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## Suffolk ACRE's purpose

Our role is to tackle the economic, social and environmental needs of communities by forging effective partnerships and promoting communal self-help.

Welcome to Suffolk Scene, the newsletter of Suffolk ACRE. Please feel free to photocopy all or part of this newsletter.  
Editor, Gavin Hodge, tel: 01473 242538

Suffolk ACRE website is at  
[www.suffolkacre.org.uk](http://www.suffolkacre.org.uk)

# Rural Deprivation study reveals hidden truths

An important new study on rural deprivation in Suffolk has revealed hidden pockets of deprivation in the county, and revealed a much higher proportion of deprived people living in rural areas than previous studies have shown.

The study entitled **Deprivation in Rural Suffolk** was commissioned by Suffolk ACRE working in partnership with Suffolk County Council and was carried out by the Oxford Commission for Social Inclusion (OCSI).

Dr Tom Smith, Director of OCSI explains that in the context of his report the term rural means communities of less than 10,000 inhabitants, which effectively means all of Suffolk except its largest towns.

The report gives conclusive proof that Suffolk people are living in deprivation cheek-by-jowl with more affluent residents, and that previous studies have missed this hidden need.

Dr Smith said OCSI had previously statistically modeled key datasets to what is called Output Area (OA) level, but now set out to examine these OAs in finer detail. This enabled OCSI to identify a number of OAs in rural Suffolk within the 10% most deprived regional OAs. These areas are:

- Barningham: to the east of the village of Barningham, near

Stanton in St. Edmundsbury

- Leiston: in the estate around Seaward Avenue in the small town of Leiston in Suffolk Coastal

- Peasenhall: the village of Peasenhall in Mid Suffolk (including the Mount Pleasant housing area)

- Saxmundham: three OAs are highly deprived

- Upthorpe: the area to the north of Upthorpe, containing a predominantly retired community

- Willingham: the village of Willingham in Waveney

- Ampton and Timworth: rural OA containing the hamlets of Ampton and Timworth and a number of isolated settlements to the north of Bury St Edmunds

- Whitehouse in Ipswich3: the area covers mobile homes to the west of the A44

- Kessingland: part of the small seaside town of Kessingland.

Of these highly deprived OAs, two lie within the larger Super Output Area (SOA) covering part of Saxmundham, the only rural SOA within Suffolk forming part of the 10%

most deprived regional SOAs. However eight of these deprived regional Output Areas are 'hidden' in less deprived Super Output Areas.

Many small settlements across Suffolk are home to vulnerable groups experiencing particular deprivation issues. Information at settlement level can help target programmes run by mainstream providers, as well as helping local communities with the evidence-base to support the development of community and parish plans and strengthening local funding applications.

This report will be of great value to Suffolk ACRE in tackling the needs of people living in hidden deprivation in rural Suffolk.

**Key findings include that:**

- 42% of the total Suffolk population live in rural areas
- 40% of all people with limiting long-term illness in Suffolk live in rural areas
- 39% of all adults with no qualifications in Suffolk live in rural areas
- 37% of all those receiving the Pension Credit Guarantee Element in Suffolk live in rural areas
- 32% of all Disability Living Allowance claimants in Suffolk live in rural areas

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## Rural Deprivation study reveals hidden truths

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- 31% of all Incapacity Benefit claimants in Suffolk live in rural areas
- 31% of all social housing in Suffolk is in rural areas
- 30% of all households lacking central heating in Suffolk is in rural areas
- 29% of all working-age people receiving any DWP benefit in Suffolk live in rural areas
- 27% of all households lacking access to a car or van in Suffolk are in rural areas
- 26% of all children in out-of-work households in Suffolk are in rural areas.

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