



Clare

The growing town of Clare is a self-sufficient community which draws shoppers and visitors from an immediate population of 8000 including neighbouring villages, as well as tourists all year round.

While many smaller towns have lost their family businesses and independent stores, Clare has about 100 businesses including a butcher, baker, greengrocer, pharmacy, hardware and book shops in the town centre to provide day-to-day services.

The bank, GP surgery, library, optician and many professional firms also bring customers into Clare, which local people describe as 'a market town without the market'. There are small commercial areas for businesses needing workshop space.





“There are over **100 businesses** registered in Clare, highlighting its raw entrepreneurial spirit”

The business community in Clare has experienced something of a renaissance in the last decade with many start-ups attracted by its potential. Indeed, among members of the developing Clare Business Association, most have launched their enterprises in the last five to 10 years.

Clare is less than 30 miles from Cambridge, seven miles from Haverhill and 16 miles from Bury St Edmunds.

As one of the 'wool towns', the villages which became prosperous through textiles in the Middle Ages, Clare is also

a tourist magnet for people interested in its picture-postcard buildings, art and antiques. An auction house opened recently.

The popular 'Lovejoy' series about the antiques trade was filmed in West Suffolk and along the Suffolk-Essex border, including Clare, and there are several antiques businesses, along with new and second hand bookshops and an art gallery and framer and restorer, which have put it on the map for tourists from this country and overseas.

Cafes, holiday cottages, a hotel, bed and breakfasts and pubs are all part of West Suffolk's offer.



Distances from Clare



Case study

Baker & Baker

The beautifully crafted kitchens in the Baker & Baker showroom at Clare look like the kind featured in glossy interiors magazines... and that's because they have been.

For more than 20 years, Baker & Baker – run by husband and wife team Graham and Marie Baker – have been designing and creating bespoke hand-built cabinets, made by their own team of craftsmen.

The furniture, which also includes storage solutions for bedrooms and other rooms, is made on site in Clare for customers all over the country.

The Bakers take great pride in using the best quality materials including sustainable timber and their bespoke designs appeal to people wanting fittings that will stand the test of time.

"Customers have confidence in Baker & Baker to deliver high quality, locally sourced goods and excellent customer service.



With business increasing year-on-year Baker & Baker are now planning to extend both their workshop and showroom to give them the capacity to expand.

"We take pride in everything we produce here in Clare and we are more than happy with West Suffolk as a place to do business."



BAKER & BAKER
Hand Crafted Kitchens