

Ethnic diversity and migration data sheet – February 2026

Summary – Rushmoor is more ethnically diverse than Hampshire, the South East and England. This is mainly due to the Nepali community which makes Rushmoor's demographics unique.

Ethnic diversity

In the 2011 Census 80.5% of Rushmoor residents defined themselves as White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British, this dropped to 71.1% in the 2021 Census. Rushmoor is more ethnically diverse than Hampshire, the South East and England.

The largest ethnic group after White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British in Rushmoor is Asian/Asian British: Other Asian. This is the main group Nepali residents are in.

The Nepali community has a particularly strong presence in Rushmoor because of the Gurkha connection with Aldershot Garrison during their service. Following a 2008 High Court ruling, the Government gave Gurkhas who retired before 1997 and their dependant families, the right to settle in the UK. The 2021 Census showed that 10,575 people in Rushmoor (10.6%) are Nepali (includes Gurkha). This was the highest percentage for a local authority area in England and Wales and accounts for 10.2% of all those who identified themselves as Nepali in the 2021 Census.

2021 Census	Number	Rushmoor %	Hampshire %	South East %	England %
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Bangladeshi	297	0.3	0.2	0.4	1.1
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Chinese	507	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Indian	2105	2.1	1.2	2.6	3.3
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Pakistani	1223	1.2	0.3	1.6	2.8
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Other Asian	10526	10.6	1.6	1.7	1.7
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: African	1448	1.5	0.6	1.6	2.6
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Caribbean	652	0.7	0.2	0.5	1.1
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Other Black	431	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.5
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	829	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	412	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	707	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.9
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	630	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8
White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	70917	71.1	87.9	78.8	73.5
White: Irish	658	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.9
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	190	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
White: Roma	108	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
White: Other White	5346	5.4	3.8	6.3	6.3
Other ethnic group: Arab	180	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.6
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	2593	2.6	0.7	1.1	1.6

Religion

In line with the 2021 Census data for England and Wales, there has been a drop in those reporting to be Christian and a rise in those reporting no religion. Although the largest religion is still Christian this has decreased from 57.8% to 42.3%. The second largest group are those who indicated they have no religion (37.9%). At 4.7% Rushmoor has the highest percentage of Buddhists in a local authority area in England and Wales.

Census: Religion	2011 Census	2021 Census
Christian	57.8% (54,206)	42.3% (42,173)
Buddhist	3.3% (3,092)	4.7% (4,732)
Hindu	3.4% (3,222)	5.7% (5,708)
Jewish	0.1% (65)	0.1% (60)
Muslim	1.4% (1,356)	2.5% (2,462)
Sikh	0.2% (183)	0.2% (198)
Other religion	0.4% (367)	1.2% (1,245)
No religion	26.4% (24,773)	37.9% (37,854)
Religion not stated	7.0% (6,543)	5.3% (5,324)

Household language

The 2021 Census showed that Rushmoor, with 7.8%, had a slightly higher percentage of households that did not have anyone in the household that spoke English as their main language. The average for England was 5.0%.

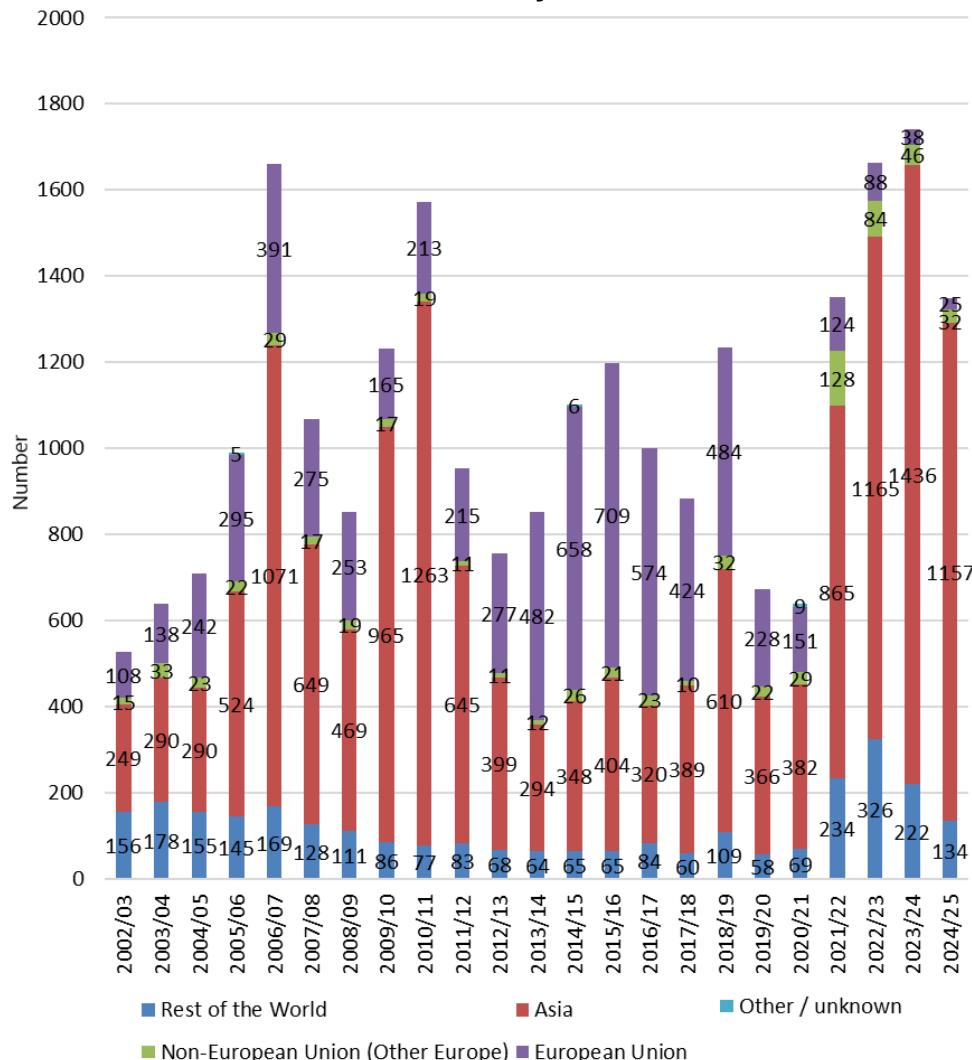
2021 Census: Household language	Number	Rushmoor %	England %
All adults in household have English in England, or English or Welsh in Wales as a main language	33,581	85.4	89.3
At least one but not all adults in household have English in England, or English or Welsh in Wales as a main language	1,839	4.7	4.3
No adults in household, but at least one person aged 3 to 15 years, has English in England or English or Welsh in Wales as a main language	798	2.0	1.4
No people in household have English in England, or English or Welsh in Wales as a main language	3,085	7.8	5.0

Migration

Between January 2002 to September 2024, there were 25,070 National Insurance numbers allocated to 'Adult Overseas Nationals' in Rushmoor. Since January 2002 58.6% (14,690) of the National Insurance numbers issued were issued to people from Asia, of those from Asia 10,793 were from Nepal.

The following chart shows the number of National Insurance numbers allocated to 'Adult Overseas Nationals' in Rushmoor over the past 22 years (year is October to September), and the world area they come from. In 2023/24 1,759 numbers were issued, which was the highest number in 23 years. This reduced to 1,381 in 2024/25.

National Insurance number allocations to 'Adult Overseas Nationals' from October 2002 to September 2025, in Rushmoor and the world area they come from

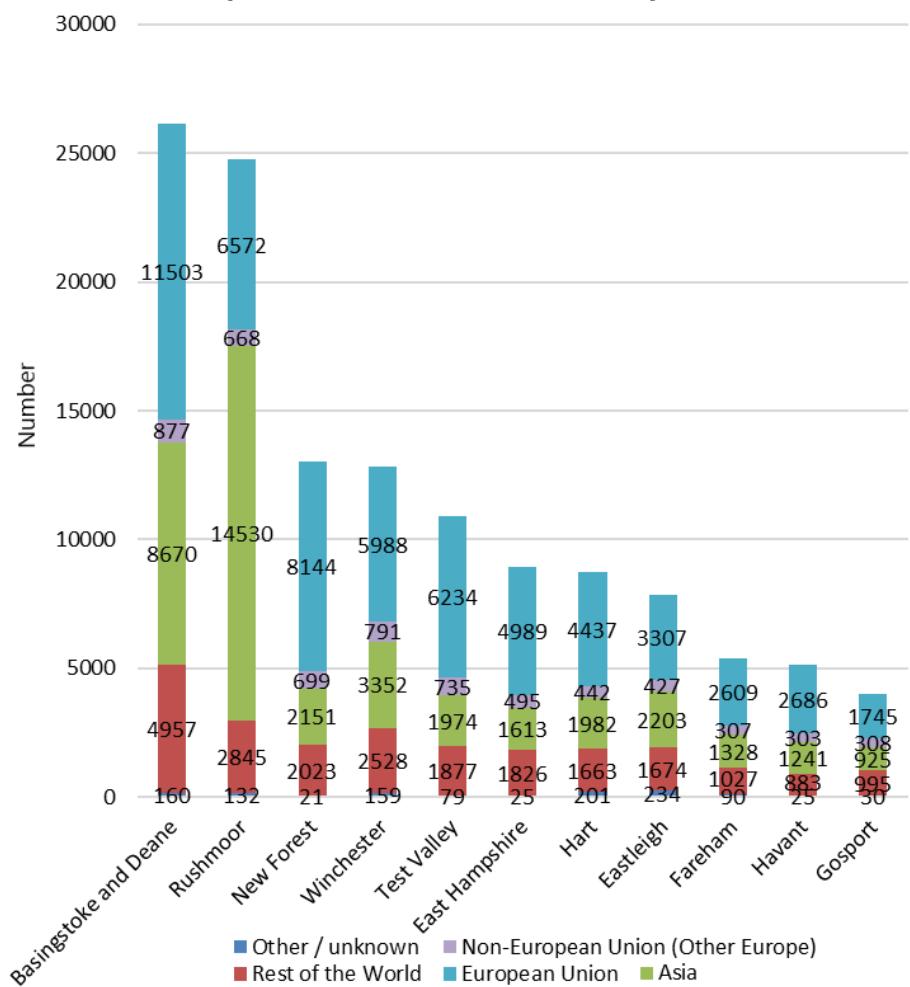


(Source: DWP <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>)

The following chart shows the National Insurance number allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals for the last 23 years from October 2002 to September 2025, in districts in Hampshire and the world area they

come from. In Hampshire, only Basingstoke and Deane had a higher number of allocations than Rushmoor, with 25,144. The highest allocations in all districts in Hampshire apart from Rushmoor, were to people from Europe.

National Insurance number allocations to 'Adult Overseas Nationals' from October 2002 to September 2025, in districts in Hampshire and the world area they come from



(Source: DWP <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>)

Country of birth

The following table below shows the top 10 countries of birth for Rushmoor residents from the 2021 Census.

2021 Census: Country of birth	Number	Rushmoor %	England %
England	73,308	73.5	80.3
Other Southern Asia	8,362	8.4	0.2
India	1,423	1.4	1.6
Scotland	1,342	1.3	1.1
Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China)	1,227	1.2	0.2
Germany	1,053	1.1	0.4
Romania	1,041	1.0	0.9
Poland	1,025	1.0	1.3
Other EU countries	947	0.9	1.0
Wales	892	0.9	0.8

Rushmoor has a lower percentage of those born in England (73.5%) compared to the average for England (80.3%). In 2011, 78.8% of Rushmoor residents were born in England.

Births in Rushmoor to mothers not born in the UK

In 2024, statistics show that 42.9% of births in Rushmoor, were to mothers not born in the UK (a slightly higher percentage than in 2023 – 41.6%). This is above the England average of 34.7%, and much higher than the Hampshire average of 20.1%. Rushmoor's figure is higher than the other districts in Hampshire and higher than our geographical

neighbours – Guildford's figure is 31.6%, Surrey Heath's figure is 31.4% Waverley's figure is 20.1% and Hart's figure is 19.7%.

There were 1,205 live births to Rushmoor residents in 2023 (down from 1,197 in 2023). Of these, 57.1% were to mothers born in the UK; 25.2% were to mothers born in the Middle East and Asia ; 8.2% were to mothers born in the EU; 6.3% were to mothers born in Africa; 1.7% were to mothers born in the rest of the world and 1.4% were to mothers born in Europe non-EU countries.

(Source: Office for National Statistics

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/datasets/parentscountryofbirth>