

Basingstoke 1851 Census Analysis

Each District of the Basingstoke 1851 census was transcribed into an Microsoft EXCEL[®] file from photocopies of the enumerators' sheets by members of the VCH Hampshire (Basingstoke Hundred) Revision working party under the direction of team leader Dr Jean Morrin of the University of Winchester.

Eastrop parish on the east side of Basingstoke was enumerated separately and not included in this analysis. It had one public house, The Goat, and two houses just inside the parish boundary which really belong in the Basingstoke analysis. A further anomaly is that Basingstoke civil parish includes a major part of Worting village – Worting Town End lying about two miles west of Basingstoke town¹. In 1851 Worting as a whole would have been a fairly self-contained community. The data for Worting Town End, however, has been included in the analysis as it was difficult to determine what to include and what to leave out. These omissions and inclusions do not alter the statistics significantly or the conclusions drawn.

The quality of handwriting on some of the enumeration sheets made some entries difficult to read so that there are reading errors in some of the transcriptions. This mainly affects surnames and some street names so does not affect the analysis presented here.

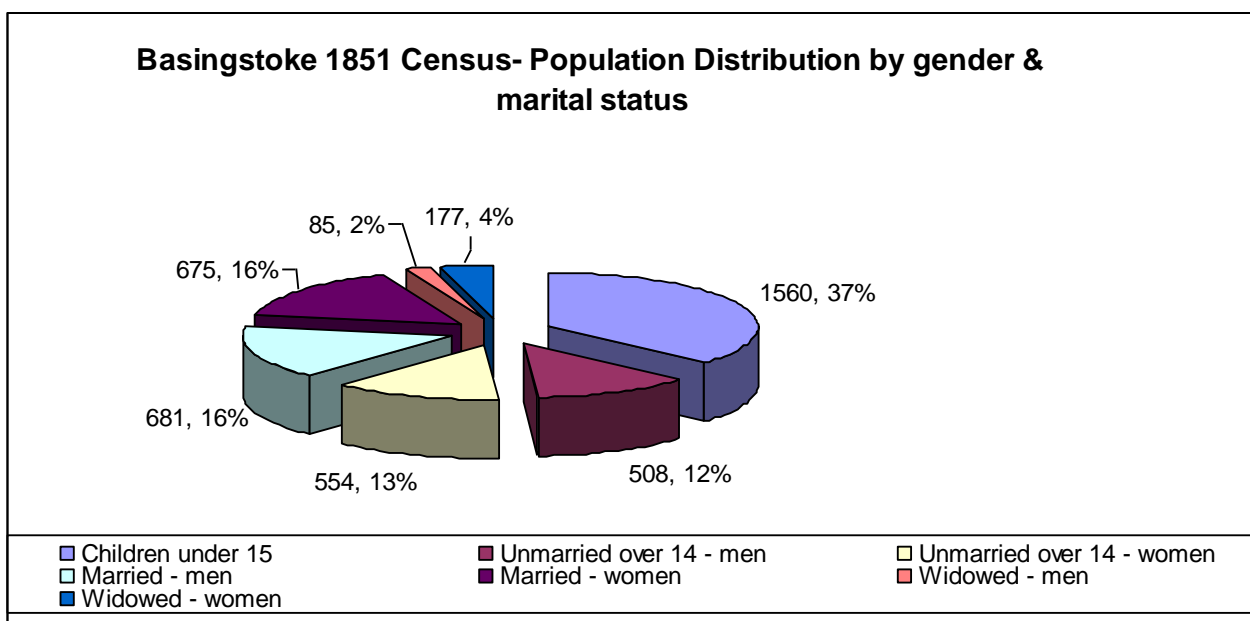
A series of analyses of the data for residents is presented. These are:-

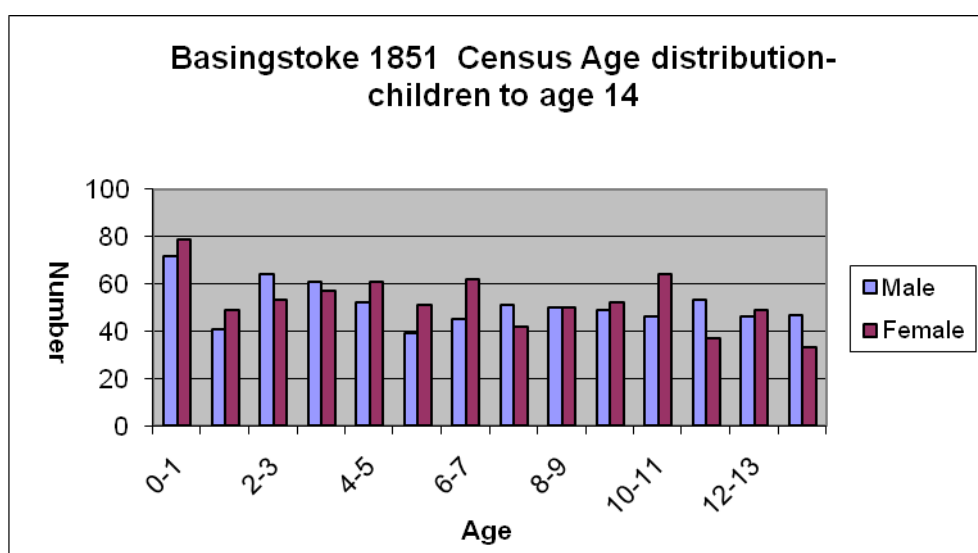
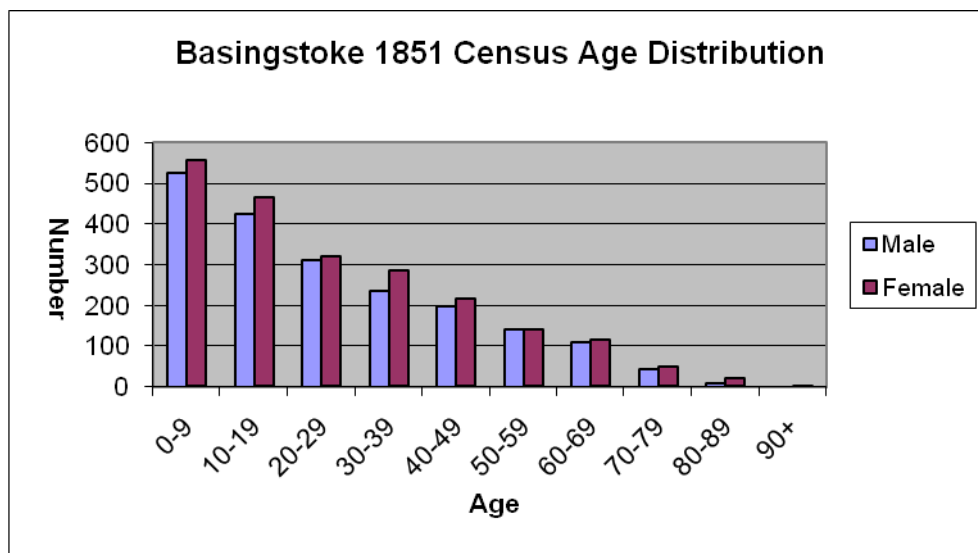
- Population by age distribution – overall, by gender and marital status.
- Origin and distance travelled to reach Basingstoke.
- Occupations and numbers.
- The number of households with servants.
- Age distribution plots of the major employment groups ie, Ag Labs, Servants and Garment workers

Population

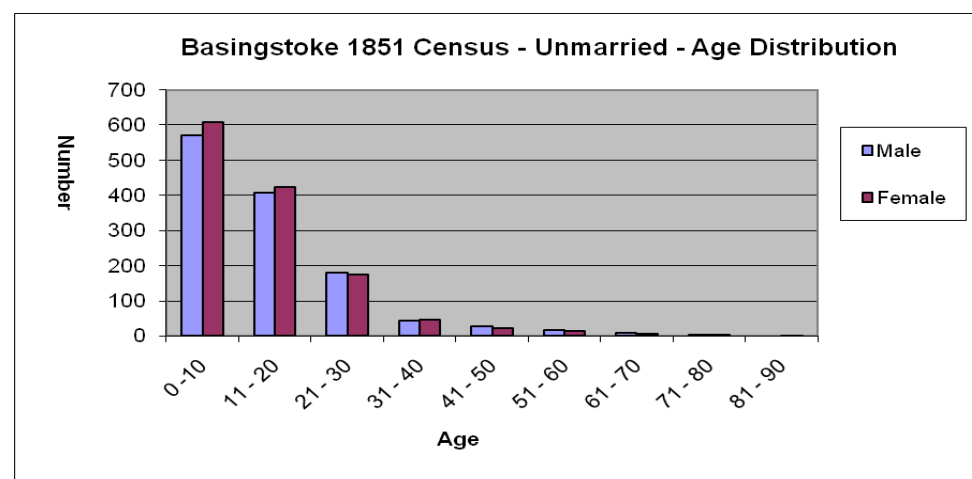
On census night there were 4262 residents, (2113 male and 2149 female), of whom just over half (2198) were born within 1 mile of the town, 526 were born within 2-5 miles and a further 404 within 5-10 miles. There were 98 visitors giving a place of birth other than Basingstoke who were not counted as residents in any of the analyses presented below.

The charts show the population distribution.

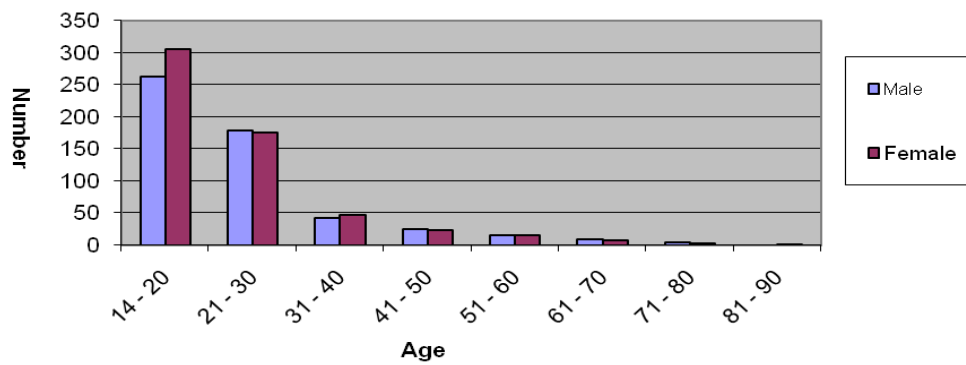




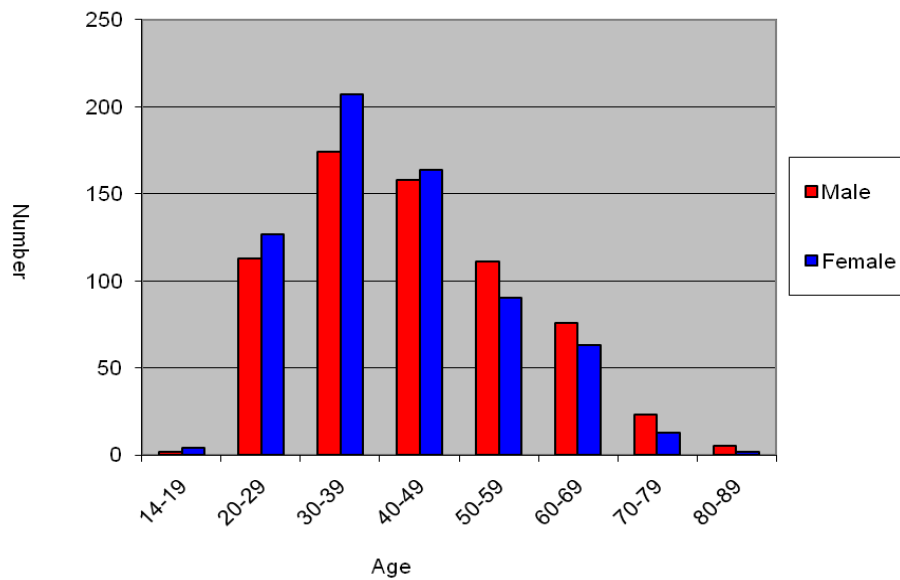
The high number of 0-1 year olds compared with the relatively constant numbers in the rest of the range, probably reflects the infant mortality of the period.



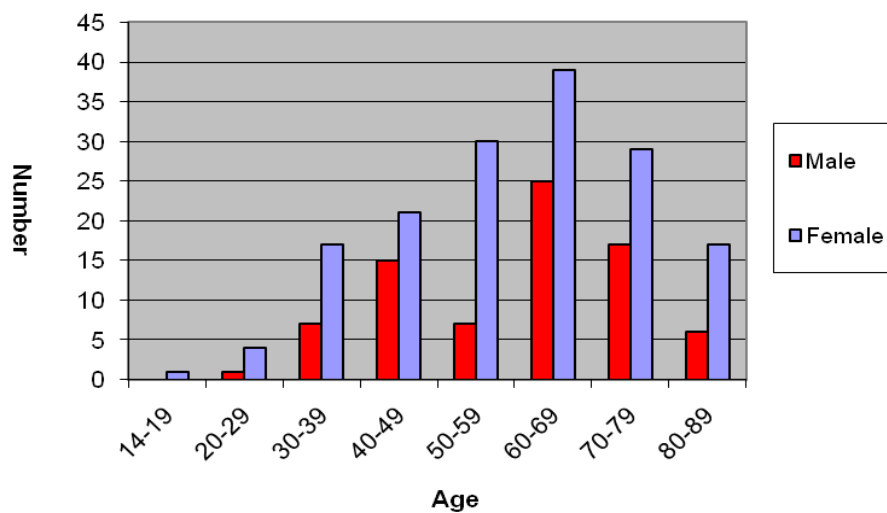
**Basingstoke 1851 Census - Umarried - Age Distribution
excluding children under 14**



**Basingstoke 1851 Census - Married
Age Distribution**



Basingstoke 1851 Census - Widow/er - Age Distribution



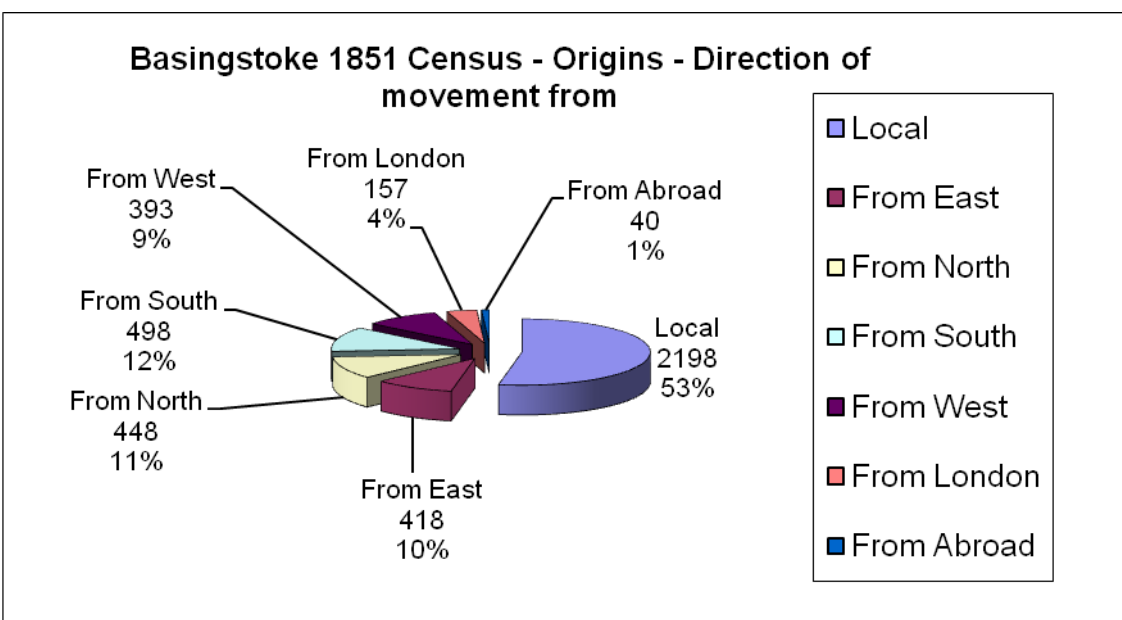
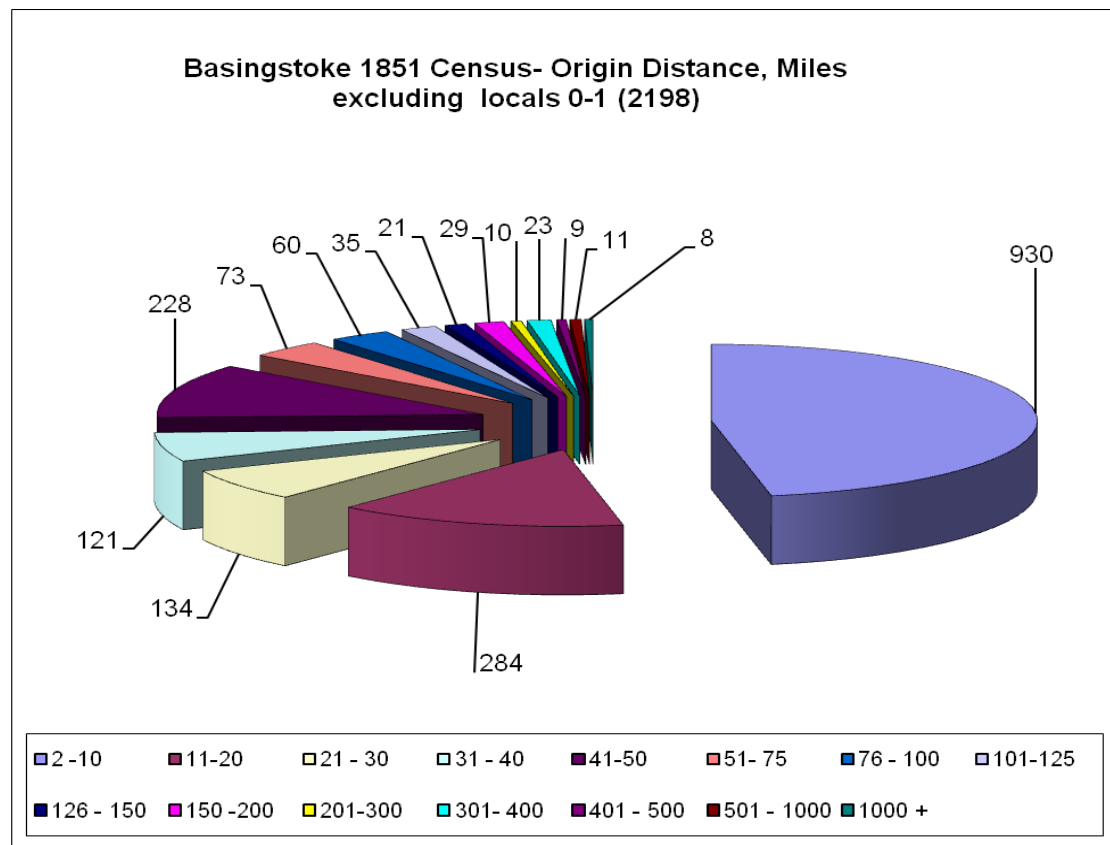
Migration from Basingstoke

In the overall National 1851 census, 1892 non-Basingstoke residents claimed the town as their place of birth with 441 living within 10 miles of the town. The number of emigrants out of the country cannot be determined from the census data.

Migration into Basingstoke

The two charts below give:

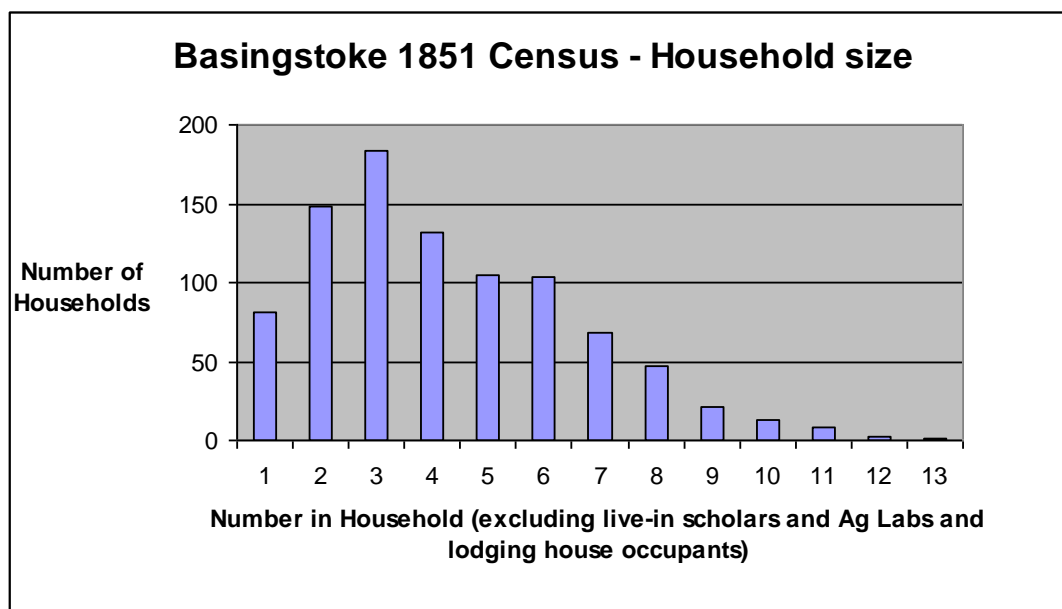
- the distance travelled from place of birth
- the direction of travel of those who migrated to Basingstoke.



Households

There were 906 heads of household, of which 19 were in multiple-occupation houses (ie there was more than one schedule number for the same house) and 6 in the Pest House recorded as Paupers. 143 households had live-in servants - many with two or more servants. Several of the traders had live-in staff, one draper in the Market Place had 9 assistants, 2 apprentices and 4 servants living-in. Four boarding schools had 22, 18, 15 and 6 pupils. Of the 133 lodgers recorded, 23 were in Moth's lodging house in Flaxpool – Mrs Moth being recorded as Landlady; 14 were with Mr Gilley in Reading Rd and 13 with Mr Digwell in Flaxpool. A few of the public houses had lodgers; however, most were single lodgers in private households, often in the poorer areas of the town with families with several children; this implies overcrowding. This implication also applies where family members, not recorded as lodgers, eg father, brother etc, are in the household. It is not possible to determine accurately the number of houses in multiple occupation because most of the census does not record house number against schedule number and the transcripts do not record the enumerator's marks; the figure of 19 recorded is probably a considerable under-estimate. 47 domestic properties were unoccupied.

The chart below shows the distribution of the size of household



A number of conclusions can be drawn from the analyses.

In 1851, given the number of unoccupied properties (47), there was no shortage of property to rent, unlike the situation that obtained later in the century as the population grew. Four houses are recorded as being built.

Basingstoke in 1851 was an agricultural market town, acting as the focus for a large hinterland from which a considerable number of people (930, 21% of the population) had migrated, many were families (total 'incomers' were 1961, 45% of the population). However, comparing the number of immigrants with the number of emigrants there was only a population gain of 63.

There were 72 people 'living on their own means'; 4 Landed Proprietors, one land holder and one land owner; 58 paupers; 10 occupants of almshouses and one prisoner. 21 people were noted with disabilities: 11 were blind, including 3 noted as paupers; 7 were deaf, including one married couple; one was dumb; one was a cripple and one was infirm.

Employment

There were 1673 people with stated occupations, 25 people specifically stated as retired, 5 men specifically stated as unemployed, and 49 males over the age of 14 had no occupation stated.

There were a small number of ‘professionals’: 1 architect, 2 attorneys, 1 engineer, 1 solicitor, 1 surgeon apothecary, 3 general practitioners – one also acting as a banker, 1 clerk to the canal company (ie company secretary), 2 midwives, 6 ministers of religion, 5 surveyors, 20 teachers/schoolmaster/mistress and 1 vet.

The ministers of religion were: the Vicar of Basingstoke and a curate, the Rector of Eastrop, 2 Independent ie Congregational ministers with separate churches and one for the Countess of Huntingdon’s Connexion. There was an old-established Quaker presence in the town; a building had been licensed for Baptist gatherings in 1729² and the Wesleys³ and Whitfield had made converts to Methodism in the town but nothing of these sects is apparent in the census.

Local and national government posts were: 1 Excise Officer, 5 policemen, 9 postmen, 1 Relieving Officer, 1 road surveyor, 1 High Bailiff of the County Court (also newsagent, so probably a part-time court officer, not a professional), and 1 scavenger (hardly a professional, but employed by the town).

A large number (477 if 48 laundresses are included) of “petty entrepreneurs”, those presumed to be working on their own account, are recorded. The trades are shown in Table 1. Many probably employed one or two assistants, although not many are recorded as employing workers. Some of those counted are probably employees, it is not possible to tell which from the census. Quite a few of the unmarried women without a recorded occupation and wives in the families of these “petty entrepreneurs” probably assisted in the business. That assumption can be made but there is no way of confirming it. The range of trades practised by the “petty entrepreneurs” in the town was quite restricted, despite the length of Table 1. Of the ‘petty entrepreneurs’, who can be definitely identified as working on their own account 96 (40%) were born in Basingstoke and a further 42 (18%) were born in the local villages. The remaining 97 (42%) were immigrants from further afield; some of whom became prominent in town affairs, eg Robert Cottle, printer, from Taunton; John Lodwidge, ironmonger, from London and John Burgess Soper, gunsmith, from Padworth.

Table 1

Trade	No Male	No Female
Agent to railway carrier	1	
Apothecary	1	
Artist - one landscape, the other portrait & landscape	2	
Auctioneer/Estate agent	2	
Appraiser & Dealer in paintings	1	
Baker employing men - one employing 2 men, also flour dealer	3	
Baker – some may be employees – not possible to determine which. One also beer retailer	16	1
Bargemaster	2	
Basket maker	2	
Blacksmith – most are probably employees – not possible to determine which	12	
Boot & Shoe Maker	9	
Cordwainer – 1 employing 3 men & 1 boy. One also beer retailer	8	
Shoemaker – 1 employing 3 men	10	
Breeches maker	1	
Brewer & spirit merchant	1	
Brewer, 2 common brewers, 1 professed[?] brewer- some may be employees	10	
Builder – employing 1 (also auctioneer) 4 men, 2 28 men, 3 10 men, 4 (also innkeeper) 3 men, 5 8 men	6	
Butcher – some may be employees – not possible to determine which.	10	
Butcher- Pork	3	
Brass & Iron founder - employing 6 labourers	1	
Cabinet Maker – 1 employing 1 man	3	
Cab man	2	
Cap maker	1	

Trade	No Male	No Female
Carpenter - employing 1 2 men, 2 4 men, 3 ? men	3	
Carpenter -probably mostly employees	26	
Castrator	1	
Cattle dealer	1	
Chemist & druggist – 1 employing 1 man	2	
Chimney sweeper - one employing his 2 sons, one employing 2 thirteen year old boys.	2	
China dealer – 1 employing 2 men, 2 also clothier employing 1 man	3	
Classical teacher (of what not recorded)	1	
Coach builder - employing 1 3 men, 2 3 men	4	
Coal dealer/agent	2	
Confectioner – some may be employees – not possible to determine which.	5	
Corn Chandler/Factor	3	
Corn & seed merchant employing 7 men	1	
Corn & coal merchant employing 4 men	1	
Cooper/ Joiner – employing 2 men	1	
Currier & leather cutter. One also publican	2	
Cutler/Bellhanger (2)	3	
Dairyman One employing 3 men, with 16 acres	2	
Dealer in rags	1	
Draper - one employing 8 assistants (5 male & 3 female), 1 clerk & 2 apprentices. Draper, Clothier and Hatter employing 2 men. Linen Draper employing 2 men	3	1
Linen & Woollen Draper employing 3 men & 1 woman apprentice Woollen Draper & tailor employing 4 men. Draper & Tea dealer.	3	
Dressmakers - not possible to determine which are employees. See comment, page 12		52
Fishmonger	4	
Fly Driver	1	
Fruiterer & Bakehouse keeper		1
General Dealer/Shopkeeper	5	
Grocer/Tea dealer /Provision merchant/ Purveyor- employing 1 2 men, 2 5 men. One a Chelsea Pensioner	17	2
Gun maker - employing 1 4 men, 2 1 man	2	
Hairdresser – one employing 1 man	3	
Harness Maker – some may be employees – not possible to determine which.	6	1
Saddler – 1 employing 1 man	5	
Saddler & Harness maker	1	
Hatter	1	
Hawker	2	1
Hoop maker/cleaver	3	
Horsekeeper	1	
Innkeeper/Victualler - a separate analysis of these will be produced	22	2
Beer retailer	5	
Ironmonger	4	
Jeweller	1	
Letting house keeper/Landlady	1	1
Laundress - most probably working from home, not possible to determine which are employees.		48
Maltster	6	
Mealman	1	
Midwife	2	
Milliner - some may be employees		8
Milliner/dressmaker		3

Trade	No Male	No Female
Miller	4	
Miller & corn dealer - employing 2 men	1	
Millwright - employing 3 men	1	
Mop & bucket maker	1	
Musical Instrument maker	1	
Newsagent (also High Bailiff of the County Court)	1	
Nurse	6	
Painter - employing 1 man	1	
Ornamental painter - employing 2 men	1	
Painter and glazier - employing 1 2 men, 2 1 man	3	
Pipe (tobacco) maker - one employing 2 men	3	
Plumber – one employing 4 men & 2 apprentices. Some may be employees.	6	
Plumber & Glazier employing 2 men. Plumber, Painter & Glazier, 1 employing 4 men & 2 apprentices, 2 employing 1 man	3	
Printer - employing 1 2 men, 2 3 men & 3 apprentices	2	
Proprietor of Boarding School	1	2
Proprietor of houses	2	6
Rail Station Agent - May be GWR Stationmaster	1	
Rope maker- may be employed by the Sack Manufacturer	2	
Sack manufacturer - employing 2 men	1	
Shoeing smith - one employing 2 men. Smith/Farrier employing 1 man	3	
Stationer		1
Stone Mason employing 2 men	1	
Straw Bonnet maker		2
Tailor - not possible to tell how many were employees.	19	2
Thatcher	4	
Timber agent/dealer/converter	3	
Tobacconist		1
Trainer of horses	1	
Trainer of race horses	1	
Umbrella maker	1	
Upholsterer - employing 4 men	1	
Watch & clock maker - 1 employing 1 man & the woman employing 1 man	3	1
Wheelwright - the woman employing 2 men	1	1
Wood turner	1	
Writer & grainer	1	
Total	340	137

Table 2 shows the farms and their occupants.

Table 2

Farm Name	Size	Owner/Tenant/Occupant	Comments
Down Farm	Not recorded	Landholder (widow), 2 servants, coachman & gardener	Only occupying Down House (modern Beechdown House). Farm owned and leased out by the Trustees of The Queen's School. ⁴
Down Grange Farm	Not recorded	Bailiff and 1 Ag Lab	
Old Down Farm	Not recorded	Ag Lab with wife and child	

Farm Name	Size	Owner/Tenant/Occupant	Comments
Buckskin Farm	Not recorded	Ag Lab with wife and child, 3 Ag lab	These four adjacent farms amounting to several hundred acres, all in modern Kempshott, were probably being farmed as a unit for the Landholder in Down Farm by the bailiff at Down Grange.
South Ham Farm	243 acres	Farmer, wife & 5 children – oldest son a miller. 5 Ag Lab, 1 servant	Employing 6 men
West Ham Farm	Not recorded	Farmer. Unmarried, 31. No other details	
Bury Farm	401 acres	Farmer (widower), 2 servants, 7 Ag Lab	Employing 20 men Bury Farm, Winklebury
North Ham Farm	Not recorded	Ag Lab with wife, 5 children & a nephew	
Viabels Farm	860 acres	Farmer, wife, 7 children, 2 Ag Lab & servant	Employing 20 men and his 2 eldest sons. Modern Viabels
Skippets	54 acres	Landowner, wife, 5 children, governess, 3 servants	Employing 2 men & a boy
Not named	16 acres	Dairyman – Not living on farm	Employing 3 men
Not named	146 Acres	Wallis – Iron founder & farmer	Employing 6 men
Not named	unknown	Charles May of the May's brewery family (age 15) is recorded as a farmer.	This May family are known from earlier directories to be farmers, presumably growing their own barley for malting. Another branch of the May clan had extensive farming interests in the parishes to the east of Basingstoke

The named farms are those created in Basingstoke parish by the Enclosure Act of 1788 and occupy most of parish, only the land from North Field (the modern South View) is not identifiable from this list.

The main employments were agricultural (Ag Labs 286), domestic service (316), tailoring and dressmaking (73) and shop work (51). There were 44 apprentices.

Table 2 only accounts for 63 out of the 286 Ag Labs recorded. Where did they work? Down Grange, Old Down and Buckskin farms, occupying roughly the area of modern Kempshott and Buckskin, would have needed a large labour force. Similarly West and North Ham farms were of large acreage. However, even allowing for staffing these farms, many of the Ag Labs probably had to travel considerable distances to their work. The census is not helpful in analysing the agricultural workforce, very few specific jobs are recorded: 5 shepherds, 3 cowmen, 1 cowboy and 1 carter.

Table 3 lists those described as journeymen.

Table 3

Trade	Number	Trade	Number
Baker	2	Bricklayer	2
Butcher	1	Cabinet mkr	4
Carpenter	8	Coach trimmer	1
Coppersmith	1	Currier	2
Gardener	2	Grocer	2
Hairdresser	1	Joiner	1
Miller	2	Painter	1
Printer	1	Shoemaker	1

Trade	Number	Trade	Number
Smith	1	Shopman	1
Tailor	5	Tallowchandler	1
Tinplate wkr	1	Watch mkr	1
Watch & Clock mkr	1	Whitesmith	2

These journeymen, being employees, have not been counted amongst the ‘petty entrepreneurs’

Table 4 lists the occupations not noted in the previous three tables or as professionals.

Table 4

Occupation	Number	Occupation	Number
Assistant – trade unspecified	16	Hayward	1
Attorney’s writing clerk	1	Hotel waiter/waiter	1/3
Bailiff	1	Housemaid	18
Barmaid	2	House servant	128
Bargemaster’s assistant	1	Kitchen maid	2
Bargeman	4	Labourer/ highway/at wharf/brewer’s/coal merchant’s/rail	29/2/2/3/2/12
Boots/ under boots	1/1	Ladies maid	1
Bookbinder	1	Musician	11
Boot closer	1	Needlewoman	5
Brewer’s labourer	1	Nursemaid	6
Carrying cake basket	1	Ostler	12
Carter	1	Park keeper	1
Chambermaid	1	Patten (or pattern)mkr	1
Charwoman	13	Plasterer	2
Clerk/Banker’s/Brewer’s/General/Railway/conveyancing /Solicitor’s managing	4/1/1/1/4/1/2	Plate layer	1
Coachman	2	Porter /corn/coal/draper’s/ house/warehouse/railway	8/1/1/ 1/1/13
Collector of Tolls/Toll gate keeper	4	Postman/boy/messenger/assistant	5/1/1/1
Commercial traveller/hardware	3/2	Rail inspector	1
Drayman	1	Railway policeman GWR	1
Engine driver	1	Sawyer	15
Errand boy	14	Sempstress	3
Footman	3	Shoe binder	3
Gardener/jobbing	9/1	Shop man/girl/woman	1/1/1
Gentleman’s servant/ manservant	1/3	Tailor’s cutter	1
Governess (included with school teachers as professional)	6	Washerwoman	1

There were 299 employees (including 83 women, mainly dressmakers and milliners) who could be classed as skilled workers (including bakers and butchers). Of the 45 apprentices, 7 were girls apprenticed to dressmakers/milliners.

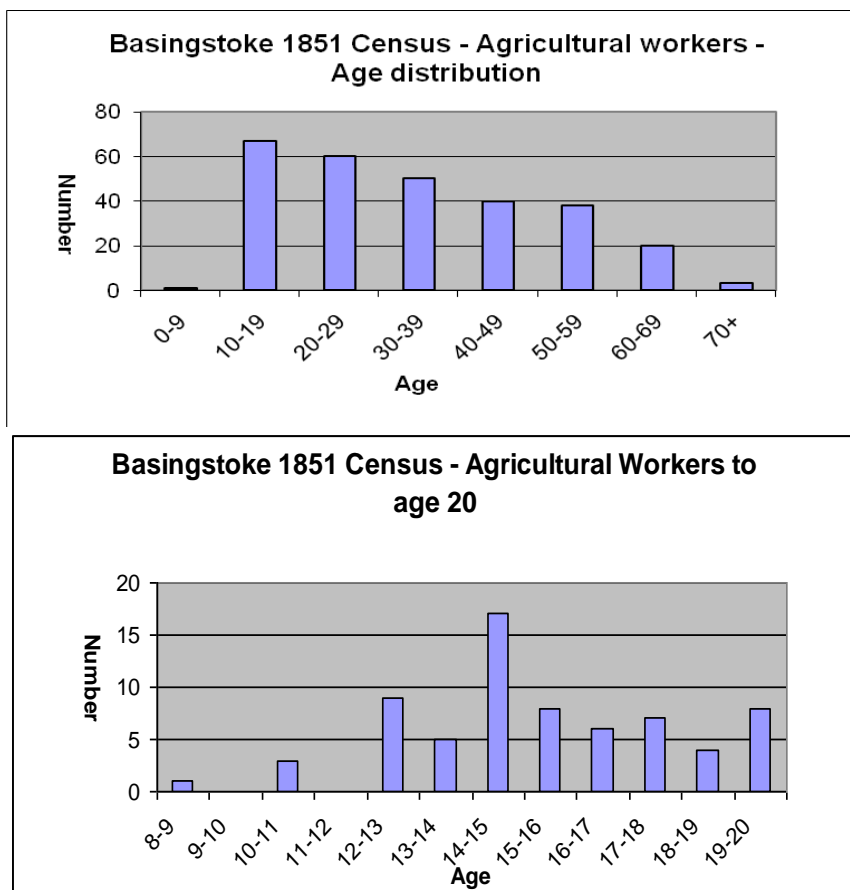
Forty-nine women gave their occupation as ‘laundress/washerwoman’ and were not servants in a household; they presumably either worked from home on a jobbing basis or went out daily. This relatively large number implies that a considerable proportion of the households in the town were affluent enough to send out at least some of their laundry, probably sheets and other linen.

The women with no recorded occupation were: 606 married women, 168 unmarried women and 29 widows (see the comment in the ‘petty entrepreneur’ section). There were 628 scholars, 258 children of 5-14 years old not recorded as either scholars or working (see below) and 578 children under 5.

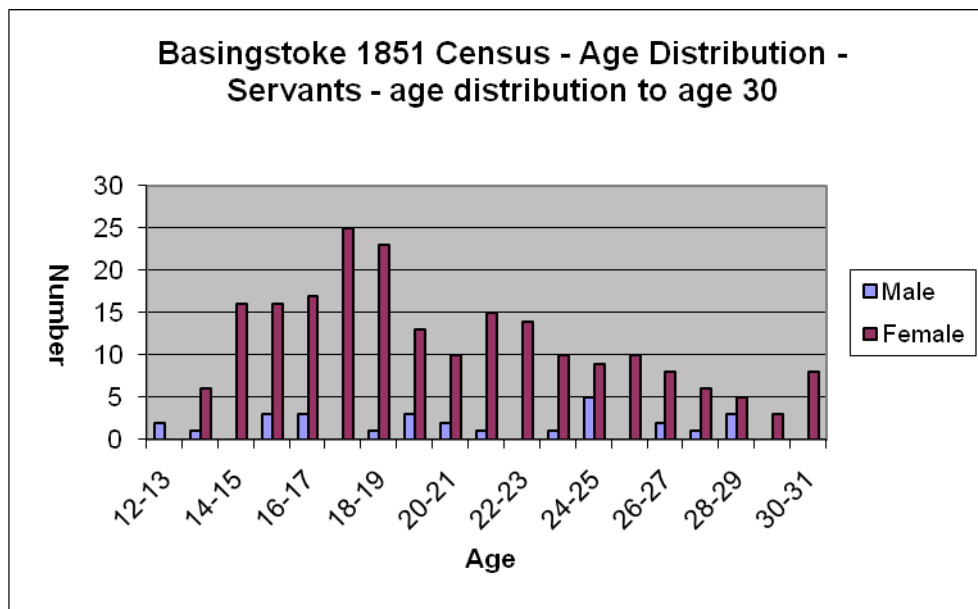
There was no large scale industry in Basingstoke at this time, although the railways, LSWR & GWR, were beginning to become significant employers (35 employees). It is surprising that, of the manual railway workers, only one is skilled – an engine driver. There are no trades recorded that could be classed as skilled engineering, although there are two gunsmiths and several watch and clock makers recorded who would have had engineering skills. Various smiths are recorded. The Wallis & Steevens agricultural ironworks business, which was to become a major employer later on, was not established until 1856, although Richard Wallis Snr with his son Richard had started a foundry at the canal wharf in the 1840s. Richard Snr's younger son Arthur, the founder of Wallis & Haslam which became Wallis & Steevens, is known to have completed an engineering apprenticeship in the north of England⁵ There was one major builder employing 28 men; and two farmers each employing 20 men. Apart from these, there was no business employing more than 10 men that can be identified from the census data. It is surprising that, given the size of May's brewery even in 1851, very few people can be positively identified as working for the May or other breweries (at least two of which supplied to more than just one or two public houses). Similarly it is not possible to determine to any degree of accuracy the number of people employed by the Basingstoke Canal Company (which had been badly affected by the LSWR by this time), although two bargemasters, four bargemen and a bargemaster's assistant are recorded. This probably represented two barges operating from the Basingstoke wharf. There were 15 sawyers who probably worked at the timber yard associated with the canal wharf, although this can only be inferred as no-one is recorded as the owner of a timber yard. A timber agent, a timber dealer and a timber converter are recorded but none of these are noted as employing men.

Another area where it is not possible to obtain the data from the census, so that a fuller picture can be produced, is what the number of children under 14, who are not recorded as either scholars or working (258) were doing. As one Ag Lab's age is given as eight, it is likely that many of the older children in this group were doing some form of work, eg daughters helping at home if their mother was a laundress or dressmaker or sons helping their fathers. Some probably picked up casual work on a daily basis. This means that the economic picture that can be drawn from this census is distorted, by how much it is impossible to determine.

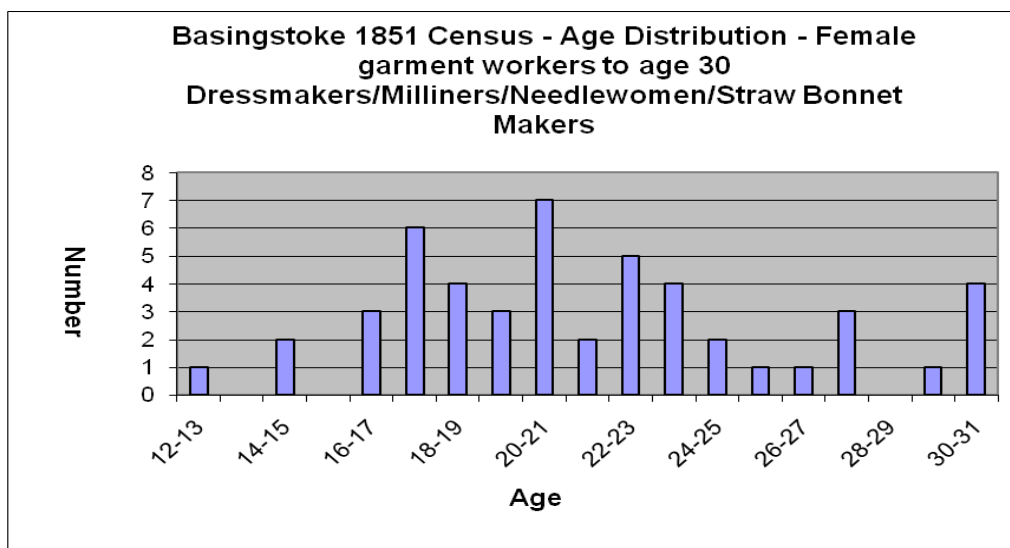
The following five charts give the age distribution of the three major occupation Ag Labs, Servants, and Garment workers.



There is one Ag Lab aged 8, otherwise the number/age distribution plots above generally follows the male population age distribution. One woman, a widow, age 65, is described as a Field Labourer.



There is nothing out of the ordinary in the servant population, except perhaps, the relatively low number of male servants. This probably reflects the low number of high status households in the town. Being a female servant was predominantly an unmarried young woman's occupation. Older women over 30 (47) were generally recorded as cooks or housekeepers.



The female garment worker age distribution is similar to that of the female servants. It was predominantly a young unmarried woman's occupation. There were 23 workers between the ages of 30 and 70. These garment workers either worked on their own account or were employed in small numbers by some of the clothiers or other dressmakers. 1851 predates the establishment of the three major clothing factories which provided employment for a large proportion of the working women of the town later in the century.

The census doesn't give a complete picture in that the landowning gentry who were the senior members of north Hampshire society and acted as the county and government agents for the area did not live in Basingstoke town and therefore do not appear in the Basingstoke census record. The directories and census returns for surrounding parishes name those who played a part in town affairs, such as Lord Bolton at Hackwood (the major owner of property in Basingstoke), Spencer Wyndham Portal at Malshanger and Sir

Richard Rycroft at Manydown. Directories also tell which of the people recorded in the censuses are mayor, aldermen, councillors or magistrates.

Directories and other sources fill out details of individuals such as Charles Headeach who is recorded as 'Clerk to the Canal Company'. He, in fact, was a professional, probably an accountant. He was also Clerk and Treasurer to the Council, Churchwarden and Secretary of the Basingstoke Savings Bank

Other sources show economic fluctuations not revealed in the census. For instance. Samuel Attwood in his diary recorded "Richard Curtis and family finally ejected from the Angel Inn, 17 February 1851". This explains why on census night the family were lodgers in Church St and the sons Richard Jnr and William are recorded as unemployed. Richard Snr was in and out of prison for debt in 1852, finally paying his creditors one shilling and ten pence in the pound in 1858. ⁶

¹ 16th May 1924 Order in Council transferring the "hamlets of Worting Town End, Winklebury and Kempshott Village" to Worting Parish, **HRO21M65**. Although the ecclesiastical parish was changed the civil parish still has the same boundaries.

² Dissenters' Meeting House Certificates **HRO 21M65/F2**.

³ Stokes Eric, *The Making of Basingstoke*, BAHS, 2008, p155.

⁴ Stokes EG & Crossman RC, *Queen Mary's School*, Basingstoke, 1972, p10.

⁵ Whitehead, RA, *Wallis & Steevens A History*, The Road Locomotive Society, 1983.

⁶ Diary of Samuel Attwood, **HRO 8M62/27**.

Work by Bob Applin for the VCH Basingstoke Hundred Revision project 2011, revised 2018.