Quantifying the Changing Age Structure of he British Electorate 2005-2025

Researching the age demographics of the new parliamentary constituencies

Prepared for Age Concern

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December 2009

Introduction

Britain will soon possess an age profile never seen before in its history, and as society ages so does the electoral register. This report details how the demographic transformation will change the age-profile of every Westminster constituency in Britain, starting with the current period and projecting into the future to see how Britain's voters will look in 2025.

This data will show how most seats in the House of Commons will elect MPs based on a turnout where grey voters are the majority. It uses the new parliamentary boundaries that will be introduced for a large swathe of seats for the first time at the next general election in 2010. Of course, none of this would be significant if older voters were identical in every way to younger voters. But as we already know, they do differ in their electoral behaviour, not least in their much higher participation rates. There are also variations in attitudes across different cohorts and generations. Furthermore, as we age our experience of society and the issues that impact the most directly on our quality of life shift and change.

This project builds and extends upon previous research published by Age Concern before the general election in 2005 that was based on quantitative data from Dr Scott Davidson and qualitative interviews with older voters in marginal constituencies conducted by Opinion Leader Research

The New Parliamentary Boundaries

Constituency boundaries are determined by the Boundary Commissions for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Every 8 to 12 years the Commissions are required by the *Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986* to undertake a general review of arrangements.

In general constituencies are intended to be based on local authority areas, unless a case is made to run across more than one local authority boundary. Although this is still generally the situation, there are now a significant number of seats which straddle two, sometimes three, local authority areas.

In England the general review was completed and ratified by Parliament in 2007. The review has resulted in some major changes with an increase of seats in England from 529 to 533, and the majority of constituency boundaries now being different to those used at the general election in 2005. The review for Wales was completed in 2006 and although the total number of seats remains the same at 40, as elsewhere there are some significant changes to a number of seats. Boundary changes for seats in Scotland had already been

implemented in time for the 2005 general election, and no subsequent changes are required for 2010.

Notional Results for the New Seats

As the majority of seats in England will be fought on new boundaries at the next general election, comparisons with the results of the 2005 election become problematic – primarily because in the UK results are declared for whole constituencies without being broken up into individual ward results. In some cases a constituency may have kept the same name but will be comprised of a different set of wards with differing sets of social and political characteristics. To draw up a more useful set of data to enable comparisons with 2005 *notional* results need to be estimated - in other words, estimating how the 2005 results would have looked if votes had been counted on the basis of the new constituencies.

Of course there are limitations on how far notional results can be taken as an estimate of what *would have* happened. For example, we cannot assume that tactical voting patterns would be replicated under the new boundaries. Furthermore notional results are calculated by incorporating local authority election results to obtain a *multiplier* for each party, but these calculations are done in the knowledge that some voters do not replicate their national voting habits at local level contests.

However, with these caveats in mind the notional results provide us with a very useful model for evaluating the new political geography created by the boundary reviews.

This research is using the notional results calculated by Rallings and Thrasher at the Local Government Elections Unit at Plymouth University. These estimates are widely used and respected by the research community. Their estimates will also form the basis of the election reporting for the Press Association, the BBC, ITN and Sky News and are publicly available at: election.press.net/constituencies.html

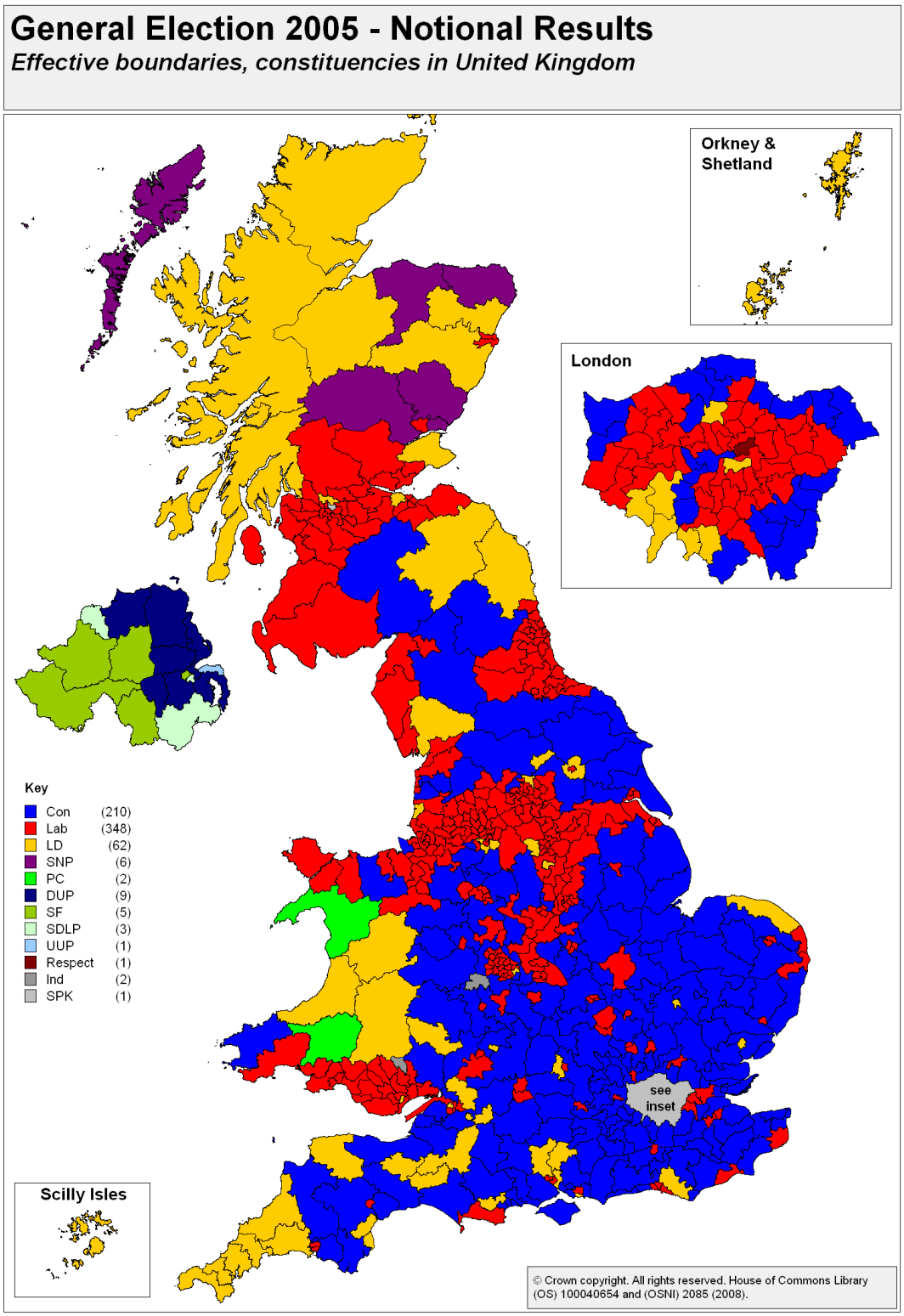
Overall the Rallings & Thrasher projections see the Labour government losing 7 seats and the Conservative party gaining 12. The Liberal Democrats remain unchanged but Plaid Cymru lose one seat.

The Boundary Review gives us 13 wholly new constituencies.

1. Broadland
2. Chelsea and Fulham
3. Chippenham
4. Derbyshire Mid
5. Devon Central

6. Filton and Bradley Stoke
7. Kenilworth and Southam
8. Meon valley
9. Northamptonshire South
10. St Austell and Newquay
11. Witham
12. Wyre and Preston North
13. York Outer

Map: Notional results of the 2005 general election if contested on the new boundaries set to come into effect for an election in 2010. Source: House of Commons Library Standard Note SN/SG/4691.

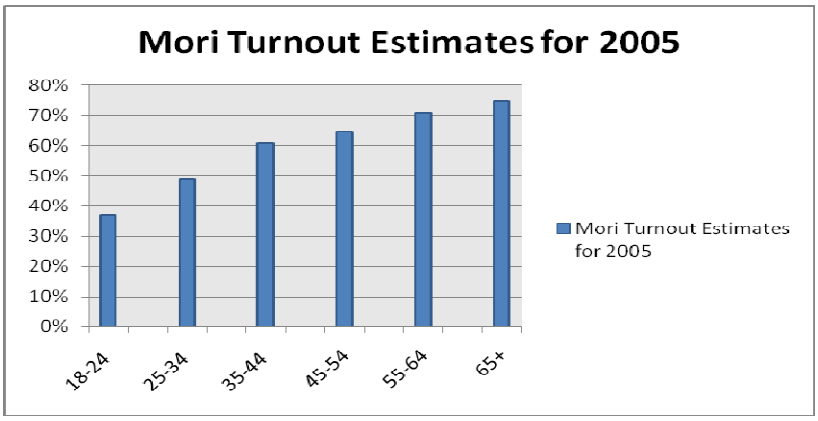


Turnout Rates

In the UK there is no official data for turnout by age. The most generally accepted estimates for turnout by age are the ones produced by MORI's Aggregate Analysis of the election. These figures have been widely used by the Electoral Commission.

Based on these estimates the model uses these turnout rates for the 2005 election, and for practical purposes assumes there are no age-related changes in turnout for the next general election.

The MORI turnout estimates are:



18-24	37%
25-34	49%
35-44	61%
45-54	65%
55-64	71%
65+	75%

The size of the eligible electorate is made through the simple calculation and inclusion of all people aged 18 or over.

The model assumes all voters are on the electoral register. As younger voters are more likely to be unregistered, if this were to be factored into the data it would serve to further increase the proportion of turnout comprised of older voters.

The analysis in this report includes a category of all voters aged over 55 and refers to this category as the "Grey Vote". This is justified because, although much research on age and voter behaviour often focuses on the post-state-retirement electorate, entirely justified and understandable considering the profound social and economic implications of retirement. However, ageing, and ageing issues do not begin to effect voters the day after retirement. They are, arguably, of life-long concern, however, in the final decade approaching state retirement age these issues become increasingly pertinent to the concerns and standard of living for voters. For voters aged over 55, ageing issues such as retirement income, age discrimination, the quality of health services, long-term care (particularly for their older parents and relatives) become increasingly important. Even if a 55 year old would not

consider themselves "old", in many ways other people and agencies have already started to treat and portray them differently.

Methodology

This research is based on a model which combines data on electoral behaviour and population changes to estimate the age breakdown of turnout across constituencies for general elections in the current period. The base data for the model is the latest available Office for National Statistics population projections for 2006. These projections use the 2001 Census as a baseline and drawing on current demographic trends estimate the population changes in the last five years for each area. The data uses the new parliamentary boundaries that will be contested in the next general election of 2010.

The base data for the model is the UK Statistics Authority's 2006 sub-national population projections that update and estimate how the population of the country has changed since the 2001 Census. For specific local data in Wales the research uses statistics produced by the Statistical Directorate of the National Assembly for Wales, and for Scotland the General Register Office.

The report took this data to show the age breakdown of the turnout at the last general election in 2005 based on the new constituency boundaries.

A key problem in conducting research that it is primarily concerned with the changing demographic characteristics of Westminster constituencies is that for future projections the ONS only produces data based on local authorities. ONS produce data for the current period for the new seats, but they do not produce data for these seats projected into the future. However, the data does exist at local council level, and can be translated across, although this is a fairly time consuming process. But once completed, this research is in a position to produce incredibly interesting and useful information on the future UK electorate that is not easily available elsewhere.

To calculate the changing age profile of seats in the future the following process was used.

The ONS' sub-national projections for future population change by local authority was used as a starting point.

Each seat was cross referenced with its ward composition to see it was wholly within one local authority area or whether it stretched across two or more.

Where a seat was co-terminus with a local authority the percentage change in the age profile of the electorate in the local authority area was calculated

and then applied to the base 2005 age profile of the Westminster constituency – and turnout rates applied accordingly.

Where a seat's boundaries ran across more than one local authority area an estimate was made of the proportion of voters in the seat living in the different local authority areas. If this proportion was significant a qualified rate of change was calculated. In some cases where only one ward was located in a second local authority area the dominant local authority's data was used without qualification.

The 2005 General Election

Overall at the national level for Britain there are only some moderate changes from the estimates for 2005 made in the last report.

The table below shows the estimated age-breakdown of turnout of the 2005 general election. The table shows that the 65+ vote is almost identical to the previous research report published in 2004 based on earlier ONS estimates, but that the 55+ has increased by 1.4% in this short time period - as the first cohorts of boomers move into near-retirement:

Table: Estimated age breakdown of turnout in the 2005 General Election

	18-24	**25-34**	**35-44**	**45-54**	**55-64**	***65+***	***All 55+***
GB (not inc NI)	7.1	13.3	19.4	17.5	17.5	*25.1*	*42.6*
England	7.2	13.5	19.6	17.4	17.4	*24.9*	*42.3*
Wales	7.2	11.3	17.8	17.4	19.0	*27.4*	*46.3*
Scotland	7.0	12.3	19.3	18.5	17.7	*25.1*	*42.9*

Election 2005*: Voters aged over65* –

A headline finding is that it is now estimated that "pensioners"/voters aged 65 and over accounted for over half of the votes cast in three parliamentary seats (Christchurch, Clacton and New Forest West). This research has based its estimates on the latest 2006 ONS estimates (within 12 months of the election), and shows a significant increase from the estimates for the oldest seats used for the 2004 report which were based upon the 2001 Census figures (a full five years before the election). The combination of using the latest ONS estimates and the effect of the boundary changes (For example,

the population covered by Christchurch's boundaries have changed by nearly a fifth) result in a significant increase in the age profile of a range of seats.

While the *oldest* seats are now in the position of holding pensioner majorities there is strong evidence of a much wider impact of retired voters on the social personalities of parliamentary seats. 287 seats in Britain are now estimated to have a third or more of votes cast by people aged 65+ and only in 45 urban constituencies is the 65+ vote lower than a quarter of turnout.

The table below shows the 40 seats in mainland Britain estimated to have the highest proportions of voters cast by people aged 65+ in 2005.

Although the south coast and the South West dominate the very *oldest* seats, note how there is a wide geographical spread in this chart of 40 constituencies. Labour hold five seats in this list which are particularly vulnerable to swings to the Conservative Party, and there are several seats which are keenly contested between the Conservative and the Liberal Democrats:

Table: The 40 seats with the highest proportions of turnout comprised of voters aged 65 and over in the 2005 general election

Parliamentary Constituency	% turn 65+	2005 Result	2005 Maj	Region
Christchurch	53.3	**Con (n)**	14234	S.West
Clacton	52.1	**Con (n)**	4524	East
New Forest West	50.2	**Con (n)**	15985	S.East
Worthing West	49.5	**Con**	9379	S.East
Bexhill and Battle	48.2	**Con (n)**	15753	S.East
North Norfolk	47.5	**LD (n)**	8177	East
East Devon	46.8	**Con (n)**	9175	S.West
West Dorset	46.0	**Con**	2461	S.West
Eastbourne	45.8	**Con (n)**	755	S.East
Lewes	45.4	**LD**	8474	S.East
Bognor Regis and Littlehampton	45.2	**Con**	7822	S.East
Totnes	44.4	**Con (n)**	2722	S.West

Chichester	44.0	**Con**	10860	S.East
Tiverton and Honiton	43.7	**Con (n)**	9193	S.West
Aberconwy	43.5	**Lab (n)**	243	Wales
Suffolk Coastal	43.5	**Con**	9685	East
Clwyd West	43.2	**Con (n)**	111	Wales
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	43.0	**PC (n)**	8101	Wales
Wirral West	42.9	**Lab (n)**	283	N.West
Poole	42.7	**Con**	5988	S.West
Newton Abbot	42.7	**LD (n)**	4573	S.West
Louth and Horncastle	42.4	**Con**	9896	E.Mids
Southport	42.4	**LD**	3838	N.West
Torbay	42.3	**LD (n)**	2755	S.West
Isle of Wight	42.2	**Con**	12978	S.East
North Thanet	41.9	**Con (n)**	6103	S.East
North West Norfolk	41.9	**Con (n)**	7856	East
Blackpool North and Cleveleys	41.9	**Lab (n)**	3540	N.West
Fylde	41.7	**Con (n)**	10008	N.West
Arundel and South Downs	41.5	**Con**	11309	S.East
Westmorland and Lonsdale	41.5	**LD (n)**	836	N.West
Brecon and Radnorshire	41.3	**LD**	3905	Wales
West Worcestershire	41.3	**Con (n)**	3594	W.Mids
Sefton Central	41.1	**Lab (n)**	5542	N.West
South Thanet	40.9	**Lab (n)**	854	S.East
Waveney	40.8	**Lab (n)**	5936	East
Truro and Falmouth	40.7	**LD (n)**	5131	S.West
North Herefordshire	40.6	**LD (n)**	1297	W.Mids
Bournemouth West	40.6	**Con (n)**	2608	S.West

The Grey Vote: Voters aged over 55

As with the data on voters aged over 65, the headline results show that in the oldest seats there has been further ageing since the 2004 estimates. Voters aged over 55 –or the "grey vote" – are now estimated to have accounted for more that two thirds of votes in four constituencies.

In the previous research it was estimated that in the 2005 general election there were 24 seats with a "grey majority" i.e. over 50% of votes cast on polling day came from the grey vote. The previous section tells us the model estimates there are three seats with a majority of voters aged 65+, and the results from this projection are now estimating there were 268 seats in mainland Britain with grey majorities. The table below shows the 40 seats with the highest proportion of turnout estimated to be made up of people aged 55+:

Parliamentary Constituency	% 55+ turn	2005 Result	2005 Maj	Region
Christchurch	69.8	**Con (n)**	14234	S.West
Clacton	68.1	**Con (n)**	4524	East
New Forest West	66.5	**Con (n)**	15985	S.East
North Norfolk	66.1	**LD (n)**	8177	East
Bexhill and Battle	65.0	**Con (n)**	15753	S.East
Worthing West	64.0	**Con**	9379	S.East
West Dorset	63.8	**Con**	2461	S.West
East Devon	63.5	**Con (n)**	9175	S.West
Totnes	62.9	**Con (n)**	2722	S.West
Louth and Horncastle	62.1	**Con**	9896	E.Mids
Lewes	62.0	**LD**	8474	S.East
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	61.7	**PC (n)**	8101	Wales
Tiverton and Honiton	61.2	**Con (n)**	9193	S.West
Bognor Regis and Littlehampton	60.9	**Con**	7822	S.East

Suffolk Coastal	60.8	**Con**	9685	East
Chichester	60.5	**Con**	10860	S.East
Aberconwy	60.4	**Lab (n)**	243	Wales
Clwyd West	60.4	**Con (n)**	111	Wales
Isle of Wight	60.2	**Con**	12978	S.East
Eastbourne	60.2	**Con (n)**	755	S.East
West Worcestershire	60.1	**Con (n)**	3594	W.Mids
Brecon and Radnorshire	60.1	**LD**	3905	Wales
Ludlow	59.9	**Con (n)**	2027	W.Mids
Newton Abbot	59.9	**LD (n)**	4573	S.West
Arundel and South Downs	59.8	**Con**	11309	S.East
Westmorland and Lonsdale	59.6	**LD (n)**	836	N.West
North Herefordshire	59.6	**LD (n)**	1297	W.Mids
North West Norfolk	59.4	**Con (n)**	7856	East
St Ives	59.4	**LD (n)**	9574	S.West
Torridge and West Devon	59.3	**Con (n)**	2581	S.West
Wirral West	59.1	**Lab (n)**	283	N.West
North Cornwall	58.8	**LD (n)**	5477	S.West
Torbay	58.7	**LD (n)**	2755	S.West
North Thanet	58.4	**Con (n)**	6103	S.East
Thirsk and Malton	58.4	**Con (n)**	14687	Yorks
Bridgwater and West Somerset	58.4	**Con (n)**	9755	S.West
Boston and Skegness	58.3	**Con**	5907	E.Mids
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	58.2	**Lab (n)**	6569	Wales
Poole	58.1	**Con**	5988	S.West
Truro & Falmouth	58.1	**LD**	3,931	S.West

Election 2010

As should be expected the projected results for a general election in 2010 reveals a step growth in the size and influence of the grey vote.

Election 2010: Voters aged 65+

As reported in the previous section it is estimated that on the new parliamentary boundaries there were three seats in 2005 with a majority of votes cast by persons aged 65 and over. In 2010, another two seats (Worthing West and Norfolk North) move past this stage post in the age-transformation of the electorate. On its own the results concerning voters aged 65 and over are quite striking. In a 2010 election it is estimated that 102 seats in mainland Britain will have 40% or more of turnout comprised of voters aged 65+, and to demonstrate the breadth of the impact – 368 seats will have at least one third of turnout comprised of voters aged over 65.

Chart: The 50 seats with the highest proportion of voters aged 65 and over at a general election held in 2010.

Parliamentary Constituency	2010 % turn 65+	Winner	2nd	Majority	Majority (%)
Christchurch	55.2	CON	LD	14,640	31.3
Clacton	54.0	CON	LAB	3,629	8.5
New Forest West	52.7	CON	LD	16,183	36.7
Worthing West	50.8	CON	LD	9,383	20.9
Norfolk North	50.7	LD	CON	8,575	17.3
West Dorset	49.5	CON	LD	2,461	4.6
Devon East	48.7	CON	LD	9,168	19.2
Lewes	47.5	LD	CON	7,889	16.9
Bognor Regis and Littlehampton	47.4	CON	LAB	8,617	20.1
Totnes	47.3	CON	LD	2,693	5.8
Eastbourne	46.6	CON	LD	672	1.4
Chichester	46.3	CON	LD	10,457	20.3
Suffolk Coastal	46.0	CON	LAB	9,674	18.4
Tiverton and Honiton	45.7	CON	LD	9,007	17.5
Louth and Horncastle	45.7	CON	LAB	9,813	21.1
Aberconwy	45.1	LAB	CON	1,070	3.9
Wirral West	45.0	CON	LAB	569	1.5
Newton Abbot	45.0	LD	CON	4,830	10.5
Poole	45.0	CON	LD	6,035	14.3
Clwyd West	44.7	CON	LAB	51	0.1

Dwyfor Meirionnydd	44.7	**PC**	**LAB**	8,706	29
Isle of Wight	44.7	**CON**	**LD**	12,978	19.4
Westmorland and Lonsdale	44.6	**LD**	**CON**	806	1.7
West Worcestershire	44.6	**CON**	**LD**	3,053	6
North West Norfolk	44.4	**CON**	**LAB**	8,417	18.3
Torbay	44.1	**LD**	**CON**	2,727	6
Southport	44.1	**LD**	**CON**	3,838	9.3
Herefordshire North	44.0	**CON**	**LD**	12,688	28.4
Ludlow	43.9	**CON**	**LD**	2,027	4.4
Fylde	43.8	**CON**	**LAB**	11,117	28.7
Brecon and Radnorshire	43.5	**LD**	**CON**	3,905	10.2
Bexhill and Battle	43.5	**CON**	**LD**	15,893	31.5
Bridgwater and West Somerset	43.3	**CON**	**LAB**	10,081	19.8
Waveney	43.3	**LAB**	**CON**	5,950	12
Thanet North	43.2	**CON**	**LAB**	6,118	15.3
Arundel and South Downs	43.1	**CON**	**LD**	12,291	23.8
Torridge and West Devon	43.0	**CON**	**LD**	2,732	5.4
Mid Norfolk	43.0	**CON**	**LAB**	7,793	16.3
Dorset South	42.9	**LAB**	**CON**	1,812	3.7
St Ives	42.9	**LD**	**CON**	10,711	24.5
Boston and Skegness	42.9	**CON**	**LAB**	6,391	14.8
Thirsk and Malton	42.8	**CON**	**LAB**	14,117	28.5
Blackpool North and Cleveleys	42.8	**LAB**	**CON**	3,241	8.5
Dorset North	42.8	**CON**	**LD**	4,200	8.6
Sefton Central	42.7	**LAB**	**CON**	4,950	12
Wells	42.7	**CON**	**LD**	3,040	5.7
Cornwall North	42.5	**LD**	**CON**	2,892	6.9
Truro and Falmouth	42.5	**LD**	**CON**	3,931	9.3
Scarborough and Whitby	42.5	**CON**	**LAB**	1,245	2.7
Thanet South	42.5	**CON**	**LAB**	810	1.8

Election 2010: The wider Grey Vote/Voters aged 55+

Previous reports have discussed the concept of the wider grey vote, as well as the emergence of Grey Majority constituencies – i.e. where over half of turnout is comprised of the grey vote.

This new research now estimates that in 2005, on the new boundaries, there were 268 seats in mainland Britain that held grey majorities. In 2010 the number of grey majority seats is estimated to increase to 319, meaning that in 2010 most seats in Britain will hold a grey majority.

Regionally, perhaps, despite some stereotypes, these seats are not all to be found in the south west and the south coast as 18 of the 50 *oldest* seats are to be found in the midlands, north and Wales

Chart: The 50 seats with the highest proportion of voters aged 55 and over at a general election held in 2010.

Parliamentary Constituency	Winner	2nd	Majority	Majority (%)	2010 % turn 55+	Region
Christchurch	CON	LD	14,640	31.3	70.9	South West
Clacton	CON	LAB	3,629	8.5	69.0	East
New Forest West	CON	LD	16,183	36.7	68.1	South East
Norfolk North	LD	CON	8,575	17.3	67.9	East
West Dorset	CON	LD	2,461	4.6	66.3	South West
Totnes	CON	LD	2,693	5.8	64.9	South West
Worthing West	CON	LD	9,383	20.9	64.8	South East
Devon East	CON	LD	9,168	19.2	64.4	South West
Louth and Horncastle	CON	LAB	9,813	21.1	64.1	East Midlands
Lewes	LD	CON	7,889	16.9	63.7	South East
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	PC	LAB	8,706	29	62.6	Wales
Suffolk Coastal	CON	LAB	9,674	18.4	62.5	East
Ludlow	CON	LD	2,027	4.4	62.4	West Midlands
Bognor Regis and Littlehampton	CON	LAB	8,617	20.1	62.3	South East
Tiverton and Honiton	CON	LD	9,007	17.5	62.2	South West
Chichester	CON	LD	10,457	20.3	62.1	South East

Herefordshire North	**CON**	**LD**	12,688	28.4	62.0	West Midlands
West Worcestershire	**CON**	**LD**	3,053	6	61.9	West Midlands
Westmorland and Lonsdale	**LD**	**CON**	806	1.7	61.8	North West
Aberconwy	**LAB**	**CON**	1,070	3.9	61.5	Wales
Isle of Wight	**CON**	**LD**	12,978	19.4	61.5	South East
Brecon and Radnorshire	**LD**	**CON**	3,905	10.2	61.5	Wales
Clwyd West	**CON**	**LAB**	51	0.1	61.5	Wales
Newton Abbot	**LD**	**CON**	4,830	10.5	61.3	South West
Bexhill and Battle	**CON**	**LD**	15,893	31.5	61.3	South East
North West Norfolk	**CON**	**LAB**	8,417	18.3	60.9	East
Torridge and West Devon	**CON**	**LD**	2,732	5.4	60.9	South West
Wirral West	**CON**	**LAB**	569	1.5	60.8	North West
Eastbourne	**CON**	**LD**	672	1.4	60.8	South East
Arundel and South Downs	**CON**	**LD**	12,291	23.8	60.6	South East
Berwick-upon-Tweed	**LD**	**CON**	8,585	23.6	60.5	North East
Bridgwater and West Somerset	**CON**	**LAB**	10,081	19.8	60.5	South West
St Ives	**LD**	**CON**	10,711	24.5	60.4	South West
Boston and Skegness	**CON**	**LAB**	6,391	14.8	60.1	East Midlands
Thirsk and Malton	**CON**	**LAB**	14,117	28.5	60.1	Yorks&Humber
Derbyshire Dales	**CON**	**LAB**	8,810	20.8	59.9	East Midlands
Yorkshire East	**CON**	**LAB**	6,284	13.3	59.9	Yorks&Humber
Torbay	**LD**	**CON**	2,727	6	59.8	South West
Sefton Central	**LAB**	**CON**	4,950	12	59.8	North West
Cornwall North	**LD**	**CON**	2,892	6.9	59.8	South West
South East Cornwall	**LD**	**CON**	5,485	11.8	59.7	South West
Fylde	**CON**	**LAB**	11,117	28.7	59.7	North West
Southport	**LD**	**CON**	3,838	9.3	59.6	North West
Dorset South	**LAB**	**CON**	1,812	3.7	59.6	South West

Poole	**CON**	**LD**	6,035	14.3	59.6	South West
Scarborough and Whitby	**CON**	**LAB**	1,245	2.7	59.4	Yorks&Humber
Waveney	**LAB**	**CON**	5,950	12	59.4	East
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	**PC**	**LAB**	6,551	17.5	59.3	Wales
Dorset North	**CON**	**LD**	4,200	8.6	59.3	South West
Mid Norfolk	**CON**	**LAB**	7,793	16.3	59.2	East

Election 2010: The Grey Battleground

For many campaign strategists and national media there is particular interest at general elections in seats that may change hands, either because they have narrow majorities, or because of some other factor such as a high profile or controversial independent candidate. If the projections are filtered to look at grey majority seats that are also highly marginal we generate an important list.

For an election in 2010 the data suggests there are 46 grey majority seats in mainland Britain where the notional majority within the new boundaries is very marginal i.e. a winning majority of five per cent or less. Of these 46 seats 14 are held by Labour, 9 by the Liberal Democrats, 1 by the SNP and 22 by the Conservative Party.

Chart: The 46 highly marginal seats with a majority of grey voters (turnout) at a general election held in 2010.

Parliamentary Constituency	2010 % turn 55+	Winner	2nd	Majority	Majority (%)
Clwyd West	61.5	CON	LAB	51	0.1
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	50.6	CON	LAB	22	0.1
Solihull	55.7	CON	LD	124	0.2
York Outer	52.7	LD	CON	203	0.4
North East Somerset	54.4	CON	LAB	212	0.5
Romsey and Southampton North	51.6	LD	CON	204	0.5
Ceredigion	57.0	LD	PC	218	0.6
Cheltenham	50.4	LD	CON	316	0.7
Shipley	51.6	CON	LAB	450	1
Somerton and Frome	57.7	LD	CON	595	1.1
Eastbourne	60.8	CON	LD	672	1.4
Gravesham	50.0	CON	LAB	654	1.4
Wirral West	60.8	CON	LAB	569	1.5
Preseli Pembrokeshire	57.8	CON	LAB	601	1.5
Westmorland and Lonsdale	61.8	LD	CON	806	1.7
Thanet South	58.8	CON	LAB	810	1.8
Arfon	50.0	LAB	PC	456	1.8
Stroud	55.0	LAB	CON	996	1.9
City of Chester	51.5	LAB	CON	973	2.2
Hereford and South Herefordshire	57.0	LD	CON	1,089	2.4
Hastings and Rye	56.2	LAB	CON	1,156	2.5
Scarborough and Whitby	59.4	CON	LAB	1,245	2.7

Calder Valley	50.1	**LAB**	**CON**	1,303	2.7
Stourbridge	52.2	**LAB**	**CON**	1,280	2.9
The Wrekin	51.9	**CON**	**LAB**	1,187	2.9
Taunton Deane	56.1	**LD**	**CON**	1,868	3.3
Vale of Glamorgan	52.1	**LAB**	**CON**	1,574	3.4
Ynys Môn	58.7	**LAB**	**PC**	1,242	3.5
Shrewsbury and Atcham	55.9	**CON**	**LAB**	1,808	3.6
Dorset South	59.6	**LAB**	**CON**	1,812	3.7
High Peak	51.1	**LAB**	**CON**	1,750	3.8
Aberconwy	61.5	**LAB**	**CON**	1,070	3.9
Staffordshire Moorlands	57.2	**CON**	**LAB**	1,618	3.9
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	51.9	**CON**	**LAB**	1,738	3.9
Stafford	53.4	**LAB**	**CON**	1,852	4
Angus	50.7	**SNP**	**CON**	1,601	4.2
Forest of Dean	57.2	**CON**	**LAB**	2,049	4.3
Weston-Super-Mare	56.1	**CON**	**LD**	2,088	4.3
Selby and Ainsty	51.6	**CON**	**LAB**	2,060	4.3
Ludlow	62.4	**CON**	**LD**	2,027	4.4
West Dorset	66.3	**CON**	**LD**	2,461	4.6
Chippenham	53.4	**LD**	**CON**	2,183	4.7
Brighton, Kemptown	51.0	**LAB**	**CON**	1,853	4.8
Burton	50.5	**LAB**	**CON**	2,132	4.8
Meon Valley	55.3	**CON**	**LD**	2,378	4.9
Central Devon	58.6	**CON**	**LD**	2,338	5

The Government's current working majority is 62, so the loss of 32 seats would be enough to lose that majority at the next election. While clearly there will be a diverse range of seats that count as marginals, it is interesting to note that if the Labour government were to fail to retain the 36 grey marginals where it holds majorities of less than 5,000 votes, it would also fail to retain its majority in the House of Commons.

If the categorisation of the highly marginal seats is adjusted to include any seat where the majority last time around was 5,000 votes or less we see a grey battleground in 2010 of 94 seats.

Grey marginals in 2010. By winning party in 2005:

- Labour 38
- Conservative 34
- Liberal Democrat 19
- SNP 2
- Independent 1

Chart: The 94 marginal seats with majorities of less than 5,000 and an estimated majority of grey voters (turnout) at a general election held in 2010.

Parliamentary Constituency	2010 % turnout 55+	Winner	2nd	Maj	Maj (%)
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	50.6	CON	LAB	22	0.1
Clwyd West	61.5	CON	LAB	51	0.1
Solihull	55.7	CON	LD	124	0.2
York Outer	52.7	LD	CON	203	0.4
Romsey and Southampton North	51.6	LD	CON	204	0.5
North East Somerset	54.4	CON	LAB	212	0.5
Ceredigion	57.0	LD	PC	218	0.6
Cheltenham	50.4	LD	CON	316	0.7
Shipley	51.6	CON	LAB	450	1
Arfon	50.0	LAB	PC	456	1.8
Wirral West	60.8	CON	LAB	569	1.5
Somerton and Frome	57.7	LD	CON	595	1.1
Preseli Pembrokeshire	57.8	CON	LAB	601	1.5
Gravesham	50.0	CON	LAB	654	1.4
Eastbourne	60.8	CON	LD	672	1.4
Westmorland and Lonsdale	61.8	LD	CON	806	1.7
Thanet South	58.8	CON	LAB	810	1.8
City of Chester	51.5	LAB	CON	973	2.2
Stroud	55.0	LAB	CON	996	1.9
Aberconwy	61.5	LAB	CON	1,070	3.9
Hereford and South Herefordshire	57.0	LD	CON	1,089	2.4
Hastings and Rye	56.2	LAB	CON	1,156	2.5
The Wrekin	51.9	CON	LAB	1,187	2.9
Ynys Môn	58.7	LAB	PC	1,242	3.5
Scarborough and Whitby	59.4	CON	LAB	1,245	2.7
Stourbridge	52.2	LAB	CON	1,280	2.9
Calder Valley	50.1	LAB	CON	1,303	2.7
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	52.3	SNP	LAB	1,441	10.4
Vale of Glamorgan	52.1	LAB	CON	1,574	3.4
Angus	50.7	SNP	CON	1,601	4.2
Staffordshire Moorlands	57.2	CON	LAB	1,618	3.9

Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	51.9	**CON**	**LAB**	1,738	3.9
High Peak	51.1	**LAB**	**CON**	1,750	3.8
Shrewsbury and Atcham	55.9	**CON**	**LAB**	1,808	3.6
Dorset South	59.6	**LAB**	**CON**	1,812	3.7
Stafford	53.4	**LAB**	**CON**	1,852	4
Brighton, Kemptown	51.0	**LAB**	**CON**	1,853	4.8
Taunton Deane	56.1	**LD**	**CON**	1,868	3.3
Ludlow	62.4	**CON**	**LD**	2,027	4.4
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	58.9	**LAB**	**CON**	2,043	5.3
Forest of Dean	57.2	**CON**	**LAB**	2,049	4.3
Selby and Ainsty	51.6	**CON**	**LAB**	2,060	4.3
Weston-Super-Mare	56.1	**CON**	**LD**	2,088	4.3
Wolverhampton South West	51.6	**LAB**	**CON**	2,114	5.3
Burton	50.5	**LAB**	**CON**	2,132	4.8
Pendle	50.6	**LAB**	**CON**	2,180	5.3
Chippenham	53.4	**LD**	**CON**	2,183	4.7
Central Devon	58.6	**CON**	**LD**	2,338	5
Meon Valley	55.3	**CON**	**LD**	2,378	4.9
Rugby	52.0	**LAB**	**CON**	2,397	5.2
West Dorset	66.3	**CON**	**LD**	2,461	4.6
South Ribble	52.6	**LAB**	**CON**	2,528	5.4
Cleethorpes	55.0	**LAB**	**CON**	2,640	6.1
Totnes	64.9	**CON**	**LD**	2,693	5.8
Torbay	59.8	**LD**	**CON**	2,727	6
Torridge and West Devon	60.9	**CON**	**LD**	2,732	5.4
Camborne and Redruth	57.1	**LD**	**LAB**	2,733	7.1
Chesterfield	53.3	**LD**	**LAB**	2,733	6.4
Bournemouth West	54.3	**CON**	**LD**	2,766	7.6
Cornwall North	59.8	**LD**	**CON**	2,892	6.9
Dumfries and Galloway	53.5	**LAB**	**CON**	2,922	5.7
Wells	58.9	**CON**	**LD**	3,040	5.7
West Worcestershire	61.9	**CON**	**LD**	3,053	6
Great Yarmouth	59.0	**LAB**	**CON**	3,055	7.4
Beverley and Holderness	56.5	**CON**	**LAB**	3,097	6.2
Brigg and Goole	55.0	**LAB**	**CON**	3,217	7.8

Dudley South	52.6	**LAB**	**CON**	3,222	8.9
Blackpool North and Cleveleys	57.8	**LAB**	**CON**	3,241	8.5
Wirral South	59.2	**LAB**	**CON**	3,538	9.3
Clacton	69.0	**CON**	**LAB**	3,629	8.5
Cheadle	55.3	**LD**	**CON**	3,672	7.4
Southport	59.6	**LD**	**CON**	3,838	9.3
Brecon and Radnorshire	61.5	**LD**	**CON**	3,905	10.2
Truro and Falmouth	58.3	**LD**	**CON**	3,931	9.3
Halesowen and Rowley Regis	54.3	**LAB**	**CON**	4,010	9.7
Harborough	54.0	**CON**	**LD**	4,047	8.1
East Dunbartonshire	50.1	**LD**	**LAB**	4,061	8.7
Dudley North	52.4	**LAB**	**CON**	4,106	11.1
Dorset North	59.3	**CON**	**LD**	4,200	8.6
Swansea West	53.4	**LAB**	**LD**	4,269	12.9
Gedling	51.5	**LAB**	**CON**	4,335	9.6
North West Leicestershire	51.9	**LAB**	**CON**	4,477	9.5
Monmouth	59.1	**CON**	**LAB**	4,527	9.9
Bolton North East	51.2	**LAB**	**CON**	4,527	12
Basildon and Billericay	50.7	**CON**	**LAB**	4,559	11.2
Wyre and Preston North	58.1	**IKHC**	**CON**	4,613	9.5
Vale of Clwyd	58.4	**LAB**	**CON**	4,629	14.2
Newton Abbot	61.3	**LD**	**CON**	4,830	10.5
Barrow and Furness	55.4	**LAB**	**CON**	4,843	12.5
Morecambe and Lunesdale	55.2	**LAB**	**CON**	4,849	11.7
Keighley	51.6	**LAB**	**CON**	4,852	10.5
Sefton Central	59.8	**LAB**	**CON**	4,950	12
Hexham	58.8	**CON**	**LAB**	4,957	12
Dover	57.3	**LAB**	**CON**	5,005	10.4

Chart: Labour's 38 Grey Marginals in Britain at the 2010 General Election

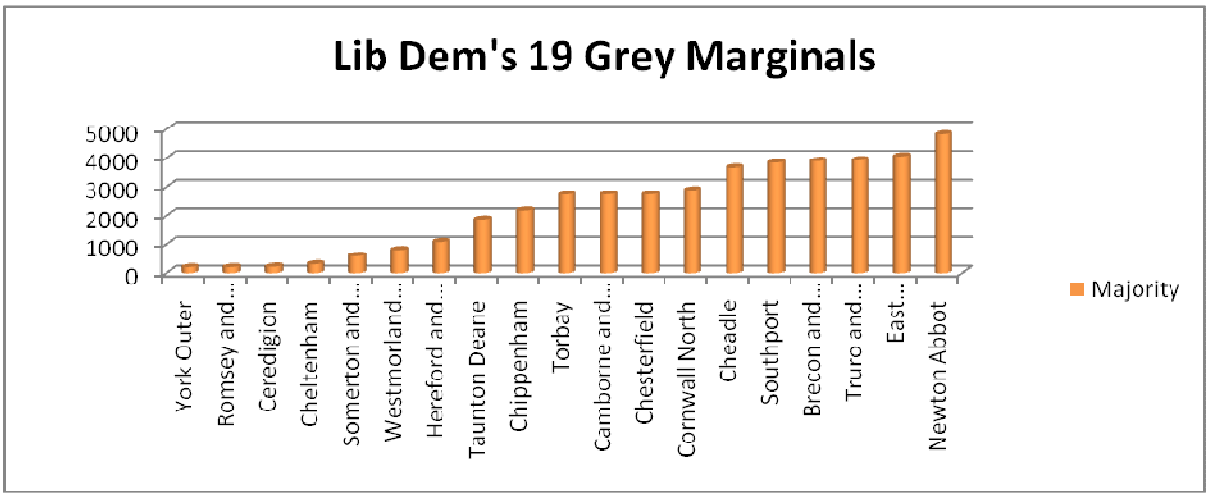
Parliamentary Constituency	2010 % turn 55+	Winner	2nd	Majority	Majority (%)
Arfon	50.0	LAB	PC	456	1.8
City of Chester	51.5	LAB	CON	973	2.2
Stroud	55.0	LAB	CON	996	1.9
Aberconwy	61.5	LAB	CON	1,070	3.9
Hastings and Rye	56.2	LAB	CON	1,156	2.5
Ynys Môn	58.7	LAB	PC	1,242	3.5
Stourbridge	52.2	LAB	CON	1,280	2.9
Calder Valley	50.1	LAB	CON	1,303	2.7
Vale of Glamorgan	52.1	LAB	CON	1,574	3.4
High Peak	51.1	LAB	CON	1,750	3.8
Dorset South	59.6	LAB	CON	1,812	3.7
Stafford	53.4	LAB	CON	1,852	4
Brighton, Kemptown	51.0	LAB	CON	1,853	4.8
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	58.9	LAB	CON	2,043	5.3
Wolverhampton South West	51.6	LAB	CON	2,114	5.3
Burton	50.5	LAB	CON	2,132	4.8
Pendle	50.6	LAB	CON	2,180	5.3
Rugby	52.0	LAB	CON	2,397	5.2
South Ribble	52.6	LAB	CON	2,528	5.4
Cleethorpes	55.0	LAB	CON	2,640	6.1
Dumfries & Galloway	53.5	LAB	CON	2,922	5.7
Great Yarmouth	59.0	LAB	CON	3,055	7.4
Brigg and Goole	55.0	LAB	CON	3,217	7.8
Dudley South	52.6	LAB	CON	3,222	8.9
Blackpool North and Cleveleys	57.8	LAB	CON	3,241	8.5
Wirral South	59.2	LAB	CON	3,538	9.3
Halesowen and Rowley Regis	54.3	LAB	CON	4,010	9.7
Dudley North	52.4	LAB	CON	4,106	11.1
Swansea West	53.4	LAB	LD	4,269	12.9
Gedling	51.5	LAB	CON	4,335	9.6
North West Leicestershire	51.9	LAB	CON	4,477	9.5
Bolton North East	51.2	LAB	CON	4,527	12
Vale of Clwyd	58.4	LAB	CON	4,629	14.2
Barrow and Furness	55.4	LAB	CON	4,843	12.5
Morecambe and Lunesdale	55.2	LAB	CON	4,849	11.7
Keighley	51.6	LAB	CON	4,852	10.5
Sefton Central	59.8	LAB	CON	4,950	12
Dover	57.3	LAB	CON	5,005	10.4

The Liberal Democrats in 2010

It is also worth noting that a significant proportion of the seats that will be defended by the Liberal Democrats are to be found in this list of grey majority marginals. There are 19 Liberal Democrat grey marginals in Britain where they are defending notional majorities of less than 5,000:

York Outer
Romsey and Southampton North
Ceredigion
Cheltenham
Somerton and Frome
Westmorland and Lonsdale
Hereford and South Herefordshire
Taunton Deane
Chippenham
Torbay
Camborne and Redruth
Chesterfield
Cornwall North
Cheadle
Southport
Brecon and Radnorshire
Truro and Falmouth
East Dunbartonshire
Newton Abbot

Chart: In a 2010 general election 19 highly marginal grey seats for the Liberal Democrats



Election 2025

If we project this data forward to 2025 we can see the bigger picture of the rate of change in the age transformation of the British electorate.

The last general election in 2005 saw voters aged 65 and over go past for the first time the one in four voters mark. As we would expect this figure increases incrementally, so that by an election in 2025 over 30% of turnout will be from the over 65s. However, as the rate of ageing in Wales and Scotland is set to run faster than in England, by 2025 over a third of votes cast in Wales and Scotland will come from the over 65s. In these countries over a period 20 years the "pensioner" vote will increase from a quarter to a third.

Chart: The change from 2005 to 2025 in the proportion of turnout comprised of voters aged 65 and over

	2005 65+	2010 65+	2015 65+	2025 65+
England	24.9	26.3	27.6	30.3
Wales	27.4	29.2	31.1	34.8
Scotland	25.1	26.7	28.3	33.0
Great Britain (not inc NI)	25.1	26.5	27.8	30.8

In terms of voters aged 55 and over we also see steady and significant changes in the size of the wider grey vote. At the last election the grey vote (all voters aged 55+) was estimated as being 42.6% of turnout. On this report's assumptions that the age difference in turnout remains unaltered this will rise to 48.9% by 2025, but the grey vote will represent more than half of the votes cast in Wales and Scotland by 2025. The concept of a grey majority that applies to so many constituencies will by 2025 apply to at least 2 of the nations that comprise the United Kingdom.

Chart: The change from 2005 to 2025 in the proportion of turnout comprised of voters aged 55 and over

Grey Vote 55+	GE 2005	GE 2010	GE 2015	GE 2025
England	42.3	43.1	43.9	48.3
Wales	46.3	47.5	48.7	53.5
Scotland	42.9	44.6	46.4	52.4
Great Britain	42.6	43.5	44.4	48.9

Areas of the country where the grey vote will increase the most

The fastest ageing area between 2005 and 2015 is the local authority area of South Northamptonshire

Local Authority		Number of persons 2006	Number of persons 2015	Number of persons 2025
South Northamptonshire	AGES 55-64	11697	12702	16914
South Northamptonshire	65+	12309	17948	23954

Source: Subnational Population Projections 2006, ONS: Crown Copyright.

Between 2005 and 2015 the ONS in projecting that there will be over 5,000 additional people aged over 65 in the local authority area of South Northamptonshire. This translates into an increase of over 45. As we have seen from the previous report, in some urban areas the grey vote decreases, so conversely other areas will age faster than the national average rate. In some areas such as Milton Keynes the growth in the older population is matched by general growth in all age groups. However, in others such as Huntingdon or Tamworth there are falls in the number of persons in some younger age brackets which leads to a more rapid acceleration of the rise of the grey vote in those areas.

The context for these figures are the post war and boomer generations are now retiring or becoming grey voters and their impact on the statistics is plain to see.

Someone who reaches their 65th birthday in 2010 would have been born as the Second World War ended in 1945, and at the beginning of the period that saw the first wave of the baby boom, which was followed by a second wave in the early 1960s.

Someone who attains our grey voter status of 55 years of age in 2010 would have been born in 1955.

Voters born at the beginning of the second post war baby boom become grey voters by an election in 2015. People born in 1960 will have their 55th birthday in 2015 and become by our working definition part of the wider grey vote.

But also in 2015, voters who were 18 in 1967 - the 'summer of love' – will have their 64th birthdays in 2015, joining other older members of the flower power generation who will have already retired.

If we change the focus away from the seats with the oldest age profiles, and instead focus on the constituencies where the grey vote is growing at the fastest rates are in areas not normally associated with older voters. We also see a very rapid expansion of the grey vote, not in the South West or on the south coast where we already have clusters of seats with large proportions of older voters, but instead we see a rapid expansion of the grey vote across the East and East Midlands regions as well as in parts of Scotland and Yorkshire and Humberside.

In the seats where the grey vote is growing at its fastest we can see that the proportion of turnout comprised of voters aged 55 and over is rising at well over 50% in the period between 2005 and 2025. These figures demonstrate how the electoral importance of the grey vote will spread geographically over the next 20 years.

Table: The 50 seats with the biggest rises in the number of voters aged 55 and over in the period between 2005 and 2025.

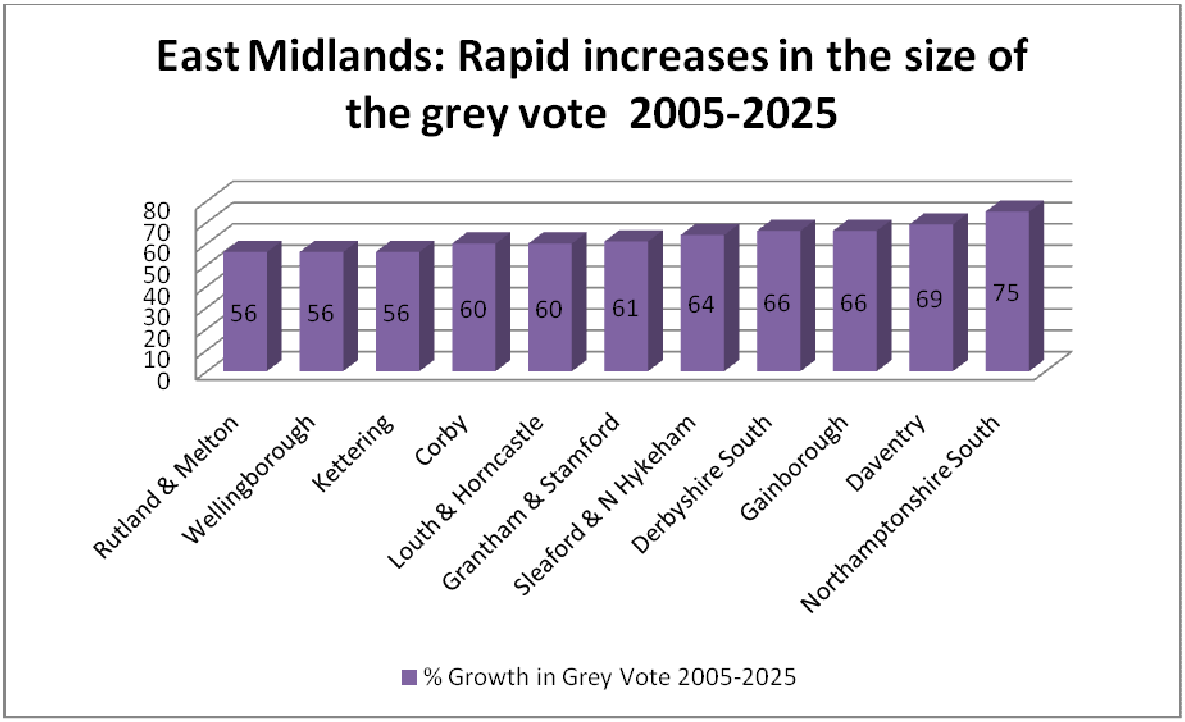
Parliamentary Constituency	change 65+ 0%=100	change 55+ 0%=100	Region	Winner in 2005
Milton Keynes South	199.1	177.3	South East	LAB
Milton Keynes North	199.1	177.0	South East	LAB
South Northamptonshire	194.6	175.4	East Midlands	CON
Daventry	189.5	169.4	East Midlands	CON
Mid Bedfordshire	180.7	168.2	East	CON
South Derbyshire	179.6	166.1	East Midlands	LAB
Gainsborough	181.2	166.1	East Midlands	CON
North East Cambridgeshire	175.5	164.9	East	CON
Huntingdon	186.0	164.9	East	CON
Sleaford and North Hykeham	178.7	164.1	East Midlands	CON
Banff and Buchan	189.9	163.3	Scotland	SNP
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	189.9	161.5	Scotland	LD
Suffolk Coastal	172.4	161.3	East	CON
Grantham and Stamford	177.8	160.7	East Midlands	CON

Corby	171.1	159.8	East Midlands	LAB
Central Suffolk and North Ipswich	173.1	159.7	East	CON
Louth and Horncastle	174.3	159.6	East Midlands	CON
North Wiltshire	171.2	158.5	South West	CON
South East Cambridgeshire	172.0	158.5	East	CON
Torridge and West Devon	175.4	158.3	South West	CON
Chippenham	169.6	158.1	South West	LD
Aylesbury	172.5	157.9	South East	CON
Dorset North	170.5	157.9	South West	CON
North East Bedfordshire	168.5	157.9	East	CON
Witham	173.5	157.3	East	CON
Braintree	173.5	157.3	East	CON
Buckingham	172.5	156.9	South East	CON
Ribble Valley	168.4	156.6	North West	CON
Rutland and Melton	172.5	156.3	East Midlands	CON
Livingston	174.7	156.2	Scotland	LAB
Wellingborough	170.6	156.0	East Midlands	CON
Kettering	168.1	155.9	East Midlands	CON
Bracknell	170.2	155.9	South East	CON
Bury St Edmunds	169.9	155.4	East	CON
Ashford	163.1	154.8	South East	CON
Haltemprice and Howden	169.6	154.6	Yorks&Humber	CON
Yorkshire East	169.6	154.4	Yorks&Humber	CON
The Wrekin	169.7	154.3	West Midlands	CON
Boston and Skegness	167.3	154.1	East Midlands	CON
South East Cornwall	173.8	154.1	South West	LD
Gosport	165.2	153.8	South East	CON
Horsham	167.3	153.8	South East	CON
Brigg and Goole	169.6	153.8	Yorks&Humber	LAB
Selby and Ainsty	170.9	153.7	Yorks&Humber	CON
Romsey and Southampton North	169.3	153.7	South East	LD
Witney	167.6	153.7	South East	CON
Beverley and Holderness	169.6	153.3	Yorks&Humber	CON

Mid Norfolk	166.6	153.2	East	CON
Kensington	162.1	153.1	London	CON
Richmond (Yorks)	168.4	152.7	Yorks&Humber	CON

The East Midlands region is the location of a large cluster of seats which are predicted to age much faster than other regions within Britain. So while constituencies in the East Midlands do not figure in the lists of seats with the highest proportions of older voters, it is the region that will see its age character re-orientate towards older people at a rapid pace.

Chart: The 10 constituencies in the East Midlands with the highest rates of growth in the number of voters aged 55 and over in the period between 2005 and 2025.



Looking forward to 2025 – a post-age transformation electorate?

As we project further into the future we see an age composition of the electorate that is radically different from what we saw at the last general election in 2005.

Voters aged 65+

By 2015 there are now 8 seats projected to have a majority of votes cast by voters aged 65+, and this increases significantly further in 2025 to 39 seats. Although the constituencies in this list are primarily coastal, it should be noted how their distribution is more geographically widespread by 2025, with seats in the North such as Berwick-upon-Tweed, Hexham and Fylde now passing through this landmark figure.

Seats with over half of votes cast by persons aged over 65:

2005	2010	2015	2025
Christchurch	*Christchurch*	*Christchurch*	*Christchurch*
Clacton	*Clacton*	*Clacton*	*West Dorset*
New Forest West	*New Forest West*	*New Forest West*	*New Forest West*
	Worthing West	*Norfolk North*	*Norfolk North*
	Norfolk North	*West Dorset*	*Clacton*
		Worthing West	*Bexhill and Battle*
		Devon East	*Totnes*
		Totnes	*Louth and Horncastle*
			Ludlow
			Lewes
			Herefordshire North
			Worthing West
			Berwick-upon-Tweed
			Westmorland and Lonsdale
			Devon East
			Sefton Central
			Suffolk Coastal
			Southport
			Bognor Regis and Littlehampton
			Chichester
			Arundel and South Downs
			West Worcestershire
			Brecon and Radnorshire

Bridgwater and West Somerset
Derbyshire Dales
Clwyd West
Isle of Wight
Aberconwy
Newton Abbot
Hexham
Wirral West
Tiverton and Honiton
Torridge and West Devon
Boston and Skegness
Fylde
North West Norfolk

Other landmarks for the persons aged over 65 category

This report has already noted the estimated majority of votes cast by people aged 55 and over in a majority of Westminster seats by 2025. At the next general election in 2010 it is also estimated that in most seats a third or more votes cast will come from people aged 65 and over. By the year 2025 466 seats will see at least one third of turnout comprised of voters aged 65 and over.

Number of seats with 40% or more aged 65+
2005 – 53
2010 - 102
2015 – 165
2025 – 294

Number of seats with a third of more of votes cast the over 65s
2005 – 287
2010 - 368
2015 – 411
2025 – 466

Chart: By an election in 2025 39 constituencies will see a majority of votes cast by voters aged 65 or over.

Parliamentary Constituency	2025 % turn 65+
Christchurch	60.1
New Forest West	59.2
Clacton	58.4
West Dorset	58.0
Norfolk North	57.6
Bexhill and Battle	56.8
Worthing West	55.4
Totnes	54.5
Lewes	53.6
Devon East	53.5
Louth and Horncastle	53.4
Southport	53.4
Bognor Regis and Littlehampton	53.3
Suffolk Coastal	53.0
Ludlow	52.9
Herefordshire North	52.8
Berwick-upon-Tweed	52.6
Chichester	52.5
Westmorland and Lonsdale	52.4
Sefton Central	52.1
West Worcestershire	51.9
Wirral West	51.8
Brecon and Radnorshire	51.2
Newton Abbot	51.1
Tiverton and Honiton	50.9
Eastbourne	50.8
Arundel and South Downs	50.7
Aberconwy	50.6
Poole	50.6
Isle of Wight	50.6
North West Norfolk	50.5
Bridgwater and West Somerset	50.5
Clwyd West	50.3
Hexham	50.3
Derbyshire Dales	50.2
Fylde	50.2
Torridge and West Devon	50.1
Boston and Skegness	50.1

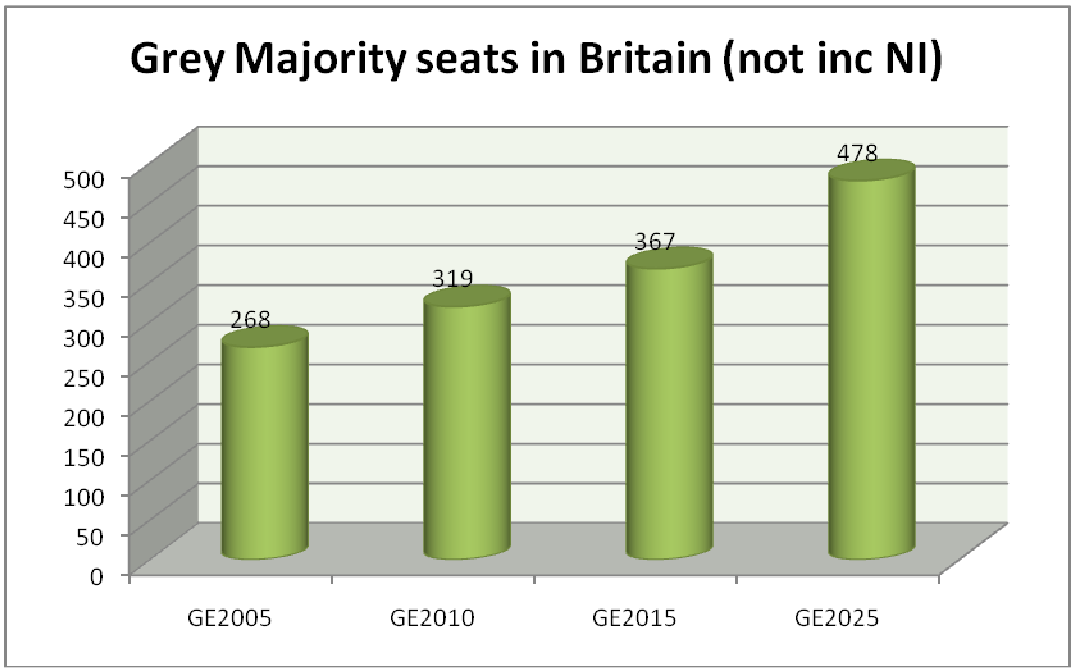
Hereford and South Herefordshire	50.0

The wider Grey Vote

In 2005 there were 268 seats in Britain with a grey majority (i.e. where more than 50% of votes cast are estimated to come from voters aged 55 and over). For the next general election in 2010 this figure rises to 319, meaning that the majority of the 632 constituencies in England, Scotland and Wales will possess a "grey majority".

Looking ahead to 2025 it is estimated that 478 constituencies will have a grey majority. In the 13 seats with the highest proportion of older voters 70% or more of turnout will be comprised of voters aged 55+. In 179 seats the grey vote will make up 60% or more of the turnout.

Chart: The Rise of the Grey Vote 2005-2025. Seats with a majority of votes cast by voters aged 55 and over.



Appendices

1. Estimated age composition of all seats in Britain in 2010
2. Estimated age composition of all seats in Britain in 2025
3. 150 seats in Britain with the highest proportion of voters aged 65 and over in 2010
4. 150 seats in Britain with the highest proportion of voters aged 65 and over in 2025
5. 150 seats in Britain with the highest proportion of voters aged 55 and over in 2010
6. 150 seats in Britain with the highest proportion of voters aged 55 and over in 2025
7. All seats in Scotland ranked by proportion of voters aged 65 and over in 2010
8. All seats in Scotland ranked by proportion of voters aged 55 and over in 2010
9. All seats in Scotland ranked by proportion of voters aged 55 and over in 2025
10. All seats in Wales ranked by proportion of voters aged 55 and over in 2010
11. All seats in Wales ranked by proportion of voters aged 55 and over in 2025