

# Guide to Geographies and Boundaries

The main geographical areas used are:

## Administrative

County, District, Wards, Parishes, Electoral Divisions.

*Note: Wards are the electoral geography used by district councils, whilst electoral divisions are the electoral geography used by county councils.*

## Statistical

Official statistics are increasingly being released at various *output area* levels. Output areas come in various sizes and are designed to remain constant over time as administrative boundaries change. However, a minority of areas can change between censuses - output areas between 2011 and 2021 may have been split or merged but the majority have the same boundaries from 2021 that they had in 2011.

Starting from the smallest, these are:

- **Census Output Areas (COAs)**

Average size 317 people (average of 132 households). May be referred to as "Output Areas" and have reference code such as E00112295. There are 2,114 COAs in Gloucestershire.

- **Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs)**

Average size 1,703 people (average of 711 households). May be referred to as "Super Output Areas" and have a reference code such E0102200 or a local name such as "ALL SAINTS 2". The local name indicates the ward it best fits\* within. There are 393 LSOAs in Gloucestershire.

- **Middle layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs)**

These are about twice the size of wards (average population 8,808, average of 3,677 households). There are 76 MSOAs in Gloucestershire.

## Important Note on Statistical Data

Some datasets are still being published using old 2011 output areas. When data is published using the old 2011 output areas total number of COA's, LSOAs and MSOA's will differ from the numbers published here.

COA, LSOA and MSOA household figures based on Census 2021 table: TS041

COA, LSOA and MSOA population figures from Office for National Statistics (ONS) Mid-year Population Estimates 2024:

[Population estimates by output areas, electoral, health and other geographies, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

\* Further information on best fit methodology:  
[An overview of best-fitting: Building 2011 Census estimates from output areas \(OAs\) - data.gov.uk](#)

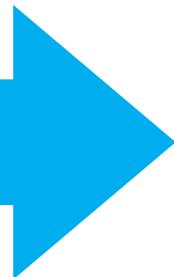
More detail on Gloucestershire's boundaries follows



# Guide to Geographies and Boundaries

## Gloucestershire County Council

Districts.....	6
Wards.....	138
Middle Super Output Areas.....	76
Lower Super Output Areas.....	393
Census Output Areas.....	2,114
Electoral Divisions.....	55



**Middle Super Output Areas** in Gloucestershire contain, on average, **8,808** people or **3,677** households.

The actual range in the county is from **4,939** to **15,222** people.

**Lower Super Output Areas** in Gloucestershire contain, on average, **1,703** people or **711** households.

The actual range in the county is from **1,029** to **4,065** people.

**Census Output Areas** in Gloucestershire contain, on average, **317** people or **132** households.

The actual range in the county is from **63** to **1,288** people.

## Cheltenham Borough Council

Wards.....	20
Middle Super Output Areas.....	15
Lower Super Output Areas.....	77
Census Output Areas .....	405
Electoral Divisions.....	10

## Cotswold District Council

Wards.....	32
Middle Super Output Areas.....	11
Lower Super Output Areas.....	56
Census Output Areas.....	317
Electoral Divisions.....	8

## Forest of Dean District Council

Wards.....	21
Middle Super Output Areas.....	10
Lower Super Output Areas.....	50
Census Output Areas.....	273
Electoral Divisions.....	8

## Gloucester City Council

Wards.....	18
Middle Super Output Areas.....	15
Lower Super Output Areas.....	82
Census Output Areas.....	425
Electoral Divisions.....	10

## Stroud District Council

Wards.....	27
Middle Super Output Areas.....	15
Lower Super Output Areas.....	72
Census Output Areas.....	381
Electoral Divisions.....	11

## Tewkesbury Borough Council

Wards.....	20
Middle Super Output Areas.....	10
Lower Super Output Areas.....	56
Census Output Areas.....	313
Electoral Divisions.....	8