

## **Hearings Note 1: 2021 Census and 2011 Census Commuting Data for Oxford and Oxfordshire**

**Prepared by Oxford City Council – 10 June 2024, update 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024**

*Source: Census 2021, ONS & Census 2011, ONS*

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1. The Planning Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State to examine the Local Plan 2040 requested data on commuting patterns into Oxford on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024. As such, the Council published a hearings note in advance of the hearing sessions on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
2. During the hearing sessions, the Inspectors requested that the note include information from the 2011 Census as well as more information about origins of commuters to Oxford and Oxfordshire and net commuter flows (origin/destination). This note has therefore been updated on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June with this additional information.
3. This note includes data from the Census 2021. The travel to work data is caveated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as it was carried out during a Covid-19 lockdown when advice was to stay at home where possible. The indications are this data has been influenced by the response to the Covid pandemic at the time.

4. The number of workers commuting is a lot lower than the total number of workers, and much lower than it would be calculated to be now, as it is highly distorted by the circumstances at the time of the Census.
  
5. In order to provide context to the commuting data for Oxfordshire, the Council can also provide the relevant data for other relevant authorities in the South East.

## 1. Oxford data from 2021 Census

Table 1: Oxford In-Commuting and Out-Commuting Data 2021 Census

Number of commuters living and commuting to work within Oxford	28,973
Number of workers commuting into Oxford from outside	28,342
Total number of commuters working in Oxford	57,315
% of those commuting to work who travel from outside Oxford	49%
Most common origins for commuters outside Oxford	Vale of White Horse (7,065) South Oxon (4,981) Cherwell (6,019) *see Appendix 1 for list of origins of 10 or more people
Total living in Oxford and commuting out to work	9,345
Net commuting flow (commuting into Oxford minus commuting out)	18,997

*Note: at the time of the Census 34,732 workers in Oxford worked from home or had no fixed place of work. A total of 92,047 worked in Oxford*

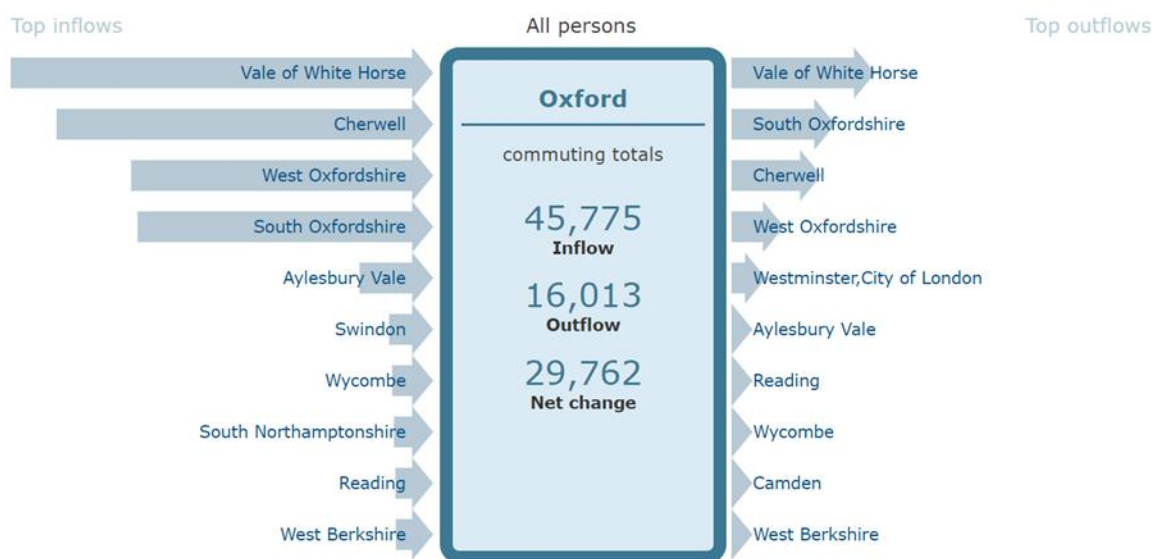
## 2. Oxford data 2011 Census

Table 2: Oxford In-Commuting and Out-Commuting Data 2011 Census

Numbers working from home	7,431
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Number of commuters living and commuting to work within Oxford	42,406
Number of workers commuting into Oxford from outside	45,852
Total number of commuters working in Oxford	88,258
% of those commuting to work who travel from outside Oxford	52%
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Total living in Oxford and commuting out to work	16,013
Net commuting flow (commuting into Oxford minus commuting out)	29,762

Diagram of commuter flows. 2011 Census source data (see Appendix 2 for fuller details of origins of commuters).



### 3. Oxfordshire data 2021 Census

Table : Oxfordshire In-Commuting and Out-Commuting Data 2021 Census

Number of commuters living and commuting to work within Oxfordshire	157,951
Number of workers commuting into Oxfordshire from outside the county	41,207
Total number of commuters working in Oxfordshire	199,158
% of those commuting to work who travel from outside Oxfordshire	20.7%
Most common origins for commuters from outside Oxfordshire	Buckinghamshire (6,846) West Northamptonshire (5,520) Swindon (3,593) Reading (2,721) Warwickshire (2,629) <i>*see Appendix 3 for a fuller list of origins</i>
Total living in Oxfordshire and commuting out to work	24,213
Net commuting flow (commuting into Oxfordshire minus commuting out)	16,994

181,357 working at home within Oxfordshire

## 4. Oxfordshire data 2011 Census

Table 4: Oxfordshire In-Commuting and Out-Commuting Data 2011 Census

Numbers working from home	42,738
Number of commuters living and commuting to work within Oxfordshire	221,160
Number of workers commuting into Oxfordshire from outside	57,447

Total number of commuters working in Oxfordshire	278,607
% of those commuting to work who travel from outside Oxfordshire	20.6
Total living in Oxfordshire and commuting out to work	48,170
Net commuting flow (commuting into Oxfordshire minus commuting out)	9,277

Oxfordshire net flow 2011 compared to 2001 Census



## Appendix 1 Main origins of 10 people or more of commuters into Oxford (lower tier authorities and unitary authorities)

Vale of White Horse	7065
Cherwell	6019
South Oxfordshire	4981
West Oxfordshire	3954
Buckinghamshire	1578
Swindon	567
West Northamptonshire	500
Reading	282
West Berkshire	246
Cotswold	148
Birmingham	124
Stratford-on-Avon	122
Wiltshire	102
Wokingham	100
Milton Keynes	95
Windsor and Maidenhead	94
Slough	82
Hillingdon	79
Warwick	64
Cheltenham	60
Barnet	54
Coventry	50
Brent	49
Ealing	49
Central Bedfordshire	45
Harrow	38
Tewkesbury	35

Basingstoke and Deane	34
Bristol	31
Bracknell Forest	31
Bedford	29
Southwark	29
Test Valley	26
Wychavon	26
Bath and North East Somerset	25
Dudley	25
Hounslow	25
Dacorum	24
Solihull	24
North Northamptonshire	23
Islington	23
Luton	22
Southampton	22
Havering	22
Newham	22
Wandsworth	22
Wolverhampton	21
Hammersmith and Fulham	21
Westminster	21
Winchester	20
Sandwell	20
Kensington and Chelsea	20
Watford	19
Gloucester	18
Nuneaton and Bedworth	18
St Albans	18
Lambeth	18
Leicester	17
South Gloucestershire	17
Enfield	17
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	16
Camden	16
Eastleigh	15

Lewisham	15
Bromsgrove	14
Worcester	14
Walsall	14
Barking and Dagenham	13
Greenwich	13
Merton	13
Redbridge	13
Sutton	13
Dorset	12
Stroud	12
Three Rivers	12
Croydon	12
Haringey	12
Waltham Forest	12
Brighton and Hove	11
South Cambridgeshire	11
Chichester	11
Tower Hamlets	11
Shropshire	10
Cornwall	10
Guildford	10



## Appendix 2: Main origins (of more than 10 people) of people commuting into Oxford , 2011 Census (lower tier authority areas and unitaries)

Vale of White Horse	10753
Cherwell	9528
West Oxfordshire	7541
South Oxfordshire	7369
Aylesbury Vale	1445
Swindon	658
Wycombe	578
South Northamptonshire	528
Reading	491
West Berkshire	480
Cotswold	298
Stratford-on-Avon	210
Wiltshire	201
Wokingham	193
Birmingham	183
Warwick	171
Milton Keynes	166
Hillingdon	154
Windsor and Maidenhead	143
Westminster, City of London	134
Ealing	114
Daventry	108
Northampton	104
Chiltern	98
South Bucks	96
Cheltenham	95
Brent	89
Basingstoke and Deane	85

Coventry	81
Camden	79
Slough	74
Lambeth	71
Hammersmith and Fulham	69
Hounslow	59
Bristol, City of	58
Central Bedfordshire	56
Kensington and Chelsea	55
Barnet	52
Wychavon	51
Bracknell Forest	49
Bromsgrove	48
Winchester	48
Islington	47
Harrow	46
Hackney	45
Stroud	44
Richmond upon Thames	43
Southwark	43
Haringey	42
Solihull	40
Dacorum	39
Tower Hamlets	38
Herefordshire, County of	37
Luton	37
Rugby	36
Test Valley	36
Cambridge	35
Tewkesbury	33
Croydon	32
Lewisham	32
Wandsworth	32
Bath and North East Somerset	32
Dudley	31

Leicester	30
Sandwell	28
South Gloucestershire	27
Southampton	25
Manchester	24
Nuneaton and Bedworth	24
Gloucester	24
Redbridge	23
Bournemouth	23
St Albans	22
Three Rivers	22
Eastleigh	22
Watford	21
Brighton and Hove	21
Harborough	20
Shropshire	20
Merton	20
Portsmouth	20
New Forest	20
Guildford	20
Woking	20
Bedford	19
Newham	19
Cardiff	19
Walsall	18
Cheshire East	17
Redditch	17
Worcester	17
Enfield	17
Waltham Forest	17
Hart	17
Forest of Dean	17
Sheffield	16
Leeds	16
Wellingborough	16

Malvern Hills	16
Wolverhampton	16
Medway	16
Rushmoor	16
Blaby	15
Chichester	15
Cornwall,Isles of Scilly	15
North Somerset	15
Poole	15
City of Edinburgh	15
Liverpool	14
East Northamptonshire	14
Huntingdonshire	14
Kingston upon Thames	14
Canterbury	14
Surrey Heath	14
Bolton	13
Nottingham	13
South Cambridgeshire	13
Hertsmere	13
Greenwich	13
East Hampshire	13
Elmbridge	13
Waverley	13
Ceredigion	13
Derby	12
Lichfield	12
Fareham	12
Reigate and Banstead	12
Rhondda Cynon Taf	12
Kettering	11
Wyre Forest	11
Carmarthenshire	11
Newport	11
Salford	10

Trafford	10
Knowsley	10
Kirklees	10
Charnwood	10
North West Leicestershire	10
Broxtowe	10
Welwyn Hatfield	10
Barking and Dagenham	10
Sutton	10
Sevenoaks	10
South Hams	10
Mendip	10
Powys	10

### Appendix 3: Main origins of more than 10 people of people commuting into Oxfordshire (upper tier authorities) 2021 Census data

Buckinghamshire	6846
West Northamptonshire	5520
Swindon	3593
Gloucestershire	2780
Reading	2721
Warwickshire	2629
West Berkshire	1912
Hampshire	1332
Wokingham	1123
Wiltshire	1022
Birmingham	639
Milton Keynes	582
Windsor and Maidenhead	503
Worcestershire	503
Coventry	403

Hertfordshire	298
Slough	283
Surrey	263
Bracknell Forest	249
Lincolnshire	244
Central Bedfordshire	233
Devon	208
Staffordshire	208
Hillingdon	196
North Northamptonshire	193
Leicestershire	167
Kent	157
Ealing	137
Solihull	124
Harrow	115
Brent	114
West Sussex	114
Nottinghamshire	112
Lancashire	111
Cornwall	110
Sandwell	106
Somerset	106
Shropshire	105
Hounslow	105
Essex	103
Norfolk	103
Bristol	102
South Gloucestershire	101
Cambridgeshire	100
Luton	99
Bedford	98
Derbyshire	97
Barnet	95
North Yorkshire	94
Dudley	90
Southampton	85

Cumbria	83
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	82
Dorset	82
Walsall	80
Herefordshire	79
Cardiff	75
Bath and North East Somerset	73
Suffolk	68
Westminster	62
Newham	61
East Sussex	59
Lambeth	58
Bridgend	58
North Somerset	56
Plymouth	55
Swansea	55
Rhondda Cynon Taf	54
Leicester	53
Kensington and Chelsea	53
Wolverhampton	52
Southwark	52
Telford and Wrekin	51
Wandsworth	50
Portsmouth	47
Lewisham	47
East Riding of Yorkshire	46
Croydon	46
Cheshire East	45
Manchester	44
Islington	43
Nottingham	41
Hammersmith and Fulham	40
Peterborough	39
Northumberland	38
Camden	38
Redbridge	38

Liverpool	37
Enfield	37
Hackney	36
Monmouthshire	36
Newport	36
Leeds	35
Greenwich	35
Haringey	35
Carmarthenshire	35
Wirral	33
County Durham	32
Cheshire West and Chester	32
Wigan	32
Kirklees	32
Havering	32
Richmond upon Thames	32
Tower Hamlets	32
Waltham Forest	32
Neath Port Talbot	31
Vale of Glamorgan	31
Caerphilly	31
Torbay	30
Medway	30
Powys	30
Derby	29
Stoke-on-Trent	29
Doncaster	29
Sheffield	29
Wakefield	29
Merton	28
Bradford	27
Brighton and Hove	26
Barking and Dagenham	26
Sutton	26
Stockton-on-Tees	25
Blackpool	25



North Lincolnshire	24
Kingston upon Thames	24
Isle of Anglesey	24
Darlington	23
Oldham	22
North Tyneside	22
Ceredigion	22
Pembrokeshire	22
Warrington	21
Gwynedd	19
Stockport	18
Tameside	18
Calderdale	18
Bexley	18
Torfaen	18
Redcar and Cleveland	17
Bolton	17
Rochdale	17
Sefton	17
Rotherham	17
Blaenau Gwent	17
Salford	16
St. Helens	16
Middlesbrough	15
Kingston upon Hull	15
Thurrock	15
Barnsley	15
Wrexham	15
North East Lincolnshire	14
York	14
Sunderland	14
Hartlepool	13
Bury	13
Bromley	13
Rutland	12
Trafford	12

Knowsley	12
Gateshead	12
Conwy	12
Halton	11
Blackburn with Darwen	11
Southend-on-Sea	10
Isle of Wight	10
Denbighshire	10

## Appendix 4: Comparison of other county/rural unitaries in South East, 2021 Census

Authority area	Mainly working from home	Number commuting to work within area	Number commuting into area from elsewhere to work	total commuters	% of in-commuters
Oxfordshire	181,357	157,951	41,207	199,158	20.7
Bucks	148,873	77,728	37,618	115,346	32.6
East Sussex	117,670	98,040	13,399	111,439	12
Hampshire	339,991	236,089	84,416	320,505	26.3
Kent	346,070	307,052	56,936	363,988	15.6
Surrey	336,452	163,644	98,712	262,356	37.6
West Berks	44,643	23,880	22,416	46,296	48.4
West Sussex	203,956	168,104	39,539	207,643	19.04

Authority area	Number commuting into area from elsewhere to work	Number commuting out of area to work elsewhere	Net total of in-commuters
Oxfordshire	41,207	24,213	16,994
Bucks	37,618	45,990	-8,372
East Sussex	13,399	25,401	-12,002
Hampshire	84,416	109,086	-24,670
Kent	56,936	72,381	-15,445
Surrey	98,712	87,762	10,950

West Berks	22,416	13,609	8,807
West Sussex	39,539	47,387	-7,848

5. Unlike many of the other comparators, Oxfordshire has its main urban centre (Oxford) within the countywide data, as it is not a unitary authority. This effect of removing main urban centres from the county-level dataset may be to skew the commuting patterns in those area. Ultimately, however, whilst Oxfordshire level of in-commuters has grown from 2011-21, it still remains relatively low in terms of the % of in-commuters (unlike Oxford) and does operate an FEMA. The very high net gain in commuters is another sign of the strong economy, as a relatively low level of commuters leave the area for work.