JSNA Bitesize

March 2023

Release of 2021 to 2031 housing-led population forecasts for Oxfordshire, districts and MSOAs

This bitesize presents the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) population forecasts released March 2023.

At time of calculation, some but not all Census 2021 figures have been released. This means that new data is being combined with older data (as far as 2011), creating some discontinuities. A research programme to review the inputs will be undertaken in the year ahead.

This bulletin compares the latest OCC forecasts with Office for National Statistics (ONS) forecasts based on 2018 population figures, which do not include any Census information.

*Important note: housebuilding is a model input, and outputs reflect the expected population if that housebuilding occurs. **The forecasts therefore do not indicate housing need, and should not be interpreted as such.***

The March 2023 update of the Oxfordshire County Council housing-led forecasts predict a total population in Oxfordshire of 831,200 by 2031, a growth of 131,600 (+15%). Over the same period the ONS projections show an increase of +4%. Differences are particularly apparent for the younger and working age groups. For older people aged 65 and over, the predicted growth is similar.
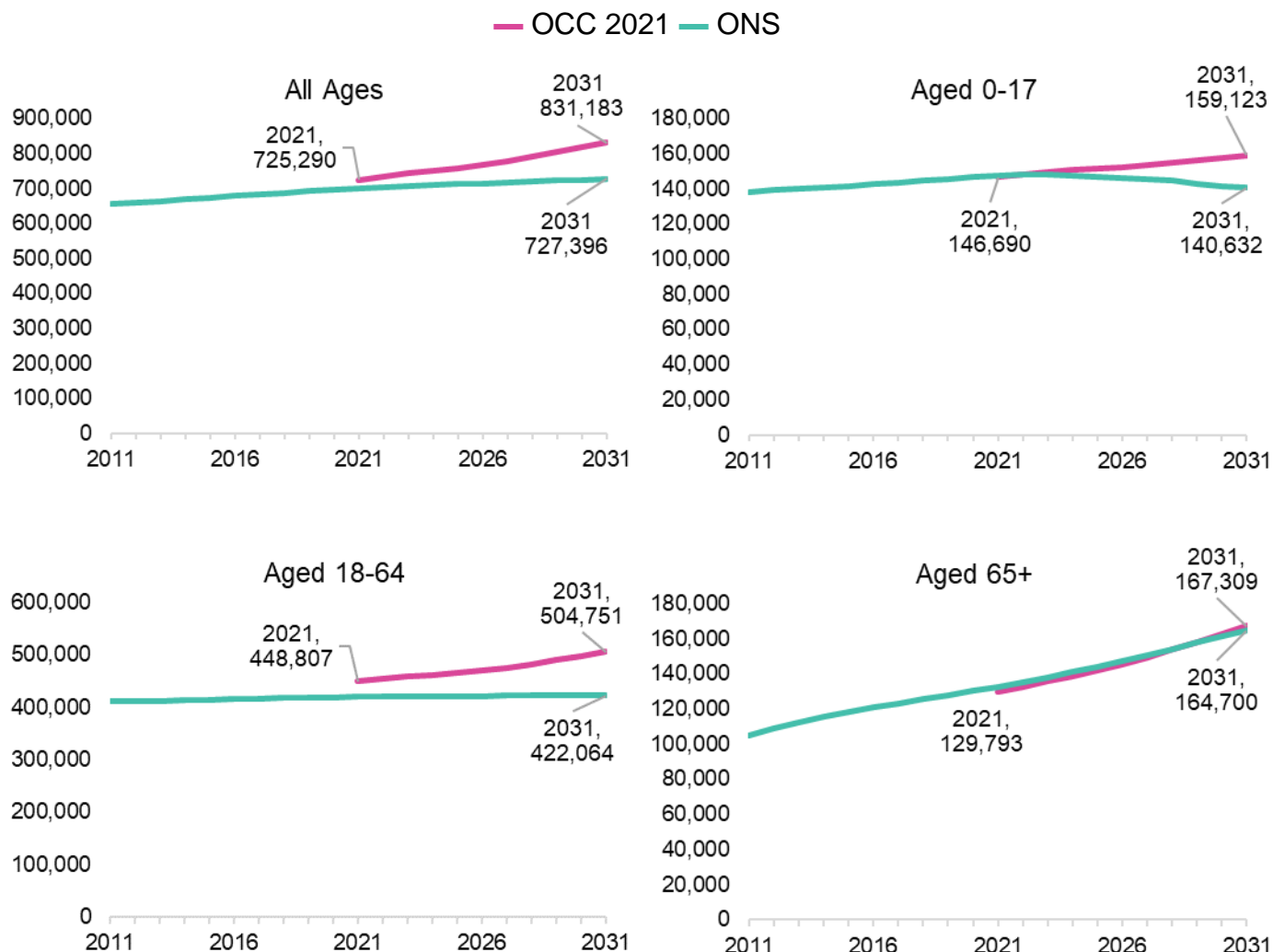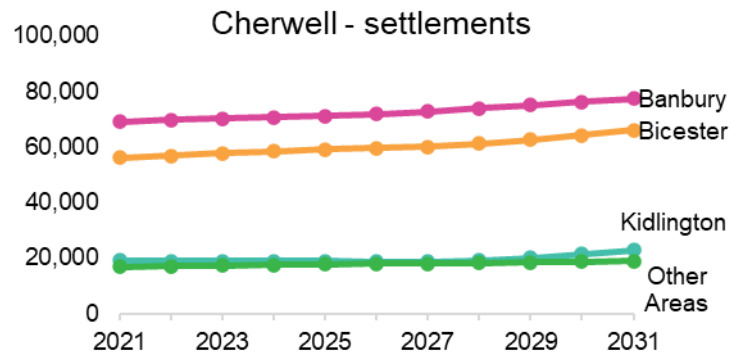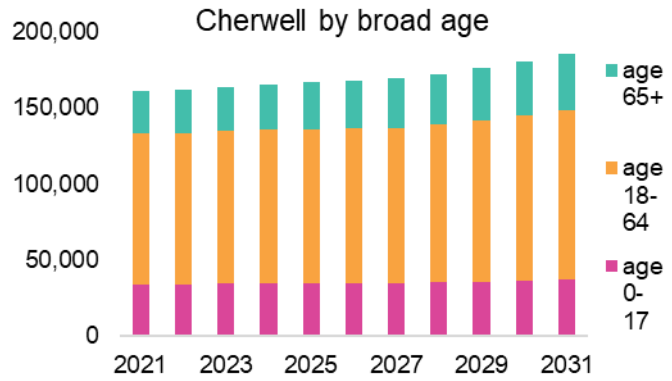
Cherwell

The housing-led forecasts show the population of Cherwell increasing from 161,000 in 2021 to 185,500 by 2031 (+24,500 +15%).

There are expected to be significant increases in the populations of the Banbury, Bicester, and Kidlington areas with major developments around Bicester; Banbury (south of Salt Way, Canalside, Longford Park); upper Heyford; and around Kidlington.
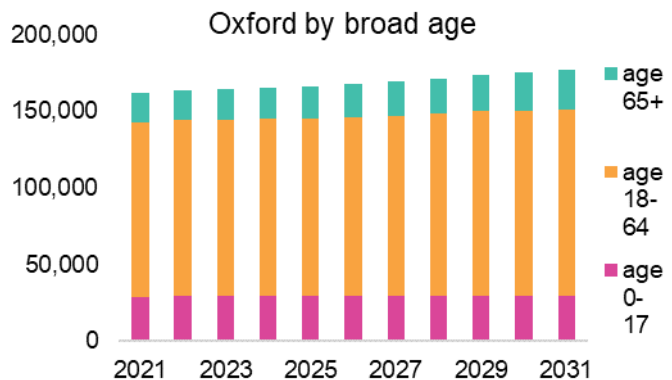
- The population of Banbury and the surrounding area is expected to grow from 69,000 to 77,500 (+12%).
- The population of Bicester and the surrounding area is expected to grow from 56,200 to 66,100 (+18%).
- The population of Kidlington and the surrounding area is expected to grow from 19,000 to 22,900 (+21%).

Cherwell by broad age

Cherwell - settlements

Oxford

The housing-led forecasts show the population of Oxford increasing from 162,000 in 2021 to 176,900 by 2031 (+14,900, +9%).

Major housing development sites are at Barton Park, Northern Gateway (near Wolvercote), Thornhill Park and Oxpens.
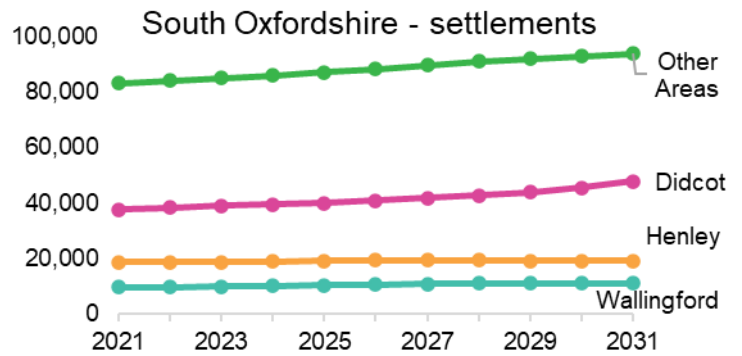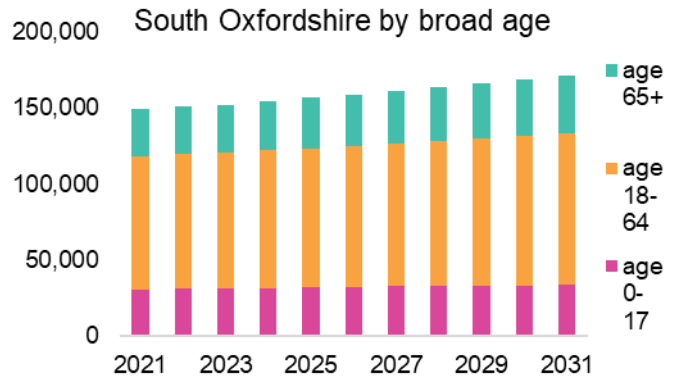

Oxford by broad age

South Oxfordshire

The housing-led forecasts show the population of South Oxfordshire increasing from 149,100 in 2021 to 171,600 by 2031 (+22,500, +15%).

There is expected to be significant increases around Didcot, Culham, Chalgrove, and bordering Oxford Science Park.

- The population of Didcot and the surrounding area is expected to grow from 37,600 to 47,700 (+27%).

Note that some Didcot-related developments to the west of the town are included in the forecasts for Vale of White Horse.

South Oxfordshire by broad age


South Oxfordshire - settlements

Vale of White Horse

The housing-led forecasts show the population of Vale of White Horse increasing from 138,900 in 2021 to 166,500 by 2031 (+27,500, +20%).

There is expected to be a significant increase in the population at Valley Park between Harwell and Didcot; Grove Airfield; Dalton Barracks; Crab Hill, Wantage; and land north of Abingdon.

- The population of Wantage and Grove is expected to grow from 19,200 to 25,900 (+35%).
- The area west of Didcot in Vale is expected to grow from 13,900 to 16,600 (19%).

Vale of White Horse by broad age

Vale of White Horse - settlements
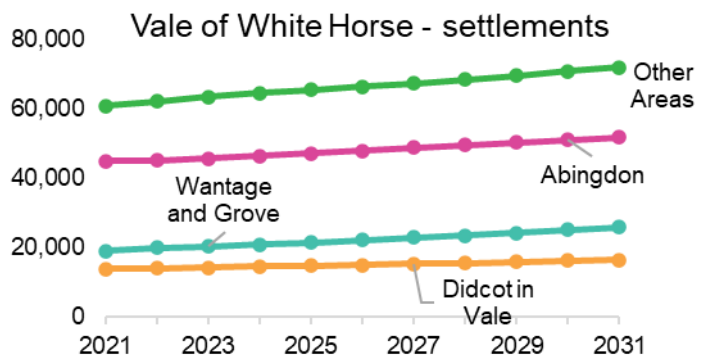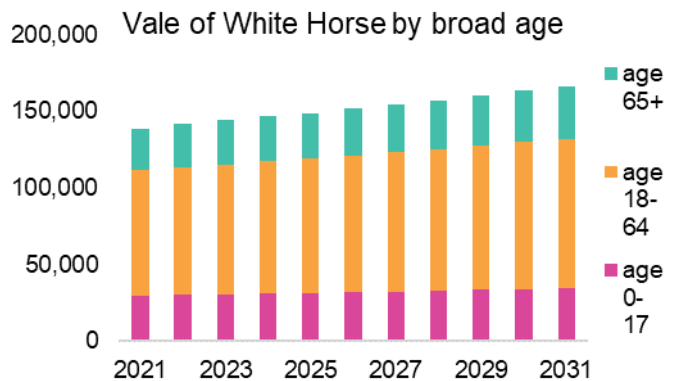
West Oxfordshire

The housing-led forecasts show the population of West Oxfordshire increasing from 114,200 in 2021 to 130,700 by 2031 (+16,500, +14%).

Larger housing developments are planned at North and West Witney, Eynsham, Chipping Norton and east of Carterton.

- The population of Witney and the surrounding area is expected to grow from 36,200 to 42,100 (+16%).
- Carterton's population is expected to grow from 23,000 to 25,800 (+12%).
- Chipping Norton is expected to grow from 7,200 to 10,100 (+39%).

West Oxfordshire by broad age

Legend: age 65+, age 18-64, age 0-17

West Oxfordshire- settlements

Legend: Other Areas, Witney, Carterton, Chipping Norton
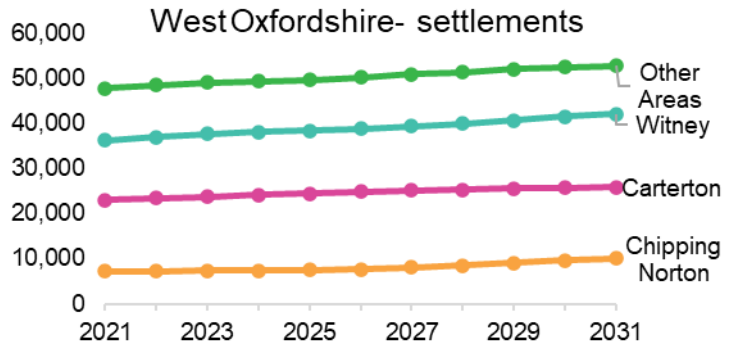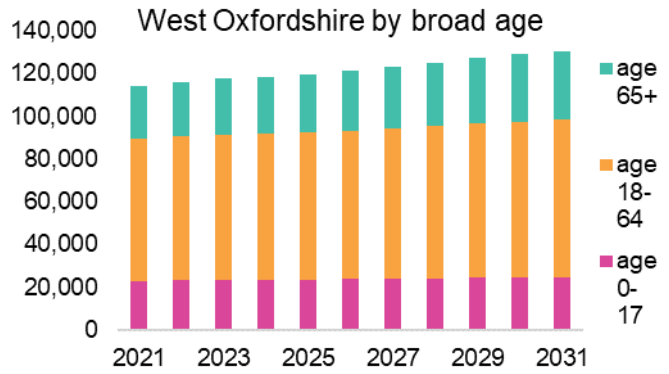
DATA TABLE: Count of residents 2021 and 2031, by settlement and broad age

	#	aged 0-17		aged 18-64						2021 to 2031	
		2021	2031	2021	2031	2021	2031	2021	2031	2021 to 2031	
Cherwell	19	34,068	37,086	98,921	111,337	28,035	37,066	161,024	185,490	24,466	15%
Banbury	8	14,962	16,038	42,493	46,565	11,576	14,851	69,032	77,454	8,422	12%
Bicester	6	12,054	13,464	35,730	40,806	8,405	11,878	56,189	66,149	9,960	18%
Kidlington	3	3,457	3,986	11,178	13,493	4,363	5,450	18,999	22,928	3,929	21%
Rest of Cherwell	2	3,594	3,598	9,520	10,473	3,691	4,887	16,805	18,959	2,154	13%
Oxford	18	28,827	29,226	114,236	122,045	18,969	25,628	162,032	176,898	14,866	9%
South Oxfordshire	20	31,045	33,949	87,468	99,663	30,579	38,027	149,092	171,639	22,547	15%
Didcot	5	7,917	9,809	24,074	30,099	5,567	7,863	37,558	47,770	10,213	27%
Henley	3	3,642	3,293	10,331	10,533	4,570	5,221	18,543	19,047	505	3%
Wallingford	1	2,012	2,322	5,521	6,277	2,157	2,357	9,691	10,956	1,265	13%
Rest of South Oxfordshire	11	17,475	18,525	47,542	52,754	18,284	22,586	83,301	93,865	10,564	13%
Vale of White Horse	14	29,767	34,333	81,677	97,931	27,462	34,192	138,906	166,455	27,549	20%
Abingdon	5	9,568	10,325	26,401	30,617	8,990	10,916	44,959	51,858	6,899	15%
Didcot in Vale	1	3,289	3,906	8,171	9,569	2,441	3,105	13,900	16,579	2,679	19%
Wantage and Grove	2	4,020	5,633	11,312	15,502	3,854	4,799	19,185	25,934	6,749	35%
Rest of Vale of White Horse	6	12,891	14,468	35,793	42,243	12,177	15,372	60,861	72,084	11,223	18%
West Oxfordshire	15	22,983	24,530	66,505	73,775	24,748	32,396	114,236	130,701	16,465	14%
Carterton	3	4,858	5,131	14,526	15,440	3,644	5,204	23,028	25,775	2,747	12%
Chipping Norton	1	1,418	2,121	4,044	5,990	1,774	1,974	7,235	10,085	2,849	39%
Witney	4	7,294	8,065	21,431	24,076	7,444	9,938	36,169	42,078	5,909	16%
Rest of West Oxfordshire	7	9,414	9,213	26,504	28,269	11,885	15,281	47,803	52,763	4,960	10%
Oxfordshire Total	86	146,690	159,123	448,807	504,751	129,793	167,309	725,290	831,183	105,893	15%

#= count of Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) included within settlement

For more information

Visit Oxfordshire Insight for interactive dashboards of the 2021 to 2031 population forecasts

For information on the sources and the data tables see excel dataset

Office for National Statistics population estimates, and 2018-based population projections are available to download from www.nomisweb.co.uk.

We welcome your comments, please email jsna@oxfordshire.gov.uk