

Topic Summary Briefing

UK Armed Forces Veterans at Census Day 2021

Cumbria and Districts

Aim

On the 10th of November 2022 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released the 2nd of a series of 'topic summaries' based on the results of the 2021 Census. This topic summary related to UK armed forces veterans at Census Day 2021 and this briefing provides an analysis of the UK armed forces veterans topic summary for Cumbria and districts.

Key Points

UK Armed Forces Veterans at Census Day 2021:

- In Cumbria there were 20,876 residents aged 16+ who had previously served in the UK armed forces (5% of the population aged 16+, slightly higher than the national average of 3.8%).
- In Cumbria 16,151 residents had previously served in the regular UK armed forces (3.8% vs. 2.9% nationally).
- In Cumbria 3,829 residents had served in the UK reserve armed forces (0.9% vs. 0.7%).
- In Cumbria 896 residents had served in both the regular and reserve UK armed forces (0.2% vs. 0.2% nationally).
- Of Cumbria's six districts, Copeland and Carlisle had the greatest proportions of residents who had served in the UK armed forces (5.5% and 5.4% respectively), while South Lakeland had the smallest proportion (4.5%).
- All Cumbrian districts had a higher proportion of residents who had served in the UK armed forces than the national average, however, none of the districts were amongst the top 10% of local authorities nationally.
- Across England & Wales, the areas with the highest proportions of UK armed forces veterans tended to be near existing armed forces bases; Gosport (12.5%), North Kesteven (10.2%) and Richmondshire (9.5%).
- At a sub-district level, in Cumbria the MSOAs of Copeland 007 (Thornhill, Gosforth & Seascale), Copeland 006 (Egremont & Moor Row) and Carlisle 003 (Carlisle Belah) had the greatest proportions of residents who had served in the UK armed forces (6.6%, 6.5% and 6.2% respectively).

Background

Every 10 years the Office for National Statistics (ONS) carries out a census to find out more about the population of England & Wales and the make-up of local communities. The most recent census took place on Sunday the 21st of March 2021. The results of the Census are used to plan for, and allocate resources to, services such as transport, healthcare and education. Census data on population also informs decisions about the allocation of local authority funding.

Census results require significant quality assurance work to ensure accuracy, including adjustment for people who have not completed the Census questionnaire. 2021 Census results are being released in three phases. Phase one released the first results on Tuesday the 28th of June 2022. The first results were estimates of the population and households in England & Wales as at Census Day 2021 by sex and age at local authority level. The ONS began the second phase of 2021 Census results on Wednesday the 2nd of November 2022 by releasing the first of a series of datasets grouped by theme, known as topic summaries. The 2nd topic summary, published on the 10th of November 2022, related to UK armed forces veterans. The following briefing provides an analysis for Cumbria and districts based on the on the 2021 Census UK Armed Forces Veterans Topic Summary.

The 2021 Census was the first to ask people if they had previously served in the UK armed forces. People aged 16 years and over were asked whether they had previously served in the regular or reserve UK armed forces, or both. People currently serving in the UK armed forces and those who had never served were both advised to tick "no". People who have previously served in the regular or reserve UK armed forces are often known as the veteran population and form part of the armed forces community (along with those who currently serve in the armed forces or Merchant Navy and their families). The question on UK armed forces veterans was added to better meet the needs for service providers and others who support veterans, in line with the Armed Forces Covenant.

2021 Census Results

Figure 1: UK Armed Forces Veterans at Census Day 2021:

Veterans: 2021

Area Code	Area Name	No. Persons 16+	No. Persons 16+: Has previously served in any UK armed forces	No. Persons 16+: Previously served in UK regular armed forces	No. Persons 16+: Previously served in UK reserve armed forces	No. Persons 16+: Previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces	% Persons 16+: Has previously served in any UK armed forces	% Persons 16+: Previously served in UK regular armed forces	% Persons 16+: Previously served in UK reserve armed forces	% Persons 16+: Previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces
E07000026	Allerdale	80513	3985	3097	702	186	4.9%	3.8%	0.9%	0.2%
E07000027	Barrow-in-Furness	55834	2703	2112	490	101	4.8%	3.8%	0.9%	0.2%
E07000028	Carlisle	91343	4892	3844	805	243	5.4%	4.2%	0.9%	0.3%
E07000029	Copeland	56008	3054	2384	562	108	5.5%	4.3%	1.0%	0.2%
E07000030	Eden	46635	2166	1645	429	92	4.6%	3.5%	0.9%	0.2%
E07000031	South Lakeland	89703	4075	3069	840	166	4.5%	3.4%	0.9%	0.2%
E10000006	Cumbria	420040	20876	16151	3829	896	5.0%	3.8%	0.9%	0.2%
K04000001	England and Wales	48566373	1853112	1413296	360770	79046	3.8%	2.9%	0.7%	0.2%

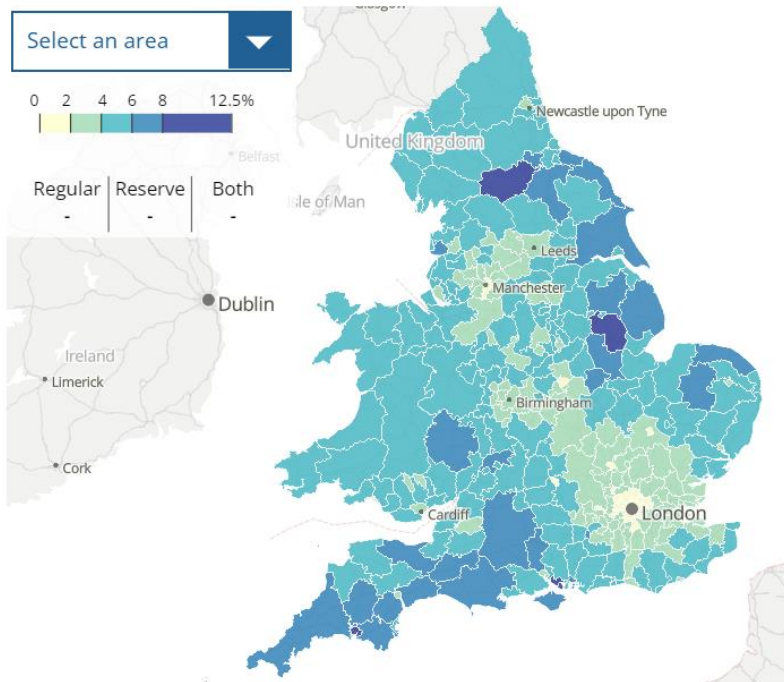
Source: 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics, figures may not sum due to rounding.

In Cumbria:

- There were 20,876 residents aged 16+ who had previously served in the UK armed forces (5% of the population aged 16+, slightly higher than the national average of 3.8%).
- 16,151 residents who had previously served in the regular UK armed forces (3.8% of persons aged 16+ vs. 2.9% nationally).
- 3,829 residents who had served in the UK reserve armed forces (0.9% vs. 0.7% nationally).
- 896 residents who had served in both the regular and reserve UK armed forces (0.2% vs. 0.2% nationally).

Of Cumbria's six districts, Copeland and Carlisle had the greatest proportions of residents who had served in the UK armed forces (5.5% and 5.4% respectively) while South Lakeland had the smallest proportion (4.5%). All Cumbrian districts had a higher proportion of residents who had served in the UK armed forces than the national average, however, none of the districts were amongst the top 10% of local authorities nationally.

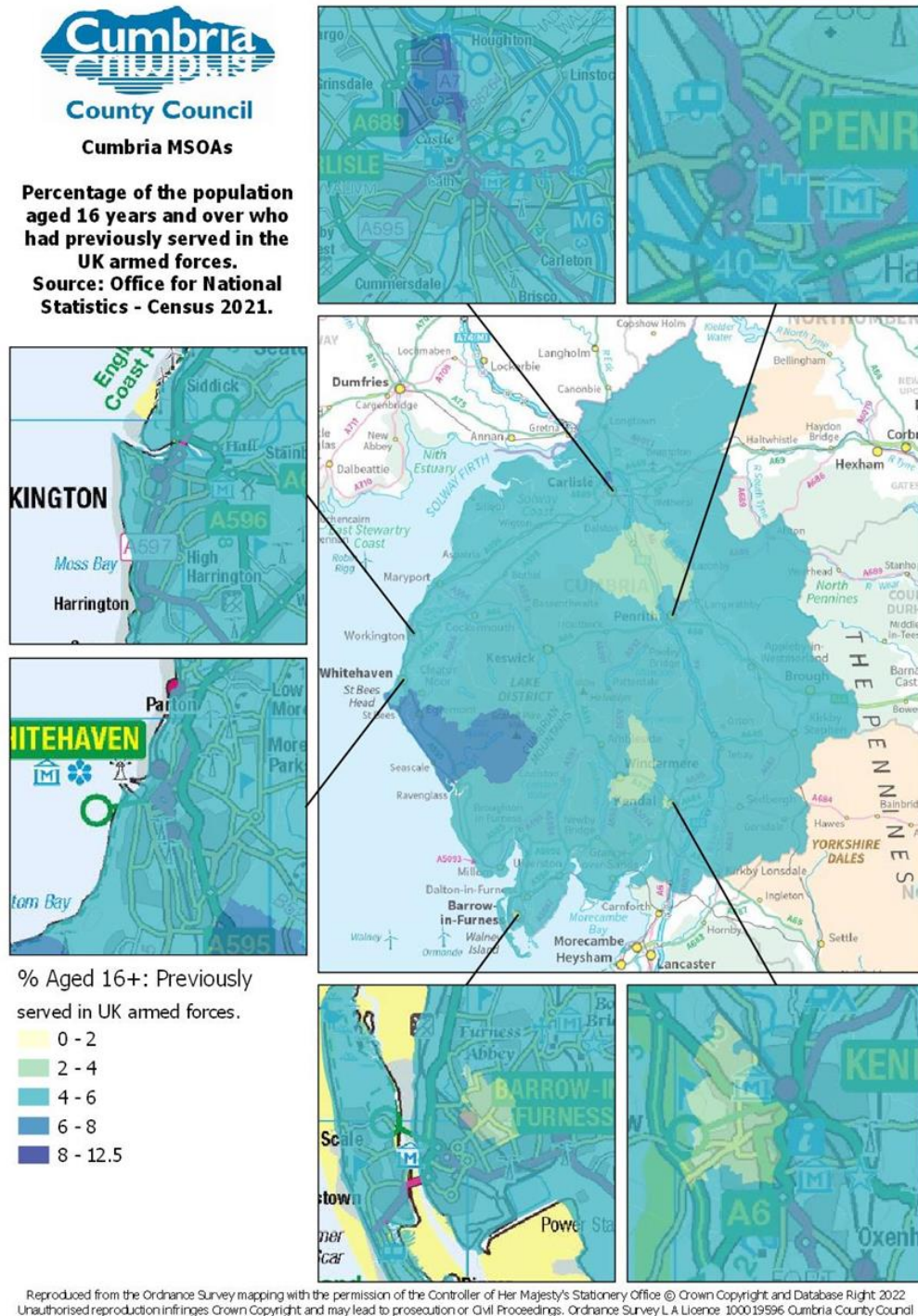
Figure 2: UK Armed Forces Veterans at Census Day 2021: By Local Authority:
Percentage of the population aged 16 years and over who had previously served in the UK armed forces, 2021, local authorities in England and Wales



Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

Across England & Wales, the areas with the highest proportions of UK armed forces veterans tended to be near existing armed forces bases; with the highest proportions of veterans found in Gosport (12.5%), North Kesteven (10.2%) and Richmondshire (9.5%).

Figure 3: UK Armed Forces Veterans at Census Day 2021: By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA):



At a sub-district level, in Cumbria the MSOAs of Copeland 007 (Thornhill, Gosforth & Seascale), Copeland 006 (Egremont & Moor Row) and Carlisle 003 (Carlisle Belah) had the greatest proportions of residents who had served in the UK armed forces (6.6%, 6.5% and 6.2% respectively).

Implications

The figures outlined within this briefing represent just a small proportion of the data that was collected by the 2021 Census. Cumbria Intelligence Observatory will coordinate relevant analysis of all 2021 Census statistics for Cumbria. This analysis will be used to:

- Build a more detailed picture of Cumbria and its communities.
- Compare results with the profile of people who use council services to assess whether they are providing fair access to public services, taking steps where a group is experiencing inequalities or potential discrimination.
- Enable informed strategic planning.
- Inform planning and delivery of services including schools, health provision, transport and housing.
- Inform a wide range of statutory needs assessments.
- Support lobbying activities.
- Support third sector organizations in funding applications and advocacy.

Further Information

The ONS plan to release all the main 2021 Census results within two years of Census Day, including multivariate data (more than one variable) providing more detail about the characteristics of veterans in early 2023. Please check the Cumbria Intelligence Observatory website over the coming months for further 2021 Census briefings and statistics as results are published: <http://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/>

For more information: Email: info@cumbriaobservatory.org.uk