

Ward/Electoral Division Information – Isle of Wight Council (IWC)

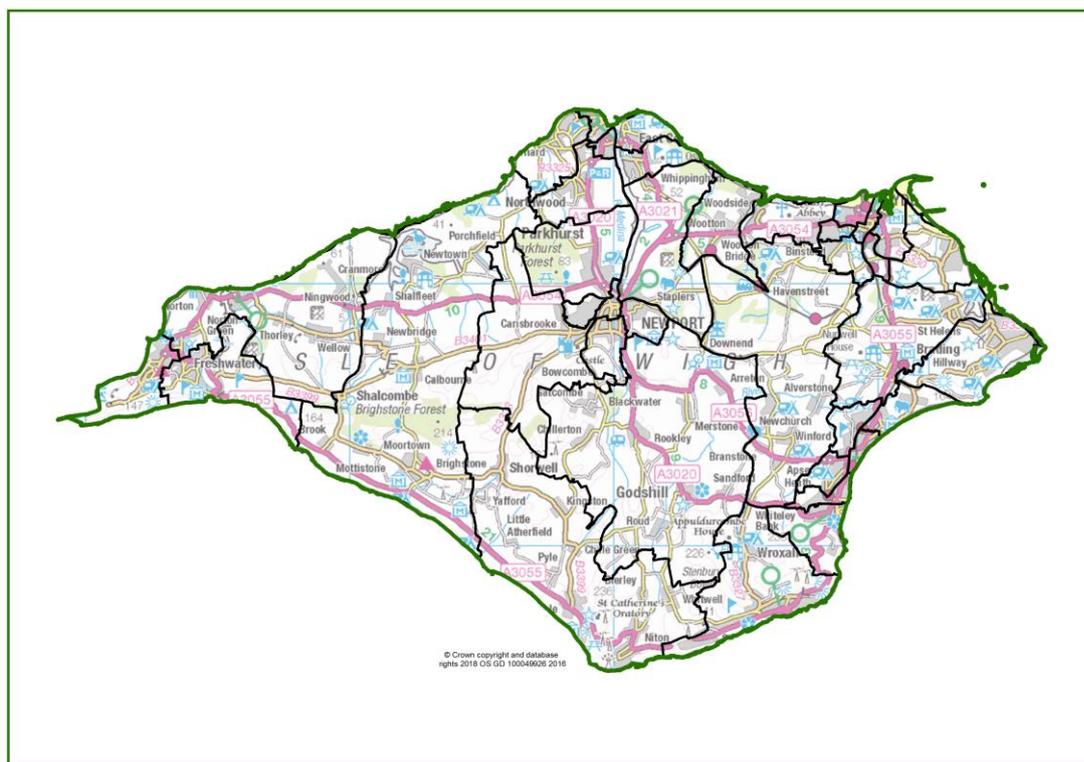
Wards were areas, originally administrative units, organised for military purposes, each centred around a castle. The origin of the word is from the Old English 'weard', meaning to guard, keep safe or protect. Today, the wards and divisions of the United Kingdom are electoral districts at sub-national level represented by one or more councillors, who could be seen as the modern-day 'protectors'.

Each ward/division has an average electorate of about 5,500 people, but ward-population counts can vary substantially. There are currently around 9,500 electoral wards/divisions in the UK.

The ward is the primary unit of electoral geography for civil parishes and borough and district councils, while the division is the unit used by county councils and some unitary authorities. However, many unitary (IWC) councillors still use the term ward, in place of electoral division when referring to their area.

In January 2020, the [Isle of Wight \(Electoral Changes\) Order 2020](#) introduced changes to electoral arrangements for the Isle of Wight, following [recommendations](#) made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. The area of the Isle of Wight for electoral purposes, however, remained unchanged.

Article 3 abolished the existing 40 electoral divisions of the Isle of Wight and replaced them with 39 new ones for the purpose of elections to be held on or after May 2021. Article 4 made changes to parish wards consequential on the changes made by article 3, and also come into force for the purpose of parish elections in 2021.



Information about each IWC Division/Ward

This [dashboard](#) has been designed to offer key data and information about all the electoral wards across a variety of subjects. Data ranges from economic and employment statistics to health inequalities and housing tenure.

The Census 2011 is a main source of data which we understand is quite out of date now, however, it is the best source of data that we have at Ward level. Because of this, the information is presented under the old electoral wards. As the new wards were only initiated at the local elections in May 2021, the data that we currently have is not yet available for the new boundaries so please interpret with caution. When the new Census data gets released, this dashboard will be updated with the new data in the new ward boundaries.

All of this data is pre-Covid-19 so the full effects of the pandemic are not outlined here. The pandemic will have profound effects on a great deal of data and will impact all future data explorations. The first of this is likely to be the new Census data.