

# Census 2011 Briefing Note: Ethnicity, National Identity and Country of Birth of Somerset residents

## 1. Introduction

On 11 December 2012, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) began the release of the second phase of results ('Key Statistics', at local authority level) from the national census carried out on 27 March 2011. Statistics for lower level geographies (e.g. electoral wards and LSOAs) followed on 30 January 2013. This briefing provides an overview of the ethnicity, country of birth and national identity of Somerset residents, based on the 2011 Census data.

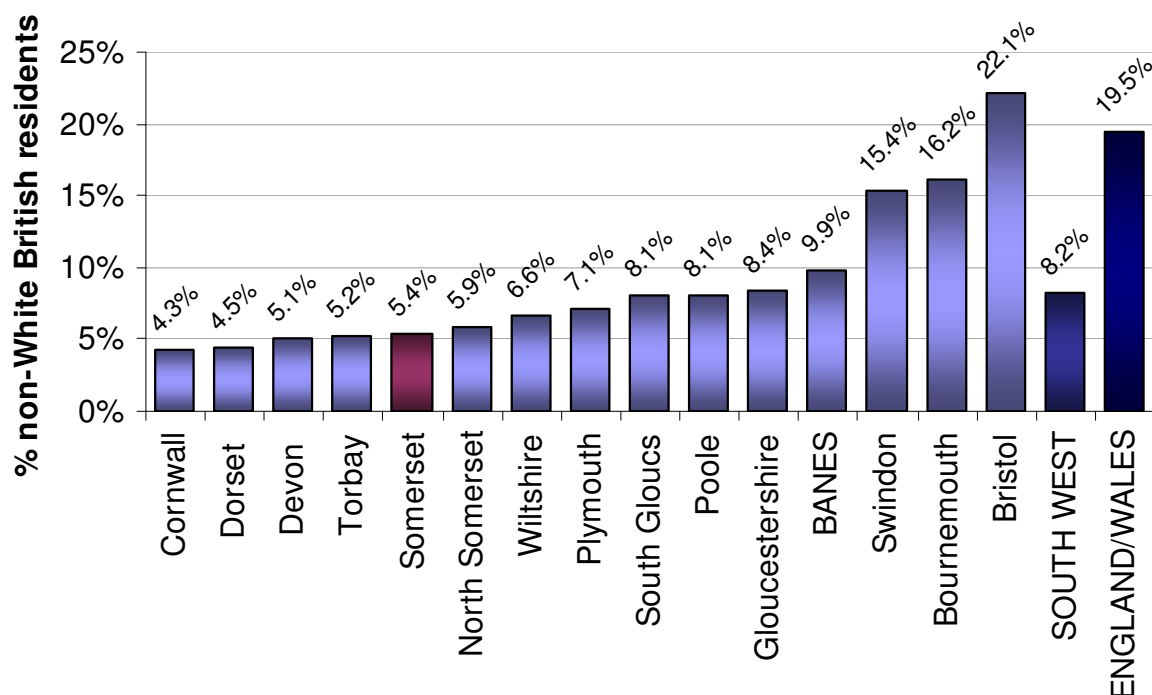
## 2. Key Messages

- 94.6% of Somerset's population are 'White British'. This proportion is typical of that seen in Somerset's neighbouring local authorities but much higher than the England and Wales average (80.5%). Somerset's non-'White British' residents tend to be concentrated in and around the county's principal towns.
- The BME (Black and Ethnic Minority) population of Somerset was estimated at 10,717 in 2011, an increase of around 5,000 people since the 2001 Census. The BME population now comprises 2.0% of Somerset's overall population, which is well below the national average of 14.0%.
- Somerset has seen a large increase in Polish-born residents since the accession of the A8 East European countries to the EU in 2004. Of the 8,171 East European-born residents recorded in the 2011 Census, around two-thirds were from Poland.
- Polish is the most common 'non-UK' ethnicity in all Somerset's districts, and Polish-born residents now account for 1% of Somerset's overall population. There are significant pockets of residents in parts of Shepton Mallet, Yeovil, Minehead, Taunton and Bridgwater.
- The size of the Portuguese population in Somerset has also increased markedly in the last ten years, from 53 residents at the time of the 2001 Census to 965 residents in 2011. There are now notable groupings of Portuguese residents in areas of Chard and Shepton Mallet.
- India and the Philippines account for the highest numbers of Asian-born residents. Information about the Philippines was not published in the last Census but Somerset has seen an eightfold increase in residents of 'Other Asian' ethnicity since 2001, of which new residents from the Philippines are likely to be a key factor. Wellington, Minehead and Taunton have small pockets of Filipino residents.

- At a broader (district) level, there are also noteworthy, albeit small, concentrations of Italian people in Mendip; Chinese in Taunton Deane; and people from the Baltic States in Sedgemoor. West Somerset has a small representation of 'Other Eastern European' ethnicity.
- There are established German, Irish and South African-born populations in Somerset, each accounting for between 0.3% and 0.5% of the county's overall population. The numbers have not changed significantly since the 2001 Census. These residents are generally found throughout the county, with no particular local concentrations.
- There are an estimated 733 Gypsy or Irish Traveller residents in Somerset, the second highest number of any local authority in the South West. Just over a third are resident in Mendip.
- An estimated 20,912 Somerset residents do not identify themselves as British (or English, Welsh, Scottish or Northern Irish). A total of 20,329 Somerset residents hold a non-UK passport.
- Around 22% of residents have no passport, which is above the England and Wales average.
- In over 97% of Somerset households, English is the main language of all adult residents. However, there are an estimated 3,404 households in which no one has English as a main language.
- Around 4 out of 5 residents whose main language is not English can speak English 'well' or 'very well'. An estimated 2,382 residents can not speak English well, and a further 410 cannot speak English at all.

### 3. Key Statistics

**Figure 1: Proportion of non-‘White British’ residents in South West local authorities, 2011 Census**



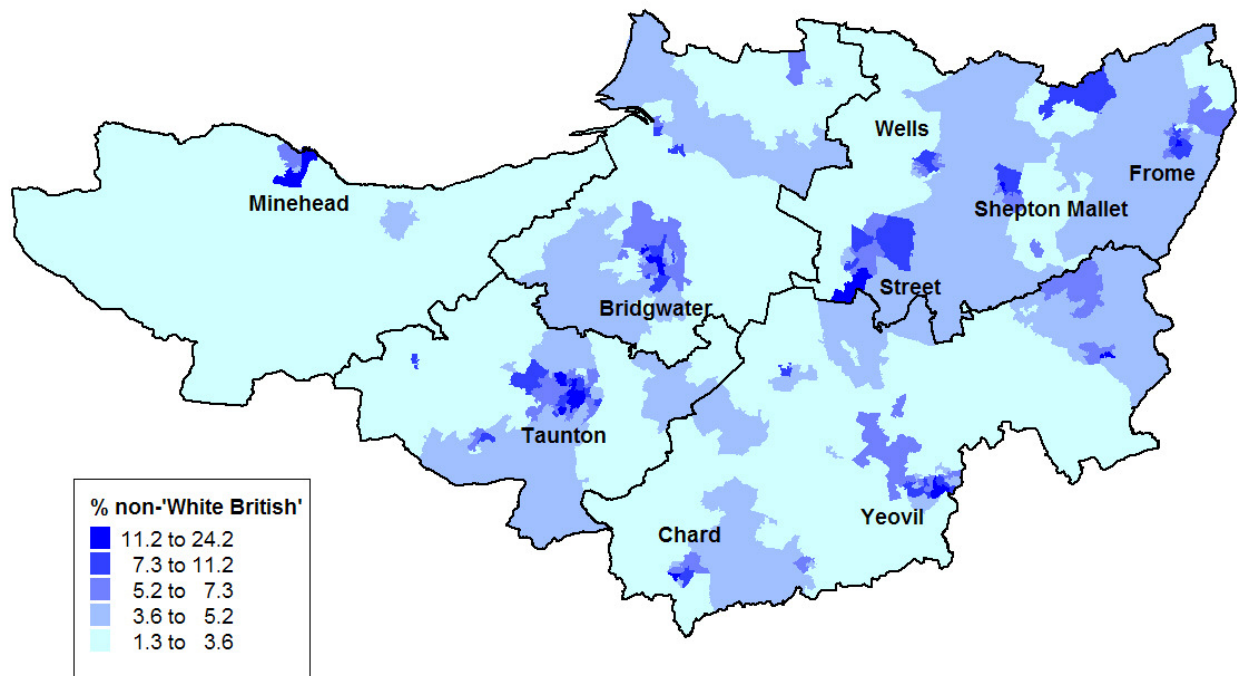
**Table 1: Ethnic group or background of Somerset residents**

Ethnic group or background		Census 2011	Census 2001	% change
White	British/English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish	501,558	483,508	+4%
	Irish	2,257	2,509	-10%
	Gypsy or Irish Traveller	733	N/A	-
	Other White	14,707	6,119	+140%
Mixed / multiple ethnic groups	White and Black Caribbean	1,200	644	+86%
	White and Black African	650	287	+127%
	White and Asian	1,407	831	+69%
	Other Mixed	984	602	+64%
Asian / Asian British	Indian	1,069	599	+79%
	Pakistani	203	205	-1%
	Bangladeshi	442	363	+22%
	Chinese	1,247	933	+34%
	Other Asian	1,912	215	+789%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	African	607	314	+93%
	Caribbean	291	337	-14%
	Other Black	115	87	+32%
Other ethnic group	Arab	175	N/A	
	Other ethnic group	415	540	+9%

**Table 2: Somerset LSOAs with highest proportions of non-‘White British’ residents, 2011 Census**

LSOA Code	LSOA Description	Non-‘White British’ residents	Total population	% non-‘White British’
E01029062	Shepton Mallet North	342	1,415	<b>24.2%</b>
E01029234	Yeovil Town Centre	379	1,832	<b>20.7%</b>
E01029285	Taunton Priory Road	476	2,348	<b>20.3%</b>
E01029232	Yeovil Crofton Park	303	1,527	<b>19.8%</b>
E01029322	Minehead Alcombe East	354	2,019	<b>17.5%</b>
E01029284	Taunton Town Centre	286	1,714	<b>16.7%</b>
E01029286	Taunton East Reach	275	1,662	<b>16.5%</b>
E01029095	Bridgwater Eastover Cental	258	1,581	<b>16.3%</b>
E01029239	Yeovil Sherborne Road	241	1,483	<b>16.3%</b>
E01029276	Taunton Staplegrove East	252	1,633	<b>15.4%</b>

**Figure 2: Map showing relative concentrations of non-‘White British’ residents in Somerset, 2011 Census**



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**Table 3: Most common non-UK countries of birth of Somerset residents**

Country	2011 Census	2001 Census	% change
Poland	5,287	205	+2479%
Germany	2,616	2,424	+8%
Republic of Ireland	1,989	2,018	-1%
South Africa	1,473	976	+51%
India	1,343	1,157	+16%
Philippines	991	N/A	-
United States	976	802	+22%
Portugal	965	53	+1721%
Australia	831	781	+6%
Hong Kong	757	744	+2%

**Table 4: Somerset LSOAs with highest proportions of Polish-born residents**

LSOA code	LSOA description	No. of residents	Total population	%
E01029062	Shepton Mallet North	166	1,415	11.7%
E01029234	Yeovil Town Centre	172	1,832	9.4%
E01029322	Minehead Alcombe East	161	2,019	8.0%
E01029285	Taunton Priory Road	174	2,348	7.4%
E01029239	Yeovil Sherborne Road	106	1,483	7.1%
E01029232	Yeovil Crofton Park	108	1,527	7.1%
E01029240	Yeovil Penn Mill South	97	1,550	6.3%
E01029286	Taunton East Reach	103	1,662	6.2%
E01032631	Bridgwater Homberg Way	68	1,351	5.0%
E01029299	Taunton Lyngford West	75	1,501	5.0%

**Table 5: Somerset LSOAs with highest proportions of Portuguese-born residents**

LSOA code	LSOA description	No. of residents	Total population	%
E01029175	Chard Central and West	77	2,102	3.7%
E01029062	Shepton Mallet North	50	1,415	3.5%
E01029173	Chard Crimchard East	29	1,247	2.3%
E01029177	Chard Jocelyn West	25	1,156	2.2%
E01029172	Chard Crimchard West	30	1,496	2.0%

**Table 6: Somerset LSOAs with highest proportions of Philippines-born residents**

LSOA code	LSOA description	No. of residents	Total population	%
E01029285	Taunton Priory Road	50	2,348	2.1%
E01029302	Taunton Parkfield	29	1,695	1.7%
E01032636	Minehead East	31	1,922	1.6%
E01029316	Wellington West	22	1,637	1.3%
E01029309	Wellington North East	25	1,996	1.3%

#### **4. Further Information**

Somerset Intelligence Network (SINe) – Census 2011:

[www.sine.org.uk/census2011](http://www.sine.org.uk/census2011)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) – Census 2011:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html>

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