# Wilmcote Parish, Stratford upon Avon District, Warwickshire

# The parish of Wilmcote consists of the village of Wilmcote and the hamlet of Pathlow and their surrounding fields. It has a rich history, with both the village and hamlet appearing in The Doomsday Book. Its most famous building, and a source of tourism, is Mary Arden’s House, originally the farm of William Shakespeare’s grandfather, Robert Shakespeare, and then the home of his parents. In all, the parish has 19 buildings listed by English Heritage.

As at January 2013 (main source is the updated 2011 census), the parish has an estimated 1229 usual residents in 525 households (with a further 24 household spaces with no usual residents). The type of housing is generally typical of both the Stratford upon Avon District and England as a whole in many aspects, but significantly different in a few. The main statistically significant differences are shown below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Wilmcote | SDC | England |
| Owned as a % of total households | 83% | 72% | 63% |
| Social rented as a % of total households | 8% | 13% | 18% |
| Private rented as a % of total households | 7% | 13% | 17% |

The composition of the dwellings in the parish is typical of both the Stratford upon Avon District and England as a whole in many aspects, but significantly different in a few. The main statistically significant differences are shown below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Wilmcote | SDC | England |
| Detached houses and bungalows as % of all dwellings | 49.5% | 37.2% | 22.4% |
| Caravans, mobile or temporary structures as % of all dwellings | 10.5% | 1.3% | 0.4% |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Dwellings in council tax bands E to H inc. as % of all dwellings | 45% | 35% | 19% |

The dwelling stock in Wilmcote Parish has been very stable for some time. There have been no large developments and, since the dwellings are generally surrounded by Green Belt and there is little room for infill, there are no plans for significant housing developments. Stratford District 5 year housing plans do not mention Wilmcote. Stratford District Planning figures (which exclude Travellers sites, which are handled separately) show that, in the last five years, 15 new dwellings have been approved in the parish; only 8 of these are adding to our housing stock, as the rest are replacements or relocations of mobile homes. All 8 are considered windfalls with 6 of them being one large windfall, and none of the 8 have been started to date. It is believed that over the same five years the number of pitches on Travellers sites in the parish have increased by 11.

Of the 1229 usual residents, about 18% are 15 years old or less, a similar percentage to that in Stratford District and in the whole of England. However, Wilmcote Parish has a slightly higher percentage of older residents, 10.7% being 75 or older. The Stratford District review of 2009 highlighted the above average age of its population compared to the national average as an issue for the future, with projections that the percentage of 65 and over would rise from 18% in 2006 to 29% by 2031 (with this 2009 paper stating that the district had 24% of its population having reached retirement age against a national average of 19%). The table below attempts to see if this issue is relevant to Wilmcote Parish, by adding those aged 75 and above to those classified in the 2011 census (updated to January 2013) as between 16 and 74 but economically inactive due to retirement:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Residents | Wilmcote | SDC | England |
| 75+ as a % of all residents | 10.7% | 10.2% | 7.8% |
| 16 to 74, but economically inactive due to retirement as a % of all residents | 14.3% | 12.6% | 10.0% |
| TOTAL | 25% | 22.8% | 17.8% |

These figures show that Wilmcote Parish is even more heavily skewed towards older retired residents than Stratford District as a whole, and this is perhaps the most significant feature of the parish population.

Turning now to the economically active residents aged 16 to 74, Wilmcote parish has 585 people, 47.6% of its population; this compares with 50.4% in Stratford District as a whole, and 47.5% in England. It would appear that, compared to the country as a whole, Wilmcote’s higher retired population is partially countered by a lower economically active but unemployed percentage which is 1.1% compared with England’s 4.4%, and by a lower student population percentage. The table below again makes comparisons of parish figures with Stratford District and the whole of England, focussing on the percentages of these economically active residents between 16 and 74 who fall into certain work related categories which might be relevant for our Neighbourhood Plan:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Wilmcote | SDC | England |
| Percentage of economically active residents in full-time employment | 50.6% | 55.6% | 59.7% |
| Percentage of economically active residents in part-time employment | 21.4% | 20.8% | 21.2% |
| Percentage of economically active residents self-employed | 24.3% | 20.4% | 15.1% |
|  |  |  |  |
| Methods of travel to work: |  |  |  |
| Driving a car or a van | 67% | 68% | 57% |
| Work mainly from home | 16% | 10% | 5% |
| On foot | 4% | 10% | 11% |
| Train | 4% | 2% | 5% |
| Bus or coach | 1% | 2% | 7% |
| By bicycle | 2% | 2% | 3% |

Clearly Wilmcote has a higher percentage of self-employed than either the rest of Stratford District or England as a whole, and this explains the high numbers working from home. Other methods of travel to work reflect the relatively good train service to a station in the village, and the relatively poor bus service serving the neighbourhood.

Whilst we have no figures for where Wilmcote residents work, we see no reason that commuting patterns should vary significantly from those in the wider Stratford District – the 2009 Stratford District review stated that 6000 people commuted daily from Stratford District to Warwick District and half that number in the opposite direction.

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