

## 2021 Census: UK armed forces veterans data for Suffolk

A first look at the results for Suffolk County and our Districts and Boroughs.  
The source of all the data presented is the 2021 Census.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/armedforcescommunity/bulletins/ukarmedforcesvetransenglandandwales/census2021>

### Data released:

Indicator	Minimum geography
Previously served (person) in the UK armed forces	MSOA
Previously served (household) in the UK armed forces	MSOA
Previously served in communal establishments and in households	MSOA
Household Reference Person indicator (not presented here)	MSOA

\*MSOA= [Middle Super Output Area](#)

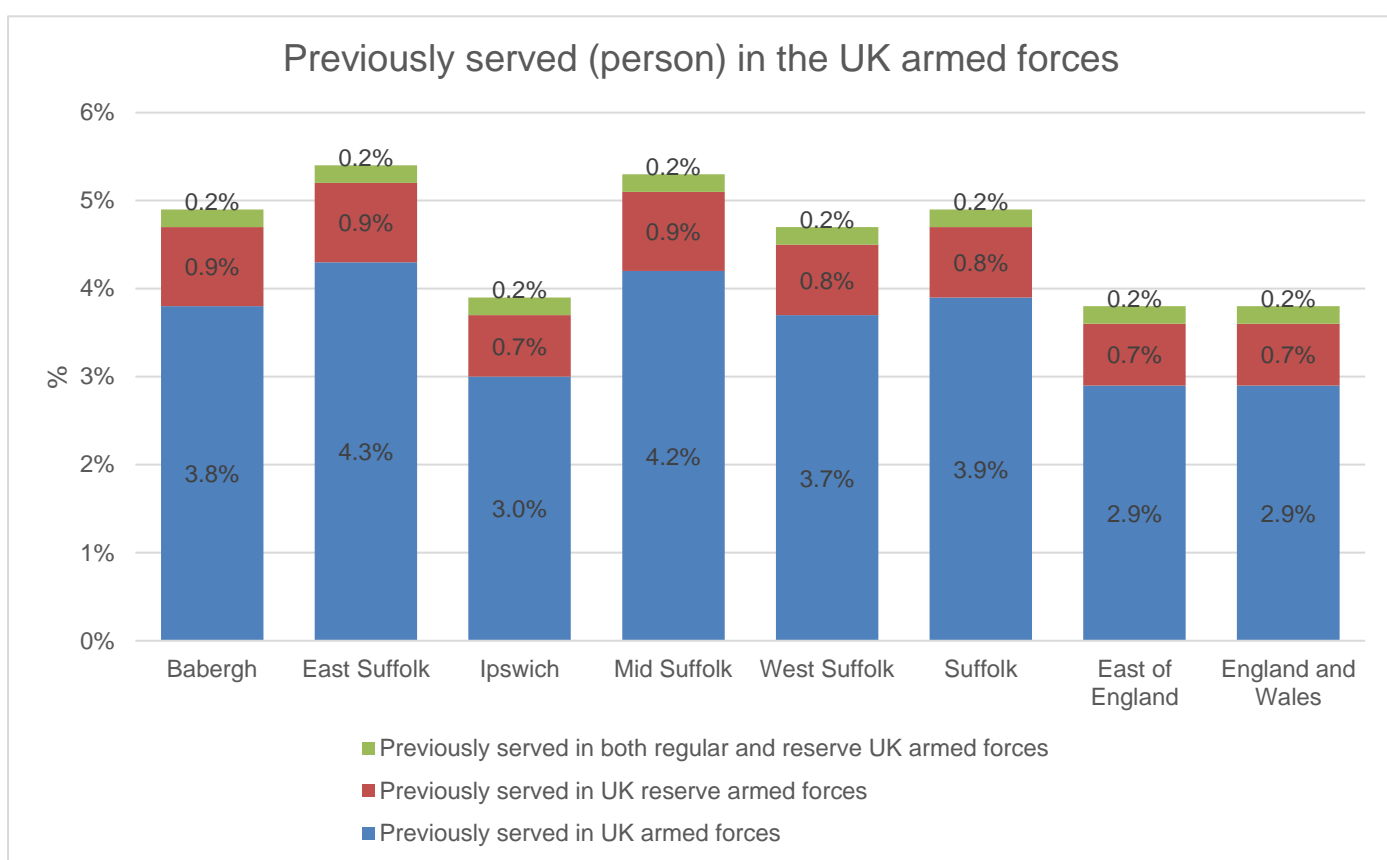
### Key points:

- At the time of the 2021 Census, there were 30,976 UK armed forces veterans resident in Suffolk. This equates to 4.9% of people aged 16+ resident in the county; two percentage points higher than the England and Wales average of 2.9%.
- Of these, 24,371 previously served in the UK regular armed forces (3.9% of residents aged 16+), 5,202 previously served in UK reserve armed forces (0.8%) and 1,403 (0.2%) previously served in both of these forces.
- Around 1 in every 11 households in Suffolk is home to a UK armed forces veteran.

## Previously served (person) in the UK armed forces

	Count in Suffolk	%
Previously served in UK armed forces	24,371	3.9%
Previously served in UK reserve armed forces	5,202	0.8%
Previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces	1,403	0.2%
All previously served in UK armed forces	30,976	4.9%
Has not previously served in any UK armed forces	599,386	95.1%
Total: All usual residents	630,362	

- At the time of the 2021 Census, there were 30,976 UK armed forces veterans resident in Suffolk. This equates to 4.9% of people aged 16+ resident in the county (almost 1 in 20); two percentage points higher than the England and Wales average of 2.9%.
- Of these, 24,371 previously served in the UK regular armed forces (3.9% of residents aged 16+), 5,202 previously served in UK reserve armed forces (0.8%) and 1,403 (0.2%) previously served in both of these forces.



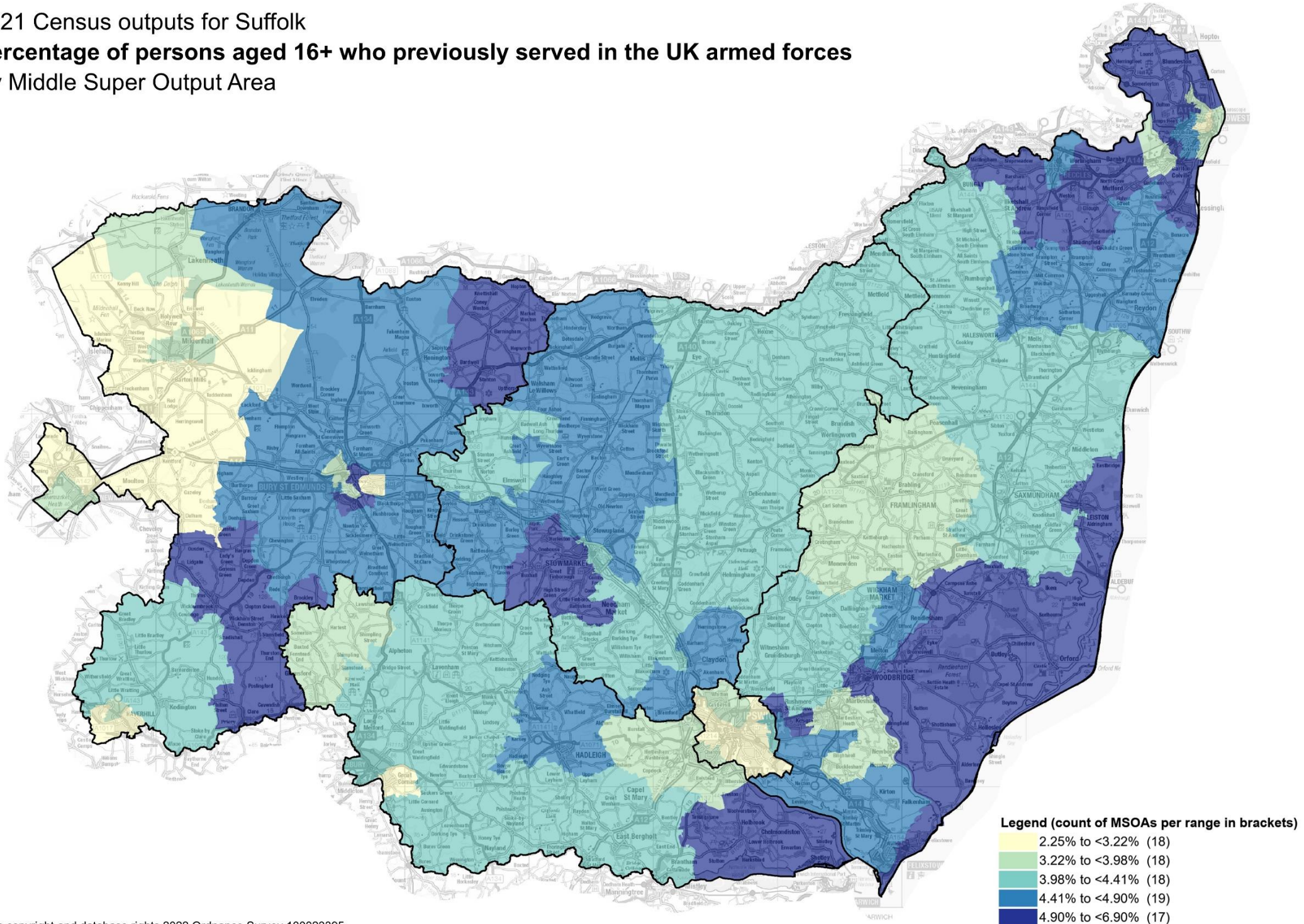
- All of Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs have a higher percentage of residents who served in the UK armed forces than the England and Wales average.
- Among Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs, the largest number of residents who previously served in the UK armed forces is in East Suffolk (11,292). This equates to 5.4% of the resident population aged 16+; the highest proportion of any District and Borough in Suffolk.
- Babergh has the lowest number of former UK armed forces residents (3,832), while Ipswich has the smallest proportion of resident veterans (3.9%).

The map overleaf shows the percentage of residents who served in the regular armed forces, reserve armed forces or both (i.e. the total for the columns shown above) by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA).

# 2021 Census outputs for Suffolk

## Percentage of persons aged 16+ who previously served in the UK armed forces

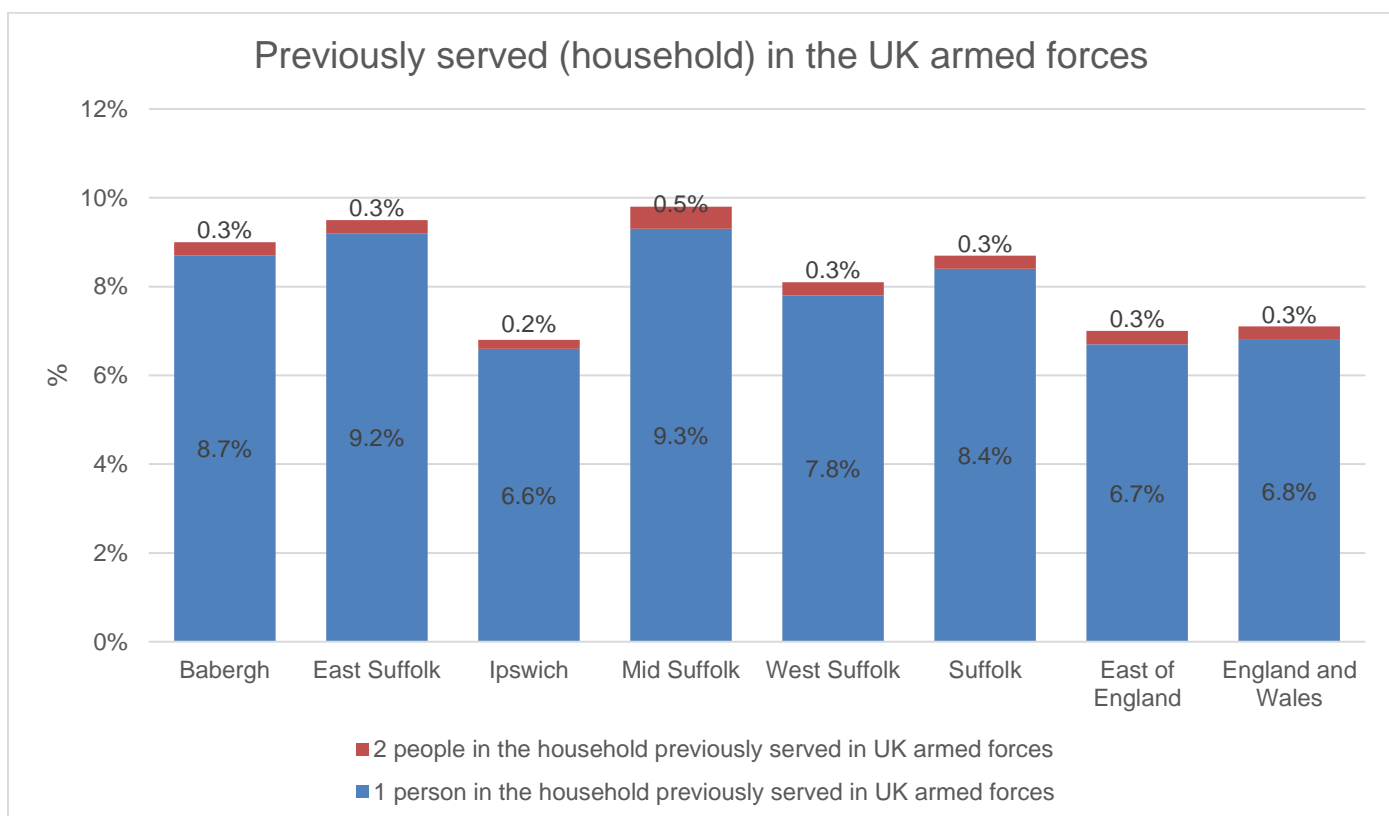
### By Middle Super Output Area



## Previously served (household) in the UK armed forces

	Count in Suffolk	%
No people in the household previously served in UK armed forces	304,489	91.3%
1 person in the household previously served in UK armed forces	27,936	8.4%
2 people in the household previously served in UK armed forces	1,099	0.3%
3 or more people in the household previously served in UK armed forces	19	0.0%
Total: All households	333,543	

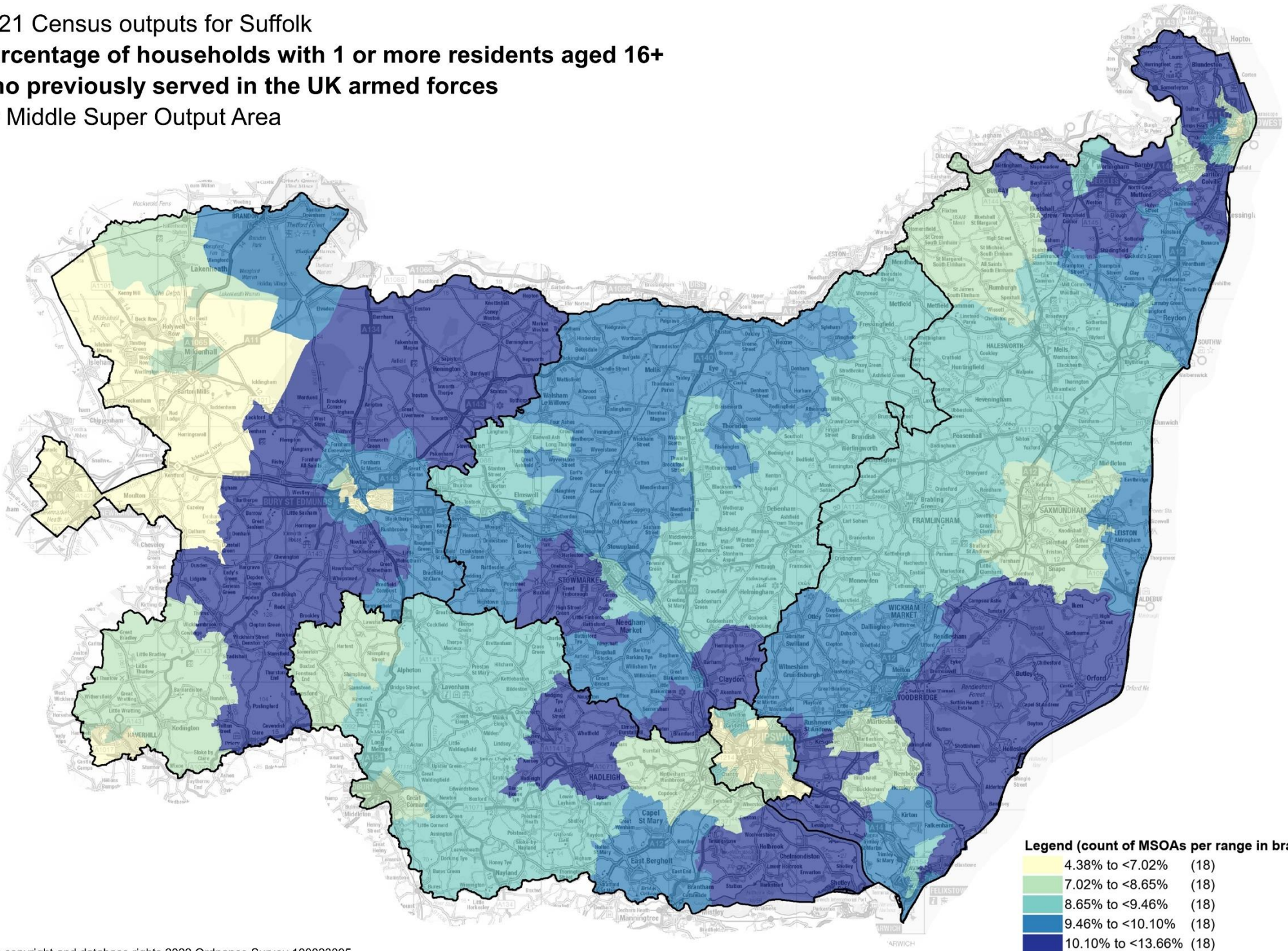
- 8.7% of households in Suffolk are home to a UK armed forces veteran. This is higher than the England and Wales average of 7.1%.



- All of Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs contain a larger proportion of households that have at least one UK armed forces veteran as a member than across the East of England or England and Wales.
- Almost 1 in 10 households in Mid Suffolk (9.8%) has a UK armed forces veteran member – the highest proportion of any Suffolk District or Borough.
- The lowest proportion of households containing a UK armed forces veteran is in Ipswich (6.8%).

The map overleaf shows the percentage of households containing one or more UK armed forces veteran, by MSOA.

2021 Census outputs for Suffolk  
**Percentage of households with 1 or more residents aged 16+ who previously served in the UK armed forces**  
 By Middle Super Output Area



## Appendix 1: full Lower-Tier Local Authority (District and Borough) level data tables

### Previously served (person) in the UK armed forces

Area	Total: All usual residents	Previously served in UK armed forces		Previously served in UK reserve armed forces		Previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces		All previously served in UK armed forces		Has not previously served in any UK armed forces	
	number	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Babergh	77,379	2,947	3.8%	700	0.9%	185	0.2%	3,832	4.9%	73,547	95.0%
East Suffolk	206,717	8,918	4.3%	1,864	0.9%	510	0.2%	11,292	5.4%	195,425	94.5%
Ipswich	111,830	3,349	3.0%	770	0.7%	200	0.2%	4,319	3.9%	107,511	96.1%
Mid Suffolk	86,306	3,663	4.2%	740	0.9%	215	0.2%	4,618	5.3%	81,688	94.6%
West Suffolk	148,127	5,494	3.7%	1,128	0.8%	292	0.2%	6,914	4.7%	141,213	95.3%
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>630,362</b>	<b>24,371</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>5,202</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>30,976</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>599,386</b>	<b>95.1%</b>
East of England	5,148,284	149,280	2.9%	36,470	0.7%	8,132	0.2%	193,882	3.8%	4,954,402	96.2%
England and Wales	48,566,373	1,413,296	2.9%	360,770	0.7%	79,046	0.2%	1,853,112	3.8%	46,713,261	96.2%

Dataset description: This dataset provides Census 2021 estimates that classify usual residents in England and Wales by whether or not they have previously served in the UK armed forces. The estimates are as at Census Day, 21 March 2021.

Variable Description: Identifies people who have previously served in the UK armed forces. This includes those who have served for at least one day in armed forces, either regular or reserves, or Merchant Mariners who have seen duty on legally defined military operations.

## Previously served (household) in the UK armed forces

Area	Total: All households	No people in the household previously served in UK armed forces		1 person in the household previously served in UK armed forces		2 people in the household previously served in UK armed forces		3 or more people in the household previously served in UK armed forces	
	number of households	number of households	%	number of households	%	number of households	%	number of households	%
Babergh	40,200	36,570	91.0%	3,495	8.7%	135	0.3%	0	0.0%
East Suffolk	110,744	100,134	90.4%	10,229	9.2%	375	0.3%	6	0.0%
Ipswich	59,507	55,424	93.1%	3,948	6.6%	128	0.2%	7	0.0%
Mid Suffolk	44,345	40,012	90.2%	4,129	9.3%	200	0.5%	4	0.0%
West Suffolk	78,745	72,349	91.9%	6,132	7.8%	261	0.3%	3	0.0%
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>333,543</b>	<b>304,489</b>	<b>91.3%</b>	<b>27,936</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
East of England	2,628,783	2,445,734	93.0%	176,259	6.7%	6,634	0.3%	156	0.0%
England and Wales	24,783,199	23,038,121	93.0%	1,675,603	6.8%	67,714	0.3%	1,761	0.0%

Dataset description: This dataset provides Census 2021 estimates that classify households in England and Wales by the number of people in the household who have previously served in the UK armed forces. The estimates are as at Census Day, 21 March 2021.

Variable Description: Number of people in the household who have previously served in the UK armed forces. This includes those who have served for at least one day in armed forces, either regular, reserves or Merchant Mariners who have seen duty on legally defined military operations.

## Previously served in communal establishments and in households

Area	Total	Lives in a household		Lives in a communal establishment	
	number	number	%	number	%
Babergh	3,832	3,764	98.2%	68	1.8%
East Suffolk	11,292	11,000	97.4%	292	2.6%
Ipswich	4,321	4,224	97.8%	97	2.2%
Mid Suffolk	4,617	4,537	98.3%	80	1.7%
West Suffolk	6,917	6,664	96.3%	253	3.7%
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>30,976</b>	<b>30,189</b>	<b>97.5%</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
East of England	193,882	189,972	98.0%	3,910	2.0%
England and Wales	1,853,112	1,816,299	98.0%	36,813	2.0%

Dataset description: This dataset provides Census 2021 estimates that classify usual residents in England and Wales who have previously served in the UK armed forces by whether they reside in communal establishments and in households. The estimates are as at Census Day, 21 March 2021.

Variable Description: Whether a person lives in a household or a communal establishment. Communal Establishments include: hospitals, care homes, prisons, defence bases, boarding schools and student halls of residence.

People who completed the normal household questionnaire were recorded as living in a household. Those who completed an individual questionnaire were asked if they lived in a household or a communal establishment.