



# Freehold Neighbourhood Renewal Area

## Data Profile

September 2004

# **Freehold Neighbourhood Renewal Area**

## **Introduction**

Freehold is one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. This profile has been prepared to give baseline data about the area, against which the impact of Rochdale Borough's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy can be measured.

## **Background**

The National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal was launched in 2001 with two long-term goals:

- To reduce worklessness and crime and to improve health, skills, housing and physical environment in all the poorest neighbourhoods, and
- To narrow the gap on these measures between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country.

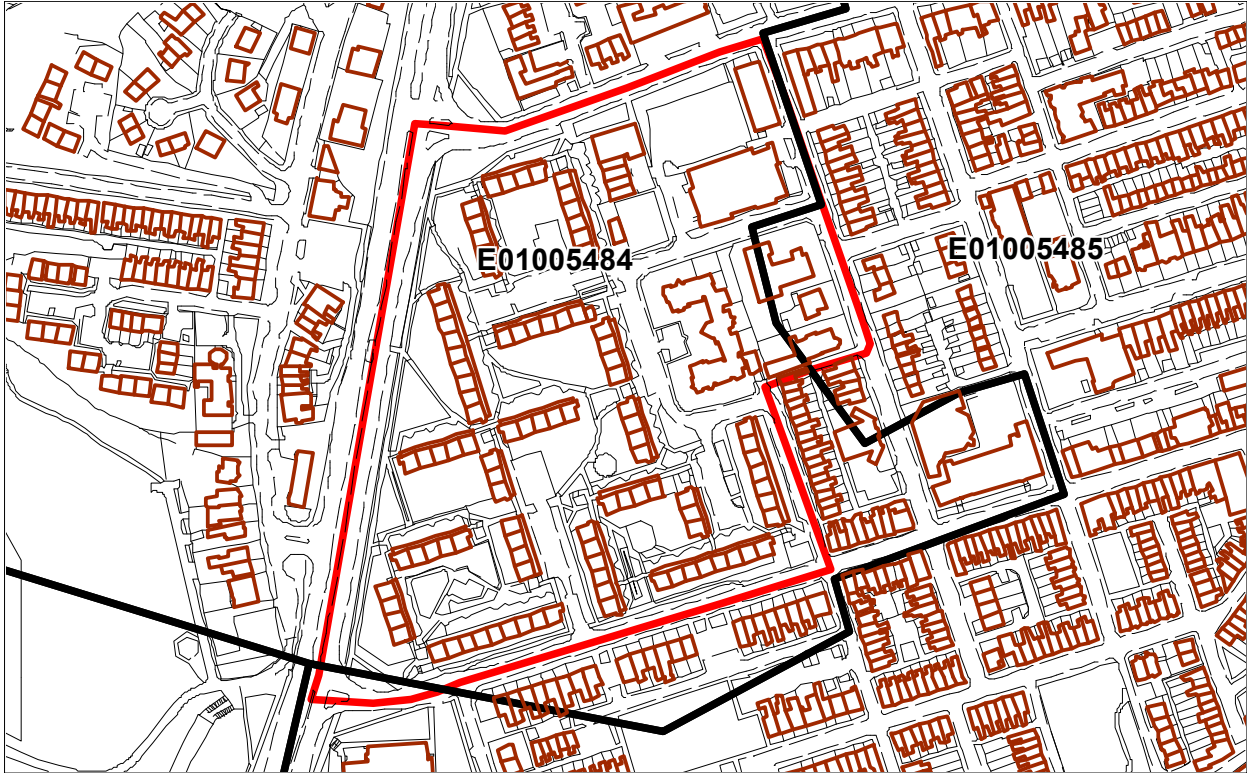
The National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal seeks to address multiple deprivation. Deprivation is a wider measure than poverty, or the lack of basic necessities. It includes material deprivation, relating to diet, health, clothing, housing, household facilities, environment and work. People experiencing material deprivation may also experience social deprivation, ie they cannot enter into normal forms of family or other relationships, but this is much harder to measure. Poverty (which essentially is identified as low income) is associated with the other forms of deprivation. Worklessness and low-paid work; poor health, low educational attainment, poor housing, discrimination and area concentrations of deprivation are both the causes of poverty and deprivation and the symptoms, and they impact on one another.

In Rochdale Borough 18 neighbourhoods were identified as amongst the 7% most deprived areas nationally (using the 1998 Index of Deprivation), and a further 4 neighbourhoods identified as being "at risk" of decline.

Freehold has been included in the second phase of Rochdale Borough's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (Phase 1B). This profile has been prepared to give baseline data about the area, against which the impact of policy interventions can be measured. The data is from a wide range of sources.

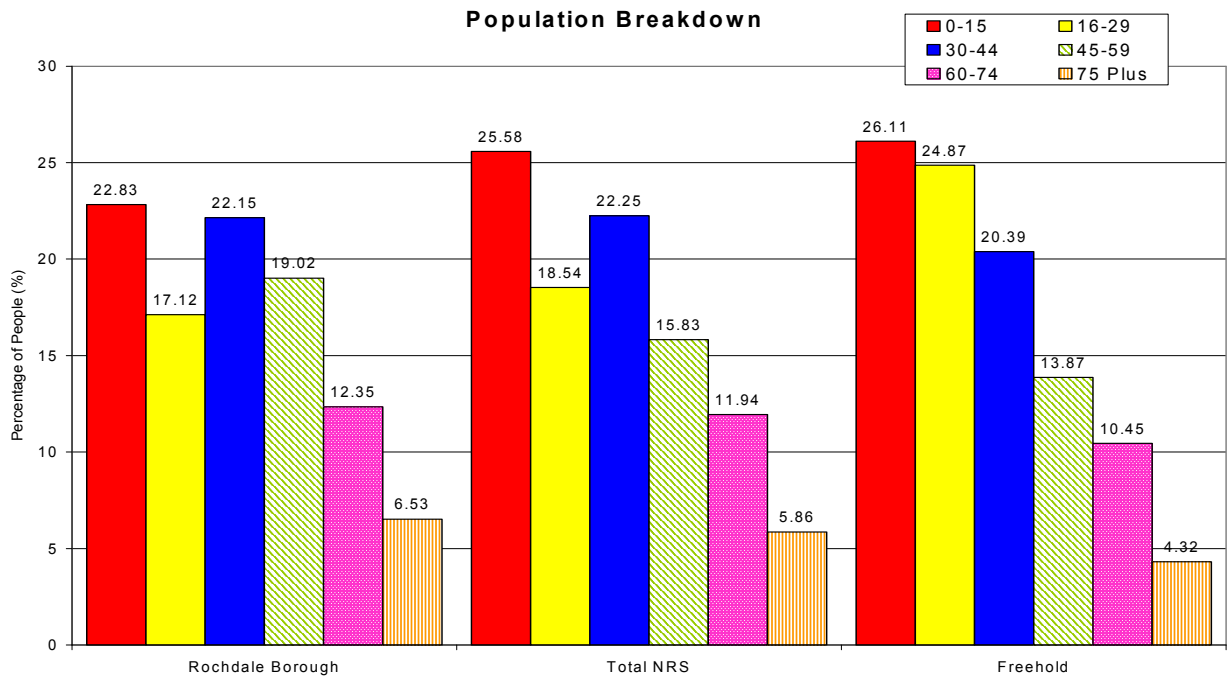
The data provided at neighbourhood level is most useful in terms of identifying issues of concern, but some of it has been produced using estimates, and should not be treated as the exact truth. Other data is available at Super Output Area level. These are small areas of about 1,500 people and there may be several within a NRS neighbourhood. This data and ward level data is generally more accurate. However, ward level data can only give an indication of the situation at neighbourhood level, particularly when the neighbourhood is much smaller than the ward.

Map 1: Freehold and Lower Super Output Area Boundaries



# Demographics and Overall Deprivation

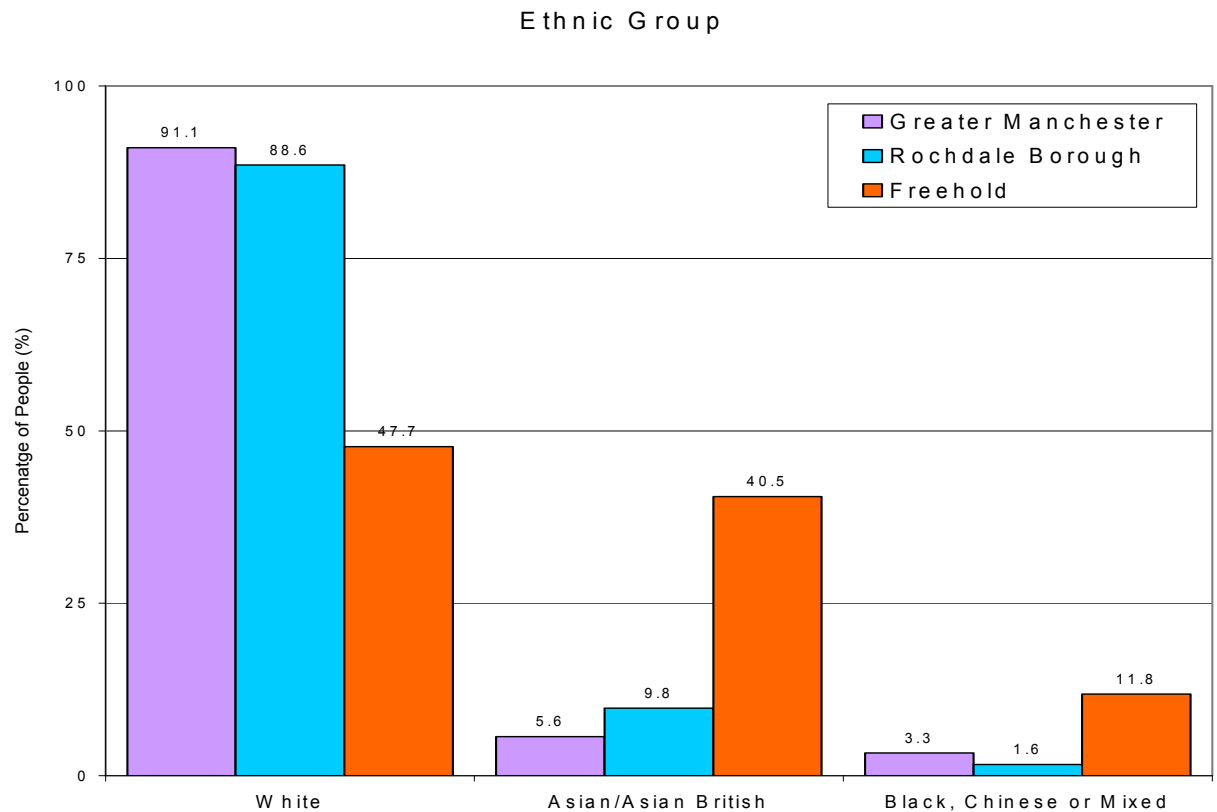
Graph 1: Age Structure



Source: 2001 Census Key Statistics Table 02, Crown copyright 2003

Freehold has a total population of approximately 590 people, living in 265 households. It has a young age profile with more than half (51%) of the population below the age of 30, compared with 40% in the Rochdale Borough.

Graph 2: Ethnic Group



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 06, Crown copyright 2003

The population in Freehold is very mixed in terms of ethnic group. Less than half of the residents are white (47.7%), 40.5% are Asian/Asian British, and 11.82% are Black, Chinese or mixed.

Table 1: Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation in Freehold

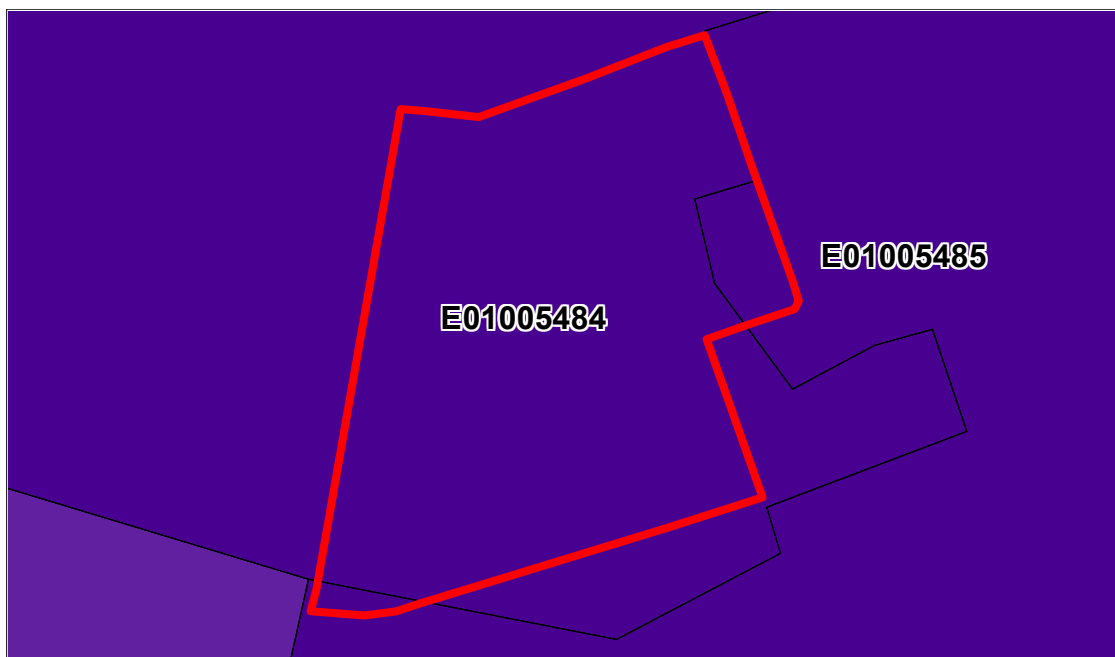
| <b>SOA</b> | <b>RANK</b><br>(Where 1 is the most deprived) | <b>PERCENTILE</b><br>(%) |
|------------|---|--------------------------|
| E01005484  | 16  | 10                       |
| E01005485  | 785   | 10                       |

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

The overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 combines seven domain measures of deprivation to give one overall score. The ID2004 is published at Lower Super Output Area (SOA). The majority of Freehold is in one SOA (code E01005484) but a small area is in SOA code E01005485 (see Map 1).

The overall level of multiple deprivation in Freehold is extremely high. The majority of Freehold is within an area that ranks at 16 out of 32,482, i.e. the 16<sup>th</sup> most deprived SOA in England. The entire neighbourhood falls within the worst 10% of SOAs in the country.

Map 2: Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation in Freehold



Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

## Income

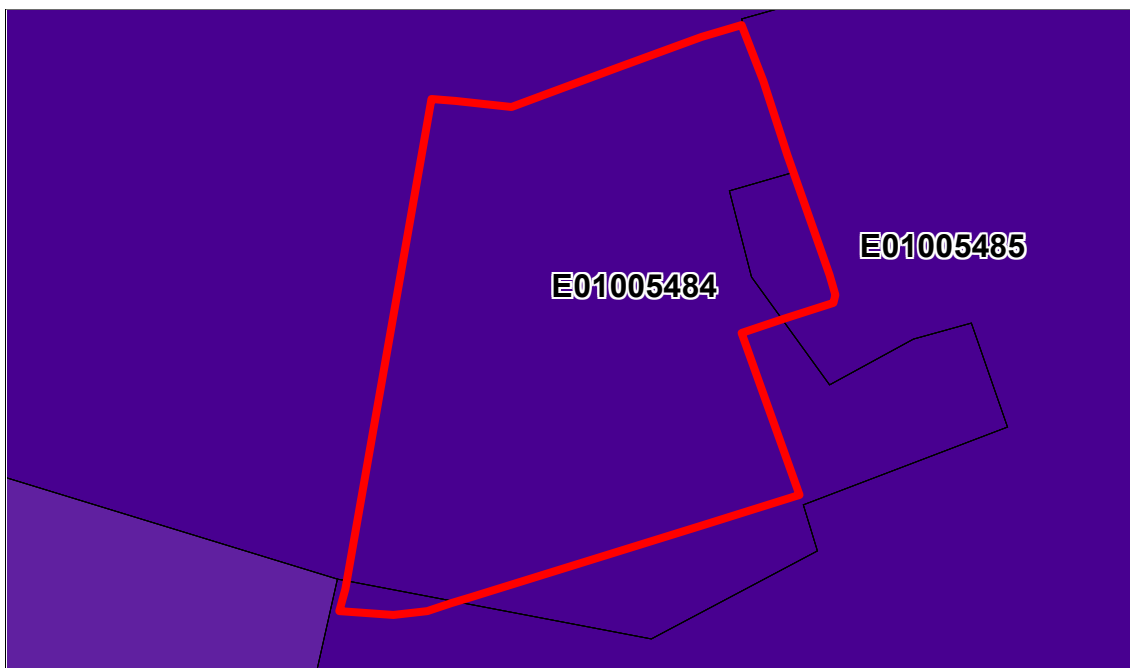
Low income is a key driver of deprivation. The Indices of Deprivation 2004 included an Income Deprivation domain, using data based on people living in families reliant on means tested benefits.

Table 2: Income Deprivation in Freehold

| <b>SOA</b> | <b>RANK</b><br>(Where 1 is the most deprived) | <b>PERCENTILE (%)</b> |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| E01005484  | 4   | 10                    |
| E01005485  | 1,228   | 10                    |

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Map 3: Income Deprivation in Freehold



Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Table 3: Percentage of Children and Older People who are Income Deprived

| <b>SOA</b> | <b>Children (%)</b> | <b>Older People (%)</b> |
|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| E01005484  | 76.6                | 57.3                    |
| E01005485  | 38.5                | 56.7                    |

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

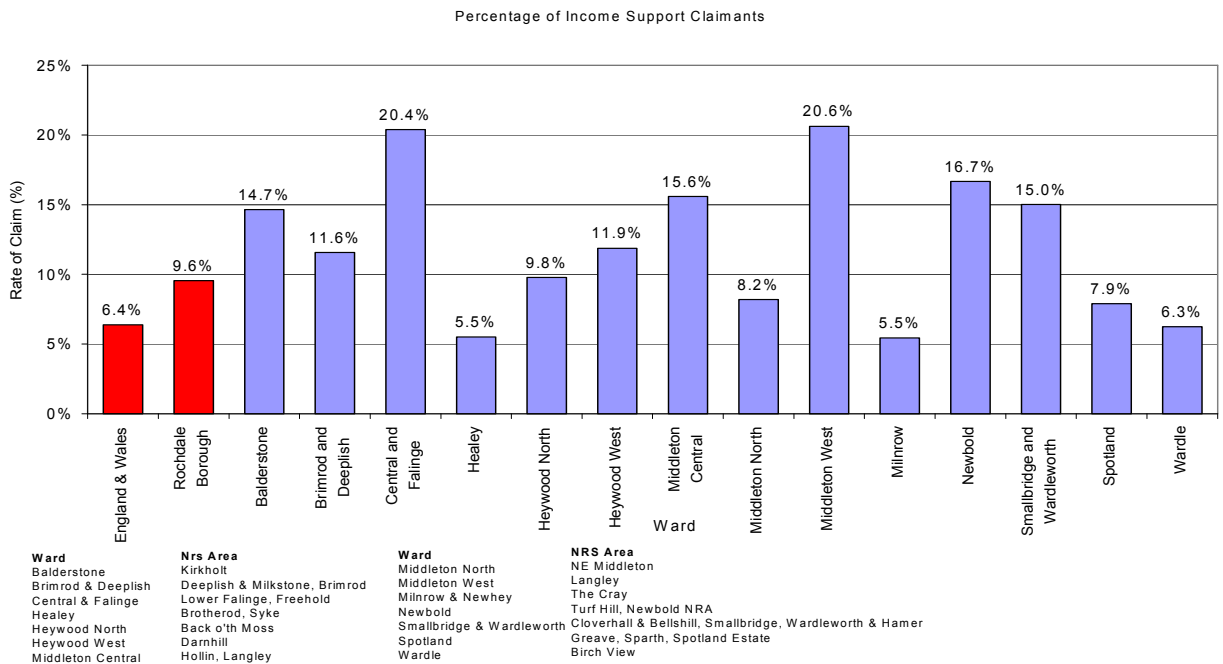
Income deprivation is extremely high in Freehold. Most of the neighbourhood falls within an SOA ranked 4<sup>th</sup> most income deprived area in England. The whole of Freehold is within the 10% most deprived SOAs in England.

Table 3 shows the level of income deprivation affecting children and older people. Three out of four children in the majority of the neighbourhood (76.6%) are living in families experiencing income deprivation. Nearly two out of three people aged 60 and over (57.3%) are also income deprived.

The average household income in Freehold is estimated by CACI Paycheck to be £19,184, compared with £26,791 in Rochdale borough and £29,374 for the UK (Source: CACI Paycheck, 2004). This information is based on consumer surveys and census data and is modeled to post-code unit level, so can only be used as an estimate.

48.8% of households in Freehold claim Council Tax Benefit (February 2004, Source: RMBC Council Tax). Households are eligible for Council Tax Benefit if they claim Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance, or are working and on low pay.

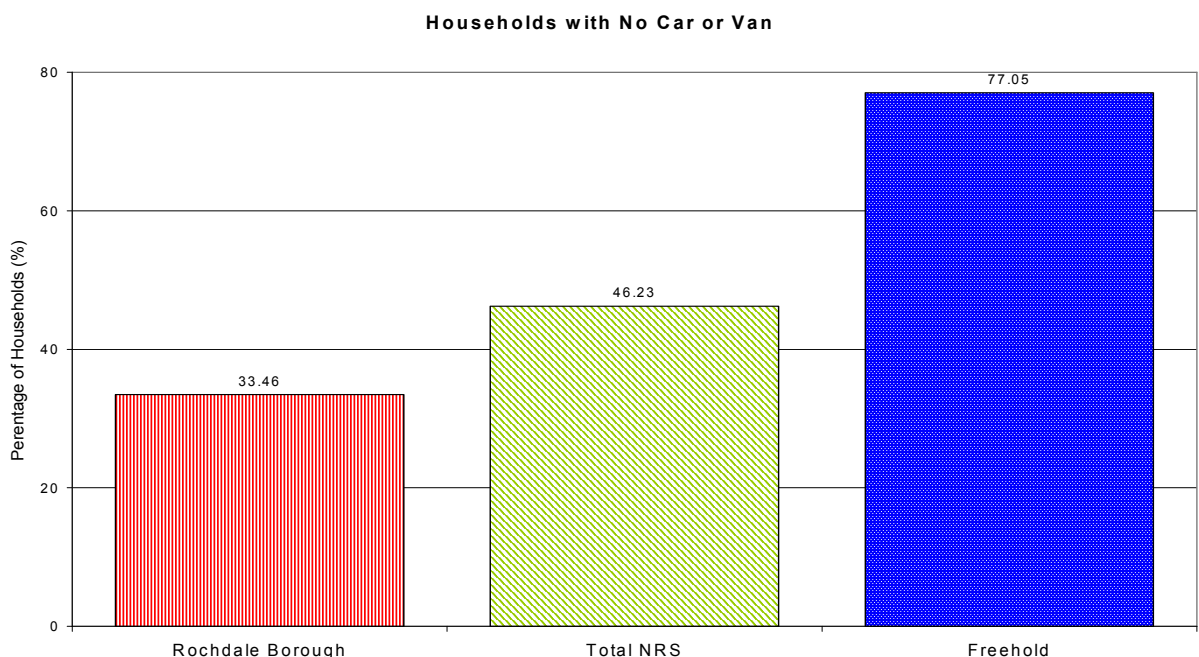
**Graph 3: Percentage of People Claiming Income Support at August 2002 by Ward**



Source: Department for Work and Pensions (Information Analysis Directorate) Information Centre, Crown Copyright 2004

Income support is designed to top up income to a minimum level. It is the welfare state's principal means-tested benefit and is therefore an indicator of income deprivation. Income support claimants are mainly pensioners, lone parents or people with disabilities. Freehold is in Central and Falinge (pre-2004 wards) which has a particularly high level of income support claimants overall.

**Graph 4: Percentage of Households with No Car or Van**



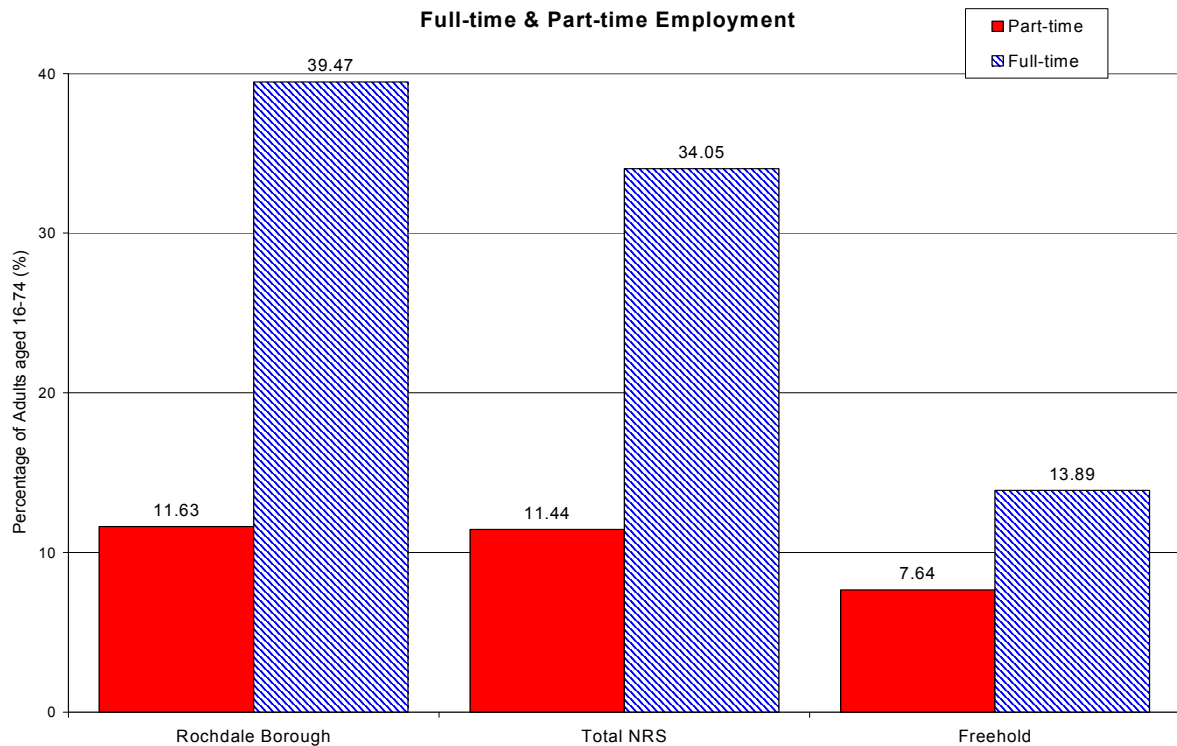
Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 17, Crown copyright 2003

In Freehold 77% of households have no car or van. This is much higher than the borough average (33%) and nearly three times the national average (27%). The ownership of cars can be used as a crude indicator of available income.

## Employment

In labour market terms the adult population has been traditionally divided into the employed, the unemployed and the economically inactive. However, changes in recent years in the labour market have resulted in a “blurring” of boundaries. There is a greater variety of patterns of work and non-work with more individuals in irregular jobs and with discontinuous employment patterns. Those classified as economically inactive may want work, but are unable to take up a job due to permanent sickness or disability. Others classified as “looking after home and family” may want to work but are unable to because of caring commitments and lack of suitable childcare or other support.

Graph 5: Full-time and Part-time Employment (Aged 16-74)



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table KS09a, Crown copyright 2003

Only 13.9% of working age adults (aged 16-74) in Freehold are estimated to be employed full-time on Census day, and a further 7.6% part-time.

Employment deprivation measures involuntary exclusion of the working age population from the world or work. It includes elements of the “hidden unemployed” such as those out of the workforce due to sickness

Table 4: Percentage of People who are Employment Deprived

| SOA       | Employment deprivation (%) |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| E01005484 | 45.0                       |
| E01005485 | 28.3                       |

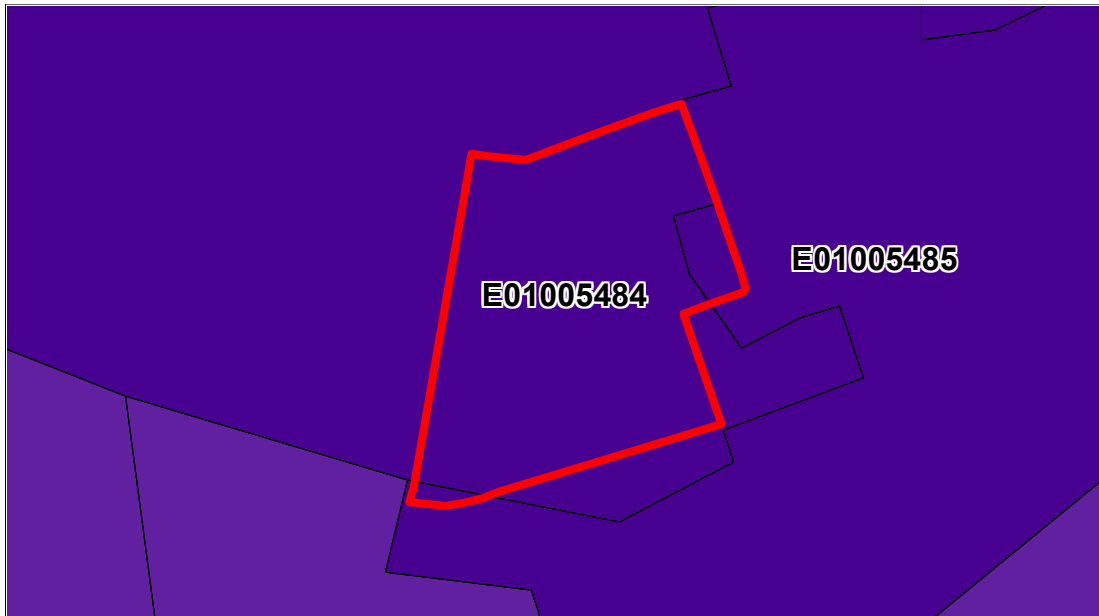
Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

**Table 5: Employment Deprivation**

| SOA       | RANK<br>(Where 1 is the most deprived) | PERCENTILE (%) |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| E01005484 | 51                                     | 10             |
| E01005485 | 1,003                                  | 10             |

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

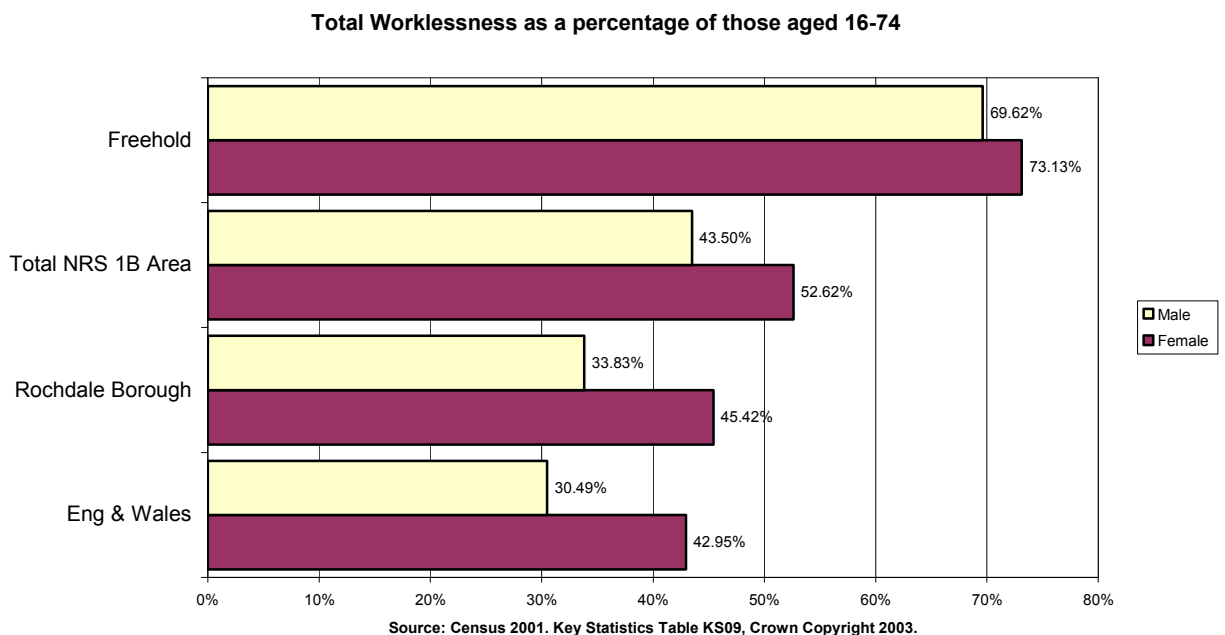
**Map 4: Employment Deprivation in Freehold**



Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

In Freehold there is a high degree of employment deprivation. Both of the SOAs within which Freehold falls are within the worst 10% in the country for employment deprivation. There is a high percentage of people in Freehold who are employment deprived. Between 28.3% and 45.0% of people are employment deprived.

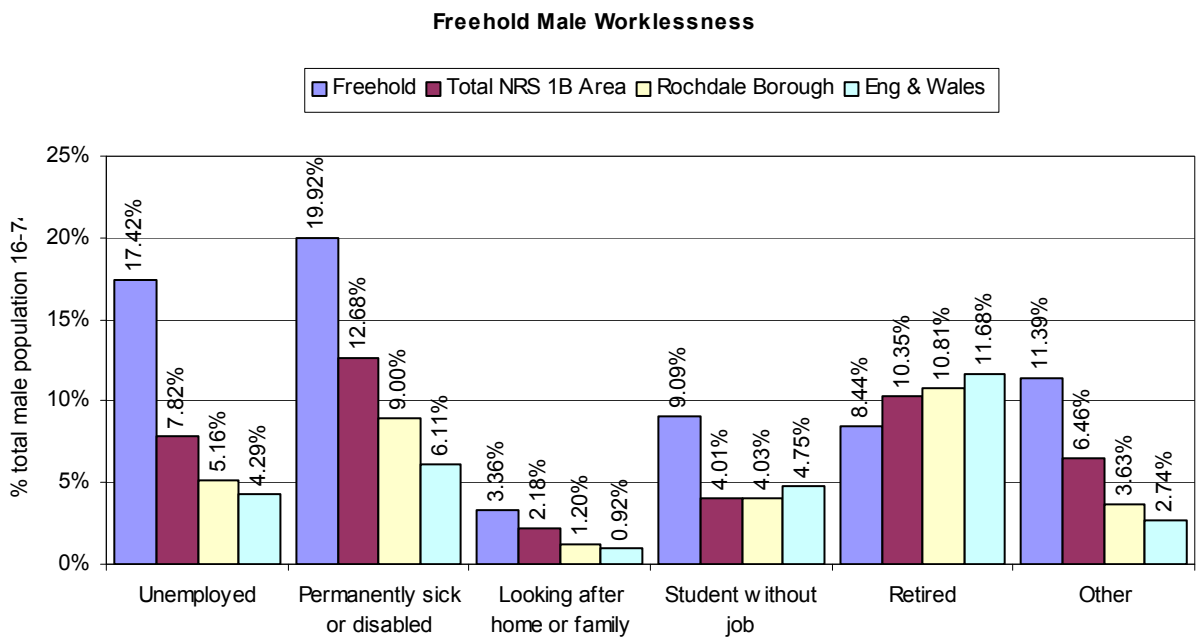
**Graph 6: Total Worklessness**



The rate of 'worklessness' is gained from the 2001 Census, where people were asked whether or not they had undertaken or were actively looking for paid work in the last 4 weeks. 'Worklessness' includes those who define themselves as 'unemployed', 'permanently sick or disabled', 'looking after home or family', 'student without a job', 'retired' and 'other', (i.e. none of the above).

The levels of worklessness are significantly higher in Freehold than in Rochdale Borough and England & Wales for both males and females. Gender differences in Freehold follow broadly the same pattern as Rochdale and England & Wales in that women consistently have a higher rate of worklessness than men. However, this difference in worklessness is lower in Freehold (4%) compared with Rochdale Borough (12%) and England and Wales (12%). When looking at worklessness it is important to distinguish between men and women as they have very different employment and worklessness patterns, as can be seen below.

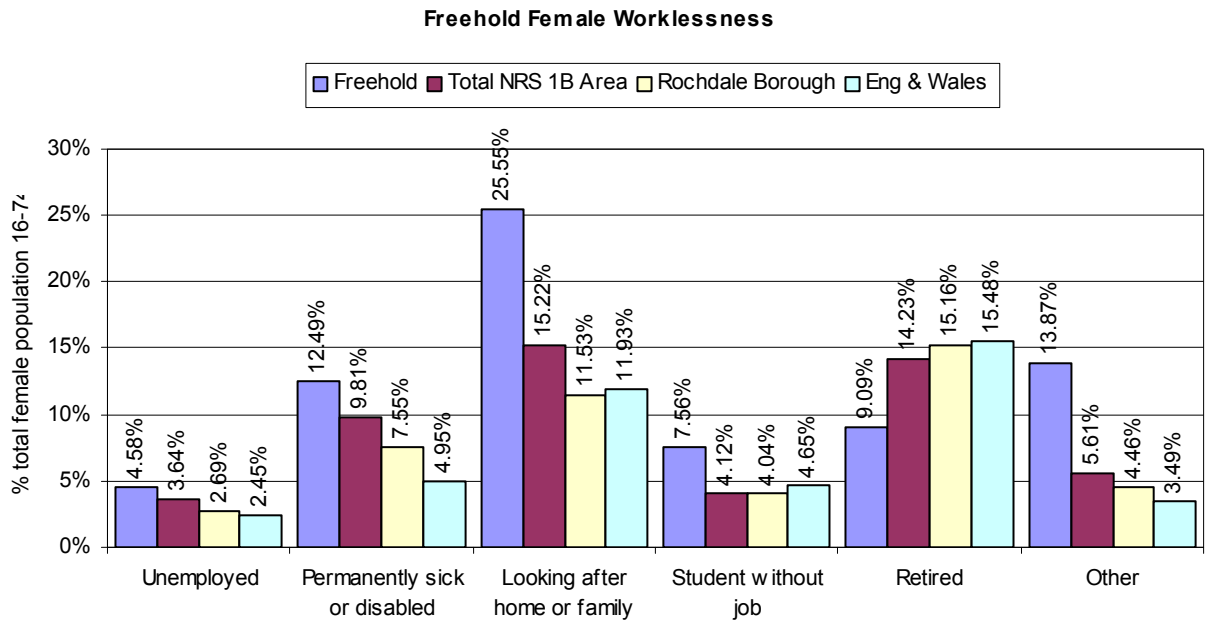
**Graph 7: Male Worklessness**



Source: Census 2001. Key Statistics Table KS09, Crown Copyright 2003.

Men aged 16-74 in Freehold are over four times more likely to be unemployed than those in England & Wales and over three times more likely to be permanently sick or disabled. Overall men have an extremely low rate of 'looking after home or family'. The levels of 'student without job' and 'other' are higher than the comparative areas while the proportion of men aged 16-74 who are 'retired' is slightly lower than the comparative areas and so is not a significant factor contributing to the overall high level of worklessness compared to Rochdale and England & Wales.

**Graph 8: Female Worklessness**



Source: Census 2001. Key Statistics Table KS09, Crown Copyright 2003.

Overall we can expect the characteristics of female 'worklessness' to differ from males quite considerably. Women who are not in formal employment are significantly more likely to be classed as 'looking after home or family' than 'unemployed', (i.e. actively seeking work). In Freehold women aged 16-74 have a lower level of unemployment and a much higher level of 'looking after home or family' than males, as expected. Female unemployment in Freehold is almost twice as high as in England and Wales, and also higher than in the Rochdale Borough and in the NRS 1B area. The proportions of those who are 'Looking after home or family' are more than double those in England & Wales and the Rochdale Borough. One in eight females aged 16-74 in Freehold are permanently sick or disabled and so unable to work. This is slightly higher than the proportions for the NRS 1B area as a whole, but around twice as high as for England and Wales.

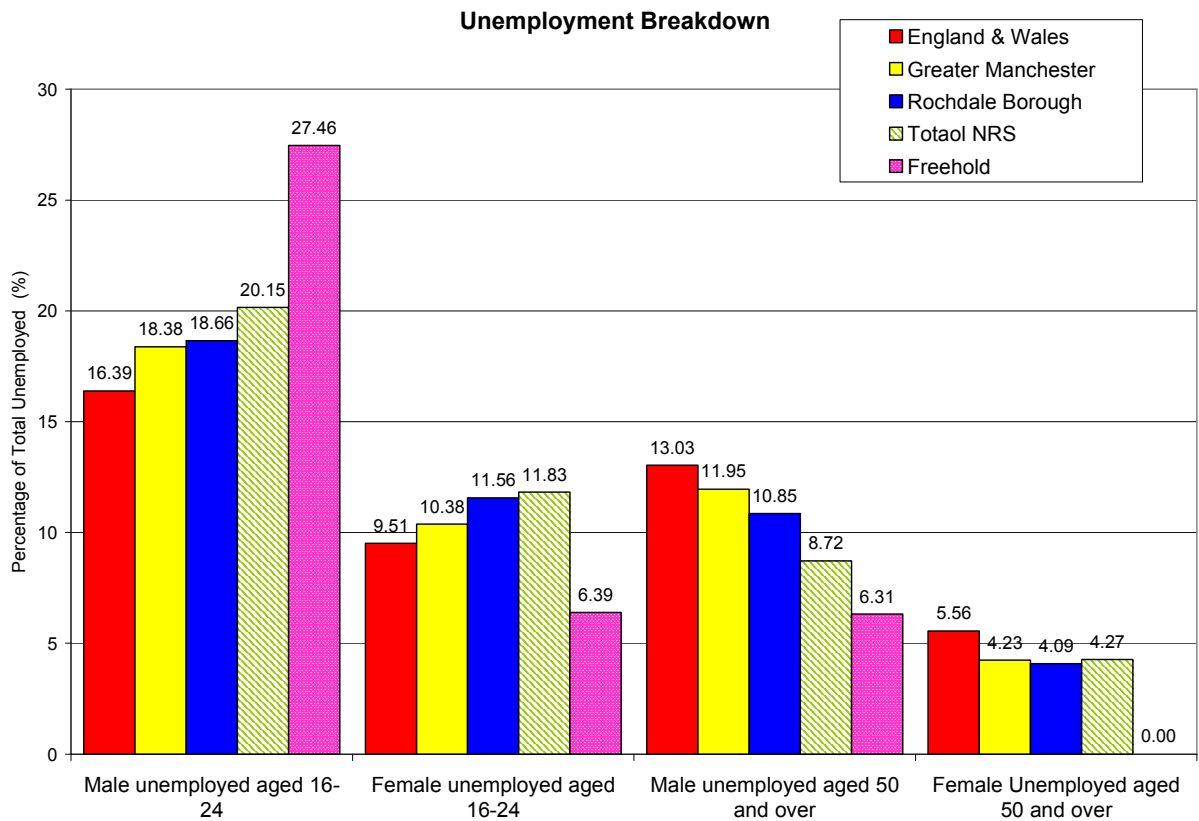
**Graph 9: Unemployment Aged 16-74**



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 09a, Crown copyright 2003

In Freehold 11.58% of adults aged 16-74 were unemployed in 2001, much higher than the borough (3.89%) and England and Wales (3.55%) averages. The level of long-term unemployed (more than 18 months) was also much higher.

**Graph 10: Unemployment Breakdown (Aged 16-74)**

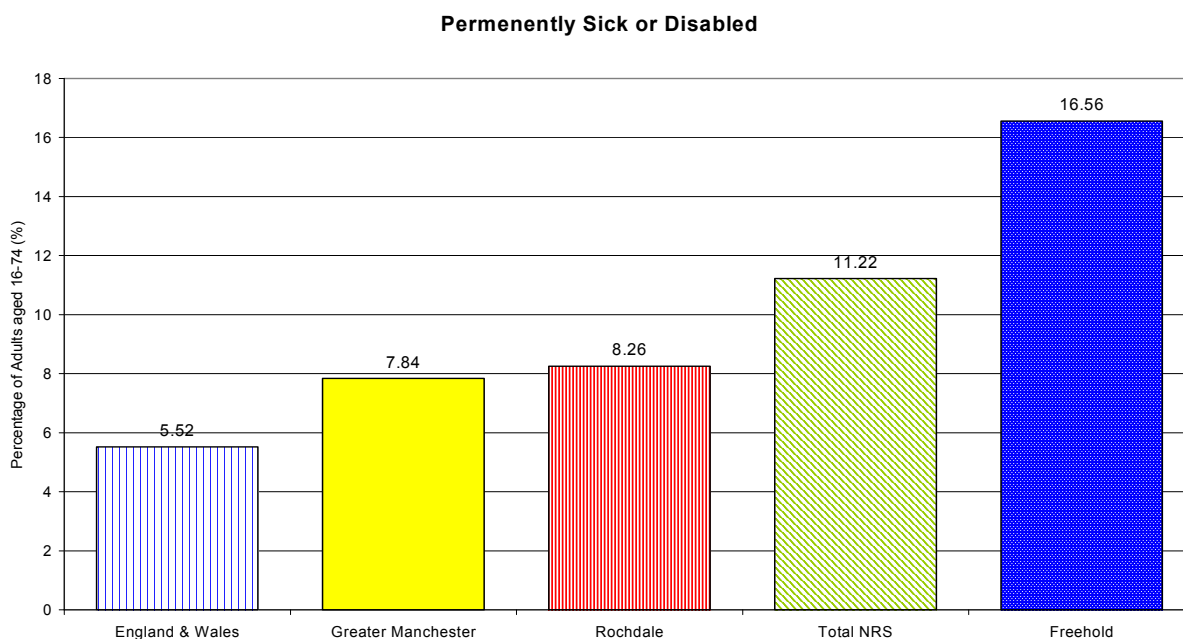


Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table KS09b&c. Crown copyright 2003

Unemployment does not affect all groups equally. The young disabled and some minority groups are likely to experience disproportionate levels of unemployment. Unemployment increases the risk of social exclusion, impact on income and reduces access to services and opportunities. Whilst increasing employment levels is essential, it is important that jobs are quality jobs offering decent rates of pay.

The graph above shows the breakdown of the unemployed based on 2001 Census data. More than 1 in 4 of the unemployed in Freehold are young men aged 16-24. This is much higher than in the comparator areas. Young women form a lower percentage of the unemployed in Freehold than elsewhere, and the levels of older men and women (50 and over) are also lower. It should be noted that this data is based on very small numbers and should be treated with caution.

**Graph 11: Percentage of People who are Permanently Sick or Disabled (Aged 16-74)**

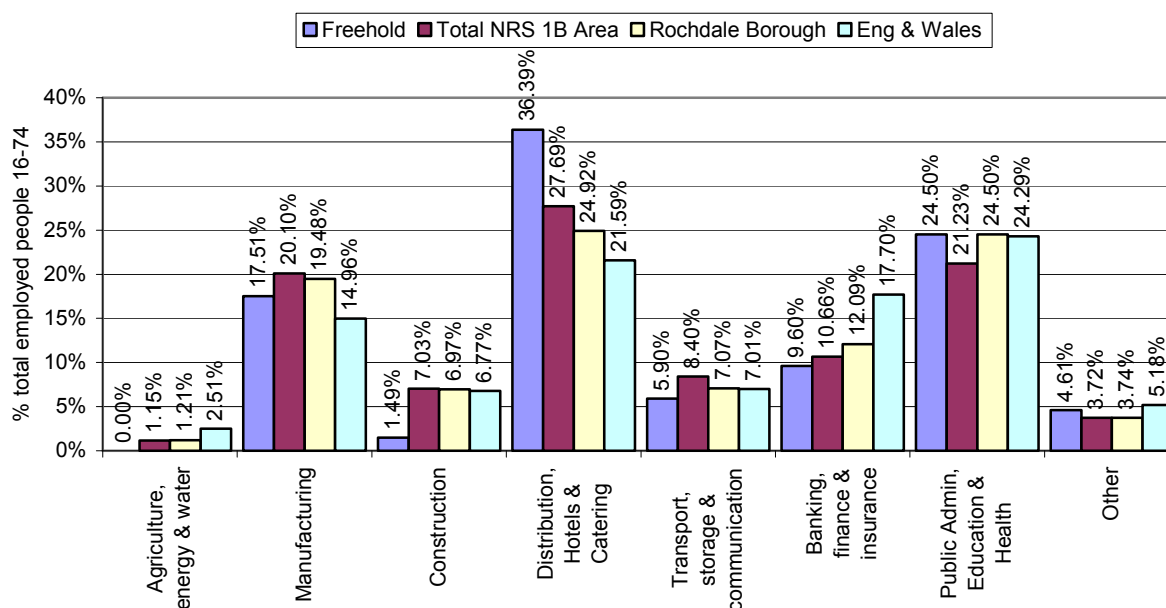


Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 09a, Crown Copyright 2003

The level of working age adults who are permanently sick or disabled, and thus involuntarily excluded from the labour market, is very high in Freehold at 16.6%. This compares with 11.2% in the NRS Phase 1B areas overall. The level in Freehold is twice the borough level of permanently sick or disabled (8.3%) and more than three times the national average (5.5%). If these percentages were standardised for age and gender it is likely that Freehold would have even higher levels of permanently sick or disabled compared with the expected level (see Key Health Indicators table (Table 9) for information on this as standardised for the Freehold SOAs).

**Graph 12: Industry of Occupation**

### Freehold Industry of Occupation



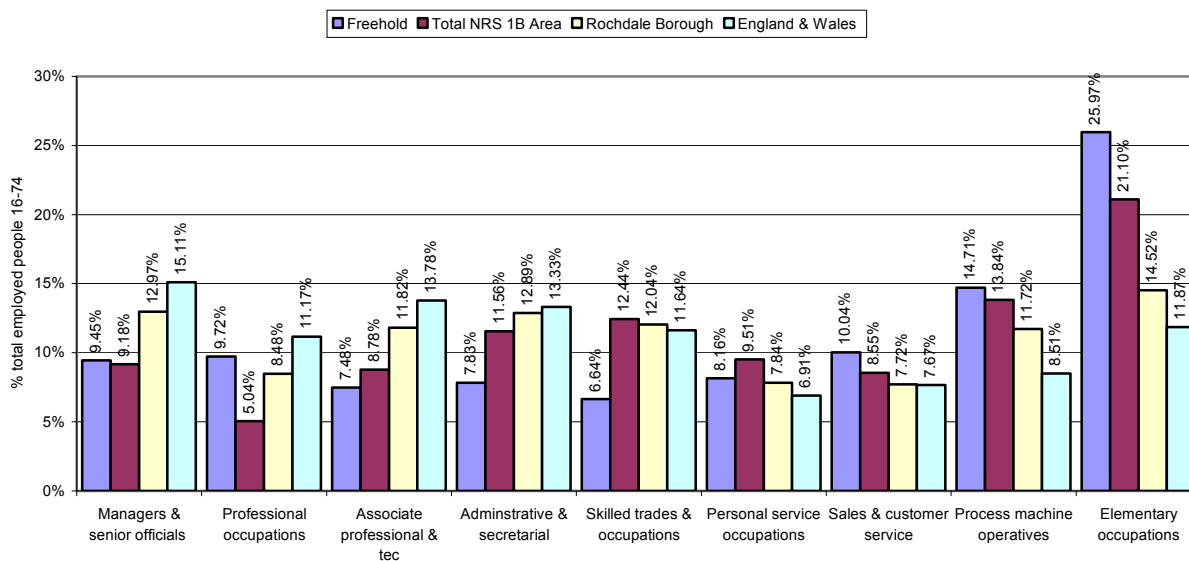
Source: Census 2001. Key Statistics Table KS11a. Crown Copyright 2003.

In Freehold over a third of employed people work in 'Distribution, Hotels & Catering', (almost twice the level of England & Wales), and one in four work in 'Public Administration, Education & Health', a similar proportion to the Rochdale Borough, but around 3% higher than the Total NRS 1B Area. One in ten work in 'Banking, Finance & Insurance', compared to one in six nationwide. Industry of employment is determined in the Census by the response to the question asking for a description of the business of the person's employer. The responses are coded to a modified version of the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities, (UK SIC), 1992.

Industry of employment can be considered a factor in determining rates of pay and working conditions. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2004 found that gross pay for full-time employees in 'Distribution, Hotel & Catering' industries averaged £341.47 per week in the UK and 'Manufacturing' was £473.20. This can be compared to 'Banking, Finance & Insurance', which was £555.35. However these overall averages mask the different levels of pay and conditions within an industry – occupation is by far the best predictor of pay and working conditions.

#### Graph 13: Occupation Groups

## Freehold Occupation Groups



Source: Census 2001. Key Statistics Table KS12a, Crown Copyright 2003.

In Freehold it can be seen that there is a definite pattern to occupational groupings. At the higher end of the occupational scale in groups 1-5, ('Managers & Senior officials', 'Professional Occupations', 'Associate Professional', 'Administrative and Secretarial' and 'Skilled Trade Occupations'), there is clearly a much lower proportion than those in England & Wales and the Rochdale Borough. There are much higher proportions of people employed in Freehold at the lower end of the scale, in particular groups 8-9. 'Elementary occupations' and 'Process machine operatives' have over double the proportion of workers than in England and Wales as a whole. In the Census 2001 occupations are coded to the 2000 edition of the Standard Occupancy Classification, (SOC) using the response to the question asking for full title of main job, and the description of what is done in that job.

In Freehold the predominant occupation groups are 'process machine operatives' or 'elementary occupations'. 'Process machine operatives' includes such jobs as plant & machine operatives, assemblers & routine operatives, (e.g. machinists), construction operatives, (e.g. scaffolder), transport drivers & operatives, (e.g. hgv drivers, taxi drivers), and mobile machine drivers & operatives, (e.g. crane driver, fork lift truck driver). 'Elementary occupations' includes all elementary trades, plant & storage related workers, (e.g. farm workers, labourers on construction sites, packers in factories) and elementary administration & service occupations, (e.g. postal worker, hospital porter, waiters, window cleaners, traffic wardens, shelf stackers, etc.) ASHE 2004 determined that the average gross weekly pay for full-time process machine operatives was £364, whilst for elementary occupations it was £212.70. This can be compared with the average gross weekly pay for managers & senior officials who received £727.50.

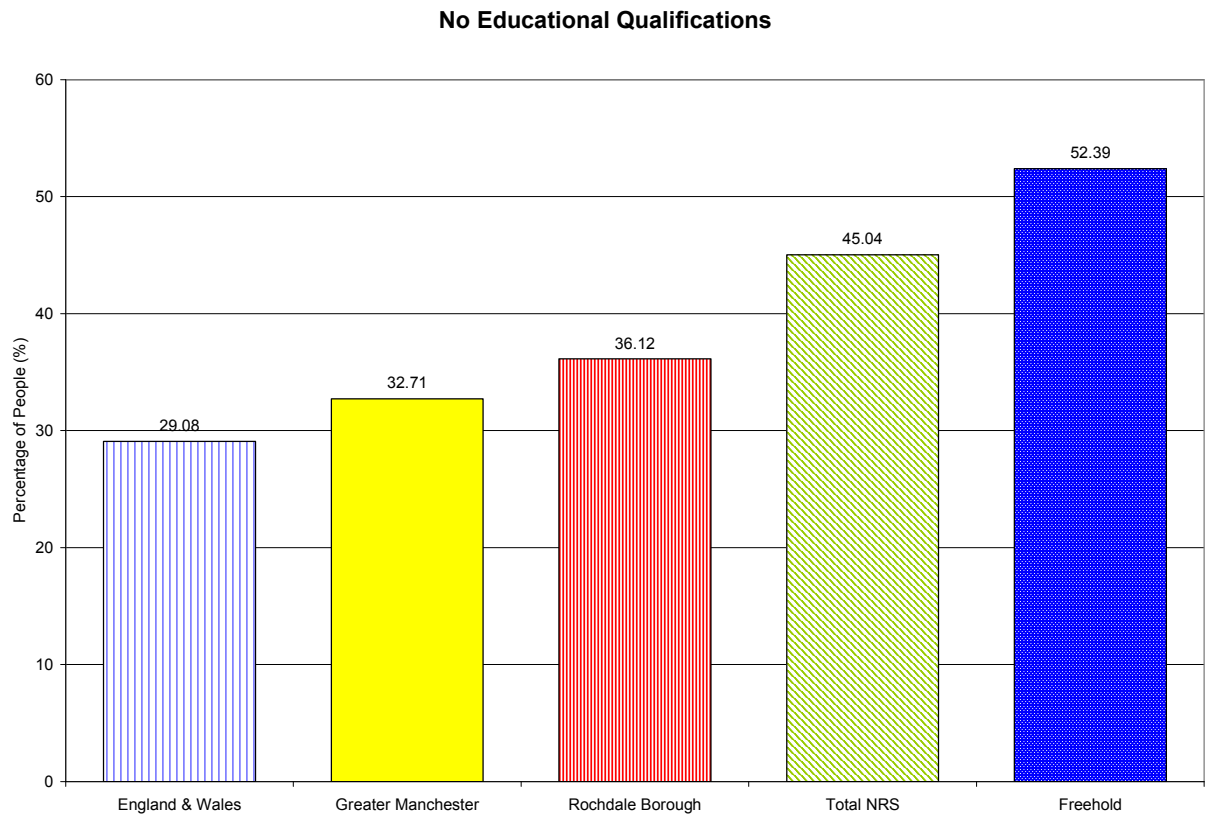
If we combine this occupational group pattern with the above trends in industry of employment we can see that the majority of workers in Freehold are concentrated in low skilled, low paying industries.

## Education

Low educational attainment increases the risk of social exclusion not only during school years but in future years due the importance of education in securing employment. There is a clear correlation between GCSE attainment and subsequent labour market position, and employment is the most important way of avoiding poverty.

Without greater numbers of highly skilled people in a locality it is difficult to generate more employment. Lack of skills amongst a local population is one of the most significant obstacles to raising employment levels.

Graph 14: Percentage of People (Aged 16-74) with No Educational Qualifications



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 13, Crown copyright 2003

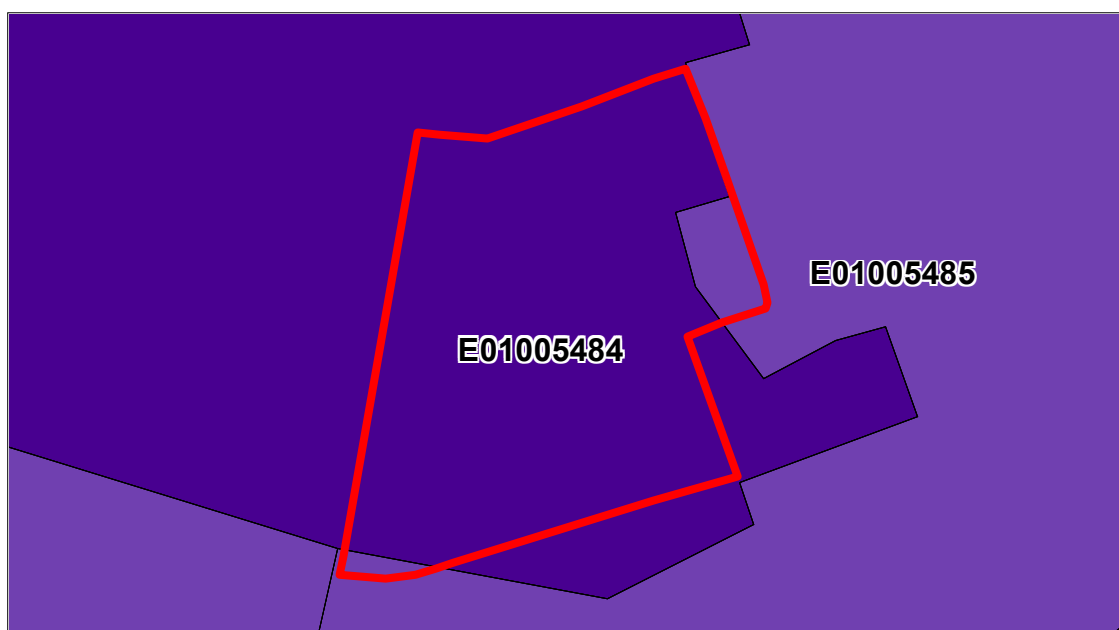
In Freehold more than half (52.4%) of working age adults have no educational qualifications, a much higher level than all the other comparator areas.

Table 6: Education, Skills and Training Deprivation

| SOA       | RANK<br>(Where 1 is the most deprived) | PERCENTILE (%) |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| E01005484 | 2,431                                  | 10             |
| E01005485 | 7,342                                  | 30             |

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Map 5: Education, Skills and Training Deprivation in Freehold



Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

The Education, skills and training deprivation domain within the Indices of Deprivation 2004 was based on indicators of adult skills levels and attainment by children and young people. The level of deprivation within Freehold is very high. Both of Freehold's SOA fall between the worst 10% and the worst 30% in the country.

Table 7: SATs Key Stage 2 – Percentage of Pupils Awarded Level 4 and Above 2002-2003

| Area             | English | Maths | Science |
|------------------|---------|-------|---------|
| Freehold         | 37.5    | 12.5  | 12.5    |
| Rochdale Borough | 68.5    | 67.9  | 80.5    |
| England          | 75.0    | 73.0  | 87.0    |

Source: RMBC Education Information and Planning and Department for Education and Science Website

Table 8: Percentage of Pupils Gaining 5 GCSEs Grade A\* to C, 2002-2003

| Area             | % 5 A* to C |
|------------------|-------------|
| Freehold         | *           |
| Rochdale Borough | 41.3        |
| England          | 52.9        |

Source: RMBC Education Information and Planning and Department for Education and Science Website  
Notes:

- (1) The data for NRS Areas is based on pupils living within the area. The data for Rochdale borough and England is based on pupils attending school within the area, and may include pupils who do not live within the area. Similarly, pupils living within the area but who attend school outside the area will not be included in the results.
- (2) The data for NRS Areas is based on pupils who actually took the exams. The data for Rochdale borough and England also includes pupils who were eligible to take the exam but did not attend on the day, or were disapplied.
- (3) \* Indicates data suppressed to prevent disclosure

The level of attainment at Key Stage 2 and at GCSE (Key Stage 4) in Freehold is very low compared with Rochdale Borough and England.

## Health

Disadvantaged communities face multiple deprivation which can have a serious effect on health. People living in disadvantaged communities are the least likely to have access to the best services when they are ill and are more likely to die at a younger age.

Poor health is a symptom of living in a poorer neighbourhood and a cause of its continuing decline. Socio-economic factors such as income, educational attainment, housing, environment and fear of crime greatly influence the health of individuals from before birth right throughout life. In deprived areas these problems can be compounded by poor access to health services, but also by poor day-to-day access to healthy affordable food, safe leisure and recreation and affordable convenient public transport.

Increasing inequalities in health over recent decades reflect the increasing polarisation of life chances – of opportunities, of material circumstance and of behaviours related to health. The growth in inequalities in income and the consequent increase in poverty underlies the widening health divide in Britain.

Table 9: Key Health Indicators at Super Output Area level for Freehold

| Lower SOA | SMR All Causes | SMR Circulatory Disease | SMR Neoplasm | Birth Rate Lone Mothers | SIR "not good" | SIR LLTI | SIR Permanently Sick or Disabled |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| E01005484 | 174.30         | 138.03                  | 177.56       | 31.34                   | 236.11         | 184.04   | 343.23                           |
| E01005485 | 193.49         | 155.93                  | 123.24       | 3.11                    | 190.91         | 158.71   | 252.79                           |

Source: North West Public Health Observatory Small Area Database 1998 – 2002

- SMR – Standardised Mortality Ratio – 100 is England and Wales average – SMR greater than 100 shows higher than expected deaths, adjusted for age and gender
- Birth Rate Lone Mothers – shows the percentage of babies born to lone mothers. The level in the North West for 1998-2002 was 19.61%, in Rochdale PCT 14.21% and Heywood and Middleton PCT 25.22%
- SIR – Standardised Illness Ratio – derived from 2001 Census – 100 is England and Wales average – SIR above 100 shows higher than expected level of illness, adjusted for age and gender
- Not good health – based on a self-assessment of a person's general health over the 12 months before the 2001 census - all people
- LLTI – Limiting long-term illness –based on a self-assessment of whether or not a person has a limiting long-term illness or disability which limits their daily activities or the work they can do - all people
- Permanently sick or disabled – adults aged 16-74 (sub-category of economic inactivity)
- \* Indicates suppressed information

The table above indicates that the level of deaths (all causes, circulatory disease and neoplasm's) in the SOAs which contain Freehold are much higher than expected. The levels of "not good" health and limiting long-term illness are also much higher than expected, and the level of working age adults who are permanently sick/disabled is particularly high.

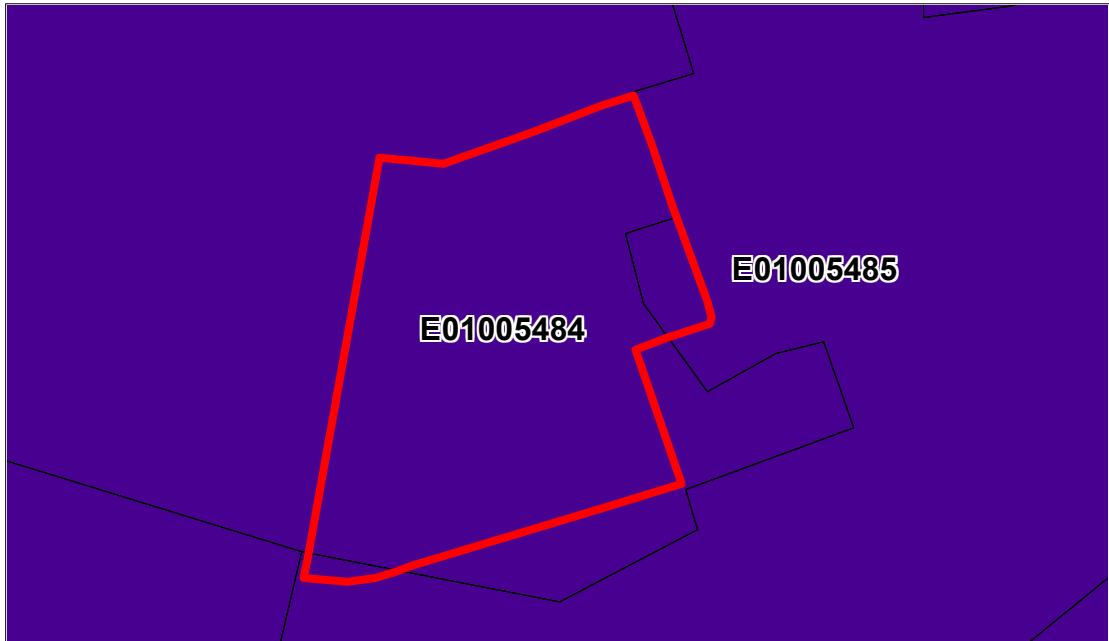
The Indices of Deprivation 2004 also shows high levels of health deprivation and disability in Freehold.

Table 10: Health Deprivation and Disability

| SOA       | RANK<br>(Where 1 is the most deprived) | PERCENTILE (%) |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| E01005484 | 66                                     | 10             |
| E01005485 | 304                                    | 10             |

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

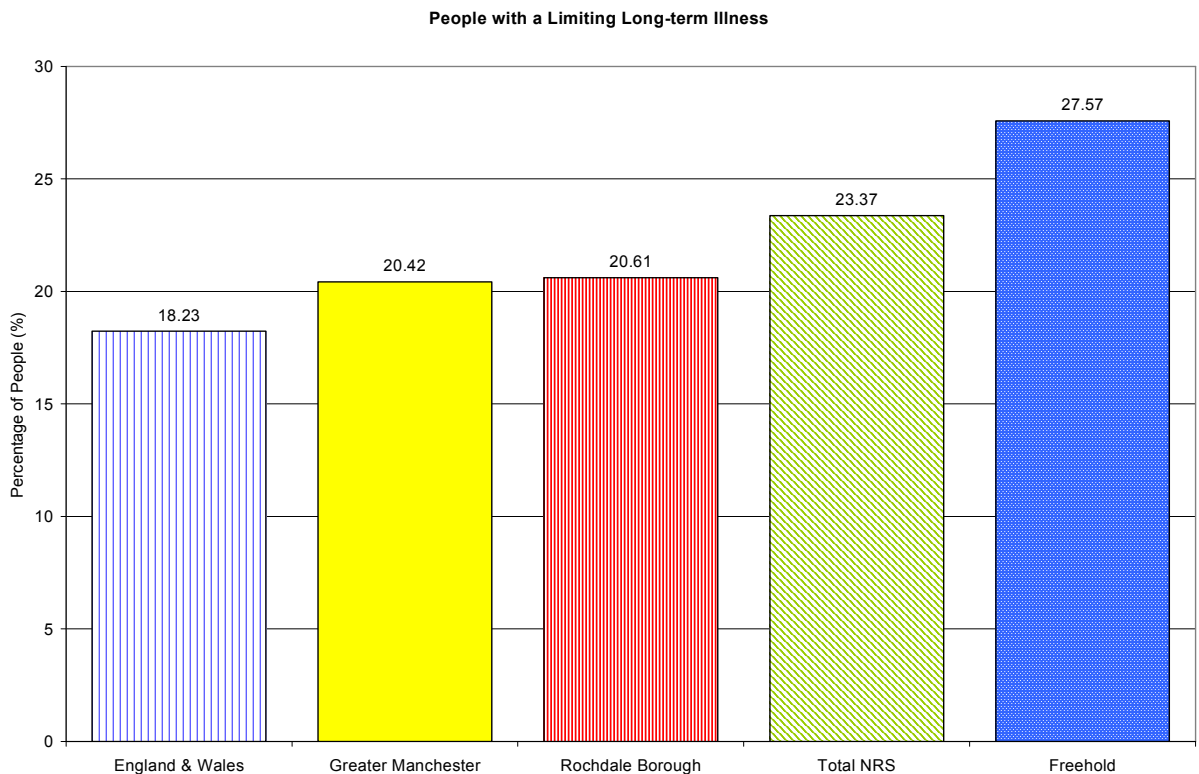
**Map 6: Health Deprivation and Disability in Freehold**



Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Freehold has a high level of health deprivation and disability. Freehold's SOAs are ranked between 66 and 304 out of 32,842. This therefore means that both of Freehold's SOA areas fall within the worst 10% in the country.

**Graph 15: Percentage of People with a Limiting Long-term Illness (All People)**



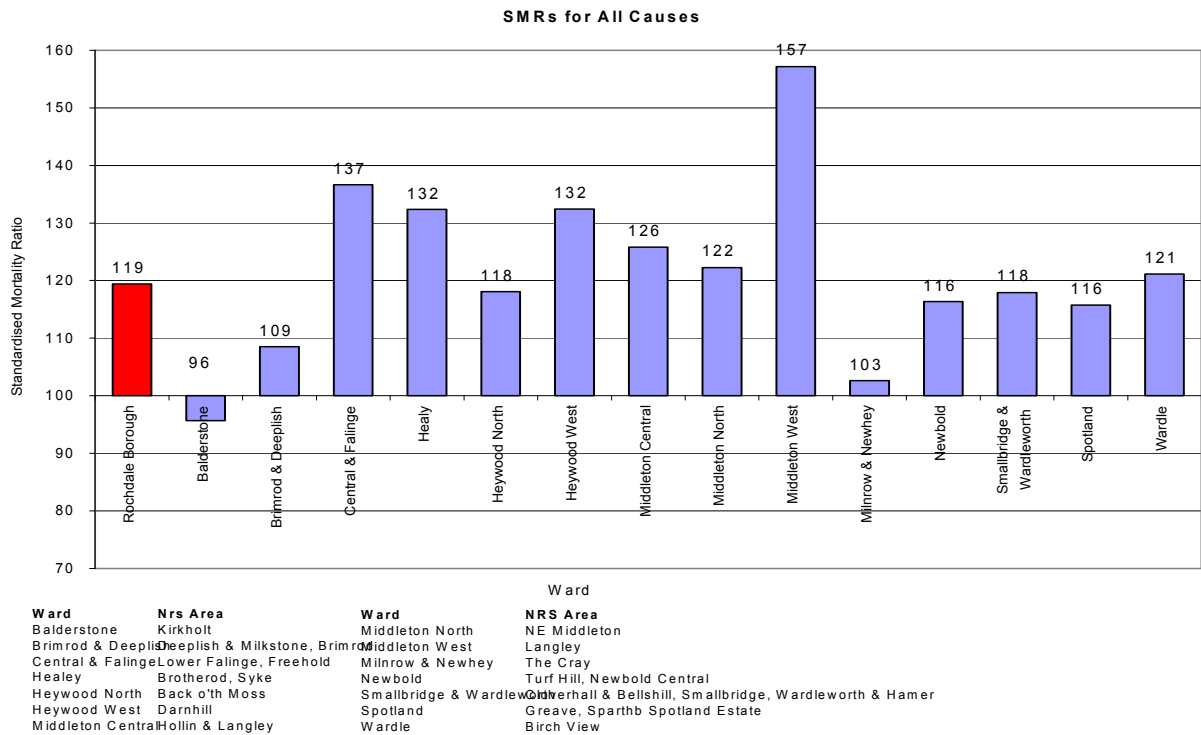
Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 08, Crown Copyright 2003

Limiting long-term illness in the 2001 Census was a self-assessment of whether or not someone has a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits their daily activity or the work they can do, including problems that are due to old age. In Freehold more than one in four of the whole population has a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability (27.6%), much higher than the borough as a whole (20.6%) or England and Wales

(18.2%). Given the relatively young population of Freehold these figures indicate a very high level of health problems within the neighbourhood. Table 9 (Key Health Indicators) shows that the level of limiting long-term illness is massively higher than expected in both the SOAs which contain Freehold.

The following data is at Ward level, which tells us less about the situation in Freehold, however it may be the only source of data available, or alternatively is useful as it is updated on a regular basis. The wards used are the old pre-2004 wards, as data for new wards is not yet available. Freehold is within Central and Falinge ward.

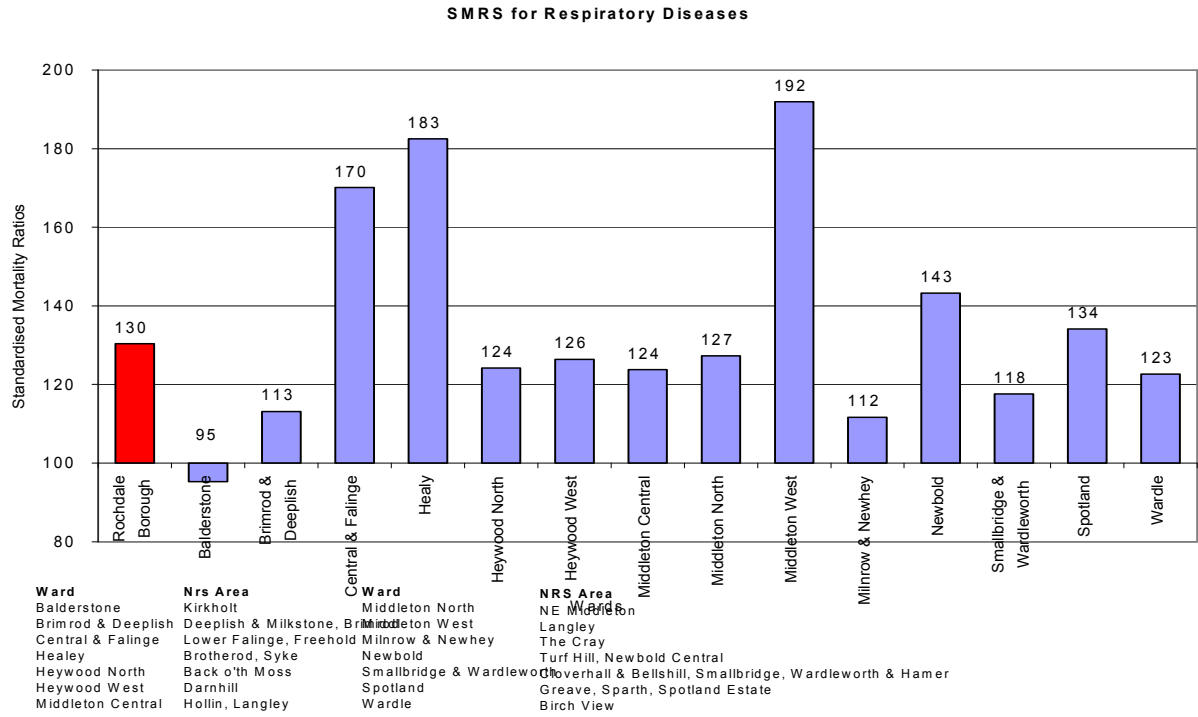
**Graph 16: Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMRs) for All Causes by Ward 1997-1999**



Source: Rochdale PCT

Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMRs) are used to reflect an area’s mortality experience, taking into account age and gender. The national average for each SMR is standardised at 100. Any measure above this measure indicates that the death rate is higher in that particular area. Any measure below 100 indicates that the area has lower than expected death rates compared with the England and Wales average. Central and Falinge has an SMR for all causes of death of 137. This is therefore 37% higher than the SMR for England and Wales the Rochdale Borough SMR which stood at 119.

Graph 17: Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMRs) for Respiratory Diseases by Ward 1997-1999

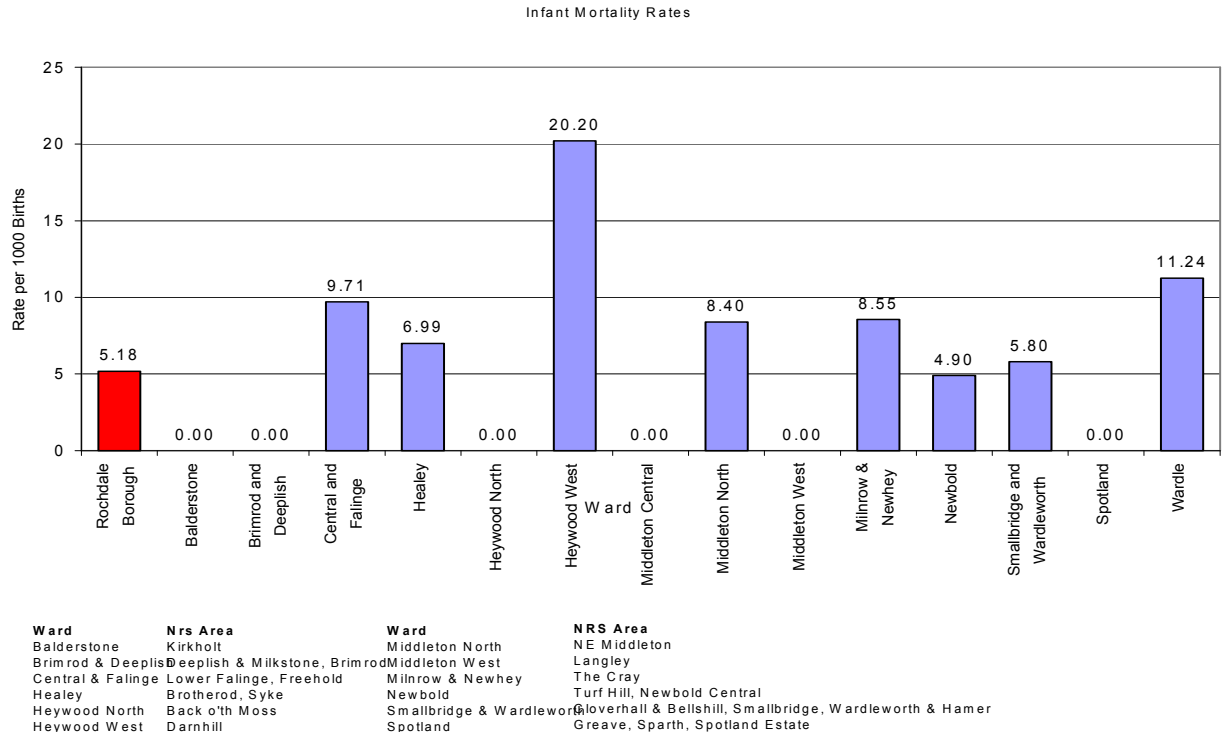


Source: Rochdale PCT

Central and Falinge has a very high SMR for Respiratory Diseases of 170. The Central and Falinge SMR for Circulatory Diseases, Heart Diseases and Cerebrovascular Diseases are also high (143, 141 and 140 respectively) but the SMR for Malignant Neoplasm's is 99, about average in comparison to England and Wales.

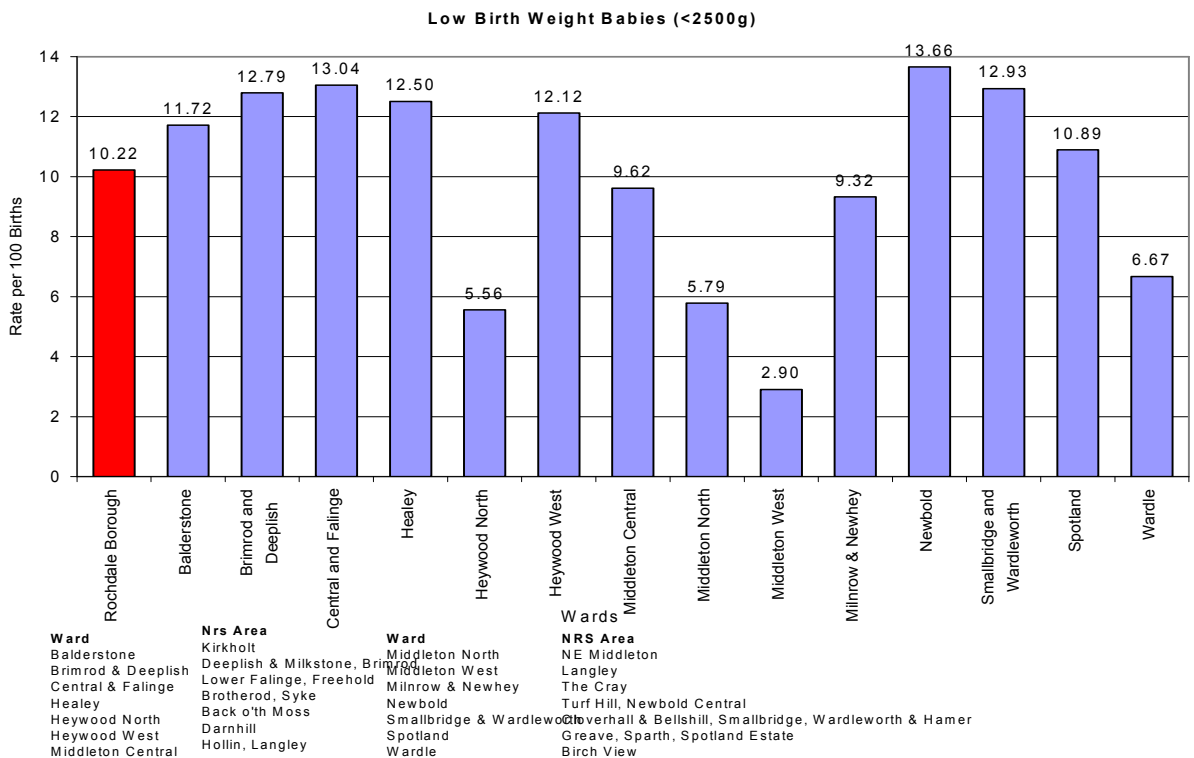
The infant mortality rate correlates strongly with poor health in the first few weeks of life. The infant mortality rate in Central and Falinge is high at 9.71 per 1000 births in 2002.

**Graph 18: Infant Mortality Rates by Ward 2002**



Source: Rochdale PCT

**Graph 19: Low Birth Weight Babies (< 2,500g) by Ward, 2002**

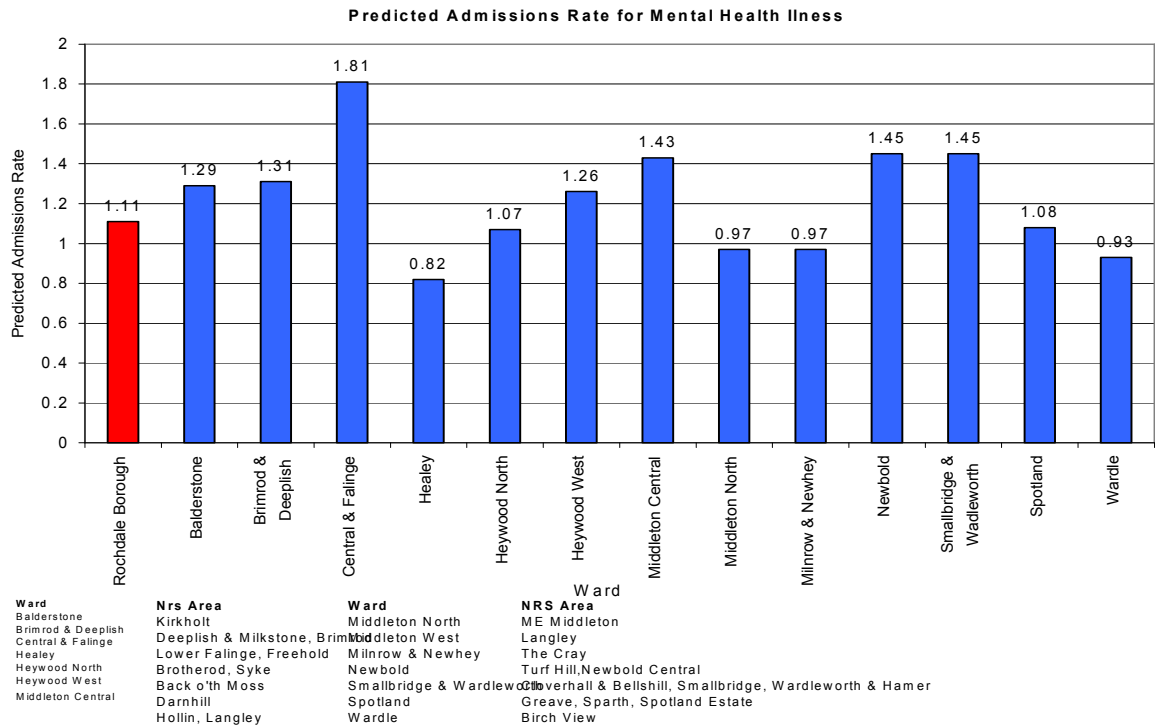


Source: Rochdale PCT

The incidence of low birth weight babies (< 2,500g) in Central and Falinge is high at 13.04 per 100 births compared with the Rochdale Borough which has a rate of 10.22, which is higher than the national average. Low birth weight babies are babies that are born weighing less than they should for their gestational age (the amount of time they have been in the womb). Low birth weight babies are associated with death in infancy as well as coronary heart disease, diabetes

and hypertension/high blood pressure in later life. This therefore indicates that the rate of low birth weight babies born in a particular area can be used as an indication of health deprivation.

**Graph 20: Predicted Admissions for Mental Health Illness 2000 by Ward**



Source: Rochdale PCT

Poor mental health can lead to a variety of forms of social exclusion including long-term unemployment, homelessness, alcohol and substance misuse and social isolation. More than half of the adults with mental health problems in employment are on low incomes.

In Central and Falinge the predicted admissions rate for people with mental health problems is 1.81 per 100,000. This is higher than the rate for Rochdale Borough which stood at 1.11 per 100,000 people.

## Crime

The nature of deprived areas often means that they face higher than average crime rates. Crime has been recognised as both a symptom and a cause of deprivation. In deprived areas high crime rates can discourage people from setting up new businesses and hamper existing ones. They stifle the housing market and scare off crucial service providers for example GP's.

Factors producing the greatest explanation for different crime levels were residential instability, low socio-economic status and high levels of family disruption. Communities where both people and buildings appear disorderly sent out the visual message that the community is out of control and therefore may attract more crime. Signs of disorder undermine social control, residents shrink into their dwellings and take less interest in the public space.

Fear of crime is greatest amongst the poorest communities, and the risk of crime is also genuinely greater. The fear of crime may cause individuals to withdraw physically and psychologically from community life. The lack of neighbourhood cohesion, neighbourhood incivility and the perception of high neighbourhood crime levels contribute to being afraid of crime and the risk of victimisation. Community action is both a way of combating crime and a way of countering fear of crime. The experience of crime can have an impact on both physical and mental health.

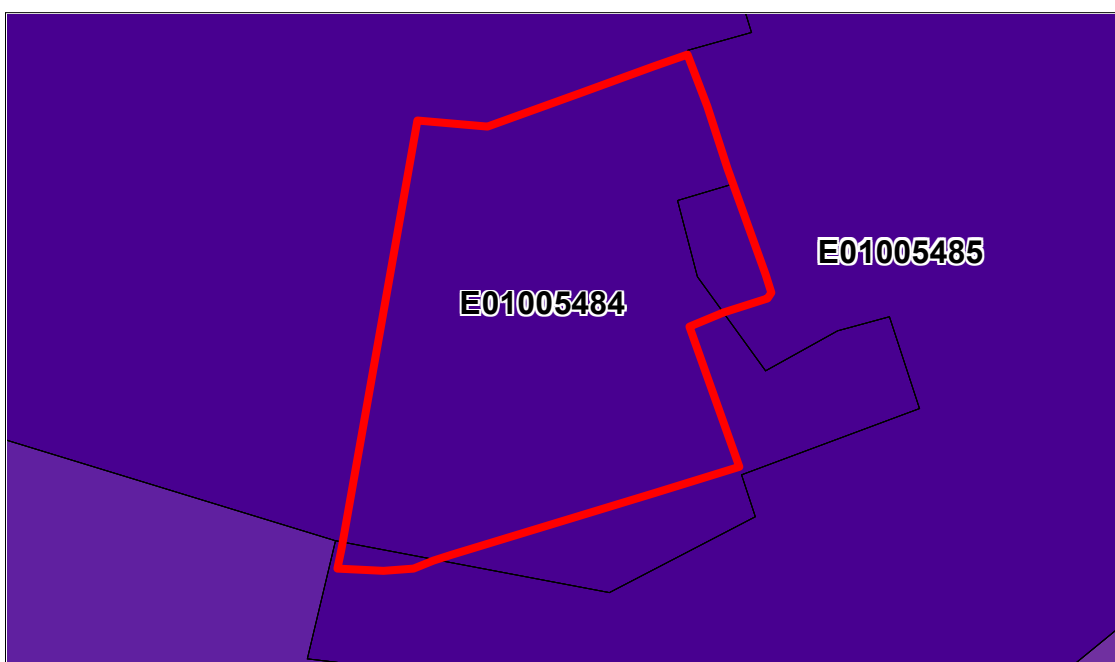
The experience of burglary can disproportionately affect low-income households. Such households are often unable to afford contents insurance especially when living in areas where premiums are extortionately high. Low-income households may not be able to afford security measures and are therefore more likely to worry about crime.

Table 11: Crime Deprivation

| <b>SOA</b> | <b>RANK</b><br>(Where 1 is the most deprived) | <b>PERCENTILE (%)</b> |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| E01005484  | 125   | 10                    |
| E01005485  | 1,451   | 10                    |

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

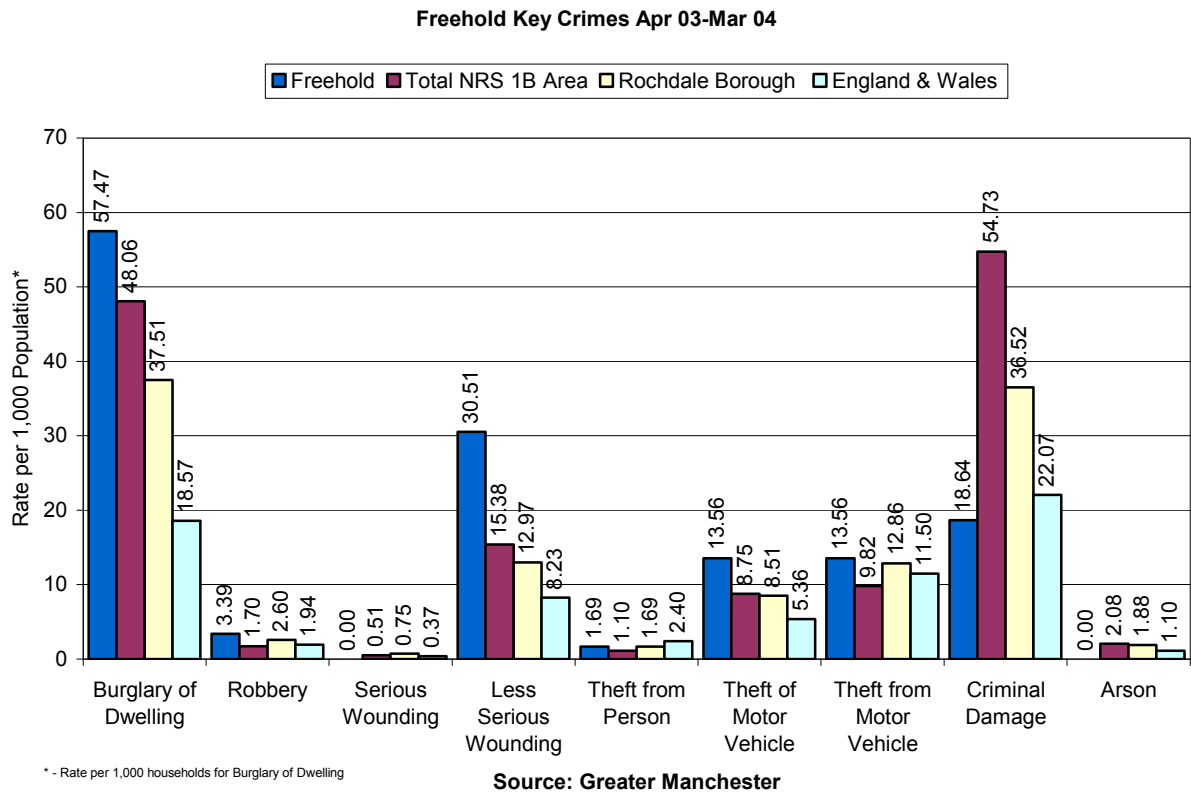
Map 7: Crime Deprivation in Freehold



Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Crime deprivation in Freehold is very high. Crime deprivation in the majority of Freehold is ranked as the 125<sup>th</sup> most deprived on crime indicators in the whole of England. All of Freehold falls within the worst 10% of SOAs in the country for crime deprivation.

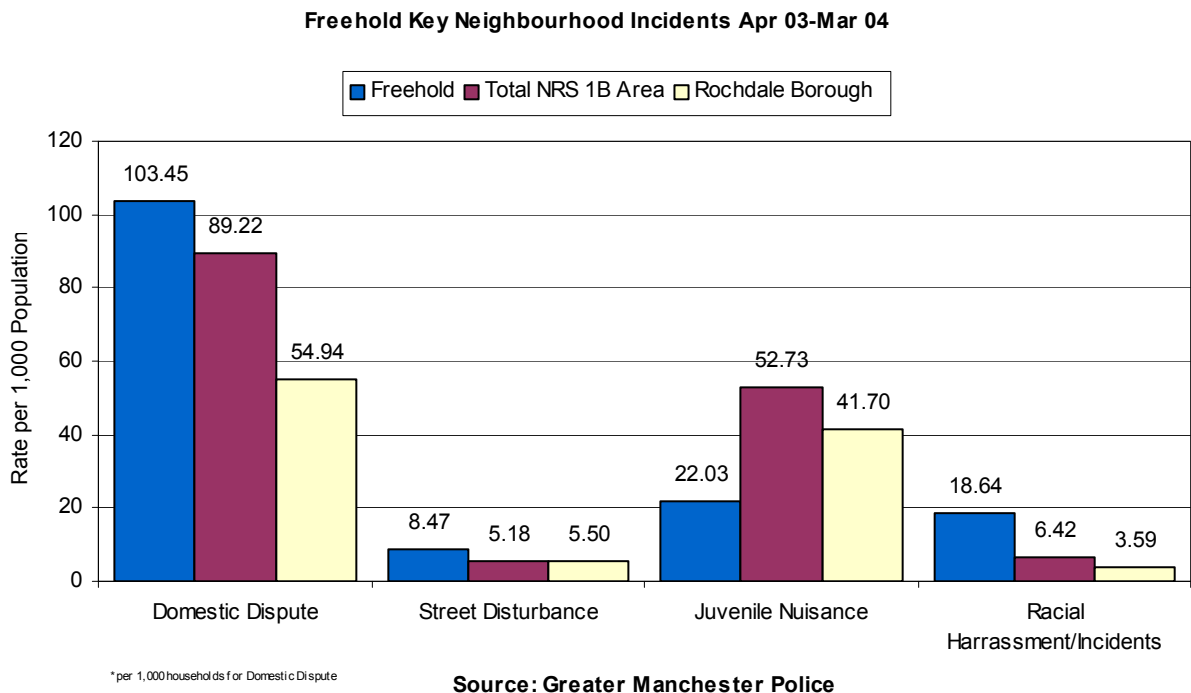
**Graph 21: Key Crimes Apr 03 - Mar 04**



‘Key crimes’ cover a selection of crimes as recorded by the police. Many other crimes are not covered here, (e.g. murder, kidnap, possession of firearm etc.); this is because these are so few in numbers their numbers cannot be impacted on at neighbourhood level. Further to this it must also be remembered that all recorded offences by the police does not include all criminal offences taken place within that time period; there are many crimes which go undetected.

In Freehold the Burglary of Dwelling rate is higher than for Rochdale Borough and is three times higher than in England and Wales. Freehold has around double the rate of less serious wounding found in Rochdale borough and over three and a half times the rate recorded in England and Wales. A higher level of theft from motor vehicle than the comparison areas is found in Freehold. Other key crimes such as arson and serious wounding etc are extremely small in number and so not of significance.

**Graph 22: Key Neighbourhood Incidents Apr 03 – Mar 04**



All reports of incidents, whether by a victim, witness or third party, will result in registration by the police, however an incident will only be recorded as a 'crime' if, on the balance of probability, the circumstances as reported amount to a crime as defined by law and there is no available evidence to suggest otherwise. Domestic disputes, street disturbances and juvenile nuisances are therefore crime-related incidents and not actual recorded crimes themselves, and as such can cover a wide range of activities, (for instance youths causing annoyance on street corners would be classed as 'juvenile nuisance', etc.). 'Racially Aggravated Incidents' are incidents which are reported to the police where no crime has taken place, that are deemed to have a racial aspect to the problem. This is often dependent on the officer's perception upon arrival of the scene, and so may frequently be a subjective, rather than objective, classification of events. At present there is no national comparator for incident rates as they are not subject to the same National Recording Standard as recorded crimes.

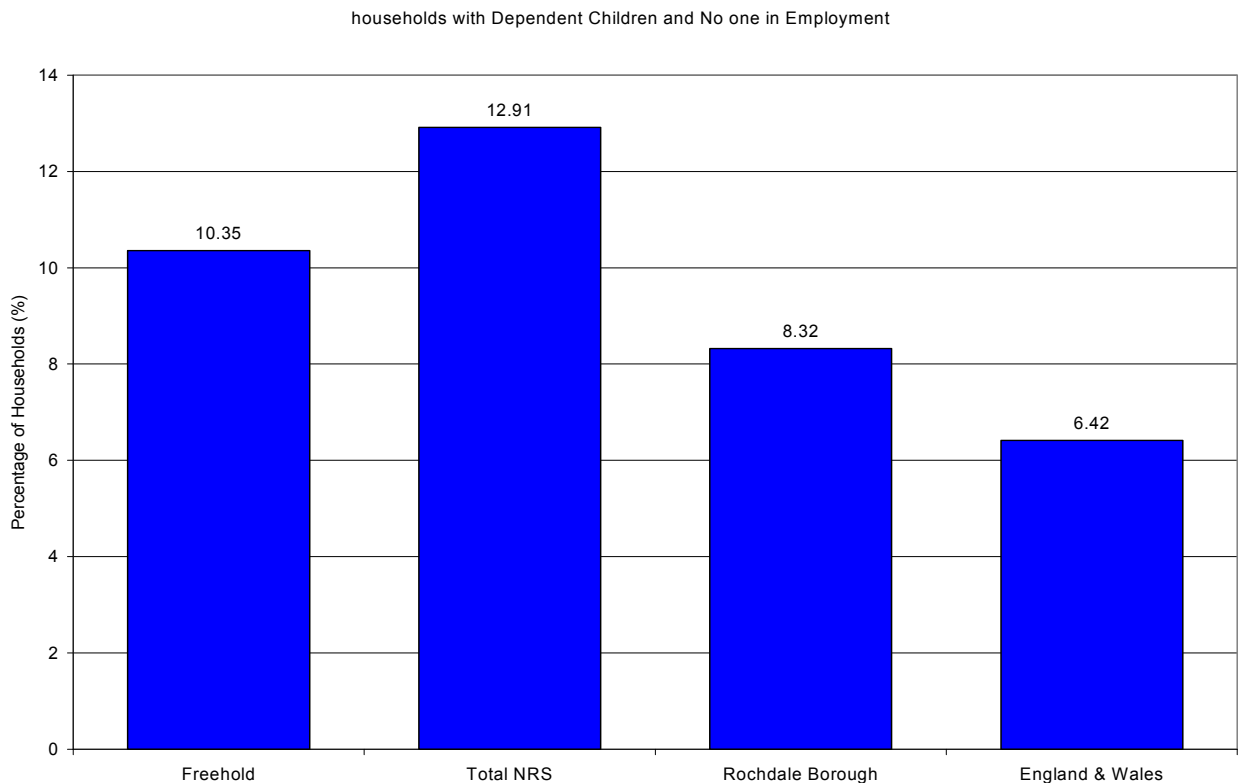
In terms of crime-related incidents Freehold has a high rate of domestic disputes, nearly two times that of the Borough-wide level. The rate of 'racially aggravated incidents' is over five times as high in Freehold than in the Borough as a whole. The level of 'street disturbance' is roughly the same as the total NRS 1B areas and the Rochdale Borough. Juvenile nuisance rates are lower in Freehold than those in Rochdale Borough and the NRS 1B areas

## Children

At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century children in Britain were some of the poorest in Europe and the 'developed' world. There are several factors which serve to make children particularly vulnerable to experiencing poverty. These are as follows; living in a lone parent family, living in an ethnic minority, living in a large family, living in a family where there is an adult or child with a long-term illness or disability and either living in a workless home or one dependent on low pay.

In Freehold more than one in four of the population are children (26%). 7% of the population are aged between naught to four years old.

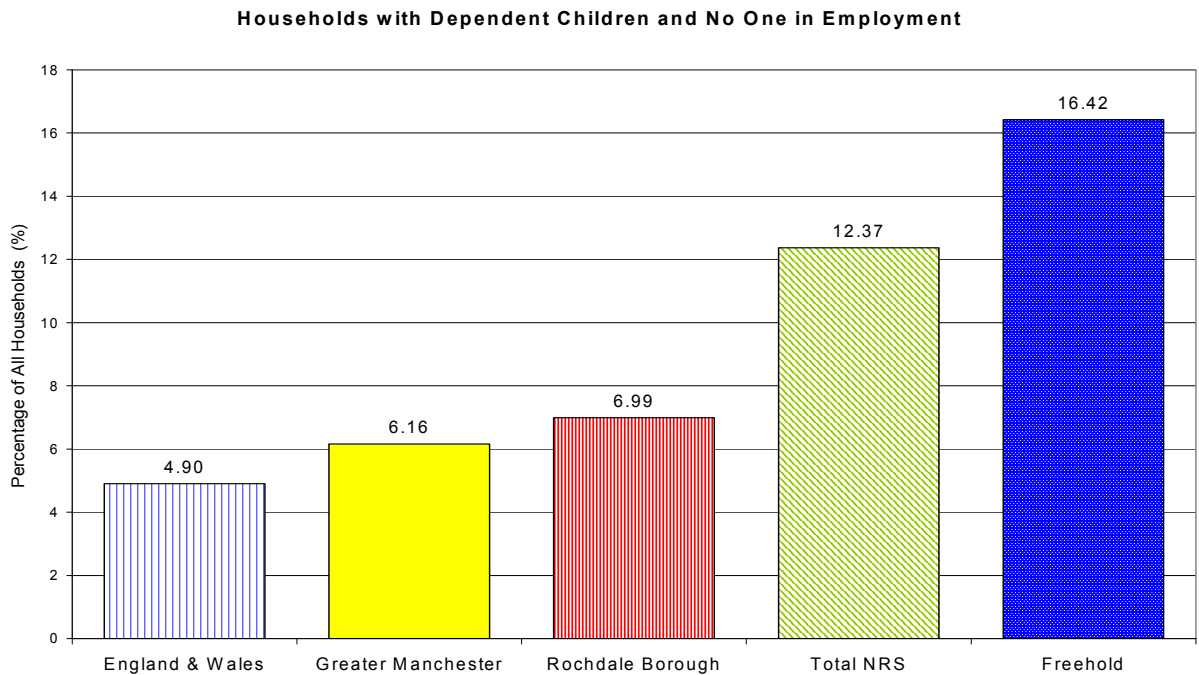
Graph 23: Households with Lone Parents and Dependent Children



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 20, Crown Copyright 2003

Children who live within lone parent families are more likely to experience life reliant on the lowest levels of means tested benefit. The majority of lone parents are women and children in these households tend to stay poorer for longer. The number of children living in lone parent households is steadily increasing. Living in a lone parent family should not inevitably lead to poverty but this is affected by access to adequate work and childcare. In Freehold 10.35% of household are comprised of lone parents with dependent children. This is higher than the percentage for the Rochdale Borough (8.32%) and the national average (6.42%).

**Graph 24: Households with Dependent Children and No Adult in Employment**



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 22, Crown copyright 2003

The employment status of the household which children live in also presents a major risk of child poverty. In 1995/96 the UK had the highest rate of children in workless households across the EU. Worklessness creates an economic disadvantage but also creates the potential for stress and tension within a family. It also has the danger of limiting a child's aspirations and social contacts. Freehold has a very high level of households with dependent children and no adult in work (16.42%). This is more than twice the percentage for the Rochdale Borough (6.99%) and nearly four times the average for England and Wales (4.90%).

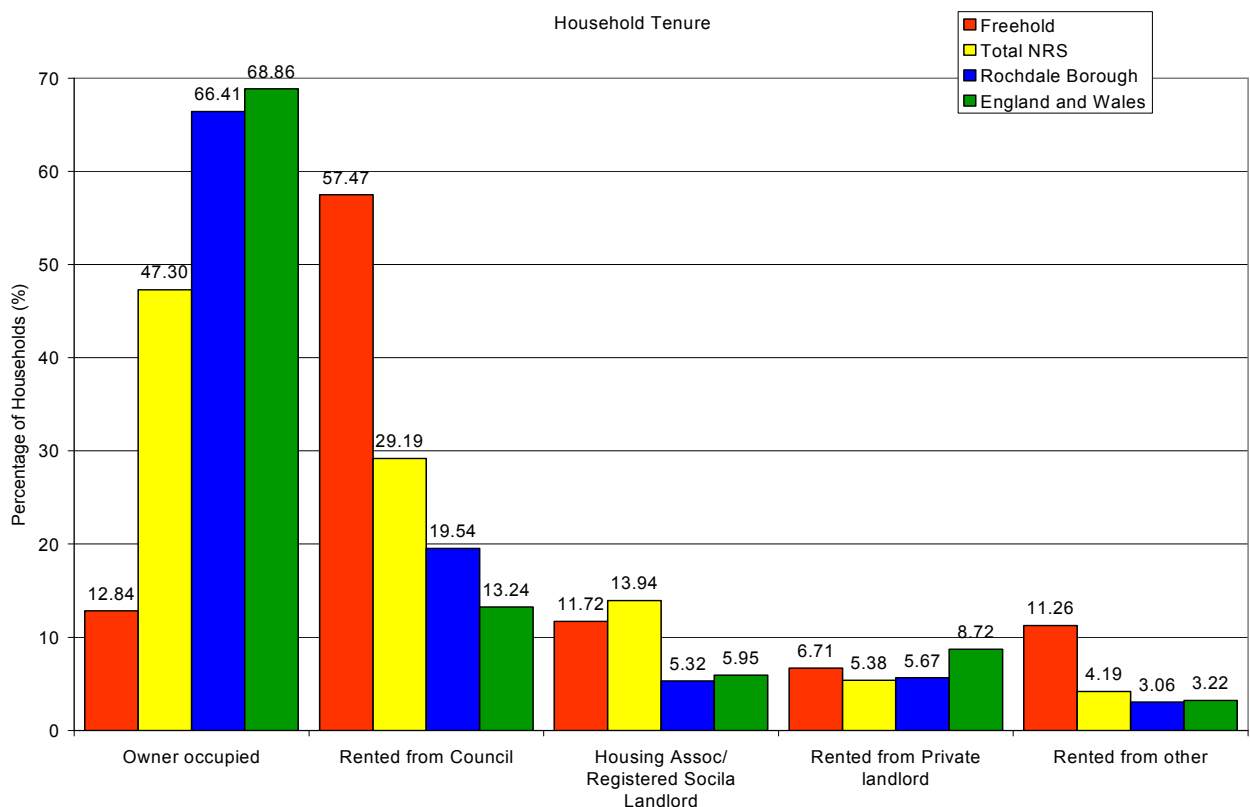
## Housing

Access to decent housing is essential to the development of strong, successful and sustainable communities. In deprived areas, improving poor housing can boost the health and prospects of local people and stimulate renewal.

The Indices of Deprivation included a domain on the Living Environment. This comprised indicators on housing quality and also outdoor environment quality (air pollution and road traffic accidents).

In Freehold there are 271 household spaces. A household space refers to the accommodation occupied by an individual household or, if unoccupied, available for an individual household. (Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 16 & 18, Crown Copyright 2003).

Graph 25: Household Tenure



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 18, Crown Copyright 2003

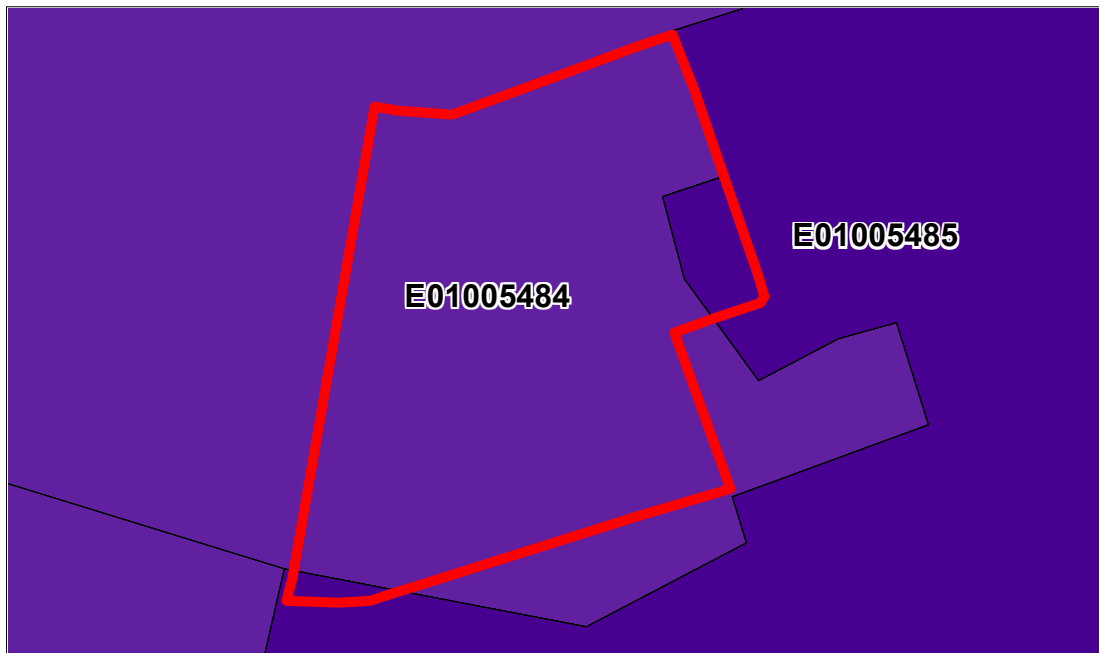
In Freehold only 12.84% of household own their own home. This is this is over five time lower than the average for England and Wales which stands at 68.95% of households. Over half households in Freehold (57.47%) rent their home from the council. This is significantly higher than the average for the Rochdale Borough which stands at 19.54% of households.

Table 12: Living Environment Deprivation

| SOA       | RANK<br>(Where 1 is the most deprived) | PERCENTILE (%) |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| E01005484 | 5,981                                  | 20             |
| E01005485 | 1,467                                  | 10             |

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

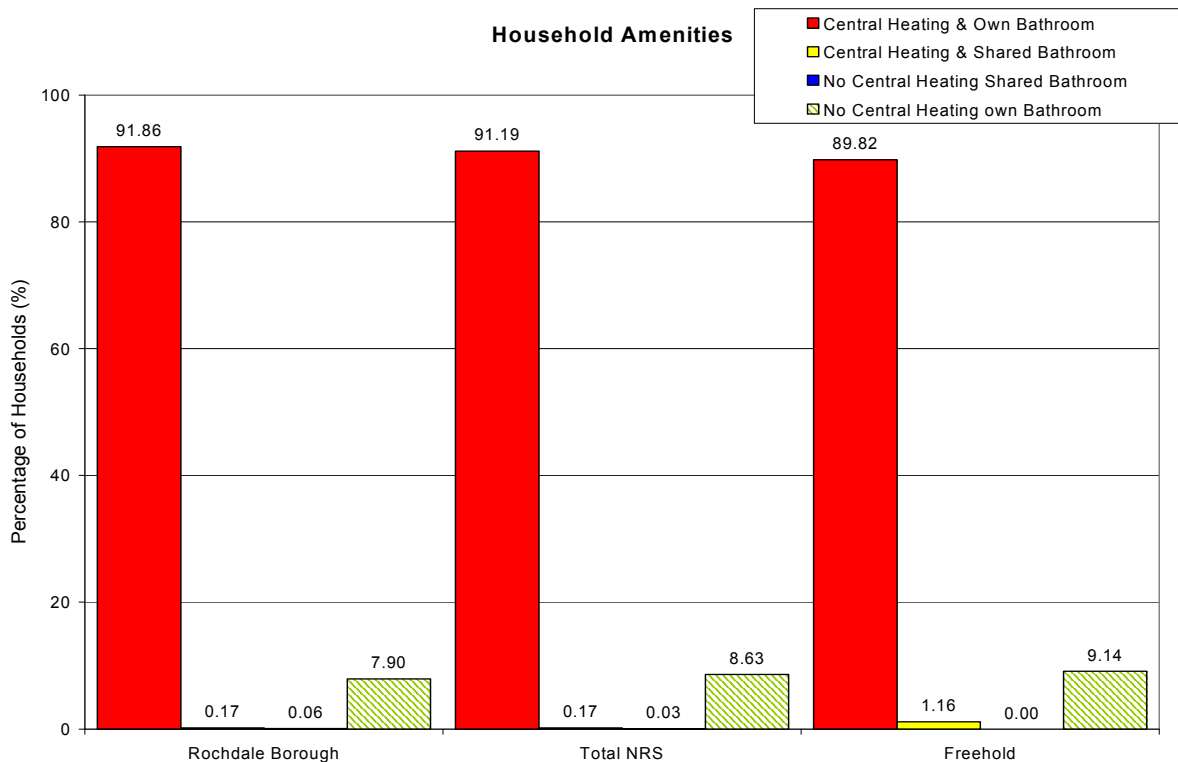
**Map 8: Living Environment Deprivation in Freehold**



Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

The living environment deprivation domain measures the quality of housing, air quality and road traffic accidents. Living environment deprivation in Freehold ranges between the worst 10% and 20% of SOAs in the country. Living environment deprivation is therefore high.

**Graph 26: Household Amenities**



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics Table 19, Crown Copyright 2003

Poor and unsuitable housing is related to low income. When people cannot afford to repair their homes and keep them damp free and when homes are over crowded there is an adverse effect on quality of life and health. Those with the lowest income have the least choice about their housing situation, with the most vulnerable groups often having to live in the least desirable

housing. In Freehold the level of household amenities is lower than the borough average. 9.14% of households do not have central heating, compared with 7.90% at borough level.

The majority of properties in Freehold fall within council Tax Band A (98.7%). This is significantly higher than the percentage for the Rochdale Borough which stands at 57.9%. The valuation for properties in Band A is under £40,000 and the valuation for properties in band B is between £40,000 and £50,000. However, this is not the real sale value of the properties in this band as they are based on rental value calculated before the Council Tax was introduced in 1993

The level of voids (properties empty for more than 6 months) is low at 0.73%. (Source: RMBC Council Tax).

52% of households in Freehold are single person households, a much higher level than the borough average of 30%.

Table 12: Average House Prices by Financial Year

| Year                | Freehold   | Rochdale Borough |
|---------------------|------------|------------------|
| 01/04/00 - 31/03/01 | £17,562.50 | £59,212.76       |
| 01/04/01 - 31/03/02 | *          | £64,741.20       |
| 01/04/02 - 31/03/03 | £24,014.00 | £73,398.04       |
| 01/04/03 - 31/03/04 | *          | £86,160.18       |

Source: HM Land Registry, Crown Copyright 2004.

\* Indicates that data is not available

The table above shows the average house prices in Freehold and the Rochdale Borough since April 2000. The data for Freehold is incomplete and therefore it is difficult to draw any assumptions from it. The data available show that there was an increase in property prices from approximately £17,000 to approximately £24,000. The increase in property in the Rochdale Borough has on average been far greater.

Table 13: Percentages of Properties in each Council Tax Band

| Band | % Of households |
|------|-----------------|
| A    | 98.79           |
| U    | 1.21            |

Source: Rochdale M.B.C. Council Tax.

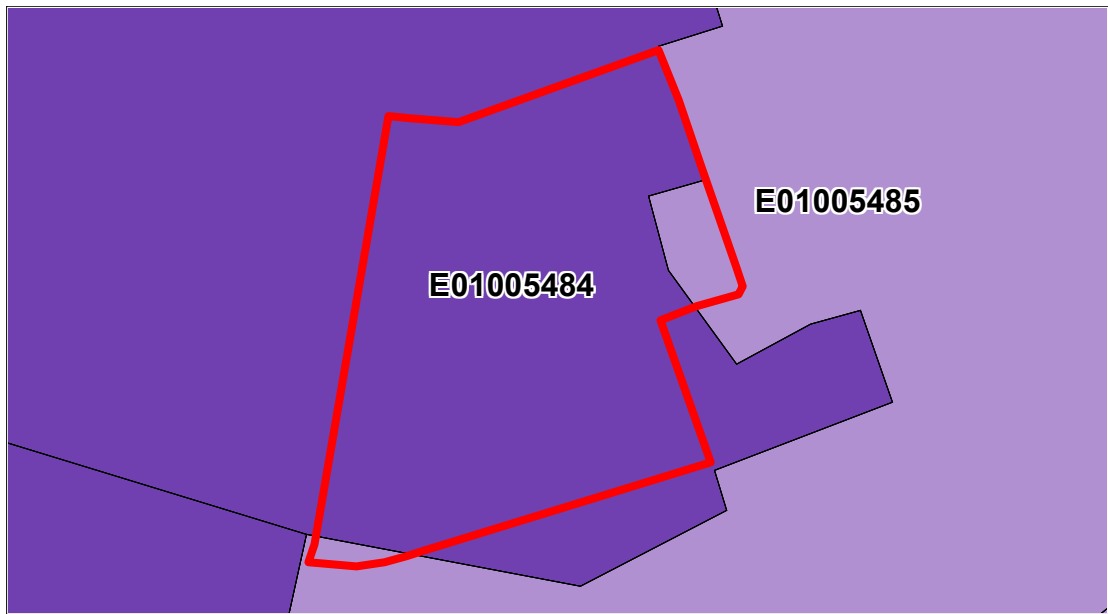
In Freehold the majority of properties are classified as being in Band A (98.79%). The valuation for properties in Band A is under £40. However, this is not the real sale value of the properties in this band as they are based on rental value calculated before the Council Tax was introduced in 1993.

Table 13: Barriers to Housing and Services Deprivation.

| SOA       | RANK<br>(Where 1 is the most deprived) | PERCENTILE (%) |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| E01005484 | 7,683                                  | 30             |
| E01005485 | 16,269                                 | 60             |

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

Map 9: Barriers to Housing and Services Deprivation in Freehold



Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

The majority of Freehold has barriers to housing and a service rank of 7,683 and is therefore within the worst 30% of SOAs in the country. A small proportion of Freehold has a higher rank at 16,269 and therefore only falls within the worst 60% of SOA areas in the country.

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