



The second release from the 2011 Census (11th December 2012) by the Office for National Statistics shows:

Overall, Oxfordshire is a very well-educated county, with 83% of the population holding some form of qualification.

Comparing areas with low levels of qualifications against unemployment rates suggests that poor skills contribute to unemployment and deprivation.

The five wards with the highest proportion of residents holding level 4 qualifications are all in Oxford:

Ward	% of population
Summertown	64.8%
St Margaret's	63.8%
North	61.8%
Headington	60.4%
Hinksey Park	60.1%

Source: ONS

However, two of the wards with highest proportion of residents holding either no qualifications or qualifications at level 1 are also in the city, with two more in Banbury and one in Abingdon:

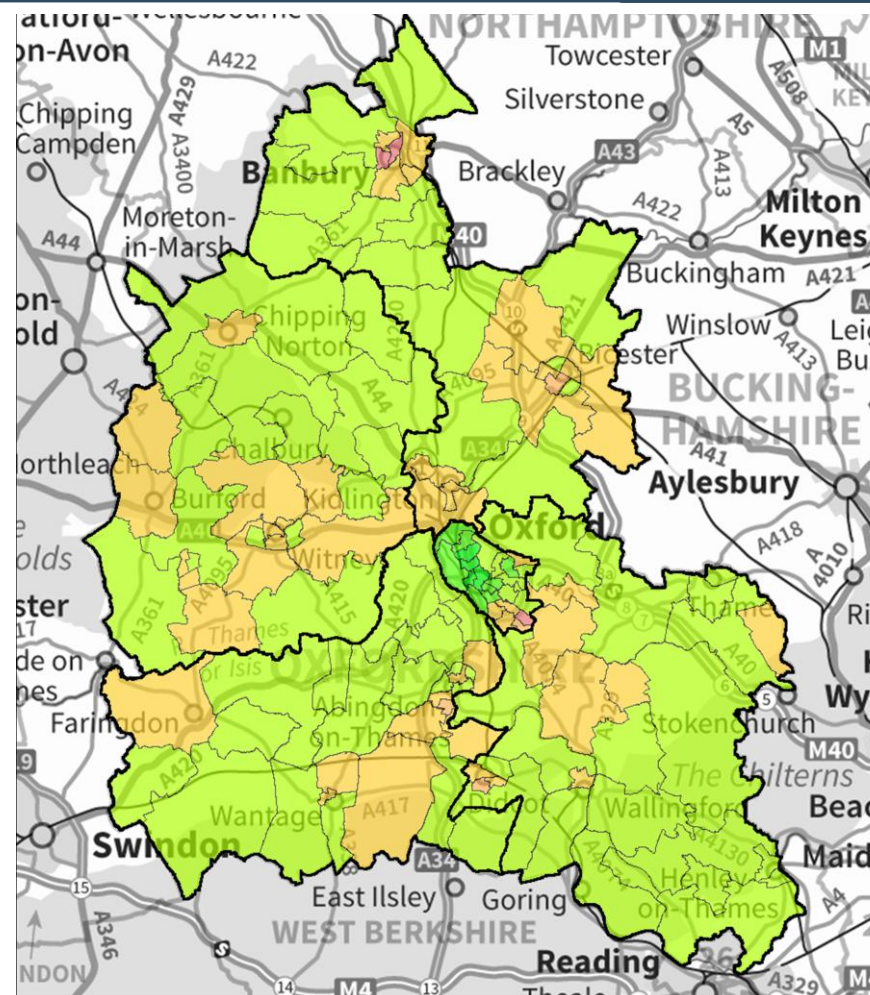
Ward	Town	% of population
Banbury Ruscote	Banbury	55.2%
Blackbird Leys	Oxford	54.9%
Banbury Neithrop	Banbury	50.3%
Northfield Brook	Oxford	46.3%
Abingdon Caldecott	Abingdon	44.8%

Source: ONS

ONS Qualification Levels:

Level 1: 1-4 O Levels/CSE/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic/Essential Skills

Level 4: Degree (for example BA, BSc), Higher Degree (for example MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, Foundation degree (NI), Professional qualifications (for example teaching, nursing, accountancy)



- 5%-6%
- 4%-5%
- 3%-4%
- 2%-3%
- 1%-2%
- 0%-1%

This map shows the percentage of the population holding Level 1 qualifications or no qualifications.

Source: ONS

The skill gap and unemployment

- As the chart shows, the unemployment rate in March 2011 in the five poorest-qualified wards was higher than that of the five highest-qualified wards
- The proportion of people claiming benefit for six months or longer are also lower in the five wards with the highest proportion of holders of Level 4 qualifications than in the five wards with the highest proportion of those holding either Level 1 qualifications or none at all.
- In March 2011, the following wards, all in Oxford, had the highest proportion of people unemployed for six months or more:

Ward	rate	% with level 1 or no qualifications (Census)
Blackbird Leys	1.8	54.9%
Barton and Sandhills	1.4	37.3%
Northfield Brook	1.4	46.3%
Banbury Ruscote	1.2	55.2%
Rose Hill and Iffley	1.2	35.6%

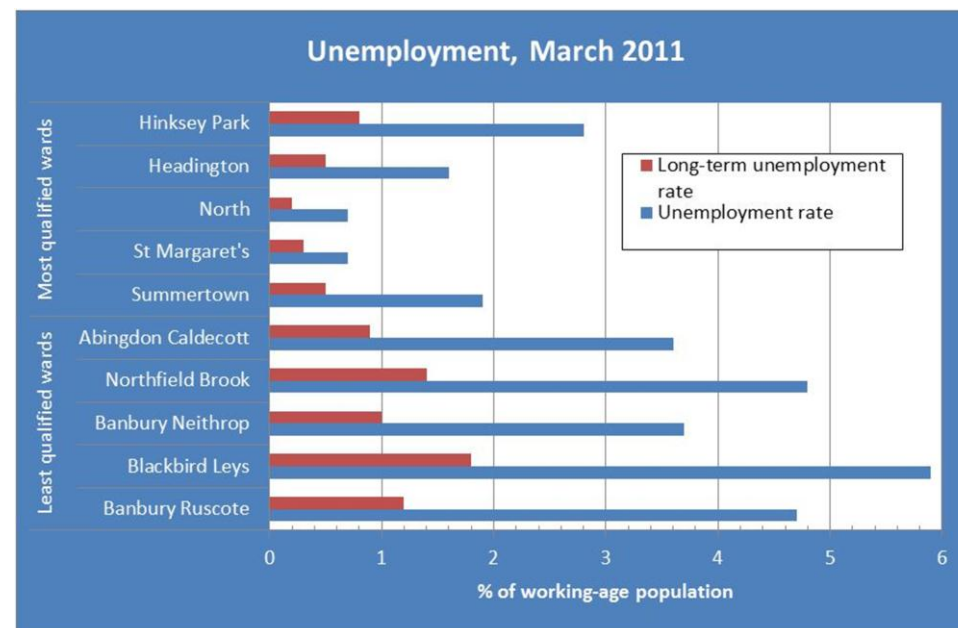
Source: ONS

- A year later, in March 2012, the same five wards had the highest levels of such long-term unemployment:

Ward	rate	% with level 1 or no qualifications (Census)
Blackbird Leys	2.6	54.9%
Northfield Brook	1.8	46.3%
Barton and Sandhills	1.7	37.3%
Banbury Ruscote	1.6	55.2%
Rose Hill and Iffley	1.6	35.6%

Source: ONS

- In these wards, between a third to over half of the residents were poorly qualified. These data suggest a link between long-term unemployment and poor qualifications.



Most qualified: Wards with highest proportion holding level 4 qualifications

Least qualified: Wards with highest proportion holding level 1 or no qualifications

Source: ONS

Deprivation

The most deprived wards according to the 2010 Indices of Multiple Deprivation are also the most poorly qualified, again suggesting that improving skills may improve people's opportunities:

Ward	Town	IMD2010 Score	% with level 1 or no qualifications (Census)
Blackbird Leys	Oxford	38.6	54.9%
Northfield Brook	Oxford	35.1	46.3%
Banbury Ruscote	Banbury	33.2	55.2%
Barton and Sandhills	Oxford	32.4	37.3%
Littlemore	Oxford	29.8	37.8%

Source: ONS; Department for Communities and Local Government

It is notable that four of these wards had the highest long-term unemployment rates in March 2011 and March 2012.