

Which geography . . . data note

May 2019

Data in East Sussex in Figures (ESiF) are published at various geographic levels which range from national and regional comparators, county level, and also at smaller areas within East Sussex including districts, wards, parishes and lower layer super output areas.

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



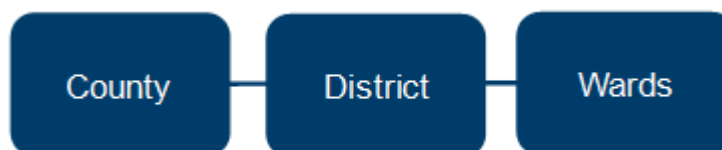
Districts ➔ area with a district council, which nests into county

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.

County ➔ area with a county council, and nests into region

The county council is the upper tier of local government. All lower levels of geography nest into the county.

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. Following a major boundary review, wards were reviewed for the local elections in May 2018 for Hastings Borough Council and May 2019 for Eastbourne Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Rother District Council and Wealden District Council

There are 108 electoral wards. [Maps for the post review boundaries have been published.](#)

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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. There are 101 'best-fit' census wards. [2011 Census Ward Map](#).

County electoral divisions ➔ county councillor area, which nests into district and county

County electoral divisions (CEDs) are the representative areas for county councillors, and each is represented by one or more councillors on the County Council. There are 50 CEDs in East Sussex, represented by one councillor.

Statistics for CEDs are calculated by aggregating data at LSOA level on a best-fit basis (that is those LSOAs that most closely relate to the administrative boundary are included).

As a result, while there is a direct relationship between the boundaries of many CEDs and LSOAs, there are some instances where LSOAs span more than one CED and have needed to be allocated to just one to avoid duplication in the statistics. The current CEDs were defined following a Boundary Commission review in 2016. [Maps and profiles to CED geographies](#) have been published.

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.

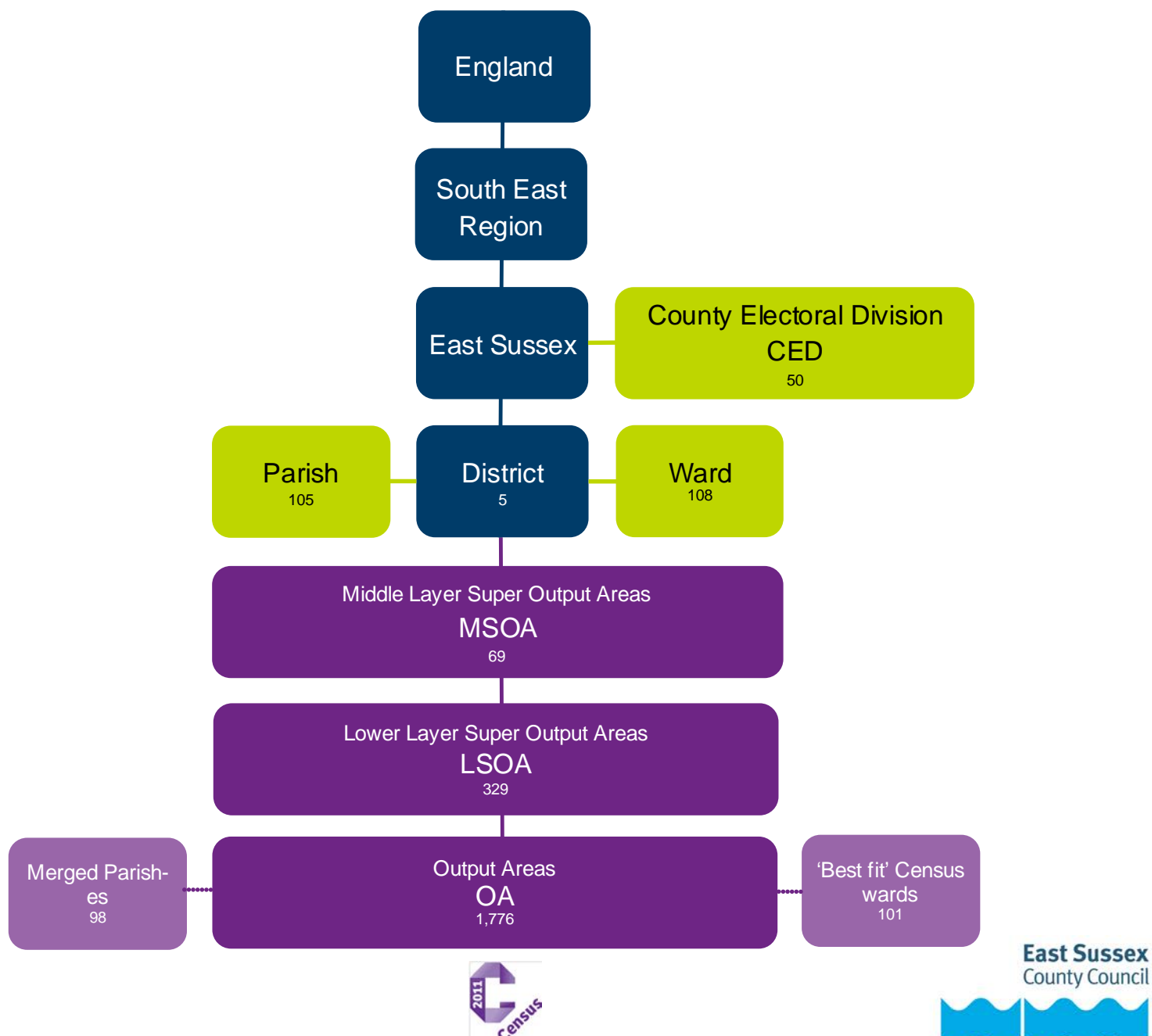
The Office for National Statistics (ONS) geography policy means that parish data from 2011 Census is calculated on a 'best-fit' basis. That is, parish estimates are calculated by aggregating statistics for the OAs that most closely relate to the administrative boundary, based on the average location 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. As a result of this lack of comparability, parish data for the 2001 and 2011 Censuses is published separately on ESiF. [2011 Census Parish map](#).

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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	CEDs (May 2017)	Wards (May 2019)	Wards (May 2017)	Census Parishes
East Sussex	50	108	101	98
Eastbourne	9	9	9	0
Hastings	8	16	16	0
Lewes	9	21	21	25
Rother	9	21	20	32
Wealden	15	41	35	41



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Lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) ➡ smaller than wards, they nest into wards, district and county

This small-area geography is designed to be consistent, stable and relatively unchanging over time. LSOAs are the most commonly used small area geography, are smaller than wards and nest into them. They are created from the smallest building block of the census, the output area (OA), which in turn relates to postcode geography. The number of LSOAs in East Sussex increased from 327 to 329 with the new 2011 Census geography. This change was brought about as a result of significant population growth in Sovereign Harbour, Eastbourne since 2001.

In the new 2011 Census geography, LSOAs have a population range of between 1,000 and 3,000 people or between 400 and 1,200 households.

Middle layer super output areas (MSOAs) ➡ larger than wards, they nest into district and county

As with LSOAs, this geography is also designed to be consistent, stable and relatively unchanging over time. MSOAs comprise of around five LSOAs and nest into district council areas. There are now 69 MSOAs in East Sussex.

In the new 2011 Census geography, MSOAs have a population range of between 5,000 and 15,000 people or 2,000 and 6,000 households.

Special geographies used in East Sussex in Figures

South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP): this Local Enterprise Partnership covers East Sussex, Kent, Medway, Thurrock, Southend-on-Sea and Essex. Local Enterprise Partnerships are partnerships between local authorities and businesses in England and play a central role in determining local economic priorities and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and job creation.

Sussex Police Authority area: this covers East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

Travel to work areas: are zones in which 75% of the resident economically active population work in the area and where of everyone working in the area, at least 75% actually live in the area. They are defined every decade, using detailed census data, and are relevant to labour market analysis. See map

Specific parts of the county: some tables relate to data for very specific parts of the county, such as Newhaven port activity, Gatwick airport activity, selected beaches, or traffic in towns mentioned in the Local Transport Plan. The description attached to each table makes clear any definitions.

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2011 Census geography

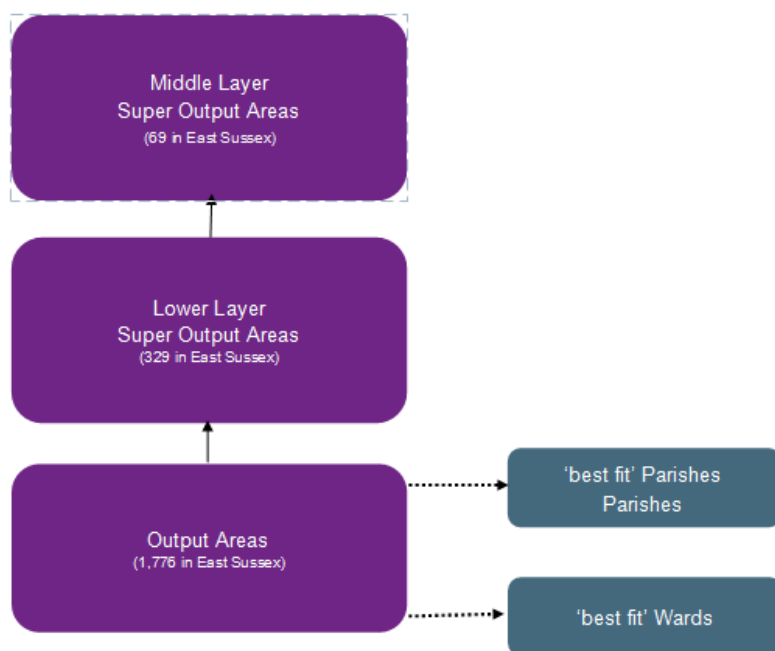
The ONS and the census are key determinants in local statistical geographies. Key principles underpinning the ONS geography policy include:

- Referencing data at the very lowest geographic level possible (ideally at household or postcode level for data about individuals)
- Using this data to construct stable small area building blocks of statistics to build outputs for larger geographic areas (including exact figures for larger statistical geographies or best-fit estimates for administrative areas)
- Minimising the impact of changing area boundaries to enable analysis of change over time for small areas.

The smallest statistical building blocks for census outputs are output areas (OAs). These are determined by thresholds based on the number of households and population size. The 2011 Census data publication policy is that a minimum of 100 people and 40 households are required within any geography to prevent disclosure of personal information.

A core principle underpinning the policy is that geographic boundaries should be maintained and therefore where the population of an area increases and exceeds a population threshold, then that geographic unit should be split. Conversely, if a population falls, it may be necessary to merge one area with another.

2011 Census geography relationships



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Output areas and changes with the 2011 Census geography

Local authority	Ward	Parish	Pre 2011 OA code	Former OA code	2011 OA code	Nature of change
Eastbourne	Devonshire	Unparished	E00106161	21UCFL0030	E00167641	OA splits into two
					E00167642	
	Langney	Unparished	E00106215	21UCFN0004	E00167661	OA splits into two
					E00167662	
	Langney	Unparished	E00106216	21UCFN0005	E00167663	OA splits into three
					E00167664	
					E00167665	
	Meads	Unparished	E00106279	21UCFP0033	E00167671	OA splits into two
					E00167672	
	Sovereign	Unparished	E00106411	21UCFT0017	E00167639	OA splits into three
					E00167640	
					E00167648	
	Sovereign	Unparished	E00106417	21UCFT0023	E00167643	OA splits into sixteen
					E00167644	
					E00167645	
					E00167646	
					E00167647	
E00167650						
E00167651						
E00167652						
E00167653						
E00167654						
E00167655						
E00167656						
E00167657						
E00167658						
E00167659						
E00167660						
Sovereign	Unparished	E00106400	21UCFT0006	E00167666	OA splits into three	
				E00167668		
				E00167649		
Sovereign	Unparished	E00106420	21UCFT0026	E00167667	OA splits into three	
				E00167669		
				E00167670		
Hastings	Ashdown	Unparished	E00106460	21UDFS0001	E00172124	OA splits into two
					E00172126	
Central St Leonards	Unparished	E00106544	21UDFX0007		E00172116	OA splits into two
					E00172117	

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	Central St Leonards	Unparished	E00106540	21UDFX0003	E00172118 E00172120	OA splits into two
	Central St Leonards	Unparished	E00106543	21UDFX0006	E00172119 E00172121	OA splits into two
	St Helens	Unparished	E00106695	21UDGE0017	E00172115	Two OAs merge into one
			E00106696	21UDGE0018		
Wishing Tree	Unparished	E00106752	21UDGJ0007	E00172122 E00172123 E00172125	OA splits into three	
Lewes	Newhaven Denton and Meeching	Newhaven	E00106892	21UFGQ0013	E00167673 E00167674	OA splits into two
	Seaford North	Seaford	E00107048	21UFHB0012	E00167675 E00167676	OA splits into two
Rother	Marsham	Pett	E00107237	21UGGN0013	E00171579 E00171582 E00171583	OA splits into three
	St Stephens	Bexhill	E00107345	21UGGW0010	E00171580 E00171581	OA splits into two
Wealden	Alfriston	Berwick and Alciston	E00107396 E00107400	21UHGM0001 21UHGM0005	E00170893	Two OAs merge into one
	Alfriston	Chalvington with Ripe	E00107401	21UHGM0006	E00170894 E00170895	OA splits into two
	Cross in Hand/Five Ashes	Mayfield and Five Ashes	E00107437	21UHGG0007	E00170897	Two OAs merge into one
			E00107438	21UHGG0008		
	Hailsham East	Hailsham	E00107595	21UHHD0008	E00170891	Two OAs merge into one
			E00107696	21UHHD0009		
	Hellingly	Hellingly	E00107681	21UHHJ0014	E00170896 E00170898	OA splits into two
	Uckfield Ridgewood	Uckfield	E00107819	21UHHX0001	E00170892	OA splits into two
E00170899						

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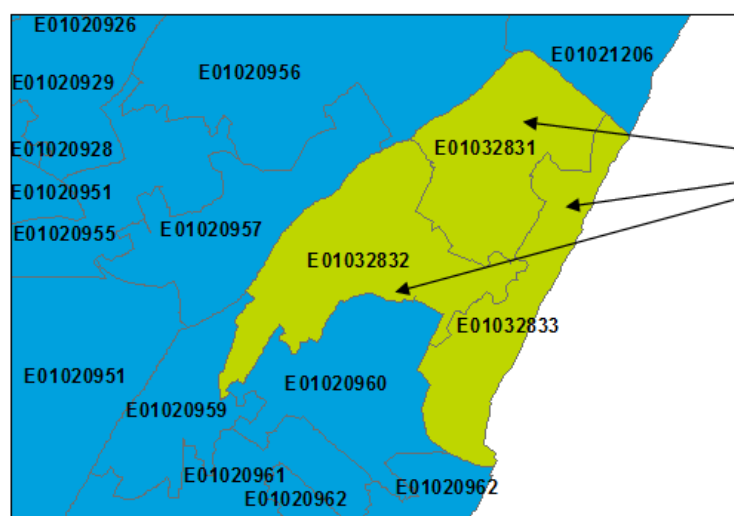
In East Sussex, population growth between 2001 and 2011 brought about an increase in the number of OAs from 1740 to 1776. While most of this change is explained by the creation of new OAs following a series of splits reflecting pockets of development across the county, a small number were merged in rural areas with the most significant impact being that the two OAs covering Berwick and Alciston parishes were merged. These changes are summarised in the table above.

The other significant change in geography was brought about by population growth in Sovereign Harbour, Eastbourne due to housing development that has occurred there since 2001. Not only were OA thresholds breached as shown in the table above (with one OA being split into 16), but so too were those for lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) and middle layer super output areas.

When creating the 2011 Census geography, LSOAs were split where a population exceeded 3,000 people or 1,200 households. As a result, three new LSOAs (E01032831, E01032832 and E01032833) replace the former LSOA Eastbourne E01020958.

At the same time, population/household thresholds were exceeded in the MSOA Eastbourne 005, which was split and replaced by two new MSOAs, Eastbourne 013 and Eastbourne 014.

New Lower layer super output areas at Sovereign Harbour, Eastbourne



Former LSOA, Eastbourne E01020958 has been split into three new LSOAs as a result of population growth since 2001.

The names of six LSOAs in Eastbourne have also changed, although codes remain the same:

- E01020913, Eastbourne 005A is now called Eastbourne 013A
- E01020951, Eastbourne 005B is now called Eastbourne 013B
- E01020959, Eastbourne 005D is now called Eastbourne 013C
- E01020960, Eastbourne 005E is now called Eastbourne 014A
- E01020961, Eastbourne 005F is now called Eastbourne 013D
- E01020962, Eastbourne 005G is now called Eastbourne 013E

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Best-fit geographies and estimated statistics

Where administrative boundaries differ from statistical ones, the ONS applies a 'best-fit' principle. An estimate is calculated by aggregating statistics for the output areas that most closely relate to the administrative boundary, based on the average location of the population within each area (population weighted centroids). 2011 Census data published on ESiF at ward and parish level has been calculated in this manner in accordance with look up tables produced by the ONS.

As a result of boundary changes in Wealden district in 2007, some parishes and wards no longer directly relate to the statistical geography and as a result data for 2001 and 2011 Census is published in separate tables at parish level in ESiF.

Parish boundary changes

A number of parish boundary changes came into effect in 2007 in Wealden district which mean that these no longer follow the statistical census geographies and 2011 Census data for these areas is not comparable with figures from 2001. Another small change also occurred as a result of two OAs being merged across the boundary between Mayfield and Five Ashes and Heathfield and Waldron parishes. These are summarised below and more detailed information including maps of the areas concerned can be found in our publication [Boundary changes in Wealden](#).

Parish	Description of change
Arlington	<p>OA boundaries remain unchanged.</p> <p>However there have been changes to the parish boundary to the East with Hailsham (gaining land with the boundary now clipping to A22) and a small loss to the West with Chalvington with Ripe parish.</p> <p>As statistics for these parishes are presented on a best-fit basis they should be consistent with the geography reported in 2001, although they do not accurately reflect the full extent of the parish.</p>
Berwick and Alciston	<p>Two OAs (21UHGM0001 and 21UHGM0005) merged to form E00170893.</p> <p>New double parish (OAs that once covered Berwick and Alciston separately) are now merged.</p> <p>No apparent change to merged parish boundary since 2001. Therefore, the sum of Berwick and Alciston parishes from 2001 Census should be comparable to 2011 results for Berwick and Alciston.</p>
Buxted	<p>OA boundaries remain unchanged.</p> <p>Slight change to the southern parish boundary (0.3ha lost from E00107412 in Buxted to E00107412 in Uckfield).</p> <p>As statistics are presented on a best-fit basis, statistics for this area should be consistent with the geography reported in 2001, although they do not accurately reflect the full extent of the parish.</p>
Chalvington with Ripe	<p>One OA (21UHGM0006) splits into two (E00170894 and one very small E00170895).</p> <p>The eastern parish boundary has changed slightly and gains a small tract of land forming part of OA E00107668 which previously fell entirely in Arlington parish.</p> <p>As statistics are presented on a 'best-fit' basis, statistics presented for this area should be consistent with the geography reported in 2001, although they do not accurately reflect the full extent of the parish.</p>

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<p>Frant</p>	<p>OA boundaries remain unchanged.</p> <p>Very slight change to parish boundary, losing 2 ha from Frant (E00107556) to Wadhurst parish (E00107838).</p> <p>As statistics are presented on a best-fit basis, statistics for this area should be consistent with the geography reported in 2001, although they do not accurately reflect the full extent of the parish.</p>
<p>Hailsham</p>	<p>Two OAs (21UHHD009 and 21UHHD008) merged to form E00170891.</p> <p>Eastern parish boundary with Arlington has changed, with Hailsham losing land to Arlington when parish boundary was clipped to the A22.</p> <p>However, each of those OAs that fall across the boundary and into Arlington continue to be reported for Hailsham parish and so under the best-fit principle, statistics presented for Hailsham parish should be for a comparable geography to 2001, although they do not accurately reflect the full extent of the parish.</p>
<p>Heathfield and Waldron</p>	<p>OA 21UHGG0008 in Mayfield and Five Ashes merges with OA 21UHGG0007 from Heathfield and Waldron parish to create E00170897. This new OA is assigned to Mayfield and Five Ashes parish in the 2011 Census geography.</p> <p>As a result, 2011 Census results are not comparable with those from 2001.</p>
<p>Mayfield and Five Ashes</p>	<p>OA 21UHGG0008 in Mayfield and Five Ashes merges with OA 21UHGG0007 from Heathfield and Waldron parish to create E00170897. This new OA is assigned to Mayfield and Five Ashes parish in the 2011 Census geography.</p> <p>As a result, 2011 Census results are not comparable with those from 2001.</p>
<p>Polegate</p>	<p>OA boundaries remain unchanged.</p> <p>However there have been changes to the parish boundary to the south and four OAs (E00107843, E00107844, E00107845 and E00107846) and part of E00107772 now fall into Willingdon and Jevington parish.</p> <p>Small sections of E00107746 fall in both Polegate and Willingdon and Jevington parishes but the majority is in Westham and is reported in that parish.</p> <p>These changes are reflected in the best-fit geography and therefore statistics for this parish are not consistent with the geography reported in 2001.</p>
<p>Longman</p>	<p>OA boundaries remain unchanged.</p> <p>However, there has been a slight change to the parish boundary with Willingdon and Jevington, while Longman parish loses a small parcel of land.</p> <p>The OA that falls across the boundary and into Willingdon and Jevington continues to be reported for Longman parish and so under the best-fit principle, statistics presented for this parish should be for a comparable geography to 2001, although they do not accurately reflect the full extent of the parish.</p>
<p>Uckfield</p>	<p>One OA (E00107819) is split into two (E00170892 and E00170899).</p> <p>There has been a very slight change to the northern parish boundary, with E00107813 gaining 0.3ha from Buxted and Maresfield).</p> <p>As statistics are presented on a best-fit basis, statistics for this area should be consistent with the geography reported in 2001, although they do not accurately reflect the full extent of the parish.</p>

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<p>Wadhurst</p>	<p>OA boundaries remain unchanged.</p> <p>Slight parish boundary change with E00107838 gaining 2 ha from Frant E00107556 to the north of the parish.</p> <p>As statistics are presented on a best-fit basis, statistics for this area should be consistent with the geography reported in 2001, although they do not accurately reflect the full extent of the parish.</p>
<p>Willingdon and Jevington</p>	<p>OA boundaries remain unchanged.</p> <p>However, there have been changes to the parish boundary in the north (with Polegate), north east (Westham) and north west (Longman) parishes.</p> <p>Four complete OAs (E00107843, E00107844, E0107845 and E00107846) and part of E00107772 now fall within Willingdon and Jevington Parish.</p> <p>Two small sections of OAs E0107729 and E00107746 now fall within Willingdon and Jevington parish. However the majority of these OAs fall in Westham parish and were included in that parish for statistical purposes in 2001.</p> <p>A small section of E00107869 now falls in Westham parish, but this OA is included in Willingdon & Jevington for statistical purposes.</p> <p>The small parcel of land lost to Longman parish is included in E00107529 and continues to be reported for that parish.</p> <p>These changes are reflected in the best-fit geography and therefore statistics for this parish are not consistent with the geography reported in 2001.</p>
<p>Westham</p>	<p>OA boundaries remain unchanged.</p> <p>However, there have been changes to the parish boundary to the west (with Willingdon and Jevington) and also Polegate.</p> <p>Small sections of E00107746 fall in both Polegate and Willingdon and Jevington parishes but the majority is in Westham and is reported in that parish.</p> <p>A small area of E00107729 falls in Willingdon and Jevington but is mostly in Westham and is reported in that parish.</p> <p>A small section of E00107869 now falls in Westham parish, but this OA is included in Willingdon & Jevington for statistical purposes.</p> <p>As statistics are presented on a best-fit basis, statistics for this area should be consistent with the geography reported in 2001, although they do not accurately reflect the full extent of the parish.</p>

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, while some wards are divided into 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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