

# Bow West Ward Profile



Corporate Research Unit  
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## Introduction

The ward profiles have been produced for all 20 wards in Tower Hamlets. They provide the social, economic and demographic characteristics of each ward in the borough developing a broad picture of the area and help describing local differences. The profiles have been compiled using Census 2011 data.

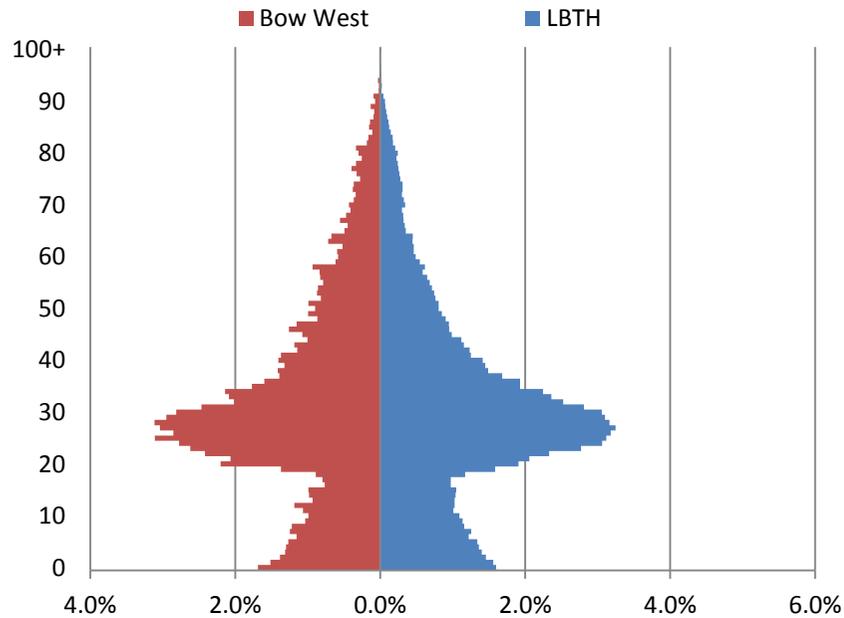
In May 2014, the number of wards increased from 17 to 20. The changes were made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, in order to ensure that every councillor in Tower Hamlets represented roughly the same number of residents. The changes mean that no ward will have a population variance of greater than 10 per cent. As a result of the changes, the average population per councillor will be 4,029 in 2014, rising to 4,417 by 2018, according to projected population growth.

Data from the 2011 Census has been used throughout this ward profile as this still provides the single best source of statistics which are available at geography small enough to be aggregated up in to the new wards. While more recent estimates of the resident population are available for the borough and old ward boundaries, these cannot be used to infer the current population according to the new ward boundaries.

## Population

### Age Structure

Figure 1: Proportion of population by age



(Source: Census 2011 QS103EW - Age by single year)

Table 1: Number and proportion of residents by age range

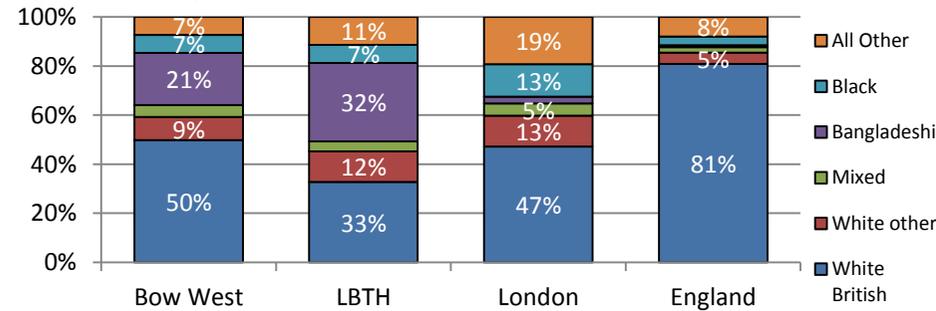
Residents by Age	0-15	16-64	65+	Total
<b>Bow West</b>	2,492	9,440	1,007	12,939
<b>Bow West %</b>	19.3%	73.0%	7.8%	100%
<b>Tower Hamlets %</b>	19.7%	74.1%	6.1%	100%

(Source: Census 2011 QS103EW - Age by single year)

- At the time of the 2011 Census, the population for Bow West was 12,939 which accounted for 5.1 per cent of the total population of Tower Hamlets.
- The population density in this ward was 96 people per hectare; the ward was one of the least dense in the borough, with the borough average being 129 people per hectare.
- The ward had 6,396 males and 6,543 females providing a gender split in the ward of 49.4 per cent male and 50.6 per cent female, equating to a difference of 147 more females. This ward had the joint lowest proportion of male residents in the borough.
- Bow West had the second highest proportion of residents who were aged 65+.

## Ethnicity

Figure 2: Ethnicity

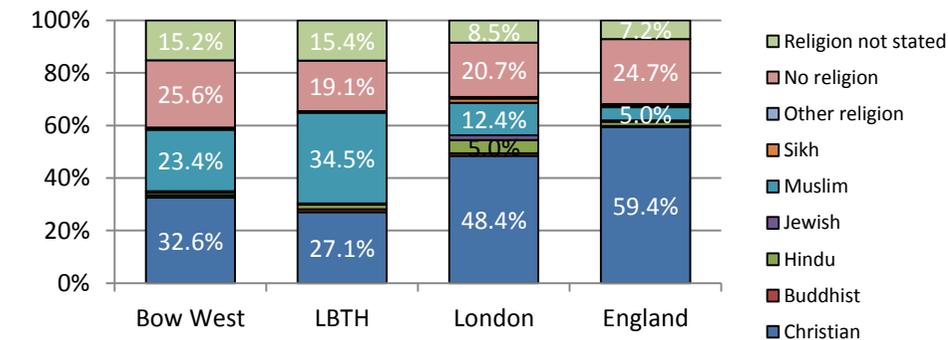


(Source: Census 2011 QS201EW - Ethnic group)

- At the time of the 2011 Census, 5,271 residents in the ward were BME (41 per cent). This proportion was lower than the borough average of 54 per cent.
- Residents of Bangladeshi origin accounted for 21 per cent of the population (2,746 residents), a lower proportion than the borough average.
- There were 6,439 White British residents in the Bow West ward. There were a higher proportion of residents who were White British in the ward compared to the borough average – Bow West had the second highest proportion of White British in the borough.
- The three largest ethnic groups in the borough (White British, Bangladeshi and White Other) accounted for 80 per cent of all residents in this ward.

## Religion

Figure 3: Religion

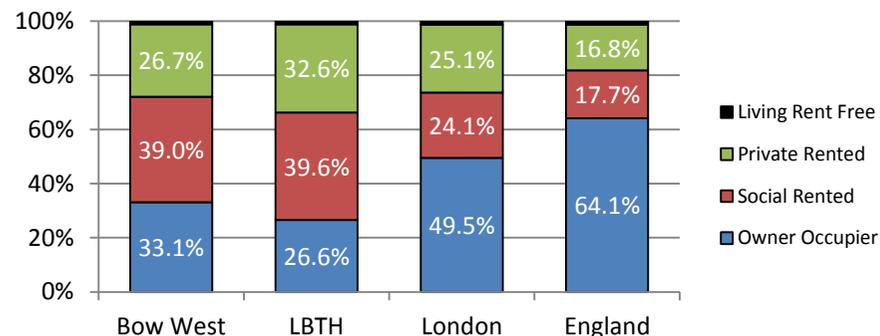


(Source: Census 2011 QS208EW – Religion)

- The proportion of residents who identified themselves as Christian (32.6 per cent) was higher than the borough average. At 23.4 per cent, the proportion of Muslim residents was lower than the borough average.
- Tower Hamlets had a significantly higher proportion of residents who explicitly did not state their religion on the census form when compared to London and the rest of England. There were just over 1,966 residents in this ward who did not state their religion – accounting for 15.2 per cent of the ward's population, higher than the borough average.
- Although both very small groups in the borough, the Bow West ward had the largest number of Sikh's and the highest proportion of Hindu's compared to the rest of the borough.

## Housing Tenure<sup>1</sup>

Figure 4: Tenure of households

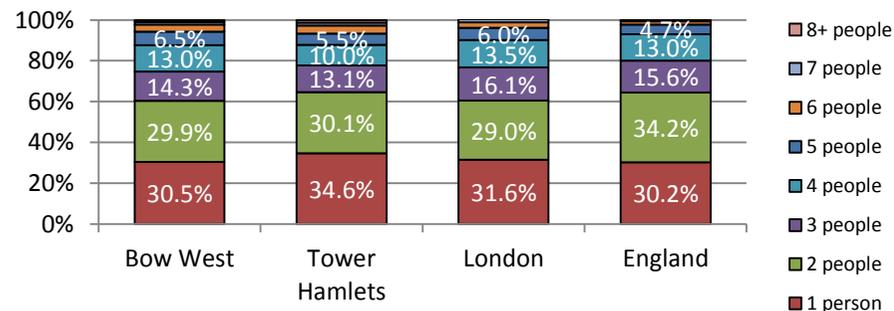


(Source: Census 2011 QS405EW - Tenure – Households)

- Tower Hamlets as a whole had a significantly lower proportion of households who were owner-occupier compared to the London average (26.6 per cent compared to 49.5 per cent). The proportion of socially rented households in the borough was almost double that of the London average. There were also a higher proportion of privately rented households compared to the London average.
- There were 5,009 households in the Bow West ward. Compared to the other wards, Bow West had a higher than average proportion of households – accounting for 4.9 per cent of the whole.
- 33.1 per cent of the ward’s households were owner occupied. As a result, there were a correspondingly lower proportion of households who live in socially rented (39 per cent) or privately rented (26.7 per cent) accommodation. Renters as a whole account for 65.7 per cent compared to the borough average of 72.2 per cent.

## Household size

Figure 5: Tenure of households



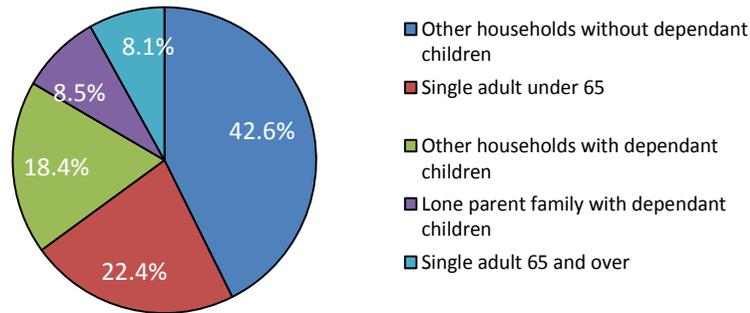
(Source: Census 2011 QS405EW - Tenure – Households)

- The proportion of households in the Bow West ward with three or more people accounted for 39.6 per cent of the total households in the ward. This proportion was higher than the borough average of 35 per cent.
- The Bow West ward has the highest proportion of households with four people in them.
- On Census day, 616 households were recorded as having five or more people living in them. This equates to 12.3 per cent of the households in the ward and was the same as the borough average.
- The average household size in this ward was 2.58 compared to the borough average of 2.51.

<sup>1</sup> Tenure provides information about whether a household rents or owns the accommodation that it occupies and, if rented, combines this with information about the type of landlord who owns or manages the accommodation.

## Household composition

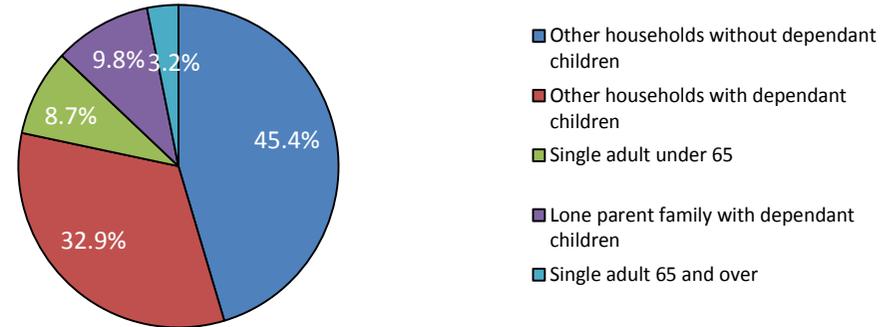
Figure 6: Household composition - percentage of households by type



(Source: Census 2011 QS113EW - Household composition – Households)

- At the time of the Census, 42.8 per cent of all residents in the ward lived in family households with dependent children; this proportion was lower than the borough average of 46.2 per cent.
- However, families with dependent children occupied 26.9 percent of the households in the ward, slightly higher than the borough average of 26.6 per cent.
- Single adult households accounted for 30.5 per cent of all households in the ward; however 11.8 per cent of the ward's residents lived in this type of household.
- Older people living alone (65+) accounted for 8.1 per cent of households which was higher than the borough average of 6 per cent.
- Figure 3 shows the proportion of households that were overcrowded, had the required number of bedrooms, or were under-occupied at the time of the Census. 15 per cent of households (729 households) in the ward were overcrowded – lower than the average for the borough (16 per cent).

Figure 7: Household composition: percentage of residents that live in each household type



(Source: Census 2011 QS112EW - Household composition – People)

Average residents per household	Bow West	Tower Hamlets	London	England
Households with dependent children	4.09	4.30	3.89	3.78
Households with non-dependent children	2.01	1.81	1.84	1.78

(Source: Census 2011 QS406EW - Household size)

Area	Overcrowded (-1 or less)	Required Bedrooms (0)	Under Occupied (+1 or more)
Bow West	729 (15%)	2,256 (45%)	2,024 (40%)
Tower Hamlets	16,605 (16%)	51,058 (50%)	33,594 (33%)
London	370,531 (11%)	1,282,883 (39%)	1,612,759 (49%)
England	1,024,473 (5%)	5,885,951 (27%)	15,152,944 (69%)

(Source: Census 2011 QS406EW - Household size)

## Health - Limiting illness or disability

Table 4: Limiting illness and disability

Area	Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Day-to-day activities limited a little	Day-to-day activities not limited
<b>Bow West</b>	889	875	11,175
<b>Bow West (%)</b>	6.9%	6.8%	86.4%
<b>Tower Hamlets (%)</b>	6.8%	6.7%	86.5%
<b>London (%)</b>	6.7%	7.4%	85.8%
<b>England (%)</b>	8.3%	9.3%	82.4%

(Source: Census 2011 QS303EW - Long-term health problem or disability)

- On Census day, around 889 residents (6.9 per cent) in Bow West had a long term health problem or disability *limiting the persons day to day activities a lot*, while around 6.8 per cent (875 residents) had a long term health problem or disability *limiting the persons day to day activities a little*.
- In Bow West, the rate of people with a long term health problem or disability *limiting day to day activities a lot* was close to the Tower Hamlets (6.8 per cent) and London rate (6.7 per cent).
- The rate of people with a long term health problem or disability *limiting day to day activities a little* was slightly above the Tower Hamlets rate (6.7 per cent) but below the London rate (7.4 per cent).

## Unpaid care provision

Table 5: Unpaid care provision

Area	Provides no unpaid care	Provides 1 to 19 hours unpaid care a week	Provides 20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week
<b>Bow West</b>	11,935	601	171	232
<b>Bow West (%)</b>	92.2%	4.6%	1.3%	1.8%
<b>Tower Hamlets (%)</b>	92.4%	4.3%	1.4%	1.9%
<b>London (%)</b>	91.6%	5.3%	1.3%	1.8%
<b>England (%)</b>	89.8%	6.5%	1.4%	2.4%

(Source: Census 2011 QS301EW - Provision of unpaid care)

- Around 7.7 per cent of residents in Bow West provided unpaid care. The Bow West rate was similar to the Tower Hamlets average (7.6 per cent) but below London (8.4 per cent) and England (10.3 per cent) averages.
- From 1,004 residents in Bow West who provided unpaid care, around 171 residents provided care for 20 to 49 hours a week, while 232 residents provided care for 50 or more hours a week.
- The proportion of those providing unpaid care for 50 hours or more of 1.8 per cent in Bow West was close to the Tower Hamlets (1.9 per cent) and London (1.8 per cent) averages.

## Labour market participation

Table 6: Labour market participation - Economic active (EA) and Economic Inactive (EI) (totals and %)

Area	EA: In employment	EA: Unemployed	EA: Full-time student	EI: Retired	EI: Student (incl. full-time)	EI: Looking after home / family	EI: Long-term sick or disabled	EI: Other
<b>Bow West</b>	5,972	596	529	623	942	580	434	315
<b>Bow West (%)</b>	59.8	6.0	5.3	6.2	9.4	5.8	4.3	3.2
<b>Tower Hamlets (%)</b>	57.6	6.7	5.5	4.7	9.9	7.0	4.5	4.0
<b>London (%)</b>	62.4	5.2	4.1	8.4	7.8	5.2	3.7	3.2
<b>England (%)</b>	62.1	4.4	3.4	13.7	5.8	4.4	4.0	2.2

(Source: Census 2011 KS601EW to KS603EW - Economic activity by sex, Population 16 to 74)

- The proportion of economically active students (5.3 per cent) and economically inactive students (9.4 per cent) was similar to the Tower Hamlets average. However, economic inactivity was below the average in Bow West compared to the borough average and the retired population was proportional larger with 6.2 per cent compared to 4.7 per cent in Tower Hamlets.
- A total of 596 residents were unemployed in Bow West. This rate of 6 per cent was below the Tower Hamlets average (6.7 per cent) but still above the London (5.2 per cent) and England (4.4 per cent) rates

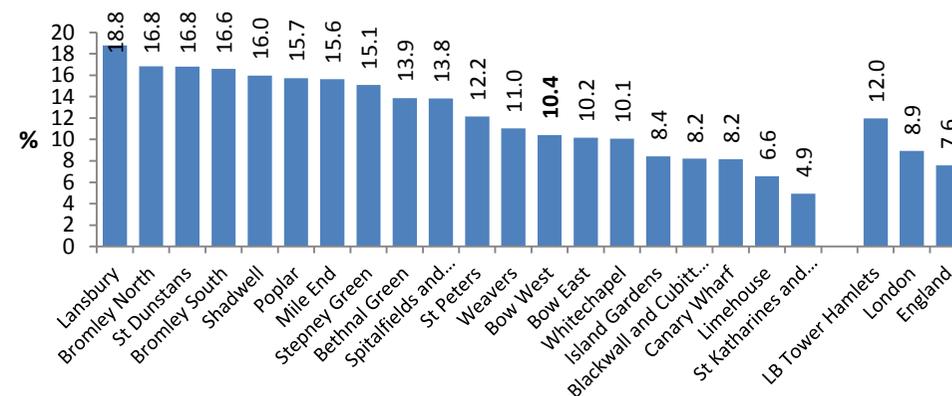
- Table 6 shows a summary of labour market participation of residents in the week before the Census 2011. The table summarises economic activity and inactivity of the 16 to 74 population in Bow West and comparator areas.

- The Bow West ward had a above the average rate of people in employment (59.8 per cent) compared to Tower Hamlets (57.6 per cent).

## Unemployment rate of 16 to 64 (economic active population only)

- The chart on the right shows the unemployment rate based on the economically active population only. This is the better unemployment measure but it is in general higher compared to the rate based on the proportion of all residents in the 16 to 74 age group as shown above.
- Bow West had the 8<sup>th</sup> lowest unemployment rate in the borough with 10.4 per cent, which was close to two percentage points below the Tower Hamlets rate (12 per cent).
- On Census day, the highest unemployment rate was recorded in Lansbury (18.8 per cent) and the lowest in St Katharine's and Wapping with only 4.9 per cent.

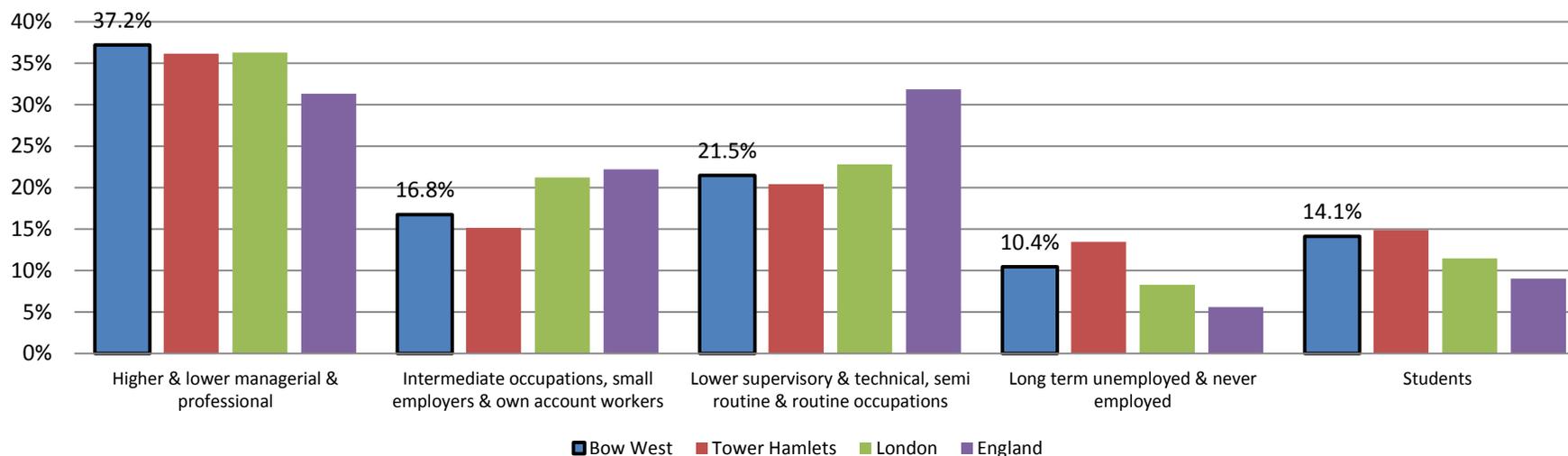
Figure 8: Unemployment rate of 16 to 64 – economic active population only



(Source: Census 2011: QS601EW - Economic activity)

## Socio economic groups

Figure 9: Socio Economic Groups



(Source: Census 2011 QS607EW - NS-SeC)

- At time of the Census, proportion of residents who worked in managerial and professional occupations in the Bow ward was higher than the borough average of 36.1 per cent).
- There were fewer residents who were classified as long term unemployed / never worked in this ward (10.4 per cent compared to the borough average of 13.5 per cent).

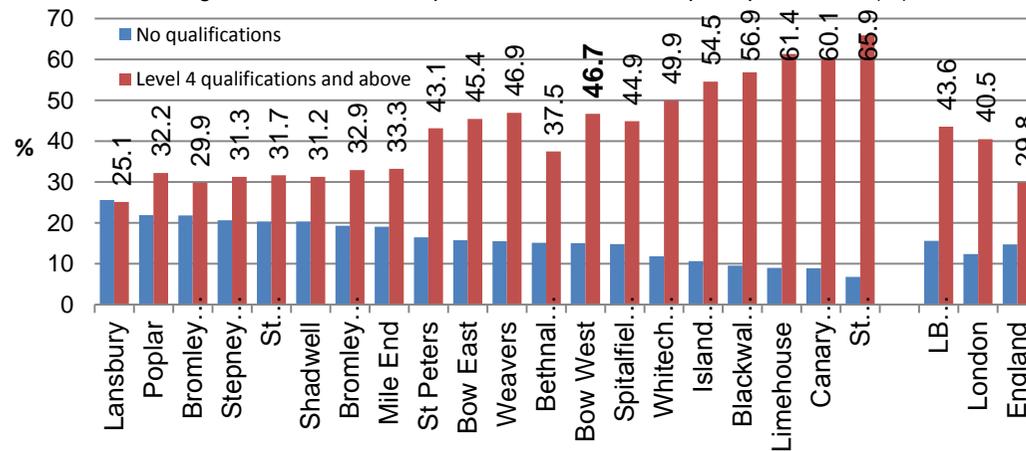
## Qualification levels

Table 7: Highest qualification of residents aged 16 to 64

Area	No qualification	Level 1	Level 2	Apprenticeship	Level 3	Level 4 and above	Other
<b>Bow West</b>	1,426	843	857	87	1,062	4,406	759
<b>Bow West (%)</b>	15.1	8.9	9.1	0.9	11.3	46.7	8.0
<b>Tower Hamlets (%)</b>	15.6	9.8	9.2	0.8	10.8	43.6	10.2
<b>London (%)</b>	12.4	11.5	12.6	1.4	11.5	40.5	10.0
<b>England (%)</b>	14.8	15.2	17.1	3.1	14.5	29.8	5.6

(Source: Census 2011 LC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by age)

Figure 10: Residents aged 16 to 64 with No qualification and Level 4 plus qualification (%)



(Source: Census 2011 LC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by age)

- The population aged 16 to 64 in Bow West showed a qualification structure not overly dissimilar to Tower Hamlets as a whole.
- The proportion of those with a level 4 qualification was higher in Bow West (46.7 per cent) when compared to Tower Hamlets (43.6 per cent) and London (40.5 per cent).
- The proportion of Bow West residents with a level 3 qualification was 11.3 per cent, a rate just above Tower Hamlets rate.
- In Bow West, around 1,419 residents (15.1 per cent) aged 16 to 64 did not hold a formal qualification. This rate was slightly below the Tower Hamlets average of 15.6 per cent but above the London (12.4 per cent) and England rate (14.8 per cent).
- The proportion of Bow West residents with no formal qualification was 15.1 per cent, the 8<sup>th</sup> lowest rate out of all 20 wards in Tower Hamlets.
- The overall lowest proportion of residents with no qualification was recorded in St Katherine's and Wapping ward (6.8 per cent) while the highest proportion with no qualification was in the Lansbury ward with 25.6 per cent.

## Bow West Statistical Area

### Statistical Areas

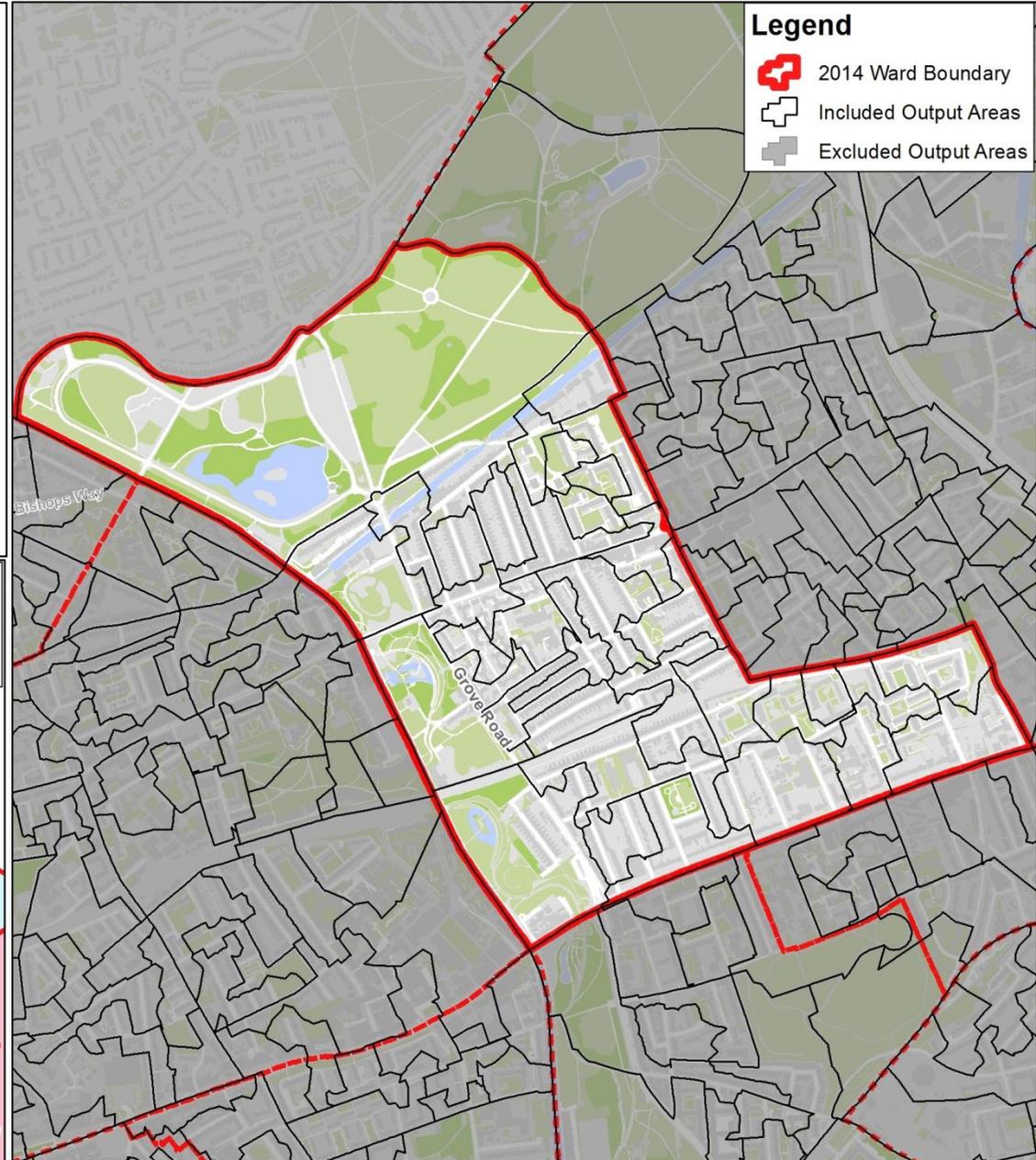
The map (right) shows which Census Output Areas have been included in the summary statistics for this ward, and which areas have been assigned to other wards.

Census Output Area (OA) data has been aggregated on a best fit basis to match the new Tower Hamlets ward boundaries as closely as possible. This has been done in accordance with methodology employed by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in producing census statistics for non-standard geographies. Details of this methodology can be found on the ONS website at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/geographic-policy/best-fit-policy/index.html>.

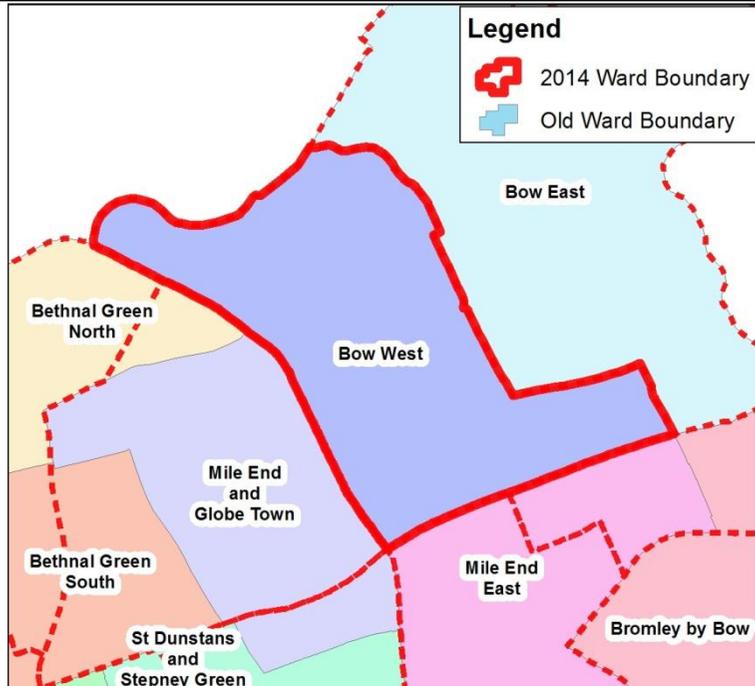
### Legend

-  2014 Ward Boundary
-  Included Output Areas
-  Excluded Output Areas



### Legend

-  2014 Ward Boundary
-  Old Ward Boundary



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### **Further information**

The data used in this document has been sourced from the Office for National Statistics Census 2011 and specific Census 2011 data tables are quoted in the document.

**Contact the Corporate Research Unit:** [cru@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:cru@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

For more information, see the [Borough Statistics](#) page on the council's internet. Census 2011 data tables can be obtained from the [Office for National Statistics](#) official labour market statistics webpage.