

# **Isle of Wight JSNA Briefing Note: Fuel Poverty**

## Fuel Poverty

### Background

#### Definition

According to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC):<sup>1</sup>

*A household is said to be in fuel poverty if it needs to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel to maintain a satisfactory heating regime (usually 21 degrees for the main living area, and 18 degrees for other occupied rooms).*

*Whether a household is in fuel poverty or not is determined by the interaction of a number of factors, but three specifically stand out. These are:*

- *The energy efficiency of the property (and therefore, the energy required to heat and power the home.)*
- *The cost of energy*
- *Household income.*

#### Local Area Fuel Poverty Data

National and regional fuel poverty statistics are based on data from the English Housing Survey (EHS).

DECC has also published estimates of fuel poverty for Local Authorities and smaller geographical areas including Lower Super Output Areas. The DECC methodology uses a number of datasets and assumptions which predict the prevalence of fuel poverty in local areas. These assumptions vary slightly between private and social housing, but essentially predict that that fuel poverty is likely to be higher:

- Where residents are less economically affluent (there are various assumptions around working age population, economic activity and educational qualifications).
- In rural areas - many dwellings in rural locations are potentially off the gas network and therefore need to use a more expensive heating fuel, ultimately resulting in higher fuel bills.
- In areas with high proportions of older residents.
- Where properties are older, are without central heating, are of specific housing tenures

Full details of the methodology are available on the DECC website.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> DECC, [http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov\\_stats/fuelpov\\_stats.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/fuelpov_stats.aspx), accessed December 2011

<sup>2</sup> DECC 2009 Sub-regional fuel poverty methodology and documentation, <http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/stats/fuel-poverty/3620-2009-sub-regional-fuel-pov-methodology.pdf>

<b>Fuel Poverty</b>	
<b>Contents and Key Points</b>	
The data, charts and maps below show, for the Isle of Wight:	
<b>Number of Households:</b>	In 2009 an estimated 11,141 IW households lived in fuel poverty, an increase of nearly 2,000 households compared with 2008.
<b>Rates (% of Households):</b>	In 2009 an estimated 17.9% of all IW households lived in fuel poverty, an increase from 15.2% in 2008.
<b>Isle of Wight Comparison with:</b>	
<b>England</b>	The IW rate is very slightly lower (better) than the England rate.
<b>South East</b>	The IW rate is the 2 <sup>nd</sup> highest (worst) of all Local Authority districts in the South East.
<b>ONS Coastal &amp; Countryside Group</b>	The IW rate is the 9 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 13 Local Authority districts in the Coastal and Countryside group.
<b>Isle of Wight Rural-Urban comparison:</b>	There are more households in fuel poverty in urban areas of the IW, but the % of households in fuel poverty is higher in rural areas of the IW.
<b>Isle of Wight Lower Super Output Areas:</b>	
<b>numbers of households</b>	Lower SOAs with the highest estimated <b>numbers</b> (200+) of households estimated to be in fuel poverty are found in Shanklin, Sandown, Cowes, Ventnor, Osborne and Brading & St Helens.
<b>rates (% of Households)</b>	Lower SOAs with the highest estimated <b>rates</b> of fuel poverty (25%+ of all households) are found in Brighstone and Calbourne (predominantly the rural area outside Brighstone itself), Shanklin, Ventnor, Freshwater, Chale, Niton & Whitwell, Newchurch, Central Rural and Shalfleet & Yarmouth.

**Fuel Poverty**

**Isle of Wight – Number and % of Households**

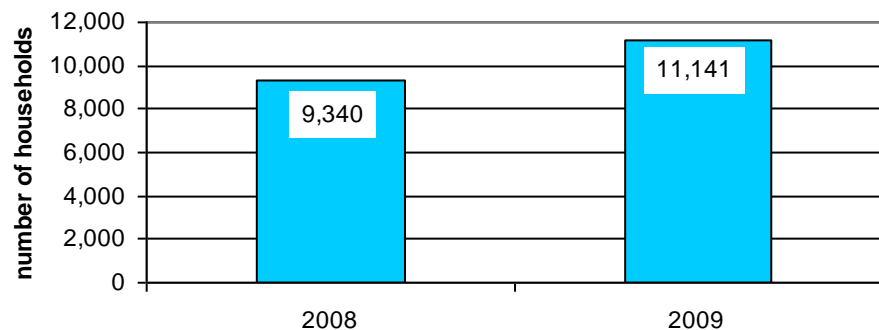
**Number of Households**

Between 2008 – 2009 the estimated number of Island households in fuel poverty increased by 19.3%, to over 11,100 households.

**% of Households**

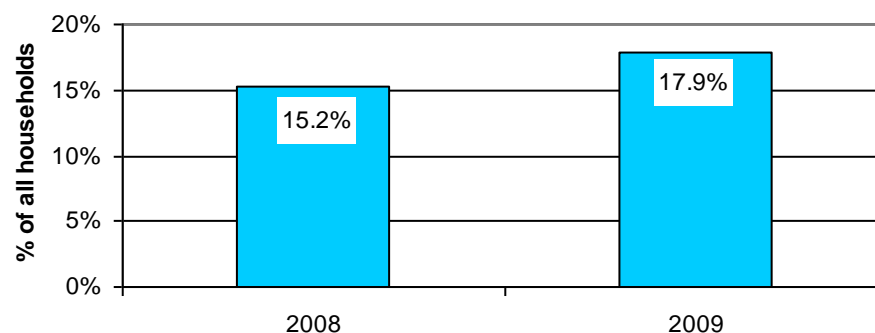
Between 2008 – 2009 the estimated % of Island households in fuel poverty increased by 2.7 percentage points, from 15.2% to 17.9% of all households.

**Isle of Wight: Estimated Number of Households living in Fuel Poverty**



Data Source: Department of Energy and Climate Change

**Isle of Wight: Estimated % of Households living in Fuel Poverty**



Data Source: Department of Energy and Climate Change

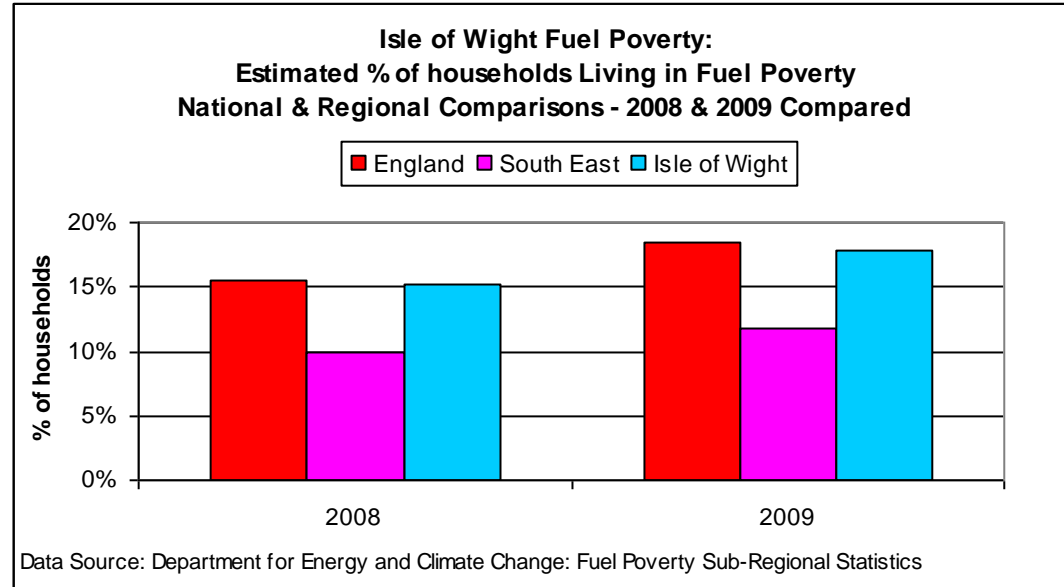
## Fuel Poverty

### Isle of Wight compared with England and the South East Region

The chart alongside compares estimated fuel poverty on the Isle of Wight with England and the South East region for 2008 and 2009.

The Isle of Wight estimated fuel poverty rate is:

- Very slightly lower than the England average rate. The Island rate is in the mid-range of Local Authority rates in England.
- Significantly higher (worse) than the South East region rate. The Island has one of the highest rates in the South East (see below).

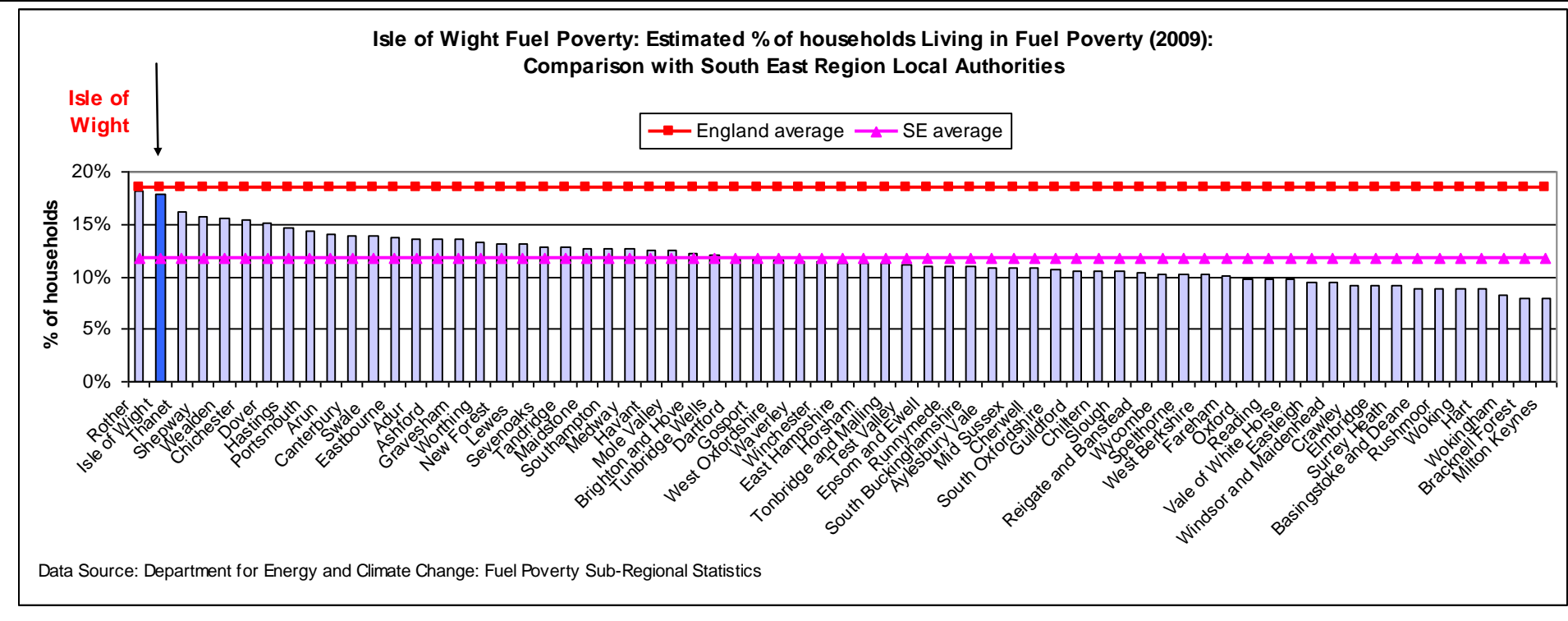


## Fuel Poverty

### Isle of Wight compared with South East Region Local Authorities

The chart below shows 2009 data for estimated fuel poverty for all Local Authority Districts in the South East region.

- The IW had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest (worst) estimated rate in the South East. This ranking will be influenced by the Island's relatively low ranking within the region on economic measures – as noted earlier, household income is a key factor in the calculation of local fuel poverty estimates.
- The IW is one of only 2 Local Authorities in the region whose rate is close to the England average. All the other Local Authorities in the region are over 2 percentage points lower (better) than the England average.

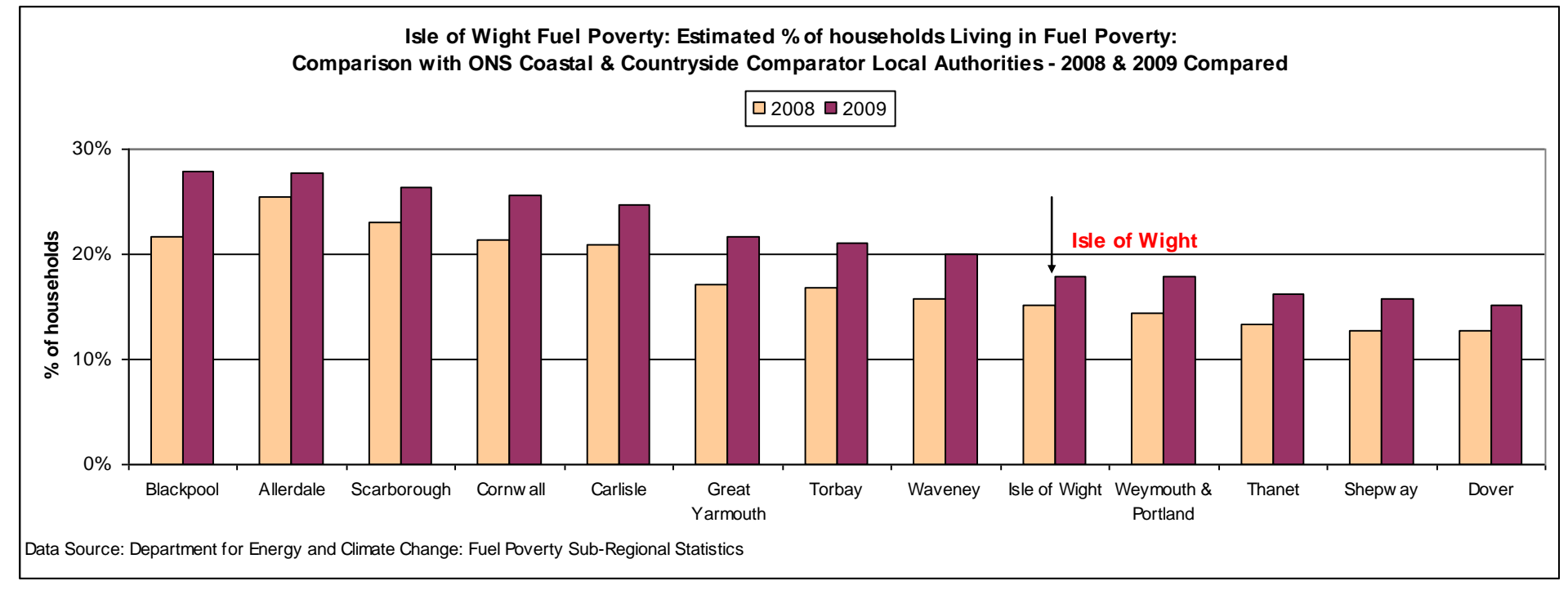


**Fuel Poverty**

**Isle of Wight compared with ONS Coastal and Countryside Group of Local Authorities**

The chart below shows 2008 and 2009 data for estimated fuel poverty for all Local Authority Districts in the ONS Coastal and Countryside Comparator Group, ranked by 2009 rates.

The IW ranks 9<sup>th</sup> out of 13 Local Authorities, with 1 being the highest (worst).



## Fuel Poverty

### Isle of Wight – Number and % of Households by Rural / Urban Status

Isle of Wight households have been allocated to either Rural or Urban status depending on the rural-urban classification of the Census Output Area in which they fall. Aggregate numbers and percentage rates of households in fuel poverty have then been calculated by rural and urban status.

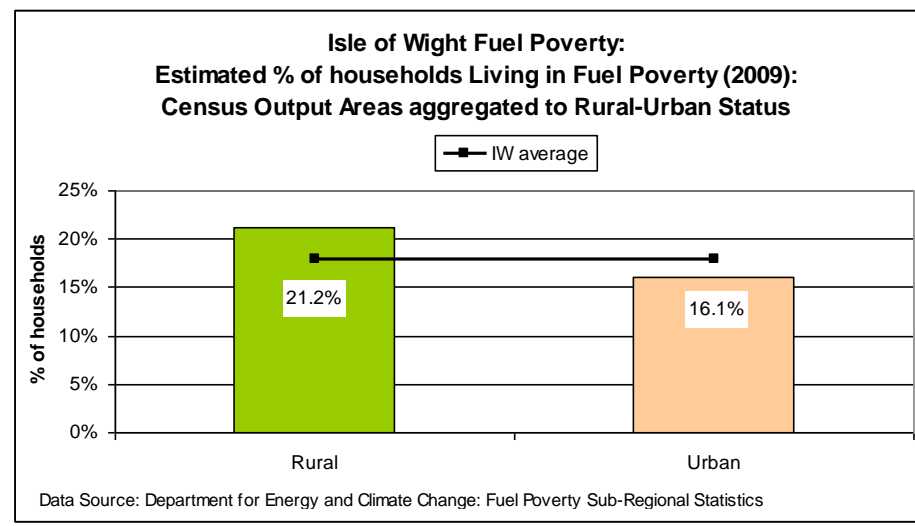
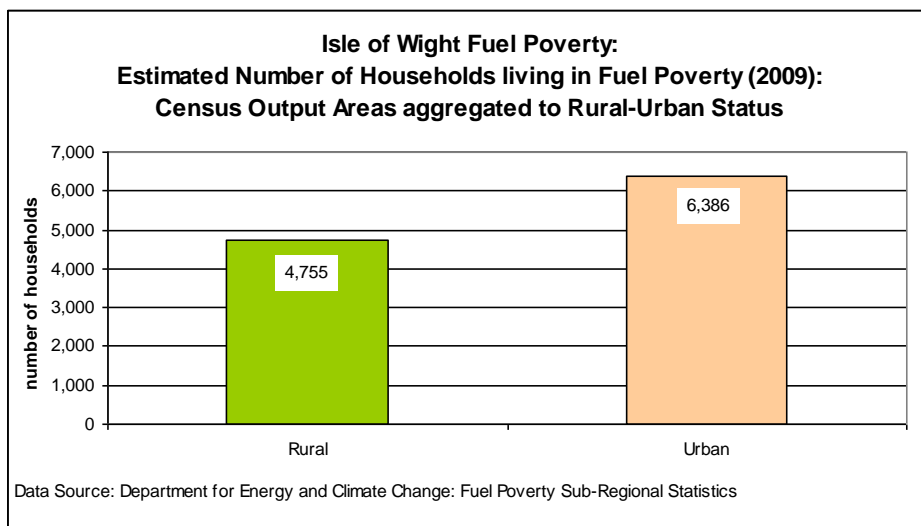
(Census Output Areas are small areas with similar population sizes based on clusters of postcodes, which also provide building blocks for analysis of Census data. On the Isle of Wight, there are 456 Census Output Areas, with an average population of around 300 people).

#### Number of Households

The chart below shows that, on the IW, the number of households in fuel poverty is higher in urban compared with rural areas.

#### % of Households

The chart below shows that, on the IW, the proportion of households in fuel poverty is higher in rural compared with urban areas. This reflects the assumption explained earlier, that rural areas are predicted to have higher levels of fuel poverty.





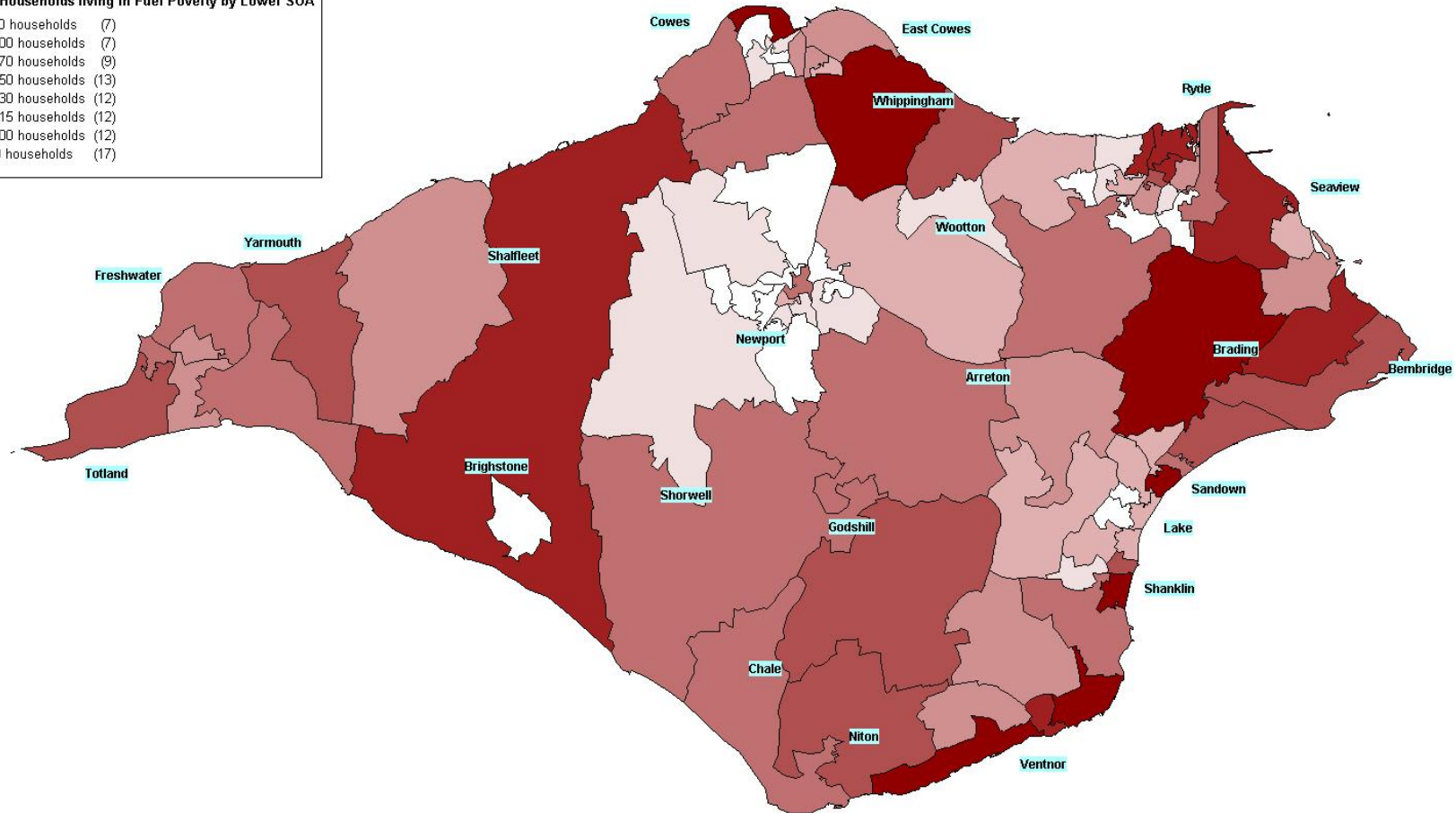


**Fuel Poverty**

**Isle of Wight Fuel Poverty by Lower Super Output Area: Number of Households (darker shaded areas have more fuel poor households)**

Isle of Wight Fuel Poverty, 2009  
Number of Households living in Fuel Poverty by Lower SOA

200 - 230 households	(7)
170 - <200 households	(7)
150 - <170 households	(9)
130 - <150 households	(13)
116 - <130 households	(12)
100 - <115 households	(12)
90 - <100 households	(12)
under-90 households	(17)



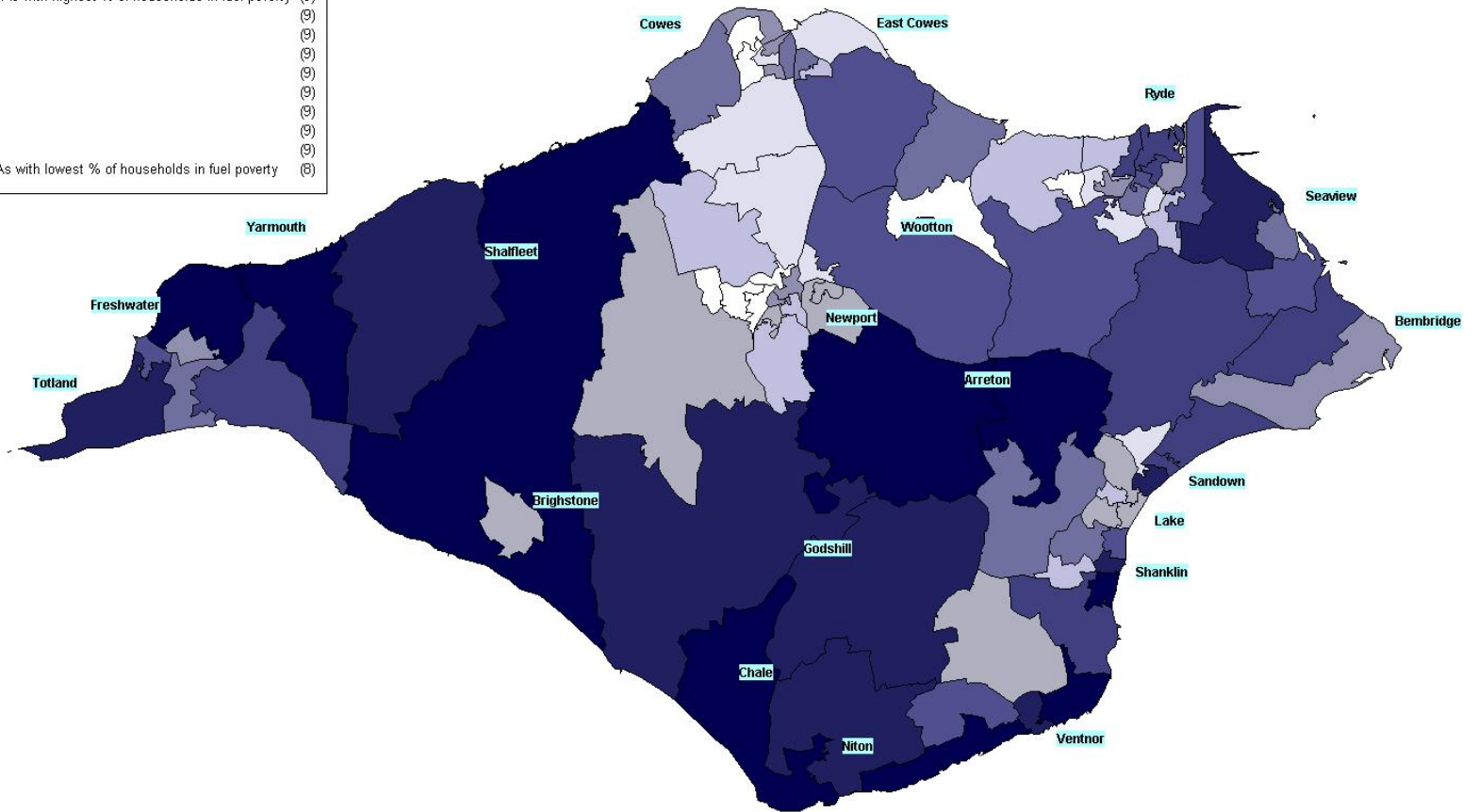
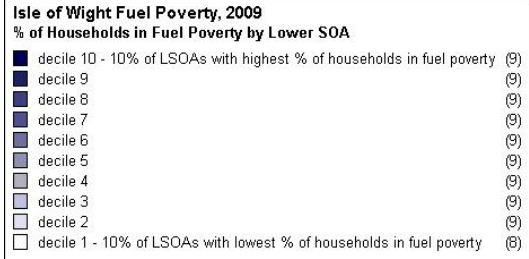
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**Fuel Poverty**

**Isle of Wight Fuel Poverty by Lower Super Output Area: % of Households (darker shaded areas have higher rates of fuel poverty)**



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