



## The 2021 Census data: Quick guide to geography areas and Warwickshire

**2021 Census data** is aligned by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) to **geographic areas**. How these areas fit together can be understood in terms of a **hierarchy from large to small**.

Geographic areas are defined areas of England; County, District/Borough and the smaller **Geographic Units**. Geographic Units are defined using minimum and maximum **population** and **household thresholds**.

The ONS **adjust the Geographic Unit Boundaries** between census periods to maintain the thresholds. Due to population growth between the 2011 Census and the 2021 Census, **Warwickshire now has more of each Geographic Unit**. As new data becomes available, the ONS and other outlets will shift to the new geographic units.

### County

#### District/Borough

MSOAs, LSOAs and OAs fit exactly into district/borough boundaries

Geographic Unit : **MSOA**  
Middle Super Output Area

**Population per Unit**  
Average 7,500  
Min 5,000  
Max 15,000

**Number of MSOAs in Warwickshire**  
2011 Census: 66  
2021 Census: **67**

Geographic Unit: **LSOA**  
Lower Super Output Area  
4-5 LSOA's 'nest' into a single MSOA

**Population per Unit**  
Average 1,500  
Min 1,000  
Max 3,000

**Number of LSOAs in Warwickshire**  
2011 Census: 339  
2021 Census: **354**

The smallest geography at which other official statistics are available.

Geographic Unit: **OA**  
Output Area  
4-5 OAs 'nest' into a single LSOA

**Population per Unit**  
Average 310  
Min 100  
Max 625

**Number of OAs in Warwickshire**  
2011 Census: 1,818  
2021 Census: **1,925**

Building blocks to produce census statistics for most other geographies using 'best fit'. Apart from census data, few datasets are released at this level.



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**Administrative geography** refers to the hierarchy of areas relating to national and local government. Census data is released at **national (England/Wales)** and later by **UK, regional and upper and lower tier local authority level** as well as some of the geographies shown below.

### Parliamentary Constituencies

- Warwickshire currently has 6 parliamentary constituencies.
- One Member of Parliament (MP) represents one constituency.
- Census data will be available for these areas.

### Parishes

- There are 220 parish/town councils across Warwickshire which are mainly found in rural areas but also include 10 town councils.
- Data from the 2021 Census will be available for both geographies

### Wards

- There are 90 wards in Warwickshire, each represented by one or more district/borough councillors.
- They are elected to represent the same electoral wards that are used to constitute Westminster parliamentary constituencies.
- Ward data will reflect boundaries as of May 2022.

- Census data is *not* released by the larger 'county **electoral divisions**' used to elect county councillors.
- The Business Intelligence service will seek to make 2021 census data available at this geography on a 'best fit' basis.



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2021 Census data will also be released using these geographies

### Built-Up Extents and Settlements

- Areas with **urban** characteristics.
- Settlements are smaller areas within the built-up extents.
- Useful when trying to estimate populations or profile a town, **settlement or built-up area** within the county.



### Workplace Zones

- Geographical units based on the numbers of **workers** in them, between 200 and 625 workers.
- ONS are considering the impact of COVID-19 had on how respondents answered questions relating to where they work.



### Travel to Work Areas

- Area where a large proportion of **workers both live and work**.
- Current Travel to Work Areas are based on 2011 Census commuting data and ONS are considering whether to update the zones using Census 2021.



### Postal Areas

- Postal geography comprises postcode areas, districts and sectors. The latter are the smallest area and are made up of 'unit postcodes'.



### Local Enterprise Partnerships

- Non-statutory bodies responsible for local economic development involving private and public sector bodies as well as academic and voluntary institutions.
- Currently 38 across England including one for Coventry and Warwickshire.



### Health Geographies

- Previously, data was made available for clinical commissioning group areas (CCGs) and strategic health authority areas.
- The ONS is currently considering whether to use the most recent CCGs or the newly created Integrated Care Boards, or both.





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Points to note about the 2021 Census data

### ONS - Area Profiling Tool

- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) are planning a **Area profiling tool**
- Headline data from the census will be available for a range of ONS, administrative and other geographies detailed in this briefing note.
- The ONS are also exploring how users may be able to create their own geographies by aggregating the units they have available.

### Phased Data Release

- There will be a phased release of data, initially by census topics. These will be available at national, county, district/borough and the census hierarchy for small areas detailed overleaf. Subsequent data releases will contain more variables and data will start to be released at other geographies. Specific timing for the release of data will appear on the ONS release calendar.

### Data Geographies

- Not all data from the census will be available at all geography levels – it comes down to 'disclosure control'
- Disclosure control avoids anyone being recognised in the data.
- Typically, the more detailed the data, the less likely it is to be available at very small areas.

### Look-Ups and Boundary Information

- WCC's Business Intelligence service and ONS also provide 'look ups' showing how smaller geographies fit in with larger areas, for example identifying which LSOAs fit into MSOAs or how LSOAs fit with wards.
- These and boundaries for mapping can be found on the ONS open geography portal.
- The Business Intelligence service can also help with internal enquires about this.

Further Information: [ONS geography plans for the 2021 Census](#)

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