



Demographics

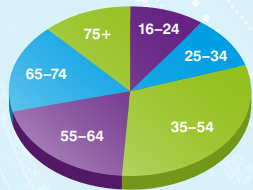
population and housing

Population

According to the 2011 Census, the Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan area has a population of 9,240. Bewdley therefore consists of around 10% of the population of the district of Wyre Forest which, as of 2011, had a population of 97,975.

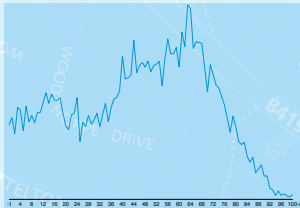
Age and lifestage

There are 7,832 people classed as being in their 'adult lifestage' (aged 16 or over) in the town and 1,408 under the age of 16. The proportion of children as a percentage of the population is lower in Bewdley (14.7%) than the national average (18.9%) and lower than the average for the district of Wyre Forest which stands at 17.1%.



Age group	Population
16-24	793
25-34	777
35-54	2,440
55-64	1,568
65-74	1,334
75+	920

The number of young adults, i.e. those between the ages of 16 and 29 is also lower than the national average and the average for Wyre Forest. Not surprisingly, therefore, Bewdley has a higher proportion of older people (those aged 75 or over) than both the national and district averages. In Bewdley 41.4% of the population are aged 55 or over compared to 27.3% of the population of England as a whole. The graph below demonstrates how there are significantly more people in middle age and in their 50s and 60s than there are people in earlier life stages.



Age group	Bewdley	Wyre Forest	England
0-9	8.5%	10.4%	11.9%
10-15	6.2%	6.7%	7.0%
16-29	12.5%	15.1%	18.8%
30-44	16.8%	18.9%	20.6%
45-59	22.1%	20%	19.4%
60-75	23.5%	19.8%	14.6%
75+	10.4%	9.1%	7.8%

Population trends

Bewdley has an aging population and the older person population is expected to increase. Estimates from the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (WSHMA) report of 2012 suggest that not only will the number of those in Wyre Forest district of 'retirement age' (at the time of writing 60 for females; 65 for males, which will change to 65 and 66 respectively in April 2016) increase from 22% of the population to near 36% but the numbers of those aged 85 and over will increase from 2.3% to 6.9% in the period 2006 to 2030.

The proportion of younger people in Wyre Forest will consequently fall. The Worcestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment expects the proportion of those aged 0-17 years to fall by approximately 3%. There is no reason to believe that the trends identified for Wyre Forest as a whole will not apply to Bewdley.

Ethnicity

The level of ethnic diversity is very low within the plan area. It is however not dissimilar from the overall analysis for Wyre Forest as a district. Ninety seven percent of the population of Bewdley classify themselves as 'White: British' - slightly higher than the district average of 95% but significantly higher than the national average of 80%.

Arrived in the UK	Bewdley	Wyre Forest	England
Born in the UK	97.2%	96.1%	86.2%
Before 2001	2.0%	2.4%	6.9%
2001-2004	0.1%	0.2%	1.5%
2004-2007	0.3%	0.7%	2.1%
2007-2010	0.2%	0.5%	2.3%
2010-2012	0.1%	0.2%	1.1%

Migration - year arrived in UK

Health and wellbeing

People who live in the parish are statistically slightly less healthy than the national average, although broadly in line with the average for Wyre Forest as a whole. It is probable that the fact there are slightly fewer people in 'very good health' than the average for England is because the population of Bewdley is on average slightly older than the national average.

Health	Bewdley	Wyre Forest	England
Very Good	44.9%	43.6%	47.2%
Good	35.0%	35.2%	34.2%
Fair	14.9%	15.2%	13.1%
Bad	3.9%	4.6%	4.2%
Very Bad	1.2%	1.4%	1.2%

Household size

The 9,240 residents of Bewdley live in 4,234 households which means that the average household size in the town is 2.18 persons, which is somewhat below the national average of 2.3. This is another indicator of the slightly aging population of the town and the smaller households that older people live in. Indeed, household sizes are predicted to decrease further in Bewdley as the population ages.

Consequently single person and couple households are predicted to increase in number and family households are likely decrease as a proportion of the whole.

Household composition

Currently single person households compose 31% of the total households in Bewdley which is comparable with both Wyre Forest (30%) and England (30%). However of these single person households over half (51.7%) of the occupants are aged 65 and over in Bewdley. Whilst this is true for 46.3% of single person households district-wide and 40.9% of single person households nation-wide, this is a further indicator that the population of Bewdley is on average older than average and demonstrates an ageing population.

This is a potential concern for the plan area since a population that continues to age will result in a further increase of single person households which could lead to a slowdown in growth of the population, or even a drop in the population, as average household sizes decrease. As demonstrated in the table below there are currently fewer family households (defined as households with dependents) than the national and district averages.

Household type	Bewdley	Wyre Forest	England
Single person households (65+)	15.9%	13.9%	12.6%
Households with dependent children	22.6%	26.1%	29.0%

Household type

House type	Bewdley	Wyre Forest	England
Detached	36%	29%	22%
Semi-Detached	31%	37%	31%
Terraced	19%	19%	25%
Flat/Apartment	11%	13%	22%
Mobile/Temporary	3%	3%	0%

House type

Dwelling type

Thirty-six percent of dwellings in Bewdley are detached houses which is significantly higher than the average for England (22%) and the district (29%). The proportion of semi-detached homes is in line with the national average while there are fewer terraced homes and fewer flats. This is to be expected in a small town such as Bewdley.

The size of dwellings in Bewdley neighbourhood Plan area is broadly in line with district and national averages; however it is notable that there are more two-bedroom and four-bedroom properties and fewer one-bedroom and three-bedroom properties than is the case both for the wider local area and for the country.

Overall Bewdley has a wide choice of properties and a type and size of homes that is broadly in line with the trend for England as a whole. The relatively small supply of one bedroom properties does not necessarily reflect the aging demographic of the town. That is to say that the number of one person households in Bewdley is likely to increase which in turn would lead to an increase in the demand for smaller properties.

Housing tenure

Home ownership in Bewdley rates are very high - nearly 50% more people own their property outright compared to the national average while in total 76% of properties are owned either outright or via a loan or mortgage.

The number of people renting privately in Bewdley is therefore lower than the national average while the number of people in social rented accommodation is very low. Shared-ownership, which is not common, is even less prevalent in Bewdley than in Wyre Forest or England as a whole.

Tenure type	Bewdley	Wyre Forest	England
Owned Outright	45%	38%	31%
Owned with a Mortgage	31%	33%	33%
Shared Ownership	0%	1%	1%
Social Rented	9%	14%	18%
Private Rented	13%	13%	17%
Living Rent Free	1%	1%	1%

Tenure type

Affordability

According to the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 'analysis of the rental market shows that average rental prices within Wyre Forest are generally below the County averages for different property types'. The SHMA suggests that rental prices for a 1 bed flat are around £400 per calendar month (pcm), whilst for a 2 bed apartment they are around £500 pcm. In terms of the housing market, rental prices for 2, 3 and 4 bed houses within Wyre Forest are £501, £608 and £795 pcm respectively. An income of over £29,000 would therefore be required to purchase a lower quartile property in the district.