

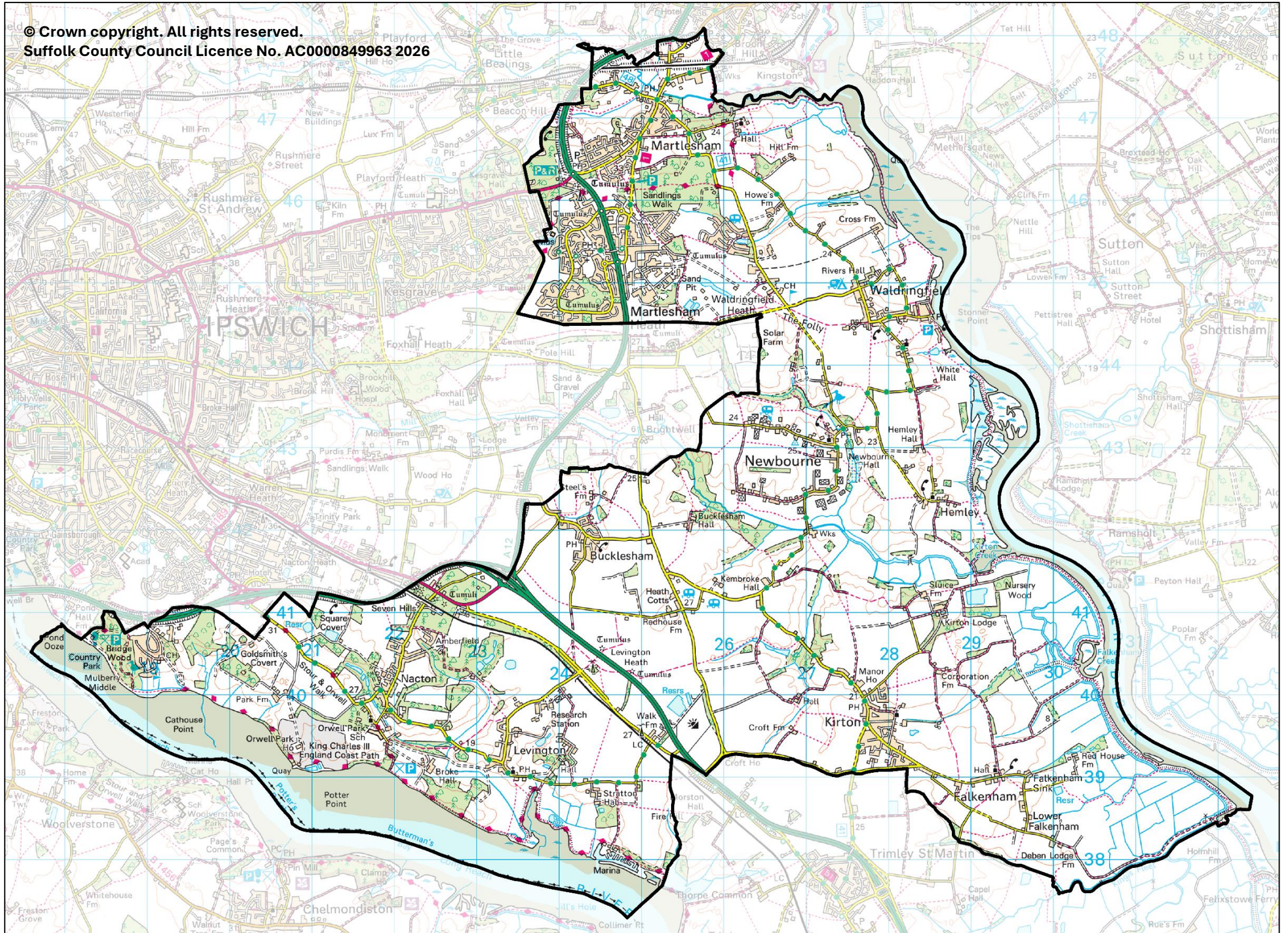
Martlesham

County Electoral Division profile

May 2026

This division comprises parts of Martlesham & Purdis Farm and Orwell & Villages 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.

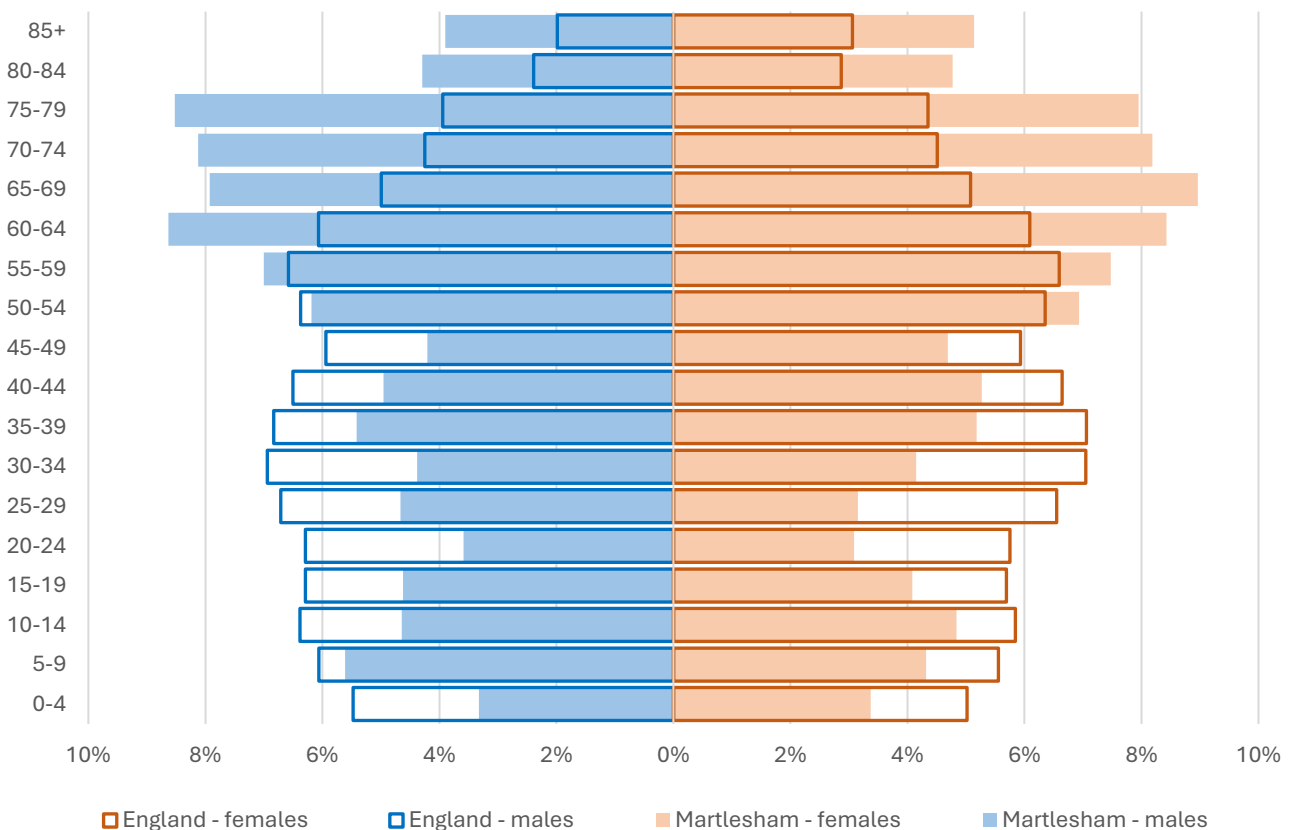
Technical Notes:

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

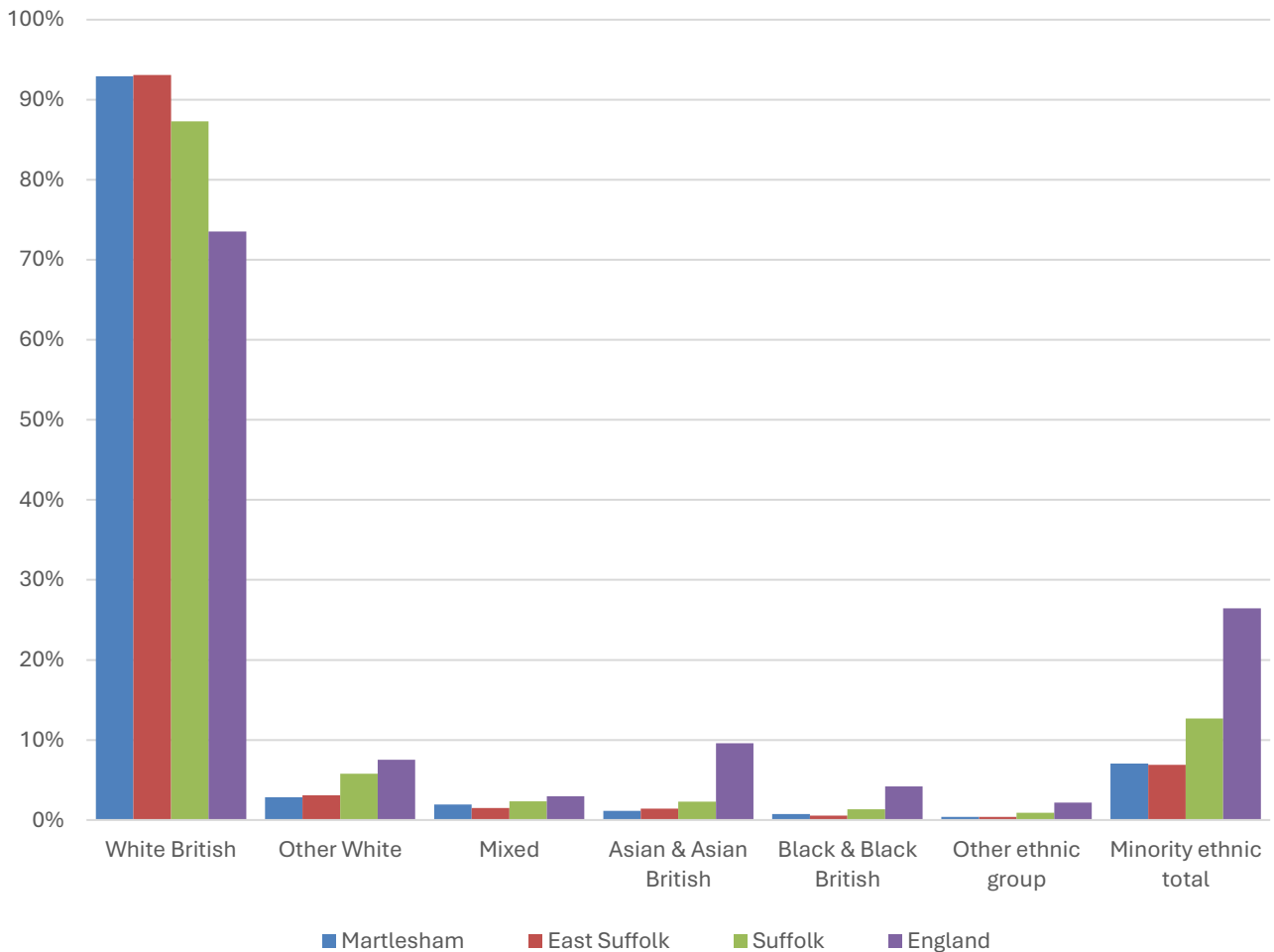
In mid-2024, the estimated population of Martlesham stood at 9,171, an increase of 8.4% over the past decade. The age structure of the component wards and the division as a whole is set out below.

	Martlesham Division	Martlesham & Purdis Farm Ward	Orwell & Villages Ward
All Ages	9,171	5,220	3,951
0-4	307	190	117
5-9	455	267	188
10-14	435	219	216
15-19	399	227	172
20-24	306	198	108
25-29	358	217	141
30-34	391	240	151
35-39	486	300	186
40-44	469	287	182
45-49	408	270	138
50-54	602	317	285
55-59	664	375	289
60-64	782	357	425
65-69	775	397	378
70-74	748	436	312
75-79	755	453	302
80-84	416	247	169
85+	415	223	192



- The age pyramid for Martlesham division shows a higher proportion of people aged 50 and over than in England as a whole.
- The 60+ age group is particularly overrepresented in the division.
- The most common age group in the division is 60-64-year-olds (8.53%), followed by 65-69-year-olds (8.45%), and 75-79-year-olds (8.2%).
- Just over a third of the population of Martlesham is of retirement age.
- There is a lower-than-average proportion of children and young people, and adults aged under 50 in the division. The 20-34 age group is particularly underrepresented in Martlesham.

Demographic Profile - Ethnicity

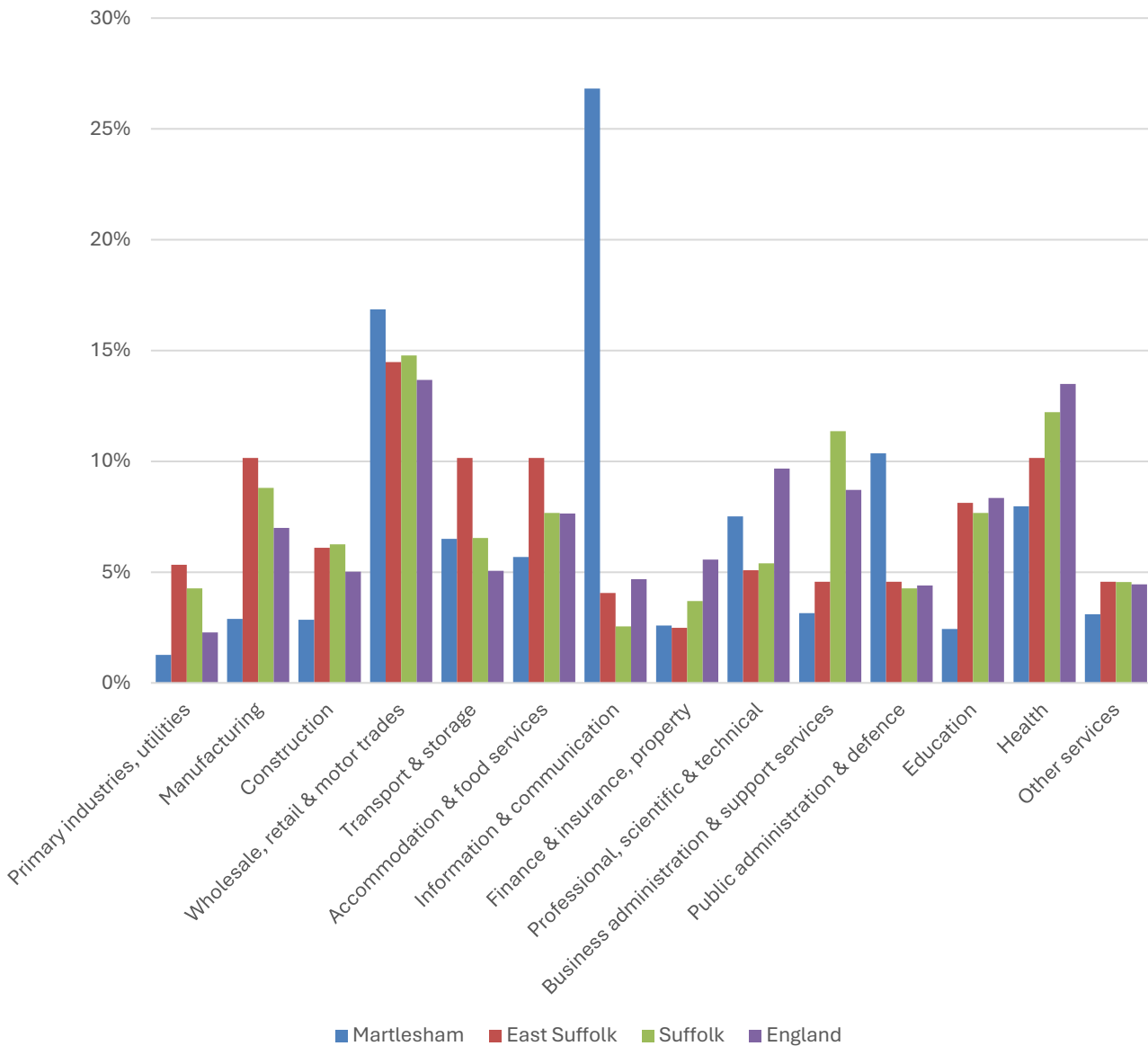


- According to the latest data (2021 Census), 92.9% of the population of Martlesham are White British.
- There were 639 (7.1%) people of minority ethnic origin in the division, less than the proportion in Suffolk as a whole and around a quarter of the England average.
- Martlesham has a similar ethnic diversity profile to East Suffolk 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	%
Martlesham	9,047		8,408	92.9	257	2.8	175	1.9	105	1.2	66	0.7	36	0.4	639	7.1
East Suffolk	246,060		229,063	93.1	7,564	3.1	3,707	1.5	3,447	1.4	1,357	0.6	922	0.4	16,997	6.9
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

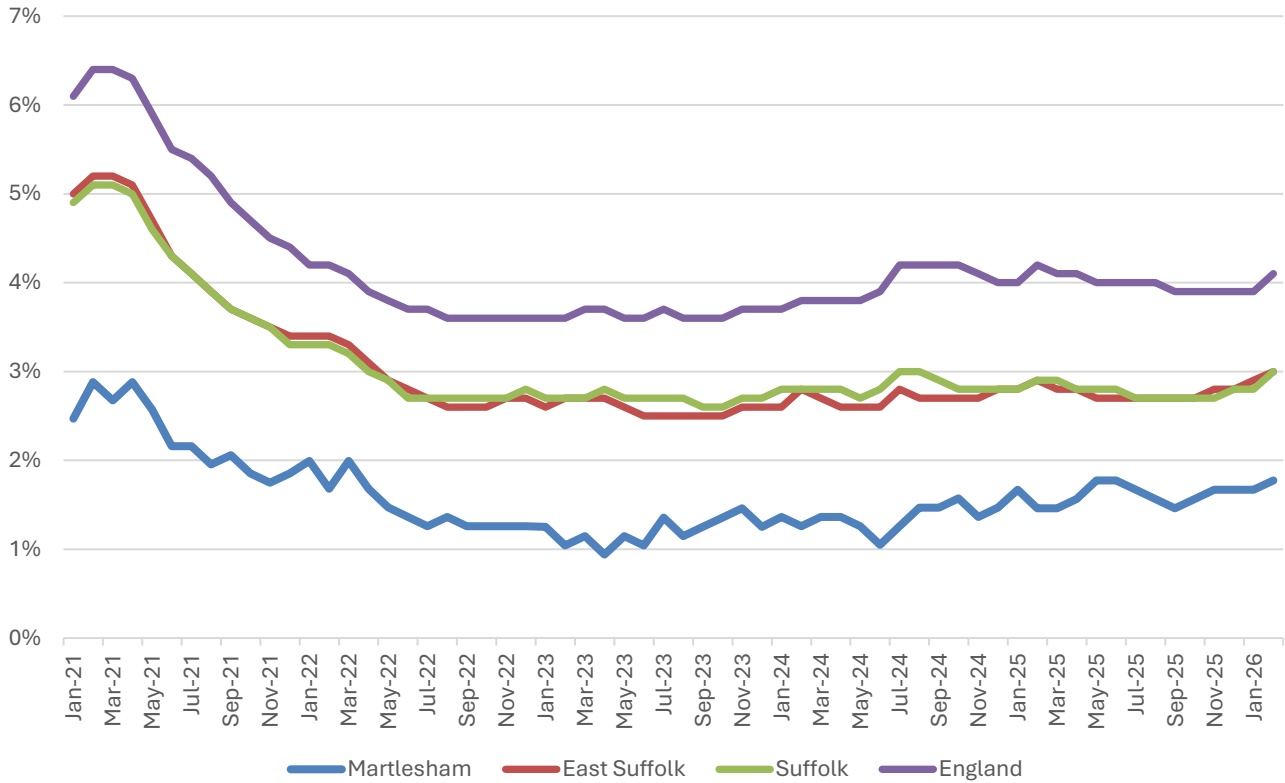
There are around 9,800 people employed in Martlesham.



- Information and communication stands out as the most important sector in Martlesham, as it provides more than a quarter of jobs in the division, a far larger proportion than in Suffolk or England as a whole. This sector includes employment at BT and other businesses at Adastral Park.
- Public administration and defence also makes up a relatively large proportion of employment in the division. Just over 10% of jobs in Martlesham are classified in this sector, compared to less than 5% in Suffolk overall.
- Wholesale, retail and motor trades is one of the biggest employers across East Suffolk, Suffolk, and England, and this is also true in Martlesham, where it accounts for 17% of local jobs.

Labour Market

Out-of-work benefit claimant rate



- In common with East Suffolk, Suffolk and England as a whole, Martlesham saw a steady decline in the proportion of the working age population claiming of out-of-work benefits during 2021 and the first half of 2022 following a peak during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Since then, the claimant rate in the division has risen slowly from a low of 1-1.4% in much of 2023 to 1.6-1.8% in 2025 and early 2026.
- The claimant rate in Martlesham is consistently more than one percentage point below the district and county figures, and two percentage points below the national average.

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)
Birchwood Primary School	Primary	LA	209	29	30		
Bucklesham Primary School	Primary	LA	104	11	12		
Martlesham Primary Academy	Primary	AS	125	14	16		
Nacton CofE Primary School	Primary	AC	100	12	14		
Waldringfield Primary School	Primary	AC	69	8	13		

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

Ofsted information

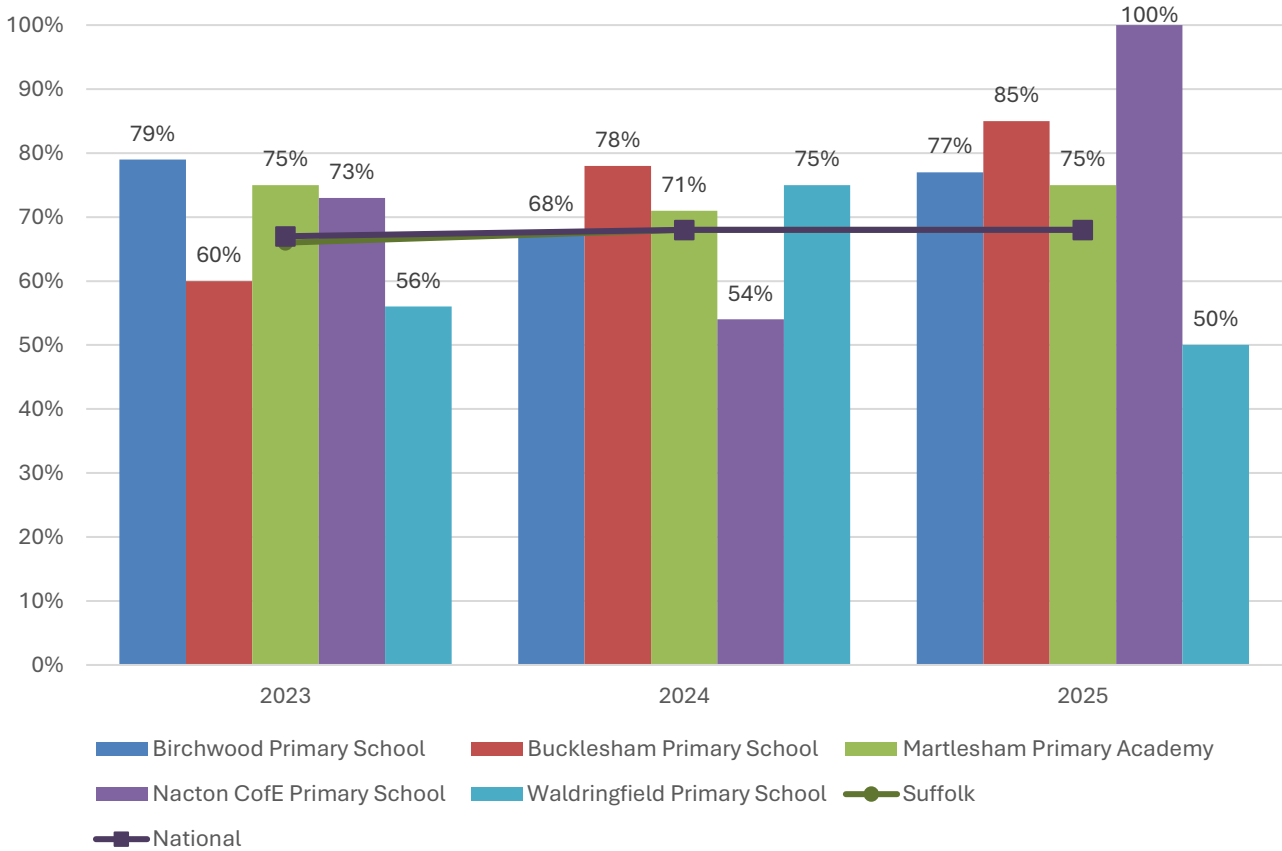
Name	Overall effectiveness	Effectiveness of leadership and	Behaviour and attitudes	Personal development	Early years provision (if applicable)	Quality of education	Last inspection date
Birchwood Primary School	1	1	9	9	1	9	14/10/2016
Bucklesham Primary School	2	2	2	2	2	2	09/07/2024
Martlesham Primary Academy	2	2	9	9	2	9	10/10/2018
Nacton CofE Primary School	2	2	1	1	2	2	01/10/2019
Waldringfield Primary School	3	2	2	2	2	3	13/06/2023

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)

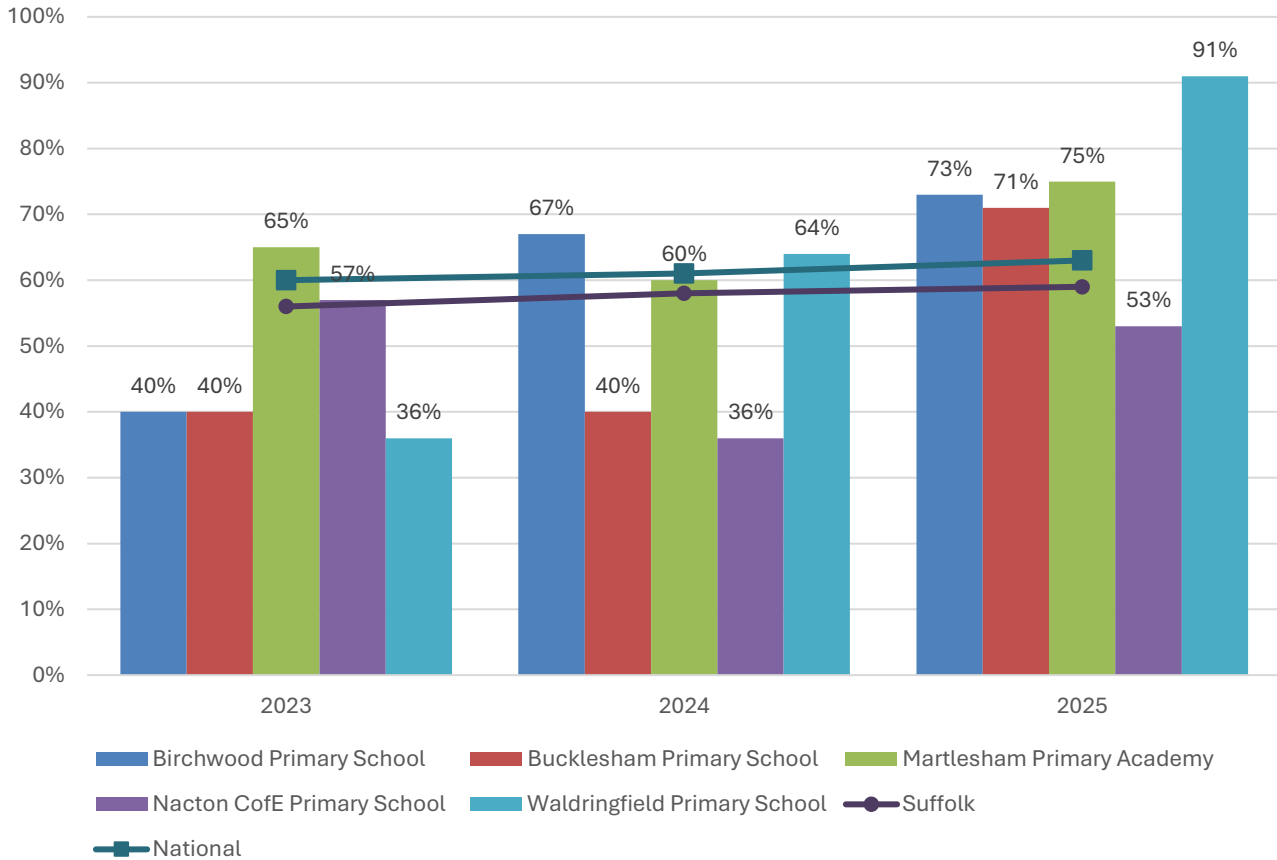
% pupils achieving Good Level of Development (GLD)



- In 2025, the percentage of pupils who achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) at Foundation Stage (FS) was above the county and national benchmarks at four of the five schools in Martlesham division.
- Attainment was lower at Waldringfield Primary, but was much stronger at the school the previous year.
- FS attainment has been consistently at or above average at Birchwood Primary School and Martlesham Primary Academy.
- It should be noted that cohort sizes at most of these schools are small and therefore more subject to significant fluctuations from one year to the next.

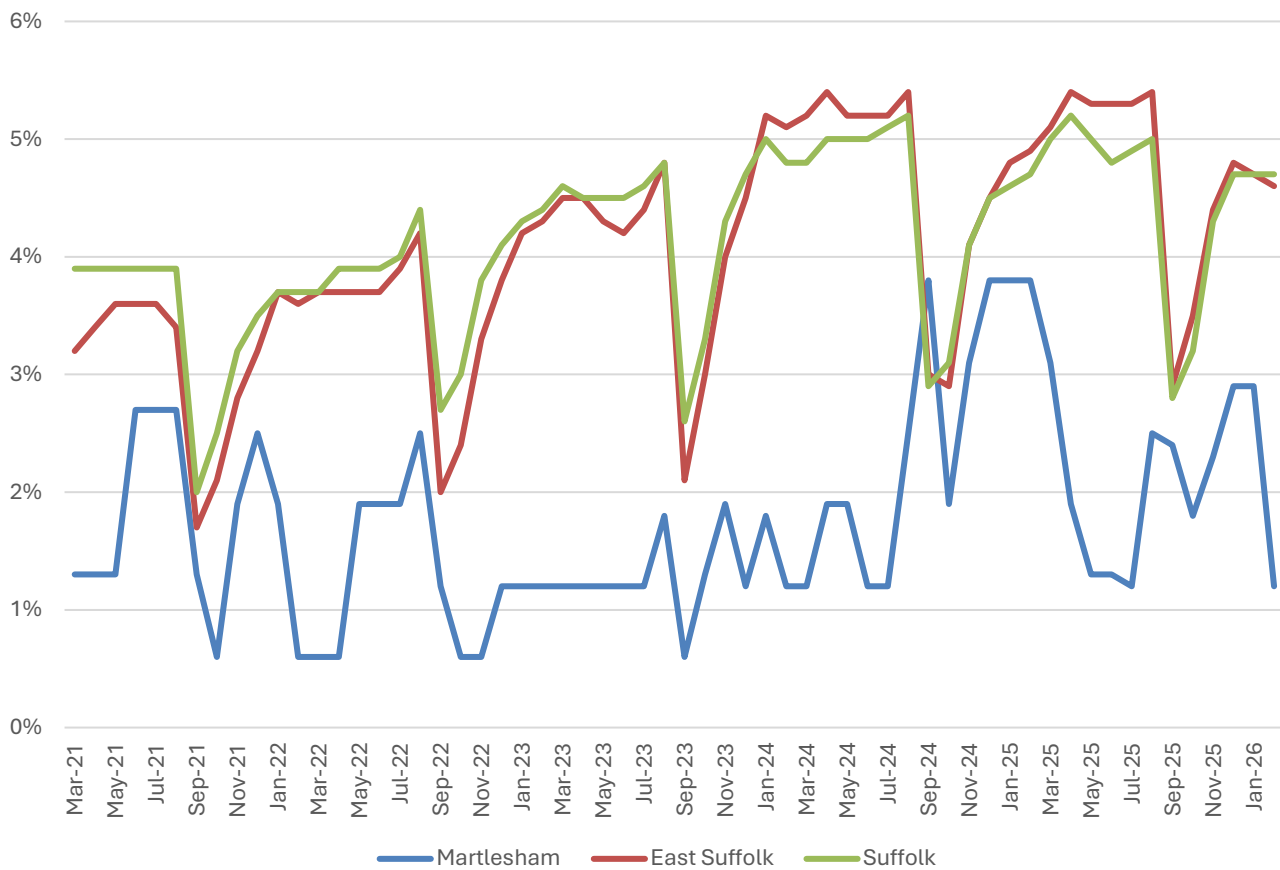
Key Stage 2 (age 11)

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



- Overall, Key stage 2 attainment at schools in Martlesham has improved over the last three years.
- In 2025, the percentage of pupils at Birchwood Primary, Bucklesham Primary, Martlesham Primary Academy and Waldringfield Primary to achieve the expected level or better in reading, writing and mathematics was above the Suffolk and national benchmarks.
- No school has seen consistently above average KS2 attainment during this period, though attainment at Martlesham Primary Academy was only one percentage point below the national figure in 2024.
- KS2 attainment has been below average throughout the last three years at Nacton Church of England Primary School.
- Again, it's important to note 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)



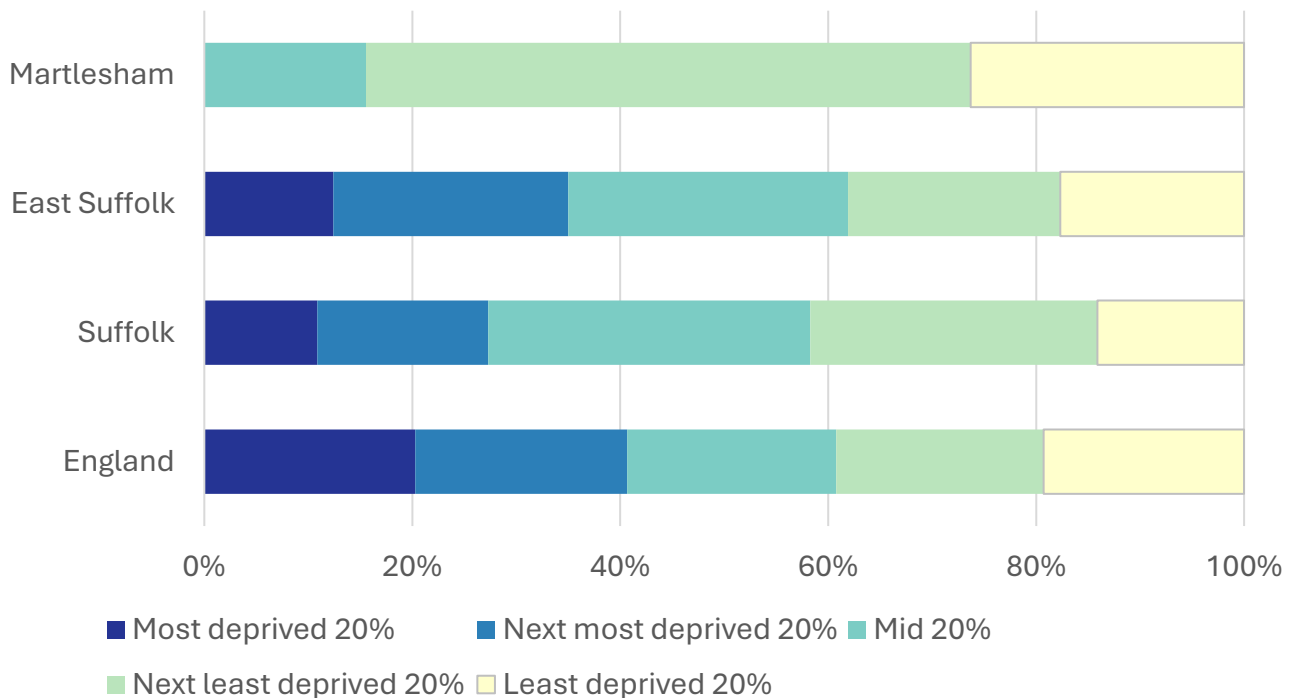
- In February 2026, 1.2% of 16–17-year-olds in Martlesham were classified as NEET (not in education, employment or training).
- NEET levels fluctuate considerably according to the time of year and due to small numbers of 16-17-year-olds in the division, typically being at their lowest at the beginning of a new school year.
- In Martlesham, NEET levels are almost invariably well below the district and county figures.

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.



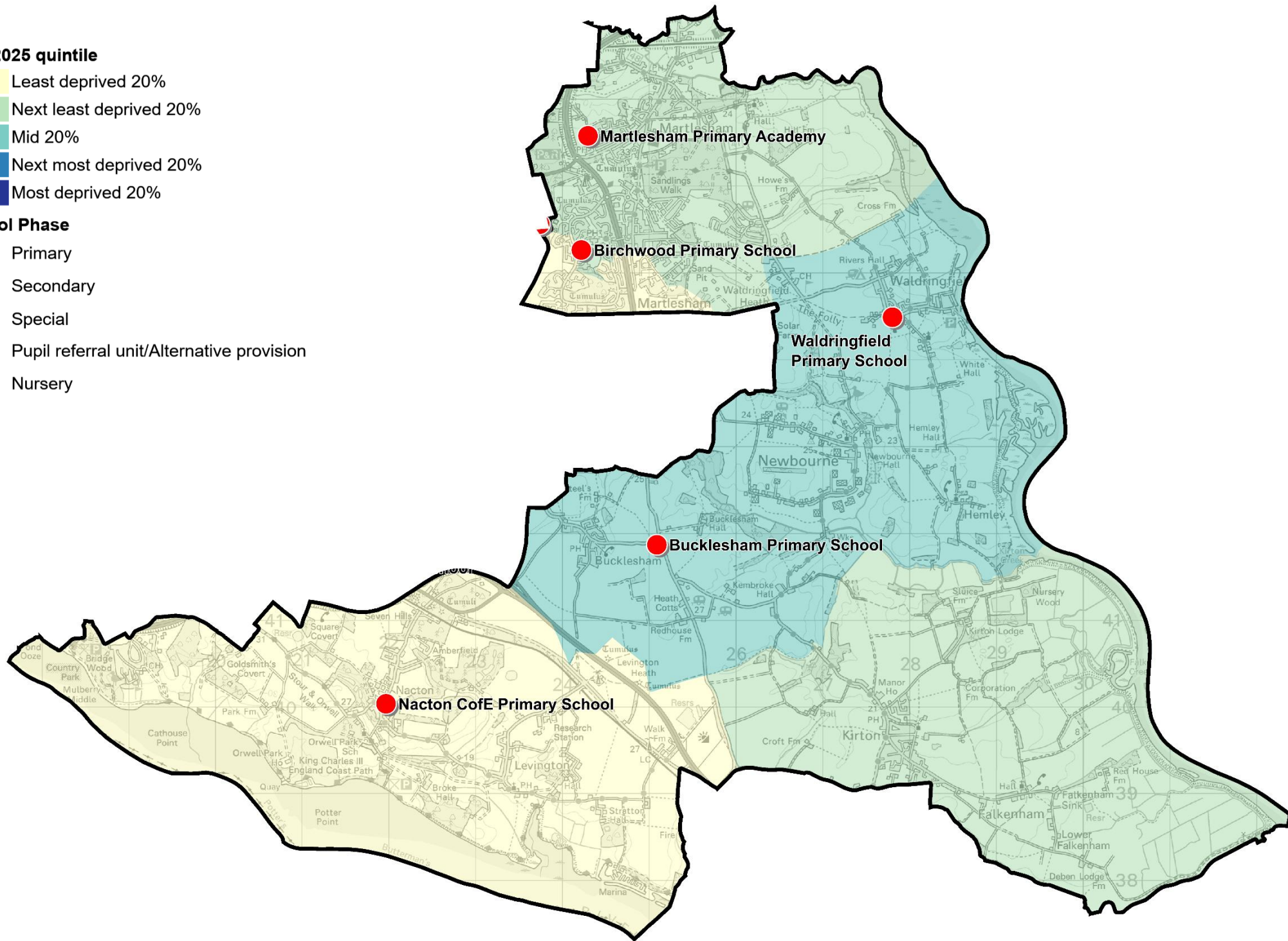
- The 2025 IMD shows that deprivation levels in Martlesham are moderate to low.
- Most of the division is ranked in the second least deprived quintile (i.e. 20-40% least deprived). Almost 60% of Martlesham's population lives in this area.
- Just over a quarter of the population of the division lives in neighbourhoods that are ranked in the least deprived 20% of places in England.
- The remaining part of Martlesham division (including Bucklesham, Hemley, Newbourne and Waldringfield) is ranked in the middle quintile of deprivation.
- 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

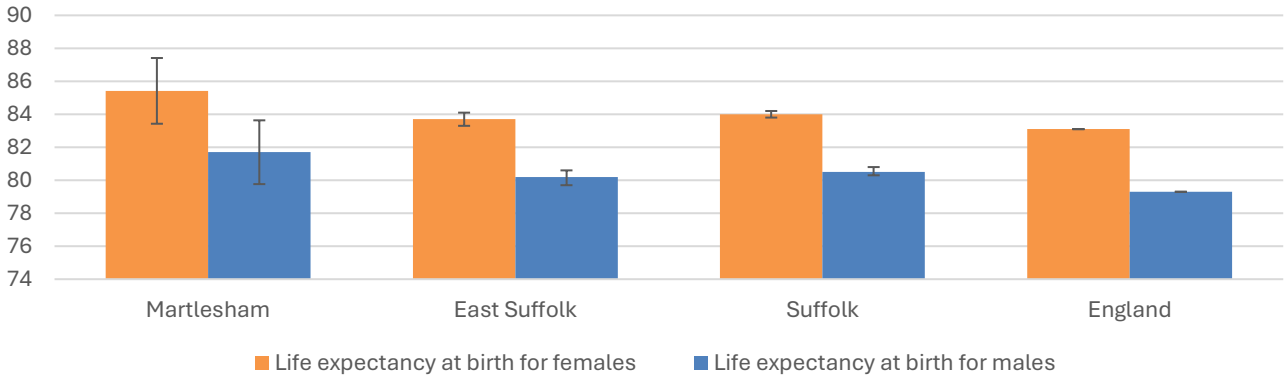
- Primary
- Secondary
- Special
- Pupil referral unit/Alternative provision
- Nursery



Health

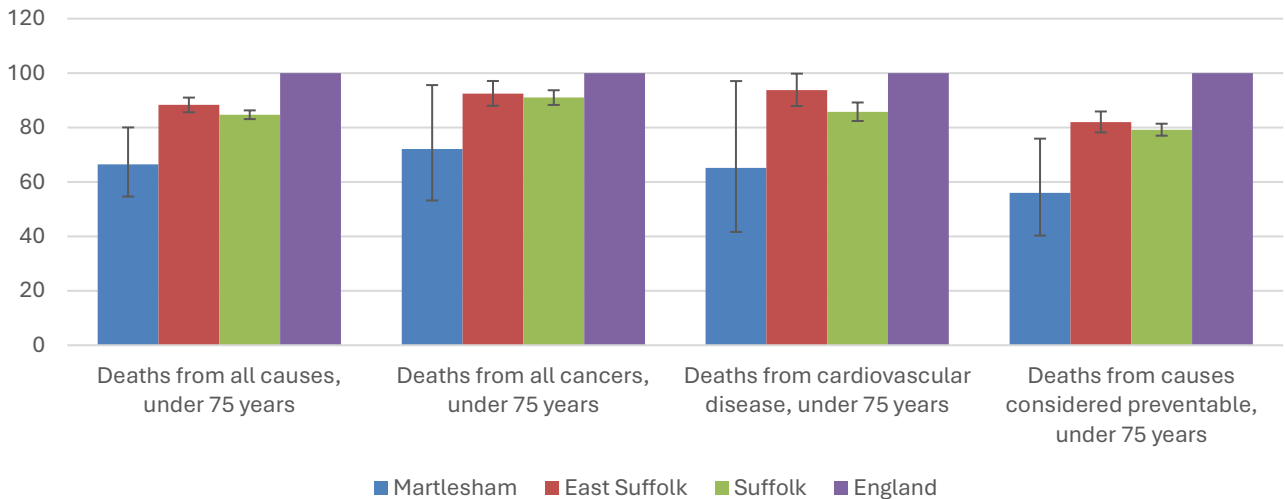
The local data used here is based on relatively small numbers. The confidence limits provide an indication of the reliability of the data. The 95% confidence intervals utilised on the chart provide a range within which there is 95% chance of the true result lying.

Life expectancy at birth



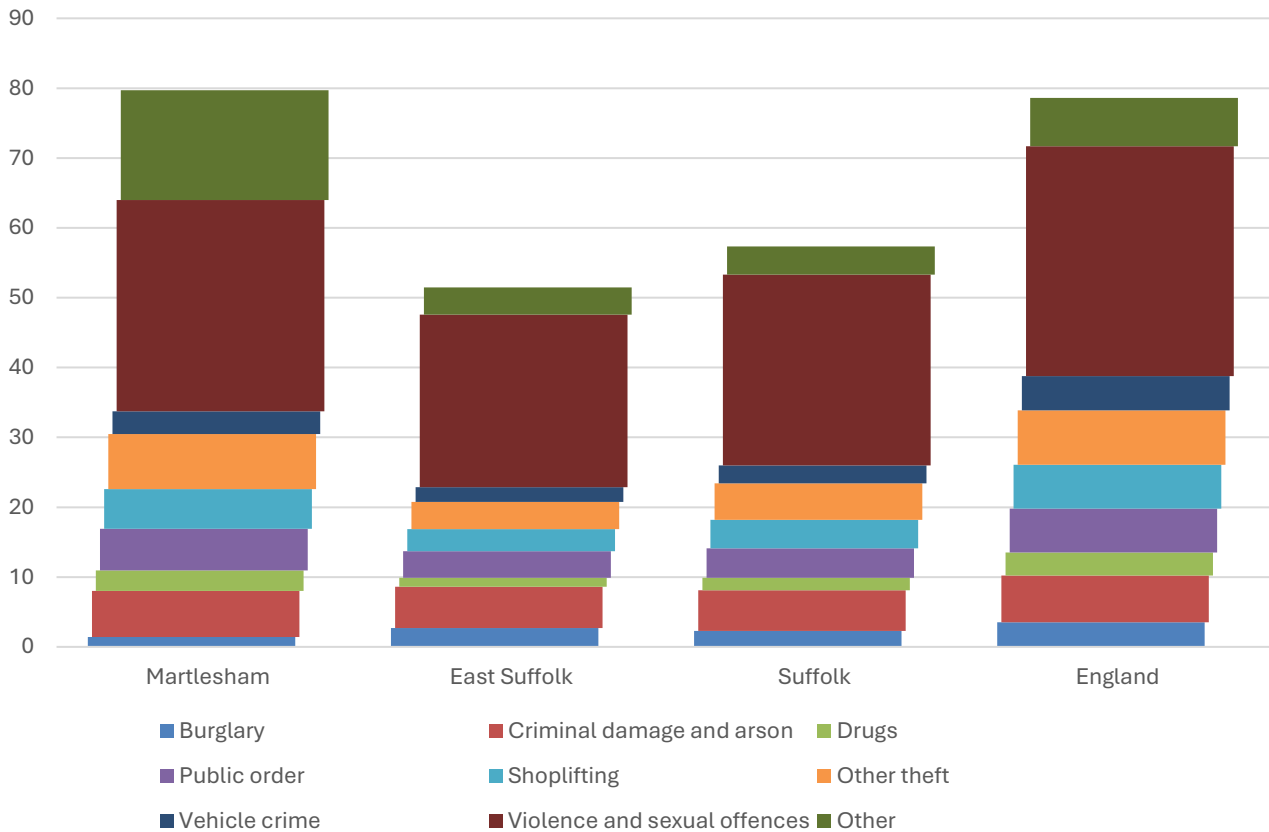
- Estimated life expectancy at birth for both females and males in Martlesham is statistically significantly higher than the England average, and similar to the East Suffolk and Suffolk county figures.
- The latest life expectancy at birth estimates for Martlesham are 85.4 for females (the England average 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, all causes, all cancers, cardiovascular disease, and causes considered preventable in Martlesham 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 estimates for Martlesham deaths from all causes and from causes considered preventable are statistically significantly lower than those for East Suffolk, Suffolk county, and 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 66 comparable deaths in Martlesham division.

Crime & Community Safety



- Crime levels in Martlesham are high compared to the district and county figures, and closer to the national average. There were 80 recorded crimes per 1,000 residents in the division in the 12 months to the end of January 2026, compared to 51 in East Suffolk, 57 countywide, and 79 in England.
- All types of crime were recorded at a higher rate in the division than the district and county average, with the exception of burglary.
- Other crimes are recorded at a particularly high rate in Martlesham. This category includes forgery, perjury and other miscellaneous crime. The higher crime rate in the division may be related to the presence of the Suffolk Police headquarters in the division and how crime is recorded.
- By far the most common type of crime recorded during this period was violence and sexual offences, with 30 incidents per 1,000 residents in the division, accounting for more than a third of all recorded crimes in the division.

Additional Information

Parishes in Division

Bucklesham
 Falkenham
 Hemley
 Kirton
 Levington

Martlesham (part)
 Nacton
 Newbourne
 Stratton Hall
 Waldringfield

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

