

JOURNEYING ABOVE & BEYOND



England

Administrative Counties 1965-1974





English Counties: Types

Historic Counties:

- These are the oldest and most traditional divisions, dating back to the Middle Ages. They serve as cultural and geographical identifiers.

Ceremonial Counties:

- These are used for administrative purposes, like the office of Lord Lieutenant. There are 48 of these in England.

Local Government Counties:

- These are the areas where local government functions are carried out, like schools, social care, and police services. There are 84 of these in England.

Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Counties:

These are the two types of local government counties.

- Key Facts:
- The number of counties in England depends on the type (ceremonial, local government, or historic).
- Many county names are over a thousand years old.
- Counties have played a role in justice, defense, parliamentary representation, and local government throughout history.
- Counties are still important for a sense of local identity and pride.
- County names often reflect historical and geographical features.
- Some counties have unique features, like Saffron Walden, which is associated with the saffron spice.



Ceremonial Counties of England

Bedfordshire	Greater London	Shropshire
Berkshire	Greater Manchester	Somerset
Bristol	Hampshire	South Yorkshire
Buckinghamshire	Herefordshire	Staffordshire
Cambridgeshire	Hertfordshire	Suffolk
Cheshire	Isle of Wight	Surrey
City of London	Kent	Tyne and Wear
Cornwall	Lancashire	Warwickshire
Cumbria	Leicestershire	West Midlands
Derbyshire	Lincolnshire	West Sussex
Devon	Merseyside	West Yorkshire
Dorset	Norfolk	Wiltshire
Durham	North Yorkshire	Worcestershire
East Riding of Yorkshire	Northamptonshire	Yorkshire
East Sussex	Northumberland	
Essex	Nottinghamshire	
Gloucestershire	Oxfordshire	
	Rutland	

Note: Yorkshire is traditionally considered a single county but is now administratively divided into East, North, South, and West Yorkshire)



English Counties: Naming

English counties, or shires, generally got their names from a few key factors: a central town (like Buckinghamshire), ancient kingdoms (like Kent), or tribal groups (like Cornwall).

Town Names:

- Many counties, like Buckinghamshire, are named after their main administrative centre or town.

Ancient Kingdoms:

- Counties like Kent, Surrey, and Essex were once independent kingdoms that were later incorporated into the Kingdom of England.

Tribal Groups:

- Some counties reflect the names of the Celtic tribes that inhabited the areas before the Anglo-Saxons, such as Cornwall and Devon.

Saxon Kingdoms:

- Counties like Essex, Sussex, and Middlesex derive their names from the East Saxons, South Saxons, and Middle Saxons, respectively.

River Names:

- Some counties are named after significant rivers, like the River Avon in Avon, which has since been abolished.

Geographic Regions:

- In some cases, counties were named based on vague geographic regions to avoid potential conflict with local names, like West Midlands according to City Monitor.
- The **"-shire"** suffix is derived from the Old English word *scir* (meaning a division of land), is common in English county names, indicating a land governed by a "shire reeve" or sheriff.
- **"...sex" counties** are named after the Saxons. E.g.: **Middlesex** means 'land of the middle Saxons'. **Essex** means 'land of the East Saxons'. **Sussex** means 'land of the southern Saxons'.
- **Devon** means 'land of the Dumnonii'. The Saxons called this tribe the 'Deofnas'.
- **Dorset** means 'dwellers near Dorn (Dorchester)'
- **Durham** means 'hill island' and is also shared by the county town. Originally Dunholm (Scandinavian for hill island) the Normans changed it to Durelme.
- **Kent** means 'land of the Cantii' (a tribe well known to the Romans).
- **Cornwall** means 'Welsh in Kernow'. The 'wall' in Cornwall came from the Old English 'wealas', which meant foreigner. Those who lived in Cornwall called themselves Cornovii (meaning promontory people). The Saxons called the area 'Cornwealas' (Welsh in Kernow).
- **Cumberland** means 'land of the Cymry (of the Celtic people)'.



The Roman Occupation

Key English Settlements

Roman County (Civitas)	Modern County/Area
Corinium (Cirencester)	Gloucestershire
Verulamium (St. Albans)	Hertfordshire
Camulodunum (Colchester)	Essex
Londinium (London)	Greater London
Eboracum (York)	North Yorkshire
Deva (Chester)	Cheshire
Viroconium (Wroxeter)	Shropshire
Isurium (Aldborough)	North Yorkshire
Ratae (Leicester)	Leicestershire
Lindum (Lincoln)	Lincolnshire
Callewa (Silchester)	Hampshire



The Roman Occupation (410 AD)





The Viking Occupation: Danelaw

With the Viking occupation of Northern and Eastern England came a new 'county' known as Danelaw. It was a part of England in which the laws of the Danes were followed instead of the laws of the Anglo-Saxons. The area was occupied by Danes, other Norsemen and Anglo-Saxon people.

The Danelaw first appeared following the invasion of the 'Great Heathen Army' into England and was used to describe the geographic area in which the Vikings ruled. This included the development of cities such as York.

The Danelaw can describe both the area in which the Norse population was strongest and the laws in which they lived by. In 886, a treaty between the king of Wessex, Alfred the Great, and the Danish warlord, Guthrum, was created.



This treaty formalized the border between Wessex and Danelaw and set out rules for peaceful relationships between the two people. Both Old Norse and English were spoken across the two kingdoms.

The Danelaw comprised these 16 contemporary shires:

1. Leicester
2. York
3. Lancashire
4. Nottingham
5. Derby
6. Lincoln
7. Essex
8. Cambridge
9. Suffolk
10. Norfolk
11. Northampton
12. Huntingdon
13. Bedford
14. Hertford
15. Middlesex
16. Buckingham

Once the Kingdom of England was united in 927, it became necessary to subdivide the counties further for administrative convenience. The whole kingdom was divided into shires by the time of the Norman conquest



The Viking Occupation

