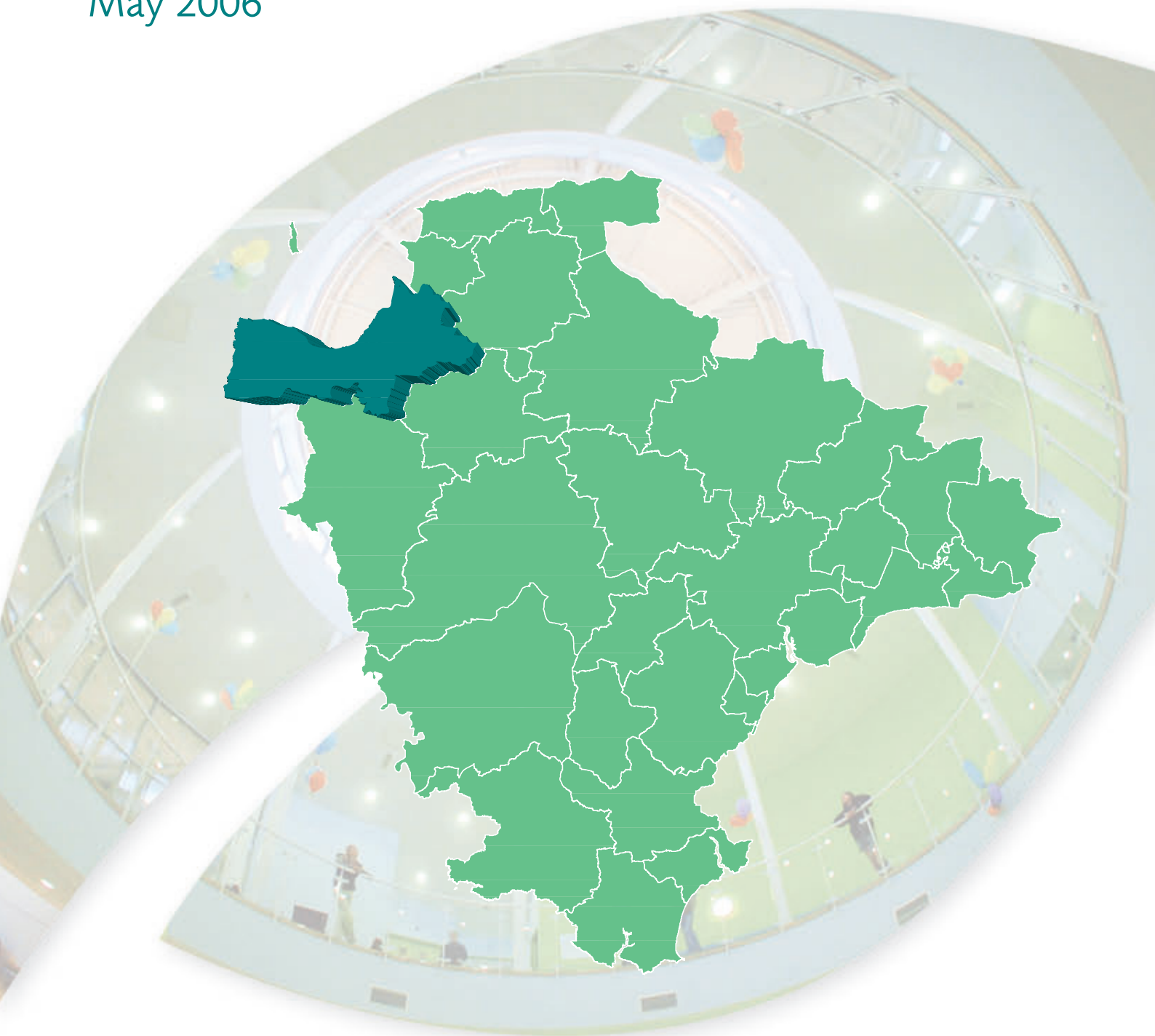


# Bideford and Northam Devon Town Baseline Profile

May 2006

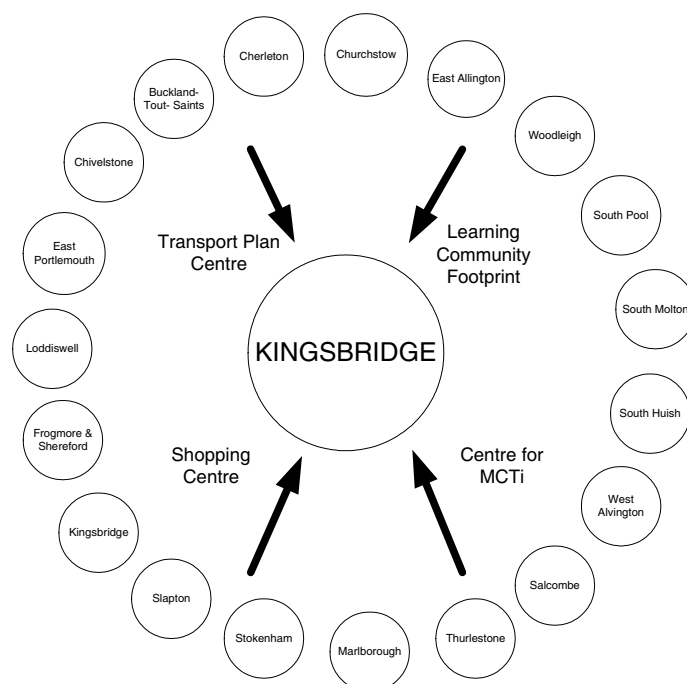


## Identifying Devon Towns

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



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## 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.

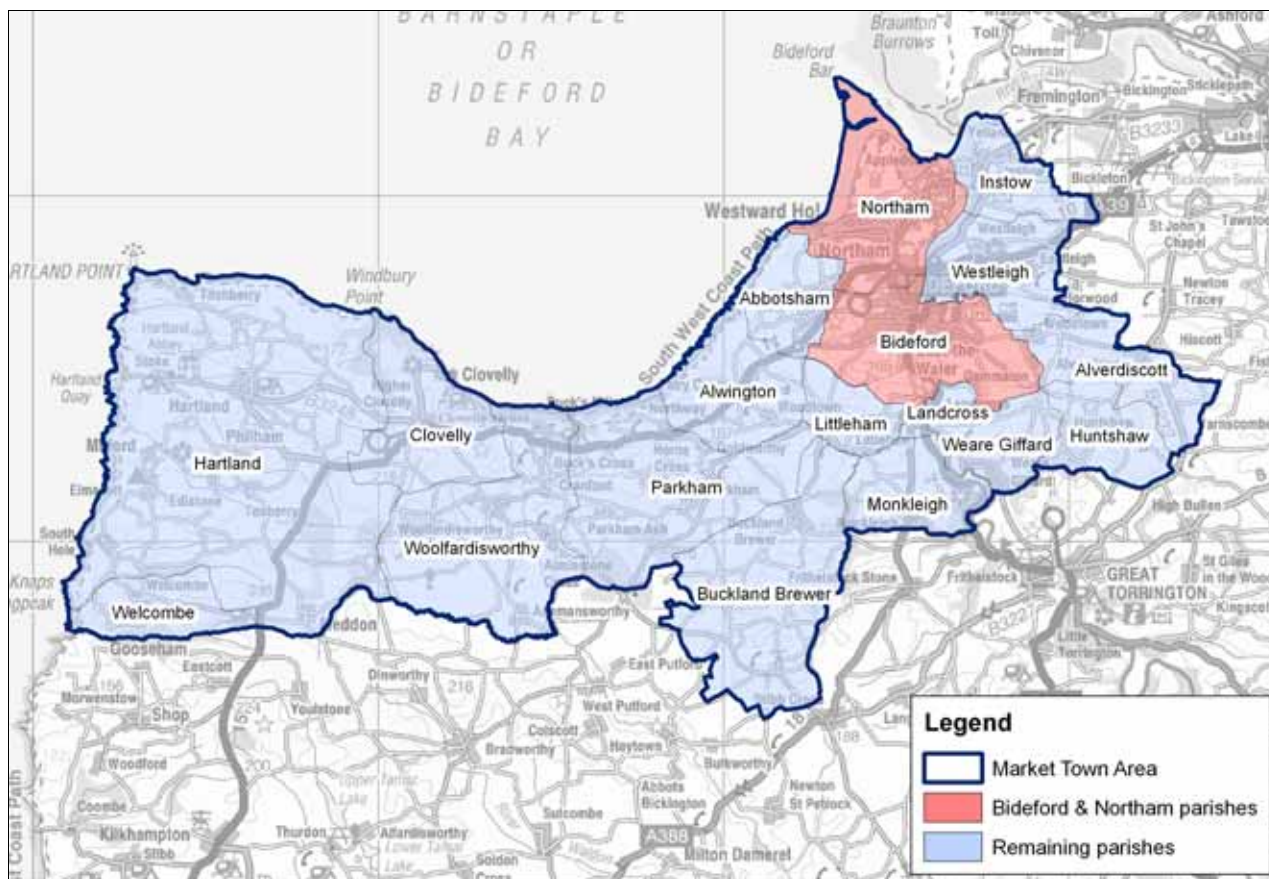
The profile is structured around a series of themes to cover social, economic and environmental well being. This is a starting point in producing profiles about our "Devon town" areas in which considerable effort has been made to provide a comprehensive series of data. Further data will be added to subsequent 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](http://www.devon.gov.uk)

## Area definition

Market town areas have been defined as aggregations of parishes. The following 18 parishes make up the Bideford & Northam market town area:

|                 |                  |               |           |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Abbotsham       | Alverdiscott     | Alwington     | Bideford  |
| Buckland Brewer | Clovelly         | Hartland      | Huntshaw  |
| Instow          | Landcross        | Littleham     | Monkleigh |
| Northam         | Parkham          | Weare Giffard | Welcombe  |
| Westleigh       | Woolfardisworthy |               |           |



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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:

|              |                       |                |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Appledore    | Bideford East         | Bideford North | Bideford South        |
| Clovelly Bay | Kenwith               | Northam        | Orchard Hill          |
| Westward Ho! | Hartland & Bradworthy | Instow         | Monkleigh & Littleham |
| Waldon       |                       |                |                       |

Nine wards fall completely inside the market town boundary. Over 60% of the population of Hartland & Bradworthy, Instow and Monkleigh & Littleham wards live inside the boundary and as such are included in the 'best-fit' for the purposes of this profile. Around 50% of the population of Waldon ward live inside the boundary and as such the ward is included in this profile but also included in the Holsworthy market town area.

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 parishes of Bideford and Northam, or the three Bideford wards (Bideford East, Bideford North and Bideford South) and four Northam wards (Appledore, Northam, Orchard Hill and Westward Ho!) if appropriate.

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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 21 LSOAs that fall either fully or partially inside the market town area and seven MSOAs. Two MSOAs form an area similar to Bideford and another two form the area of Northam parish.

Additional information has been included to provide some comparisons. All tables have data for the North Devon and Torridge districts 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 North Devon, Torrridge and the county. However, there is a higher proportion of the younger working age groups in Bideford and a higher proportion of older people in Northam.

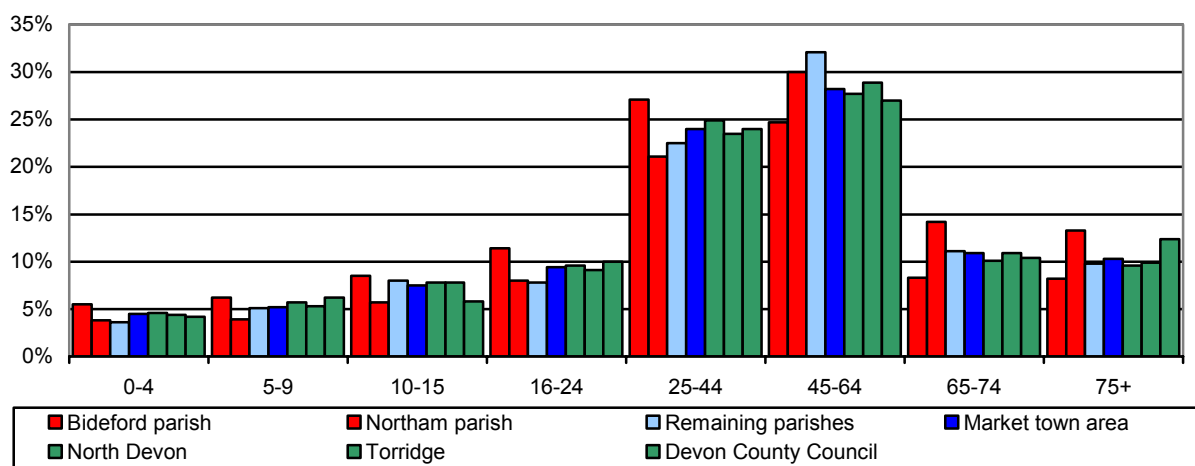
The population for the market town area has risen by over 21% since 1991, and by over a quarter in Northam. This is a faster rate of growth than in the district and county.

The proportion of people from minority ethnic groups is significantly higher in Bideford than the remainder of the market town area, and the district and county averages.

Levels of single person occupancy are higher in the urban areas than in the remaining rural parishes. Overall levels are similar to those across North Devon, Torrridge and the county.

## 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+   |
| Bideford parish      | 15,779           | 5.5%     | 6.2% | 8.5%  | 11.4% | 27.1% | 24.7% | 8.3%  | 8.2%  |
| Northam parish       | 12,137           | 3.8%     | 3.9% | 5.7%  | 8.0%  | 21.1% | 30.0% | 14.2% | 13.3% |
| Remaining parishes   | 8,828            | 3.6%     | 5.1% | 8.0%  | 7.8%  | 22.5% | 32.1% | 11.1% | 9.8%  |
| Market town area     | 36,744           | 4.5%     | 5.2% | 7.5%  | 9.4%  | 24.0% | 28.2% | 10.9% | 10.3% |
| North Devon          | 95,121           | 4.6%     | 5.7% | 7.8%  | 9.6%  | 24.9% | 27.7% | 10.1% | 9.6%  |
| Torrridge            | 62,899           | 4.4%     | 5.3% | 7.8%  | 9.1%  | 23.5% | 28.9% | 10.9% | 9.9%  |
| Devon County Council | 742,911          | 4.2%     | 6.2% | 5.8%  | 10.0% | 24.0% | 27.0% | 10.4% | 12.4% |



Source: South Devon Health Informatics Service (FHSA data)

## Population change (1991 to 2004)

| Area                 | 1991    | 2001    | 2004    | % change 1991-2004 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Bideford parish      | 13,006  | 15,000  | 15,783  | 21.4%              |
| Northam parish       | 9,600   | 11,733  | 12,127  | 26.3%              |
| Remaining parishes   | 7,805   | 8,584   | 9,056   | 16.0%              |
| Market town area     | 30,411  | 35,317  | 36,966  | 21.6%              |
| North Devon          | 84,800  | 91,716  | 95,108  | 12.2%              |
| Torrridge            | 51,969  | 59,312  | 62,954  | 21.1%              |
| Devon County Council | 646,903 | 719,775 | 742,943 | 14.8%              |

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



**Ethnicity (2001)**

| Area                 | All People | Ethnic group |         |                           |                             |
|----------------------|------------|--------------|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                      |            | White        | % White | Black and minority ethnic | % Black and minority ethnic |
| Bideford parish      | 14,426     | 14,180       | 98.3%   | 246                       | 1.7%                        |
| Northam parish       | 11,616     | 11,502       | 99.0%   | 114                       | 1.0%                        |
| Remaining parishes   | 8,557      | 8,488        | 99.2%   | 69                        | 0.8%                        |
| Market town area     | 34,599     | 34,170       | 98.8%   | 429                       | 1.2%                        |
| North Devon          | 87,522     | 86,679       | 99.0%   | 843                       | 1.0%                        |
| Torridge             | 58,945     | 58,381       | 99.0%   | 564                       | 1.0%                        |
| 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                                     | %     |
| Bideford parish      | 6,093          | 1,923                    | 31.6% | 4,170                                      | 68.4% |
| Northam parish       | 5,338          | 1,769                    | 33.1% | 3,569                                      | 66.9% |
| Remaining parishes   | 3,317          | 822                      | 24.8% | 2,495                                      | 75.2% |
| Market town area     | 14,748         | 4,514                    | 30.6% | 10,234                                     | 69.4% |
| North Devon          | 36,719         | 10,242                   | 27.9% | 26,477                                     | 72.1% |
| Torridge             | 24,603         | 6,868                    | 27.9% | 17,735                                     | 72.1% |
| Devon County Council | 298,576        | 86,890                   | 29.1% | 211,686                                    | 70.9% |
| England              | 20,451,427     | 6,150,264                | 30.1% | 14,301,163                                 | 69.9% |

Source: 2001 Census

# Deprivation

## Summary

Three Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are classified as being in the most deprived 25% of LSOAs nationally, all of these being located in Bideford parish. A further 14 LSOAs fall into the next 25% of deprived areas.

The principal source of deprivation data is currently The Indices of Deprivation 2004. This is a Lower Layer 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 ID 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 current 2000 version. 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

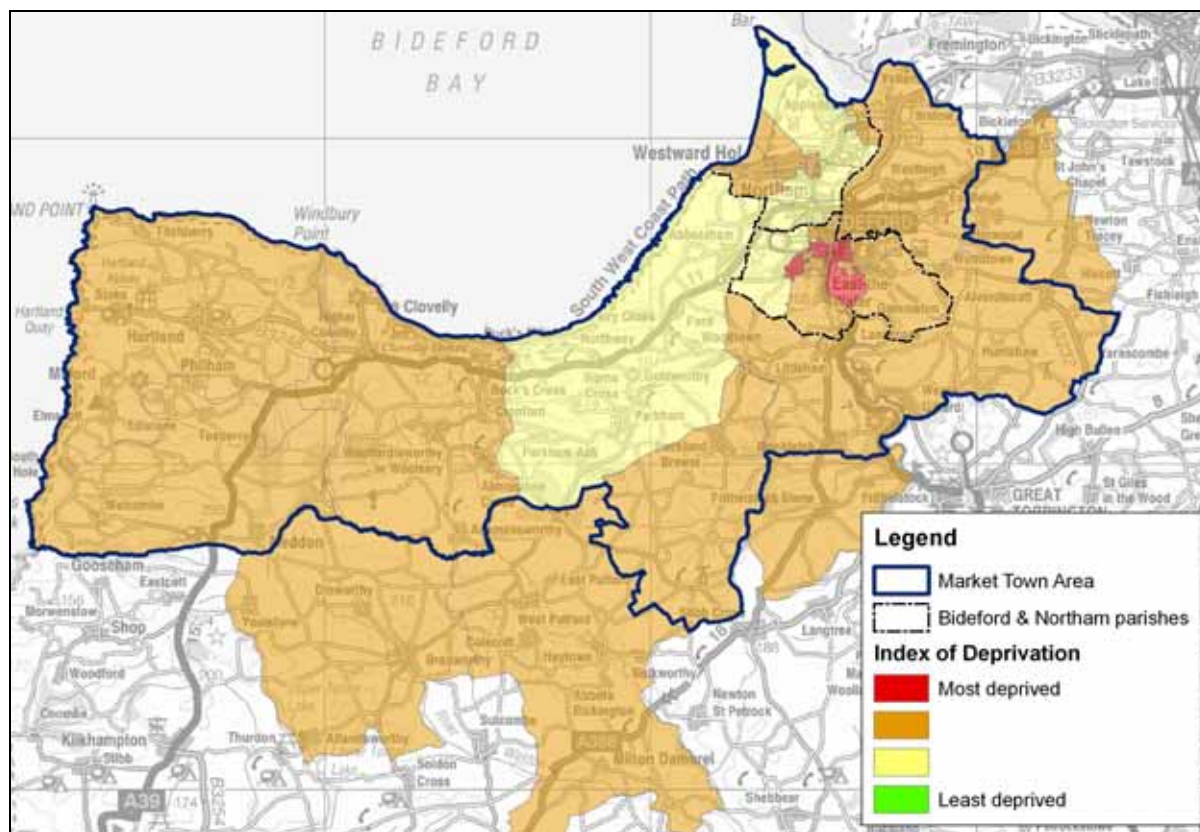
| Area                 | IMD 2000        |            | ID 2004         |            |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
|                      | Number of wards | Population | Number of LSOAs | Population |
| East Devon           | 1               | 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 23 LSOAs that fall either completely or partially within the area covered by this profile. Three of these are classified as being in the most deprived 25% of LSOAs nationally – all of these are located in Bideford – with a further 14 falling into the next 25%. The remaining six LSOAs fall into the 50-75% most deprived areas. There are no areas 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 Bideford and Northam are significantly higher than in the surrounding area. They are also higher than the district, county and national averages.

Economic activity rates across the market town area fairly consistent although they are slightly lower in Northam. The rate of self-employment in the surrounding rural area is twice that of the centre.

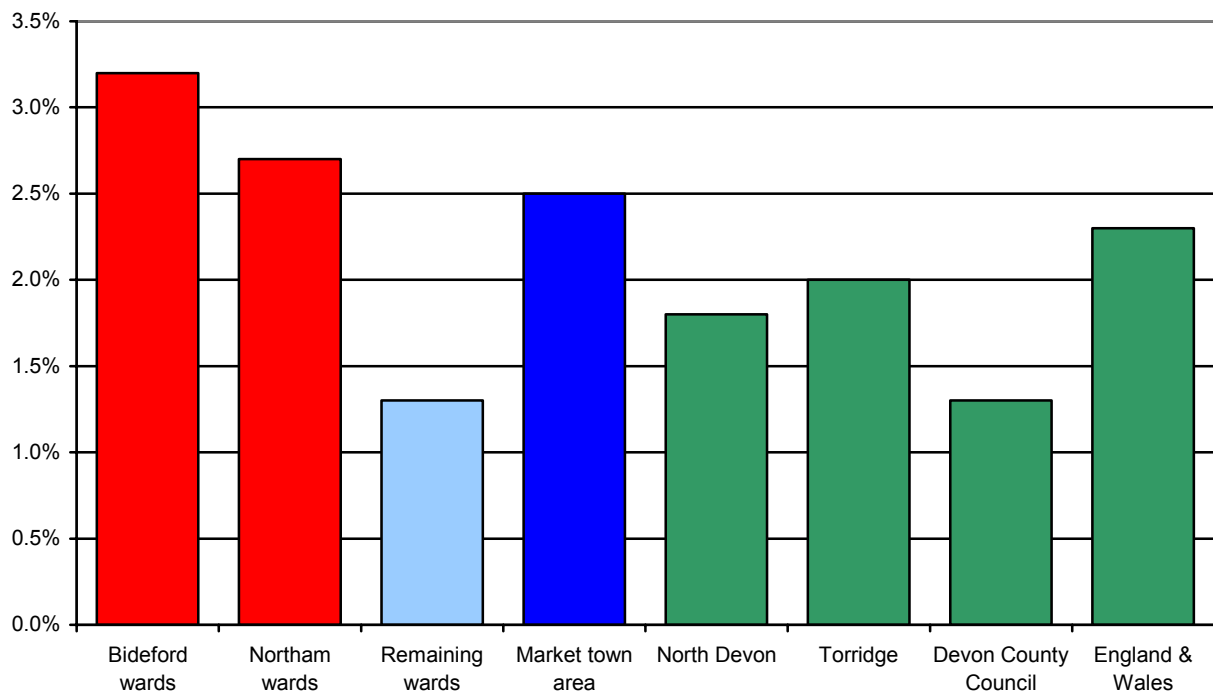
Claim rates for Income Support and Job Seekers Allowance are higher in Bideford and Northam than in the remaining parishes. The Income Support claim rate for the profile area as a whole is above the national average.

The proportion of households with an annual income of less than £20,000 is broadly similar to the district and county averages in all areas except Bideford, where over half the households fall into this category.

The rates of employment by industry are similar to district, county and national averages although there are a higher proportion of people working in manufacturing.

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

| Area                 | Number unemployed | % working age population |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Bideford wards       | 290               | 3.2%                     |
| Northam wards        | 170               | 2.7%                     |
| Remaining wards      | 84                | 1.3%                     |
| Market town area     | 544               | 2.5%                     |
| North Devon          | 923               | 1.8%                     |
| Torrige              | 724               | 2.0%                     |
| Devon County Council | 5,445             | 1.3%                     |
| England & Wales      |                   | 2.3%                     |



Source: Office for National Statistics

**Economic activity (2001)**

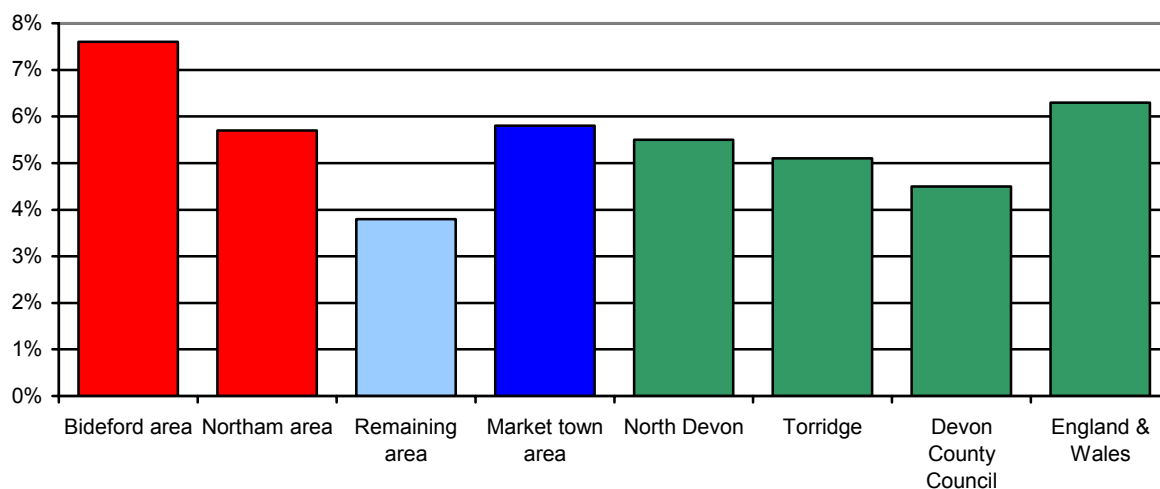
| Area                 | People aged 16 to 74 | Total economically active | Economically active | Employed part-time | Employed full-time | Self employed | Unemployed | Students |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------|----------|
| Bideford parish      | 10,114               | 6,706                     | 66.3%               | 22.0%              | 56.4%              | 11.8%         | 7.3%       | 2.5%     |
| Northam parish       | 8,415                | 4,945                     | 58.8%               | 20.8%              | 52.5%              | 17.8%         | 6.7%       | 2.3%     |
| Remaining parishes   | 6,200                | 3,974                     | 64.1%               | 19.9%              | 41.2%              | 31.8%         | 4.6%       | 2.4%     |
| Market town area     | 24,729               | 15,625                    | 63.2%               | 21.1%              | 51.3%              | 18.8%         | 6.4%       | 2.4%     |
| North Devon          | 62,373               | 41,477                    | 66.5%               | 20.9%              | 50.7%              | 20.7%         | 5.0%       | 2.8%     |
| Torridge             | 42,345               | 27,131                    | 64.1%               | 20.5%              | 48.4%              | 23.2%         | 5.7%       | 2.3%     |
| 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 seven MSOAs in the profile, two form an area similar to Bideford and another two form the area of Northam parish.

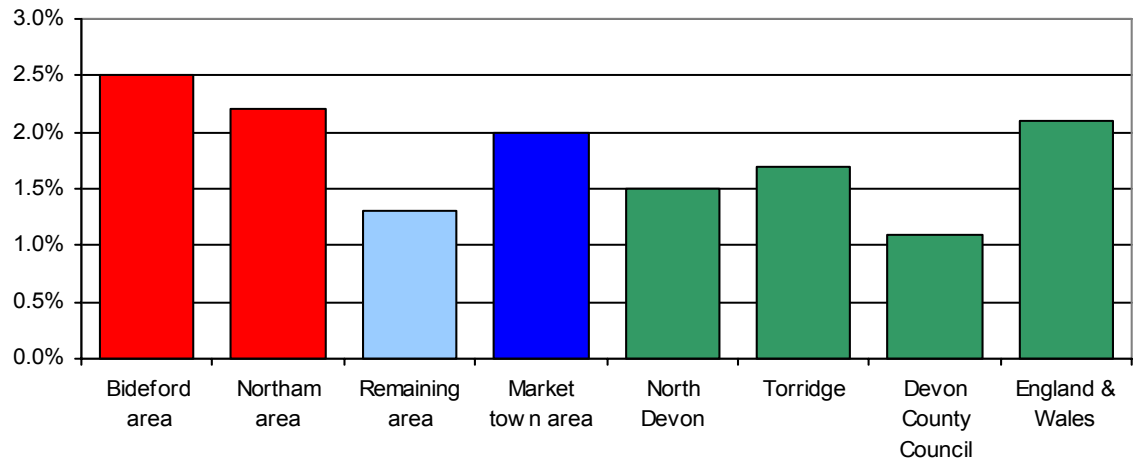
**Income Support and Job Seekers Allowance claim rates (2004)**

| Area                 | Income Support           |               |            | Job Seekers Allowance    |               |            |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------|
|                      | Population aged 16 to 59 | All claimants | Claim rate | Population aged 16 to 64 | All claimants | Claim rate |
| Bideford area        | 8,542                    | 645           | 7.6%       | 9,243                    | 235           | 2.5%       |
| Northam area         | 6,016                    | 340           | 5.7%       | 6,886                    | 150           | 2.2%       |
| Remaining area       | 7,183                    | 275           | 3.8%       | 8,074                    | 105           | 1.3%       |
| Market town area     | 21,741                   | 1,260         | 5.8%       | 24,203                   | 490           | 2.0%       |
| North Devon          | 48,072                   | 2,650         | 5.5%       | 53,296                   | 805           | 1.5%       |
| Torridge             | 32,299                   | 1,635         | 5.1%       | 36,031                   | 630           | 1.7%       |
| Devon County Council | 388,926                  | 17,520        | 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)**

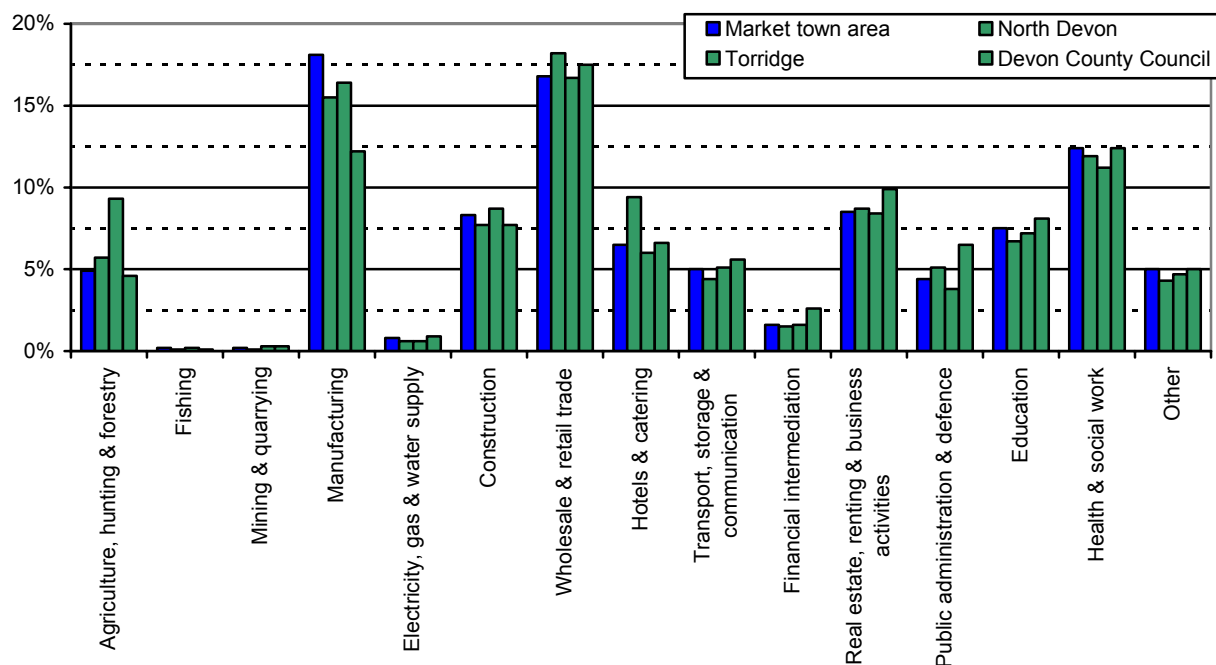
Source: Department for Work and Pensions

## Job Seekers Allowance claim rates (2004)



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

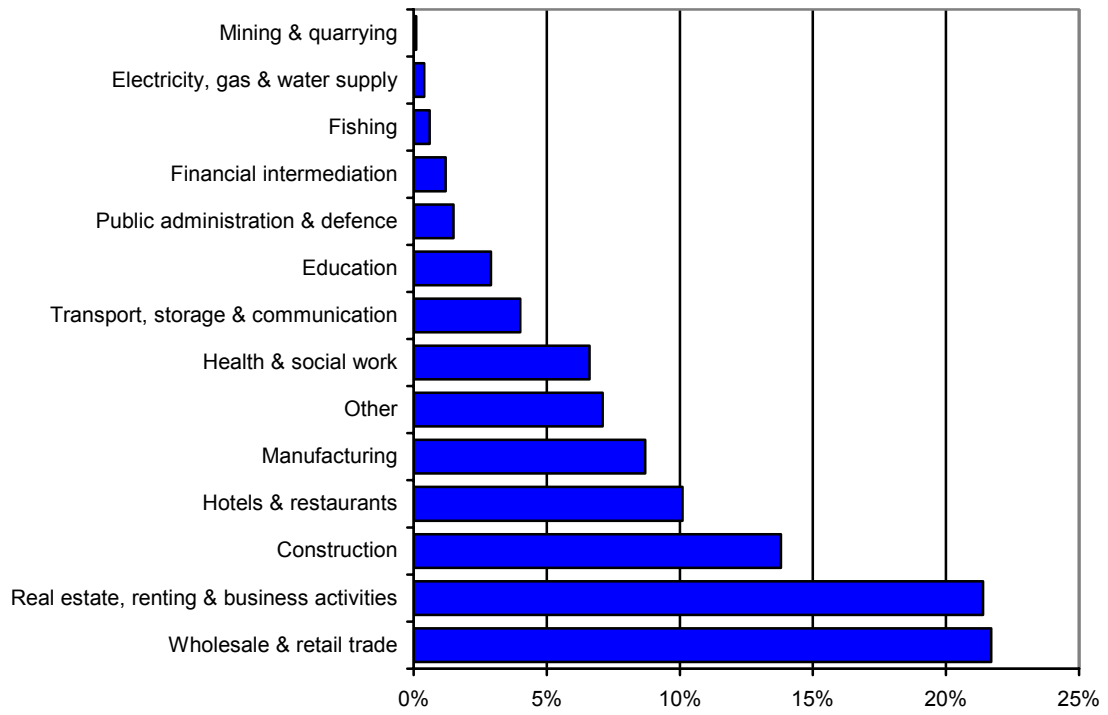
| Sector                                     | Bideford parish | Northam parish | Remaining parishes | Market town area | North Devon | Torrige | Devon County Council |
|--|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|---------|----------------------|
| Agriculture, hunting & forestry            | 1.9%            | 2.0%           | 13.2%              | 4.9%             | 5.7%        | 9.3%    | 4.6%                 |
| Fishing                                    | 0.1%            | 0.2%           | 0.2%               | 0.2%             | 0.1%        | 0.2%    | 0.1%                 |
| Mining & quarrying                         | 0.1%            | 0.3%           | 0.2%               | 0.2%             | 0.1%        | 0.3%    | 0.3%                 |
| Manufacturing                              | 22.0%           | 17.4%          | 12.6%              | 18.1%            | 15.5%       | 16.4%   | 12.2%                |
| Electricity, gas & water supply            | 1.0%            | 0.6%           | 0.6%               | 0.8%             | 0.6%        | 0.6%    | 0.9%                 |
| Construction                               | 8.5%            | 7.6%           | 8.8%               | 8.3%             | 7.7%        | 8.7%    | 7.7%                 |
| Wholesale & retail trade                   | 18.2%           | 17.6%          | 13.4%              | 16.8%            | 18.2%       | 16.7%   | 17.5%                |
| Hotels & catering                          | 5.8%            | 6.0%           | 8.2%               | 6.5%             | 9.4%        | 6.0%    | 6.6%                 |
| Transport, storage & communication         | 5.1%            | 5.3%           | 4.4%               | 5.0%             | 4.4%        | 5.1%    | 5.6%                 |
| Financial intermediation                   | 1.4%            | 2.1%           | 1.4%               | 1.6%             | 1.5%        | 1.6%    | 2.6%                 |
| Real estate, renting & business activities | 8.1%            | 8.7%           | 8.9%               | 8.5%             | 8.7%        | 8.4%    | 9.9%                 |
| Public administration & defence            | 4.6%            | 4.6%           | 3.8%               | 4.4%             | 5.1%        | 3.8%    | 6.5%                 |
| Education                                  | 6.8%            | 7.6%           | 8.6%               | 7.5%             | 6.7%        | 7.2%    | 8.1%                 |
| Health & social work                       | 12.0%           | 14.2%          | 10.7%              | 12.4%            | 11.9%       | 11.2%   | 12.4%                |
| Other                                      | 4.5%            | 5.6%           | 5.1%               | 5.0%             | 4.3%        | 4.7%    | 5.0%                 |



Source: 2001 Census



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



Source: Annual Business Inquiry

## Skills & Learning

### Summary

The proportion of children achieving at least level 4 at Key Stage 2 is fairly consistent across the market town area. Children in Northam achieve slightly better results in Science than children in other parts of the profile area.

The rate of children achieving five or more GCSEs at grade A\* to C is higher in the remaining parishes. Levels are consistent for children achieving five or more GCSEs at grade A\* to G.

Overall levels of qualification within the market town area are broadly similar to the district, county and national averages. Bideford has the highest proportion of people with no qualifications and conversely the lowest proportion of those with the highest level of 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 |
| Bideford parish      | 161          | 117     | 72.7%    | 113    | 70.2%    | 132     | 82.0%    |
| Northam parish       | 101          | 74      | 73.3%    | 77     | 76.2%    | 93      | 92.1%    |
| Remaining parishes   | 93           | 69      | 74.2%    | 69     | 74.2%    | 78      | 83.9%    |
| Market town area     | 355          | 260     | 73.2%    | 259    | 73.0%    | 303     | 85.4%    |
| North Devon          | 1,113        | 869     | 78.1%    | 849    | 76.3%    | 987     | 88.7%    |
| Torridge             | 640          | 466     | 72.8%    | 462    | 72.2%    | 554     | 86.6%    |
| 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

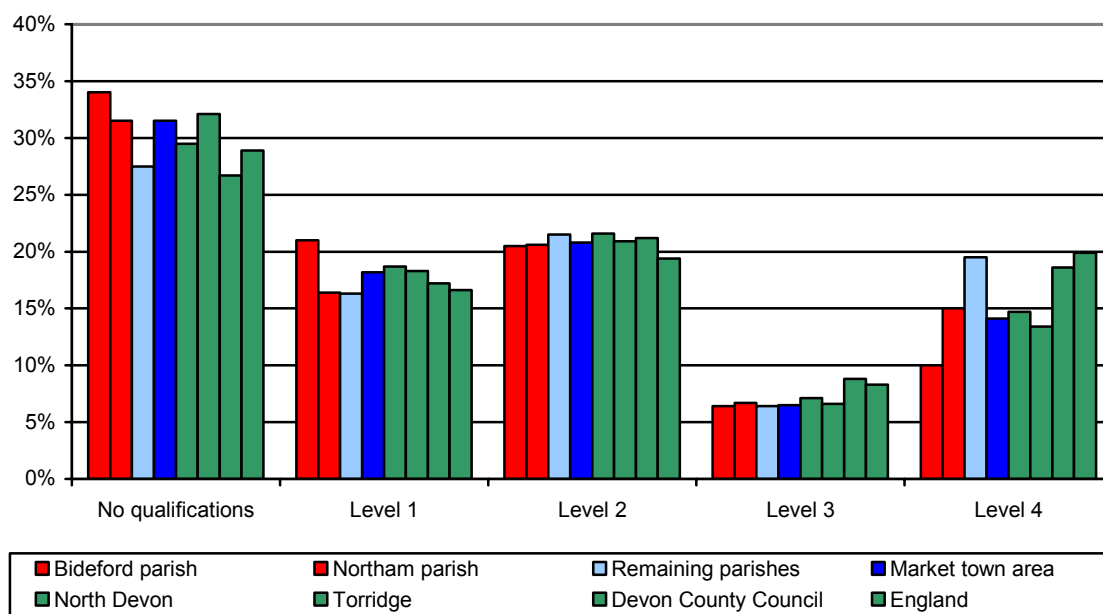
### GCSE attainment (2002/03)

| 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 |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Bideford parish      | 175                | 62                                   | 35.4%                                  | 156                                  | 89.1%                                  |
| Northam parish       | 81                 | 36                                   | 44.4%                                  | 73                                   | 90.1%                                  |
| Remaining parishes   | 74                 | 43                                   | 58.1%                                  | 70                                   | 94.6%                                  |
| Market town area     | 330                | 141                                  | 42.7%                                  | 299                                  | 90.6%                                  |
| North Devon          | 1,032              | 534                                  | 51.7%                                  | 965                                  | 93.5%                                  |
| Torridge             | 582                | 302                                  | 51.9%                                  | 545                                  | 93.6%                                  |
| Devon County Council |                    |                                      | 52.6%                                  |                                      | 90.6%                                  |
| 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 |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Bideford parish      | 34.0%             | 21.0%   | 20.5%   | 6.4%    | 10.0%   | 8.2%  |
| Northam parish       | 31.5%             | 16.4%   | 20.6%   | 6.7%    | 15.0%   | 9.9%  |
| Remaining parishes   | 27.5%             | 16.3%   | 21.5%   | 6.4%    | 19.5%   | 8.6%  |
| Market town area     | 31.5%             | 18.2%   | 20.8%   | 6.5%    | 14.1%   | 8.9%  |
| North Devon          | 29.5%             | 18.7%   | 21.6%   | 7.1%    | 14.7%   | 8.4%  |
| Torridge             | 32.1%             | 18.3%   | 20.9%   | 6.6%    | 13.4%   | 8.7%  |
| 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

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

Claim rates for Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance are above the national average in Bideford and Northam and below for the remaining rural areas. The same is true for Disability Living Allowance.

The percentage of people living with a limiting long term illness is fairly consistent across the market town area although rates are slightly higher in Northam. However, it should be noted that Northam has a higher proportion of older people living there than the rest of the market town area.

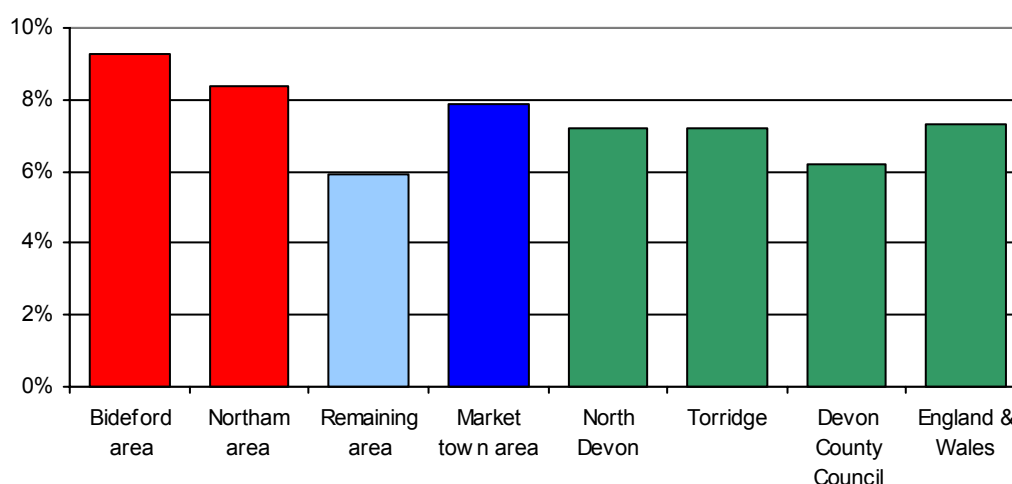
Similarly, the proportion of people living in Northam describing their health as not good is above the average than the rest of the market town area.

The data below relating to Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Disability Living Allowance are based on a best fit of Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs). There are seven MSOAs in the profile, two form an area similar to Bideford and another two form the area of Northam parish.

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

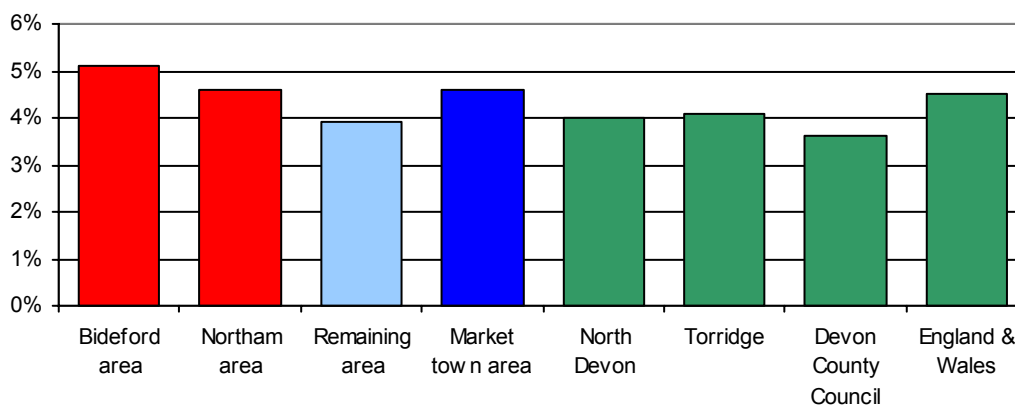
| Area                 | Incapacity Benefit & Severe Disablement Allowance |               |            | Disability Living Allowance |               |            |
|----------------------|---|---------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|
|                      | Population aged 16 to 59                          | All claimants | Claim rate | Population aged 16 to 59    | All claimants | Claim rate |
| Bideford area        | 9,243   | 860           | 9.3%       | 15,020                      | 765           | 5.1%       |
| Northam area         | 6,886   | 580           | 8.4%       | 11,615                      | 540           | 4.6%       |
| Remaining area       | 8,074   | 480           | 5.9%       | 13,581                      | 525           | 3.9%       |
| Market town area     | 24,203  | 1,920         | 7.9%       | 40,216                      | 1,830         | 4.6%       |
| North Devon          | 53,296  | 3,815         | 7.2%       | 87,525                      | 3,490         | 4.0%       |
| Torrige              | 36,031  | 2,585         | 7.2%       | 58,965                      | 2,435         | 4.1%       |
| 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%       | 52,042,016                  | 2,341,615     | 4.5%       |

### Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance claim rates (2004)



Source: Department for Work and Pensions

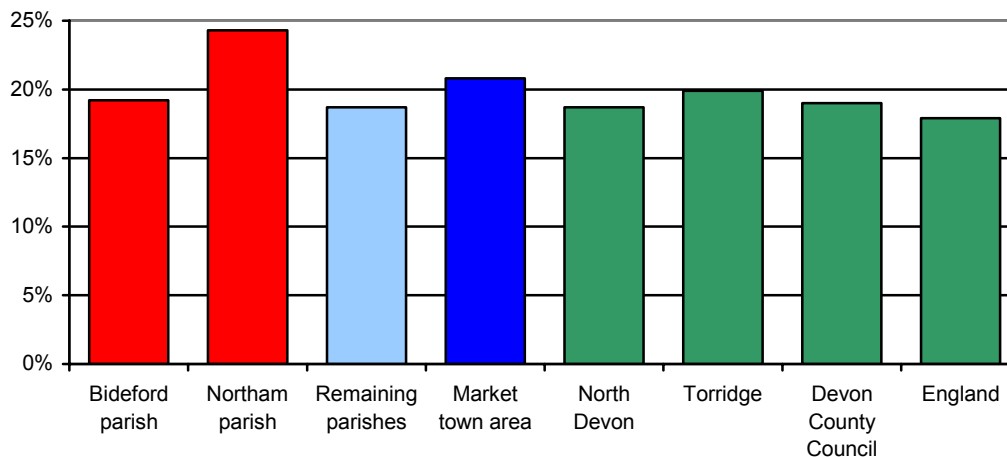
## Disability Living Allowance claim rates (2004)



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 |
|----------------------|------------|---|---|
| Bideford parish      | 14,407     | 2,763   | 19.2%   |
| Northam parish       | 11,604     | 2,825   | 24.3%   |
| Remaining parishes   | 8,555      | 1,599   | 18.7%   |
| Market town area     | 34,566     | 7,187   | 20.8%   |
| North Devon          | 87,508     | 16,377  | 18.7%   |
| Torridge             | 58,965     | 11,731  | 19.9%   |
| 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                                     | %     |
| Bideford parish      | 14,407     | 12,982  | 90.1% | 1,425                                      | 9.9%  |
| Northam parish       | 11,604     | 10,259  | 88.4% | 1,345                                      | 11.6% |
| Remaining parishes   | 8,555      | 7,784   | 91.0% | 771  | 9.0%  |
| Market town area     | 34,566     | 31,025  | 89.8% | 3,541                                      | 10.2% |
| North Devon          | 85,525     | 79,833  | 91.2% | 7,675                                      | 8.8%  |
| Torridge             | 58,965     | 53,313  | 90.4% | 5,652                                      | 9.6%  |
| 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 number of lone pensioner households is broadly similar across the market town area with the exception of Northam.

The rate of social services clients is highest in Bideford and Northam parishes compared to the remaining parishes.

### Percentage of lone pensioner households (2001)

| Area                 | Total households | Households occupied by lone pensioners | % households occupied by lone pensioners |
|----------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Bideford parish      | 6,093            | 1,022                                  | 16.8%                                    |
| Northam parish       | 5,338            | 1,019                                  | 19.1%                                    |
| Remaining parishes   | 3,317            | 480                                    | 14.5%                                    |
| Market town area     | 14,748           | 2,521                                  | 17.1%                                    |
| North Devon          | 36,777           | 5,764                                  | 15.7%                                    |
| Torrige              | 24,870           | 3,854                                  | 15.5%                                    |
| 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 and over |
| Bideford parish      | 23.1  | 56.5  | 167.8 | 642.6       |
| Northam parish       | 17.9  | 42.9  | 174.4 | 555.8       |
| Remaining parishes   | 17.4  | 23.3  | 156.0 | 449.4       |
| Market town area     | 19.7  | 42.5  | 168.4 | 551.4       |
| North Devon          | 15.3  | 40.2  | 150.6 | 517.7       |
| Torrige              | 16.2  | 38.6  | 149.8 | 542.4       |
| Devon County Council | 14.7  | 40.3  | 140.8 | 454.6       |

Source: Adult and Community Services, Devon County Council

## Children and Young People

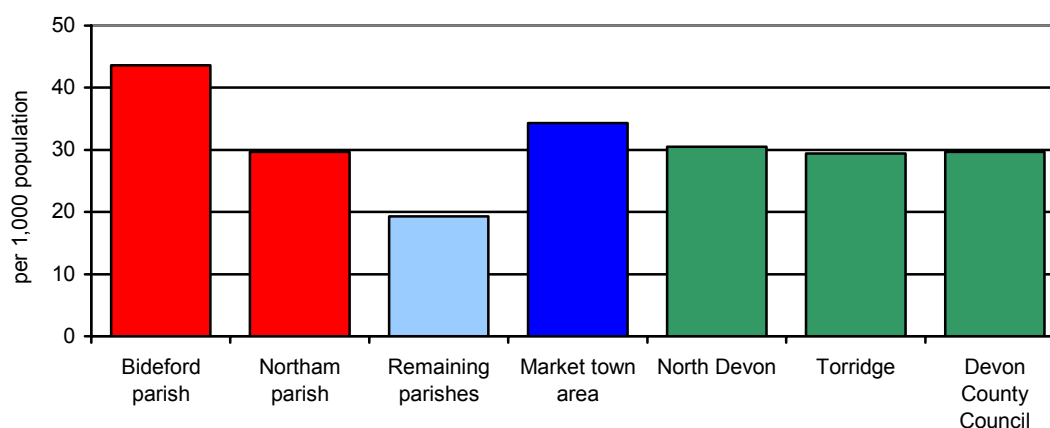
### Summary

The proportion of children in need across the market town area is similar to the district and county averages. Rates are higher in Bideford.

Youth offending rates are significantly higher in the urban areas compared to the surrounding rural area. However, rates in all areas are still below the county average.

### 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 to 17 | Number of children in need aged 0 to 17 | Children in need aged 0 to 17 per 1,000 population aged 0-17 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Bideford parish      | 3,690                           | 161                                     | 43.6   |
| Northam parish       | 1,888                           | 56                                      | 29.7   |
| Remaining parishes   | 1,708                           | 33                                      | 19.3   |
| Market town area     | 7,286                           | 250                                     | 34.3   |
| North Devon          | 19,636                          | 598                                     | 30.5   |
| Torrige              | 12,672                          | 373                                     | 29.4   |
| 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 |
|----------------------|------|------|------|
| Bideford wards       | 11.6 | 17.5 | 18.1 |
| Northam wards        | 14.0 | 19.3 | 15.8 |
| Remaining wards      | 5.7  | 7.7  | 12.8 |
| Market town area     | 10.3 | 14.8 | 15.7 |
| North Devon          | 19.4 | 22.7 | 27.6 |
| Torrige              | 8.6  | 13.2 | 14.6 |
| Devon County Council | 14.2 | 20.0 | 19.3 |

Source: Youth Offending Team



## Community Safety

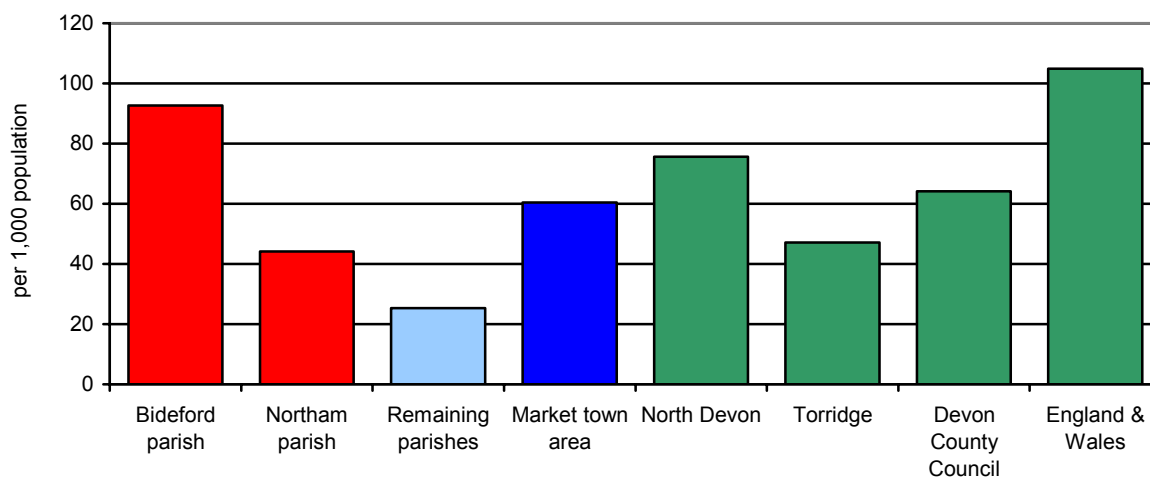
### Summary

Levels of crime are highest in Bideford for all categories. Rates are lowest in the surrounding rural parishes for all categories except vehicle crime. However, rates for the market town area are as a whole are all below the national average.

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)

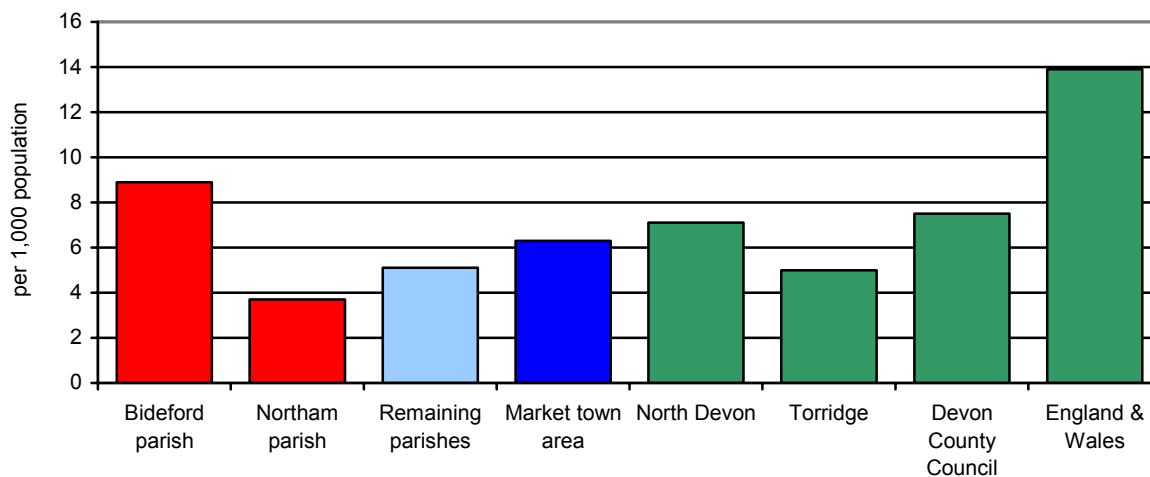
| Area                 | Population | Total number of crimes | Crimes per 1,000 population |
|----------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bideford parish      | 15,779     | 1,462                  | 92.7                        |
| Northam parish       | 12,137     | 536                    | 44.2                        |
| Remaining parishes   | 8,828      | 223                    | 25.3                        |
| Market town area     | 36,744     | 2,221                  | 60.4                        |
| North Devon          | 95,058     | 7,185                  | 75.6                        |
| Torrige              | 62,984     | 2,965                  | 47.1                        |
| Devon County Council | 742,940    | 47,666                 | 64.2                        |
| England & Wales      | 53,045,600 | 5,562,700              | 104.9                       |



Source: Devon & Cornwall Constabulary (Amethyst)

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

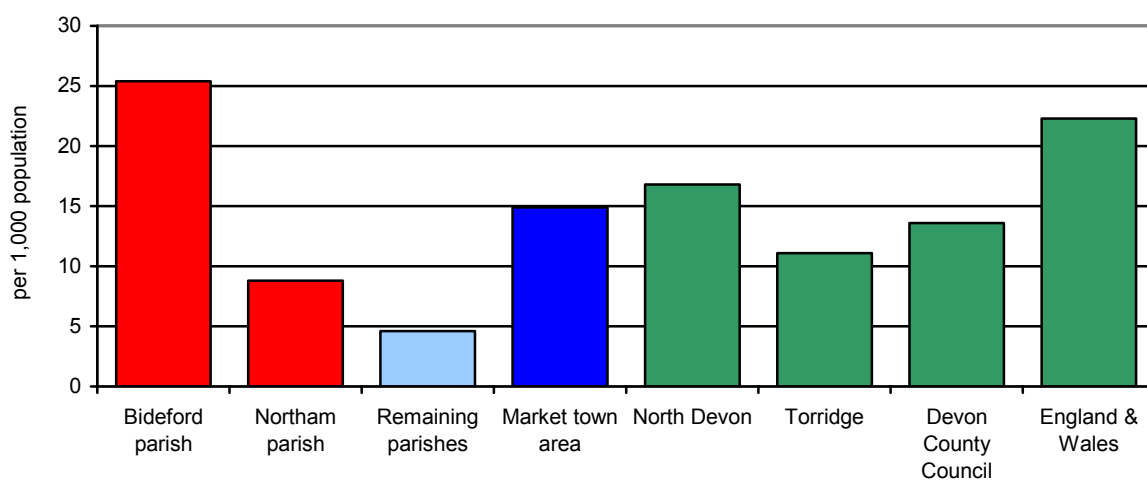
| Area                 | Population | Number of vehicle crimes | Vehicle crimes per 1,000 population |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bideford parish      | 15,779     | 140                      | 8.9                                 |
| Northam parish       | 12,137     | 45                       | 3.7                                 |
| Remaining parishes   | 8,828      | 45                       | 5.1                                 |
| Market town area     | 36,744     | 230                      | 6.3                                 |
| North Devon          | 95,058     | 677                      | 7.1                                 |
| Torrige              | 62,984     | 313                      | 5.0                                 |
| Devon County Council | 742,940    | 5,600                    | 7.5                                 |
| England & Wales      | 53,045,600 | 738,500                  | 13.9                                |



Source: Devon & Cornwall Constabulary (Amethyst)

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

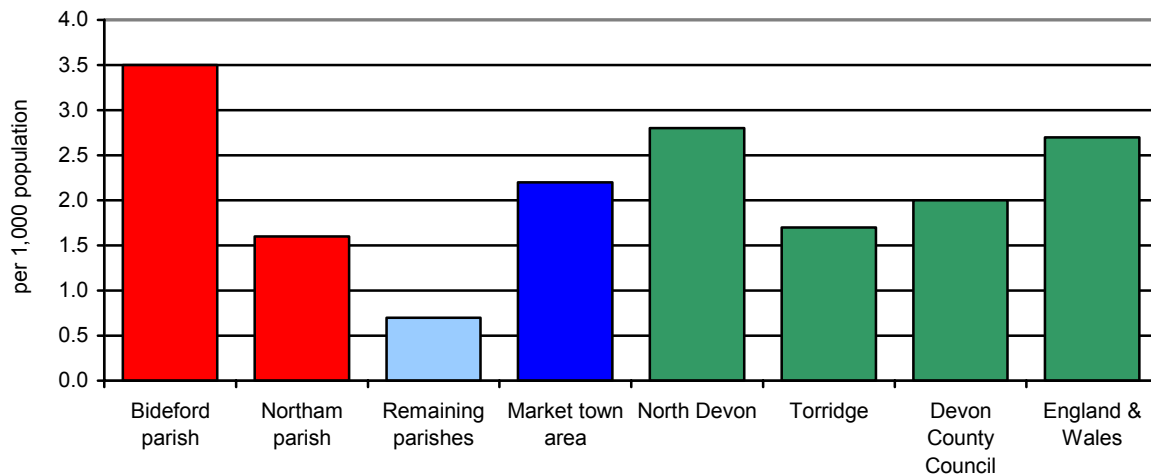
| Area                 | Population | Number of violent crimes | Violent crimes per 1,000 population |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bideford parish      | 15,779     | 401                      | 25.4                                |
| Northam parish       | 12,137     | 107                      | 8.8                                 |
| Remaining parishes   | 8,828      | 41                       | 4.6                                 |
| Market town area     | 36,744     | 549                      | 14.9                                |
| North Devon          | 95,058     | 1,597                    | 16.8                                |
| Torridge             | 62,984     | 701                      | 11.1                                |
| Devon County Council | 742,940    | 10,138                   | 13.6                                |
| England & Wales      | 53,045,600 | 1,184,700                | 22.3                                |



Source: Devon & Cornwall Constabulary (Amethyst)

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

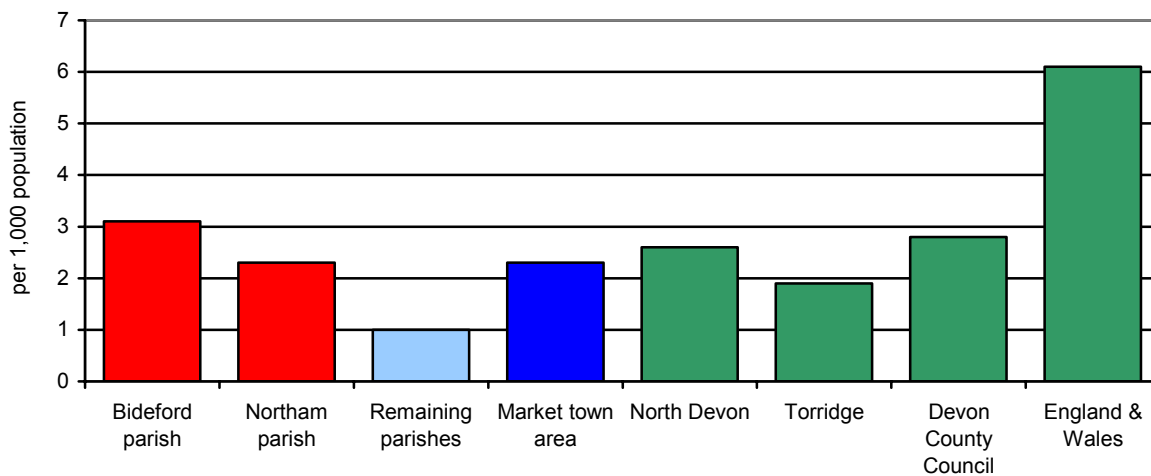
| Area                 | Population | Number of drug offences | Drug offences per 1,000 population |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Bideford parish      | 15,779     | 55                      | 3.5                                |
| Northam parish       | 12,137     | 19                      | 1.6                                |
| Remaining parishes   | 8,828      | 6                       | 0.7                                |
| Market town area     | 36,744     | 80                      | 2.2                                |
| North Devon          | 95,058     | 268                     | 2.8                                |
| Torridge             | 62,984     | 107                     | 1.7                                |
| Devon County Council | 742,940    | 1,492                   | 2.0                                |
| England & Wales      | 53,045,600 | 142,300                 | 2.7                                |



Source: Devon & Cornwall Constabulary (Amethyst)

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

| Area                 | Population | Number of dwelling burglaries | Dwelling burglaries per 1,000 population |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Bideford parish      | 15,779     | 49                            | 3.1                                      |
| Northam parish       | 12,137     | 28                            | 2.3                                      |
| Remaining parishes   | 8,828      | 9                             | 1.0                                      |
| Market town area     | 36,744     | 86                            | 2.3                                      |
| North Devon          | 95,058     | 247                           | 2.6                                      |
| Torridge             | 62,984     | 117                           | 1.9                                      |
| Devon County Council | 742,940    | 2,046                         | 2.8                                      |
| England & Wales      | 53,045,600 | 321,500                       | 6.1                                      |



Source: Devon & Cornwall Constabulary (Amethyst)

## Housing

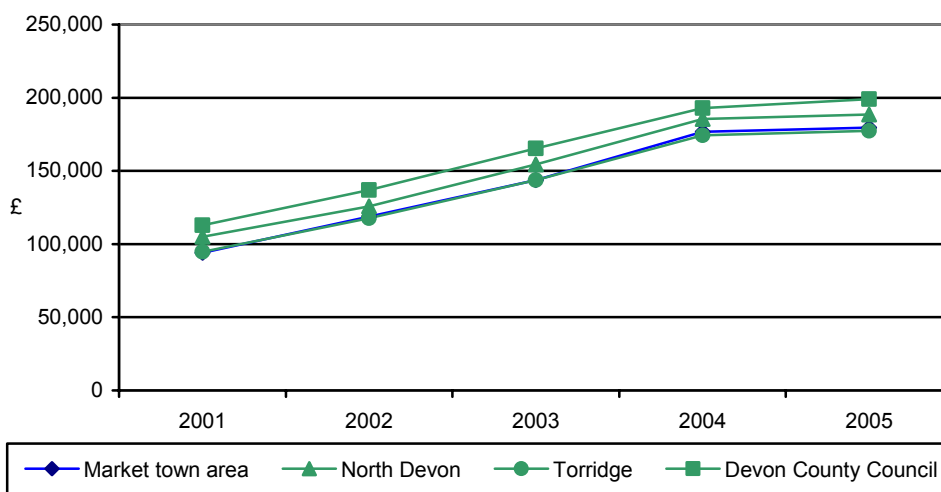
### Summary

House prices in the remaining rural parishes are 30% higher than in Northam and 70% higher than in Bideford. Prices have nearly doubled across the whole of the profile area since 2001.

Tenure rates in the market town area are broadly similar to the district, county and national averages. The level of owner occupied households in Bideford parish is lower and conversely the level of privately rented is higher.

### House price change (2001 to 2005)

| Area                 | 2001     | 2002     | 2003     | 2004     | 2005     | % change<br>2001 - 2005 |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------------|
| Bideford parish      | £79,497  | £103,328 | £126,603 | £155,707 | £147,235 | 85.2%                   |
| Northam parish       | £105,369 | £131,610 | £160,889 | £187,933 | £193,765 | 83.9%                   |
| Remaining parishes   | £114,532 | £132,802 | £150,876 | £224,512 | £250,711 | 118.9%                  |
| Market town area     | £94,071  | £118,794 | £143,655 | £176,704 | £179,680 | 91.0%                   |
| North Devon          | £104,943 | £125,794 | £154,310 | £185,554 | £188,522 | 79.6%                   |
| Torrige              | £94,687  | £117,657 | £143,666 | £174,274 | £177,418 | 87.4%                   |
| Devon County Council | £112,771 | £136,987 | £165,267 | £193,010 | £199,010 | 76.5%                   |



Source: Land Registry

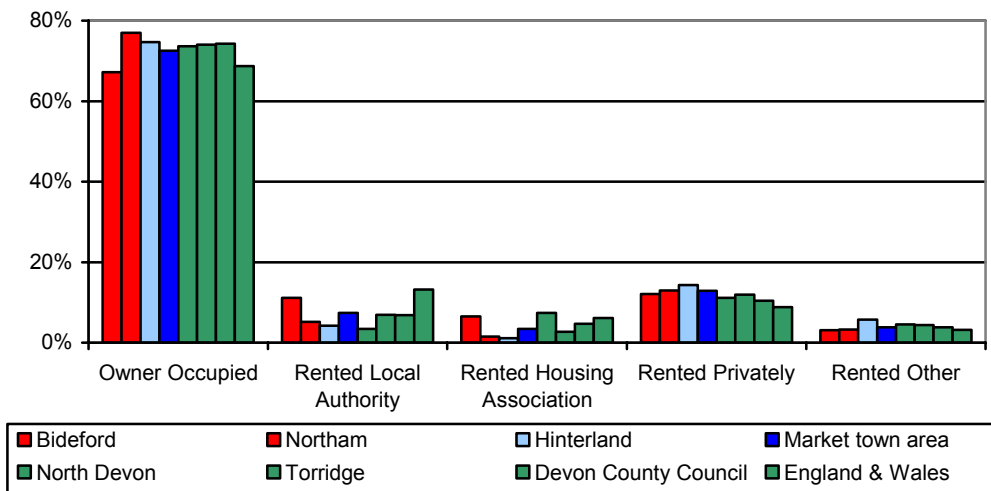
### Average house price (2004)

| Area                 | Detached | Semi-detached | Terraced | Flat/Maisonette | Overall  |
|----------------------|----------|---------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Bideford parish      | £203,471 | £150,799      | £128,730 | £106,141        | £155,707 |
| Northam parish       | £240,036 | £155,449      | £151,782 | £135,753        | £187,933 |
| Remaining parishes   | £306,475 | £187,141      | £149,793 | £125,500        | £224,512 |
| Market town area     | £232,178 | £156,243      | £137,939 | £129,466        | £176,704 |
| North Devon          | £250,176 | £175,443      | £148,058 | £124,173        | £185,554 |
| Torrige              | £221,478 | £153,635      | £136,248 | £125,878        | £174,274 |
| Devon County Council | £266,940 | £180,252      | £157,985 | £138,260        | £193,056 |
| 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 Association | Private | Other |
| Bideford parish      | 6,093          | 67.2%          | 11.1%                | 6.5%                | 12.1%   | 3.1%  |
| Northam parish       | 5,338          | 77.0%          | 5.2%                 | 1.5%                | 13.0%   | 3.3%  |
| Remaining parishes   | 3,538          | 74.7%          | 4.2%                 | 1.1%                | 14.3%   | 5.7%  |
| Market town area     | 14,969         | 72.5%          | 7.4%                 | 3.4%                | 12.9%   | 3.8%  |
| North Devon          | 36,776         | 73.6%          | 3.4%                 | 7.4%                | 11.1%   | 4.5%  |
| Torrige              | 24,897         | 74.0%          | 6.9%                 | 2.7%                | 11.9%   | 4.4%  |
| Devon County Council | 298,576        | 74.3%          | 6.8%                 | 4.7%                | 10.4%   | 3.8%  |
| England & Wales      | 20,451,427     | 68.7%          | 13.2%                | 6.1%                | 8.8%    | 3.2%  |



Source: 2001 Census

# Transport

## Summary

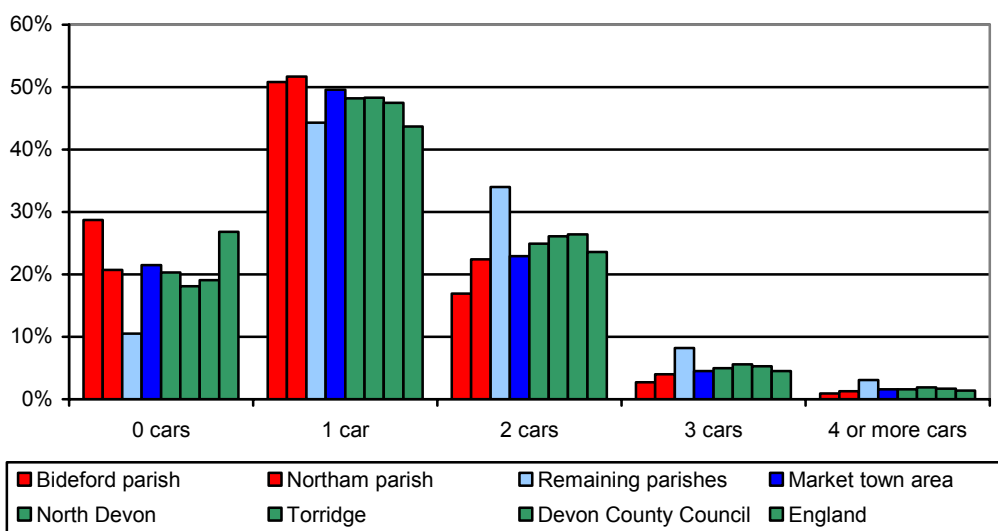
There are higher levels of car ownership outside the urban centre. A quarter of households in the combined area of Bideford and Northam do not have access to a car.

Over a quarter of those living in Bideford and in employment travel to work either on foot or by bicycle – this is twice the national average. Conversely a quarter of those in the surrounding rural area work at home.

Only 4% of households in the market town area can access an acute hospital within 60 minutes using public transport. Accessibility to a GP or shop is better but still below the national average.

## Car ownership (2001)

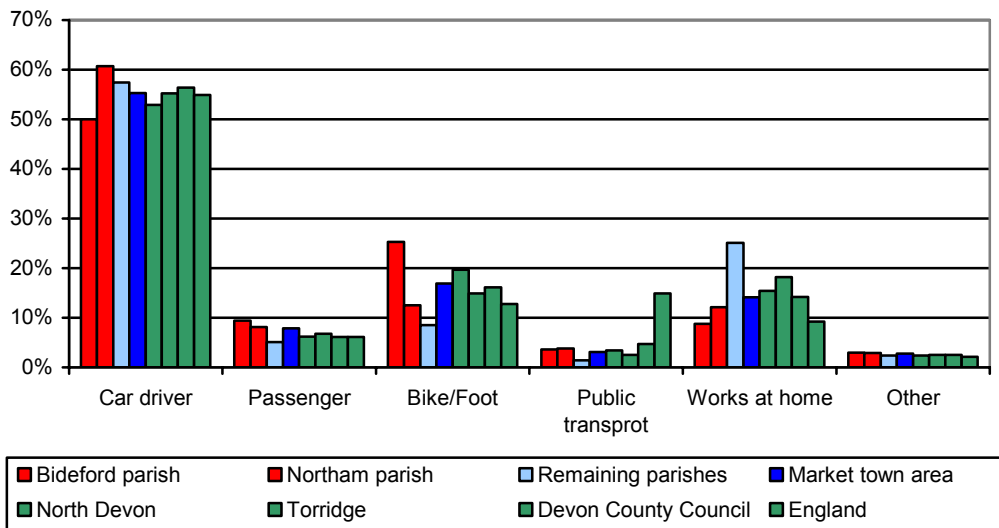
| Area                 | All households | Households with: |         |          |            |                   |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------|---------|----------|------------|-------------------|
|                      |                | No car           | One car | Two cars | Three cars | Four or more cars |
| Bideford parish      | 6,093          | 28.7%            | 50.8%   | 16.9%    | 2.7%       | 0.9%              |
| Northam parish       | 5,338          | 20.7%            | 51.7%   | 22.4%    | 4.0%       | 1.3%              |
| Remaining parishes   | 3,527          | 10.5%            | 44.3%   | 34.0%    | 8.2%       | 3.1%              |
| Market town area     | 14,958         | 21.5%            | 49.6%   | 22.9%    | 4.5%       | 1.6%              |
| North Devon          | 36,771         | 20.3%            | 48.2%   | 24.9%    | 5.0%       | 1.6%              |
| Torrige              | 24,865         | 18.1%            | 48.3%   | 26.1%    | 5.6%       | 1.9%              |
| 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 to 74 year olds in employment | Percentage of population by mode of travel to work |                           |                      |                     |                |       |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------|
|                      |                                      | By car or van                                      | Passenger in a car or van | On a bike or by foot | By public transport | Work from home | Other |
| Bideford parish      | 6,198                                | 50.0%  | 9.4%                      | 25.3%                | 3.6%                | 8.8%           | 3.0%  |
| Northam parish       | 4,597                                | 60.7%  | 8.1%                      | 12.5%                | 3.8%                | 12.1%          | 2.9%  |
| Remaining parishes   | 3,767                                | 57.4%  | 5.1%                      | 8.5%                 | 1.4%                | 25.1%          | 2.4%  |
| Market town area     | 14,562                               | 55.3%  | 7.9%                      | 16.9%                | 3.1%                | 14.1%          | 2.8%  |
| North Devon          | 39,309                               | 52.9%  | 6.2%                      | 19.7%                | 3.4%                | 15.4%          | 2.4%  |
| Torrige              | 25,535                               | 55.2%  | 6.8%                      | 14.9%                | 2.5%                | 18.2%          | 2.5%  |
| 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 of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)

**Accessibility by public transport (2005)**

| Area                 | All households | Percentage of households that can access: |                      |                         |
|----------------------|----------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------|
|                      |                | Acute hospital within 60 minutes          | GP within 30 minutes | Shops within 30 minutes |
| Bideford area        | 6,482          | 2.1%                                      | 100.0%               | 100.0%                  |
| Northam area         | 3,142          | 0.0%                                      | 100.0%               | 100.0%                  |
| Remaining area       | 6,387          | 8.3%                                      | 69.8%                | 59.3%                   |
| Market town area     | 16,011         | 4.1%                                      | 87.9%                | 83.8%                   |
| North Devon          | 36,820         | 78.9%                                     | 85.0%                | 84.2%                   |
| Torridge             | 24,848         | 0.5%                                      | 74.6%                | 70.6%                   |
| 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 services 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 Bideford & Northam market town area contains five 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 its own description and distinctive key characteristic features. The Bideford & Northam market town area contains parts of five of these LCZs. For those which are largely within the market town area some of their key characteristics are outlined below.

## Clovelly Coast

**Location** - This zone comprises a narrow coastal strip in the far north western corner of Devon, from Westward Ho! and Abbotsham in the east to Hartland Point in the west. In the south it follows the A39 road, or just south of it, as far west as Clovelly Dykes, beyond which it continues parallel to the coast to Hartland Point. This zone is completely within the market town area.

**Designations** - Most of the zone falls within the North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), reflecting a landscape of national significance. Only the easternmost extreme of the zone, plus those few parts within the zone south of the A39, are excluded from the AONB.

The AONB's boundaries coincide with those for the County Council's Coastal Preservation Area designation and also the area defined by the Countryside Agency as Heritage Coast.

### Key Characteristic Features

- High cliffs, sometimes unstable, blanketed by woodland and scrub.
- Narrow combes, thickly wooded; the woodland of ecological importance, spilling out over the adjacent farmland.
- Undulating mixed farmland on cliff tops.
- Picturesque settlements in larger combes.
- Wide seascapes over an extensive bay.

## Hartland and Atlantic Coast Interiors

**Location** – The zone occupies the north western corner of Devon, from Hartland Point to the Cornwall border, then south to Bridgerule, east to Holsworthy, north east to Stibb Cross and north to Parkham. Part of this zone occupies the western part of the market town area.

**Designations** – The north western corner of the zone, between the A39 and the coast, is designated as part of the North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This reflects the national importance of the landscape in this area, particularly in relation to its coastal scenery. Within the AONB, a narrower coastal strip has the Devon County Council designation of Coastal Preservation Area, and has also been defined as Heritage Coast by the Countryside Agency.

### Key Characteristics Features

- Storm lashed coastline with salt laden winds influencing vegetation far inland.
- Spectacular geological cliff formations, including coastal waterfalls.
- Severely deformed hedgerow trees and stunted woodlands in coastal valleys.
- Clustered hamlets and regularly spaced sizeable historic villages.
- Rectilinear field pattern.
- Poorly drained rough pasture, commons and conifer blocks.

## Barnstaple and Bideford Estuary – Taw-Torridge Estuary

Location – The zone occupies the central part of the coast of northern Devon centred on the two towns of Bideford to the west and Barnstaple to the east and encompassing the estuaries of the Taw and Torridge rivers, including their joint outflow to the sea. The north eastern part of the market town area lies within this zone.

Designations – The coastal strip of the zone, effectively confined to the marsh and dune systems of Northam Burrows and Braunton Burrows, is part of the North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, indicating the national landscape importance of this area. A rather wider coastal area, stretching inland around Appledore and Instow and including Braunton Marsh and Great Field, is within the County Council's designated Coastal Preservation Area. This same area is defined by the Countryside Agency as Heritage Coast.

### Key Characteristics Features

- Vast estuary of two river systems.
- Extensive flat land including salt marshes, sand and mudflats, dune systems and slacks, historic open field, beaches.
- Urban waterfronts and historic estuary settlements.
- Important ecological habitats.

## Taw and Torridge River Systems

Location – This zone is in the north central part of the county, comprising the middle and lower valleys of the Taw and Torridge rivers and the valleys of some of their most notable tributaries, including the Mole, the lower Little Dart and the Mully Brook (tributaries of the Taw), and the Yeo, Duntz and Langtree Lake (tributaries of the Torridge). The zone comprises two discrete parts, centred on the two major rivers, separated by an area of High Culm ridges. The market town area south of Bideford falls within the Torridge and tributaries part of this zone.

Designations - The majority of the zone has been designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value, reflecting its landscape importance in the county context. Most of this zone within the market town area falls within this designation. Some of the peripheral flanking land which has been included in this zone has not been part of the designated area, neither has the highest part of the Torridge Valley which is within this zone, between Huish and Black Torrington.

### Key Characteristics Features

- Natural river form, tree lined banks and associated water features.
- Substantial woodland, broadleaved and coniferous, emphasising the distinctive landform and creating enclosure.
- Open valley floor with pastoral and sometimes parkland character.
- Roads, railways and bridges along the length of the valleys, few routes across the valley floors, steep wooded winding routes out of the valleys.
- High villages and farms overlooking the valleys.

## High Culm Ridges

Location - This Zone comprises two separate areas in north central Devon, separated by the Torridge Valley. The more easterly occupies an area between the valleys of the Taw and the Torridge, crossing the Taw in its higher course towards the River Dalch. In the north this part of the zone also crosses the Taw to include the prominent landmark of Codden Hill as well as the valley of the Venn Brook and its headwaters which flow through Swimbridge and Landkey. In the south east corner of the market town area there is a small element occupied by that part of the zone which lies between the Taw and Torridge valleys.

The westerly element of the zone is found immediately to the west of the Torridge Valley in its middle course. A small element of this part of the zone falls into the south of the market town area.

Designations - Most of the zone is uncovered by any landscape designation. However, in the north east an area has been designated as an Area of Great landscape Value (AGLV), indicating its importance as a county landscape. This designation covers the high land on the northern side of the east-west tributary valley in this part of the zone, effectively the "foreland" of the inter-valley high lands east of Barnstaple. It also covers Codden Hill, a prominent landscape feature adjacent to the same valley.

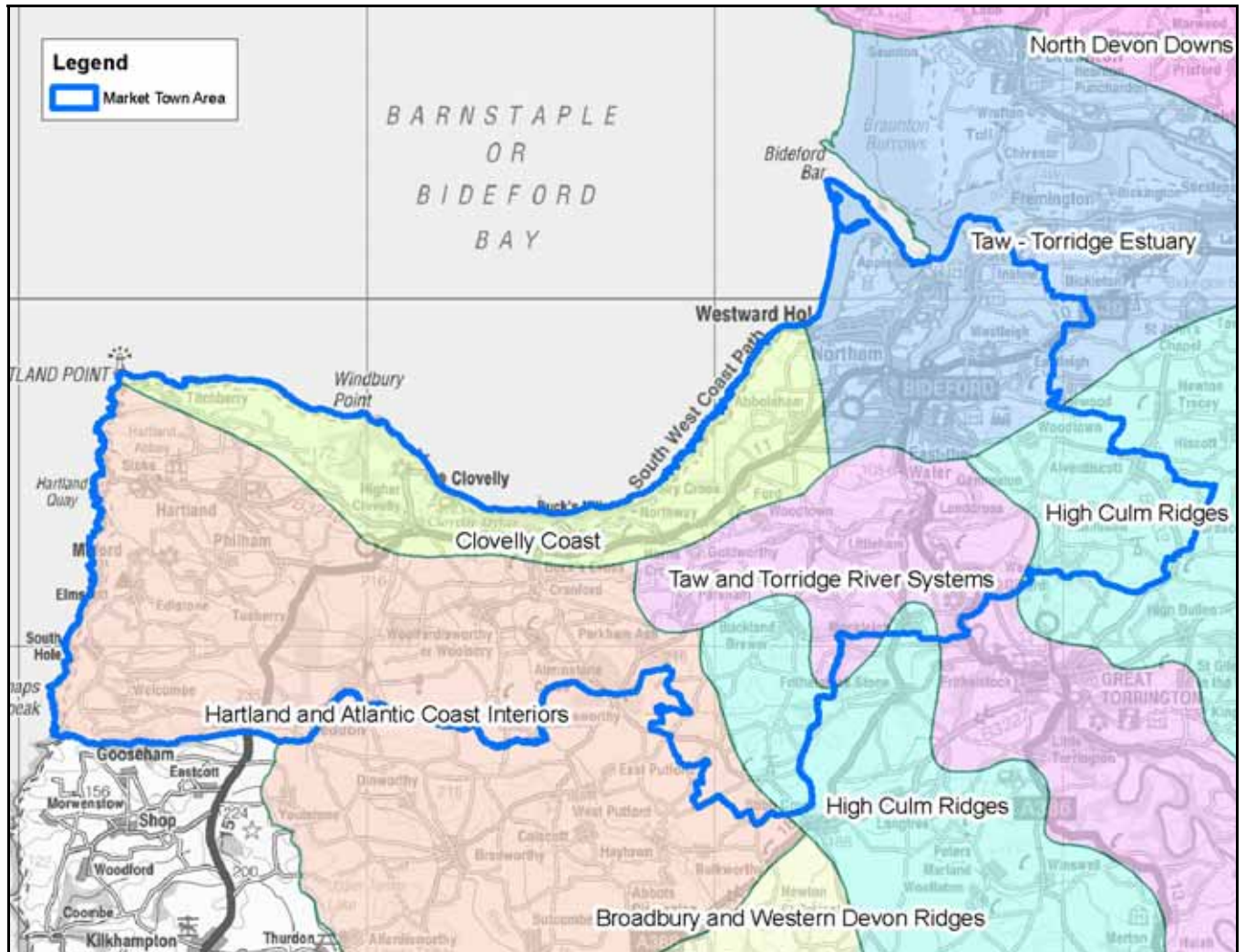
A very small section of AGLV is also found to the north east of Winkleigh, where it spills over from the Taw Valley.

None of these designations are included within the market town area.

## Key Characteristic Features

- Exposed broad ridges with few trees except for isolated trees and clumps and some conifer plantations.
- Pastoral landscape with regular, rectangular fields and hedges.
- Scattered farmsteads, hamlets and high villages.
- Prominent landmarks of churches and chapels, also aeries, pylons and hilltop farm buildings.
- High concentrations of species-rich grasslands.
- Wide views.

## 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.

Bideford and the surrounding area are rich in wildlife. A diverse patchwork of mixed farmland with many small woods and networks of hedgerows dominates the inland region. This includes several areas of Culm Grassland, a very important habitat that is typically a wet, acidic mixture of rushes, heath and grassland. However, it is the Taw-Torridge Estuary and the open coastline, with its maritime grassland, heath, scrub and woodland and dramatic geological formations, which may be the most striking natural features of the area.

These habitats support a diverse range of species. Otters and dormice can be found throughout the area, and the coastline supports rare butterflies such as the high brown fritillary, and many species of breeding birds including the fulmar and the peregrine. The mudflats and saltmarsh of the Taw-Torridge Estuary (part of a world class UNESCO Biosphere Reserve) regularly support nationally important number of waders such as curlew and redshank.

### 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                                  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Culm grassland                   | Culm grassland: wet and dry heath, species rich Molinia mire & rush pasture. Plant, bird & invertebrate interest.  | SAC, part Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) Reserve |
| Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast | Exposures of Crackington and Bude formations of the Upper Carboniferous. Cliffs, clifftops and valleys with ancient woodland and parkland which support important lichens and grassland, heath and scrub.  | SAC, gSSSI, SSSI,                            |
| Taw/Torridge Estuary             | Estuary with mudflats, beaches and saltmarsh with bird interest.   | SSSI   |
| Northam Burrows                  | Coastal habitats with plant and bird interest.   | SSSI   |
| Hobby to Peppercombe             | Ancient semi-natural sessile oak woodland important for lichens.   | SSSI   |
| Mermaid's Pool to Rowden Gut     | Complete sequence through the Bideford Formation.  | gSSSI  |
| Westward Ho! Cliffs              | Coastal geomorphology and Quaternary deposits.   | gSSSI  |
| Marsland to Clovelly Coast       | Exposures of Crackington and Bude formations of the Upper Carboniferous. Cliffs, cliff tops and valleys with ancient woodland and parkland which support important lichens and grassland, heath and scrub. | gSSSI, SSSI                                  |
| Bursdon Moor                     | Lowland moor with wet and dry heath and herb-rich marshy grassland.  | SSSI   |
| Deptford Farm Pastures           | Culm grassland: Molinia mire, wet heath and fen communities.   | SSSI   |
| Kismeldon Meadows                | Culm grassland and traditionally managed unimproved grassland, mire and marsh of high botanical value.   | SSSI   |
| Mambury and Stowford Moors       | Culm grassland, fen meadow and wet heath. Butterfly interest.  | SSSI   |
| Thorne and Doves Moors           | Culm grassland, acidic & neutral mire and grassland communities. Invertebrate interest.  | SSSI   |
| Welcombe and Marsland            | Ancient woodland, maritime heath, grassland, meadows, woodland glades and bracken slopes.  | SSSI, DWT Reserve                            |
| Volehouse Moor                   | Culm grassland and traditionally managed unimproved grassland, mire and marsh of high botanical value.   | SSSI, DWT Reserve                            |
| Seven Oaks                       |  | LNR  |
| Kenwith                          |  | LNR  |



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.

**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.

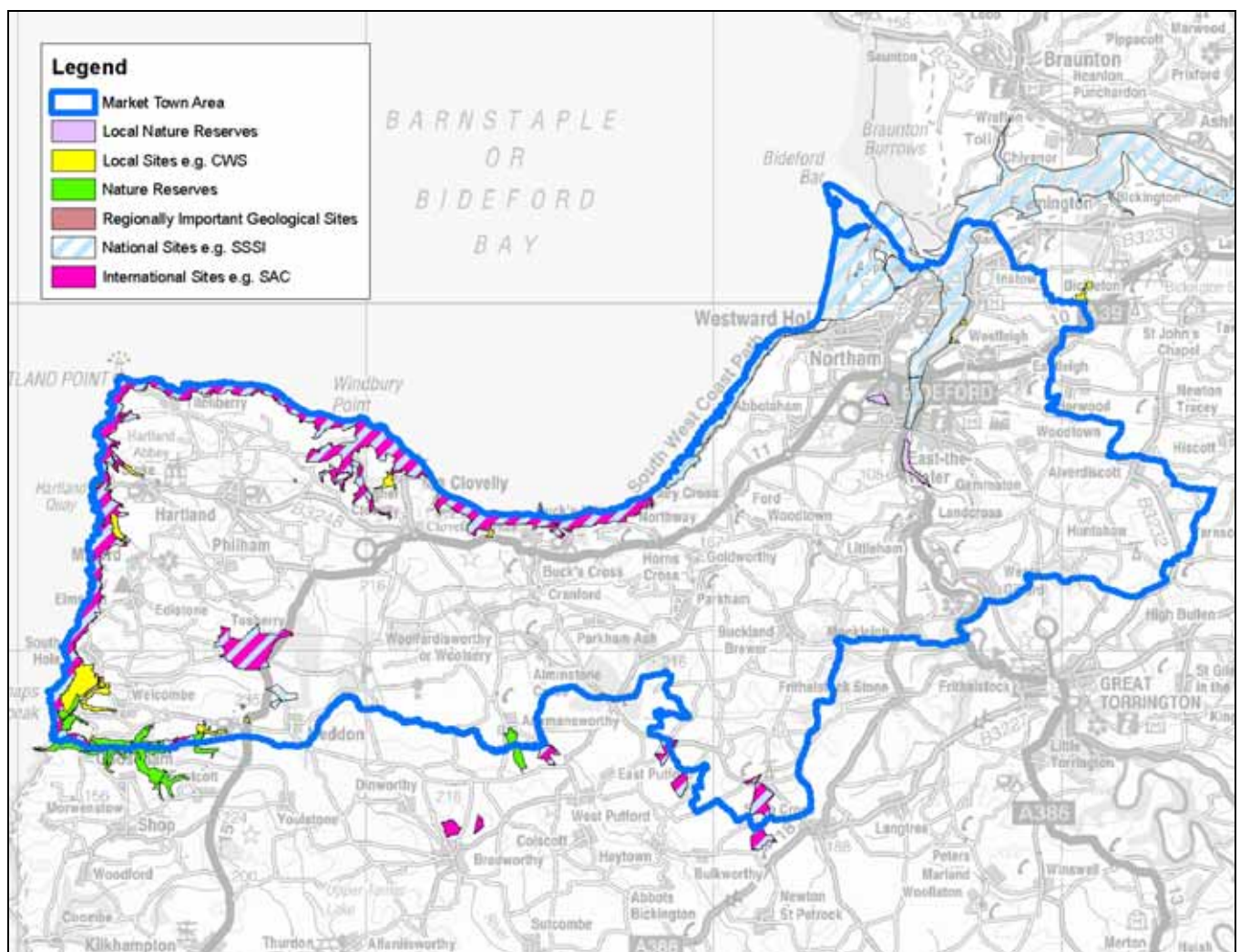
**County Wildlife Sites (CWS):** these are sites of county importance for wildlife. CWS is not a statutory designation and does not have any legal status, though CWSs are usually included in district planning documents. CWS recognition places no formal obligation on the landowner, but may increase eligibility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

The Culm Grassland SAC referred to above consists of a number of separate SSSIs including, in this area, Bursdon Moor, and Thorne and Doves Moors.

The Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast SAC includes Hobby to Peppercombe, and Marsland to Clovelly Coast SSSIs.

In addition to the above table, the Bideford and Northam market town area has 15 County Wildlife Sites and County Geological Sites (also known as RIGS). These generally represent woodland or Culm grassland habitats, together with several interesting geological exposures.

### Key sites within the market town area



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