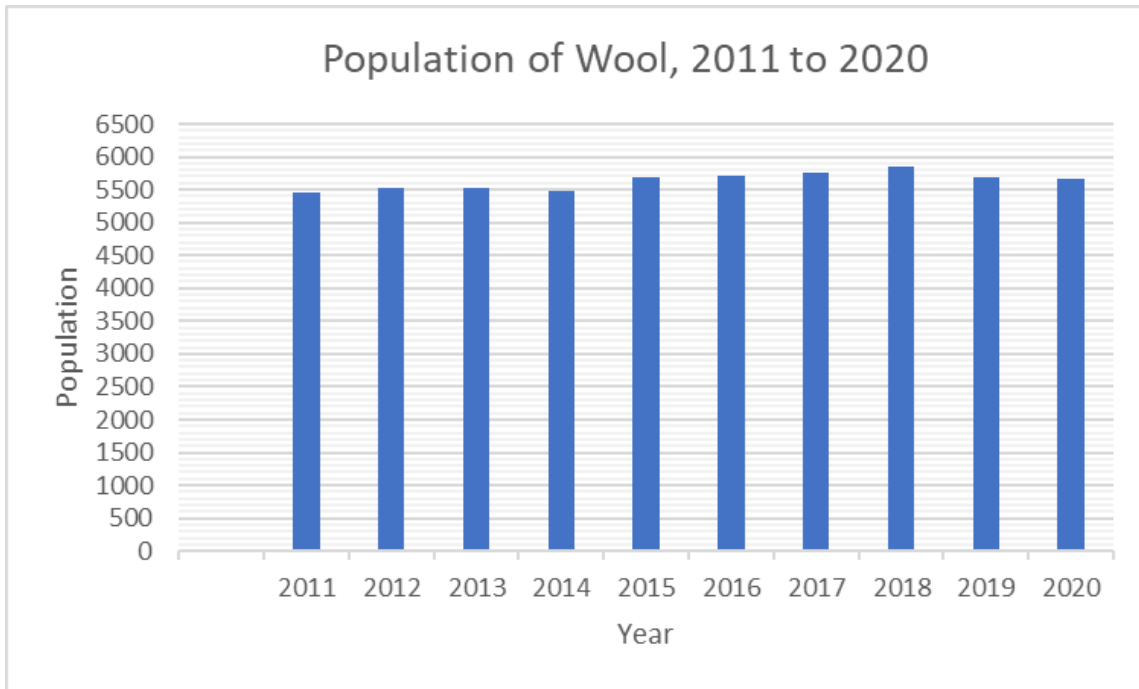# 2. Social and Economic Conditions in Wool Parish

22. The Wool Parish Neighbourhood Plan has drawn on social, economic and environmental information to identify the challenges and opportunities facing the local community. This section of the plan draws on published Dorset Council area profile information for Wool Parish and 2011/2021 Census Results to indicate where these challenges and opportunities exist.

Parish Population

23. The 2011 Census recorded a population for the Parish of 5,454 people. Rounded Census 2021 Parish level results record the population as 5,400 people. Over the ten-year period, the population is virtually unchanged. Mid-Year estimates based on the 2011 Census provide an indication of population change during that period. Figure 3 charts the change in population according to the estimates. There was some growth and by 2018, the population had grown by 407 to a mid-year estimate of 5,861 population, before falling back.
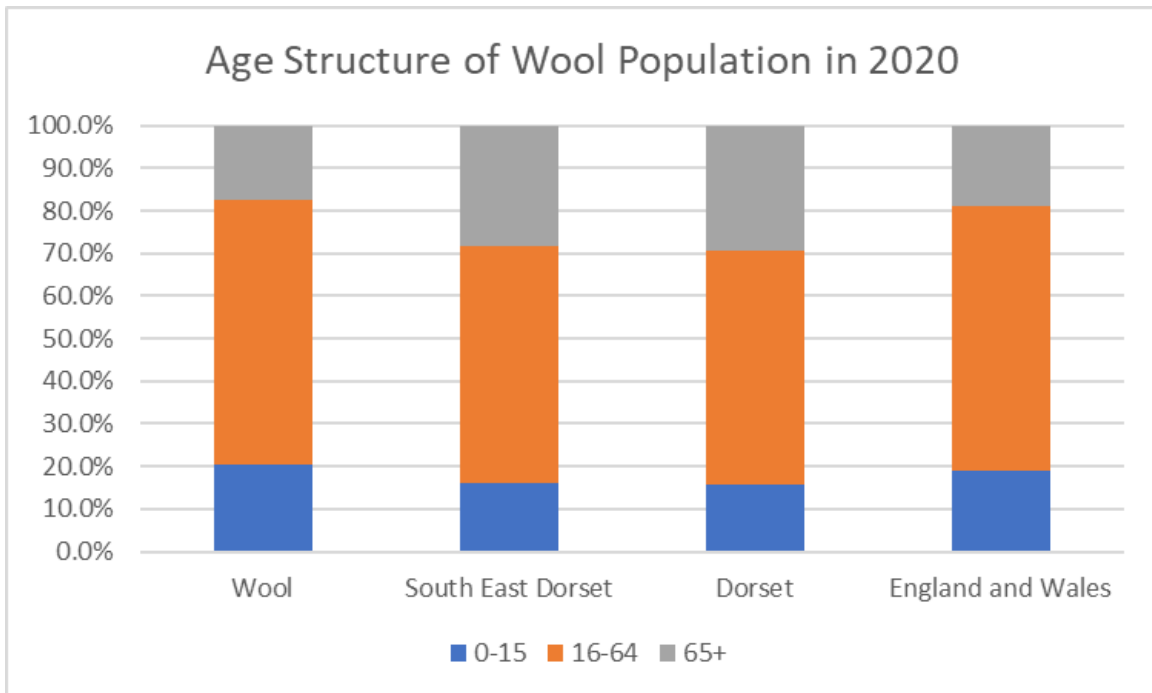
Figure 3 – Estimated population in Wool 2011 to 2020

Source: Mid-Year Estimates, Office for National Statistics courtesy of Dorset Area Profiles

24. Across South East Dorset as a whole, the split between male and females is 49.4% males and 50.6% females, according to 2020 Mid-Year Population Estimates. In Wool Parish, the split is 51.6% males and 48.4% females according to the 2021 Census. In terms of age profile, Figure 4 demonstrates that there are larger proportions of children in the age range 0-15 years and adults of working age, 16-64 years, than in the rest of South East Dorset or Dorset as a whole, and is more similar to national proportions for England and Wales. 2021 Census results indicate that this broad population structure has been maintained. This is likely to be due to the presence of a significant (younger) military population in Bovington with extensive family accommodation there.
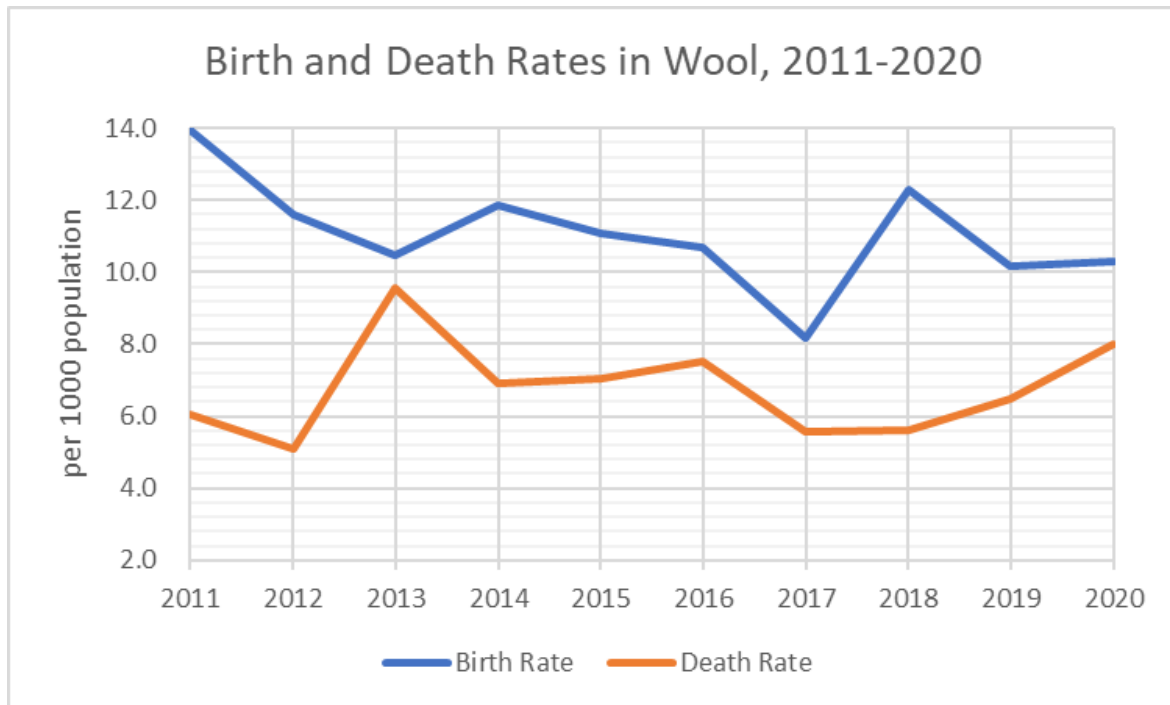
Figure 4 – Age Structure of Population of Wool, 2020

Source: Mid-Year Estimates, Office for National Statistics courtesy of Dorset Area Profiles

25. At the time of the 2011 Census, residents answered questions about religion. The Census recorded 64.8% of the population as Christian and 0.9% as following another religion. The Census recorded 27.2% of the population as having no religion, whilst 7.1% of the population did not state a religion. Reflecting national trends, the 2021 Census indicates a significant change with 42.8% of the parish population stating they have no religion, 48.8% were Christian and other religions accounted for 2.7% of the population – Buddhist (0.8%), Hindu (0.7%) and Muslim (0.5%) religions are present. 5.7% of the population did not state a religion.

26. Trends in birth rates and death rates over the same period 2011-2020 (see Figure 5) show rises and falls. Applied to the population of Wool Parish, these rates translate to around 603 births and 370 deaths during this period.

Figure 5 – Birth and Death Rates for Wool 2011–2020
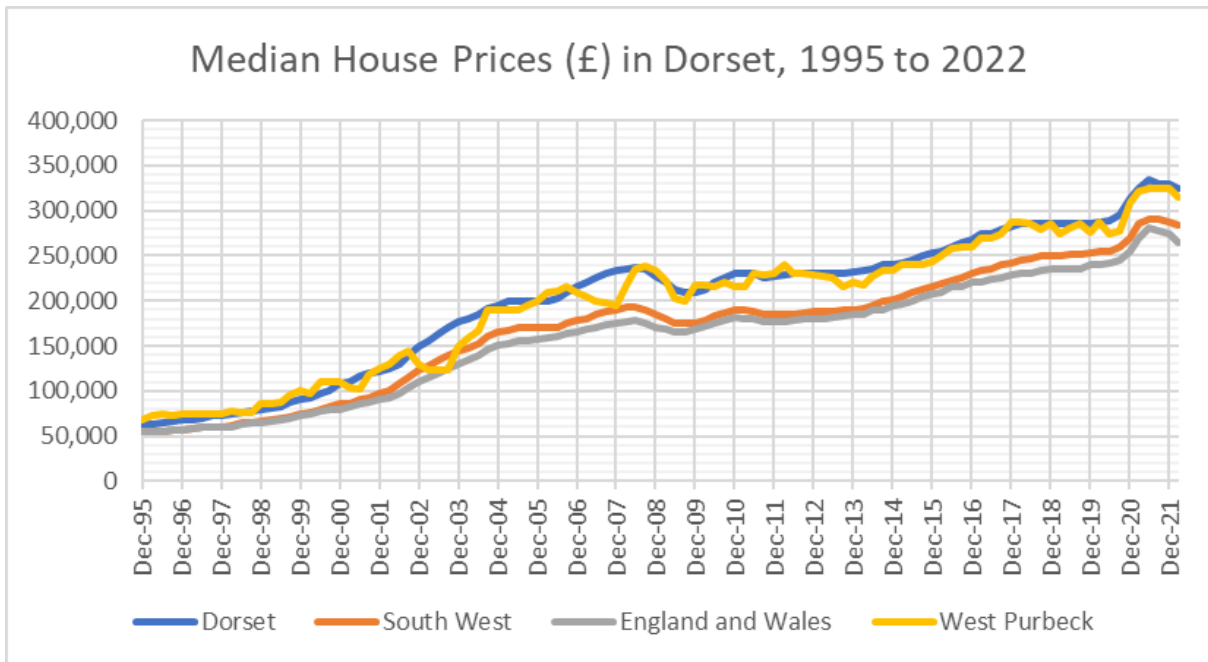

Source: Office for National Statistics

Households

27. The 2021 Census recorded a rounded figure of 2,000 households in Wool Parish, essentially unchanged over the ten-year period (2,015 households in 2011).

House Prices

28. The availability and affordability of housing is a key concern for the residents of Wool Parish. The housing section of the neighbourhood plan provides detailed data on the composition and tenure of housing in the parish.

29. Figure 6 provides comparative information based on Office of National Statistics quarterly median house prices for all housing in Dorset, the Southwest Region, and for England and Wales. Average house prices in Dorset have been above regional and national averages since 1995 and prices have widened through the period so that in the year ending to March 2022, median house prices in Dorset were £325,000 compared to the Southwest average of £283,750 and the average for England and Wales, of £265,000. The average for West Purbeck Ward was £315,000, just below the Dorset Average. Further detailed information on house prices in Wool Parish is set out in the housing section.

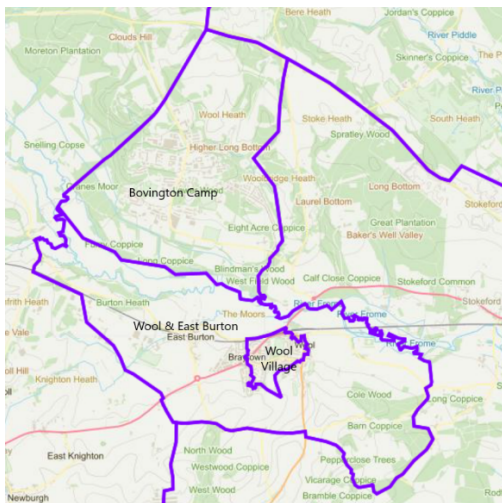**Figure 6 - Median House Prices for all housing**

Source: ONS, Median house prices for administrative geographies: HPSSA dataset 9, Table 1, and ONS Median house prices paid by ward HPSSA dataset 37, Table 1a, both Released 14 September 2022.

Indices of Multiple Deprivation

30. The Government maintains statistics on relative levels of deprivation in England based on Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA). The index of Multiple Deprivation measures how a particular LSOA compares in terms of deprivation relative to all LSOAs in England i.e., the national rank. The lower the ranking, the higher the level of deprivation in the area. The latest release is from 2019.

31. Wool Parish is made up of three LSOAs – Wool Village, Wool & East Burton, and Bovington Camp, shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7- Local Super Output Area Boundaries in Wool Parish

Source: Dorset Explorer Mapping

32. Table 1 provides details on the indicators used to measure deprivation and shows how each of the LSOAs in Wool Parish perform against the indicators. The parish scores well on Crime, with Wool & East

Burton LSOA and Bovington Camp LSOA in the 20% least deprived areas nationally. Wool Village is in the 40% least deprived LSOAs.

33.   The parish has a higher proportion of resident population aged 0-15 years than the rest of Southeast Dorset and Dorset on average. The Index of Multiple Deprivation sub-domain for Education and Skills deprivation in relation to children and young people points to issues in relation to educational attainment, post-16 education and knock-on effects to entry into higher education. Bovington Camp LSOA is in the 20% most deprived areas nationally on this measure, and Wool Village LSOA is in the 40% most deprived. This position is similar to adjacent LSOAs but more widely within Southeast Dorset for similar LSOAs, the picture is better elsewhere. Adult Skills are better with the whole Parish in the middle 20% of LSOAs nationally.

34.   In terms of health deprivation and disability, Wool Village is in the 40% most deprived LSOAs, Bovington is in the middle 20% whilst Wool and East Burton is in the least 40% deprived LSOAs. This indicates some difference in outcomes between different areas of the parish in relation to premature death, morbidity/disability, acute morbidity, mood and anxiety disorders.

35.   All three LSOAs of Wool Parish are placed in the middle 20% of areas in terms of deprivation experienced through barriers to housing, including household overcrowding, homelessness and housing affordability.

36.   Wool Village has excellent deprivation scores in relation to geographical barriers to services and is placed in the 20% least deprived LSOAs in England. In contrast, Bovington and Wool & East Burton LSOAs are placed in the 40% most deprived areas in relation to access to services. The indicators which have led to these different outcomes are based on road distance to a range of services including a post office, a primary school, a general store/supermarket and a GP surgery.

37.   In relation to the quality of housing (the indoors living environment), there is also wide contrast between different parts of the parish. Within the Wool Village LSOA, the housing is in a good condition and has central heating – the area is in the 20% least deprived areas. Wool & East Burton LSOA is in the 40% least deprived band. However, Bovington Camp LSOA is in the 40% most deprived set of LSOAs and this may reflect the different form of living accommodation provided in that area.

38.   Bovington and Wool & East Burton are in the 20% least deprived LSOAs in England in relation to the outdoors living environment which is based on indicators of air quality and road traffic accidents involving injury to pedestrians and cyclists. Wool Village is in the 40% least deprived LSOAs which whilst good, may reflect the presence of the Dorchester Road running through the village with attendant emissions and traffic giving rise to accidents.

Table 1 - Indices of Multiple Deprivation in Wool Parish LSOAs

Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Category/Sub-Category LSOAs which make up the Parish are Wool & East Burton (E01020491), Wool Village (E01020492), Bovington Camp, (E01020493)	Most deprived Least deprived ➡				
Wool Deprivation Ranking in Context of National LSOAs	Most 20%	Most 40%	Middle 20%	Least 40%	Least 20%
Overall Ranking of LSOAs on the Index of Multiple Deprivation			BOV	WV/ WEB	
People Indices					
Crime - The Crime Domain measures the risk of personal and material victimisation and is made up of several indicators based on the recorded numbers of violent crimes, burglaries, thefts and criminal damage.				WV	BOV/ WEB
Education and skills deprivation - Children and young people sub-domain - This domain measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population relating to children and young people and is made up of the following indicators: • Key Stage 2 attainment: The scaled score of pupils taking Mathematics, English reading and English grammar, punctuation and spelling Key Stage 2 exams • Key Stage 4 attainment: The average capped points score of pupils taking Key Stage 4 (GCSE or equivalent) exams • Secondary school absence: The proportion of authorised and unauthorised absences from secondary school • Staying on in education post 16: The proportion of young people not staying on in school or non-advanced education above age 16 • Entry to higher education: A measure of young people aged under 21 not entering higher education.	BOV	WV/ WEB			
Education and skills deprivation - Adult skills sub-domain - This domain measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population relating to adults and is made up of the following indicators: • Adult skills: The proportion of working-age adults with no or low qualifications, women aged 25 to 59 and men aged 25 to 64.			BOV/ WV/ WEB		

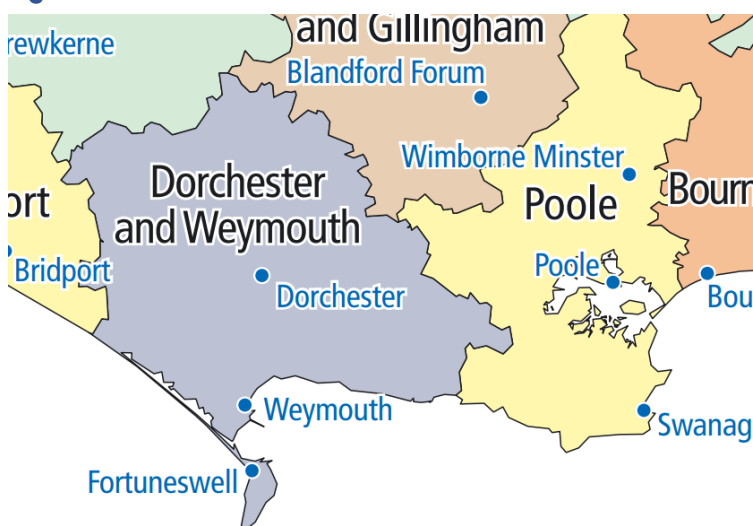| Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Category/Sub-Category LSOAs which make up the Parish are Wool & East Burton (E01020491), Wool Village (E01020492), Bovington Camp, (E01020493)	Most deprived			Least deprived	
• English language proficiency: The proportion of working-age adults who cannot speak English or cannot speak English well, women aged 25 to 59 and men aged 25 to 64.					
Employment deprivation - The Employment Deprivation Domain measures the proportion of the working-age population in an area that are involuntarily excluded from the labour market. This includes people who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.			WV	BOV/ WEB	
Income deprivation affecting children sub-domain - The income deprivation affecting children index gives the actual proportion of children aged 0-15 living in income deprived families. It is a supplementary index to the overall income domain, which is one of the domains that makes up the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD 2019).			BOV	WV/ WEB	
Income deprivation affecting older people sub-domain - The income deprivation affecting older people index is a supplementary index to the overall income domain, which is one of the domains that makes up the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD 2019). The score gives the proportion of adults aged 60 or over living in income deprived households.			BOV/ WV	WEB	
Health deprivation and disability domain of the ID 2019 is made up of the following indicators: • Years of potential life lost: an age and sex standardised measure of premature death • Comparative illness and disability ratio: an age and sex standardised morbidity/disability ratio • Acute morbidity: an age and sex standardised rate of emergency admission to hospital • Mood and anxiety disorders: a composite based on the rate of adults suffering from mood and anxiety disorders, hospital episodes data, suicide mortality data and health benefits data		WV	BOV	WEB	
Place indices					
The Barriers to Housing sub-domain measures issues relating to access to housing such as affordability and is made up of the following indicators: • Household overcrowding: The proportion of all households in a Lower-layer Super Output Area which are judged to have insufficient space to meet the household's needs			BOV/ WV/ WEB		

Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Category/Sub-Category LSOAs which make up the Parish are Wool & East Burton (E01020491), Wool Village (E01020492), Bovington Camp, (E01020493)	Most deprived				Least deprived
• Homelessness: Local Authority District level rate of acceptances for housing assistance under the homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act, assigned to the constituent Lower-layer Super Output Areas • Housing affordability: Difficulty of access to owner-occupation or the private rental market, expressed as the inability to afford to enter owner-occupation or the private rental market.					
Geographical Barriers to Services sub-domain relates to the physical proximity of local services and is made up of the following indicators: • Road distance to a post office: A measure of the mean distance to the closest post office for people living in the Lower-layer Super Output Area • Road distance to a primary school: A measure of the mean distance to the closest primary school for people living in the Lower-layer Super Output Area • Road distance to a general store or supermarket: A measure of the mean distance to the closest supermarket or general store for people living in the Lower-layer Super Output Area • Road distance to a GP surgery: A measure of the mean distance to the closest GP surgery for people living in the Lower-layer Super Output Area.	BOV/WEB				WV
The 'indoors' living environment measures the quality of housing and is made up of the following indicators: • Houses without central heating: The proportion of houses that do not have central heating • Housing in poor condition: The proportion of social and private homes that fail to meet the Decent Homes standard.	BOV			WEB	WV
The 'outdoors' living environment contains measures of air quality and road traffic accidents, it is derived from the following indicators: • Air quality: A measure of air quality based on emissions rates for four pollutants • Road traffic accidents involving injury to pedestrians and cyclists.				WV	BOV/WEB

Note: In the Homelessness/Housing affordability row, the value (highlighted yellow) appears in the middle column.

Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, South East Dorset Sub Unitary Geography Maps

Access and Connectivity

39. Wool Parish contains a major military site with military families in residence at Bovington, an employment site at the Dorset Innovation Park and the main settlement of East Burton and Wool Villages. Getting around within the parish is an important consideration and with the lack of regular daily local bus services, active travel and car use are important. The 2021 Census recorded 10.5% of households as having no car or van.

40. Planning for the car in new housing developments is important to producing well-designed and high-quality developments where the public spaces do not simply become large car parks. The 2021 Census recorded 48% of households as having two or more cars or vans which was a significant increase on the 39.9% recorded by the 2011 Census.

41. Wool Parish lies within the Travel to Work Area (TTWA) for Dorchester and Weymouth. Poole TTWA is to the east, facilitated by rail access and A-road routes (see Figure 8).
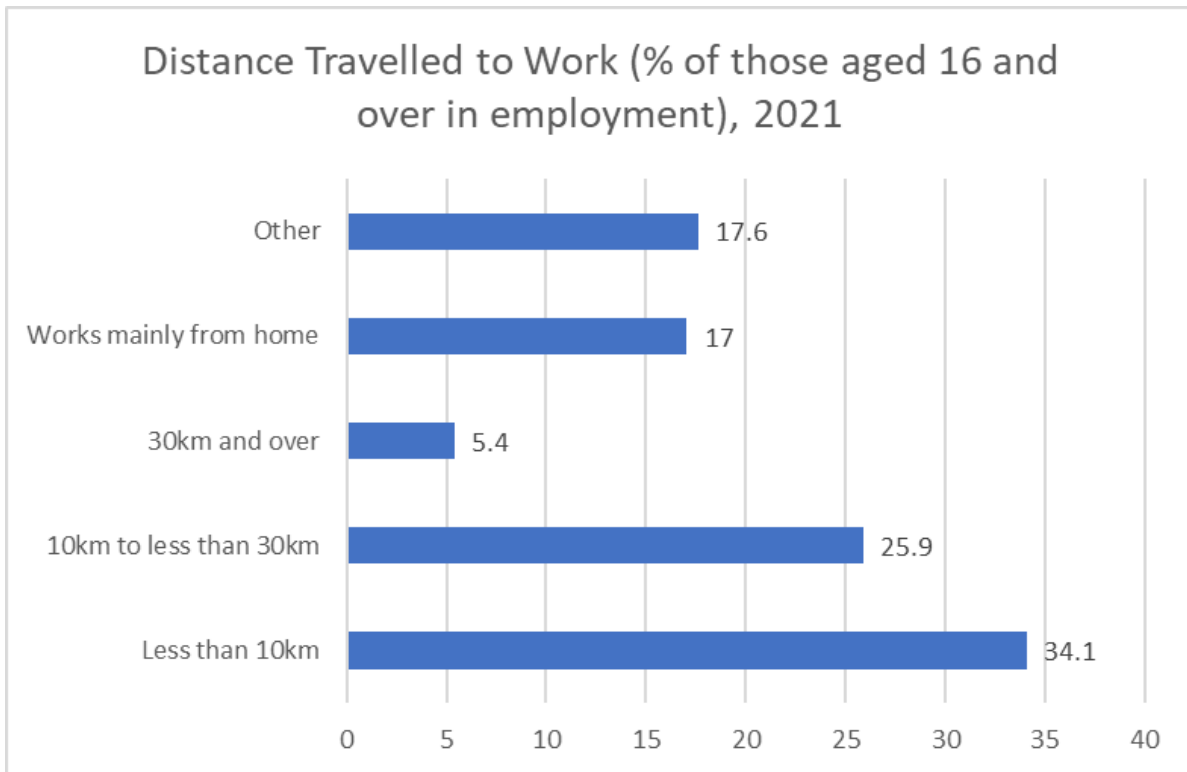
Figure 8 – Travel to Work Areas for Wool
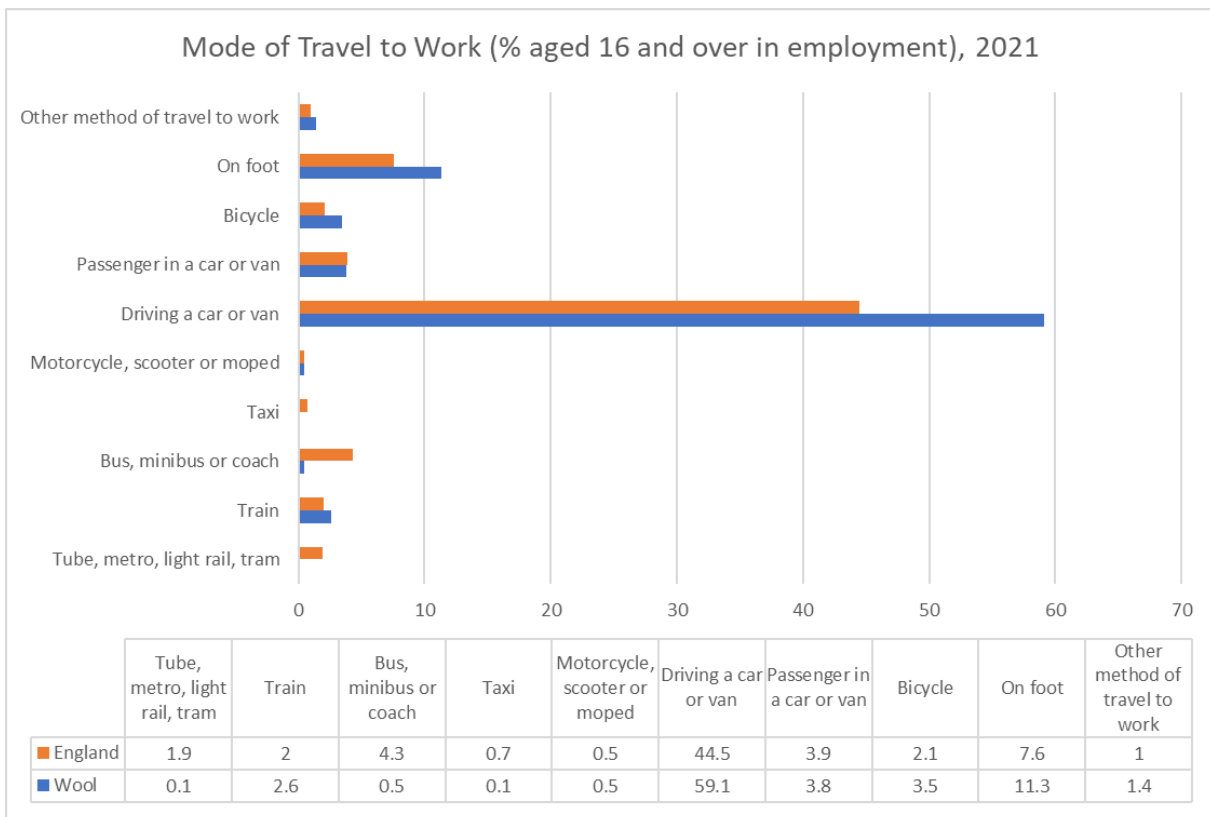

Source: Office for National Statistics, December 2011

42. The data shows a larger proportion of younger people and working age people in the parish than in surrounding areas. A smaller proportion of people in active employment worked from home at the time of the 2021 Census than the England average (17% for Wool compared to 31.5% for England as a whole). 31.3% of workers travelled more than 10km to work (see Figure 9).

43. In terms of mode of transport used to get to work, the Figure 10 shows the great majority of those travelling to work using cars or vans. The 2021 Census recorded only 3.5% travelling by bike and 11% walking. Public Transport is shown to be not generally used for travel to work by people living in Wool, with only 0.5% taking the bus (unsurprising given the lack of buses) and 2.6% taking the train.

Figure 9 – Travel to Work Distances, 2021

Distance Travelled to Work (% of those aged 16 and over in employment), 2021

Category	Value
Other	17.6
Works mainly from home	17
30km and over	5.4
10km to less than 30km	25.9
Less than 10km	34.1

Source: 2021 Census

Figure 10 – Mode of Travel to Work, 2021

Mode of Travel to Work (% aged 16 and over in employment), 2021

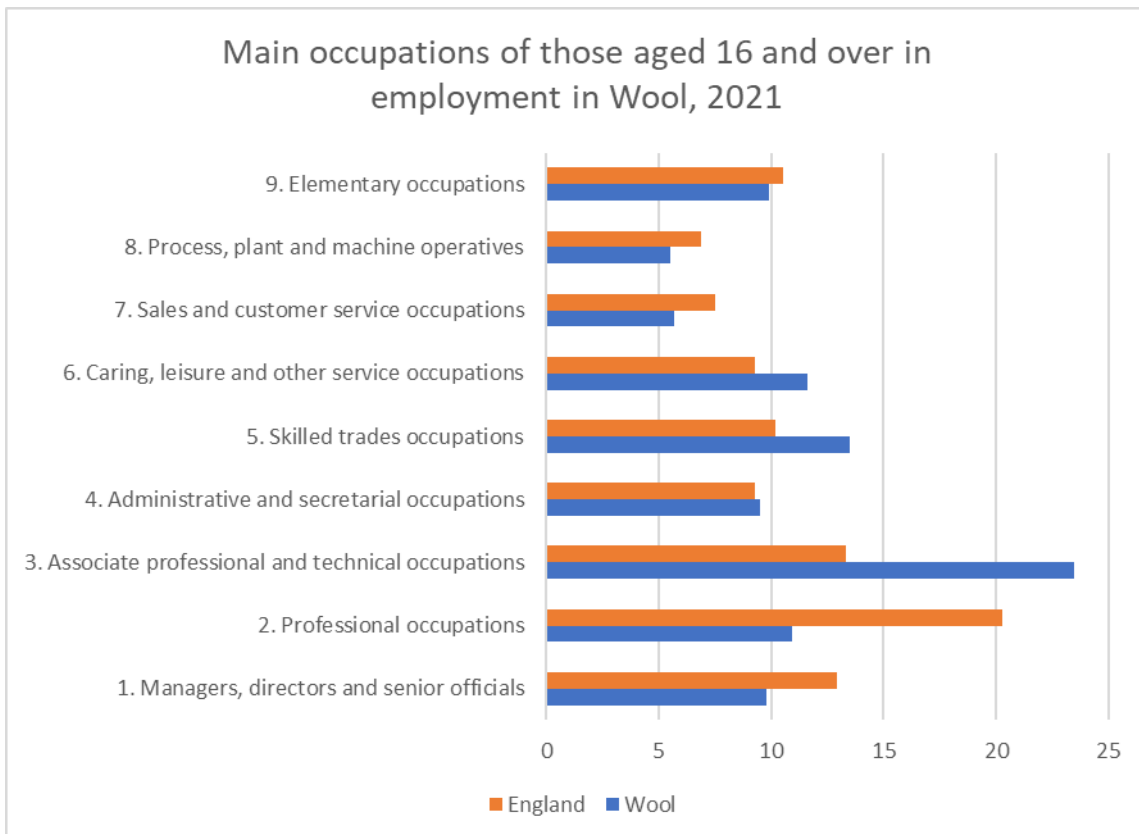|	Tube, metro, light rail, tram	Train	Bus, minibus or coach	Taxi	Motorcycle, scooter or moped	Driving a car or van	Passenger in a car or van	Bicycle	On foot	Other method of travel to work
England	1.9	2	4.3	0.7	0.5	44.5	3.9	2.1	7.6	1
Wool	0.1	2.6	0.5	0.1	0.5	59.1	3.8	3.5	11.3	1.4

Source: 2021 Census

44. A local survey on buses indicated that there are significant numbers of people who require bus services, which currently are not provided all-year round, through the day or serve local destinations. Combined with lack of geographical access to services, this heightens the need for better public transport to connect different parts of the Parish.

Economy and Skills

45. The 2021 Census recorded 64% of the 16-64 years population of Wool Parish as economically active. This included 2.7% who were unemployed at the time of the census. This was a higher level of economic activity and a lower level of unemployment than for England as a whole.

46. In terms of the key sectors of employment (as recorded in the 2011 Census), 28.9% were in public administration and defence which may reflect the contribution of defence employment in Bovington. The next largest sectors were human health and social work activities (9.9%), Wholesale, retail and repair (9.1%), Accommodation and Food Services (8.15%) and Education (7.33%). The three sectors above delivering public services accounted for 46% of the employment of residents living in Wool.

47. Figure 11 provides a breakdown of occupations recorded in the 2021 Census and compares this to the England average. The most significant variations are in categories 1, 2 and 3, showing lower proportions in Wool of senior managers and professional occupations and higher proportions of associate professional, technical and skilled trades occupations in Wool compared to the England average.

Figure 11 – Main Occupations of Employed Residents of Wool, 2021

Source: 2021 Census