



BISHOP'S CASTLE MARKET TOWN PROFILE

Spring 2021



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Market Town Profile

Bishop's Castle

The origins of Bishop's Castle can be traced back to the eighth century when Offa, the King of Mercia, who built the Dyke to defend his Kingdom, murdered Ethelburt, the King of East Anglia in 792. Ethelburt's remains were buried at Hereford Cathedral. At some point after this Egwin, a landowner, who suffered with Palsy and was known as Shakehead visited Ethelburt's sanctuary and was cured. As a result he gifted the Bishops of Hereford with his land.

After the Norman Conquest in 1066 the Bishops were appointed to defend the marches border with Wales. It is thought a motte and bailey castle was first built around 1087, this was replaced with a stone castle in 1167. The town developed around the Castle and forms the layout of Church Street and High Street of today.

In 1249 a royal charter was granted for a market and annual fair which gave the town its market town status. During the 1600's the castle started to fall into ruin and the castle hotel now stands on the site. In 1642, the Three Tuns Brewery was established, which makes it the oldest licensed brewery site in Britain.

Today Bishop's Castle is a small market town popular with walking tourists who can explore South Shropshire and the Welsh borders which are only 1.5 miles away.

Area Quick Statistics

203 hectares

691 households

1600 people

7.7 people per hectare

747 dwellings

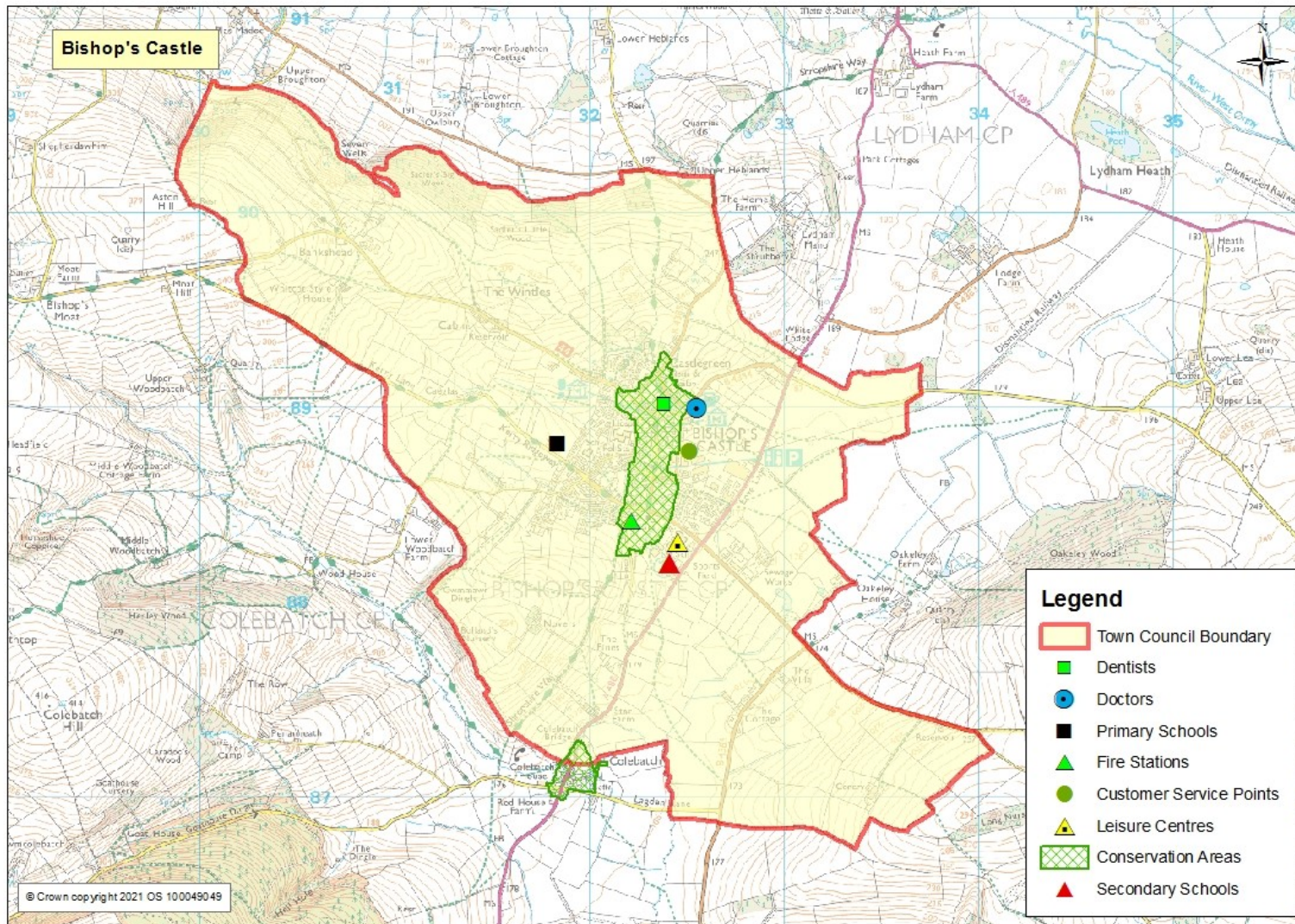
48 is the average age

This town profile has been produced by the Information, Intelligence and Insight team of Shropshire Council. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information supplied herein, Shropshire Council cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Area Key Assets

The information in this market town is predominantly focused on the town council area of Bishop's Castle. Due to the nature of national statistical data it is not always possible to fully replicate these boundaries. Statistics quoted in this profile will use the best fit to the town council area. If these

are not available the next best fit is the use of Lower Super Output Areas. These small area figures are part of a national dataset which comprises of 32,000 areas of which there are 192 in Shropshire and 1 which covers most of the town centre area.



Local Politics

Bishop's Castle Town Council is responsible for the management of a range of services including; allotments, street lights and grounds maintenance
- See the council website for full details of services. <https://bishopscastle-towncouncil.gov.uk/>

Bishop's Castle Parish Council is represented by 12 members with elections held every 4 years.

The Mayor of Bishop's Castle for 2020/21 is Grant Perry

Shropshire Council is responsible for many services including; education, environment, highways, licencing, planning, social care, trading standards and waste collection. Details of all services can be found at <https://shropshire.gov.uk/>

There is one Shropshire Council ward covering the Bishop's Castle council area. Elections are held on a 4 year cycle with the next elections due May 2021. The ward councillor is -

Bishop's Castle Ward - Ruth Houghton.

Member of Parliament

Bishop's Castle is part of the Ludlow parliamentary ward which is represented by the Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP <http://www.philipdunne.com/>

Other Representative Groups

Bishop's Castle Business Network, Enterprise House, Station Street, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AQ <http://www.bishopscastle.biz/>

The Bishop's Castle Business Network supports businesses in South West Shropshire.

Community Assets

Bishop's Castle has a number of public services which operate from the town. There are also a number of facilities which can be used for hire.

Public Services

Bishop's Castle Town Council, High St, Bishops Castle SY9 5BG.

Bishop's Castle Library, Enterprise House, Station Street, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AQ. <http://shropshire.gov.uk/libraries>

Community Facilities

Bishop's Castle Public Hall, Station St, Bishops Castle SY9 5AQ <http://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk/cb/bishops-castle-public-hall-146>

Events and room hire available for functions.

Enterprise House, Station Street, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AQ <http://enterprisehouse.org.uk/>

Home to the Library, Council Registrar's Office and Customer Services. Facilities include IT suite, rooms for hire, workshops and offices for rent.

Demographics

Shropshire Town and Parish Council	1981 Census	1991 Census	2001 Census	2011 Census
Bishop's Castle	1,367	1,569	1,630	1,893

Source: Census data

Bishop's Castle's population makes it the smallest town in Shropshire by population. The latest population of Bishop's Castle is 1550 (Mid Year Population Estimates, ONS, 2015) covering 203 hectares. Bishop's Castle population density was 7.4 people per hectare, making it the seventh most densely populated of all Shropshire Market Towns. Bishop's Castle's population consists of 49% male and 51 % female. Bishop's Castle Town Council population has increased since 1981 from 1367 to 1893. This is an increase of 38% in 30 years. Note that 1550 is the best geographical fit for the population of the town area only, as illustrated in the map on page 8. The census population extends to the parish boundary.

Population Forecast

Built up Area Geography Bishop's Castle	Census Day 27th March 2011	2016	2026
Population	1,900	2,000	2,100
Dwellings	900	900	1,000
Households	800	900	900

Note: the population, dwellings and household figures are based on the parish council area. Population forecasts are based on developments of new housing.

The population of Bishop's Castle area is forecast to rise from 1,900 in 2011 to 2,100 in 2026. This is a rise of 13% over this period. The largest part of this increase is expected between 2016 and 2026, when the population is forecast to rise by approximately 180 people or 9%.

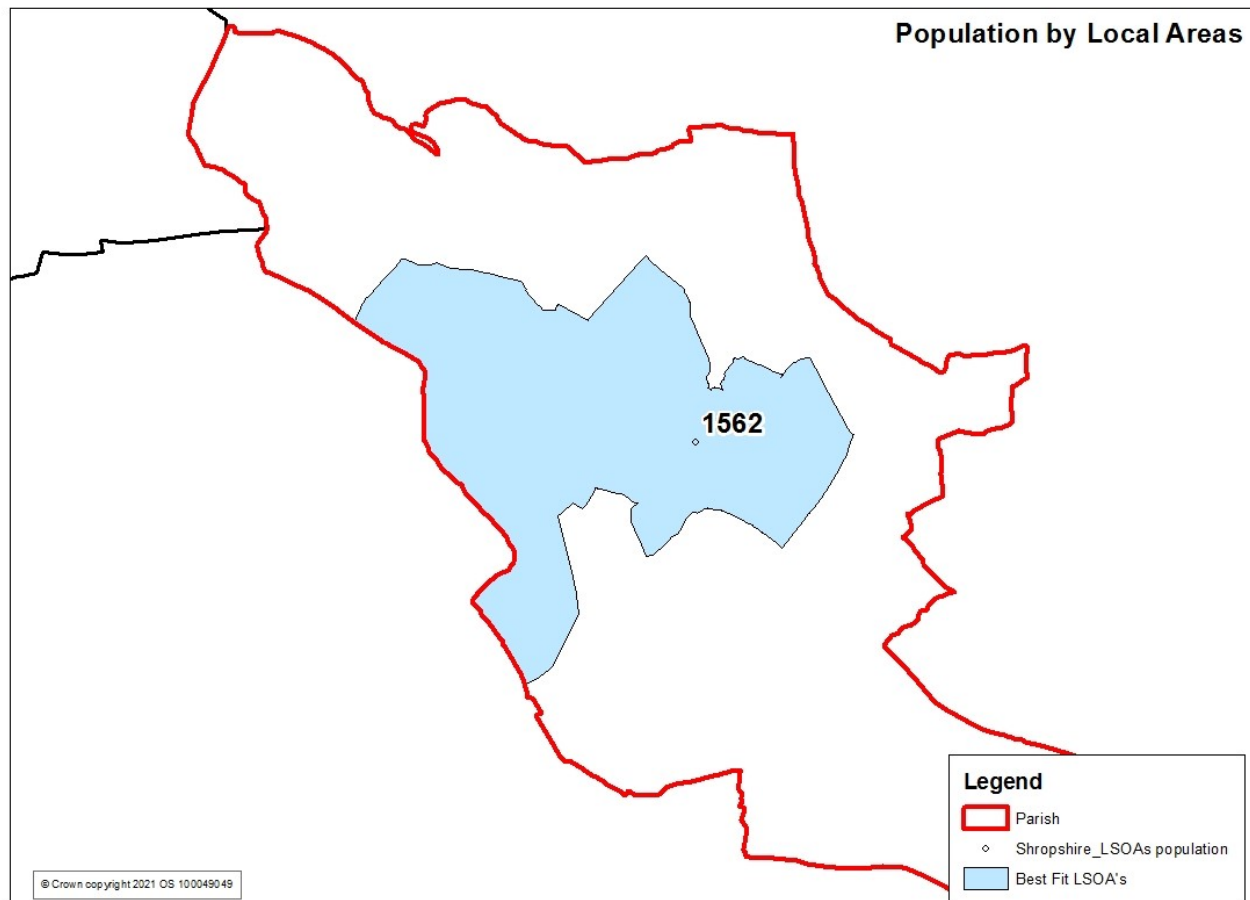
The number of dwellings is also forecast to increase from 900 in 2011 to 1,000 in 2026. This is an increase of 14%. Similarly the largest part of this growth is forecast to happen between 2016 and 2026.

The number of households are forecast to increase by 14% between 2011 and 2026, in a similar manner to dwellings.

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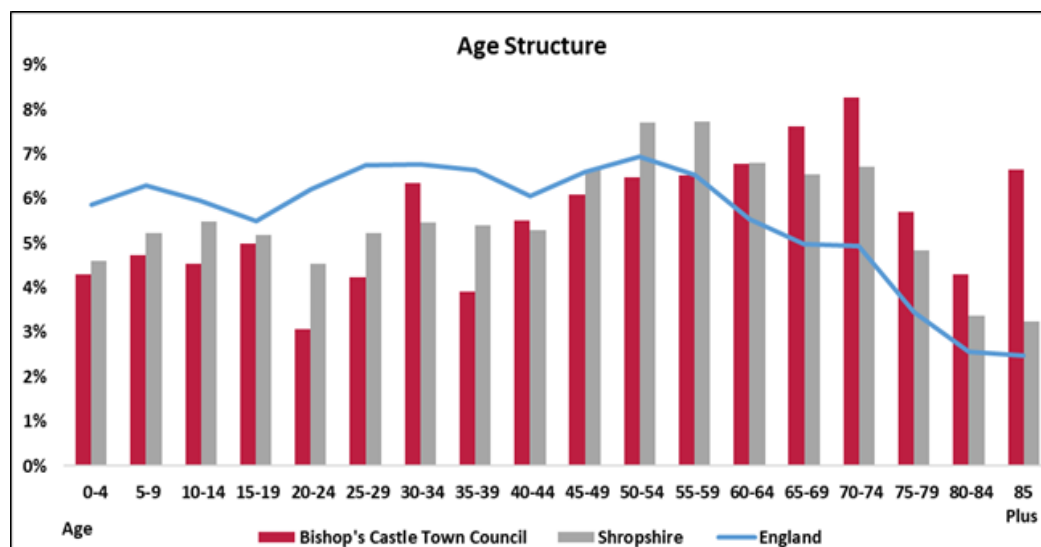
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Population by Local Areas - note the area used is smaller than the Parish Council Boundary



Age Structure

- The age structure in Bishop’s Castle shows that there is a older age profile in the town when compared to Shropshire.
- All of the age bands over the age of 60 show a higher percentage than for Shropshire and England.
- Conversely, Bishop’s Castle has a lower rate of people in the age bands under the age of 50 with the exception of 40-44 and 0-4 age groups.
- There is a particularly high number of people aged 65 –69 and 85 plus.
- There are noticeably fewer children and young people compared to Shropshire and England.



Source: Office of National Statistic (ONS) Mid Year Estimates, 2019- Ward Level Mid Year Population Estimates, 2019

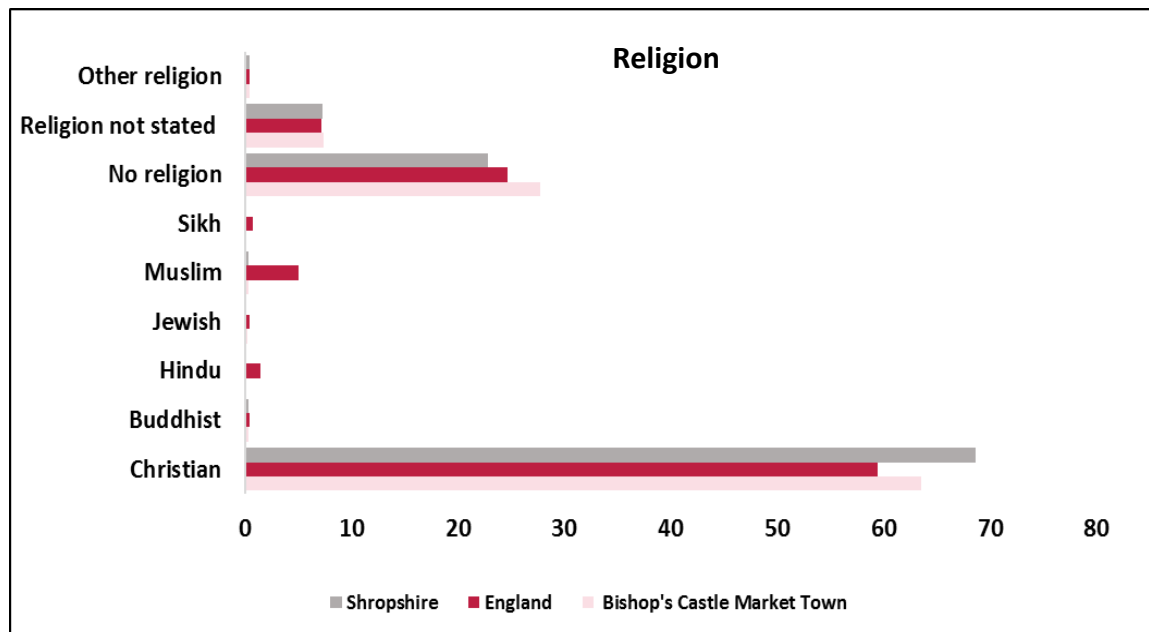
821 Bishop’s Castle residents are of traditional working age (16-64) which is the equivalent of 52.6% of the population. This compares with 58.9% for Shropshire as a whole, 61.7% in the West Midlands and 62.5% in Great Britain.

Place	Working age as % of population
Albrighton	53.8
Bishop's Castle	52.6
Bridgnorth	55.8
Broseley	58.0
Church Stretton	47.7
Cleobury Mortimer	59.6
Craven Arms	57.2
Ellesmere	56.8
Highley	56.2
Ludlow	55.0
Market Drayton	59.0
Much Wenlock	51.6
Oswestry	61.1
Shifnal	60.7
Shrewsbury	61.4
Wem	57.5
Whitchurch	59.6
Shropshire	58.9
West Midlands	61.7
Great Britain	62.5

Ethnicity and Religion

The total BME (black minority ethnic group) in Bishop’s Castle was 2.0 % or approx. 27 of the total population at the time of the 2011 Census. The largest group was Asian/Asian British, 0.9%. Ethnicity levels in Bishop’s Castle are similar to Shropshire but significantly lower than England.

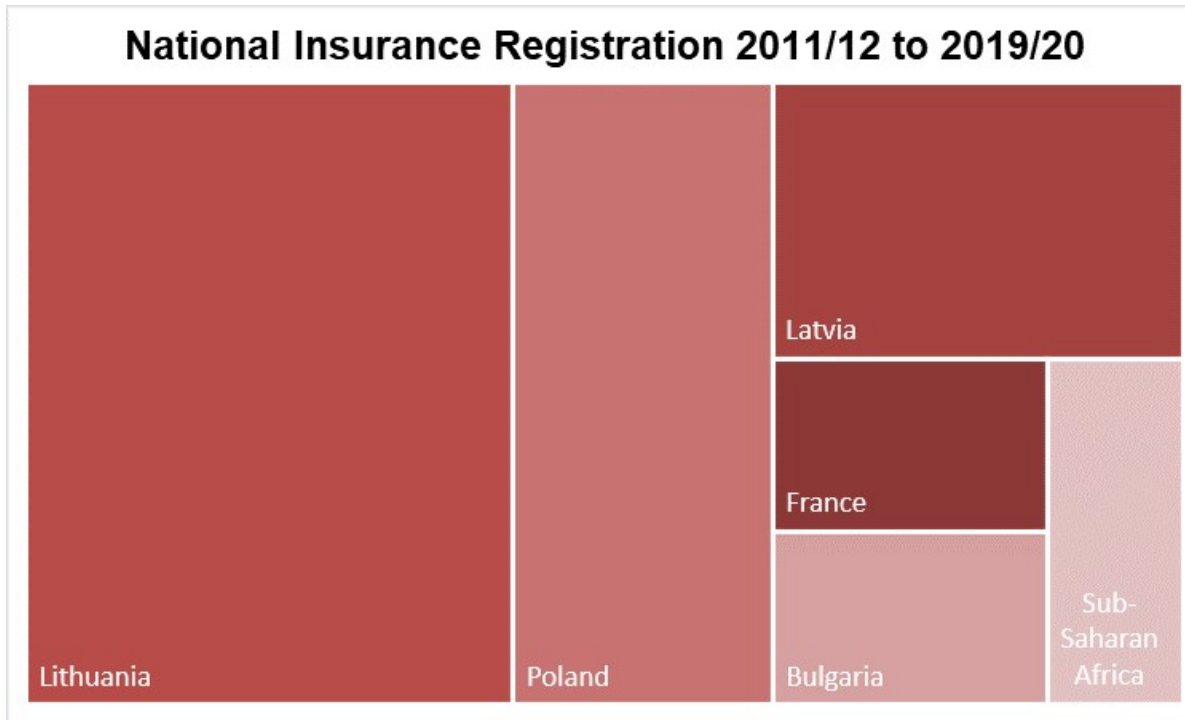
Area	White	White: British	Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	Other ethnic group	Total BME
Bishop’s Castle	98.3%	95.1%	0.6%	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%	2.0%
Shropshire	98.0%	95.4%	0.7%	1.0%	0.2%	0.1%	2.0%
England	85.4%	79.8%	2.3%	7.8%	3.5%	1.0%	14.6%



In 2011, 64% of the Bishop’s Castle population affiliated themselves with a religion. This percentage is marginally lower than for Shropshire or England. As is the case county-wide and nationally, the vast majority classified their religion as Christian (63.5% of the population or 98% of those expressing any religious affiliation). A slightly higher proportion of Bishop’s Castle residents were classed as no religion. Other religions represented in Bishop’s Castle, albeit in small numbers, include Buddhism and Hinduism.

Source: 2011 Census

Ethnicity



Source: Department for Work and Pensions - Stat-Xplore

There is one middle layer output area that covers Bishops Castle. This layer extends further than the lower level layers that cover the town and extends to cover the areas of Asterton, Chirbury, Norbury, Stipperstones and Worthen.

Where registrations are less than 5, from any nation, the numbers are withheld to prevent identification of individuals. Therefore small numbers of other nationalities will have made registrations. The total number of overseas NI registrations from 2011 to 2020 in Bishops Castle and surrounding hinterland was 76.

The majority of NI registrations during this period has been from Lithuanian nationals.

The latest ethnicity data is taken from the 2011 census. The next census is due in 2021 with the results likely to be published from 2023. To help provide an indication of changes to ethnicity data the number of National Insurance registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK are shown. These numbers should only be used as an indication of population changes. A registration does not mean that a national has made permanent residence or has remained in the area.

The numbers shown are based on Middle Layer Super Output Areas. These areas are larger than the lower layers described in the population map.

Ethnicity and Religion

Bishop's Castle is home to a number of churches and chapels which reflect the majority of the population who have a Christian faith.

St John's the Baptist, Church Ln, Bishops Castle SY9 5AF <https://ridgewaychurch.wordpress.com/>

Originally built in the 13th century only the tower remains with the remaining church being rebuilt around 1869. St John's holds regular worships and events. The church is also home to the Bishops Castle bell ringers.

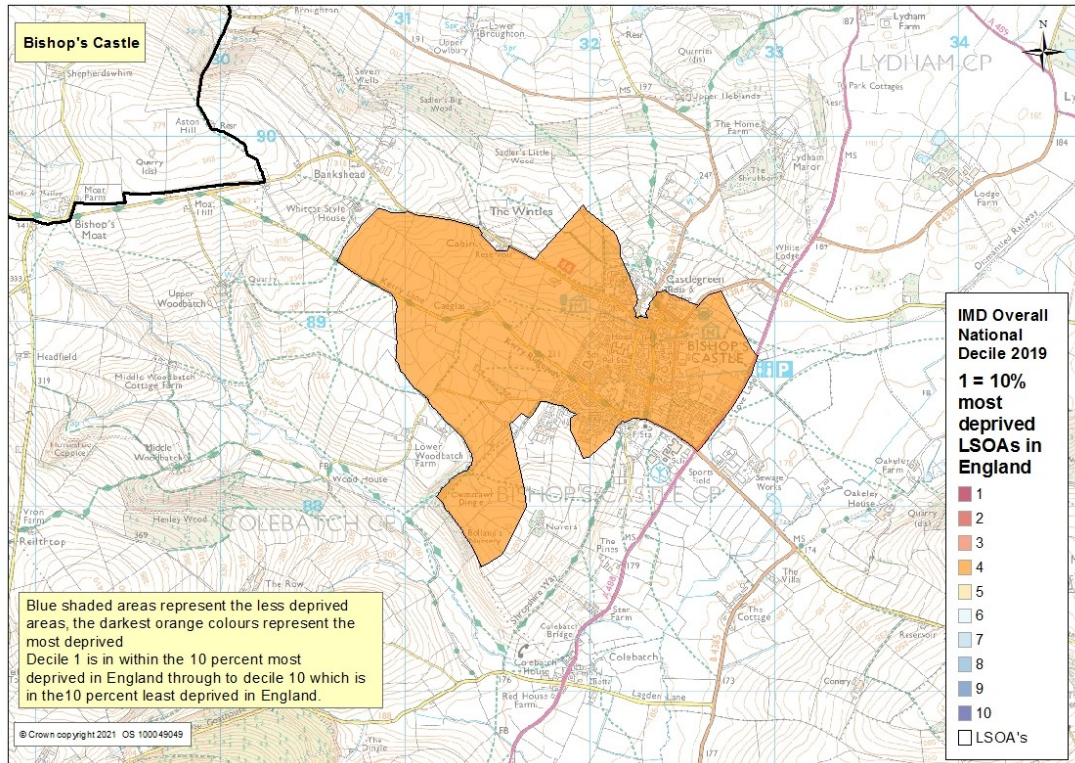
Bishop's Castle Methodists, Station Street, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AQ - <https://www.shropshireandmarches.org.uk/find-a-chapel/central-area/bishops-castle/> The original chapel built in 1904 is currently being demolished (2018) with meetings and services now take place in the church hall

Bishop's Castle Quakers, Grange Road Community Centre, Grange Road, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AW.

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/clun-valley>

Meetings every Sunday.

Multiple Deprivation



Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), Department of Communities and Local Government, crown copyright 2019

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2019) is designed to identify areas where communities lack resources and are in need. To do this, seven factors are considered, which are:

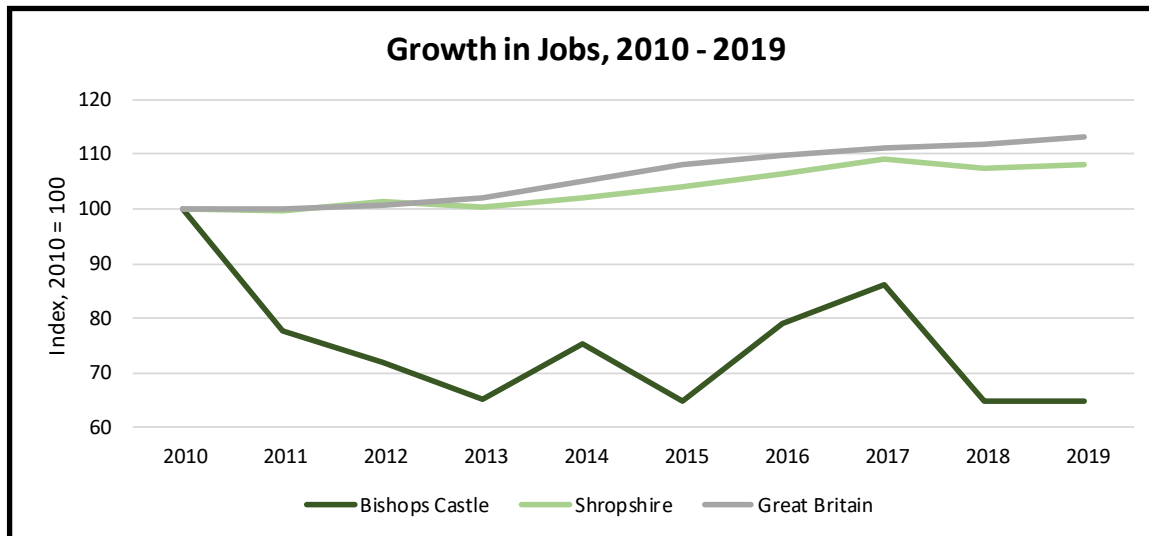
- Income deprivation
- Employment deprivation
- Health deprivation and disability
- Education deprivation
- Barriers to housing and services
- Crime
- Living environment deprivation

Overall levels of deprivation are low in Bishop's Castle. The main area of Bishop's Castle falls into the 40% most deprived LSOAs nationally. For more information on IMD see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

Economy

Bishop’s Castle is the seventeenth largest employment centre in Shropshire and is one of main location of businesses and jobs in the south west of the County. 138 businesses have registered offices in Bishop’s Castle (Source: FAME (Bureau van Dijk), February 2021) which is less than 1% of the Shropshire total and approximately 450 people are employed in the town (0.4% of the Shropshire total).

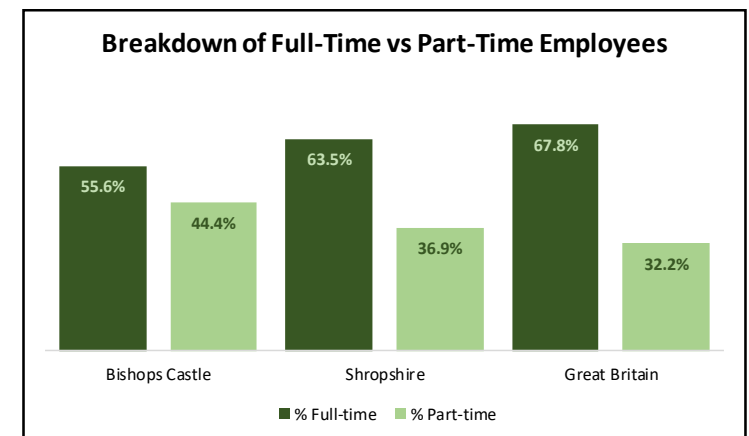


Over the last nine years, the number of jobs in Bishop’s Castle has fallen substantially, by 35.4%, or by some 250 jobs. This is the equivalent of an average decrease of 25-30 jobs per annum. In comparison, the number of jobs in Shropshire rose by 8.3% over the same period. Job growth in Bishop’s Castle picked up between 2015 and 2017, but has since fallen back again.

In addition to employees, there are 50 business proprietors/sole traders based in the town, which takes overall employment levels to 500.

Breakdown Part/Full Time

Part-time employment is more common in Shropshire than it is regionally or nationally, and its prevalence is even more pronounced in Bishop’s Castle as illustrated in the chart opposite. Just 56% of jobs were full-time in 2019 compared with 64% in Shropshire and 68% nationally.

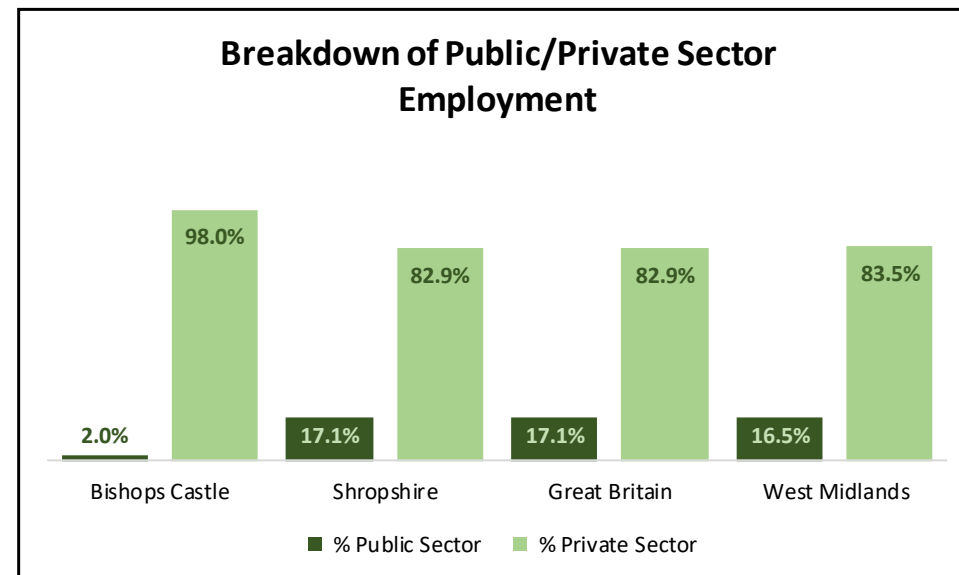


Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, Office of National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2021

Public/Private Sector

Across Shropshire, the number of public sector jobs has fallen by 4,700 since 2010 (-18.2%) while the number of private sector jobs has risen by 17,800 (+20.9%). The share of all the jobs attributable to the public sector has declined from 23.3% in 2010 to 17.1% by 2019. Employment in the public sector has been largely stable since 2015, with the rapid decline in public service based employment occurring during the first half of the 2010's.

In Bishop's Castle there are relatively few public sector jobs (less than 10) with the number declining by -43.8% since 2015. Consequently, they account for just 2% of all employment in the town, with private sector employment representing almost all of the total.



Employment Sectors

The four largest employment sectors in Bishop's Castle are health, manufacturing, retail and accommodation & food services. Together these account for 68.8% of employment within the town. Health represents 19.4% of the employment (15.1% in Shropshire) while manufacturing accounts for 19.4% of employee jobs (9.9% in Shropshire). Retail is typically over represented in towns, and accounts for 12.9% of Bishop's Castle employment compared with 9.5% in Shropshire. Accommodation & food services account for 17.2% of jobs (9.9% for Shropshire).

Other sectors accounting for more than 5% of jobs include professional, scientific & technical and construction.

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Employment Sector	Bishop's Castle	Shropshire	West Midlands	Great Britain
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	1.1%	3.0%	0.8%	0.7%
Mining, quarrying & utilities	0.0%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
Manufacturing	19.4%	9.9%	11.6%	8.0%
Construction	5.4%	6.0%	4.4%	4.9%
Motor trades	1.1%	3.0%	2.5%	1.9%
Wholesale	3.2%	4.4%	4.9%	3.9%
Retail	12.9%	9.5%	8.5%	9.2%
Transport & Storage	1.1%	3.8%	6.0%	4.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	17.2%	9.9%	7.3%	7.6%
Information & communication	3.2%	2.0%	2.6%	4.3%
Financial & insurance	1.1%	1.2%	2.4%	3.5%
Property	2.2%	1.9%	1.7%	1.7%
Professional, scientific & technical	5.4%	7.2%	6.4%	8.7%
Business Administration & Support	2.2%	4.8%	9.4%	8.8%
Public administration & defence	2.2%	4.0%	3.7%	4.4%
Education	2.2%	8.3%	8.8%	8.6%
Health	19.4%	15.1%	13.3%	13.0%
Arts, entertainment, recreation	1.1%	4.8%	4.3%	4.5%

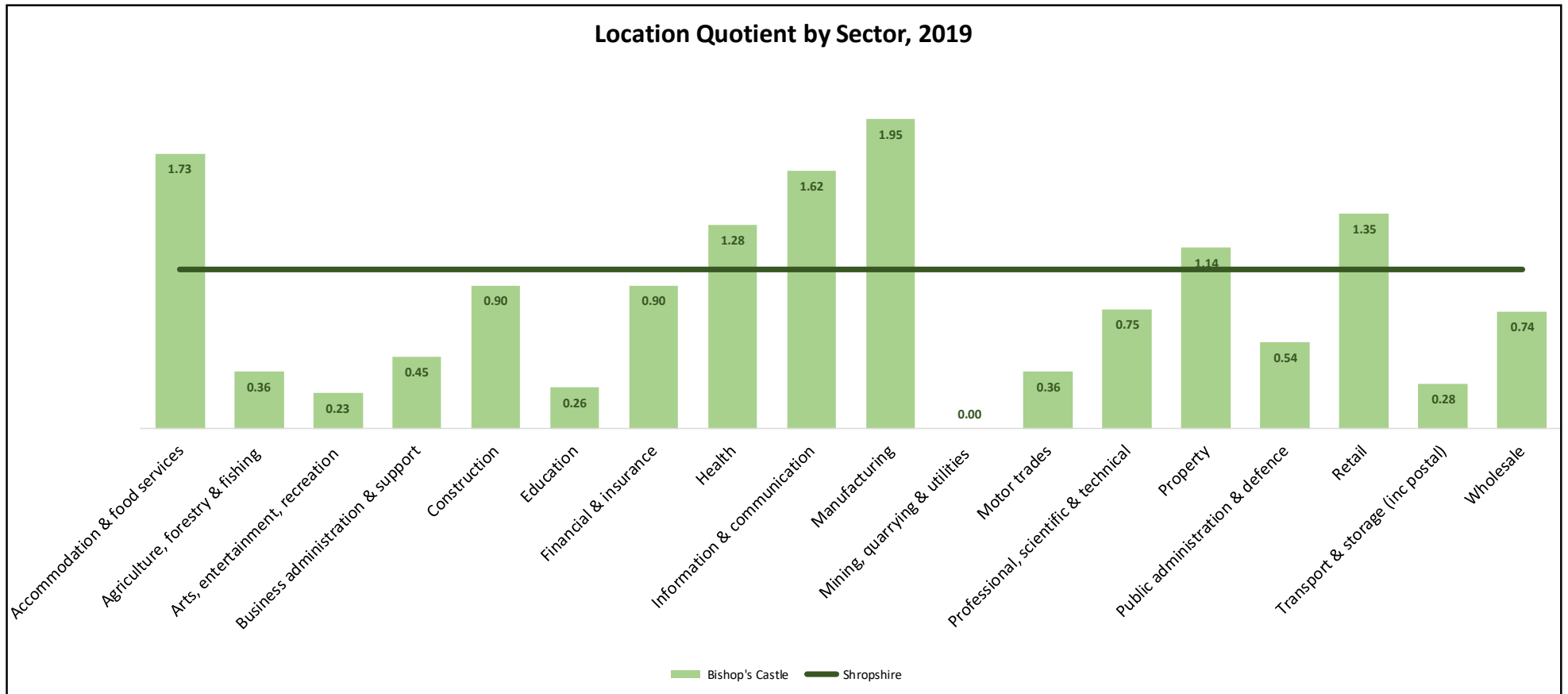
The adjacent table shows the breakdown of employment sectors in Bishop's Castle alongside the comparable breakdowns for Shropshire, the West Midlands and for Great Britain.

It shows that agriculture, mining & quarrying, motor trades, wholesale, transport & storage, information & communication, finance & insurance, property, business administration & support, public administration and defence, education and arts, entertainment and recreation employ relatively few people in Bishop's Castle (20.4% of the total), with none of these sectors accounting for as much as 5% of total employment.

The chart on the following page shows the relative importance of each sector in Bishop's Castle according to its location quotient. This measures each sector in relation to the Shropshire average, with any score over 1 reflecting a sector that is more important than the Shropshire average, and any score under 1 reflecting a sector that has less importance.

As well as retail, manufacturing, accommodation & food services and health, property and information & communication have above average significance in Bishop's Castle in relation to the rest of Shropshire.

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2021



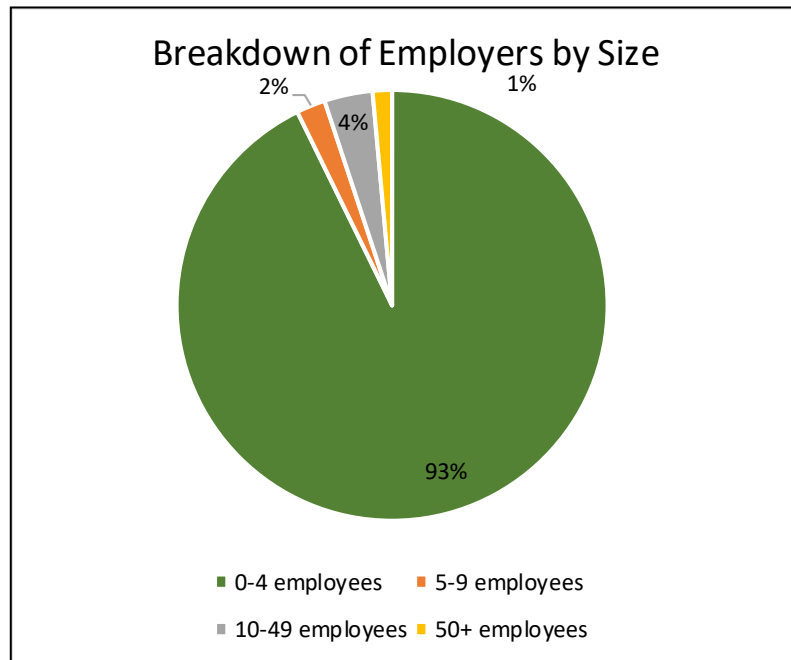
Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2021

Note: Excludes land-based agriculture

Main Employers

The following organisations are identified by the business directory FAME as being the largest employers in Bishop’s Castle. This suggests that there are only seven employers with a workforce of 10 or more within the town centre boundary.

93% of businesses in Bishop’s Castle employ less than 5 people. Just 1% employ 50 or more, with 4% employing between 10 and 49.



Note: 0-4 employee category includes all companies where employment levels are unknown.

Employers	Number of Employees
Castle Haven Care Ltd	90
Charles Ransford & Son Ltd	57
Keegan’s Court Care Services	34
Country Castle Hotels Ltd	27
RJ & EA Matthews	18
Jesmonite	13
Bishop’s Castle & District Lifeline Ltd	11

Source: FAME (Bureau Van Dijk), February 2021

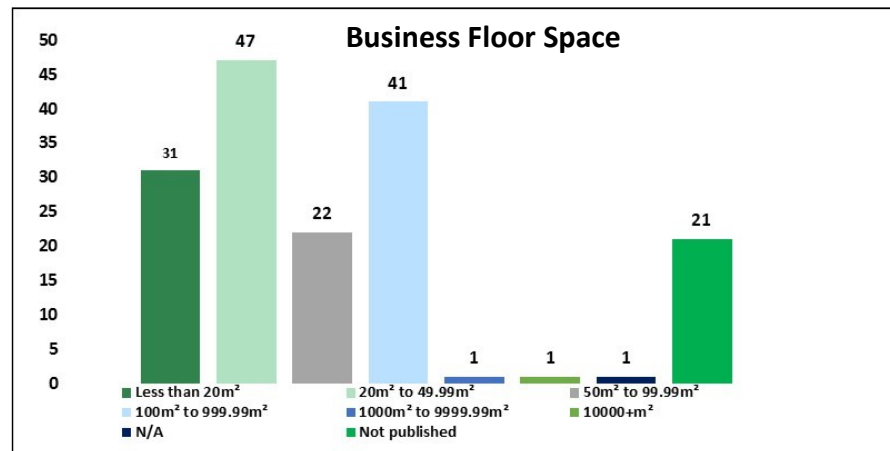
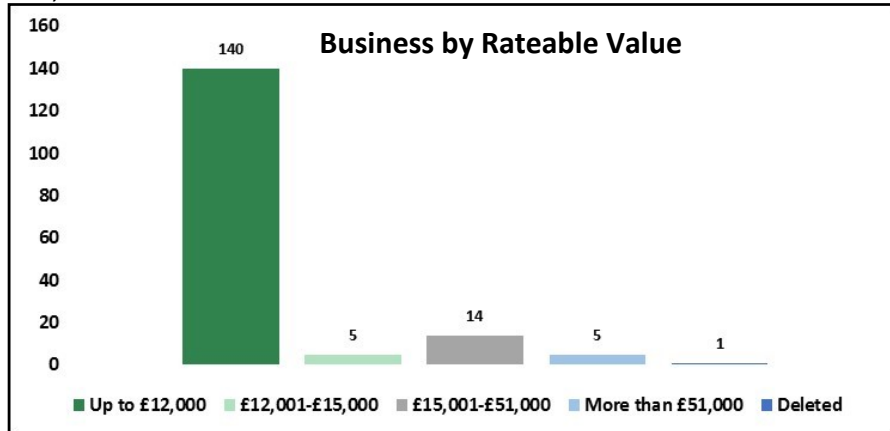
Note: Information based on company accounts returned to Companies House. May include businesses that are registered in the town but which do not necessarily trade there. Excludes branch businesses which have their HQ elsewhere in the UK.

Business Rates

165 establishments have a rateable value in Bishop’s Castle and the combined rateable value of these organisations is £1.5 million. This is the equivalent of 0.6% of the total rateable value of all businesses in Shropshire.

140 businesses have a rateable value of less than £12,000, which means that they are eligible for 100% small business rate relief. Just 5 (>0.5%) have a rateable value of more than £51,000.

78 businesses have a floor space of less than 100m², while just two have floor space of more than 1,000m². The largest organisation covers over 16,000m².



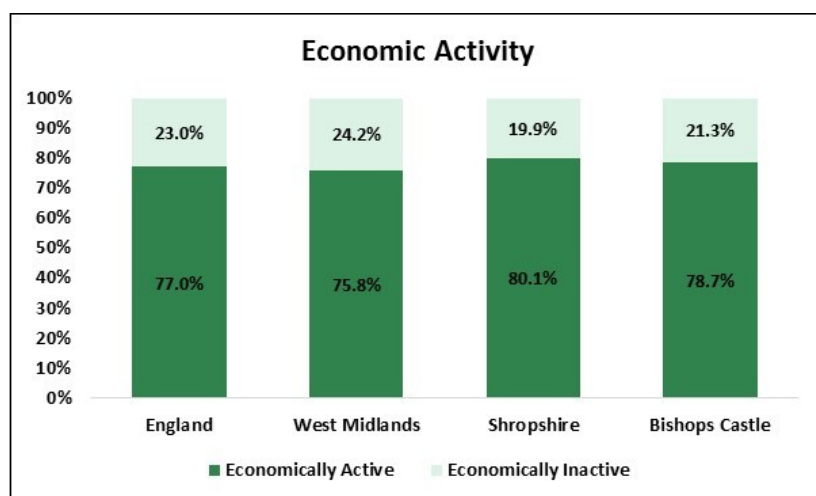
Source: Valuation Office Agency

Count of Classification	Bishop’s Castle
Commercial	120
Education Training and Culture	5
Industrial	23
Leisure	6
Miscellaneous	10
Utilities	1
Total	165

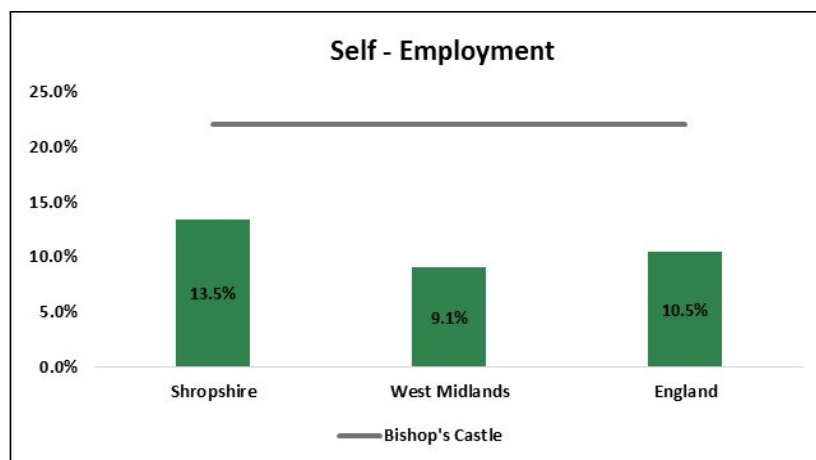
The majority of organisations on the Bishop’s Castle business rates list are classed as commercial—primarily retail outlets and offices. These account for 72.7% of the total. Industrial is the second largest classification, accounting for 13.9% of the total.

Economic Activity

The status of Bishop’s Castle residents aged 16-64 at the time of the 2011 Census showed 78.7% of residents were economically active, which includes people who are both employed and actively seeking employment. This is lower than the Shropshire figure of 80.1% but higher than the national and regional averages (77% and 75.8% respectively.)



Source: 2011 Census



Of those who were economically active, 75.5% were in employment while 3.2% were unemployed. This compares with 75.8% and 4.3% for Shropshire as a whole and with 71.2% and 5.8% for England. At the time of the Census, therefore, unemployment was a lesser issue in Bishop’s Castle in relation to Shropshire as well as England.

Of the 719 Bishop’s Castle residents in employment, the majority are employees (70.8%) while the remainder are self-employed. 66.4% of employees work fulltime compared with 74.8% of the self employed. Self employment rates in Bishop’s castle are high.

Employment Breakdown	Bishop’s Castle
In Employment Total	719
Of which Employee: Total	509
Of which Employee: Part-time	171
Of which Employee: Full-time	338
Of which: Self-employed: Total	210
Of which Self-employed: Part-time	53
Of which Self-employed: Full-time	157

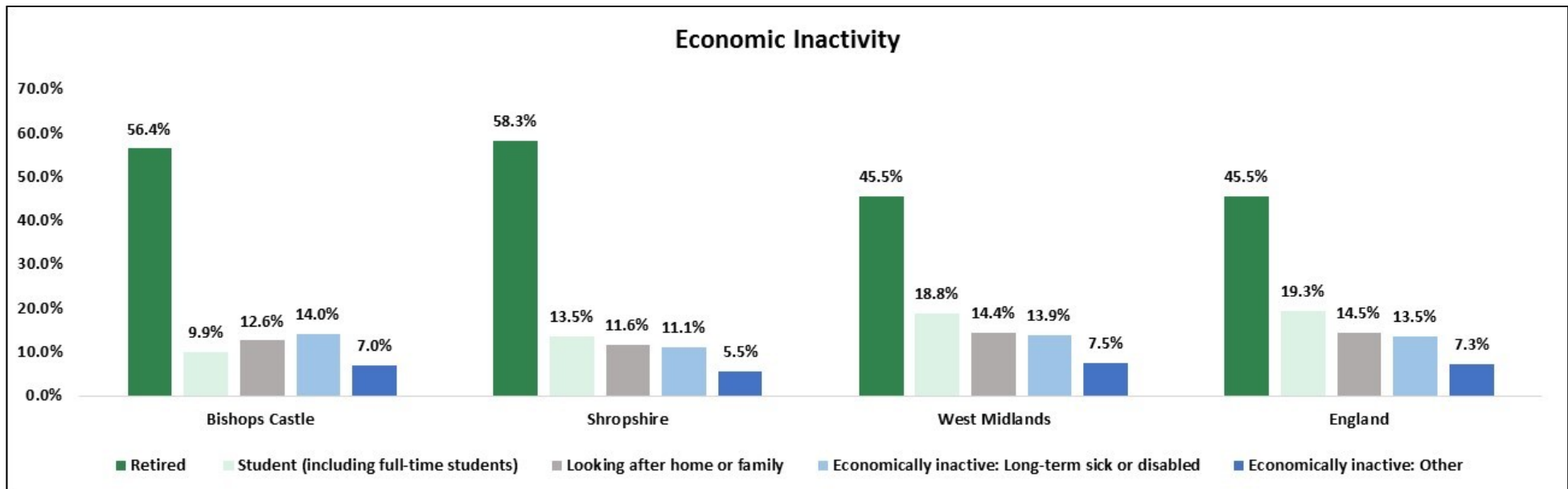
Self-employment is notably higher in Shropshire than it is nationally, accounting for 13.5% of 16-64 year old residents (10.5% in England). Typically, levels of self-employment are lower in the County’s market towns, especially the main employment centres. In Bishop’s Castle, the self-employment rate is even higher than it is in Shropshire – higher than in any other market town in the County at 22.1%.

Economic Inactivity

203 Bishop’s Castle residents aged 16-64 were economically inactive in 2011, which represents over a fifth of the age cohort. These people – representing those who are neither working nor seeking employment – include those who are retired, full time students, those looking after family or the long term sick. The proportion of the Bishop’s Castle population which does not participate in the labour market is higher than the average for Shropshire.

The following chart shows the breakdown of the economically inactive population in Bishop’s Castle, Shropshire, the West Midlands and England according to the reason why they do not participate in the labour market. These figures relate to the 16-74 population rather than to 16 to 64 year olds.

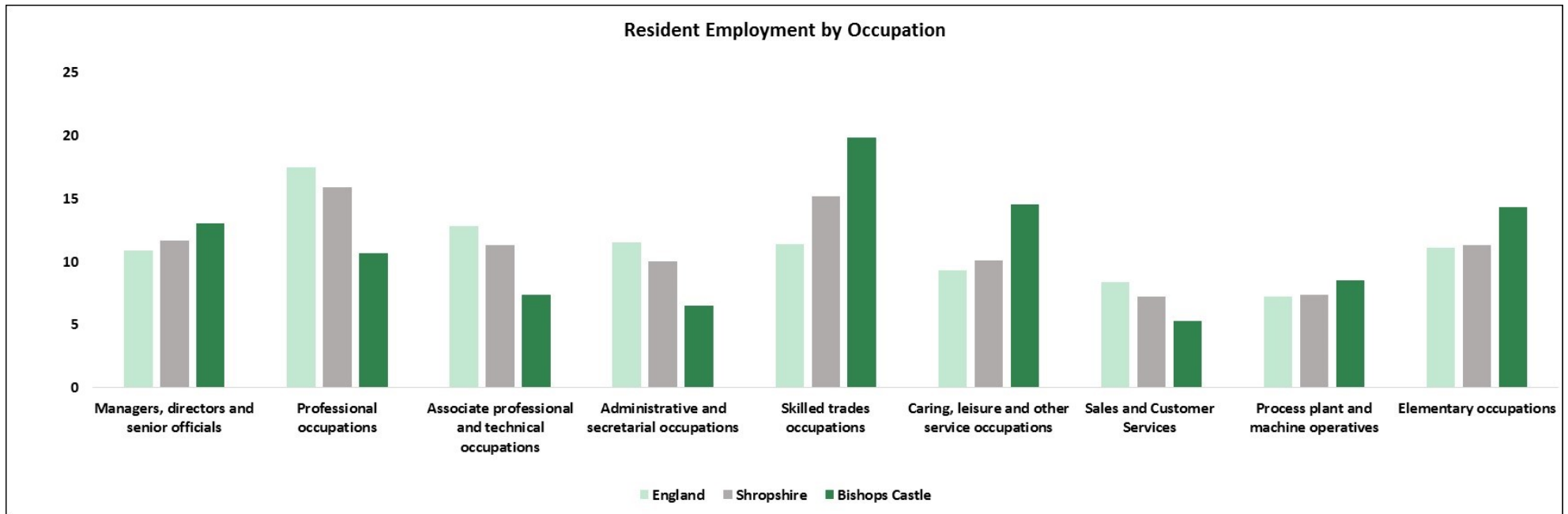
It is apparent that a higher proportion of economically inactive Bishop’s Castle residents are inactive because they are long term sick or disabled or because they are looking after a family than is the case across Shropshire. The majority are, however, retired. While the proportion who are retired in Bishop’s Castle is lower than in Shropshire, the town still supports significantly more retired people compared with the West Midlands and



Source: 2011 Census

Employment by Occupation

Bishop’s Castle supports relatively low numbers working in the Standard Occupation Classifications (SOC) of 1 to 3 the professions, with 31.1% of residents in work employed as managers, directors and senior officials, in professional occupations or in associate professional and technical occupations compared with 38.9% in Shropshire. 13% work as managers, 10.7% in professional occupations and just 7.4% in associate professional occupations compared with 38.9% in Shropshire. 13% work as managers, 10.7% in professional occupations and just 7.4% in associate professional occupations. A higher proportion are employed in lower level occupations, including elementary occupations (14.3% compared with 11.3% for Shropshire) and process, plant and machine operatives (8.5% compared with 7.4% for Shropshire). Very high numbers work in skilled trades occupations (19.8% compared with 15.2% for Shropshire) or in a caring or leisure capacity (14.5% compared with 10.1% in Shropshire).



Source: 2011 Census

Qualifications

According to the Census 2011, 21.3% of residents had a level 4 qualification or above, lower than the Shropshire average of 29.4%. In total 17.2% of people had no qualification. This is higher than the Shropshire average (14.0%). The qualification profile of Bishop's Castle residents reflects the type of employment that is prevalent amongst the working population, with fewer working in managerial or professional occupations and more in elementary occupations.

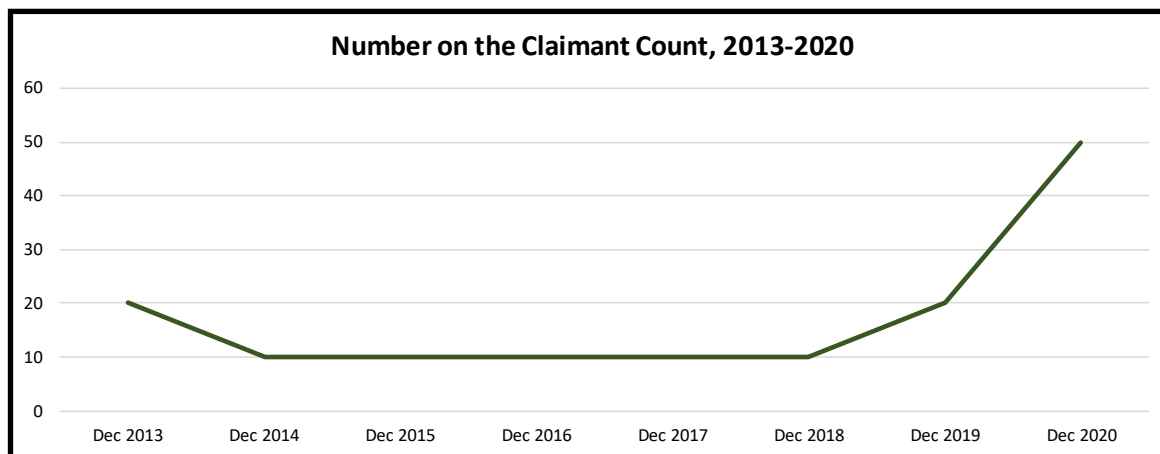
Qualifications	Bishop's Castle	Shropshire	England and Wales
Level 1	19.2	15.4	15.2
Level 2	19.6	19.4	17.2
Level 3	15.4	14.7	14.5
Level 4/5	21.3	29.4	29.7
Other qualifications	7.1	7.1	8.6
No qualifications	17.2	14.0	15.0

Source: 2011 Census, ONS, Highest Level of Qualification Population aged 16-64.

For further information on qualification levels and definitions visit Office of National Statistics (ONS)
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/articles/qualificationsandlabourmarketparticipationinenglandandwales/2014-06-18#background-notes>

Unemployment

The claimant count is the main measure of people who are under pensionable age who are available for and actively seeking work and who are claiming out-of-work benefits (mostly Universal Credit but also Jobseekers Allowance). The chart below shows the number claiming this benefit in Bishop’s Castle between December 2013 and December 2020.



Source: Department of Work and Pensions/ONS

Universal Credit

The following table shows the number of people claiming Universal Credit in Bishop’s Castle in January 2021. It includes those who are out-of-work (and hence on the claimant count shown above), and also those who are on low incomes and entitled to in work benefits. The table also shows the number of households on universal credit in the town.

	Number
People on Universal Credit (Jan 21)	123
Households on Universal Credit (Nov 20)	96

In December 2020, 50 Bishop’s Castle residents were on the claimant count, which is five times higher than the 10 who were on the count in December in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. The claimant rate in Bishop’s Castle (the percentage of the 16-64 population which is claiming) is higher than the average for Shropshire (6.1% compared with 4.4%). This rate is comparable to the Great Britain rate (6.2%) but lower than in the West Midlands (7.2%). Claimant numbers everywhere were elevated throughout 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

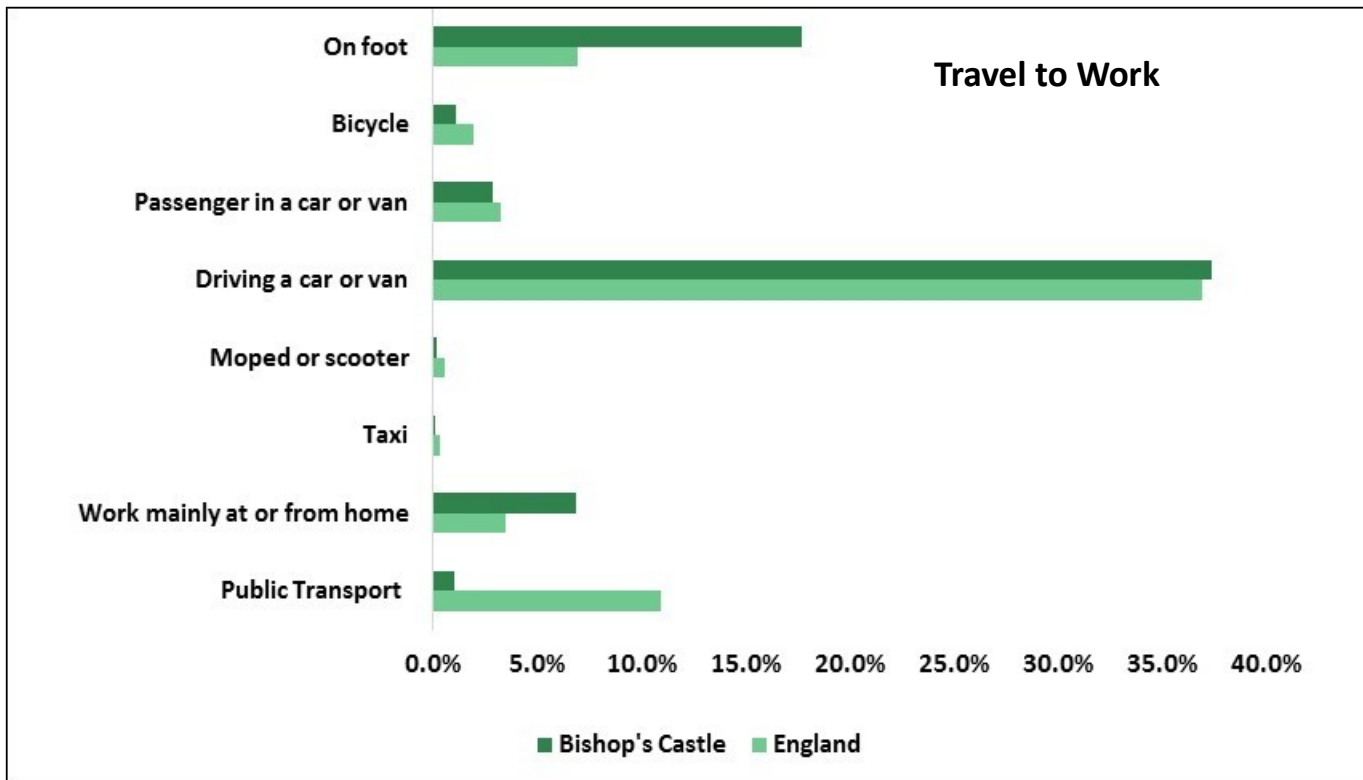
State Pension

In Shropshire there were 75,688, people claiming state pension in August 2020. This is slightly lower than 76,250 in February 2017, which is attributed to changes in retirement age.

Claimants in Bishop’s Castle total 472 or 0.6% of the state pension claimants in the county.

Travel and Commuting

The most commonly used method of transport to work for Bishop's Castle residents was to travel by car or van. 37% of workers drove to work, while an additional 3% were a passenger in a car or van. Slightly more Bishop's Castle residents work primarily from home than is the case nationally (7% compared with 3%), and this is also slightly higher than the Shropshire average of 6%. A very high percentage walk to work (18% compared with 9% for Shropshire and 7% for England). There were considerably fewer people travelling by public transport than is the case nationally. This is a pattern familiar to many rural areas.

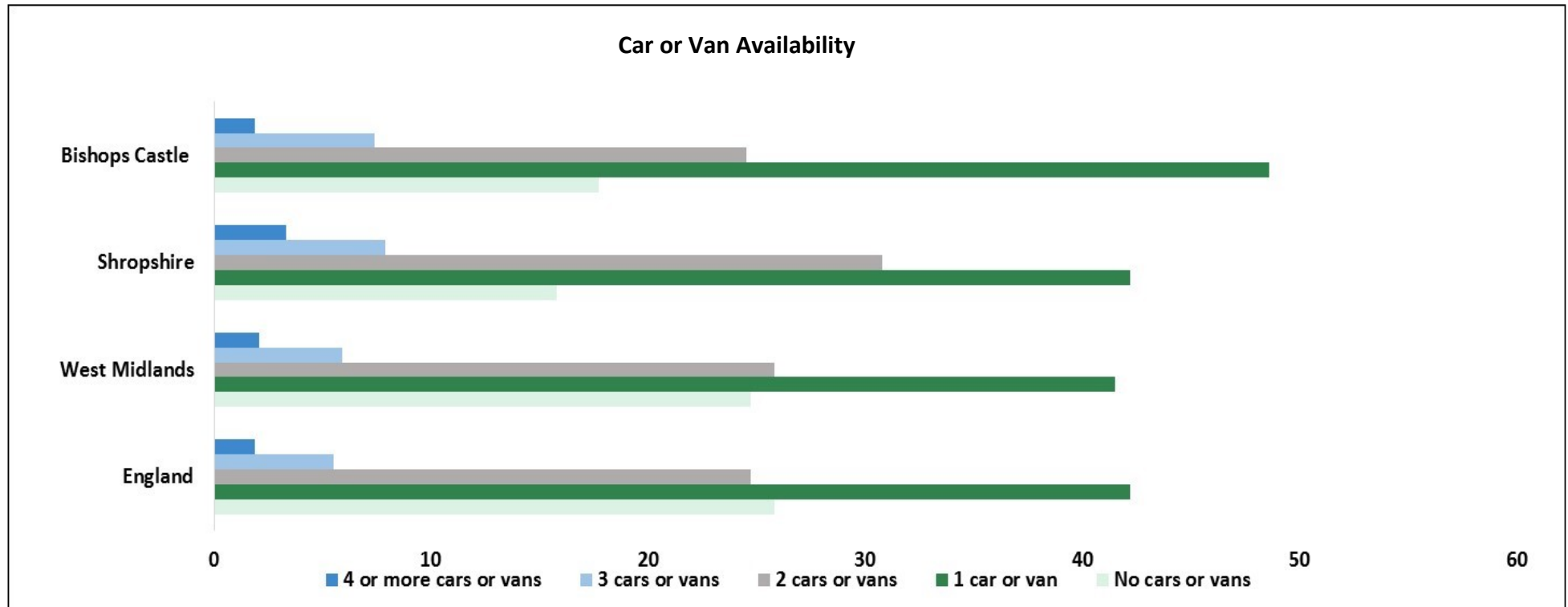


Source: 2011 Census

Car or Van Availability

Car ownership is high in Shropshire, which is typical of a rural area. Just 15.8% of households in the County do not have a car or van compared with 25.8% of households nationally according to the 2011 Census. The proportion of households without a car in Bishop's Castle stands at 17.7%.

48.6% of households have one car, 24.5% have two cars while 9.3% have three or more. The total number of cars and vans owned by Bishop's Castle households stood at 885 in 2011.

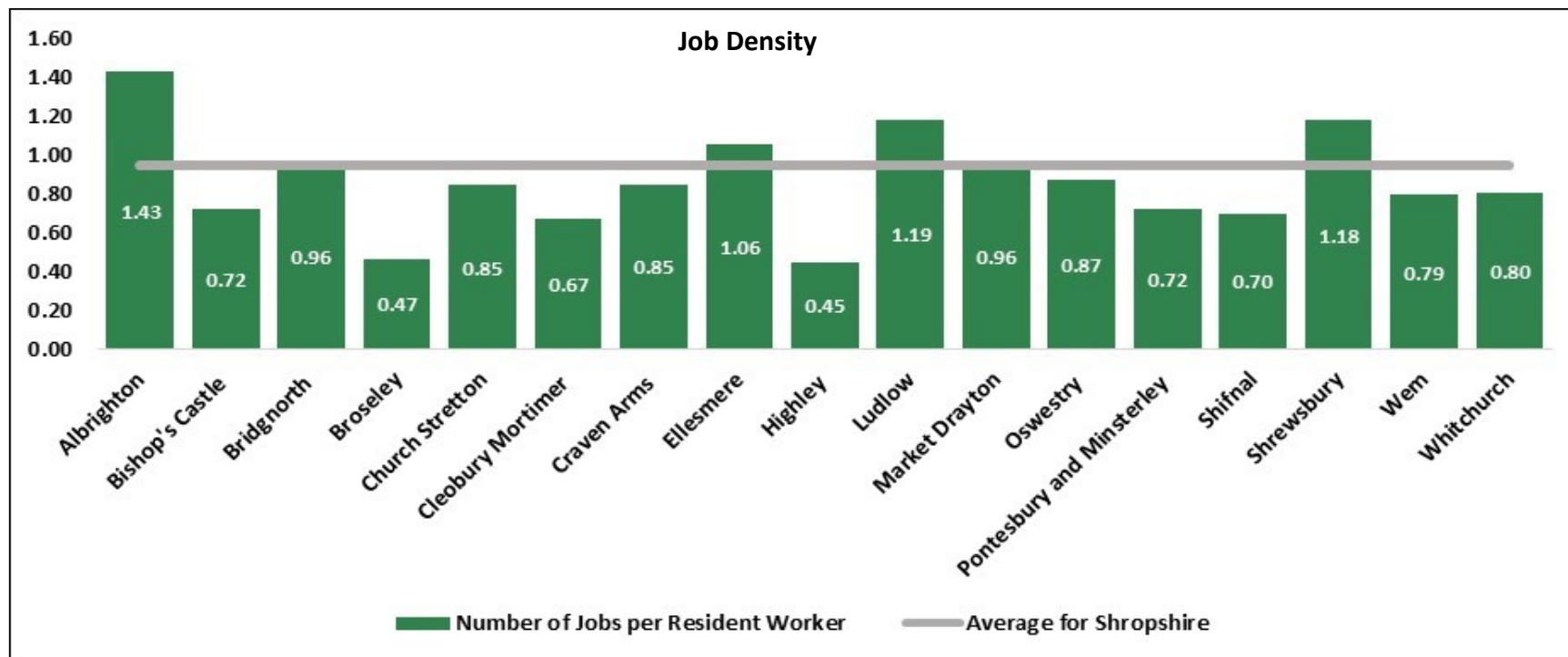


Source: 2011 Census

Commuting Patterns

Bishop’s Castle (place plan area) supports a lower level of employment self-containment than the largest Shropshire market towns but in relation to population size, self-containment is reasonably high. 37.8% of all Bishop’s Castle jobs are filled by Bishop’s Castle residents while 27.4% of working people who live in Bishop’s Castle also work there, which gives an overall level of self-containment of 31.8%. The differential between the number of resident workers and the number of jobs is sizeable, with net out-commuting across the Bishop’s Castle place plan border standing at 972. This equates with 2,565 people living in Bishop’s Castle but working elsewhere and 1,593 people working in Bishop’s Castle but living elsewhere.

There are, therefore, comparatively few jobs in Bishop’s Castle in relation to the size of the resident population. As such, job density is low at just 0.72 jobs per resident worker compared an average of 0.95 in Shropshire. As illustrated in the chart below, the only towns where the number of jobs exceeds the resident workforce are Albrighton, Ellesmere, Ludlow and Shrewsbury.



Source: Census 2011

Note: Data relates to Mid Super Output Areas (MSOA) aligned as closely as possible to Shropshire place plan areas

Origins and Destination of Workforce

Other than Bishop’s Castle, the rest of Shropshire is an important source of workers for Bishop’s Castle jobs. 14.2% of jobs are filled by workers crossing the border from Powys. The main destination for Bishop’s Castle workers who are not employed within the place plan is also Powys as well as the rest of Shropshire.

Main Origins of Bishop’s Castle Workforce	Number	%
Bishop’s Castle	968	37.8%
Rest of Shropshire	701	27.4%
Herefordshire, County of	76	3.0%
Telford and Wrekin	31	1.2%
Powys	364	14.2%
Other	421	16.4%

Source: Census 2011

Note: Data relates to Mid Super Output Areas (MSOA) aligned as closely as possible to Shropshire place plan areas this covers a wider geographic area than the Parish. This results in a higher workforce number than quoted in the economic activity table.

Main Destinations for Bishop’s Castle Resident Workers	Number	%
Bishop's Castle	968	27.4%
Rest of Shropshire	1564	44.3%
Herefordshire, County of	132	3.7%
Telford and Wrekin	119	3.4%
Birmingham	31	0.9%
Powys	386	10.9%
Other	333	9.4%

Note: Data relates to Mid Super Output Areas (MSOA) aligned as closely as possible to Shropshire place plan areas

Household Income

Source: CACI, 2020, Paycheck Income Data, Shropshire

Market Town	Households	15k or less	15k - 30k	30k - 50k	50k - 80k	80k +
Albrighton	2,285	17%	29%	26%	18%	10%
Bishop's Castle	708	23%	33%	24%	14%	6%
Bridgnorth	5,911	16%	28%	26%	19%	11%
Broseley	2,568	18%	29%	26%	18%	10%
Church Stretton	2,374	16%	28%	26%	19%	10%
Cleobury Mortimer	1,506	15%	26%	27%	20%	12%
Craven Arms Town Council	1,380	24%	32%	24%	14%	6%
Ellesmere	2,263	21%	31%	25%	16%	8%
Highley Parish Council	1,710	21%	31%	25%	16%	7%
Ludlow	5,436	21%	32%	25%	15%	7%
Market Drayton	5,549	21%	31%	25%	16%	7%
Minsterley	810	20%	30%	25%	17%	8%
Much Wenlock	1,537	15%	27%	26%	20%	12%
Oswestry	8,387	23%	31%	24%	15%	7%
Pontesbury	1,589	13%	26%	27%	21%	13%
Shifnal	4,116	17%	27%	26%	19%	11%
Shrewsbury	34,187	18%	28%	26%	18%	10%
Wem	2,937	22%	33%	25%	14%	6%
Whitchurch	4,638	21%	31%	25%	16%	7%

Note: the methodology to calculate the number of households is based on commercial and credit data rather than census information.

Household income table for Shropshire shows that 23% or 164 households in Bishops Castle earn less than £15,000 per year. At the other end of the scale 6% of households had an income exceeding £80,000 per annum. Household income rates in Bishops Castle are lower than the Shropshire average.

Retail Economy

Retail accounts for 12.9% of total employment in Bishop's Castle, which makes it the fourth largest employment sector in the town. 0.5% of all retail employment across the whole of Shropshire is absorbed by Bishop's Castle.

Retail plays an important role in supporting the community and economy of Bishop's Castle. Providing everyday amenities and shopping for local residents.

High Street Shopping, Bishop's Castle offers a range of mainly independent traders providing fresh produce, gifts, services, banking facilities, eating and drinking establishments.

Supermarkets, There are no major superstores but local convenience stores include a Co-operative.

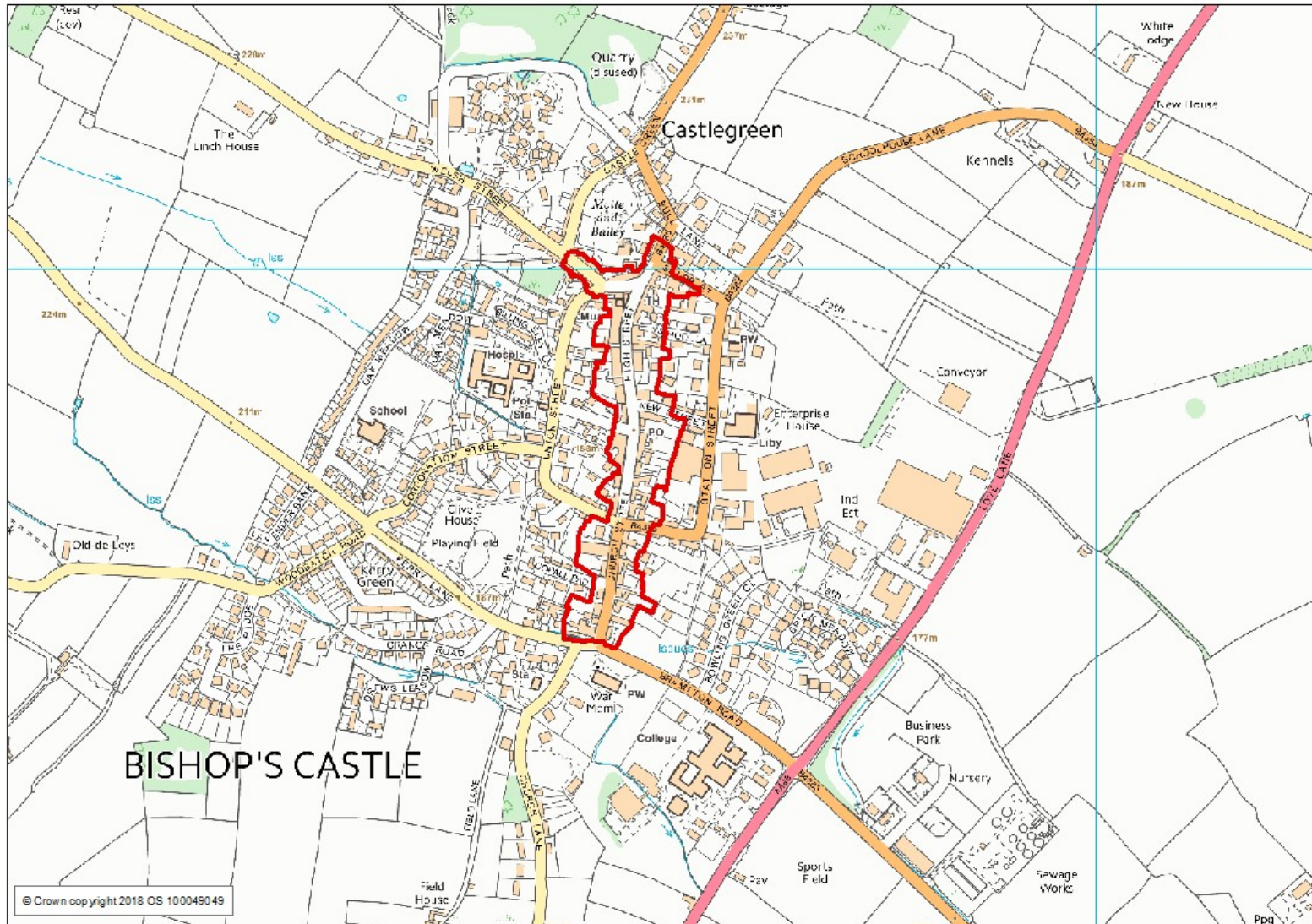
Markets

The town retains its market tradition with the Farmers' Market every 3rd Saturday of the month and a flea market on the 1st Saturday (except January) Specialist Saturday sales are also held – see the website for details. Markets are held at the town hall.

<http://bishopscaletownhall.co.uk/events/markets-sales/>

Bishop's Castle Livestock Market, 29 Church St, Bishops Castle SY9 5AD <https://hallsgb.com/auctions/livestock-auctions/>

Main Retail Area



Tourism & Leisure

Bishop's Castle is a small market town in the south of Shropshire. It is ideally placed to visit areas of outstanding natural beauty in the Shropshire Hills and Welsh borderlands. The historic town offers a range of visitor attractions along with many pubs, restaurants, cafes and shops. There are frequent events in the town for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Approximately 100 people are employed in the tourism sector in Bishop's Castle, of which the majority are employed in accommodation and food services and just a small number in arts, entertainment, recreation and other services. This is the equivalent of 18.3% of the total Bishop's Castle workforce which represents a higher share compared with Shropshire as a whole (14.7%). Less than 1% of total employment in the tourism sector in Shropshire is provided by Bishop's Castle.

Visitors Attractions

An ideal starting place for information on places to visit is the – Visitor Information Centre at the Town Hall, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, SY9 5BG
<http://bishopscastletownhall.co.uk/visitor-information/>

Places to visit in Bishop's Castle include:

Bishop's Castle Heritage Centre, Chapel Yard, High Street, Bishop's Castle SY9 5DE www.bchrc.co.uk

Transport museum showing the history of the railway which closed in 1935 along with road history.

The House of Crutches Museum, High St, Bishops Castle SY9 5DE - www.hocmuseum.org.uk

The museum houses a collection covering many aspects of community life and agriculture in Bishop's Castle and South West Shropshire.

The Three Tuns Brewery, Salop Street, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire SY9 5BW www.threetunsbrewery.co.uk

Tours available for the oldest brewery in Britain.

Nearby Attractions

The Bog, Visitor Centre, Stiperstones SY5 0NG - www.bogcentre.co.uk

11 miles north of Bishops Castle Town Centre The Bog was once a thriving village with over 200 buildings. Now only a few remain, including the Visitor Centre which is based in the old school.

Events

Bishop's Castle hosts a number of events throughout the year. Key annual events are listed here but it is worth visiting the town council website for details of all events.

Bishop's Castle Arts Festival, <https://bishopscastleartsfestival.com/>

Held in February the festival showcases local artists including: crafts, dance, music, poetry, photography with open studios and artisan market.

Bishop's Castle Carnival, <https://bishopscastlecarnival.wordpress.com/>

One of the oldest traditional town carnivals with a parade of steam engines, vintage cars and floats around the town followed by fun, games and music on Bishops Castles playing fields.

Bishop's Castle Walking Festival, held in May - visit www.walkingfestival.co.uk

For details of the festival and other walking events in and around Bishop's Castle.

Mojo Festival, Blues & Rock music festival in the Crown & Anchor Vaults. Usually held over the May Day weekend.

Michaelmas Fair, held in September this fair includes; steam engines, theatre, music, street performers, funfair, evening lantern procession, samba band and fire show.

Sports, Leisure & Culture

Bishop's Castle has an active range of sporting, leisure and social clubs. If you are looking for particular activities the Community Directory is a good starting place –

www.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/community-directory

The following list highlights some of the cultural, sporting groups and facilities in the Bishop's Castle area:

Bishop's Castle Cricket Club, The Manor Ground, Montgomery Road (B4385), Bishops Castle SY9 5HA - www.bishopscastlecc.intheteam.com

Bishop's Castle & Onny Valley Rugby Club, Brampton Road, Bishops Castle SY9 5BX. <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/bishopscastleonnyvalley/>

Bishop's Castle Bowling Club, 5 Bull Ln, Bishops Castle SY9 5DA.

Bishop's Castle Lawn Tennis Club, Love Ln, Bishops Castle SY9 8EA - www.bcltc.btck.co.uk

SpArC Theatre, Brampton Rd, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AY <http://www.sparctheatre.co.uk/>

Including National Theatre Live and other live screenings, theatre, music, films and exhibitions. SpArC Theatre has a 142 seat auditorium.

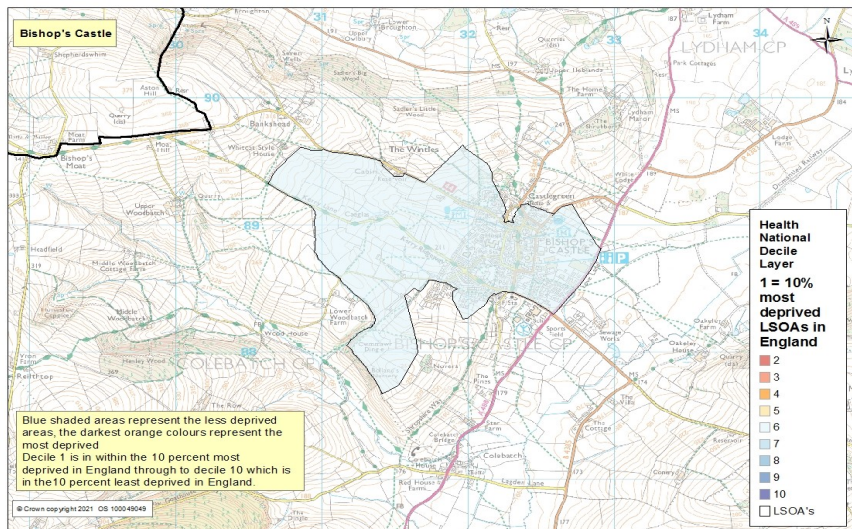
Teme Spark, Brampton Road, Bishops Castle SY9 5AY - <http://www.teme-leisure.co.uk/sparc>

Sports and leisure centre for Bishop's Castle with 20m Swimming Pool, air conditioned 20 Station Fitness Suite, 3 Badminton Court Sports Hall, 2 Squash Courts, Sauna & Sunbed, Fully Equipped Studio Theatre, Vending Area, Art Gallery and Floodlit Artificial Pitches.

Health

Residents of Shropshire generally enjoy better health than across England as a whole with a healthy life expectancy being higher than average. Life expectancy in Shropshire is also higher than the national average. Life expectancy for births in Shropshire between 2016- 18 are 80.5 for males and 83.5 for females. This compares to an average of 79.3 and 82.9 for England. Despite this there are areas in Shropshire where health inequalities may exist. The index of deprivation, shown on the following map, highlight the areas where there are higher degrees of deprivation.

The life expectancy variation between the least and most deprived health areas in Shropshire is equivalent to 4.2 years for men and 3.3 for women.



Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), Department of Communities and Local Government, crown copyright 2019

This domain measures the following:

- Years of potential life lost
- Comparative illness and disability ratio
- Acute morbidity
- Mood and anxiety disorders

Levels of health deprivation are low in Bishop's Castle. In terms of health deprivation the main area of the town falls into the 6th decile or within the 60% most deprived nationally.

Of the **1,585** residents of Bishop's Castle in the last census reporting on their health conditions:

169 reported that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot.

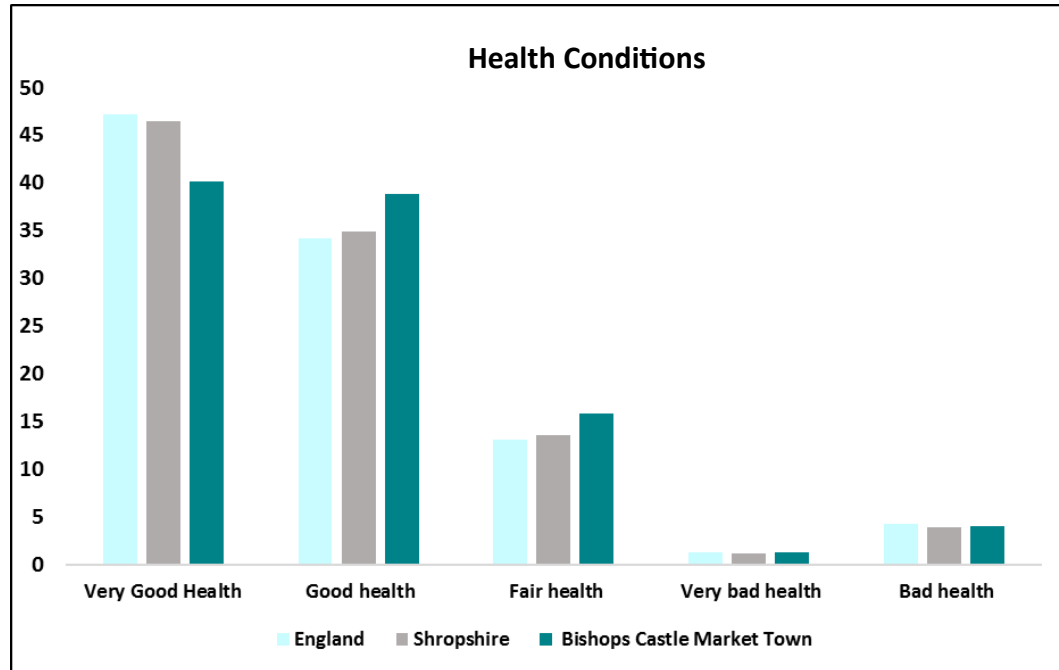
188 reported that their day-to-day activities were limited a little.

1228 reported that their day-to-day activities were not limited.

The rate of people expressing that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot was **10.6%** which is higher than the rate for Shropshire **8.4%** and England **8.3%**.

Health Conditions

At the time of the 2011 Census, 79% of residents in Bishop’s Castle, said that they felt they were in very good or good health. This was similar to the Shropshire and England average of 81%. In contrast 4.0% of people said their health was bad and 1.3% said their health was very bad.



Source: 2011 Census

Health Economy

More than 100 people are employed in the health sector in Bishop’s Castle (26.5% of total employment) which is very high compared with the Shropshire average of 14.7%. It is the largest employment sector in the town.

Area	Provide unpaid care a week		
	1 to 19 hours	20 to 49 hours	50 + hours
Bishop’s Castle	6.2%	1.3%	1.5%
Shropshire	7.5%	1.3%	2.4%
England	6.5%	1.4%	2.4%

Source: 2011 Census

6.2% of people in Bishop’s Castle provided unpaid care for 1-19 hours per week, this was lower than Shropshire as a whole. Bishop’s Castle had a lower number of people providing care for 50 or more hours per week 1.5% compared to 2.4% for Shropshire and England.

Health Facilities

Bishop's Castle has local access to a range of health facilities including chemists, doctors, dentists and a minor injuries unit. Check with the NHS for latest opening times and which services should be used. <https://www.nhs.uk/>

Health Services available in or near Bishop's Castle include:

Hospitals

Accident & Emergency, 17.1 miles to the nearest Accident and Emergency service provided at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Mytton Oak Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Minor Injuries Unit Minor Injuries Unit, 14.6 miles to the nearest minor injuries unit at Ludlow Community Hospital Gravel Hill, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1QX

Bishop's Castle Community Hospital, Stone House, Union Street, Bishops Castle SY9 5AJ - Bishop's Castle Community Hospital is a small 16-bed hospital providing care for local patients who do not need to be admitted to an acute hospital, or have been transferred from an acute hospital for rehabilitation or recovery following an operation, or who need palliative care. Outpatient services include; Audiology, Falls, Podiatry, Physiotherapy, Speech and language therapy.

Doctors

Bishop's Castle Medical Practice, Schoolhouse Lane, Bishops Castle, Shropshire, SY9 5ER.

www.bishopscastlemedicalpractice.co.uk

5275 registered patients.

Dentists

Butler and Finnigan, Dental Surgery, 2 Market Square, Bishops Castle, SY9 5BN

Pharmacies

Bishops Castle Pharmacy, Church Street, Bishops Castle, Shropshire, SY9 5AE <http://www.dudleytaylor.co.uk>

Residential Nursing Homes

The following care providers, residential and nursing homes are within or close to Bishop's Castle Town. Please check with the Care Quality Commission for the latest details of providers and their care ratings -<http://www.cqc.org.uk/>

Care Providers in Bishop's Castle include:

High Trees Residential Home, Bull Ln, Bishops Castle SY9 5DA <http://castlehavencare.co.uk/>

Care home for adults with learning difficulties – CQC Rating Good April 2019.

Keegans Court Residential Home, The Grange, Kerry Lane, Bishops Castle SY9 5AU

Residential care home for 19 old age adults – CQC Rating Inadequate Jan 2021

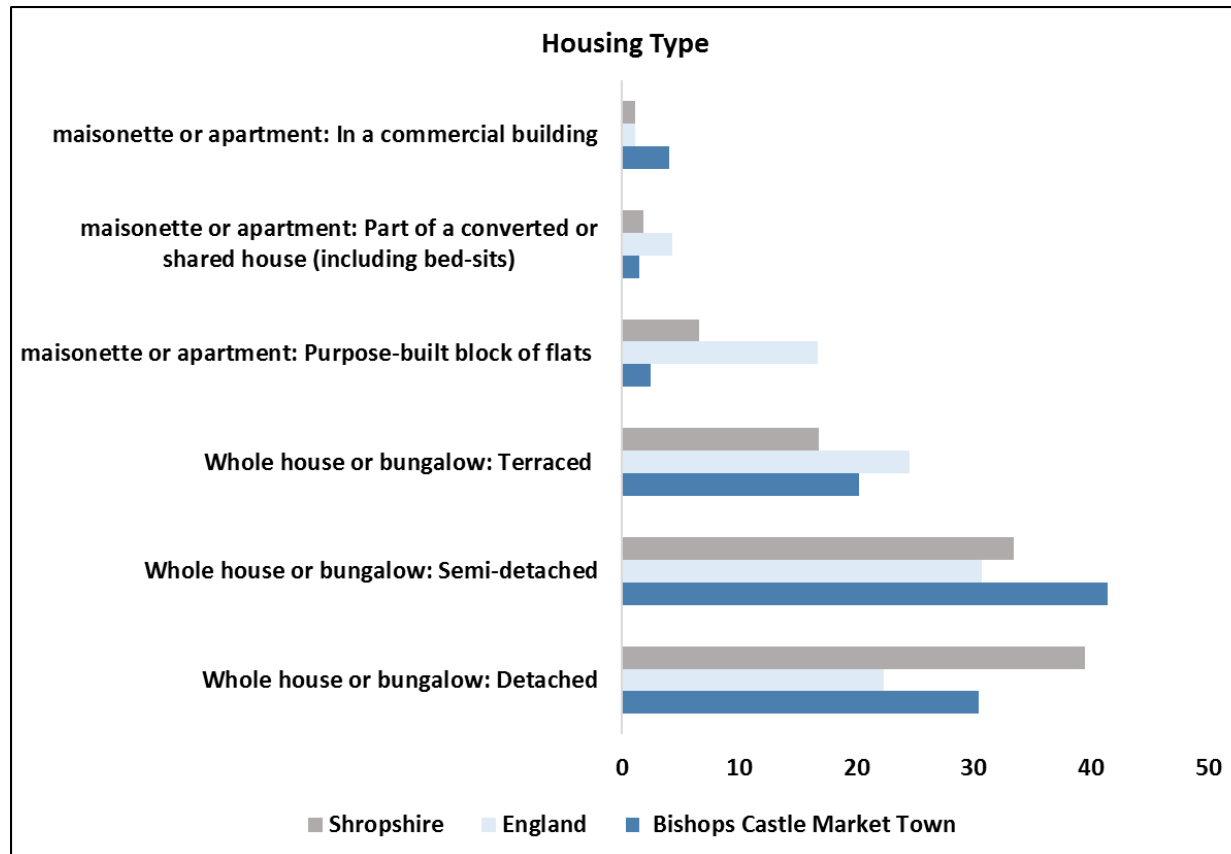
Pines Residential Home, Colebatch, Bishops Castle SY9 5JY

Residential care home for 13 adults - care categories; old age , younger adults, learning disabilities – CQC Rating Good Feb 2020

Stone House, Union Street, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AJ <https://www.coveragecareservices.co.uk/our-homes/stone-house>

Accommodation for 40 older people with or without dementia – CQC Rating Good May 2019

Housing



Source: 2011 Census

A greater number of Bishop's Castle household spaces were semi-detached properties (41.4%) compared to Shropshire as a whole (33.4%). Semi-detached properties account for the largest housing type in Bishop's Castle.

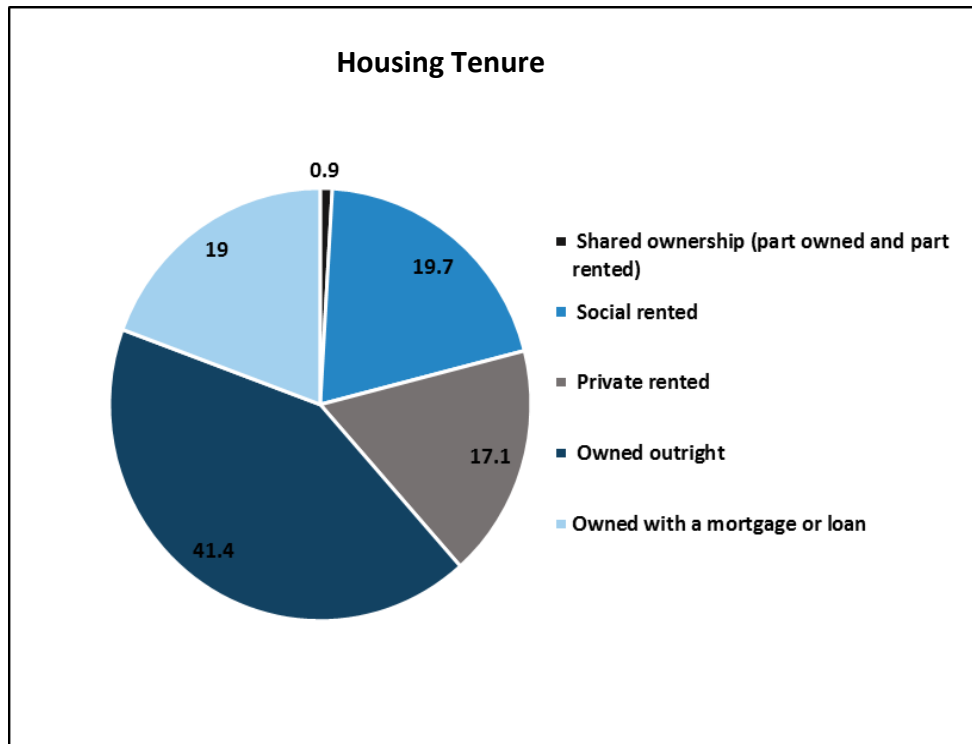
Fewer household spaces were detached (30.4%) compared to Shropshire as a whole (39.5%). In Shropshire the largest housing type was detached.

There were fewer terraced houses and purpose built flats compared to Shropshire as a whole and England.

There were a greater number of maisonette or apartments in a commercial building compared to Shropshire and England.

Housing Composition

- 35.6% of households were One Person Households greater than the Shropshire average (28.9%) and England (30.2%).
- 6.2% of households were Lone Parent with dependent children greater than the Shropshire average (5.2%) and less than England (7.1%).
- 18.2% of households were One Person Pensioner aged 65 and over, greater than the Shropshire average of (13.9%) and England (12.4%).
- 10.7% of households were married couples with dependent children lower than the Shropshire average of (15.3) and England (15.3).



Source: 2011 Census

In Bishop’s Castle , at the time of the 2011 Census, there were 691 households, 747 dwellings and 10 Communal Establishments housing 109 people. The largest proportion (41.4%) of houses in Bishop’s Castle which were owned outright, greater than the Shropshire figure of 39%. 19.7% of households were social rented housing, this was greater than for Shropshire as a whole (13.5%) and England (17.7%).

There were slightly more houses privately rented 17.1% compared to 15% for Shropshire and 14% for England. In Bishop’s Castle there are 137 registered social landlord (RSL) homes. These homes are owned by a range of RSL’s.

Housing

Uses town council boundaries	Sales 2020	Median Gross Household Income	Median House Price	Median Affordability Ratio	Lower Quartile Gross Household Income	Lower Quartile House Price	Lower Quartile Affordability Ratio
Albrighton	52	£32,252	£250,000	7.8	£18,701	£185,250	9.9
Bishop's Castle	24	£26,663	£256,500	9.6	£15,701	£172,500	11.0
Bridgnorth	148	£33,596	£221,000	6.6	£19,216	£170,000	8.8
Broseley	37	£32,187	£195,000	6.1	£18,277	£161,000	8.8
Church Stretton	70	£33,396	£320,000	9.6	£19,220	£198,250	10.3
Cleobury Mortimer	31	£36,028	£185,000	5.1	£20,691	£114,500	5.5
Craven Arms	23	£26,872	£175,000	6.5	£15,391	£153,750	10.0
Ellesmere Urban	73	£28,943	£178,000	6.1	£16,630	£156,000	9.4
Highley	51	£28,869	£172,000	6.0	£16,716	£151,875	9.1
Ludlow	121	£28,487	£230,000	8.1	£16,559	£160,000	9.7
Market Drayton	157	£29,144	£180,000	6.2	£16,761	£145,000	8.7
Much Wenlock	32	£35,467	£238,475	6.7	£20,282	£191,863	9.5
Oswestry	222	£27,730	£151,000	5.4	£15,944	£125,000	7.8
Shifnal	139	£34,191	£239,995	7.0	£19,268	£198,725	10.3
Shrewsbury	932	£32,548	£203,500	6.3	£18,525	£159,713	8.6
Wem Urban	83	£27,362	£187,500	6.9	£16,007	£135,250	8.4
Whitchurch Urban	144	£28,931	£179,775	6.2	£16,668	£135,000	8.1
Shropshire	3,626	£33,337	£222,500	6.7	£19,089	£163,625	8.6

The table shows affordability ratios for housing in Shropshire. The income data relates to Shropshire Place Plan areas which are slightly broader geography than market towns, and take account of hinterlands. The table shows that in Bishops Castle a household with a median household income of (£26,663) would need 9.6 times this income to afford a median priced house (£256,000) as of year end 2020. This is higher than a ratio of 9.6 for Shropshire. With below average household income and above average house prices, Bishops Castle is one of the least affordable market towns.

Source: Shropshire/England House Price Figures—ONS House Price Datasets, CACI Paycheck Data, DCLG Land Registry Price Paid Data. Year end 2020

Housing Developments

Shropshire’s Core Strategy (March 2011) sets out the strategic vision and objectives to guide development and growth for the period 2006-2026. This includes a vision for Bishop’s Castle.

Detailed proposals to deliver the strategic vision within the Core Strategy are contained within the Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) document which together with the Core Strategy forms Shropshire’s Local Plan for 2006-2026.

Consultations on the Local Plan Review Preferred Scale and Distribution of Growth for the period to 2036 were presented to Cabinet on 18th October 2017.

The following table shows progress and expectations with current site allocations:

Housing Allocations	Provision	Already Completed	Expected Build Out Rate									
			2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-32
School House Lane	40	0	0	0	15	15	10	0	0	0	0	0
Windfall Sites	34	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The new Shropshire Local Plan will set out housing and employment requirements to 2038. The plan is due to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in 2021. The purpose of this examination is to consider compliance with all legal requirements, including the duty to cooperate, and soundness. Data in this profile will be updated after examination.

Proposed Development Sites



Education

Market Town	Number school age children 4-15	Free School Meals (FSM) eligible	English as an additional Language (EAL)
Albrighton	407	34	4
Bishops Castle	189	28	9
Bridgnorth	1258	69	29
Broseley	547	34	4
Church Stretton	389	33	9
Cleobury Mortimer	373	37	6
Craven Arms	299	45	22
Ellesmere	495	57	43
Highley	384	43	10
Ludlow	992	122	19
Market Drayton	1531	215	66
Much Wenlock	334	32	9
Oswestry	1986	226	188
Shifnal	819	55	16
Shrewsbury	8771	1001	390
Wem	777	71	61
Whitchurch	973	122	83
Total	21108	2266	979

Bishop’s Castle is a key educational centre for the town and surrounding areas. Pupils are mainly drawn from the Bishop’s Castle Town area but schools also attracts pupils from the surrounding hinterland areas.

The town council area has one primary schools and one secondary schools.

The percentage of children living in the town parish area who are eligible for free school meals is 14.8%. This is higher than the rate for Shropshire which is 10.74%.

The percentage of children who have English as an additional language is 4.8%. This is similar to the rate in Shropshire where the overall rate is 4.64%

INFORMATION, INTELLIGENCE & INSIGHT

Bishop's Castle provides local educational facilities for its primary school catchment. There is no senior school based in the town with pupils travelling to the nearby Idsall School in Shifnal.

The town council area has one primary school.

Primary Schools

Bishop's Castle Primary School, Oak Meadow, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire SY9 5PA <http://www.bishopscastle-pri.shropshire.sch.uk/>

Net capacity of 175 with an approved annual admission of 25 pupils. The school has 133 pupils on roll (Jan 2017).

The % of pupils eligible, at any time during the past 6 years, for Free School Meals is 13.5%, lower than the national average of 25.4%.

The percentage of pupils whose first language is not English is very low 4.3% compared to 20% nationally.

Ofsted Rating: Good - Dec 2013.

Secondary Schools

Bishop's Castle Community College, Bishop's Castle SY9 5AY <http://www.communitycollegebc.org.uk/>

Net capacity of 604 with an approved annual admission of 108 pupils. The school has 423 pupils on roll (Jan 2017).

The % of pupils eligible, at any time during the past 6 years, for Free School Meals is 15.9%, lower than the national average of 29.1%.

The percentage of pupils whose first language is not English is very low 1.9% compared to 15.7% nationally.

Ofsted Rating: Good - April 2015

Further Education College

There are no college facilities in Bishop's Castle the nearest sixth form colleges are in Ludlow and Shrewsbury.

Transport and Infrastructure

Bishop's Castle is located in a rural area and lacks direct access to key arterial roads. The A49 is 10 miles east of the town and is accessed via local A and B roads. The A488 is the main transport route in and out of the town heading north to Minsterley (13 miles) and on to Shrewsbury. A488 south to Clun (6 miles) and Knighton (13 miles).

Railways

There is no longer a direct railway line to Bishop's Castle. The nearest station is in Craven Arms (10 miles).

Airports

The nearest main international airports to Bishop's Castle are:

Birmingham Airport, Marston Green, Birmingham, B26 3QJ – 78 miles east of Bishop's castle.

Liverpool Airport, Speke Hall Ave, Speke, Liverpool L24 1YD – 82 miles north of Bishop's Castle.

Light aircraft facilities are available at:

Welshpool Mid Wales Airport, Welshpool SY21 8SG – local airport for light aircraft.

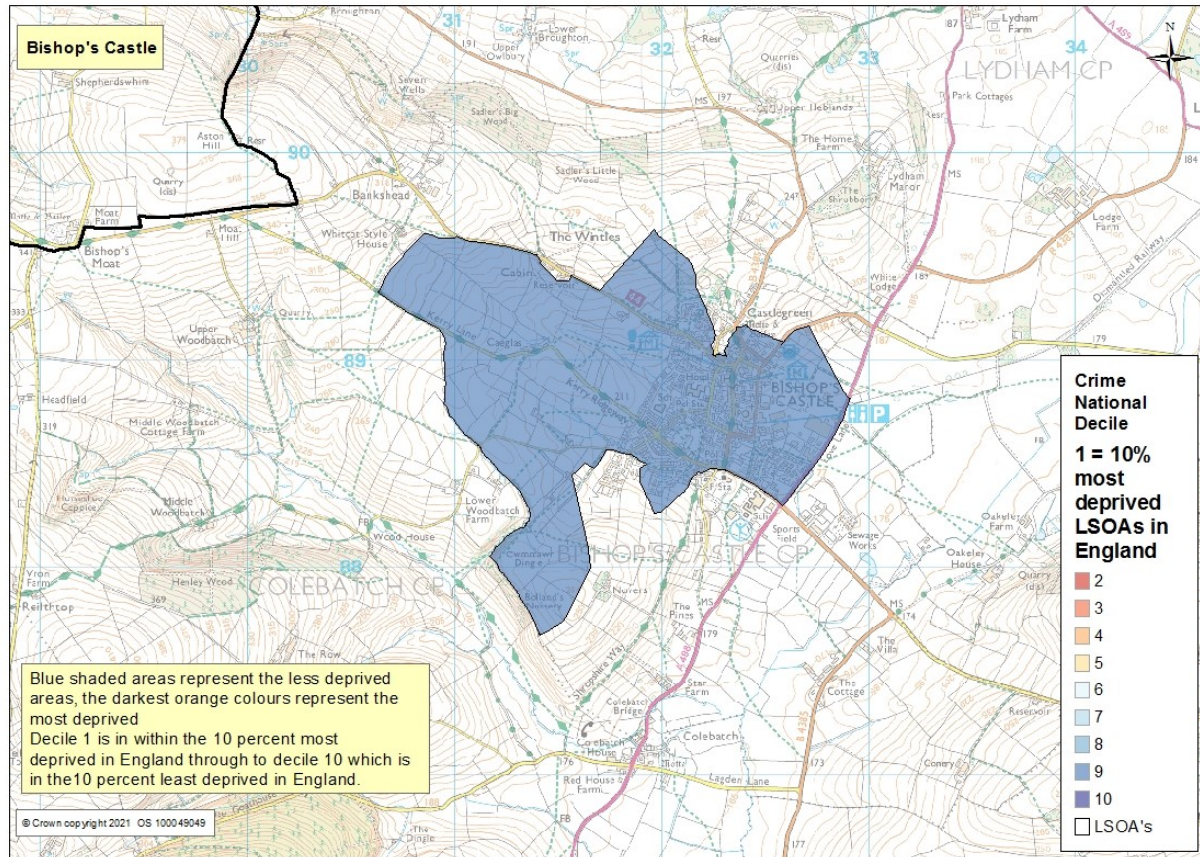
14miles north of Oswestry <http://www.welshpoolairport.co.uk/>

Broadband

Digital connectivity is viewed as an increasingly important factor for business success, and nowadays broadband speed is a vital consideration when businesses are looking to relocate.

Superfast broadband is being rolled out across Shropshire, and nearly all premises in Bishop's Castle have access, or will have access within the next two years, to infrastructure that allows downloads speeds of at least 30 Mbps. Just 1 premise (0.1% of the total) are expected to have speeds that fall below this threshold. Most premises in Shropshire are supplied by just one infrastructure provider; in Bishop's Castle, however, 93.2% of residents have a choice of two or more suppliers.

Community Safety



The crime domain comprises four underlying indicators, each one accounting for a proportion of the total crime domain score. They are weighted as:

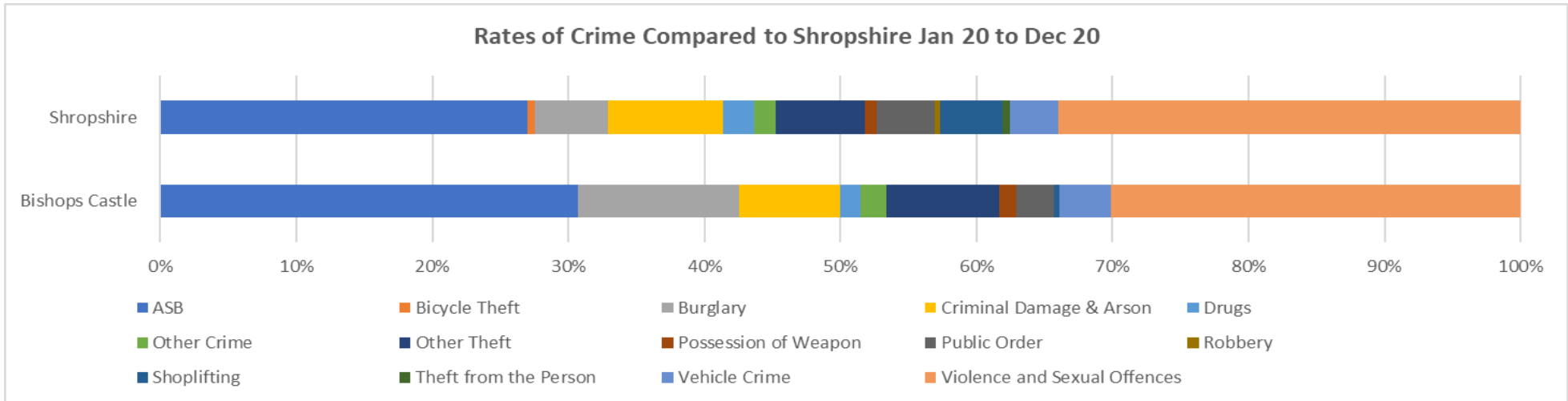
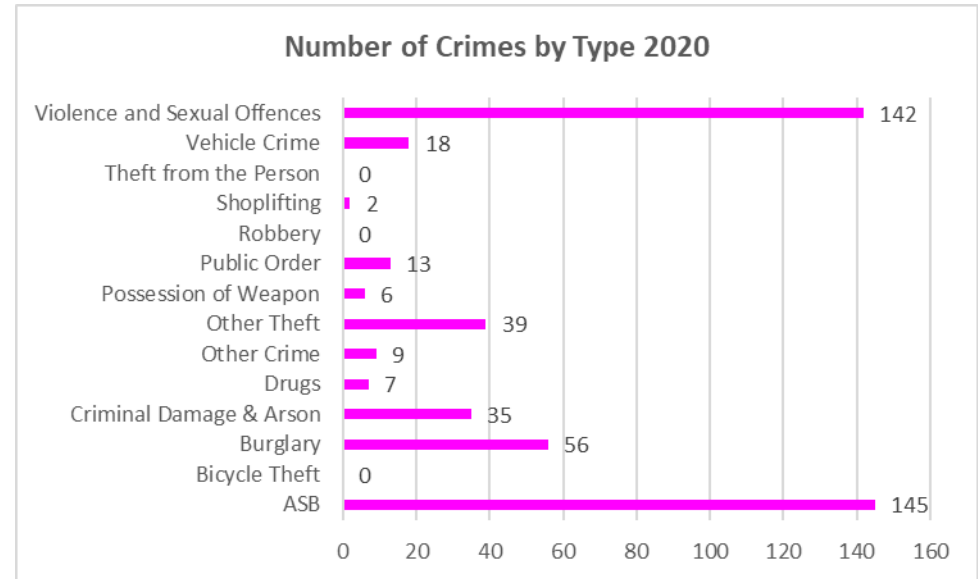
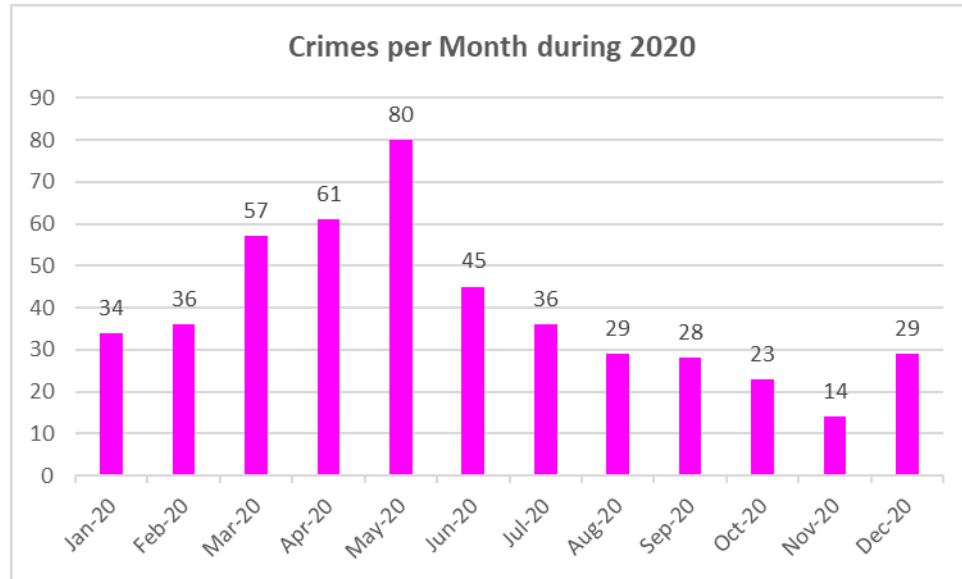
- Violence – 32.4%
- Criminal damage – 26.5%
- Theft – 22.2%
- Burglary – 18.9%

In Bishop's Castle crime deprivation levels are very low and areas fall into the 9th least deprived deciles nationally.

Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), Department of Communities and Local Government, crown copyright 2019

Crime

Source: <https://www.police.uk/>



Overall levels of crime in Shropshire are low. Town centres generally experience higher rates of crime through anti-social behaviour and shoplifting. Latest crime data and more precise details of localities and investigations can be found by using the police crime map at <https://www.police.uk/>

Additional Information

Produced and designed by the Information, Intelligence and Insight team of Shropshire Council

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this profile, Shropshire Council can not accept any responsibility for errors or omissions. The inclusion of associations, organisations or facilities in this profile should not be taken as an endorsement by Shropshire Council of the services offered.

Easy ways to get in touch

- Telephone - **0345 678 9000**
- Email - **commissioning.support@shropshire.gov.uk**

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