

Which geography . . . data note

October 2017

Area Profiles on ESiF are published to District, Parish and Ward level

This data note describes these geographies, how they relate to each other and the new 2011 Census geography.

Geographic units and East Sussex in Figures Area Profiles

Wards ➔ district councillor area, which nests into district and county

District wards are those areas relating to electoral representation at district council level, with one or more councillors representing each ward on the council. This geography has traditionally been used as a standard level for presentation of small-area statistics, such as births and deaths. The number of wards in East Sussex remains unchanged at 101 and they nest into district (or borough) council areas. Ward populations vary from 2,000 to over 13,000 people across the county.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) geography policy means that ward data from 2011 Census is calculated on a 'best-fit' basis. That is, ward estimates are calculated by aggregating statistics for the OAs that most closely relate to the administrative boundary, based on the average location of the population within each area.

Parishes ➔ area with a parish council, which nests into district and county

Civil or administrative parishes are the areas relating to electoral representation on the parish (or town) council, which is the lowest level of local government. Parishes also nest into district (or borough) council areas. There are 105 civil parishes in East Sussex, though because seven are so small that individuals might be identified, data is available for 98, which includes seven merged parishes¹. Note that Berwick and Alciston parishes have been merged with the 2011 Census geography for this reason.

Parish populations range from over 40,000 in Bexhill to just over 150 in Streat. Although Bexhill has no parish council, data is presented for the town in parish datasets. There are no parishes in Eastbourne and Hastings.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) geography policy means that parish data from 2011 Census is calculated on a 'best-fit' basis. That is, parish estimates are calculated by aggregating statistics for the OAs that most closely relate to the administrative boundary, based on the average location of the population within each area (population weighted centroids).

While there is a direct relationship between the boundaries of many parishes and OAs in East Sussex, changes that occurred to parish boundaries in Wealden district in 2007 mean that this is not the case for all.

¹ Combined Parishes in ESiF: Beddingham and Tarring Neville, Berwick and Alciston, East Chiltington and St John Without, Falmer and St Ann Without, Rodmell and Southease, Ashburnham and Penhurst, Playden and East Guldeford.

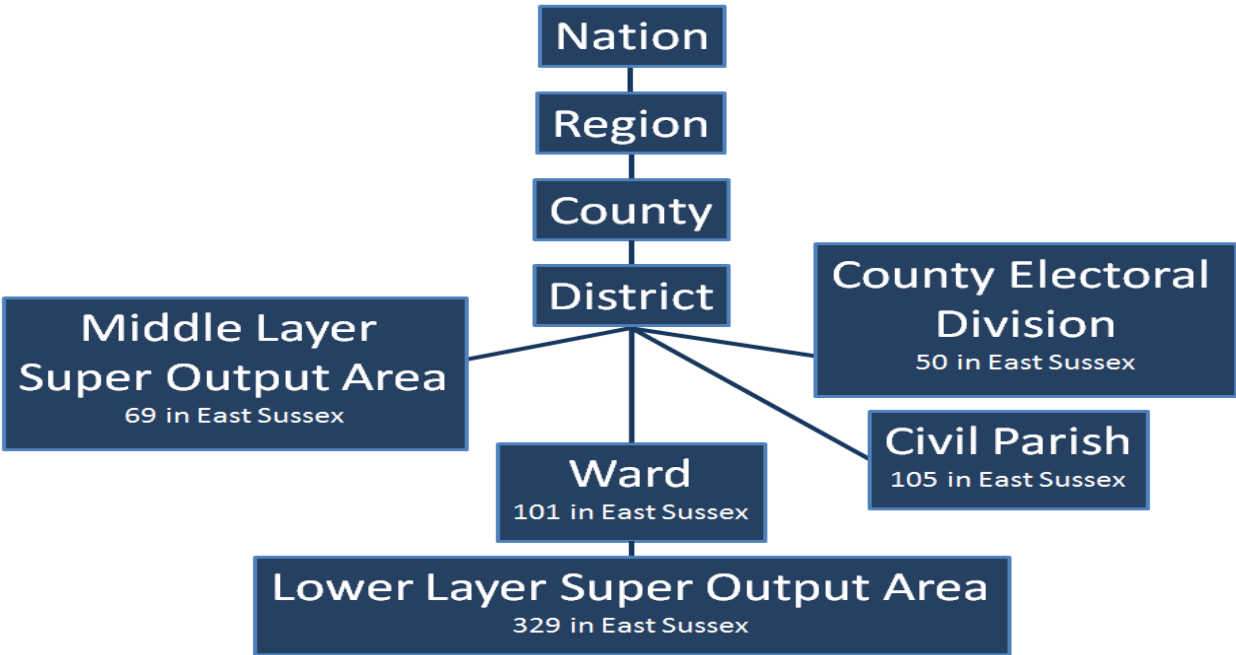
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As a result of this lack of comparability, parish data for the 2001 and 2011 Censuses is published separately on ESiF.

Districts ➔ **area with a district council, which nests into county**

District councils are the middle level of local representation. Wards nest into districts, as do parishes, but the relationship between these two is complex (see further information below). There are five district (or borough) councils in East Sussex: Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden.

Relationship between geographies in East Sussex



Further information

- In ESiF, data for 2011 Census will be published for the newly created LSOAs (E01032831, E01032832 and E01032833) in Sovereign ward, Eastbourne. Data from the 2001 Census for the former LSOA Eastbourne E01020958 will not be published. Please contact the Research & Information Team if you require this data.
- Civil parishes differ from ecclesiastical parishes, which relate to church administration. Parish data in ESiF is aggregated from OA data on a best-fit basis according to ONS Geography policy.
- East Sussex in Figures shows [maps of various geographies](#) across the county.
- There is no clear relationship between county electoral divisions, wards and parishes. In East Sussex, some parishes are divided into district wards (for example, Uckfield parish consists of 4 district wards), while some wards are divided into parishes (for example, Ouse Valley and Ringmer ward contains 6 parishes). In other cases, ward boundaries can cut across parish boundaries. Some wards and parishes have common boundaries. County electoral divisions are often (but not always) combinations of wards. The relationship between different geographies can be explored in the mapping of any small-area dataset.
- Visit the ONS website for [full details of the ONS Geography policy](#).
- For more information about [Boundary changes in Wealden](#) see our datanote.

Contact details

The Research and Information Team is based in the Chief Executive's Office. It provides intelligence to assist with service planning and strategy development across East Sussex and manages the East Sussex in Figures (ESiF) Local Information System.

ESiF is a web-based information system that contains detailed, up-to-date and reliable information on a very wide range of topics. It is free and very easy to use and puts individual users in control. ESiF lets you specify exactly what data you want to see (for the places and time periods you are interested in) and how you want to view it (as a table, chart or map).

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