

WICKHAM MARKET SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

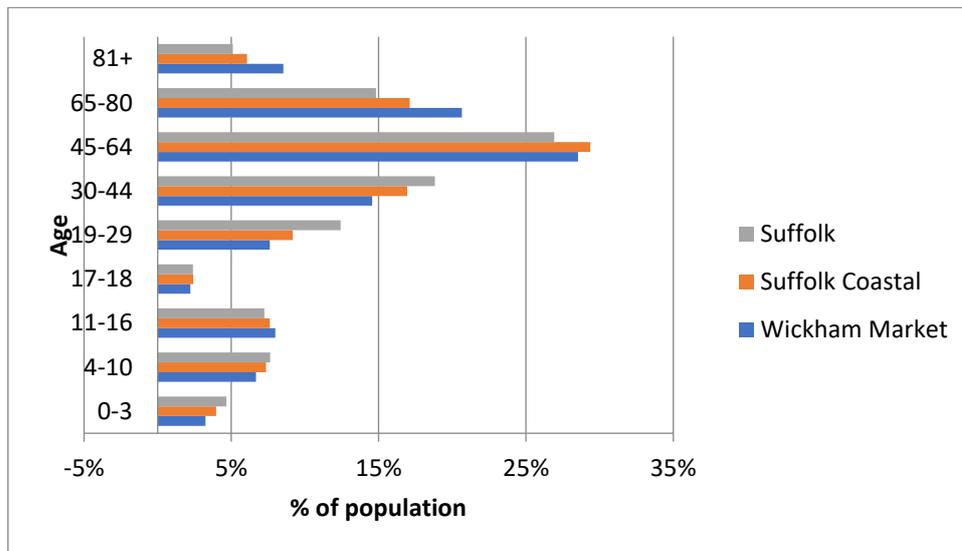
Profile of the community today

1. Unless stated otherwise, the profile of the community has come from the 2011 Census.

Population

2. In 2011, the population of the parish was 2,156. Compared to Suffolk Coastal district and Suffolk county, it has a high proportion of older people - 30% were aged 65 or over in Wickham Market compared to 23% across Suffolk Coastal and 20% in Suffolk (see Figure 2.1).

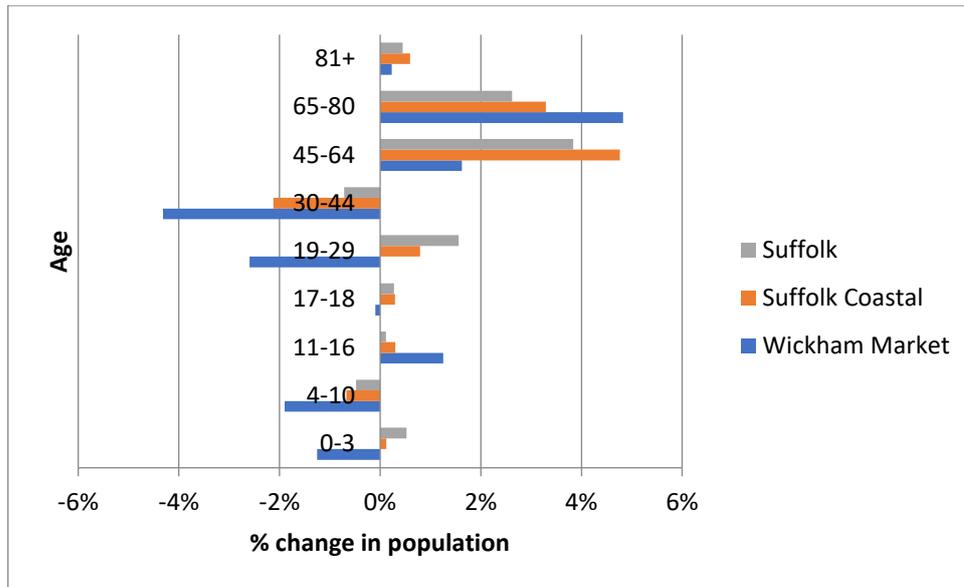
Figure 2.1: Population profile, 2011



Source: 2011 Census

3. Since 2001, the population of the parish has fallen by 48 persons, a 2.2% reduction, in stark contrast to the 7.3% growth experienced across Suffolk Coastal district in the same period. Possible reasons for this change become apparent upon examining the change in population by age group.

Figure 2.2: Change in population, 2001-2011



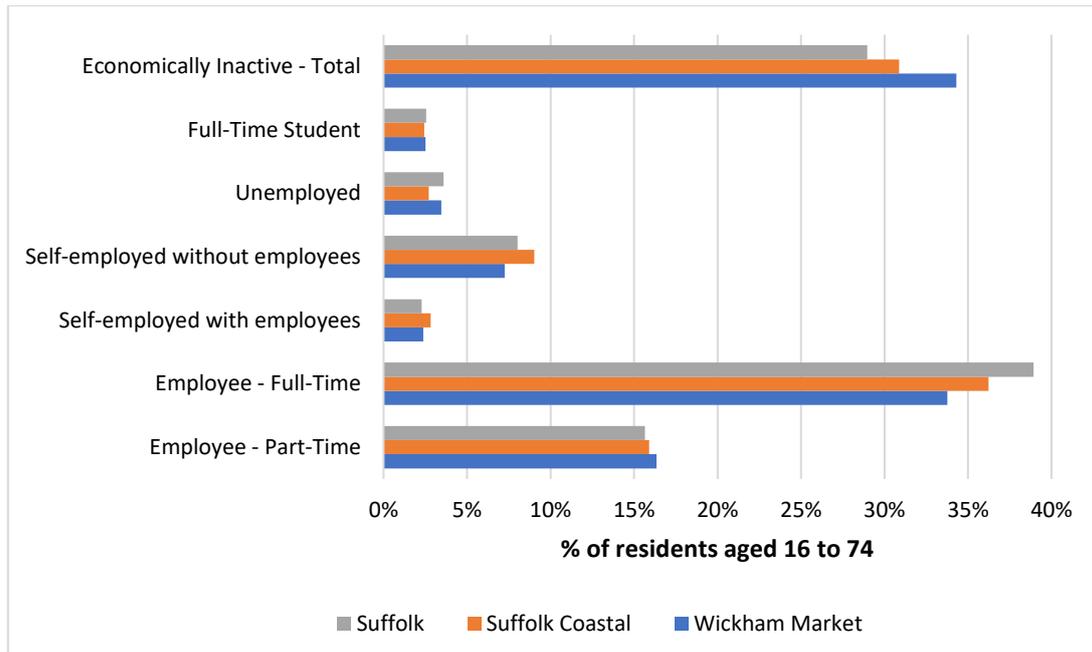
Source: 2011 Census

- Wickham Market has experienced very strong growth in its retirement population (aged 65 and older) whilst also experiencing a decline in the younger population of working age (aged 19 to 44), and only modest increases in the older working age population (45 to 64). These trends present an ageing population structure and a declining workforce. Although an increase in the number of 11-16-year-olds has the potential to moderate this future decline somewhat, it is outweighed by the decline in the youngest children (aged 0 to 10).

Work

- Wickham Market has comparatively low levels of economic activity, reflecting the high number of retirees in the parish.
- Among the economically active, Wickham Market has a comparatively low proportion of people in full-time employment.
- This is shown in Figure 2.3.

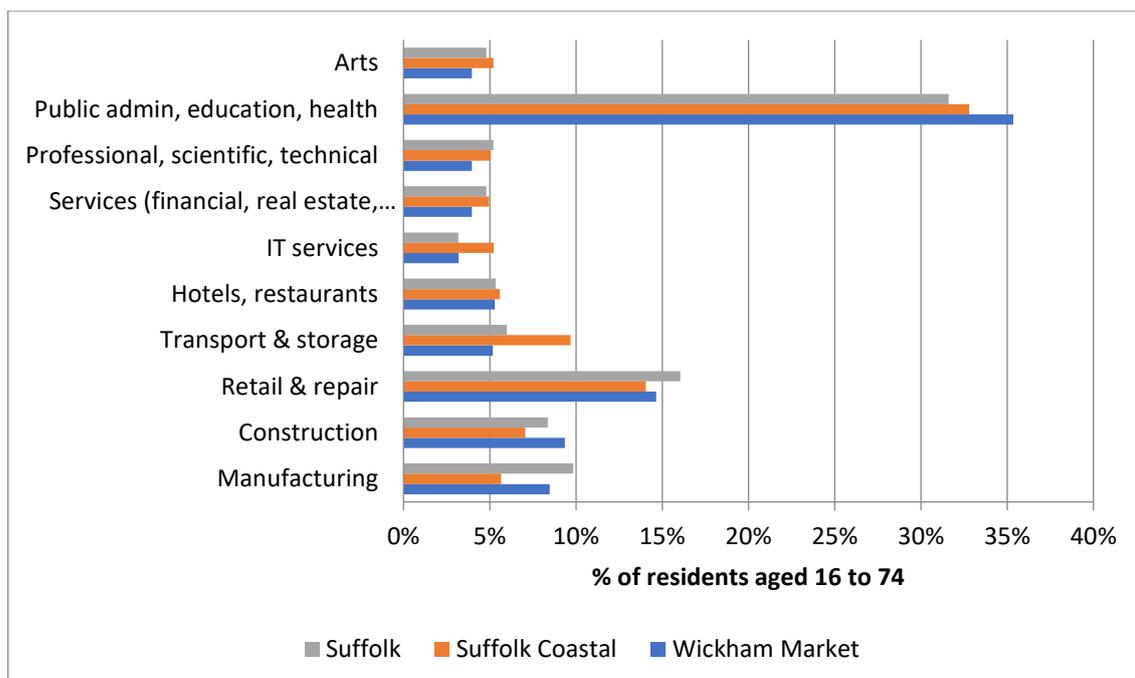
Figure 2.3: Economic activity, 2011



Source: 2011 Census

8. Employment in public sector activities is very high for Wickham Market’s workforce, with over one-third of economically active persons in the parish employed in health, education, and public administration functions, above the district and county averages. Following district and county trends more closely, Wickham Market’s second strongest employment sector is retail, employing 15% of the working population of the parish.
9. This is shown in Figure 2.4.

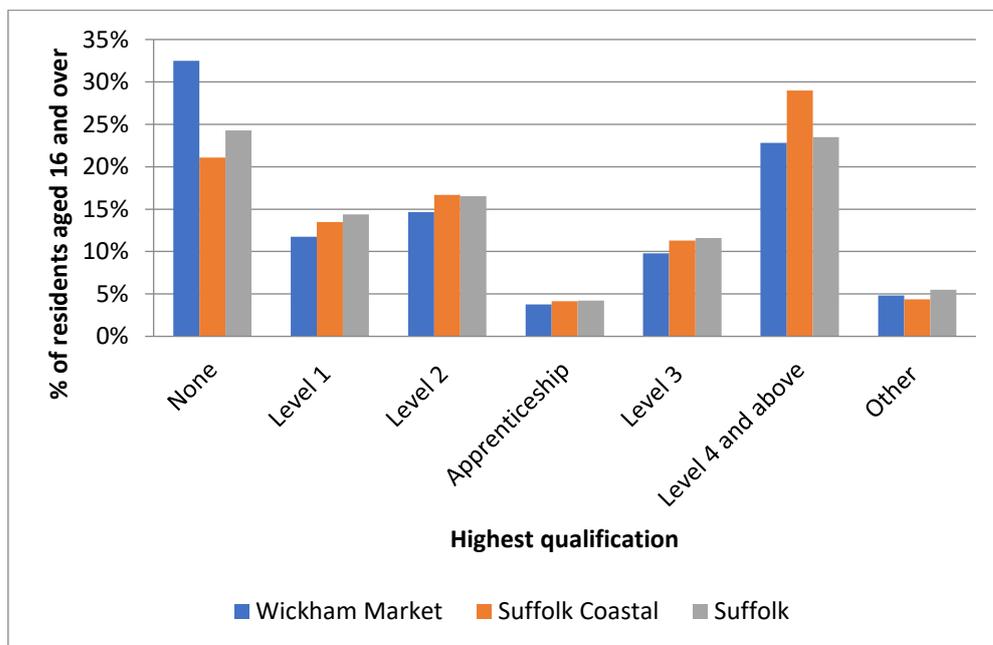
Figure 2.4: Type of industry, 2011



Source: 2011 Census

10. Wickham Market is behind the district and county in terms of educational attainment. This is shown most starkly in the fact that approximately one-third of residents aged 16 and over have no qualifications. This compares with the district figure of just over 20%. As a result, Wickham Market has below-average proportions of residents with qualifications ranging from GCSE to degree level compared with both the district and county averages.
11. This can be seen in figure 2.5.

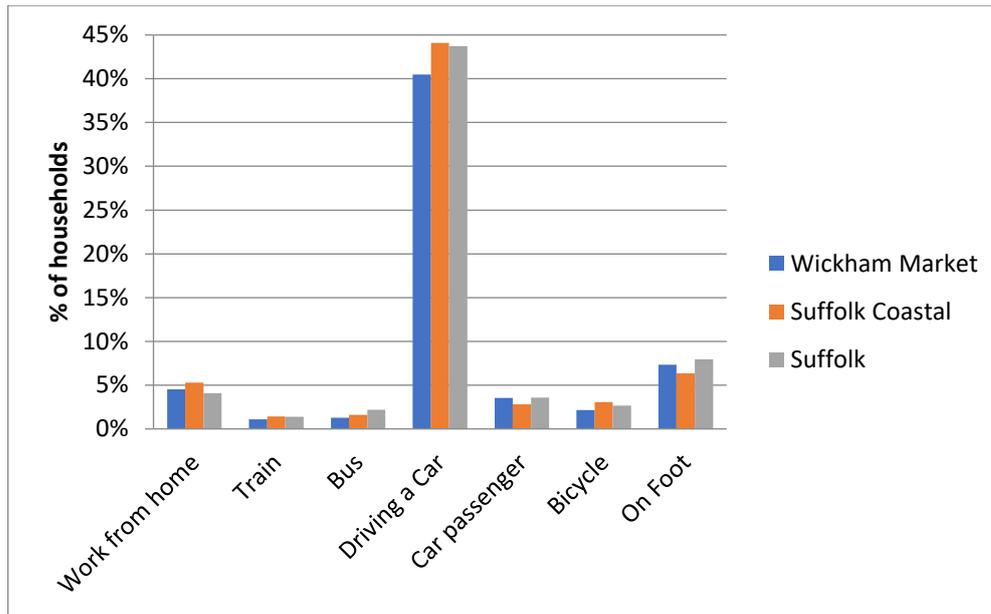
Figure 2.5: Qualifications of residents aged 16 and over



Source: 2011 Census

12. The large majority of those in work travel to work by car, and do so as the driver of that car. On average, each Wickham Market household has access to 1.3 cars. This is broadly in line with the 1.4 cars per household in Suffolk Coastal district and 1.3 cars per household across Suffolk.
13. With the area being relatively poorly served by rail and bus links to major nearby employment centres (with Wickham Market station being well outside the village), Wickham Market has a comparatively low proportion of commuters that travel by public transport, with only 1% of those in work utilising either of these transport modes for commuting purposes.
14. This is shown in Figure 2.6.

Figure 2.6: Mode of transport to work

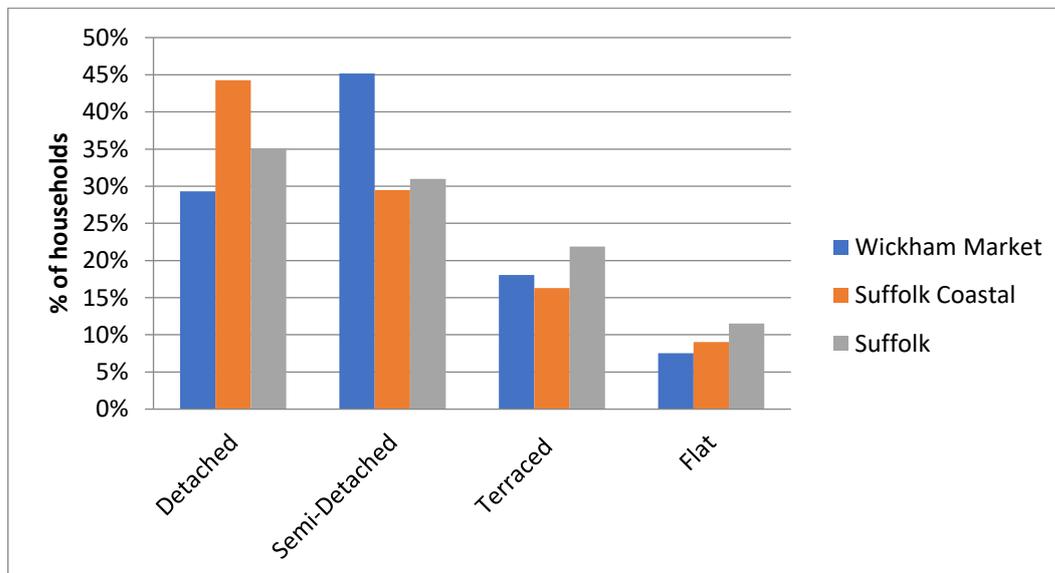


Source: 2011 Census

Housing

- 15. Wickham Market is dominated by semi-detached housing, representing nearly half of its housing stock (45%). Whilst there is also a significant proportion (29%) of detached housing, this is well below the Suffolk Coastal average (44%). The proportion of terraced housing and flatted development is broadly in line with the district and county.
- 16. This is shown in Figure 2.7.

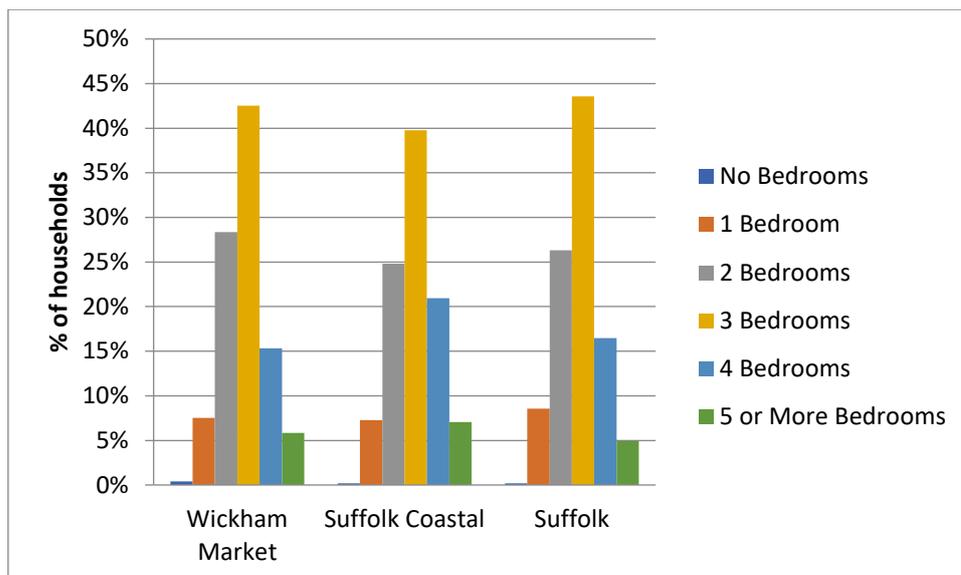
Figure 2.7: Type of dwelling



Source: 2011 Census

- 17. When looking at the number of bedrooms that properties in Wickham Market have, Figure 2.8 shows that it has a slightly higher proportion of smaller properties (1-3 bedrooms) than Suffolk Coastal. As such, the proportion of larger properties is lower than district and county averages.

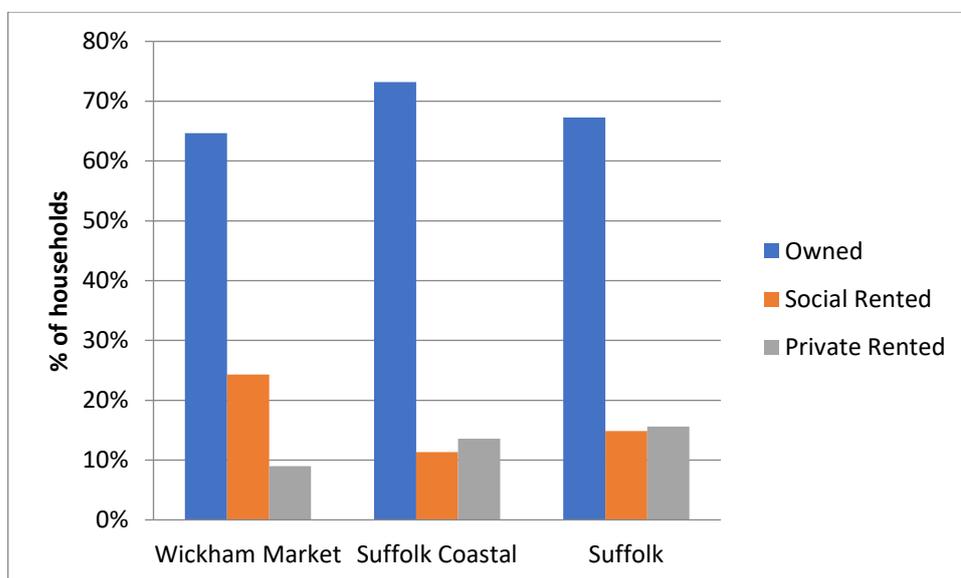
Figure 2.8: Number of bedrooms



Source: 2011 Census

- 18. Figure 2.9 shows that the split of housing tenure in Wickham Market differs from that of the district. Fewer people own their property in Wickham Market than across the district, with 65% ownership in Wickham Market as opposed to 73% across the district.
- 19. However, a greater proportion of homes owned in Wickham Market and Suffolk Coastal are owned outright with no mortgage on them (42% and 43% respectively), compared to just 36% across the county, likely reflecting the high proportion of retirees within the population.

Figure 2.9: Ownership profile



Source: 2011 Census

- 20. Wickham Market has a high proportion of socially rented properties, at nearly 25% of the total housing stock in 2011. This is well above the district and county figures of 10-15%.