

1.4 People in Swavesey

The 2001 Census shows a population of 2480, and the 2006 electoral roll shows 1889 voters, making approximately 590 non-voters, mostly children and young people.

The population is very evenly distributed across the age range up to 65 years, suggesting an established population. Some Swavesey families have extensive networks of relatives. The great majority of residents are white, with 2.5% comprising other ethnic groups. Christianity is the largest religious affiliation (70%), though a large minority (29%) have no, or no stated, religion.

Of Swavesey's population, 87% enjoy good health, significantly better than the populations of the East of England and of England as a whole.

Table 1 shows the distribution of employment among 16–74 year olds. Employment and self-employment rates are significantly higher than those for the East of England and England as a whole, and the unemployment rate lower.



Table 1 Distribution of employment among 16–74 year olds

Employed and self-employed	77%
Unemployed	2%
Retired	9%
Carers, sick or disabled	6%
Students, others	6%

1.5 Housing and development

Housing and households

The 2001 Census shows 986 dwellings and 957 households. The great majority of households are families, with some one-person households. Table 2 shows the make-up of households in Swavesey.

Table 2 Families and households

Couples with children	32%
Couples with no or non-dependant children	34%
Lone parents with dependent or non-dependent children	5%
Pensioners	15%
Other	14%

The level of owner occupation in Swavesey is significantly higher (84%) than in the East of England and England as a whole, and the proportion of social rented housing is low, though rising house prices in recent years may have increased the numbers of households renting. Most accommodation is houses (92%). Very few households were without central heating (3%) or sole use of a bathroom/toilet (0.6%), or were deemed to be overcrowded (3%).

Swavesey is designated as a Rural Growth settlement, although housing development is limited at the north end of the village by the flood plain, Ancient Monuments and the Conservation Area. In the south (Boxworth End), development has little depth and is currently limited by the Local Development Framework. (See Map 1 on the back cover.)

The Conservation Area contains important vistas and amenity areas, with a variety of historic buildings and structures. In this area the Planning Authority has a duty to ensure that any development maintains the quality of the amenity.

Among Swavesey's listed buildings is Ryders Farm in Middle Watch, one of Cambridgeshire's oldest inhabited houses, dating from the late thirteenth century. Black Horse Lane has a group of historically interesting buildings. Other listed structures include malthouses, barns and a bridge. Areas where buildings once existed, including the priory and the minster, and the castle and encompassing ditches, are scheduled as Ancient Monuments. Map 2 shows the Conservation Area, sites of Ancient Monuments and locations of listed buildings.