

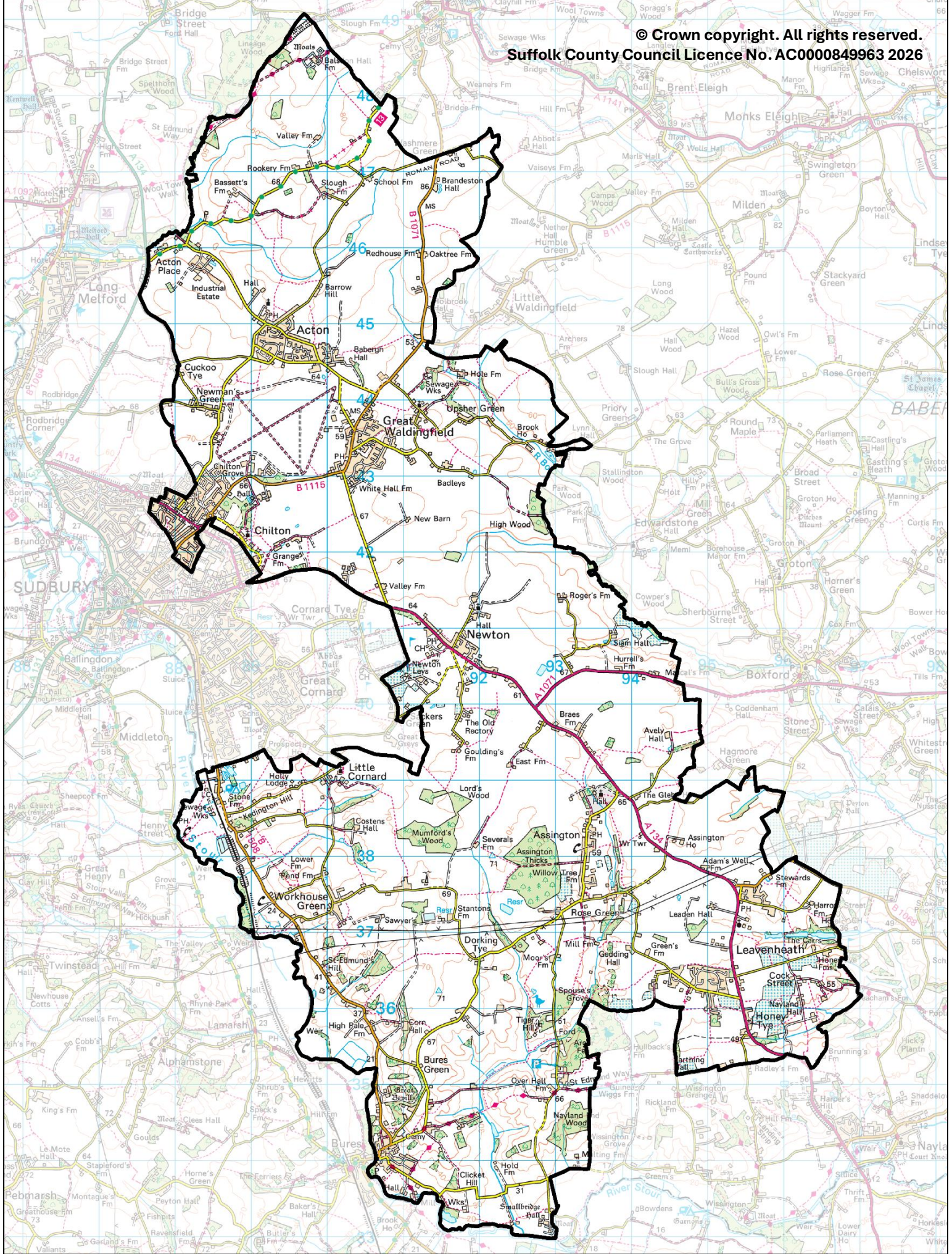
Stour Valley

County Electoral Division profile

May 2026

This division comprises Assington and Sudbury North East Wards in their entirety, and parts of Bures St Mary & Nayland, Lavenham, and Long Melford Wards





Contents

- Demographic Profile: Age & Ethnicity
- Economy and Labour Market
- Schools & NEET
- Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Health
- Crime & Community Safety
- Additional Information
- Data Sources

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.

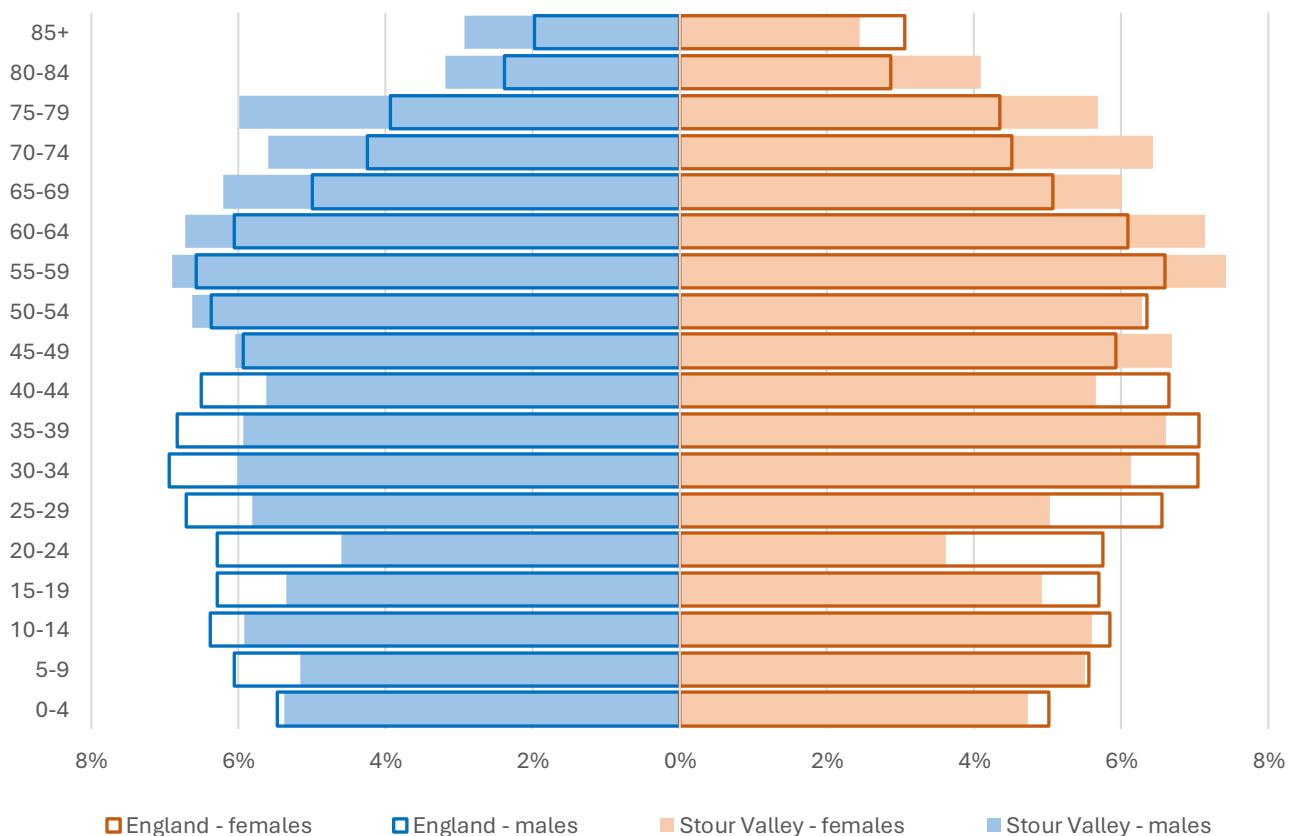
Technical Notes:

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

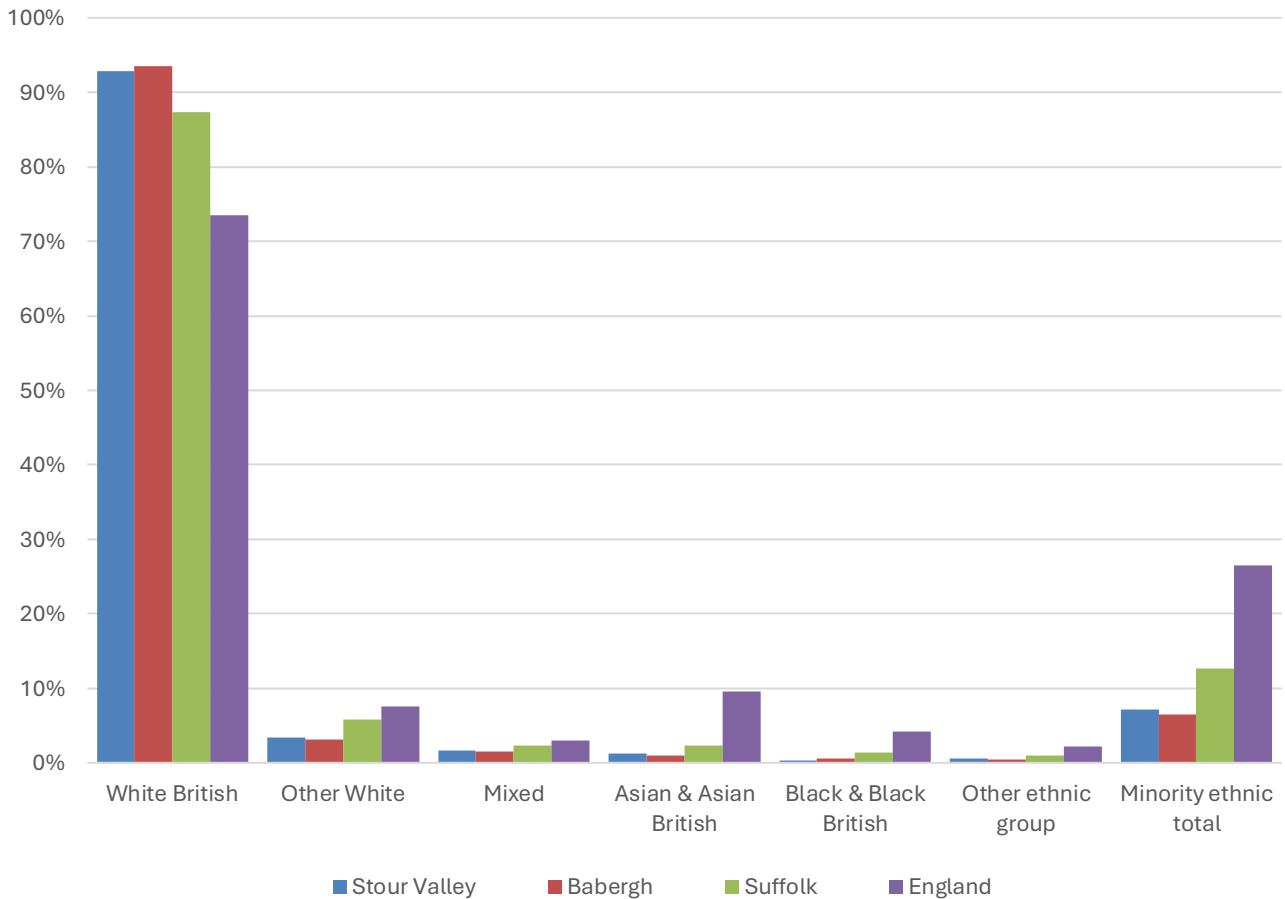
In mid-2024, the estimated population of Stour Valley stood at 11,863, an increase of 13.7% over the past decade. The age structure of the component wards and the division as a whole is set out below.

	Stour Valley Division	Sudbury North East Ward	Assington Ward	Lavenham Ward	Long Melford Ward	Bures St Mary & Nayland Ward
All Ages	11,863	3,214	2,820	2,636	2,155	1,038
0-4	599	190	98	161	108	42
5-9	633	215	112	122	116	68
10-14	683	238	126	164	98	57
15-19	608	186	129	122	120	51
20-24	486	148	107	99	103	29
25-29	642	196	115	147	131	53
30-34	721	258	100	170	127	66
35-39	745	250	135	157	144	59
40-44	669	191	153	130	132	63
45-49	756	222	152	159	155	68
50-54	765	207	204	176	122	56
55-59	851	214	227	175	165	70
60-64	823	171	214	194	155	89
65-69	725	140	235	162	126	62
70-74	714	118	230	164	135	67
75-79	692	118	236	146	127	65
80-84	433	92	127	101	70	43
85+	318	60	120	87	21	30



- The age pyramid for Stour Valley division shows a higher proportion of people aged 45 and over than in England as a whole.
- The most common age group in the division is 55-59-year-olds (7.2%), followed by 60-64-year-olds (6.9%), and 50-54-year-olds (6.5%).
- Almost a quarter of the population of Stour Valley is of retirement age.
- There is a lower-than-average proportion of children and young people, and adults aged under 45.

Demographic Profile - Ethnicity

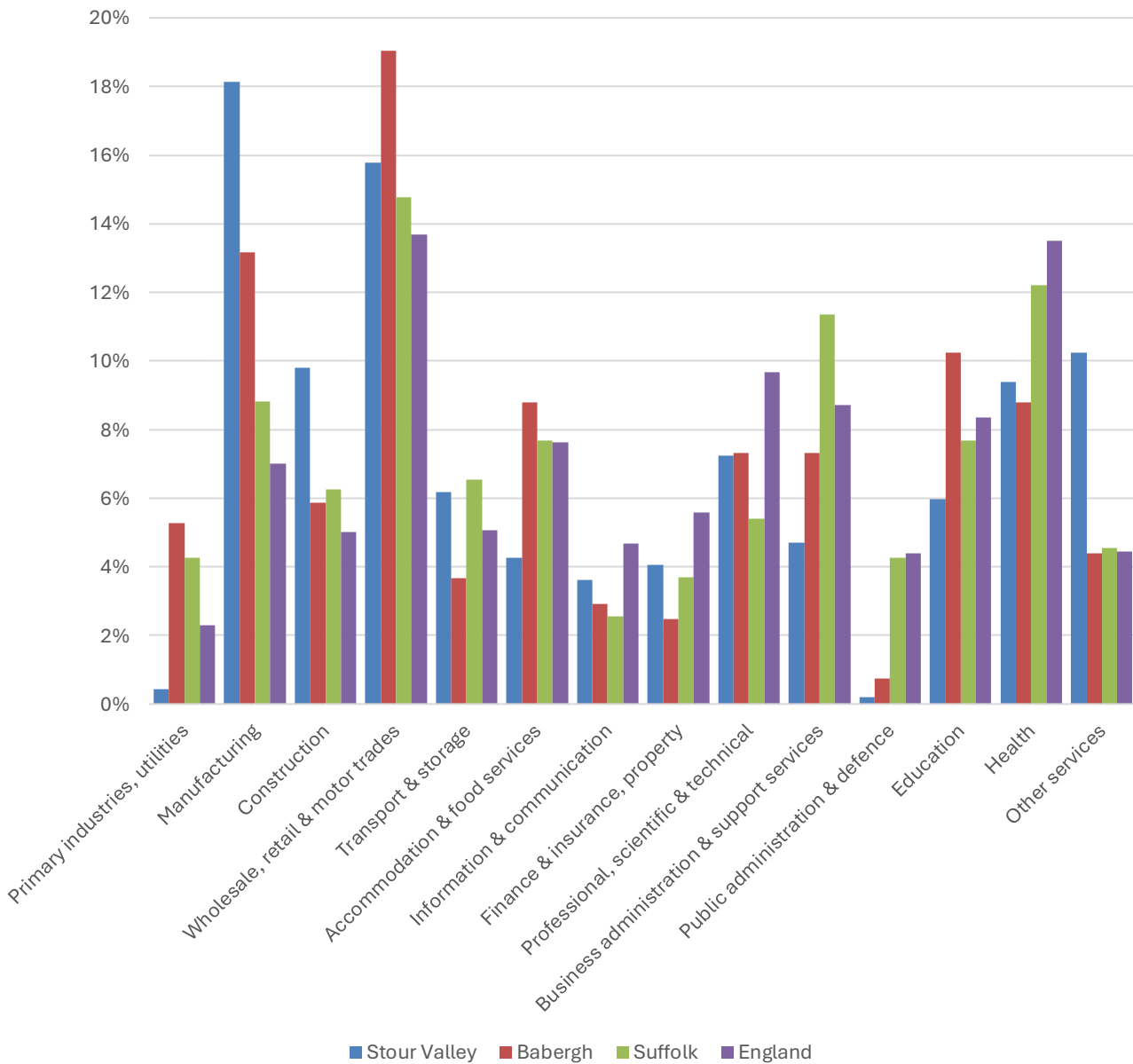


- According to the latest data (2021 Census), 92.8% of the population of Stour Valley are White British.
- There are 765 (7.2%) people of minority ethnic origin in the division, less than the proportion of the population in Suffolk as a whole and between a third and a quarter of the England average.
- Stour Valley has a similar 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	%
Stour Valley	10,694		9,929	92.8	366	3.4	183	1.7	130	1.2	28	0.3	58	0.5	765	7.2
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

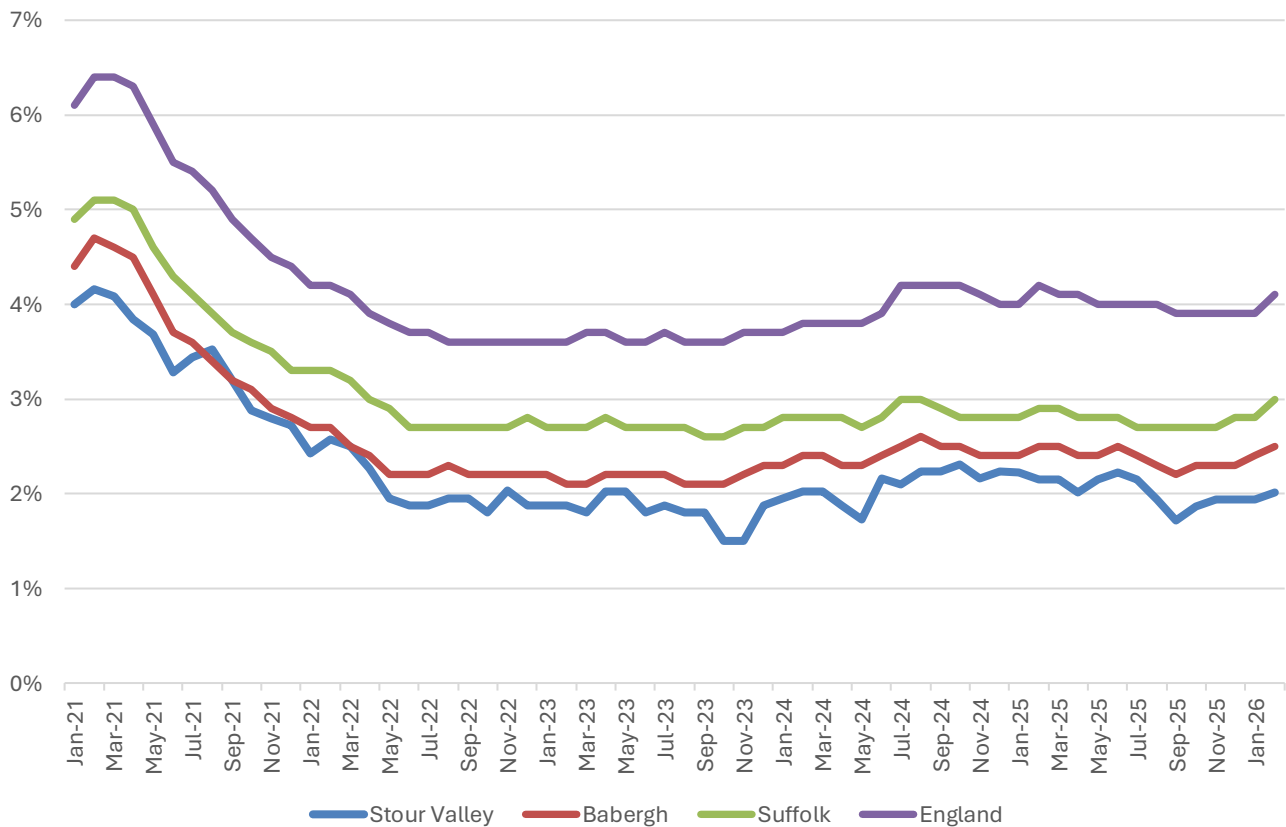
There are around 2,300 people employed in Stour Valley.



- Manufacturing and wholesale, retail and motor trades are the two key employment sectors in Stour Valley.
- Combined, these two sectors account for just over 1 in every 3 jobs in the division. A much larger proportion of jobs in the division are in manufacturing compared to the county and national averages.
- Construction, health and other services also account for around a tenth of jobs each in Stour Valley.

Labour Market

Out-of-work benefit claimant rate



- In common with Babergh, Suffolk and England as a whole, Stour Valley 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 around 2% of 16-64-year-olds.
- Since spring 2022, the claimant rate in Stour Valley has been consistently slightly 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)
Acton CEVCP School	Primary	LA	196	28	22		
Bures CEVCP School	Primary	LA	161	26	29		
Great Waldingfield CEVCP School	Primary	LA	203	30	26		

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
Acton CEVCP School	2	2	9	9	2	9	08/11/2017
Bures CEVCP School	2	2	2	2	2	2	02/02/2023
Great Waldingfield CEVCP School	2	2	2	2	2	2	05/04/2022

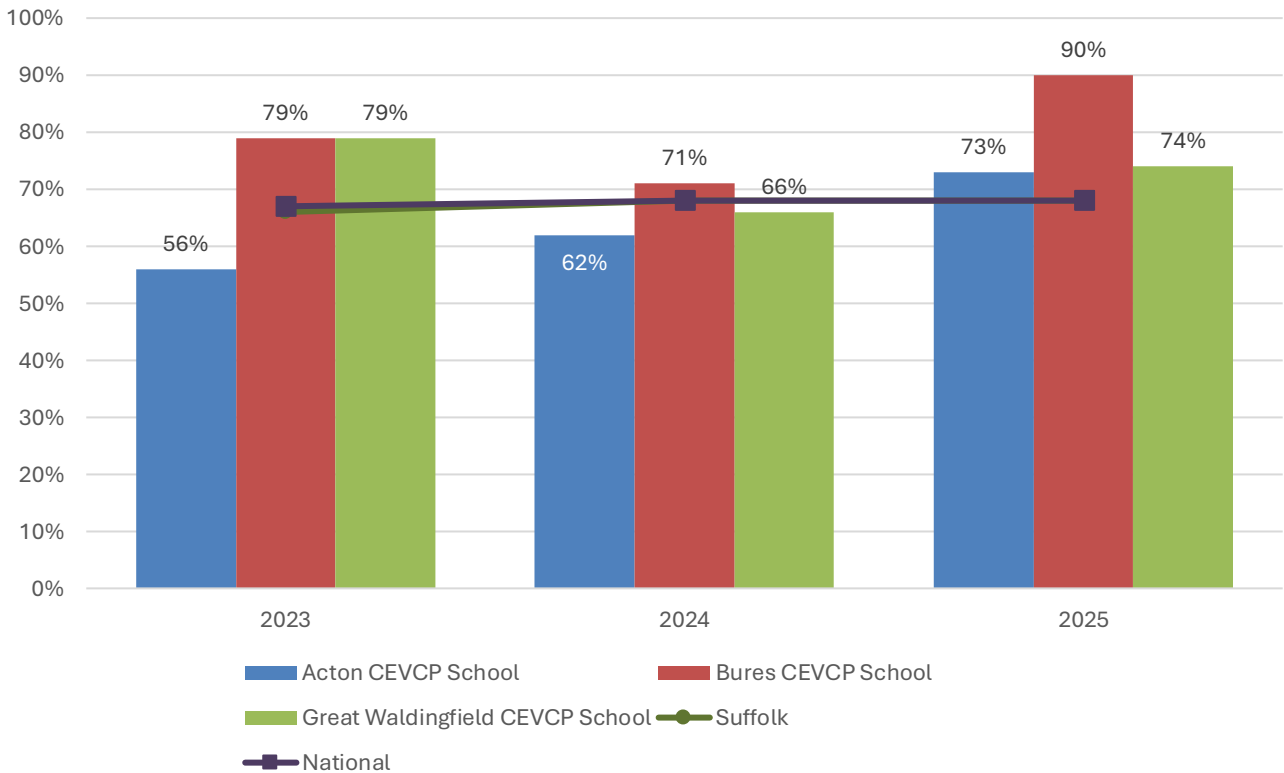
Ofsted information key

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

School Attainment

Foundation Stage Profile (reception)

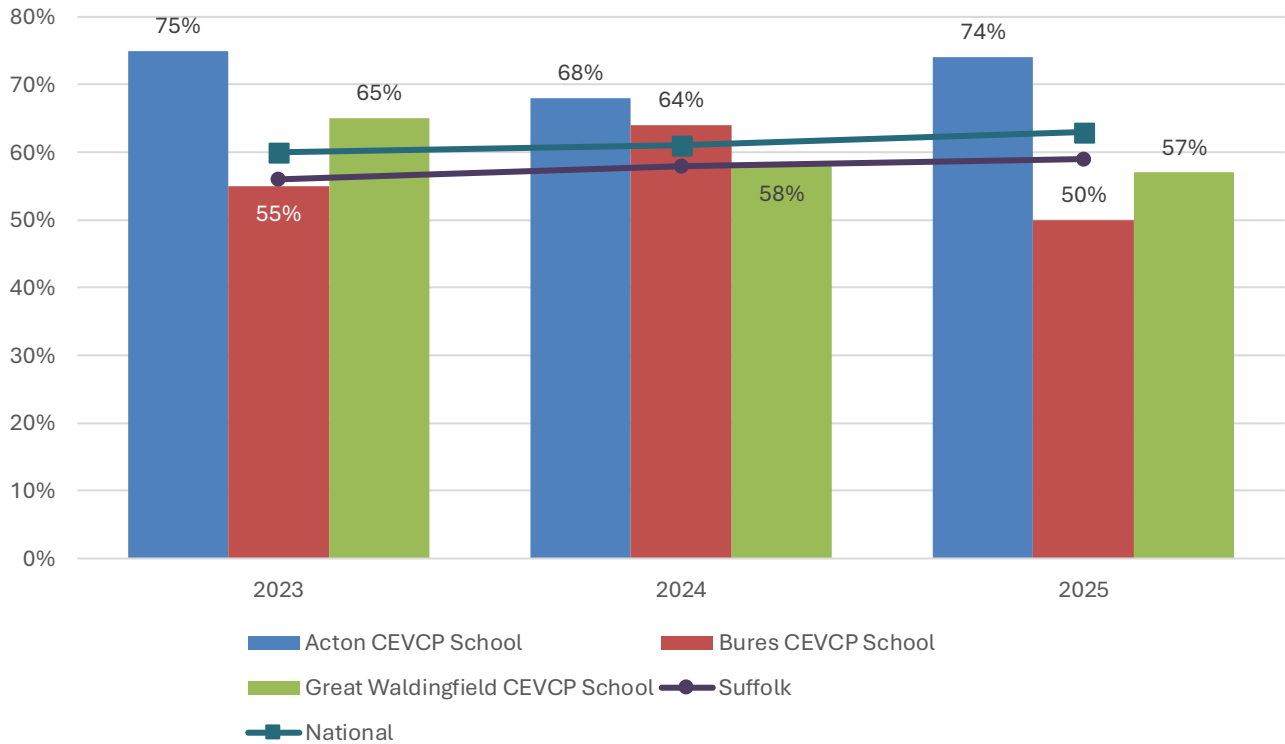
% pupils achieving Good Level of Development (GLD)



- The percentage of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at Foundation Stage (FS) at Bures CEVCP School has been consistently above the county and national benchmarks over the past three years of data.
- In fact, in the latest available year of data in 2025, FS attainment levels at all schools in Stour Valley was above the overall England figure of 68% of pupils achieving a GLD.
- Attainment at Acton CEVCP School has improved steadily year on year during this period, culminating in the above average figure of 74% of pupils achieving a GLD in 2025.
- The percentage of pupils achieving a GLD at FS at Great Waldingfield CEVCP School dipped slightly below the national average in 2024, but has otherwise been relatively high.

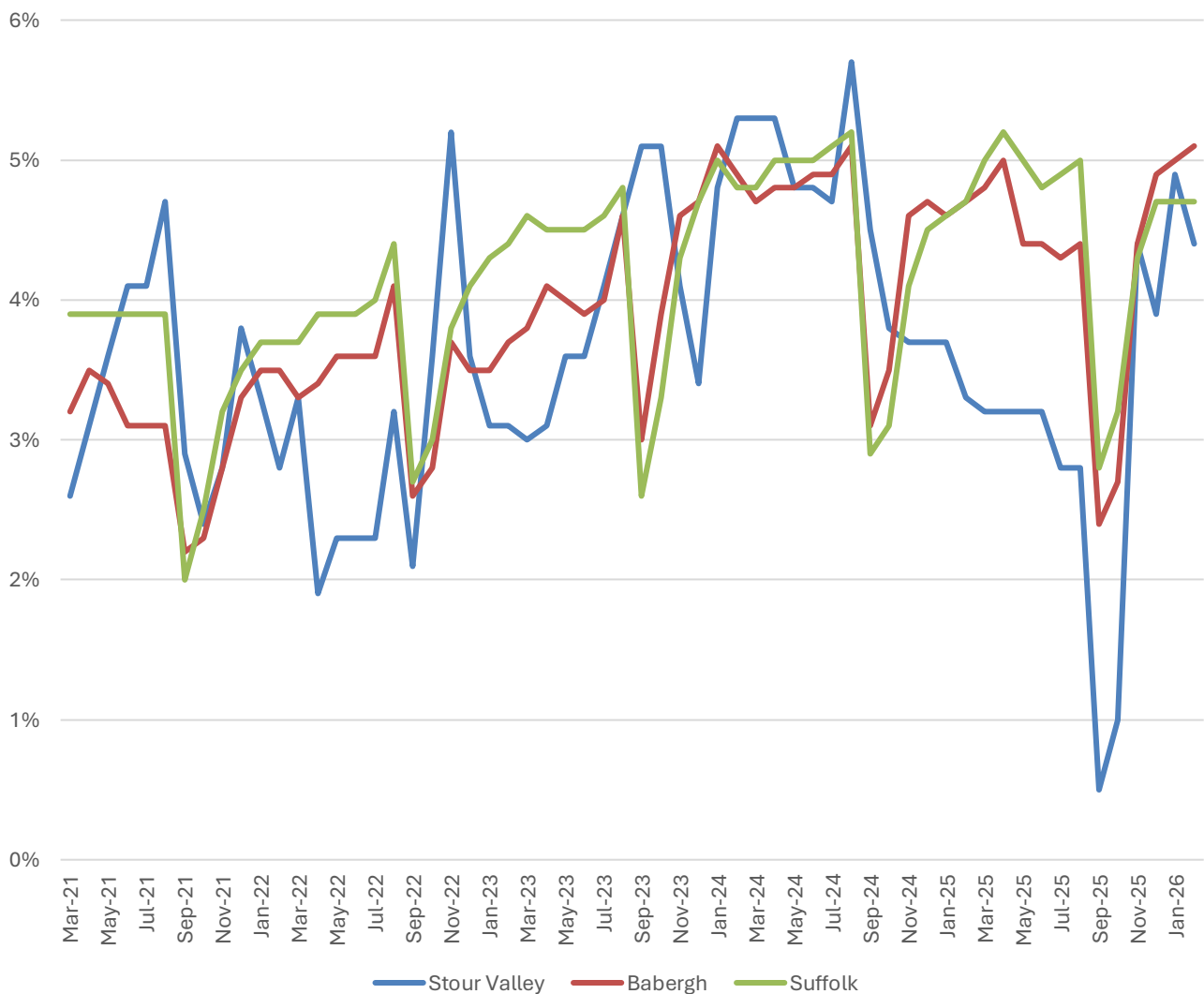
Key Stage 2 (age 11)

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



- Key stage 2 attainment at Acton CEVCP School has been consistently above the county and national average over the past three years of data.
- At Great Waldingfield CEVCP School, the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level or better in reading, writing and mathematics has fallen year on year, and was slightly below the England benchmark in 2024 and 2025.
- KS2 attainment at Bures CEVCP School has fluctuated over the three years, being just above average in 2024, but below the national benchmark in 2023 and 2025.

NEET % (Not in Education, Employment or Training)



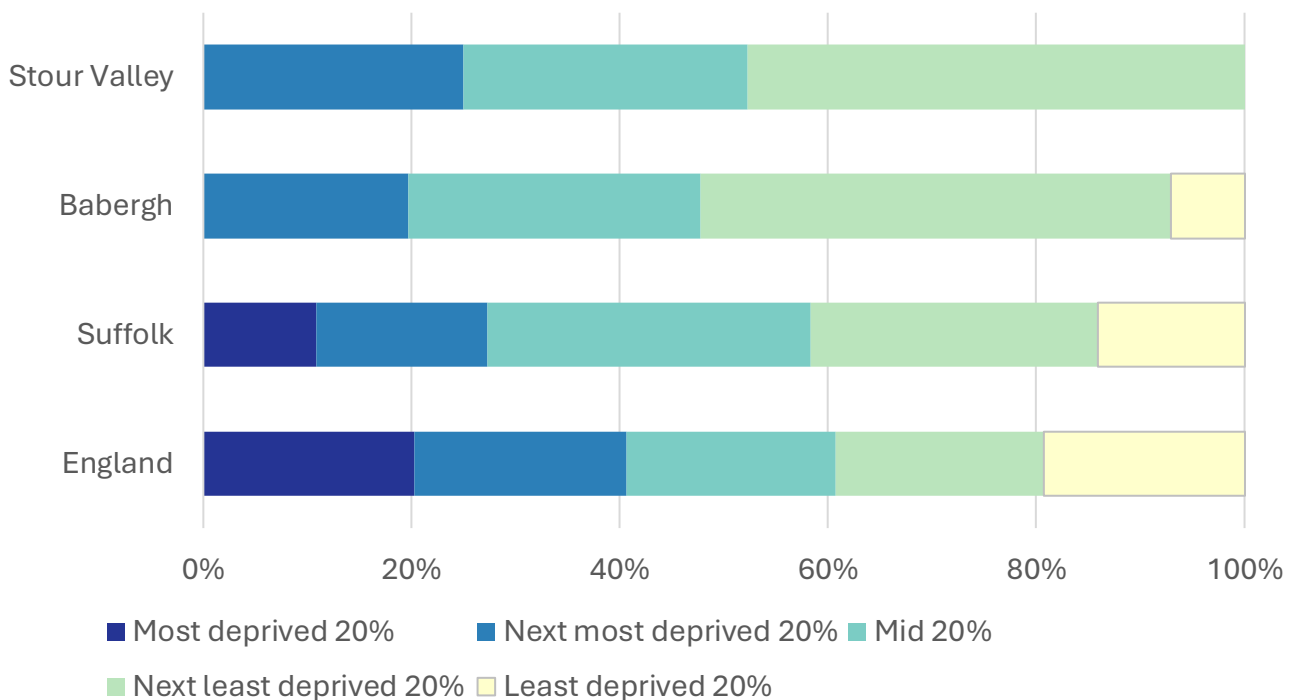
- In February 2026, 4.4% of 16–17-year-olds in Stour Valley were classified as NEET (not in education, employment or training).
- NEET levels fluctuate considerably according to the time of year and due to small numbers of 16-17-year-olds in the division, typically being at their lowest at the beginning of a new school year.
- In Stour Valley, NEET levels have fluctuated greatly, but are broadly similar to the district and county figures in general.

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

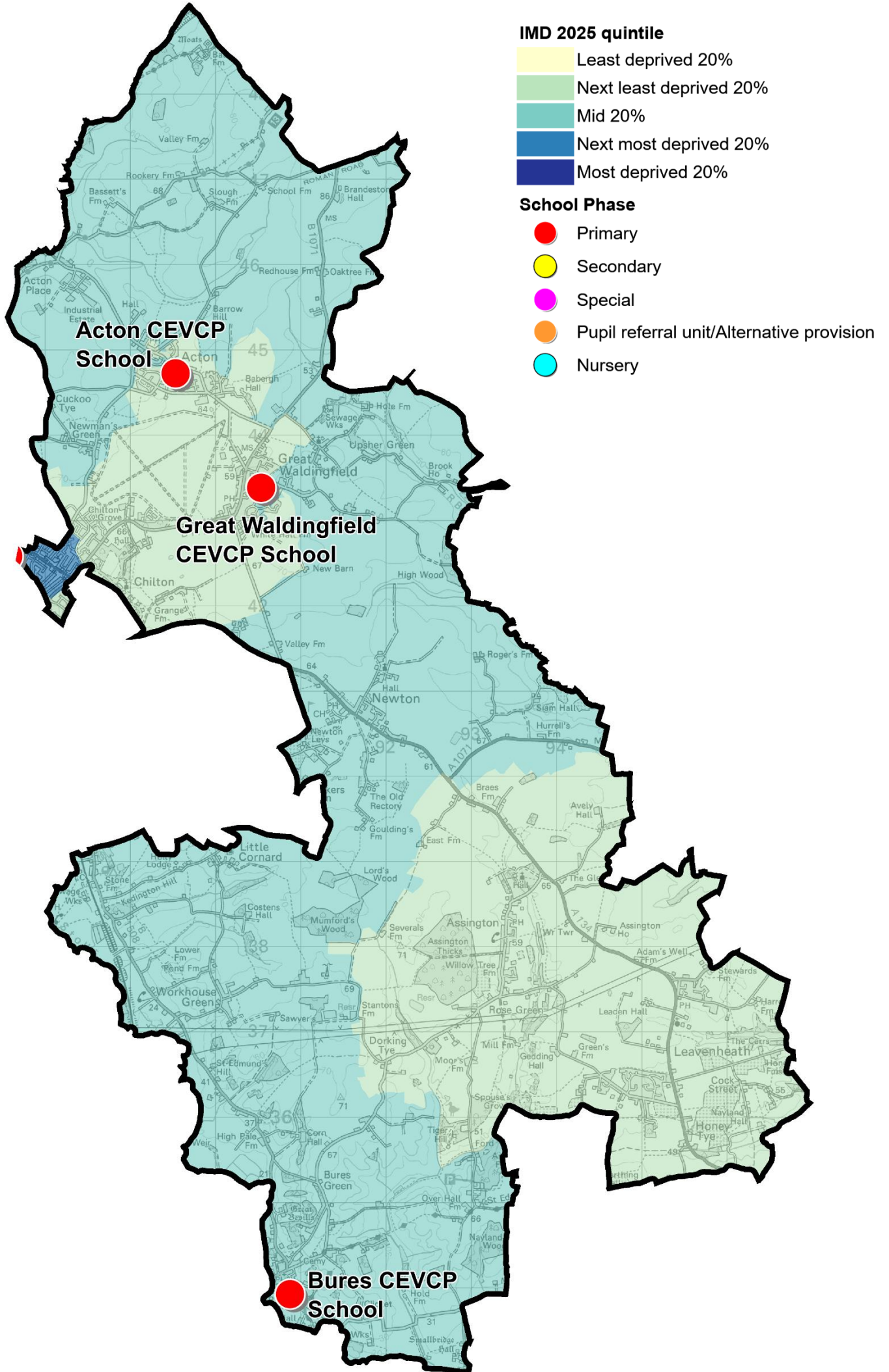
The IMD combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. This allows each area to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation. Small areas (Lower Super Output 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.



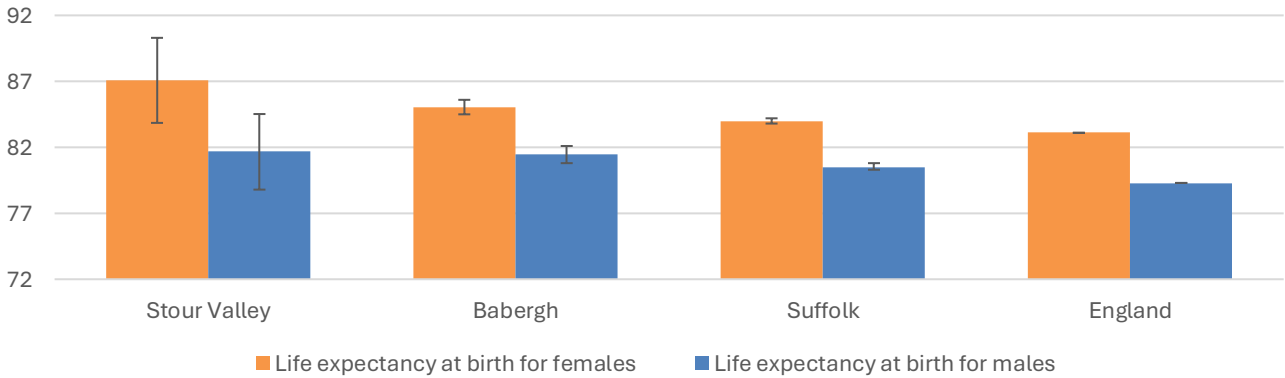
- The 2025 IMD shows that relative deprivation levels in Stour Valley are moderate, but with some variation between different parts of the division.
- Almost half of the population of the division lives in areas that are ranked among the second least deprived quintile in England (i.e. the 20-40% least deprived in the country).
- The remaining half of Stour Valley division is split evenly between the middle quintile and the second most deprived quintile.
- The relatively more deprived part of the division is in northeastern Sudbury, with higher deprivation levels driven in particular by education, skills and training data.
- See the map overleaf for the distribution of IMD 2025 results across the division.



Health

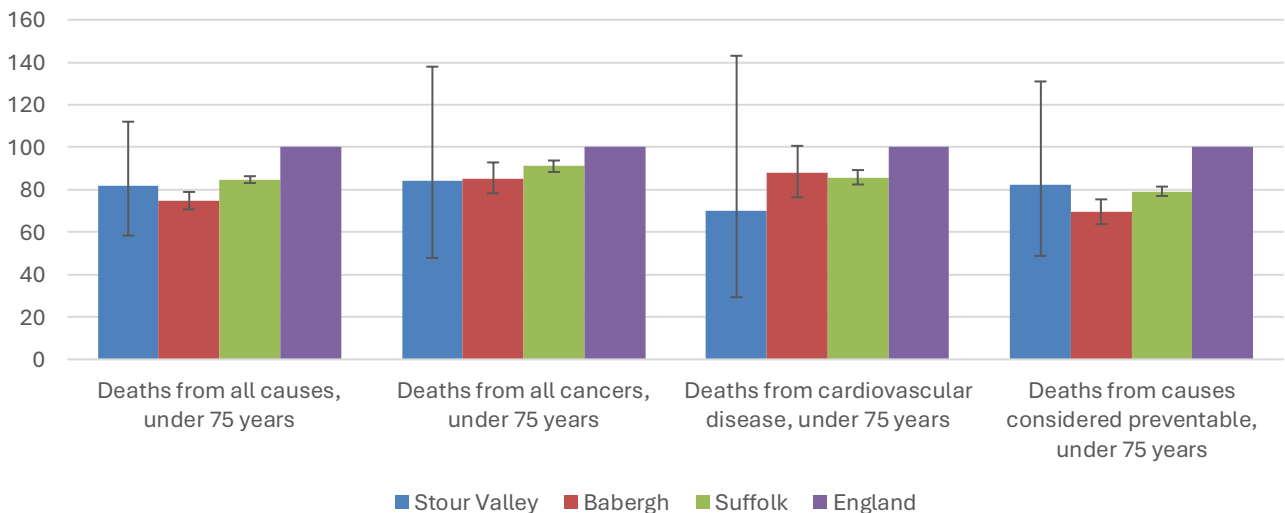
The local data used here is based on relatively small numbers. The confidence limits provide an indication of the reliability of the data. The 95% confidence intervals utilised on the chart provide a range within which there is 95% chance of the true result lying.

Life expectancy at birth



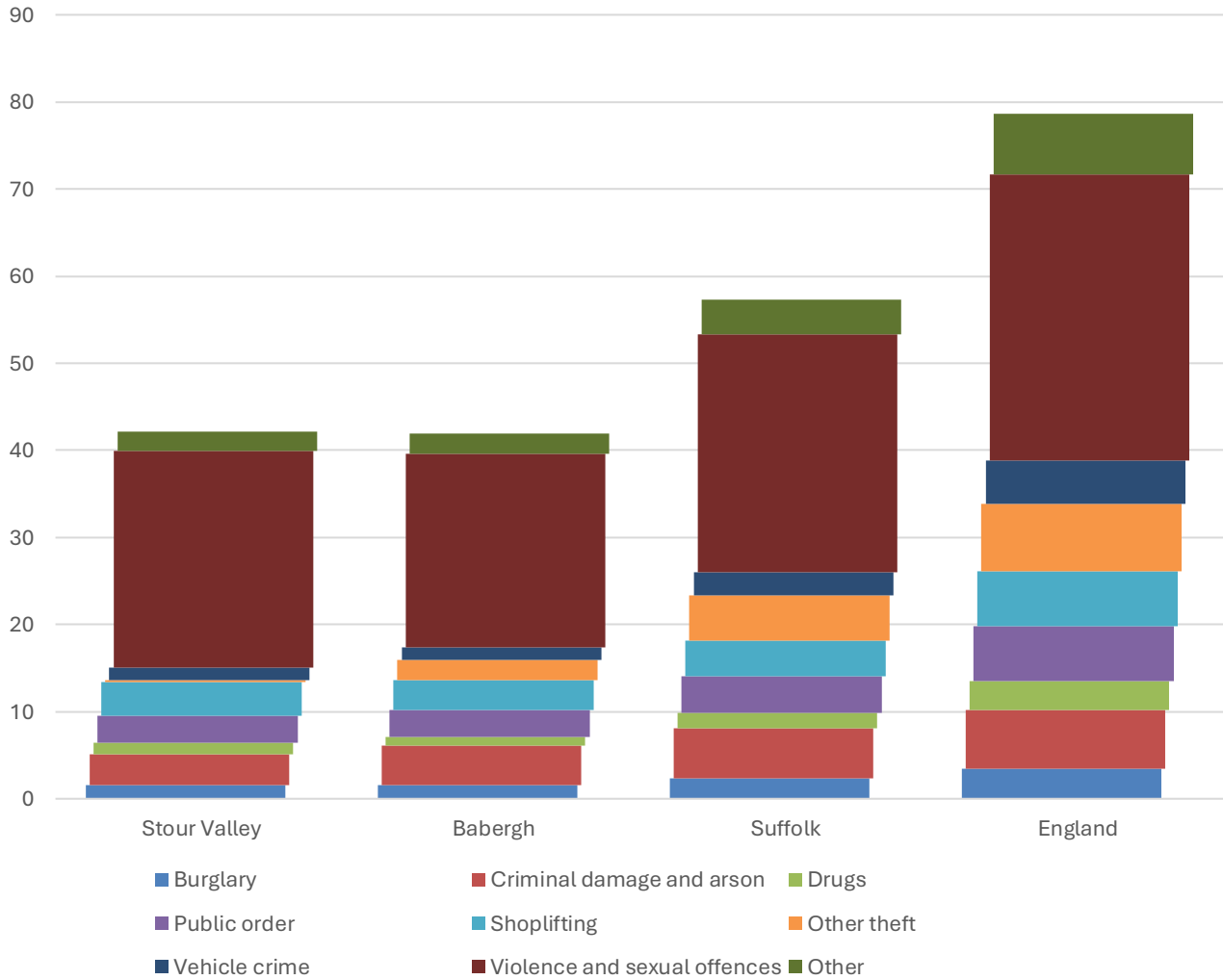
- Estimated life expectancy at birth for women in Stour Valley is statistically similar to the East Suffolk and Suffolk averages and statistically higher than the national average.
- For males, estimated life expectancy in Stour Valley is statistically similar to the district, county and national figures.
- Current life expectancy at birth in Stour Valley is estimated at 87 years for females (the England average is 83.1), and 81.7 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 Stour Valley 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, and none of the variations are statistically significant; note the overlapping confidence intervals (black bars).
- 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 82 comparable deaths in Stour Valley.

Crime & Community Safety



- Crime levels in Stour Valley are very similar to the overall Babergh district figure, but well below the county and national benchmarks. In the year to the end of January 2026 there were 42 recorded crimes per 1,000 residents in the division and in Babergh, compared to 57 countywide.
- Most types of crime occur at a very similar rate in the division to in Babergh overall, though the rate of violence and sexual offences in the division (24.9 per 1,000 residents) is higher than the Babergh figure of 22.2 per 1,000 residents.
- Violence and sexual offences accounted for almost 60% of all recorded crimes in the division during this period.

Additional Information

Parishes in Division

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Acton | Leavenheath |
| Assington | Little Cornard |
| Bures St. Mary | Newton |
| Chilton | Sudbury (part) |
| Great Waldingfield | |

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 Stour Valley Electoral Division, see the Suffolk Observatory www.suffolkobservatory.info

