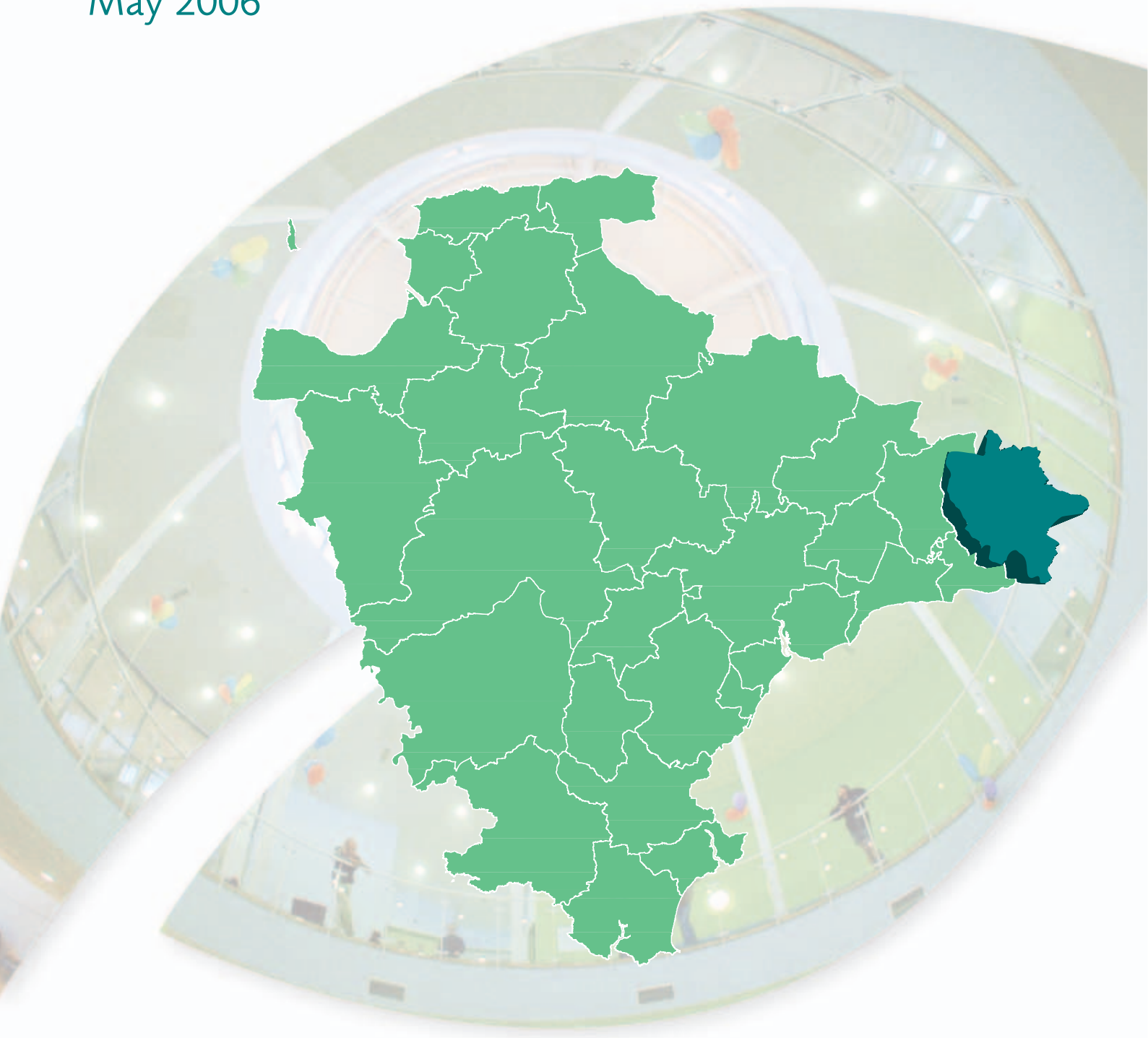


Axminster

Devon Town Baseline Profile

May 2006

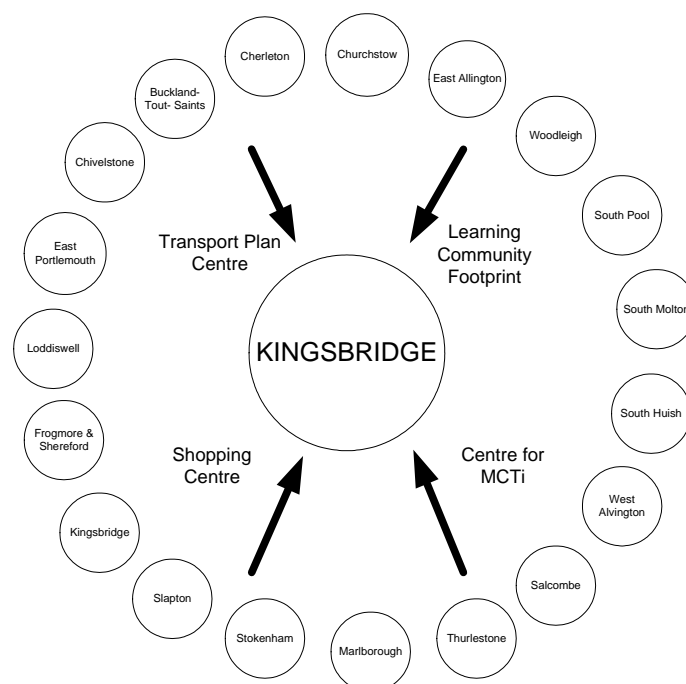


Identifying Devon Towns

The main factor that decides a town's hinterland is provision of services; the place that the hinterland looks to in order to provide the things it needs to survive. In order to identify the 28 Devon Towns, analysis of the following services and other relevant factors have been taken into account:

- Local Travel Plans – which are based on public consultation and map local travel patterns, the majority of which are short ones in and around local communities as part of people's daily lives.
- Shopping catchment areas – which are the service most frequently accessed by people.
- Learning Community catchment areas – which have a major influence on where people look to for services. Learning Community catchments do not always follow district or even county boundaries, but are based on a collection of feeder primary schools.
- Market and Coastal Towns Initiative areas - The Market and Coastal Towns Initiative was started after recognition that the health of a market town is vital to the well being of its hinterland, and that many of Devon's market towns were in need of regeneration. It is a Central Government initiative, administered by the RDAs. Over half of Devon is included in the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative.
- Parishes - The boundary definitions are shown in terms of parishes, as they are traditionally the smallest area used for 'clustering'.

The diagram below is an illustration of how this works for one Devon Town: Kingsbridge.



Exeter also provides a similar or related "market town" function as well as being a sub regional centre with a larger sphere of influence.

Foreword

In Devon, we want a county for everyone.

We want all to share in our economic prosperity, to have access to the best possible public services and to enjoy a good quality of life.

Our county is made up of many small and scattered communities built around larger market and coastal towns and the vibrant city of Exeter.

To make sure that the County Council and other agencies provide a good service to all these diverse communities and can meet their future needs, we need to fully understand and take into account the local situation and any local issues.

We call this initiative “Connecting with Communities” and it is a key part of our Strategic Plan for the future of Devon.

To help, we have produced a local profile of each of the key market and coastal towns in Devon and their surrounding area.

Based on key facts and figures, these profiles are just a starting point for local discussion about the real needs and priorities of each of our communities.

I hope you find this information useful and that it proves an invaluable resource in all future local planning.

Councillor Des Hannon
Executive Support Member for Improvement and Customer Service
Devon County Council



Introduction

This profile, one of 29 covering the area of Devon County Council, has been generated by the County Council's Corporate Information Service and is an important resource contribution to local community planning work.

Each profile provides a statistical overview, based on a series of facts and figures, of what life is like in each "Devon town" area. The profile contains a baseline of information and is intended to provide the basis for further discussion and development within the County Council and with partners.

In light of these discussions the profile can grow into a more rounded picture describing "how things are" for each area, as well as to set out the likely future actions that will be needed to redress any gaps in service or unmet needs.

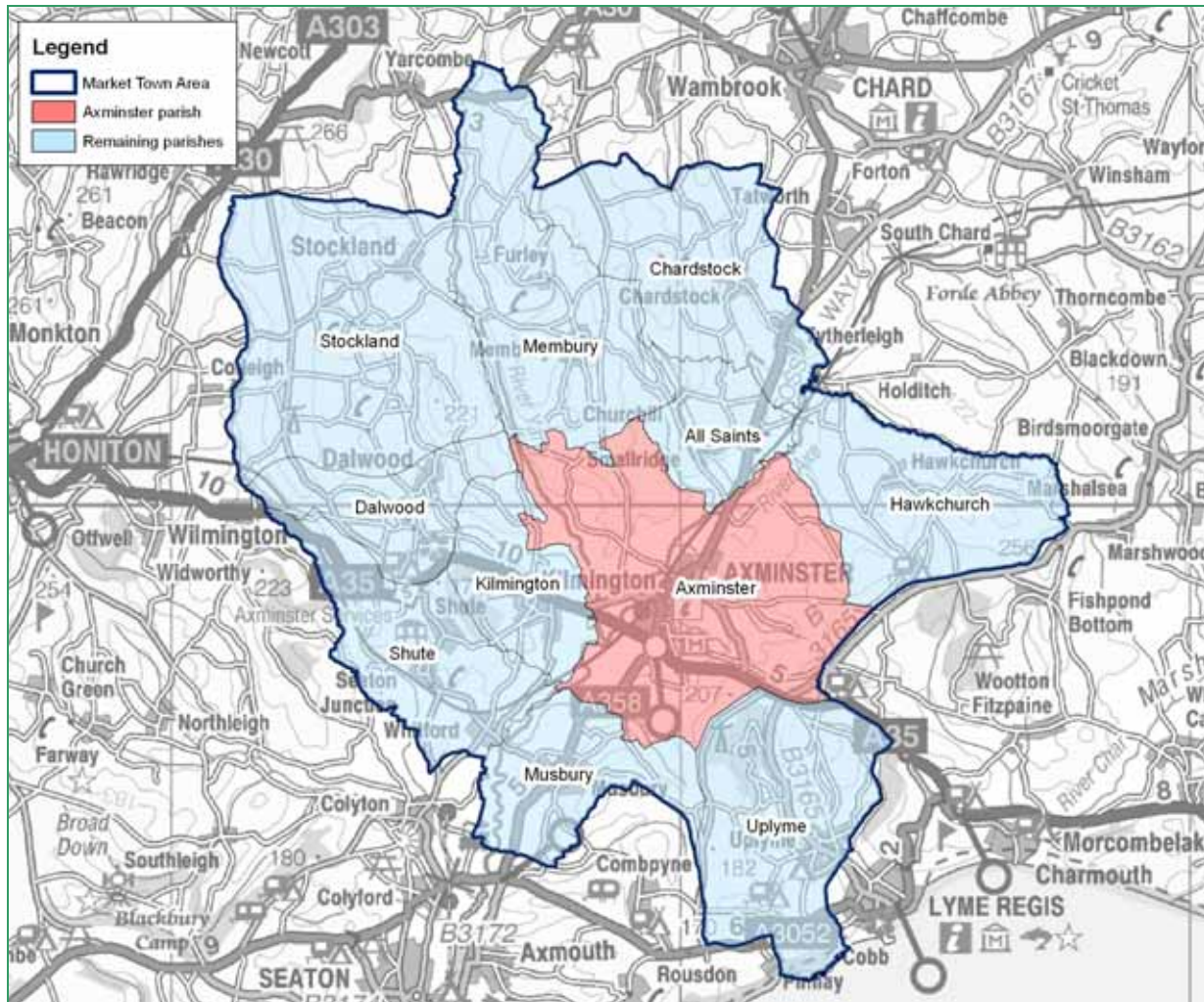
The profile is structured around a series of themes to cover social, economic and environmental well being. This is a starting point in producing profiles about our "Devon town" areas in which considerable effort has been made to provide a comprehensive series of data. Further data will be added to subsequent editions as they become available to provide a more complete picture and monitor trends.

The profiles are available on the County Council website – www.devon.gov.uk

Area Definition

Market town areas have been defined as aggregations of parishes. The following 11 parishes make up the Axminster market town area:

All Saints	Axminster	Chardstock	Dalwood
Hawkchurch	Kilmington	Membury	Musbury
Shute	Stockland	Uplyme	



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As much of the data included in this profile is produced at a ward level a 'best-fit' of wards is also used. Wards are included in one market town area if more than 60% of the population of that ward live within the market town boundary. If between 40% and 60% of a ward's population falls within a market town area it will be included but may also be included in another area.

The wards that comprise the market town area in this profile are as follows:

Axminster Town	Axminster Rural	Newbridges	Trinity	Yarty
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Three wards fall completely inside the market town boundary. Approximately 65% of the population of Trinity ward and 80% of the population of Yarty ward live inside the boundary and as such are also included in the 'best-fit' for the purposes of this profile.

Each market town area is comprised of a centre (coloured red) and its surrounding hinterland (referred to as the "Remaining parishes" throughout this document). The centre for this profile is considered to be the parish of Axminster, or the ward of Axminster Town if appropriate. Axminster Town ward covers a smaller area than the parish and excludes the rural area to the east of the parish. This is grouped with Hawkchurch parish to form the ward of Axminster Rural.

Some national datasets are released using a new geographic hierarchy – Super Output Areas. The lowest level – Lower Super Output Areas (or LSOAs) – is about one third the size of a ward. These are aggregated to form Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs). Where data are only available at Super Output area a best-fit approach

has been adopted. There are 10 LSOAs that fall either fully or partially inside the market town area, three of which form the area covered by Axminster Town ward. There are three MSOAs, one of which is used as a best fit for Axminster and the other two used as the remaining area.

Additional information has been included to provide some comparisons. All tables have data for the East Devon district and the area administered by Devon County Council – where reference is made to the county of Devon this refers to the area covered by Devon County Council, which does not include Plymouth or Torbay. Where possible data are also included at a national level, either for England or England & Wales.

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This profile makes use of data from the 1991 and 2001 Censuses. All such data is acknowledged as Crown Copyright.

Population

Summary

The structure of the population in the market town area is broadly similar to that across the district and the county. However, Axminster parish has a higher proportion of those aged 25 to 44 and a lower proportion of those aged 45 to 64 than the remaining rural parishes.

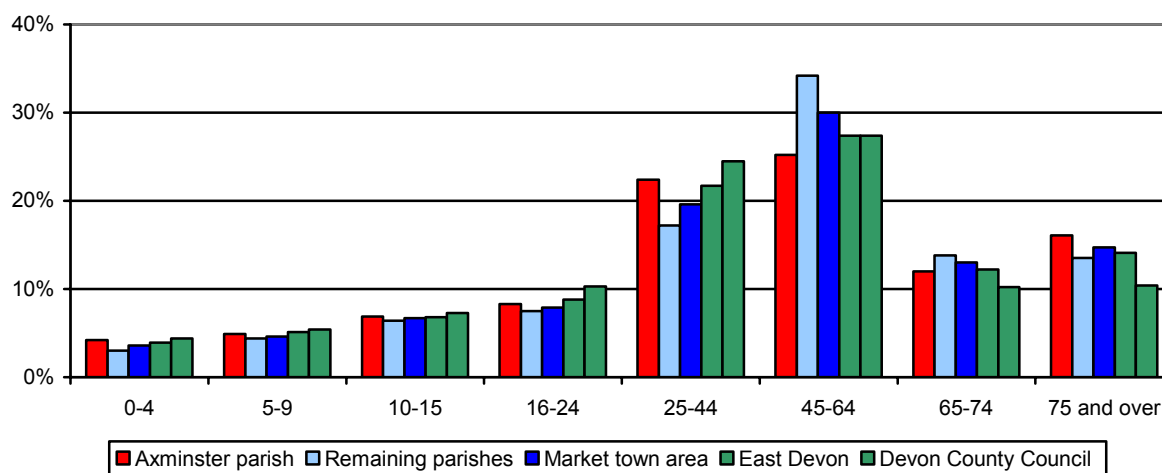
The population for the market town area has risen by around 12% since 1991. The rate of growth in Axminster is twice that of the remaining parishes.

The proportion of people from minority ethnic groups is roughly the same across the market town area and similar to East Devon. The rate is about half that for the county.

The level of households occupied by individuals in the market town area as a whole is similar to the district and county averages. Single person occupancy is higher in the urban centre.

Percentage of population by age band (2004)

Area	Total population	Age band							
		0-4	5-9	10-15	16-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75 and over
Axminster parish	6,074	4.2%	4.9%	6.9%	8.3%	22.4%	25.2%	12.0%	16.1%
Remaining parishes	6,958	3.0%	4.4%	6.4%	7.5%	17.2%	34.2%	13.8%	13.5%
Market town area	13,032	3.6%	4.6%	6.7%	7.9%	19.6%	30.0%	13.0%	14.7%
East Devon	132,548	3.9%	5.1%	6.8%	8.8%	21.7%	27.4%	12.2%	14.1%
Devon County Council	742,911	4.4%	5.4%	7.3%	10.3%	24.5%	27.4%	10.2%	10.4%



Source: South Devon Health Informatics Service (FHSA data)

Population change (1991 to 2004)

Area	1991	2001	2004	% change 1991 to 2004
Axminster parish	5,180	5,621	6,074	17.3%
Remaining parishes	6,423	6,642	6,958	8.3%
Market town area	11,603	12,263	13,032	12.3%
East Devon	115,873	125,520	132,548	14.4%
Devon County Council	646,903	704,493	742,911	14.8%

Source: 1991 and 2001 Census, 2004 South Devon Health Informatics Service (FHSA data)

Ethnicity (2001)

Area	All people	Ethnic group			
		White	% White	Black or minority ethnic	% Black or minority ethnic
Axminster parish	5,621	5,598	99.6%	23	0.4%
Remaining parishes	6,642	6,607	99.5%	35	0.5%
Market town area	12,263	12,205	99.5%	58	0.5%
East Devon	125,520	124,594	99.3%	926	0.7%
Devon County Council	704,493	696,590	98.9%	7,903	1.1%
England	49,138,831	44,679,361	90.9%	4,459,470	9.1%

Source: 2001 Census

Household composition (2001)

Area	All households	Single person households		Households comprising more than one person	
		Number	%	Number	%
Axminster parish	2,588	880	34.0%	1,708	66.0%
Remaining parishes	2,904	768	26.4%	2,136	73.6%
Market town area	5,492	1,648	30.0%	3,844	70.0%
East Devon	55,011	16,334	29.7%	38,677	70.3%
Devon County Council	298,574	86,890	29.1%	211,684	70.9%
England	20,451,427	6,150,264	30.1%	14,301,163	69.9%

Source: 2001 Census

Deprivation

Summary

Within the market town area there are no lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived 25% of LSOAs nationally. One LSOAs fall into the most deprived 50% of areas nationally.

The principal source of deprivation data is currently The Indices of Deprivation 2004. This is a Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level measure of multiple deprivation and is made up of seven domains. A LSOA is an area of about 1,500 people and has been devised to standardise statistical geography across the country. The seven domains are:

- Income Deprivation
- Employment Deprivation
- Health Deprivation and Disability
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation
- Barriers to Housing and Services
- Living Environment Deprivation
- Crime

There are two supplementary Indices (Income Deprivation Affecting Children and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People).

The model which underpins the Index of Deprivation 2004 is based on the idea of distinct dimensions of deprivation which can be recognised and measured separately. These are experienced by individuals living in an area. Where possible, the indicators relate to 2001.

The information will help target policies and funding, reinforcing the Government's drive to improve the quality of life in disadvantaged communities.

There are over 32,000 LSOAs in the 2004 index, replacing the 8,500 wards used to construct the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000. The LSOA boundaries were determined nationally with no local input.

The 2004 index was developed from academic research undertaken by Oxford University.

The table below compares the areas in Devon ranked in the most deprived 25% nationally, in terms of the number of wards in 2000 and the number of LSOAs in 2004, together with the population of these areas.

Comparison of IMD 2000 and ID 2004

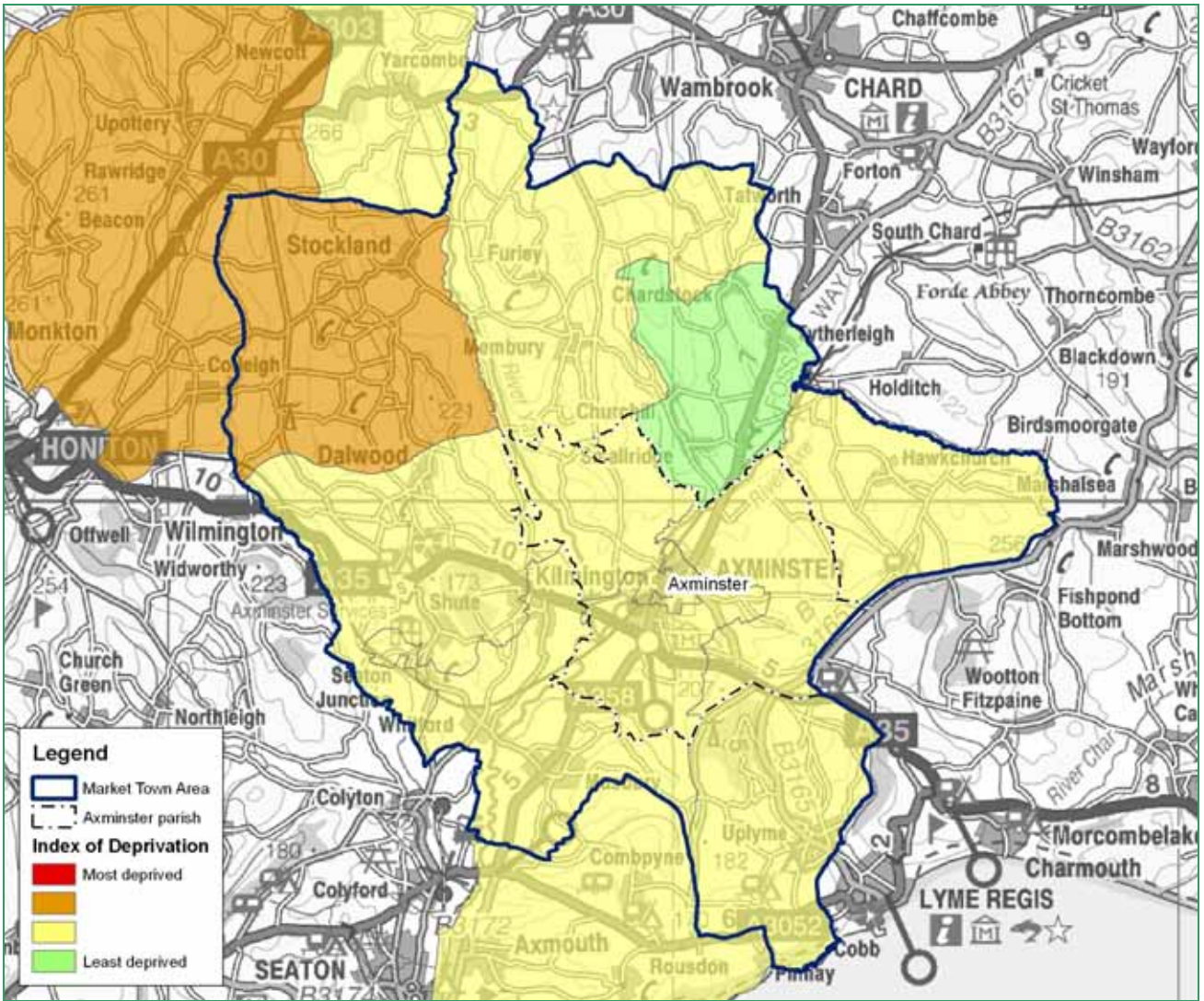
Area	IMD 2000		ID 2004	
	Number of wards	Population	Number of LSOAs	Population
East Devon	1	3,901	0	0
Exeter	3	17,070	14	22,057
Mid Devon	0	0	1	1,652
North Devon	6	21,409	10	14,158
South Hams	1	5,458	0	0
Teignbridge	6	24,408	6	8,918
Torridge	10	22,217	3	5,731
West Devon	1	1,483	0	0
Devon County Council	28	95,946	34	52,516

Source: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and South Devon Health Informatics Service (FHSA data)

Application of the new index reduces the population in Devon perceived to be living in the most deprived areas by around 45%. This is probably due to the addition of crime and the living environment to the index, which in both cases the area covered by Devon County Council would have scored well compared to the national average. The reduced weighting given to the access to services domain may also be a contributing factor.

There are 10 LSOAs that fall either completely or partially within the area covered by this profile. None of these are classified as being in the most deprived 25% of LSOAs nationally with only one falling into the next 25%. Eight LSOAs fall into the 50-75% most deprived areas and the remaining one is classified as being in the least deprived 25% of LSOAs nationally.

Map of Index of Deprivation 2004



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Source: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

The Local Economy

Summary

Unemployment levels in the Axminster area are similar to the county and district averages. Rates are significantly below the national figure.

Economic activity as a whole within the market town area is slightly below the Devon and national averages. Self-employment levels outside Axminster parish are about twice those for the urban centre.

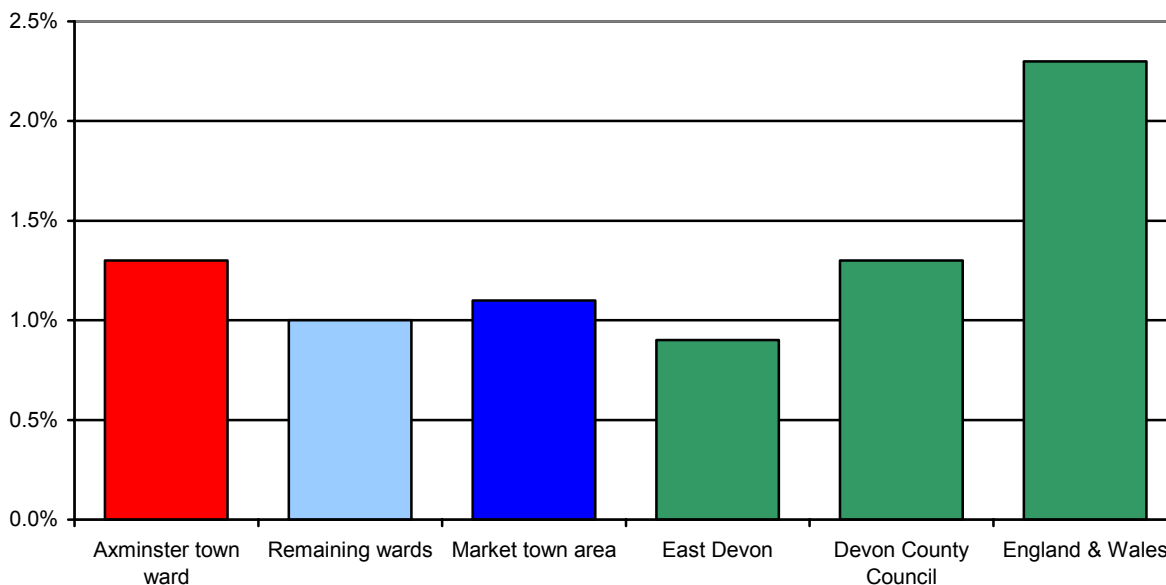
Claim rates for Income Support and Job Seekers Allowance are similar across the market town area. Claim rates for both benefits are significantly below the national average in all areas.

The number of households with an annual income of less than £20,000 in the market town area is broadly similar to the district and county averages, although rates in Axminster parish are higher.

The highest proportion of people who are employed work in the manufacturing sector. The largest number of businesses are in wholesale and retail.

Unemployment as a proportion of working age resident population (April 2005)

Area	Number unemployed	% working age population
Axminster town ward	26	1.3%
Remaining wards	48	1.0%
Market town area	74	1.1%
East Devon	655	0.9%
Devon County Council	5,445	1.3%
England & Wales		2.3%



Source: Office for National Statistics

Economic activity (2001)

Area	People aged 16 to 74	Total economically active	Economically active	Employed part-time	Employed full-time	Self-employed	Unemployed	Students
Axminster parish	3,830	2,422	63.2%	20.8%	54.1%	18.5%	4.1%	2.6%
Remaining parishes	4,781	2,818	58.9%	19.4%	40.7%	34.7%	2.4%	2.7%
Market town area	8,611	5,240	60.9%	20.0%	46.9%	27.2%	3.2%	2.6%
East Devon	87,125	54,476	62.5%	21.0%	51.8%	20.5%	3.2%	3.6%
Devon County Council	503,212	328,379	65.3%	20.5%	52.6%	19.3%	3.9%	3.6%
England	35,532,091	23,756,707	66.9%	17.7%	61.0%	12.4%	5.0%	3.9%

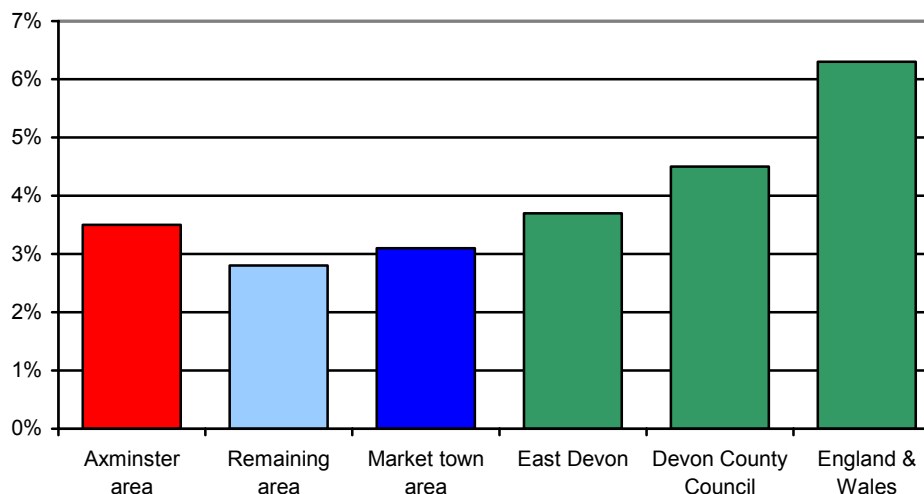
Source: 2001 Census

The data below relating to Income Support and Job Seekers Allowance are based on a best fit of Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs). There are three MSOAs that cover the profile area, one of which is used as a best fit for Axminster with the other two being used as the remaining area.

Income Support and Job Seekers Allowance claim rates (2004)

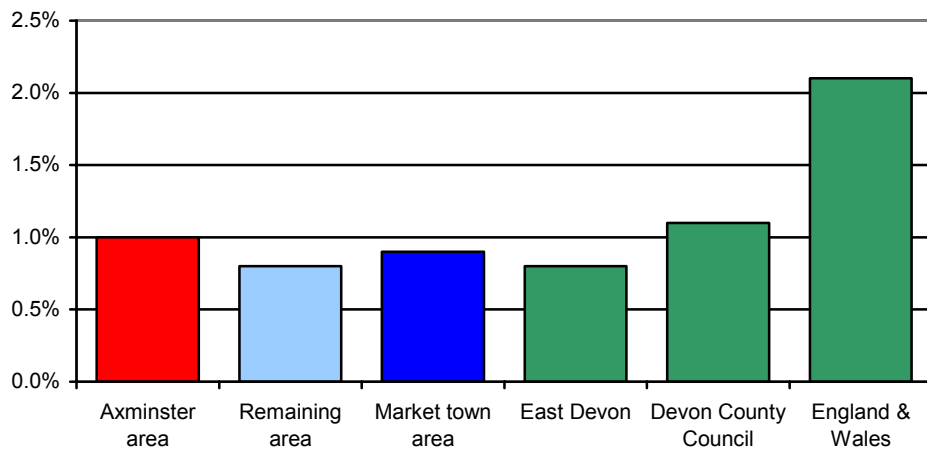
Area	Income Support			Jobseekers Allowance		
	Population aged 16 to 59	All claimants	Claim rate	Population aged 16 to 64	All claimants	Claim rate
Axminster area	3,460	120	3.5%	3,942	40	1.0%
Remaining area	6,211	175	2.8%	7,210	55	0.8%
Market town area	9,671	295	3.1%	11,152	95	0.9%
East Devon	63,108	2,305	3.7%	71,191	590	0.8%
Devon County Council	388,926	17,530	4.5%	429,574	4,765	1.1%
England & Wales	30,694,973	1,946,020	6.3%	33,239,665	689,810	2.1%

Income Support claim rates (2004)



Source: Department for Work and Pensions

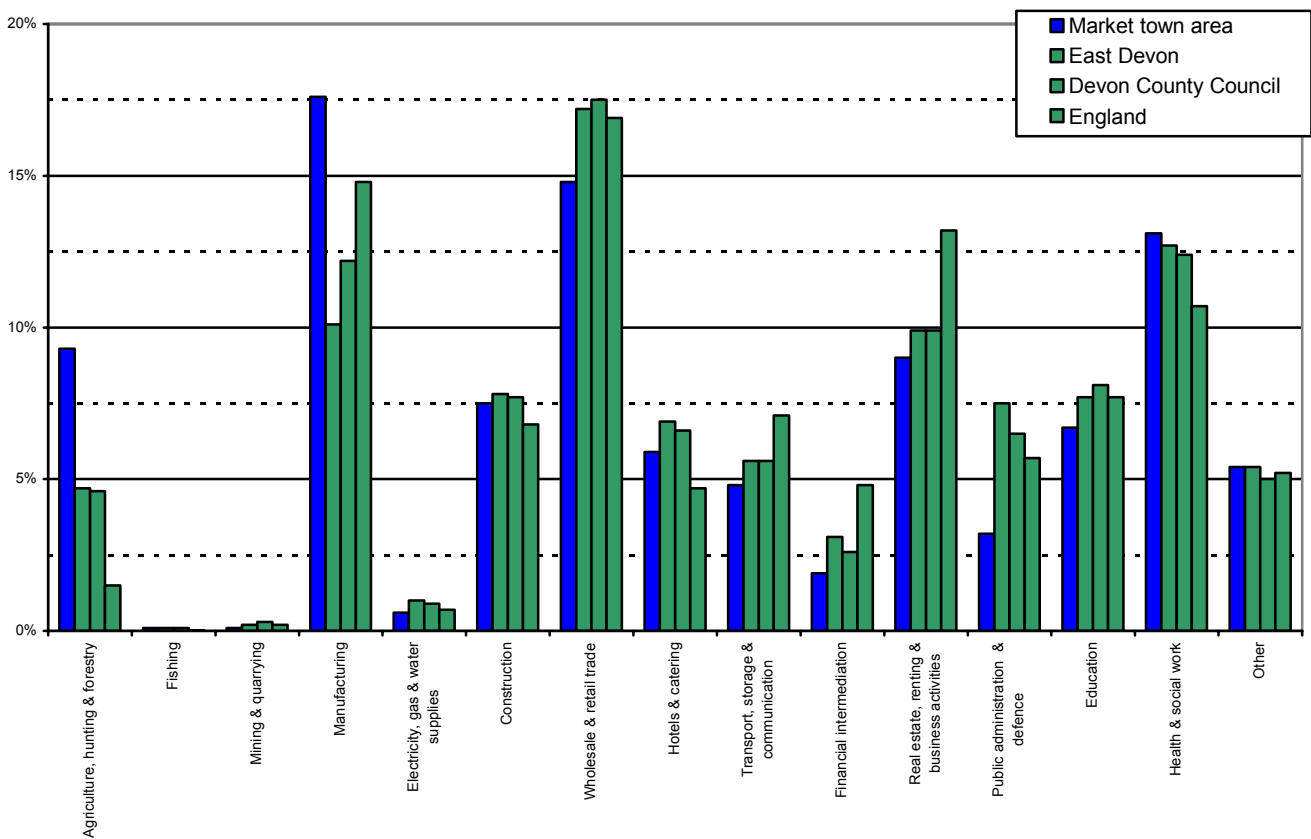
Job Seeker Allowance claim rates (2004)



Source: Department for Work and Pensions

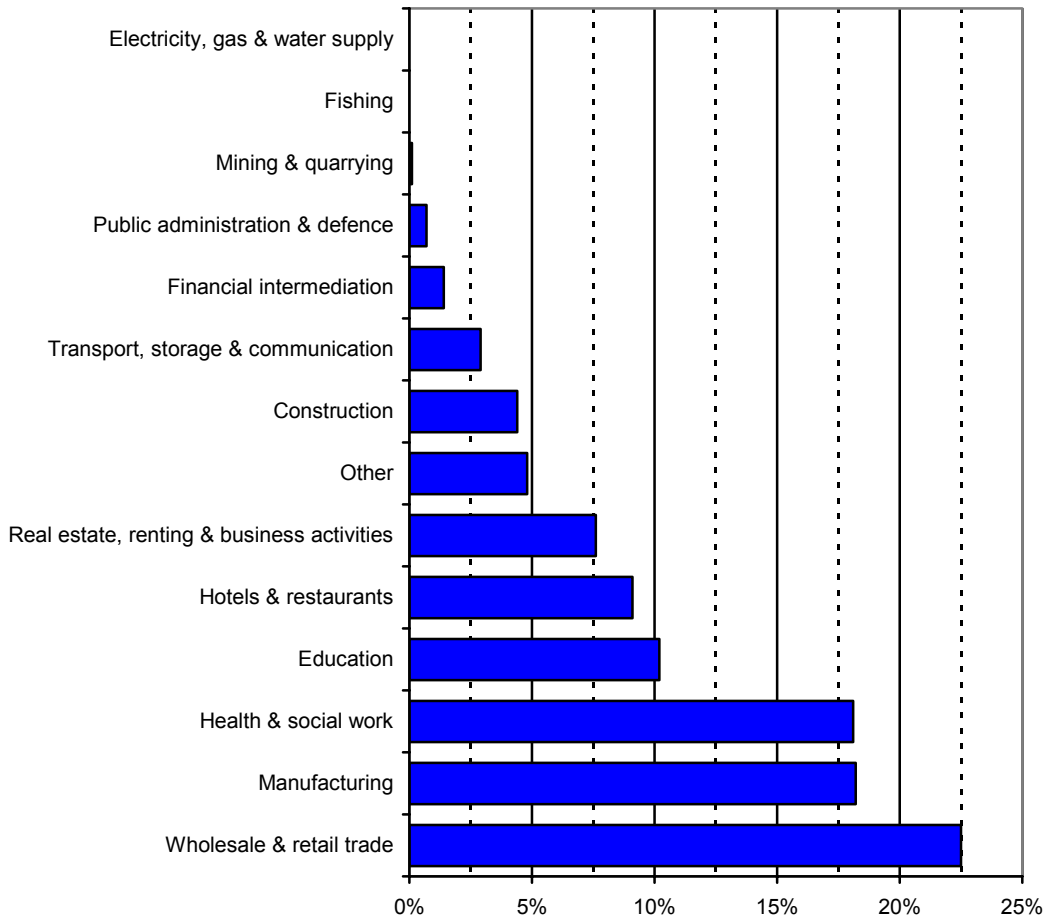
Employment of people living in the area by industry (2001)

Area	Axminster parish	Remaining parishes	Market town area	East Devon	Devon County Council	England
Agriculture, hunting & forestry	5.3%	12.7%	9.3%	4.7%	4.6%	1.5%
Fishing	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Mining & quarrying	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Manufacturing	23.9%	12.2%	17.6%	10.1%	12.2%	14.8%
Electricity, gas & water supplies	0.7%	0.4%	0.6%	1.0%	0.9%	0.7%
Construction	7.1%	7.9%	7.5%	7.8%	7.7%	6.8%
Wholesale & retail trade	17.1%	12.8%	14.8%	17.2%	17.5%	16.9%
Hotels & catering	4.7%	7.0%	5.9%	6.9%	6.6%	4.7%
Transport, storage & communication	5.3%	4.4%	4.8%	5.6%	5.6%	7.1%
Financial intermediation	1.8%	1.9%	1.9%	3.1%	2.6%	4.8%
Real estate, renting & business activities	6.8%	10.9%	9.0%	9.9%	9.9%	13.2%
Public administration & defence	2.8%	3.6%	3.2%	7.5%	6.5%	5.7%
Education	4.8%	8.4%	6.7%	7.7%	8.1%	7.7%
Health & social work	14.5%	12.0%	13.1%	12.7%	12.4%	10.7%
Other	5.0%	5.7%	5.4%	5.4%	5.0%	5.2%



Source: 2001 Census

Percentage of businesses in profile area by Standard Industrial Classification (2004)



Source: Annual Business Inquiry

Skills and Learning

Summary

Children living in areas other than Axminster achieve significantly higher results at Key Stage 2 than those that live in the town.

Achievement rates for GCSEs at grades A* to C were also better for children living outside Axminster although the percentage of children achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A* to G was similar across the area.

The proportion of people with no qualification is higher than the national average in Axminster parish. The remaining rural parishes exceed the national average for people with a level 4 qualification.

Number and percentage of pupils achieving at least Key Stage 2 Level 4 (2004)

Area	Total pupils	English		Maths		Science	
		Number	% pupils	Number	% pupils	Number	% pupils
Axminster parish	52	37	71.2%	39	75.0%	37	71.2%
Remaining parishes	42	38	90.5%	39	92.9%	38	90.5%
Market town area	94	75	79.8%	78	83.0%	75	79.8%
East Devon	1,310	1,066	81.4%	1,041	79.5%	1,166	89.0%
Devon County Council	7,781	6,030	77.5%	5,766	74.1%	6,803	87.4%
England			75.0%		73.0%		86.0%

Source: Children and Young People's Services, Devon County Council

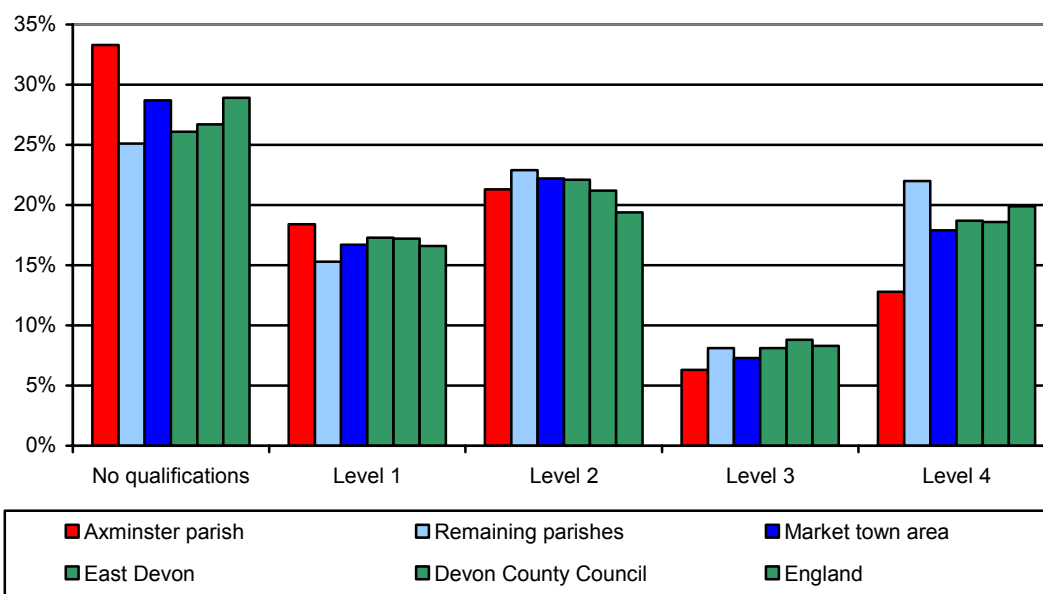
GCSE attainment (2002/03)

Area	Number of students	Students achieving five or more A*-C	% students achieving five or more A*-C	Students achieving five or more A*-G	% students achieving five or more A*-G
Axminster parish	50	20	40.0%	45	90.0%
Remaining parishes	32	22	68.8%	30	93.8%
Market town area	82	42	51.2%	75	91.5%
East Devon	1,168	655	56.1%	1,082	92.6%
Devon County Council			53.8%		93.2%
England			52.9%		88.8%

Source: Children and Young People's Services, Devon County Council

Highest level of qualification (2001)

Area	No qualifications	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Other
Axminster parish	33.3%	18.4%	21.3%	6.3%	12.8%	7.8%
Remaining parishes	25.1%	15.3%	22.9%	8.1%	22.0%	6.7%
Market town area	28.7%	16.7%	22.2%	7.3%	17.9%	7.2%
East Devon	26.1%	17.3%	22.1%	8.1%	18.7%	7.7%
Devon County Council	26.7%	17.2%	21.2%	8.8%	18.6%	7.6%
England	28.9%	16.6%	19.4%	8.3%	19.9%	6.9%



Source: 2001 Census

Note:

Level 1: 1+'O' level passes, 1 CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ.

Level 2: 5+'O' level passes, 5+CSE's (grade A-C), School Certificate, 1+'A' levels/'AS' levels, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ.

Level 3: 2+ 'A' levels, 4+'AS' levels, Higher School Certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ.

Level 4: First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified Teacher Status, Qualified, Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor.

Health, Care and Wellbeing

Summary

Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance claim rates are lower than the national average for all areas. Rates in Axminster are slightly higher than the remaining rural parishes. Disability Living Allowance claim rates are broadly similar to the district average and below the national average.

The rate of people living with a limiting long-term illness is similar across the market town area and comparable to the district and county averages. Rates are slightly above the national average.

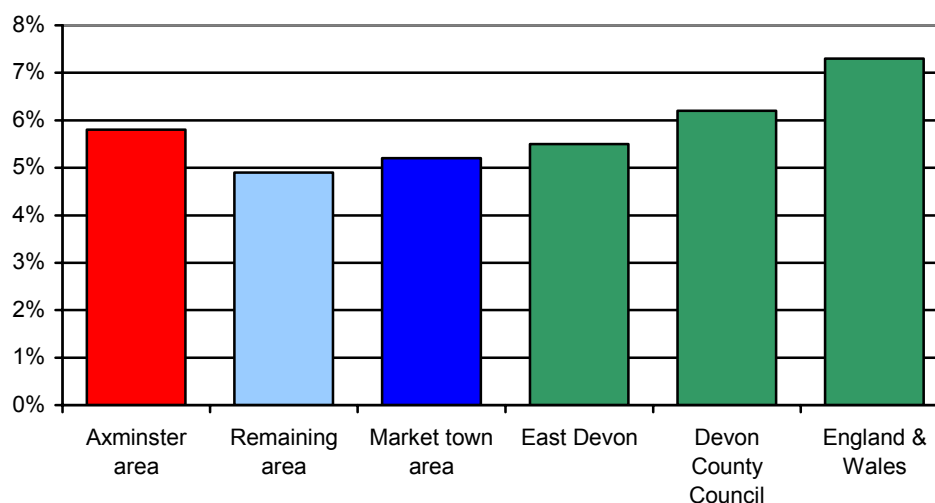
The rate of people describing their health as good or fairly good is similar across the area and to district, county and national averages.

The data below relating to Income Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Disability Living Allowance are based on a best fit of Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs). There are three MSOAs that cover the profile area, one of which is used as a best fit for Axminster with the other two being used as the remaining area.

Incapacity Benefit & Severe Disablement Allowance and Disability Living Allowance claim rates (2004)

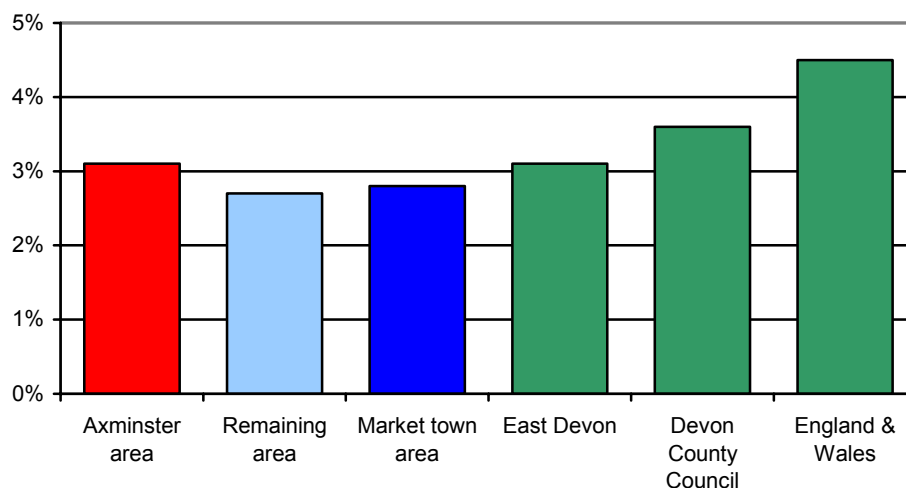
Area	Incapacity Benefit & Severe Disablement Allowance			Disability Living Allowance		
	Population aged 16 to 64	All claimants	Claim rate	Total population	All claimants	Claim rate
Axminster area	3,942	230	5.8%	7,121	220	3.1%
Remaining area	7,210	350	4.9%	12,828	345	2.7%
Market town area	11,152	580	5.2%	19,949	565	2.8%
East Devon	71,191	3,890	5.5%	125,531	3,880	3.1%
Devon County Council	429,574	26,670	6.2%	704,510	25,645	3.6%
England & Wales	33,239,665	2,421,940	7.3%	52,042,019	2,341,615	4.5%

Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance claim rates (2004)



Source: Department for Work and Pensions

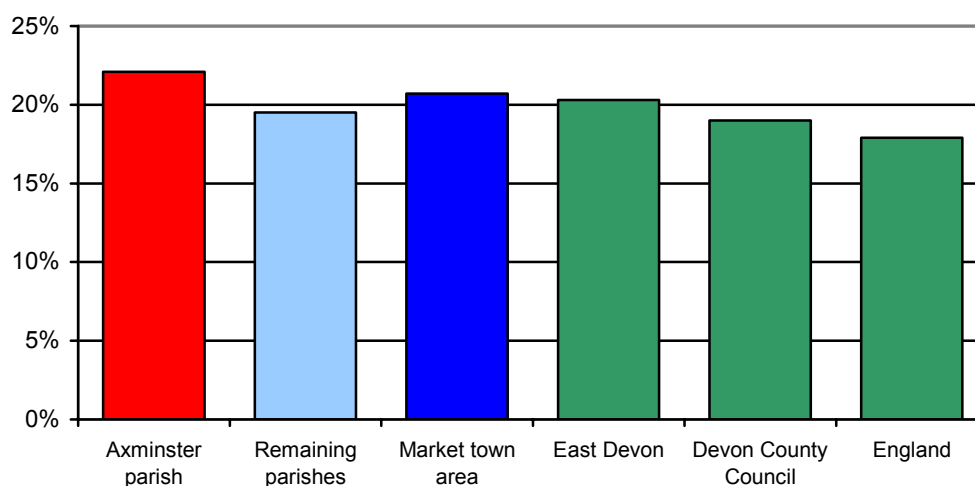
Disability Living Allowance claim rates (2004)



Source: Department for Work and Pensions

Percentage of people living with a limiting long-term illness (2001)

Area	All people	People living with a limiting long-term illness	% people living with a limiting long-term illness
Axminster parish	5,626	1,244	22.1%
Remaining parishes	6,645	1,293	19.5%
Market town area	12,271	2,537	20.7%
East Devon	125,520	25,497	20.3%
Devon County Council	704,493	133,756	19.0%
England	49,138,831	8,809,194	17.9%



Source: 2001 Census

General health (2001)

Area	All people	People describing their health as good or fairly good		People describing their health as not good	
		Number	%	Number	%
Axminster parish	5,626	5,076	90.2%	550	9.8%
Remaining parishes	6,645	6,127	92.2%	518	7.8%
Market town area	12,271	11,203	91.3%	1,068	8.7%
East Devon	125,520	114,558	91.3%	10,962	8.7%
Devon County Council	704,493	643,988	91.4%	60,505	8.6%
England	49,138,831	44,702,955	91.0%	4,435,876	9.0%

Source: 2001 Census

Older People

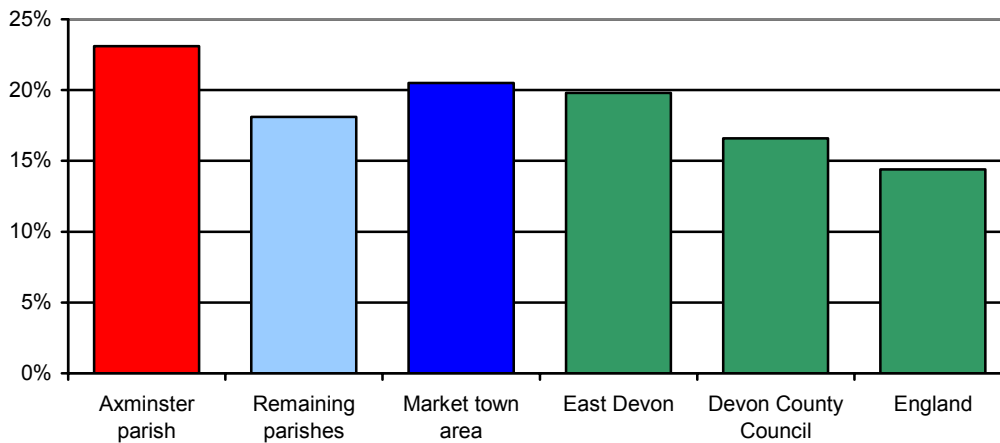
Summary

The level of households occupied by lone pensioners in the market town area is above the county and national averages. Levels are higher in Axminster parish than in the remaining parishes.

The rate of Social Services clients in the market town area is lower than the county average for all age groups except 50 to 64 year olds. Rates for all age groups are higher in Axminster than in the remaining parishes.

Percentage of lone pensioner households (2001)

Area	Total households	Households occupied by lone pensioners	% households occupied by lone pensioners
Axminster parish	2,588	598	23.1%
Remaining parishes	2,904	526	18.1%
Market town area	5,492	1,124	20.5%
East Devon	55,011	10,883	19.8%
Devon County Council	298,576	49,466	16.6%
England	20,451,427	2,939,465	14.4%



Source: 2001 Census

Number of Social Services clients per 1,000 population (2004)

Area	Clients by age group per 1,000 population of the same age group			
	50-64	65-74	75-84	85 or over
Axminster parish	28.6	43.9	107.4	313.6
Remaining parishes	11.7	30.2	81.3	304.3
Market town area	18.4	36.1	94.3	309.3
East Devon	13.8	33.0	114.2	363.1
Devon County Council	14.9	40.6	142.0	460.3

Source: Adult and Community Services, Devon County Council

Children and Young People

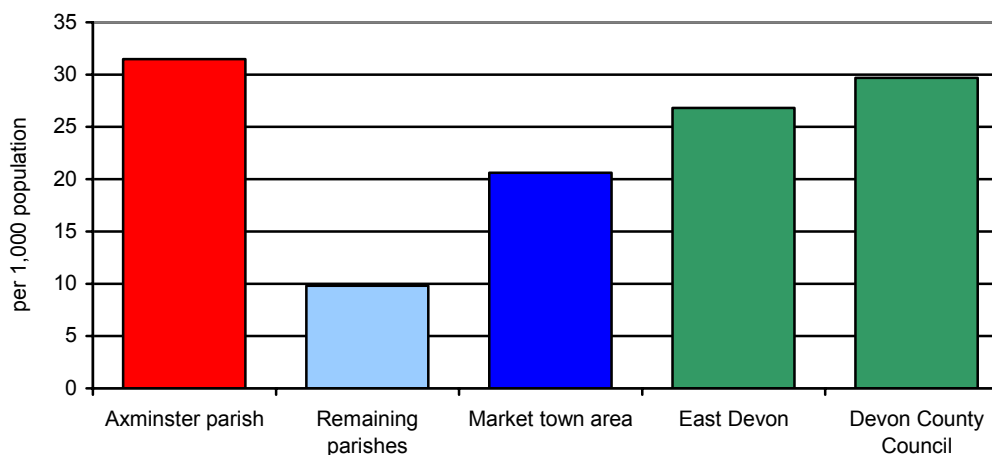
Summary

The proportion of children in need in the market town area is below that for the district and county. However, the rate in Axminster parish is three times that of the surrounding area.

The proportion of young offenders in the area is significantly lower than the district and county averages. Rates in Axminster Town ward are significantly above those for the remaining wards.

Children in need aged 0 to 17 years per 1,000 population aged 0 to 17 years (2003/04)

Area	Number of children aged 0 - 17	Number of children in need aged 0 - 17	Children in need aged 0 - 17 per 1000 population
Axminster parish	1,110	35	31.5
Remaining parishes	1,123	11	9.8
Market town area	2,233	46	20.6
East Devon	23,984	642	26.8
Devon County Council	145,459	4,317	29.7



Source: Children and Young People's Services, Devon County Council

Young offenders aged 10 to 17 years per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 years (2000 to 2002)

Area	2000	2001	2002
Axminster Town ward	12.6	6.1	9.0
Remaining wards	3.9	4.9	1.2
Market town area	6.4	5.2	3.4
East Devon	12.3	12.5	15.2
Devon County Council	14.2	20.0	19.3

Source: Youth Offending Team

Community Safety

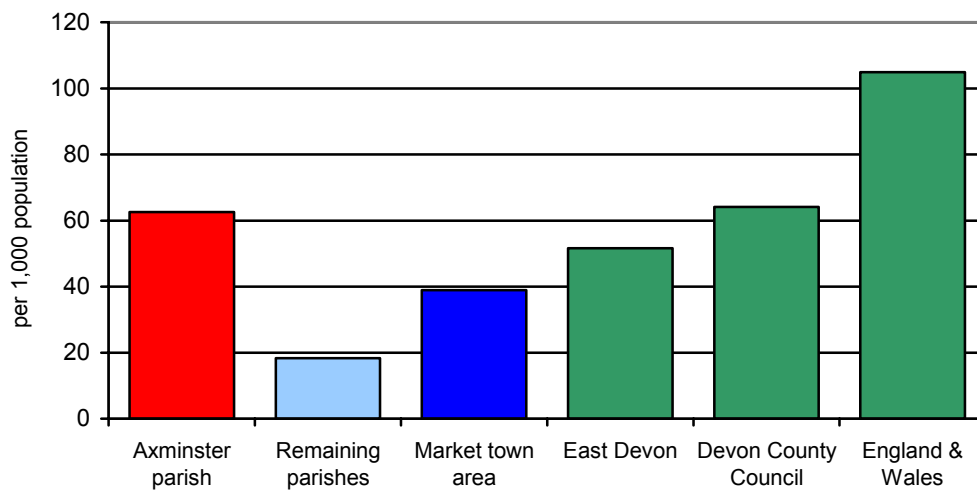
Summary

The rates of crime in all categories are highest in Axminster. Rates for the market town area in all categories are well below the county and national averages.

Data comprises addressable data only, and as such rates are based on approximately 92% of all crime.

Total crime per 1,000 population (2004/05)

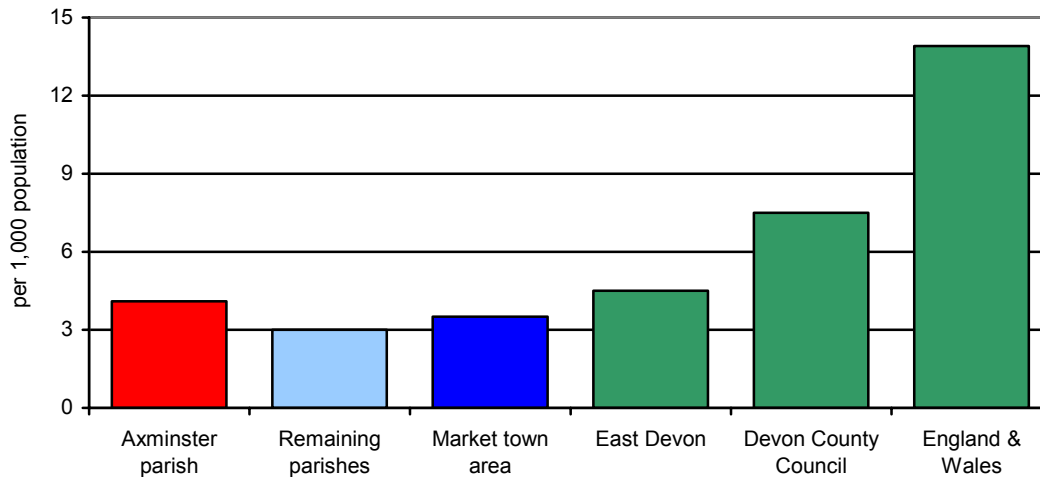
Area	Population	Total number of crimes	Crimes per 1,000 population
Axminster parish	6,074	380	62.6
Remaining parishes	6,958	127	18.3
Market town area	13,032	507	38.9
East Devon	132,548	6,839	51.6
Devon County Council	742,911	47,612	64.1
England & Wales	53,045,600	5,562,700	104.9



Source: Devon & Cornwall Constabulary (Amethyst)

Vehicle crime per 1,000 population (2004/05)

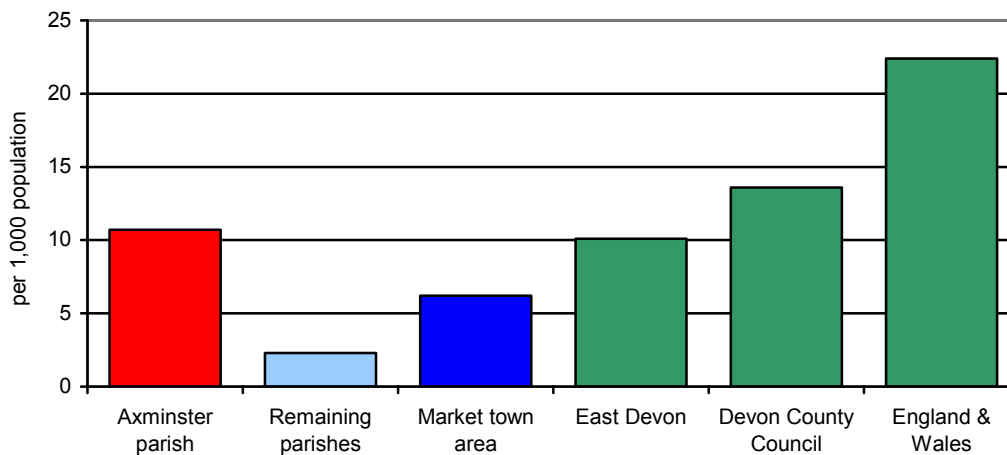
Area	Population	Number of vehicle crimes	Vehicle crimes per 1,000 population
Axminster parish	6,074	25	4.1
Remaining parishes	6,958	21	3.0
Market town area	13,032	46	3.5
East Devon	132,548	597	4.5
Devon County Council	742,911	5,594	7.5
England & Wales	53,045,600	738,500	13.9



Source: Devon & Cornwall Constabulary (Amethyst)

Violent crime per 1,000 population (2004/05)

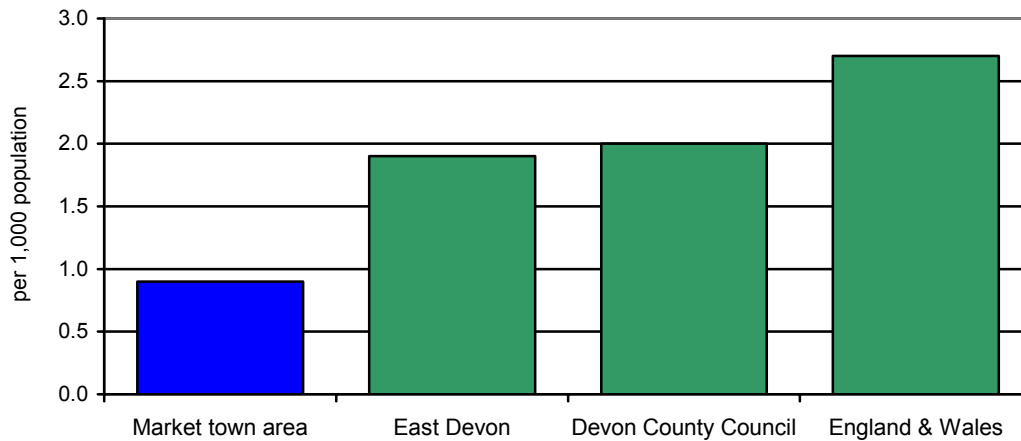
Area	Population	Number of violent crimes	Violent crimes per 1,000 population
Axminster parish	6,074	65	10.7
Remaining parishes	6,958	16	2.3
Market town area	13,032	81	6.2
East Devon	132,548	1334	10.1
Devon County Council	742,911	10,138	13.6
England & Wales	53,045,600	1,185,700	22.4



Source: Devon & Cornwall Constabulary (Amethyst)

Drug offences per 1,000 population (2004/05)

Area	Population	Number of drug offences	Drug offences per 1,000 Population
Market town area	13,032	12	0.9
East Devon	132,548	258	1.9
Devon County Council	742,911	1,492	2.0
England & Wales	53,045,600	142,300	2.7

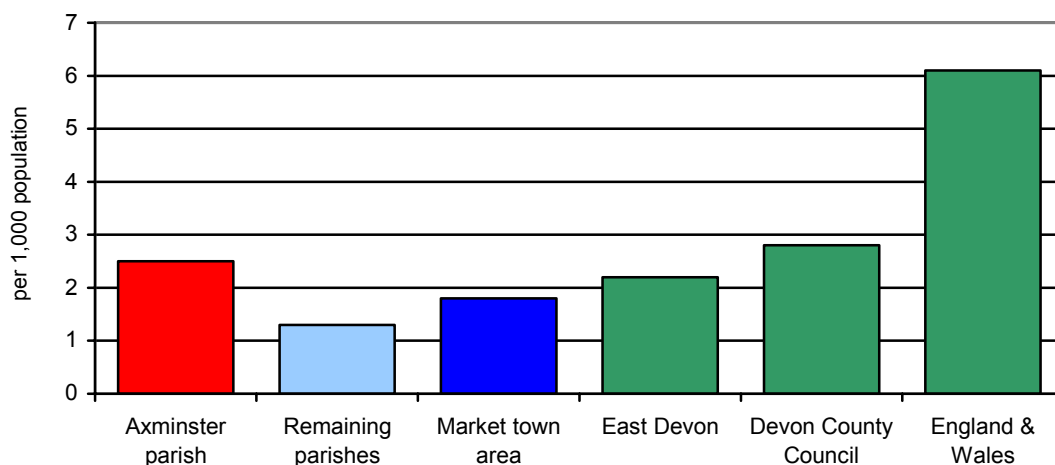


Source: Devon & Cornwall Constabulary (Amethyst)

Note: It is not possible to provide a breakdown for parishes due to small counts.

Dwelling burglaries per 1,000 population (2004/05)

Area	Population	Number of dwelling burglaries	Dwelling burglaries per 1,000 Population
Axminster parish	6,074	15	2.5
Remaining parishes	6,958	9	1.3
Market town area	13,032	24	1.8
East Devon	132,548	291	2.2
Devon County Council	742,911	2,046	2.8
England & Wales	53,045,600	321,500	6.1



Source: Devon & Cornwall Constabulary (Amethyst)

Housing

Summary

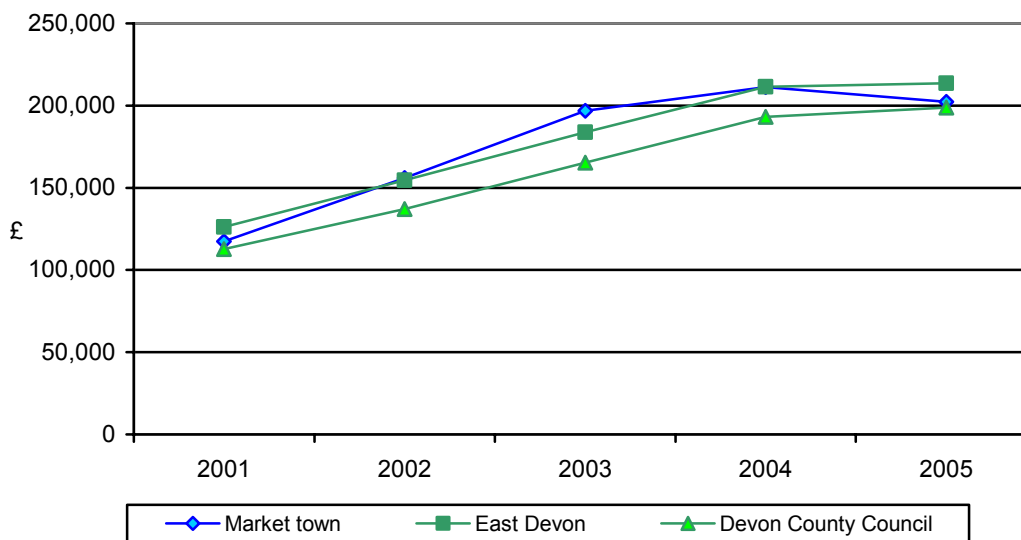
House prices outside Axminster in 2004 were around 59% higher than those in the town and 46% above those for the county as a whole. However, prices rose by around 87% in Axminster between 2001 and 2005.

In 2004, the average price for a detached or semi-detached property was similar to the national average. Prices were more expensive for terraced properties and cheaper for flats and maisonettes.

Tenure rates in the market town area are broadly similar to those across Devon as a whole. Owner occupation levels are above those for the country.

House price change (2001 to 2005)

Area	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	% change 2001 - 2005
Axminster parish	£101,520	£130,096	£161,874	£177,613	£190,036	87.2%
Remaining parishes	£164,873	£212,079	£247,868	£282,254	£267,833	62.4%
Market town	£117,460	£156,045	£196,855	£211,233	£202,320	72.2%
East Devon	£126,083	£154,580	£183,781	£211,411	£213,581	69.4%
Devon County Council	£112,752	£136,982	£165,267	£193,045	£198,835	76.3%



Source: Land Registry

Note: Data comprises sales between April and December 2001, all sales in 2002, 2003 and 2004 and from January to March 2005.

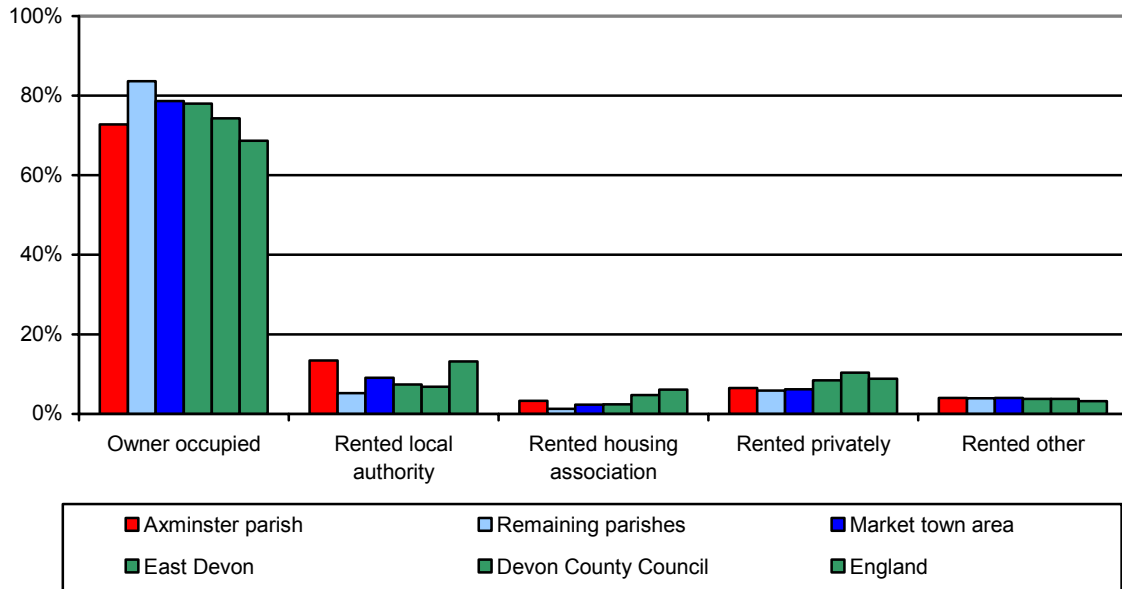
Average house price (2004)

Area	Detached	Semi-Detached	Terraced	Flat/Maisonette	Overall
Axminster parish	£231,136	£154,529	£134,630	£154,938	£177,613
Remaining parishes	£331,454	£168,990	£186,112	£120,500	£282,254
Market town	£277,894	£157,816	£145,784	£152,387	£211,233
East Devon	£297,030	£187,430	£166,912	£145,521	£211,411
Devon County Council	£266,940	£180,252	£157,985	£138,260	£193,045
England & Wales	£270,745	£162,379	£136,862	£168,298	£178,504

Source: Land Registry

Percentage of dwellings by tenure (2001)

Area	All households	Owner occupied	Rented accommodation			
			Local authority	Housing associations	Private	Other
Axminster parish	2,588	72.8%	13.4%	3.3%	6.5%	4.0%
Remaining parishes	2,904	83.6%	5.2%	1.3%	5.9%	3.9%
Market town area	5,492	78.6%	9.1%	2.3%	6.2%	4.0%
East Devon	55,011	78.0%	7.4%	2.4%	8.4%	3.8%
Devon County Council	298,576	74.3%	6.8%	4.7%	10.4%	3.8%
England	20,451,427	68.7%	13.2%	6.1%	8.8%	3.2%



Source: 2001 Census

Transport

Summary

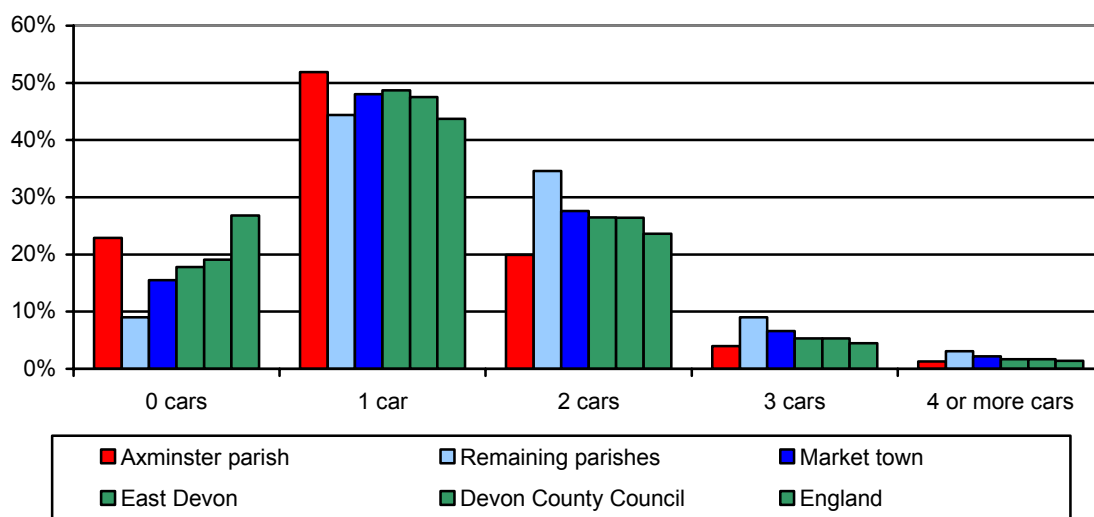
There are higher levels of car ownership outside Axminster. Nearly a quarter of Axminster households do not have access to a car.

Mode of travel to work in the market town area is similar to that in the county as a whole and nationally. There is a higher level of walking to work in Axminster parish and a higher proportion of people working from home in the remaining rural parishes.

No households within the market town area can access an acute hospital using public transport within 60 minutes. Overall the percentage of households that can access a shop or a GP within 30 minutes by public transport is below the national average, although the Axminster urban area has accessibility levels comparable to the national figure.

Car ownership (2001)

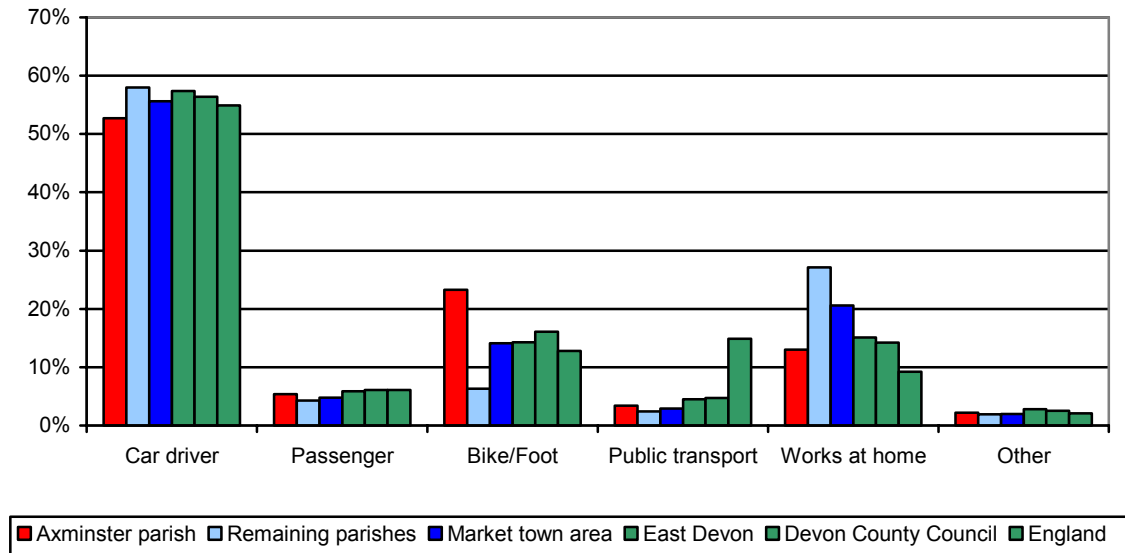
Area	All households	Households with:				
		No car	One car	Two cars	Three cars	Four or more cars
Axminster parish	2,588	22.9%	51.9%	19.9%	4.0%	1.3%
Remaining parishes	2,903	9.0%	44.4%	34.6%	9.0%	3.1%
Market town	5,491	15.5%	48.0%	27.6%	6.6%	2.2%
East Devon	55,011	17.8%	48.7%	26.5%	5.3%	1.7%
Devon County Council	298,576	19.1%	47.5%	26.4%	5.3%	1.7%
England	20,451,427	26.8%	43.7%	23.6%	4.5%	1.4%



Source: 2001 Census

Mode of travel to work (2001)

Area	All 16-74 year olds in employment	Percentage of population by mode of travel to work					
		By car or van	Passenger in a car or a van	On a bike or by foot	By public transport	Work from home	Other
Axminster parish	2,319	52.7%	5.4%	23.3%	3.4%	13.0%	2.2%
Remaining parishes	2,726	58.0%	4.3%	6.3%	2.4%	27.1%	1.9%
Market town area	5,045	55.6%	4.8%	14.1%	2.9%	20.6%	2.0%
East Devon	52,509	57.4%	5.9%	14.3%	4.5%	15.1%	2.8%
Devon County Council	314,267	56.4%	6.1%	16.1%	4.7%	14.2%	2.5%
England	22,441,498	54.9%	6.1%	12.8%	14.9%	9.2%	2.1%



Source: 2001 Census

The data below relating to accessibility by public transport are based on a best fit Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)

Accessibility by public transport (2005)

Area	Number of households	Percentage of households that can access		
		Acute hospital within 60 minutes	GP within 30 minutes	Shop within 30 minutes
Axminster area	2,802	0.0%	90.7%	92.4%
Remaining area	3,791	0.0%	55.5%	49.9%
Market town area	6,593	0.0%	70.5%	67.9%
East Devon	54,998	66.1%	90.0%	88.3%
Devon County Council	298,578	66.7%	86.6%	85.2%
England	17,436,116	82.8%	95.2%	94.4%

Source: Department for Transport

Note: Acute hospitals are establishments which provide at least minimal medical, surgical or obstetrical services for inpatient treatment and/or care, and which provide round-the-clock comprehensive qualified nursing service as well as other necessary professional services. Most patients require a relatively short stay.

The Environment – Landscape

Summary

In 2002 Devon County Council undertook and published a landscape appraisal of the county which included a landscape character assessment. The result of this assessment was the division of the County into 32 Landscape Character Zones. The Axminster market town area contains three Landscape Character Zones.

Landscape Character

Landscape character is defined as a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently in a particular type of landscape. Character makes each part of the landscape distinct, and gives each its particular sense of place.

Landscape character has an important role to play in that it informs the Devon County Structure Plan's fundamental landscape policy (CO1), requiring that development should be informed by and sympathetic to the landscape character of the area.

In 2002 Devon County Council undertook and published a landscape appraisal of the County which included a landscape character assessment. The result of this assessment was the division of the County into 32 Landscape Character Zones (LCZs), each with their own description and distinctive key characteristic features. The Axminster market town area contains parts of three of these LCZs, and their key characteristics are outlined below.

Axe & Otter Valleys

Location - The zone comprises two parallel north-south river valleys in south east Devon, separated by higher land. The Axe Valley stretches from the Somerset and Dorset boundary to the English Channel coast at Seaton, and it is this element of the Zone which falls within the market town area, crossing the centre of the area north-south. The Otter Valley element of this zone occupies the lower part of the valley only, from just south of Honiton to the estuary at Budleigh Salterton.

Designations - Most of the lower Axe Valley within the market town area is part of the national designation of the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. North of Axminster the western fringes of the valley fall within the boundary of the Blackdown Hills AONB, again giving national recognition. The remainder of the Axe Valley north of Axminster, as well as the estuary itself and the adjacent marshes plus the valley floor of the tributary river Coly, have all been subject to Devon County Council's Area of Great Landscape Value designation.

Key Characteristic Features

- Lowland rivers with noticeable flood plains and tightly meandering courses, unusual in most of Devon's major rivers.
- Shingle or pebble bars across both estuaries, both backed by ecologically important salt marsh.
- Historic settlements sited at old crossing points, just above the flood plain.
- Drainage channels.

Greensand Ridges

Location - The zone occupies two separate areas in the far south east corner of the County, the two parts being separated by the Axe Valley. The larger, more westerly area stretches from the Somerset boundary in the north to the English Channel coast in the south, bounded on the west by a line between Budleigh Salterton, Ottery St Mary, Honiton and Culmstock and on the east by the Axe Valley. The smaller, eastern area abuts the Dorset boundary and covers an area bounded by Lyme Regis and Axminster but excluding the coast. Both parts of this zone are covered by the market town area.

Designations - The whole of the western part of the zone within the market town area is covered by the national designation Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Two separate but contiguous AONBs are involved. The northern part falls within the Blackdown Hills AONB and the southern part the East Devon AONB, the boundary being the A35 road linking Honiton and Axminster.

The separate, eastern area also falls partly within the East Devon AONB; this designation covers the coastal area immediately to the west of Lyme Regis. The same area has been defined as Heritage Coast by the Countryside Agency.

Key Characteristics Features

- Long greensand ridges including heath and forestry, beech hedges and avenues.
- Plateau landscape on ridge tops which includes common land, parliamentary enclosures, airfields and communications structures.
- Steep valleys between ridges enclosing a varied farming landscape, with woodland, hedgerow trees and springline flushes.
- Historic farm buildings utilising local materials.
- Springline settlements.

Coastal Chalk Plateaux

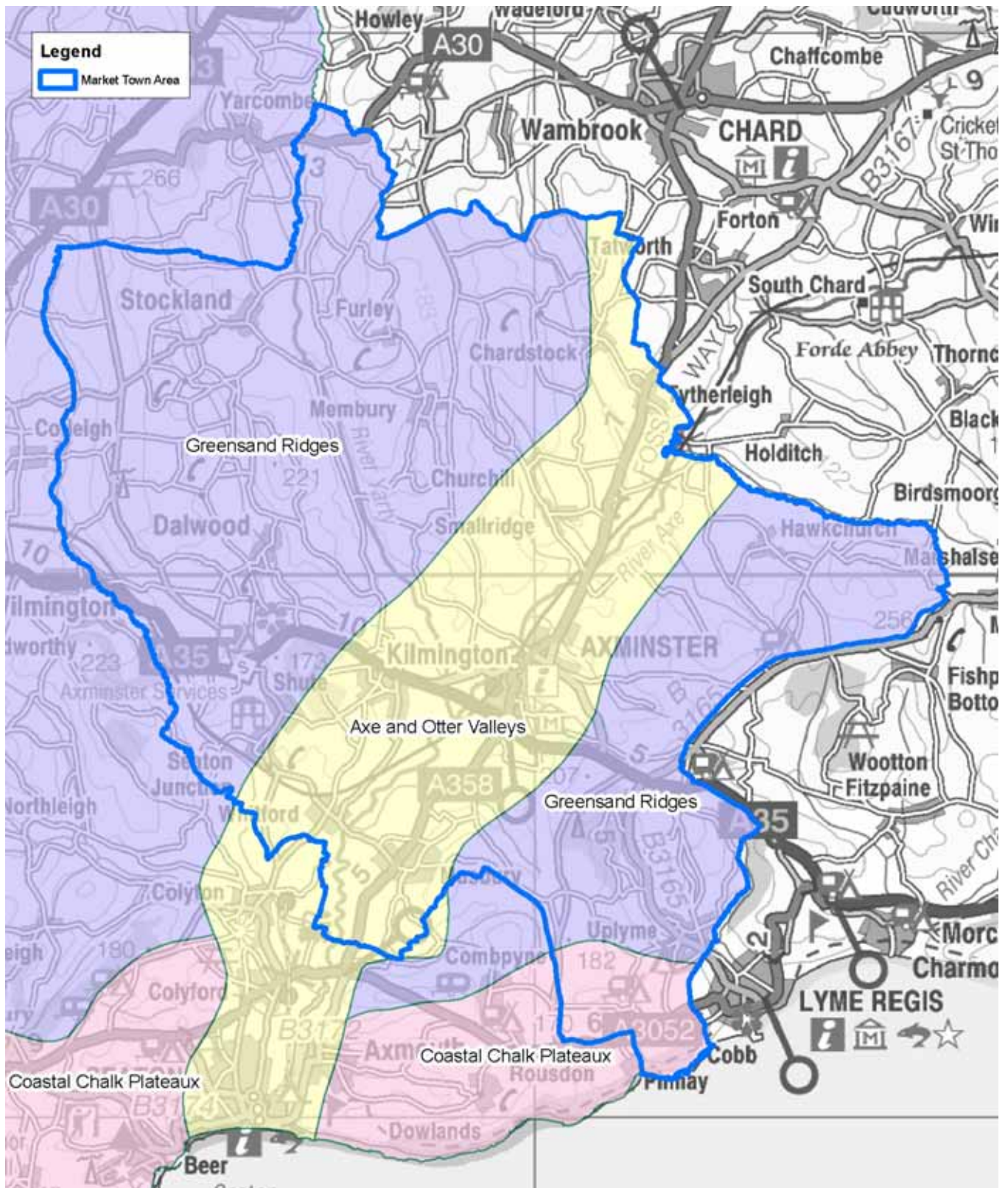
Location - The zone occupies two separate areas on the English Channel coast in the south eastern corner of Devon, the two areas being separated by the Axe Valley. The western area stretches from a little way east of Sidmouth along the coast to Beer; the eastern area occupies the coastal stretch between Axmouth and the Dorset boundary at Lyme Regis. Both areas reach inland between 2 and 4 km (1¼ - 2½ miles), as far as and just beyond the coastal road A3052. A small area in the far south of the market town area falls within this zone.

Designations – All of the relatively small area of the zone within the market town area is covered by the national landscape designation of area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB). Devon County Council's coastal preservation area covers that part of the zone south of the A3052; the same area has been defined as heritage coast by the Countryside Agency.

Key Characteristics Features

- The only chalk outcrop in Devon, and the most westerly in England, giving spectacular cliffs, local building materials (including Beer stone and flint) and chalk grassland.
- Flat plateau, more arable than surrounding Zones, exposed to salt-laden winds.
- Plateau dissected by deep branching coastal combes with historic settlements.
- Shelterbelts, including species such as Monterey pine and larch.
- Varied underlying geology creating dramatic changes in cliff scenery in close proximity as well as dramatic landslips.

Landscape Character Zones within the market town area



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The Environment – Wildlife and Geology

Summary

The last 60 years have seen many dramatic changes within the English countryside, with increasing urbanisation and shifting patterns of agriculture. Devon has fared better than most, however, being protected by its remoteness and undulating terrain.

There remains much wildlife and geology to enjoy and conserve, and many opportunities exist throughout the County to enhance the natural environment. Landowners, industry and, of course, local communities all have the chance to contribute to the conservation of Devon's rich natural history.

This part of East Devon is rich in wildlife. The rolling landscape is home to ancient woodlands, farmland with important, old networks of hedgerows, areas of species-rich grasslands, the rivers Axe and Yarty, springline mires and marshy grasslands, and even some areas of heath, as at Trinity Hill Local Nature Reserve. Of particular note are the many lanes with their wonderful displays of primroses. The Axminster area also includes part of the famous Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliffs National Nature Reserve, which is of importance for both its wildlife, including ash woodland virtually untouched by man, and its geological features.

This range of habitats supports a wide variety of species. Otters are found on the rivers and streams, and dormice are also present within the area. The rare wood white butterfly is present at the Undercliffs NNR and breeding nightjar can be found at Trinity Hill. Of particular note in the area is the medicinal leech which, most unusually, can be found at one spot in the River Axe.

Key sites

The table below contains information on the key features of some of the most important wildlife sites of this part of Devon. A map is also included to illustrate these.

Site name	Interest	Designation
Sidmouth to West Bay	Vegetated sea cliffs, ash-maple woodland and annual vegetation of drift lines.	SAC
River Axe	Supporting a diverse and high quality aquatic environment, this river is also important for its patterns of meander formation.	SAC, SSSI
Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliffs	Vegetated sea cliffs, ash-maple woodland, calcareous grassland, important geology & rare species.	NNR, SSSI
Broom Gravel Pits	Sections in the terrace gravels of the Axe Valley of importance for Pleistocene studies.	gSSSI
Furley Chalk Pit	A site stratigraphically important for its marine Cretaceous succession.	gSSSI
Lambert's Castle	A variety of rare and species-rich grasslands.	SSSI
Park Farm Meadows	Species-rich neutral grasslands.	SSSI
Quarry Fields Farm	Species-rich neutral grasslands.	SSSI
Shapwick Grange Quarry	Ammonite fauna belonging to the Cretaceous Upper Greensand.	gSSSI
Trinity Hill	Lowland heathland.	LNR

The Sidmouth to West Bay SAC referred to above consists of several separate SSSIs including, in this area, Axmouth to Lyme Regis.

In addition to the table above, the Axminster area has **66 County Wildlife Sites**. These mainly represent broadleaved woodland and neutral and marshy grassland, together with important areas of springline mire. Areas of calcareous grassland and wet and dry heathland are also represented

Key:

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC): these sites are notified because they contain species and/or habitats of European importance (listed in the Habitats Directive 1994). SAC is a statutory designation with legal implications.

National Nature Reserves (NNR): these sites are the jewels in the crown of UK nature conservation. They are all among the very best examples of a particular habitat or have important populations of rare species. NNR is a statutory designation with legal implications.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): these sites are notified because of their national importance for wildlife or geological features (gSSSI, above). SSSI is a statutory designation with legal implications. SSSI status does not confer any right of access to the public.

Local Nature Reserves (LNR): these are places with local wildlife or geological interest which offer good opportunities for learning about nature or simply enjoying it. LNR is a statutory designation made by local authorities.

County Wildlife Sites (CWS): these are sites of county importance for wildlife. CWS is not a statutory designation and does not have any legal status, though CWSs are usually included in district planning documents. CWS recognition places no formal obligation on the landowner, but may increase eligibility for land management grants.

Key sites within the market town area

