

SASPAC Newsletter



Issued March 2006

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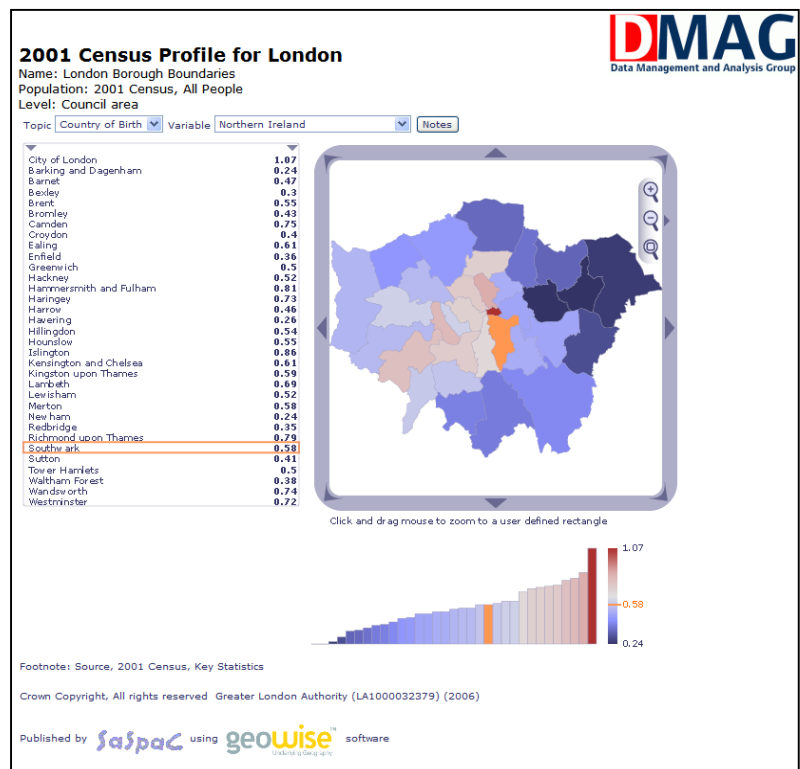
The SASPAC software continues to develop and evolve. The latest version builds on the existing data analysis, interrogation and mapping capabilities and introduces the ability to publish interactive Web pages (see below). These enhancements mean membership of the Support Scheme remains high, with over 300 organisations across local, central and regional government, academia, health and the private sector as well as the Census Offices themselves. The SASPAC team are committed to continue to build on these successes and develop the software over the coming years, and in preparation for 2011. The success of SASPAC is down to the support and commitment of the Support Scheme members. We look forward to your continuing support in the coming years.

SASPAC v8.00 now available

SASPAC v8.00 has now been distributed to all users. If you have not received your copy please contact the helpdesk. This version of the software allows you to create, customise and publish HTML pages that can be placed on websites, Intranets, shared networked areas or simply emailed. These pages are designed to help organisations present statistical and spatial data to colleagues, senior officers and members of the public in an interactive and attractive way. An example of a page produced using v8.00 is shown here.

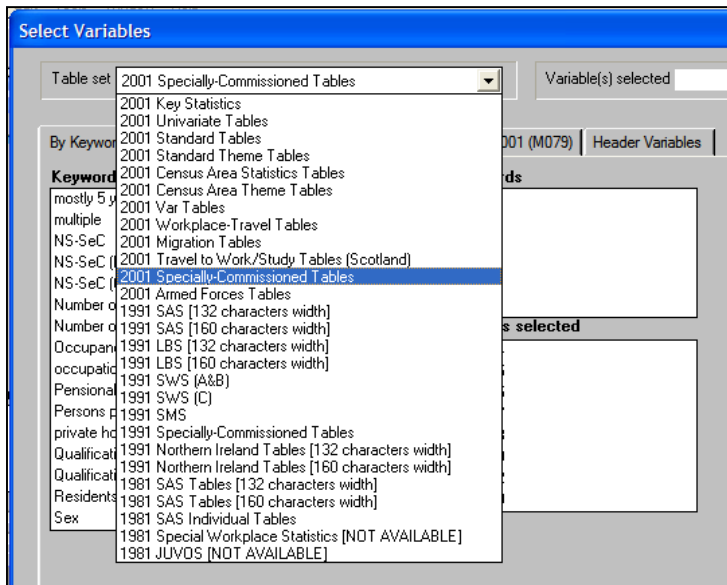
Developed through a joint collaboration between SASPAC and GeoWise Ltd, the Web Publishing tool is fully integrated within the existing software. In addition, full documentation and User Guidance Notes are available and have also been distributed with the software. These include details on the installation procedure, software requirements and guidance on how to publish your own pages.

Once you have started producing your own pages we are keen to hear feedback and/or suggestions on how you would like this tool developed in the future. Furthermore, if your pages are available on the Internet, please forward a link to the SASPAC helpdesk.



2001 Specially Commissioned Tables in SASPAC

ONS have now published over 900 Specially Commissioned Tables. These tables have been commissioned by a range of organisations, and are being made freely available on request once they have been supplied to those who originally commissioned them. Where suitable, a large number of these tables have been processed and are now available in SASPAC. These cover a wide range of topics at different geographic levels in England and Wales, and are searchable like any other dataset in SASPAC (see screen shot).



In addition to the SASPAC System Files distributed with v8.00, a copy of the table layouts are available as a PDF file and an Excel file contains details of their geographic availability.

As more tables at relevant geographies become available these will be converted into System Files and made available to users via the Commissioned Tables page of the SASPAC website.

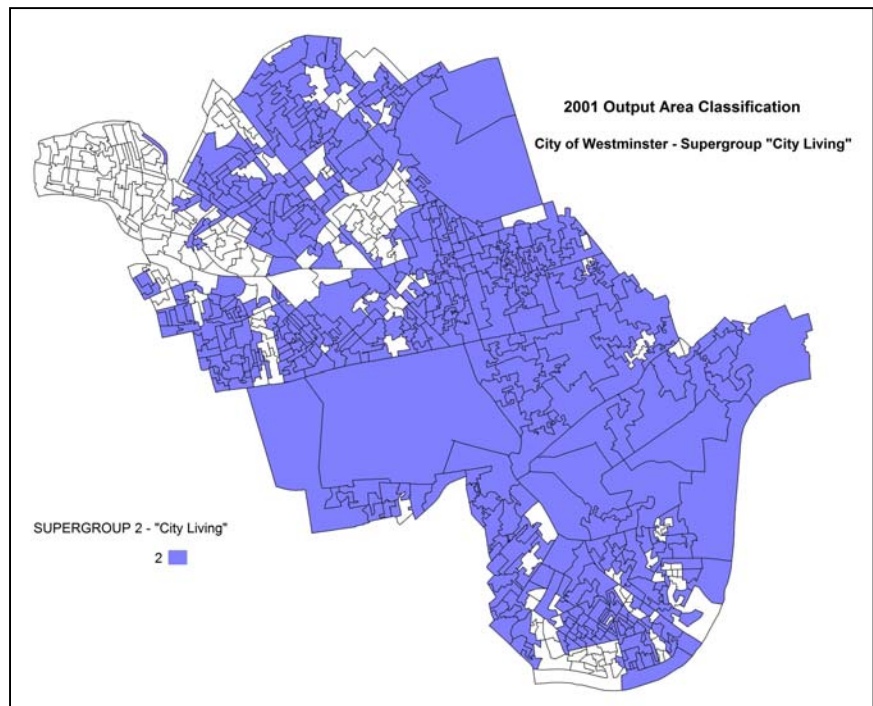
2001 UK Output Area Classifications (OAC) in SASPAC

Published in August 2005, the National Area Classification project was carried out on behalf of ONS by the University of Leeds. The classification was created from 41 Key Statistics Census variables and classifies all of the 223,060 Output Areas in the United Kingdom. The classification is structured as a three-tier hierarchy (or number of clusters) consisting of 7 "Supergroups", 21 "Groups" and 52 "Subgroups".

To provide SASPAC users with easy access to this dataset we are currently processing these into SASPAC System Files. This will allow users to:

- output the OAC alongside other Census variables
- identify the type and location of OAC's around a point of interest
- Map OAC using MapShore

The map on the right depicts the "City Living" cluster of Output Areas in the City of Westminster and was produced using SASPAC and MapShore. Once the national data are loaded as System Files the UK-wide dataset will be placed on the SASPAC website and you will receive an email notification.



2001 Census Debrief

A reminder to those who have not already registered: a 2001 Census Debriefing Seminar is being held on **Monday 10th April 2006**. This event has been organised by SASPAC, MRS, ESRC/JISC Census of Population Programme, RSS/SUF and the ACD in liaison with ONS/GROS/NISRA. For further details please visit the SASPAC website.

SASPAC Project Officer Retires



Nearly all users of SASPAC will have no doubt been in contact with Hywel Davies over the years. Hywel retired in April last year after over 18 years service as the SASPAC Project Officer. On behalf of all past and present users, the SASPAC team would like to thank Hywel for his huge contribution to the SASPAC project and wish him a very happy retirement. However, this is not quite the end of Hywel's links with SASPAC as he has been heavily involved in developing the new Web Publishing tool. So don't be surprised if you see him around at future SASPAC/Census events!

Training

As usual, SASPAC training is available on location or at City Hall in London. The training programme is currently being developed to incorporate the new Web Publishing tool and the first training days on the Publisher will be available at the City Hall in **May 2006**. To attend this training we recommend you have attended a previous 1 or 2-day course, or are an experienced SASPAC user. A booking form, including dates, is downloadable from the training page of the SASPAC website.

The cost of a full day's training is currently £150+VAT per person, or alternatively, we can deliver training on location for £850+VAT for up to 8 people. Further details can be obtained from the training page of the website or from the helpdesk.

MapShore

All SASPAC users can obtain 2001 ward boundary files for use with MapShore, free of charge from [Pebbleshore](#) Ltd, the publishers of MapShore. E-mail pebbleshore@btinternet.com and they will explain the copyright arrangements etc. Other boundary files such as Super Output Area boundary files are also available but at nominal cost.

Chris Denham and Frank Thomas Retire

Finally, we would like to wish both Chris Denham (Office for National Statistics) and Frank Thomas (General Register Office for Scotland) all the best in their retirements. Both have made outstanding contributions to the Censuses over many years.

To help us achieve our aim of producing at least two issues of this Newsletter each year, we are looking for some input from users on:

- any other enhancements you would like to see;
- tips for users of SASPAC;
- letters to the Editor;
- any other matters relating to the Census or other local area statistics.

If you have anything that you would wish to see published in the Newsletter, please send it to let Alan Lewis - preferably as an e-mail attachment.

SASPAC is software specifically written for the analysis and interrogation of datasets derived from the Census of Population. The development is managed by the Greater London Authority on behalf of the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA). It is supported by its developers, CitiLabs and Northern Software Technology Limited. Mapshore - the mapping element of SASPAC - is developed and supported by Pebbleshore. Strategic support for the development and advancement of the SASPAC initiative is provided by Katalysis Ltd. Development and support of the Web Publishing tool, released with v8.00, is provided by GeoWise Ltd. Training in the use of SASPAC is provided by Anglia Ruskin University.

The development of the software is overseen by the SASPAC Advisory Panel. The members of this Panel are: Ray Brewer (Essex County Council); Malcolm Brown (Cornwall County Council); Sue Lygo (South West Oxford PCT); Sherman Griffith (Joint Data Team); Justin Hayes (Manchester Computing Centre); Eileen Howes (GLA); Kevin Morgan (Cardiff County Council); Allan Lambie (South Lanarkshire Council); Rob Lewis (GLA); Ian Robertson (Leicester City Council); Peter Shilson (Leeds City Council).

The SASPAC licence is an organisation-wide licence: this allows users to distribute the software and data to as many colleagues as required within their organisation. The licence does not allow users to pass the software and/or data to individuals outside their organisation. If you have any queries relating to the licence arrangements for your organisation please contact the helpdesk.

Further information on SASPAC and the SASPAC Support Scheme is available from Alan Lewis, SASPAC Project Officer at the Greater London Authority, PP14, 5th Floor, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, More London, LONDON, SE1 1AA.

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