

Rainow Parish Statement



Description of Rainow

Rainow is one of the largest Parishes in England in terms of land area. The main settlement of Rainow is located approximately 3 miles southwest of Kettleshulme and 2 miles northeast of Macclesfield along the B5470. Rainow is an upland Parish with a history of agriculture co-existing with industry, the latter comprising quarrying, coal mining and mills associated with the cotton industry. Whilst there is little industrial activity today the Parish has a rich industrial heritage and current agriculture is focussed upon upland pasture for sheep and cattle.

The centre of Rainow was a linear settlement until the 1960/70's when a large residential development was built to the north of the B5470. However, the linear form along the B5470 road is still a key characteristic of the settlement, with buildings located along the road in groups interspersed with open views across fields. These include the Primary School, Church and Church Centre, Institute and Robin Hood pub each of which is a focal point for activities in the Parish. A number of Conservation Areas were designated in 1994. Rainow is located within the slopes and valleys with woodlands of the South West Peak as described within the Peak District Landscape Characteristic Assessment (LSAP 2009). A nature reserve has recently been established by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust building upon conservation previously undertaken by voluntary groups within the Parish.

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Views of the Community

A Parish Plan was prepared in 2006, based upon an extensive public consultation exercise with questionnaires delivered to every individual in the Parish of school age and above. Separate questionnaires were prepared for primary and secondary school age pupils. More than 600 questionnaires were returned, a better than 50% response rate and ensuring that the great majority of households were represented in the responses. It is considered that the Parish Plan findings continue to be representative of the feelings of the local community today.

The most significant finding from the questionnaires was that most people like living in the Parish and have a clear recognition of what it is about Rainow that they like. The 'likes' section showed that people have positive reasons for living in Rainow, with strong consistency in the features liked about our village. The key 'likes' were 'countryside' (79% of respondents), 'people/community' (50%) and 'peace & quiet' (38%). The responses showed that people generally like Rainow as it is and do not want to see unnecessary change in the Parish.

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The key findings from the consultation were summarised as:

- The lack of a shop – some two-thirds of adults and the great majority of the younger age groups felt there was a need for a shop in the village;
- The lack of a public open space – this was a concern raised by all age groups;
- Something for teenagers to do – many teenagers clearly find Rainow ‘boring’ and lacking suitable activities
- Bus services, particularly the lack of services in the evenings and at weekends, this makes it difficult for teenagers to access evening activities in Macclesfield and elsewhere;
- Traffic speeds – whilst mostly focussed on the B5470 and to a lesser extent the A537, concerns related to minor roads as well. This was a concern of all age groups, particularly the primary school children;
- Parking – the lack of parking in some areas and inconsiderate parking (especially parking on pavements) were both issues. These are both problems that are specific to certain areas of the village;
- The lack of pedestrian crossings – particularly on the B5470 with the area by the Church being the most frequently requested location for a pedestrian crossing facility;
- Vandalism – whilst a relatively small number of people had been directly affected by acts of vandalism it was a clear concern to many people in the village. Problems at the school were noted by many and there was a theme that the problem was felt to be largely due to youngsters from outside the village; and
- Dog fouling – this was again a concern of all age groups including the primary school children.

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Addressing Community Issues

Some of these issues remain for the Parish, despite efforts by the community. A key outcome from the Parish Plan was the introduction by the Parish Council of a free magazine 'The Raven'. This is delivered to all households and provides a quarterly communication channel for Parish events and activities. There was success in obtaining a community minibus which is entirely volunteer operated and provides services on Friday and Saturday evenings.

The B5470 is now subject to speed limits, with 30mph through the centre of the village, 40 mph between Higher Hurdsfield and the village and 50mph elsewhere. Efforts continue to extend the 30mph limit to include the full length of the central part of the village.

A 20 mph speed limit has recently been introduced on the roads around the Primary School during school hours. The A537 'Cat & Fiddle' road now has a 50mph limit. The Parish Council operate a mobile Speed Indicator Device which has helped raise awareness of speeding within the 30mph area and provides evidence as to when and where this occurs. The school now has a new 'adventure' style playground which can be used by children outside school hours, but there still remains the lack of a public open space for general use. Parking is an increasing problem and inconsiderate parking has led to access difficulties in various locations.

Rainow Parish Statement



Population and Demographics

The parish of Rainow has a population of 1,250 residents (2011 census).

The graph below shows that 45-59 year olds make up the largest percentage of the population.

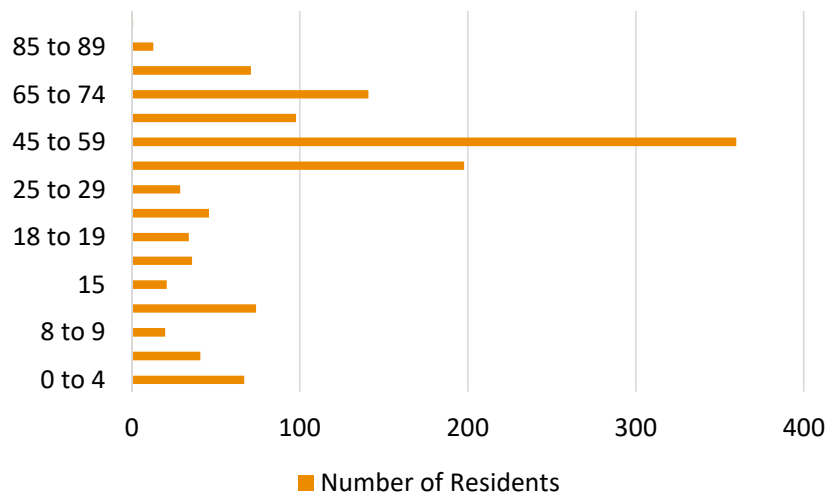
The purpose of the graph below is to give an indication of the balance of children, adult workers and retired persons living within the parishes. Whilst there is no longer a retirement age, the graph below uses an assumed working age of 18-65 year olds.

Rainow Parish Statement

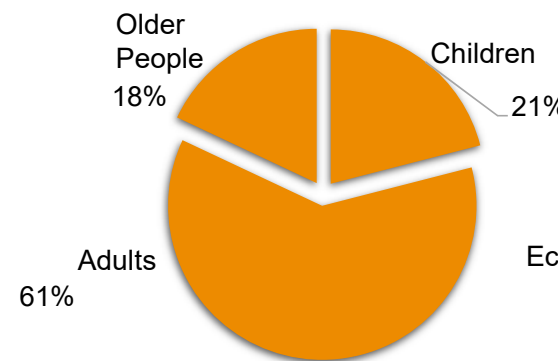


Population and Demographics

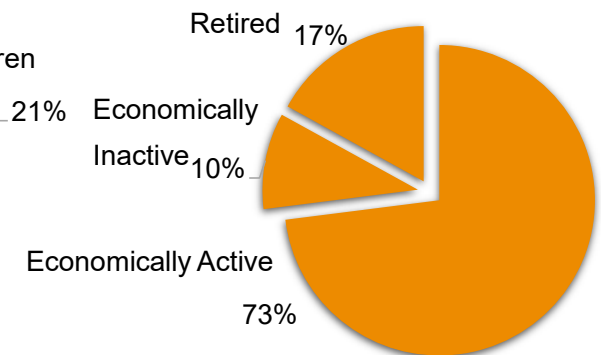
Population Age Range



Children, Adults and Older People



Working and Non Working Adult Population (18+ years)



KEY
 Children 0-17 years
 Adults 18-64 years
 Older People 65 years +

The parish of Rainow has a population of 1250 residents (2011 census).

Source: Census 2011

Rainow Parish Statement



Housing

A sustainable community relies on a mix of housing to attract a mix of people. Below is a breakdown of types and tenures. Detached properties make up 52.9% of properties, semidetached 25.0%, terraced properties 20.9%, and flats 1.2% of properties in Rainow parish.

The majority of properties, 86.5%, are owner occupied either with or without a mortgage (0.8% shared ownership). Renting either privately (9.6%) or through a housing association (2.4%) accounts for 12.0% of the housing stock. There are no care homes in the parish.

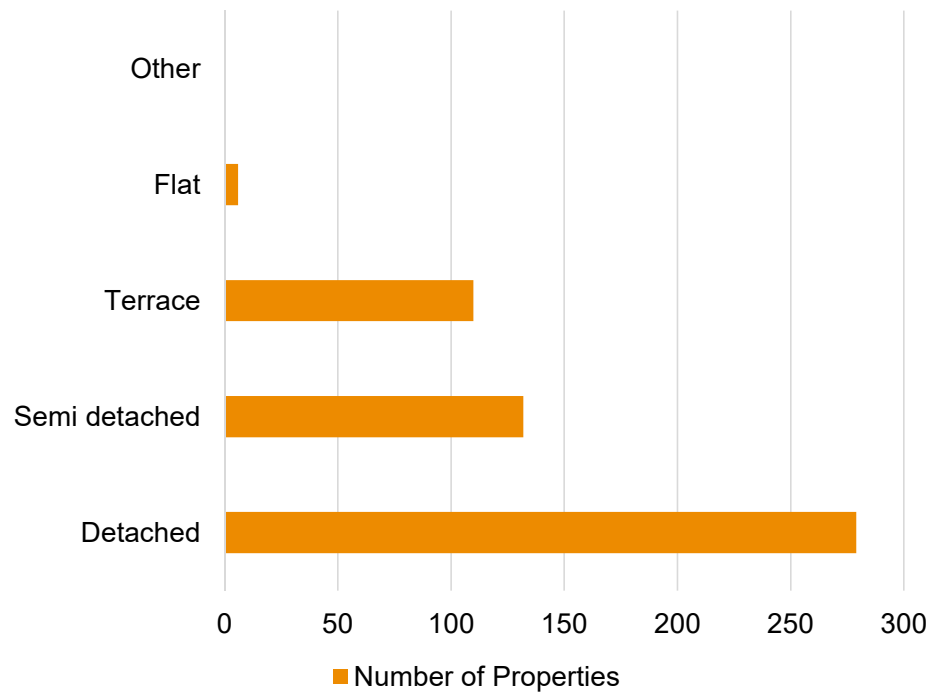
A housing needs survey undertaken by Cheshire East Council (CEC) in conjunction with the Parish Council in 2014 highlighted the need for more smaller and affordable housing for both younger residents and older residents wishing to downsize. The majority of residences in the Parish are suited to family occupancy and there is very limited smaller and affordable housing. Typically residents in either category have to move to neighbouring settlements, primarily Bollington or Macclesfield, although many retired residents choose to remain in family sized properties. A recent survey undertaken by CEC in 2019 confirmed these findings.

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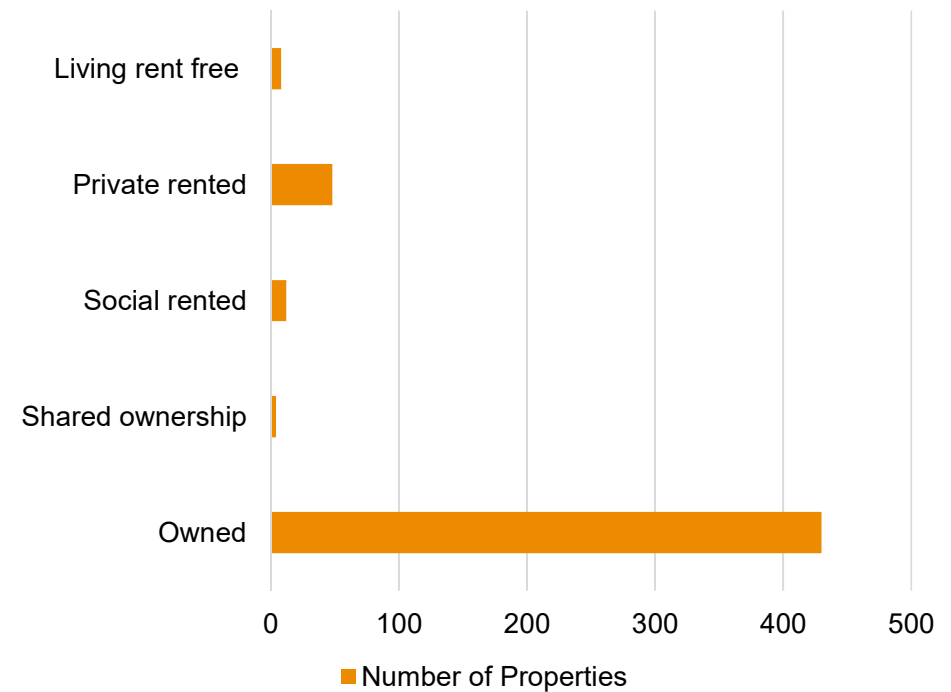


Housing

Housing Type



Housing Tenure



Source: Census 2011

Rainow Parish Statement



Residency

Second homes or holiday lets are a growing concern in the Peak District National Park. Whilst they can provide holiday accommodation to support tourism, a high proportion can alter the dynamics of a village to its detriment. Of the 527 residential properties located in Rainow parish, 502 have a 'usual resident', meaning that they are inhabited. There are 25 properties with no 'usual resident' and are therefore second homes, holiday lets, or vacant properties. This equates to 4.7% of properties in the parish.

Employment

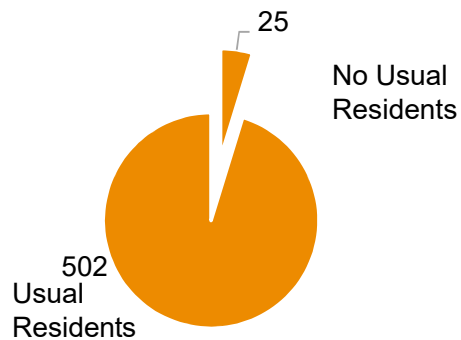
Of the total population of Rainow parish, 73.0% are economically active in either full time, part time work or ad hoc working and 27.0% are economically inactive (17.2% of the total population are retired). The following graph sets out the occupations of the economically active population. It shows that professional occupations are the most common in the area. Increasing numbers of residents are working full or part-time from home and it is intended that the newly re-ordered Church Centre will provide a shared workspace hub.

Rainow Parish Statement



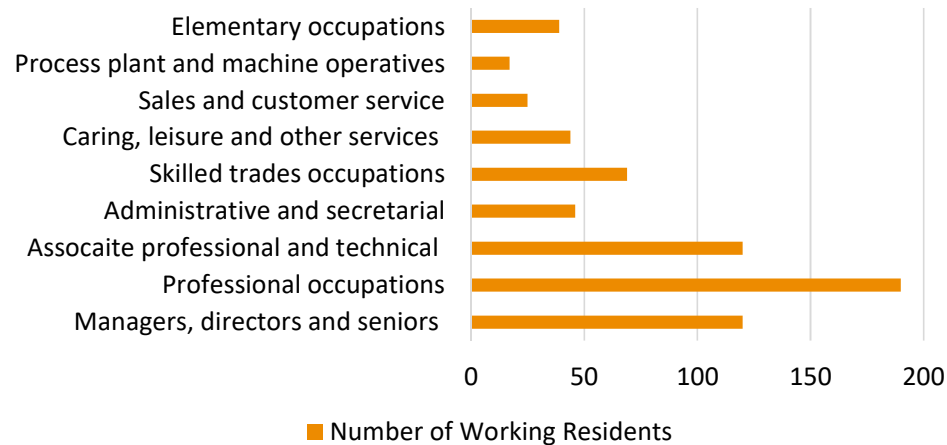
Residency

Occupancy of Properties



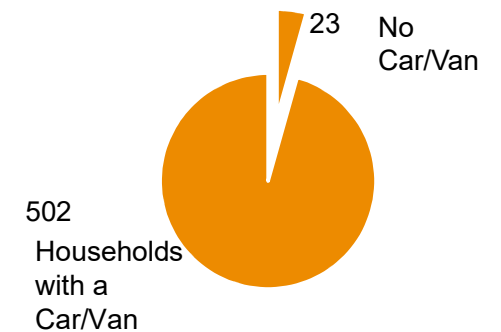
Employment

Occupations of Working Adults



Car/Van Ownership

Households with a Car/Van



Rainow Parish Statement



Notes to table of Settlement Amenities:

- **Playground** - There is a small publicly available play area suitable for younger children and maintained by the Parish Council. A play area suitable for older children is available at the discretion of the primary school.
- **Car parking** – There are no publicly available car parks in the village resulting in growing use of on-street parking, particularly on the B5470.
- **Community Hall** – The Village Institute provides space for meetings and events and is the base for Pre-School. In addition the re-ordered Church Centre will provide a larger space for functions such as concerts.
- **Defibrillators** – The Parish has three defibrillators located through the village as part of the Parish Council resilience planning.
- **Broadband and mobile phone services** – Outside the central part of the village the broadband service is very limited and there are large areas of the Parish with no mobile phone signal.

Rainow Parish Statement

Settlement Amenities



| | |
|---|-----|
| Convenience Food Shop | — |
| Post Office | — |
| Primary School | ★ |
| Community Hall | ★ |
| Playground | ★ |
| Playing Field (cricket pitch) | — |
| Industrial Units | — |
| Distance to General Practice (miles) | 3.0 |
| Within 1 Mile of an A or B Road | ★ |
| Good Public Transport Route (5+ services a day) | ★ |
| Public House | ★ |
| Post Box | ★ |
| Church | ★ |
| Mobile Library | ★ |
| Conservation Area | ★ |
| Website/Newsletter | ★ |
| Groups | ★ |
| Events/Traditions | ★ |
| Accommodation | ★ |

Community

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| General | WI, MU, Pre-school, Toddler group (Jolly Tots), Art, Keep fit, Uniformed groups (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Brownies), Church groups (Praise and Play, Home, Prayer), NSPCC, History, Motorcycle, Handbell ringers, Ukulele group |
| Events/Traditions | Forest Chapel rushbearing, Jenkin Chapel candlelit Carol service, Remembrance Day parade, senior residents party, Christmas Tree and Crib lighting, Carol singing, Fete and Scarecrow fortnight, Christmas Market, dog-trialling, biennial art exhibition, Edinburgh motor trial, fell running, garden safari and plant sale |

Key



Is present



Is not present

Source: Parish Council

Rainow Parish Statement



Time it takes to walk or take public transport to essential services

Distance to essential services (Macclesfield or Bollington) is approximately 3 miles with a walking time of 1 hour plus. The hourly daytime bus service (Macclesfield only) takes between 10 and 15 minutes.

Transport

Public transport is provided by High Peak with a typically hourly service during the daytime on Mondays to Fridays operating between Macclesfield and New Mills. There is also a service along the A537 between Macclesfield and Buxton. These services are well-used and relied upon by many residents in order to access facilities in Macclesfield and elsewhere, they also provide access to the Parish for walkers and visitors. A volunteer community group operates a village minibus that provides weekend evening services on demand to Macclesfield and Bollington as well as providing transport for community groups and the school.

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Public Transport

| Rainow | Route | Bus Company | Days | Frequency |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|--|
| 60 | Macclesfield – Hayfield | High Peak | Mon –Sat | Btwn 06:55—18:32, approx. every hour btwn 09:26—18:24 |
| 58 | Macclesfield - Buxton | | Mon-Sun | Btwn 06:10 – 18:45 approx. hourly. Limited Sunday service. |
| Rainow Village Bus | Rainow – Macclesfield | Community run bus | Fri-Sat | 19:00 –23:00, runs on demand |

Source:
<https://www.derbybus.info/times/timetables/>
and Rainow Parish Council

Rainow Parish Statement



Tourism Facilities

Rainow Parish has some bed and breakfast and self-catering accommodation for tourists. The Parish has an extensive network of public footpaths, with a detailed map and walks booklet prepared and sold by the Parish Council, and is a popular venue for walking groups and individuals. Refreshment facilities are available at the Robin Hood Public house and a small number of tea rooms. The Parish has lost 4 of its 5 public houses and the Parish Council has taken action to ensure that the last remaining pub is registered as a community asset.

Rainow Parish Statement



Planning

The boundary of the Peak District National Park bisects much of the Parish, with Cheshire East Council (CEC) responsible for the area outside the National park. This can lead to inconsistencies in planning processes, especially in the central part of the village where the boundary runs along the centre of the main road.

Over the past 5 years 23 planning applications have been approved by the Peak District National Park. A larger number have been approved in the CEC part of the Parish. The majority of applications have related to extensions to existing properties or conversion of farm outbuildings. This has tended to increase the average size of the housing stock in the Parish and further reduced the availability of smaller properties for both younger and older residents.

Potential for Affordable Housing

There is a current application for affordable housing on land in the National park adjacent to the Robin Hood public house. Whilst the principle of affordable housing in this location is generally accepted, the Parish Council and local residents consider the current application to represent over-development of a very small site.

Rainow Parish Statement

Digital Presence
<http://www.rainowvillage.co.uk/>



Rainow Parish Statement



Rainow Community Aspirations - 1

The Rainow Community has a history of success in delivering projects to satisfy identified community needs through external grant sources, including:

- A new community bus
- The Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale conservation project
- The Raven village magazine
- The re-ordering of the Church Centre
- Adventure playground at the school for community use

Rainow Parish Statement



Rainow Community Aspirations – 2

As noted at the start of this statement, the community attitudes to Rainow are best represented through the findings of the 2006 Parish Plan. This showed that the majority of residents have positive reasons for living in Rainow and a key aspiration is to avoid unnecessary change in the Parish. Whilst there are a number of needs identified for the Parish it is important that any fulfilment of these needs take account of the overriding wish to protect the countryside and environment of the Parish.

Key outstanding community needs include:

- Affordable and smaller housing for both younger and older residents
- Improved broadband and mobile phone supply and coverage
- A public open space
- A shop
- Increased off-street parking provision

Rainow Parish Statement (draft)

Rainow and its Services

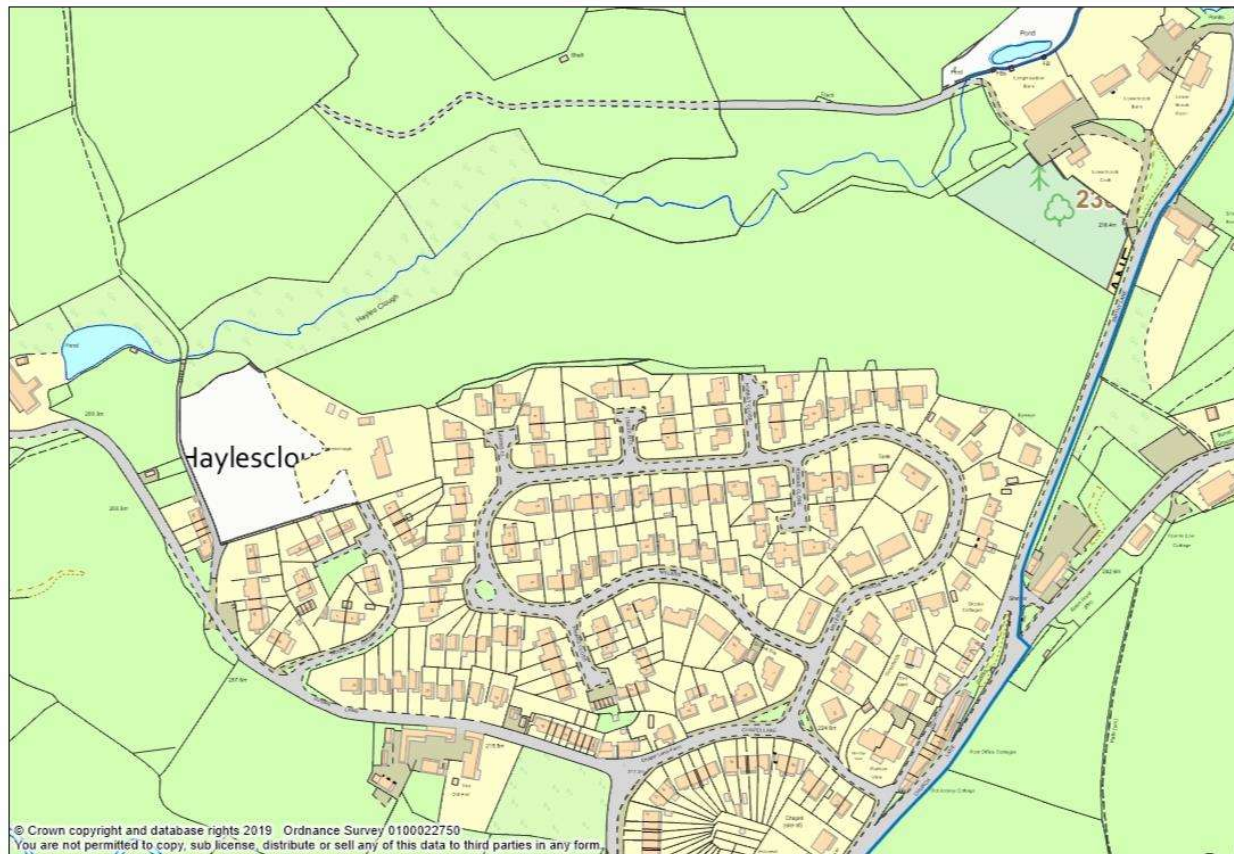


Key

- A1 Shops
- A2 Financial and Professional Services
- A3 Restaurants and Cafes
- A4 Drinking Establishments
- A5 Hot Food Takeaways
- B1 Business
- B2 General Industrial
- B8 Storage or Distribution
- C1 Hotels
- C2 Residential Institutions
- C2A Secure Residential Institution
- C3 Dwellinghouses
- C4 Houses in Multiple Occupation
- D1 Non-Residential Institutions
- D2 Assembly and Leisure
- Camp Site
- Allotments
- Playground
- Playing Field
- Public Car Park
- Sui Generis
- Bus Stop
- Notice Board
- Post Box
- Telephone Box
- Cash Point
- Public Toilets
- Defibrillator

Rainow Parish Statement (draft)

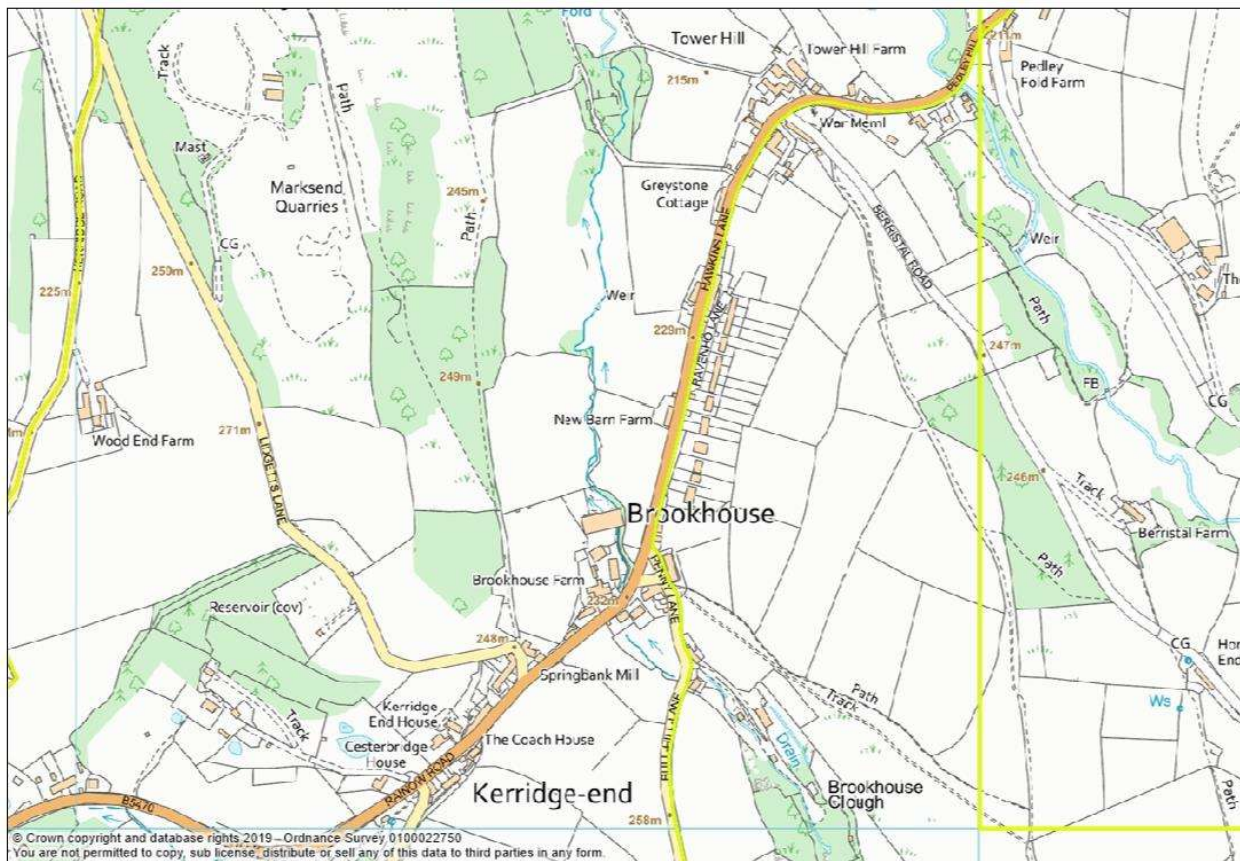
Rainow and its Services



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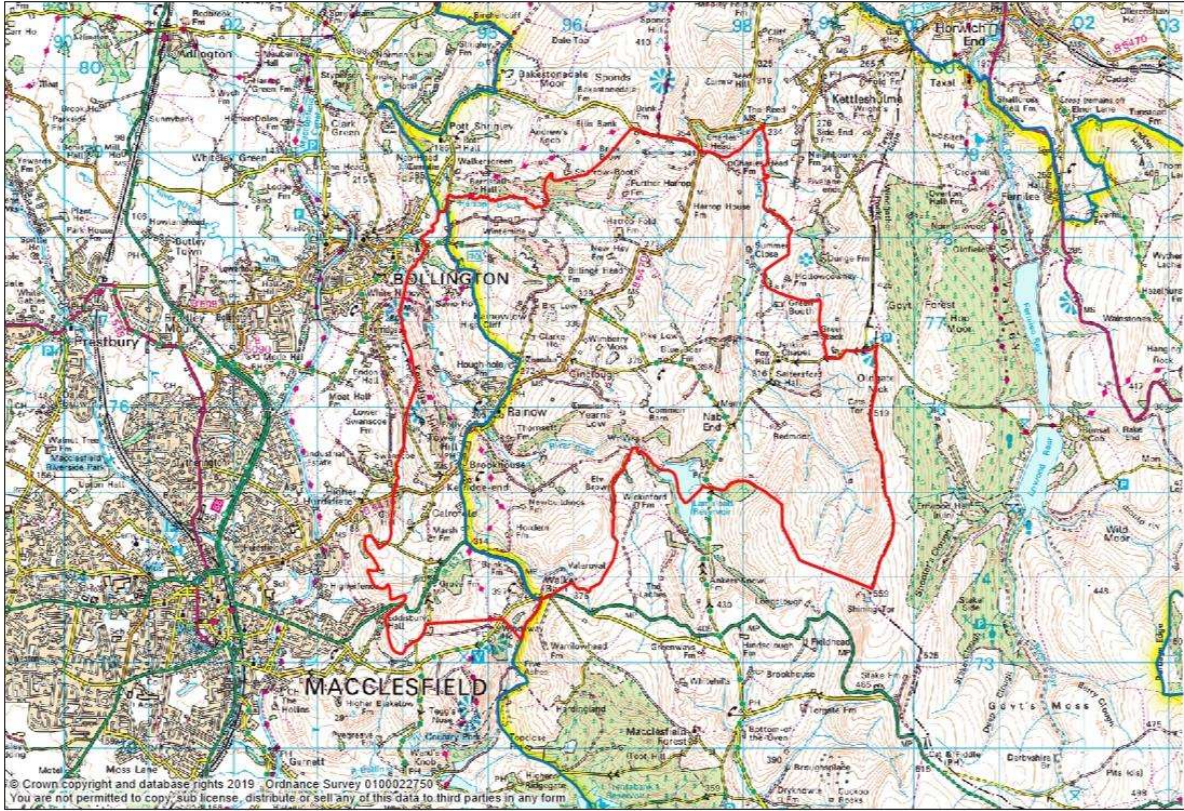
Rainow Parish Statement (draft)

Tower Hill, Brookhouse and Kerridge-end



Rainow Parish Statement (draft)

Rainow and its Services



Rainow Parish Statement (draft)



Data sources

Rainow Parish Council
Derbyshire County Council
Ordnance survey maps
Peak District National Park Conservation Area Appraisals
Peak District National Park Landscape Strategy Action Plan (LSAP)
<http://www.derbybus.info/times/>
<http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/GP/LocationSearch/4>
<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>
<http://www.rainowvillage.co.uk/>