

The County in Context

Description

Warwickshire lies to the south and east of the West Midlands conurbation and has strong links with Coventry, Solihull and Birmingham in the West Midlands region, and increasingly stronger links with the South East region. Despite the focus of population within the main towns of the County, a significant part of Warwickshire is rural in nature. Situated in a central location, several key strategic routes pass through the County.

Key facts

- The population of Warwickshire is 526,700 (mid-2007 estimate).
- The population comprises 260,400 males and 266,300 females.
- Non-white British minority ethnic groups accounted for approximately 9% of the population (2004 ethnic population estimates).
- The area of Warwickshire is 764 square miles (1,979 square kms).
- The average population density is 2.6 persons per hectare.
- Warwickshire County measures 48 miles north to south and 29 miles east to west at its maximum extent.
- Warwickshire comprises five parliamentary constituencies – North Warwickshire, Nuneaton, Rugby & Kenilworth, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick & Leamington.

Warwickshire comprises five District/Borough areas:

- North Warwickshire Borough
- Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough
- Rugby Borough
- Stratford-on-Avon District
- Warwick District

Table 1: Area and population, Mid-2007

Year	Mid-2007 Population Estimate	Area (ha)	Population Density (Persons per hectare)
North Warwickshire	62,200	28,427	2.2
Nuneaton & Bedworth	121,200	7,896	15.3
Rugby	91,000	35,356	2.6
Stratford-on-Avon	117,800	97,787	1.2
Warwick	134,600	28,288	4.7
Warwickshire	526,800	197,753	2.6

Source: Mid-year population estimates, National Statistics.

Population

Warwickshire's population has been growing for the past three decades, and the rate of growth has exceeded regional and national levels. The County is now home to approximately 69,000 more people than at the start of the 1970's. Growth has been particularly rapid in recent years with continued in-migration from the urban areas of Coventry and Birmingham the key factor behind this trend.

Table 2: Population change, 1971 - 2007

Year	1971	1981	1991	2001	2007	1971-2007 Change
North Warwickshire	58,400	60,000	61,000	61,800	62,200	6.5%
Nuneaton & Bedworth	107,900	113,900	117,500	119,200	121,200	12.3%
Rugby	84,500	87,500	85,000	87,500	91,000	7.6%
Stratford-on-Avon	95,600	100,700	105,400	111,600	117,800	23.2%
Warwick	111,700	115,100	118,100	126,100	134,600	20.5%
Warwickshire	458,100	477,200	487,100	506,200	526,800	15%
West Midlands Region	5,146,000	5,186,600	5,229,700	5,280,700	5,381,800	4.58%
England	46,412,000	46,820,300	47,875,000	49,449,700	51,092,000	10.08%

Source: Mid-year population estimates, National Statistics.

Population growth continues to occur most rapidly in the south of the County with recent major housing developments in Stratford-on-Avon (Bridgetown Farm and Bishopton) and Warwick (south-west Warwick and south Sydenham) contributing to the increase.

Table 3: Change in population by age group, 1996 - 2006

Age Group	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton & Bedworth	Rugby	Stratford-on-Avon	Warwick	Warwickshire
0 - 4 years	-18.4%	-7.8%	-3.6%	7.0%	4.4%	-3.4%
5 - 14 years	-6.3%	-6.1%	8.4%	7.1%	-3.4%	-0.2%
15 - 29 years	-8.9%	-1.8%	-8.6%	-11.0%	13.6%	-1.5%
30 - 44 years	-1.4%	0.8%	9.9%	4.0%	13.4%	5.8%
45 - 64 years	13.5%	10.5%	12.3%	13.6%	11.1%	12.1%
65 - 74 years	5.8%	2.0%	4.1%	13.5%	-2.7%	4.1%
75 - 84 years	16.7%	18.5%	6.1%	18.2%	11.4%	14.6%
85 and over	37.5%	42.9%	35.7%	31.8%	36.4%	35.8%

Source: Mid-year population estimates, National Statistics.

The population of Warwickshire grew by 14% between 1971 and 2006 compared to 9% nationally. However this growth did not occur evenly across all age groups, as indicated in Table 3 above. The largest increases were in the 85-plus age group and, within the County, the numbers aged over 85 increased by 36% within the ten years to 2006.

The populations of the UK and Warwickshire are ageing, defined as the process by which older individuals make up a proportionately larger share of the population over a period of time. This is the result of reductions in fertility rates and in the mortality rate. This has led to a declining proportion of the population aged under 15 and an increasing proportion aged 65 and over. In the County, the number of people aged 65 and over increased by 4,300 or 5.2% between 2002 and 2006 whilst the number aged under 15 decreased by 1,200 or 1.3% over the same period.

The government population projections shown in Table 4 indicate that the population of Warwickshire will continue to grow at a faster rate than that experienced regionally or nationally. The population of Warwickshire was forecast to increase by approximately 13.7% between 2006 and 2021, from 522,200 to around 594,100. The fastest rates of growth were forecast for Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick.

Table 4; Total population and % change (figures are in thousands)

Area	2006	2011	2021	% Change 2006-2011	% Change 2011-2021	% Change 2006-2021
North Warwickshire	62.3	63.5	66.7	1.9%	5.0%	7.0%
Nuneaton & Bedworth	120.7	123.5	130.8	2.3%	5.9%	8.3%
Rugby	90.2	93.8	102.2	4.0%	8.9%	13.3%
Stratford-on-Avon	116.1	122.1	134.7	5.2%	10.3%	15.9%
Warwick	132.9	142.1	159.8	6.9%	12.4%	20.0%
Warwickshire	522.2	545.1	594.1	4.3%	8.9%	13.7%
West Midlands	5366.7	5506.4	5823.9	2.6%	5.7%	8.5%
England	50,762	52,706	56,757	3.8%	7.6%	11.8%

Source – 2006 based Sub-national Population Projections Office of National Statistics

The population projections suggest that the largest proportionate population increases will continue to occur in the oldest age groups. In 2006 it was estimated that the 85-plus age group would increase by approximately 74%, from 9,700 people in 2003 to around 16,900 people in 2021. A changing population age profile will have social, economic and labour market implications, and will also impact on the funding and delivery of public services.

Table 5: Population Estimates by Ethnic Group, 2005 (% of all groups)

	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton and Bedworth	Rugby	Stratford – on - Avon	Warwick	Warwickshire
All Groups (Total: Thousands)	62.3	120.4	89.6	114.8	131.8	518.9
White: British	94.9%	91.8%	89.7%	93.9%	86.0%	90.8%
White: Irish	0.8%	0.7%	1.3%	1.0%	1.8%	1.2%
White: Other White	1.0%	1.2%	1.8%	2.2%	3.5%	2.1%
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%
Mixed: White and Black African	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Mixed: White and Asian	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%
Mixed: Other Mixed	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	0.8%	3.6%	2.8%	0.7%	4.0%	2.6%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%
Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	0.3%	0.3%	0.8%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
Black or Black British: Black African	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%
Black or Black British: Other Black	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Chinese	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.8%	0.4%
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%

Source: ONS 2007

The 2005 Office for National Statistics Resident Ethnic Population estimates show that the ethnic minority population in Warwickshire has now reached approximately 47,700, which equates to about 9.2% of the total County population. However, this figure masks some considerable variation within Warwickshire. The largest ethnic

minority populations, as a proportion of total population, are in Warwick District (14%) and Rugby Borough (10.3%) with the smallest in North Warwickshire (5.1%) and Stratford-on-Avon District (6.1%).

In terms of population, the 'Indian' and 'White: Other White' ethnic groups are the two largest within Warwickshire. These ethnic groups account for approximately half of the total ethnic minority population in the County. Indian ethnic group residents are primarily concentrated in Warwick District, Rugby Borough and Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough, whilst the 'White: Other White' communities are mainly based in Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon Districts. The 'White: Other White' ethnic group comprises well established Polish and Portuguese communities as well as those who have moved to the area since 2004 from the European Union Accession states.

The 2001 Census was the first to include a question in relation to religion. It was, however, an optional question and some respondents chose not to state their religion (if any). Respondents were asked to identify their current religion, including having no religion at all.

The majority of Warwickshire's total population are Christian (77%). North Warwickshire and Stratford-on-Avon have the highest proportions of Christians (81%), whilst Warwick district has the lowest (71%).

Excluding Christians, the largest proportion of people in Warwickshire stated their religion as Sikh. There are approximately 6,800 Sikhs living in the County with the highest proportion in Warwick district.

Approximately 3,300 people in Warwickshire stated their religion as Muslim. Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough has the highest proportion of Muslims with around 1,900 residents stating this as their religion.

There are around 3,600 people in the County who stated their religion as Hindu. Rugby Borough has a notable concentration of Hindus (approximately 1,800) which also represents the highest proportion within Warwickshire.

Approximately 7% of respondents in Warwickshire did not state their religion (if any) and Warwick district has the highest proportion of people who stated they had no religion (16%).

Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007 highlights considerable differences in levels of deprivation across Warwickshire and several 'pockets' of severe deprivation exist within the County. Six Warwickshire Super-Output Areas (SOAs), all in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, feature within the top 10% most deprived SOAs experiencing multiple deprivation in England. According to the IMD, the most deprived Super Output Area in Warwickshire is Bar Pool North and Crescents. This is followed by the Camp Hill Village SOA.

A total of 39 Warwickshire SOAs feature in the 30% most deprived SOAs in England experiencing multiple deprivation. Of these, 28 are within Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, 5 within Rugby Borough, 4 within Warwick District and 2 with North Warwickshire. There are no deprived SOAs on this measure in Stratford-on-Avon District.

The North-South Divide

Analysis of a number of key indicators suggest that significant differences between parts of the North of the County and parts of the South in terms of achievement, opportunity, and quality of life, remain, in particular the distinction between Nuneaton & Bedworth and Stratford-on-Avon/Warwick Districts. However, it is also important to recognise that the differences *within* Districts are still more pronounced than the differences *among* Districts, which adds to the complexity of the north-south issue.

Table 6 below provides some of the core indicators used to illustrate and measure the scope and scale of this gap. The ability to break some of these indicators down to smaller area levels assists further in localising delivery plans and developing local actions.

Table 6; Core indicators illustrating the North-South issue

Indicator	NW	NB	R	SoA	Warwick	Warwickshire
Unemployment Claimant count, June 08* (%)	1.5%	2.6%	2.0%	1.0%	1.6%	1.8%
GCSE Attainment** (%) 2006/07	47.9%	48.3%	64.9%	68.5%	60.4%	-
Recorded Crime, per 1000 population 07/08	67.5	97.9	86.1	58.8	70.4	76.5
Life Expectancy, Males 2004-06	77.7	76.2	77.4	78.6	78.2	-
Life Expectancy, Females 2004-06	80.8	80.1	80.8	82.0	83.2	-

*as a % of working population

** % of pupils who gained 5 or more GCSEs/GNVQs at grades A*-C grades 2006/07