

# Uttlesford Housing Market Report

## Introduction

This report will give a snapshot of house price data at ward level as at July 2020. This information is designed to provide information on the current housing market pressures within the District.

All information is taken from the web-based analytics company, Hometrack. (Hometrack.co.uk) This information is based on sales and valuation data.

## Context

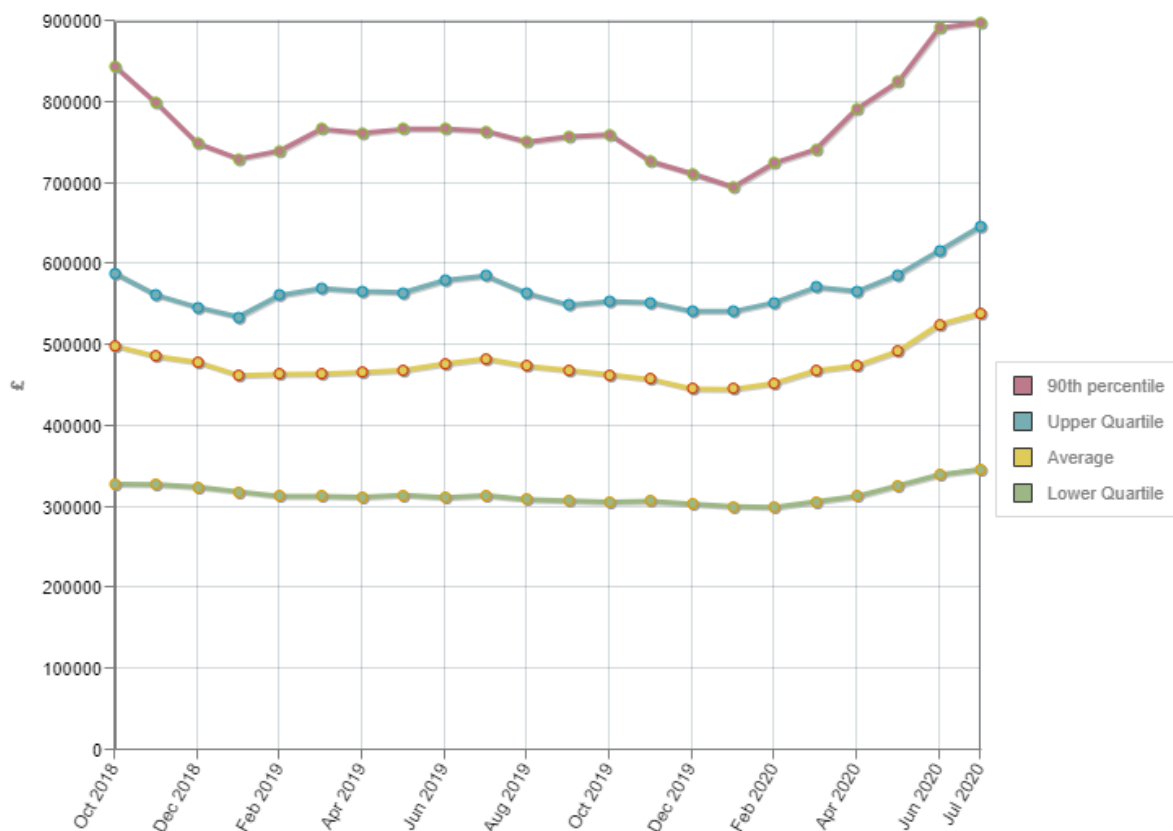
Property prices in Uttlesford are higher than figures for the Eastern region due to the district's proximity to London and Cambridge. For example, the average price of a new build house is £400,773 for the Eastern region compared to £521,499 for Uttlesford. The average price of new builds for Uttlesford has decreased though by circa £15,000 since December 2019.

## Uttlesford prices over time

Figure 1 provides information on the overall property prices in Uttlesford between August 2018 and July 2020. The most expensive properties are within the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile compared to the lower quartile which provides information on the lowest 25% (prices) of properties.

The most expensive properties (90<sup>th</sup> percentile) have changed from £844,000 (October 2018) to £898,333 (July 2020) compared to the lowest priced properties which have changed from £328,333 (October 2018) to £346,666 (July 2020). The average property price has increased from £498,944 (August 2018) to £539,307 (July 2020).

Figure 1 Uttlesford Overall Property prices October 2018 – July 2020



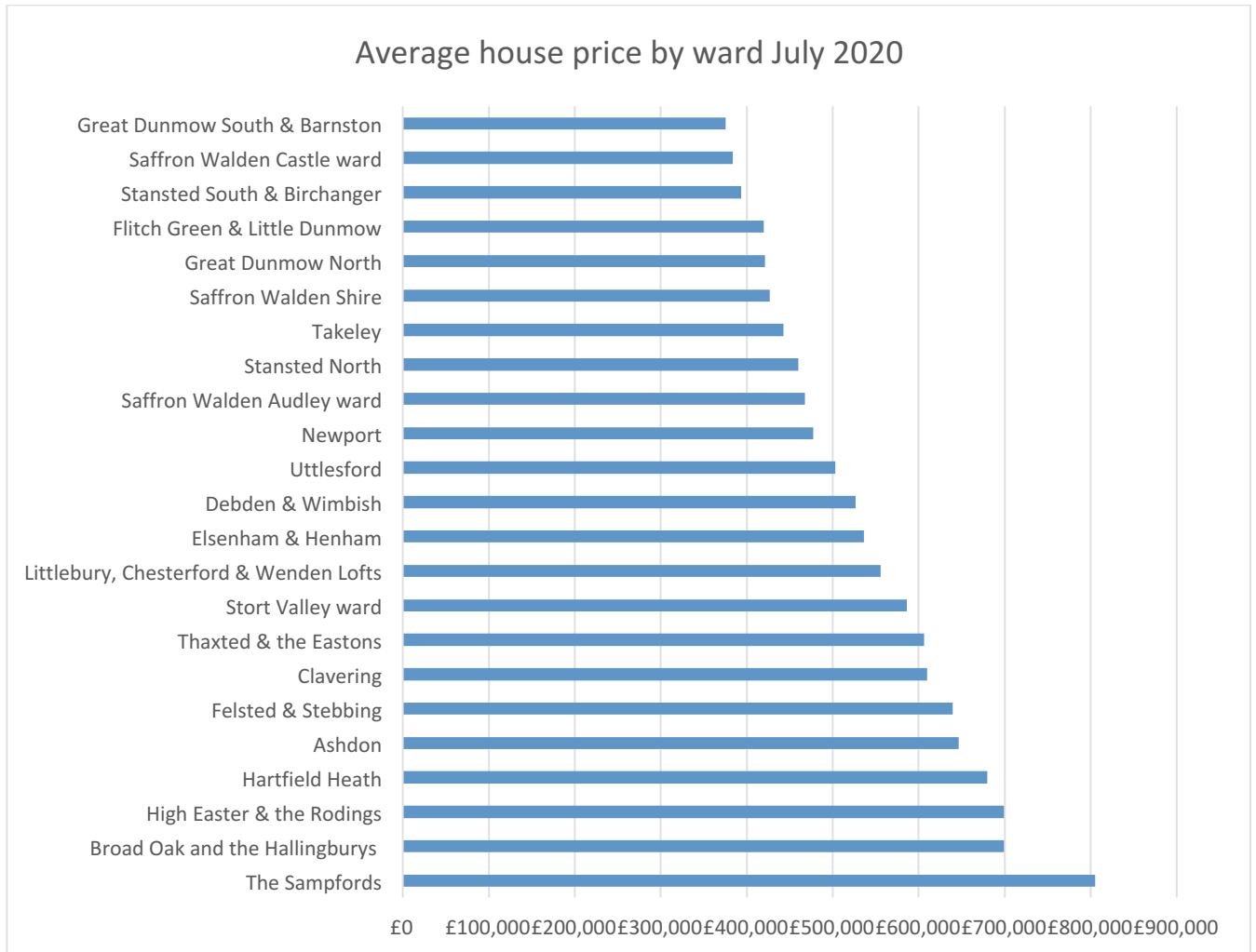
Source: Hometrack October 2020

Figure 2 shows the average property price for July 2020 at ward level.

The highest average price was for the Sampfords £804,458 compared to £374,923 for Great Dunmow South and Barnston.

The average price for the Uttlesford district is £502,400 and is included to enable comparison between individual wards.

Figure 2 Average House Prices by Ward – July 2020



Source: *Hometrack October 2020*

## Properties by bedroom size

This section will look at property prices by bedroom size at ward level.

Data for 1 & 2 bed flats is incomplete and therefore omitted.

## Houses

House price data by ward for July 2020 is given in Figure 3 showing the prices for 2, 3 and 4 bed houses.

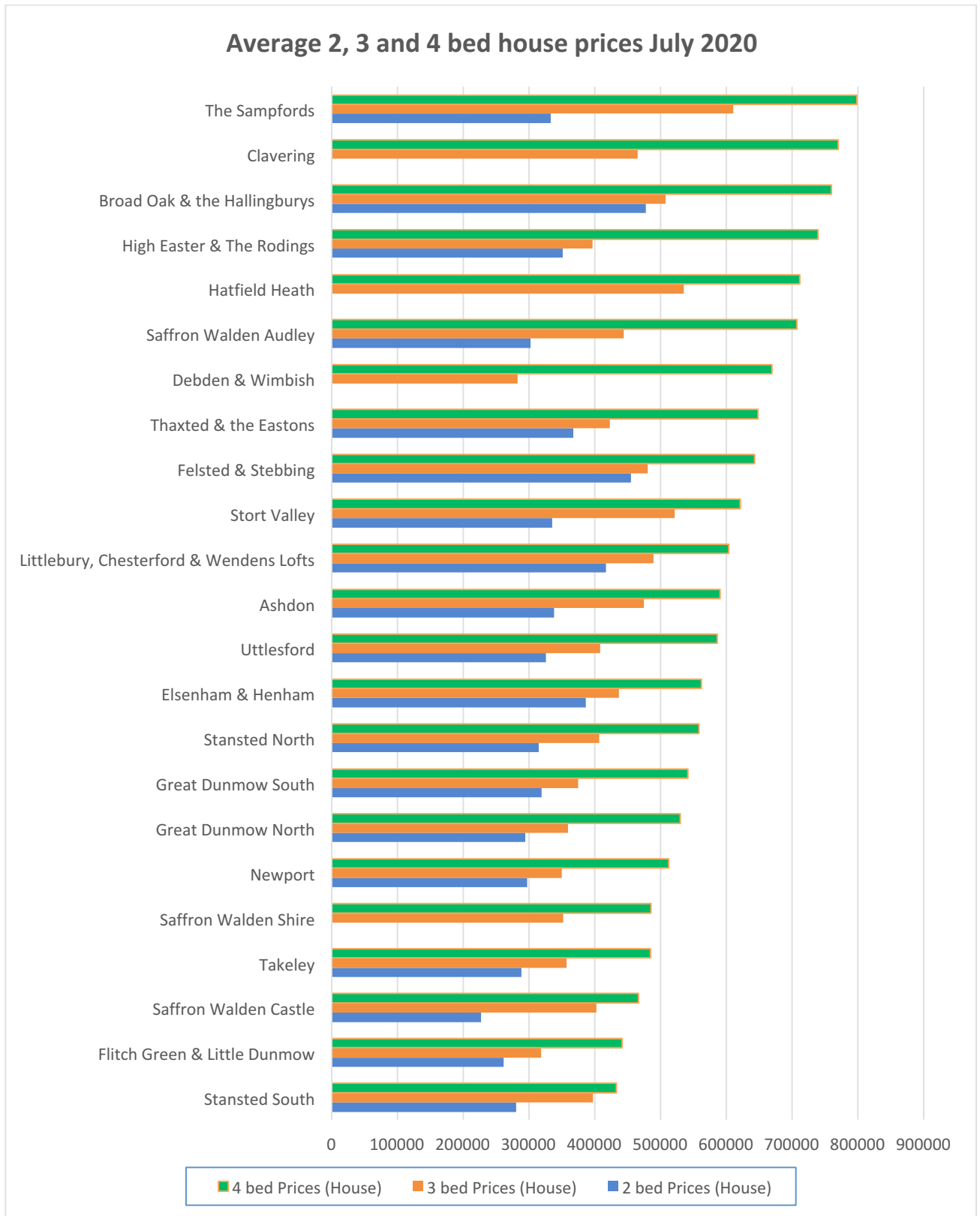
Average price data for 2 bed houses is not available for Clavering, Debden & Wimbish, Hatfield Heath and Saffron Walden Shire ward so this information is not included in Figure 3.

The cheapest two bed house is £227,008 (Saffron Walden Castle ward) compared to £477,270 (Broad Oak & the Hallingburys). The average price of a two bed house within the Uttlesford district is £325,575.

Three bed houses range from £282,167 (Debden & Wimbish) to £610,000 (the Sampfords).

Four bed houses were the least in Stansted South at £432,857 compared to £798,364 in the Sampfords.

Figure 3 House prices (average) by ward, July 2020



Source: *Hometrack October 2020*

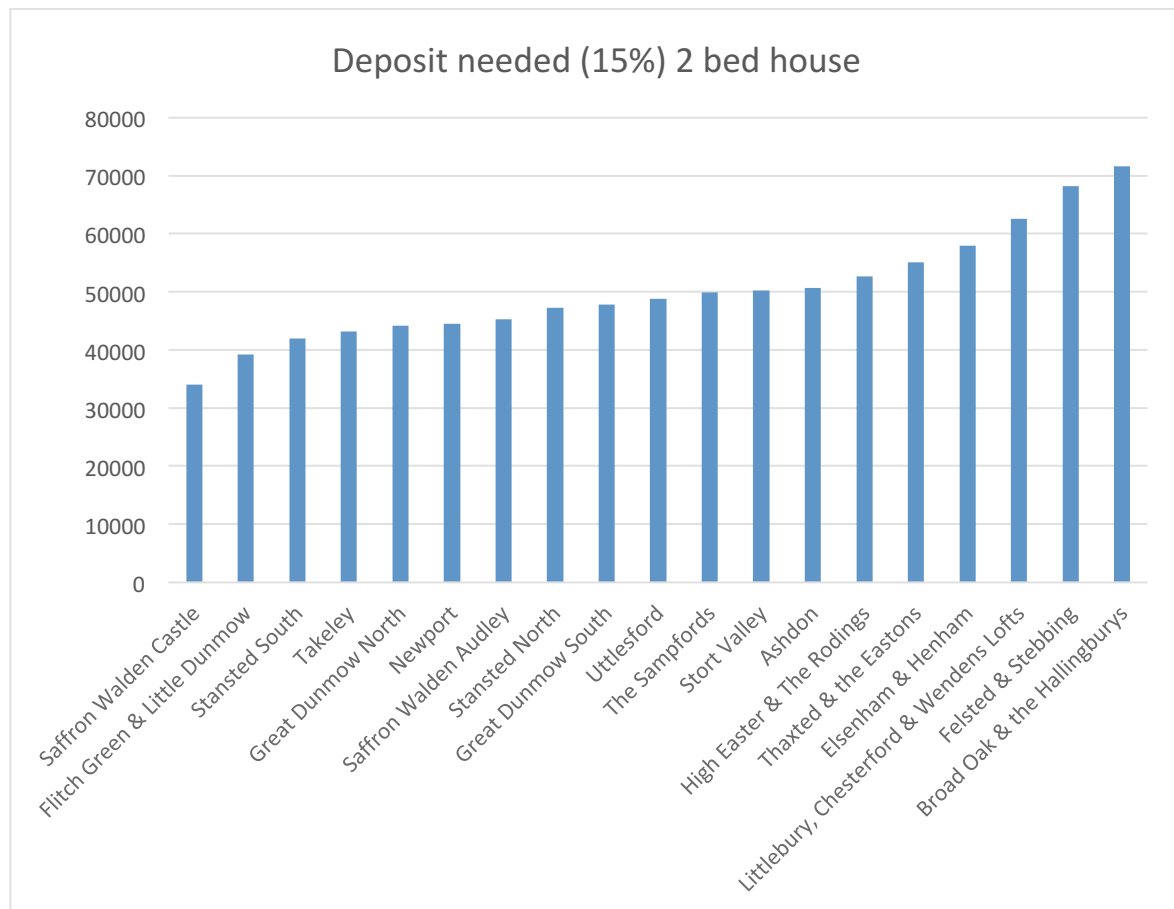
## Affordability

The chart in Figure 4 shows the amount of deposit required to purchase a 2 bed house on the open market by ward. The deposit is 15% as per the guidance and analysis from the Hometrack Housing Intelligence System is used.

Data was not available for Broad Oak & the Hallingburys, Clavering, Debden & Wimbish and the Sampfords.

The ward with the lowest deposit required is Saffron Walden Castle Ward (£34,051) compared to Broad Oak & the Hallingburys which is the most expensive with a deposit of £71,590 required.

Figure 4 Affordability



Source: Hometrack October 2020

## Income

The District benefits from higher than average wages due to a large number of residents working within the technical and highly skilled professionals.

However, sixty percent of residents earn below £34,000pa and 40% earn below £25,000. The overall average income for Uttlesford is £41,000 compared to the median (mid-range) of incomes amounting to £30,000<sup>1</sup>.

To access the cheapest 2 bed property of £227,008 (Saffron Walden Castle ward) on the open market at July 2020, residents would need a joint household income of c£48,500 with a 15% deposit or c£51,500 with a 10% deposit. These figures would vary if the household had debts that needed to be taken into account.

To meet the housing needs of local residents, the Council requires 40% of development on schemes over 15 units to be delivered as affordable homes. This will include an element of sub-market rent and ownership products. In addition, communities can consider a small Rural Exception Site housing scheme to deliver homes for people with a strong connection to that Parish. Please contact the Housing Strategy Team for more information.

Sub-market ownership products include shared ownership or shared equity. The shared ownership product enables purchasers to buy a portion of the property and rent the remainder. A deposit of only 5% is required on this product. Shared equity or Starter Home model allows residents to buy around 80% of the property without any additional rental charges.

## Conclusion

This report has provided a brief overview of the current housing market in Uttlesford at ward level.

Affordability remains difficult but the provision of affordable homes helps meet the needs for Uttlesford residents.

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<sup>1</sup> Income by Residence Table 8a. Office National Statistics 2019