

Area

The UK comprises Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Great Britain comprises England, Wales and Scotland.

Physical Features

The UK constitutes the greater part of the British Isles. The largest of the islands is Great Britain. The next largest comprises Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. Western Scotland is fringed by the large island chain known as the Hebrides, and to the north east of the Scottish mainland are the Orkney and Shetland Islands. All these, along with the Isle of Wight, Anglesey and the Isles of Scilly, form part of the UK. The Isle of Man, in the Irish Sea, and the Channel Islands, between Great Britain and France, are largely self-governing and are not part of the UK. The UK is one of the 27 member states of the European Union following the accession of Bulgaria and Romania on 1 January 2007. With an area of about 243,000 sq km (about 94,000 sq miles), the UK is just under 1,000 km (about 600 miles) from the south coast to the extreme north of Scotland and just under 500 km (around 300 miles) across at the widest point.

- Highest mountain: Ben Nevis, in the highlands of Scotland, at 1,343 m (4,406 ft)
- Longest river: the Severn, 354 km (220 miles) long, which rises in central Wales and flows through Shrewsbury, Worcester and Gloucester in England to the Bristol Channel
- Largest lake: Lough Neagh, Northern Ireland, at 396 sqkm (153 sq miles)
- Deepest lake: Loch Morar in the Highlands of Scotland, 310 m (1,017 ft) deep
- Highest waterfall: Eas a'Chual Aluinn, from Glas Bheinn, in the highlands of Scotland, with a drop of 200 m (660 ft)
- Deepest cave: Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, Wales, at 308 m (1,010 ft) deep
- Most northerly point on the British mainland: Dunnet Head, north-east Scotland
- Most southerly point on the British mainland: Lizard Point, Cornwall
- Closest point to mainland continental Europe: Dover, Kent. The Channel Tunnel, which links England and France, is a little over 50 km (31 miles) long, of which nearly 38 km (24 miles) are actually under the Channel.

1.1 Area of the United Kingdom^{1,2}, 2008

| | sq km | | sq km |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|--------|
| United Kingdom | 243 122 | Shropshire | 3 197 |
| Great Britain | 228 972 | Staffordshire | 2 620 |
| England and Wales | 151 014 | Warwickshire | 1 975 |
| | | West Midlands (Met County) | 902 |
| | | Worcestershire | 1 741 |
| | | East | 19 109 |
| England | 130 280 | Luton UA | 43 |
| North East | 8 573 | Peterborough UA | 343 |
| Darlington UA | 197 | Southend-on-Sea UA | 42 |
| Hartlepool UA | 94 | Thurrock UA | 163 |
| Middlesbrough UA | 54 | Bedfordshire | 1 192 |
| Redcar and Cleveland UA | 245 | Cambridgeshire | 3 046 |
| Stockton-on-Tees UA | 204 | Essex | 3 465 |
| Durham | 2 226 | Hertfordshire | 1 643 |
| Northumberland | 5 013 | Norfolk | 5 371 |
| Tyne and Wear (Met County) | 540 | Suffolk | 3 800 |
| North West | 14 107 | London | 1572 |
| Blackburn with Darwen UA | 137 | Inner London | 319 |
| Blackpool UA | 35 | Outer London | 1 253 |
| Halton UA | 79 | South East | 19 069 |
| Warrington UA | 181 | Bracknell Forest UA | 109 |
| Cheshire | 2 083 | Brighton and Hove UA | 83 |
| Cumbria | 6 767 | Isle of Wight UA | 380 |
| Greater Manchester (Met County) | 1 276 | Medway UA | 192 |
| Lancashire | 2 903 | Milton Keynes UA | 309 |
| Merseyside (Met County) | 647 | Portsmouth UA | 40 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 15 408 | Reading UA | 40 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire UA | 2 408 | Slough UA | 33 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of UA | 72 | Southampton UA | 50 |
| North East Lincolnshire UA | 192 | West Berkshire UA | 704 |
| North Lincolnshire UA | 846 | Windsor and Maidenhead UA | 197 |
| York UA | 272 | Wokingham UA | 179 |
| North Yorkshire | 8 038 | Buckinghamshire | 1 565 |
| South Yorkshire (Met County) | 1 552 | East Sussex | 1 708 |
| West Yorkshire (Met County) | 2 029 | Hampshire | 3 679 |
| East Midlands | 15 607 | Kent | 3 544 |
| Derby UA | 78 | Oxfordshire | 2 605 |
| Leicester UA | 73 | Surrey | 1 663 |
| Nottingham UA | 75 | West Sussex | 1 991 |
| Rutland UA | 382 | South West | 23 837 |
| Derbyshire | 2 547 | Bath and North East Somerset UA | 346 |
| Leicestershire | 2 083 | Bournemouth UA | 46 |
| Lincolnshire | 5 920 | Bristol, City of UA | 110 |
| Northamptonshire | 2 364 | North Somerset UA | 374 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2 085 | Plymouth UA | 80 |
| West Midlands | 12 998 | Poole UA | 65 |
| Herefordshire, County of UA | 2 180 | South Gloucestershire UA | 497 |
| Stoke-on-Trent UA | 93 | Swindon UA | 230 |
| Telford and Wrekin UA | 290 | Torbay UA | 63 |
| | | Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly | 3 563 |
| | | Devon | 6 564 |
| | | Dorset | 2 542 |
| | | Gloucestershire | 2 653 |
| | | Somerset | 3 451 |
| | | Wiltshire | 3 255 |

Area

1.1 Area of the United Kingdom^{1,2}, 2008

continued

| | sq km | | sq km |
|------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Wales | 20 733 | Dumfries and Galloway | 6 426 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 109 | Dundee City | 60 |
| Bridgend | 251 | East Ayrshire | 1 262 |
| Caerphilly | 277 | East Dunbartonshire | 175 |
| Cardiff ¹ | 140 | East Lothian | 679 |
| Carmarthenshire ¹ | 2 371 | East Renfrewshire | 174 |
| Ceredigion ¹ | 1 785 | Edinburgh, City of | 263 |
| Conwy | 1 126 | Eilean Siar (Western Isles) | 3 055 |
| Denbighshire | 837 | Falkirk | 297 |
| Flintshire | 437 | Fife | 1 325 |
| Gwynedd | 2 535 | Glasgow City | 175 |
| Isle of Anglesey | 711 | Highland | 25 709 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 111 | Inverclyde | 160 |
| Monmouthshire | 849 | Midlothian | 354 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 441 | Moray | 2 238 |
| Newport ¹ | 190 | North Ayrshire | 885 |
| Pembrokeshire ¹ | 1 619 | North Lanarkshire | 470 |
| Powys | 5 181 | Orkney Islands | 990 |
| Rhondda, Cynon, Taff | 424 | Perth and Kinross | 5 286 |
| Swansea | 378 | Renfrewshire | 262 |
| Torfaen | 126 | Scottish Borders | 4 732 |
| The Vale of Glamorgan ¹ | 331 | Shetland Islands | 1 467 |
| Wrexham | 504 | South Ayrshire | 1 222 |
| | | South Lanarkshire | 1 772 |
| Scotland | 77 958 | Stirling | 2 187 |
| Aberdeen City | 186 | West Dunbartonshire | 159 |
| Aberdeenshire | 6 313 | West Lothian | 428 |
| Angus | 2 182 | | |
| Argyll and Bute | 6 908 | Northern Ireland | 14 150 |
| Clackmannanshire | 159 | | |

1 On boundaries as at 2001.

Source: Office for National Statistics