

The 1939 Register

The 1939 Register is the most complete survey of the population of England and Wales between 1921 and 1951, since no census was taken in 1941 and the 1931 census was later lost in a fire. The Register was compiled in order to issue identity cards and ration books for every civilian in England and Wales. (Separate registers were compiled for Scotland and Northern Ireland.)

Forms were delivered to every address to be filled in on 29 September 1939. This was followed by a visit from an enumerator who collected the forms and issued everyone with a completed identity card.

The details recorded are:

Name

Address

Sex

Date of birth.

Marital status

Occupation

Only civilians in the household on 29 September were included in the Register. Members of the armed forces were recorded elsewhere. A number of the people included in the register for East Ilsley were evacuees.

The 1939 Register remained in use as a living document for many years, notably by the NHS until 1991, and it contains various annotations. One useful feature is that subsequent changes of name were noted, mostly for women who later married.

When the 1939 Register was made available to the public, the details of people born less than one hundred years previously were redacted to safeguard the privacy of people who are or may still be living. This is periodically updated to include reported deaths, but many who died years ago are still hidden from view. We can sometimes make a good guess at a hidden name.

We have transcribed the 1939 Register for East Ilsley. Full addresses were not always shown. Some dwellings have since been demolished, or two cottages combined into one, and some have changed names. Where we have been able to identify a house, the current name has been added in italics.

In a few cases where someone was known by a different name, that name has been added in italics.

The 1939 Register for East Ilsley can be found [here](#).

More information about the 1939 Register can be found at this link:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/1939-register/>