

General Details	
Dataset Title:	Rural and Urban Area Classification 2004
Domain:	Physical Environment
Time Period of Dataset(s):	23 March 2005 (In the case of the Output Area and Statistical Ward classifications the versions published here replace those previously released in July 2004. The re-release is as the result of a number of errors which have since been identified. Changes impact on 25 OAs and 186 Wards respectively. Details of the areas impacted by these changes is published on the NS website. The classifications for other geographies are new as at March 2005.)
Geographic Coverage:	England and Wales
Lowest Area Output:	The classification is currently published at the following 5 levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output Area • Lower Layer Super Output Area • Middle Layer Super Output Area • Statistical Ward 2003 • Census Area Statistics Ward For further details of any of these geographies see... http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/beginners_guide.asp
Supplier:	DEFRA, ODPM, NAW, ONS and Countryside Agency
Department:	John Shepherd School of Geography, Birkbeck College, University of London Peter Bibby School of Town and Regional Planning, University of Sheffield
National Statistics Data?	The supplier of this dataset has declared that it DOES belong within the National Statistics profile
No. of Variables (excluding area names and codes):	Six

Scope and Purpose:	<p>The classification of rural and urban areas is the outcome of a project co-sponsored by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office for National Statistics (ONS); • Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra); • Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM); • Countryside Agency (CA); and • National Assembly for Wales (NAW). <p>The classification was developed in 2004 by a consortium co-ordinated by Prof. John Shepherd from Birkbeck College, University of London, and also involving the University of Sheffield, the University of Glamorgan, and Geowise.</p> <p>The rural and urban classification of Output Areas, Super Output Areas and Wards has been provided on the National Statistics website to enable datasets to be analysed according to the classification. This provides a powerful tool for the development and monitoring of rural and urban policies.</p>
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Details of the information held on this dataset are outlined below

Variable Name	Data Type	Description
Morphology	Numeric	Output Areas 1 = Urban >10k 2 = Town and Fringe 3 = Village 4 = Hamlet & Isolated dwellings Super Output Areas and Wards 3 = combines Output Area 3 and 4 classification

MorphName	Text	Output Areas Urban > 10k = Urban Settlements with greater than 10k population Town and Fringe = Small Towns and Fringe areas that are located within the rural domain Village = Villages that are located within the rural domain Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings = Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings that are located within the rural domain Super Output Areas and Wards: Village, Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings classification is combined
Context	Numeric	0 = Less Sparse 1 = Sparse
ContName	Text	Less Sparse = measure of local area (<30km) postcode density Sparse = measure of local area (<30km) postcode density
Combined	Numeric	Output Areas 1 = Urban >10k - Sparse 2 = Town and Fringe - Sparse 3 = Village - Sparse 4 = Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings - Sparse 5 = Urban >10k – Less Sparse 6 = Town and Fringe – Less Sparse

		<p>7 = Village – Less Sparse 8 = Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings – Less Sparse</p> <p>Wards 1 = Urban >10k – Sparse 2 = Town and Fringe – Sparse 3 = Village, Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings – Sparse 4 = Urban >10k – Less Sparse 5 = Town and Fringe – Less Sparse 6 = Village, Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings – Less Sparse</p>
CombName	Text	<p>Urban >10k – Sparse = Urban Settlements located in sparsely populated areas</p> <p>Town and Fringe – Sparse = Small Town and Fringe areas located in sparsely populated areas</p> <p>Village – Sparse = Villages located in sparsely populated areas</p> <p>Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings – Sparse = Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings located in sparsely populated areas</p> <p>Urban >10k – Less Sparse = Urban Settlements located in less sparsely populated areas</p> <p>Town and Fringe – Less Sparse = Small Town and Fringe areas located in less sparsely populated areas</p> <p>Village – Less Sparse = Villages located in less sparsely populated areas</p> <p>Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings – Less Sparse = Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings located in less sparsely populated areas</p> <p>Super Output Areas and Wards Village, Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings is combined</p>

**Administrative Procedures –
Background Information:**

Coverage

Output Areas

The classification enables each of the 175,434 Output Areas in England and Wales to be classified on the basis of context – i.e. whether the surrounding area of a given Output Area is sparsely populated or less sparsely populated. Secondly, the classification enables Output Areas to be distinguished on a morphological basis - as predominantly urban or predominantly town and fringe, predominantly village or predominantly dispersed (which includes Hamlets and Isolated Dwellings). The town and fringe, village, hamlet and isolated dwellings classifications are taken as being rural.

Details of the information held on the Output Area dataset are outlined below:

Country code

Country name

Government Office Region code

Government Office Region name

County code

County name

Local Authority District code

Local Authority District name

Ward code

Ward name

Output Area code

2005 Rural and Urban morphology indicator

1 - denotes predominantly urban >10k

2 - denotes predominantly town and fringe

3 - denotes predominantly village

4 - denotes predominantly dispersed (hamlet and isolated dwellings)

2005 Rural and Urban context indicator

0 – denotes less sparsely populated areas

1 – denotes sparsely populated areas

Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs)

Similar procedures apply the classification to the 34,378 Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales. The application of the context classification is the same as output areas. The morphological classification differs in the number of categories as very few LSOAs can be classified as predominantly dispersed settlements. LSOAs are categorised into just three domains: urban 10k, town and fringe and villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings.

Details of the information held on the LSOA datasets are outlined below:

Country code

Country name

Government Office Region code

Government Office Region name

County code

County name

Local Authority District code

Local Authority District name

Middle Layer SOA code

Middle Layer SOA name

Lower Layer SOA code

Lower Layer SOA name

2005 Rural and Urban morphology indicator

1 - denotes predominantly urban >10k

2 - denotes predominantly town and fringe

3 – denotes other rural (including village, hamlet and isolated dwellings)

2005 Rural and Urban context indicator

0 – denotes less sparsely populated areas

1 - denotes sparsely populated areas

Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs)

Similar procedures apply the classification to the 7,194 Middle Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales. The application of the context classification is the same as output areas. The morphological classification differs in the number of categories as very few MSOAs can be classified as predominantly dispersed settlements. MSOAs are categorised into just three domains: urban 10k, town and fringe and villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings.

Details of the information held on the MSOA datasets are outlined below:

Country code

Country name

Government Office Region code

Government Office Region name

County code

County name

Local Authority District code

Local Authority District name

Middle Layer SOA code

Middle Layer SOA name

2005 Rural and Urban morphology indicator

1 - denotes predominantly urban >10k

2 - denotes predominantly town and fringe

3 – denotes other rural (including village, hamlet and isolated dwellings)

2005 Rural and Urban context indicator

0 – denotes less sparsely populated areas

1 - denotes sparsely populated areas

Wards (Statistical Wards and Census Area Statistics Wards)

Similar procedures apply the classification to the 8,868 Statistical Wards (2003) and the 8,850 CAS Wards in England and Wales. The application of the context classification is the same as output areas. The morphological classification differs in the number of categories as very few wards can be classified as predominantly dispersed settlements. Wards are categorised into just three domains: urban 10k, town and fringe and villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings.

Details of the information held on the ward datasets are outlined below:

Country code

Country name

Government Office Region code

Government Office Region name

County code

County name

Local Authority District code

Local Authority District name

Ward code

Ward name

2005 Rural and Urban morphology indicator

1 - denotes predominantly urban >10k

2 - denotes predominantly town and fringe

3 – denotes other rural (including village, hamlet and isolated dwellings)

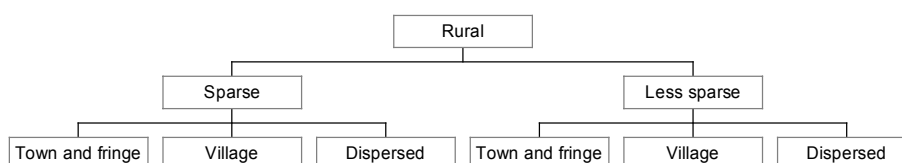
2005 Rural and Urban context indicator

0 – denotes less sparsely populated areas

1 – denotes sparsely populated areas

<p>Concepts and Definitions:</p>	<p>Methodology</p> <p>The classification builds on the recommendations of a review of urban and rural definitions commissioned by the then Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (now Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, ODPM) in 2001. The report concluded that it was appropriate for most policy purposes to employ the ‘physical settlements’ definition as represented by the ODPM defined ‘urban areas’ and to treat those with more than 10,000 people as ‘urban’. Output Areas have been classified as ‘urban 10k’ where the majority of the population in the Output Area falls inside an ‘urban area’ with a population of 10,000 or more. All other Output Areas are treated as rural.</p> <p>The methodology for the remaining ‘rural’ Output Areas focuses on all settlements of whatever size below the 10,000-population figure. The classification was constructed from an underlying settlement classification based on hectare squares (100m x 100m). For each hectare square a series of densities are calculated for addresses in a given hectare square and the surrounding squares. Every hectare square is then associated with particular settlement type: dispersed dwellings, hamlet, village, small town, urban fringe and urban. Secondly, each hectare square is given a sparsity score based on the number of people in surrounding hectare squares. For example, a square might lie within a village and be relatively sparse.</p> <p>Output Areas, Super Output Areas and Wards are then classified by looking at the mix of hectare squares within them. All Output Areas are classified as either sparse or less sparse. They are then grouped into four predominant settlement types (urban 10k, town and fringe, village, hamlet and isolated dwellings). It is possible to analyse Output Areas using one or both layers – or example, sparse Output Areas, village Output Areas, or villages located in sparse Output Areas. Although when analysing the latter, users MUST be aware that sparse relates to the surrounding area. Users should interpret the village-sparse Output Area ‘as a village that is surrounded by a relatively sparse population density.’ The diagram below demonstrates the basic structure.</p>
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Diagram 1: Basic structure of classification of rural areas



Data Classifications:	
Standard Classifications used (if any):	Standard Names and Codes
Further Details about Classifications:	To access more information about the rural and urban classifications, a methodology report and introductory guide is available via the following web address: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp
Edit and Imputation Procedures:	Not relevant
Validation and Quality Assurance:	<p>The 2005 Rural and Urban Area Classifications were produced using the Royal Mail's 'Postcode Address File' (PAF) as packaged in its <i>Address Manager</i> [©] product. PAF contains the postal addresses of premises together with a 10m resolution OS grid reference for the unit postcode allocated to each address.</p> <p>The underlying settlement classification is generated from the PAF by grouping every postal address on the basis of the hectare (100m x 100m) cell within which it falls.</p> <p>Using the 2001 Second Quarter version of PAF means the grid is virtually coterminous with information on the distribution of households from the 2001 Census.</p> <p>The Output Areas which are allocated to urban settlements (>10,000 population) agree with the ONS Census Output Area allocation to ODPM Urban Settlements 2001</p> <p>The Output Area and Statistical Ward Rural and Urban Classifications presented here were open to public validation during April and May 2004 – approx. 75% of the 100 respondents said that they were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the methodology and results of the Rural and Urban Area Classifications.</p>
Geographic Referencing:	The classification is based on Output Areas created for the 2001 Census, Lower and Middle Layer Super Output Areas created for small area dataset reporting and published in 2004, CAS Wards and 2003 Statistical Wards. CAS Wards were used for 2001 Census Outputs. Statistical wards were introduced in 2003 to minimise the statistical impact of frequent electoral ward boundary changes, particularly in England. Any changes to English or Welsh ward boundaries laid down in statute by the end of a calendar year will be implemented for statistical purposes on 1 April of the following year. In all cases Output Areas, Super Output Areas and Wards have been identified using the Office for National Statistics Standard Names and Codes product.
Data Quality:	It must be recognised that the rural and urban classification of Output Areas, Super Output Areas and Wards is based on the predominant settlement component within the relevant boundary. The characteristics of an Output Area shown on a map may appear relatively mixed in settlement type but it is the predominant component for example, ‘village’ or ‘town and fringe’ settlement indicator, which is assigned to a given Output Area. Similar procedures are applied to Super Output Areas and Wards.

Disclosure Control:	The Office for National Statistics carries out a number of checks to safeguard confidentiality. In accordance with standard procedures this dataset has been reviewed and approved for release.
Sources for Further Information or Advice:	<p>Partnership Contacts</p> <p>Ken Roy Evidence and Analysis The Countryside Agency John Dower House Crescent Place Cheltenham GL50 3RA Tel: 01242 533451 ken.roy@countryside.gov.uk</p> <p>Miles Templeton Rural Statistics Unit Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Foss House King's Pool 1 –2 Peasholme Green York YO1 7PX Tel: 01904 455414 Miles.templeton@Defra.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>David Allen Planning and Land Use Statistics Office of the Deputy Prime Minister 3/K9 Eland House Bressenden Place London SW1E 5DU Tel: 0207 944 4400 (ext. 17140) David.Allen@ODPM.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>ONS provide general support on the use of UK geography for statistics. General enquiries: ons.geography@ons.gov.uk Information on the work of ONS Geography and geography of the UK: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/default.asp</p> <p>Stuart Neil Agriculture and Rural Affairs Statistician Welsh Assembly Government Tel: 02920 826822 Stuart.Neil@wales.gsi.gov.uk</p>