User-centric Geographies

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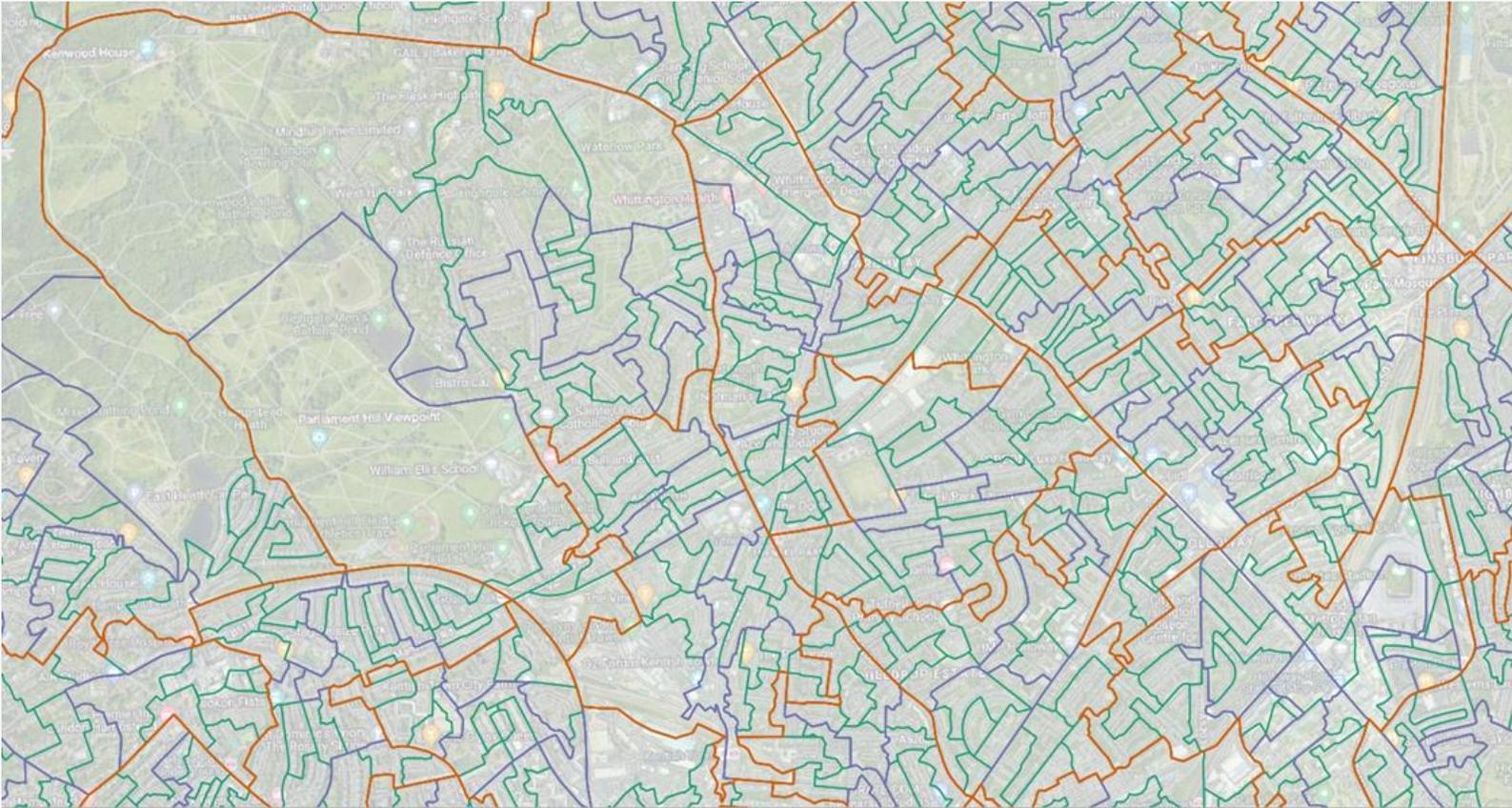
2ⁿᵈ December 2022

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Granular data - address

Small area geographies

Minimum thresholds

Thresholds	OAs	LSOAs (*~)	MSOAs (¬)
England	100 people, 40 households	1,000 to 3,000 people 400 to 1,200 households	5,000 to 15,000 people 2,000 to 6,000 households
Wales			
Scotland	50 people, 20 households	500 to 1,000 people	2,500 to 6,000 people
Northern Ireland	100 people, 40 households	1,300 to 2,800 people	

* In Scotland LSOAs are called Data Zones

¬ In Scotland MSOAs are called Intermediate Zone

~ In Northern Ireland they only have a single Super Output Area (SOA) geography instead of LSOAs and MSOAs

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2011 average population sizes

Population	OAs	LSOAs (*~)	MSOAs (¬)
England	309	1,614	7,806
Wales	305	1,605	7,472
Scotland	114	759	4,140
Northern Ireland	399	2,035	

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Population-weighted centroids

Disseminate

Disseminate

Government Statistical Service - Strategy

User-defined flexible areas

Ambition 1: Produce more timely, granular and harmonised subnational statistics

The demand for subnational statistics is increasing. Statistics at granular levels of geography are essential to understand the issues affecting local areas, ensuring the best evidence base to enable good decision making and monitoring of the impact of policies.

Feedback from local stakeholders indicates a need for more data at lower-level and user-defined flexible areas, to meet planning and policy needs. This includes more timely and accurate estimates of the size of the population broken down by demographics for small, local areas, and small area statistics that can help them to understand relationships between the outcomes people experience, such as their health, education or job, and their characteristics, for example their ethnicity or disability.

The case study on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Health Index describes how a new experimental statistic has been created to provide a single value to measure health for each local authority in England that can be tracked over time and compared between different areas.

What are we doing in ONS?
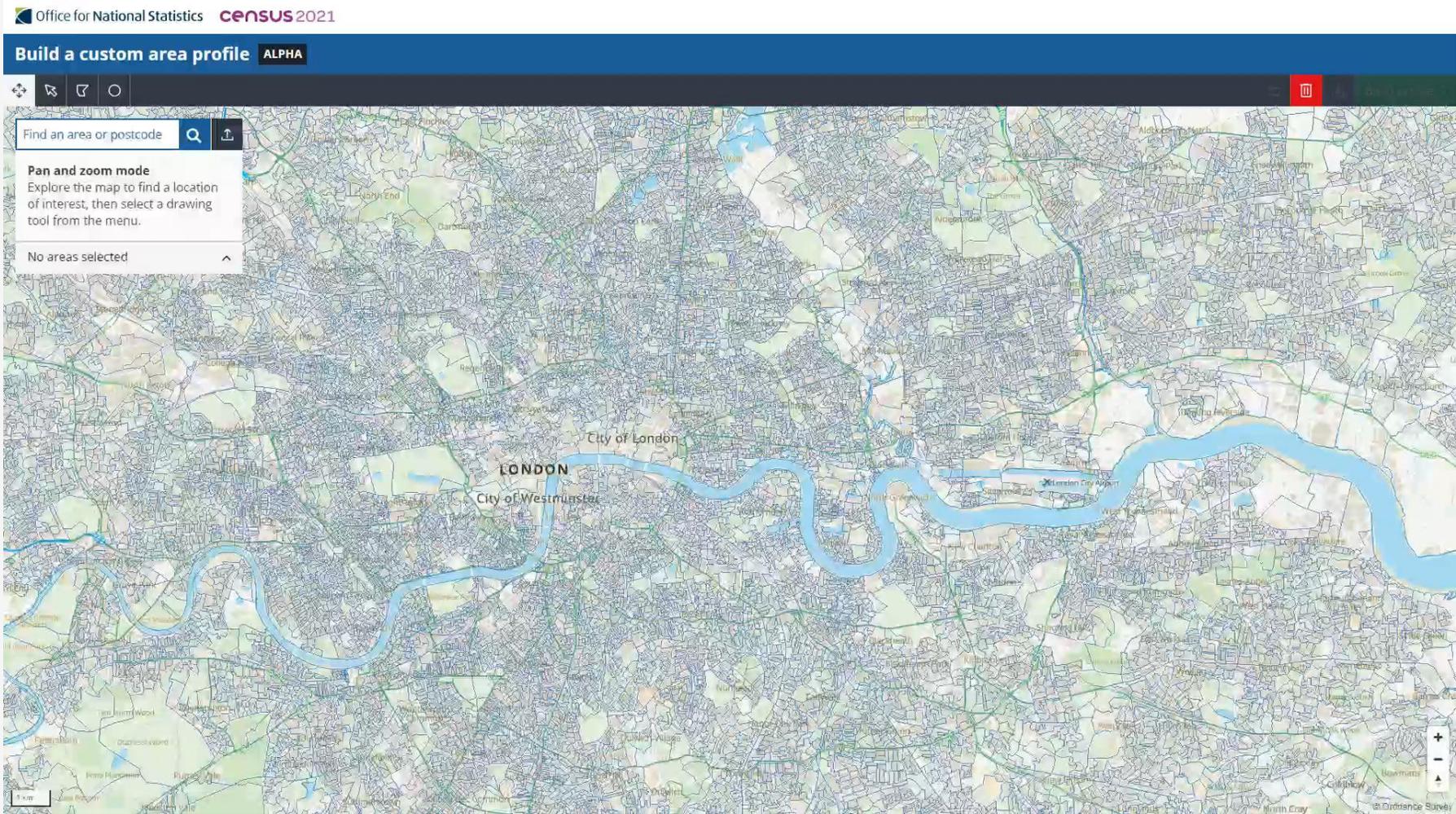
Build a custom area profile ALPHA

‹ Edit area

Name your area

Area Name

Area Profiles

☑ Include Map

Select topics

Type to filter

☑ Hours worked
☑ Total Population
☐ Age profile
☐ Economic activity
☐ Highest qualification
☐ Housing tenure

Show 7 more

Profile preview

Area Name

Area map

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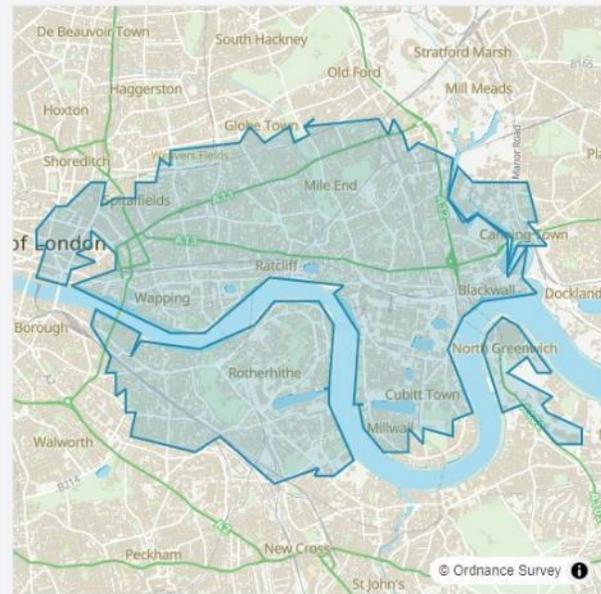
Population

14,874

56,075,912 in England and Wales

Hours worked

■ Area Name |(England and Wales)

15 hours or less **7%** (10%)

16 to 30 hours **15%** (20%)

31 to 48 hours **61%** (58%)

49 or more hours **18%** (14%)

Source: Census 2011 data. Office for National Statistics | Build a custom area profile

Show embed code   Download PNG   Download Data

Considerations……

- Top-down data granularity
- Educating users
- Defining the scope of work
- Variability in small area geographies globally

Three concepts…..

- Geography Products (Small Area Estimation/Geographies, Population Weighted Centroids)

- User Demand / Policy (Demand for disaggregated data)

- Technical (Dashboards, Select & build technology)

User-defined flexible areas

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What should the Expert Group do?

Building the Team
Leadership
Task Team Members
……
……

Grounding the Theory (Geography Products, Use-Demand Policy, Technical)
A **globally agreed** definitions of User-Centric Geographies
Methodologies that **ensure** privacy and confidentiality
Implementing "Common Geographies"
Position Paper on User Centric Geographies

Guidance
National Examples
Concerns
……
…….

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Thank you
Questions?

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