

A 2021 CENSUS PROFILE OF PARISHES IN THE BLAP AREA

This document presents a selection of findings for parishes in the BLAP area based on recently released information from the 2021 population Census. They show (or confirm) that, relative to the national picture, the BLAP area has:

- ❖ A high proportion of residents from older age groups (aged 65 plus) and a low proportion of young adults (aged 20 to 34);
- ❖ A low proportion of adults in employment (probably explained by retirees);
- ❖ A high proportion of those in employment who work part-time;
- ❖ A high proportion of adults qualified to degree level and a low proportion with no formal qualifications;
- ❖ A high proportion of households that own their home outright (with no mortgage);
- ❖ A low proportion of households living either in private or social rented housing;
- ❖ A high proportion of households that own a car or have access to a car;
- ❖ A fairly high level of residents with a limiting disability or long-term health issue;
- ❖ A fairly high level of residents who provide regular unpaid care for someone else.

Topics covered:	See pages:
❖ Number of residents in population	3 and 4
❖ Proportion of younger people	3 and 4
❖ Proportion of older people	3 and 4
❖ Proportion in employment	5 and 6
❖ Proportion unemployed	5 and 6
❖ Proportion working part-time	5 and 6
❖ Proportion working mainly from home	5 and 6
❖ Proportion qualified to degree level	7 and 8
❖ Proportion with no formal qualifications	7 and 8
❖ Proportion in managerial or professional occupations ..	7 and 8
❖ Proportion of households who own home outright	9 and 10
❖ Proportion of households in private rented home	9 and 10
❖ Proportion of households in social rented home	9 and 10
❖ Proportion of households with no car	9 and 10
❖ Proportion with a limiting disability or health issue	11 and 12
❖ Proportion providing unpaid care to someone else	11 and 12

Introduction

A national Census of the population across England and Wales was held in March 2021, managed by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This provides an up-to-date count of the resident population and its characteristics.

Results for very local areas have recently become available from ONS or can be calculated, including some results for civil parishes. These contain less detail than results made available for larger areas, to avoid any risk of identifying individuals at a very local level. Despite this limitation, useful statistics about topics such as population, employment, housing and health are now available, and a selection are covered by this document.

Statistics have been selected which should help with understanding key features of the area, such as the number of older residents, the proportion engaged in employment, the extent of part-time employment, formal qualifications held, the numbers in social and private rented housing, the level of car ownership and the prevalence of poor health. Statistics are presented, here, to enable comparison between BLAP parish councils (of which there are fourteen) and with the overall picture for Dorset or for England.

It should be noted that ONS base their statistics on so-called Census 'output areas', which are the smallest unit for which they will release data. Boundaries of output areas are sometimes slightly different to parish boundaries, so parish statistics are technically a best fit. Typically, any differences are very small. However, the use of output areas means ONS combine Catherston Lewiston with Charmouth and combine Stanton St Gabriel with Chideock (although it is part of the Char Valley group parish council).

If any Parish Councils wish to explore the available 2021 Census data further, they can do so using the ONS '*Build a custom area profile*' tool and ONS NOMIS website, though some prior understanding of Census data and ONS websites is certainly helpful, especially with NOMIS.



POPULATION AND AGE PROFILE

The table below shows the size of the usually resident population in each parish in 2021, as well as the proportions who could loosely be described as younger and older people.

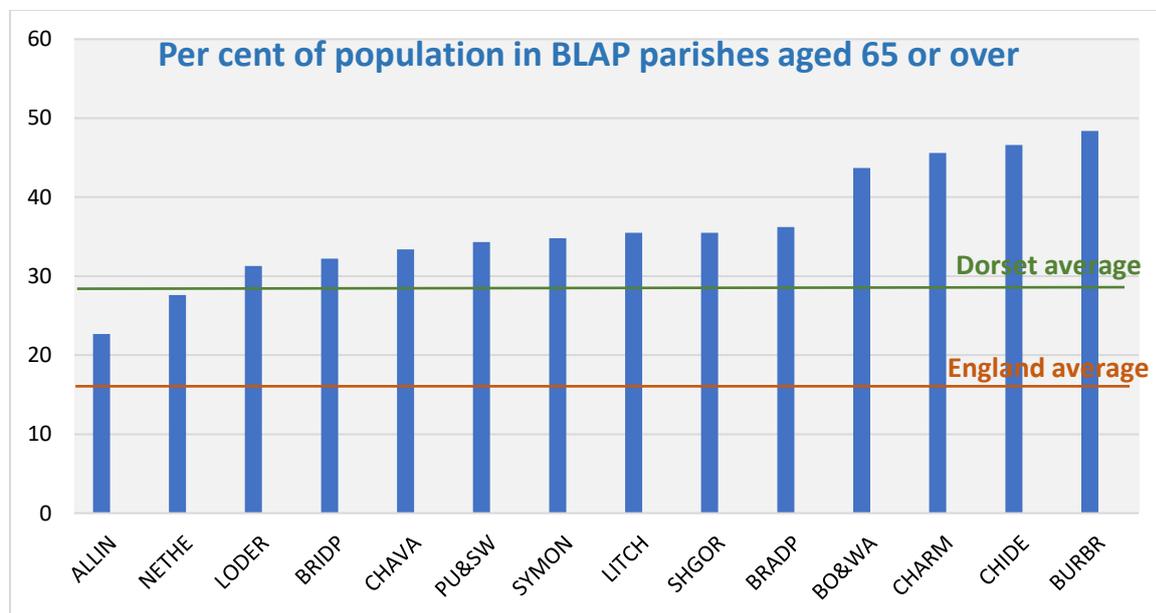
Parish council name	Resident population	Proportion aged 0 to 19	Proportion aged 20 to 34	Proportion aged 65 plus
Allington	930	24%	12%	23%
Bothenhampton & Wald.	2,100	12%	8%	44%
Bradpole	2,300	17%	10%	36%
Bridport	8,200	17%	13%	32%
Burton Bradstock	930	10%	8%	48%
Charmouth	1,300	14%	8%	46%
Char Valley	1,000	16%	8%	33%
Chideock	700	11%	8%	47%
Litton Cheney	360	16%	9%	36%
Loders	540	18%	10%	31%
Netherbury	1,400	21%	12%	28%
Puncknowle & Swyre	530	15%	9%	34%
Shipton Gorge	390	19%	9%	36%
Symondsburry	1,100	16%	12%	35%
BLAP area	21,780			
Dorset (county)	379,600	19%	13%	30%
England	56,490,000	23%	20%	18%

Footnotes:

ONS round all resident population figures to the nearest ten. Most of these residents live in private households, but some may live in communal establishments, such as care homes or hostels. The other columns refer to the proportion of all residents in a parish who are aged 0 to 19, aged 20 to 34 and aged 65 or over.

Population and age profile findings:

- ❖ At the time of the 2021 Census the BLAP area was home to some 21,780 residents. Unsurprisingly the most populous parish was the Bridport Town Council area.
- ❖ The age profile of the BLAP area is notable for its relatively high proportion of older people and relatively low proportion of younger people, especially the young adult cohort which often moves for higher education or career opportunities.
- ❖ Thirteen of the 14 BLAP parishes had a low proportion of residents aged 0 to 19 when compared with England as a whole, the exception being Allington. Parishes with the lowest proportion in this age group were Burton Bradstock and Chideock.
- ❖ More notable still, all 14 BLAP parishes had a low proportion of residents aged 20 to 34 when compared with England as a whole – in some cases less than half that proportion. Parishes with the lowest proportion were Bothenhampton & Walditch, Burton Bradstock, Charmouth, Char Valley and Chideock.
- ❖ All 14 BLAP parishes had a high proportion of residents aged 65 or over when compared with England as a whole. Parishes with the highest proportion aged 65 plus were Burton Bradstock, Chideock, Charmouth and Bothenhampton & Walditch, all of them at or near the coast.



It is worth adding that the resident population of the BLAP area in 2021 was almost identical to that measured a decade earlier by the 2011 Census. The only notable population increase took place in Allington parish. Indeed, some parishes saw a slight decrease¹.

¹ At the risk of speculating, this could be due to factors such as smaller households, more single person households or more second homes and holiday lets.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The table below shows the proportion of the population aged 16 or over who were in employment (including the self-employed) and who were unemployed. Everyone else was outside the labour market, which included the retired and students. The table also shows the proportion of those in employment (aged 16 or over) who worked part time and who worked mainly from home. See footnote for more detail on definitions.

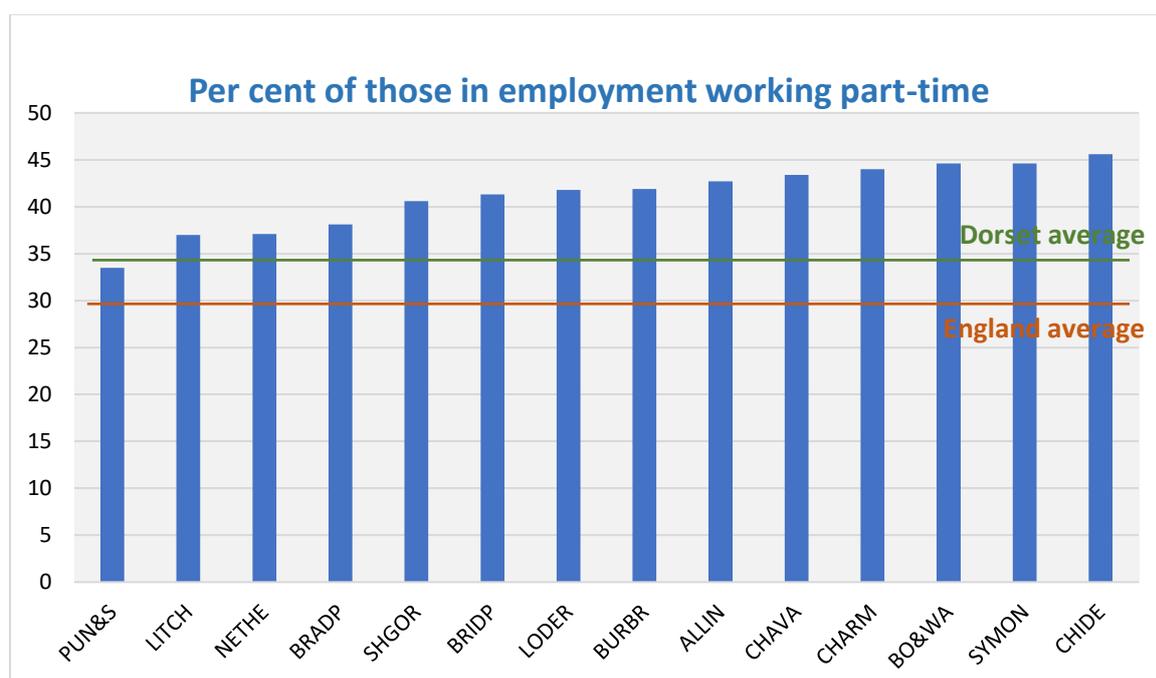
Parish council name	Proportion in employment	Proportion unemployed	Proportion working part time	Proportion work mainly from home
Allington	56%	2%	43%	17%
Bothenhampton & Wald.	43%	2%	45%	30%
Bradpole	46%	2%	38%	20%
Bridport	49%	3%	41%	23%
Burton Bradstock	38%	2%	42%	36%
Charmouth	38%	2%	44%	34%
Char Valley	53%	2%	43%	45%
Chideock	40%	1%	46%	36%
Litton Cheney	52%	1%	37%	41%
Loders	54%	<1%	42%	32%
Netherbury	56%	2%	37%	39%
Puncknowle & Swyre	51%	2%	34%	41%
Shipton Gorge	49%	2%	41%	29%
Symondsburry	50%	3%	45%	30%
Dorset (county)	52%	2%	35%	28%
England	57%	4%	30%	32%

Footnotes:

ONS define part time work as working 30 hours or less per week. ONS caution that the home working figures may have been inflated by the timing of the Census, which occurred during the Covid pandemic, although not during a lockdown period.

Employment status findings:

- ❖ All 14 BLAP parishes had a lower proportion of their population (aged 16 or over) in employment than was the case for England as a whole. However, this was only marginally true in some parishes, notably Netherbury, Allington, Loders and Char Valley. Indeed, the BLAP area is broadly in line with the picture for Dorset.
- ❖ Parishes with a particularly low proportion of their population (aged 16 or over) in employment were Burton Bradstock, Charmouth and Chideock. This aligns with the high proportion aged 65 or over in these parishes, so is probably due to retirees.
- ❖ The proportion of the population (aged 16 or over) who were unemployed was fairly low across the BLAP area, though in Bridport and Symondsbury it was approaching the proportion for England as a whole. Unemployment was notably low in Loders, Litton Cheney and Chideock.
- ❖ The proportion of those in employment (aged 16 or over) who were working part time was higher in every BLAP parish than it was in England as a whole. Indeed, with one exception (Puncknowle & Swyre) it was high even by comparison with Dorset as a whole. The highest proportions working part time were found in Chideock, Bothenhampton & Walditch, Symondsbury and Char Valley.
- ❖ The proportion of those in employment (aged 16 or over) who were working mainly from home varied considerably across the BLAP area. The highest proportions were found in Char Valley, Litton Cheney and Puncknowle & Swyre, which may reflect the prevalence of land-based jobs in those parishes. The lowest proportions were found in or close to the town in Allington, Bradpole and Bridport.



QUALIFICATIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

The table below shows the proportion of residents (aged 16 or over) qualified to degree level and the proportion with no formal qualifications. It also shows the proportion employed in occupations associated with higher pay. See footnote for detailed definitions.

Parish council name	Proportion qualified to degree level	Proportion with no formal qualifications	Proportion in managerial or professional occupations
Allington	28%	16%	22%
Bothenhampton & Walditch	37%	16%	34%
Bradpole	31%	16%	29%
Bridport	30%	20%	26%
Burton Bradstock	38%	14%	40%
Charmouth	37%	14%	34%
Char Valley	38%	13%	31%
Chideock	35%	17%	34%
Litton Cheney	54%	8%	46%
Loders	37%	10%	34%
Netherbury	37%	13%	33%
Puncknowle & Swyre	39%	10%	34%
Shipton Gorge	37%	16%	30%
Symondsburry	36%	14%	34%
Dorset (county)	32%	16%	32%
England	34%	18%	33%

Footnotes:

Qualifications are measured for all those aged 16 or over. Degree level means first degree, such as a BSc or BA. No formal qualifications includes no GCSE or equivalent passes. The right-hand column shows the proportion of residents aged 16 or over and in employment whose occupations were classified as manager, professional, senior official or director.

Qualifications and occupations findings:

- ❖ Residents in the BLAP area score quite well in terms of their formal qualifications. In 11 of the 14 parishes there was a higher proportion of residents (aged 16 or over) qualified to degree level than was the case for England and Wales as a whole. The three exceptions to this were Allington, Bridport and Bradpole.
- ❖ Conversely, in 13 of the 14 BLAP parishes there was a lower proportion of residents (aged 16 or over) with no formal qualifications than was the case for England as a whole. The exception to this was Bridport.
- ❖ The parish of Litton Cheney is particularly notable, having a very high proportion of residents qualified to degree level (54%) and a very low proportion of residents with no formal qualifications (8%).
- ❖ The BLAP parishes are almost equally divided into those which had a high proportion of residents in managerial or professional occupations and those which had a low proportion in such occupations relative to England as a whole. Litton Cheney and Burton Bradstock had the highest proportion in such occupations, whilst Allington and Bridport had the lowest proportion in such occupations. (Note that the place of work for these residents is not necessarily in the BLAP area.)

HOUSING AND ACCESS

The table below covers tenure and shows the proportion of all households whose home is owned outright (with no mortgage), is private rented or is social rented. It also shows the proportion of all households who don't own or have access to a car or van. See footnote for more detail on definitions.

Parish council name	Tenure: proportion of households whose home is:			Proportion households with no car
	Owned outright	Private rented	Social rented	
Allington	39%	18%	17%	10%
Bothenhampton & Wald.	68%	8%	4%	10%
Bradpole	57%	12%	10%	11%
Bridport	42%	19%	23%	24%
Burton Bradstock	64%	12%	12%	10%
Charmouth	54%	13%	15%	16%
Char Valley	64%	12%	6%	5%
Chideock	64%	12%	9%	9%
Litton Cheney	56%	17%	0%	5%
Loders	60%	16%	5%	7%
Netherbury	51%	15%	10%	4%
Puncknowle & Swyre	63%	16%	4%	8%
Shipton Gorge	59%	12%	12%	5%
Symondsburry	60%	22%	1%	12%
Dorset (county)	46%	16%	12%	14%
England	33%	21%	17%	24%

Footnotes:

A home owned outright means there is no outstanding mortgage. Social rented is from a housing association or local authority. The right-hand column shows the proportion of (all) households who have no car or van either owned by them or available to them.

Housing and access findings:

- ❖ Outright home ownership was much higher in the BLAP area than it was across England as a whole and was typically higher than across Dorset as a whole. This may, at least in part, reflect the older demographic in the BLAP area.
- ❖ All 14 BLAP parishes had a higher proportion of outright home ownership than across England as a whole. The highest rates of outright home ownership were found in Bothenhampton & Walditch, Burton Bradstock, Char Valley and Puncknowle & Swyre. The lowest rates were found in Allington and Bridport.
- ❖ In 13 of the 14 BLAP parishes the proportion of households in private rented homes was lower than across England as a whole (albeit by a small difference in a couple of cases). The exception, with a relatively high level of private renting, was Symondsbury parish, perhaps partly explained by the Symondsbury Estate. The level of private renting was especially low in Bothenhampton & Walditch.
- ❖ In 12 of the 14 BLAP parishes the proportion of households in social rented homes was lower than across England as a whole. The exceptions were Bridport and Allington. Levels of social renting were especially low in very rural parishes such as Litton Cheney (where there was none), Symondsbury, Puncknowle & Swyre, Loders and Char Valley, though also very low in Bothenhampton & Walditch.
- ❖ Unsurprisingly car ownership is high in the BLAP area, where there are few public transport options and where travel to reach services or jobs is often a necessity. In 13 of the 14 BLAP parishes the proportion of households with no car was lower than across England as a whole. The exception was the Bridport Town Council area. Parishes with the lowest proportion of carless households were Netherbury, Char Valley, Litton Cheney and Shipton Gorge.

HEALTH AND CARING

The table below shows the proportion of residents living with a limiting disability or long-term health issues and the proportion of residents (aged 5 or above) who provide some regular unpaid care to someone else. See footnote for more detail on definitions.

Parish council name	Proportion with a limiting disability or long-term health issue	Proportion who provide unpaid care to someone else
Allington	19%	9%
Bothenhampton & Walditch	19%	10%
Bradpole	22%	10%
Bridport	24%	10%
Burton Bradstock	20%	12%
Charmouth	24%	10%
Char Valley	18%	11%
Chideock	21%	11%
Litton Cheney	16%	8%
Loders	19%	10%
Netherbury	17%	10%
Puncknowle & Swyre	19%	11%
Shipton Gorge	14%	9%
Symondsburry	20%	11%
Dorset (county)	20%	10%
England	17%	9%

Footnotes:

The first measure refers to the proportion of residents (of any age) who have a disability or long-term health issues that limits their day-to-day activities either a little or a lot. The second measure refers to the proportion of residents aged 5 or over who regularly provide some unpaid care to a relative or to anyone else. The extent of that care may vary a lot.

Health and caring findings:

- ❖ In 11 of the 14 BLAP parishes the proportion of residents with a limiting disability or long-term illness was higher than it was for England as a whole. The 3 exceptions to this pattern were Shipton Gorge, Litton Cheney and Netherbury.
- ❖ Typically, around a fifth of residents in BLAP parishes had a limiting disability or long-term health issue (which is also the figure for Dorset as a whole). Those BLAP parishes with the highest proportion of residents affected were Bridport, Charmouth, Bradpole and Chideock.
- ❖ In 11 of the 14 BLAP parishes the proportion of residents (aged 5 or above) who were providing some regular, unpaid care to someone else was higher than it was for England as a whole. The 3 exceptions to this pattern were Litton Cheney, Shipton Gorge and Allington.
- ❖ Typically, around a tenth of residents (aged 5 or above) in BLAP parishes were providing some unpaid care (which is also the figure for Dorset as a whole). Variation across the BLAP area was quite modest, but the parish with the highest proportion providing some unpaid care was Burton Bradstock.