

2021 Census Topic Summary: Sexual orientation and gender identity

A first look at the results for Suffolk County and Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs, compared to England

The following tables were released on 6th January 2023:

Topic	Table name	Minimum available geography
Sexual identity	Sexual orientation	MSOA
	Sexual orientation (detailed)	LTLA
Gender identity	Gender identity	MSOA
	Gender identity (detailed)	LTLA

MSOA = Middle layer Super Output Area. There are 90 MSOAs in Suffolk, with an average usual resident population of just under 8,500 people.

LTLA = Lower Tier Local Authority (District and Borough Council areas)

All data used in this paper were sourced from the 2021 ONS Census outputs. Some total counts may differ slightly between indicators.

These questions are newly included in the 2021 Census and therefore there are no previous data from the 2011 Census for comparison over time.

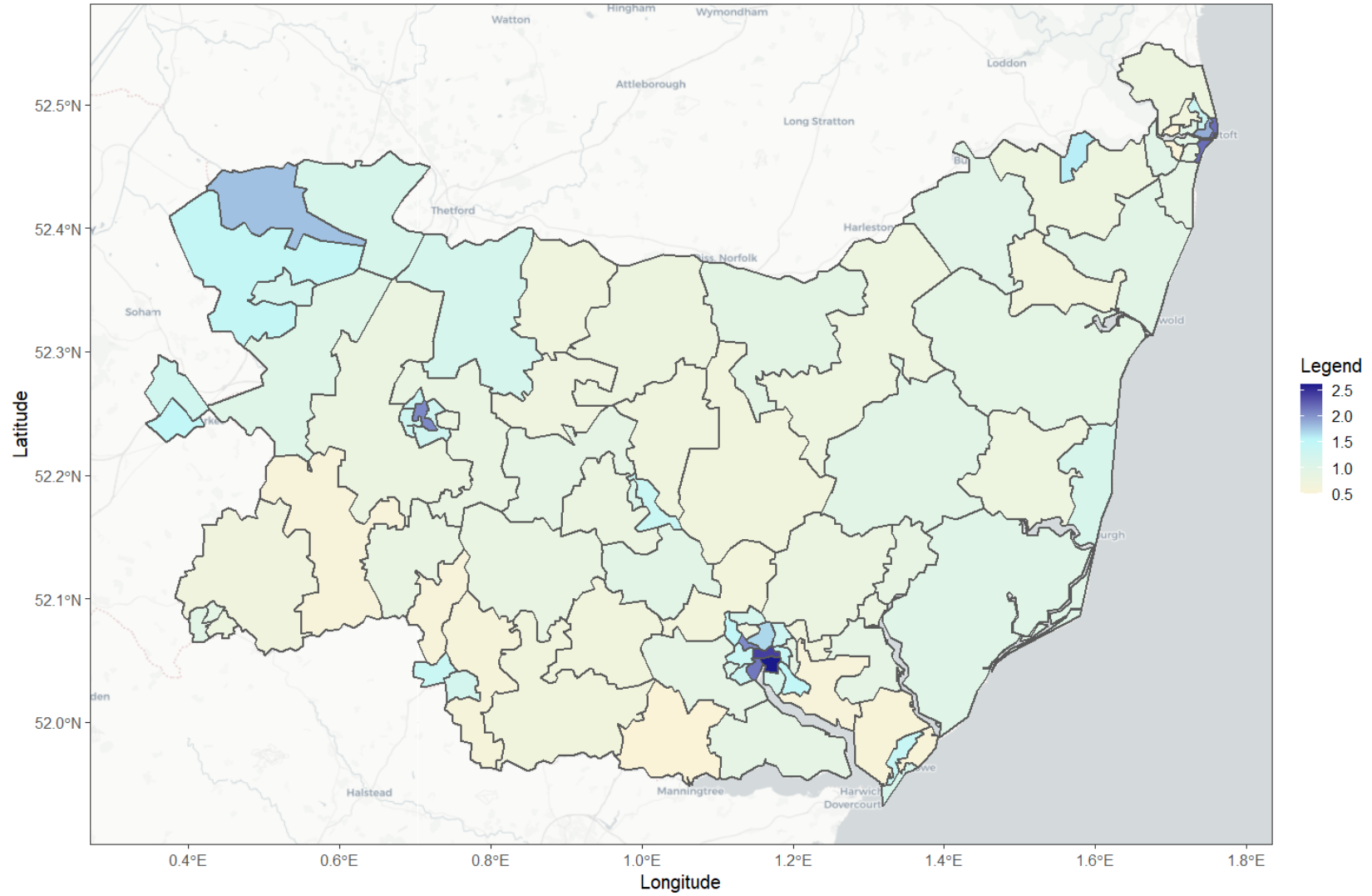
Sexual orientation

Data on sexual orientation were collected on individuals aged 16 and over and have been provided in two classifications – sexual orientation and sexual orientation (detailed). The detailed version, supplied to a Lower Tier Local Authority level, includes three additional categories that were grouped together under “all other sexual orientations” in the non-detailed version (namely pansexual, asexual and queer). The non-detailed version is provided down to Middle layer Super Output Areas, and provides six categories – Does not apply, straight or heterosexual, gay or lesbian, bisexual, all other sexual orientations and not answered.

These data indicate that:

- For Suffolk, the percentage of the population aged 16 and over that self-identify as being straight or heterosexual is 90.3%, similar to the percentages seen across England as a nation (90.2%), but higher than the East of England regional percentage (89.4%).
- For Suffolk, the percentage of the population aged 16 and over that self-identify as being gay or lesbian is 1.3%, similar to the percentages seen in the East of England region (1.2%), but slightly lower overall than the England national percentage (1.5%).
- For Suffolk, the percentage of the population aged 16 and over that self-identify as being bisexual is 1.1%, similar to the percentages seen in the East of England region (1.1%), but slightly lower overall than the England national percentage (1.3%).
- Among Suffolk Lower Tier Local Authorities, Ipswich had the highest rates of people aged 16 and over reporting that their sexual orientation was either gay or lesbian (1.5%), bisexual (1.6%) or pansexual (0.4%).
- By MSOA in Suffolk, the five areas with the highest percentages of people reporting that they are gay or lesbian are West Suffolk 011 (Bury St Edmunds Central – 2.57%), Ipswich 007 (Ipswich Central – 2.51%), East Suffolk 006 (Lowestoft Harbour & Kirkley – 2.31%), Ipswich 006 (Westgate – 2.07%), and East Suffolk 004 (Lowestoft Central – 2.05%).
- The five MSOAs with the highest percentages of people reporting that they are bisexual are Ipswich 011 (Holywells – 2.61%), Ipswich 007 (Ipswich Central – 2.42%), East Suffolk 006 (Lowestoft Harbour & Kirkley – 2.19%), Ipswich 012 (Maidenhall, Stoke & Port – 2.14%) and West Suffolk 011 (Bury St Edmunds Central – 2.05%).
- 7.1% of Suffolk residents aged 16 and over did not respond to this question, which is a higher response rate than seen in the East of England regionally (7.2% did not answer) or in England nationally (7.5% did not answer).

Percentage of Suffolk population aged 16 and over who self-identify as bisexual, 2021 Census
By Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA)



Percentage of Suffolk population aged 16 and over who did not answer the sexual orientation question, 2021 Census
By Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA)

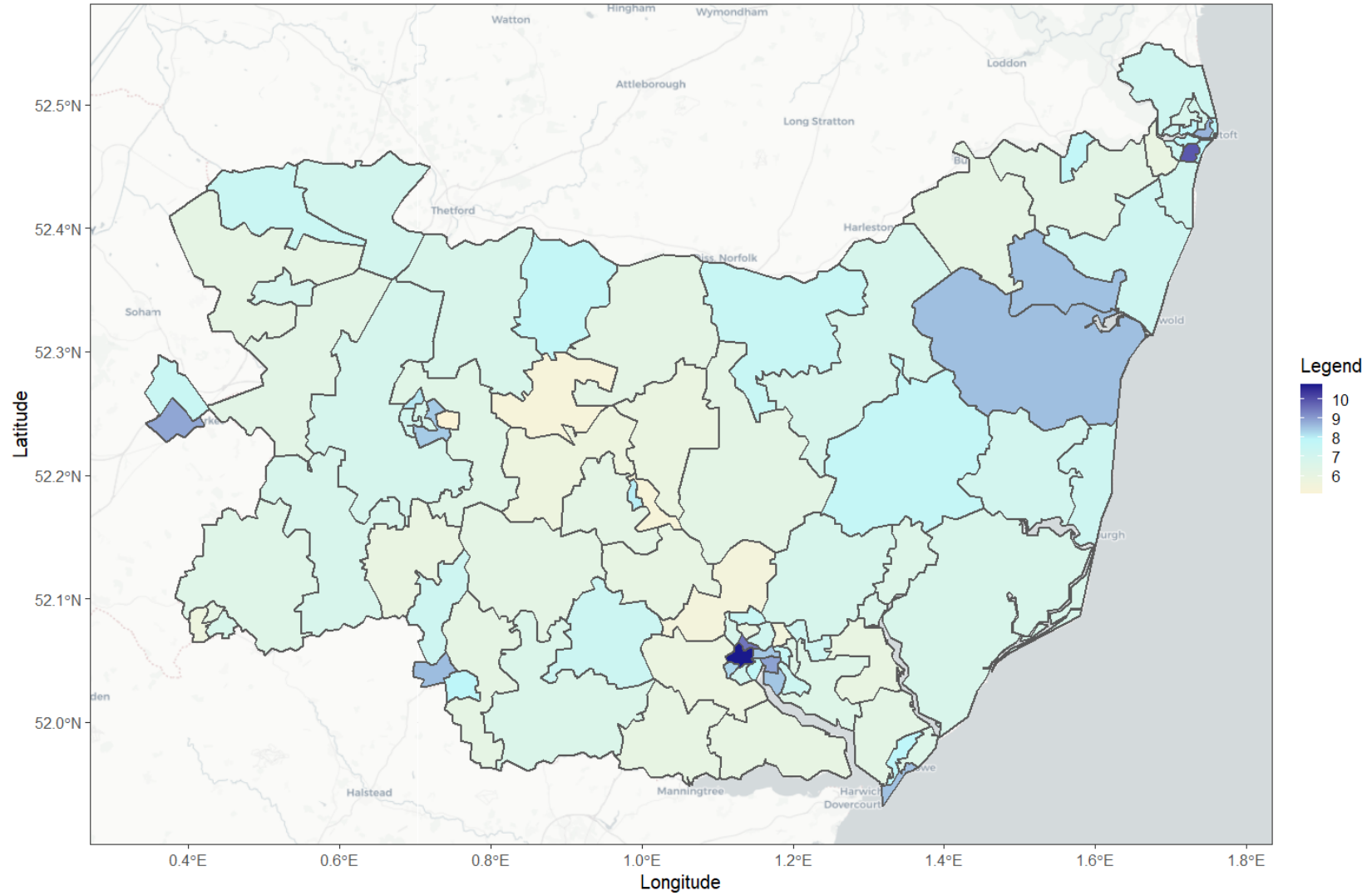


Table 1: Sexual orientation, 2021 Census

	Babergh		East Suffolk		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		West Suffolk		Suffolk		East of England		England	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total residents aged 16 and over	77379	-	206719	-	111832	-	86303	-	148128	-	630363	-	5148286	-	46006957	-
Straight or heterosexual	70434	91.0	186886	90.4	99026	88.5	79066	91.6	133847	90.4	569259	90.3	4642794	89.4	41114478	90.2
Gay or lesbian	843	1.1	2490	1.2	1724	1.5	989	1.1	1866	1.3	7912	1.3	62516	1.2	709704	1.5
Bisexual	655	0.8	2008	1.0	1752	1.6	764	0.9	1676	1.1	6857	1.1	58885	1.1	591690	1.3
Pansexual	100	0.1	280	0.1	446	0.4	121	0.1	340	0.2	1286	0.2	10664	0.2	107852	0.2
Asexual	35	0.0	104	0.1	68	0.1	38	0.0	79	0.1	324	0.1	3060	0.1	26614	0.1
Queer	6	0.0	31	0.0	31	0.0	9	0.0	13	0.0	91	0.0	1044	0.0	13928	0.0
All other sexual orientations	9	0.0	27	0.0	71	0.0	10	0.0	32	0.0	149	0.0	965	0.0	9963	0.0
Not answered	5297	6.8	14893	7.2	8714	7.8	5306	6.1	10275	6.9	44485	7.1	368358	7.2	3432728	7.5

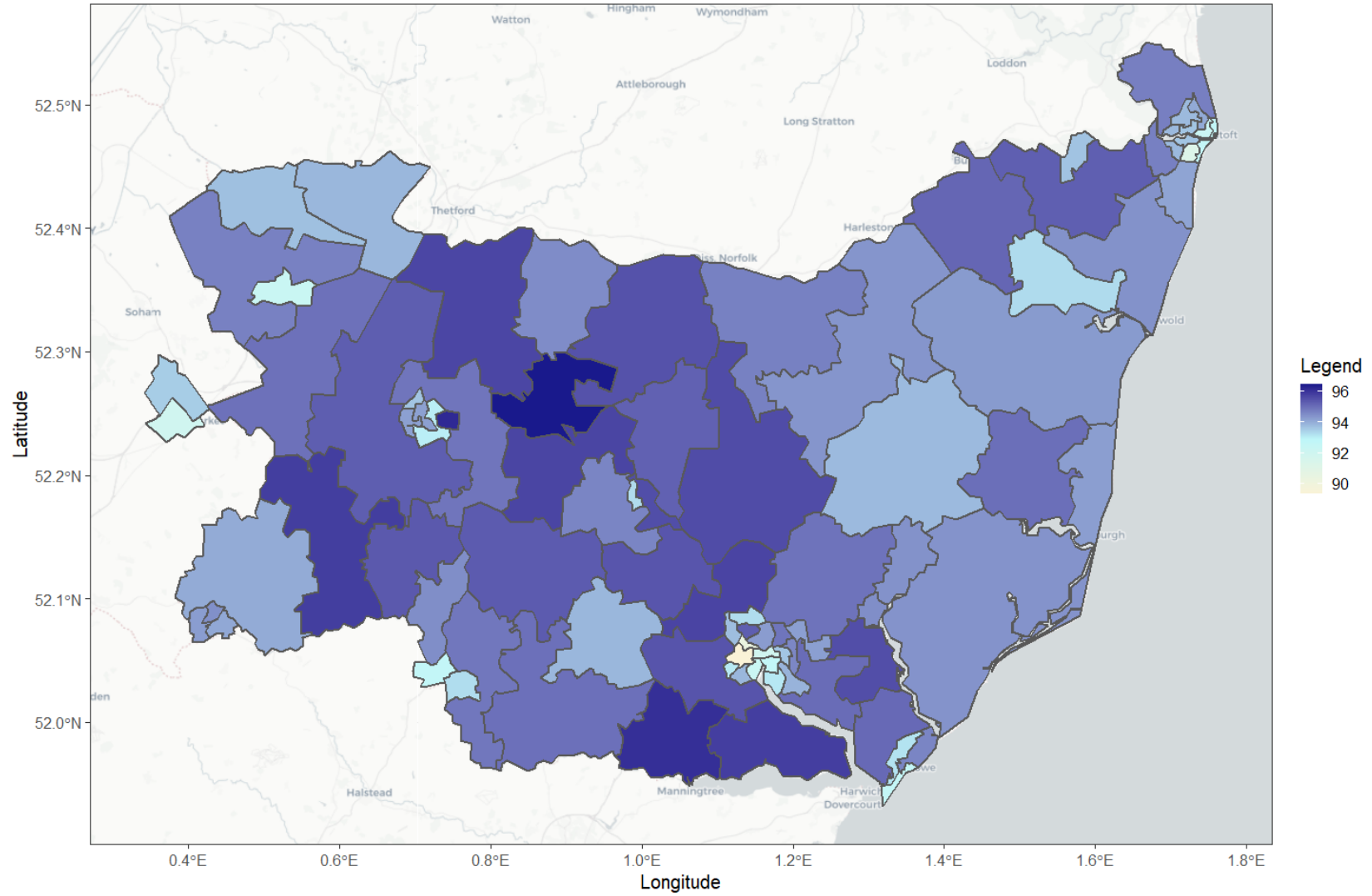
Gender identity

Data on gender identity were collected on individuals aged 16 and over and have been provided in two classifications – gender identity and gender identity (detailed). The detailed version, supplied to a Lower Tier Local Authority level, includes three additional categories that were grouped together under “all other gender identities” in the non-detailed version (namely non-binary). The non-detailed version is provided down to Middle layer Super Output Areas, and provides seven categories – Does not apply, gender identity the same as sex registered at birth, gender identity different from sex registered at birth (but no specific identity given), trans woman, trans man, all other gender identities and not answered.

These data indicate that:

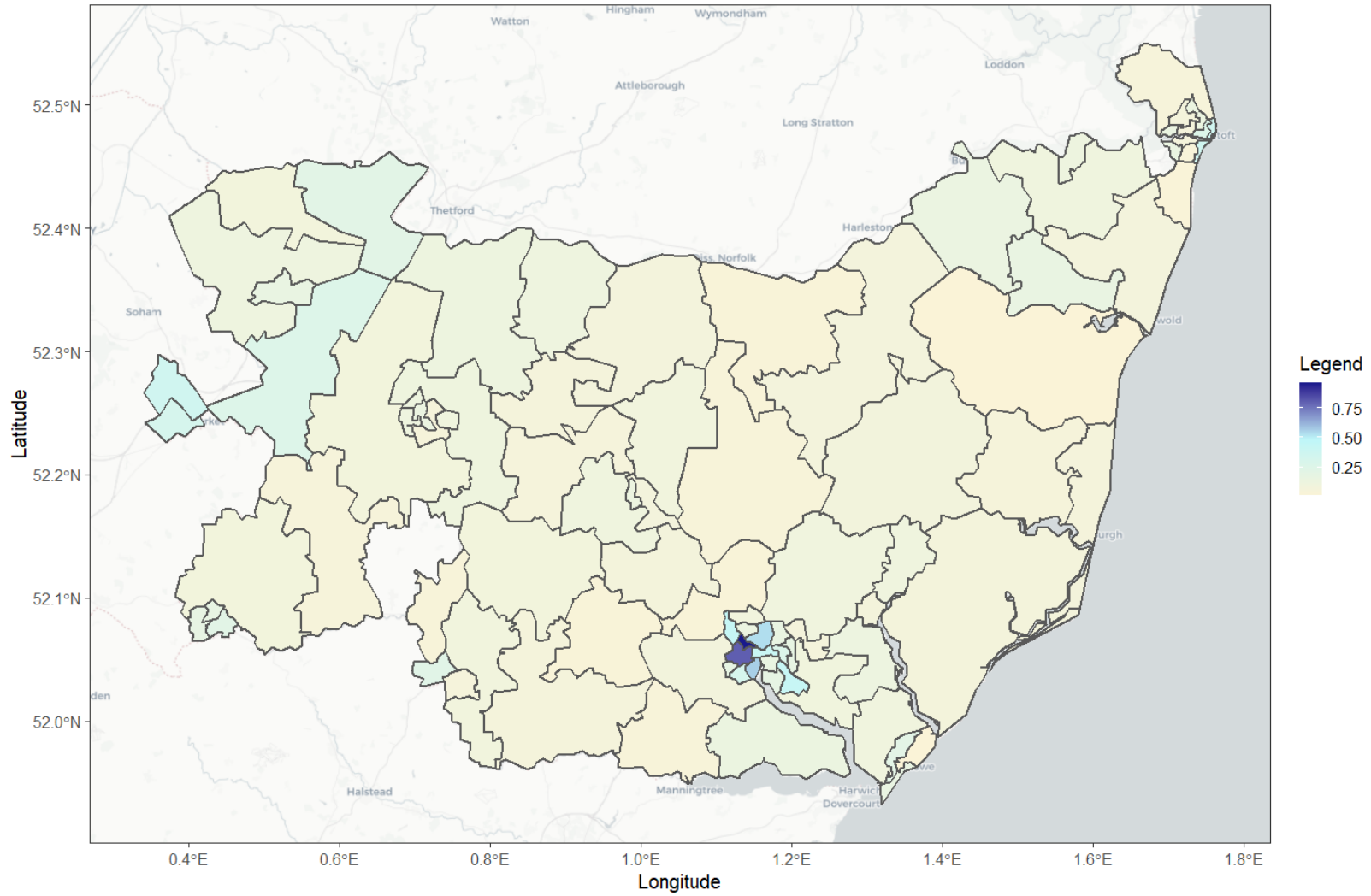
- For Suffolk, the percentage of the population aged 16 and over whose gender identity is the same as sex registered at birth is 94.2%, higher than the percentages seen across England as a nation (93.5%), and the East of England regional percentage (93.9%).
- For Suffolk, the percentage of the population aged 16 and over whose gender identity is different from sex registered at birth (including trans woman, trans man, non-binary and all other gender identities) is 0.39%, lower than the percentages seen across England as a nation (0.55%), and the East of England regional percentage (0.46%).
- For Suffolk, the percentage of the population aged 16 and over who did not answer the gender identity question is 5.4%, lower than the percentages seen across England as a nation (6%) and the East of England regional percentage (5.6%)
- Among Suffolk Lower Tier Local Authorities, Ipswich had the highest rates of people aged 16 and over reporting that their gender identity was different from sex registered at birth (including trans woman, trans man, non-binary and all other gender identities) at 0.8%, which was higher than the England national rate (0.55%). Mid Suffolk had the lower percentage at 0.26%.

Percentage of Suffolk population aged 16 and over whose gender identity is the same as sex registered at birth, 2021 Census
By Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA)

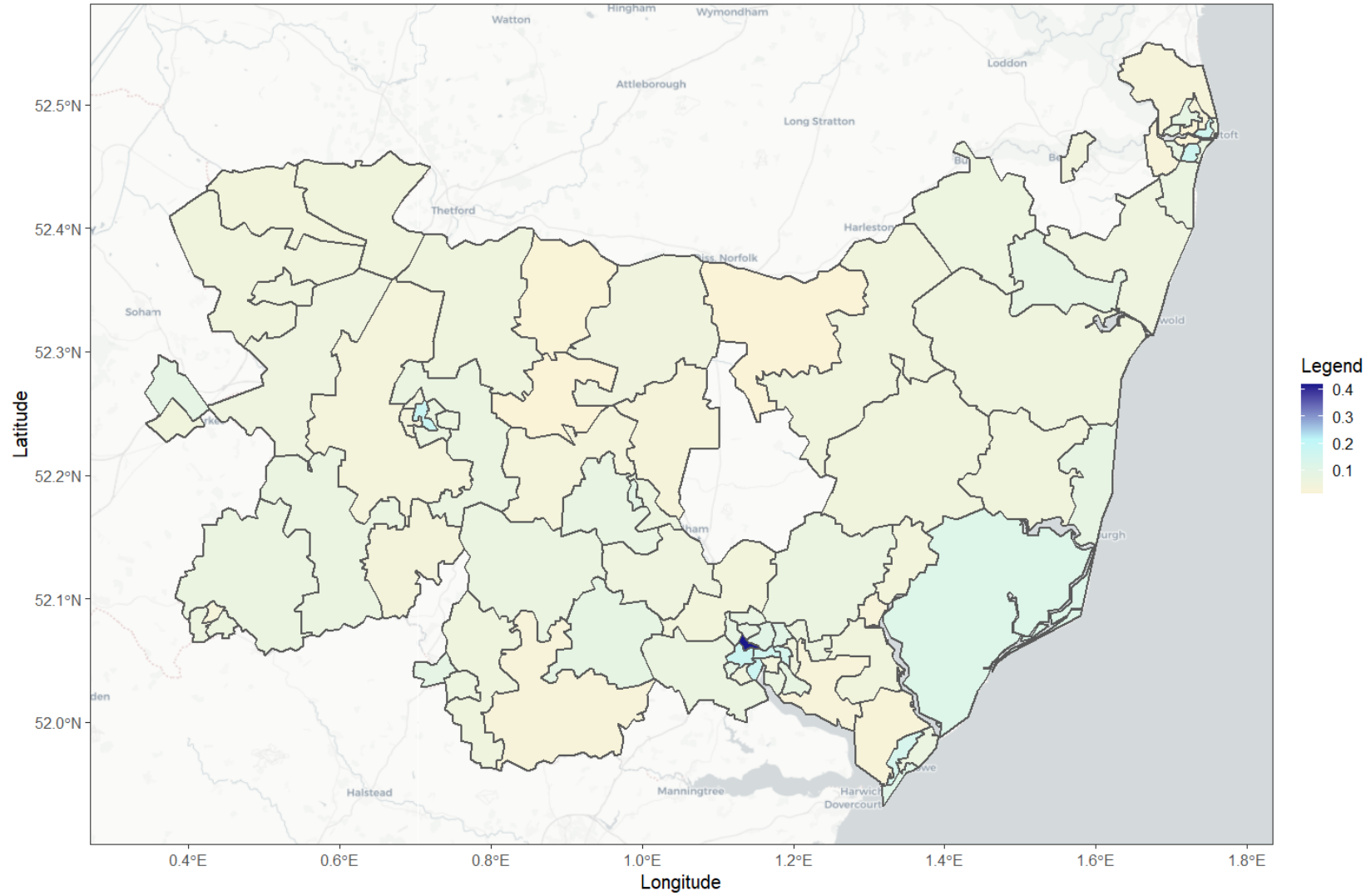


Percentage of Suffolk population aged 16 and over whose gender identity is different to the sex registered at birth (but no specific identity given), 2021 Census

By Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA)



Percentage of Suffolk population aged 16 and over whose gender identity is trans woman, 2021 Census
By Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA)



Percentage of Suffolk population aged 16 and over whose gender identity is trans man, 2021 Census
By Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA)

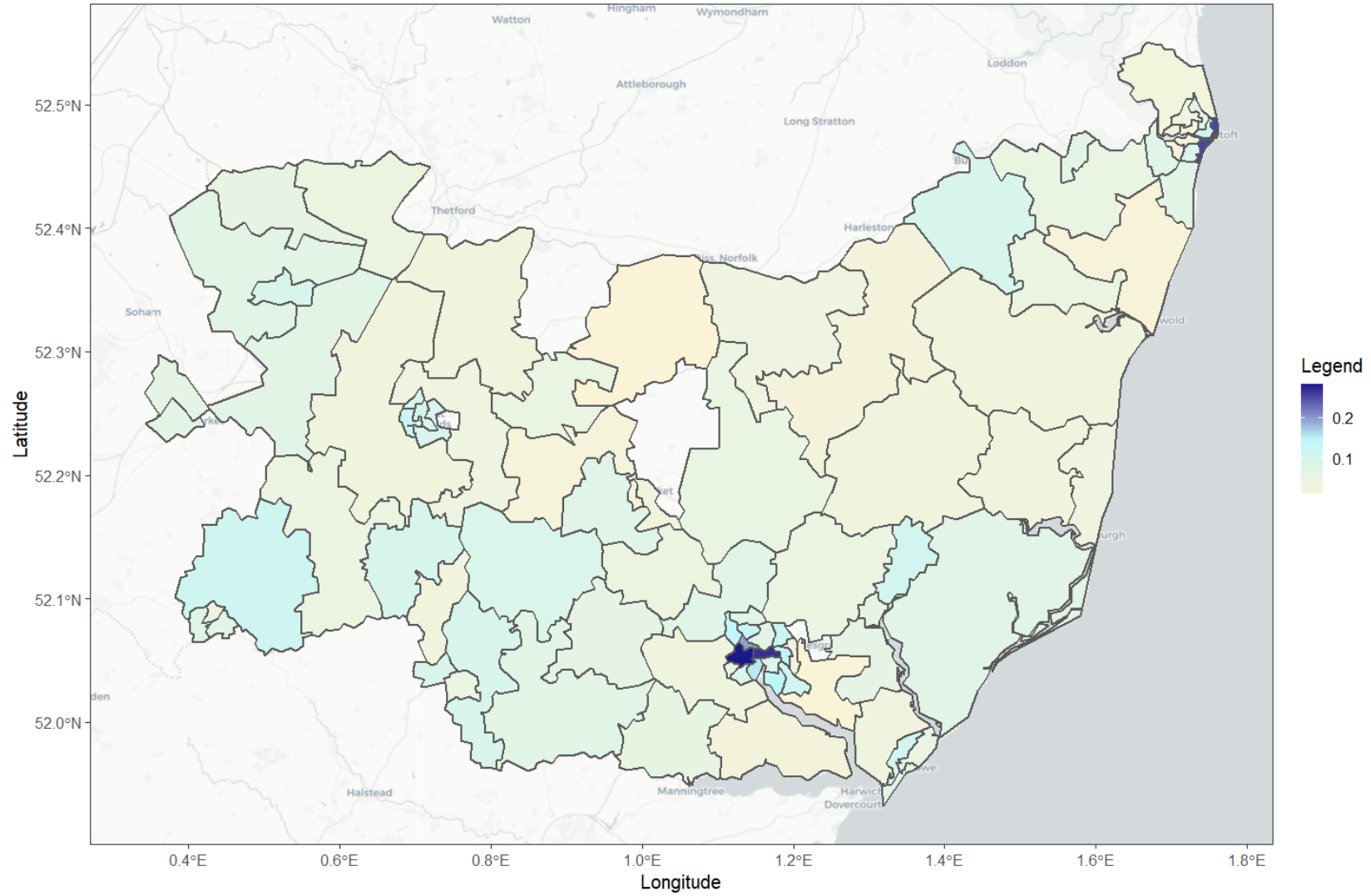


Table 2: Gender identity, 2021 Census

	Babergh		East Suffolk		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		West Suffolk		Suffolk		East of England		England	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total residents aged 16 and over	77377	-	206719	-	111833	-	86305	-	148126	-	630362	-	5148286	-	46006958	-
Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth	73209	94.6	194592	94.1	104044	93	82205	95.2	139530	94.2	593580	94.2	4835263	93.9	43002331	93.5
Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	68	0.1	223	0.1	426	0.4	63	0.1	238	0.2	1017	0.2	10213	0.2	113760	0.2
Trans woman	33	0	141	0.1	139	0.1	38	0	91	0.1	442	0.1	4594	0.1	45684	0.1
Trans man	47	0.1	136	0.1	155	0.1	35	0	98	0.1	475	0.1	4437	0.1	46513	0.1
Non-binary	25	0	95	0	75	0.1	31	0	66	0	291	0	2747	0.1	28710	0.1
All other gender identities	26	0	53	0	66	0.1	24	0	40	0	209	0	1808	0	17177	0
Not answered	3969	5.1	11479	5.6	6928	6.2	3909	4.5	8063	5.4	34348	5.4	289224	5.6	2752783	6

Further information

- All of the 2021 data referenced here is available on the website of the [Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/sexualorientationandgenderidentitycensus2021inenglandandwales)
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/sexualorientationandgenderidentitycensus2021inenglandandwales>
- Data from the 2021 Census and previous editions of the Census [can also be found on NOMIS](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/)
<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>
- 2021 Census data for Suffolk will also be made available on the [Suffolk Observatory](https://www.suffolkobservatory.info/)
<https://www.suffolkobservatory.info/>