UK AREA INTELLIGENCE

# Herefordshire, County of

Herefordshire, County of, West Midlands, England

LIVEABILITY AND COST REPORT




OVERALL SCORE

**GOOD**

STANDING

**Top 43% of 539 areas**

BIGGEST LEAD

**Safety (79)**

BIGGEST SHORTFALL

**Healthcare (21)**

| £288,979 | 79 | 82 | 68 |
|---|---|---|---|
| AVERAGE HOME | SAFETY | COST OF LIVING | WEATHER |

A free report on what it is like to live in Herefordshire, County of, and what it costs. Twelve categories scored from open government data, each compared against every other area in our index, with the source behind every figure named where it appears.

INSIDE THIS REPORT

- The twelve category scores in full
- The cost of buying, and buying against renting
- Which households the area suits
- Places elsewhere with a similar profile
- How Herefordshire, County of compares with every scored area
- Air quality against the published limits
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## How to read this report

Every figure here is published by a government body or another open source, and every one is named where it appears. Nothing is estimated to fill a gap: where a dataset has not loaded for this area, the category is left out of the overall score and the remaining weights are rebalanced, which is why the completeness figure on the cover matters as much as the score beside it.

Scores run from 0 to 100 and are ours, not anybody official. They exist to make twelve very different measurements comparable on one scale, and they are calibrated against every other area in our index rather than against an absolute standard. A 70 therefore means "well above the typical UK area we have scored", not "seven out of ten".

THE BANDS USED THROUGHOUT

| SCORE | BAND | WHAT IT MEANS |
|---|---|---|
| **85 to 100** | **Excellent** | Among the strongest areas in the index on this measure |
| **70 to 84** | **Very good** | Clearly above the typical scored area |
| **55 to 69** | **Good** | Around the middle of the index |
| **40 to 54** | **Fair** | Below the typical scored area |
| **0 to 39** | **Challenging** | Among the weakest in the index, or measured against a difficult baseline |

Two measurements are not comparable across the United Kingdom and are never ranked together in this document. Recorded crime in England and Wales is a count of offences within about a mile over one month, while Scotland publishes an annual rate per 10,000 residents by council. School attainment uses Attainment 8 in England, the Capped 9 points score in Wales and the average highest SCQF level of school leavers in Scotland. Each is compared within its own nation.

This report is guidance built from published statistics. It is not financial, mortgage, legal or investment advice, and TrackPostcode.UK is not authorised or regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

SUMMARY

# In short

**Herefordshire, County of scores 68 out of 100 overall, putting it in the top 43 per cent of the 539 UK areas we have scored. Its biggest lead is safety, scoring 79 against the English median of 52; its biggest shortfall is healthcare, 21 against 54.**

- Nearest scored area: Hereford, about 2 miles away, scoring 71.
- Median overall score across the 539 areas in the index: 67 out of 100.
- Categories without data are excluded from the overall score rather than estimated.

HEREFORDSHIRE, COUNTY OF AT A GLANCE

| MEASURE | FIGURE |
|---|---|
| **Local authority** | Herefordshire, County of |
| **Constituency** | North Herefordshire |
| **Overall score** | 68 out of 100, good |
| **Report completeness** | 100 per cent of categories carry data |
| **Average property price** | £288,979 |

# The twelve categories

Each category is scored 0 to 100 from its own named source, then combined into the overall score using the weights shown. A category with no data for this area is excluded rather than guessed at.



Weights are rebalanced across whatever categories have data, so an area missing one is neither rewarded nor punished for the gap. Completeness for this report is 100 per cent.

# How Herefordshire, County of compares

A score on its own says very little. The same score against the median of every area we have scored says a great deal, and it is the difference between a figure and a finding.

AGAINST 539 SCORED AREAS. ENGLAND AND UK COLUMNS ARE MEDIANS

| CATEGORY | SCORE | ENGLAND | UK | DIFF | POSITION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost of living** | **82** | 71 | 72 | **+11** | top 25% |
| **Affordability** | **62** | 64 | 68 | **-2** | bottom 39% |
| **Safety** | **79** | 52 | 52 | **+27** | top 1% |
| **Weather** | **68** | 72 | 72 | **-4** | bottom 38% |
| **Employment** | **73** | 61 | 59 | **+12** | top 12% |
| **Housing** | **87** | 83 | 83 | **+4** | top 37% |
| **Transport** | **50** | 75 | 75 | **-25** | bottom 9% |
| **Broadband** | **84** | 88 | 88 | **-4** | bottom 34% |
| **Environment** | **97** | 89 | 91 | **+8** | top 27% |
| **Healthcare** | **21** | 54 | 52 | **-33** | bottom 4% |
| **Education** | **36** | 39 | 40 | **-3** | bottom 33% |
| **Lifestyle** | **25** | 56 | 54 | **-31** | bottom 1% |

What this area does well. Measured against everywhere else in the index, the standouts are safety (79, 27 above the median), employment (73, 12 above the median) and cost of living (82, 11 above the median).

Where it falls short. Healthcare (21, 33 below), lifestyle (25, 31 below) and transport (50, 25 below).

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# What a home here costs

What the score means in cash. The average home here is £288,979, 7 per cent above the median of the areas we have scored. With a ten per cent deposit of £28,898, repaying the rest costs about £1,676 a month, £867 more than renting at the local average of £809, and needs a household income of about £57,800 to borrow.

THE COST OF BUYING IN HEREFORDSHIRE, COUNTY OF

| MEASURE | FIGURE |
|---|---|
| **Average property price** | £288,979 (June 2026) |
| **Change over 12 months** | +4.5%, rising |
| **Against the index median** | 7% above £270,569 |
| **10% deposit** | £28,898 |
| **15% deposit** | £43,347 |
| **Price to earnings** | 7.4 times UK median full-time earnings of £39,039 |
| **Monthly repayment** | £1,676 on a £260,081 mortgage (10% deposit, 6% over 25 years) |
| **Against renting** | £867 more than the £809 average monthly rent |
| **Income to borrow it** | About £57,800 a year at 4.5 times income |

Prices are the HM Land Registry UK House Price Index average for this local authority, covering every property type together. Earnings are the UK median for full-time employees, not a local figure, so the multiple compares areas on a common basis rather than describing local pay. This is illustrative arithmetic, not a mortgage assessment or financial advice.

# Air quality against the limits

Fine particulates, at 5.4, sit inside the UK 2040 target of 10 but above the World Health Organization guideline of 5, as in most of Britain. Nitrogen dioxide, at 4.1, is well inside the UK limit of 40 and inside the WHO guideline of 10.

MODELLED BACKGROUND CONCENTRATION, MICROGRAMS PER CUBIC METRE

| POLLUTANT | HEREFORDSHIRE, COUNTY OF | UK OBJECTIVE | WHO GUIDELINE | STANDING |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fine particulates (PM2.5)** | **5.4** | 10 | 5 | Inside UK, above WHO |
| **Nitrogen dioxide (NO2)** | **4.1** | 40 | 10 | Inside both |

Neighbourhood background levels from the Defra 1 km model; readings beside a busy road are higher. UK figures are the legal limit (NO2) and 2040 target (PM2.5); WHO figures are health guidelines, not law.

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# Who Herefordshire, County of suits

Herefordshire, County of suits most households about equally: from the top 25% for families to the top 49% for retirees of the 539 areas we have scored.

THE SAME CATEGORIES, WEIGHTED FOR DIFFERENT LIVES

| HOUSEHOLD | SCORE | STANDING | WHAT IT WEIGHTS |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Families** | 67 | top 25% | Weighted towards schools, safety, housing and healthcare. |
| **Remote workers** | 71 | top 38% | Weighted towards broadband, cost of living, environment and weather. |
| **Young professionals** | 68 | top 38% | Weighted towards employment, lifestyle, transport and broadband. |
| **Students** | 69 | top 43% | Weighted towards cost of living, lifestyle, transport and safety. |
| **Retirees** | 67 | top 49% | Weighted towards healthcare, safety, environment and cost of living. |

# Nearby, and places like it

### Scored areas within about 50 miles

| AREA | DISTANCE | WHERE | OVERALL | BAND |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Hereford** | 2.1 mi | Herefordshire, County of, West Midlands, England | 71 | Very good |
| **Leominster** | 10 mi | Herefordshire, County of, West Midlands, England | 69 | Good |
| **Ross-on-Wye** | 13 mi | Herefordshire, County of, West Midlands, England | 67 | Good |
| **Ledbury** | 14 mi | Herefordshire, County of, West Midlands, England | 69 | Good |
| **Great Malvern** | 18 mi | Malvern Hills, West Midlands, England | 61 | Good |
| **Monmouth** | 19 mi | Monmouthshire, Wales | 63 | Good |

### Areas with the most similar profile, anywhere in the country

| AREA | WHERE | OVERALL | AVERAGE GAP |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Shepton Mallet** | Somerset, South West, England | 64 | 5.1 |
| **Crewkerne** | Somerset, South West, England | 66 | 5.8 |
| **Stone** | Stafford, West Midlands, England | 69 | 6.3 |
| **Shaftesbury** | Dorset, South West, England | 64 | 6.3 |
| **Chard** | Somerset, South West, England | 63 | 6.4 |

Ranked by the average difference across every category both areas have data for, so a smaller gap is a closer match. Immediate neighbours are excluded. These are matches on the shape of the data rather than on character: two areas can score alike and feel nothing like each other.

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# Weather and the outdoors

The Met Office Ross-on-Wye station, 22 km away, records 1,461 hours of sunshine a year, 812 mm of rain and a mean summer high of 22.3 degrees. Those figures and the winter low, four measurements in all, produce the outdoor scores below.




Climate normals are multi-year averages, so they describe the usual pattern rather than any one year.

# What this report does not tell you

Every figure here is real. That does not make it complete, and four limits are worth holding in mind before acting on any of it.

### Averages describe an area, not an address

Cost of living, affordability, housing, employment, broadband and education are published for a whole local authority, and education sometimes for the county. Every street in Herefordshire, County of shares the council figures, including streets that are nothing like each other. Weather, amenities, healthcare, transport and air quality, and crime, are measured around the exact point searched and are genuinely local.

### Recorded crime is not the same as crime

The safety figure counts offences reported to the police, so it reflects both what happened and how willing people were to report it. It counts offences within about a mile of the point, per resident where the population is known, so a busy centre that draws in visitors records more than a quiet suburb regardless of how safe it is to live in.

### Amenity counts come from a volunteer map

Shops, surgeries, parks and transport stops are counted from OpenStreetMap, which is thorough in most of Britain and thinner in some rural areas. A low lifestyle or healthcare score can occasionally mean the map is incomplete rather than the services are absent.

### Climate is not a forecast

The weather scores are multi-year averages from the nearest long-running Met Office station, used only when it is within 40 km. They describe the usual pattern, not next week, and in hilly country two places ten miles apart can differ more than the station suggests.

None of this is a reason to distrust the figures. It is the difference between a number and a decision, and the decision is still yours.

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# Method and sources

Every category below is loaded from the source named against it. Nothing on this page is modelled by us except the 0 to 100 mapping itself, which is documented in full at trackpostcode.uk/methodology.

| CATEGORY | SOURCE | MEASURED AT |
|---|---|---|
| **Cost of living** | ONS | Local authority, so every address in it shares this figure |
| **Affordability** | HM Land Registry | Local authority, so every address in it shares this figure |
| **Safety** | police.uk | Within about one mile of this point, latest published month |
| **Weather** | Met Office | Met Office Ross-on-Wye station, 22 km away, multi-year averages |
| **Employment** | ONS / NOMIS | Local authority, so every address in it shares this figure |
| **Housing** | HM Land Registry | Local authority, so every address in it shares this figure |
| **Transport** | DfT NaPTAN | Stops within 800 m and the nearest railway station |
| **Broadband** | Ofcom Connected Nations | Local authority, so every address in it shares this figure |
| **Environment** | Defra UK-AIR | The Defra 1 km grid cell containing this point |
| **Healthcare** | OpenStreetMap | Services within about 2 km, hospitals within about 8 km |
| **Education** | DfE and devolved governments | Local authority, latest published year |
| **Lifestyle** | OpenStreetMap | Amenities within about 2 km of this exact point; private gardens no |

### How the overall score for Herefordshire, County of was calculated

Each category score is multiplied by its weight, the weights are rebalanced across whatever categories have data, and the results are added. No adjustment is applied afterwards.

| CATEGORY | SCORE | BASE WEIGHT | REBALANCED | CONTRIBUTION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost of living** | 82 | 15% | 15.0% | 12.3 |
| **Affordability** | 62 | 15% | 15.0% | 9.3 |
| **Safety** | 79 | 10% | 10.0% | 7.9 |
| **Weather** | 68 | 10% | 10.0% | 6.8 |
| **Employment** | 73 | 10% | 10.0% | 7.3 |
| **Housing** | 87 | 10% | 10.0% | 8.7 |
| **Transport** | 50 | 5% | 5.0% | 2.5 |
| **Broadband** | 84 | 5% | 5.0% | 4.2 |
| **Environment** | 97 | 5% | 5.0% | 4.9 |
| **Healthcare** | 21 | 5% | 5.0% | 1.1 |
| **Education** | 36 | 5% | 5.0% | 1.8 |
| **Lifestyle** | 25 | 5% | 5.0% | 1.3 |
| **Overall** | | | **100%** | **68** |

Rebalanced weights are the base weights divided by the total for the categories that carry data here, which is what stops a missing dataset dragging the overall score down. Contributions are rounded for display and may not sum to the exact total shown.

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THE LIVE REPORT

# This report is a snapshot. The page behind it is not.

Crime data refreshes when police.uk publishes each month, house prices follow the monthly Land Registry index, and the score index behind the comparisons is rebuilt every night. The online version of this report always carries the current figures, along with the full breakdown behind every category.

OPEN THE LIVE REPORT

**trackpostcode.uk/herefordshire-county-of/**

**Compare anywhere else** — trackpostcode.uk

Search any UK postcode, town, city or council for the same twelve categories.

**Rank by what matters to you** — trackpostcode.uk/relocation-score/

The relocation quiz reweights every area against your own priorities.

**Check what you could afford** — trackpostcode.uk/affordability-calculator/

The affordability calculator works the sums against your salary and savings.

**Read the method in full** — trackpostcode.uk/methodology/

Every weight, every threshold and every source, written out.

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