# Lower Super Output Areas

Lower[1] Super Output Areas (LSOA) are a sub-ward geography averaging approximately 1,600 people. Each ward is divided into several LSOAs, depending upon the population of the ward, with the larger urban wards in Bedford having up to 6 LSOAs.

In total, Bedford Borough is divided into 103[2] LSOAs. Their boundaries are frequently irregular in shape since they are based solely on 2001 Census results, and were specifically configured by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to bring together areas of similar socio-economic characteristics.

Minor revisions were made to LSOAs for the 2011 Census, primarily in areas that had experienced significant residential development since 2001.

LSOAs formerly 'nested' into Bedford Borough's pre-May 2011 ward boundaries and each LSOA was wholly contained within one ward.

However, the change to the new May 2011 ward structure has resulted in some LSOAs now being divided among 2 or 3 wards[3].

LSOAs do not have names and are referenced solely by ONS codes. LSOAs in Bedford Borough are consecutively numbered from E01017453 – E01017554. Since they all[4] share the prefix E01017, we have identified each LSOA using the last 3 digits of the code together with the ward name, e.g. 466 Castle.

The LSOA is the geography used for the reporting of deprivation data, and ONS has now largely replaced wards by LSOAs for the publication of local socio-economic and benefits data.

Local Insight Profiles have been prepared for 14 of the 103 LSOAs in the Borough. The sole criterion for selection is deprivation level, and they include all 14 LSOAs in Bedford Borough which are among the 0-20% most deprived areas in England on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD). These 14 break down into:

---

[1] Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) are the smallest of the 3 types of Super Output Area which also include: Middle Super Output Areas (MSOA) averaging 7,500 people and largely used for public health intelligence; and the proposed Upper Super Output Areas averaging 25-35,000 people, though these have not yet been implemented.

[2] LSOA 494 in Ravensden and Renhold Parishes (Goldington and Great Barford wards) has now been divided by ONS into 2 LSOAs (E01033431 and E01033432) to reflect the high level of residential development in the area which has occurred since 2001.

[3] This affects 22 of the 103 LSOAs in Bedford Borough

[4] Apart from the 2 new LSOAs created from E01017494

- 5 LSOAs which fall within the 0-10% most deprived areas in England on the IMD:

    - 466 in Castle ward
    - 471 in Castle ward
    - 477 in Cauldwell ward
    - 502 in Harpur ward
    - 523 in Kingsbrook ward

- 9 LSOAs which fall within the 10-20% most deprived areas in England on the IMD:

    - 472 in Cauldwell ward
    - 474 in Cauldwell ward
    - 490 in Goldington ward
    - 492 in Goldington ward
    - 509 in Kempston North ward
    - 519 in Kingsbrook ward
    - 531 in Putnoe ward
    - 537 in Queens Park ward
    - 539 in Queens Park ward

For further information on LSOAs or these LSOA Profiles, please contact intelligence@bedford.gov.uk