

# FACTS AND FIGURES RELATING TO THE **HOLWELL** **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW** FEBRUARY 2021



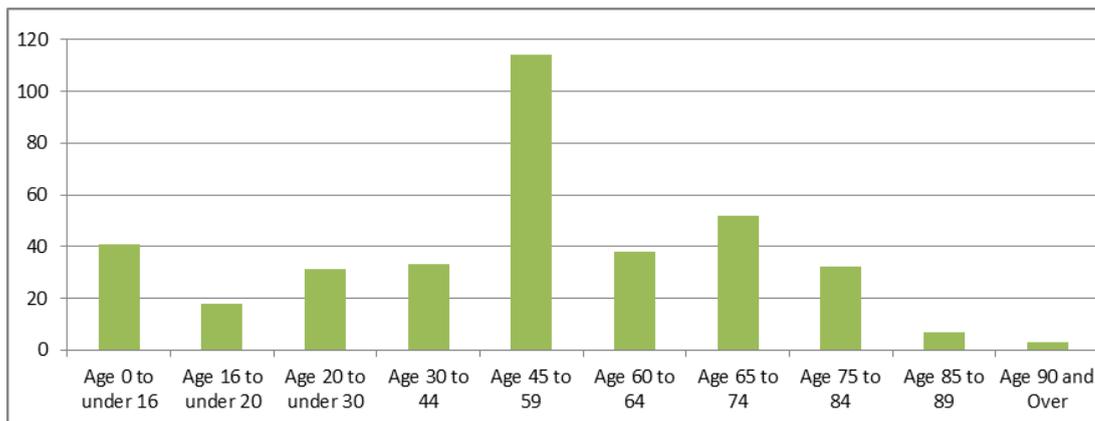
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## POPULATION

At the time of the first census in 1801 there were 293 people living in Holwell. This comprised 63 households of 71 families, with 99 people working on the land (according to *Holwell Villages Past and Present* by Leslie W Coffin). By the 1831 census this had risen to 405 people equally split between male and female, with 88 families living in 88 households, and 68 people working on the land. 30 years later in 1861 the population peaked at 495. Since 1900, the average population has been around 350, rising slightly towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to reach 370 at the last census in 2011. According to the 2018 Mid Year Estimates, ONS (courtesy of Dorset Council), the population was approximately 350. Detailed information regarding age range, gender, health, etc. will not be available until the 2021 census results are published.

**Table 1: Population of Holwell by age**

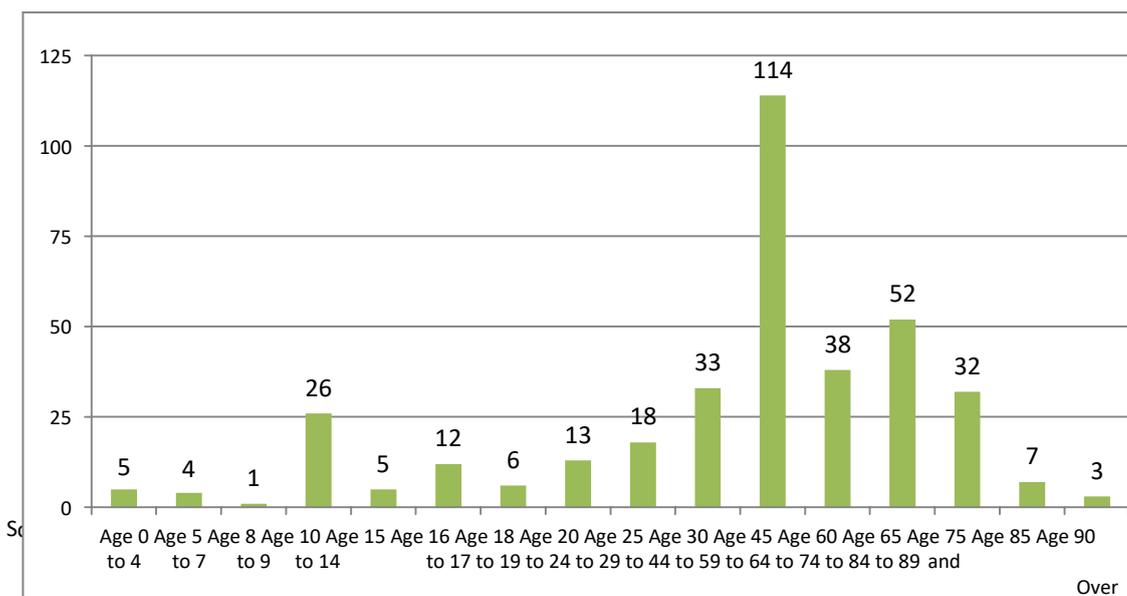


Source: Census 2011

### Age Range and Gender

The 2011 census recorded that the number of people classed as working age (16-64 years old) was broadly in line with the figure for England at 63.4%, and higher than in West Dorset as a whole (57.8%). Of the working age population, people in their 40s, 50s and early 60s made up 46.7% of the local population, which was a notably higher proportion than in West Dorset (36.2%) and England (37.8%). Conversely there were fewer people in their 20s and 30s (11.9% in Holwell compared with 16.8% and 26.9% in West Dorset and England).

**Table 2: Holwell Population Data (detailed ranges) for 2011 Total = 369**



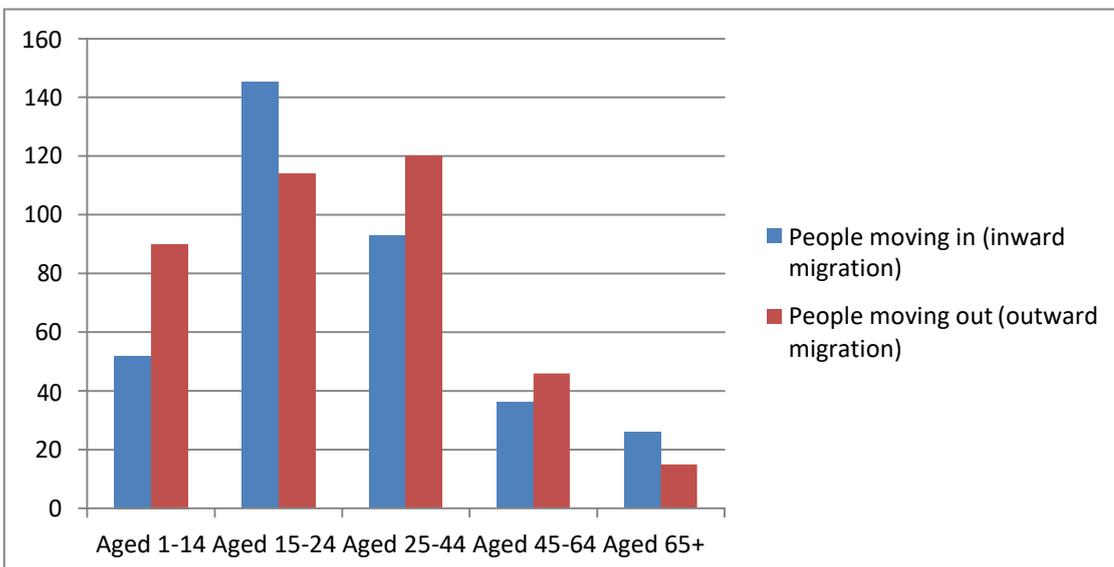
Outside the working age population, people over 65 formed a higher percentage of the population than in England at 25.5% compared with 16.3%, although similar to West Dorset. 6.3% of Holwell’s population are in their 80s or older, compared with 4.6% nationally.

However, the number of children (up to 15 years of age) was significantly lower at 11.1% than in West Dorset or England (15.7% and 18.9% respectively) and within this group, there were considerably fewer younger children (aged up to 10) than in either West Dorset or England – 2.7% of the population in contrast with 8.9% and 11.8% respectively. Interestingly, the 2016 Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire suggests that there has been a significant rise in the number of younger children to 7%, though other percentages remained broadly in line with the 2011 Census figures.

The population turnover rate for Holwell in respect of both inflow and outflow is lower than in either West Dorset or England. Within this, it is interesting that the inflow of people aged 25 to 44 is proportionately higher in Holwell, and the outflow is lower. As the inflow of people aged over 65 is considerably lower in Holwell than in West Dorset or England, these two factors have to date tended to mitigate against Holwell’s population growing older.

There were slightly more females than males in the location population which was broadly in line with both West Dorset and England.

**Table 3: Population migration**



Source: Census 2011

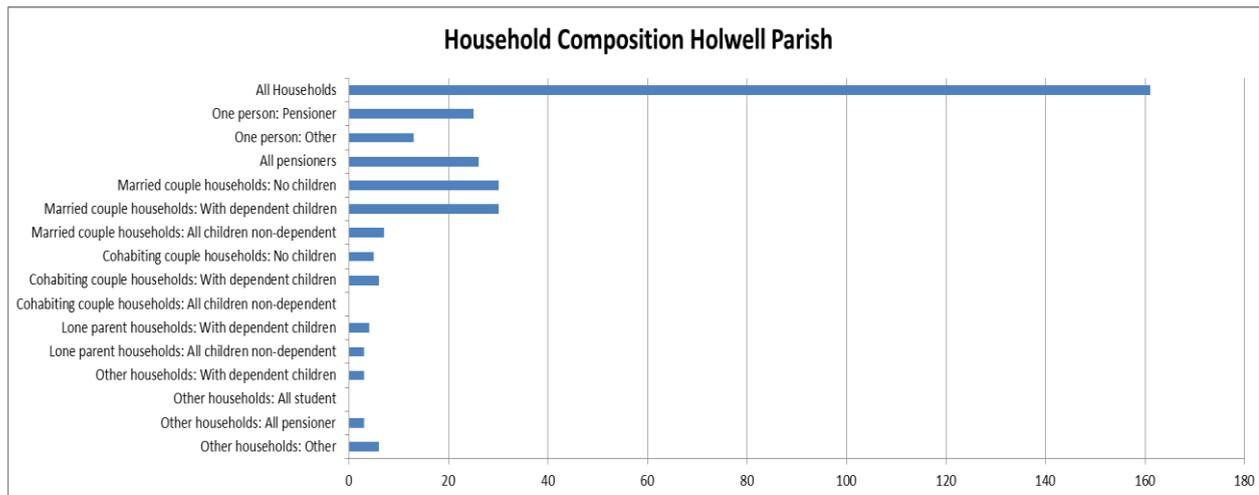
### Household Composition

The 2011 census recorded 161 households with at least one usual resident. Of these, 41.9% were married couples with or without dependents which was significantly higher than both West Dorset and England at 34.3% and 33.2% respectively.

The number of pensioner households was also greater than in England as a whole at 28.1% compared with 20.7%, but broadly in line with West Dorset. The 2016 Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire is not strictly comparable, but shows that 38% of respondent households comprised people aged over 61.

The number of one person households was lower at 11.3%, compared to 14.3% in West Dorset and 17.9% in England. However, of the 126 households that responded to the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire, 19% were one person households, suggesting that more people are now living on their own than previously thought.

**Table 4: Household Composition**



Source: Census 2011

### Health and Mobility

About one in six people (15%) up to the age of 64 had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities. This was slightly higher than elsewhere in West Dorset and England as a whole. If those over 64 were included, the percentage rose to 19.2% which was higher than in England but slightly lower than in West Dorset. Interestingly, the number of people registered for disability living allowance was lower in Holwell than in either West Dorset or England. The results of the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire were broadly in line with these figures.

Over 60% of Holwell’s households had two or more cars which was considerably higher than in West Dorset or England (39.4% and 32.2% respectively). Conversely, the number of Holwell households with no car was low at just over 4%, compared with 15.7% and 25.8% in West Dorset and England, emphasising the dependence on private as opposed to public transport.

### Language, Religious and Ethnic Backgrounds

According to the 2011 Census there were only two residents whose main language was not English. The vast majority of residents (98%) were from a White British background.

## **HOUSING**

The census of 2011 shows 171 houses in Holwell the majority of which - 77.2% - is detached which is well in excess of that recorded in West Dorset or England (37.0% and 22.3% respectively). In contrast, there is very little terraced housing, just over 5% which is considerably lower, and the number of semi-detached houses is also much lower. The vast majority of properties are owner-occupied, with two-thirds owned outright with no mortgage. Privately rented housing is broadly in line with the numbers for West Dorset and England, while social (housing association) or council rented housing is lower. Most of the houses are individual properties fronting the road network, with 9 main working farms, two estates (Holwell Manor and Westrow), and one 'village housing estate', namely Foxs Close comprising 11 bungalows, and The Plot which consists of social rented properties under Magna Housing Association. There are no managed retirement homes or homes specifically for the disabled.

**Table 5: Accommodation Types in Holwell**

	<b>Holwell</b>
All Households	171
Whole House or Bungalow; Total	159
Whole House or Bungalow; Detached	132
Whole House or Bungalow; Semi-Detached	27
Whole House or Bungalow; Terraced (Including End-Terrace)	9
Flat, Maisonette or Apartment; Purpose-Built Block of Flats	3

Source: Census 2011

Nearly three in four houses (74%) have three or more bedrooms compared to an average of 64% in West Dorset and 60% in England. Fewer than 15% of homes have 4 or fewer rooms, compared to 27% in West Dorset and 33% in England.

This higher concentration of larger, detached homes means that the number of houses in higher council tax bands (D to G) is notably higher than in either West Dorset or England. For example, houses in Bands F and G account for 27.5% of the total compared with 13.4% and 8.5% respectively. Conversely, houses in the lowest two bands (A and B) represent only 8.5% of the total, compared with 28.1% in West Dorset and 44.4% in England.

A search on Rightmove showed that the average price paid for homes in Holwell over the last 5 years based on 20 properties was £321,667, which was more expensive than neighbouring Bishops Caundle (£224,317) and Sherborne where the overall average price was £300,907. However, Sherborne's figure reflects the large number of terraced properties sold, with detached properties selling for an average price of £422,818. However, while house prices in Sherborne rose 7% on average on the previous year, house prices in Holwell were 13% lower, though this could reflect the mix of properties sold, rather than changes in the local market itself.

A search on Rightmove in November 2020 showed that the average price paid for homes in Holwell over the last 5 years based on 14 properties was £358,107, which was more expensive than neighbouring Bishops Caundle (£310,600 based on 20 properties), although the price differential had closed significantly reflecting a marked increase in prices paid in Bishops Caundle. 5 year figures for Sherborne were not available, but the average price over the year to October 2020 was £343,589 compared with £356,250 for Holwell and £354,000 for Bishops Caundle. While Bishops Caundle's average price had increased 6% over the previous year, prices in Sherborne and Holwell had fallen 2% and 11% respectively, though this could reflect the mix of properties sold rather than any significant change in the local market.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The A3030 is the only main road within the parish, crossing through Woodbridge to the north, towards the towns of Sherborne to the north and Sturminster Newton to the east. Minor country lanes link the various settlements within the parish. The closest railway station is at Sherborne with hourly connections to Salisbury.

Until July 2017, a limited bus service operated by Damory Coaches (the 368) ran twice a day through Holwell, coming from Blandford in the morning, through Sturminster Newton to Sherborne and Yeovil and returning late afternoon. The service was designated a 'workers/education movement' and was interworked with the X10 from Blandford. After Damory withdrew from operating the X10 service, the X10's new operator, South West Coaches, declined to reinstate the 368 route until they had a proper understanding of local needs, and the service was then permanently discontinued.

Given the County Council's proposals to subsidise only 7 inter-urban routes across the rural part of the county from July 2017 onwards, reliance on community transport to provide those without private transport with access to other local villages and towns may be the only option going forward. Several neighbouring villages have successfully established community transport services, relying on volunteer drivers from within the community.

Community Transport Grants remain available to support the establishment of new community transport services. These will fund up to £2,000 for revenue costs such as IT systems, training and marketing etc. and up to £5,000 for capital expenditure i.e. vehicle purchase. However, any applications will need 50% matched funding of the project's total cost.

### **Rural Lanes Tracks and Footpaths**

Most public footpaths and bridleways are well maintained, providing residents with ready access to the countryside surrounding Holwell and to the countryside beyond. In common with many rural areas, there are no pavements along the roads, although grass verges allow pedestrians to step off the road to avoid traffic in most locations. Fosters Hill has particularly wide grass verges.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

### **Broadband**

Despite recent upgrading to Superfast broadband, only 50% of Holwell households are able to benefit from this as its provision is limited to those households within a certain distance from the hub, which is located on Fosters Hill. Throughout the village as a whole, connection speeds are generally very slow and as yet BT has offered no solution but is investigating various options.

### **Telephones**

There is still a working public telephone in Holwell although the box has been the subject of at least two planning applications proposing to remove both the telephony and the phone box itself. It is currently still in place and will remain for the foreseeable future.

Mobile phone connectivity is also variable, with no one provider enabling full reception across the whole of the parish.

**EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS IN HOLWELL**

Both historically and currently the parish of Holwell is largely agricultural. There are 9 large working farms, with dairy cattle and sheep the main focus, though this represents a significant reduction from the number of farms operating in the mid-1900s.

Other businesses operating within the parish include a manufacturer of gluten free foods, agricultural plant hire and nursery school. In addition, professionals including accountants and architects are among the 139 respondents to the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire which revealed that 40% worked (or studied) from home.

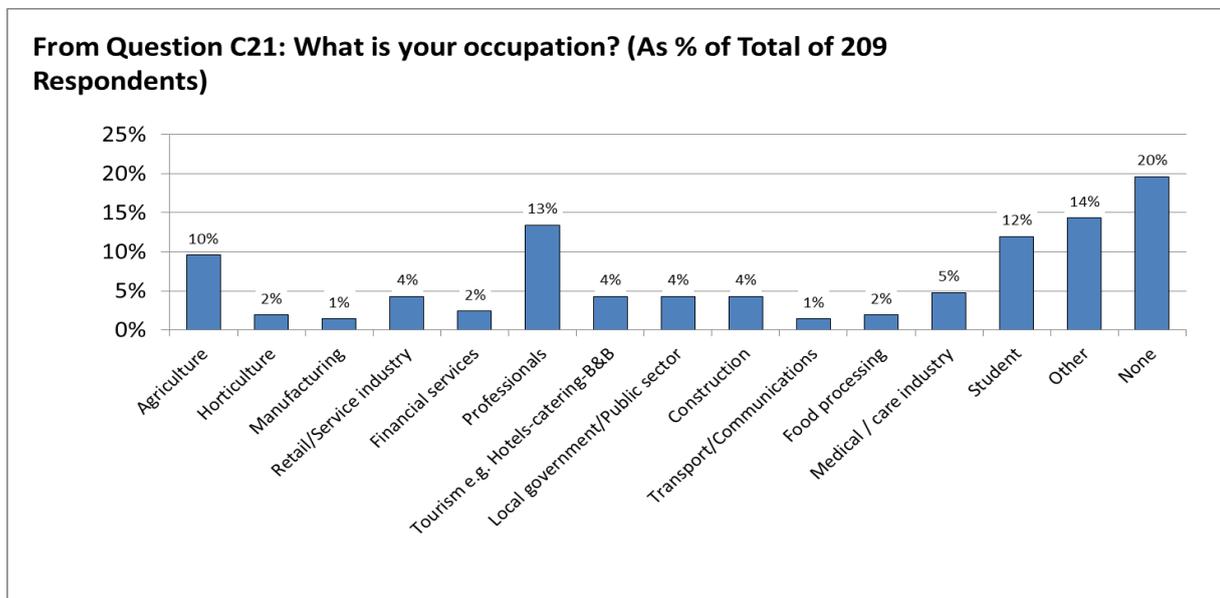
70% of Holwell residents between the ages of 16 and 74 described themselves as economically active. Of these, the majority (70%) worked in the private rather than public sector. Approximately 40% were in full-time employment, 40% self-employed, and 20% part-time workers.

The most significant difference between Holwell, West Dorset and England lay in the number of self-employed people in Holwell which was roughly twice as many as in West Dorset, and three times as many as in England. The number of people working over 49 hours per week was also considerably higher in Holwell than in either West Dorset or England. Unemployment was low at 3% compared with 6.1% and 9.8% in West Dorset and England respectively.

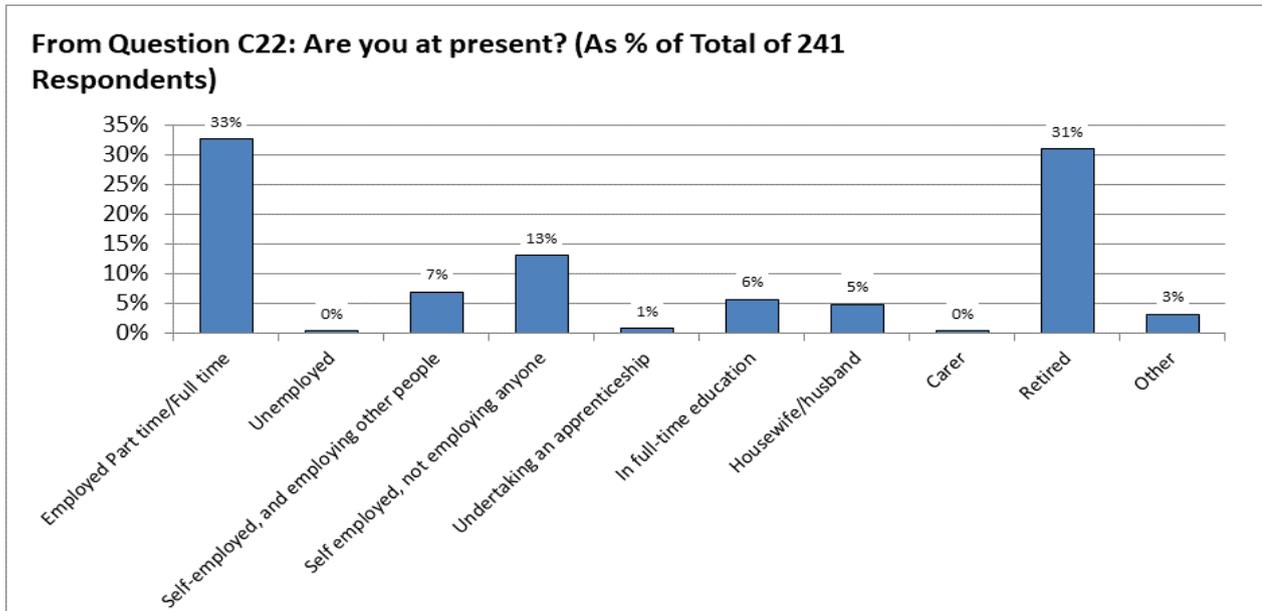
Those in work tend to be employed in agriculture, health and social work, retail and education. Unsurprisingly, the sector which showed the greatest differential was agriculture, where the number of people employed far outstripped comparable numbers for both West Dorset and England.

In the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire, 14% of respondents described themselves as Professionals, the largest group, followed by those working in Agriculture at 10%. A significant proportion of Holwell residents describe themselves as retired – see Table 7 below.

**Table 6: Holwell Residents’ Occupations**



Source: Holwell Household Questionnaire Sept/Oct 2016

**Table 7: Type of Employment**

Source: Holwell Household Questionnaire Sept/Oct 2016

### **CRIME**

Data produced by Dorset Police shows that the parish is largely free of crime. Since the beginning of 2016, there have been two reports of theft from a vehicle in Foxs Close, and one close to Woodbridge Farm on the A3030. The village receives crime alerts from Dorset Alert, which informed residents of the attempted theft of lead from an outbuilding at Holwell Manor Farm in January 2017. There appears to have been a slight increase in crime within the parish since the Neighbourhood Plan was published in March 2018, largely involving theft from farms and residential property in addition to arson.

### **POLLUTION**

Holwell has significant areas of pasture and there is a risk of nitrates, from livestock manure and other fertilizers, polluting the land and watercourses.

**WILDLIFE WITHIN HOLWELL**

Some of the plants and animals which have been recorded in the parish include the following:

**Birds (very common)**

Wren	Chaffinch	Robin
Duncock	Goldfinch	Magpie
House Sparrow	Blackbird	Jackdaw
Blue Tit	Starling	Carrion Crow
Great Tit	Collared Dove	Rook
Long-tailed Tit	Woodpigeon	

**Birds (Less common)**

Goldcrest	Willow Warbler	Swallow
Coal Tit	Chiffchaff	Kingfisher
Marsh Tit	Whitethroat	Stock Dove
Treecreeper	Spotted Flycatcher	Nuthatch
Siskin	Yellowhammer	Green Woodpecker
Redpoll	Reed Bunting	Great Spotted Woodpecker
Linnet	Meadow Pipit	Jay
Brambling	Grey Wagtail	Raven
Greenfinch	Pied Wagtail	Red Legged Partridge
Bullfinch	Song Thrush	Pheasant
Nightingale	Redwing	Cuckoo
Garden Warbler	Fieldfare	Kestrel
Blackcap	House Martin	Sparrowhawk
Merlin	Grey Heron	Canada Goose
Buzzard	Little Egret	Greylag Goose
Red Kite	Moorhen	Herring Gull
Tawny Owl	Mallard	Blackheaded Gull
Snipe	Lapwing	

**Butterflies**

Large Skipper	Brown Hairstreak	Comma
Small Skipper	Small Copper	Silver-washed Fritillary
Clouded Yellow	Common Blue	Speckled Wood
Brimstone	Holly Blue	Marbled White
Large White	Red Admiral	Gatekeeper
Small White	Painted Lady	Meadow Brown
Green-veined White	Small Tortoiseshell	Ringlet
Orange-tip	Peacock	

**Moths**

Angle Shades	Poplar Hawkmoth	Hebrew Character
Peach Blossom	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	Common Wainscot
Chinese Character	Elephant Hawkmoth	Merveille du Jour
Buff Arches	Swallow Prominent	Dun-bar
Blood Vein	Buff-tip	Nut-tree Tussock
Yellow Shell	Common Footman	Burnished Brass
Magpie Moth	Garden Tiger	Silver Y
Scorched Wing	Heart-and-Dart	Spectacle
Brimstone Moth	Flame Shoulder	Mother Shipton
Mottled Beauty	Large Yellow Underwing	Herald
Privet Hawkmoth	Lesser Yellow Underwing	
Eyed Hawkmoth	Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	

**Plants (selection)**

Early Purple Orchid
Common-spotted Orchid

Bluebell  
Wild Garlic  
Wild Daffodil  
Snowdrop  
Primrose  
Betony (The Drove)  
Hemlock Water Dropwort (in roadside ditches)  
Navelwort

**Mammals**

Bank Vole	Brown Hare
Pygmy Shrew	Rabbit
Wood Mouse	Badger
Hedgehog	Fox
Mole	Muntjac Deer
Otter	Roe Deer
Grey Squirrel	

**Reptiles**

Grass Snake

**Bats** (from a survey conducted as part of a planning application)

Brown Long-eared Bat  
Common Pipistrelle Bat  
Natterer's Bat  
Serotine Bat  
Soprano Pipistrelle Bat

**Fungi**

Magic Mushroom	Shaggy Inkcap
Waxcap species (churchyard)	Fairyring Champignon