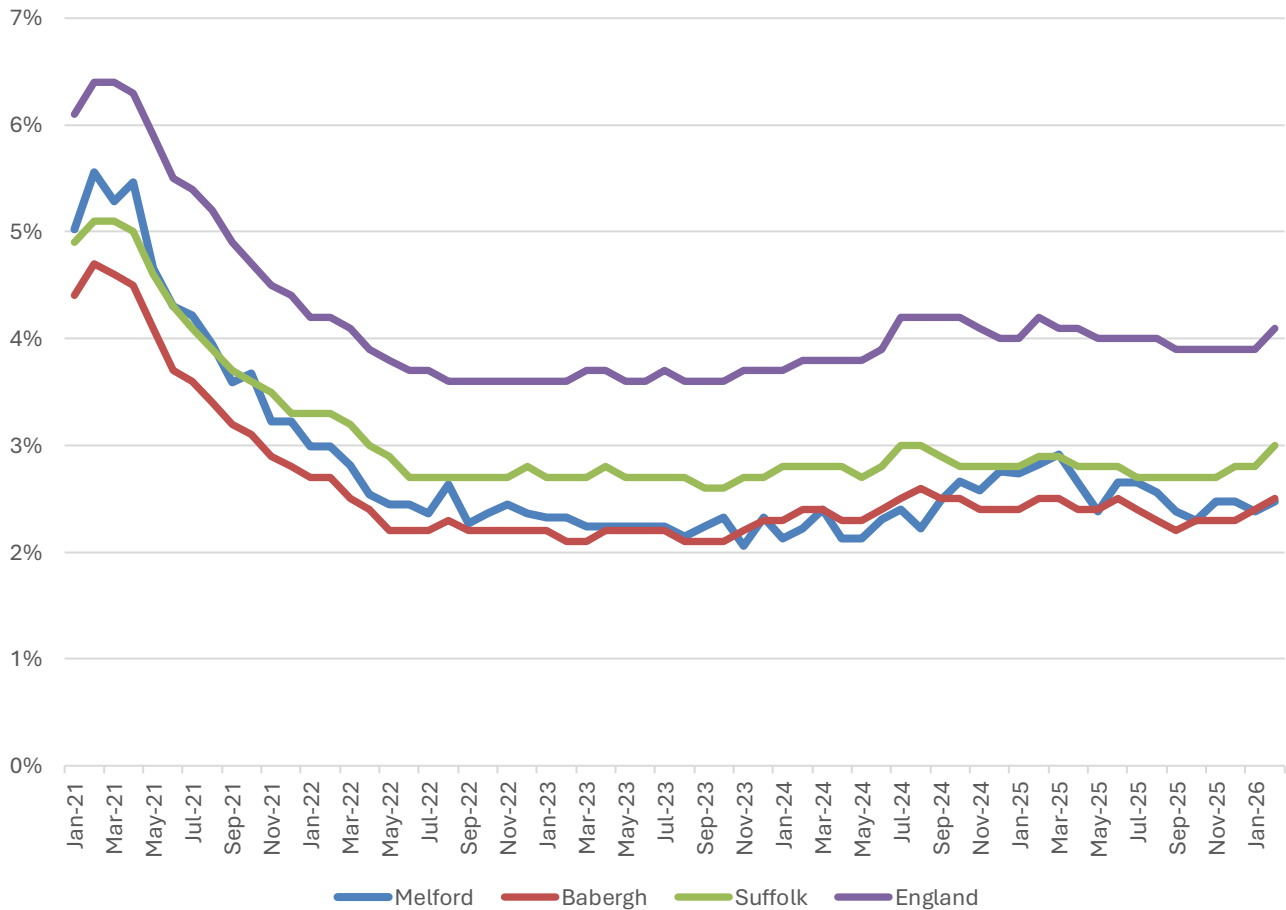
There are around 2,300 people employed in Melford.



- Wholesale, retail and motor trades is the most important employment sector in Melford. The sector provides almost a third of jobs in the division; a much larger proportion than it accounts for in Babergh (19%), Suffolk (15%) and England as a whole (14%).
- Most other sectors are underrepresented in the division, but construction (10% of jobs in Melford) and accommodation and food services (11%) are also important locally.

Labour Market

Out-of-work Benefit Claimant Rate



- In common with Babergh, Suffolk and England as a whole, Melford 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 fairly stable at between 2% and 3%.
- Since 2022, the claimant rate in Melford has tended to be similar to the Babergh figure, below the county level, and around 1.5 percentage points below the England benchmark.

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)
All Saints' CEVCP School, Lawshall	Primary	LA	175	25	21
Glemsford Primary Academy	Primary	AS	243	28	27
Hartest CofE Primary School	Primary	AS	42	5	6
Long Melford CofE Primary School	Primary	AS	207	26	27

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

Ofsted information

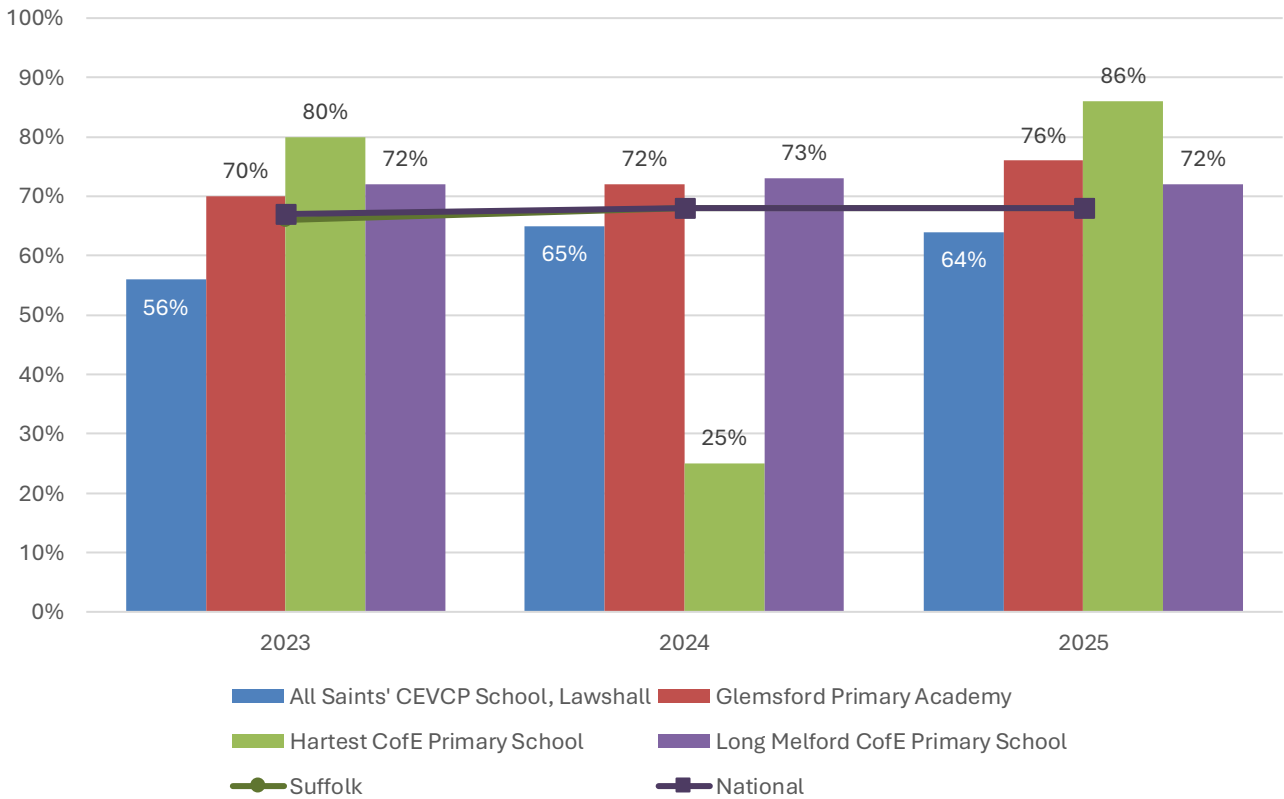
Name	Overall effectiveness	Effectiveness of leadership and management	Behaviour and attitudes	Personal development	Early years provision (if applicable)	Quality of education	Last inspection date
All Saints' CEVCP School, Lawshall	1	1	1	1	1	1	23/01/2024
Glemsford Primary Academy	2	2	9	9	2	9	07/12/2017
Hartest CofE Primary School	2	2	2	2	0	2	05/03/2024
Long Melford CofE Primary School	2	2	9	9	2	9	10/07/2019

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)

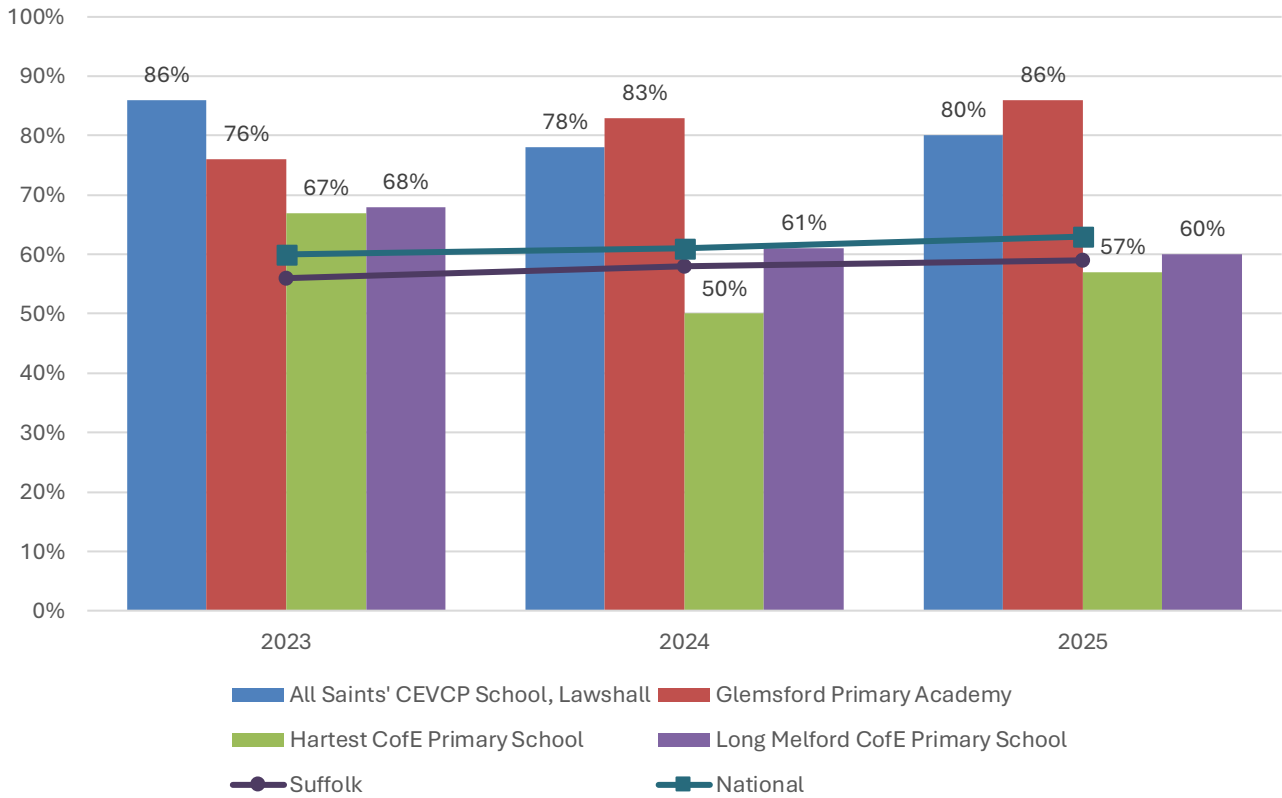
% pupils achieving Good Level of Development (GLD)



- The percentage of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at Foundation Stage (FS) at primary schools in Melford has mainly been above average over the past three years of available data.
- Two schools in the division; Glemsford Primary Academy and Long Melford Church of England Primary School, have seen a larger than average proportion of pupils achieving a GLD than across England as a whole in each of the last three years.
- Attainment was most than 10 percentage points above the national benchmark at Hartest Church of England Primary School in 2023 and 2025, but much lower in 2024.
- FS attainment at All Saint's CEVCP School has been consistently below average, but only by a few percentage points in 2024 and 2025.

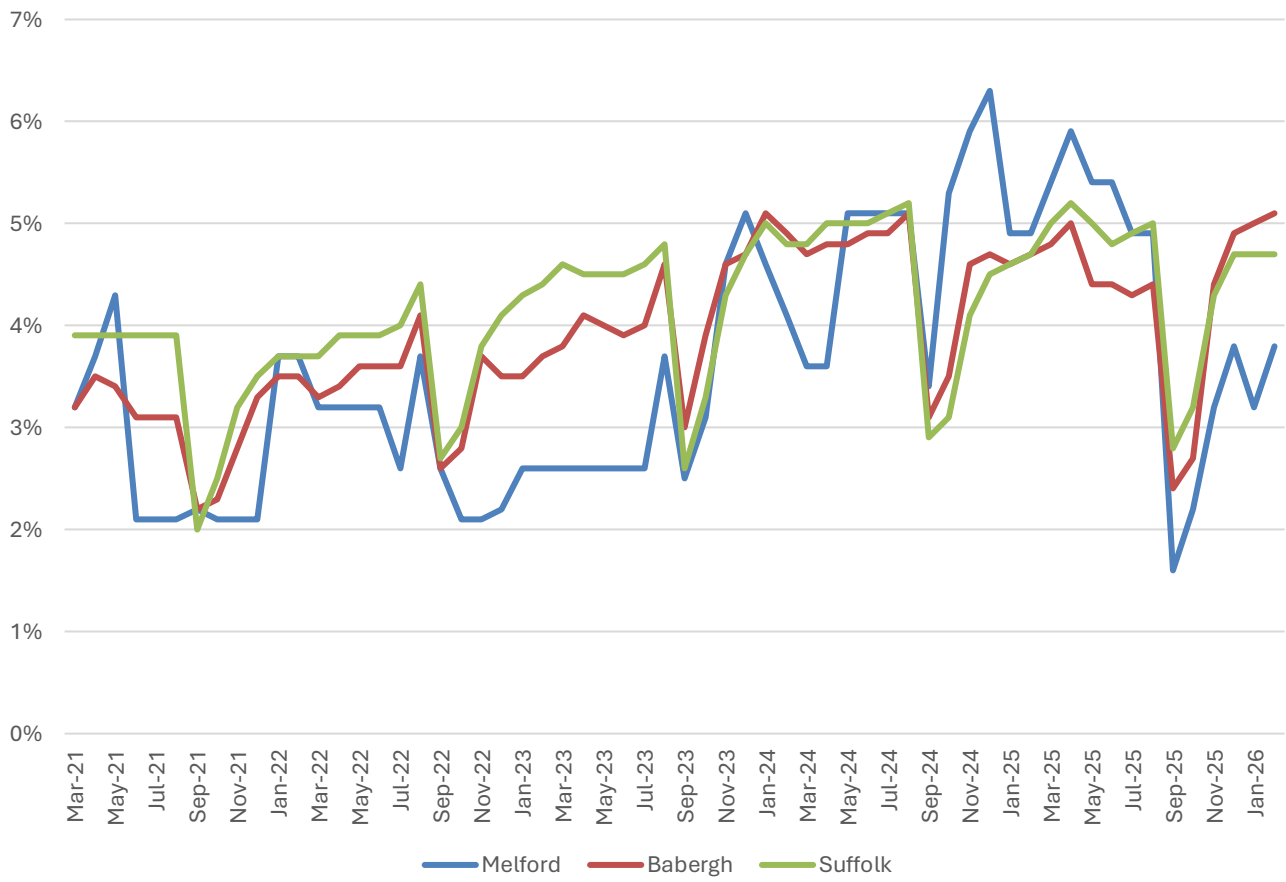
Key Stage 2 (age 11)

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



- The percentage of pupils achieving the expected level or better in reading, writing and mathematics at Key Stage 2 (KS2) has been consistently above average at All Saint’s CEVCP School and Glemsford Primary Academy over the last three years.
- In 2025, 80% of pupils at All Saint’s CEVCP School and 86% at Glemsford Primary Academy achieved this standard, respectively 17 and 23 percentage points higher than the national benchmark.
- KS2 attainment was also above average at the other two schools in the division (Hartest and Long Melford Church of England Primary Schools) in 2023.
- In the following two years, attainment at Long Melford has been close to the county and national figures, while at Hartest it 4 to 11 percentage points below average.

NEET % (Not in Education, Employment or Training)



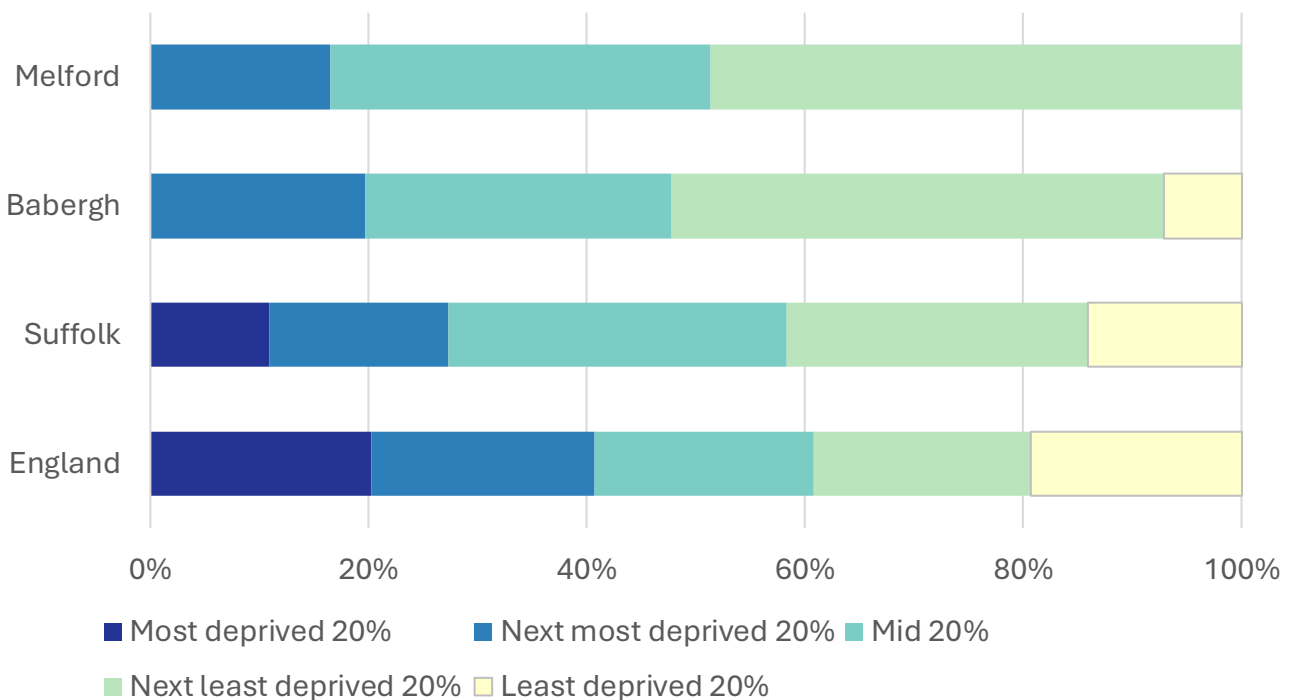
- In February 2026, 3.8% of 16–17-year-olds in Melford were classified as NEET (not in education, employment or training).
- NEET levels fluctuate considerably according to the time of year and due to small numbers of 16-17-year-olds in the division, typically being at their lowest at the beginning of a new school year.
- In Melford, NEET levels have tended to be similar to the district and county averages over the last two years, and generally below average from 2021 to 2023.

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

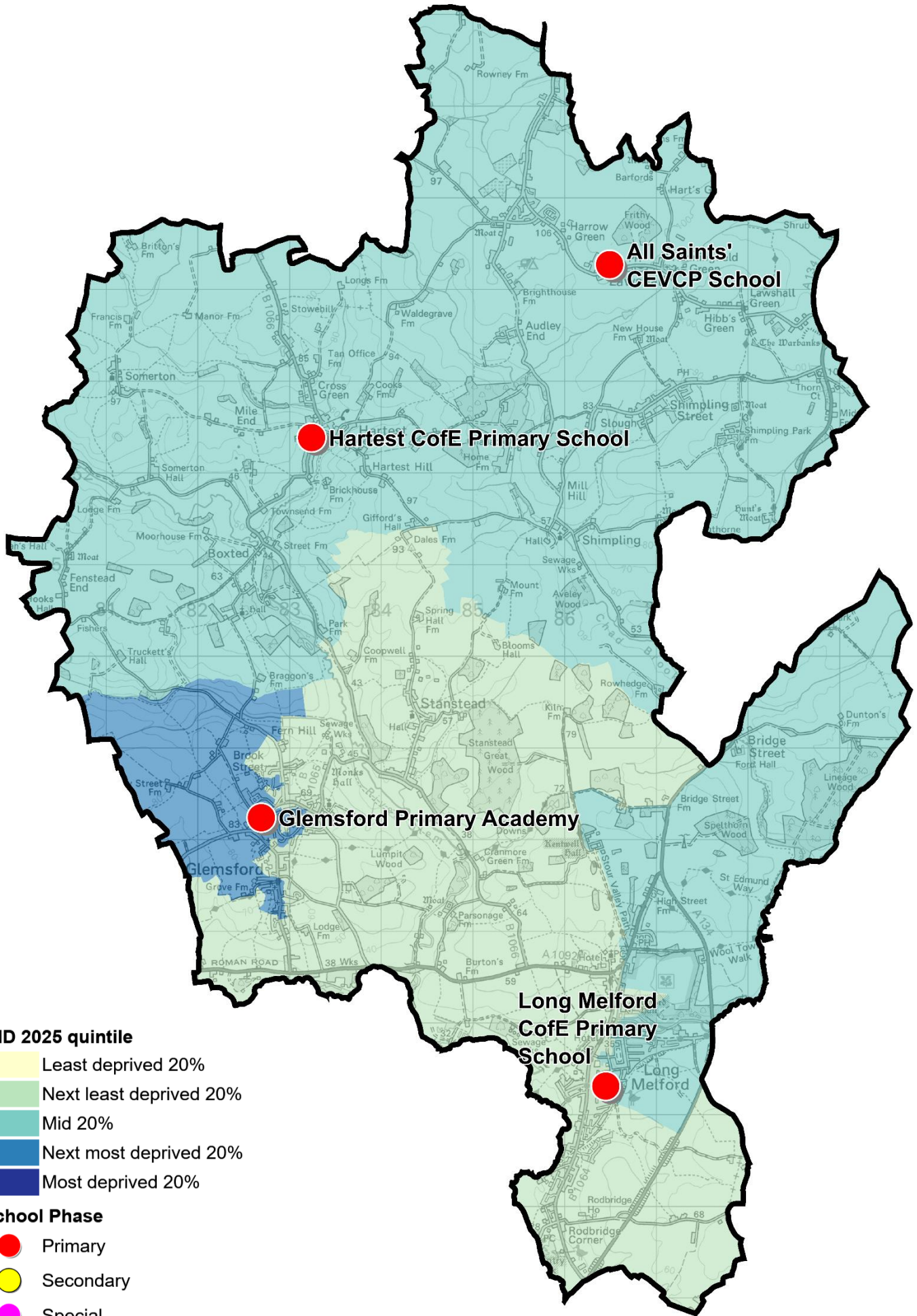
The IMD combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. This allows each area to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation. Small areas (Lower Super Output 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 Melford are low to moderate, but with some variation between different parts of the division.
- Almost half of the population of Melford live in areas that are ranked among the second least deprived 20% in England (i.e. the least deprived 40% overall).
- A further 35% of residents in Melford live in areas in the middle quintile of deprivation.
- The remaining 16% of Melford is ranked in the second most deprived quintile. This indicates higher levels of relative deprivation, in this case linked to rurality and access to services.
- 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%

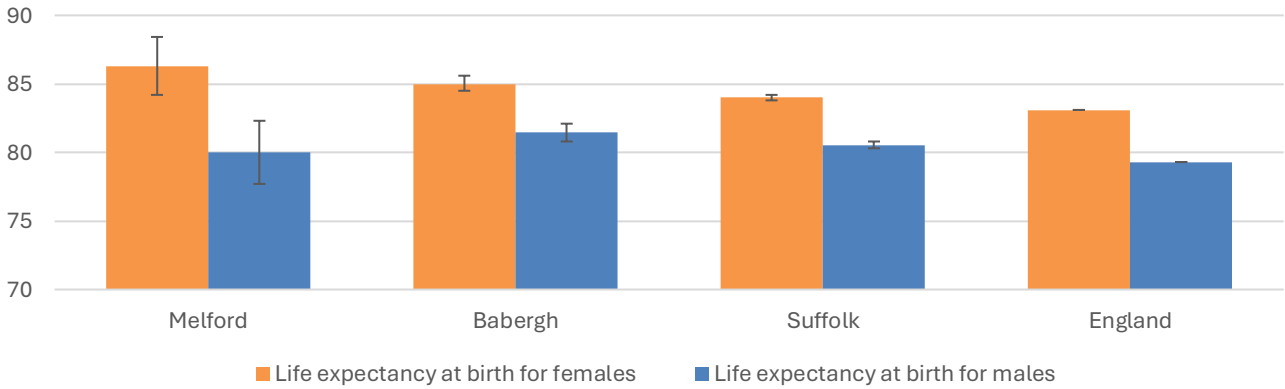
School Phase

- Primary
- Secondary
- Special
- Pupil referral unit/Alternative provision
- Nursery

Health

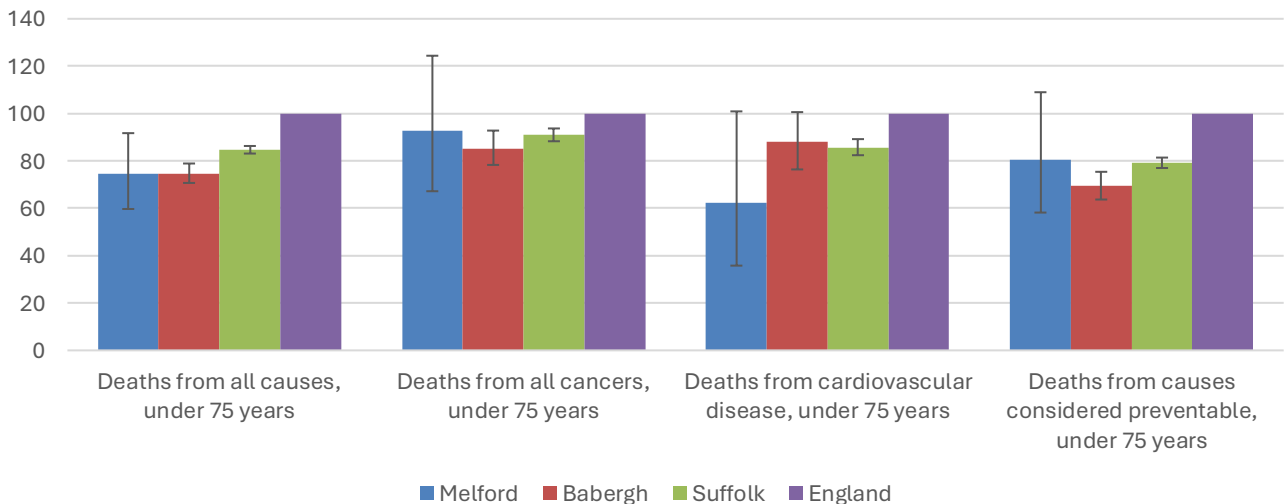
The local data used here is based on relatively small numbers. The confidence limits provide an indication of the reliability of the data. The 95% confidence intervals utilised on the chart provide a range within which there is 95% chance of the true result lying.

Life expectancy at birth



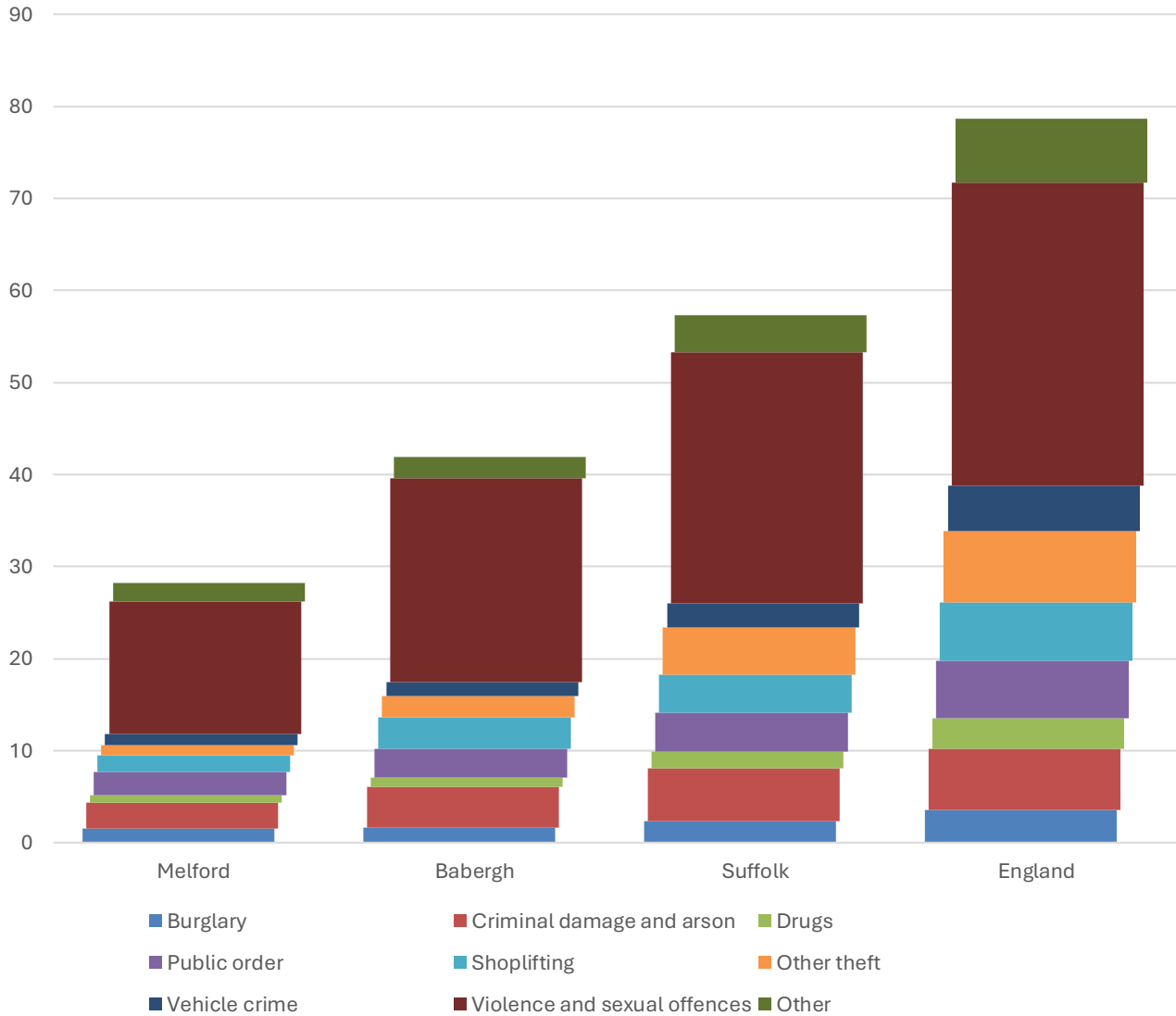
- Estimated life expectancy at birth for women in Melford is statistically similar to the Babergh and Suffolk averages and higher than the England average.
- For males, estimated life expectancy in Melford is statistically similar to the district, county and national benchmarks.
- Current life expectancy at birth for females in Melford is 86.3 (the England average is 83.1), and 80 for males (compared to 79.3 nationally).

Deaths, under 75 years, standardised mortality ratio



- Estimated standardised mortality ratios (SMR) for early deaths from all causes, cancers, circulatory disease and causes considered preventable in Melford 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 SMR for deaths from all causes is 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 74 comparable deaths in Melford.

Crime & Community Safety



- Crime levels in Melford are low compared to both the district and county averages, with 28 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.
- All types of crime occur at a lower rate in the division than the district and county average.
- 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

Boxted	Long Melford
Glemsford	Shimpling
Hartest	Somerton
Lawshall	Stanstead

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 Melford Electoral Division, see the Suffolk Observatory www.suffolkobservatory.info

