

# A Profile of Newhaven



Newhaven Town Council

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## Introduction

This 'Profile' of Newhaven has been put together to provide a wide range of background information on the town and the information will provide the essential context for producing the Newhaven Neighbourhood Plan. Comments are being invited on this document in the consultation process so that the community can input into the background information on the town, which may in turn highlight what needs to be a focus for the Neighbourhood Plan.

The 'Profile' will be a living document in that it will be updated as new evidence comes to light.

Specifically the 'Profile':

- Provides evidence and a starting point in understanding what makes Newhaven 'tick' and what issues impact on the different communities within the town area.
- Helps establish the scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (hereafter referred to as the 'Sustainability Appraisal'), by which the draft and final versions of the Newhaven Neighbourhood Plan will be assessed and refined and, in doing so, provide the Town Council with a means of consulting the statutory authorities on its proposed scope.

In assessing where Newhaven is today, it is useful to consider how the town has evolved and what has contributed to its present day character. The following brief history sets out how this unique and distinctive town has derived its 'sense of place'.

## Brief History of Newhaven

There have been people living in the Newhaven area for many thousands of years. Relics found on Castle Hill, a prominent site on the cliff tops, include Stone Age struck flints, Neolithic pottery, bronze and Iron Age items. Fortifications were probably first built on Castle Hill in around 400BC and it is thought that there was a Roman Villa here too.

The Saxons later founded a village called Meeching on the banks of the River Ouse and the name Meeching comes from the Saxon word "meces" and means people or the camp of the sword. St Michaels Church on the west side of the town was built by the Normans in 1120.

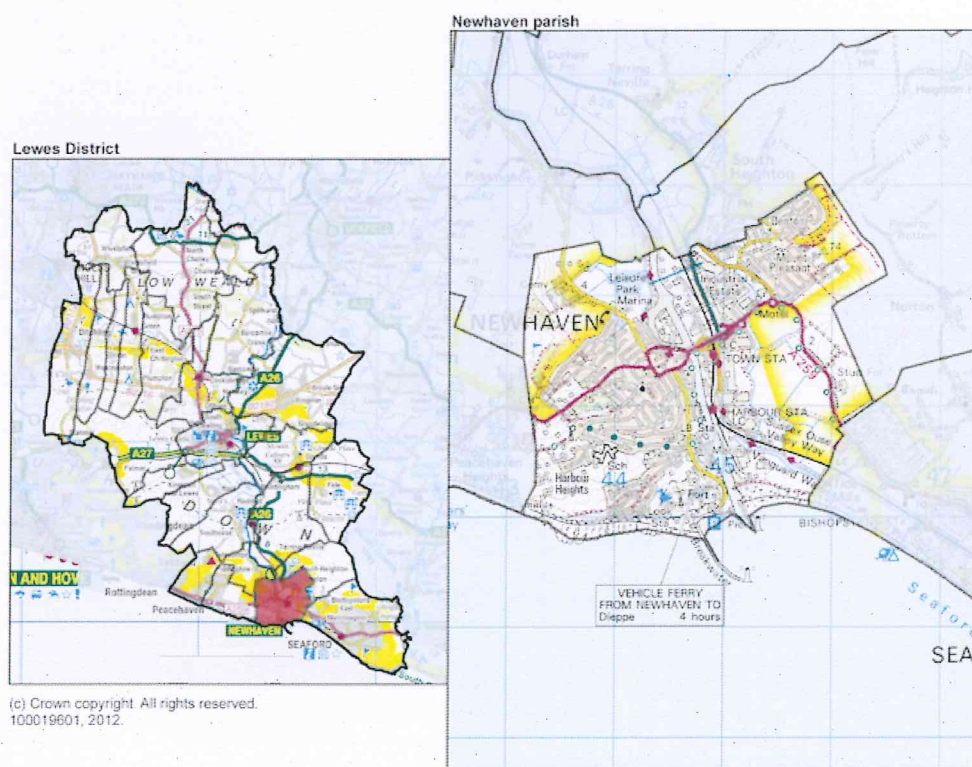
During Medieval times the mouth of the river was located to the east at Seaford, but after a significant storm in 1579 this area became blocked and the river breached at shingle area further west between Meeching and Seaford.

This caused flooding and so the south section of the river was straightened, so with a new cutting a fixed harbour entrance became established, which was known as

New Haven. The name Meeching gradually fell into disuse, (although it is still preserved in street names and is the name of the local school).

Newhaven became one of only two fully navigable harbours between Portsmouth and Dover and was used for trade, as well as supporting a ship building industry. After 1784 a wooden bridge was built across the river which survived till 1866 and was not replaced with an iron swing bridge until 1974 (after which the present day electrically opened bridge was built).

In the year 1800 HMS Brazen, an 18 gun sloop of war was wrecked beneath the cliffs of Newhaven. All but 1 of the 106 men on board died and their bodies were washed up on Newhaven's beaches. This inspired a local committee to look into the provision of a lifeboat at Newhaven and in 1803 a lifeboat of William Greathead's 'original' design was provided, more than 20 before the formation of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) in 1824. The Newhaven Lifeboat Station celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the station in 2003.



Map 1 – The location of Newhaven within the Lewes District area and the Newhaven Parish Area



## Overview of Present Day Newhaven

Newhaven has a strong sense of identity which is enhanced by the South Downs, the River Ouse and the coast. Today the people of Newhaven remain proud of the maritime heritage of their town and the continuing status of the town as a port with its daily ferry to Dieppe. The town remains an important gateway to Europe and is in a key strategic location, placed within short distances of the large town of Eastbourne, the City of Brighton and the County town of Lewes.

It is a medium sized town with a population of just under 13,000 and has a range of characteristics that in parts are urban, rural and coastal. The town's industrial image and history are set against a backdrop of an outstanding landscape of rolling hills. The town has a strong history in fishing, manufacturing and port activities.

In recent years the town has experienced some regeneration, but like other areas has been the victim of the economic downturn, with investment reducing and previous industries falling out of favour. Consequently many local people seek work out of Newhaven. It is recognised that Newhaven continues to need considerable investment, and regeneration of the town remains a priority at regional and local government level.

These issues along with the reduction in public spending and private investment have put a strain on the town and in certain areas, such as the town centre, this is particularly evident.

Despite these challenges, there is a strong sense of place and community in the town. This is for good reason. As well as the appreciation of the unique setting of the town as it lies adjacent to the sea and nestling in a gap of the South Downs National Park, there are many potential opportunities for the town to thrive and prosper.

## Social Profile

The following statistics and evidence are primarily drawn from the 2011 Census. These are used to provide an overview of the current status of the community. Other sources of data or information are acknowledged where applicable. In some instances other areas have been included for comparison and earlier statistics have been utilised so that trends can be identified.

### Population

With the strong community and a sense of pride in the town there are over 150 active community groups and a successful community development association within the town.

#### Population by age groups in 2011

Age	All people	Percent aged 0-14	Percent aged 15-29	Percent aged 30-44	Percent aged 45-64	Percent aged 65+
Geography						
East Sussex	526,671	16.1	15.9	17.2	28.0	22.7

Lewes	97,502	16.2	15.2	17.3	28.5	22.7
<b>Newhaven</b>	<b>12,232</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>17.2</b>

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

### Population by marital and civil partnership status in 2011

This dataset shows the number of people aged 16 and over and the percentage by marital status from 2011 Census.

Marital status	All people aged 16 and over	Percent single	Percent married	Percent in a registered same-sex civil partnership	Percent separated	Percent divorced	Percent widowed
Geography							
East Sussex	435,515	29.1	48.4	0.3	2.7	10.7	8.7
Lewes	80,534	28.7	49.6	0.5	2.5	10.2	8.4
<b>Newhaven</b>	<b>9,851</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>6.4</b>

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

### Children living in poverty (2011)

21.6% Newhaven Denton and Meeching, 22.5% Newhaven Valley (East Sussex )

## Households

**Household composition in 2011** This dataset shows the total number of households and percentage by household type from 2011 Census. A household is defined as one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room, sitting room or dining area. Household composition here classifies households according to the relationships between householders.

Household sub-type	All households	Percent one person households	Percent all family households	Percent other households
Geography				
East Sussex	231,905	32.8	61.2	6.1
Lewes	42,181	30.2	63.6	6.2
<b>Newhaven</b>	<b>5,252</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>7.6</b>

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

### Households in poverty in 2013

This dataset shows the number and percentage of households living in poverty. A household in poverty is one whose income is below 60% of the GB median household income, which in 2013 was £16,814.

Measure	Median	Total	Number of	Percentage of
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Geography	household income (£)	number of households	households below 60% of GB median	households below 60% of GB median
East Sussex	27,198	236,516	65,181	27.6
Lewes	28,469	43,492	11,357	26.1
<b>Newhaven</b>	<b>25,962</b>	<b>5,369</b>	<b>1,532</b>	<b>28.5</b>

#### Households in fuel poverty % (2008)

Newhaven (super output areas) 11% (England 12.1%)

Information Sources: East Sussex in Figures

#### Average Household Income Parish (2013)

Newhaven £33,149 (East Sussex £34,945)

#### Households in Newhaven on the District Councils Housing Register

Property required	Register	Transfer	Total	
<b>1 bedroom</b>	73	27	100	
<b>2 bedroom</b>	39	13	52	
<b>3 bedroom</b>	23	7	30	
<b>4 bedroom</b>	3	4	7	
<b>5 bedroom+</b>	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>			<b>189</b>	

Information Sources: Lewes District Council Housing Need May 2014

#### Average household income in 2013

This dataset gives modelled estimates of mean and median average household income. Household income includes gross income before tax from: wages, investments, income support and other welfare benefits such as tax credits and pensions. Household income is the combined income of all household members.

Average Geography	Mean income	Median income
South East	40,249	31,850
East Sussex	34,945	27,198
Lewes	36,585	28,469
<b>Newhaven</b>	<b>33,149</b>	<b>25,962</b>

Information Sources: East Sussex in Figures

## Housing Stock by Type in Newhaven (2001 Census)

Flats 6.9% (East Sussex 9.3%)  
 Purpose built flats 11.9% (East Sussex 13.9%)  
 Terraced Housing 30.1% (East Sussex 18.6%)  
 Semi-detached 29.7% (East Sussex 24.8%)  
 Detached 20.1% (East Sussex 33.5%)

## Health

**Limiting long-term illness in 2011** This dataset shows the percentage of people that have a limiting long-term illness or disability from 2011 Census.

Type	All people	Percent people with long-term health problem or disability	Percent day-to-day activities limited a lot	Percent day-to-day activities limited a little	Percent people without a long-term health problem or disability
Geography					
East Sussex	526,671	20.3	9.2	11.2	79.7
Lewes	97,502	19.5	8.7	10.9	80.5
<b>Newhaven</b>	<b>12,232</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>81.1</b>

## Primary Care

The Lewes District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan states that there are pockets of poorer health in Newhaven, and life expectancy is 5.2 years lower for men in the most deprived areas of the district compared with the least deprived areas. It is anticipated that Quayside Surgery could be extended to accommodate additional services.

Information source: Lewes District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2014

## Education

### Education facilities

South Downs College  
 Seahaven Academy 11 – 16years  
 University Technical College 14 – 19. (Opening September 2015)  
 Denton Community Primary School  
 Harbour Primary School  
 Meeching Valley Primary School

### Qualifications in 2011

This dataset shows the percentage of all people aged 16 and over by highest level of qualification held from the 2011 Census.

Qualification	s	usual	qualific	level of	level of	of qualification:	of	level of
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Geography	residents aged 16 and over	qualifications	qualification: Level 1	qualification: Level 2	Apprenticeship	qualification: Level 3	qualification: Level 4 and above
East Sussex	100.0	22.6	14.1	16.8	3.5	12.0	26.2
Lewes	100.0	21.5	13.8	15.7	3.4	11.8	29.4
<b>Newhaven</b>	100.0	25.6	18.5	16.7	3.5	12.4	18.6

### Five or more GCSE passes at A\* – C (2011/2012)

Tideway School the single secondary school in Newhaven has a 37.9% pass rate for Grades A\* to C, the lowest of all the secondary schools in the Lewes District. This falls below the East Sussex average figure of 57.5%.

Information Source: East Sussex in Figures

### Early years and childcare

ESCC has advised that there will be shortfalls in Early Years provision in Newhaven. These shortfalls will be accommodated through the establishment of new facilities on new sites (owned by the County Council) and/or through expansion of existing provision in the respective settlements.

It is likely that further contributions from new housing development will be required if the gap increases between government funding and the actual cost of providing necessary Early Years provision in the right location. Future education infrastructure requirements will be subject to review as new information on pupil/child number forecasts becomes available.

### Primary Schools

ESCC has advised that there will be a shortfall in primary school provision in Newhaven, over the Core Strategy period. These shortfalls will be accommodated through the establishment of new schools on new sites (owned by the County Council) and/or through expansion of existing primary schools.

### Secondary Schools

ESCC has advised that there will be shortfalls in secondary school provision in Newhaven over the Core Strategy period. These shortfalls will be accommodated through the establishment of new schools on new sites (owned by the County Council) and/or through expansion of existing schools.

### Library

Newhaven has a permanent library located in the high street with the prospect of a new library in the high street on a different site being provided with £1.6 million capital funding allocated for the project.

Information source: Lewes District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2014