High Wycombe

Local Community Area Profile

Content

Introduction

This Local Community Area Profile is the first of a set of evolving documents that provides customer intelligence information about the people living in Buckinghamshire. By gaining a better understanding of the residents living in our communities, public sector services can be delivered in more effective ways. This ethos forms the backbone of our Customer Insight project covering 19 Local Community Areas of which the Profiles are the first stage.

The Profile includes a map depicting the Local Community Area as well as a list of the local government administrative building blocks covering the area.

Customer intelligence information, comprising nearly 200 different population and household indicators, is shown as bullet point commentary and illustrated with charts. The information for the Local Community Area is placed in the context of Buckinghamshire to get a better feel for the area. The Profile should be read alongside the accompanying full set of data and charts presented in the Excel file 'High Wycombe.xls'.

Much of the information relates to the 2001 census but also includes 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation data and 2007 based income, employment, acorn[1] and schools related data. Definitions of the information used in the Profile can be found in the accompanying document 'Sources Definitions of Data.xls'.

The Profile has been written by the Chief Executive's Policy Team. Further detail about the corporate needs assessment project can be obtained from research@buckscc.gov.uk.

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[1] Acorn stands for A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods. Acorn has been developed by CACI and is a market segmentation system combining geography with demographics, consumer behaviour, social factors and lifestyle information to create 5 categories, 17 groups and 56 types.

Ordnance Survey Map of the Local Community Area
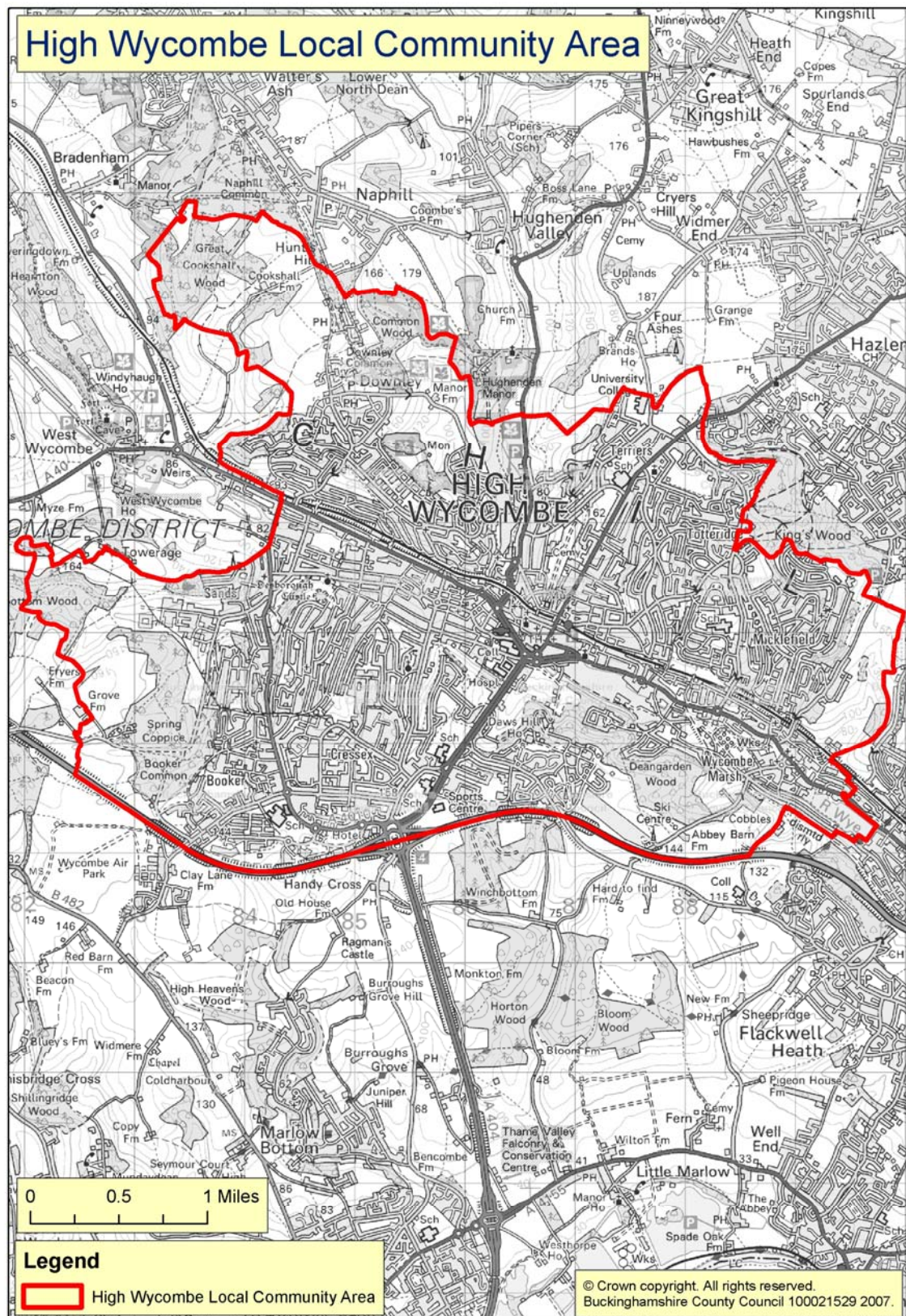
Local Government Geography

This section looks at the local government administrative building blocks comprising the Local Community Area. Please note that some electoral divisions, wards and parishes may straddle more than one Local Community Area. Where this occurs the Local Communities affected are listed in brackets.

Electoral Divisions (ED):
Abbey ED
Booker, Cressex and Sands ED
Bowerdean, Micklefield and Totteridge ED
Downley, Disraeli, Oakridge and Castlefield ED
Ryemead, Tylers Green and Loudwater ED (Bourne End and High Wycombe)
Stokenchurch, Radnage and West Wycombe ED (Marlow and High Wycombe)
Terriers and Amersham Hill ED

Civil Parishes (CP):
Downley CP
High Wycombe Area (this is technically not a parish)

Wards:
Abbey Ward
Booker and Cressex Ward
Bowerdean Ward
Disraeli Ward
Downley and Plomer Hill Ward
Micklefield Ward
Oakridge and Castlefield Ward
Ryemead Ward
Sands Ward
Terriers and Amersham Hill Ward
Totteridge Ward

Population and Household Characteristics

68,900 people live in this Local Community Area in 26,100 households. High Wycombe is the second largest of all Local Community Areas which vary in population from 7,900 to 69,300.

High Wycombe has one of the youngest age profiles of all the Local Community Areas and is the most urban as 99% of its population lives in urban areas and 91% of its land area is classified as urban as well.
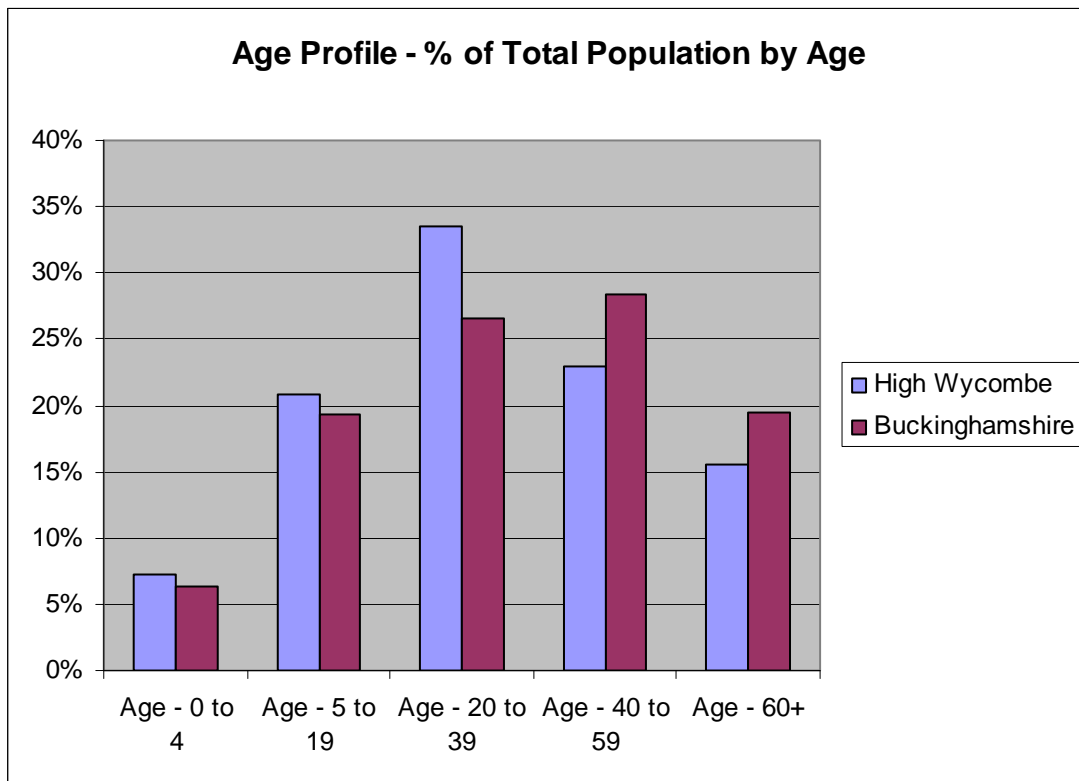

High Wycombe's population has the lowest proportion of people from the white ethnic group, 76% compared with the average of 92%.

High Wycombe is the most ethnically diverse of all Local Community Areas and has greater than average proportions of people from all of the non-white ethnic groups but especially greater proportions of people from the Asian and Black ethnic groups.

14,200 people are from Asian or Black ethnic groups. The Asian ethnic group accounts for 16% of the population and is the highest proportion of all Local Community Areas. The same can be said for the Black and Mixed ethnic groups accounting for 5% and 2% of the population respectively.

**Mixed, Asian, Black, Chinese & Other Ethnic Groups as % Total Population**
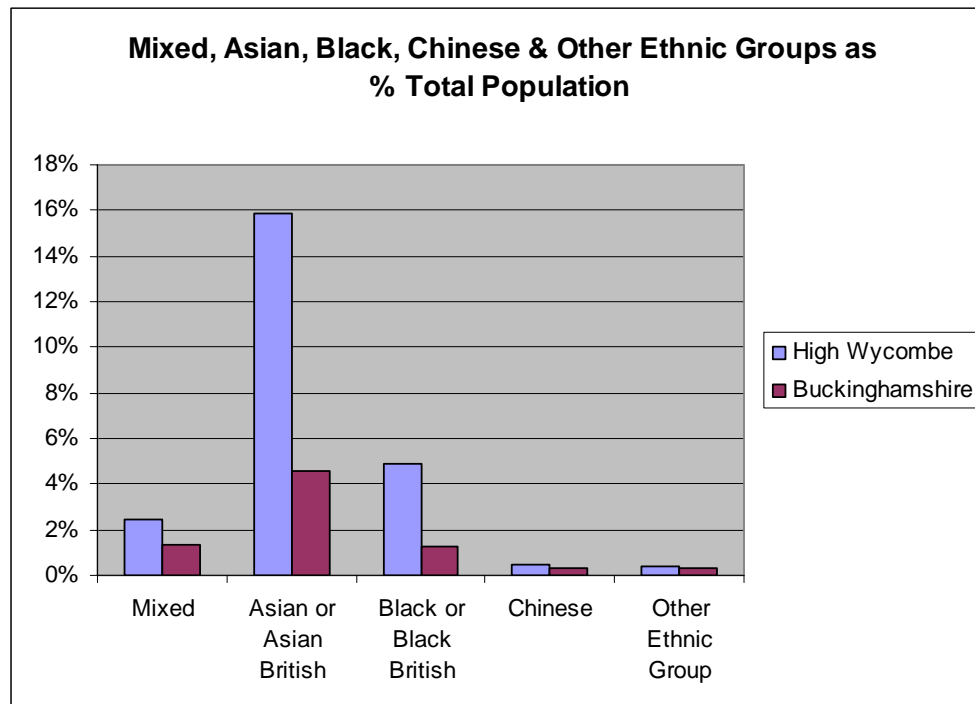
In terms of religious faiths, 59% of the population are Christian, the lowest proportion of all Local Community Areas. High Wycombe has the highest proportion of people of Muslim religious faith, 14%, almost 10,000 people and over three times the average proportion of 4%.

**% Population by Religion Other Than Christian**
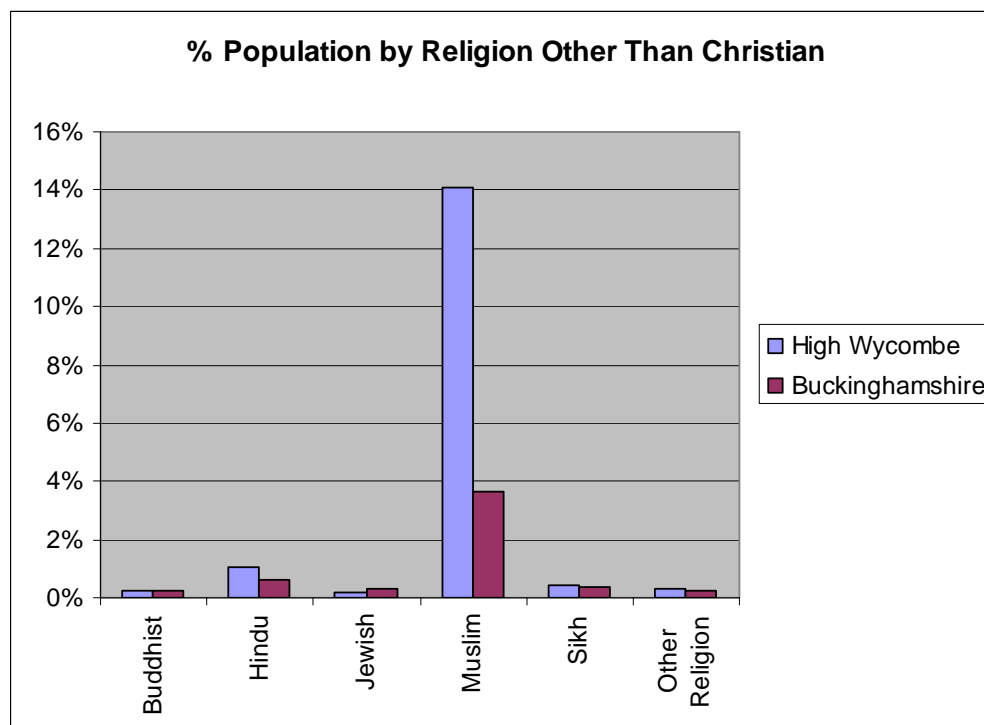
The health of High Wycombe's population is worse than average with a greater than average proportion of people feeling they are 'not in good health' and over double the average proportion of people living in areas affected by health and disability deprivation. High Wycombe is the most disadvantaged Local Community Area in terms of this latter measure.

Health Indicators
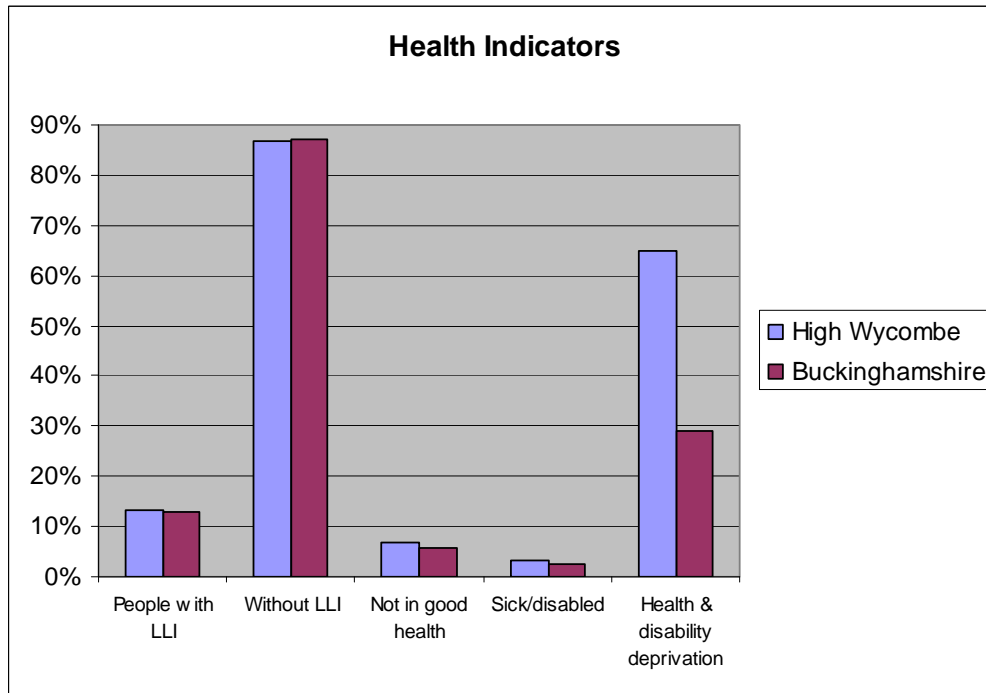
The educational profile of High Wycombe is one of the lowest of all the Local Community Areas. Over a quarter of the population has no qualifications; the lowest proportion of all Local Community Areas. High Wycombe has one of the lowest proportions of people qualified to degree level (22%). The proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grade GCSEs is 58%, below the average of 68%.

**Education Profile**

* or equivalent
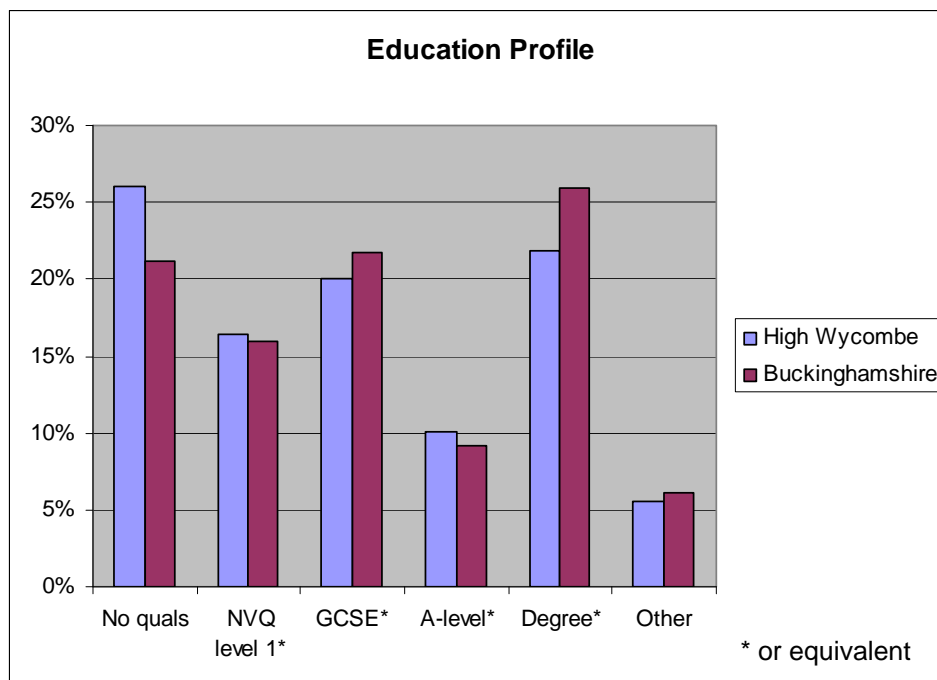
English is the first language spoken by 66% of school pupils living in this community (that also attend a Buckinghamshire school). Non-English first languages that are spoken by at least 20 pupils in this community are shown in the graph below.

Pupils First Languages that are not English in High Wycombe
(no Buckinghamshire comparison)
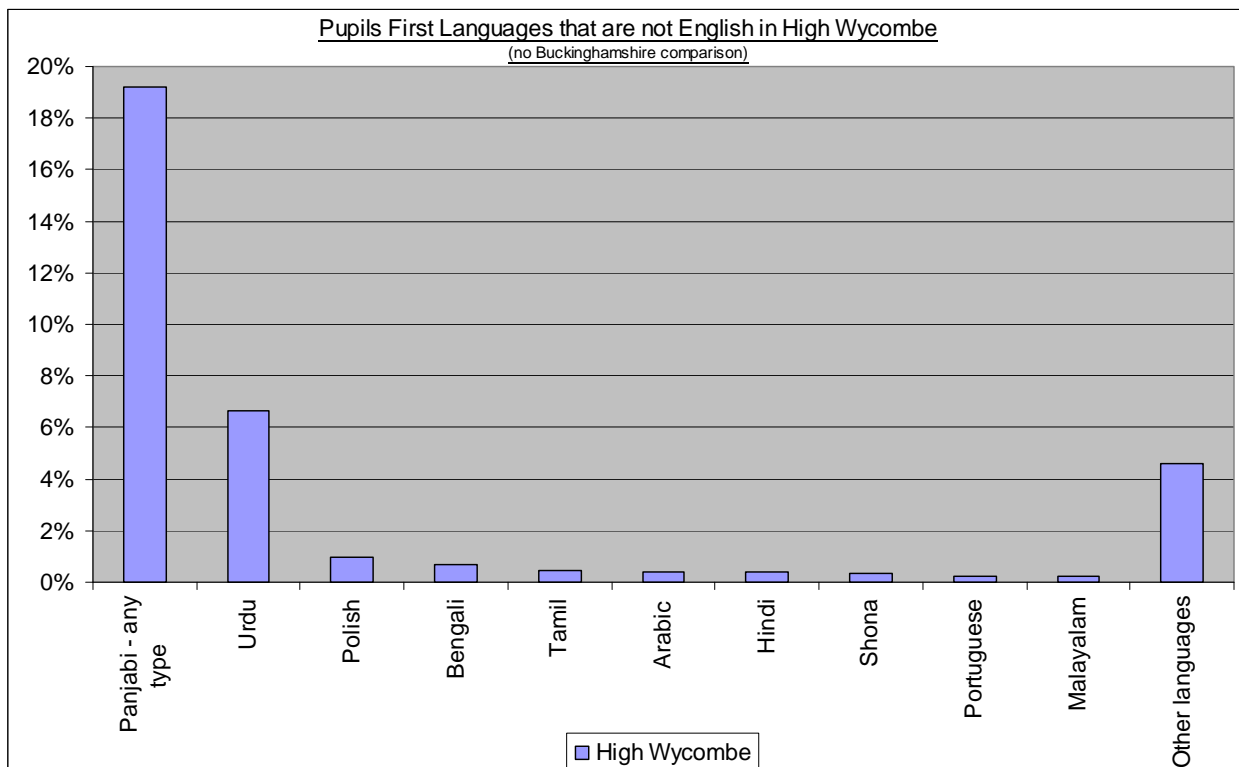
This information may also help to provide an indication of the languages spoken by all people in this community.

High Wycombe has the highest unemployment rate of all Local Community Areas at 4%. A greater than average proportion of High Wycombe's population is employed in Intermediate occupations, Lower Supervisory, Routine and Semi-routine occupations. However, more than one third of the population is classified as having Higher and Lower Managerial & Professional Occupational status. Occupational Status is shown in the graph on the following page.

Occupational Status
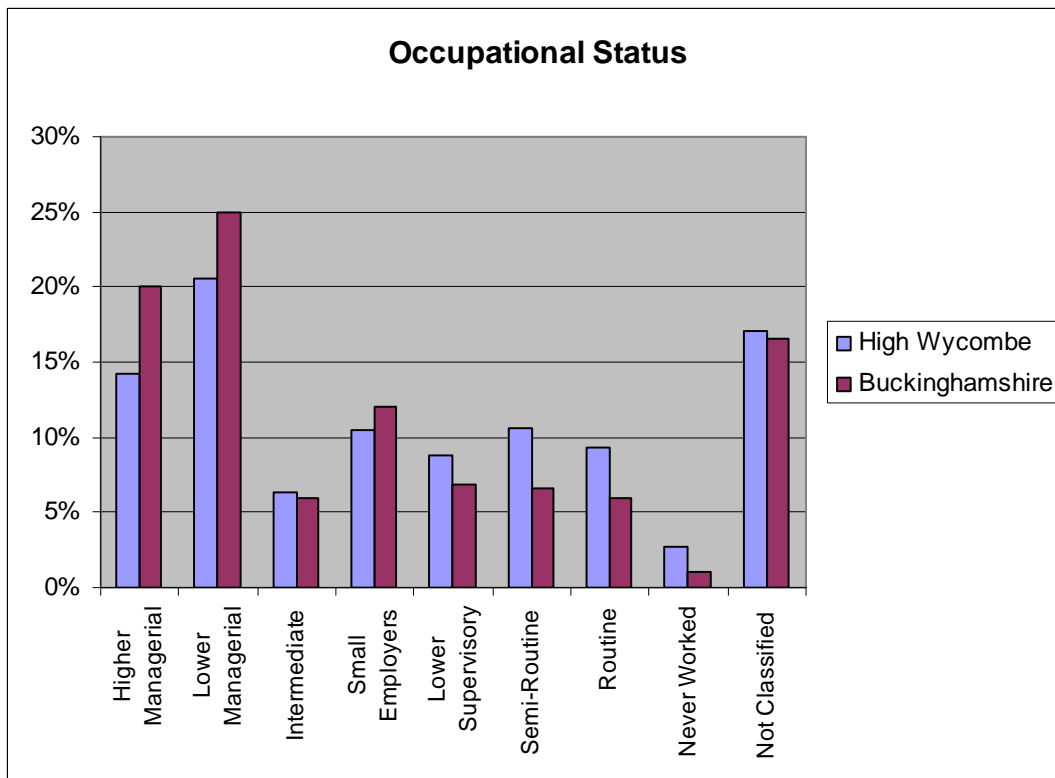
The occupational status of High Wycombe is also reflected in the income and acorn profiles. High Wycombe's average household income is £38k which is below the Buckinghamshire average of £42k and is the lowest of all the Local Community areas. The graph below shows the proportion of households in each income band and compares these to the county average.

% Households by Income Band (£)
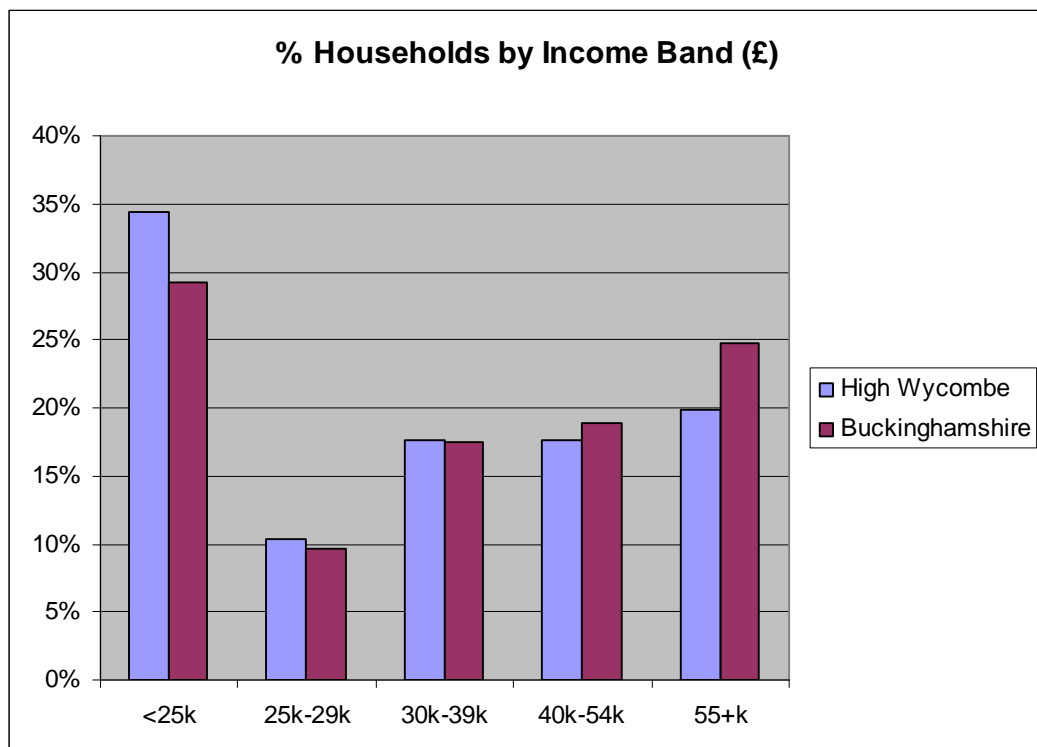
High Wycombe's acorn profile is typified by the middle ACORN group 'secure families' which alone accounts for almost one third of all High Wycombe's households and is well above the average proportion of 19%. The next largest acorn groups in High Wycombe are 'struggling families' (9%) and 'flourishing families' (9%). High Wycombe has above average proportions of 'educated urbanites', 'aspiring singles', 'starting out' and 'Asian communities' and those of the lower acorn groups

% Households by ACORN Group
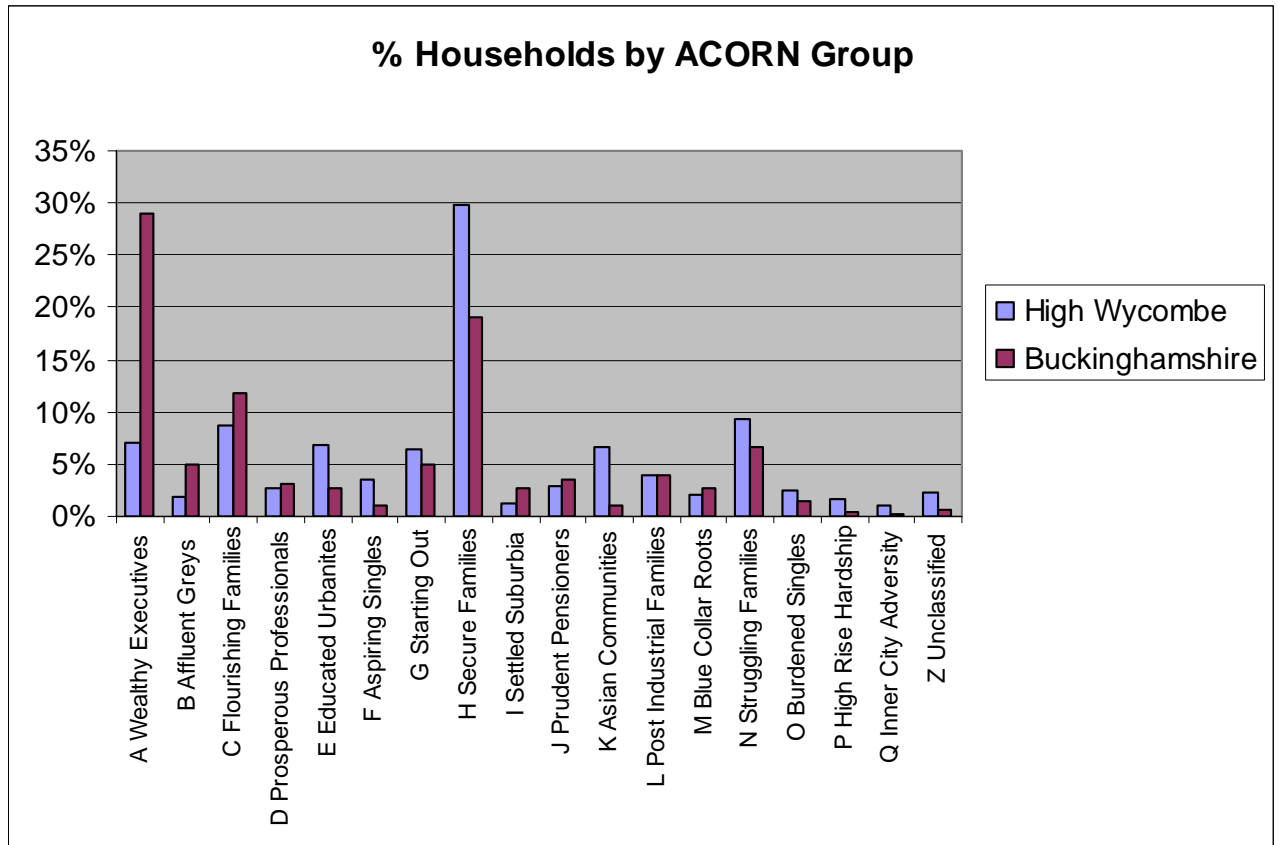
The car ownership levels in High Wycombe are below average with 81% of households owning 1 or more cars, compared to the average of 87%. High Wycombe has above average proportions of households with no cars, 19% compared to the average of 13%.

Although travelling to work by car is clearly the most used form of transport in High Wycombe, higher than average proportions of commuters travel to work by bus and also by foot, cycle or other means. It is perhaps surprising that travel by train is not more highly represented given that this Local Community Area has a mainline railway station.

Mode of Transport to Work
(resident population)
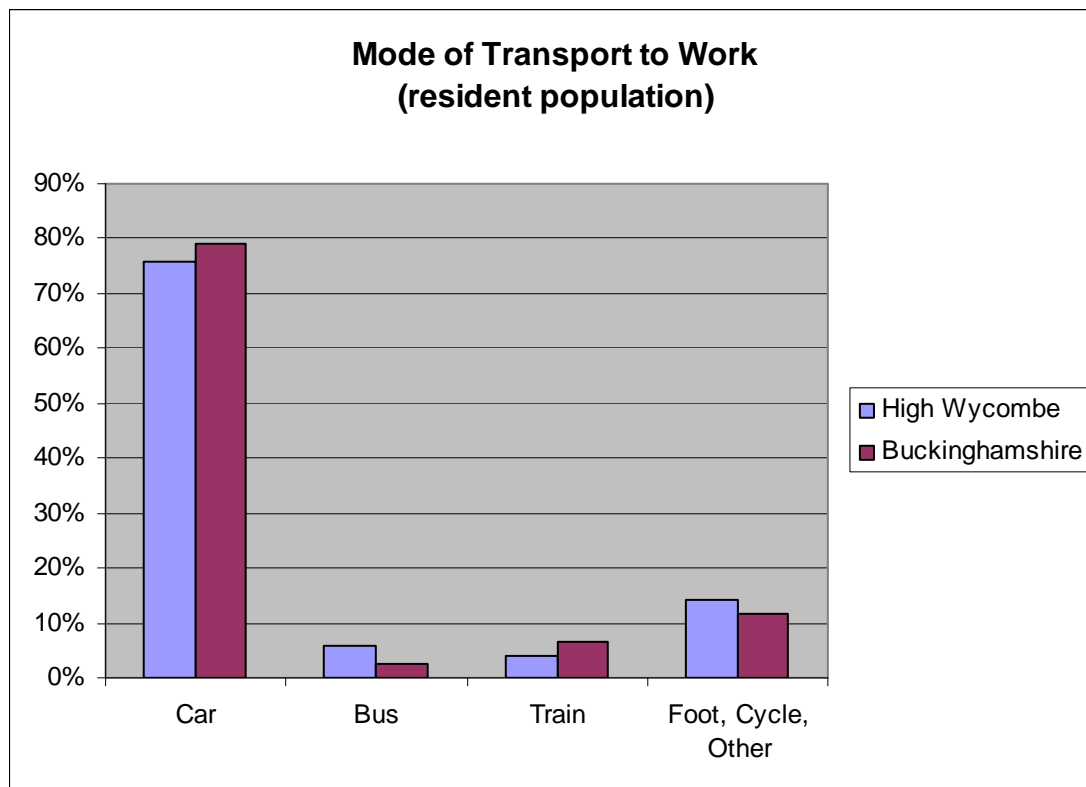
High Wycombe has relatively more single person households, lone parents and households with children, and relatively fewer pensioner households than the Buckinghamshire average.
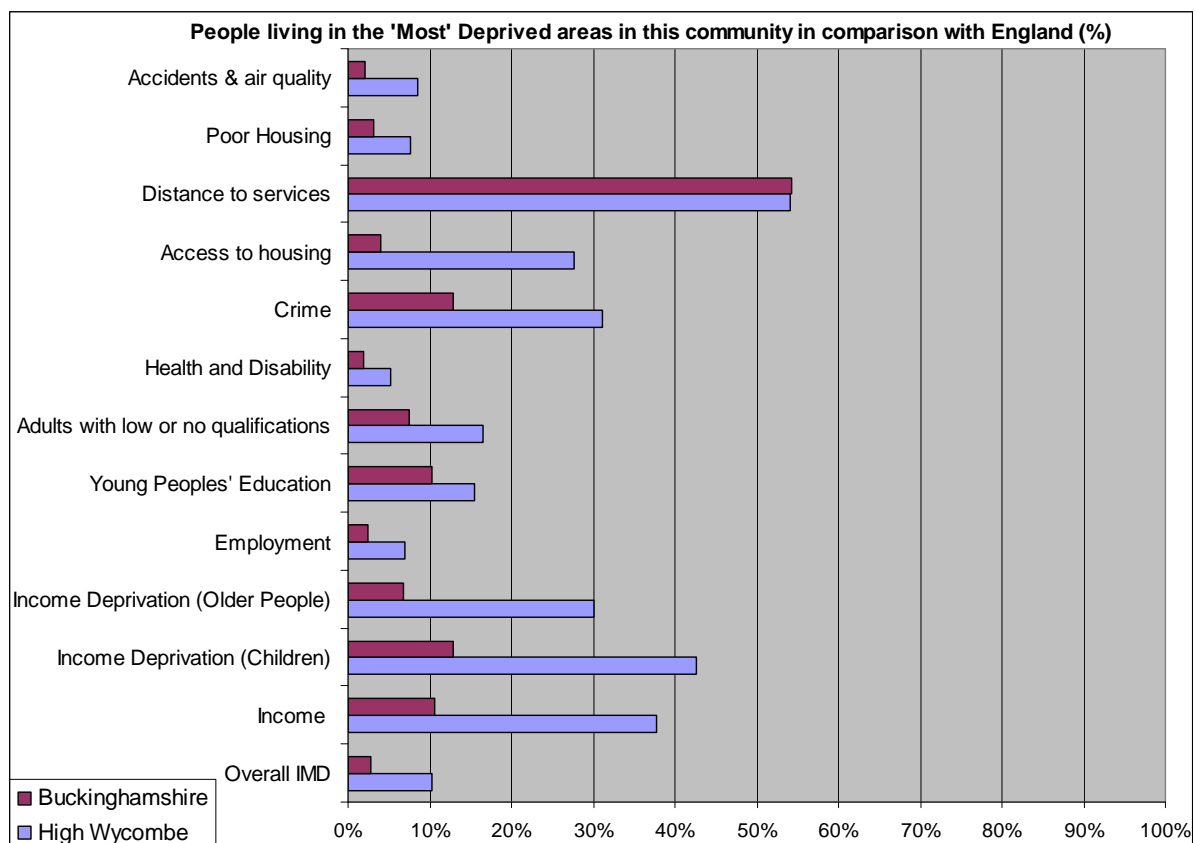
High Wycombe has the lowest home ownership levels of all the Local Community Areas (69%) and the highest proportion of homes rented from the council or housing association. High Wycombe also has above average proportions of homes rented privately, 12% compared with the average of 10%.

The graph below shows the proportion of people living in the 'most' deprived areas of this community[2]. A number of types of deprivation are shown along with an overall measure of deprivation.

This community has higher proportions of people (than the Buckinghamshire average) living in the 'most' deprived areas affected by every type of deprivation except geographical distance to services.

This community also has the <u>highest</u> proportions of people out of all 19 communities living in the 'most' deprived areas affected by:
- Overall deprivation
- Income deprivation (affecting all people, children and older people)
- Access to housing

People living in the 'Most' Deprived areas in this community in comparison with England (%)

Legend: ■ Buckinghamshire ■ High Wycombe

Categories (top to bottom): Accidents & air quality, Poor Housing, Distance to services, Access to housing, Crime, Health and Disability, Adults with low or no qualifications, Young Peoples' Education, Employment, Income Deprivation (Older People), Income Deprivation (Children), Income, Overall IMD

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[2] Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2007). All lower level super output areas (LLSOAs) in England are ranked on a scale of 1-10 (1 = most deprived). The Buckinghamshire LLSOA's have then been extracted for this analysis. The proportion of people living in the 'Most' deprived areas (ranked 1-3) within this community area shown above. Please note that relevant age groups may be used for specific indicators. Please see the accompanying excel documents for more details.