

Ranking of Libraries by Deprivation Levels in Catchment Area

The latest Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) remains 2019’s (an update is due once a central government consultation about the data-set has been completed). The 2019 data-set showed Worcestershire having 74 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the top 30% most deprived in the country, up from 68 in 2015’s summary. There are two more LSOAs in the county in the top 10% most deprived areas compared with 2015’s data.

Appendix 1, Table 1: Lower Super Output Areas in each library’s catchment area amongst the 30% most deprived in England (2019)

Rank	Library	Total in Library Catchment Area	Total in Catchment Area In England's 30% Most Deprived	% in England's 30% Most Deprived
1=	Warndon	4	4	100
1=	Woodrow	2	2	100
3	Kidderminster	43	15	34.88
4	Redditch	56	19	33.93
5	Upton-upon-Severn	3	1	33.33
6	Stourport	15	4	26.67
7	The Hive	64	12	18.75
8	Droitwich	20	3	15
9=	Malvern	28	4	14.29
9=	St John's	7	1	14.29
11=	Evesham	30	4	13.33
11=	Bromsgrove	30	4	13.33
13	Bewdley	9	1	11.11
14=	Alvechurch	5	0	0
14=	Broadway	2	0	0
14=	Catshill	4	0	0
14=	Hagley	7	0	0
14=	Martley	1	0	0
14=	Pershore	17	0	0
14=	Rubery	4	0	0
14=	Tenbury	4	0	0
14=	Welland	1	0	0
14=	Wythall	8	0	0
Total		364	74	20.33

- Upton now has an LSOA in its catchment area that is in the most deprived 30% of areas. As it has only 3 LSOAs nine of which were previously identified as deprived, in 2019’s IMD analysis, 33% of the catchment area of the library is classified as deprived.
- Bromsgrove library catchment areas has two extra LSOAs in the top 30% most deprived areas in the county compared to the 2015 data. This brings the total number of Bromsgrove’s LSOAs in that category to 4.
- The catchment areas of Kidderminster and Redditch each have one extra LSOA in the most deprived 30% of areas compared to the 2015 data. These are two large catchment areas that have a relatively high proportion (over 30%) of LSOAs in the top 3 deciles and have already been identified as more deprived.
- Droitwich has one extra LSOA. 15% of its catchment-area LSOAs are classed as deprived (2015: 10%).
- The Hive has one less LSOA classed as deprived in the catchment area.
- Warndon and Woodrow have small catchment areas with 100% of their LSOAs classified as deprived areas. They also each have one more LSOA in the very top decile, i.e. the top 10% most-deprived areas

Library Ranking by Need updated for 12 months to the end of January 2023 Appendix 1

Service Isolation (proximity to other libraries)

The proximity of each library to other libraries or library links in the County in terms of both distance in miles, travel times and access to public transport is an indicator of its relative isolation and the accessibility of alternative library service provision for its customers. The table below ranks libraries by distance to the nearest library or library link, setting out distance and travel time from the closest service point. The more isolated a library is, the higher its ranking.

Appendix 1, Table 2: Isolation Ranking.

Each library’s overall isolation score is the sum of its journey distance ranking, car journey time rank, public transport journey time ranking, and rank in respect of the number of public transport services.

Rank	Library	Nearest Library (ignores proximity of Links)	Distance (miles)	Distance (miles) RANK	Car Journey Time (mins)	Car Journey Time RANK	Public Transport Journey Time (mins) ²	Public Transport Journey Time RANK	Public Transport Number of Services ³	Public Transport Number of Services RANK	Isolation Score
1	Upton-upon-Severn	Malvern	7.4	3	15	4	90	1	2	2	10
2	Malvern	Upton	7.4	3	15	4	81	2	9	2	11
3	Tenbury	Bewdley	14.4	1	24	1	49	4	14	8	14
4	Evesham	Broadway	6.3	6	14	7	25	9	8	2	24
5	Wythall	Alvechurch	5.1	10	10	12	60	3	5	2	27
6	Pershore	Evesham	7	5	16	3	22	11	18	9	28
7	Martley	St John’s	7.5	2	17	2	21	14	24	12	30
8=	Broadway	Evesham	6.3	6	14	7	25	9	20	12	34
8=	Alvechurch	Rubery	3.7	13	9	14	48	5	5	2	34
8=	Rubery	Alvechurch	3.7	13	9	14	48	5	5	2	34
11	Droitwich	Warndon	5.2	9	14	7	42	7	22	12	35
12	Hagley	Kidderminster	5.8	8	15	4	26	8	39	16	36
13=	Bewdley	Kidderminster	3.6	15	12	10	22	11	18	9	45
13=	Kidderminster	Bewdley	3.6	15	12	10	22	11	18	9	45
15	Welland	Upton	3.9	12	8	17	12	19	3	1	49
16	Stourport	Bewdley	4.4	11	10	12	20	15	23	12	50
17	Warndon	The Hive	2.5	17	9	14	19	16	396	23	70
18	Redditch	Woodrow	2	18	8	17	13	17	165	19	71
19	Woodrow	Redditch	2	18	8	17	13	17	315	22	74
20	Bromsgrove	Catshill	1.9	20	5	20	9	22	40	17	79
21	Catshill	Bromsgrove	1.9	20	5	20	9	22	53	18	80

22	Worcester - The Hive	St John's	0.8	22	4	22	11	20	221	20	84
23	St John's	The Hive	0.8	22	4	22	11	20	275	21	85

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- The availability of public transport, specifically bus services, is subject to change pending the outcome of discussions between the County Council and service providers over funding for rural, late-night, and weekend services.
- The most geographically isolated library is Tenbury, which is 14.4 miles from the nearest Worcestershire library (Bewdley)
- Malvern, Upton, Martley, and Broadway are the next most isolated service points, located between 6 and 7.5 miles from the nearest Library and with poorer public transport links.
- St John's, The Hive, Catshill, Bromsgrove, Woodrow and Redditch libraries are the least isolated libraries, located within 2 miles of another Worcestershire Library.

A number of Worcestershire libraries situated close to the County's borders are located close to out-of-county libraries. The above ranking does not include an adjustment to reflect proximity of Worcestershire libraries to out-of-county libraries as it cannot be assumed that library provision in other authorities will remain unchanged.

Exclusive use of Home Site library

The proportion of active library users, who use their home site library exclusively, is an indicator of the relative need of that particular library for its local population. This indicator varies significantly across libraries and reveals substantial variations in patterns of local customer behaviours that may be attributable to a range of factors including geographical isolation and ease of access to transport as well as the level of local library service provision. The higher the proportion of home-site-only active users, the higher the ranking.

Appendix 1, Table 3: The proportion of active library users who exclusively visited their home site library, 1st February 2022 to 31st January 2023 inclusive.

Rank	Library	Home Site Only	Home & Other Site(s)	Other Site(s) Only	Active Users Total	Home Site Only %	Home & Other Site(s) %	Other Site(s) Only %
1	Wythall	1,386	32	39	1,457	95.13	2.20	2.68
2	Hagley	1,066	73	63	1,202	88.69	6.07	5.24
3	Tenbury	979	73	61	1,113	87.96	6.56	5.48
4	Worcester - The Hive	10,651	1,287	1,075	13,013	81.85	9.89	8.26
5	Evesham	2,719	337	282	3,338	81.46	10.10	8.45
6	Redditch	3,320	383	438	4,141	80.17	9.25	10.58
7	Rubery	805	94	112	1,011	79.62	9.30	11.08
8	Bromsgrove	3,334	471	463	4,268	78.12	11.04	10.85
9	Kidderminster	2,807	370	438	3,615	77.65	10.24	12.12
10	Malvern	4,169	777	490	5,436	76.69	14.29	9.01
11	Alvechurch	1,262	164	246	1,672	75.48	9.81	14.71
12	Pershore	1,657	351	280	2,288	72.42	15.34	12.24
13	Droitwich	2,597	581	472	3,650	71.15	15.92	12.93
14	Broadway	379	63	100	542	69.93	11.62	18.45
15	Stourport	1,302	373	235	1,910	68.17	19.53	12.30
16	Bewdley	1,144	371	215	1,730	66.13	21.45	12.43
17	Upton	243	58	81	382	63.61	15.18	21.20
18	Woodrow	179	56	73	308	58.12	18.18	23.70
19	Martley	26	8	14	48	54.17	16.67	29.17
20	Welland	20	8	12	40	50.00	20.00	30.00
21	Warndon	331	122	224	677	48.89	18.02	33.09

22	Catshill	126	66	84	276	45.65	23.91	30.43
23	St John's	701	413	646	1,760	39.83	23.47	36.70
	Totals	41,203	6,531	6,143	53,877	76.48	12.12	11.40

- The five highest levels of exclusive Home Site users are found in Wythall, Hagley, Tenbury, The Hive and Evesham libraries. Wythall is the only library at which the figure is in excess of 90%.
- Woodrow has seen a marked drop in its percentage of Home Site Only users, dropping from 81.6% in the 2018/2019 financial year to 58.1% in the year ending 31st January 2023.
- As in 2018/2019, the lowest levels of exclusive home site use in the twelve months to 31st January 2023 are found in Warndon, Catshill, and St John's.
- 54.2% of users of the Library Link at Martley use only that location; Welland's equivalent percentage is exactly 50%.

Library Activity

Library activity levels indicate the relative need of each library in terms of the extent to which a range of library services are used by the population. They provide a measure of the reach of each library.

Library performance indicators for the year 1st February 2022 to 31st January 2023 inclusive have been used to provide a measure of the amount of participation in seven areas of library service provision at each library:

1. Number of library visits
2. Number of active users (borrowers and computer users)
3. Visits, issues, new members, and event attendees in the year from 1st February 2022 to 31st January 2023 inclusive as percentages of the equivalent totals in the same periods in 2019/2020 (pre-COVID-19) and 2021/2022. This is included as a means of monitoring libraries' progress in recovering from the pandemic.
4. Number of library issues
5. Number of library computer sessions
6. Number of event attendees
7. Number of adult learners

An overall ranking of libraries by library activity has been produced by combining the ranking scores for each area of library service provision. This is set out in the table below.

Appendix 1, Table 4: Overall ranking of library activity, 1st February 2022 to 31st January 2023 inclusive.

Library	Visits	Active Users	Recovery	Issues	Computer Sessions	Event Attendees	Adult Learners	Overall Ranking Score	Overall Ranking
The Hive	1	1	22	1	1	1	1	28	1
Bromsgrove	5	4	1	3	6	5	5	29	2
Malvern	4	3	6	2	4	7	7	33	3=
Redditch	2	2	17	4	2	4	2	33	3=
Kidderminster	3	5	22	5	3	3	3	44	5
Evesham	6	6	8	6	5	10	13	54	6
Stourport	7	10	9	9	9	6	11	61	7
Pershore	9	8	11	8	11	13	4	64	8
Alvechurch	12	12	3	11	17	2	8	65	9
Droitwich	8	7	20	7	8	12	6	68	10
St John's	13	9	17	10	7	9	10	75	11
Bewdley	11	11	3	12	14	19	13	83	12
Hagley	16	15	6	13	19	8	13	90	13

Rubery	15	14	13	16	10	15	13	96	14
Tenbury	10	16	16	14	12	17	12	97	15=
Woodrow	18	19	5	20	15	11	9	97	15=
Wythall	14	13	15	15	13	14	13	97	15=
Broadway	20	18	10	18	18	18	13	115	18
Warndon	17	17	20	17	16	16	13	116	19
Catshill	21	21	1	21	21	20	13	118	20
Upton	19	20	12	19	20	21	13	124	21
Martley	23	22	13	23	23	22	13	139	22
Welland	22	23	17	22	22	22	13	141	23

- The Hive, which has the longest opening hours and the most comprehensive service offer, is the most-used library, with the County's five other main libraries ranked immediately below The Hive.
- The two locations with the lowest levels of activity are the Library Links at Welland and Martley, which provide a minimum service offer and have the fewest opening hours.
- Broadway, Warndon, Catshill, and Upton have the lowest overall activity levels, if the Library Links are set aside.

6.5 Overall Ranking

Having ranked libraries according to each of the 4 indicators of need for library services, an overall ranking of need can be achieved by adding the 4 component scores together and ranking the libraries again in order of their aggregate score. The higher the overall ranking, the greater the overall need.

The table below shows the final ranking of libraries from 1 (greatest aggregate need) to 23 (least aggregate need).

Appendix 1, Table 5: Final ranking of libraries

Rank	Library	Overall Rank in 2018/2019 Needs Assessment	% of Lower Super Output Areas in England's 30% Most Deprived	Home Site Only Users	Isolation	Level of Library Activity	Ranking Points
1	Malvern	3=	9	10	2	3	24
2	Evesham	2	11	5	4	6	26
3	Kidderminster	1	3	9	13	5	30
4	Redditch	5=	4	6	18	3	31
5	Worcester - The Hive	5=	7	4	22	1	34
6=	Tenbury	3=	14	3	3	15	35
6=	Wythall	7	14	1	5	15	35
8	Pershore	8	14	12	6	8	40
9=	Bromsgrove	16	11	8	20	2	41
9=	Hagley	15	14	2	12	13	41
11=	Alvechurch	12=	14	11	8	9	42
11=	Droitwich	9	8	13	11	10	42
13	Rubery	12=	14	7	8	14	43
14=	Stourport	11	6	15	16	7	44
14=	Upton	12=	5	17	1	21	44
16	Woodrow	10	1	18	19	15	53
17=	Bewdley	19	13	16	13	12	54
17=	Broadway	17	14	14	8	18	54
19	Warndon	18	1	21	17	19	58

20	Martley	21	14	19	7	22	62
21	St John's	20	9	23	23	11	66
22	Welland	22	14	20	15	23	72
23	Catshill	23	14	22	21	20	77

- The five libraries with the highest aggregate need are Malvern, Evesham, Kidderminster, Redditch, and The Hive. These libraries have high levels of service activity and high proportions of Home Site Only users as well as mid- to high-level deprivation.
- Tenbury's geographical isolation places it in the ten libraries with highest aggregate need
- Woodrow overall ranking is now 16th, compared with 10th in 2018/2019. This is mainly due to a decline in Home Site only users and its proximity via car and bus to Redditch Library, the frequency of services into Redditch having not been affected by recent reductions in bus services elsewhere in the county.
- As in 2018/2019, the five libraries with the lowest aggregate need are Bewdley, Broadway, Warndon, St John's, and Catshill.
- Apart from Warndon, those five libraries on the whole have low levels of deprivation, service activity, and home-site only users. In the case of St John's and Warndon, very close proximity to The Hive is a factor in the relatively low proportion of Home Site Only users.
- Fully volunteer-run Library Links at Welland and Martley have low aggregate need for similar reasons.
- Bromsgrove, the main library for Bromsgrove District, has moved up the rankings from 16th in 2018/2019 to joint-9th. Despite relatively high levels of service activity, it does not feature higher in the list due to its close proximity to two other Worcestershire libraries (Catshill and Rubery) and its mid-level ranking of deprivation and Home Site Only users.