

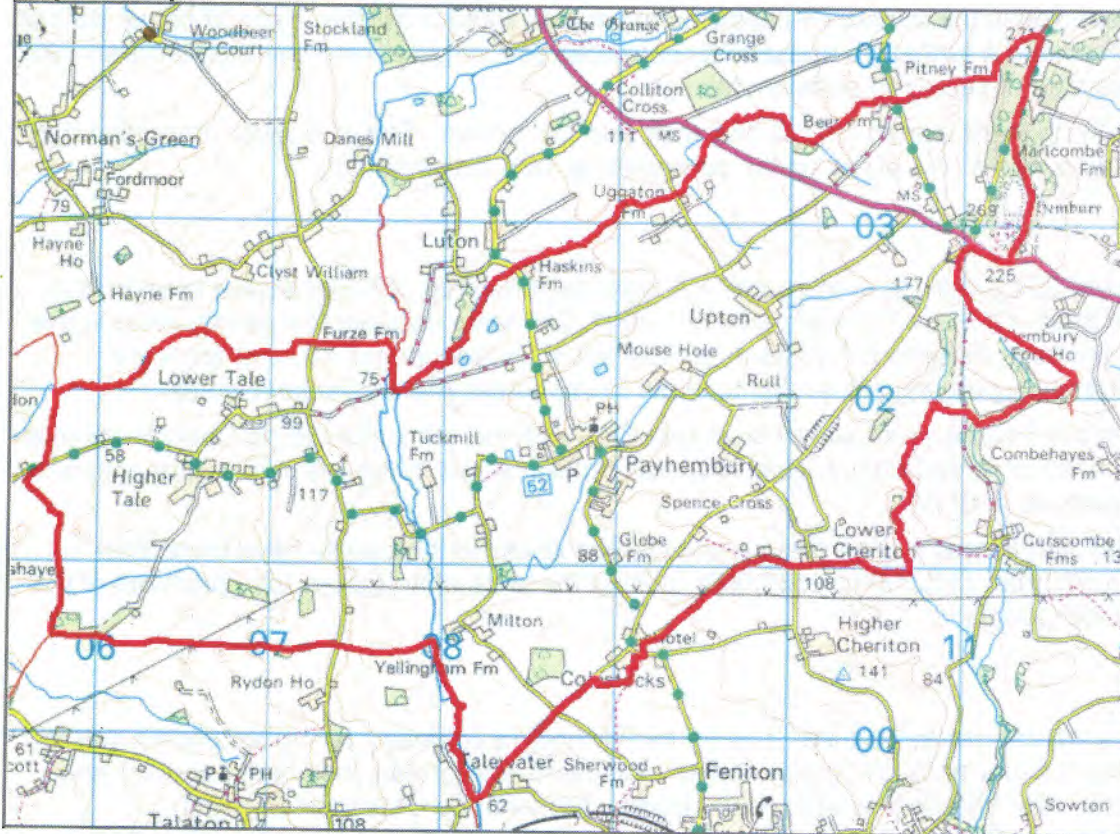
Payhembury Parish – Key characteristics



1. Geography

- The parish covers 1,201 hectares (nearly 3,000 acres) and lies on the western fringe of the Blackdown Hills in East Devon, descending from an elevation of 271m (north of Hembury Fort) to 62m at Talewater.
- The main settlements are the village of Payhembury which lies in the centre of the parish and its outlying hamlets of Upton, Higher and Lower Tale, Colestocks and Lower Cheriton.
- There are around 23km of roads in the parish, almost all of which are single track minor roads. The A373 Honiton to Cullompton road crosses the north western part of the parish.

Map of the parish

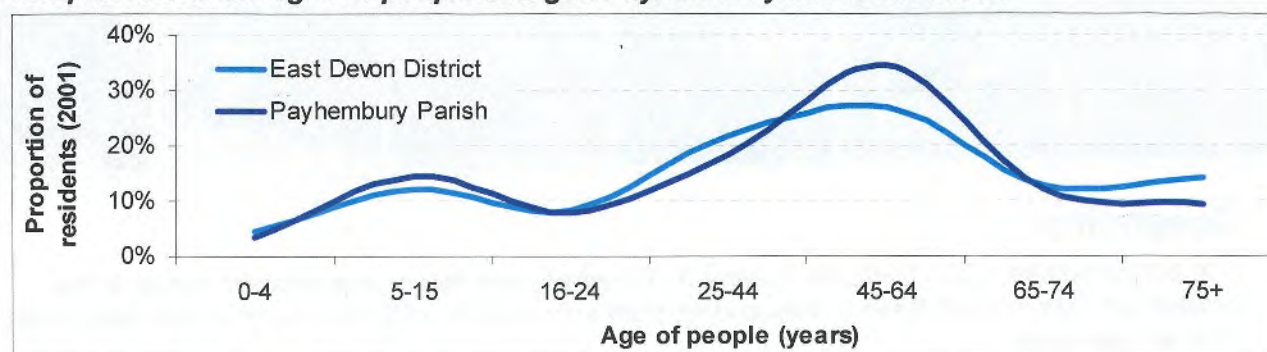


2. People

The following information is taken from the 2001 population census.

- In 2001 there were 603 people living in the parish. There were 109 children and young people under 16 years of age, 157 people aged between 16 and 44, 207 between 45 and 64, and 130 people 65 years and over. The population has risen since 2001 with the building of new houses.
- Compared to East Devon District, the parish had a slightly higher proportion of young people and more people in the 45 to 64 year age band (see the chart on the following page).
- People living in the parish are generally healthy. The 2001 census shows that three quarters of residents (72%) were considered to be in good health. This is higher than for East Devon as a whole where 67% were in good health. However 19% of people living in the parish had a long-term limiting illness.

Comparison of the ages of people living in Payhembury and East Devon



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2001 Population Census

3. Families

- In 2001, 356 of the people aged 16 and in the parish were living in couple households. 334 people were married.
- Of the 246 households in the parish, 67 consisted of couples without children living at home, 48 had dependent children and a further 11 households consisted of a single parent and their children. 69 households consisted of people of pensionable age.
- Twenty families living in the parish did not own their own car or van. This is a lower proportion than for East Devon as a whole (8% of the parish compared to 18% in the district).

4. Housing

- In 2001 there were 264 dwellings in the parish. A significant number of houses have been built in the village since then. Of these houses present in 2001, 246 were occupied by people living in the parish. Eight were used as second homes or holiday accommodation and a further ten were unoccupied. These proportions are similar to those found across the district as a whole.
- Eighty percent of the houses (196) were owner occupied with the remainder being Council or social rented houses (10%) or rented from private landlords (10%). Again these are similar proportions as those for the district as a whole.
- Figures from the Land Registry show that average house prices in the county have more than doubled since 2000 (from £80,000 to £180,000), putting the price of houses in the parish out of the reach of many local people.

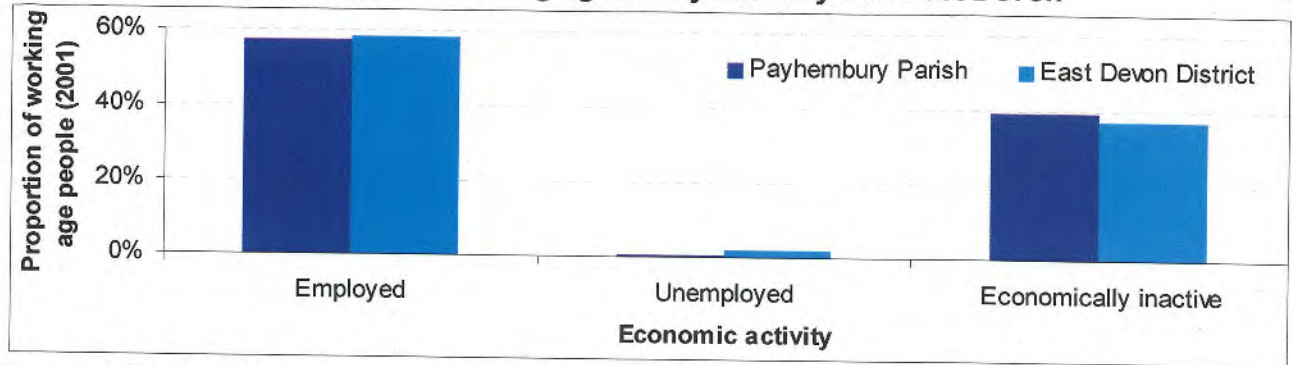
4. Community

- The parish has a vibrant community life. The primary school (a voluntary controlled church school) has an expanding roll (currently 68 pupils). Other institutions and groups include the toddler and pre-school groups, over 60s club, skittles team, tennis club, and the Church of England congregation of the parish church (also expanding). A central meeting place for events is the new parish hall which was built in 2008.

5. Employment and economy

- In 2001 there were 437 people of working age (16 to 74 years old) in the parish. Of these people, 57% were in employment, 1% were looking for work but unemployed (3 people) and the remaining 40% were not looking for work. The chart on the following page shows that compared to the district, the parish had a slightly lower proportion of unemployed people and a slightly higher proportion of economically inactive people.
- The 2001 census records the types of occupation of people of working age. The largest type in the parish were people with managerial or professional occupations (116 people), followed by people in routine and semi-routine occupations (76), and small-scale employers and 'own account' workers (71).

Economic activity of people of working age in Payhembury and East Devon



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2001 Population Census

- The majority of working people worked outside the parish, travelling an average of 21km. This is further than the average commuting distance of 17km for the district as a whole. 71 people in the parish worked from home (23% of the working population).
- The census records the average number of hours worked each week. Men living in the parish worked an average of 45 hours a week whereas women worked an average of 32 hours (suggesting that more women worked part-time than men).
- There are a number of businesses located in the parish. These include 13 farms, the village shop and post office, the pub (The Six Bells), two garages, a training stables and several people providing bed and breakfast accommodation. The largest employer located in the parish is the primary school.

6. Environment

- The central part of the parish is dominated by large fields of arable crops or ley grassland. Smaller fields of permanent pasture occur in the Tale valley and around the village and hamlets. Blocks of woodland occur on the slopes below Hembury Fort, beside the stream north of Curscombe Farm and east of Colestocks but, overall, relatively little of the parish is wooded. Most of the field boundaries consist of traditional Devon hedges (shrubs growing on an earth bank).
- The predominant soil type is a medium silty loam over clay or soft mudstone (the Whimple soil series). On the higher ground the soil becomes stonier and more freely draining over red sandstone (the Bearsted series).
- The parish lies in two river catchments. The River Tale crosses the parish from north to south, joining the River Otter just north of Ottery St Mary and flowing into the sea at Budleigh Salterton. The western parts of the parish drain into the River Clyst which flows into the Exe Estuary at Topsham.
- The north east of the parish lies within the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (a national designation recognising the country's most attractive landscapes).
- Features of historical interest include the parish church (St Mary the Virgin) and its yew tree (thought to be amongst the oldest in the UK at over 1,200 years old), Leyhill (15th century manor house), Lower House (late 16th century farmhouse) and Hembury Fort (a Neolithic and Roman hill fort with some of the most impressive earth ramparts in the south west).



The Payhembury Yew



Otter in the River Tale

