

Area Profile: Somercotes

Key Characteristics

Population: 6,255

Population Density: 10.5

Hectares: 594

Number of Households: 2,656

Source: Census 2011



Spatial Outline

The area of Somercotes is a former mining village located to the northeast of Amber Valley Borough. It adjoins the district of Ashfield in Nottinghamshire and it is approximately 15 miles northeast of Derby and 17 miles northwest of Nottingham. The area has road connections to the A38 and subsequently to other parts of the region and country. The village of Somercotes has experienced rapid growth in its population during the second half of the 20th century and it's currently fast becoming an urban centre. However with the decline of the mining and manufacturing industry that fueled its growth, it is currently experiencing varying levels of social deprivation.

Furthermore, economic activity in the area is currently constrained and below the Amber Valley average. Its housing market contains relatively good quality houses and has experienced fairly moderate growth in its housing stock over the past decade.

Improving Places and Meeting Community Needs

Local Area: Somercotes covers 594 hectares of land to the north of the Borough.

Population: At 2011, the population of Somercotes was 6,255.

Population Density: At 2011 the population density was 9.7 people per hectare compared to the Borough density of 4.7 people per hectare. This reflects Somercotes' urban nature.

Ethnicity: The people living in Somercotes are predominantly White (98.3%) with a small but diverse proportion of ethnic minorities residing in the area (Census 2011).

Age: 40.2% of the population is aged between 30 and 59 years of age which is on par with the rest of the Borough. Somercotes has a higher proportion of children and young adults (41%) compared to the rest of the Borough (32.7%), and a lower proportion of people over 65.

Figure 1: Age Groups

| Age | Somercotes | | Amber Valley | |
|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | Count | Percentage | Count | Percentage |
| 0 – 17 years | 1,494 | 23.9% | 24,360 | 20.1% |
| 18 – 29 years | 1,071 | 17.1% | 15,340 | 12.6% |
| 30 – 59 years | 2,512 | 40.2% | 50,381 | 41.2% |
| 60 – 74 years | 816 | 13% | 21,675 | 17.7% |
| 75 + years | 362 | 5.8% | 10,263 | 8.4% |

Source: 2011 Census

Religion: The majority of the Somercotes population is of Christian belief (52.2%) followed by those with no belief (40.2%).

Country of birth: The majority of people were born in England (95.2%).

Household Composition: The largest household type is single person households under 65 (17.4%), which is higher than the Borough average of 15%. The second largest household type is married couples with dependent children (12.7%), followed closely by married couples with no children (12.3%). There are significant above average percentages of co-habiting couples with dependent children and single parent households in Somercotes.

Figure 2: Household Type

| Household Type (Percentage) | Somercotes | Amber Valley |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| Household (total) | 2,656 | 52,596 |
| 1 person age 65+ | 11.1 | 12.8 |
| 1 person under 65 | 17.4 | 15.1 |
| Family, all 65+ | 5.8 | 9.6 |
| Family, married/civil no children | 12.3 | 15.4 |
| Family, married/civil dependent children | 12.7 | 15.4 |
| Family, married/civil all children non-dep. | 5.3 | 6.3 |
| Family, co-habiting no children | 8.4 | 6.4 |
| Family, co-habiting dependent children | 7.4 | 4.7 |
| Family, co-habiting all children non-dep. | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| Family, lone parent dependent children | 8.9 | 5.8 |
| Family, lone parent all children non-dep. | 4.1 | 3.4 |
| Other households with dep. children | 2.6 | 1.7 |
| Other - all students | 0 | 0 |
| Other - all age 65+ | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Other | 3.2 | 2.8 |

Source: 2011 Census

Service Provision

Shopping Services: Somercotes has moderate retail provision & sizeable number of local shops for convenience & comparison.

Major Food Stores: 3

Aldi, Nottingham Road; Iceland Food Ltd, Nottingham Road; and Midlands Co-Operative, Market Place.

Market: 0

Town Centre:

Post Office: 1

Pharmacy: 1

The Co-operative Pharmacy, 40 Nottingham Road, Somercotes.

Opticians: 1

Baker and Bee Opticians, 125 Nottingham Road.

Dentists: 1

Somercotes Family Dental Practice, 33 Lower Somercotes, Alfreton.

GP Surgeries: 1

Somercotes, Medical Practice, 22 Nottingham Road.

Community Clinics: 0

A&E Hospital: 0

Nearest - Kings Mill Hospital

Hospital: 0

Nearest Ripley Hospital

Infant School: 1

Somercotes Infant School

Junior School: 1

Somerlea Park Junior School

Secondary School: 0

Colleges: 0

Universities in the Locality: 3

Derby University, Nottingham University, Nottingham Trent University.

Places of Worship: 2

St Thomas, Nottingham Road; Birchwood Methodist, Birchwood Lane.

Restaurants and Cafes: A range of small cafes and high street named takeaways.

Hotels: 0

Child Care:

23 Childminders

3 Nursery Schools

1 out of school club

Sure Start Centres: 1

Somercotes Children's Centre

Job Centres: 0

Nearest Alfreton Job Centre Plus: Tannery House, King Street, Alfreton, Derbyshire, DE55 7AF

Safer Communities

Crime Rates: The level of crime in Somercotes is significantly above the Borough average and the ward is ranked 4th worst.

Figure 3: Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime Rates

| <i>(Rate / 1000 people)</i> | <i>Somercotes</i> | <i>Amber Valley</i> | <i>Rank (1=worst)</i> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Anti-Social Behaviour | 62.4 | 41.3 | 4th |
| Criminal damage / arson | 11.4 | 8.3 | 5th |
| Theft / burglary | 30 | 24.1 | 3rd |
| Violence with injury | 5 | 3.8 | =8th |
| Violence without injury | 5.4 | 2.9 | =4th |
| Public disorder | 1.1 | 0.6 | 5th |
| Drug offences | 3 | 2.5 | 7th |
| Shoplifting | 11.8 | 4.2 | 3rd |

Source: Safer Derbyshire Research & Information Team, Derbyshire County Council Jan – Dec 2013

Housing

Figure 4: Housing Affordability

| Borrowing ratio 95% house price to average income | |
|--|-----|
| Somercotes | 3.3 |
| Amber Valley | 4.2 |

Source: CACI Paycheck 2013 and Zoopla 2014

The average house price in Somercotes is 35% lower than that for the Borough and consequently affordability is significantly better, despite the fact that average household incomes are nearly 18% lower.

Figure 5: Average House Prices

| <i>Area</i> | <i>Detached</i> | <i>Semi- Detached</i> | <i>Terraced</i> | <i>Flat / Maisonette</i> | <i>Average</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Somercotes | £164,146 | £96,429 | £74,520 | £68,395 | £98,124 |
| Amber Valley | £223,995 | £124,930 | £96,841 | £122,389 | £151,011 |

Source: Amber Valley figures – <http://news.bbc.co.uk/> based on April-June 2013 sales

Source: for Wards <http://www.zoopla.co.uk> based on March 2014 current values

Affordable Housing Rates: Three affordable dwellings have been delivered in Somercotes between 2008 and 2013.

Housing Stock Condition: There is a higher percentage of properties lacking thermal comfort in Somercotes compared to the Borough. Otherwise the housing stock condition is representative of that for the rest of the Borough.

Figure 6: Amber Valley Housing Stock Condition Survey 2010

| | <i>% of non-decent homes</i> | <i>% of households lacking modern facilities</i> | <i>% of households lacking thermal comfort</i> | <i>% of households vulnerable in non-decent homes</i> | <i>% of total dwellings in disrepair</i> |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Somercotes | 38 | 1.1 | 22 | 11 | 12 |
| Amber Valley | 37 | 1 | 15 | 12 | 15 |

Amber Valley Housing Stock Condition Survey 2010

Type: The most common dwelling type in Somercotes is semi-detached (46%), followed by terraced (31%) and detached housing (15%). 8% of accommodation consists of apartments.

Tenure: The majority of people in Somercotes own their property (60%) however this is a significantly lower percentage than the borough average of 74%. Around twice the proportion of people live in social rented accommodation compared to the Borough overall and in addition the proportion which privately rents is significantly higher.

Figure 7: Tenure

| <i>Type of Tenure</i> | <i>Somercotes</i> | <i>Amber Valley</i> |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| All | 100% | 100% |
| Owned (outright) | 26.7% | 38.2% |
| Owned (mortgage/loan) | 32.8% | 35.9% |
| Shared ownership | 0.2% | 0.4% |
| Social rented (LA) | 9.7% | 5.1% |
| Social rented (other) | 14.5% | 7.2% |
| Private rent | 14.5% | 11.8% |
| Living rent free | 1.6% | 1.4% |

Source: 2011 Census

Communal Establishments: 0

Ward Building Rates: Between 2008 and 2013 a total of 152 dwellings were built in Somercotes which is 12.4% of the total built in the Borough.

Figure 8: Ward Building Rates

| FIVE YEAR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY WARD BUILDING RATES | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Area | 2008 – 2009 | 2009 – 2010 | 2010 – 2011 | 2011 – 2012 | 2012 – 2013 | TOTAL |
| Somercotes | 66 | 29 | 40 | 15 | 2 | 152 |
| Amber Valley | 334 | 214 | 256 | 206 | 219 | 1229 |

Source: Amber Valley Borough Council house building records

Vacant Properties: At October 2013, there were 42 vacant private sector dwellings.

Local Plan Part 1 – The Core Strategy

No dwellings are proposed for allocation in the Somercotes area in Local Plan Part 1 – The Core Strategy.

Ten potential sites have been identified in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) for Amber Valley.

Health

General Health: The proportion of people who consider their health to be very good or good (78.1%) is lower than the Borough average of 80.4%, and the proportion of people with very bad or bad health (7.1%) is higher than the Borough average of 6.1% (2001 census).

Figure 9: General Health

| Percentages | Somercotes | Amber Valley | East Midlands | England |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| All People | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Very Good Health | 42.3 | 44.0 | 45.3 | 47.2 |
| Good Health | 34.8 | 35.0 | 35.1 | 34.2 |
| Fair Health | 15.7 | 15.0 | 14.0 | 13.1 |
| Bad Health | 5.7 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| Very Bad Health | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 |

Source: 2011 Census

Multiple Deprivations: The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) published by the Government in 2010 indicates that neighbourhoods in Somercotes are experiencing high levels of deprivation. One Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) is the 3rd most deprived in the Borough, whilst two others are in the 20% most deprived. All three are ranked in the 50% most deprived in the country for Health and Disability. By contrast one LSOA is ranked in the 50% least deprived in the country.

Life Expectancy: Local people in Somercotes have a lower life expectancy compared to the Borough and regional averages.

Figure 10: Life Expectancy

| Life Expectancy at Birth: 2005-09 | Males | Females |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| Somercotes | 76.5 | 80.7 |
| Amber Valley | 78.8 | 82.8 |
| East Midlands | 80.2 | 81.8 |

Source: Public Health England (www.empho.org.uk)

Figure 11: Physical Activity and Obesity

25% of adults and 18% of Year 6 schoolchildren are obese in Amber Valley and only 57% of adults undertake 150 minutes of physical activity per week. These figures reflect the national average.

| % | Amber Valley | England Average | England Worst | England Best |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Physically Active Adults¹ | 57.4 | 56 | 43.8 | 68.5 |
| Obese Adults² | 25.1 | 24.2 | 30.7 | 13.9 |
| Obese Children³ | 17.5 | 19.2 | 28.5 | 10.3 |

Source: Public Health England – Health Profile 2013 Amber Valley

Children and Young People

School Capacity and Educational Provision:

Figure 12: School Admissions Figures

Admissions numbers for 2013/14

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Somercotes Infant | 70 |
| Somerlea Park Junior | 70 |
| Swanwick Hall School | 213 |

(source: Derbyshire County Council admissions book 2013/14)

Attainment: The proportion of students in Somercotes achieving Level 4 or above in English and Maths at Key Stage 2 is significantly lower than that for the Local Authority and country.

1 % adults achieving at least 150 mins physical activity per week, 2012

2 % adults, modelled estimate using Health Survey for England 2006-2008

3 % school children in Year 6 (age 10-11), 2011/12

Figure 13: Literacy and Numeracy Skills - Key Stage 2 Achieving Level 4 Or Above in English and Maths

| | 2012 | 2013 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|
| <i>Somerlea Park Junior</i> | 66% | 51% |
| <i>LA (Derbyshire)</i> | 83% | 78% |
| <i>England</i> | 79% | 75% |

Source: Department for Education 2014

As can be seen from the table below, 58% of students at Swanwick Hall School achieved 5+ GCSE A*-C including Maths and English. This is slightly lower than the Local Authority (Derbyshire) and national averages, yet is a significant improvement on 2010 when only 47% of students achieved 5+ A*-C.

Figure 14: GCSE Attainment Figures

| GCSE Attainment 2013 | Swanwick Hall | LA (Derbyshire) | England |
|--|---------------|-----------------|---------|
| <i>Pupils Achieving 5+ GCSE (or equivalent) A*-C including Maths & English</i> | 58% | 59% | 59.2% |
| <i>Pupils Achieving GCSE 5+ A*-G grades</i> | 95% | 96.4% | 94.3% |

Source: Department for Education 2014

Economic Prosperity

Figure 15: Average Household Income

2013

| MEAN | MODE |
|---------|--------|
| £27,975 | 10-15K |

Source: Paycheck CACI 2013

2013

| 0-5k | 5-10k | 10-15k | 15-20k | 20-25k | 25-30k |
|------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 3.9% | 13.6% | 15.6% | 12.7% | 9.7% | 8.4% |

Sourced from Paycheck CACI 2013

2008

| MEAN | MODE |
|---------|--------|
| £27,289 | 15-20K |

Source: Paycheck CACI 2008

2008

| 0-5k | 5-10k | 10-15k | 15-20k | 20-25k |
|------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| 3.3% | 8.6% | 13.5% | 15% | 13.8% |

Source: Paycheck CACI 2008

There are two calculations above identifying the average annual income for the residents of Somercotes.

Mean Income- The mean is the most common measure of average.

Mode- The mode is the number, which occurs *most often* in a set of data. There can be more than one mode.

Average household incomes in Somercotes grew marginally between 2008 and 2013, however the modal income reduced which means that more people are earning less.

Economic Activity: The 2011 Census showed that economic activity in the area was a little lower than that for the Borough, however the proportion of long-term employed people was higher.

Figure 16: Economic Activity

| Economic Activity | Somercotes | Amber Valley | East Midlands | England |
|---|------------|--------------|---------------|---------|
| Economically Active (including unemployed and full-time students) | 69.2% | 69.9% | 69.4% | 69.9% |
| Economically Inactive (including retired, Long term sick/disabled) | 30.8% | 30.2% | 30.8% | 30.1% |
| Long Term Unemployed | 2.8% | 1.6% | 1.6% | 1.7% |

Source: 2011 Census

Occupation: In 2011, the proportion of people employed in unskilled and semi-skilled occupations was significantly higher than that for the Borough and the proportion employed in managerial and professional positions was significantly lower.

Figure 17: Occupation

| (Percentages) | Somercotes | Amber Valley | England |
|---|------------|--------------|---------|
| 1 Managers, Directors, Senior officials | 7.8 | 10.8 | 10.9 |
| 2 Professional | 8 | 14.8 | 17.5 |
| 3 Associate professional & technical | 9.3 | 11.0 | 12.8 |
| 4 Administrative & secretarial | 9.8 | 10.7 | 11.5 |
| 5 Skilled trades | 14.3 | 13.8 | 11.4 |
| 6 Personal services | 10.4 | 9.0 | 9.3 |
| 7 Sales and customer services | 7.4 | 7.4 | 8.4 |
| 8 Process plant and machine operatives | 16.9 | 11.0 | 7.2 |
| 9 Elementary occupations | 16.1 | 11.6 | 11.1 |

Source: 2011 Census

Unemployment: In December 2013, the rate of unemployment in Somercotes was 2.8% which was higher than the rate for Amber Valley of 1.8%. (Source: Derbyshire County Council 2014).

Benefits: At August 2103 the percentage of people claiming benefits was significantly higher than that for the Borough. ESA and incapacity benefits were most commonly claimed, followed by Job Seekers Allowance.

Figure 18: Benefit Claimants

| (Percentages) | Somercotes | Amber Valley | Great Britain |
|--|------------|--------------|---------------|
| <i>Total claimants</i> | 19.1 | 12.1 | 13.6 |
| <i>Job seekers</i> | 3 | 2.1 | 3.2 |
| <i>ESA and incapacity benefits</i> | 8.8 | 5.7 | 6.1 |
| <i>Lone parents</i> | 2.2 | 1.1 | 1.3 |
| <i>Carers</i> | 2.6 | 1.5 | 1.3 |
| <i>Others on income related benefits</i> | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| <i>Disabled</i> | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| <i>Bereaved</i> | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |

Source – Nomis August 2013

Qualifications: Around half as many people in Somercotes have attained Level 4 or above qualifications compared to the Borough, and a significantly higher proportion has no qualifications (35% compared to the Borough average of 27%).

Figure 19: Qualifications

| (Percentages) | Somercotes | Amber Valley | England |
|---|------------|--------------|------------|
| <i>Usual Residents Aged 16 and over (Persons)</i> | 4,926 | 100,841 | 42,989,620 |
| <i>No Qualifications</i> | 34.9 | 27.0 | 22.5 |
| <i>Level 1 Qualifications</i> | 16.4 | 13.9 | 13.3 |
| <i>Level 2 Qualifications</i> | 17.1 | 15.5 | 15.2 |
| <i>Apprenticeships</i> | 3.4 | 4.6 | 3.6 |
| <i>Level 3 Qualifications</i> | 12.4 | 12.0 | 12.4 |
| <i>Level 4 & above Qualifications</i> | 11.6 | 23.2 | 27.4 |
| <i>Other Qualification</i> | 4.1 | 3.9 | 5.7 |

Source: 2011 Census

Employment Areas: There are 3 designated employment areas in Somercotes covering 172 hectares of land (29% of the area of Somercotes Ward).

Local Industries: The manufacturing industry is the biggest employer in this area, accounting for 23.8% of persons employed. The retail industry is the second most important employer in the area accounting for 17.9% of persons employed.

Transport

Transport Infrastructure: Somercotes is served by two B classed roads, the B600 and B6016 which link to the A38 and subsequently to other useful connections to other parts of the Borough and the region. Several minor roads also serve the area.

Cycle Routes: The infrastructure to support sustainable modes of transport such as cycling, walking and other non-motorised transport has not been extensively developed in Somercotes, although there is a proposed multi-user route to the west of the area linking it to Alfreton to the north and Leabrooks/Ripley to the south.

Car Availability: Car/van ownership in the area (72.2% of households own one car or more) is lower than the Borough average of 80.8%; this could be attributed to the socio-economic challenges in the Somercotes area.

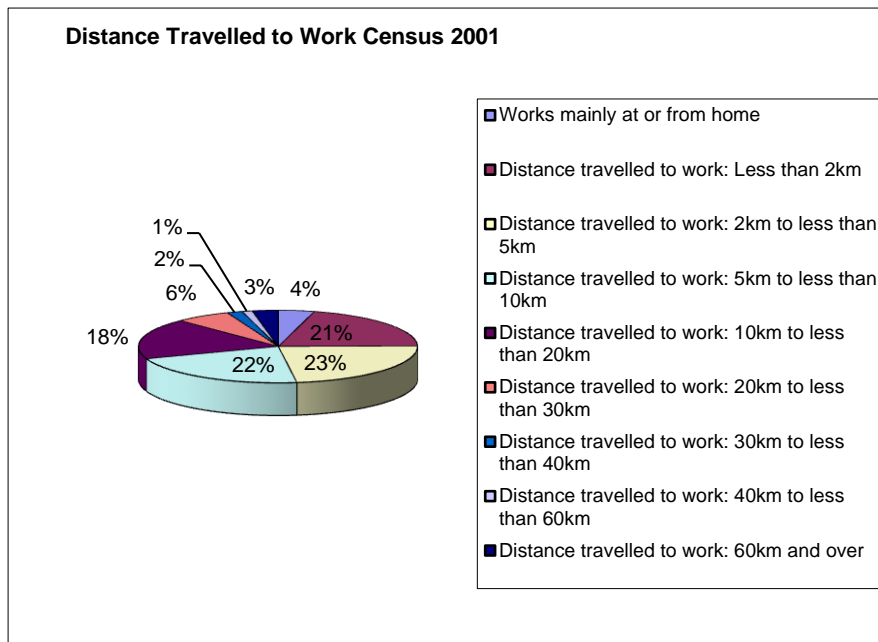
Method of Travel to Work: A significantly lower proportion of people travel to work by car (66%) compared to the Borough overall (71%). A higher proportion cycle or walk to work (16.3%) compared to the rest of the Borough (11.1%), reflecting the availability of local employment opportunities.

Figure 20: Method of Travel to Work

| (Percentages) | Somercotes | Amber Valley | England |
|---|------------|--------------|------------|
| Usual Residents Aged 16 – 74 in employment (Persons) | 2,839 | 59,381 | 25,162,721 |
| Work mainly at home | 3.5 | 5.1 | 5.4 |
| Underground, metro, tram | 0 | 0.1 | 4.1 |
| Train | 0.5 | 1.2 | 5.3 |
| Bus, minibus, coach | 5.2 | 4.1 | 7.5 |
| Taxi | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| Motorcycle, scooter, moped | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.8 |
| Driving car/van | 66 | 71.0 | 57.0 |
| Passenger in car/van | 6.6 | 5.6 | 5.0 |
| Bicycle | 2.3 | 1.4 | 3.0 |
| On foot | 14 | 9.7 | 10.7 |
| Other method | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.6 |

Source: 2011 Census

Distance Travelled to Work: 23% of employed people travel between 2km and 5km to work, followed by 22% who travel between 5km and 10km. 21% travel less than 2km.



Public Transport: The residents of Somercotes have relatively good transport links with an hourly bus service to Mansfield and Derby and a half hourly bus service to Nottingham.

Figure 21: Bus Timetable for Somercotes

| Service | Route | Frequency |
|----------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Alfreton • Eastwood • Nottingham | Every 30 minutes |
| 9.1 | Derby • Ripley • Alfreton • Mansfield | Every 15 Minutes |
| 9.2 | Derby • Ripley • Alfreton • Mansfield | Every 15 Minutes |
| 9.3 | Derby • Ripley • Alfreton • Mansfield | Every 15 Minutes |
| 152 | Meadow Lane • Alfreton • Somercotes • Lower Birchwood | Hourly. No Sunday Service |
| H1 | Derby • Heanor • Alfreton | Hourly |

Source: Derbyshire County Council 2014

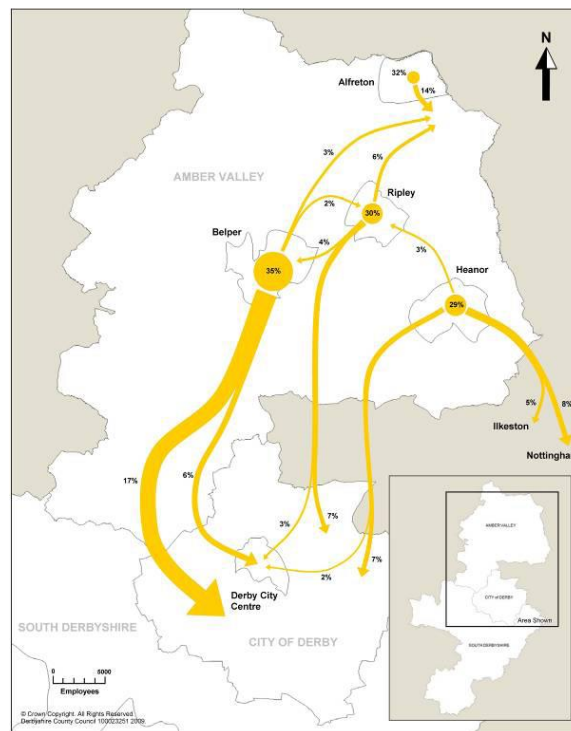
Community Transport:

Somercotes is a Primary Service Area for community transport. Amber Valley Community Transport is now working with Chesterfield Community Transport under the name CT4TC, Community Transport for Town and County. They provide essential transport for people with disabilities, elderly people and community groups. There are 18 buses plus a single wheelchair vehicle. A Community Car Scheme is also operated where volunteers use their own cars to provide transport. A mileage charge is applicable on all journeys to cover running costs.

Derbyshire County Council’s Dial a Bus service can be pre-booked and charges fares in line with public transport service. (Derbyshire County Council 2014)

Location of Employment: Somercotes has a strong relationship with Alfreton and has good transport links to the other three market towns within the Borough.

Significant Home to Work Destinations for Selected Amber Valley Communities



Accessibility: A collection of six essential service destination types have been identified to reflect those discussed in the Social Exclusion Unit Report (2003)-Making the Connections. The DfT Accessibility Indicators Report (2007) sets out the core indicators thresholds for each destination type.

Identified in the table below are the journey times to key services.

Figure 22: DfT Accessibility Indicators (2007)

| Key Destination | Journey Time Thresholds (mins)* | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| | Lower | Upper |
| GP Surgery | 15 | 30 |
| Pharmacy | 15 | 30 |
| Post Office | 15 | 30 |
| Primary School | 15 | 30 |
| Secondary School | 20 | 40 |
| Supermarket/ Convenience Store | 15 | 30 |

*DfT Accessibility Indicators Report 2007- Core Indicator Threshold

Figure 23: Times to Key Destinations in Somercotes

| | Doctors Surgery | Pharmacy | Post Office | Primary School | Secondary School | Supermarket |
|---|--------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Travel Time Access by Cycle mins (16kph) | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3.3 | 11.6 | 3.3 |
| Travel Time by Foot mins (4.8kph) | 15.6 | 13.6 | 10 | 10.3 | 38.6 | 8.6 |
| Travel Time Access by Public Transport mins (weekday 0700-0900) | 10.8 | 10.8 | 6.03 | 8.7 | 18.7 | 8.2 |

Average travel times Somercotes (Measurement of Existing Accessibility – Amber Valley SHLAA Sites) August 2009

As can be seen from the table above the residents of Somercotes have good accessibility to key destinations within the lower travel time thresholds set out by the Dft 2007. The exception is the travel time to secondary schools, which is above the upper travel time threshold travelling by foot.

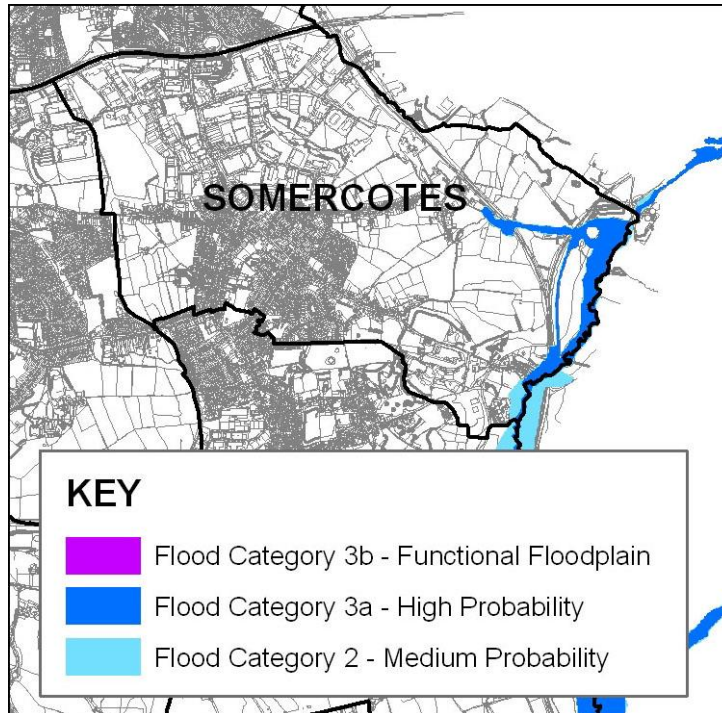
Built Environment

Conservation Areas: Only a small section of Somercotes (0.21%) has been designated as Conservation Area, this being a part of Riddings conservation area (1.27ha).

Landscape Character Areas: The Somercotes area falls within the Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfields Landscape Character area and consists of one character type namely, Coalfield Estatelands.

Green Belt/ Designated Sites: Approximately 1.5% of the area lies in the Green Belt and there are several biodiversity assets including 1 local nature reserve and 5 wildlife sites all of which are of significant local importance. There is also a designated 'Protected Open Area' between Alfreton, Somercotes and Swanwick, affording the area similar protection from development as the Green Belt.

Water and Flood Risk: There is one major river in Somercotes, namely the River Erewash that runs along the eastern boundary. According to the Amber Valley Level 1 SFRA, most of the Somercotes area falls within the flood zone 1 (low risk zone). However, a very small section of the area lies in flood zone 2 and 3a (Medium to High risk zone) which corresponds to areas of land on either side of the River Erewash on its eastern boundary - see map.



Culture Arts and Tourism

Somercotes was a former agricultural and mining village, however rapid changes over the years in terms of the decline of the mining industry, new industrial estates and housing development has meant that a lot of places and spaces of cultural importance have been lost. There are no listed buildings and only a very small portion of the area is designated as a conservation area.

Leisure and Recreation

Leisure Centres: 0

Libraries: There is 1 local library in Somercotes and the area is served by 1 mobile library visit

Museum: 0

Sports: There are several sports and recreational facilities and spaces in Somercotes. These include, tennis courts, a bowling green and a multi-user games area at Leabrooks, all of which offer local people the opportunity for exercise and relaxation.

Recreation Areas:

Figure 24: Recreation Sites in Somercotes

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Allotments | 2 |
| Civic Spaces | |
| Cemeteries, Closed | |
| Churchyards | 3 |
| Children/Young People | 5 |
| Amenity and Green Space | |
| Outdoor Sports Facilities | 1 |
| Green Corridors | |
| Natural Green Spaces | 3 |
| Parks and Gardens | 11 |

There are several facilities and places in Somercotes that cater for local recreation and leisure. These include Somercotes Park and Recreational ground, Cinder Road recreation ground, Pennytown Ponds and several other playing fields and public open spaces. The leisure centre and other facilities in Alfreton town are also easily accessible to residents of the Somercotes area.

Places for leisure and recreation include natural and semi natural green spaces, parks and gardens, amenity green spaces etc.

Green Flag Awards: 0

Recycling Facilities: 2

B&Q Store, Nottingham Road
Market Place, Somercotes Hill

Community Centres: 1

Somerlea Park Community Building

Summary

- **Housing:** The average house price in Somercotes is 35% lower than that for the Borough. The majority of people own their property followed by those who live in social rented accommodation. The latter is significantly higher than that for Amber Valley. A total of 152 dwellings have been developed between 2008 and 2013 which is 12.4% of the total number of dwellings built.
- **Retail:** There is a moderate provision of retail offer in Somercotes. There is one large Co-op supermarket on Somercotes Hill and local people have easy access to the Tesco Superstore in Alfreton. There are also a sizeable number of local shops that provide convenience and comparison-shopping opportunities for the area.
- **Facilities:** The residents of Somercotes have good access to facilities within a lower travelling time set by the Dft 2007.
- **Education:** GSCE attainment is on par with the Borough, but the percentage attaining Level 4 or above at KS2 in English and Maths is significantly lower.
- **Health:** The Somercotes population has a lower life expectancy than that for the Borough and a lower percentage of residents are in very good or good general health.
- **School Capacity:** Infant 70; Junior 70; Secondary 213.
- **Population:** At 2011 there were 2,656 households and a population of 6,255.
- **Deprivation:** The Indices of Multiple Deprivation ranks three out of four LSOAs in the area within the most 20% deprived in the Borough.fdnbvcrewqsaasaww
- **Transport:** Somercotes is well served by a local bus services and is in close proximity to Alfreton to access the local rail service.
- **Crime:** The level of crime in Somercotes is above the Borough average and the ward is ranked 4th worst.
- **Employment:** There are three employment sites allocated in the Local Plan and the manufacturing industry is the biggest employer in the area.
- **Built Environment:** Only a small section of Somercotes (0.21%) has been designated as a conservation area, this being part of Riddings Conservation Area (1.27ha). Approximately 1.5% of the area lies in the Green Belt and there are several biodiversity assets including 1 local nature reserve and 5 wildlife sites all of which are of significant local importance. There is also a designated 'Protected Open Area' between Alfreton, Somercotes and Swanwick, affording the area similar protection from development as the Green Belt.