

Blackwater Ward Profile



2023



Table of contents

- Introduction and elected representatives, page 2

Population, pages 3-6

- Population changes and age breakdown, page 3
- Ethnicity and religion, page 4
- Health and disability, page 5
- Deprivation, page 6

Education and employment, pages 7-9

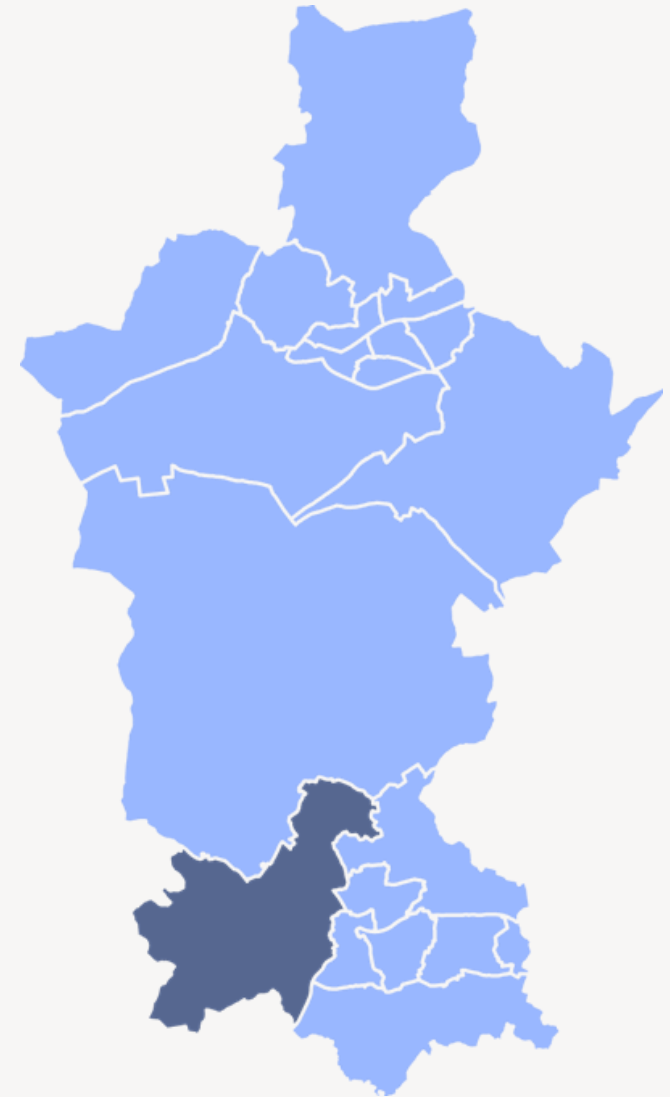
- Qualifications, page 7
- Economic activity, page 8
- Employment by sector, page 9

Properties, page 10

- Number of properties, type of properties and household tenure, page 10

Community facilities, page 11

Further information, page 11



Blackwater Ward Profile

This profile provides a summary of the latest available information on the demographic make-up of the ward of Blackwater within Test Valley. It looks at information on topics such as the population structure, economic, housing, health and educational information for the ward.

Blackwater is one of the Test Valley's twenty wards. It has an area of **5,520.13** hectares which represents **8.8%** of the total area of Test Valley; in terms of area, Blackwater is Test Valley's **fifth** largest ward. The ward's population is **6,504** and its population density is **1.18** people per hectare, which is lower than the borough's average population density of **2.15** people per hectare.



Blackwater is located on the south-western edge of Test Valley, encompassing the villages to the west of Romsey. The ward borders: Wiltshire to the west; the New Forest to the south (a small part of the National Park falls within the ward); Romsey, Nursling and Rownhams, Bransfield to the east; and the Mid-Test ward to the north. The ward includes the villages of Wellow, Sherfield English, Awbridge and Michemersh.

Elected Representatives

Hampshire County Council

Councillor Nick Adams-King

Division: Romsey Rural

Email: nick.adams-king@hants.gov.uk

Telephone: 07771 727402

Test Valley Borough Council

Councillor Nick Adams-King

Email: cllrnadams-king@testvalley.gov.uk

Telephone: 01794 516341

Councillor Gordon Bailey MBE

Email: cllrgbailey@testvalley.gov.uk

Telephone: 01794 323557

Parish Councils

Blackwater ward includes parts of following parishes:

- **Awbridge**
- **Plaitford and Melchet Park**
- **Sherfield English**
- **Wellow**
- **Michelmersh**
- **Timsbury**

Further information about this, and Test Valley's other parishes, can be found on the [council's website](#).

Population



6,504

Population 2022



4.2%
increase



6,779

Estimated
population in 2029



4.5% of the population are military veterans
14.7% of the population are school children

Age breakdown

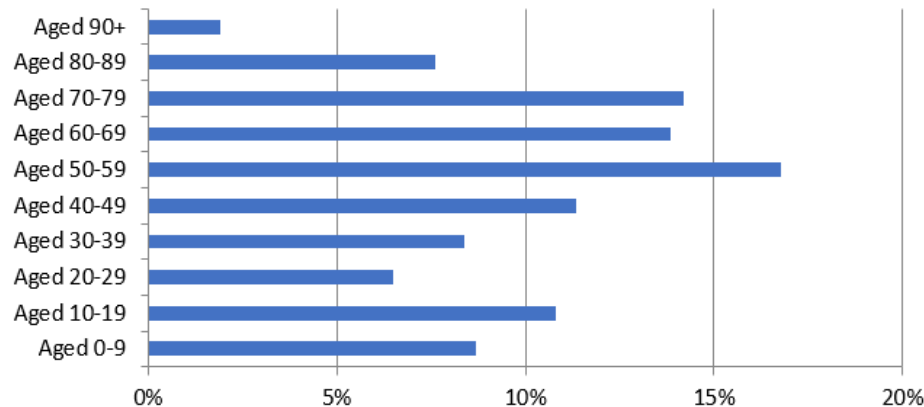
At 19.5% Blackwater has a smaller percentage of **young people** (aged 0-19) than the borough average of 22.6%. By 2029, the proportion of young people will decrease to 18.2%, and will then be 3.3% lower than the borough average.

At 14.9%, Blackwater has a lower percentage of **young adults** (aged 20-39) than the borough average of 19.5%. The proportion of young adults living in the ward is expected to increase by 0.3% between 2022 and 2029, whereas across the borough, the equivalent figure is to the expected fall by 0.9%.

Middle aged residents (aged 40-69) constitute 42.0% of Blackwater's population, which is slightly above the borough average of 40.0%. This is forecast to decrease by 0.5% between now and 2029, when it'll be 0.2% lower than the borough average.

At 23.7%, Blackwater has a higher percentage of those **aged 70 and over**, 5.8% above the borough average. By 2029 this percentage is forecast to increase by 1.5%, slower than the forecast of 2.2% for the borough as a whole.

Percentage of the population by age group 2022

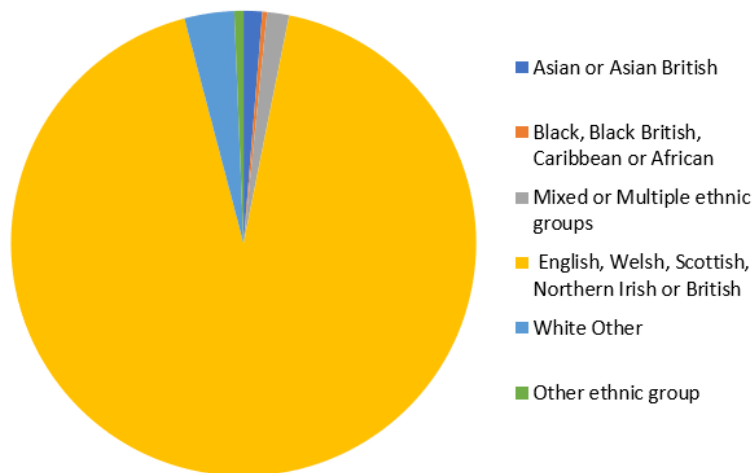


Population Data

This population data is taken from the Small Area Population Forecasts (SAPF), provided by Hampshire County Council. Further information on this is available online at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/facts-figures/population/estimates-forecasts>.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity of Blackwater residents

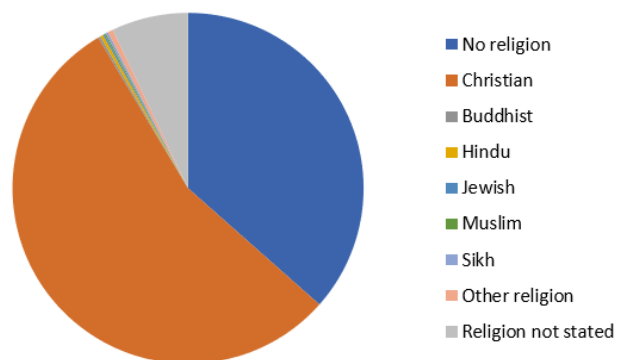


Asian or Asian British	Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	White Other	Other ethnic group
1.3%	0.3%	1.5%	92.8%	3.5%	0.6%

The graph shows the ethnic groups within Blackwater by percentage. At the 2021 Census, 92.8% of Blackwater’s population as White British. This is higher than the borough average of 88.8%. Blackwater level of ethnic diversity is lower than England as a whole, where only 73.5% of the population are White British.

Religion

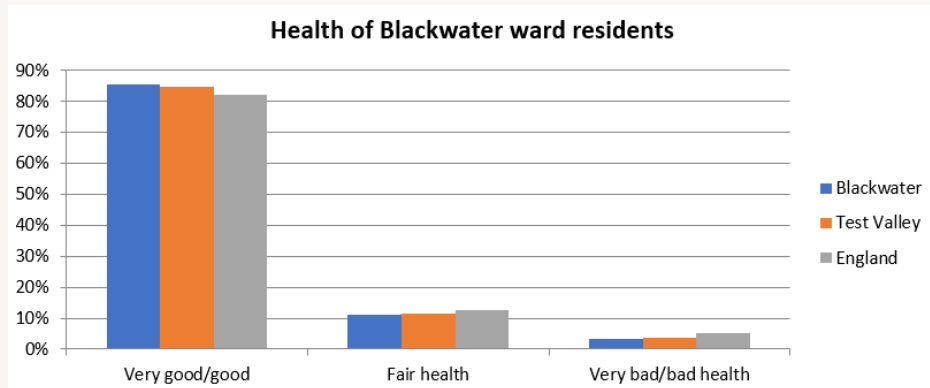
Religion in Blackwater



No religion	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religion	Religion not stated
36.5%	54.9%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	7.1%

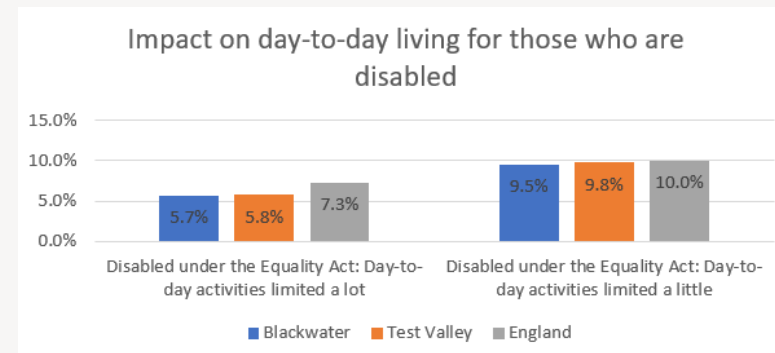
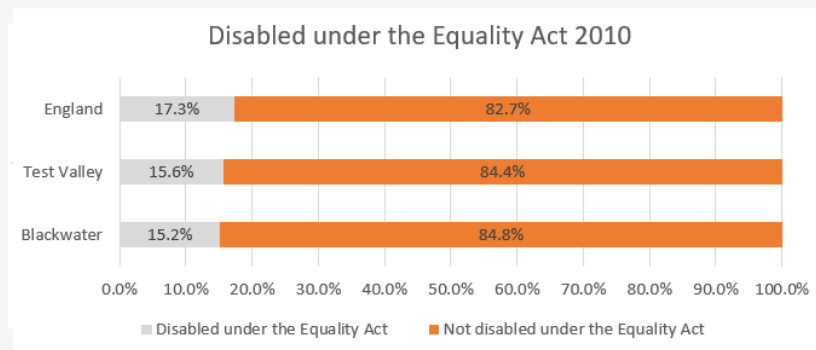
At the 2021 Census, the majority of Blackwater residents (54.9%) classify themselves as Christian, which is higher than both the borough average of 50.5% and the English average of 46.3%. The next largest group are those that say they have no religion (36.5%) which is lower than both the Test Valley average (40.6%) but higher than the English average (36.7%). Of those groups that do adhere to a religion, Hinduism is the second largest faith group, constituting 0.3% of the population of the ward. By comparison, 0.9% of England’s population identify as being Hindu.

Health



At the 2021 Census, 85.6% of residents in Blackwater said they felt they were in very good or good health. This is higher than average for Test Valley (84.7%) and higher than the average for England (82.2%). 3.3% of the population rated their health as bad or very bad, which is lower than the figure for the borough (3.8%) and lower than the figure for England (5.2%)

Disability

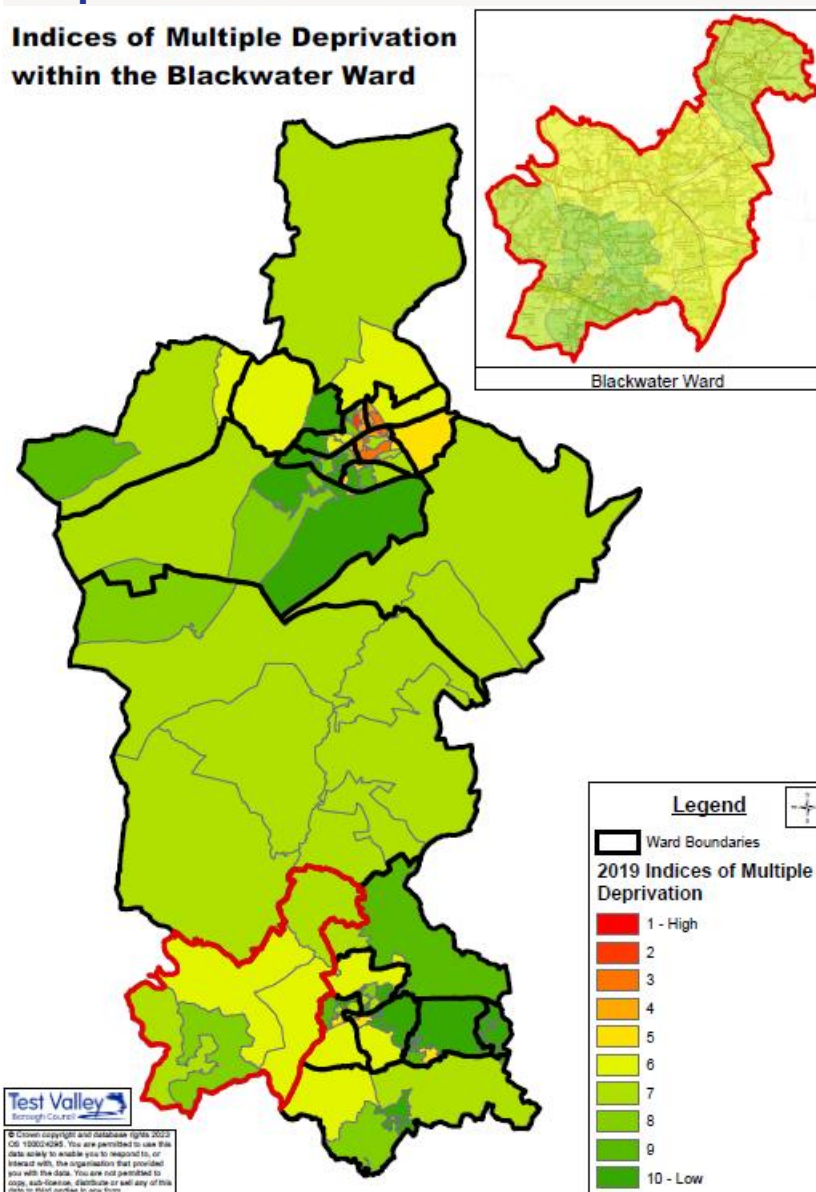


At the 2021 Census, 15.2% of Blackwater population identified as having a disability, as defined by the Equality Act 2010. This is a slightly lower proportion than the population of Test Valley as a whole, where 15.6% identified as having a disability, and lower than the proportion of people in England as a whole, where the figure was 17.3%.

Of this 15.2%, 5.7% of the ward's population said they had a disability that limited their day-to-day activities a lot, lower than the equivalent figure for Test Valley (5.8%) and lower than the English average (7.3%). 9.5% said they had a disability that impacted them a little, lower than the respective figures for the borough (9.8%) and country (10.0%).

Deprivation

Indices of Multiple Deprivation within the Blackwater Ward



The English Index of Multiple Deprivation 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
- education, skills, and training deprivation
- health deprivation and disability
- crime
- barriers to housing and services
- living environment deprivation.

Areas are scored on each of these factors and ranked nationally from least deprived to most deprived.

This map shows the deprivation scores for Blackwater against all areas in Test Valley. Of 32,844 areas ranked across the country, the ward is within the **40% of least deprived** areas in the country, with the west of Blackwater falling in the 30% of least deprived areas.

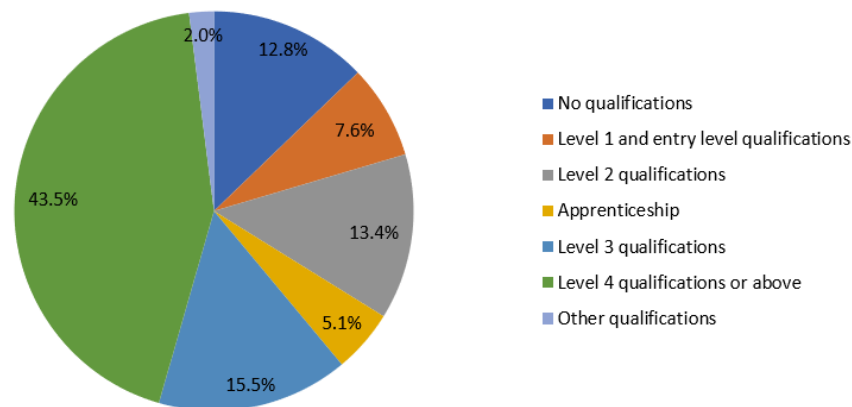
More specifically, the whole ward is in **the top 10% of most deprived areas when it comes to physical proximity of local services**. Meanwhile, the north and west of the ward, around Sherfield English, Awbridge and Michelmersh, are **in the top 20% of most deprived areas for its 'indoors' living environment**; this is defined by the number of houses with central heating as well as the proportion of social and private houses that are in a poor condition (as defined by the Decent Homes Standard).

Further information about the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities 2019 English Indices of Deprivation is available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

Education and employment

Qualifications

Percentage of people with qualifications in Blackwater



The pie chart shows the qualifications gained by Blackwater residents aged 16-74 years, according to the 2021 Census.

85.1% of people living in Blackwater have at least one GCSE or equivalent qualification, a figure which is lower than the Test Valley average of 83.3% but very similar to the English average of 79.1%.

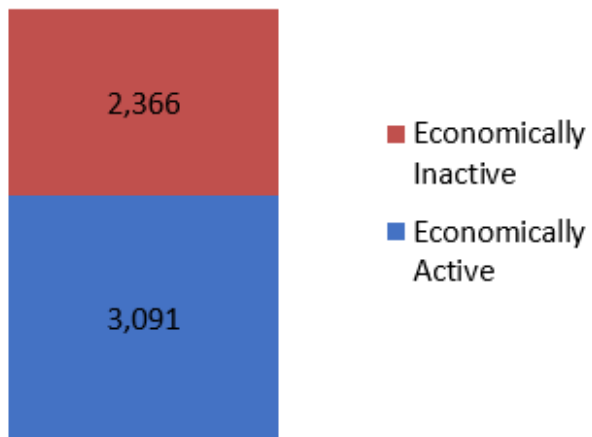
This means that 12.8% of Blackwater residents between 16 and 74 have no academic, vocational, or professional qualifications, which is 1.3% lower than the borough average and 5.3% lower than the English average.

In addition, 43.5% of Blackwater residents have a level 4 qualification or above, which is equivalent to at least an undergraduate degree. This is lower than the borough average of 35.7% and higher than the English average of 33.9%. Similarly, 5.1% of the ward's population have undertaken an apprenticeship.

No qualifications	No academic or professional qualifications.
Level 1	any GCSEs at other grades, O levels or CSEs (any grades), Foundation Welsh Baccalaureate, one Advanced Subsidiary (AS) level, NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) level 1, Basic or Essential Skills, skills for life, literacy and numeracy, Level 2 Scottish Vocational qualifications
Level 2	five or more GCSEs (A* to C or 9 to 4), O levels (passes), CSEs (grade 1), Intermediate Welsh Baccalaureate, one A level, two to three AS levels, NVQ level 2, Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) General, City and Guilds Craft, Level 2 Scottish Vocational qualifications
Apprenticeship	Has completed any form of apprenticeship, at any level.
Level 3	two or more A levels, four or more AS levels, Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate, NVQ level 3, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, Ordinary National Certificate (ONC), Ordinary National Diploma (OND), BTEC National, International Baccalaureate, Level 3 Scottish Vocational qualifications
Level 4 or above	degree, foundation degree, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Master's degrees, Higher National Diploma (HND) or Higher National Certificate (HNC), NVQ level 4 or above, professional qualifications (for example, teaching or nursing)
Other qualification	Any other qualifications, equivalent unknown

Economic Activity

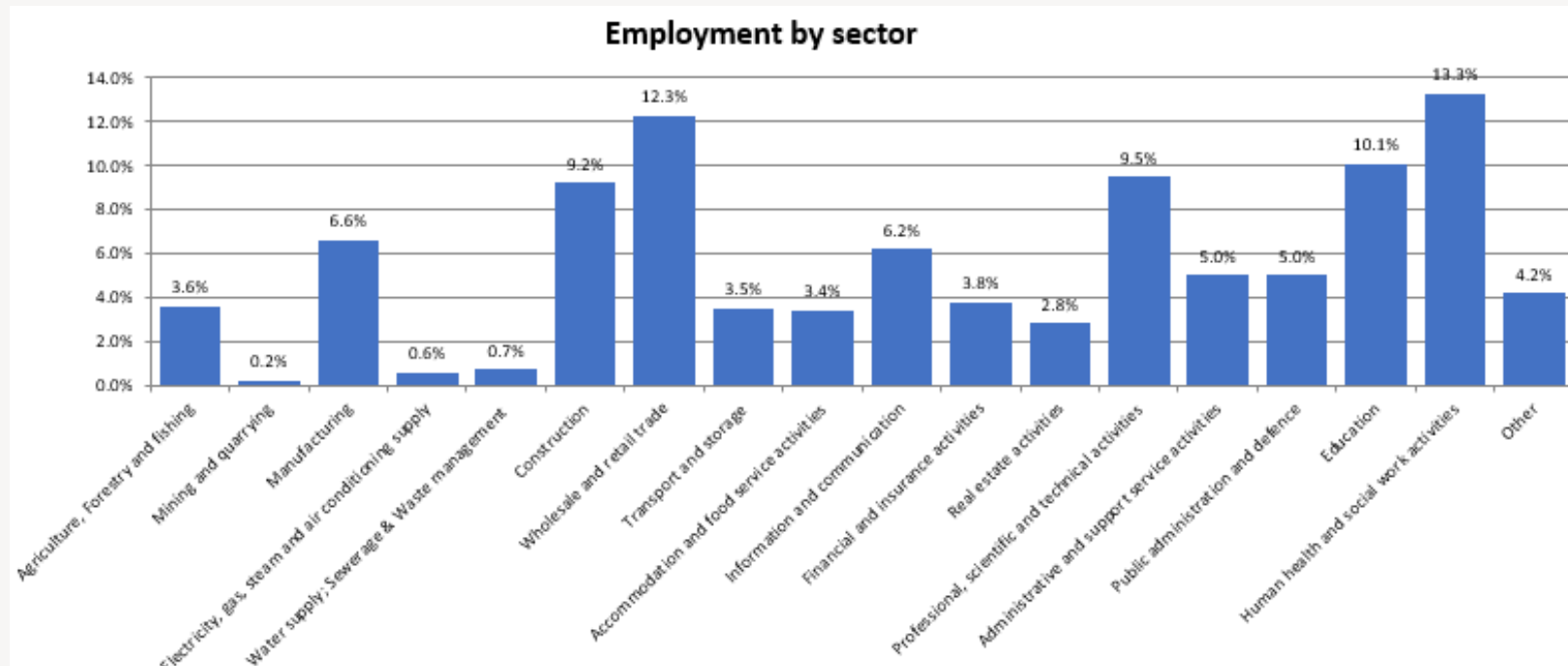
Economic activity (count)



According to the 2021 Census, 56.1% of Blackwater residents aged 16-74 are economically active, lower than Test Valley as a whole, where the figure is 63.8% of residents. This includes people in full-, part- and self-employment, those who are actively seeking a job, and full-time students.

The remaining 43.4% of residents aged 16-74 are economically inactive, compared to 36.1% of Test Valley residents. This includes people who are retired, long-term sick or disabled, or who look after the home and family.

Employment by sector



This graph shows the different industries residents of Blackwater ward work in, according to the 2021 Census. The largest two sectors employing people in Blackwater are Human health and social work activities, (13.3%) and Wholesale and retail trade (12.3%), followed by Education (10.1%)

Properties

Total number of properties

2,620

Dwellings



10.0%
Terraced



29.1%
Semi-Detached



52.6%
Detached

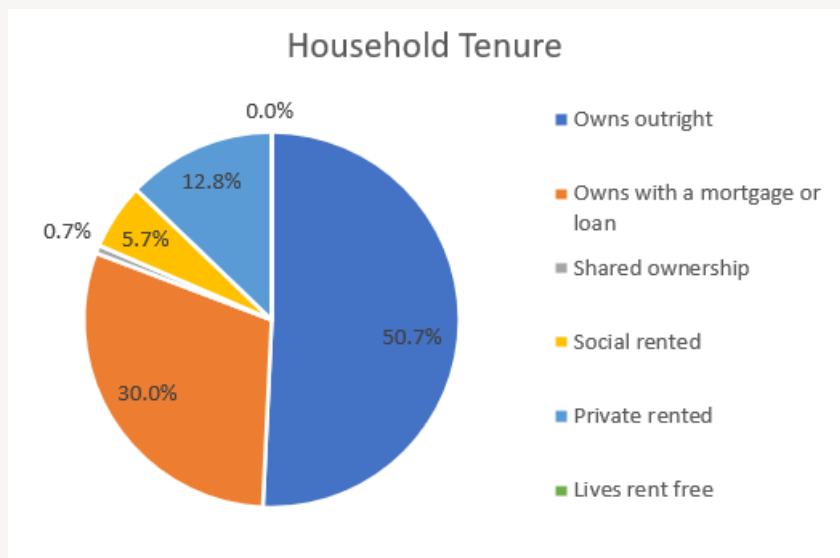


3.8%
Flat



2.8%
Mobile or other

Household Tenure



Household tenure refers to the financial arrangements under which people occupy their homes and is taken from the 2021 Census.

This pie chart depicts the tenure of households in Blackwater. 80.7% of people in the ward live in a property which they own outright or with a mortgage or loan. This is higher than the average for Test Valley, which is 69.0%, and the average for England, which is 61.3%.

5.7% of residents rent their property from a Housing Association, which is lower than the borough average of 14.3% as well as the English average of 17.1% 12.8% of residents privately rent their property; this figure is lower than the borough average of 14.8% and the figure for England of 20.5%.

0.7% of households are part of a shared ownership scheme whilst 0.0% live rent free.

Community facilities

As a largely rural ward on the edge of Romsey, Blackwater contains a good number of facilities, spread across the villages that it's made up of. These include primary schools in Awbridge and Wellow, and village halls in villages like Timsbury, Plaitford, Awbridge, Sherfield English and Wellow. The main settlement in the ward is Wellow, which has a number of shops and other such facilities.

For many of the villages across Blackwater, Romsey is the closest location for most other facilities, like larger shops, secondary schools and GP surgeries. The closest railway stations are located in Romsey or Mottisfont and Dunbridge.



Further Information

The Community Team at Test Valley Borough Council provide support to local councillors and communities. They are also able to signpost local organisations to grant funding and other resources that may be available. To contact them, please email:

communityteam@testvalley.gov.uk

The information in this profile has been prepared by Test Valley Borough Council's Policy Team. If you have any further queries or would like to talk to us about other information you would like to see, then please contact one of the Policy Team who will be happy to help:

policyteam@testvalley.gov.uk