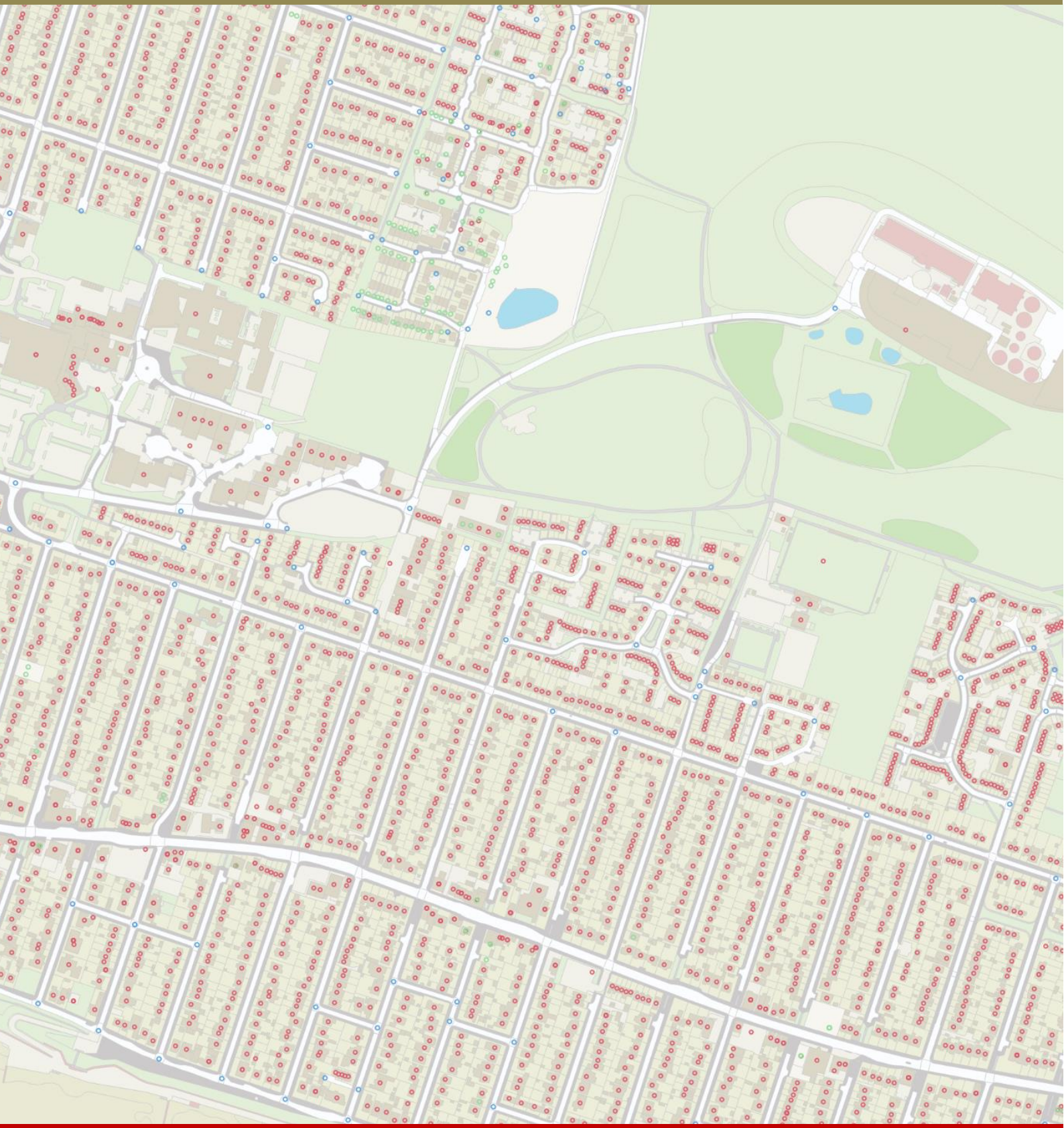
Strategic Assessment of Risk 2024/5



Version: 1.0
Author: Chris Fry, Planning & Intelligence Team
Year: 2024/25

Contents

Executive Summary

East Sussex Fire Authority plays a critical role in safeguarding the communities of East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove. This executive summary provides an overview of our comprehensive Strategic Assessment of Risk (SAoR), a fundamental process for our Community Risk Management Planning (CRMP) process to ensure the delivery of high-performing, tailored services that address inherent, historic, and foreseeable risks.

Our commitment to resource efficiency and value for money underpins every aspect of our operation, whether responding to emergencies, prevention efforts, or providing support to our communities. The SAoR serves as a cornerstone in aligning our planning, policy, and decision-making processes with risk, enhancing the operational response and resilience across our service area.

The SAoR also extends its influence beyond CRMP, guiding policies such as the Safer Communities' Strategy. Identifying and quantifying risk is at the heart of our decision-making, shaping resource allocation and targeting prevention efforts to safeguard our communities, staff, and the environment.

This document comprehensively delineates our service area, covering key aspects such as demographics, housing, infrastructure, and heritage risks. It further delves into service-specific details, encompassing emergency/event planning, partnerships, and incident data from the past five years.

Underpinning our approach are the five key community safety prevention strands, which guide our initiatives:

1. Home & Fire Safety
2. Road Safety
3. Water Safety
4. Business Safety
5. Health & Wellbeing

These strands are instrumental in addressing the diverse risks faced by our communities and driving our efforts to enhance safety and well-being. The Strategic Assessment of Risk is our compass in this journey, ensuring that our Fire & Rescue Service remains equipped to meet the evolving needs and expectations of our communities, now and into the future.


87
beta
EAST SUS
FIRE & RE
300 R

Introduction

Fire Authority

The East Sussex Fire Authority (the Authority) was created on 1st April 1997, as a result of local government reorganisation and has significant statutory responsibilities laid down in the Fire & Rescue Service Act 2004 and The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

East Sussex Fire Authority is a statutory body, made up of locally elected councillors from:

- East Sussex County Council (ESCC) - 12 councillors
- Brighton and Hove City Council (B&HCC) – 6 councillors.

The Authority normally meets five times a year, with an annual general meeting in June.

- The primary duties of the Fire Authority are to:
- Provide a Fire Service and to ensure its efficiency
- Provide the efficient training of members of the Service
- Ensure that efficient mobilising and communications arrangements exist
- Make arrangements to obtain information needed for firefighting purposes
- Ensure that the steps are taken to mitigate damage to property through firefighting
- Make arrangements to provide fire safety advice
- Make arrangements to give mutual assistance to other Fire Services
- Ensure that adequate water supplies are available for firefighting purposes.

Service Area Overview

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (ESFRS) area comprises the County of East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove and covers 1,805 square kilometres, with 88.7km of coastline from Portslade, through to Jury's Gap. It is bordered by Kent to the north and east, Surrey to the north-west, and West Sussex to the west and to the south by the English Channel.

Brighton & Hove is a diverse and dynamic city that attracts a rich mix of people and communities. Its seaside location near London makes it an attractive destination to more than 12 million visitors each year. Many areas of the city are prosperous, but some parts are amongst the most deprived ten percent in the country. It has a relatively high percentage of overcrowding and there are high numbers of flats across the coast.

The county of East Sussex contains five districts; Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden. Three are larger, rural, districts (from west to east): Lewes; Wealden; and Rother. Eastbourne and Hastings are mainly urban areas. There is a general impression of affluence in the county, however there are some extremes, as whilst people in some parts of the county are wealthy, in other areas such as Hastings and parts of central Eastbourne, there are high numbers of benefit claimants and people on low incomes. The county has a higher proportion of older people than anywhere else in the region and one of the highest proportions of people over 85 of any county in England. The number of older people is also forecast to grow over the next 20 years.

The chalk uplands of the South Downs occupies the coastal strip between Brighton and Eastbourne. There are two river gaps: the Rivers Ouse and Cuckmere. The Seven Sisters, where the Downs meet the sea, are the remnants of dry valleys cut into the chalk; they end at Beachy Head, 162m above sea level. To the east of Beachy Head lie the marshlands of the Pevensey Levels, formerly flooded by the sea but now enclosed within a deposited beach. At Bexhill the land begins to rise again where the sands and clays of the Weald meet the sea; these culminate in the sandstone cliffs east of Hastings. Further east are the Pett Levels, more marshland, beyond which is the estuary of the River Rother. On the far side of the estuary are the dunes of Camber Sands. The Weald occupies the northern borderlands of the county. Between the Downs and Weald is a narrow stretch of lower lying land; many of the rivers and streams occupying this area originate in the Weald. The High Weald is heavily wooded in contrast to the South Downs; the Low Weald less so. Part of the Weald is the Ashdown Forest. The location of settlements in East Sussex has been determined both by its history and its geography. The original towns and villages tended to be where its economy lay: fishing along the coast and agriculture and iron mining on the Weald. Industry today tends to be geared towards tourism, and particularly along the coastal strip. Here towns such as Bexhill-on-Sea, Eastbourne, and Hastings lie. Newhaven and Rye are ports, although the latter is also of historical importance. Peacehaven and Seaford are more dormitory towns than anything else. Away from the coast lie former market towns such as Hailsham, Heathfield and Uckfield; Crowborough is a centre for the Ashdown Forest. Lewes, the County town of East Sussex; and Battle, with its Norman Conquest beginnings, and Wadhurst are the other three towns of significance.

There are no motorways, very few dual carriageways and many rural roads. As a result, road conditions are poor for the volume of traffic and this increases the risk of road traffic collisions.

Population Demographics

How the population has changed across ESFRS: Census 2021 vs Census 2011

The population of England and Wales has increased by more than 3.5 million in the 10 years leading up to Census 2021. Using the first results from Census 2021, we can see which places have seen the biggest increases and decreases, which areas had the largest growth in different age groups, and how the six local authority areas across the ESFRS area compare with others, related to population size, density and age.

Population Size

Across ESFRS, Wealden has seen the largest population increase over the last 10 years, growing by 7.5% which is the only local authority area across ESFRS which has seen a higher increase than England as a whole (6.6%). Hastings has seen the smallest increase, followed by the city of Brighton & Hove, as shown in the table below.

Local Authority	Pop % increase	Population 2011	Population 2021	Compared to England (6.6%)	Compared to South East (7.5%)
Brighton & Hove	1.4%	273,400	277,200	Lower	Lower
Eastbourne	2.3%	99,400	101,700	Lower	Lower
Hastings	0.9%	90,300	91,100	Lower	Lower
Lewes	2.5%	97,500	99,900	Lower	Lower
Rother	2.8%	90,600	93,100	Lower	Lower
Wealden	7.5%	148,900	160,100	Higher	Similar
ESFRS Area	2.9%	800,100	823,100	Lower	Lower

Areas nearby to ESFRS like Ashford, Horsham and Mid Sussex have seen their populations increase by around 12.5%, 11.8% and 9.1%, respectively - while others such as Tunbridge Wells saw smaller growth (0.2%).

How different local authority areas rank for population size

Local Authority	Rank (out of 309)	Compared to 2011
Brighton & Hove	57	Fall of 8 places
Eastbourne	241	Fall of 12 places
Hastings	266	Fall of 10 places
Lewes	244	Fall of 10 places
Rother	261	Fall of 7 places
Wealden	126	Move up 1 place

The table above shows the City of Brighton & within the top quartile of local authorities ranked for population size, whereas Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes and Rother all fall within the lowest quartile of local authorities ranked for population size.

South East & England context

The largest population increases in the South East have been seen in Dartford and Milton Keynes, where the populations have grown by 20.0% and 15.3%, respectively. At the other end of the scale, Gosport has seen a fall of 0.9%.

Tower Hamlets saw the largest percentage growth in population in England, increasing 22.1% between 2011 and 2021. Dartford was second, increasing 20.0%.

Population Density

There are three people for every football pitch-sized piece of land in England.

There were 434 residents per square kilometre in England in 2021, up from 407 per square kilometre in 2011. Population density varies from area to area. We can see the difference between local authority areas if we measure the land in football pitches and work out how many people there would be on each one.

ESFRS local authority areas compared with South East's 64 local authority areas (as of 2021):

- Brighton and Hove is the seventh most densely populated of the South East's 64 local authority areas, with around 24 people living on each football pitch-sized area of land.

- Eastbourne is the 13th most densely populated of the South East's 64 local authority areas, with around 16 people living on each football pitch-sized area of land.

- Hastings is the ninth most densely populated of the South East's 64 local authority areas, with around 22 people living on each football pitch-sized area of land.

- Lewes is the 19th least densely populated of the South East's 64 local authority areas, with around two people living on each football pitch-sized area of land.

- Rother is the third least densely populated of the South East's 64 local authority areas, with around one person living on each football pitch-sized area of land.

- Wealden is the fourth least densely populated of the South East's 64 local authority areas, with around one person living on each football pitch-sized area of land.

England context

Tower Hamlets in London has become the most densely populated local authority area in England (overtaking Islington) with the equivalent of around 112 people per pitch.

At the other end of the population density scale for England, the amount of land in Eden in Cumbria works out at around five pitches per resident.

Ageing Population

There were more people than ever aged 65 years and over in England.

The population has continued to age. Across England, more than one in six people (18.4%) were aged 65 years and over on Census Day in 2021. This is a higher percentage than ever before.

The largest age group in the South East back in 2011 was those aged 45 to 49 years. More recently, in 2021, the largest age group in the South East was those aged 50 to 54 years. In England, the largest age group in 2021 was people aged 30 to 34 years. Overall, in England, there has been an increase of 20.1% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 3.6% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 5.0% in children aged under 15 years.

The table below shows how the local authority areas across ESFRS compares.

Across all six local authority areas, there has been an increase in the 65+ years age group, with Wealden having the largest population change (%) within this group.

Wealden is the only local authority to see population % change increases across all three age groups.

The City of Brighton & Hove had the biggest population change in those under 15 years, seeing a 6.6% reduction, followed by Eastbourne which saw an increase of 2.7% in the same age group.

Local Authority	65+ years	15 to 64yrs	< 15 years
Brighton & Hove	9.5% increase	1.7 increase	6.6% decrease
Eastbourne	12.1% increase	1.5% decrease	2.7% increase
Hastings	19.5% increase	3.0% decrease	2.3% decrease
Lewes	19.6% increase	2.9% decrease	1.5% decrease
Rother	17.2% increase	2.7% decrease	3.9% decrease
Wealden	24.2% increase	3.1% increase	0.3% increase

England context

The population change in different age groups varies across England

In 32 of the 309 local authority areas of England, the total number of people aged 65 years and over increased by 30.0% or more between 2011 and 2021. This compares with a 20.1% rise across England. None of the 32 local authority areas fall within the ESFRS area.

The places that have seen the largest increases in the population aged 65 years and over are Milton Keynes in the South East, which has seen 43.6% growth, and Harborough in the East Midlands (38.5%).

The places that have seen the largest increases in the population aged under 15 years are Dartford in Kent, where the size of this age group increased by 31.8% between 2011 and 2021, and Peterborough in the East of England (23.8%).

The places that have seen the largest percentage decrease in the number of children aged under 15 years are Westminster (19.4%) and Kensington and Chelsea (17.8%) in London and Richmondshire in Yorkshire (12.3%).

Latest Population Estimates (mid-year 2021)

The UK population at mid-year 2021 was estimated to be 67 million an increase of 3.7 million (5.9%) on the population in mid-2011[1]. In 2022, there were 19.4 million families in the UK, an increase of just over 1 million families (5.7%) in the decade since 2012[2]. There were an estimated 28.2 million households in the UK in 2022, an increase of 6.1% (1.6 million) since 2012; most (2 in 3) households consist of one family, either a couple family with or without children (57%) or a lone-parent family (10%).

Overall, England had the highest population density of the four countries of the UK at mid-2021. However, this includes a wide variation within England, where the population density in London was 5,596 people per square kilometre (km) and the South West was 240 people per square km.

The median age of the population in the UK was 40.7 years in mid-2021, a year higher than in mid-2011.

The UK's population continues to grow, but at a slower rate than previously. The UK population is projected to increase further; the 2020-based interim national population projections suggest the UK population will surpass 69.2 million by mid-2030 and reach 70.5 million by mid-2041.[3]

The UK population is ageing. All regions across England are projected to have a greater proportion of people aged 65 years and over by mid-2028.[4]

There will be an increasing number of older people; the number of people aged 85 years and over was estimated to be 1.7 million in 2020 (2.5% of the UK population) and this is projected to almost double to 3.1 million by 2045 (4.3% of the UK population).[5]

Over the next 10 years, there is projected to be a total of 59,000 more deaths than births; this reflects lower projected fertility rates for all countries and an increasing number of older people as those born in the baby boom generations after World War Two and in the 1960s reach older ages.

The projected UK population growth is slower than in the 2018-based projections; the projected population is 0.6 million fewer in mid-2030 and 1.8 million fewer in mid-2045.

[1]https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/mid2021

[2]https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/bulletins/familiesandhouseholds/2022

[3]https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/overviewoftheukpopulation/2020

[4]https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2018based

[5]https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/nationalpopulationprojections/2020basedinterim

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Area context

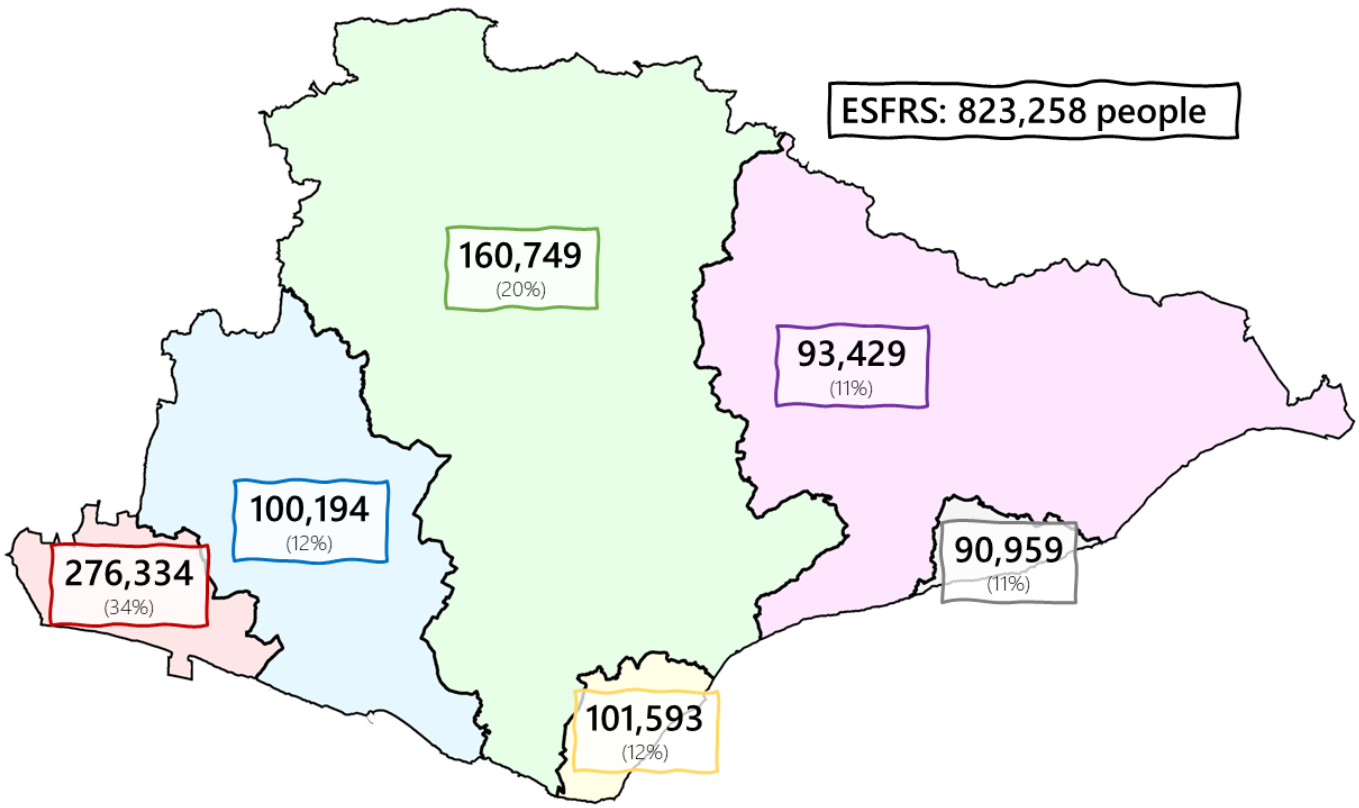
Across the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (ESFRS) Area, the mid-year 2021 population was estimated at being 823,258[6], a 2.9% increase over the 10 year period since mid-year 2011. This notes a smaller growth rate compared to the previous ten years between 2001 and 2011 which saw an increase in population of 7.7%.

The dispersion of the population across the 6 districts are shown on the map below.

It can be seen that just over a third of the population live in the City of Brighton and Hove, another third of the population are shared between the towns of Eastbourne and Hastings and the remaining third of the population within the rural local authority districts of Lewes, Rother & Wealden.

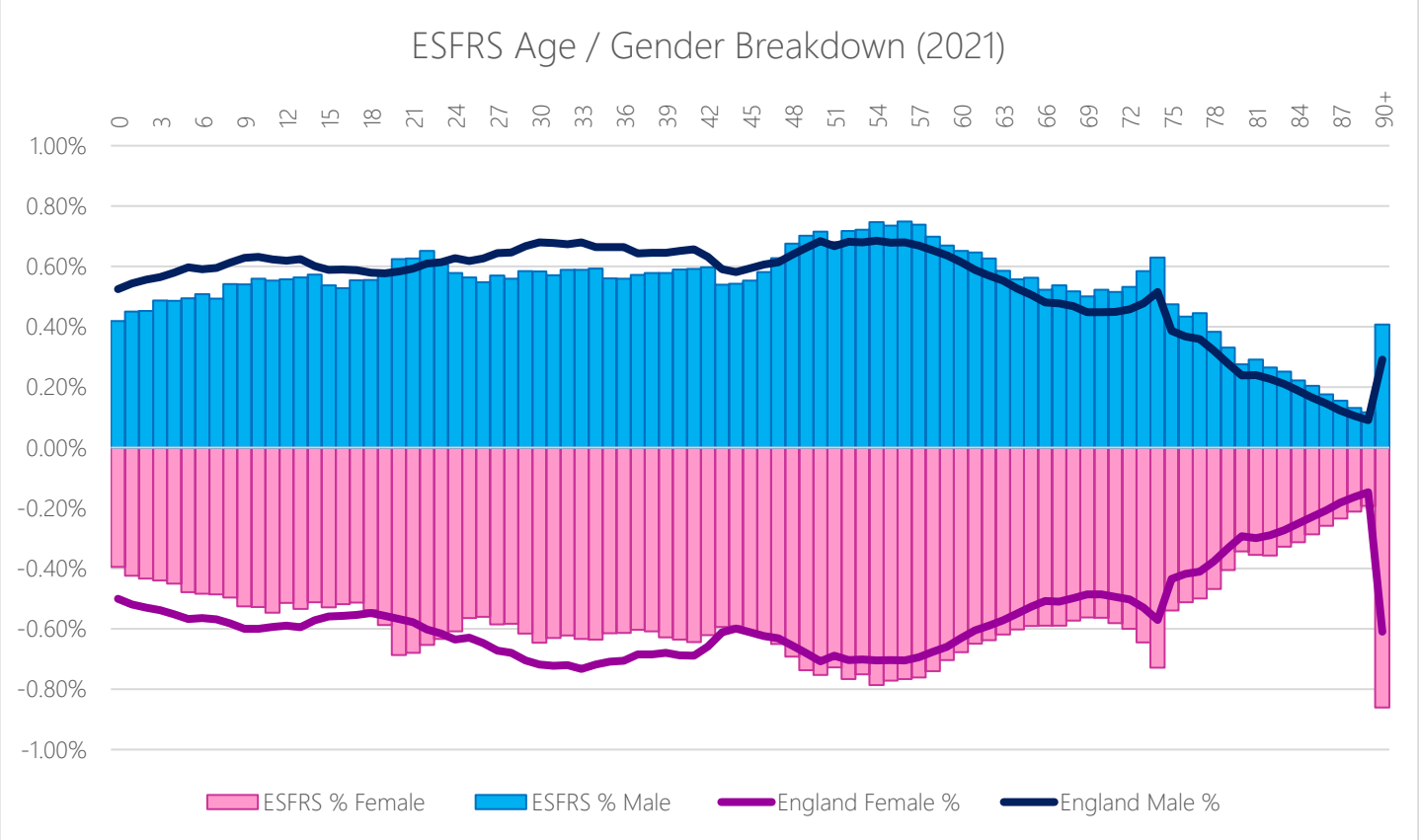
The overall population density across ESFRS is 3,656 people per square kilometre, a 1.5% increase since mid-2011, which is a smaller percentage rise than the previous period (mid-year 2001 to 2011) which saw an increase of 9%.

The median age of the population across the ESFRS area in mid-2021 was 38.4 in Brighton & Hove and 48.5 in East Sussex.



[6]https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland

Age and gender estimates



The table below shows the distribution of the age of the population within the ESFRS area compared with the rest of England. It can be seen that there are proportionally more people aged 50+ in the ESFRS area compared to the whole of England but a lower proportion of 25-49 year olds. ESFRS also has a slightly greater percentage of 18-24 year olds compared to England as a whole and these will predominately be based in the City of Brighton and Hove since the distribution of age isn't even over the service area.

In Brighton & Hove there is a significantly higher than average population of full time students aged 16+, with 33,623 in 2021 representing 14.3% of the resident population, compared to 7.9% in England and 8.2% in the South East. Brighton & Hove also has a significantly higher number of adults aged 20-44, and a proportionally lower amount of children and older residents.

Conversely in East Sussex, Rother has a higher proportion of older people with 33% over 65. Eastbourne 25%, Lewes 25% and Wealden 27% all have similar levels of over 65s. Brighton & Hove 14% and Hastings 20% have lower proportions of over 65s.

	2021 population estimates - % Within Area								
	0 to 9	10 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 49	50 to 64	65 to 79	80 to 89	Over 90	Total
ESFRS	78,127 (9.5%)	70,990 (8.6%)	70,796 (8.6%)	248,207 (30.1%)	172,493 (21.0%)	131,255 (15.9%)	40,945 (5.0%)	10,445 (1.3%)	823,258
England	6,398,479 (11.3%)	5,363,177 (9.5%)	4,686,262 (8.3%)	18,615,148 (32.9%)	11,005,200 (19.5%)	7,651,679 (13.5%)	2,307,038 (4.1%)	509,436 (0.9%)	56,536,419

Household Population Projections

The 2018-based household projections provide statistics on the potential future number of households in England and its local authorities up to 2043. They show the household numbers that would result if the assumptions based in previous demographic trends in population and household formation were to be realised in practice.

Household projections show the potential number of households[7] there would be in England in the future if a set of assumptions about the size and structure of the population, and that population's patterns of household formation, were realised in practice. These assumptions are based on past demographic trends in the population and rates of household formation.

Household projections are not forecasts and do not take into account policy or development aims that have not yet had an impact on observed trends. It should also be noted that future demographic behaviour is inherently uncertain, meaning that any set of projections will almost inevitably be proved wrong, to some extent, when treated as a forecast or prediction of future numbers of households. These projections do not consider any demographic changes that may be observed following such events as the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020 or the UK's exit from the EU in January 2020. Household projections should be thought of as a trend-based starting point for analysis, providing data produced on a consistent basis for England and its regions and local authorities.

Over the past 10 years (from 2013 to 2023, the predicted growth in household population rose by 6% from 794,221 to 845,638. In the next 10 years, there is predicted to be an additional 4% up to 2033 and a further 3% to 2043. This indicates that the overall rate of growth is predicted to decrease over the next 20 years.

Furthermore, the predicted growth in the population is different for each area across the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service area. Overall, the population growth across the ESFRS area is predicted to increase by 15% between 2018 and 2043, just under the predicted growth for England as a whole. Brighton & Hove and Hastings are both areas where the predicted growth is lower than that of England as a whole. However, the household projections across Lewes, Rother and Wealden are set to increase by a greater percentage than England as a whole – with a 25% increase in households in Rother District.

[7] The household projections are based on the 2011 Census definition of a household: "one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area." This includes sheltered accommodation units in an establishment where 50% or more have their own kitchens (irrespective of whether there are other communal facilities) and all people living in caravans on any type of site that is their usual residence. This will include anyone who has no other usual residence elsewhere in the UK. A household must contain at least one person whose place of usual residence is at the address. A group of short-term residents living together is not classified as a household and neither is a group of people at an address where only visitors are staying.

Area	Households in mid-2018	Households in mid-2043	Predicted Growth
Brighton and Hove	125,689	138,072	12,383 (10%)
Eastbourne	46,769	53,711	6,942 (15%)
Hastings	42,720	47,507	4,787 (11%)
Lewes	44,434	52,680	8,246 (19%)
Rother	43,477	54,535	11,058 (25%)
Wealden	68,110	81,543	13,433 (20%)
ESFRS Area	371,201	428,046	56,845 (15%)
England	23,204,246	26,953,266	3,749,020 (16%)

Furthermore, the age distribution of the population is set to change as the projected increase in the household population over the 25 year period from mid-2018 to mid-2043 demonstrates the changing age profile of an increasingly ageing population across the ESFRS area.

The table below shows that over the next 25 years, the proportion of those who are under 55 will actually reduce – with an 11% reduction in 45-54 year olds. However, the predicted growth in the 55+ year olds is set to increase, and this rate increases the older the age group so that, 75-84 year olds and 85+ year olds are predicted to increase by 78% and 80% respectively.

Age Group	Households in mid-2018	Households in mid-2043	Predicted Growth
Under 25	12,982	12,686	-296 (-2%)
25 to 34	42,826	45,625	2,799 (7%)
35 to 44	56,019	55,390	-629 (-1%)
45 to 54	76,172	67,694	-8,478 (-11%)
55 to 64	64,425	69,882	5,457 (8%)
65 to 74	57,954	67,865	9,911 (17%)
75 to 84	41,068	73,283	32,215 (78%)
Over 85	19,755	35,621	15,866 (80%)

Population Density

Population density is the number of inhabitants per hectare. For the calculation of population density, the land-area concept (which excludes inland water bodies like lakes or rivers) is used.

Brighton & Hove is a densely populated city with large amounts of terraced housing, flats and houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs), this is also the case for Hastings. On the other end of the spectrum are the rural areas of Wealden and Rother, which both contain a few small towns and villages, these areas are mostly countryside and farmland. Lewes district is a smaller rural area, and contains Lewes town, Newhaven and Seaford. Eastbourne is a large town, and contains large areas of sub-urban housing.

Overall, it can be seen that between the 2011 Census and the 2021 Census, the population density has increased by 12.8 persons per square kilometre across the service area. However, this is reflected differently within each station area as demonstrated in the table below.

Station Area	Area (sq. km.)	All usual residents (2011)	All usual residents (2021)	Density 2011	Density 2021	Change 2011-21	Rank 2021
Barcombe	117	13,992	15,002	119.7	128.3	8.6	16
Battle	95	9,993	9,997	105.4	105.4	0.0	19
Bexhill	50	45,521	46,973	915.7	944.9	29.2	7
Broad Oak	93	7,367	7,787	79.0	83.5	4.5	23
Burwash	101	8,465	8,560	83.4	84.4	0.9	22
Crowborough	102	26,038	26,754	254.1	261.1	7.0	12
Eastbourne	65	108,354	110,733	1670.6	1707.3	36.7	5
Forest Row	89	8,128	8,046	91.8	90.9	-0.9	20
Hailsham	109	32,719	38,184	300.0	350.1	50.1	11
Hastings Bohemia Rd	33	64,307	64,628	1943.0	1952.7	9.7	4
Hastings The Ridge	51	32,263	33,186	627.3	645.3	17.9	8
Heathfield	96	16,426	17,154	170.9	178.4	7.6	14
Herstmonceux	53	3,670	3,710	69.7	70.5	0.8	24
Hove	23	96,126	97,817	4134.6	4207.3	72.7	1
Lewes	145	25,381	24,755	175.6	171.3	-4.3	15
Mayfield	77	6,266	6,556	81.2	85.0	3.8	21
Newhaven	20	32,108	33,942	1579.4	1669.6	90.2	6
Pevensey	34	10,089	12,964	295.9	380.3	84.3	10
Preston Circus	36	125,953	127,234	3534.3	3570.2	35.9	2
Roedean	25	53,927	54,669	2154.4	2184.0	29.6	3
Rye	102	10,962	10,965	107.9	107.9	0.0	18
Seaford	64	25,247	25,498	392.5	396.4	3.9	9
Uckfield	130	27,094	28,198	208.3	216.8	8.5	13
Wadhurst	81	9,644	9,638	119.0	118.9	-0.1	17
ESFRS Area	1,791	800,040	822,950	446.6	459.4	12.8	--

The City of Brighton and Hove is the most densely populated region of the ESFRS area by far and, in particular, Hove and Preston Circus. However, between 2011 and 2021, the rise in population within Hove station area has been significant, given the relatively small size of the station area compared to other station areas and therefore represents among the largest increase in population density compared to other areas. Hove station area is the most densely populated station area across ESFRS and also ranks 3rd in the overall increase in population density over the time period.

Newhaven station area has seen the largest increase in population density between the 2011 and 2021 Census, followed by Pevensey station area.

Eastbourne on the other hand, although it ranks as the 2nd largest station area in terms of total population, has a much lower population density due to the size of the station area which includes a not insignificant amount of green space.

Herstmonceux sits at the other end of the spectrum as the station area with the lowest population density, with 70.5 persons per square kilometre compared to Hove's 4,207 persons per square kilometre.

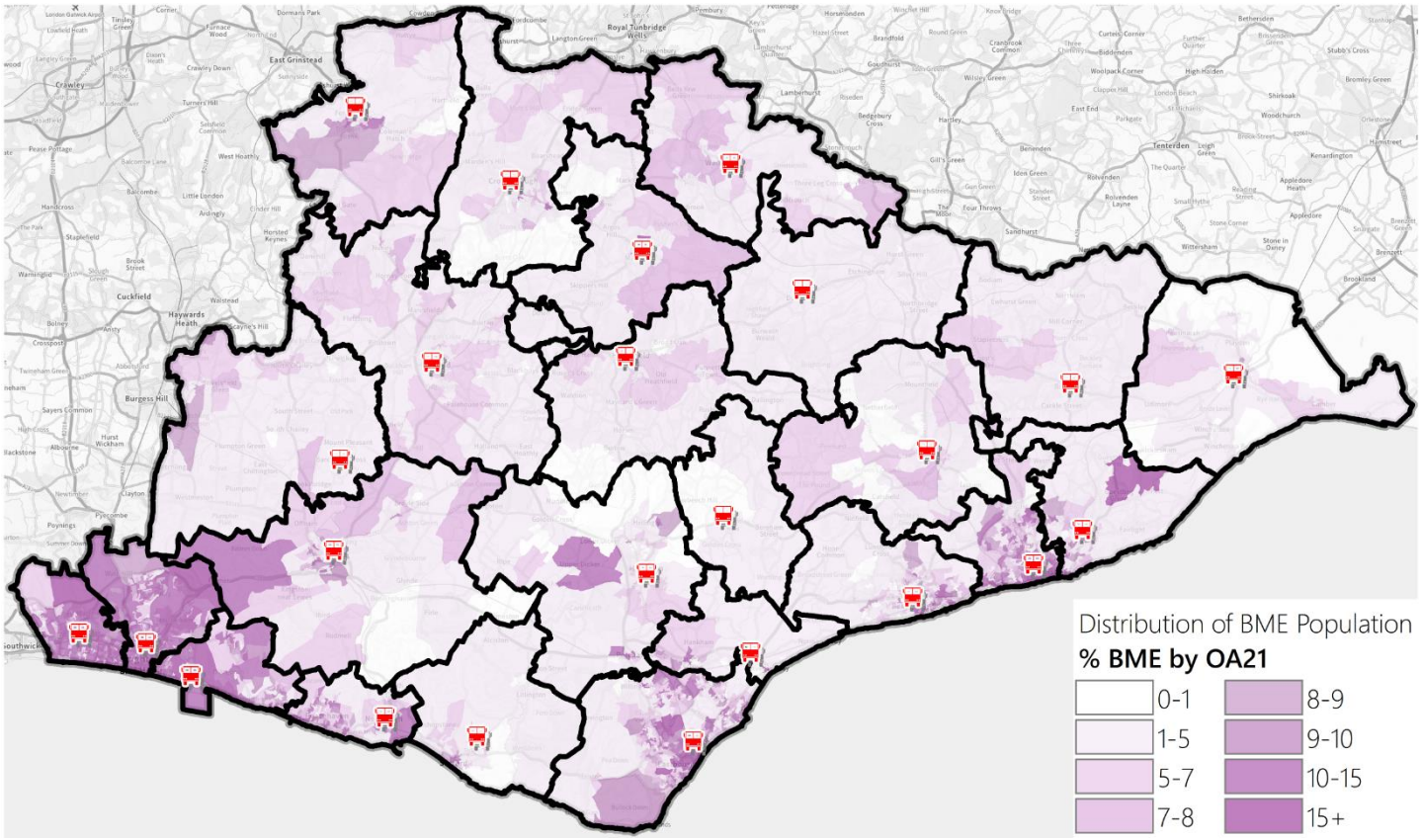
One can also see that there is a significant difference in the geographical size of each station area Lewes District contains both the smallest station area (Newhaven) which is 20 square kilometres in size, as well as the largest station area (Lewes), which is 145 square kilometres in size, both of which are covered by a day-crewed appliance.

Diversity

Brighton & Hove is by far the area's most ethnically diverse district, with 11% of the population belonging to an ethnic minority, i.e. not 'White British'. This is twice as diverse as any of the districts within East Sussex. There is more diversity in the urban areas with Hastings 6.2% and Eastbourne 5.9%, than the rural areas - Rother 2.9% and Wealden 2.5%.

Residents by ethnicity (count) 2021						% Ethnic Minority (non White)
Local Authority Area	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/ Caribbean/Black British	Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	White	Other ethnic group	
Brighton and Hove	13,218	5,461	13,237	236,604	8,607	14.62%
Eastbourne	3,568	1309	2,802	92,355	1659	9.18%
Hastings	2,536	1,256	2,616	83,190	1367	8.55%
Lewes	1,898	715	2,463	94,099	727	5.81%
Rother	1,386	553	1,704	88,979	469	4.42%
Wealden	2,254	642	2,701	153,805	740	3.96%
ESFRS	24,860	9,936	25,523	749,032	13,569	8.98%

Office for National Statistics; 2021 census



Religion

Brighton & Hove has the lowest proportion of persons who identify themselves as religious, with 55% stating that they had no religion. This includes those that did not answer (7.1%) – if these are excluded, then out of the respondents to this particular census question, then this rises to 59%. The local authority with the largest proportion of residents who were religious is Rother, with 56% of residents (out of those who answered) stating they were religion, followed by Wealden (55%) and Eastbourne (54%).

Across the ESFRS area, 55,081 residents (6.7%) did not answer this question on religion. For the 93% that did, over half (52%) stated they were not religious. Of the remaining 48% of residents who answered the question and stated that they were religious, the predominate religion was Christianity at 91%.

Overall, 5% of residents who answered the question stated a religion that was non-Christian. Brighton and Hove has the greatest proportion of religious people other than Christians (7%), followed by Eastbourne at 5%. Rother and Wealden had the lowest proportion of residents with a religion other than Christian (2%).

The table below shows the breakdown of the types of religion practised across the ESFRS area.

2021 TS030 Religion (% within area)

Local Authority	Buddhist	Christian	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religion	No religion	Not answered	Total
Brighton & Hove	2,452 (0.9%)	85,621 (30.9%)	2,103 (0.8%)	2,450 (0.9%)	8,478 (3.1%)	381 (0.1%)	2,854 (1%)	152,957 (55.2%)	19,756 (7.1%)	277,052
Eastbourne	563 (0.6%)	46,677 (45.9%)	519 (0.5%)	184 (0.2%)	2,258 (2.2%)	42 (0%)	756 (0.7%)	43,914 (43.2%)	6,757 (6.6%)	101,670
Hastings	566 (0.6%)	34,428 (37.9%)	464 (0.5%)	174 (0.2%)	1,763 (1.9%)	37 (0%)	804 (0.9%)	46,730 (51.4%)	5,987 (6.6%)	90,953
Lewes	565 (0.6%)	42,620 (42.7%)	315 (0.3%)	306 (0.3%)	833 (0.8%)	63 (0.1%)	746 (0.7%)	48,159 (48.2%)	6,308 (6.3%)	99,915
Rother	327 (0.4%)	47,373 (50.9%)	210 (0.2%)	169 (0.2%)	520 (0.6%)	16 (0%)	517 (0.6%)	37,868 (40.7%)	6,123 (6.6%)	93,123
Wealden	524 (0.3%)	79,233 (49.5%)	377 (0.2%)	316 (0.2%)	811 (0.5%)	50 (0%)	1,306 (0.8%)	67,358 (42.1%)	10,150 (6.3%)	160,125
ESFRS	4,997 (0.6%)	335,952 (40.8%)	3,988 (0.5%)	3,599 (0.4%)	14,663 (1.8%)	589 (0.1%)	6,983 (0.8%)	396,986 (48.2%)	55,081 (6.7%)	822,838

Economy

East Sussex is a county with many faces. Remarkable for its cultural and environmental richness, it enjoys a lifestyle that is special even amongst England's south east counties.

Readily accessible from the capital and with international connections at Gatwick and the Channel ports, East Sussex claims an innovative and agile edge. As business increasingly looks at different ways of working, this reset can enable East Sussex to move forward with optimism as an enviable place to live, work and visit.

The East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan 'East Sussex Reset', published in 2020, aims to build sustainable prosperity for our businesses, voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors, and support residents to access new opportunities that drive economic recovery and resilience. Developed by Team East Sussex (TES) in direct response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Economy Recovery Plan focuses on businesses, skills and employment in a post COVID-19 landscape. The plan also supports other activities being progressed at a local level, including climate change and health and wellbeing initiatives. The plan seeks to deliver the change that is required – both as a response to the pandemic but also to capitalise on the opportunities it presents. Change should be a positive one and help to drive inclusive growth across the county. The plan was published in September 2020 and will cover the next 12 to 18 months, eventually leading to the future publication of a revised East Sussex Growth Strategy[8].

Brighton & Hove has long been recognised as one of the UK's most distinctive cities. It is known for the spirit and diversity of its people, for its unique retail, leisure and cultural offer and for its world-famous seafront and heritage assets. More recently it has become recognised for the strength of its small business economy and as a genuine hub of creativity, innovation and enterprise.

The Economic Strategy for Brighton and Hove[9] states that the City:

- has a long-established visitor economy, higher education and professional services strengths and a rapidly growing creative & digital sector
- has a vibrant SME Economy with high start-up levels and one of the UK's highest rates of homeworkers.
- is home to a growing number of research, innovation and enterprise assets, not least the Digital Catapult Brighton and Brighton and Sussex Universities.
- has one of the best qualified populations nationally and one which is known for its spirit and creativity.
- is renowned for the spirit and diversity of its people and for the strength of its culture and lifestyle offer. The strong physical and natural environment continues to attract both residents, visitors and investors to the city.

However, there are also a number of important 'growth pains' for the city and City Region which influences the City's performance and growth potential, including:

- Economic identity and positioning
- Internationalisation
- Critical Mass: The number and quality of jobs
- The supply of commercial space

[8] https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/support/economic-development/recovery-plan

[9] https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/default/files/migrated/article/inline/economic-strategy-summary.pdf

- The productivity of our labour market
- Community and social inclusion
- Housing supply and affordability
- Transport and accessibility
- City resilience & security
- The capacity & agility of our partners and partnership

Brighton & Hove have the highest proportion of full time employees (32%), Rother has the lowest with 24%. Brighton & Hove have the highest proportion of full time students (4%) and Rother has the lowest with 1%. Hastings has the highest proportion of long term sick/disabled with 6% and also has the highest proportion of persons looking after home or family (5%). Rother has the highest proportion of retired persons with 36% and Brighton & Hove have the lowest with 15%. Hastings has the highest proportion of unemployed persons with 3%.

Overall, it can be seen that across the service area, 29% of the 16-74 year old resident population are full time employees, with 25% retired. 3% are students – around 60% of these being found within the City of Brighton & Hove.

Economic Activity - All usual residents aged 16 to 74 (2021)			ESFRS
Economically active	Part-time	Employee	82,424 (11.9%)
		Self-employed without employees	35,851 (5.2%)
		Self-employed with employees	2,794 (0.4%)
	Full-time	Employee	199,819 (28.9%)
		Self-employed without employees	39,537 (5.7%)
		Self-employed with employees	8,761 (1.3%)
		Un-employed	18,623 (2.7%)
		Full-time student	17,228 (2.5%)
Economically inactive		Retired	169,221 (24.5%)
		Student (including full-time students)	39,713 (5.7%)
		Looking after home or family	27,949 (4%)
		Long-term sick or disabled	29,533 (4.3%)
		Other	19,686 (2.8%)
Total			691,139

Tourism

Tourism is an integral element of the local area, located within the South Downs National Park, East Sussex is also home to many seaside resorts, and beautiful landscapes. Furthermore, Brighton & Hove is a diverse and dynamic city that attracts a rich mix of people and communities. Its seaside location near London makes it an attractive destination to more than 12 million visitors each year. The influx of visitors during the summer months has a considerable detrimental impact on the inadequate road network, traffic congestion in popular areas in the tourist season can be substantial.

The following table provides tourism volume, value and economic impact figures for each district across the whole of Sussex (East and West) [10].

Sussex Tourism: Volume, Value & Economic Impact by District

Local Authority	Population (2019)	Staying Visits (m)	Day Visits (m)	Total Tourism Visits (m)	Tourism Visits per resident	Visitor Spend (£m)	Economic Impact (£m)	Employment (fte)
Brighton & Hove	290,900	1.67	10.7	12.37	43	976.38	1,303.22	17,700
Eastbourne	103,700	0.81	4.65	5.46	53	408.89	529.73	7,986
Hastings	92,700	0.52	3.83	4.35	47	288.26	385.93	5,240
Lewes	103,300	0.35	3.1	3.45	33	190.50	231.60	2,930
Rother	96,100	0.54	5.7	6.24	65	296.86	354.70	6,024
Wealden	161,500	0.47	5.5	5.97	37	301.79	358.18	6,219
Arun	160,800	0.65	3.75	4.4	27	267.49	379.16	5,208
Chichester	121,100	0.59	5.12	5.71	47	333.91	483.30	6,662
Crawley	112,400	0.47	2.02	2.49	22	220.09	327.02	4,526
Horsham	143,800	0.23	3.75	3.98	28	170.43	247.11	3,358
Mid Sussex	151,000	0.39	2.9	3.28	22	205.01	286.09	3,896
Adur & Worthing	174,900	0.38	4.38	4.76	27	217.22	311.96	4,260
Sussex	**1,712,200**	**7**	**55.4**	**62.4**	**36**	**3,877.00**	**5,198.00**	**74,009**
ESFRS Area	848,200	4.4	33.5	37.8	45	2,462.68	3,163.36	46,099

Source: District Economic Impact reports, 2019

Around 62 million tourism visits are taken in Sussex annually, generating over £5 billion for the local economy and supporting 74,000 full-time equivalent jobs. This level of economic impact is equivalent to around ten times that of the Isle of Wight, close to two thirds that of Wales, and a third that of Scotland.

Across the ESFRS area, this translates to around 37 million tourism visits annually, generating over £3 billion for the local economy and supporting 46,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

Key points:

- The staying visitor market (UK + overseas) accounts for 11% of all trips and 50% of visitor spend.
- The overseas staying market accounts for just 2% of trips but 19% of visitor spend.
- National trend data shows a fairly flat picture for domestic overnight visits to England in recent years, a slight decline in day visits but steady growth in overseas visits. Sussex has seen slight growth in both domestic overnight and overseas visits over the last five years.

[10] https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/documents/s39574/LME%2012%20November%202021%20Sussex%20Tourism%20and%20Culture%20Recovery%20Group%20Progress%20Appendix%203.pdf

- Average spend per night by domestic overnight visitors to Sussex (£67.19 East[11] and £64.32 West) is close to the England average (£65.32) and higher than in Norfolk and Suffolk. (Norfolk and Suffolk have been chosen because they will be competitors for Sussex, with a coastal/countryside destination offer.
- Average length of stay by domestic overnight visitors is below the England average: 2.5 nights in West Sussex and 2.7 nights in East Sussex, compared to 3 nights in England, 3.9 nights in Norfolk.
- Average length of stay by overseas visitors is relatively high in East Sussex: 8 nights compared to 4.9 nights in West Sussex and 7 nights in England. The prevalence of language schools in East Sussex may be contributing to this high length of stay.
- Brighton & Hove accounts for a quarter of the £5.2 billion of economic impact generated by tourists in Sussex. Eastbourne generates 10%, Chichester 9%.
- Rother, Eastbourne, Hastings, Chichester and Brighton & Hove all have a ratio of tourist trips to local resident population of more than 40:1.
- The majority of staying trips to Sussex are for holiday purposes. Districts where holidays account for the highest percentage (70-80%) of their staying trips are Chichester, Arun, Eastbourne, Brighton and mid Sussex. Districts where business trips account for more than 30% of their staying trips are Crawley, Worthing and Hastings.
- Serviced accommodation accounts for the majority of accommodation used although this varies by district. Districts where non-serviced accommodation accounts for more than a quarter of accommodation used are Chichester (close to half of accommodation used), Arun, Rother, Horsham and Hastings.
- Data from ONS's Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) shows that tourism industry employment accounted for 14% of all industry employment in Sussex, compared to the England average of 11%.

AirBnB

In 2022, the global revenue of Airbnb was 8.4 billion U.S. dollars and in January 2023, Airbnb.com was the third most visited travel and tourism website worldwide.[12]

The online holiday accommodation platform has experienced monumental growth since its inception and, in 2021, there were 567,027 listings in the UK and 19 million nights booked where it ranks 6th in the top 10 countries with most listings and greatest demand. [13]

However, whilst the UK ranked 6th as a Country, London is the city with the most Airbnb listings in the world at 156,511 (dropping almost 50,000 listings between 2020 and 2021).

AirBnb properties continue to represent an issue for fire services across the UK, and globally because they aren't regulated in the same way as other traditional accommodation and therefore aren't subject to the same legislation. But they represent an extremely significant, and growing proportion of the tourism accommodation sector. There is currently work under way regarding AirBnB certification/registration, and when this is introduced, it will help control standards and risks within these types of buildings. In 2018, Airbnb launched a collaboration with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) to promote and educate hosts across the country on the importance of fire safety in the home.[14]

[11] All quoted East Sussex tourism values include Brighton & Hove

[12] https://www.statista.com/topics/2273/airbnb/#topicOverview

[13] https://www.searchlogistics.com/learn/statistics/airbnb-statistics/

[14] https://news.airbnb.com/en-uk/airbnb-commits-to-putting-fire-safety-first-with-national-fire-chiefs-council/

Health & Wellbeing

The Fire Service works with many partners to reduce the risk of fire in the home and increase positive outcomes for the most vulnerable people in our communities. It is recognised that people's health and economic status, such as their mobility, mental health, smoking habits, and finding it difficult to heat their home, affects the risk of having a fire and the ability to escape from fire.

Therefore, as a trusted service in the community, all fire service staff and volunteers have an important role in signposting people to partner agencies offering help and support. This may be as part of a Home Safety Visit or during community events and interactions.

Initiatives to improve health and inclusion are delivered, working with key partners, targeting those who may be at greatest risk.

Ageing Population

Due to rising life expectancy and stagnating birth rates, the UK's population is ageing. This means more potentially vulnerable people in the community that may put more demand on the health/social care sector.

According to Office of National Statistics (ONS) projections, ESFRS can expect a 15.3% increase in the over 65 population from 2023 up to 2030. This growth is highest in Hastings (16.1%), Rother (16%) and Wealden (15.4%).

Over 65 Population Projection									
Local Authority	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	% increase (2023-2030)
Brighton and Hove	40,399	40,892	41,582	42,264	43,173	44,185	45,312	46,444	15.0%
Eastbourne	27,527	27,957	28,477	28,988	29,600	30,263	30,935	31,598	14.8%
Hastings	20,002	20,366	20,768	21,181	21,611	22,122	22,700	23,228	16.1%
Lewes	28,518	29,057	29,566	30,159	30,739	31,379	32,033	32,752	14.8%
Rother	33,423	34,084	34,726	35,437	36,203	37,059	37,916	38,761	16.0%
Wealden	45,045	45,944	46,745	47,602	48,585	49,674	50,850	51,980	15.4%
ESFRS Area	194,913	198,298	201,863	205,630	209,911	214,681	219,746	224,763	15.3%

ONS Population Projections[15]

According to the 2021 Census, the population of the City of Brighton and Hove was 277,103 and 38,976 of these were aged 65+ (14.1%), which is a lower percentage than the England average of 18.4%[16]. However, the other five local authority areas within East Sussex have a much different age profile.

[15]https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2

[16] https://brighton-hove.communityinsight.org/reports/516/LocalInsight-Brighton-and-Hove-ha05166915_fd12c4808136307f40a566d02f578058-20230627180652087.doc

East Sussex County profile

East Sussex in Figures[17] Demographic Projections (May 2022) state that East Sussex population is projected to grow by nearly 69,000 in the next 15 years, with a large increase in the number of people aged 60+, comparing to little change in younger age groups. The number of households is projected to grow faster than the population, as household size continues to decline.

The population of East Sussex is projected to increase by 68,800 to 627,700 between 2020 and 2035. The number of households is expected to increase by 16.3%, while the population is projected to increase by 12.3%, as average household size declines from 2.20 people per household in 2020, to 2.12 in 2035.

The over 60s are projected to see the largest increase in numbers over the projection period, 2020-2035, as the population continues to age. This will be exaggerated because 'baby boomers' born in the mid-1960s will approach 70 by 2035, and those from the post-war baby boom will be in their late 80s.

The over 65s now represent a quarter of the county's population and are projected to make up nearly a third of all people by 2034. All elderly age groups are expected to increase in size with the number of very elderly people aged 85 and over expected to increase by 76%, from around 22,200 in 2020 to 39,100 in 2035. In Rother, older people (aged 65+) are expected to make up 40% of the population in 2034 (up from 32% in 2019).

The number of older households (aged 65 and over) is forecast to increase by 33% by 2035, while middle aged households (aged 45-64) will barely change in number (up 1.6%), and the number of households headed by younger people aged 15-34 is expected to rise by 2.3%. While the model suggests that there will be only a small rise in the overall number of working age (aged 16-64) headed households of 2,700, there are forecast to be more than 37,700 more households headed by people aged 65 and over by 2035, with 26,300 more headed by over 75s.

Nearly half (46%) of these new older households are projected to be made up of a single person, more than 17,200 households, and 12,400 additional households are expected to be headed by someone aged 85+. There are also projected to be a further 20,100 more 'other' households headed by older people, which may be made up of couples, or friends or family members sharing a dwelling.

There are forecast to be many more older households in all districts, but the largest increase, both in numerical and percentage terms is expected to be in Wealden, where the model suggests there will be a 49% rise in the number of households aged 65+. As the older population rises, while there will be little change in the working age population, dependency ratios will rise significantly, with this change being most significant in Rother where there will be 8.1elderly for every 10 working age people.

Numbers of the eldest group of pensioners (aged 85+) are projected to increase fastest, by 76% over the 15 years, as the post-war baby boomers reach their mid-80s. The other older age groups will also increase steeply with 75-84s up 40% and 65-74s up 26%. Wealden will see the largest rise among the very old with an increase of 93% (5,600) among the over 85 group.

[17]https://www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk/webview/streamServerFile.jsp?file=/nesstar/temp/EGMS20121206142430519/Demographic%20projections_May%202022_final.pdf&server=http://www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk:80

In 2020, almost 1/3 of Rother's population (32%) were aged 65+, ranking second highest of all districts/UAs in the country. This is expected to increase to 39% by 2035. Just 21% of Hastings population was aged 65+ in 2020, but even here, the proportion is forecast to rise to 27% in 2035. The county's very elderly population (aged 85+) is expected to increase by 16,800 or 76%, but this change will be most acute among the oldest men with an increase of 100% (8,200) among men compared to a 61% (8,600) rise among women aged 85+. There will also be a large rise among the very oldest group, with 2,900 more males aged 90+ (up 96%) and 2,700 more females (up 44%).

NHS Personal Demographics Service (PDS)

The Personal Demographics Service (PDS), formerly known as the 'Exeter data', is the national master database of all NHS patients in England, Wales and the Isle of Man - holding basic patient details such as name, address, date of birth, contact details, registered GP, nominated pharmacy and NHS number. A subset of this data is provided annually to all Fire & Rescue Services in England by NHS Digital through a national Information Sharing Agreement and enables FRSs to prioritise resources to target those most at risk.

ESFRS has records of all GP-registered persons aged 65 plus. These are distributed across the service area as reflected in the table below.

Station Area	Age in years				Total
	65-69	70-79	80-89	90+	
Barcombe	1,000	1,906	1,066	322	4,294
Battle	820	1,402	765	194	3,181
Bexhill	3,670	7,992	4,523	1,319	17,504
Broad Oak	735	1,439	696	140	3,010
Burwash	671	1,276	577	143	2,667
Crowborough	1,939	3,717	1,819	506	7,981
Eastbourne	7,437	14,635	7,849	2,624	32,545
Forest Row	714	1,232	578	131	2,655
Hailsham	2,554	4,948	2,883	818	11,203
Hastings Bohemia Rd	4,326	7,505	3,198	947	15,976
Hastings The Ridge	2,246	4,042	1,855	512	8,655
Heathfield	1,314	2,525	1,276	337	5,452
Herstmonceux	325	630	291	52	1,298
Hove	5,538	8,482	4,226	1,550	19,796
Lewes	1,775	3,197	1,687	424	7,083
Mayfield	536	1,016	542	131	2,225
Newhaven	2,225	3,844	1,997	489	8,555
Pevensey	918	1,751	890	185	3,744
Preston Circus	6,247	8,976	3,923	1,468	20,614
Roedean	3,548	5,900	2,882	1,019	13,349
Rye	932	1,903	964	211	4,010
Seaford	2,052	4,579	2,529	816	9,976
Uckfield	2,060	3,746	1,697	417	7,920
Wadhurst	747	1,251	714	191	2,903
Total in ESFRS	54,329	97,894	49,427	14,946	216,596

Population Health

The general health across the service area is good, with over 80% classed as good or very good. 5.5% of the population are deemed to have bad or very bad health.

The table below illustrates that general health varies across the ESFRS area, with the proportion of persons that are described as having bad or very bad health ranging from approximately 3% to 7% between station areas. The station area with the greatest proportion of persons with bad/very bad health is Hastings Bohemia Road, followed closely by its neighbouring station, Bexhill. The station area with the lowest proportions are Mayfield, Forest Row and Wadhurst.

	General Health - Persons (2021) - % Within Area					
Station area	Very good health	Good health	Fair health	Bad health	Very bad health	Total
Barcombe	7,787 (52%)	4,875 (32.5%)	1,765 (11.8%)	455 (3%)	105 (0.7%)	14,987
Battle	4,856 (48.6%)	3,430 (34.3%)	1,254 (12.5%)	347 (3.5%)	110 (1.1%)	9,997
Bexhill	18,290 (38.9%)	17,335 (36.9%)	8,088 (17.2%)	2,557 (5.4%)	695 (1.5%)	46,965
Broad Oak	3,467 (44.5%)	2,815 (36.1%)	1,096 (14.1%)	319 (4.1%)	90 (1.2%)	7,787
Burwash	4,321 (50.6%)	2,866 (33.5%)	1,014 (11.9%)	273 (3.2%)	72 (0.8%)	8,546
Crowborough	13,449 (50.2%)	9,293 (34.7%)	3,051 (11.4%)	778 (2.9%)	199 (0.7%)	26,770
Eastbourne	47,881 (43.2%)	39,206 (35.4%)	16,849 (15.2%)	5,309 (4.8%)	1,533 (1.4%)	110,778
Forest Row	4,353 (54.1%)	2,584 (32.1%)	828 (10.3%)	234 (2.9%)	47 (0.6%)	8,046
Hailsham	16,769 (43.9%)	13,575 (35.5%)	5,645 (14.8%)	1,761 (4.6%)	442 (1.2%)	38,192
Hastings Bohemia Rd	27,224 (42.1%)	22,575 (34.9%)	10,067 (15.6%)	3,586 (5.5%)	1,185 (1.8%)	64,637
Hastings The Ridge	14,095 (42.4%)	11,754 (35.4%)	5,116 (15.4%)	1,749 (5.3%)	498 (1.5%)	33,212
Heathfield	8,394 (48.9%)	5,981 (34.9%)	2,068 (12.1%)	542 (3.2%)	168 (1%)	17,153
Herstmonceux	1,808 (48.8%)	1,298 (35%)	439 (11.8%)	125 (3.4%)	38 (1%)	3,708
Hove	50,125 (51.2%)	31,939 (32.7%)	11,040 (11.3%)	3,592 (3.7%)	1,119 (1.1%)	97,815
Lewes	11,850 (47.9%)	8,606 (34.8%)	3,132 (12.7%)	918 (3.7%)	236 (1%)	24,742
Mayfield	3,387 (51.6%)	2,201 (33.6%)	748 (11.4%)	188 (2.9%)	34 (0.5%)	6,558
Newhaven	14,823 (43.7%)	11,840 (34.9%)	5,074 (15%)	1,677 (4.9%)	497 (1.5%)	33,911
Pevensey	6,049 (46.7%)	4,490 (34.7%)	1,767 (13.6%)	505 (3.9%)	135 (1%)	12,946
Preston Circus	64,779 (50.9%)	42,738 (33.6%)	13,884 (10.9%)	4,502 (3.5%)	1,285 (1%)	127,188
Roedean	25,388 (46.4%)	18,066 (33%)	7,552 (13.8%)	2,773 (5.1%)	889 (1.6%)	54,668
Rye	4,499 (41%)	4,001 (36.4%)	1,798 (16.4%)	512 (4.7%)	169 (1.5%)	10,979
Seaford	10,751 (42.2%)	9,187 (36%)	4,034 (15.8%)	1,203 (4.7%)	325 (1.3%)	25,500
Uckfield	14,028 (49.8%)	9,715 (34.5%)	3,357 (11.9%)	858 (3%)	223 (0.8%)	28,181
Wadhurst	5,132 (53.2%)	3,176 (32.9%)	983 (10.2%)	274 (2.8%)	74 (0.8%)	9,639
ESFRS	383,505 (46.6%)	283,546 (34.5%)	110,649 (13.4%)	35,037 (4.3%)	10,168 (1.2%)	822,905

The proportion of people whose day-to-day activities are limited is 20% with 8% of the population stating that day-to-day activities are limited a lot. This is to be expected, as the service area caters for a larger proportion of elderly age groups and this is likely to increase.

It can also be seen from the table below that there is a significant variation in the proportion of the population whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot across the station areas.

Bexhill station area has the greatest proportion of the population whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot (10.2% of the population) and this makes sense, seeing as the general age of the population in Bexhill is disproportionately older. This is followed closely by Hastings Bohemia Road where 10% of the population demonstrate that day-to-day activities are limited a lot.

The station areas with the lowest proportions are Forest Row, Mayfield and Wadhurst.

	Day-to-day activities limited - Persons (2021) - % Within Area			
Station area	Limited a lot	Limited a little	Not limited	Total
Barcombe	968 (6.5%)	1,473 (9.8%)	12,542 (83.7%)	14,983
Battle	710 (7.1%)	1,149 (11.5%)	8,154 (81.4%)	10,013
Bexhill	4,782 (10.2%)	6,518 (13.9%)	35,666 (75.9%)	46,966
Broad Oak	597 (7.7%)	907 (11.7%)	6,281 (80.7%)	7,785
Burwash	567 (6.6%)	863 (10.1%)	7,118 (83.3%)	8,548
Crowborough	1,502 (5.6%)	2,674 (10%)	22,600 (84.4%)	26,776
Eastbourne	9,933 (9%)	13,764 (12.4%)	87,048 (78.6%)	110,745
Forest Row	374 (4.6%)	781 (9.7%)	6,892 (85.6%)	8,047
Hailsham	3,262 (8.5%)	4,596 (12%)	30,336 (79.4%)	38,194
Hastings Bohemia Rd	6,429 (10%)	8,137 (12.6%)	50,036 (77.5%)	64,602
Hastings The Ridge	3,093 (9.3%)	4,196 (12.6%)	25,937 (78.1%)	33,226
Heathfield	1,003 (5.8%)	1,741 (10.2%)	14,403 (84%)	17,147
Herstmonceux	224 (6%)	389 (10.5%)	3,098 (83.5%)	3,711
Hove	6,977 (7.1%)	10,214 (10.4%)	80,656 (82.4%)	97,847
Lewes	1,688 (6.8%)	3,072 (12.4%)	19,988 (80.8%)	24,748
Mayfield	333 (5.1%)	649 (9.9%)	5,583 (85%)	6,565
Newhaven	3,144 (9.3%)	4,197 (12.4%)	26,583 (78.4%)	33,924
Pevensey	942 (7.3%)	1,445 (11.2%)	10,572 (81.6%)	12,959
Preston Circus	8,497 (6.7%)	14,880 (11.7%)	103,833 (81.6%)	127,210
Roedean	5,057 (9.3%)	6,667 (12.2%)	42,905 (78.5%)	54,629
Rye	949 (8.6%)	1,407 (12.8%)	8,617 (78.5%)	10,973
Seaford	2,282 (9%)	3,364 (13.2%)	19,846 (77.9%)	25,492
Uckfield	1,702 (6%)	2,837 (10.1%)	23,667 (83.9%)	28,206
Wadhurst	530 (5.5%)	912 (9.5%)	8,208 (85.1%)	9,650
ESFRS	65,545 (8%)	96,832 (11.8%)	660,569 (80.3%)	822,946

Pensioners Living Alone

Across the service area, there are over 55,000 lone pensioner households, which represents 15.3% of the total households and is a higher proportion compared to England as a whole (12.9%).

It can be seen that Eastbourne station area has the highest number of lone pensioner households by a significant margin – with over 9,000 households, which represents 16.4% of all lone pensioner households within the service area. Hove station area holds the 2nd highest number (3,674 fewer than Eastbourne with 5,359 households), followed by Preston Circus (5,116) and Bexhill (4,851).

However, the number of lone pensioner households in Bexhill station area represents 22% of all households in Bexhill, which means Bexhill station area has the greatest proportion of lone pensioner households compared to its total households. Similarly, Seaford station area, although a much smaller town, has the 2nd highest proportion of pensioners living alone (21.6%) followed by Ry e (21.2%) and then Eastbourne (18.1%).

On the other end of the scale, whilst Preston Circus station area ranks 3rd for higher number of lone pensioner households with 5,116 households, this represents the smallest proportion of households compared to the total within the area. Similarly with Hove, it's 5,359 pensioners living alone only represent 12.1% of households within its area. Herstmonceux has the smallest number of pensioners living alone compared to all other station areas, with only 239 households.

TS003 Household Composition: One person household: Aged 66 years and over

Station Area	# lone pensioner households (66+)	% of all households in station area	% of all pensioners living alone across service area
Barcombe	896	14.8	1.6
Battle	670	16.2	1.2
Bexhill	4,851	22.0	8.8
Broad Oak	568	16.5	1.0
Burwash	492	14.2	0.9
Crowborough	1,596	14.5	2.9
Eastbourne	9,033	18.1	16.4
Forest Row	492	14.8	0.9
Hailsham	2,861	17.3	5.2
Hastings Bohemia Rd	4,416	15.2	8.0
Hastings The Ridge	2,127	14.8	3.9
Heathfield	1,201	16.2	2.2
Herstmonceux	239	14.9	0.4
Hove	5,359	12.1	9.7
Lewes	1,899	17.6	3.4
Mayfield	463	16.7	0.8
Newhaven	2,363	16.2	4.3
Pevensey	819	14.9	1.5
Preston Circus	5,116	9.7	9.3
Roedean	3,676	14.5	6.7
Rye	1,094	21.2	2.0
Seaford	2,553	21.6	4.6
Uckfield	1,711	14.4	3.1
Wadhurst	673	16.4	1.2
ESFRS	55,168	15.3	100.0

Pension Credit Households

Pension credit is a benefit offered to people on low incomes who have reached retirement age. The number of people claiming pension credit aged 65+ across the ESFRS area in Q4 2022/23 was 19,074[18]. Brighton & Hove have the highest numbers of pensioners receiving the benefit as shown in the table below.

Local Authority	# people claiming pension credit (Q4 2022/23)	%
Brighton & Hove	5,956	31%
Eastbourne	2,741	14%
Hastings	2,931	15%
Lewes	2,177	11%
Rother	2,526	13%
Wealden	2,750	14%
ESFRS	19,074	100%

Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI)

The Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI) measures the proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation. It is a subset of the Income Deprivation Domain within the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) which measures the proportion of the population in an area experiencing deprivation relating to low income. The definition of low income used includes both those people that are out-of-work, and those that are in work but who have low earnings (and who satisfy the respective means tests).

All 32,844 lower super output areas (LSOAs) across England have been ranked from 1 to 32,844 where 1 is the most deprived area. Within the ESFRS area, there are 494 LSOAs and 30 of these areas fall within the top 10% most income deprived areas affecting older people (6%) – three of which are in the top 3% most deprived nationwide and are located in Brighton & Hove.

The table below highlights the disparity of deprivation across the ESFRS area. It can be seen that 24% of LSOAs across ESFRS are within the top 30% most income deprived nationally – but 42% of LSOAs in Brighton & Hove fall within the top 30% compared to just 2% of LSOAs in Wealden.

Local Authority	Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOPI) Decile (where 1 is most deprived 10% of LSOAs)										Total LSOAs
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
B'ton & Hove	22	20	27	31	18	16	13	9	8	1	165
Eastbourne	1	6	6	11	9	5	7	9	5	2	61
Hastings	7	9	7	9	8	6	4	2	1	0	53
Lewes	0	2	3	4	11	10	6	13	5	8	62
Rother	0	3	3	6	6	8	10	8	10	4	58
Wealden	0	1	1	4	8	11	14	17	21	18	95
ESFRS	30	41	47	65	60	56	54	58	50	33	494

[18] https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lgastandard?mod-metric=11138&mod-area=E06000043&mod-group=AllUnitaryLaInCountry_England&mod-type=namedComparisonGroup&mod-period=1&mod-groupType=namedComparisonGroup

Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty in England is measured using the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) fuel poverty metric, which was set out in the Fuel Poverty Sustainable Warmth strategy published in February 2021[19]. The LILEE indicator considers a household to be fuel poor if:

- it is living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G as determined by the most up-to-date Fuel Poverty Energy Efficiency Rating (FPEER) Methodology; and
- its disposable income (income after housing costs (AHC) and energy needs) would be below the poverty line.

In 2022, there were an estimated 13.4 per cent of households (3.26 million) in fuel poverty in England under the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) metric, up from 13.1 per cent in 2021 (3.16 million).

It is projected that in 2023, fuel poverty will increase to 14.4 per cent (3.53 million) with the average fuel poverty gap rising by 31 per cent in real terms to £443 (in 2022 prices). An estimated 53.5 per cent of all low income households are projected to live in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating (FPEER) of band C or better.

The table below shows a breakdown of the households across the ESFRS area that are considered fuel poor.[20]
Hastings has the highest proportion of Fuel Poor Households with 13.9%, followed by Brighton & Hove (11.6%) and Rother (11.2%).

Lewes has the lowest proportion of fuel poor households (9%), but this is still above the average for the South East (8.4%).

Fuel poverty can result in usage of unsafe forms of heating, increasing fire risk in the winter months.

Sub-regional Fuel Poverty 2023 (2021 data)

Local Authority	# of households	# households in fuel poverty	% households fuel poor
Brighton & Hove	123,877	14,399	11.6
Eastbourne	46,608	4,710	10.1
Hastings	41,269	5,736	13.9
Lewes	44,579	4,026	9.0
Rother	42,955	4,803	11.2
Wealden	69,605	6,345	9.1
ESFRS	368,893	40,019	10.8
South East	*3,885,656*	*327,063*	*8.4*

[19] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-2023-2021-data/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-in-england-2023-2021-data

[20] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1153252/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-tables-2023-2021-data.xlsx

Winter Mortality Index

The purpose of the winter mortality measure is to compare the number of deaths that occurred in the winter period (December to March) with the average of the non-winter periods (August to November and April to July). Winter mortality is not solely a reflection of temperature, but of other factors as well. These include respiratory diseases and pressure on services, which have been more intense than usual during and following the height of the pandemic[21]

In England and Wales, the number of daily deaths during the 2021 to 2022 winter were below the five-year average for much of the period. An estimated 13,400 more deaths occurred in the winter period (December 2021 to March 2022) compared with the average of the non-winter periods; this was the second-lowest figure since 1950 to 1951 and was affected by the larger number of deaths in the non-winter months (August 2021 to November 2021 and April 2022 to July 2022) which were above the five-year average, and particularly noticeable between August to November, where all daily deaths in England were above the average.

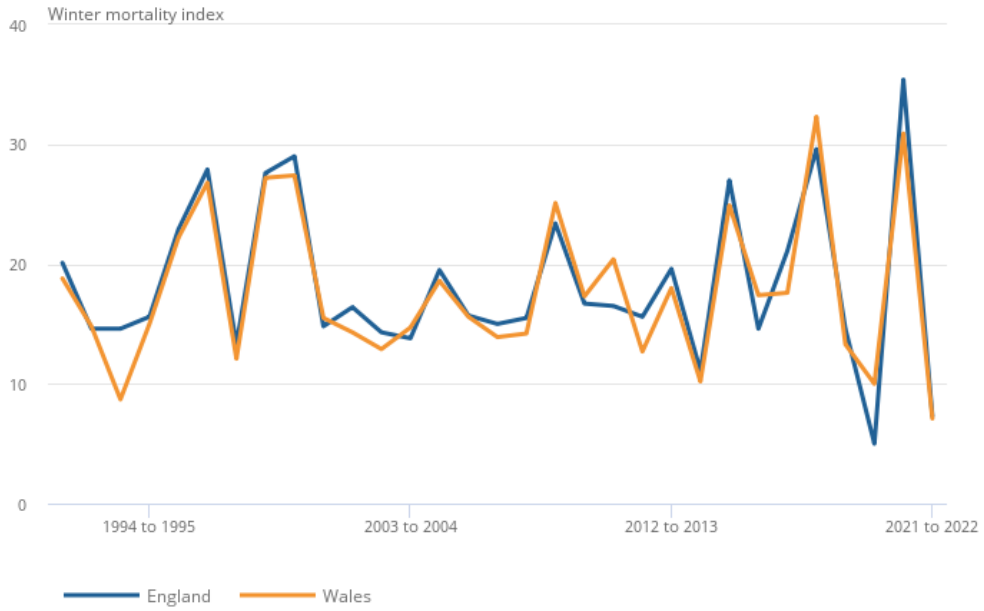
Previously, the peak in daily deaths was observed during the winter months. However, in 2021 to 2022, the highest number of daily deaths was recorded during the non-winter period, 19 July. This coincided with a Met Office "Red Extreme" heat weather warning and a UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Level 4 heat health alert.

The winter mortality (WM) index in England (7.3%) was significantly lower than every winter since the series began in 1991 to 1992, except in 2019 to 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) was the leading cause of winter mortality in England, with 25.9% more deaths occurring in the winter period than the non-winter period.

Figure 3: The winter mortality index in 2021 to 2022 was the lowest since the time series began in Wales and the second lowest in England

Winter mortality index by country, England and Wales, occurring between 1991 to 1992 and 2021 to 2022



[21]https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/excesswintermortalityinenglandandwales/2021to2022provisionaland2020to2021final

In 2018/19, Lewes had the highest winter mortality index (WMI) i.e. the highest proportion of excess winter deaths (29%) compared to the other areas across ESFRS, followed by Eastbourne with 16% more. The remaining local areas had fewer winter deaths than the regional average (14%).

It can be seen from the table below[22] in 2020/21 the winter mortality index was highest in Hastings by far (83%), followed by Eastbourne (68%) but this includes COVID-19 deaths. If these are excluded, it can be seen that Lewes (and Rother) actually had fewer winter deaths compared to non-winter deaths. Brighton and Hove is the only area where the WMI was above the regional average of 2%.

Local Authority	2018/19		2020/21 - including COVID-19		2020/21 - excluding COVID-19	
	Winter deaths compared to non-winter deaths	Winter mortality index	Winter deaths compared to non-winter deaths	Winter mortality index	Winter deaths compared to non-winter deaths	Winter mortality index
Brighton & Hove	50	7.0	300	46.0	50	8.0
Eastbourne	60	16.0	260	68.0	0	0.0
Hastings	10	5.0	250	83.0	0	-1.0
Lewes	100	29.0	140	39.0	-30	-9.0
Rother	40	8.0	260	59.0	-40	-9.0
Wealden	80	14.0	280	50.0	10	2.0
South East	*3,490*	*14*	*11,940*	*47*	*390*	*2*

Local Authority	Winter mortality index (aged 85 plus)	
	2018/19	2020/21 - including COVID-19
Brighton & Hove	5.0	53.2
Eastbourne	21.4	89.7
Hastings	4.4	105.6
Lewes	40.5	41.4
Rother	21	66.7
Wealden	13.8	55.3
South East	*18.7*	*54.5*
England	*18.2*	*42.8*

[22]https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/excesswintermortalityinenglandandwalesreferencetables

Obesity

Obesity is a major public health problem in England and globally[23]. In adults, overweight and obesity are associated with life-limiting conditions, such as Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and some cancers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate effect on people with obesity, who are at increased risk of being hospitalised, admitted to intensive care, and of dying from COVID-19.[24]

The Health Survey for England[25] is used to estimate the proportion of people in England who have health conditions, and the prevalence of risk factors and behaviours associated with certain health conditions. The surveys provide regular information that cannot be obtained from other sources.

In 2021, 26% of adults in England were obese and the prevalence was lowest among adults living in the least deprived areas (20%) and the highest in the most deprived areas (34%).

The latest figures from Public Health England show that the percentage of adults who are overweight or obese ranges from 59% to 68% within the ESFRS area. The area with the lowest proportion of overweight or obese adults is Lewes (59.0%), and the highest is Eastbourne with 68.3%.

There has been an uplift in the percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese in Brighton & Hove and in Eastbourne over the last 2 consecutive years (2020/21 to 2021/22).

Percentage of adults (aged 18+) classified as overweight or obese (%)[26]

Local Authority	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Brighton & Hove	51.1	48.0	51.1	50.8	49.9	58.8	59.4
Eastbourne	53.7	60.7	61.2	65.7	64.3	60.9	68.3
Hastings	59.1	60.4	58.4	59.0	65.6	63.7	61.5
Lewes	58.0	50.1	58.5	58.5	60.7	61.6	59.0
Rother	62.3	61.6	56.3	66.2	65.6	66.8	64.6
Wealden	56.5	61.3	64.2	59.0	62.3	68.7	63.7
South East	*59.7*	*59.6*	*603.0*	*60.9*	*61.4*	*62.2*	*62.7*
England	*61.2*	*61.3*	*61.9*	*62.0*	*62.6*	*63.3*	*63.8*

[23] https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/obesity-and-overweight

[24] Public Health England, 2020; Saul, Gursul and Piernas, 2022

[25] https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/health-survey-for-england/2021

[26] Public health profiles - OHID (phe.org.uk)
https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/obese#page/4/gid/1938132694/pat/30000/par/al-XGV4AqPTEu/ati/501/iid/93088/age/168/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/1/cid/1/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0_tre-ao-0

Dementia

Dementia is a term used to describe a collection of symptoms including memory loss, problems with reasoning, perception and communication skills. It can also lead to a reduction in a person's ability to carry out routine activities such as washing, dressing and cooking. Dementia is caused by different brain diseases, most commonly Alzheimer's disease. The number of people estimated to be living with dementia globally is 50 million, and it is thought this number will more than treble to 152 million by 2050. This progressive condition can have a devastating effect, not just on the person with dementia, but also on families, carers and wider society. There is no cure for dementia and it is the leading cause of death in England.

In the UK, it is estimated that around 850,000 people have dementia. By 2025, over one million people could have dementia in the UK and by 2040, this figure will exceed 1.6 million. [27]

Only 34% of UK adults think it's possible to reduce their risk of dementia. Smoking is one of the biggest risk factors for dementia and can double an individual's risk, because it causes narrowing of blood vessels in the heart and brain, and oxidative stress, which damages the brain. The Lancet Commission on the 'Prevention and management of dementia: a priority for public health'[28] published in July 2017, identifies risk factors that, if eliminated, might prevent more than a third of cases of dementia. This report notes a link between hearing loss and the risk of developing dementia. Work is underway to understand more about this relationship and whether wearing hearing aids can reduce risk in people with hearing loss.

An estimated 540,000 people in England act as primary carers for people with dementia; half of these are employed, 112,540 have needed to leave employment to meet their caring roles and 66,000 carers have cut their working hours. This results in a lower standard of living for those carers and significant costs to society in general, including a £3.2 billion cost of working time lost to caring. There is evidence that staying in work for longer can increase years of healthy life expectancy, by giving people meaning and purpose, along with financial security and independence. Employers can play a role in creating these opportunities through implementing policies and practices that support unpaid carers.

About 69% of care home residents were estimated to have dementia in 2014. The number of people with dementia admitted to hospital in an emergency rose by 70% between 2012 and 2018. Around a fifth of these admissions related to potentially preventable acute conditions such as urinary tract infections, pneumonia and other respiratory infections.

Dementia: Recorded prevalence (aged 65+) 2022 (%)[29]

Local Authority	2017	2018	2019	2020
Brighton & Hove	4.42	4.59	4.66	4.19
East Sussex	4.54	4.47	4.53	4.11
South East	*4.26*	*4.27**	*4.27**	*3.95**
England	*4.33*	*4.32**	*4.34**	*3.97**

**value missing from source data*

[27] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dementia-applying-all-our-health/dementia-applying-all-our-health#facts-about-dementia

[28] https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)31756-7/fulltext

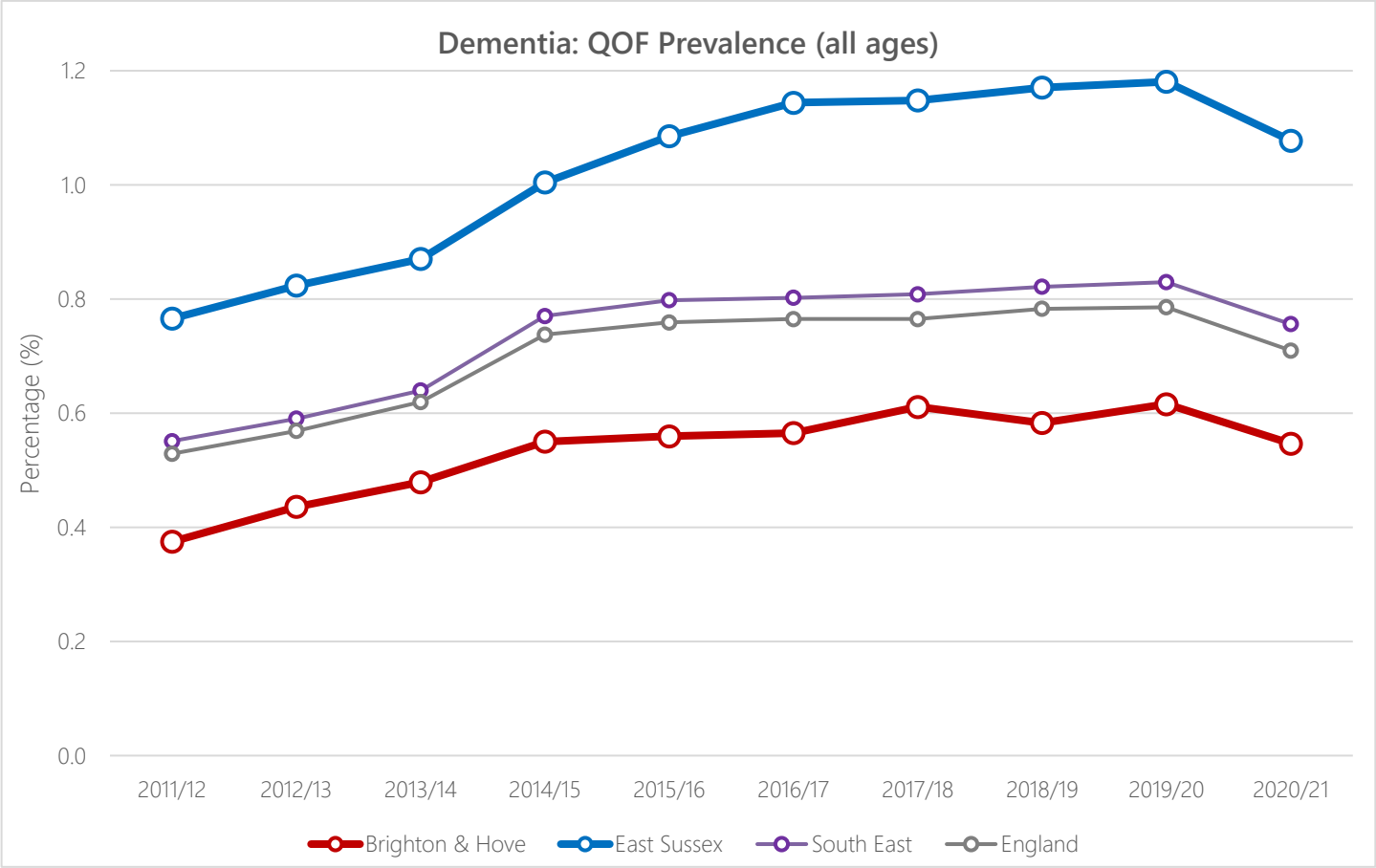
[29]https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/Dementia%20Recorded%20prevalence%20aged%2065%20years%20and%20over#page/3/gid/1/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/402/are/E06000043/iid/91891/age/27/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/tre-do-0

The prevalence of dementia increases with age and is estimated to be approximately 20% at 80 years of age. Alzheimer's disease accounts for 50 - 75% of cases of dementia.

The following chart shows the dementia prevalence across all age groups across East Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove. The recorded dementia prevalence is the number of people with dementia recorded on GP practice registers as a proportion of the people (all ages) registered at each GP practice (Source: Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), NHS Digital).[30]

It can be seen that the prevalence of dementia has been increasing over the past ten years. For the 2020/21 QOF data, NHS Digital[31] have stated that changes in QOF during the pandemic mean that indicator data may be inaccurate and comparisons with data from previous years could be misleading. It is important that this caveat is acknowledged when using QOF indicators for 2020/21.

However, it is clear that the prevalence of dementia in the south east is slightly elevated compared to England as a whole. Within the ESFRS area, it is evident that the prevalence of dementia within the City of Brighton and Hove is much less than the SE region or England year on year, whereas the County of East Sussex has a much increased prevalence compared with the SE region or England.



[30]https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/dementia%20qof#page/6/gid/1/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/302/are/E06000043/iid/247/age/1/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/tre-do-0_tre-ao-0

[31] https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/quality-and-outcomes-framework-achievement-prevalence-and-exceptions-data/2020-21/

Smoking

Smoking is estimated to be the leading cause of preventable illness and premature death in England[32]. Nicotine contained in tobacco is highly addictive, and tobacco use is a major risk factor for cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, over 20 different types or sub-types of cancer, and many other debilitating health conditions[33]

Actions to reduce the prevalence of smoking have been laid out in the government's Tobacco Control Plan, published in 2017[34].

In 2021, 12% of adults were current smokers. More men (13%) than women (10%) reported that they currently smoked cigarettes. The proportions of adults who currently smoked cigarettes varied with age. It was highest among those aged 24 and 34 (18%), lowest among those aged 75 and over (4%).

Adults in lower income households were more likely to smoke. The proportions of current smokers broadly increased from 8% of adults in the highest income quintile to 17% in the lowest income quintile. Similarly, adults from more deprived areas were more likely to be current smokers. Smoking prevalence in the least deprived IMD quintile was 6% compared with 19% in the most deprived IMD quintile.

Between 1993 and 2019, the proportion of adults who smoked declined from 27% to 16% in 2019. The proportion of adults who have never regularly smoked increased from 46% in 1993 to 60% in 2019.

In 2021, current smokers smoked an average (median) of nine cigarettes a day. (The median is the mid-point from the lowest to the highest number of cigarettes, so that half of smokers smoke fewer cigarettes and half smoke more.) In 1993, the daily median was 15, and this fell gradually until 2011, after which it remained at 10 cigarettes a day until 2019. In 2021, 2% of current smokers reported they smoked over 20 cigarettes per day. The proportion of current smokers who reported that they smoked over 20 cigarettes per day fell from 9% in 1993 to 3% in 2019.

Hastings ranks 2nd in all local authorities across England for highest smoking prevalence in adults 18+ years – 25.8% in 2021, compared to 13% in England overall.

Smoking prevalence in adults (18+ years) 2021 Annual Population Survey (%)

Local Authority	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Brighton & Hove	20.9	19.9	18.0	19.3	17.5	17.4	13.7
Eastbourne	18.8	21.3	12.3	14.1	16.7	11.3	13.0
Hastings	25.6	25.7	22.2	17.0	16.5	17.0	25.8
Lewes	17.7	11.6	13.3	11.0	10.1	8.9	12.4
Rother	15.7	15.1	16.9	16.8	12.4	17.9	16.7
Wealden	14.4	14.2	8.8	11.5	9.4	10.7	12.0
South East	*15.9*	*14.6*	*13.7*	*12.9*	*12.2*	*12.6*	*11.9*
England	*16.9*	*15.5*	*14.9*	*14.4*	*13.9*	*13.8*	*13.0*

[32] https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/health-survey-for-england/2021/part-1-smoking
[33] https://www.who.int/teams/health-promotion/tobacco-control/global-tobacco-report-2021
[34] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tobacco-control-plan-delivery-plan-2017-to-2022

Suicide

If you are struggling to cope, please call Samaritans for free on 116 123 (UK and the Republic of Ireland) or contact other sources of support, such as those listed on the NHS help for suicidal thoughts webpage. Support is available around the clock, every day of the year, providing a safe place for you, whoever you are and however you are feeling.

In 2021, there were 5,583 suicides registered in England and Wales, equivalent to a rate of 10.7 deaths per 100,000 people; while this was statistically significantly higher than the 2020 rate of 10.0 deaths per 100,000 people, it was consistent with the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic rates in 2019 and 2018.[35]

This increase was the result of a lower number of suicides registered in 2020, because of the disruption to coroners' inquests caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The latest available evidence shows that suicide rates did not increase because of the coronavirus pandemic, which is contrary to some speculation at the time.

Around three-quarters of suicides were males (4,129 deaths; 74.0%), consistent with long-term trends, and equivalent to 16.0 deaths per 100,000, the rate for females was 5.5 deaths per 100,000.

Among females, the age-specific suicide rate was highest in those aged 45 to 49 years (7.8 deaths per 100,000), while among males it was highest in those aged 50 to 54 years (22.7 deaths per 100,000).

Females aged 24 years or under have seen the largest increase in the suicide rate since our time series began in 1981.

According to National Statistics, there were a total of 97 suicide registrations across the ESFRS area in 2021, as shown in the table below.[36] 40% of these were in Brighton and Hove which is a higher percentage than the overall proportion of the population (34%). Similarly, a further 18% of suicide registrations were in Eastbourne, which is a higher percentage than the overall proportion of the population (12%).

Suicide registrations by Local Authority (2021)

Local Authority	2021	%	5yr Trend
Brighton and Hove	39	40%	
Eastbourne	17	18%	
Hastings	8	8%	
Lewes	10	10%	
Rother	6	6%	
Wealden	17	18%	
ESFRS	97	100%	
South East	848	-	
England	5,219	-	

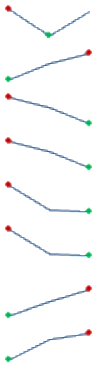
[35]https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/suicidesintheunitedkingdom/2021registrations

[36] https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/suicides-in-the-uk/editions/2021/versions/1

Between 2019 and 2021, the standardised rate of suicide was a rate of 10.4 deaths per 100,000 people. Across the ESFRS area, the table below shows the rates across each local authority area and shows that Eastbourne has a rising suicide rate and in the last period, was significantly higher than that of England with 19.6 deaths per 100,000. Brighton & Hove, too has an increasing rate compared to the previous 3-year period, whilst the other areas of Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden have seen decreasing rates.

Age standardised mortality rate (ASMR) from suicide per 100,000 population[37]

Local Authority	2017-19	2018-20	2019-21
Brighton and Hove	14.3	12.8	14.1
Eastbourne	15.5	18.1	19.6
Hastings	15.1	13.8	11.9
Lewes	13.7	12.6	10.7
Rother	13.3	9.7	9.4
Wealden	11.1	10.0	9.9
South East	9.6	10.1	10.6
England	10.1	10.4	10.4



Despite concerns about a steep rise in suicide during the pandemic, the most up-to date research, which covers a subset of the population only, indicates that there hasn't been an escalation in suicide figures. Importantly, this also tallies with international data, which provides some confidence that this subset is currently accurate. However, there is a delay in figures being published due to COVID-19, such that only around seven in ten (68.6%) of the suicides registered to the end of September 2021 had a date of death that was also in 2020.[38]

There have been more people having thoughts and feelings about suicide and self-harm and more have been looking for help from support services, such as Samaritans and PAPYRUS (the national charity for the Prevention of Young Suicide).

[37] https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/suicide#page/4/gid/1/pat/30000/par/al-XGV4AqPTEu/ati/501/are/E06000043/iid/41001/age/285/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/3/cid/1/tbm/1/pa

[38] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/973935/fifth-suicide-prevention-strategy-progress-report.pdf

Household Demographics

Census 2021 Household Breakdown

A quarter of households across the service area are detached, and a further 24% are semi-detached. Flats comprise approximately a third of all households.

There are higher numbers of detached dwellings in the rural areas such as Rother, Wealden and Lewes. The proportion of flats is higher in the urban areas, in Brighton & Hove and Hastings there are high levels of converted or shared housing.

It can be seen from the table below that around a quarter of all housing stock in Hove station area are converted flats, with a further 28% purpose-built flats and where only 9% of dwellings are detached. Preston Circus station area, also, has a high proportion of converted and purpose built flats, comprising 47% of all dwellings within the area. Roedean has the greatest proportion of purpose-built flats in its station area, with 30% similar to Lewes station area (28%). However, Hastings Bohemia Road has a much smaller proportion of terraced housing compared with the east of Hastings, but a greater proportion of purpose-built and converted flats compared with The Ridge.

Eastbourne has a greater number of purpose-built flats in its station area than Hove.

Although caravans or other mobile or temporary structures only represent 0.4% of all households in the 2021 census, the greatest proportion of these are located in the Hailsham station area – 31% of all across ESFRS area, followed by Newhaven which has a further 18%.

Broad Oak represents the station area with the greatest proportion of detached dwellings – 57%, followed by Mayfield (55%), Herstmonceux (54%) and Forest Row (50%), all of which represent areas where at least half of the housing stock in that area are detached.

2021 TS004 Accommodation by Type (% within area)

Station Area	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flat – Purpose Built	Flat – Converted house inc. bedsits	Flat – Other Converted Building	Flat – commercial building	Caravan or other temporary structure	Total
Barcombe	2,958 (48.7%)	1,682 (27.7%)	804 (13.2%)	473 (7.8%)	63 (1%)	39 (0.6%)	27 (0.4%)	24 (0.4%)	6,070
Battle	1,926 (46.5%)	1,056 (25.5%)	665 (16%)	361 (8.7%)	50 (1.2%)	27 (0.7%)	45 (1.1%)	15 (0.4%)	4,145
Bexhill	8,126 (36.8%)	4,427 (20.1%)	2,282 (10.3%)	4,656 (21.1%)	1,910 (8.7%)	292 (1.3%)	321 (1.5%)	38 (0.2%)	22,052
Broad Oak	1,951 (56.8%)	891 (26%)	391 (11.4%)	94 (2.7%)	25 (0.7%)	28 (0.8%)	13 (0.4%)	40 (1.2%)	3,433
Burwash	1,671 (48.1%)	959 (27.6%)	569 (16.4%)	133 (3.8%)	53 (1.5%)	44 (1.3%)	22 (0.6%)	22 (0.6%)	3,473
Crowborough	5,350 (48.5%)	2,996 (27.2%)	1,107 (10%)	1,151 (10.4%)	215 (2%)	103 (0.9%)	86 (0.8%)	15 (0.1%)	11,023
Eastbourne	9,746 (19.6%)	11,328 (22.7%)	11,187 (22.5%)	12,644 (25.4%)	3,602 (7.2%)	621 (1.2%)	613 (1.2%)	67 (0.1%)	49,808
Forest Row	1,664 (50.1%)	915 (27.5%)	317 (9.5%)	257 (7.7%)	79 (2.4%)	33 (1%)	41 (1.2%)	17 (0.5%)	3,323
Hailsham	5,171 (31.3%)	6,088 (36.9%)	2,692 (16.3%)	1,688 (10.2%)	187 (1.1%)	61 (0.4%)	122 (0.7%)	507 (3.1%)	16,516
Hastings Bohemia Rd	5,885 (20.2%)	6,164 (21.2%)	5,249 (18%)	6,336 (21.8%)	4,597 (15.8%)	426 (1.5%)	361 (1.2%)	106 (0.4%)	29,124
Hastings The Ridge	3,928 (27.4%)	3,089 (21.5%)	4,165 (29.1%)	1,855 (12.9%)	968 (6.8%)	166 (1.2%)	117 (0.8%)	49 (0.3%)	14,337
Heathfield	3,632 (49.1%)	2,012 (27.2%)	733 (9.9%)	772 (10.4%)	102 (1.4%)	43 (0.6%)	74 (1%)	32 (0.4%)	7,400
Herstmonceux	852 (53.6%)	455 (28.6%)	159 (10%)	44 (2.8%)	15 (0.9%)	2 (0.1%)	4 (0.3%)	60 (3.8%)	1,591
Hove	3,967 (8.9%)	9,987 (22.5%)	6,590 (14.8%)	12,353 (27.8%)	10,336 (23.3%)	583 (1.3%)	549 (1.2%)	13 (0%)	44,378
Lewes	2,230 (20.7%)	3,446 (31.9%)	3,038 (28.1%)	1,462 (13.5%)	259 (2.4%)	178 (1.6%)	165 (1.5%)	17 (0.2%)	10,795
Mayfield	1,525 (55%)	674 (24.3%)	312 (11.3%)	145 (5.2%)	50 (1.8%)	38 (1.4%)	19 (0.7%)	10 (0.4%)	2,773
Newhaven	4,463 (30.5%)	4,293 (29.4%)	2,647 (18.1%)	2,272 (15.5%)	402 (2.7%)	110 (0.8%)	140 (1%)	294 (2%)	14,621
Pevensey	2,421 (43.9%)	1,940 (35.2%)	589 (10.7%)	378 (6.9%)	61 (1.1%)	13 (0.2%)	35 (0.6%)	78 (1.4%)	5,515
Preston Circus	3,958 (7.5%)	10,074 (19%)	13,343 (25.2%)	13,590 (25.7%)	10,196 (19.3%)	801 (1.5%)	897 (1.7%)	37 (0.1%)	52,896
Roedean	5,252 (20.7%)	4,157 (16.4%)	4,218 (16.7%)	7,650 (30.2%)	3,300 (13%)	382 (1.5%)	309 (1.2%)	43 (0.2%)	25,311
Rye	1,736 (33.6%)	1,579 (30.6%)	1,067 (20.7%)	552 (10.7%)	93 (1.8%)	33 (0.6%)	65 (1.3%)	37 (0.7%)	5,162
Seaford	5,446 (46.1%)	2,420 (20.5%)	1,460 (12.3%)	1,800 (15.2%)	392 (3.3%)	154 (1.3%)	139 (1.2%)	11 (0.1%)	11,822
Uckfield	5,117 (43.2%)	3,454 (29.1%)	1,871 (15.8%)	988 (8.3%)	171 (1.4%)	82 (0.7%)	98 (0.8%)	69 (0.6%)	11,850
Wadhurst	1,735 (42.2%)	1,299 (31.6%)	645 (15.7%)	284 (6.9%)	69 (1.7%)	41 (1%)	33 (0.8%)	9 (0.2%)	4,115
ESFRS	90,710 (25.1%)	85,385 (23.6%)	66,100 (18.3%)	71,938 (19.9%)	37,195 (10.3%)	4,300 (1.2%)	4,295 (1.2%)	1,610 (0.4%)	361,533

It is predicted that 15% of the population across the ESFRS area are lone pensioners which are a key cohort for Fire & Rescue Services as they represent a potential fire risk factor, as do lone parents with dependent children when considering household composition.

It can be seen from the table below that, overall, the station area with the most lone pensioners is Eastbourne, by far, with 9,033 in its area, representing 18% of households in the area. The next is Bexhill which has considerably fewer lone pensioners (4,851) but this comprises the greatest proportion of lone pensioners in a station area compared to the rest of the service (22%).

The greatest numbers of single parent families reside in Preston Circus, Eastbourne and Hastings Bohemia Road, representing the areas where 39% of lone parents with dependent children reside.

Preston Circus has the greatest proportion of households comprising all full-time students or those over 65 years of age (13%) and one third of these types of households across the ESFRS area are located in Preston Circus station area.

	TS003 Household Composition (2021)			
	Lone Pensioner (66+)	All full-time students or all 66+ years	Lone parent with dependent children	All Households
Barcombe	896 (14.8%)	180 (3%)	248 (4.1%)	6,074
Battle	670 (16.2%)	146 (3.5%)	251 (6.1%)	4,140
Bexhill	4,851 (22%)	673 (3.1%)	1,240 (5.6%)	22,060
Broad Oak	568 (16.5%)	128 (3.7%)	128 (3.7%)	3,439
Burwash	492 (14.2%)	104 (3%)	162 (4.7%)	3,460
Crowborough	1,596 (14.5%)	320 (2.9%)	492 (4.5%)	10,992
Eastbourne	9,033 (18.1%)	1,940 (3.9%)	3,211 (6.4%)	49,802
Forest Row	492 (14.8%)	138 (4.2%)	182 (5.5%)	3,322
Hailsham	2,861 (17.3%)	481 (2.9%)	1,015 (6.1%)	16,512
Hastings Bohemia Rd	4,416 (15.2%)	1,201 (4.1%)	2,064 (7.1%)	29,118
Hastings The Ridge	2,127 (14.8%)	574 (4%)	1,152 (8%)	14,378
Heathfield	1,201 (16.2%)	182 (2.5%)	278 (3.8%)	7,413
Herstmonceux	239 (14.9%)	57 (3.6%)	81 (5.1%)	1,599
Hove	5,359 (12.1%)	2,912 (6.6%)	2,691 (6.1%)	44,406
Lewes	1,899 (17.6%)	400 (3.7%)	672 (6.2%)	10,788
Mayfield	463 (16.7%)	92 (3.3%)	92 (3.3%)	2,775
Newhaven	2,363 (16.2%)	562 (3.8%)	1,191 (8.1%)	14,631
Pevensey	819 (14.9%)	177 (3.2%)	292 (5.3%)	5,495
Preston Circus	5,116 (9.7%)	6,715 (12.7%)	3,058 (5.8%)	52,848
Roedean	3,676 (14.5%)	1,910 (7.5%)	1,513 (6%)	25,307
Rye	1,094 (21.2%)	175 (3.4%)	264 (5.1%)	5,155
Seaford	2,553 (21.6%)	383 (3.2%)	517 (4.4%)	11,825
Uckfield	1,711 (14.4%)	360 (3%)	590 (5%)	11,868
Wadhurst	673 (16.4%)	80 (1.9%)	199 (4.8%)	4,110
ESFRS	55,168 (15.3%)	19,890 (5.5%)	21,583 (6%)	361,517

Brighton & Hove has one of the largest private rented sectors in the country comprised of almost 40,000 homes (34%), with almost 1 in 3 of the city's households now renting privately according to Census 2021 figures and which has increased to 35.8% in 2023[39] – the highest rate outside London. However, high rental costs, poorer than average housing quality and pockets of overcrowding (the highest outside London) result in additional housing challenges for the city[40]. There are also high levels of rental households in Hastings with 41% renting, of which 12% rent from 'other social landlords' which is the highest in the county.

The overall households tenure across the ESFRS area is shown below and it can be seen that just over a third of households are rented, with a third of rented households being social rented. Again, these types of households are significant to Fire & Rescue Services as they are a potential fire risk factor.

It can be seen that there are 44,562 social rented households across the ESFRS area, and 41% of these are within the 3 City station areas, which is disproportionately high considering that approximately a third of the population across the ESFRS area reside within the City of Brighton & Hove.

33% of households in Preston Circus station area are privately rented from a landlord or letting agency, and this proportion is the highest across all station areas. Preston Circus station area also contains the greatest number of these properties – a total of 17,293, which represents 22% of all privately rented properties across the ESFRS area. Hove has 13,712 properties that are privately rented (17% of all across ESFRS area) and represents 1 in 3 properties in Hove, whereas Eastbourne has a further 11,476 properties that are privately rented (15% of all across ESFRS area) and representing 1 in 4 properties in Eastbourne. In Hastings Bohemia Road station area, 28% of households are privately rented from a landlord or letting agency.

Broad Oak, Herstmonceux and Seaford station areas are all areas in which over 50% of households within the area are owned outright – the ESFRS average is 34%.

[39] https://democracy.brighton-hove.gov.uk/documents/s187922/Appendix%201%20Private%20Sector%20Housing%20Stock%20Condition%20and%20Stressors%20Report.pdf

[40] http://www.bhconnected.org.uk/strategy/issues-concern-3

	TS054 Household Tenure - Households (2021)								
	Owned		Shared ownership	Social rented:		Private rented:		Living rent free	Total
	Outright	Mortgage or loan		Rented from council	Other	Private landlord or letting agency	Other		
Barcombe	2,626 (43.2%)	2,038 (33.5%)	117 (1.9%)	420 (6.9%)	232 (3.8%)	521 (8.6%)	122 (2%)	6 (0.1%)	6,082
Battle	1,885 (45.6%)	1,151 (27.8%)	22 (0.5%)	81 (2%)	332 (8%)	580 (14%)	82 (2%)	0 (0%)	4,133
Bexhill	10,708 (48.5%)	5,011 (22.7%)	183 (0.8%)	345 (1.6%)	1,665 (7.5%)	3,683 (16.7%)	468 (2.1%)	3 (0%)	22,066
Broad Oak	1,780 (51.8%)	862 (25.1%)	33 (1%)	48 (1.4%)	337 (9.8%)	281 (8.2%)	94 (2.7%)	1 (0%)	3,436
Burwash	1,545 (44.7%)	1,135 (32.8%)	21 (0.6%)	48 (1.4%)	281 (8.1%)	324 (9.4%)	105 (3%)	0 (0%)	3,459
Crowborough	4,848 (44%)	3,712 (33.7%)	126 (1.1%)	488 (4.4%)	411 (3.7%)	1,212 (11%)	208 (1.9%)	5 (0%)	11,010
Eastbourne	18,747 (37.6%)	12,105 (24.3%)	290 (0.6%)	3,289 (6.6%)	2,787 (5.6%)	11,476 (23%)	1,087 (2.2%)	57 (0.1%)	49,838
Forest Row	1,520 (45.8%)	979 (29.5%)	4 (0.1%)	184 (5.5%)	67 (2%)	430 (13%)	133 (4%)	1 (0%)	3,318
Hailsham	6,924 (42%)	5,048 (30.6%)	316 (1.9%)	828 (5%)	1,132 (6.9%)	1,882 (11.4%)	368 (2.2%)	6 (0%)	16,504
Hastings Bohemia Rd	8,853 (30.4%)	7,239 (24.9%)	157 (0.5%)	606 (2.1%)	3,411 (11.7%)	8,121 (27.9%)	695 (2.4%)	8 (0%)	29,090
Hastings The Ridge	5,529 (38.6%)	3,759 (26.2%)	64 (0.4%)	331 (2.3%)	1,633 (11.4%)	2,712 (18.9%)	307 (2.1%)	7 (0%)	14,342
Heathfield	3,361 (45.5%)	2,454 (33.2%)	76 (1%)	269 (3.6%)	166 (2.2%)	902 (12.2%)	164 (2.2%)	1 (0%)	7,393
Herstmonceux	814 (51.2%)	460 (28.9%)	16 (1%)	47 (3%)	50 (3.1%)	159 (10%)	44 (2.8%)	0 (0%)	1,590
Hove	11,421 (25.7%)	13,038 (29.4%)	314 (0.7%)	2,945 (6.6%)	1,988 (4.5%)	13,712 (30.9%)	899 (2%)	55 (0.1%)	44,372
Lewes	4,432 (41%)	2,820 (26.1%)	63 (0.6%)	1,144 (10.6%)	320 (3%)	1,722 (15.9%)	286 (2.6%)	13 (0.1%)	10,800
Mayfield	1,339 (48.3%)	904 (32.6%)	16 (0.6%)	67 (2.4%)	106 (3.8%)	271 (9.8%)	68 (2.5%)	0 (0%)	2,771
Newhaven	5,333 (36.4%)	4,510 (30.8%)	127 (0.9%)	1,050 (7.2%)	675 (4.6%)	2,652 (18.1%)	266 (1.8%)	23 (0.2%)	14,636
Pevensey	2,366 (42.9%)	2,063 (37.4%)	69 (1.3%)	105 (1.9%)	221 (4%)	586 (10.6%)	107 (1.9%)	1 (0%)	5,518
Preston Circus	12,331 (23.3%)	13,775 (26.1%)	498 (0.9%)	4,670 (8.8%)	3,064 (5.8%)	17,293 (32.7%)	1,125 (2.1%)	118 (0.2%)	52,874
Roedean	7,289 (28.8%)	5,587 (22.1%)	176 (0.7%)	3,979 (15.7%)	1,469 (5.8%)	6,249 (24.7%)	486 (1.9%)	73 (0.3%)	25,308
Rye	2,392 (46.4%)	1,022 (19.8%)	54 (1%)	122 (2.4%)	702 (13.6%)	713 (13.8%)	151 (2.9%)	2 (0%)	5,158
Seaford	6,003 (50.7%)	2,928 (24.7%)	101 (0.9%)	579 (4.9%)	353 (3%)	1,634 (13.8%)	228 (1.9%)	10 (0.1%)	11,836
Uckfield	4,999 (42.2%)	4,003 (33.8%)	124 (1%)	595 (5%)	492 (4.2%)	1,382 (11.7%)	246 (2.1%)	5 (0%)	11,846
Wadhurst	1,810 (44%)	1,306 (31.8%)	55 (1.3%)	185 (4.5%)	243 (5.9%)	422 (10.3%)	89 (2.2%)	2 (0%)	4,112
ESFRS	128,855 (35.6%)	97,909 (27.1%)	3,022 (0.8%)	22,425 (6.2%)	22,137 (6.1%)	78,919 (21.8%)	7,828 (2.2%)	397 (0.1%)	361,492

It can be also be seen that, overall, overcrowding isn't a huge issue for East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service.

The table below demonstrates that across the ESFRS area, there are 3% of households where the occupancy rating is -1 or less indicating overcrowding, which represents a total of 11,966 households. 20% of these are within the Preston Circus station area, 16% in Hove and 9% in Roedean. Therefore, around 45% of overcrowded households are within the City of Brighton and Hove, which is disproportionately high, given that around 34% of the population are within the City of Brighton & Hove.

There are 6 station areas where >50% of their households have an occupancy rating of +2 or more, with Mayfield ranking 1st with 57.8% of its households under-occupied by 2 or more spare bedrooms.

	TS052 Occupancy Rating (Spare Bedrooms) - Households (2021)					
	Under-occupied		*Standard*	*Overcrowded*		Total
	+2 or more	+1	0	-1	-2 or less	
Barcombe	3,168 (52.1%)	1,906 (31.3%)	910 (15%)	96 (1.6%)	4 (0.1%)	6,084
Battle	1,891 (45.6%)	1,417 (34.2%)	741 (17.9%)	86 (2.1%)	10 (0.2%)	4,145
Bexhill	7,490 (34%)	8,387 (38%)	5,606 (25.4%)	517 (2.3%)	54 (0.2%)	22,054
Broad Oak	1,825 (53.1%)	1,061 (30.9%)	499 (14.5%)	45 (1.3%)	5 (0.1%)	3,435
Burwash	1,793 (51.8%)	1,038 (30%)	571 (16.5%)	49 (1.4%)	8 (0.2%)	3,459
Crowborough	5,629 (51%)	3,181 (28.8%)	2,043 (18.5%)	153 (1.4%)	24 (0.2%)	11,030
Eastbourne	14,906 (29.9%)	17,949 (36%)	15,105 (30.3%)	1,667 (3.3%)	190 (0.4%)	49,817
Forest Row	1,784 (53.7%)	856 (25.7%)	618 (18.6%)	61 (1.8%)	6 (0.2%)	3,325
Hailsham	5,525 (33.4%)	6,727 (40.7%)	3,921 (23.7%)	322 (1.9%)	35 (0.2%)	16,530
Hastings Bohemia Rd	8,188 (28.2%)	9,836 (33.8%)	9,962 (34.3%)	956 (3.3%)	121 (0.4%)	29,063
Hastings The Ridge	5,084 (35.5%)	4,978 (34.7%)	3,739 (26.1%)	482 (3.4%)	52 (0.4%)	14,335
Heathfield	3,420 (46.2%)	2,466 (33.3%)	1,430 (19.3%)	84 (1.1%)	6 (0.1%)	7,406
Herstmonceux	763 (47.7%)	548 (34.2%)	270 (16.9%)	18 (1.1%)	2 (0.1%)	1,601
Hove	10,814 (24.4%)	13,860 (31.2%)	17,783 (40.1%)	1,767 (4%)	156 (0.4%)	44,380
Lewes	4,377 (40.5%)	3,572 (33%)	2,617 (24.2%)	228 (2.1%)	18 (0.2%)	10,812
Mayfield	1,604 (57.8%)	737 (26.6%)	400 (14.4%)	29 (1%)	4 (0.1%)	2,774
Newhaven	4,417 (30.2%)	5,475 (37.5%)	4,219 (28.9%)	457 (3.1%)	48 (0.3%)	14,616
Pevensey	2,126 (38.5%)	2,339 (42.3%)	963 (17.4%)	89 (1.6%)	7 (0.1%)	5,524
Preston Circus	12,761 (24.1%)	15,598 (29.5%)	22,091 (41.8%)	2,181 (4.1%)	257 (0.5%)	52,888
Roedean	6,393 (25.3%)	8,088 (32%)	9,741 (38.5%)	988 (3.9%)	91 (0.4%)	25,301
Rye	2,078 (40.3%)	1,826 (35.4%)	1,114 (21.6%)	116 (2.3%)	19 (0.4%)	5,153
Seaford	4,912 (41.5%)	4,021 (34%)	2,703 (22.8%)	182 (1.5%)	12 (0.1%)	11,830
Uckfield	5,771 (48.7%)	3,493 (29.5%)	2,399 (20.3%)	172 (1.5%)	11 (0.1%)	11,846
Wadhurst	2,082 (50.8%)	1,262 (30.8%)	674 (16.4%)	72 (1.8%)	9 (0.2%)	4,099
ESFRS	118,801 (32.9%)	120,621 (33.4%)	110,119 (30.5%)	10,817 (3%)	1,149 (0.3%)	361,507

Mosaic UK Household Breakdown

ESFRS utilises a variety of tools and data to provide insights into the risks of fires and other emergencies. One such dataset is Mosaic data. Mosaic UK 7, published by Experian, is a socio-demographic classification system covering the whole of the United Kingdom. It provides an accurate and comprehensive view of citizens and their needs by describing them in terms of demographics, lifestyle, culture and behaviour. Over 850 million pieces of information across 450 different data points are condensed using the latest analytical techniques to identify 15 summary groups and 66 detailed types that are easy to interpret and understand. Importantly, Mosaic UK enables insight into the preferred channel through which individuals communicate – whether digitally, or by phone or mail etc.

There are 375,020 households dispersed across the ESFRS area which are broken down by the 15 summary Mosaic Lifestyle Groups.

Mosaic UK 7 Lifestyle Group (2022)	ESFRS	%
A - City Prosperity	24,325	6.5
B - Prestige Positions	27,819	7.4
C - Country Living	33,245	8.9
D - Rural Reality	18,030	4.8
E - Senior Security	44,212	11.8
F - Suburban Stability	23,379	6.2
G - Domestic Success	26,108	7.0
H - Aspiring Homemakers	28,413	7.6
I - Family Basics	17,799	4.7
J - Transient Renters	9,702	2.6
K - Municipal Tenants	13,539	3.6
L - Vintage Value	27,266	7.3
M - Modest Traditions	8,632	2.3
N - Urban Cohesion	22,358	6.0
O - Rental Hubs	50,193	13.4
Total	375,020	100

The predominant Mosaic groups, groups O and E describe: 'Educated young people privately renting in urban neighbourhoods' and 'Elderly people with assets who are enjoying a comfortable retirement'. The top 3 Mosaic Types across the ESFRS area are:

O64 – Bus-Route Renters

Singles renting affordable private flats further away from central amenities and often on main roads

Bus-Route Renters are single people in their late twenties, thirties and forties who live in pleasant but affordable flats. These are often situated close to main roads, making them conveniently placed for getting around.

These single people have usually lived at their current address for a few years. Most live alone, a smaller proportion share with a flatmate or partner, and they don't have children.

They are employed full-time in a range of occupations and industries, working in roles that offer below-average salaries. Many travel by public transport or walk to work, and some work long shifts. With modest budgets and few savings, some use credit cards to spread payments or take out loans for larger purchases.

Their apartments are typically rented from private landlords and are priced at an affordable level. Compact in size with one or two bedrooms, they are usually found in purpose-built developments located in the suburbs of cities and large towns.

These residents spend a lot of time on their computers and are very comfortable using the internet. Their mobile phones are essential for communication.

E19 – Bungalow Haven
Peace-seeking seniors appreciating the calm of bungalow estates designed for the older owners

Bungalow Haven are retired people who own homes attractive to older generations. They are likely to have moved to these properties in their later years, sometimes relocating to popular retirement destinations such as coastal resorts, and have now been settled there some time. They either live alone or with their spouse and have an average age in their early seventies.

Typically built in a bungalow style, their houses are often found in clusters of similar properties on the outskirts of cities, around mid-sized towns and in particular concentrations in seaside towns. Many properties were built in the 1960s and 70s, usually with two or three bedrooms. They are worth a little below average and are owned outright. The compact, single-floor environments are well suited to residents' long-term needs.

These elders have retirement incomes that are comfortable enough to allow for small luxuries. They may have some savings to fall back on when needed and some have put these into an ISA. A high proportion have made a will.

They make mid-range spending choices, driving a moderately-priced car and buying standard ranges rather than organic or budget options. They don't use the internet a great deal and are less confident with technology. They tend towards reading the mid-market press.

N60 – Ageing Access:
Older residents owning small inner suburban properties with good access to amenities

Ageing Access are mature householders who live in small but pleasant homes found in accessible locations within cities and larger towns. They are aged in their fifties, sixties and seventies. Many live alone but some are married couples.

They have compact homes that are located in central urban areas close to amenities and shops. These are usually apartments, sometimes terraces, that have one or two bedrooms and are highly priced for their size due to their location. More than half of these residents own their home, others rent from a private landlord.

Those in pre-retirement years tend to earn reasonable incomes from non-manual occupations. Those relying on pensions have reduced but acceptable incomes. Some have good savings and take an interest in personal finance.

While they are less internet savvy than some, they go online regularly via a computer, often to search for information. They occasionally make purchases for items such as books or tickets, either for travel or perhaps for the theatre. Their neighbourhoods are well served by public transport which they use frequently, but many also run a modestly priced car. They read newspapers, though not every day, and some belong to organisations locally.

Mosaic-based relative fire risk rating

Combining mosaic with dwelling fire incident data has enabled ESFRS to identify which types of people have had fires and which types are more or less likely to have a fire in the home as well as identifying where these people live and how we can communicate fire safety messages to them effectively.

No. of Households by Initial Fire Risk Rating

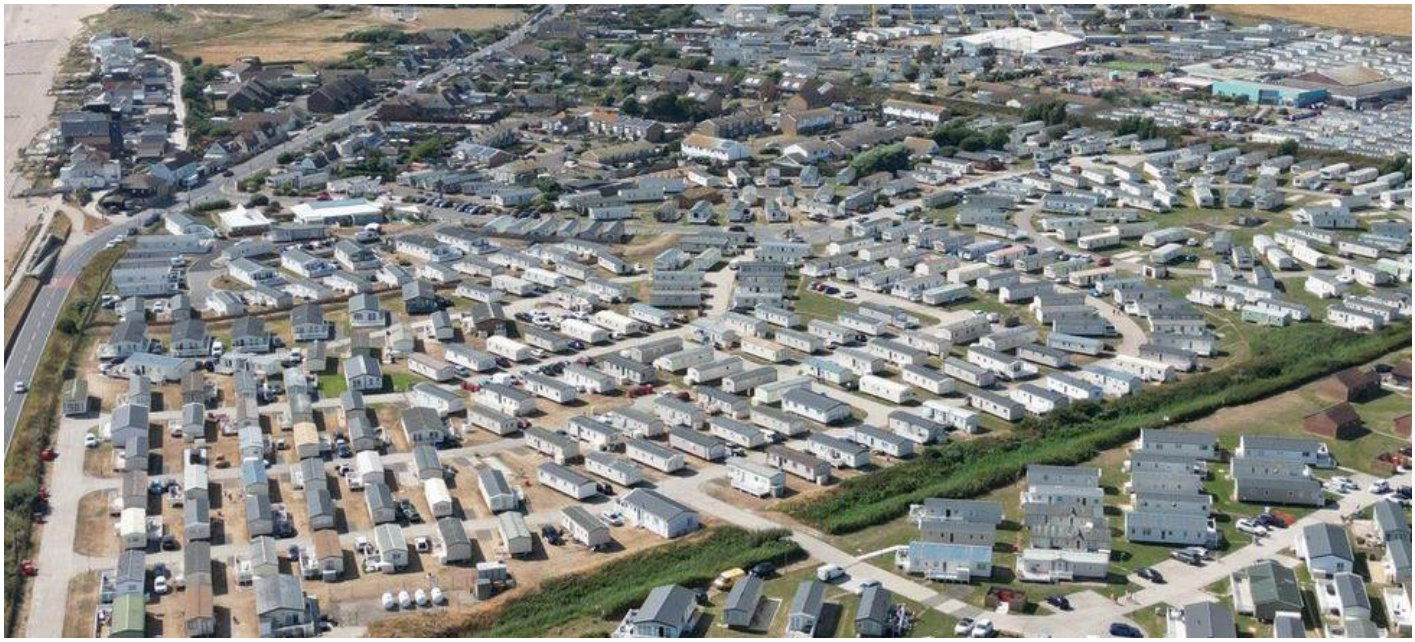
Station Area	Very High	High	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Low	Very Low	All Households
Barcombe	275	1,364	1,201	124	2,016	950	523	6,453
Battle	387	677	1,054	147	1,453	501	290	4,509
Bexhill	6,997	1,678	2,104	5,528	2,621	4,313	841	24,082
Broad Oak	18	639	1,342	58	1,328	33	222	3,640
Burwash	1	749	1,133	14	1,375	72	303	3,647
Crowborough	986	1,513	1,566	770	2,446	3,744	720	11,745
Eastbourne	13,786	6,962	6,189	9,289	6,423	8,667	1,595	52,911
Forest Row	110	1,131	648	87	919	460	140	3,495
Hailsham	1,451	1,821	2,664	3,718	1,710	4,298	1,824	17,486
Hastings Bohemia Rd	8,248	4,141	3,112	4,454	2,509	4,456	1,523	28,443
Hastings The Ridge	2,042	2,519	2,590	3,280	1,832	2,123	734	15,120
Heathfield	651	1,605	1,617	464	1,907	1048	616	7,908
Herstmonceux	0	470	320	80	605	10	220	1,705
Hove	6,451	13,934	6,004	4,715	6,504	4,997	946	43,551
Lewes	1,383	1,948	1,446	1,043	3,492	2,051	286	11,649
Mayfield	48	1,128	742	25	714	165	76	2,898
Newhaven	2,084	1,195	2,812	2,806	1,423	3,928	1,108	15,356
Pevensey	176	125	822	1,363	996	1138	1,342	5,962
Preston Circus	10,842	18,938	4,656	7,186	5,689	4,471	1267	53,049
Roedean	6,624	5,707	2,718	2,578	3,870	3,653	650	25,800
Rye	481	667	1,090	321	2,375	212	1113	6,259
Seaford	2,189	870	1,300	2,619	2,305	2,900	337	12,520
Uckfield	886	2,433	2,563	588	2,551	2,588	856	12,465
Wadhurst	101	1,135	950	55	1,376	586	164	4,367
ESFRS Area	66,217	73,349	50,643	51,312	58,439	57,364	17,696	375,020

Holiday Parks

Across the service area, there are a total of 49 major holiday parks, 16 of which reside in the district of Rother – with Rye station area having 10 of those. The two largest holiday parks are located in the village of Camber which sits outside of the isochrones (Camber Sands and Pontins) and these two sites account for 25% of the total holiday units across the service area.

Station Admin Area	Total Number of Units
Battle	72
Bexhill	250
Broad Oak	275
Eastbourne	466
Hailsham	76
Hastings Bohemia Rd	1,715
Hastings The Ridge	1,249
Heathfield	121
Herstmonceux	117
Newhaven	330
Pevensey	193
Rye	2,729
Seaford	318
ESFRS	7,911

A unit includes Caravans, lodges, bungalows, chalets, cottages and touring (caravan) pitches.



Incidents

Context

National

FRSs in England attended 622,173 incidents in the year ending March 2023, a 7.8% increase compared with the previous year (577,147), a 9.9% increase compared with 5 years ago (566,140) and a 19% increase compared with 10 years ago (521,324). Of these incidents, there were 178,737 fires which was a 17% increase compared with the previous year (152,639).[41]

These increases are predominantly driven by increases in secondary fires (+26%) and outdoor primary fires (+45%) following the hot, dry summer in 2022.

Of all incidents attended by FRSs in England, fires accounted for 29%, fire false alarms 39% and non-fire incidents 32%

Fires

The long-term picture shows that the total number of fires attended by FRSs decreased for around a decade - falling by around two-thirds from a peak of around 474,000 in the year ending March 2004 to around 154,000 in the year ending March 2013. Since then, the total number of fires has fluctuated year-on-year. During this period, the largest numbers of fires attended were in the years ending March 2019 (182,941) and March 2023 (178,737) which both saw exceptionally hot, dry summers. The smallest numbers of fires attended during this period were in the years ending March 2021 (151,097) and March 2022 (152,639) which were both impacted by COVID-19.

The total number of fires increased by 17%, from 152,639 in the year ending March 2022 to 178,737 in the year ending March 2023. The number of fires in the year ending March 2023 increased by 6.8% compared with 5 years ago (167,357) and increased by 16% compared with 10 years ago (154,463).

The increase in the number of fires in the year ending March 2023 can be attributed to the hot, dry summer of 2022. There were 109,444 secondary fires in the year ending March 2023, of which 48,287 occurred in the 3 months July to September - the largest number of secondary fires in any quarter since April to June 2010 (49,635). Secondary fires accounted for 61% in the year ending March 2023, compared with 57% in the previous year. Weather is more likely to affect outdoor primary and secondary fires, with this combination accounting for a large share of all fires each year (over half in almost every year since these figures became available in the year ending March 2000).

Fire false alarms

In the year ending March 2023, FRSs attended 244,341 fire false alarms, a 6.3% increase compared with the previous year (229,878), an 8.1% increase compared with 5 years ago (226,060) and a 5.4% increase compared with 10 years ago (231,772).

The number of fire false alarms attended by FRSs in England was on a general downward trajectory, from a peak of around 393,900 in the year ending March 2002 to a low of around 214,400 in the year ending March

[41] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fire-and-rescue-incident-statistics-england-year-ending-march-2023/fire-and-rescue-incident-statistics-england-year-ending-march-2023

2016. Since then, the number of fire false alarms has been steadily increasing year-on-year - with the exception of the years ending March 2021 and March 2022 which were impacted by COVID-19. In the year ending March 2023, FRSs attended 244,341 fire false alarms - the largest year to March number since the year to March 2012.

The proportion of total incidents accounted for by fire false alarms has gradually decreased over the last 10 years. In the year ending March 2023, this proportion was 39% compared to 40% 5 years ago and 44% 10 years ago.

Non fire incidents

In the year ending March 2023, FRSs attended 199,095 non-fire incidents, a 2.3% increase compared with the previous year (194,630), a 15% increase compared with 5 years ago (172,723) and a 47% increase compared with 10 years ago (135,089)

Of these non-fire incidents:

- FRSs attended 63,647 collaborating incidents[42], a 6.7% increase compared with the previous year (59,644) and a 62% increase compared with 5 years ago (39,249)
- there were 31,150 RTCs, a 1.7% increase compared with the previous year (30,634) and a 3.7% increase compared with 5 years ago (30,052)
- FRSs attended 16,891 medical incidents[43] a 7.4% decrease compared with the previous year (18,239) and a 49% decrease compared with 5 years ago (32,851)
- there were 17,825 flooding incidents, a 12% increase compared with the previous year (15,959) and a 14% increase compared with 5 years ago (15,673)

There was a general decline in the number of non-fire incidents attended between the year to March 2008 and the year to March 2015 (figure 4.1 below). This was followed by a large increase of almost two-fifths to the year to March 2017, coinciding with the introduction of Emergency Medical Responding (EMR) trials and the duty to collaborate legislation. Following the end of the EMR trials in 2017, the total number of non-fire incidents gradually decreased to around 151,000 in the year ending March 2021. The reduction seen in the year ending March 2021 was also likely driven in part by COVID-19 restrictions. In the year ending March 2022, there was a substantial increase in the number of non-fire incidents to around 195,000 and then again in the year ending March 2023 to around 199,000 - the highest year ending March figure on record and the second highest 12-month figure behind the year ending December 2022 (201,727).

In the year ending March 2023, non-fire incidents increased by 2.3% compared with the previous year, with increases for all categories except medical incidents (see table 4.1 below for further detail). The tail end of the third COVID-19 national lockdown extended into the comparator year and hence there may have been some impact on the figures in this year.

Collaborating incidents account for the largest proportion of non-fire incidents overall - this proportion increased to 32% in the year ending March 2023 compared with 23%, 5 years ago and 15%, 10 years ago. RTCs account for the next largest proportion of non-fire incidents at 16% in the year ending March 2023. However, this is lower than 5 years ago when RTCs accounted for 17% and 10 years ago at 21%. Flooding

[42] "Assisting other agencies", "Effecting entry/exit" and "Suicide/suicide attempts"

[43] "First responder" and "Co-responder" incidents

(9.0%) and medical incidents (8.0%) account for the next largest proportions of non-fire incidents in the year ending March 2023.

The 6.7% increase in collaborating incidents, compared to the previous year, is a continuation of a recent trend of increases. Since 2015, the number of collaborating incidents has increased, trebling from around 21,100 in year ending March 2015 to around 63,700 in year ending March 2023. These increases have coincided with the introduction of the duty to collaborate legislation, see further information for greater explanation.

For the year ending March 2023, the 3 sub-categories of collaborating incidents each increased on the previous year, with:

- assisting other agencies increasing by 7.5% to 27,438
- effecting entry or exit increasing by 5.9% to 33,385
- assisting at suicide attempts increasing by 9.3% to 2,824

Fire-related fatalities and casualties

There were 259 fire-related fatalities in the year ending March 2023 compared with 273 in the previous year, a decrease of 5.1%

The 259 fire-related fatalities in the year ending March 2023 included 203 in dwelling fires (consistently the largest category). These fatalities occurred in 192 fatal dwelling fires.

The number of fire-related fatalities in England followed a general downward trend between the year ending March 1982, when comparable figures first became available, and the year ending March 2015. Since then, the number of fire-related fatalities have fluctuated year-on-year. There were notable increases in the year ending March 2016 (302) and the year ending March 2018 (338) - which included 71 fatalities as a result of the Grenfell Tower fire. There was also a notable increase in the year ending March 2022 (273) - this included 99 fatalities in the October to December 2021 quarter, which upon review appears to have been a random fluctuation. It should also be noted that the numbers of fire-related fatalities are prone to year-on-year fluctuations due to relatively low numbers.

The number of non-fatal casualties in fires in England has been on a downward trend since the mid-1990s. More detailed data became available due to the introduction of the online IRS in 2009, and since then the "hospital slight" and "first aid" categories have shown the biggest decline.

Overall, in the year ending March 2023, there were 6,155 non-fatal casualties, a 2.5% decrease compared with 6,313 in the previous year.

Response times to fire incidents

- In the year ending March 2023, the average total response time to primary fires in England was 9 minutes and 13 seconds, the longest average response time seen since comparable statistics became available
- there was an increase of 23 seconds in the average first appliance response time to primary fires since the previous year;
- all types of primary fires showed an increase in average response times compared with the previous year, the largest increase was in primary outdoor fires (an increase of 1 minute 12 seconds);
- the average total response time to secondary fires in England saw an increase of 34 seconds, compared with the previous year, to 9 minutes and 47 seconds.

Looking at the long-term trend, response times to fires have increased gradually between the year ending March 1995 (when these data were first collected) and the year ending March 2015. Response times levelled off between year ending March 2015 and year ending March 2020, with the exception of year ending March 2019 (which had more incidents in general due to the hot, dry summer). For the past 2 years, response times to primary and dwelling fires have increased year-on-year. In comparison, response times to secondary fires fell slightly in the year ending March 2022, before increasing in the year ending March 2023. The increase in the year ending March 2023 on the year ending March 2022 is likely due to the increased number of incidents attended during the hot, dry summer of 2022.

Incidents by station area

Having set the national context above, the following section provides the local context, with incident analysis across the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service area, broken down by station area.

This section deals with historical incidents that have occurred within the geographical ESFRS area – irrespective of which appliance(s) were mobilised to the incident. This helps identify the types of incidents to which we have responded within each station area.

All Incidents within each OA-aligned Station Area, by financial year

OA-aligned Station Admin Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	5Yr Average (2018-2023)
Barcombe	75	103	101	83	67	86
Battle	140	129	124	145	161	140
Bexhill	564	638	624	615	646	617
Broad Oak	50	81	60	85	81	71
Burwash	100	97	76	79	88	88
Crowborough	216	244	223	285	301	254
Eastbourne	1,218	1,438	1,366	1,399	1,460	1,376
Forest Row	71	74	80	83	78	77
Hailsham	318	321	311	369	341	332
Hastings Bohemia Rd	1,030	1,064	1,016	1,156	1,093	1,072
Hastings The Ridge	339	366	389	452	404	390
Heathfield	147	137	158	166	142	150
Herstmonceux	33	31	28	31	29	30
Hove	910	891	954	1,042	998	959
Lewes	381	418	344	392	372	381
Mayfield	52	68	57	42	50	54
Newhaven	391	369	349	373	389	374
Pevensey	72	80	86	74	93	81
Preston Circus	1,654	1,854	1,611	1,924	1,827	1,774
Roedean	855	964	943	971	1,032	953
Rye	148	145	146	165	159	153
Seaford	268	257	272	264	255	263
Uckfield	248	266	248	267	277	261
Wadhurst	69	92	71	77	102	82
Total Incidents	9,349	10,127	9,637	10,539	10,445	10,019

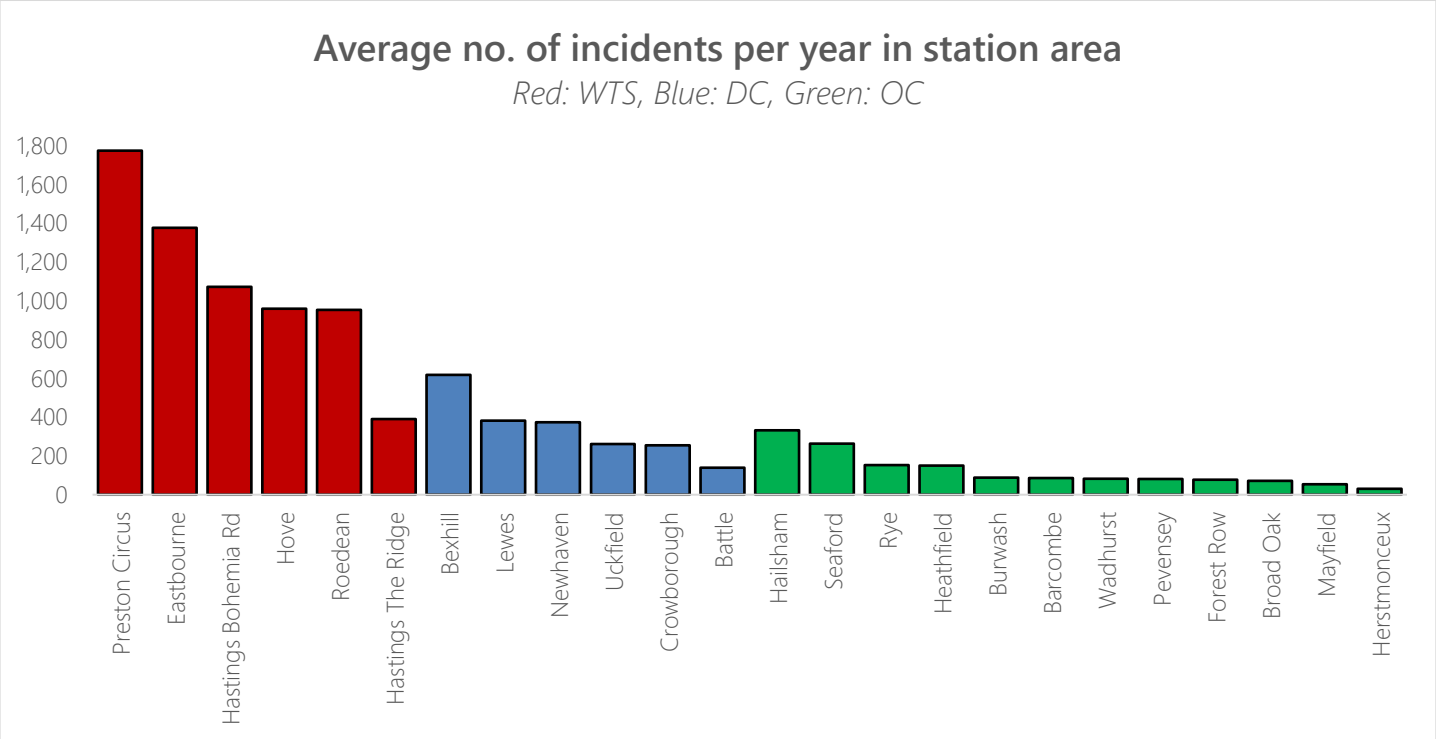
Over 5 years (Apr 2018 – Mar 2023), it would appear that the number of incidents within the ESFRS area to which ESFRS has attended have increased by 11.7%, although this percentage increase is not uniform across all station areas – with some areas reducing by 12% and others increasing by 48%.

It can also be seen that, on average, there are 3,686 incidents a year across the 3 station areas that cover Brighton & Hove, which equates to 37% of all incidents in the ESFRS area. This is a little more than would be

expected given that the numbers of households across this area represent 34% of the population. Hastings is the area that has the greatest proportion of incidents compared to the proportion of households in its area (27%). Lewes and Wealden have fewer incidents than one would expect, given the size of the base population in those areas, as shown below:

Stations areas	% Incidents	% Population	Index	% over/under ave.
Brighton & Hove	37%	34%	109	9
Eastbourne	13%	12%	108	8
Hastings	14%	11%	127	27
Lewes	11%	12%	92	-8
Rother	12%	11%	109	9
Wealden	14%	19%	74	-26
ESFRS area	100%	100%	100	0

By comparing the average number of incidents occurring within each station area by the crewing arrangement of the local station, it can be seen there is overlap in between each duty system i.e. there are some day-crewed station areas that have more incidents than some wholetime shift areas, and there are some on-call areas which are busier than some day-crewed areas.



The table below shows the average number of critical incidents that have occurred within each of the 24 station areas across a 5 year period between April 2018 and March 2023. The station areas have been sorted by the numbers of critical incidents in descending order. The top 9 station areas represent the areas that are having a greater % of critical incidents than the ESFRS average (i.e. 100/24 station areas is 4.167, therefore, anything over this is having a greater proportion of critical incidents). These 9 station areas hold two thirds (67%) of all critical incidents and are comprised of 6 wholetime shift and 3 day-crewed stations.

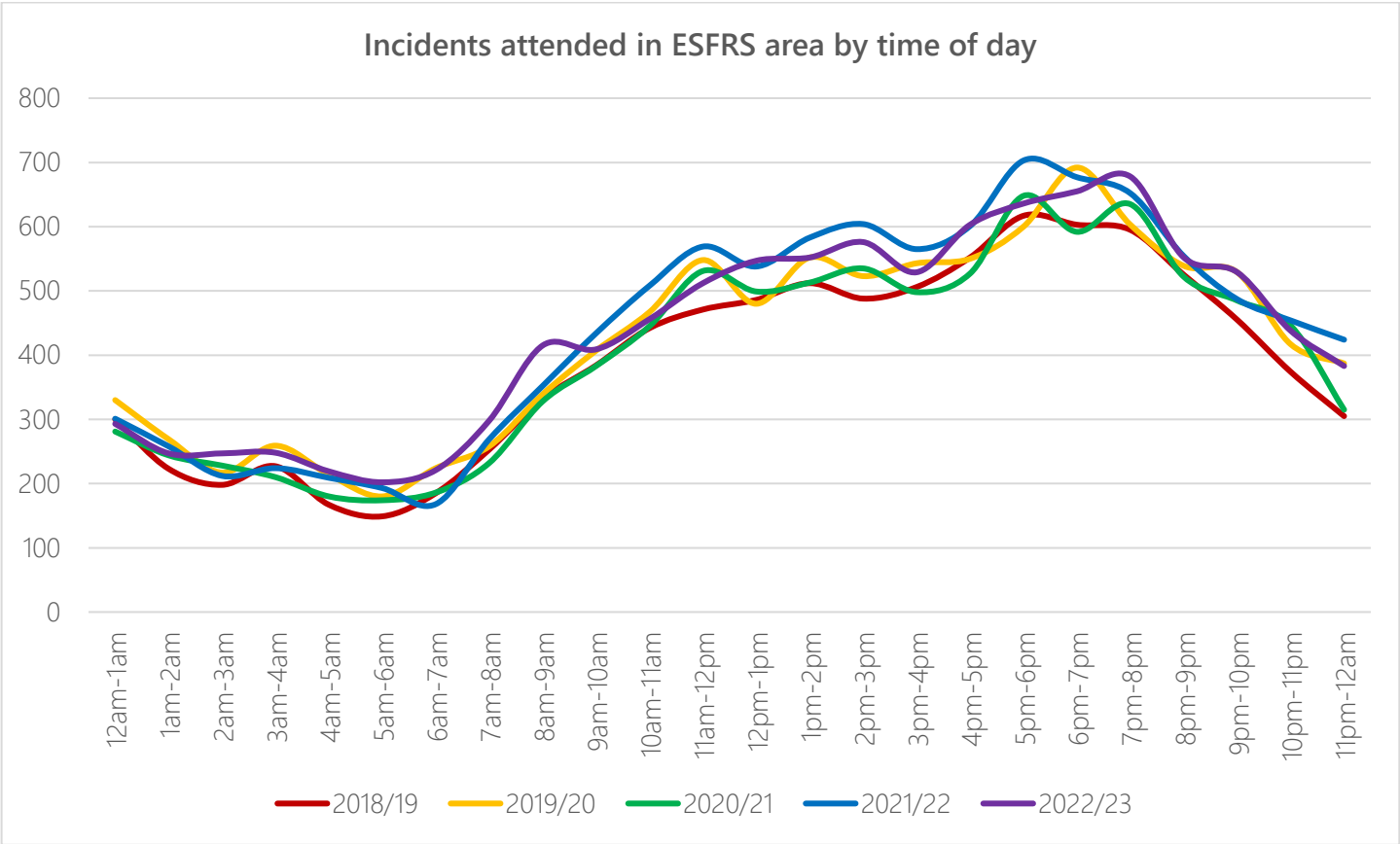
Overall, 57% of critical incidents occurred within wholetime shift areas, 25% in day-crewed station areas and 18% in on-call station areas.

Average No. of Critical Incidents per Year by Station Area

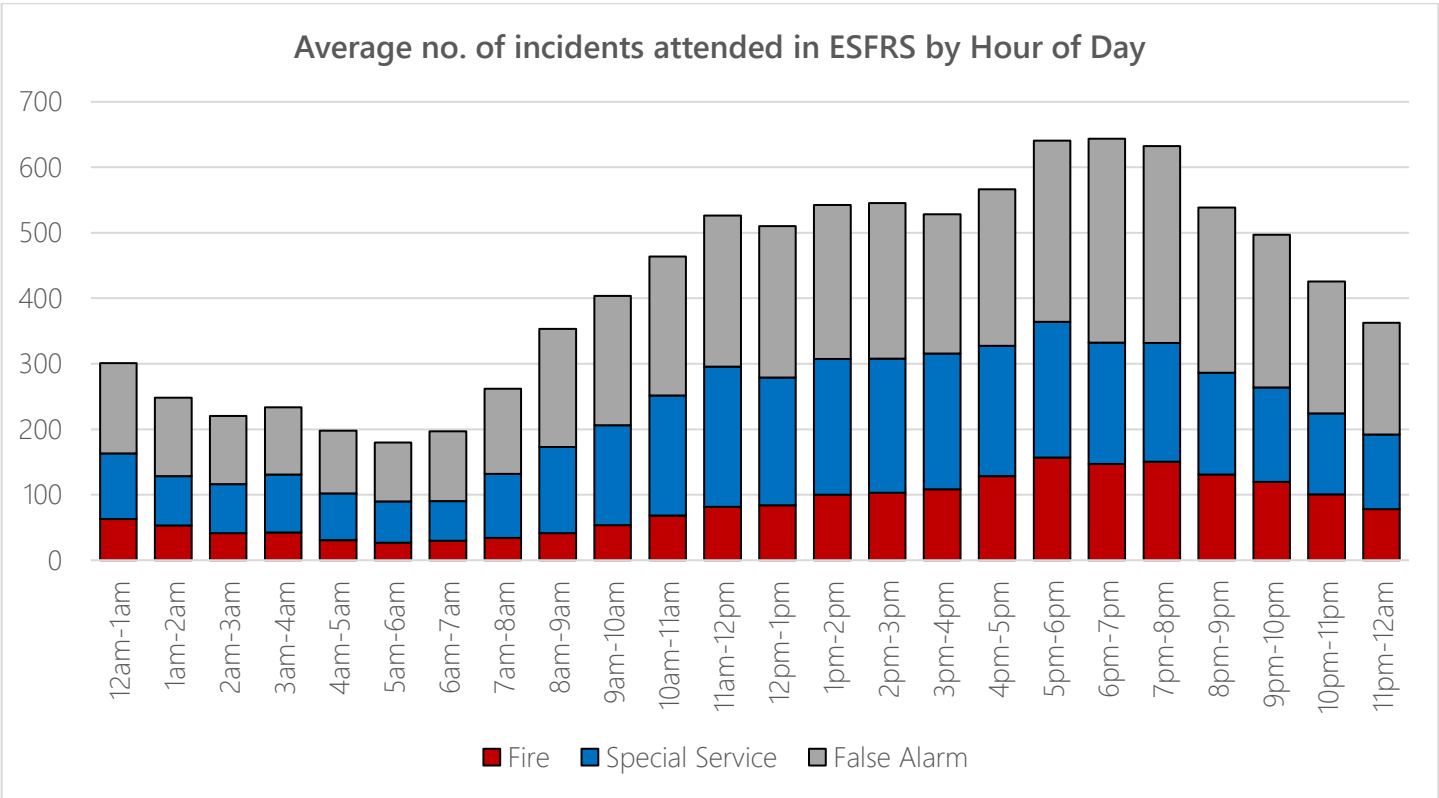
OA-aligned Station Admin Area	5Yr Average	Duty System	% of all Critical
Eastbourne	115	WTS	14.12%
Preston Circus	102	WTS	12.57%
Hastings Bohemia Rd	78	WTS	9.54%
Hove	70	WTS	8.66%
Roedean	66	WTS	8.09%
Bexhill	58	DC	7.18%
Newhaven	37	DC	4.60%
Lewes	37	DC	4.50%
Hastings The Ridge	34	WTS	4.21%
Crowborough	32	DC	3.91%
Hailsham	32	OC	3.91%
Uckfield	21	DC	2.58%
Seaford	19	OC	2.39%
Heathfield	17	OC	2.09%
Battle	15	DC	1.89%
Rye	14	OC	1.72%
Burwash	11	OC	1.33%
Pevensey	9	OC	1.16%
Forest Row	9	OC	1.13%
Broad Oak	9	OC	1.08%
Wadhurst	8	OC	1.03%
Mayfield	8	OC	1.01%
Barcombe	8	OC	0.98%
Herstmonceux	2	OC	0.30%
ESFRS	813	-	100.00%

Incidents by time of day

The following chart shows the distribution of incidents by time of day over the last 5 years. The shape of these distributions follows a typical distribution. However, it can be seen that there appears to be a greater increase in the number of incidents during the day-time over the past couple of years, compared to the night time.



A similar chart, shown below, shows the average number of incidents by hour of day, based on 5 years of incident data broken down by incident type. It can be seen that fire incidents increase from 7am and peak between 5pm-8pm, before diminishing to their lowest during the hours of 5am-6am. Special service calls are highest between 11am-6pm. False alarms are highest between 5pm-8pm.



Critical Incidents

The following table shows the number of critical incidents that occurred across the ESFRS area over the past five years. This equates to an average of 813 incidents per year which result in a rescue or some form of injury (special service rescues (excl. RTCs) with no injury are not included in the calculation). Given that approximately 10,019 incidents occur across the service area each year, this represents that around 8.1% of incidents have some form of life risk. Over the last 5 years, there has been an increase in the number of critical incidents per year. Whilst there have also been a gradual increase in the total number of incidents attended each year for the past five years, the proportion of incidents that are critical have also been rising for the past 5 years (from 6.1% to 10.1%).

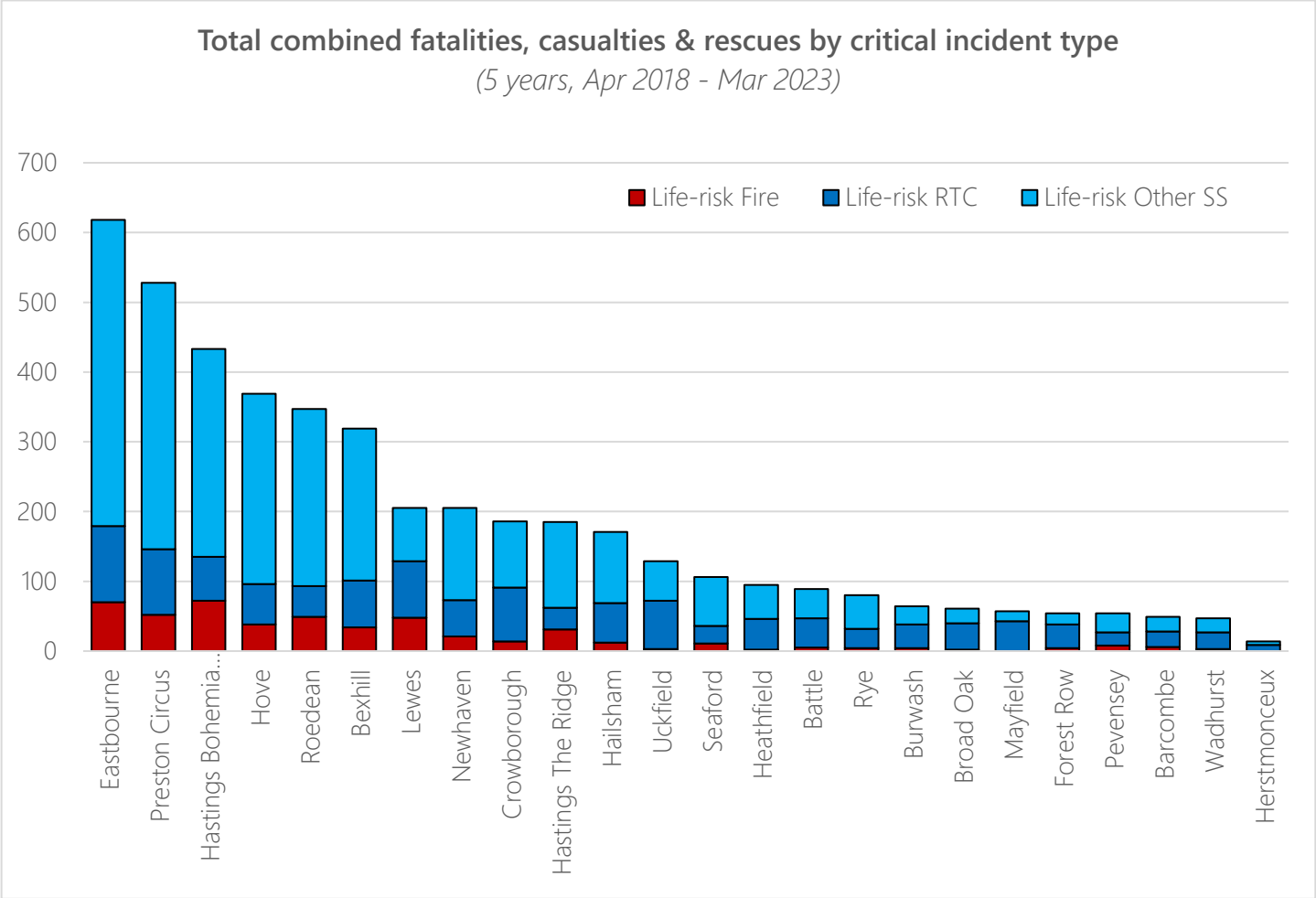
Critical Incidents	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	5 Year Total
Life-risk Fire	85	97	78	61	83	404
Life-risk RTC	210	183	129	170	191	883
Life-risk Special Serv.	273	470	550	704	781	2,778
Total	568	750	757	935	1,055	4,065

The table below shows the actual numbers of fatalities, casualties and rescues recorded against each critical incident type over the past five years. It can be seen that 4,065 critical incidents have resulted in 4,465 injuries and/or rescues over the past five years (893 fatalities, casualties, rescues per year), thus each critical incident gives rise to 1.10 casualties.

Casualty Severity	Fire	RTC	Other SS.	Total
Fatal Injury	16	52	187	255
Serious Injury	43	231	1329	1,603
Slight Injury	127	550	1016	1,693
First Aid/Prec. Check	150	197	273	620
Rescue (No Injury)	157	134	3	294
Total Life-Risk	493	1,164	2,808	4,465

The chart below illustrates the combined numbers of fatalities, casualties and rescues that have occurred within each station area over the past five year period from April 2018 to March 2023.

It can be seen that Eastbourne station area has had the most life-risk fire incidents, surpassing Preston Circus and, given the population differences between the two station areas is significant. Hailsham station area has a similar number of life-risk RTCs as Hastings The Ridge, and more than two day-crewed station areas.



Incidents by type

The following table illustrates the type of incidents that have occurred across the ESFRS area over the five year period between April 2018 and March 2023. Overall, 19.7% of all incidents are fires, 80% of incidents fall into 1 of 8 incident types. These are (in descending order): False alarm apparatus/good intent, secondary fire, assist other agency, effecting entry, dwelling fire, road traffic collision, flooding.

The number of incidents attended overall increased by 13.5% over the five-year period.

- Dwelling fires, which make up 4.9% of all incidents we attend, reduced by 22.2% - an average of 495 per year over the five-year period.

- Secondary fires, which make up 8.5% of all incidents we attend, increased by 7.5% (average of 867 per year). However, this is largely due to abnormally high number of secondary fires in 2022/23 due to the extended, hot, dry summer of 2022 which resulted in a lot of outdoor fires.

- Assist other Agency calls represent the largest shift in call profile over the five-year period. In 2018/19, they comprised 4% of incidents which we attended, but by 2022/23, that made up 10.7% of all incidents we attended. We attended 1,146 in 2022/23, an increase of over 200% over the five-year period. This is significant because this type of incident represents:

    - The biggest change in our incident profile

- These incidents typically fall into our category of a 'critical incident' because they often involve life-risk

- These incidents often require a lot of resource as well as time to resolve.

- Effecting Entry calls have also increased by 50% over the five-year period and these types of incidents typically tie in with the type of calls we assist other agencies with, such as SECAmb.

- Hazardous Materials incidents, whilst relatively small in number, have increased by 162% over the period.

- Flooding incidents have increased by 31%. This figure represents all types of flooding – from widespread flooding from rain etc., to when there is a burst water mains, or pipes in individual buildings affecting electrics etc). Nevertheless, a significant rise.

- Road Traffic Collisions, which make up 4.2% of all incidents we attend, reduced by 18.3%; an average of 430 per year over the five-year period.

- False Alarms, overall, still comprise a significant proportion of incidents (46% average).

    - Although relatively small numbers, an increase in malicious false alarms by 27%

    - False Alarm Apparatus calls, which make up the largest type of false alarm, increased by 8.6% over the five-year period and represent a third of all incidents to which we attend. However, work was put in place through the last integrated risk management plan to reduce 'Unwanted Fire Signals'. As a result, we don't attend routine AFA calls in low risk commercial premises unless we receive a call to confirm there is a fire and this is reducing the number of this type of incident to which we attend.

Incident Type	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total	% Total	5 year Average	% change
Primary Fire - Dwelling	564	509	483	481	439	2,476	4.9	495	-22.2
Primary Fire - Non Residential	208	169	152	151	176	856	1.7	171	-15.4
Primary Fire - Other Residential	36	45	44	38	38	201	0.4	40	5.6
Primary Fire - Other transport vehicle	3	3	4	5	2	17	0.0	3	-33.3
Primary Fire - Outdoor	123	103	114	115	144	599	1.2	120	17.1
Primary Fire - Road Vehicle	262	225	203	194	235	1,119	2.2	224	-10.3
Secondary Fire	863	834	890	818	928	4,333	8.5	867	7.5
Chimney Fire	92	87	82	64	82	407	0.8	81	-10.9
Special Service - Advice Only	15	43	42	67	69	236	0.5	47	360.0
Special Service - Animal assistance incidents	179	184	177	184	170	894	1.8	179	-5.0
Special Service - Assist other agencies	380	699	815	1,083	1,146	4,123	8.1	825	201.6
Special Service - Effecting entry	441	581	559	645	662	2,888	5.7	578	50.1
Special Service - Evacuation (no fire)	2	4	4	3	2	15	0.0	3	0.0
Special Service - Flooding	371	426	365	414	486	2,062	4.1	412	31.0
Special Service - Hazardous Materials incident	21	34	33	41	55	184	0.4	37	161.9
Special Service - Lift Release	324	345	242	333	314	1,558	3.1	312	-3.1
Special Service - Making Safe (not RTC)	114	189	153	210	123	789	1.6	158	7.9
Special Service - Medical Incident - Co-responder	15	47	41	37	28	168	0.3	34	86.7
Special Service - Medical Incident - First responder	44	50	38	37	40	209	0.4	42	-9.1
Special Service - No action (not false alarm)	46	89	102	125	82	444	0.9	89	78.3
Special Service - Other rescue	96	91	66	69	77	399	0.8	80	-19.8
Special Service - Other Transport incident	28	36	9	25	28	126	0.2	25	0.0
Special Service - Removal of objects from people	75	60	72	78	64	349	0.7	70	-14.7
Special Service - Removal of people from objects	40	29	31	38	48	186	0.4	37	20.0
Special Service - Rescue or evacuation from water	10	20	11	11	24	76	0.1	15	140.0
Special Service - RTC	529	452	324	415	432	2,152	4.2	430	-18.3
Special Service - Spills and Leaks (not RTC)	80	86	66	79	76	387	0.8	77	-5.0
Special Service - Stand By	2	1	3	2	0	8	0.0	2	-100.0
Special Service - Suicide	31	36	31	34	29	161	0.3	32	-6.5
Special Service - Water provision	1	0	1	12	7	21	0.0	4	600.0
False Alarm - Fire alarm due to Apparatus	3,096	3,404	3,145	3,539	3,363	16,547	32.5	3,309	8.6
False Alarm - Good Intent false alarm	1,266	1,257	1,343	1,187	1,236	6,289	12.4	1,258	-2.4
False Alarm - Malicious False Alarm	104	106	72	146	132	560	1.1	112	26.9
All Incidents	9,461	10,244	9,717	10,680	10,737	50,839	100.0	10,168	13.5

Appliance Availability

The following table shows the percentage availability of each pumping appliance per year over the last 10 years. Please note, this excludes where the appliance was unavailable due to mechanical reasons; it is based on unavailability due to staffing. On the whole, availability of appliances has decreased over the years; however the variance between individual pumping appliances is wide, with some appliances reducing their availability by as much as 74% (Burwash) across the 10 years, with very few improving their availability over the same period. 2014/15 shows a dip in availability due to industrial strike action. This has an impact on the workload of neighbouring appliances and the number of standby moves that are made and where they are made from and to. The least available 'primary' pump is 74P1 (Burwash) which, in 2022/23 was only available 16% of the time, followed by Mayfield (24.9%) and Barcombe (39.6%).

Fire Appliance	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23		% change
Rye 1	99.7	99.8	99.6	99.7	99.5	97.9	98.4	99.5	97.8	96.9		-2.8
Rye 2	80.6	68.5	63.8	57.6	51.1	19.3	19.1	23.9	20.8	-		
Broad Oak	88.4	90.2	86.5	83.5	83.3	80.3	78.7	84.2	64.0	54.9		-33.5
Battle 1	99.6	97.8	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.1	99.8	99.8	99.8	98.1		-1.5
Battle 2	55.5	47.0	46.9	47.5	31.7	24.0	42.1	47.5	40.2	-		
Bexhill 1	99.5	98.2	99.9	100.0	100.0	99.9	99.5	99.9	99.9	99.8		0.3
Bexhill 2	77.7	60.5	52.4	53.8	60.7	73.9	39.2	56.6	51.0	41.5		-36.2
Burwash	62.0	73.3	77.5	88.9	84.1	72.9	78.9	94.1	34.5	15.9		-46.1
Hastings The Ridge	100.0	98.2	100.0	99.9	99.8	99.0	91.5	98.6	98.3	99.1		-0.9
Hastings Bohemia Rd	100.0	98.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.0	99.2	99.7	99.2	99.7		-0.3
Pevensey	69.6	52.7	55.5	52.0	50.2	54.1	58.1	78.2	55.9	52.8		-16.8
Wadhurst	85.6	75.8	79.6	61.9	51.5	54.9	49.9	67.8	47.9	45.0		-40.7
Herstmonceux	92.4	88.5	74.1	70.2	81.3	74.9	59.5	64.7	49.9	48.2		-44.1
Hailsham	94.3	81.2	88.5	81.5	56.8	63.0	71.0	81.3	59.5	37.1		-57.2
Mayfield	74.9	63.8	55.6	45.2	45.2	39.7	32.0	38.1	29.4	24.5		-50.4
Heathfield	90.2	89.0	79.0	72.8	78.3	76.8	87.8	92.4	73.6	56.9		-33.3
Crowborough 1	99.9	99.4	99.9	99.9	99.7	99.8	99.7	99.9	99.9	98.5		-1.4
Crowborough 2	59.2	77.6	66.2	56.3	61.8	60.8	59.8	61.7	25.0	19.8		-39.4
Uckfield 1	99.6	98.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.5	99.6	99.9	99.8	99.0		-0.6
Uckfield 2	90.9	88.9	67.6	58.7	58.0	32.0	33.3	74.4	68.7	46.7		-44.2
Forest Row	74.4	78.6	63.0	75.5	70.8	76.0	70.1	88.9	77.5	77.9		3.5
Seaford	98.1	96.3	94.8	94.1	92.4	85.3	89.6	96.1	85.0	84.4		-13.7
Newhaven 1	100.0	97.1	100.0	99.9	99.8	99.9	99.7	99.8	99.4	98.9		-1.1
Newhaven 2	76.1	71.0	66.4	60.8	64.9	55.9	55.9	58.9	37.4	29.3		-46.8
Barcombe	85.1	79.7	74.7	72.9	60.7	37.8	56.6	64.7	36.7	39.6		-45.5
Lewes 1	100.0	98.2	99.8	99.9	100.0	99.6	99.0	98.8	99.1	98.2		-1.8
Lewes 2	37.1	41.0	39.1	41.0	39.4	34.2	12.2	21.2	8.2	-		
Roedean	100.0	97.8	100.0	99.9	100.0	97.0	98.4	99.1	98.2	99.3		-0.7
Preston Circus 1	100.0	98.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.4	99.2	99.8	98.9	99.2		-0.8
Preston Circus 2	100.0	97.3	99.9	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.9	99.8	99.9		-0.1
Hove 1	100.0	98.3	100.0	100.0	99.9	97.0	93.0	99.2	96.6	99.5		-0.5
Eastbourne 1	100.0	99.0	100.0	100.0	99.8	91.1	93.0	98.5	96.3	98.6		-1.4
Eastbourne 2	100.0	98.0	99.8	99.9	99.8	99.3	99.0	99.9	98.7	99.8		-0.2

Over-border appliances in ESFRS area

In addition to all incidents that are captured within the ESFRS IRS database, the following section contains details of our neighbouring FRS IRS data (Kent / West Sussex), where they have attended incidents within the ESFRS area, but where ESFRS did not attend.

The following table shows the total number of over-border mobilisations into the ESFRS area, where ESFRS did not attend between April 2018 and March 2023.

It can be seen that Barcombe has seen the greatest number of additional attendances from over-border West Sussex appliances into its area over the last 5 years. In fact, given that 429 incidents occurred within Barcombe's station area over the last 5 years where ESFRS attended, this equates to a further 42% of incidents that occur in Barcombe that ESFRS do not attend. Similarly, in Wadhurst, over-border attendances into ESFRS where ESFRS did not attend account for an additional 30.9% of incidents, 15.5% in Forest Row and 9.6% in Crowborough.

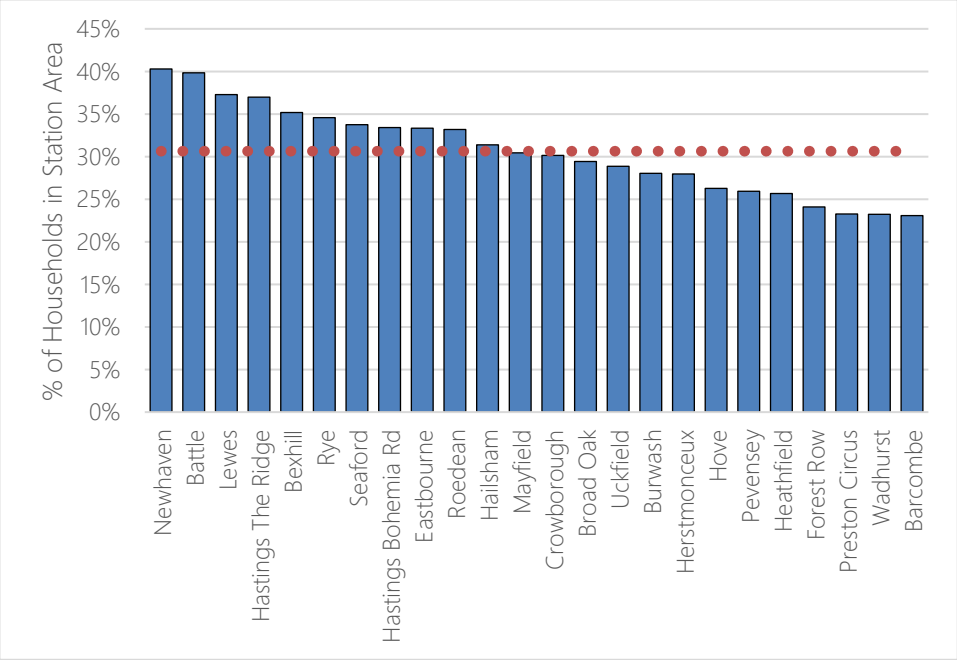
Station Area	Kent	West Sussex	Total
Barcombe	-	180	180
Battle	1	-	1
Bexhill	1	-	1
Broad Oak	6	-	6
Burwash	17	-	17
Crowborough	122	-	122
Forest Row	8	52	60
Hastings Bohemia Rd	1	-	1
Heathfield	6	-	6
Hove	-	19	19
Lewes	-	2	2
Mayfield	7	-	7
Newhaven	1	-	1
Preston Circus	-	10	10
Roedean	-	4	4
Rye	9	-	9
Uckfield	1	5	6
Wadhurst	127	-	127
ESFRS	307	272	579

Prevention – Home Fire Safety

Between January 2005 and June 2023, a total of 169,052 HSVs have been undertaken across the ESFRS area. This figure includes re-visits to the same property over the years. This equates to 111,364 unique households which have had a Home Safety Visit (HSV), which is approximately 30.8% of all households within ESFRS. There were 229 HSVs that were undertaken in areas outside of ESFRS – mainly in Hassocks, Southwick & Shoreham-by-Sea.

Station Admin Area	No. of HSVs
Barcombe	2,060
Battle	2,810
Bexhill	11,798
Broad Oak	1,489
Burwash	1,513
Crowborough	5,053
Eastbourne	24,554
Forest Row	1,111
Hailsham	7,726
Hastings Bohemia Rd	14,759
Hastings The Ridge	8,319
Heathfield	2,604
Herstmonceux	646
Hove	17,236
Lewes	6,715
Mayfield	1,176
Newhaven	9,860
Pevensey	2,077
Preston Circus	18,024
Roedean	13,750
Rye	2,700
Seaford	6,302
Uckfield	5,181
Wadhurst	1,360
	168,823

Over the last five years (April 2018 – Mar 2023), an average of 9,748 HSVs were undertaken each year. It can be seen from the chart below, for some station areas such as Barcombe, the proportion of HSVs undertaken to households within the attendance standards was a lot lower than the average, indicating that significant parts of the area are not captured within the attendance standards isochrones, but shows that the households living in rural isolation outside of our attendance standards have been targeted due to the increased response times to those communities. Eastbourne station area has undertaken the most HSVs by a significant proportion – 15% of all HSVs undertaken.



Protection - Fire Safety

AddressBase Premium is the most current, comprehensive and accurate geographic dataset available of addresses, properties and land areas where services are provided. The following data depicts all addressable objects designated as commercial (based on the primary classification of the property). Properties that have been demolished and those yet to be built have been excluded from this dataset.

No. of Commercial Properties by Station Admin Area

Station Admin Area	Total No. of Properties
Barcombe	1,106
Battle	981
Bexhill	2,844
Broad Oak	555
Burwash	548
Crowborough	1,399
Eastbourne	4,979
Forest Row	671
Hailsham	2,205
Hastings Bohemia Rd	5,039
Hastings The Ridge	2,212
Heathfield	1,125
Herstmonceux	366
Hove	5,256
Lewes	2,256
Mayfield	359
Newhaven	1,583
Pevensey	916
Preston Circus	8,221
Roedean	2,440
Rye	3,818
Seaford	1,035
Uckfield	1,853
Wadhurst	681
ESFRS	52,448

ABP Epoch 101 where BLPU_State is 'In use', 'Unoccupied' or 'Not Applicable' and Logical Status is 'Approved', Primary Classification is 'Commercial' and Distinct UPRN is 'Y'.

Commercial Property Type	% of Properties
Agricultural	2.2%
Ancillary Building	0.2%
Animal Centre	0.7%
Community Services	2.1%
Education	1.7%
Emergency	1.0%
Hotel	3.3%
Industrial Applicable to manufacturing, engineering, maintenance, storage	15.5%
Information	1.4%
Leisure - Applicable to recreational sites and enterprises	13.9%

Medical	1.5%
Office	14.6%
Retail	22.5%
Storage Land	14.4%
Transport	5.4%
Utility	12.9%
Unknown	3.2%

Property Types with higher societal life risk (FSEC A through G).

Hospital	Care Home	Hostel	Hotel
114	757	190	1,545

Based on ABP Epoch 101 Classification.
HMOs, Purpose-Built Flats and Houses Converted to flats are not shown here as not all are classified in this way in ABP

The following table illustrates the total number of Fire Safety Audits that have been undertaken across the ESFRS area. An average of 542 Fire Safety Audits are completed per year with 21% being undertaken in care homes.

Fire Safety Audits by Property Type (% within area)

All audits in CRM up to 07/2023 (Excludes 'In Progress')

Property Type	ESFRS
A - Hospitals & Prisons	241 (2.5%)
B - Care Home	2,295 (23.8%)
C - HMO / Tenements	06 (0.1%)
D - Purpose Built Flats > 3 Stories	857 (8.9%)
E - Hostel	270 (2.8%)
F - Hotel	1,759 (18.2%)
G - House Converted to Flats	307 (3.2%)
H - Other Sleeping Accom.	1,171 (12.1%)
J - Further Education	36 (0.4%)
K - Public Building	28 (0.3%)
L - Licensed Premises	1,024 (10.6%)
M - School	169 (1.8%)
N - Shop	645 (6.7%)
P - Other Public Premises	274 (2.8%)
R - Factory/Warehouse	193 (2.0%)
S - Office	246 (2.6%)
T - Other Workplace	72 (0.7%)
Other	50 (0.5%)
Total	9,643

Fire Safety Audits by Year

Station Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total	Ave. per Yr	%
ESFRS	640	544	417	550	470	2,621	524.2	100

Road Risk

According to the European Transport Safety Council's Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) report[44], there were 20,678 deaths on EU roads in 2022, a collective increase of 4% compared to 2021.

The EU has set a target to halve the number of road deaths by 2030, based on their level in 2019. Road deaths in the EU27 in 2022 were reduced collectively by 9% compared to 2019. However, considering an average annual decrease of 6.1% is needed to make progress towards the 2030 target, it should have been a 17.2% decrease instead.

Norway is the safest PIN country for road users with 21 road deaths per million inhabitants in 2022. Sweden follows Norway with 22 road deaths per million inhabitants. The UK follows Sweden with 26 road deaths per million inhabitants (the highest mortality is in Romania and Serbia with 86 and 83 road deaths per million inhabitants respectively – a factor of almost four between the groups of countries with the highest and lowest mortality).

In the UK, reported road casualties provisional results for 2022[45] show a return towards pre-pandemic trends.

In reported road collisions in Great Britain in 2022 there were an estimated:

- 1,695 fatalities, a decline of 3% compared to 2019*
- 29,795 killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties, a decline of 3% compared to 2019*
- 136,002 casualties of all severities, a decline of 11% compared to 2019*

Considering the different road user types and demographics, the statistics show:

- the road user type with the biggest estimated percentage change for 2022 compared to 2019* for fatalities was pedestrians, which showed a decline of 20%
- of the 4 main road user types, car occupants had the biggest estimated percentage change for 2022 compared to 2019* for all casualties, which showed a decline of 16%
- in 2022, 75% of fatalities and 62% of casualties of all severities were male

**Recent trends in reported road casualties have begun to normalise after the national restrictions implemented from March 2020 onwards following the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including periods of lockdown during 2021. Although there were no lockdowns in 2022, comparisons to periods which included the restrictions are affected. For this reason, this publication compares estimates for 2022 with those for 2019, which is the most recent equivalent pre-pandemic year.*

[44] https://etsc.eu/17th-annual-road-safety-performance-index-pin-report/

[45] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-provisional-results-2022/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-provisional-results-2022

All UK roads (excluding motorways) fall into the following four categories:

- A roads – major roads intended to provide large-scale transport links within or between areas.
- B roads – roads intended to connect different areas, and to feed traffic between A roads and smaller roads on the network.
- Classified unnumbered – smaller roads intended to connect together unclassified roads with A and B roads, and often linking a housing estate or a village to the rest of the network. Similar to 'minor roads' on an Ordnance Survey map and sometimes known unofficially as C roads.
- Unclassified – local roads intended for local traffic. The vast majority (60%) of roads in the UK fall within this category.

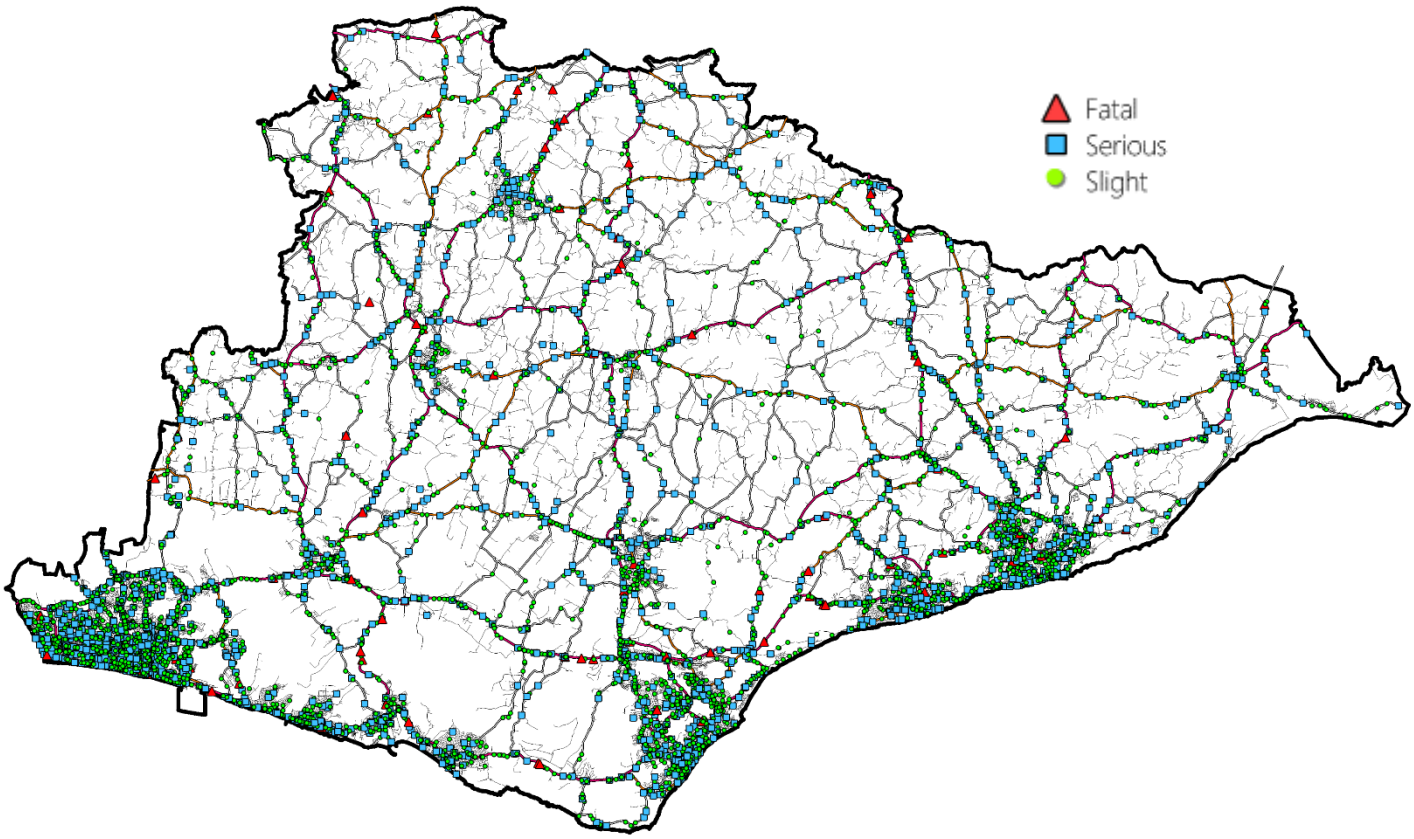
The following table shows the total length of Road across the ESFRS area, broken down by Road type. There are no motorways and fewer than 50 miles of dual carriageway in the service area. Consequently, the road infrastructure is poor. The three geographically separate coastal urban areas of East Sussex have poor road connectivity, yet contain 70% of the total population of the authority's area. This increases road traffic collision risks, our service response times, and limits the local economy. Due to tourism related traffic, this issue is further exacerbated in the summer months, particularly during school and bank holidays. Many of the 'A' roads across three local authority areas that cover the more rural areas of East Sussex (Lewes, Rother & Wealden), are quite narrow and windy and atypical of an 'A' Road in other parts of the UK.

Road Type	ESFRS
A Road	529km (9%)
B Road	299km (5%)
Classified Unnumbered	770km (14%)
Total Classified Roads	1,598km (28%)
Not Classified/Unclassified	4,038km (72%)
Total All Road Types	5,636km (100%)

The main urban centres and population hubs of the area are linked from east to west by the A259/A27, Brighton & Hove, Lewes, Eastbourne, Bexhill and Hastings all rely upon this important trunk road. There are two main routes to London from the area, the A23/M23 corridor from Brighton and the A21 corridor from Hastings. There are inconsistencies in the standard of our strategic road network and additional housing growth will increase stress on key points on the A27, A22 and A271. The A27 is one of the busiest trunk roads in the whole of the UK.

ESFRS only attends around 25% of all road traffic collisions on ESFRS roads. Therefore, data from the Sussex Safer Road Partnership (SSRP) was sourced to understand the fuller picture of road (RTC) risk. The following map and table shows RTCs across the ESFRS area over a five year period (April 2018 – March 2023), broken down by severity.

KSI Collisions over five year period (April 2018 – March 2023)



Station Area	# of KSI Collisions	Average per Yr	Tot. Fatal	Tot. Serious	Tot. Slight
Barcombe	202	40.4	4	60	138
Battle	176	35.2	3	45	128
Bexhill	472	94.4	9	126	337
Broad Oak	123	24.6	1	39	83
Burwash	130	26	2	35	93
Crowborough	227	45.4	4	70	153
Eastbourne	941	188.2	5	225	711
Forest Row	123	24.6	5	34	84
Hailsham	456	91.2	9	115	332
Hastings Bohemia Rd	773	154.6	4	188	581
Hastings The Ridge	291	58.2	3	88	200
Heathfield	147	29.4	2	42	103
Herstmonceux	35	7	1	9	25
Hove	951	190.2	3	249	699
Lewes	392	78.4	7	105	280
Mayfield	110	22	6	31	73
Newhaven	303	60.6	6	85	212
Pevensey	159	31.8	3	44	112
Preston Circus	1,648	329.6	3	413	1,232
Roedean	536	107.2	6	136	394
Rye	167	33.4	3	48	116
Seaford	210	42	3	57	150
Uckfield	259	51.8	5	75	179
Wadhurst	106	21.2	3	38	65
ESFRS	8,937	1,787	100	2,357	6,480

It can be seen from the table above that over the past five years there have been, on average, 1,787 road traffic collisions across the ESFRS area involving injuries, ranging from slight, through to fatal injuries. 73% of KSI collisions have a severity of 'slight' and a further 26% are classed as 'serious'. 1.1% are fatal – which equates to 100 fatal collisions over the past 5 years. 40% of all fatal collisions occur in Wealden, which have on average 8 fatal collisions per year.

Stations within LA	# of KSI Collisions	Average per Yr	Tot. Fatal	Tot. Serious	Tot. Slight
Brighton & Hove	3,124	625	12	794	2,318
Eastbourne	865	173	5	207	653
Hastings	956	191	4	237	715
Lewes	1,034	207	18	290	726
Rother	1,183	237	21	339	823
Wealden	1,775	355	40	490	1,245
ESFRS	8,937	1,787	100	2,357	6,480

Congestion

Traffic flow in and through the ESFRS area is only set to continue with an increase in population, more cars on the road and more visitors coming into the ESFRS area. Congestion is a particular problem in the City of Brighton and Hove. The TomTom Traffic Index provides statistics and information about congestion levels in the City.

The TomTom Traffic Index figures are based on speed measurements from TomTom's historical traffic database. These speed measurements are used to calculate travel times on individual road segments and entire networks. By weighting the number of measurements, busier and more important roads in the network have more influence on the city's congestion level than quieter, less important roads. This ensures the statistics match the user experience of driving in the City.

The congestion level percentages represent the measured amount of extra travel time experienced by drivers across the entire year. TomTom calculate this by establishing a baseline of travel times during uncongested, free flow conditions across each road segment in the city. Travel times are they analysed across the entire year (24/7) – and compared with information against free flow periods to derive extra travel time. An overall congestion level of 36% means that the extra travel time is 36% more than an average trip would take during uncongested conditions. Average times are of actual taken trips, across every vehicle in the entire network, 24/7. Travel times in free-flow (uncongested) conditions are not based on speed limits but on actual trips made. These calculations are also performed for individual hours of each day of the week, so it's possible to see how high congestion levels are across the City during the busiest times of the day, including morning and evening peak hours. The TomTom Traffic index statistics are calculated from anonymized GPS data collected via navigation devices, in-dash systems and smartphones.

According to the TomTom Traffic Index, in 2022 the City of Brighton & Hove ranked 98th most congested city out of the 404 cities analysed worldwide[46].

[46] Methodology can be found https://www.tomtom.com/traffic-index/about/

Brighton and Hove traffic in 2022

City center | Metro area

Travel time decreased in Brighton and Hove last year. The data suggests that average time it took to travel 10 km decreased by 10 s.

Travel times and speeds are based on worldwide trip data spanning **543 billion (10^9) km** anonymously collected during the year from drivers within the larger metropolitan area ("metro") or a 5 km radius from the center ("city center") throughout the complete road network — including fast roads and highways crossing this area.

98

World rank 2022

On average, how long did it take to drive 10 km in 2022?

18 min

10 s less than in 2021

Which was the worst day to travel through Brighton and Hove in 2022?

March

19

Saturday

21 min

Average travel time to drive 10 km

The cost of driving in rush hour

What was the yearly cost of driving in Brighton and Hove during rush hour? How much time did you spend driving, and how did it affect your finances and the environment?

One-way commute: 10 km (1 – 50)

Petrol | Diesel | EV

City center | Metro area

Local | € EUR | $ USD

Travel time (yearly)

155 h

time spent driving

52 h due to congestion

31 x Approximately **31 books**

Emissions (yearly)

901 kg

CO_2 emitted

160 kg due to congestion

90 x **90 trees** grown over a year to absorb

Fuel price (yearly)

640 GBP

money spent

114 GBP due to congestion

8 x Approximately **8 average-sized tanks of petrol**

How busy was Brighton and Hove during rush hour?

Let's take a closer look at rush hour. How much extra time was spent idling in traffic? What was the average speed?

One-way commute: 10 km (1 – 50)

City center | Metro area

Weekday rush hour

How much additional time was spent in the car during rush hour in Brighton and Hove?

Optimal travel time | Extra travel time

MORNING RUSH

+ 7 min

Per 10 km trip

EVENING RUSH

+ 7 min

Per 10 km trip

How much **extra time** did we spend driving in **rush hours** over the year?

52 hours = 2 days, 4 hours

↑ 6 h 36 min more than in 2021

Average speed in rush hour

How fast can you drive in Brighton and Hove during rush hour?

MORNING RUSH	EVENING RUSH
30 km/h	**29 km/h**
Time taken to travel 10 km **20 min**	Time taken to travel 10 km **20 min**

Bike

17 – 24 km/h

25 – 35 min

Electric scooter

19 – 25 km/h

24 – 32 min

Electric moped

22 – 40 km/h

15 – 27 min

Driving patterns in Brighton and Hove

What did travel times look like over a week in Brighton and Hove? When was it best to avoid driving? At what points did we use the most fuel and emit the most CO_2?

One-way commute

1 — 10 km — 50

Petrol | Diesel | EV

City center | Metro area

Local | € EUR | $ USD

Travel time | Speed | Consumption | Emissions

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12:00 AM	16 min 50 s	16 min	16 min 10 s	16 min 20 s	16 min 20 s	16 min 30 s	17 min 20 s
	16 min 50 s	15 min 50 s	16 min	16 min 10 s	16 min 20 s	16 min 30 s	17 min 20 s
02:00 AM	17 min	15 min 40 s	15 min 40 s	15 min 50 s	16 min 20 s	16 min 10 s	17 min 10 s
	16 min 40 s	14 min 20 s	14 min 30 s	15 min	15 min 30 s	15 min 10 s	16 min 40 s
04:00 AM	15 min 40 s	12 min 20 s	12 min 50 s	12 min 50 s	13 min 30 s	13 min 30 s	15 min 30 s
	14 min	11 min	11 min	11 min	11 min 20 s	11 min 30 s	13 min 30 s
06:00 AM	12 min 50 s	11 min 20 s	11 min 30 s	11 min 30 s	11 min 30 s	11 min 30 s	12 min 20 s
	12 min 40 s	15 min	15 min 40 s	15 min 40 s	15 min 40 s	14 min 50 s	12 min 40 s
08:00 AM	12 min 50 s	19 min 40 s	20 min 50 s	20 min 40 s	20 min 40 s	19 min	13 min 50 s
	13 min 40 s	17 min 10 s	18 min 10 s	18 min 10 s	18 min 10 s	17 min 30 s	15 min 20 s
10:00 AM	15 min 30 s	17 min 10 s	17 min 30 s	17 min 30 s	17 min 30 s	17 min 50 s	17 min
	17 min 10 s	17 min 40 s	18 min 10 s	18 min 10 s	18 min 20 s	18 min 40 s	18 min 40 s
12:00 PM	18 min 40 s	18 min 20 s	18 min 40 s	18 min 50 s	19 min	19 min 40 s	19 min 50 s
	18 min 30 s	18 min 10 s	18 min 40 s	18 min 50 s	18 min 50 s	19 min 30 s	20 min 20 s
02:00 PM	18 min	18 min 10 s	18 min 20 s	18 min 30 s	18 min 30 s	19 min 30 s	20 min
	17 min 20 s	19 min	19 min 30 s	19 min 30 s	19 min 40 s	21 min	19 min
04:00 PM	17 min 30 s	19 min	19 min 40 s	20 min	20 min 20 s	21 min	19 min
	17 min 20 s	19 min 10 s	20 min 30 s	20 min 40 s	20 min 50 s	20 min 30 s	19 min
06:00 PM	16 min 30 s	18 min	18 min 50 s	19 min	19 min 10 s	19 min 20 s	18 min 50 s
	16 min 30 s	17 min 20 s	17 min 50 s	18 min	18 min 10 s	18 min 50 s	18 min 40 s
08:00 PM	16 min 20 s	17 min	17 min 20 s	17 min 30 s	17 min 30 s	18 min 20 s	18 min 20 s
	16 min 20 s	16 min 50 s	17 min	17 min 10 s	17 min 20 s	18 min 10 s	17 min 50 s
10:00 PM	16 min 20 s	16 min 50 s	16 min 20 s	17 min	17 min 10 s	18 min 10 s	17 min 50 s
	16 min 10 s	16 min 40 s	16 min 30 s	16 min 40 s	17 min	17 min 50 s	17 min 30 s

Show travel time per 10 km

Best time to avoid

Which day of the week had the worst rush hour?

Friday
3 PM – 4 PM

Driving 10 km took on average: 21 min

What do commuters stand to **save per year** by adjusting their travel habits (for a 10 km commute in **Brighton and Hove**)?

One day of working from home (Fridays)		
30 hours	125 GBP	176 kg
Three days of working from home (Fridays, Tuesdays, Thursdays)		
94 hours	379 GBP	533 kg

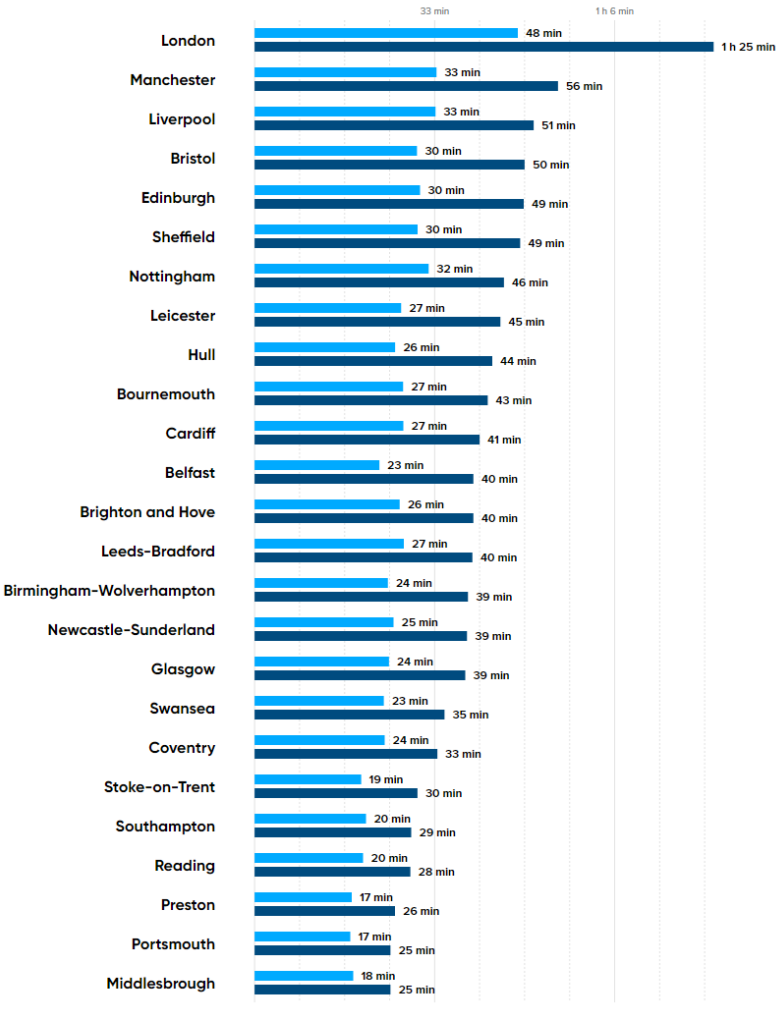
Rush-hour travel time vs optimal travel time

On an average weekday, how did driving during rush hour compare to driving during the optimal travel time (when traffic was at its lowest)?

Optimal travel time | Travel during rush hour

One-way commute

1 — 10 km — 50



Show less

Water Risk

According to the World Health Organisation, Drowning is the 3rd leading cause of unintentional injury death worldwide, accounting for 7% of all injury-related deaths and that there are an estimated 236,000 annual drowning deaths per year. Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death in the UK and ESFRS are committed to working with our partner agencies to ensure everyone is equipped with the necessary information they need to protect themselves and their loved ones. A drowning incident happens quickly and without warning. It has a devastating impact on families and many people will survive a drowning incident but are left with life changing injuries.

According to the most recent figures from the national Water Safety Forum Water Incident Database (WAID)[47], there were 597 water-related fatalities in the UK in 2022 – fewer fatalities overall, compared to the previous years 2019-2021.

In 2022, there were 226 accidental fatalities across the UK which represents a 44% decrease in accidental drowning fatalities in comparison the UK Drowning Prevention Strategy Baseline (400), and a 34% decrease compared to the three-year average. 83% of these accidental drownings were male, 60% of those happened at inland waters.

In 2022, there were 2012 suicide suspected fatalities at or near water in the UK – and increase from the previous year and above the three-year average baseline.

East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove have one of the highest number of accidental drownings in the UK, hence the continued commitment since the Integrated Risk Management Plan (2017-2020) as a key community risk. With above average levels of sunshine in the region, East Sussex's 55 mile coastline is very popular for both tourists and residents. Due to its seaside proximity to London, Brighton & Hove alone attracts more than 11 million visitors each year. Other notable coastal attractions include; Seaford, Cuckmere Haven, Birling Gap, Beachy Head, Eastbourne, Pevensey Bay, Bexhill, Hastings, Pett Level, Winchelsea and Camber Sands. A key feature of traditional seaside resorts are piers, there are 3 in ESFRS service area; Brighton Palace Pier, Eastbourne Pier and Hastings Pier. Along with the coastal risk, East Sussex also comprises many rivers, lakes, marshes and reservoirs.

Marsh/Moorland

Pevensey Levels (marshes) is a low lying area of wet grassland, 3,500 hectares are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The area is managed by The Sussex Wildlife Trust.

Reservoirs

Arlington	246 acre site, located in Wealden, SSSI site, South East Water
Darwell	156 acre site, located in Rother, Southern Water
Powdermill	Located in Rother, Southern Water
Weir Wood	280 acre site, located in Wealden (bordering with West Sussex), Southern Water
Bewl Water	800 acre site, located on border of Rother, Wealden and Kent, Southern Water

[47] https://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk/media/1358/waid-uk-2022-summary-v3-final-for-website.pdf

Rivers

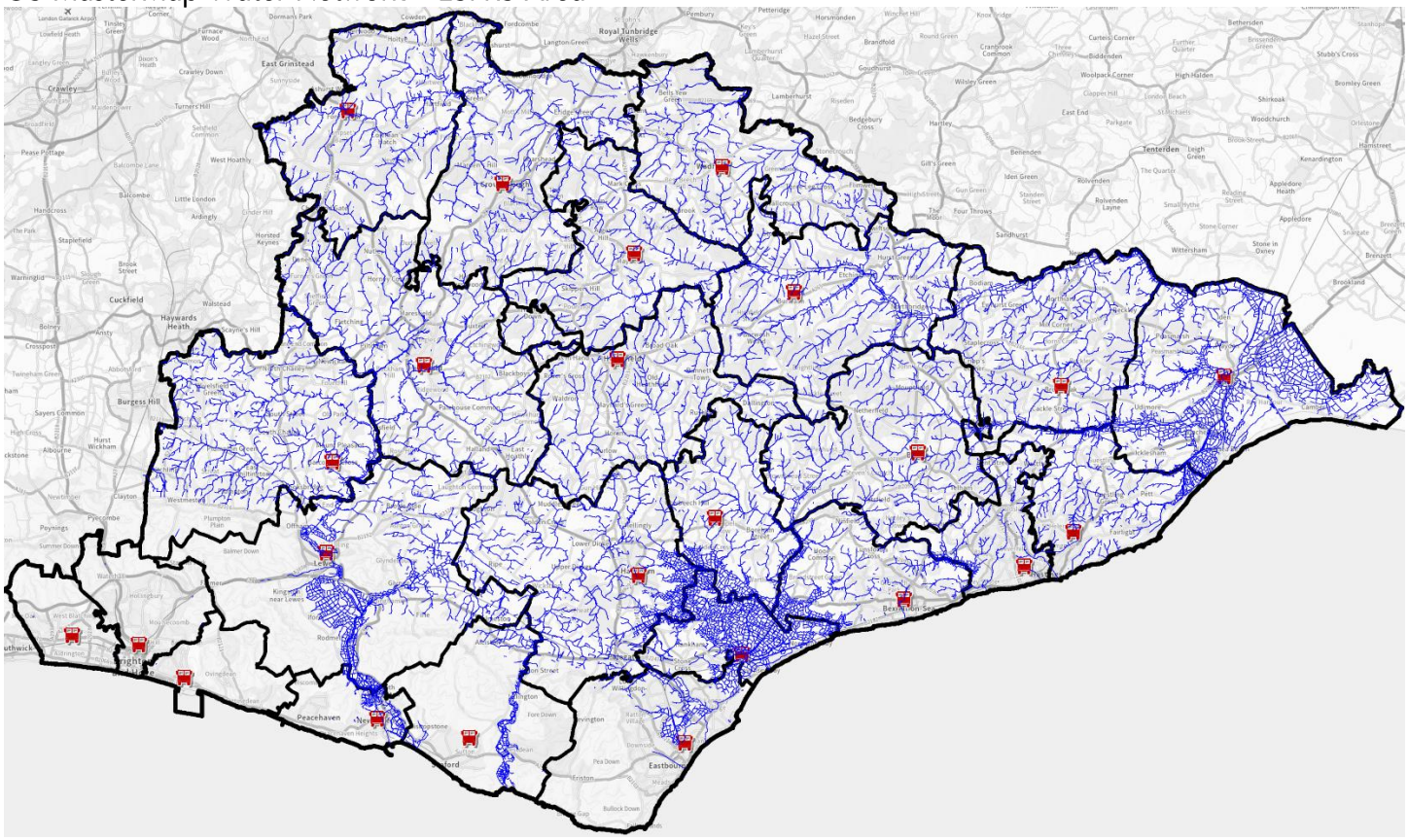
Ouse	140 miles (including main river + tributaries), located in Lewes, mouth is in Newhaven
Cuckmere	Located on border of Lewes/Wealden
Rother	Located in Rother, mouth is in Rye
Uck	Located in Wealden, feeds into Ouse

The Environment Agency and Ordnance Survey have worked together to deliver a digital representation of watercourses to supersede the detailed river network (DRN).

The OS MasterMap Water Network Layer (OS WN) offers a more detailed product, showing the flow, connectivity, gradient and precise course of every river, stream, lake and canal in Great Britain. Watercourses that are underground or below structures are included where Ordnance Survey capture processes or accepted sources can infer a connection.

The following map shows the Ordnance Survey's OS MasterMap Water Network Layer and will significantly enhance systems used to manage waterways and rivers and the flood risk they pose.

OS MasterMap Water Network – ESFRS Area



The table below shows the total length of watercourses throughout the ESFRS area, broken down by the type of watercourse for each station area.

The following is a description of each classification:

Canal
A manmade watercourse originally created for inland navigation.

Foreshore
A watercourse that flows without a well-defined channel over the foreshore (the area between the high and low water marks).

Inland River
A river or stream that is not influenced by normal tidal action

Lake
A large area of non-tidal water without an obvious flow that is enclosed by land.

Lock or Flight of Locks
An enclosure in a canal or navigable river with a movable gate and sluices at either end. Designed to allow vessels to move between sections of canal or navigable river at different levels by filling or draining the enclosure (This attribute is not fully populated in this release of the data; however, it will be added to in future data updates. Where watercourses flow through Locks, they are included but may be attributed with a more general term).

Marsh
An area of ground that is predominantly waterlogged by freshwater throughout the year with no identifiable specific alignment for the flow. For the water network, they are captured only where water flows into and out of the marsh and connects to other watercourses.

Reservoir
An area of non-tidal water used for storing water that may be used for irrigation, water supply, power generation or flood control. The area has been created artificially either fully or in part. (This attribute is not fully populated in this release of the data; however, it will be added to in future data updates. Where watercourses flow through Reservoirs they are included but may be attributed with a more general term).

Tidal River
Watercourses that are subject to the effect of normal tidal action. These exist between the Normal Tidal Limit and Point B (an intangible line where the level of a river meets the level of the sea).

Transfer
A manmade watercourse whose primary purpose is to move water from one location to another (using gravity and / or pumping) typically for water supply or power generation.

Station Admin Area	Watercourse Type (Total length in km)									
	Canal	Foreshore	Inland River	Lake	Lock(s)	Marsh	Reservoir	Tidal River	Transfer	Total
Barcombe	0.31	0.01	289.67	10.95	-	0.15	-	3.50	-	304.59
Battle	-	-	241.56	9.95	-	0.09	3.39	-	-	254.99
Bexhill	-	-	160.46	1.24	-	-	-	-	-	161.70
Broad Oak	-	-	276.12	3.73	-	0.01	2.12	-	-	281.98
Burwash	-	-	280.22	7.97	-	0.09	-	-	-	288.27
Crowborough	-	-	225.97	8.28	-	0.23	0.08	-	-	234.55
Eastbourne	-	-	90.59	3.10	-	-	-	-	-	93.69
Forest Row	-	-	189.08	8.01	-	0.11	7.17	-	-	204.37
Hailsham	-	-	349.33	7.20	-	0.15	-	0.69	-	357.37
Hastings Bohemia Rd	-	-	80.16	2.10	-	-	0.70	-	-	82.95
Hastings The Ridge	5.02	-	156.04	4.25	-	0.30	-	-	-	165.62
Heathfield	-	-	206.70	9.85	-	-	-	-	-	216.55
Herstmonceux	-	-	166.22	3.85	-	0.12	-	-	-	170.19
Hove	-	-	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Lewes	2.65	0.09	305.52	6.74	-	0.12	-	19.42	-	334.54
Mayfield	-	-	164.51	7.28	-	-	-	-	0.02	171.81
Newhaven	-	0.02	39.75	0.92	-	-	-	2.72	-	43.41
Pevensey	-	0.14	287.84	3.03	-	-	-	-	-	291.01
Preston Circus	-	-	0.42	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	0.43
Roedean	-	-	0.05	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.05
Rye	0.94	1.01	453.27	6.40	0.05	0.08	-	9.33	-	471.08
Seaford	-	0.03	68.24	1.78	-	0.11	-	8.37	-	78.53
Uckfield	-	-	236.39	20.16	-	0.01	-	-	0.13	256.68
Wadhurst	-	-	151.53	5.70	-	-	18.37	-	-	175.60
ESFRS	8.92	1.29	4,419.70	132.50	0.05	1.56	31.83	44.03	0.15	4,640.03

It can be seen that there are over 4,600km of watercourses throughout the ESFRS area, 95% of which are inland rivers.

There are around 45km of foreshore or tidal rivers that are classed as tidal, intertidal or marine extension, making up almost 1% of all rivers across the area.

It can be seen that Rye station area has the most watercourses overall in terms of total length (10.2% of the ESFRS total), followed by Hailsham (7.7%), Lewes (7.2%) and Barcombe (6.6%). Wadhurst has the greatest proportion of lakes/reservoirs (river length, not area/volume). Lewes has the most tidal rivers.

Beaches

A significant proportion of the ESFRS coastline is given to beach. Camber Sands is a large sand beach located in the very east of the county, on the border with Kent. The beach comprises large flat sands, and a sand dune system. Its composition is unique in the area, and is extremely popular during the summer season. Fast moving tides and sand bars make this beach particularly dangerous.

Ports, Harbours & Marinas

Brighton Marina is the largest marina in the UK with over 1,200 berths, it is an artificial structure situated in the east of the city. Aside to the working harbour the marina also has a large number of residential dwellings, businesses and leisure facilities.

Rye Harbour is located in the East of the county, close to the Kent border. The harbour is located on the river Rother and is designated as a nature reserve.

Newhaven Harbour is located at the mouth of the River Ouse and provides important connections across the channel for commercial and private vehicles. There is a ferry service that travels to Dieppe in France andthe harbour also provides docks for other vessels. There is also a swing bridge situated in the harbour which provides logistical challenges when it is open, as it cuts off the only river crossing in the town, cutting off Newhaven Fire Station from half the town. There are also plans to regenerate the area around Newhaven Harbour, with a new access road planned in addition to new industrial developments . There are around 30 registered fishing vessels that operate at the harbour .

Sovereign Harbour is located in the east of Eastbourne, the whole complex is the largest in northern Europe. The working harbour consists of a large number of berths spread over four connected harbours. The development also hosts a large number of residential dwellings, business and leisure facilities.

Shoreham Port

Despite being located in West Sussex, due to its size and nature and proximity to the border it is worth mentioning here. Shoreham Port is a large facility which handles large shipping vessels and processes cargo. It also has a number of berths and is home to a large number of hard industry, including concrete works and a power station.

Water-related deaths

The National Water Safety Forum[48] (NWSF) is a UK-focused, voluntary network, working together in order to reduce water-related deaths and associated harm.

Established in 2004 with the ambition of creating a 'one-stop shop' for the prevention of drowning and water safety harm in the UK, the NWSF today is represented by over 100 national organisations.The creation of the Guiding Principles for Water Safety Management, Water Incident Database (WAID) and UK Drowning Prevention Strategy 2016–2026 (UK DPS), coupled with the depth of specialist insight and open exchange of knowledge within the network have created a strong national platform for a coordinated and collaborative approach to reduce drowning and water-related harm in the UK.

[48] https://nationalwatersafety.org.uk/#

National context

The most recent figures from the National Water Safety Forum Water Incident Database (WAID)[49] show that in 2022, there were 597 water-related fatalities in the UK from all recorded causes, but there were fewer fatalities, overall, compared to the years 2019-2021.

Across the UK, in 2022:

- There were 226 accidental fatalities[50] (a 44% decrease compared to the UK Drowning Prevention Strategy baseline and a 34% decrease compared to the three-year average).
- 83% of accidental fatalities were male.
- Males aged 20-29 and 50-59 were the highest group for accidental fatalities.
- 60% of accidental fatalities happened at inland waters.
- Recreational activities accounted for 58% of accidental fatalities.
- 58 accidental fatality reports noted the presence of drugs or alcohol.
- The rate of accidental drowning has decreased slightly since 2018 (0.40 per 100,000) to 0.34 in 2022.
- There were 212 suicide suspected fatalities at or near water (36% of all water-related fatalities)

Local context

There are some distinct contrasts between the national picture and water-related fatalities that occurred in and around the ESFRS area.

Over the last five years, there has been a total of 278 deaths in water in and around the ESFRS area, an average of 56 per year. In 2022, there were 58 water-related deaths, which is higher than the previous two years but lower than in 2018 – as shown in the table below.

WAID water-related deaths for ESFRS area

Year	Accidental*	Crime Suspected	Suicide Suspected	Not Recorded	Total
2018	3 (4.5%)	3 (4.5%)	59 (89.4%)	1 (1.5%)	66
2019	5 (8.6%)	-	51 (87.9%)	2 (3.4%)	58
2020	13 (24.5%)	-	37 (69.8%)	3 (5.7%)	53
2021	6 (14.0%)	-	36 (83.7%)	1 (2.3%)	43
2022	5 (8.6%)	-	51 (87.9%)	2 (3.4%)	58
Total	32 (11.5%)	3 (1.1%)	234 (84.2%)	9 (3.2%)	278

**includes natural causes suspected*

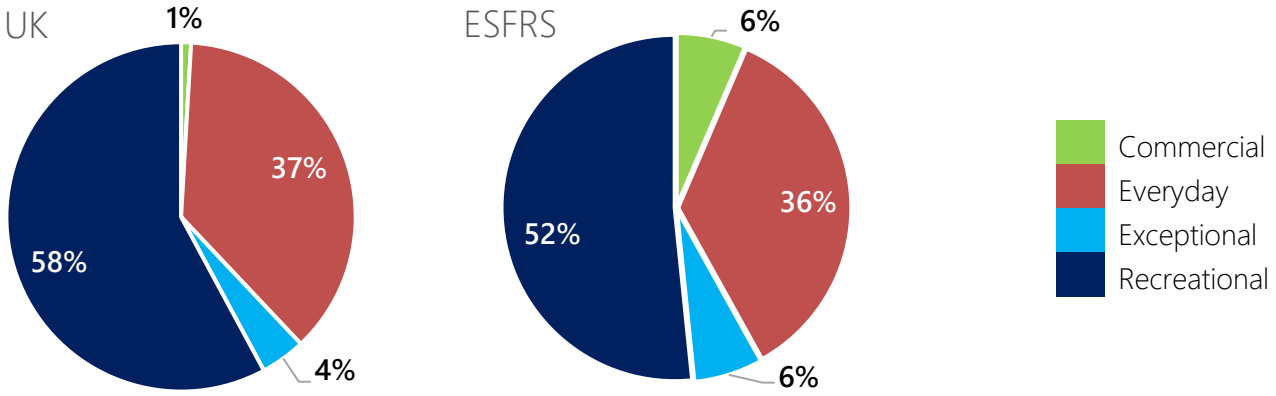
Across the ESFRS area, over the last 5 years (Jan 2018 to Dec 2022):

- There were 32 accidental fatalities - 11.5% of all water-related fatalities. Accidental fatalities represent a much lower percentage than national figures which represent 38% of all water-related fatalities)
- 81% of accidental fatalities were male. This is similar to national statistics.
- Males aged 30-39 were the highest group for accidental fatalities, which represents a different age cohort compared to national statistics.
- 84% of accidental fatalities happened along the coast/at sea. This is a much higher proportion compared to national figures where only 40% of accidental fatalities are coastal.

[49] https://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk/media/1358/waid-uk-2022-summary-v3-final-for-website.pdf

[50] Accidental fatality refers to accidental and natural causes suspected

- Recreational activities accounted for 52% of accidental fatalities – a lower proportion than national figures (58%). Commercial activities accounted for just 6% but this is significantly different to the UK where commercial activities accounted for just 1%. Exceptional activities, such as animal rescues, also accounted for 6% of accidental fatalities, compared with just 4% across the whole of the UK as pie chart below shows



- 12 accidental fatality reports noted the presence of drugs and/or alcohol.
- There were 234 suicide suspected fatalities at or near water (84% of all water-related fatalities). The vast majority of these were located around the peninsular between Birling Gap and Holywell. The Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team conducts regular day and evening patrols of the area and they have responded to over 13,500 incidents since 2004[51].
- 84% of accidental deaths were coastal locations.
- Over the 5 year period (2018 to 2022), there were a total of 5 deaths in rivers or lakes (two tidal rivers); an average of 1 per year.

[51] https://bhct.org.uk/

Heritage Risk

There are a wide variety of heritage and cultural risks across the county of East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove, including a significant number of graded/listed buildings, thatched properties, sporting venues such as the Amex stadium and the South Downs National Park. These site-specific risks are considered carefully and policies, procedures and processes relating to these risks are defined, refined and aligned through Operational Risk Information process. The ESFRS area is one of the most wooded in England and 63% is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), with over 50 miles of coastline, some of which is designated 'heritage coast'.

Listed Buildings

Within the UK there are three categories of listed buildings;
Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest, nationally only 2.5% of listed buildings are listed as Grade I
*Grade II** buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest; nationally 5.5% of listed buildings are Grade II*
Grade II buildings are of special interest; 92% of all listed buildings in the UK are in this class and is the most likely grade of listing for a home owner.

It can be seen from the table below that there are a total of 7,597 listed buildings across the ESFRS area, of which 151 (2%) are categorised as Grade I.

No. of Listed Buildings by Grade

Station Admin Area	Grade I	Grade II*	Grade II
Barcombe	5	19	293
Battle	9	16	359
Bexhill	3	6	124
Broad Oak	6	10	357
Burwash	6	19	368
Crowborough	1	10	211
Eastbourne	10	14	190
Forest Row	2	10	143
Hailsham	12	15	259
Hastings Bohemia Rd	1	12	196
Hastings The Ridge	2	13	473
Heathfield	3	15	239
Herstmonceux	4	8	154
Hove	8	15	170
Lewes	21	41	784
Mayfield	4	4	255
Newhaven	2	2	57
Pevensey	1	4	44
Preston Circus	8	45	635
Roedean	8	12	322
Rye	16	24	558
Seaford	10	8	199
Uckfield	5	22	377
Wadhurst	4	11	324
Grand Total	150	355	7091

Environmental Risk

Flooding

In the UK currently, about 1 in 6 homes is at risk of flooding[52]. This could be from a range of sources, and even if a property has never flooded in the past, this does not mean that it is not at risk. In addition to this, in order for a property to flood, it does not need to be located near a river or the sea, or even in low-lying areas. Flooding affects properties all over the UK and in very different ways, with climate change altering weather patterns for the future, it is expected that more areas of the UK could become at risk of flooding.

The UK is affected by six main types of flooding:

Coastal & River (fluvial) flooding

Coastal flooding is one of the most significant risks on the National Risk Register (NRR), the south coast is particularly vulnerable due to low atmospheric pressure over the English Channel, high tide levels (spring tides) and storm surges, caused by gales driving storms through the channel. The potential impacts include; risk to life, damage to property/infrastructure, pollution/contamination, and long term damage to tourism/agriculture. The consequences could include disruption to utilities, flooding of property, evacuation of residents to temporary accommodation, damage to businesses, health impacts, and long-term recovery issues.

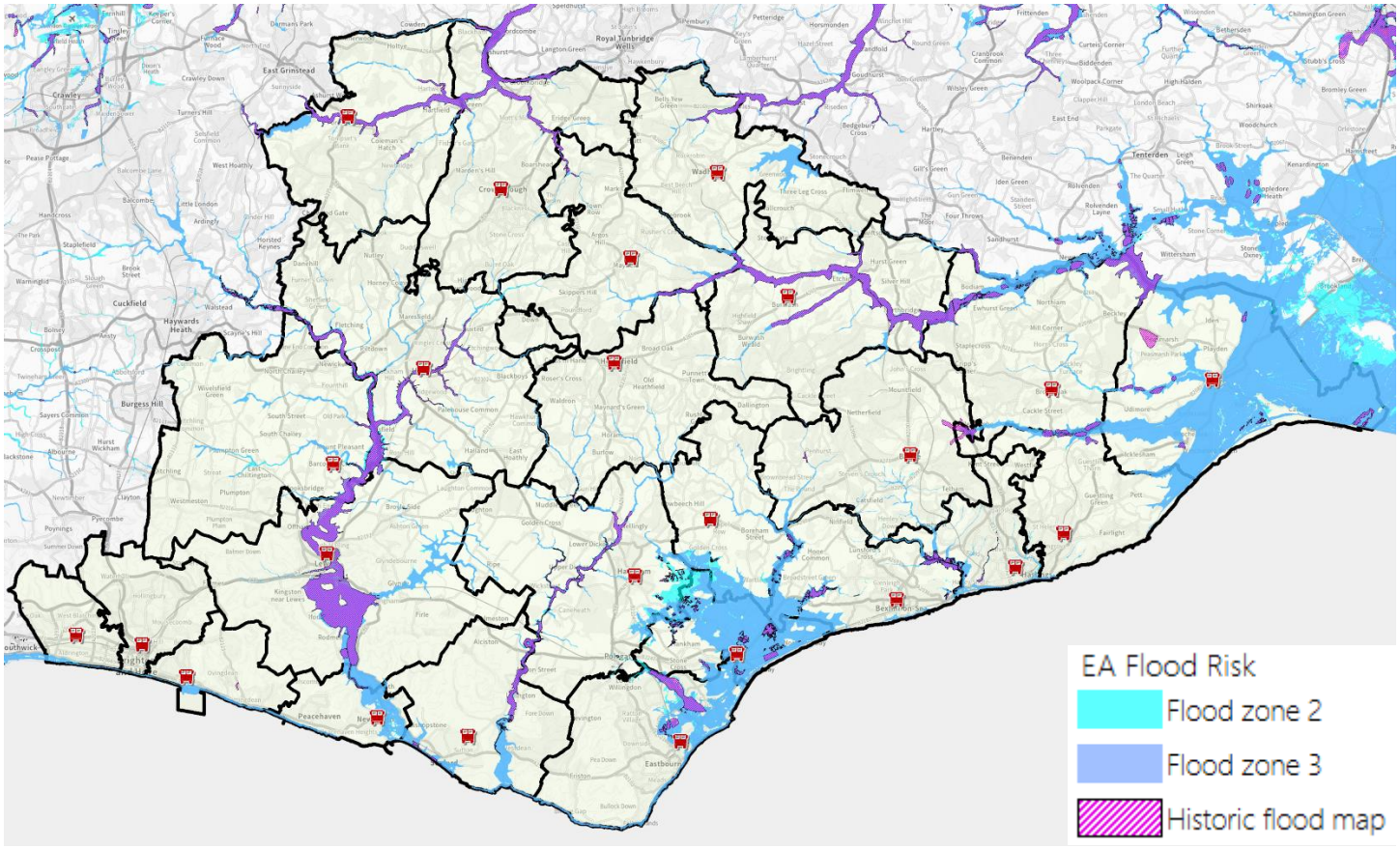
The Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) is taking the following actions to mitigate these risks, and consequences; identify areas of risk, multi-agency plans, strategic planning, developing early warning systems, improving sea/tidal flood defences and developing flood rescue plans.

River flooding, or fluvial flooding, is a very common type of flooding in the UK. This is where a river's flow will exceed the bank sides and cause damage or obstruction to a nearby area.

The following map shows a breakdown of various environmental risks across the ESFRS area. Flood zone areas are defined by the Environment Agency's Flood Zone data and are defined as:

> *Flood Zone 2 represents land that has been assessed as having between a 1%-0.1% annual probability of river flooding, or between 0.5%-0.1% annual probability of sea flooding in any year.*
>
> *Flood Zone 3 represents land that has been assessed as having a >1% annual probability of river flooding, or a >0.5% annual probability of sea flooding in any year.*

[52] https://www.floodguidance.co.uk/what-is-resilience/types-flooding/



It can be seen from the above map that there are significant parts of the ESFRS that represent a potential flood risk, both from coastal and fluvial flooding. The map also shows where there has been historical flooding. 3 of our fire stations sit within at least one of the flood zone types listed above – Lewes, Uckfield and Rye. Significant flooding does not just affect the households, businesses and environment that is subjected to the flooding, but the whole service area can be drastically affected, with extended travel times if roads are cut off, particularly due to flooding from rivers.

Surface water flooding (pluvial)

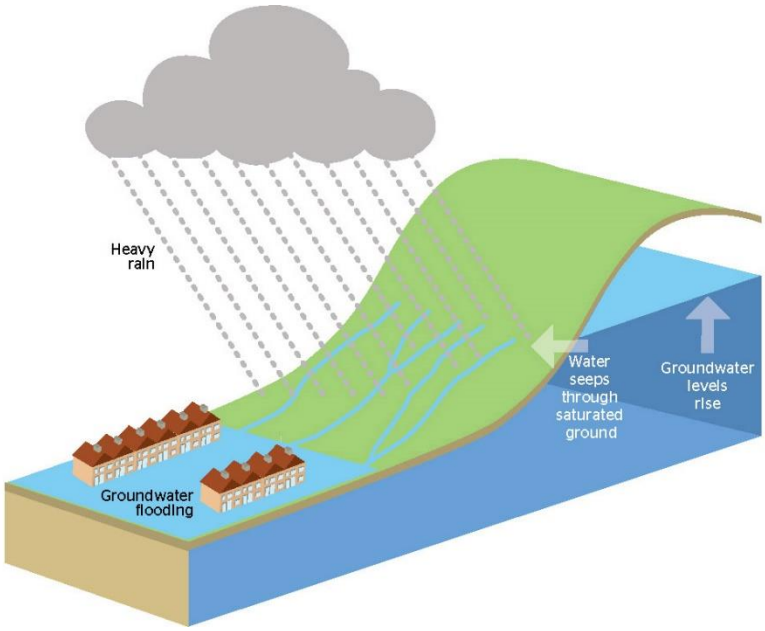
Surface water (also known as pluvial) flooding occurs after periods of heavy rainfall where excess water cannot drain away. This may be due to a range of reasons including blocked drains or even rainwater running off roads. This water will then collect in an area it cannot drain away from and can cause serious damage. It can:

- be difficult to predict as it depends on rainfall volume and location
- happen up hills and away from rivers and other bodies of water
- affect areas with harder surfaces, like concrete, more severely

Lead local flood authorities (LLFA) are responsible for managing the flood risk from surface water. Surface water flood maps are currently available in the UK, but as areas change and develop, this may change where water could collect. Just because a home or business has not flooded before, does not mean that it may not flood in the future.

Groundwater flooding

Groundwater flooding can affect homes and businesses in the UK although this is not the most common type of flooding. For groundwater flooding to occur, the water table in an area must rise as a result of increased rain. When this water table rises up through a slope, there may be a point at which the water table is above the ground level. If this happens, the water will flow over the surface as it cannot seep into the ground – this is groundwater flooding. Unlike other types of flooding, groundwater flooding may require you to consider measures to protect your home that will prevent water from rising up from below your building – such as a floor membrane.



Sewer flooding

Sewage flooding rarely affects homes and gardens in the United Kingdom. Sewage flooding however is extremely unpleasant and can be a dangerous type of flood in the UK due to the high levels of bacteria that can spread. The risk of sewage flooding is low in the UK due to both private companys, and local councils putting flood prevention systems in place.

The most common cause of sewage flooding is a blockage in the sewage pipe. It is crucial if you notice sewage flooding, to contact your council and a professional clean-up company should be organised to ensure minimal health risks occur.

Reservoir flooding

Reservoir flooding is extremely rare in the UK due to very strict regulations and mandatory assessments. However, it is still essential to be aware of the risk of reservoir flooding. Reservoir flooding will cause very fast flowing water to flow down the natural water path in large quantities. The important thing is to get to high ground as quickly as possible. Full details for reservoir owners and operator requirements can be found at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reservoirs-owner-and-operator-requirements.

Wildfire

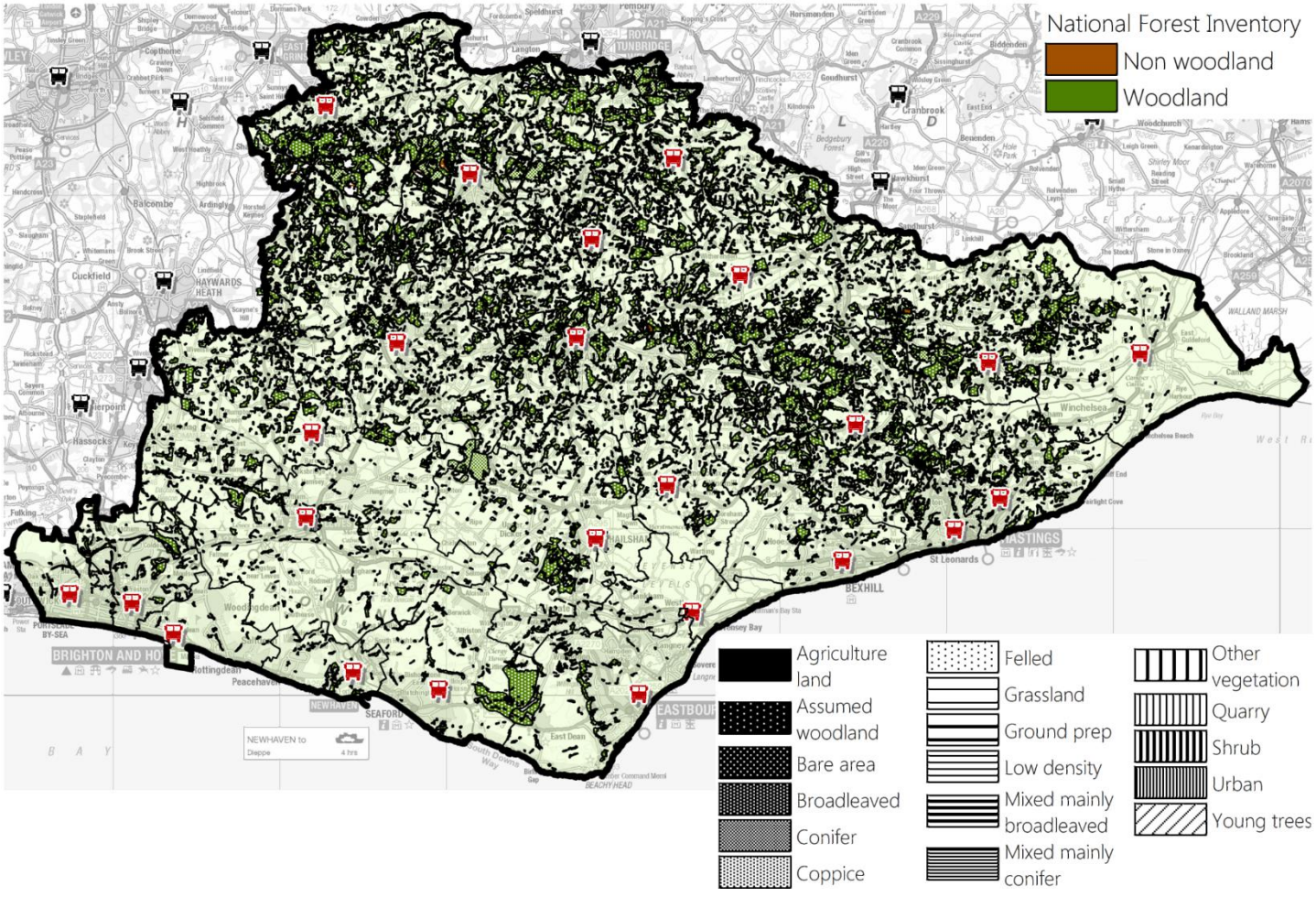
Climate change is causing hotter and drier summers; 2022 was the joint hottest summer for England. This has the potential to increase the risk of wild fires occurring. According to a Wildfire brief to UK FRS CFOs issued in September 2022, the national picture was that there had been 969 wildfires recorded onto the National Reporting Tool in 2022 (up to 05/09/2022). The previous year's annual total was 247.

The brief stated: *'We have already exceeded the highest number of large fires (≥ 30 hectares) recorded by the EU EFFIS (European Forest Fire Information System) utilising satellite GIS imagery and are on course to exceed the greatest area of land burnt by the end of the year. The devastating wildfires which destroyed over 60 homes on the UK's hottest ever day on 19th July highlighted the significant wildfire risk that exists at the Rural / Urban Interface (RUI).'*

Whilst wildfires can begin naturally, typically they are caused by people - either accidentally or sometimes deliberately. Careless use of disposable barbecues, cigarettes or campfires on open access land or in forests etc. along with increases in outdoor leisure activities means that the risks associated with these hazardous events can have a widespread and diverse impact on the area.

The National Forest Inventory (NFI) programme monitors woodland and trees within Great Britain. It includes the most in depth survey carried out on Britain's woodland and trees to date. The NFI provides an extensive and unique record of key information about our forests and woodlands. The following map shows the location and type of woodland across the service area which helps to understand if there are any particular areas that are at risk from wildfires.

National Forest Inventory by Type



East Sussex and the South Downs contains vast areas of land that would be at risk of wild fire, including: woodland (The Weald, Ashdown Forest), farmland, grassland, dry valleys and chalk downlands. Many of these areas are of special conservation and scientific importance. It can be seen from the map just how wooded the service area is, particularly to the north and east of the station area, with the south and east been given to the chalk downlands within the South Downs National Park, and demonstrated in the figures in the table below, for each station area.

Woodland Areas in ESFRS[53]	
Station Area	Hectares
Crowborough	4,067
Forest Row	3,292
Burwash	3,332
Wadhurst	3,146
Uckfield	2,845
Battle	2,744
Broad Oak	2,554
Barcombe	1,865
Mayfield	1,833
Hailsham	1,635
Heathfield	1,424
Eastbourne	1,025
Herstmonceux	963
Hastings The Ridge	918
Rye	883
Lewes	635
Preston Circus	463
Bexhill	303
Seaford	265
Hastings Bohemia Rd	218
Newhaven	109
Pevensey	71
Hove	48
Roedean	36
ESFRS Total	34,674

Non-Woodland Areas in ESFRS (Hectares)		
Station Area	Agriculture land	Grassland
Crowborough	2	87
Forest Row		256
Burwash		23
Wadhurst		28
Uckfield		27
Battle		53
Broad Oak	11	25
Barcombe		22
Mayfield	8	27
Hailsham		7
Heathfield	12	40
Eastbourne		
Herstmonceux		5
Hastings The Ridge		5
Rye		3
Lewes		4
Preston Circus		2
Bexhill		2
Seaford		4
Hastings Bohemia Rd		
Newhaven		
Pevensey		
Hove		
Roedean		
Grand Total	34	621

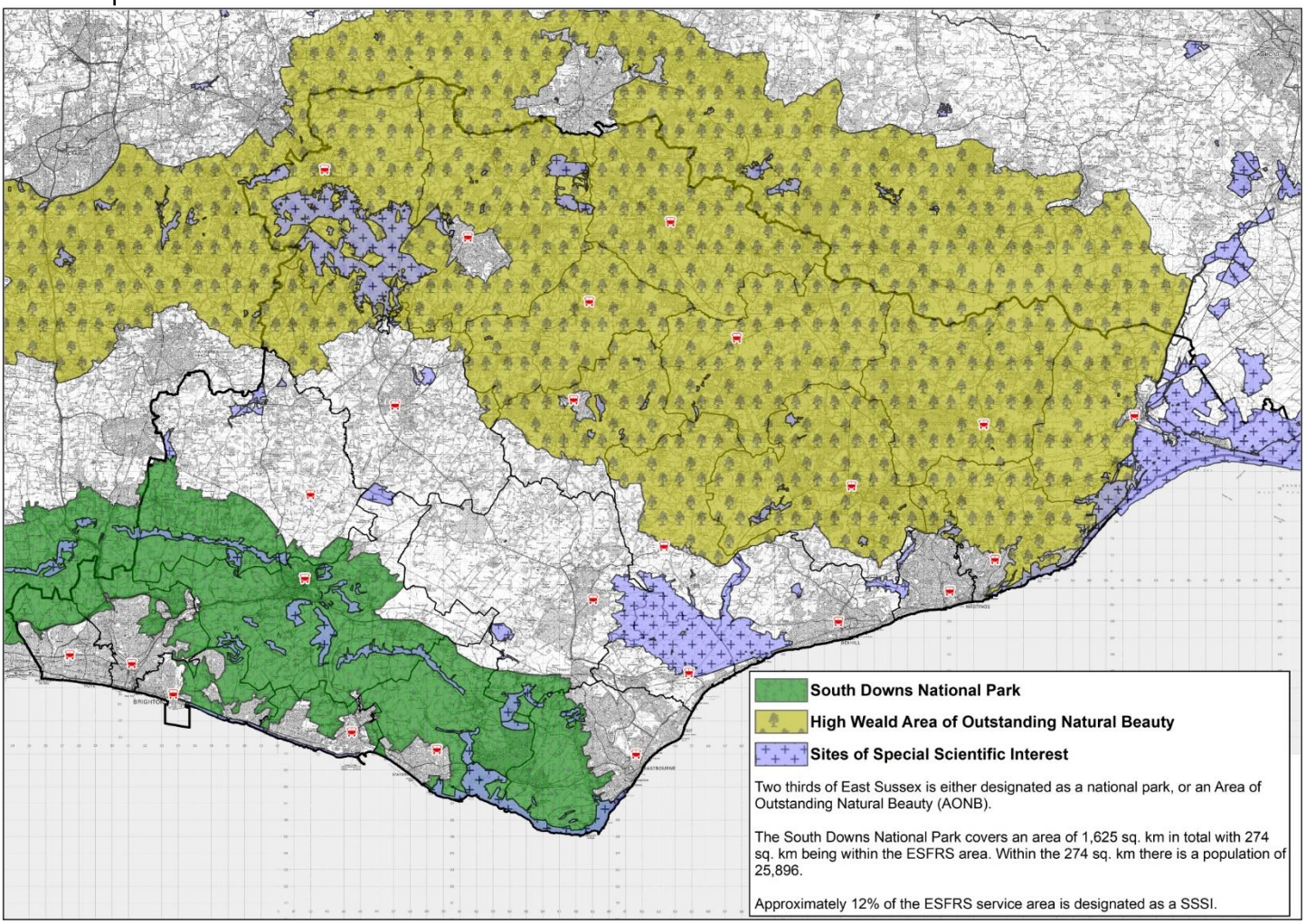
[53] Data from National Forest Inventory Woodland England 2020, Forestry Commission. The National Forest Inventory (NFI) woodland map covers all forest and woodland area over 0.5 hectare with a minimum of 20% canopy cover, or the potential to achieve it, and a minimum width of 20 meters.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are areas that Natural England designate for conservation. These sites have features of special interest, such as wildlife, geology and/or landform. As a public body, ESFRS must consider the potential impact on SSSI land and any special habitats and species, when carrying out duties and take reasonable steps to conserve and enhance the special features of these SSSIs.

The map below shows the location of the SSSI sites across the ESFRS area. Approximately 12% of the ESFRS service area is designated as a SSSI.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest



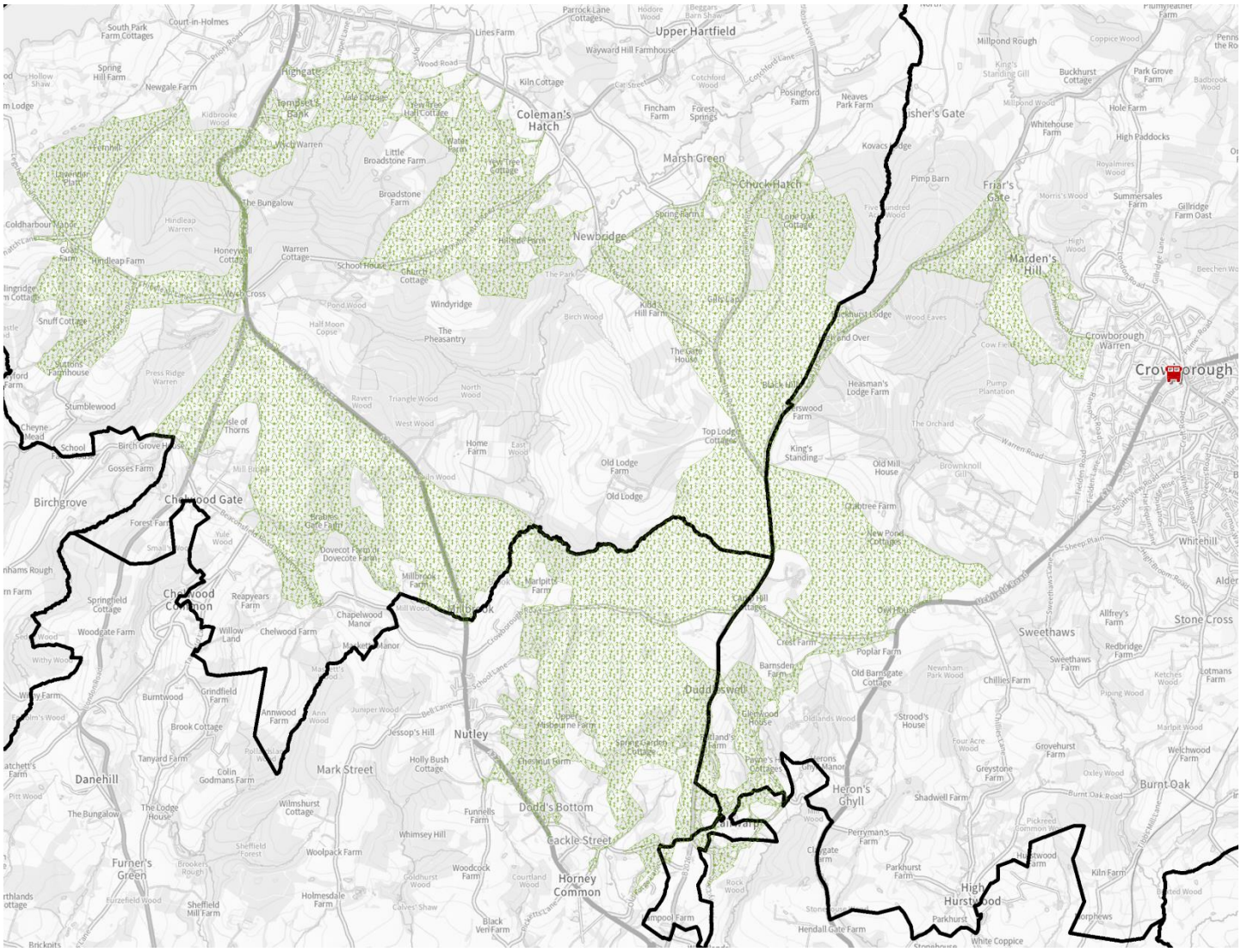
South Downs National Park

Two thirds of East Sussex is either designated as a national park, or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). National parks are areas of protected countryside that everyone can visit. They are also places where people live, work and shape the landscape. There are 15 national parks in Britain: 10 in England, three in Wales and two in Scotland. The South Downs was established as a national park in 2010. It contains over 1,600sq km of England's most iconic lowland landscapes stretching from Winchester in the west to Eastbourne in the east. The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) became the local planning authority for the national park in April 2011 and is responsible for the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and to help the public understand and enjoy the special qualities of the area. As well as looking after the landscape of the park the authority has a duty to help improve the quality of life and well-being of local communities and businesses in the park. The South Downs National Park (SDNP) has the

highest population of all the British national parks, as 112,000 people, and 2 million people live within 5 miles. There were an estimated 46 million visitor days to the SDNP in 2013, generating an income of £464 million and supporting nearly 12,000 jobs. It has the longest rights of way network of all the UK's national parks, with more than 3,300km of footpaths, bridleways and byways. The South Downs National Park covers an area of 1,625 sq. km in total with 274 sq. km being within the ESFRS area. Within the 274 sq. km there is a population of 25,896. In line with other rural areas, the number of people aged over 65 is greater than the rest of the South East.

Ashdown Forest

The forest is located in the north of East Sussex in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and is designated as a SSSI, Special Protection Area, and a Special Area of Conservation.



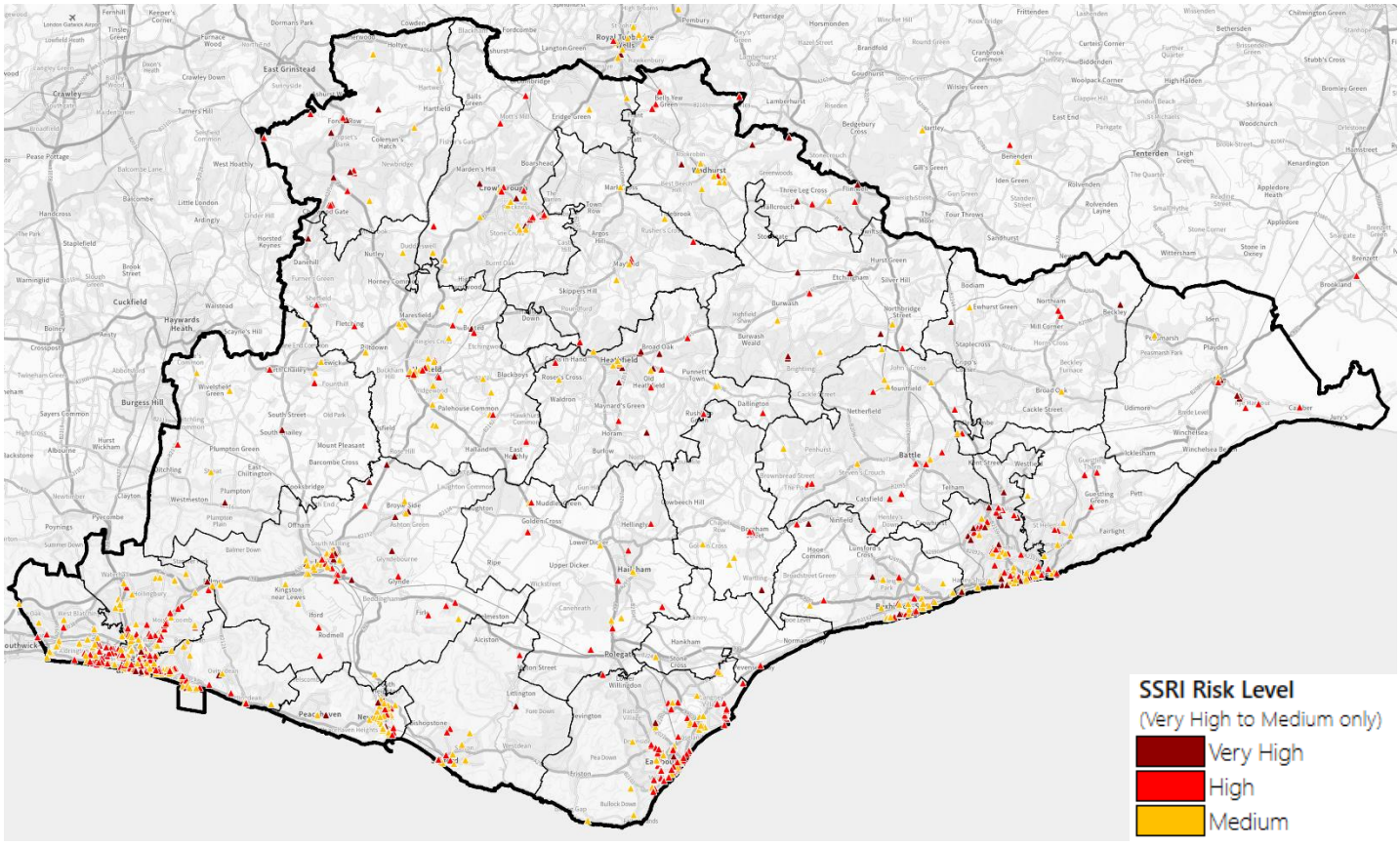
Special Risk (Operational Risk)

Site-Specific Risk Information (SSRI)

Across the ESFRS area, there are almost 5,000 SSRIs but almost 80% of these are categorised as low or very low risk. There are 576 Very High or High risk SSRIs. 40% of the Very High risk SSRIs can be found within the station areas of the three main conurbations along the coast i.e. Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne and Hastings. A breakdown of the SSRIs by station and risk level is summarised in the table below.

Station Admin Area	SSRI Risk Level					Total
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	
Barcombe	2	3	6	41	0	52
Battle	0	10	7	54	1	72
Bexhill	4	15	27	260	8	314
Broad Oak	3	3	3	47	1	57
Burwash	7	4	3	27	1	42
Crowborough	4	15	18	92	6	135
Eastbourne	6	68	43	541	11	669
Forest Row	8	9	5	36	2	60
Hailsham	0	8	6	192	3	209
Hastings Bohemia Rd	19	38	32	343	5	437
Hastings The Ridge	1	8	8	175	4	196
Heathfield	7	9	8	88	1	113
Herstmonceux	1	2	3	10	0	16
Hove	1	62	30	386	5	484
Lewes	11	20	26	111	5	173
Mayfield	0	4	5	15	1	25
Newhaven	3	9	28	204	3	247
Pevensey	0	2	2	61	1	66
Preston Circus	14	93	83	542	35	767
Roedean	4	41	32	274	16	367
Rye	4	4	2	67	2	79
Seaford	1	9	6	137	5	158
Uckfield	6	21	30	93	4	154
Wadhurst	6	7	8	23	0	44
ESFRS	112	464	421	3,819	120	4,936

The map below shows the dispersion of SSRIs across the service area (only showing Very High, High and Medium Risk)



High-Rise Risk

The City of Brighton & Hove have one of the highest densities of high-rise properties in the UK. The following table illustrates the number of high rise premises across the service area. It can be seen that there are 553 properties that are over five floors across the ESFRS area, 55% of which are located within the City of Brighton and Hove.

Station Area	Total No. of floors in premises (for premises with >5 floors)							Total	%
	6	7	8	9	10	11-14	15+		
Bexhill	7	10	11	0	0	0	0	28	5.1
Eastbourne	35	26	19	5	6	3	1	95	17.2
Hastings Bohemia Road	78	25	6	4	1	1	5	120	21.7
Hastings The Ridge	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.4
Hove	30	22	19	16	15	12	0	114	20.6
Lewes	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.4
Newhaven	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.2
Preston Circus	39	26	28	11	10	15	10	139	25.1
Roedean	15	13	3	5	4	5	4	49	8.9
Seaford	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.5
ESFRS Total	206	127	86	42	36	36	20	553	-

Emergency Planning

ESFRS has a range of legal responsibilities relating to emergency planning:

- To meet our responsibilities to prepare emergency plans, to train our staff in preparing those plans, and to exercise the plans to make sure they work
- Working with businesses, and the other emergency services, to prepare emergency plans as required under the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH)
- Preparing and exercising plans, in partnership with others.

ESFRS along with partner agencies sponsor, organise and facilitate events which bring together key organisations from across the public, private and voluntary sectors to increase awareness about emergency planning issues, to make sure all agencies in Sussex understand their responsibilities in the event of a major emergency.

Civil Contingencies

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 introduces the concept of two categories of Organisation/Agency that respond to an emergency:

- Category One Organisations comprise of the agencies that are likely to be involved at a local level at an emergency. These are the statutory Emergency Services (Ambulance, Coastguard, Fire, and Police), Local Authorities, Health Authorities and the Environment Agency.

- Category Two Organisations include the Utilities, Transport Operators and the Health & Safety Executive.

- The voluntary sector and the military are also involved in this work but fall outside of these categories.

Category One organisations have a legal duty to plan for "Emergencies"; Category Two organisations have an obligation to co-operate. Both levels of responders have the obligation to take due regard to the voluntary sector in the preparation of plans to improve the resilience of the county to deal with major emergencies.

The Civil Contingencies Act includes the following main elements necessary to ensure the correct approach is taken in planning for major emergencies:

Co-operation - The Act imposes a duty on the local responders to co-operate with each other; the mechanism for this is the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). In Sussex this is known as the Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF).

Sharing - Responders have a duty to share information with each other. This information will be used to produce a Community Risk Register (CRR). This is a statutory requirement and forms the basis for emergency planning.

Emergency Planning - Category One organisations have a duty to maintain plans to prevent, reduce control or mitigate the effects of an emergency. Plans must be in place for the highest risks identified in the Community Risk Register. Training and exercising form part of the emergency planning process.

Business Continuity Management - Category One organisations, because of their nature, are required by the Act to maintain plans so that they can continue to function, even though they are possibly affected by a major emergency themselves. The extent of this planning should cover both internal functions and those companies on whom we are reliant.

Communicating with the Public - A pan-agency process of information provision in a major emergency is in place so that the public will be provided with consistent, accurate and non-contradictory information and advice.

Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF)

The UK is broken into Local Resilience Areas (based on police force areas), and ESFRS falls into the Sussex Local Resilience Area. The Sussex Resilience Forum which is responsible for creating and maintaining a 'Sussex' Community Risk Register (CRR). The CRR is informed by the National Security Risk Assessment (NSRA), it identifies possible emergency situations specific to the Local Resilience Area, and the possible actions needed to deal with each risk.

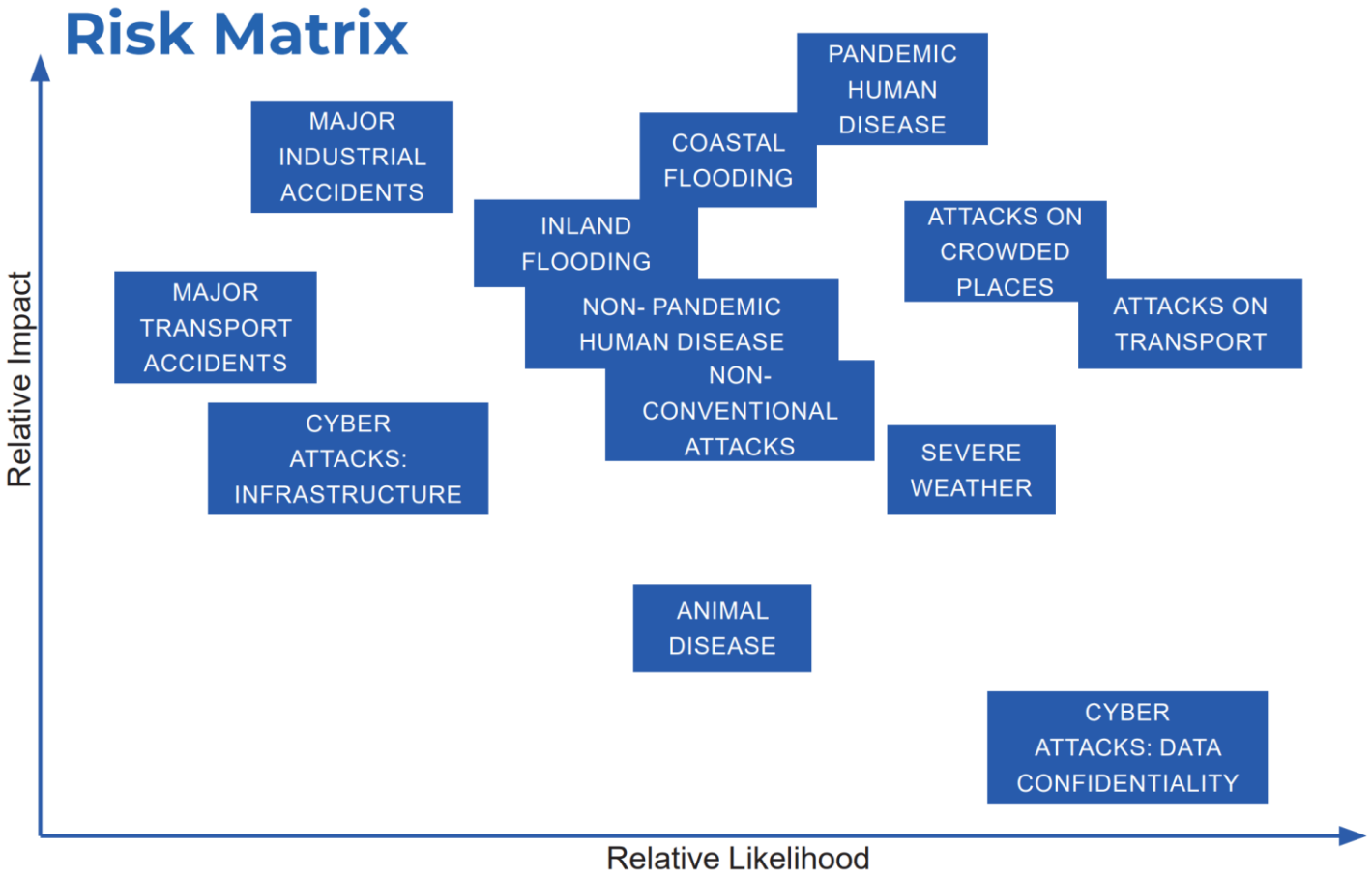
The 'Information on Risks in Sussex' document produced by the Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) provides information about the identified risks in our area, including the likelihood, severity and preparedness to mitigate the identified risks.

The Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) is a partnership, made up of all the category 1 and 2 responders and voluntary organisations needed to prepare for and respond to any major emergency within East and West Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

National Risk Register / Community Risk Register

The Sussex Resilience Forum legally has to produce a Community Risk Register (CRR) to look at the likelihood and impact of a range of hazards for Sussex. every resilience forum through a risk working group uses its own professional judgement, along with guidance from the national version of this document), to put together its CRR. The national register is produced by the Government using historical and scientific data, and the professional judgements of experts to analyse the risks to the UK as a whole.

The Sussex CRR helps identify emerging issues and also situations where a risk may be increasing or decreasing in our county. It helps highlight any gaps in an organisation's ability to respond to an emergency and indicates what response is required. If a risk is included in the CRR, it doesn't mean it will happen. It means we know it is a possibility, and organisations have made arrangements to reduce its impact.



Source: National Security Risk assessment 2022

The following headings are taken from the SRF CRR:

Pandemic Flu/Covid

A pandemic influenza event is where many people will be infected in a short time. The World Health Organisation defines an outbreak to be pandemic when the infection hasn't been seen before and there is no natural immunity, it infects humans, spreads and survives easily.

Impacts: Additional deaths, increased demand on health/social care, staff shortages and disruption to essential services, including production and transportation of goods.

Consequences: Reduced care to vulnerable people, disruption to essential utilities, reduced cover of emergency services, disruptions to organisations due to staff shortages and supply chain interruptions.

Actions: Managing demand on NHS/social care, distribution of anti-viral medication, vaccinations, public awareness/management and managing excessive levels of death.

ESFRS Actions: Business continuity plans to deal with staff shortages. Works within the SRF to ensure a co-ordinated response for Sussex

South Coast Flooding

Coastal flooding is one of the most significant risks on the National Risk Register, the south coast is particularly vulnerable due to low atmospheric pressure over the English Channel, high tide levels (spring tides) and storm surges caused by gales driving storms through the channel.

Impacts: Risk to life, damage to property/infrastructure, pollution/contamination and long-term damage to tourism/agriculture.

Consequences: Disruption to utilities, flooding of property, evacuation of residents and temporary accommodation, damage to businesses, health impacts and long-term recovery issues.

Actions: Identify areas of risk, multi-agency plans, strategic planning, developing early warning systems, improving sea/tidal flood defences and developing flood rescue capabilities.

ESFRS Actions: ESFRS participate in a Partner Activated Teams call, this informs and collaborates with District and Borough Councils on plans and ensures that there is a capability to respond and assist in the event of an incident occurring.

Inland Flooding

Temperatures and sea levels are expected to increase over time, extreme weather events are also predicted to become more severe and frequent. This will increase the risk of inland flooding which includes; river flooding, surface water flooding, groundwater flooding, these events are all linked to excess rainfall and high water tables. In autumn of 2000 heavy rainfall caused extensive flooding in Sussex, over 800 properties were affected in Lewes.

Impacts: Risk to life, damage to property/infrastructure, pollution/contamination and long term damage to tourism/agriculture.

Consequences: Disruption to utilities, flooding of property, evacuation of residents to temporary accommodation, damage to businesses, health impacts and long-term recovery issues.

Actions: Identify areas of risk, multi-agency plans, strategic planning, and guidance to the public about protecting property, developing early warning systems, improving river defences and developing flood rescue capabilities.

ESFRS Actions: ESFRS participate in a tactical advisory group, this informs and collaborates with District and Borough Councils on plans and ensures that there is a capability to respond and assist in the event of an incident occurring.

Severe Weather

Sea levels and temperatures are predicted to increase, extreme weather events are also predicted to become more severe and frequent. The main types of severe weather that need to be considered are: storms, gales, low temperatures, heavy snow, heatwaves and drought. Snow has caused major disruption in recent years, and 2018 was the hottest summer for England on record. Due to East Sussex's poor road network this means it is especially sensitive to weather events.

Impacts:

Storms and Gales: Danger to life due to windswept objects/structural failures, damage to property, damage to infrastructure/communication networks and travel disruption.

Low Temperatures/Heavy Snow: Travel disruption, vulnerable people exposed to life threatening temperatures, power/water failures and school/public building closures.

Heatwaves: Increased admissions to GPs/Hospitals, increased breakdowns due to overheating engines and road surface deteriorating due to melting tarmac.

Consequences: Road/travel disruption, damage/disruption to utilities, damage to property and disruption to essential functions/services.

Actions: Multi agency plans, consideration of weather forecasts and distributing early notifications of severe weather.

ESFRS Actions: ESFRS participate in a tactical advisory group, this informs and collaborates with District and Borough Councils on plans and ensures that there is a capability to respond and assist in the event of an incident occurring.

Fuel Shortages

Disruption can be as a result of a number of factors; short supply, technical problem, industrial action or public protest. In such events supply could be further depleted due to increased (panic) buying. There have been shortages nationally in 2000, 2005 and 2008, plus a delivery issue in 2021 resulting in some fuel stations running out of fuel.

Impacts: Public/commercial filling stations exhausted within 48 hours, and up to 10 days to return to normal supply.

Consequences: Impacts on essential services and economic impact.

Actions: Identification of filling stations for essential fuel users - such as emergency services, and multi-agency plans to manage fair distribution to maintain key services.

ESFRS Actions: Under business continuity planning ESFRS maintain bulk fuel storage and have a fuel shortage plan.

Loss of Critical Infrastructure

UK critical infrastructure consists of, electricity, water, gas, oil, fuel, transport, telecommunications, food, health and financial services. Many of the above rely upon each other and events can have direct or indirect impacts.

Impacts: Exposure to poor sanitation, lack of drinking water, homes without heating, cooking and hot water, shortages of fuel, unable to get cash or make card transactions and limited communications.

Consequences: Disruption to essential services, endangerment of vulnerable people, financial impact, civil unrest, increased demand on emergency services, travel disruption and disruption to business and home life.

Actions: Working with utilities to manage supply interruptions, multi-agency plans to manage outages and identify vulnerable people who would require support during outage.

ESFRS Actions: Work with partners to identify where problems exist and plan accordingly to alleviate any potential issues.

Animal Disease

The highest risk diseases are highly contagious, cause high fatalities and have the possibility of infecting humans, these include: Foot & Mouth, Bluetongue, Bird Flu, Rabies, Swine Fever, West Nile Virus and Newcastle Disease.

Impacts: Damage to local agricultural economy, mass cull/disposal of animal carcasses and health risks to farm workers.

Consequences: Psychological impacts on farmers, increased food costs, indirect impacts on tourism and other services and damage to businesses.

Actions: Led by authorities and trading standards - multi agency plans and raising awareness.

ESFRS Actions: ESFRS will abide to control measures put in place by inspectors.

Coastal Pollution

The English Channel is a major shipping route, including oil tankers. There is a significant risk to Sussex of oil or hazardous cargo being washed up on the shore, causing pollution and damage to wildlife, environment and economy.

Impacts: Sea water pollution, beach/shore pollution, damage to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), damage to wildlife/environment and health risks.

Consequences: Economic impacts to tourism/agriculture, closure of ports impacting passengers/freight and unrecoverable damage to business.

Actions: Multi agency plans to contain and clean oil spills – minimising impacts and safe disposal of hazardous materials. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency will minimise risk and impact of pollution from ships/offshore installations and promote high safety standards at sea. Upper tier local authorities have contracts with private specialist companies to clean beaches, and this work is co-ordinated nationally.

ESFRS Actions: Have little involvement with these risks but will respond in an emergency if required.

Industrial Accidents

ESFRS is the lead agency for industrial accidents locally. Certain industrial activities involving dangerous substances have the potential to cause serious injuries to people, or far reaching damage to the environment. Sussex contains industrial sites, fuel/gas pipelines and storage depots that all have the potential to cause a major fire or explosion.

Impacts: Endangerment of life, damage to property and local area, and pollution of environment/water courses.

Consequences: Impact to UK oil/gas supplies, economic impacts due to damage to local businesses, long term restoration of impacted area and contamination of crops/agricultural land.

Actions: Work directly with site operators who manage hazardous sites, identifying ways of communication with public and supporting local communities to develop emergency plans.

ESFRS Actions: Work with the Environment Agency and HSE who are the competent authorities on COMAH sites.

Transport Accidents

Transport emergencies can be the result of accidents, but also includes disruption caused by severe weather or flooding, which can further complicate incidents. Most road accidents are within the routine capabilities of the three lead emergency services, however there is a risk an accident may go beyond these capabilities and require extended agency involvement, such as accidents involving chemicals or hazardous materials. The CRR also considers accidents involving the railways, sea and aircraft.

Impacts: Disruption to travel, death/injury, stranded persons in potentially extreme weather, environmental impacts if goods are spilled, damage to property/infrastructure.

Consequences: Impact on local businesses, delays in emergency responses.

Actions: Working with transport companies to plan for dealing with accidents, highways departments working with Highways Agency to keep major roads accessible during severe weather.

ESFRS Actions: Not involved until incident occurs, ESFRS maintain the capability to deal with all traffic accidents and have units available to deal with large vehicle incidents.

Cyber Security

This is an emerging and developing risk and is new to the risk register. A cyber-attack is defined as an offensive manoeuvre used by nations, individuals, groups or organisations that targets information systems, networks, or personal devices. Cyber-attacks range from installing spyware/malware/viruses to hinder the function of the system, to stealing, altering or destroying information. In 2017 the NHS was the victim of a malware attack, this resulted in disruption to some operations and appointments.

Impacts: Disruption to business activity and misuse of information.

Consequences: Delayed or failed deliveries, services or payments to businesses, delays in emergency service response, unrepairable damage to IT systems and personal data stolen (including stolen funds).

Actions: Working with central government and Centre for Protection of the National Infrastructure (CPNI) and constant monitoring of IT infrastructure for all types of hacking.

ESFRS Actions: ESFRS ensure all staff undertake annual information security awareness training, and ESFRS also liaise with the National Cyber Security Centre.

Terrorism

The National Security Risk Assessment states the UK faces a serious and sustained threat from terrorism both international and relating to Northern Ireland. The UK Government's updated counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST (2023), is an integrated approach based on four main work streams, each with a clear objective to

reduce the risk to the UK from international terrorism. CONTEST aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. CONTEST deals with all forms of terrorism and continues to be based around four strands:

- Pursue: the investigation and disruption of terrorist attacks;
- Prevent: work to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism;
- Protect: improving our protective security to stop a terrorist attack; and
- Prepare: working to minimise the impact of an attack and to recover as quickly as possible.

Long-standing and regularly activated major incident plans and structures are in place across government. The adaptability and expertise of the emergency responders provide a solid basis for handling a mass casualty incident. The Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) aims to further improve the joint emergency response to any major or complex incident through the development of guidance, joint training and exercising. Our ability to deal with mass casualties has improved steadily, with more health responders having plans to provide additional capability and capacity.

COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 2015)

COMAH applies mainly to the chemical industry, but also to some storage activities, explosives and nuclear sites, and other industries where threshold quantities of dangerous substances identified in the regulations are kept or used. The Environment Agency and the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) are responsible for applying the regulations across East Sussex, with the following objectives:

- Containing and controlling incidents to minimise the effects and to limit damage to people, the environment and property
- Implementing the necessary measures to protect people and the environment from the effects of major accidents
- Communicating the necessary information to the public and to emergency services and authorities concerned in the area
- Restoring and cleaning-up of the environment following a major accident.

Currently there is one upper tier site in the county that this applies to and 3 lower-tier sites. East Sussex County Council create external plans and ESFRS assist in reviewing these plans. Information is given to the public and those plans are tested. This makes sure all reasonable measures are taken to prevent major accidents and to limit the consequences to people and the environment. Part of the COMAH Regulations puts a duty on the "Competent Authority" to determine an area around a COMAH establishment in which information must be made available. This area is known as the Public Information Zone (PIZ).

Event Planning

Part of planning for emergencies is preparing for events, particularly large scale or high risks events. ESFRS aims to support partners and organisers, promoting safety, and mitigating any risks that may occur. All large scale or high-risk events are subject to a Safety Advisory Group (SAG), led by the local upper tier local authority. Permissions are agreed and subsequently all category 1 responders will create their own response plans in the event of an emergency.

Brighton Pride

Brighton & Hove Pride is an annual event promoting equality, diversity, and aims to eliminate discrimination against the LGBT community. In 2024 the city saw 300,000 people attend the parade. The event encompasses the whole city, with a parade through the city and various events in Brighton & Hove, the main event "Brighton Pride Festival" is held in Preston Park. ESFRS are a key partner of Brighton Pride. Due to the large volume of visitors, the event puts high demand on the local transport infrastructure and emergency services.

American Express Community Stadium

The American Express Community Stadium (Amex) is the home of Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club which plays in the English Premier League. Since its opening in 2011 the stadium has increased in capacity, and now has a maximum capacity of 30,750, it regularly attracts crowds of 20,000 - 30,000. The stadium is a multi-purpose venue, and hosts other events, such as music concerts.

Lewes Bonfire

Lewes Bonfire is regarded as the largest bonfire night celebration in the UK, held annually on the 5th November (or 4th if 5th is Sunday). The celebration consists of a large procession though the town centre, then a number of different bonfires/firework displays are held across the town. The event attracts a large volume of visitors, as such there are extensive parking, road and transport restrictions in place.

Eastbourne Airbourne

Airbourne is a free air show that takes place annually in August in Eastbourne. There are events, stalls and markets set up on Eastbourne Seafront and Western Lawns, the air displays are performed along a two mile display line on the seafront. The event is organised by Eastbourne Borough Council, along with the Royal Air Force and British Army. Inherently, air shows carry a high risk.

The Nature Valley Eastbourne International

The Eastbourne International is an international tennis tournament held every year in Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. The tournament is classified as a premier tournament within the Women's Tennis Association, and draws large crowds and international TV coverage.

Love Supreme Jazz Festival

The Love Supreme Jazz Festival is a three day music festival held in Glynde on the first weekend of July every year, and experiences an attendance of 40,000.

Boundary (Shakedown) Festival

Boundary Festival (formally Shakedown) is a one day music festival hosted in Stammer Park, Brighton in late September every year. The event attracts crowds of around 9000.

Partners / Partnerships

ESFRS embraces the opportunity and challenge to deliver a diverse range of community services through partnership arrangements with public, private and voluntary sectors. The Partnership Strategy details the Fire Authority's commitment to its vision and strategic aims, including the promotion of local community safety and sustainability that embraces the objectives of the Localism Act, as well as delivering quality and value for money services through appropriate partnerships.

Due to the reduction in public sector funding, services within adult social care and the health sector are at risk of being reduced. This poses a potential risk to ESFRS as this could increase vulnerability in the community, or increase demand to respond to health related emergencies. This may be further enhanced due to the ageing population.

Over border risks

In addition to all the risks within the ESFRS area, whether inherent, historic or foreseeable, there are also risks that sit just outside of the service area from airports, to nuclear power stations, to large woodlands and industrial ports. Individual station profiles provide more detail on the type of over-border risk experienced within each station area that shared a boundary with a neighbouring Fire & Rescue Service.


EAST SUSSEX
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE