

Community data profile for Bicester West

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Report prepared by Oxfordshire County Council's Public Health Intelligence Team

1 Summary of findings

Population and housing

- According to the Mid-2022 population estimates, Bicester West MSOA had a resident population of 8,863. The area had a slightly older population than the Oxfordshire average.
- Between the 2011 and 2021 Census surveys, the total resident population in the Bicester West area declined. This was different to Cherwell district and Oxfordshire where there was an increase in population.
- The change in Bicester West's population by broad age shows a 16% decline in the younger population aged 0-19 years, an 8% decline in the working age population aged 20-59 years, and an above-average increase in the older population aged 60+ of +26%.
- The Bicester West area is slightly less ethnically diverse than Oxfordshire as a whole, with 11% of residents from a non-white background in the area, just below Cherwell (12%) and Oxfordshire (13%).
- The proportion of social rented households in Bicester West was above the district average (15% vs 13%) and private rented households was below district and county averages.

Health and Wellbeing

- According to the 2021 Census, there were 1,425 residents (16%) in Bicester West MSOA with a (self-reported) disability, which limited day to day activities "a lot" or "a little". This was just above the rate for Cherwell and Oxfordshire.
- Out of 32 local health and wellbeing inequalities indicators, compared with England, Bicester West had 15 indicators which were ranked as similar, 14 where outcomes were better than average and 3 where outcomes were worse as below:
 - Emergency Hospital Admissions for 0-4 Years
 - Emergency Hospital Admissions for all causes
 - Emergency Admissions for hip fracture (over 65s)
- Compared with Oxfordshire, Bicester West MSOA had 7 health and wellbeing indicators where outcomes were worse than average.
- The proportion of adults receiving structured treatment for drugs or alcohol in Bicester West was above the Oxfordshire average.
- The prevalence of children classified as overweight (including obese) at aged 4-5 years and aged 10-11 years were each similar Oxfordshire and England. Just over a third of children aged 10-11 years in the areas were measured as overweight or obese.

Employment

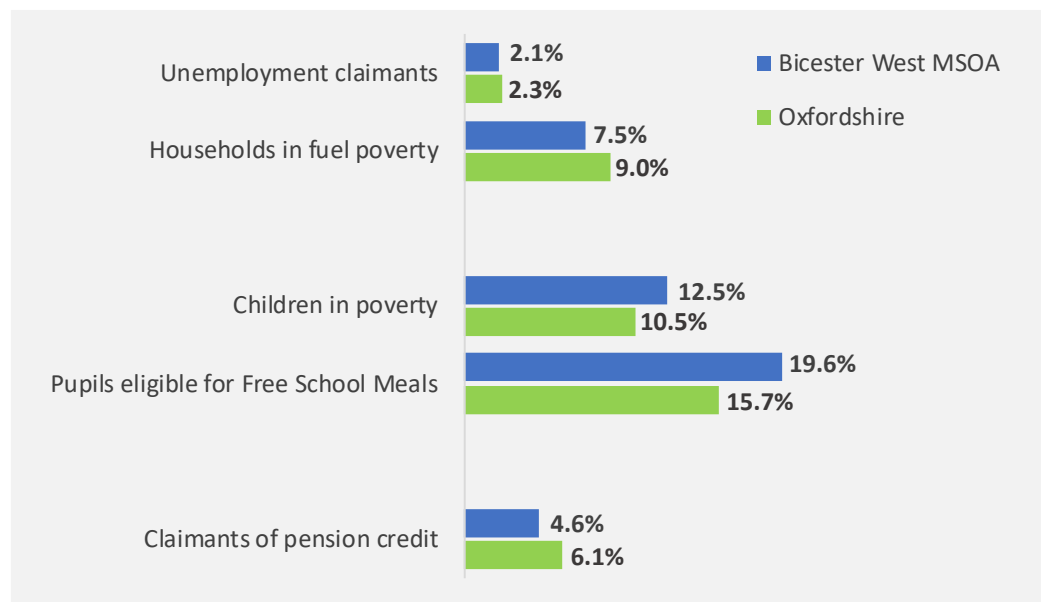
- Bicester West had a similar profile of economic activity to the Cherwell district average (Census 2021) with a slightly higher proportion who were retired.
- Workers in Bicester West were less likely than the Oxfordshire average to be in managerial and professional occupations and more likely to be in routine and elementary occupations. The proportion working in a retail occupation in Bicester West was above average.

Poverty and deprivation

- According to the 2021 Census, Bicester West has a higher proportion of households classified as deprived than the averages for Cherwell district and Oxfordshire.
- The proportion of residents claiming unemployment-related benefits in Bicester West was below the average for Oxfordshire.
- There is a lower proportion of fuel poverty in Bicester West households than the average for Oxfordshire.

- Rates of child poverty and free school meals in Bicester West were each above (worse than) the average for Oxfordshire.
- The rate of older people in poverty and claiming pension credit in Bicester West was below the Oxfordshire average.

Figure 1 Indicators of low income¹



Crime and community safety

- The overall rate of crime in Bicester West was above (worse than) the Oxfordshire average.

Living environment

- Mapping by Natural England shows limited green space within Bicester West. The area is adjacent to an area of woodland to the west, which has limited access to the public.
- There is no GP practice or pharmacy located within the Bicester West area. For most of the ward it is an estimated 20-minute (or more) walking time to the nearest GP practice or pharmacy. The whole of the area is within a 20-minute journey time by public transport to a nearby GP practice or pharmacy.

¹ Sources: DWP claimant count March 2025 from nomisweb.co.uk, Claimant count is a measure of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed, based on administrative data from the benefits system; Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2022 Dept for Energy Security & Net Zero, fuel poverty refers to households living in a property with fuel energy efficiency rating of band D or below as well as households which after paying their energy bill to heat their home the residual income is below the official poverty line; Child poverty from DWP statXplore, children aged 0-15, 2022/23; FSM from January 2024 pupil census, Oxfordshire County Council; Pension credit from DWP statXplore as of August 2023. Denominator is ONS 2022 mid-year estimate.

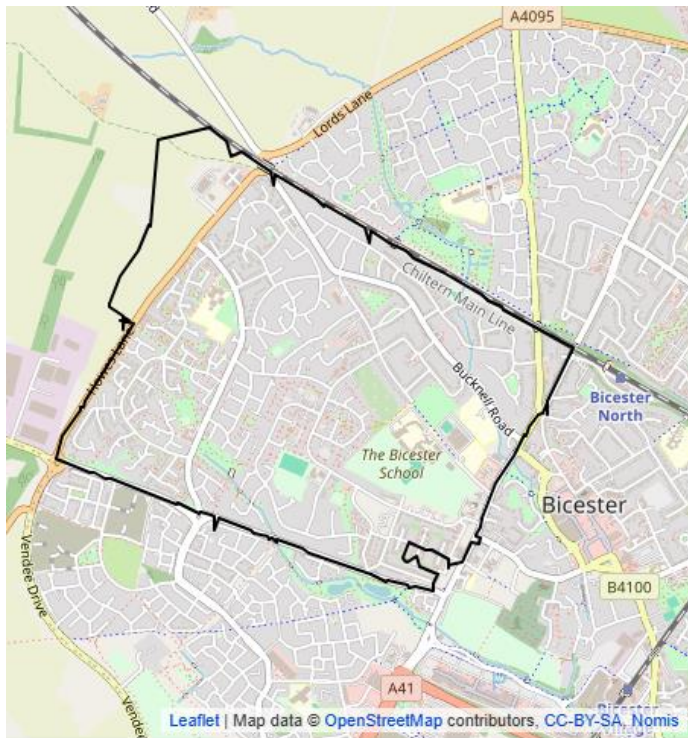
2 Introduction

This profile provides an overview of facts and figures about the Bicester West area.

Bicester West ward covers the northwestern part of Bicester. It is bordered to the north by the railway line and to the west by Howes Lane and includes The Bicester School.

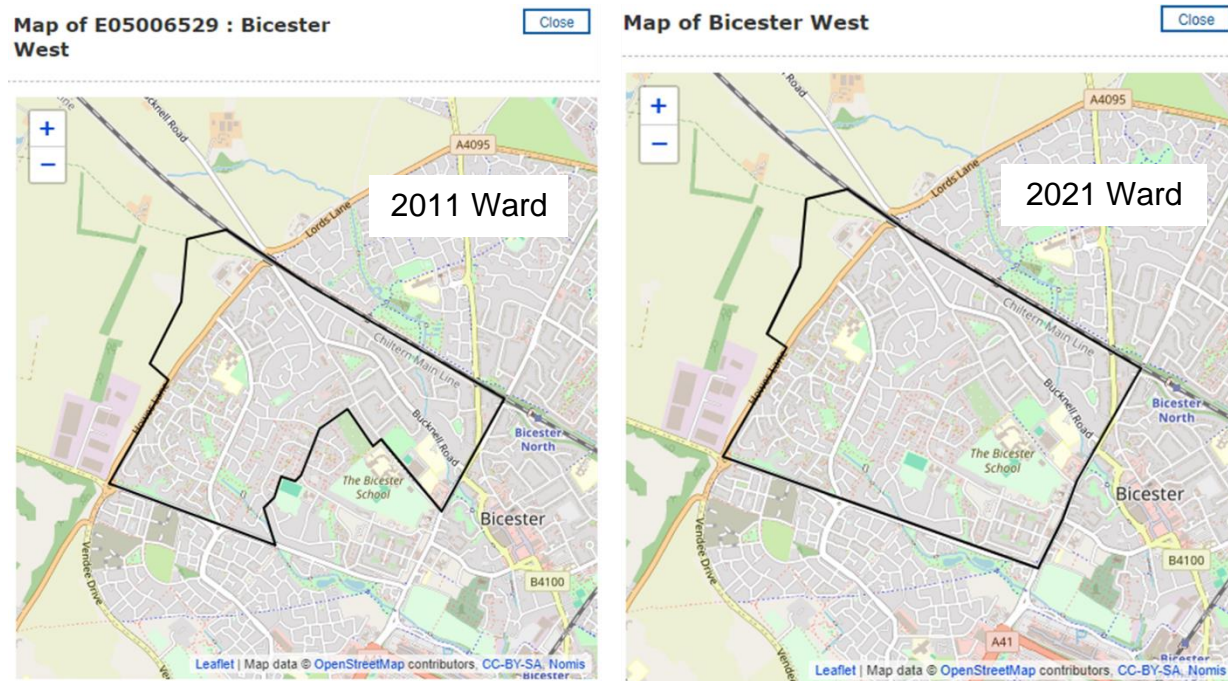
The Bicester West area included in this profile is based on the MSOA Cherwell 014 and it is the primary geography used throughout this report as it is almost identical to the ward boundary for Bicester West.

Figure 2 Map showing MSOA Cherwell 014 geographical area.



In 2015 the boundary of the Bicester West ward was changed, resulting in an increase in ward size, with the addition of the area to the south and west of The Bicester School.

Figure 3 Maps showing boundary change for Bicester West ward



Maps from www.nomis.co.uk

This change to the ward boundary means that it is not possible to look at change in population over time (e.g. comparing 2011 Census data to 2021 Census data) at a ward level.

In addition, other important datasets, such as child poverty data, are not yet available for the new 2021 ward boundary.

Unlike the ward boundary, the statistical boundaries based on output areas (Middle Layer Super Output Areas and Lower Layer Super Output Areas) have remained unchanged.

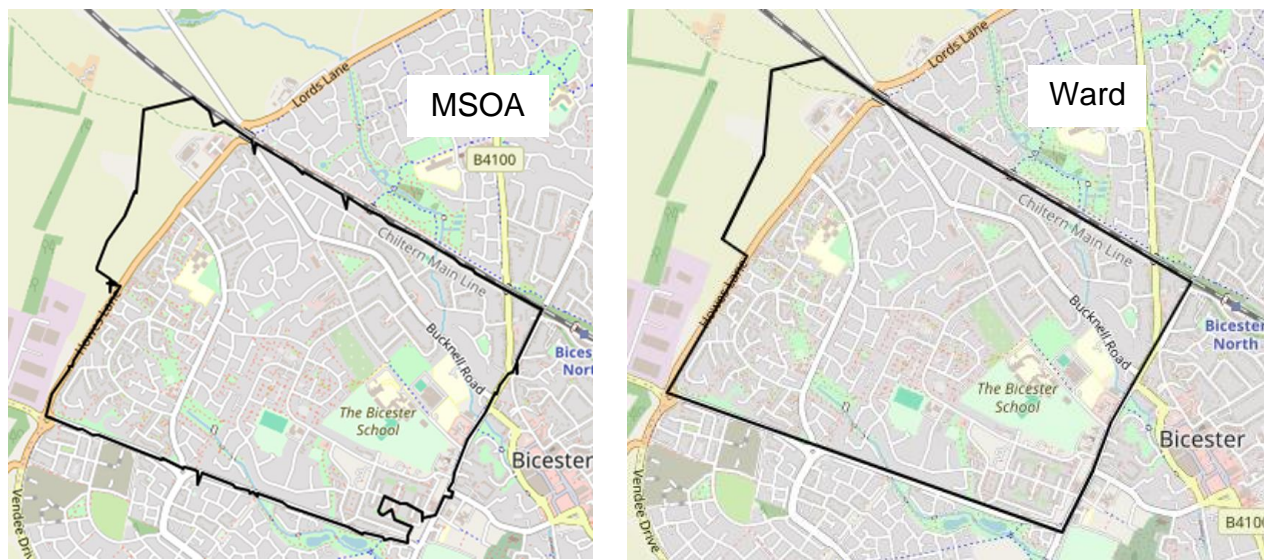
In the case of Bicester West, **the MSOA boundary is almost identical to the 2021 ward boundary**, and so the MSOA (Cherwell 014) is used as the primary geography throughout this data report.

Data for the Bicester West Community Insight area is included for:

- The Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) Bicester West (Cherwell 014)
- Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs): Cherwell 014A, 014B, 014C, 014D, 014E and 014F.

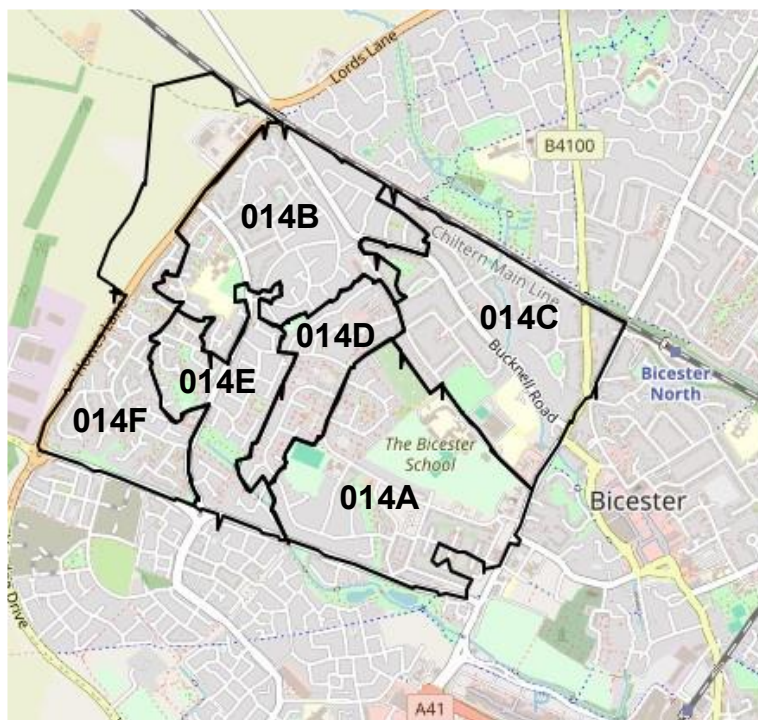
Where relevant, data for Bicester West area is compared to Cherwell District, Oxfordshire County and the England averages.

Figure 4 Maps showing Bicester West MSOA (Cherwell 014) and ward areas



Middle layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) are made up of four or five LSOAs. They comprise between 2,000 and 6,000 households and have a resident population of between 5,000 and 15,000 persons.

Figure 5 Map of Lower Super Output Areas within Bicester West MSOA area



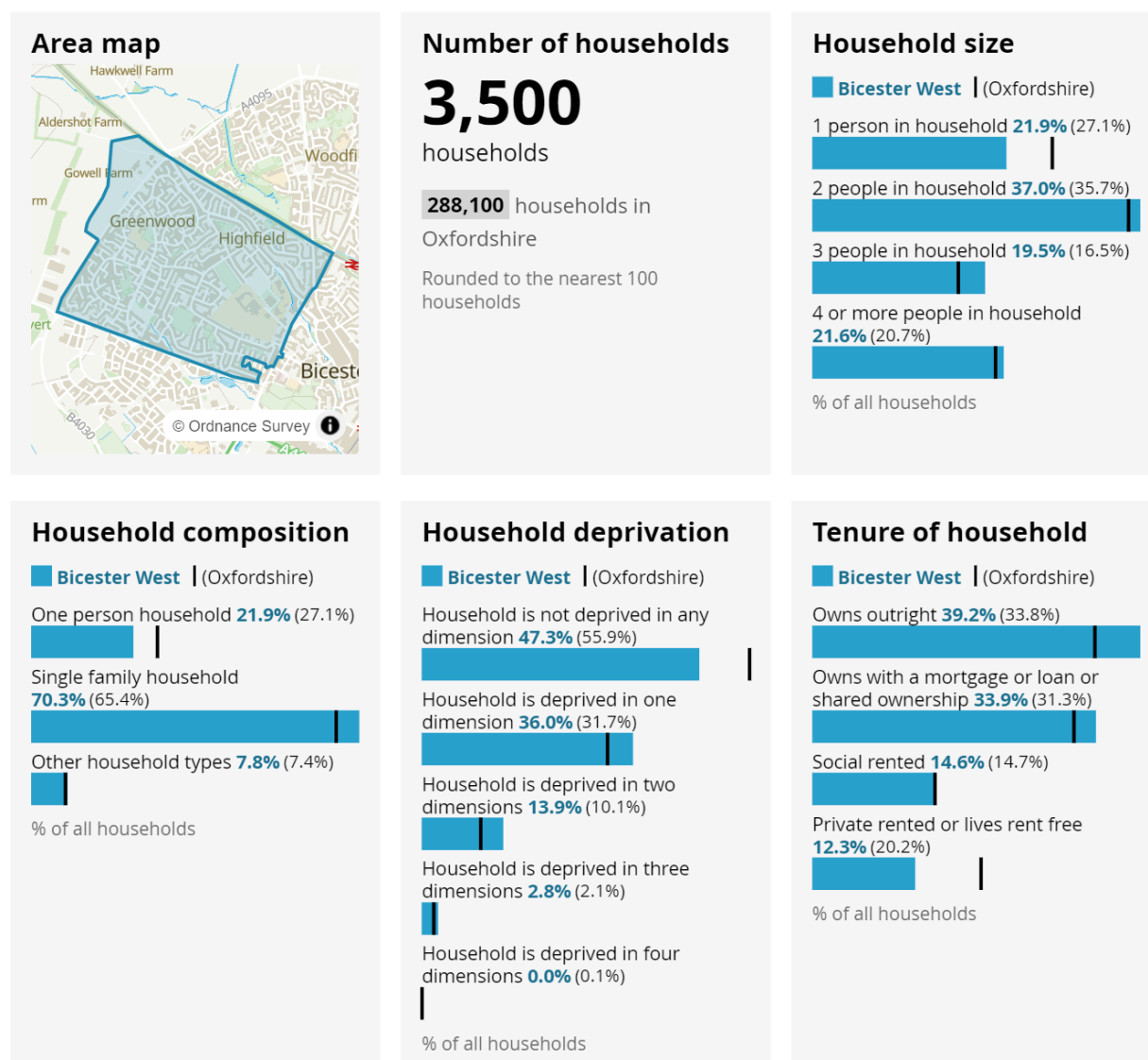
Maps from www.nomis.co.uk

3 Census 2021 profile

The Census profile for Bicester West MSOA shows that, compared with Oxfordshire as a whole, the area had a higher proportion of:

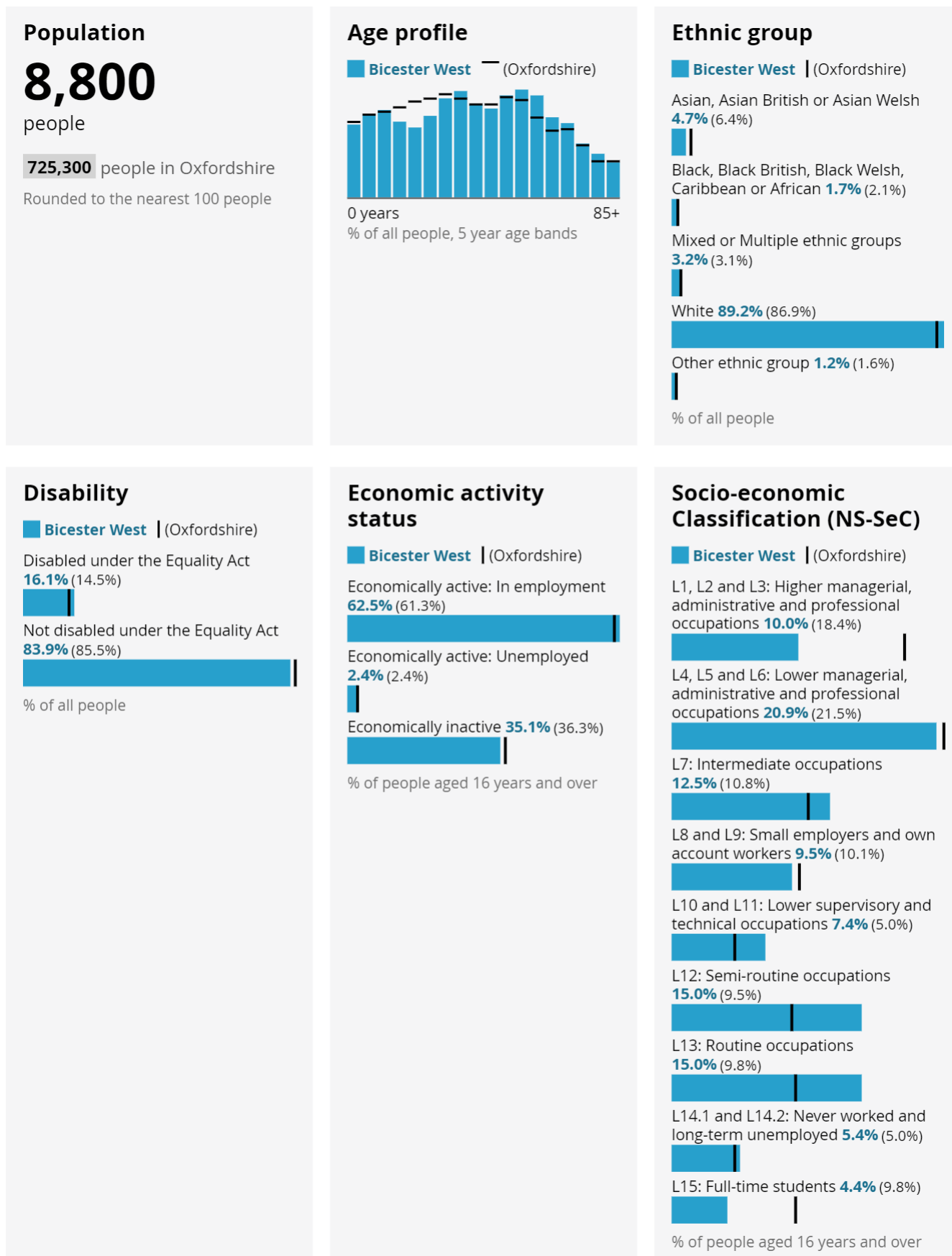
- Households with one or more dimensions of deprivation (53% vs 44%);
- Residents with disabilities (16% vs 15%);
- Residents employed in semi-routine occupations (15% vs 10%) and in routine occupations (15% vs 10%).

Figure 6 Census 2021 profile for Bicester West MSOA – households



From: [Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS](#)

Figure 7 Census 2021 profile for Bicester West MSOA – population



From: [Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS](#)

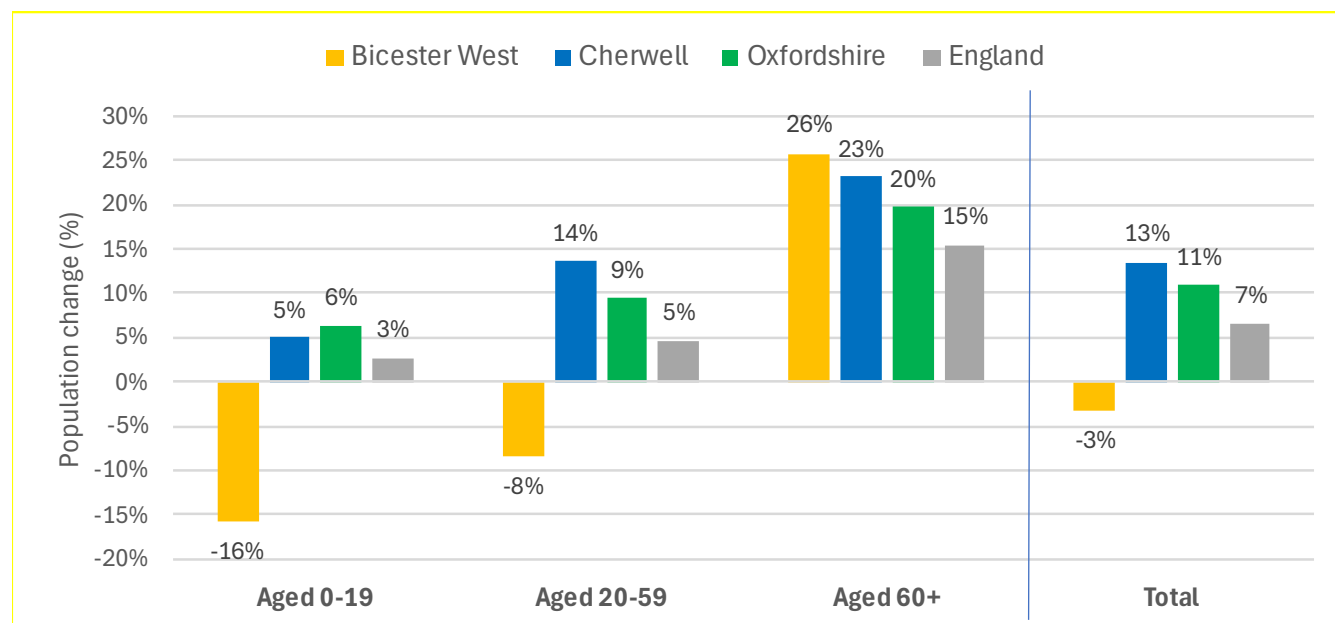
4 Population and housing

4.1 Population and population growth

According to the ONS 2021 Census, Bicester West MSOA had a resident population of **8,847**. Between the 2011 and 2021 Census surveys the total resident population in the Bicester West MSOA decreased from 9,155 to 8,847, by -3%. This was unlike the increasing trend across Cherwell district (+13%) and Oxfordshire (+11%). The latest ONS mid-year population estimate for mid-2022 shows that the population of the area had increased slightly to 8,863.

The change in Bicester West's population by broad age shows a 16% decline in the younger population aged 0-19 years, an 8% decline in the working age population aged 20-59 years and an above-average increase in the older population aged 60+ of +26%.

Figure 8 Population change between Census 2011 and Census 2021 by broad age

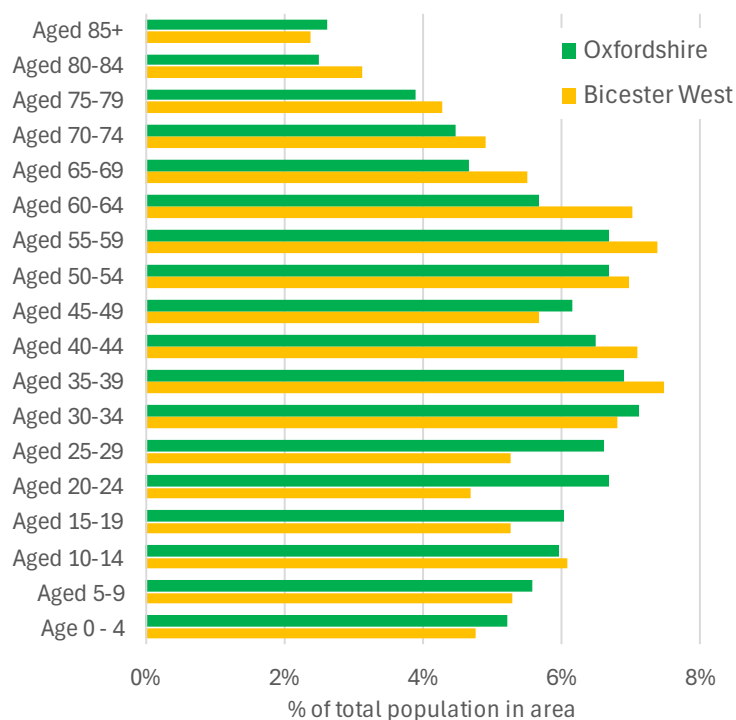


Source: ONS Census 2011 table QS103 and Census 2021 table TS007A from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

4.2 Population by age

As of mid-2022, the Bicester West area had a slightly older population than the Oxfordshire average. 27% of the resident population in Bicester West were aged 60+ compared with 24% in Oxfordshire.

Figure 9 Proportion of the population in the area by broad age band (mid-2022)



Source: ONS mid-year population estimate from [Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

4.3 Ethnicity

The most comprehensive recent data on the ethnicity of the resident population is from the 2021 Census.

The Bicester West area is slightly less ethnically diverse than Oxfordshire as a whole, with 11% of residents from a non-white background in the area, just below Cherwell (12%) and Oxfordshire (13%).

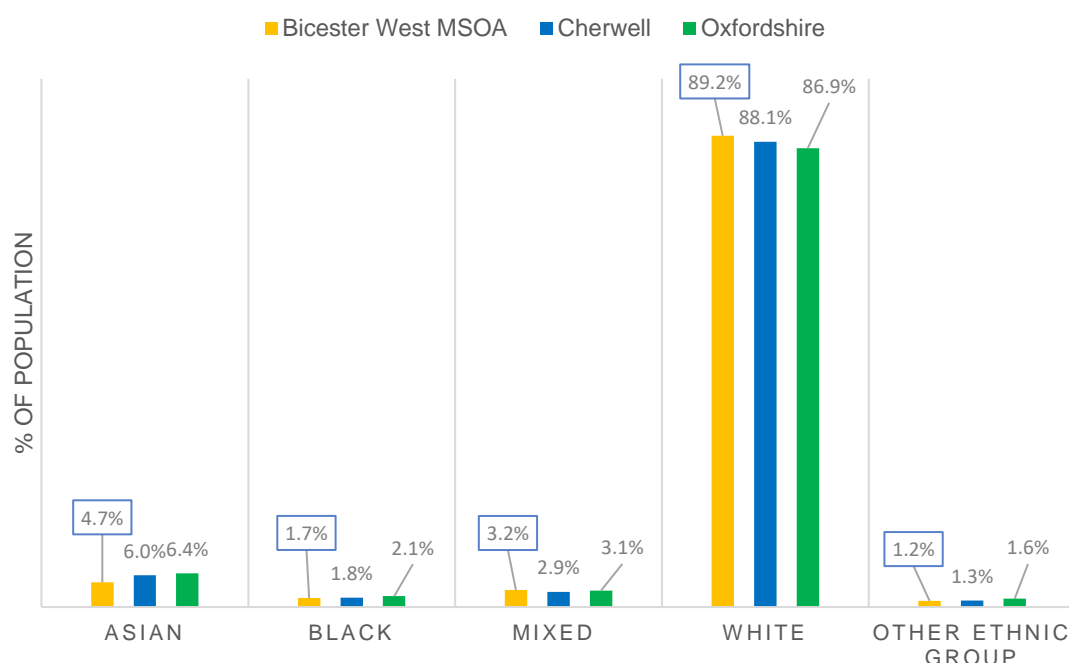
The largest non-white group in Bicester West was Asian (4.7%), followed by people from a Mixed ethnic background (3.2%).

Table 1 Resident population by ethnic group (2021)

	Bicester West MSOA		Cherwell		Oxfordshire	
Asian	413	4.7%	9,706	6.0%	46,389	6%
Black	152	1.7%	2,845	1.8%	14,883	2%
Mixed or Multiple	285	3.2%	4,614	2.9%	22,611	3%
White	7,891	89.2%	141,831	88.1%	630,054	87%
Other ethnic group	105	1.2%	2,019	1.3%	11,357	2%
Total: All usual residents	8,846		161,015		725,294	

Source: Census 2021 table: TS021 from www.nomisweb.co.uk

Figure 10 Resident population by ethnic group (2021)



Source: Census 2021 table: TS021 from www.nomisweb.co.uk

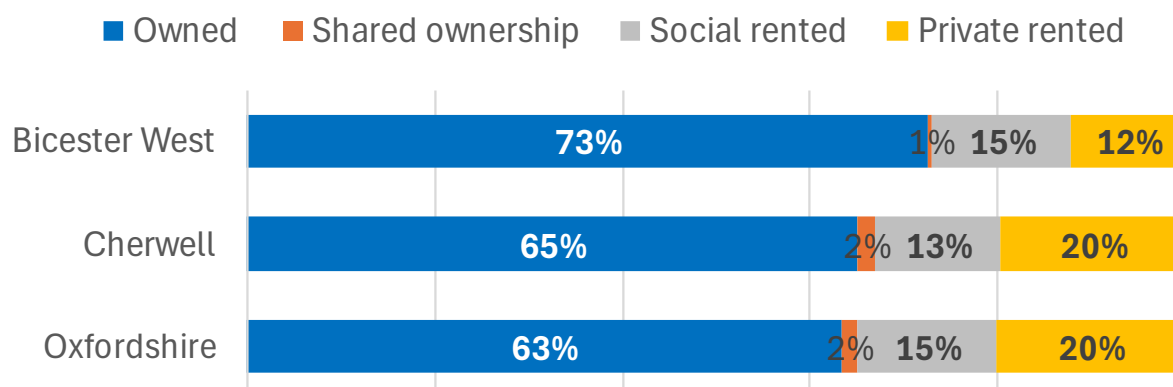
4.4 Housing

Tenure

The proportion of owner-occupied households in Bicester West MSOA was 73% in 2021, above the average for Cherwell (65%) and Oxfordshire (63%).

The proportion of social rented households in Bicester West was above the district average (15% vs 13%) and private rented households was below district and county averages.

Figure 11 Percentage of households in the Bicester West MSOA, Cherwell and Oxfordshire by tenure (2021)

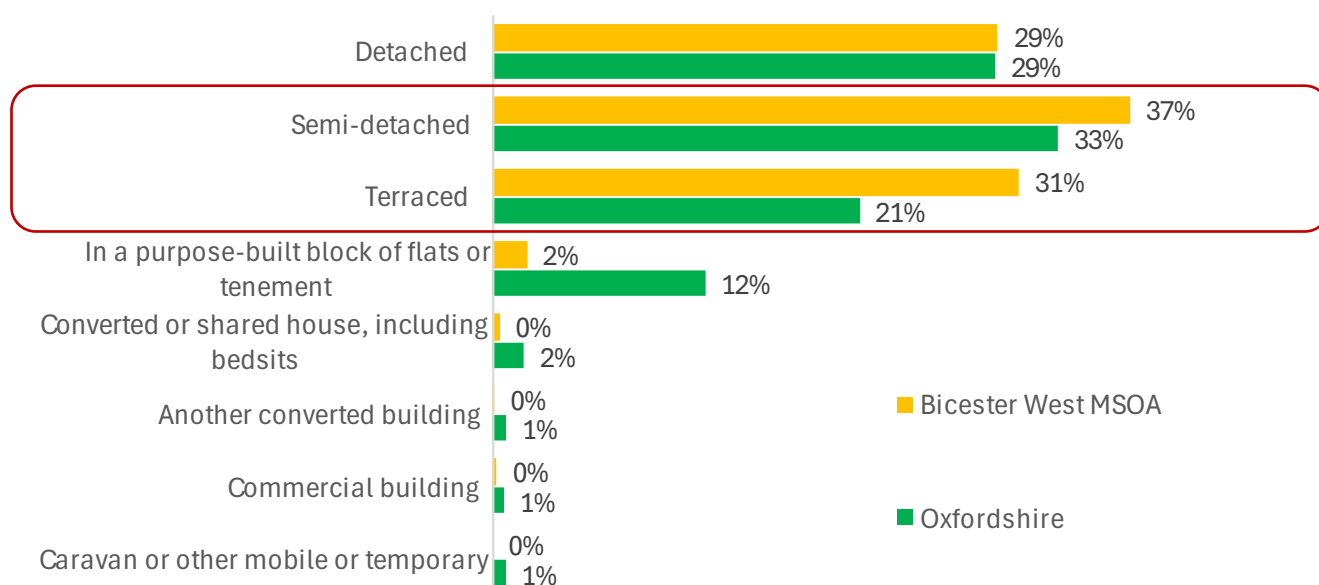


Source: Census 2021 table TS054 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

Accommodation type

Households in Bicester West MSOA in 2021 were more likely to be in semi-detached or terraced housing, 37% and 31% than the average for Oxfordshire 33% and 21% respectively.

Figure 12 Percentage of households by accommodation type (2021)



Source: Census 2021 table TS044 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

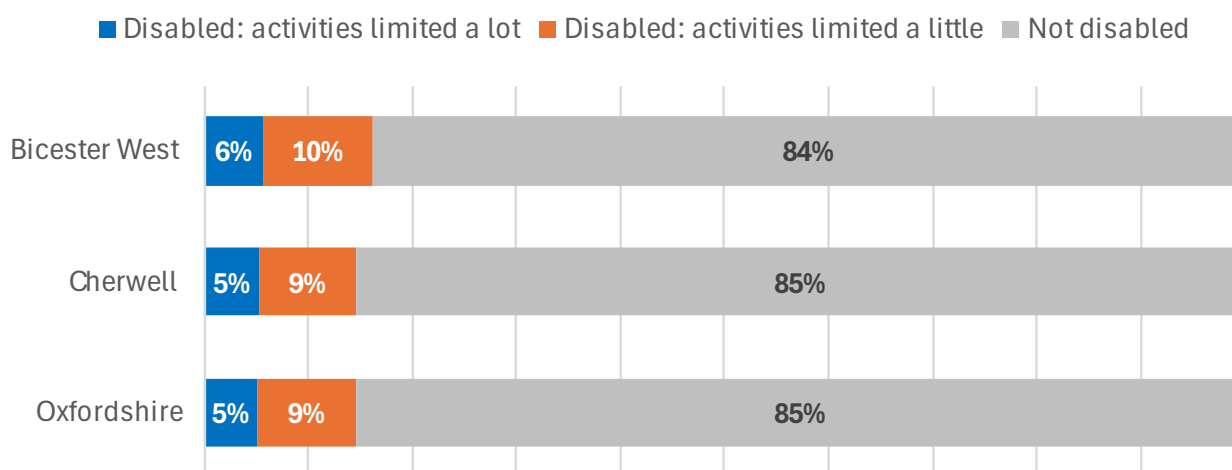
5 Health and Wellbeing

5.1 Health and Disability

According to the 2021 Census, there were 1,425 residents in Bicester West MSOA with a (self-reported) disability, which limited day to day activities “a lot” or “a little”.

This was 16% of the resident population, just above the rate for Cherwell (15%) and Oxfordshire (15%).

Figure 13 Proportion of population by disability



Source: ONS Census 2021 Table TS038 from www.nomisweb.co.uk

5.2 Summary of Health and wellbeing indicators

The following chart shows indicators for Bicester West MSOA which relate to health inequalities. The values are compared with the England and Oxfordshire averages.

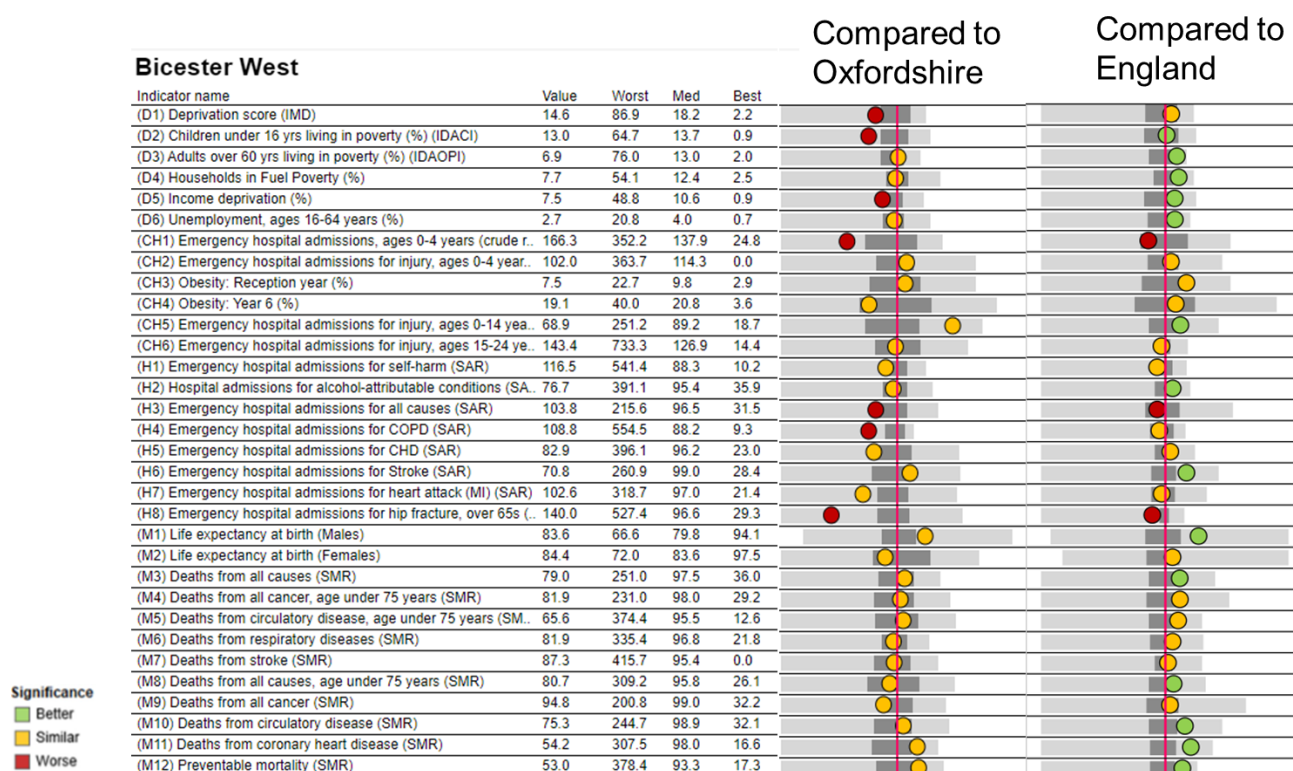
Compared with England, the majority of indicators were either similar to average (yellow, 15 out of 32) or better than average (green, 14 out of 32).

Bicester West MSOA has 3 indicators **that scored worse (red)** than the England average:

- Emergency Hospital Admissions for 0-4 Years
- Emergency Hospital Admissions for all causes
- Emergency Admissions for hip fracture (over 65s)

Compared with Oxfordshire, Bicester West had 7 indicators **scoring worse (red)** than average.

Figure 14 Health and Wellbeing Indicators for Bicester West MSOA



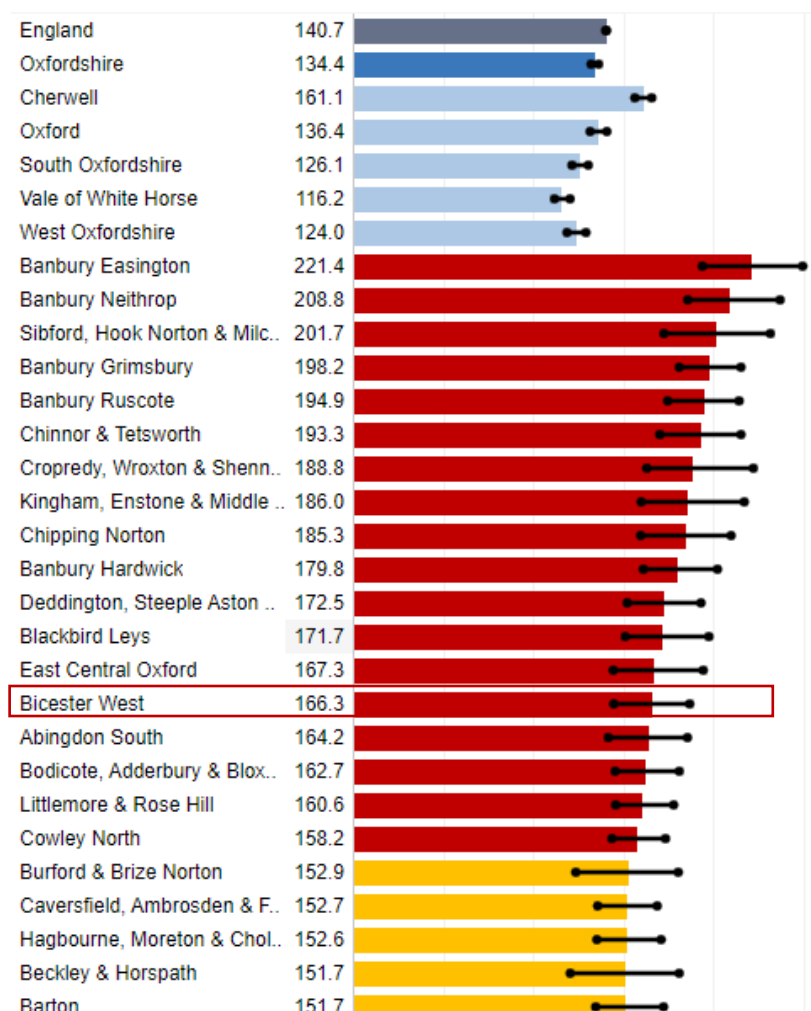
Source: Spine chart from: [Oxfordshire Local Area Inequalities Dashboard](#)

5.3 Emergency hospital admissions for children aged 0-4 years

For the 4 years combined 2016/17 to 2020/21, there were 245 emergency hospital admissions for children aged 0 to 4 years (for any cause) from Bicester West MSOA.

The rate of admissions was 166.3 per 10,000 resident population and was above the rates seen within Oxfordshire (134.4) and England (140.7).

Figure 15 Emergency Hospital Admissions in 0-4 years (crude rate 201617-20/21)

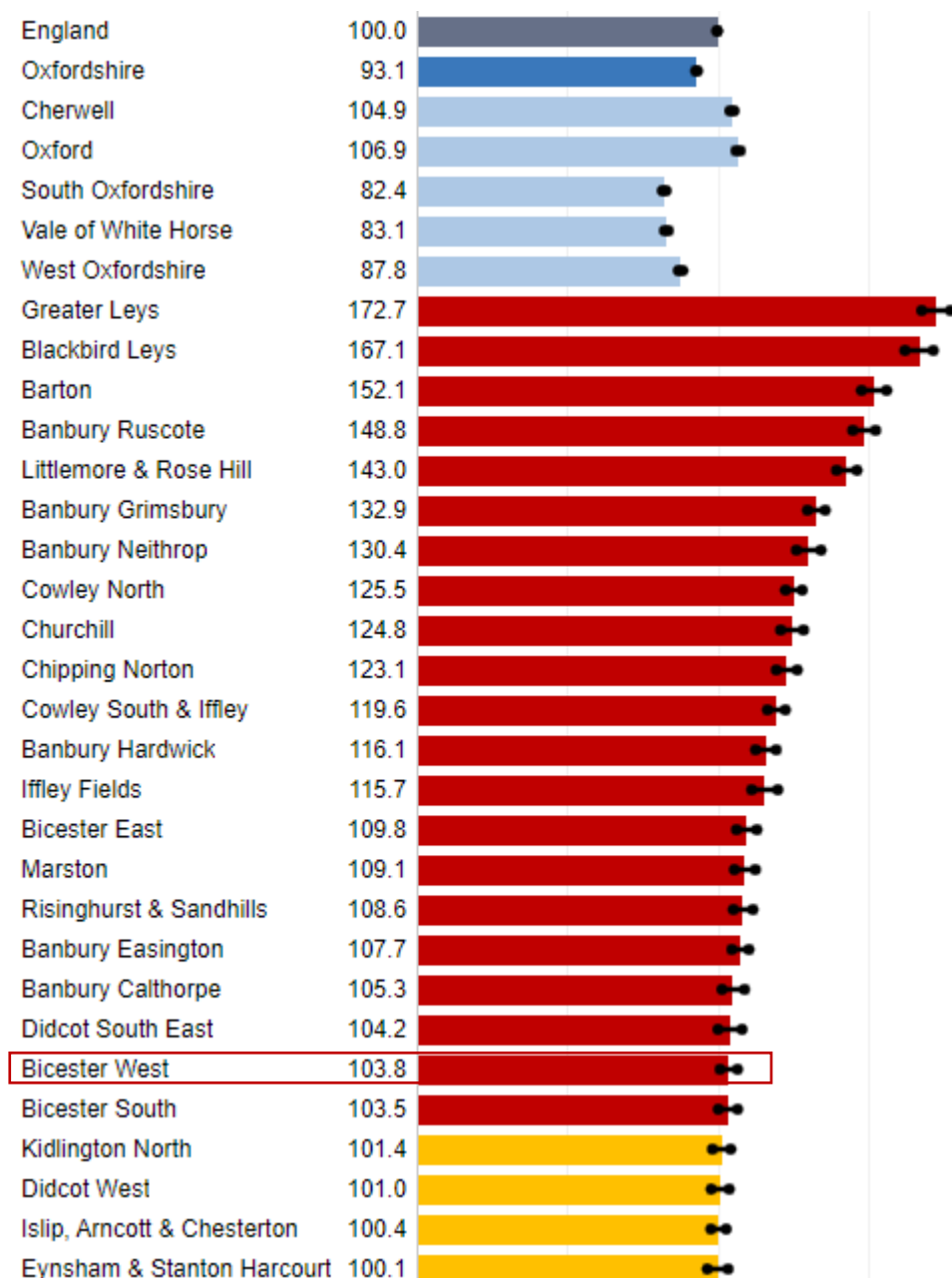


Source: [Oxfordshire Local Area Inequalities Dashboard](#) for more information [Local health, public health data for small geographic areas - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

5.4 Emergency hospital admissions for all causes

For the 4 years combined 2016/17 to 2020/21 the standardised admission ratio (SAR) of emergency hospital admissions for all causes in Bicester West MSOA was 103.8 per 10,000 resident population and was above the ratios seen within Oxfordshire (93.1) and England (100).

Figure 16 Emergency Hospital Admissions for All Causes (SAR 2016/17-20/21)

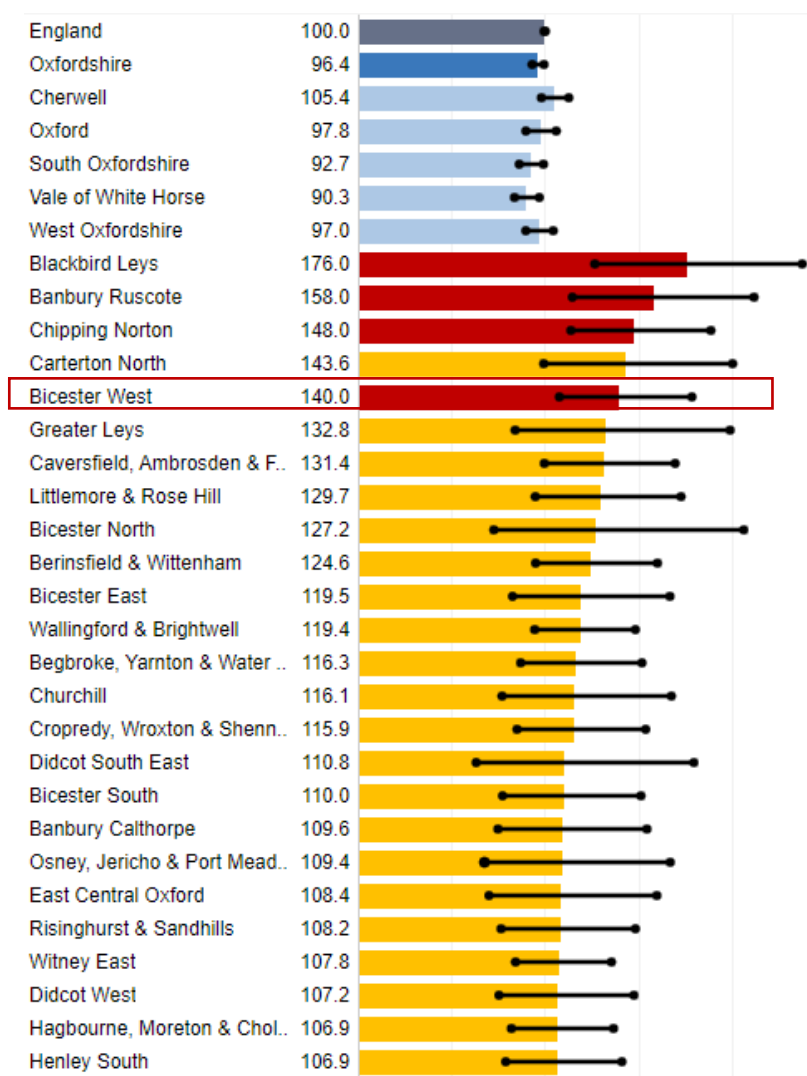


Source: [Oxfordshire Local Area Inequalities Dashboard](#) for more information [Local health, public health data for small geographic areas - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

5.5 Emergency hospital admissions for hip fracture in over 65s

For the 4 years combined 2016/17 to 2020/21, the standardised admission ratio (SAR) for hip fracture in people aged 65 years and over for Bicester West MSOA was 140.0 and was above the rate seen within Oxfordshire (96.4) and England (100).

Figure 17 Emergency Admission for Hip Fracture in people aged 65 years and over (SAR 2016/17-20/21)



Source: [Oxfordshire Local Area Inequalities Dashboard](#) for more information [Local health, public health data for small geographic areas - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

5.6 Life Expectancy

Life expectancy data for Bicester West MSOA shows the average life expectancy (2016-2020)² was 83.6 years for males and 84.4 years for females.

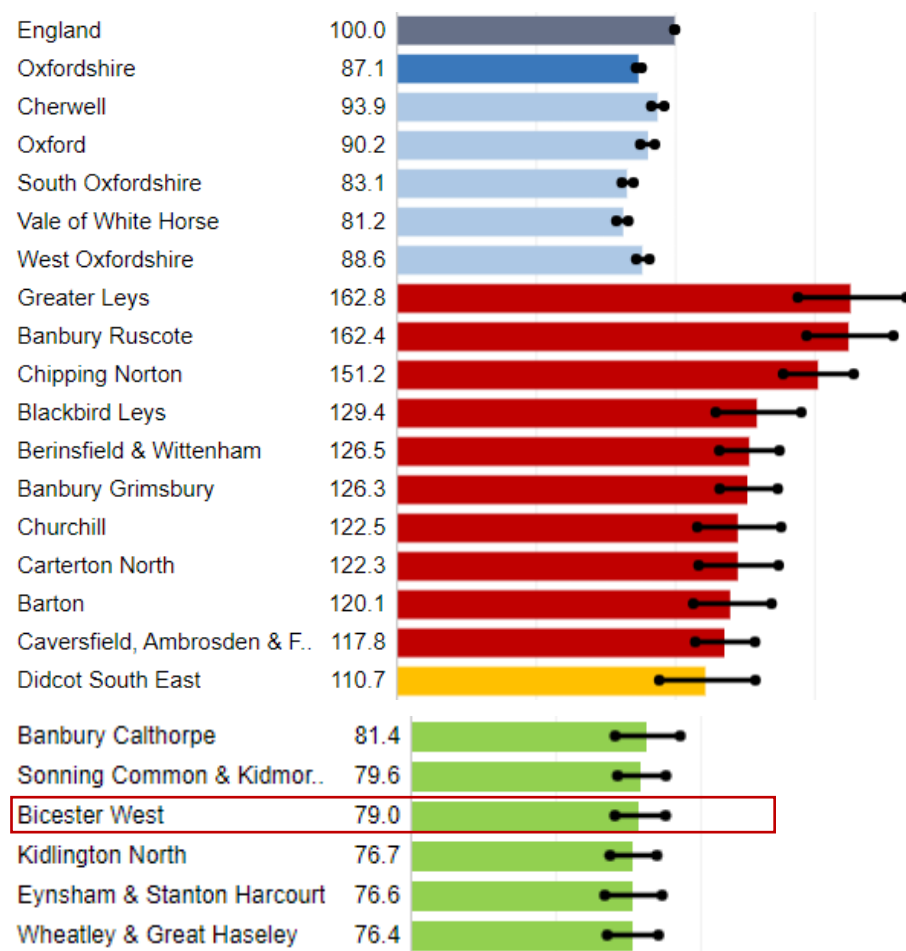
Compared with averages of Oxfordshire and England:

- Bicester West males had a better life expectancy than the England average and similar to the Oxfordshire average³.
- Bicester West females had a similar life expectancy to the England and Oxfordshire averages⁴.

5.7 Deaths from all causes

ONS data on deaths from all causes for the period 2016-2020 (standardised mortality ratio) shows that Bicester West ranked better than the Oxfordshire and England averages.

Figure 18 Deaths from all causes (SMR) 2016-2020



Source: [Oxfordshire Local Area Inequalities Dashboard](#) for more information [Local health, public health data for small geographic areas - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

² ONS from [fingertips](#)

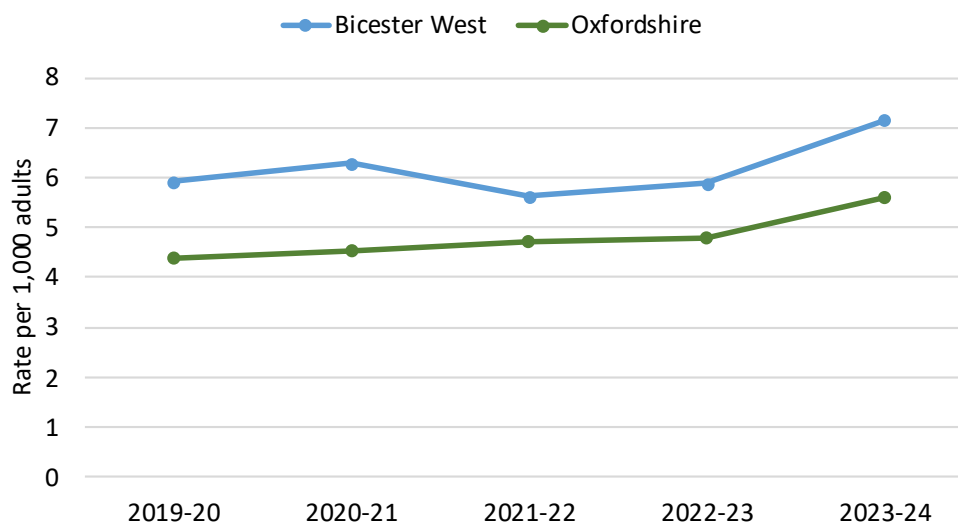
³ Life expectancy for Males [Local health, public health data for small geographic areas - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

⁴ Life expectancy for Females [Local health, public health data for small geographic areas - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

5.8 Adults in drugs and alcohol treatment

During the financial year 2023-24, a total of 51 residents of Bicester West MSOA, aged 18 years and over were receiving structured drug and alcohol treatment. This was a rate of 7.1 per 1,000 population, above the Oxfordshire rate of 5.6 per 1,000.

Figure 19 Rate per 1,000 of adults in structured treatment for drugs and alcohol



Source: Local drugs and alcohol services commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council; rate calculated using ONS mid-year population estimates

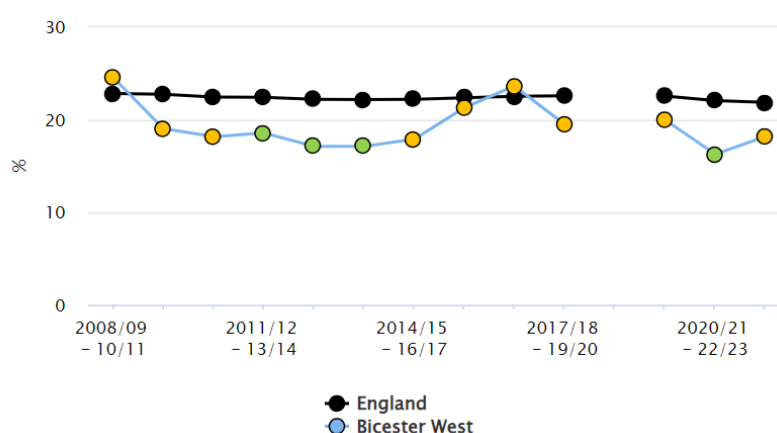
5.9 Obesity

Obesity is defined as “abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that may impair health”. Prevalence of Obesity is increasing within the UK with rates having increased between 15-28% since 1993⁵. Currently, 1 in every 4 adults and around 1 in every 5 children aged 10 to 11⁶. Obesity increases the risk of several health conditions: Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, several types of cancers and depression. Obesity is more likely amongst those living in a deprived area.

According to the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) 3 years combined 2021/22 to 2023/24, the prevalence of overweight (including obesity) in Bicester West MSOA was:

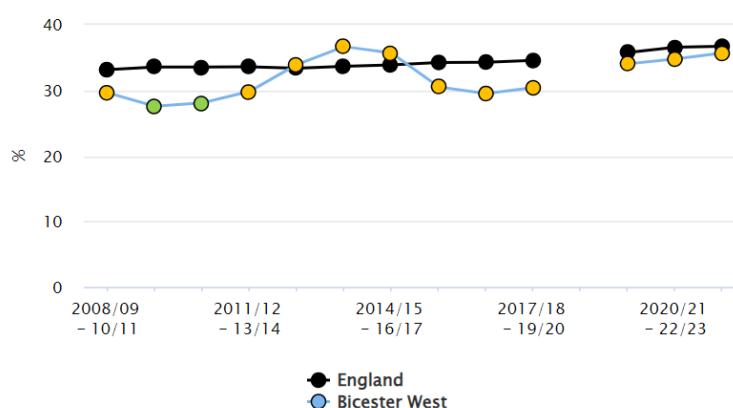
- 18.2% for children in reception (aged 4-5 years). This was statistically similar to the average for Oxfordshire (19.4%) and England (21.9%).
- 35.7% for children in year 6 (aged 10-11 years). This was statistically similar to the average for Oxfordshire (32.1%) and England (36.7%).

Figure 20 Prevalence of reception children (aged 4-5 years) classified as overweight (including obesity) 3-years data



Source: [Local health, public health data for small geographic areas - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#) using National Child Measurement Programme, NHS Digital

Figure 21 Prevalence of year 6 children (aged 10-11 years) classified as overweight (including obesity) 3-years data



Source: [Local health, public health data for small geographic areas - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#) using National Child Measurement Programme, NHS Digital

⁵ [Houses Of Commons Library - Obesity statistics \(2023\)](#) (Accessed 27/11/23)

⁶ [NHS – Obesity \(2023\)](#) (Accessed 27/11/23).

6 Employment

6.1 Economic activity

Data on economic activity is available from the 2021 Census and counts people aged 16 years and over as economically active if, between 15 March and 21 March 2021, they were:

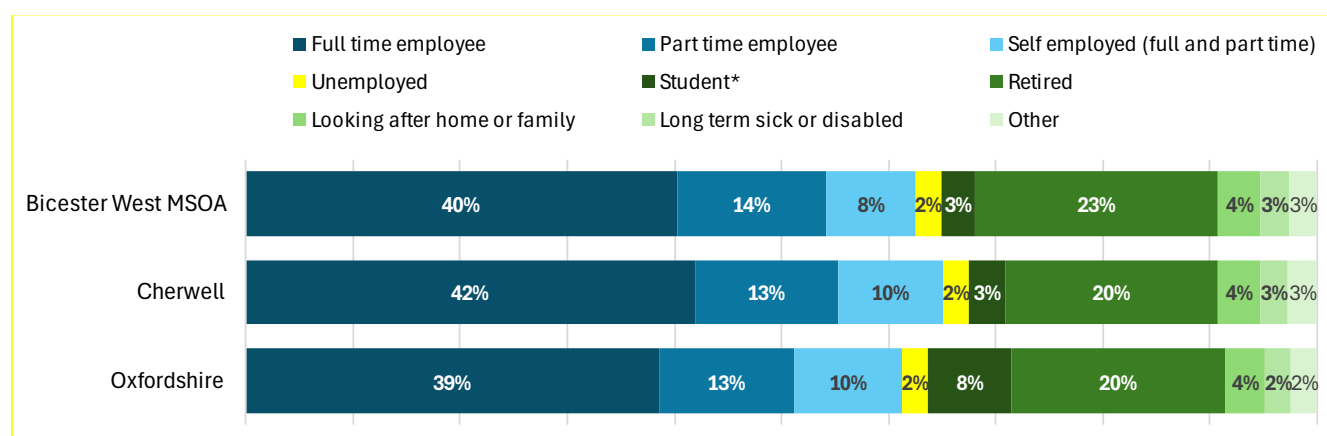
- In employment (an employee or self-employed),
- Unemployed, but looking for work and could start within two weeks,
- Unemployed but waiting to start a job that had been offered and accepted.

As of March 2021, the percentage of people who were economically active in Bicester West MSOA was 65%, this was just below the average for Cherwell district (68%) and similar to the Oxfordshire average (64%).

Further breakdown of economic activity shows that, compared with Cherwell and Oxfordshire averages, Bicester West MSOA had a:

- Lower proportion of self-employed (8% vs 10% in Oxfordshire);
- Similar proportion of unemployed (2.4% vs 2.4% in Oxfordshire);
- A similar proportion of students to the district (3.1% in Bicester West vs 3.3% in Cherwell and 8% in Oxfordshire);
- A slightly higher proportion who were retired compared with Oxfordshire (23% vs 20%);
- A similar proportion who were long term sick or disabled (2.7% in Bicester West vs 2.6% in Cherwell and 2.3% in Oxfordshire).

Figure 22 Proportion of people aged 16+ years by economic activity (2021)



Source: ONS Census table TS066 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

*student includes economically inactive full time students only, some full time students are included in the economically active populations.

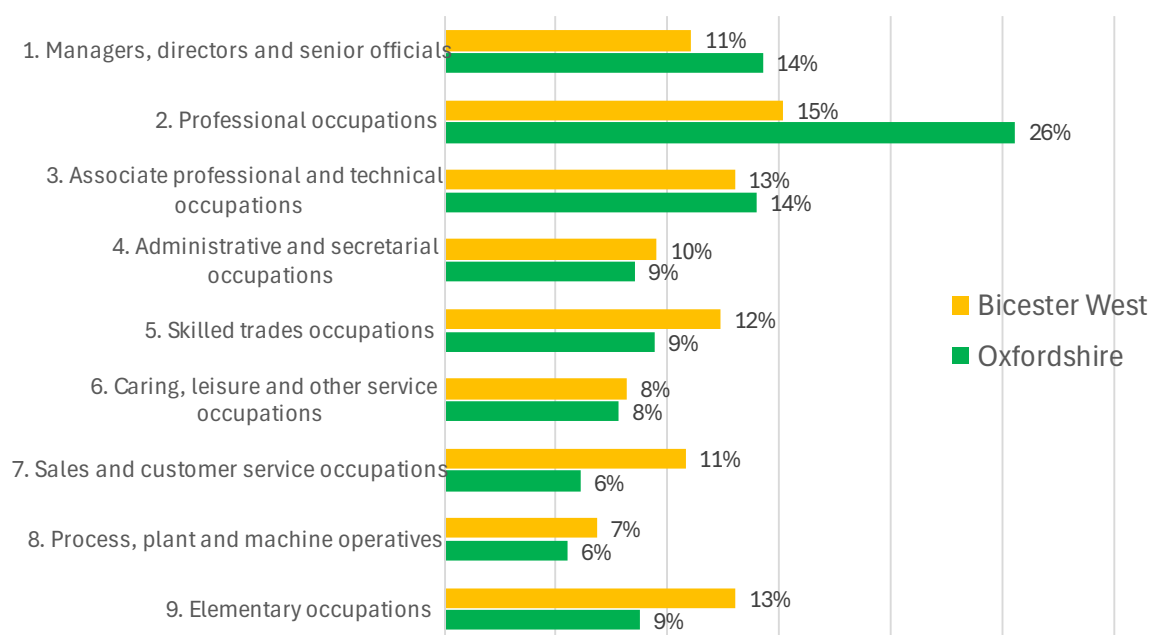
6.2 Occupation

The occupation indicator classifies what people, aged 16 years and over, do as their main job. This includes job title or details of activities they do in their job and any supervisory or management responsibilities.

The following chart shows the population aged 16+ by type of occupation from the 2021 Census.

Workers in Bicester West MSOA were less likely than the Oxfordshire average to be in managerial and professional occupations and more likely to be in routine and elementary occupations.

Figure 23 Proportion of people aged 16+ in employment by occupation (2021)



Source: ONS Census 2021 table TS063 from www.nomisweb.co.uk

According to the 2021 Census the largest employment industries⁷ within Bicester West MSOA were:

- Retail (14% vs 11% in Cherwell and 8% in Oxfordshire)
- Health and social work (13% vs 12% in Cherwell and 13% in Oxfordshire)
- Education (9% vs 10% in Cherwell and 14% in Oxfordshire)
- Construction (9% vs 8% in Cherwell and 7% in Oxfordshire)

⁷ ONS Census 2021 table TS060 industry as % of all residents aged 16 and over in employment the week before the census

6.3 Unemployment

The claimant count is a measure of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed, based on administrative data from the benefits system.

The below chart is a trend chart showing the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits (claimant count) for Bicester West MSOA between January 2020 and November 2024.

The claimant count in Bicester West MSOA increased significantly at the start of the pandemic in March and May 2020 and has remained above pre-pandemic levels.

As of March 2025, the claimant count as a proportion of the residents aged 16-64 for Bicester West MSOA was 2.3%. This was below the average for Cherwell (2.6%) and Oxfordshire (2.4%).

Figure 24 Trend in number of unemployment claimants for Bicester West MSOA



Source: DWP Claimant count from www.nomisweb.co.uk ; rate uses ONS mid-2022 estimate for people aged 16-64

7 Poverty and deprivation

7.1 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

The index of multiple deprivation is an official measure of relative deprivation of small areas within England. The measure is created by combining and weighting data from 7 different domains: income, employment, health deprivation and disability, education and skills training, crime, barriers to housing and services and living environment. The overall IMD score is used to rank small areas based on level of deprivation.

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index and Income deprivation Affecting Older People Index are subsets of the Income Deprivation Domain. The IDACI measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. The IDAOPI measures the proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

The table below shows the six Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Bicester West MSOA ranked against areas across England.

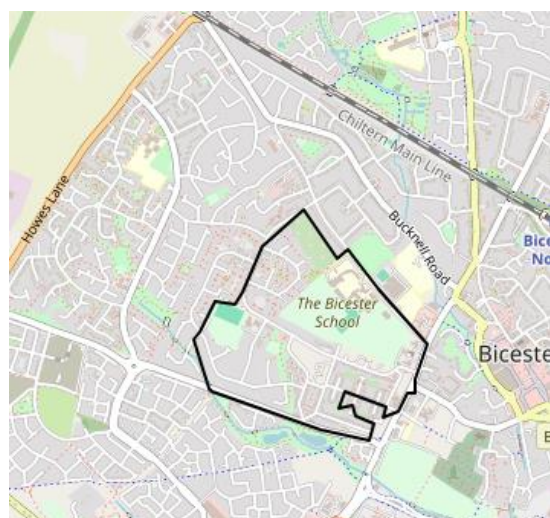
The LSOA Cherwell 014A falls within the 30% most deprived areas in England and is ranked within the 20% most deprived for the *Education, Skills and Training* domain and the *Crime* domain. The LSOA Cherwell 014D falls within the 10% and 20% most deprived for the education and Barriers to housing domains. The education, skills and training domain measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population.

Table 2 IMD for the LSOAs in Bicester West MSOA (1 is the most deprived, 10 is the least deprived)

LSOA name (2011)	Overall index	Income	Emp	Education	Health	Crime	Barriers to Housing and Services	Living Env	Income Depr Affecting Children	Income Depr Affecting Older People
Cherwell 014A	3	4	4	2	3	2	5	6	3	6
Cherwell 014D	4	5	5	1	4	5	2	7	4	7
Cherwell 014C	7	7	7	4	7	5	7	7	7	7
Cherwell 014E	8	10	9	4	7	6	5	9	10	9
Cherwell 014B	9	9	8	5	8	9	4	8	7	10
Cherwell 014F	10	10	10	7	10	9	4	10	8	10

Source MHCLG English Indices of Deprivation 2019, **based on data from 2011 to 2016**

Figure 25 Map showing LSOA Cherwell 014A



Map from www.nomisweb.co.uk

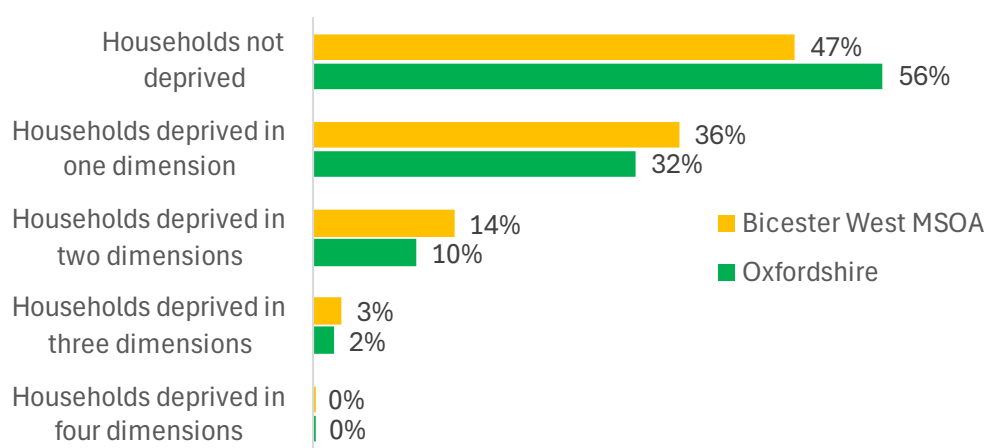
7.2 Household deprivation

The dimensions of deprivation used to classify households in the Census are indicators based on four selected household characteristics.

- **Education:** A household is classified as deprived in the education dimension if no one has at least level 2 education and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student.
- **Employment:** A household is classified as deprived in the employment dimension if any member, not a full-time student, is either unemployed or economically inactive due to long-term sickness or disability.
- **Health:** A household is classified as deprived in the health dimension if any person in the household has general health that is bad or very bad or is identified as disabled.
- **Housing:** A household is classified as deprived in the housing dimension if the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating.

The Bicester West MSOA has a higher proportion of households classified as deprived in one or more dimensions (53%) than the averages for Cherwell (46%) and Oxfordshire (44%).

Figure 26 Proportion of households not deprived in any dimensions and households deprived in one, two, three or four dimensions

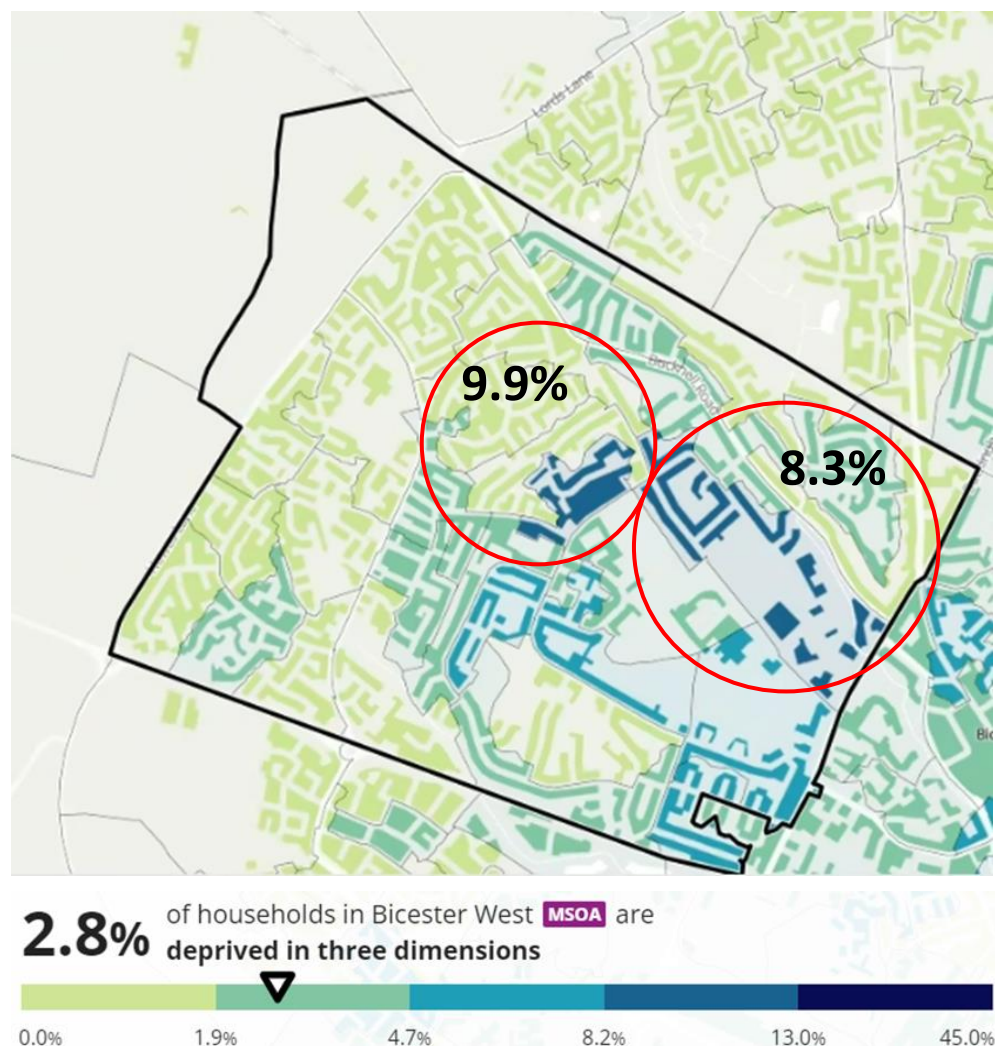


Source: ONS Census 2021 Table TS011 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

However, there is variation in household deprivation across the Bicester West area, which means that the average for the area hides wider differences.

Households deprived in three dimensions are mainly concentrated just outside the LSOA area that is highlighted by the IMD data (see section 7.1).

Figure 27 Map of Bicester West MSOA showing the percentage of housing deprived in three dimensions



Dark blue=more deprived

Source: [Household deprivation - Census Maps, ONS](#)

7.3 Children in poverty

Relative low-income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year. A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits, or Housing Benefit) at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions.

As of 2023/24, there were 191 children aged 0-15 years living in poverty (relative low-income families) in the Bicester West MSOA area, a rate of 12.5% per population aged 0-15 years. This was similar to the average for Cherwell (12.5%) and just above the rate for Oxfordshire (10.5%).

Table 3 Children in poverty by age band and rate of child poverty (2023/24)

Age band of child	Bicester West MSOA	Cherwell	Oxfordshire
0-4 years	57	1,015	3,724
5-10 years	69	1,381	5,071
11-15 years	65	1,373	5,172
Total 0-15 years	191	3,769	13,967
Rate of child poverty per population aged 0-15	12.5%	12.1%	10.5%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore, Children in relative low-income families, rate uses ONS mid-2022 population estimate

See also [Children in low income families: local area statistics, financial year ending 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-financial-year-ending-2023) released March 2024

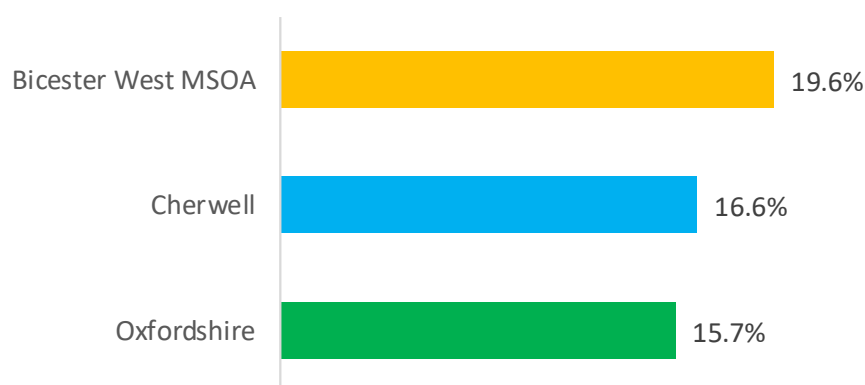
7.4 Free school meals

Pupils are eligible for Free School Meals if the household receives any of the below:

- *Income Support*
- *income-based Jobseeker's Allowance*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *The guaranteed element of Pension Credit*
- *Child Tax Credit (provided not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit*
- *Universal Credit - household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits)*

As of January 2024, there were 255 school pupils in Bicester West MSOA who were eligible for free school meals, at a rate of 20% per population aged 0-15 years. This was above the average for Cherwell (17%) and Oxfordshire (16%).

Figure 28 Pupils eligible for free school meals January 2024



Source: Oxfordshire County Council (School Census January 2024)

7.5 Fuel poverty

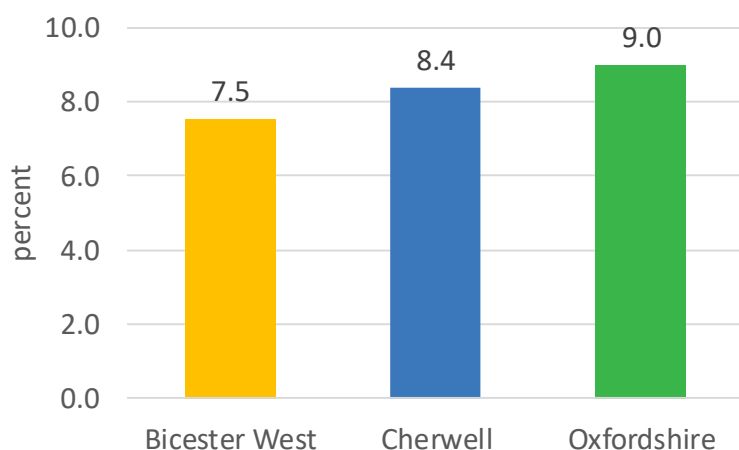
Fuel poverty in England is measured using the Low-Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator. Under this indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if:

- they are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below and
- when they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

The data in this graph is produced from the Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics at a subnational level for Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England. The Bicester West MSOA area includes 6 LSOAs: Cherwell 014A, 014B, 014C, 014D, 014E and 014F and the total for the MSOA is the average of the proportion of households categorised as fuel poor in these areas.

The chart below shows that in 2022, the Bicester West area had a proportion of households in fuel poverty that was below the averages for Cherwell and Oxfordshire.

Figure 29 Proportion of households in fuel poverty in Bicester West MSOA, Cherwell and Oxfordshire (2022)



Source: Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (data released 25th April 2024)

[Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2024 \(2022 data\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2024-2022-data)

7.6 Pension credit

Pension credit can be claimed by those who have reached state pension age (currently 66 years for men and women) and with income below a threshold (guarantee credit) or meeting specific criteria (carer, disability, housing costs, savings). Pension credit can help access other forms of benefit such as help with health and housing costs, TV licence and cold weather payments.

As of May 2024, there were 82 older people aged 65 and over claiming pension credit in the Bicester West MSOA area, a rate of 4.6% per population aged 65 years and over. This was below the average for Cherwell (6.5%) and Oxfordshire (6.1%).

Table 4 Claimants of pension credit (May 2024)

Type of pension credit	Bicester West MSOA	Cherwell	Oxfordshire
Guarantee Credit only	46	1,029	4,677
Savings Credit only	12	260	1,088
Both Guarantee and Savings Credit	26	601	2,422
Total	82	1,884	8,180
Rate of pension credit per population aged 65+	4.6%	6.5%	6.1%

Source: Pension credit claimants from StatXplore; rate used ONS mid-2022 population estimate (aged 65+)

8 Crime and community safety

In 2022 the overall rate of crime for Bicester West MSOA was 81.7 crimes per 1,000 residents, ranking 23 out of all the 86 MSOAs in Oxfordshire. This was above the average rate of crime for Oxfordshire of 74.5.

The highest-ranking crime in Bicester West was *Violence and sexual offences* (37.0 crimes per 1,000).

Figure 30 Overall rate of Crime per 1,000 population for MSOAs in Oxfordshire (2022)

Overall rate of crime				
Area	Offences	Rate	Change	
Bicester South	1,854	214.7	+33.9%	
Oxford Central	3,665	192.7	+12.5%	
Banbury Grimsbury	2,411	188.8	+7.9%	
East Central Oxford	1,950	171.0	+5.9%	
Banbury Neithrop	944	156.6	-1.4%	
Abingdon Town & ..	1,700	153.6	+7.7%	
Blackbird Leys	949	145.0	-7.0%	
Witney Central	1,570	145.0	+41.1%	
Banbury Ruscote	1,164	131.6	+15.9%	
Cowley South & Iffley	1,370	130.7	+8.6%	
Littlemore & Rose H..	1,453	126.3	+7.3%	
Osney, Jericho & P..	765	115.9	+0.7%	
Shrivenham, Watchf..	726	50.7	+2.3%	
Bicester West	720	81.7	+3.5%	
Greater Leys	680	98.0	-15.0%	

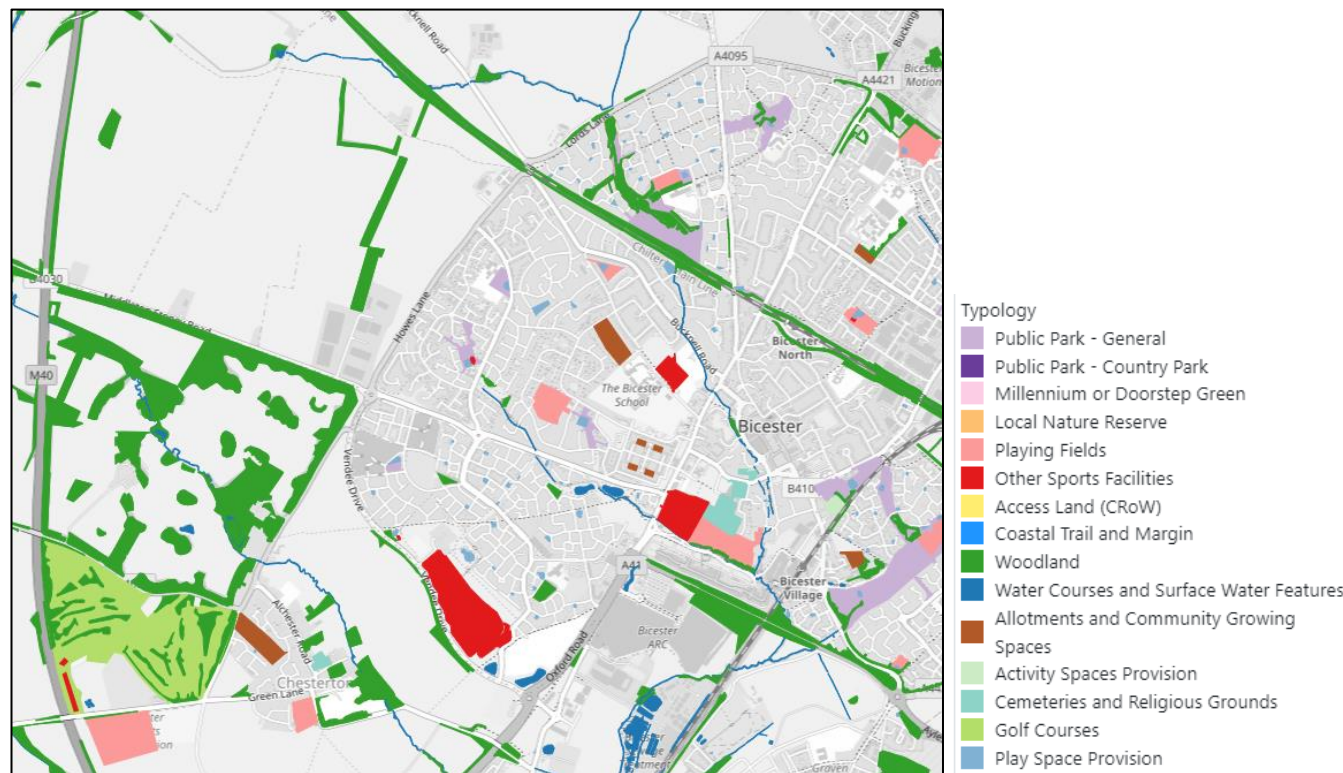
Source: Police UK data from Oxfordshire Crime dashboard [Workbook: OxfordshireCrimeDashboard](#)

9 Living environment

9.1 Access to green space

Mapping by Natural England shows limited green space within Bicester West. The Bicester West area is adjacent to an area of woodland to the west, part of Bignall Park, which offers limited access to the public.

Figure 31 Map showing green infrastructure in the Bicester West area



Source: [Green Infrastructure Map](#)

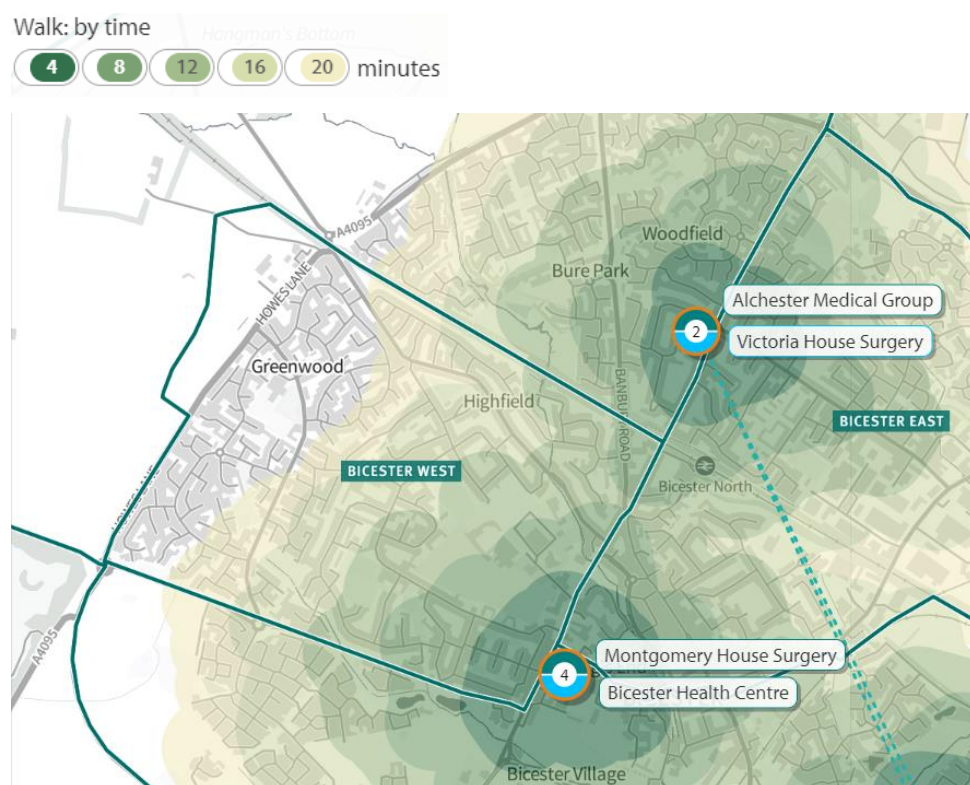
9.2 Proximity to health services

Bicester Primary Care Network includes three GP practices based in the town:

- Alchester Medical Group including Victoria House Surgery
- Bicester Health Centre
- Montgomery House Surgery

There are no GP practices located directly within the Bicester West MSOA and for most of the area it is an estimated 20-minute (or more) walking time to the nearest GP practice. The whole of the Bicester West area is within a 20-minute journey time by public transport to a nearby GP practice.

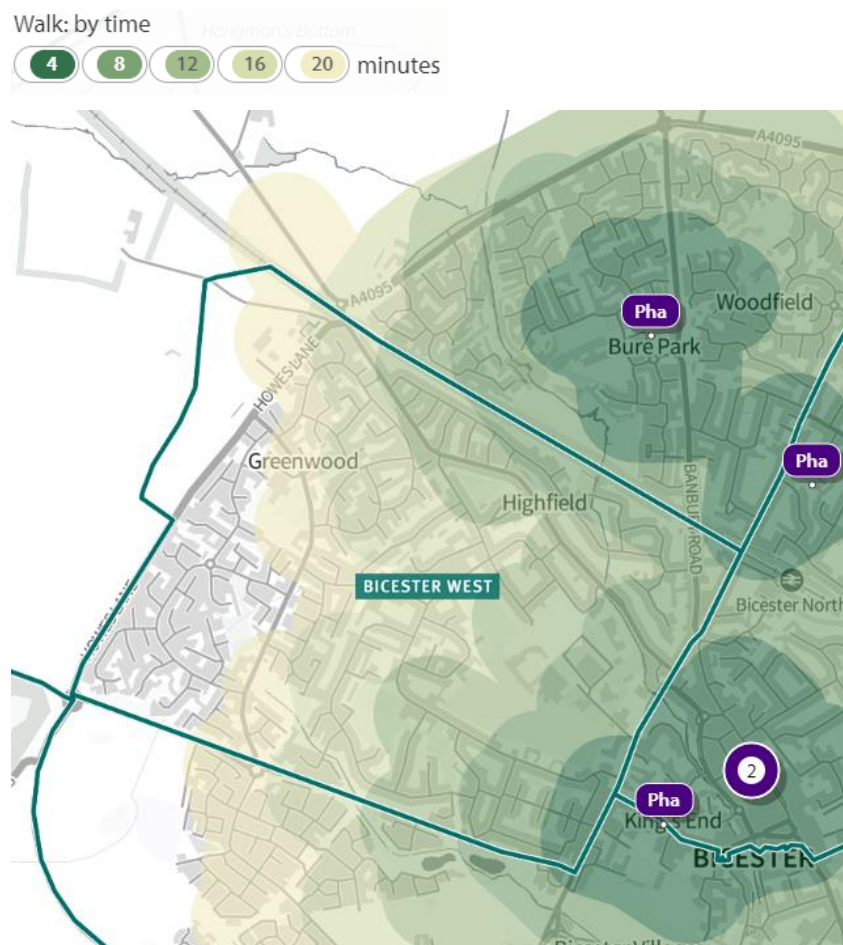
Figure 32 Map showing estimated walk times to GPs and Health Centres serving the Bicester West MSOA.



Source: [SHAPE tool](#)

There is no pharmacy located directly within the Bicester West MSOA and for most of the area it is an estimated 20-minute (or more) walking time to the nearest Bicester pharmacy. The whole of the Bicester West area is within a 20-minute journey time by public transport to the nearest pharmacy.

Figure 33 Map showing estimated walk times to pharmacies serving the Bicester West MSOA.



Source: [SHAPE tool](#)