



Leicestershire Statistics and Research Online

www.LSR-Online.org

User guide

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Introduction

Leicestershire Statistics and Research Online (LSR-Online) is a valuable local resource for Leicestershire, providing statistics, data and thematic maps for use by decision makers, planners, local government workers, students and the general public.

The service was originally called Leicestershire Statistical Online Research Atlas (LSORA) but was re-launched in December 2007. The rationale for this was to make the website much more accessible and easier to use. The interface has been designed to be as intuitive and simple as possible.

The management team really hopes that this has been a successful project, and that users can use the new interface to produce the data, statistics and maps that they need with no hassle. We welcome any and all feedback from our users, and you can do this in one of three ways:

- Post a message on the LSR-Online forum
- Complete an online feedback form on the website
- By e-mail to admin@lsr-online.org

Alternatively, by phone or mail:

LSR-Online
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8RB

0116 305 8148

Searching for Areas

The first step in accessing statistics or creating thematic maps is to select which area or areas you are interested in, and this is done by entering a search string in the box on the home page of the website. This can take the form of either of the following:

- A postcode e.g. "LE3 8RB"
- A geographical code e.g. "FNNF0008"
- A place name e.g. "Charnwood" or "Stoneygate"

Use the radio buttons underneath the search engine to indicate what kind of geographical area you wish to retrieve statistics for. Note, this isn't the *area* you are looking for but the *type* of area.

If you enter a place name in the box and press search you will be taken to a list of areas containing your search screen. For example, entering “Charnwood” returns a list of two, “Charnwood (District)” and “Charnwood (Ward).” Entering “Melton” produces a long list of areas containing the word Melton, including “Melton (District)”, “Melton Craven (Ward)” and “Melton Craven East (Super Output Area).” Follow the links to access the Select Areas and Statistics page.

If you enter a postcode or a geography code you are being specific enough to jump straight to the Select Areas and Statistics page.

Entering “Leicester” or “Leicestershire” is a special case. Items in the generated geography list include “Leicestershire (County)” and “LeicesterShire (County and City) for use by those interested in data for the whole of the county, or those interested in data for the county without the city district.

Selecting Areas and Statistics

The following example shows the Selecting Areas and Statistics page created by searching for “Melton” at district level, and then selecting “Melton Dorian (Ward)” from the generated list. The text immediately beneath the purple header bar tells the user this. The text immediately *above* the same bar shows Melton Dorian’s position in the geography hierarchy, namely that it is a Ward in Melton District, and part of Leicestershire.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "LSR Online | Melton Dorian - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The page content includes a navigation bar with "About Us", "News", "Reports", "Forum", "Contact", and "Site Map". Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Leicestershire > Melton > Melton Dorian". A purple header bar reads "Step 2 : Select Areas & Data Sets". Below this, a message states: "You have selected Melton Dorian (Ward) now showing at District, [Ward](#), [Super Output Area](#), [Output Area](#) geographies." The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled "Select Areas", lists areas under "Leicestershire": Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Leicester, Melton (highlighted), North West Leicestershire, and Oadby and Wigston. The right column, titled "Select Data Sets", lists various data categories: Arson Data, Benefits Data, Economic Data, Education Data (with sub-items for Key Stage 2, 3, and 4), Health Data, Police Crime Data (highlighted in red), Housing Data, Young People, and 2001 Census. The browser's address bar shows "http://lsr.cuttletfish.com/#".

Note however that the Select Areas tree is displayed at District level as this was the geography level selected in the initial search on the home page. The links above the tree can be used to move to other levels. For example, following the “Ward” level would produce a list of Wards in Melton, with Melton Dorian Ward highlighted. Selecting Super Output Area produces a list of Super Output Areas in Dorian Ward. Similarly, selecting Output Area will produce a list of Output Areas in Dorian Ward, grouped by Super Output Area parents.

The list of available datasets available at the selected level appears in the right hand pane. The user can select any number of datasets by expanding out the tree nodes. A description of each dataset can be displayed by clicking “I” icons to the right of the names.

When you have selected your required data, scroll down the page and click the “View Statistics” button.

Viewing Statistics

The following is a screen shot of the main statistics page showing data for selected areas. The first two leftmost columns are the area names, and the remaining columns are the data sets chosen in the previous step.

Area Name	Area Code	People aged 18 - 19	People aged 16 - 17	People aged 5 - 7	People aged 8 - 9	People aged 15	People aged 10 - 14	People
All Areas		330	366	520	350	171	831	
+ Abb-Bedale Drive	E01013900	43	66	81	60	22	144	
+ Abb*StockingFarmNorth	E01013901	44	54	67	46	30	122	
+ Abb*Moymacree Hill	E01013902	53	42	66	38	15	82	
+ Abb*Abbey Rise	E01013903	38	34	55	43	14	101	
+ Abb*StockingFarmSouth	E01013904	30	39	75	50	22	112	
+ Abb*AbbeyPumpingStation	E01013905	42	43	64	40	25	114	
+ Abb*Surnham Drive	E01013906	47	38	62	37	18	89	
+ Abb-Abbey Park	E01013907	33	50	60	36	25	117	

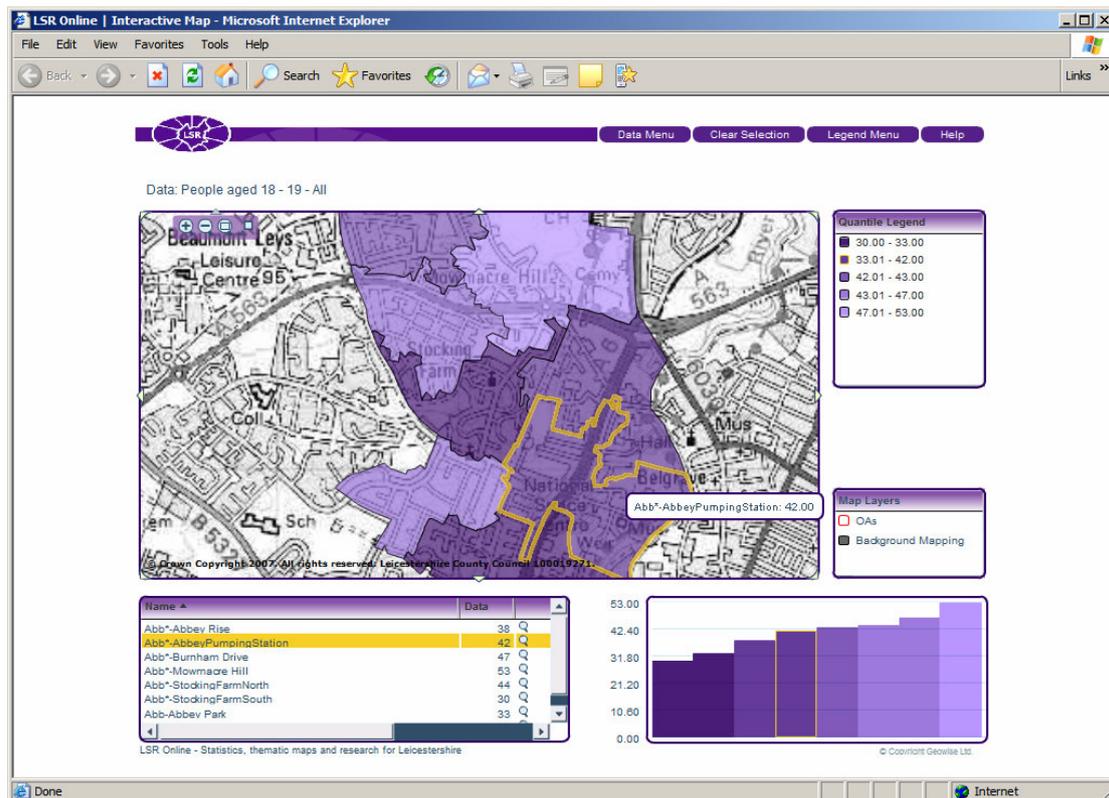
You can sort the columns into ascending or descending order by clicking the column title. Clicking other icons will produce results as follows:

-  Display an Ordinance Survey map of this area. Depending on the size of the area, this will be available at a range of scales
-  Display metadata about the data in this column. This explains exactly what the data represents, where it comes from and the dates for which it is valid
-  Display a bar chart of the data in this column
-  Display a pie graph of the data in this column
-  Export the data in Microsoft Excel format (.xls)
-  Export the data in Comma Separated Variable format (.csv)
-  Export the data in Extended Mark-up Language format (.xml)
-  View a printer friendly version of this page
-  Open an interactive thematic map of this data in a new window

Interactive Mapping Help

The following image is typical of an interactive map, containing the map itself, the Legend menu, the Map Layer control, a bar chart and a data list. As can be seen, hovering over an area on the map highlights it with a yellow border and produces a tool tip giving the area name and the data, and also highlights the associated data item in the list, in the bar chart and in the legend menu. The same is true in reverse: select an item in the legend menu highlights corresponding elements on the map, in the table and in the chart, and the same is true for selecting items in both the table and the chart. Actually clicking on areas of the map, or items in the legend, table or chart colours them orange. Multiple areas or items can be selected. The selection can be cleared using the Clear Selection button in the toolbar at the top.

When the interactive map is initially displayed it will be themed according to the first column in the data table, and this is shown by the text just above the map window. To theme the map with data from other columns, use the Data Menu in the purple toolbar at the top.



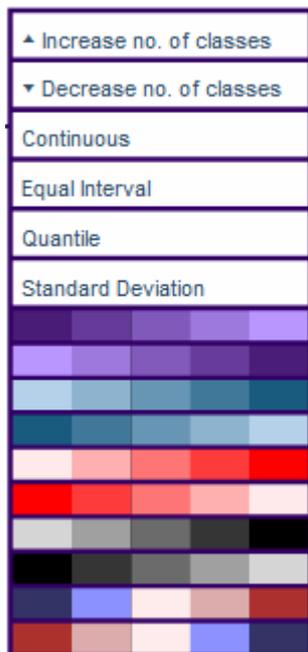
The available map layers for this interactive map are shown in the Map Layers control. This image shows the map with Background (i.e. Ordnance Survey) Mapping switched on. Layers can be toggled on or off by clicking in the associated box in the Map Layers control.

By default, data is sorted alphabetically by area name in the data table, but data can be sorted ascending or descending by clicking the data column header. A black triangle pointing either up or down appears in the column header to indicate that data is sorted either in ascending or descending fashion. Clicking the mouse on the small magnifying glass by any of the data items zooms in on that area in the map window.

The look of the map can be controlled using the map toolbar, with functionality as follows:

-  Zoom in on the map. A zoom can also be affected by clicking in the map and drawing a rectangle with the mouse
-  Zoom out.
-  Redraw the map at its full extents
-  Resize the map window

The colour scheme of the map can also be changed using the Legend control. Access this by clicking the Legend Menu on the purple toolbar at the top of the display.



By default, the map is coloured in five classes according to Quantile calculation. The number of visible colour bands can be increased or decreased using the top two options on the menu.

A minimum of one class is possible, and a maximum of ten.

Different colour schemes can be selected using the bottom half of the Legend menu

Legend schemes are defined according to one of four schemes as described below. As said, Quantile is the default

- In Continuous legends, every geographic feature is shaded a different colour using a continuous scale
- With Equal Interval legends, the interval between class breaks is always the same irrespective of the number of classes
- Quantile legends are set up so that each class contains approximately equal numbers of geographic features. Many users are accustomed to using quartile (4 classes) or quintile (5 classes) classifications for data visualisation and interpretation.
- In Standard Deviation mode, geographic features are classified according to the number of standard deviations they lie above or below the dataset average

Areas which have no associated data are coloured green and a “No data” legend appears automatically in the menu.

Accessing Reports

Reports can be easily accessed from the home page in a number of ways. The user can type a keyword in the search field in the central Reports box, Browse reports by following the Browse link next to the Search button, or see a full list of reports by following the Latest Reports. The reports pages contain the name of the report, the date and time of publication, and a brief abstract of the report, which should give some idea as to the content.

Each report has a number of associated keywords or “tags” attached to them, which enables them to be grouped into categories. A list of all registered

keywords is presented on the right hand side of the screen and allows user to find exactly what they're looking for easily.

Clicking on the report title or following the "Read more..." link at the end of the abstract takes the user to the download page. This will have the title, an extended abstract (if the version on the main page was truncated) and a link for downloading the document, along with information about document type, file size and the number of previous downloads of the document to date.

Other parts of the LSR-Online site

The ability to retrieve data and produce thematic maps is at the core of the LSR-Online project, but the website also contains other areas which might provide users with further information and engagement with the project as it develops. These are introduced below:

Forum

The LSR-Online management team welcomes feedback from its users, and values the opinions of all who use the website. The ideal place for this is the online forum, accessed by following the link in the purple bar at the top of all pages of the site.

Users are invited to create new threads, or post replies to other posts, or even to express how they feel about the site by using the emoticons. The management team wants to develop into a thriving online community, so please, feel more than free to contribute

Feedback

Another way of providing feedback about your experiences at LSR-Online is by using the feedback form. This is accessed by following the link from the grey toolbar at the bottom of every page in the site.

Users leaving their name and e-mail address may comment at length on how they found the look, feel and functionality of the site.

Glossary

The LSR-Online glossary is a resource intended to be shared between the management team and the user group, but at the time of writing is quite sparsely populated. A thread has been created in the forum inviting contributions to this glossary. If there is anything you don't understand that isn't included in the glossary or Frequently Asked Questions, then get in touch. You can take it for granted that if you don't understand it then at least half of the user group don't understand it either, so don't be backward in coming forward.

About Us

The About Us section gives a bit of background to how the LSR-Online project is funded, the partners and the organisations that provide us with data. There are also miscellaneous documents concerning data protection and data sharing.

Frequently Asked Questions

This page contains a list of Frequently Asked Questions. In common with the glossary, this is intended to be a collaborative resource between users and the management team. The currently posted questions are a bare skeleton, which will be “fleshed out” as the project develops, and more and more extensive feedback is researched from the user group. Again, if there is anything that you don’t understand or find difficult, provide us with feedback using the forum or the feedback page, and the management team will do all we can to incorporate this feedback in the Frequently Asked Questions

Links

A list of links to other, similar local intelligence systems and other sources of statistics can be found by following the link on the right hand side of the grey navigation bar at the bottom of all pages in the site.

If you are organisation that wants us to link to you, then please get in touch and we will be able to accommodate you.

Conclusions

All that has been said about the glossary, Frequently Asked Questions, forum and feedback form also relates to this document: if you have found anything difficult to understand, or in any way misleading then let us know. Use the forum, or the feedback form, or e-mail the management team on admin@lsr-online.org with full details and we will do our best to incorporate any suggestions you might have into this document.

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