



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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2011 Rural-Urban Classification of Local Authority and other higher level geographies for statistical purposes

Interim results identifying rural hub towns to be used in the classification

In August 2013, the 2011 rural-urban classifications for small area geographies, including an Output Area (OA) level classification (the smallest area for which Census data are available), were published by the Office for National Statistics. At the same time, 2011 Census data for rural-urban areas in England and Wales were released, providing rural-urban estimates of populations within local authorities and regions based on the OA level classification. The classifications were produced as part of a cross-government project comprising Defra, Department for the Communities and Local Government, Office for National Statistics and the Welsh Government, and updated those produced after the 2001 Census.

In the OA level classification OAs that had been assigned to built-up areas (settlements) with populations of 10,000 people or more were classed as 'urban', while the remaining OAs were classed as 'rural'. The urban and rural domains were then further sub-divided into broad settlement types, ranging from 'major conurbation' to 'hamlet and isolated dwelling'. The classification also categorised OAs based on context – i.e. whether the wider surrounding area of a given OA was sparsely populated or less sparsely populated. (For more information see: www.gov.uk/government/publications/2011-rural-urban-classification)

The rural-urban classification facilitates statistical analysis, comparing rural and urban areas, for census and other data available at a detailed geographical level. This is important for policy making and monitoring as situations may differ between urban and rural areas across a broad range of issues such as demographics, employment, access to services, and the economy.

Since data are not always available for small area geographies, rural-urban classifications of higher level geographies based on 2011 Census data are also required. The starting point is to create a Local Authority level classification, which will update a classification published in 2005 which was based on data from the 2001 Census (see www.gov.uk/government/publications/2001-rural-urban-definition-la-classification-and-other-geographies). Defra have commissioned Sheffield University to take this work forward for England, and it is due to complete in June this year.

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Identification of hub towns

The Local Authority level classification will be consistent with the OA level classification as the rural population of a Local Authority is based on those living in settlements of below 10,000 people. However, it is recognised that some larger towns play very important roles as 'hubs' in the rural areas around them (rural hinterland) in terms of providing services, employment and businesses. In the previous classification, some larger towns, with populations between 10,000 and 30,000 were identified, based on selected services present, as being important for the rural communities around them. In classifying the Local Authorities previously, the populations of these towns were counted as 'rural' rather than urban.

Consistent with the 2001-based classification, hub towns identified for the 2011-based classification have populations between 10,000 and 30,000. However, they have been identified as hubs using a different methodology from last time, which is more consistent with the approach taken to create the 2011 rural-urban classifications for small area geographies. The new methodology continues to take account of service provision, but given the changing nature of the way in which people access services, employment and businesses it was no longer considered appropriate to determine whether a town performs a hub function on the basis of whether or not a limited list of services is present. Furthermore, the previous determination of the towns did not take account of the wider context and position of the towns within the rural hinterland, and their proximity to other towns.

The methodology considers the following to identify hub towns:

- identification of built-up areas (settlements) with populations between 10,000 and 30,000 people;
- the density of residential dwellings within 2 kilometres compared with the residential dwelling density within 10 kilometres, determined for each hectare (100 metre by 100 metre square). This is referred to as the residential ratio. This test might be thought of as measuring the potential for a concentration of population with the potential to form a hub for local services;
- the density of non-residential establishments within 2 kilometres compared with the density of non-residential establishments within 10 kilometres, determined for each hectare. This is referred to as the non-residential ratio. This is very closely correlated with the residential ratio, and is considering the extent to which the town is a concentration of businesses and services;
- the density of non-residential establishments within 2 kilometres compared with the density of residential dwellings within 10 kilometres, determined for each hectare. This is referred to as the cross-ratio. This is very closely correlated with the residential ratio. It is effectively looking at the extent to which there are non-residential establishments (businesses and services)

within the town that are likely to be serving the needs of the rural population beyond the town, rather than just the population within the town.

The built-up areas (settlements) identified as hub towns are listed in the attached Annex.

The next stage of the research is to develop the methodology for the classification for Local Authorities taking into account these hub towns.

It should be noted that the methodology for classifying Local Authorities is also likely to be revised, and the threshold populations or proportions used in the 2001-based classification may not apply.

More detailed information on the methodology, thresholds applied to identify hub towns, and other background material will be available when the research is completed and the Local Authority rural-urban classification published.

Built-up areas (settlements) identified as hub towns

Built-up area hub town	Built-up area code	Built-up area population	Within local authority district(s)	Local authority district code(s) 2011
Alton (East Hampshire) BUA	E34003769	18,261	<i>East Hampshire</i>	<i>E07000085</i>
Amesbury BUA	E34001982	10,116	<i>Wiltshire</i>	<i>E06000054</i>
Amphill BUA	E34004222	20,026	<i>Central Bedfordshire</i>	<i>E06000056</i>
Ashby-de-la-Zouch BUA	E34003491	12,370	<i>North West Leicestershire</i>	<i>E07000134</i>
Ashington (Northumberland) BUA	E34001445	27,670	<i>Northumberland</i>	<i>E06000048</i>
Atherstone BUA	E34004986	11,237	<i>North Warwickshire & Hinckley and Bosworth</i>	<i>E07000218 / E07000132</i>
Attleborough BUA	E34003517	10,549	<i>Breckland</i>	<i>E07000143</i>
Barnoldswick BUA	E34000115	10,435	<i>Pendle</i>	<i>E07000122</i>
Beccles BUA	E34003308	13,868	<i>Waveney & South Norfolk</i>	<i>E07000206 / E07000149</i>
* Berkhamsted BUA	E34004594	21,997	<i>Dacorum</i>	<i>E07000096</i>
Berwick-upon-Tweed BUA	E34004204	13,265	<i>Northumberland</i>	<i>E06000048</i>
Bideford BUA	E34005044	28,672	<i>Torridge</i>	<i>E07000046</i>
Biggleswade BUA	E34002609	16,551	<i>Central Bedfordshire</i>	<i>E06000056</i>
Bishop Auckland BUA	E34004911	26,050	<i>County Durham</i>	<i>E06000047</i>
Blandford Forum BUA	E34004125	11,694	<i>North Dorset</i>	<i>E07000050</i>
Bodmin BUA	E34001604	14,614	<i>Cornwall</i>	<i>E06000052</i>
Bordon BUA	E34004641	20,978	<i>East Hampshire</i>	<i>E07000085</i>
Bourne BUA	E34003418	13,961	<i>South Kesteven</i>	<i>E07000141</i>
Brackley BUA	E34000857	13,018	<i>South Northamptonshire</i>	<i>E07000155</i>
Bridgnorth BUA	E34004785	12,657	<i>Shropshire</i>	<i>E06000051</i>
Bridport BUA	E34004484	13,737	<i>West Dorset</i>	<i>E07000052</i>
Brixham BUA	E34003104	16,693	<i>Torbay</i>	<i>E06000027</i>
* Brough (East Riding of Yorkshire) BUA	E34004944	19,904	<i>East Riding of Yorkshire</i>	<i>E06000011</i>
Buckingham BUA	E34000850	12,890	<i>Aylesbury Vale</i>	<i>E07000004</i>
Burnham-on-Sea BUA	E34004580	23,325	<i>Sedgemoor</i>	<i>E07000188</i>
Buxton (High Peak) BUA	E34004138	22,115	<i>High Peak</i>	<i>E07000037</i>

Built-up area hub town	Built-up area code	Built-up area population	Within local authority district(s)	Local authority district code(s) 2011
Calne BUA	E34003294	17,274	<i>Wiltshire</i>	<i>E06000054</i>
Carterton BUA	E34004919	16,364	<i>West Oxfordshire</i>	<i>E07000181</i>
Catterick Garrison BUA	E34004346	11,804	<i>Richmondshire</i>	<i>E07000166</i>
Chard BUA	E34000290	13,074	<i>South Somerset</i>	<i>E07000189</i>
Chatteris BUA	E34003102	10,298	<i>Fenland</i>	<i>E07000010</i>
Cheadle BUA	E34003425	11,404	<i>Staffordshire Moorlands</i>	<i>E07000198</i>
Cinderford BUA	E34004957	12,942	<i>Forest of Dean</i>	<i>E07000080</i>
Cirencester BUA	E34005029	17,153	<i>Cotswold</i>	<i>E07000079</i>
Clevedon BUA	E34003928	21,002	<i>North Somerset</i>	<i>E06000024</i>
Clitheroe BUA	E34001416	14,765	<i>Ribble Valley</i>	<i>E07000124</i>
Coleford (Forest of Dean) BUA	E34004910	10,397	<i>Forest of Dean</i>	<i>E07000080</i>
Congleton BUA	E34003723	26,178	<i>Cheshire East</i>	<i>E06000049</i>
Consett BUA	E34004552	29,137	<i>County Durham & Northumberland</i>	<i>E06000047 / E06000048</i>
Cowes BUA	E34005011	21,226	<i>Isle of Wight</i>	<i>E06000046</i>
Cranleigh BUA	E34004800	11,082	<i>Waverley</i>	<i>E07000216</i>
Croesowallt BUA	E34002877	18,743	<i>Shropshire</i>	<i>E06000051</i>
Crowborough BUA	E34004388	20,607	<i>Wealden</i>	<i>E07000065</i>
Daventry BUA	E34000473	23,879	<i>Daventry</i>	<i>E07000151</i>
Dawlish BUA	E34001067	11,312	<i>Teignbridge</i>	<i>E07000045</i>
Dereham BUA	E34002816	20,651	<i>Breckland</i>	<i>E07000143</i>
Devizes BUA	E34001645	18,064	<i>Wiltshire</i>	<i>E06000054</i>
Didcot BUA	E34004758	29,341	<i>South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse</i>	<i>E07000179 / E07000180</i>
Diss BUA	E34004767	10,734	<i>South Norfolk & Mid Suffolk</i>	<i>E07000149 / E07000203</i>
Dorchester (West Dorset) BUA	E34000016	19,060	<i>West Dorset</i>	<i>E07000052</i>
Dorking BUA	E34004809	17,747	<i>Mole Valley</i>	<i>E07000210</i>
Downham Market BUA	E34000027	10,884	<i>King's Lynn and West Norfolk</i>	<i>E07000146</i>
Driffield BUA	E34001493	13,080	<i>East Riding of Yorkshire</i>	<i>E06000011</i>
Droitwich BUA	E34004685	23,834	<i>Wychavon</i>	<i>E07000238</i>
Dursley BUA	E34004711	14,992	<i>Stroud</i>	<i>E07000082</i>
* Earl Shilton BUA	E34004950	19,578	<i>Hinckley and Bosworth & Blaby</i>	<i>E07000132 / E07000129</i>

Built-up area hub town	Built-up area code	Built-up area population	Within local authority district(s)	Local authority district code(s) 2011
Ely BUA	E34000020	19,090	<i>East Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>E07000009</i>
Evesham BUA	E34004292	23,576	<i>Wychavon</i>	<i>E07000238</i>
Faversham BUA	E34004278	19,829	<i>Swale</i>	<i>E07000113</i>
Felixstowe BUA	E34004644	29,171	<i>Suffolk Coastal</i>	<i>E07000205</i>
Fleetwood BUA	E34003462	25,359	<i>Wyre</i>	<i>E07000128</i>
Frome BUA	E34000692	26,203	<i>Mendip</i>	<i>E07000187</i>
Gainsborough BUA	E34004397	20,842	<i>West Lindsey</i>	<i>E07000142</i>
Gillingham (North Dorset) BUA	E34002474	11,278	<i>North Dorset</i>	<i>E07000050</i>
Godalming BUA	E34004943	22,689	<i>Waverley & Guildford</i>	<i>E07000216 / E07000209</i>
Goole BUA	E34004857	20,810	<i>East Riding of Yorkshire</i>	<i>E06000011</i>
Hailsham BUA	E34000755	19,977	<i>Wealden</i>	<i>E07000065</i>
Halstead BUA	E34001263	11,906	<i>Braintree</i>	<i>E07000067</i>
Harwich BUA	E34005034	20,723	<i>Tendring</i>	<i>E07000076</i>
Haslemere BUA	E34004734	13,651	<i>Waverley & Chichester & East Hampshire</i>	<i>E07000216 / E07000225 / E07000085</i>
Haverhill BUA	E34000327	27,041	<i>St Edmundsbury & Braintree</i>	<i>E07000204 / E07000067</i>
Helston BUA	E34004834	12,184	<i>Cornwall</i>	<i>E06000052</i>
Henley-on-Thames BUA	E34000430	11,494	<i>South Oxfordshire & Wokingham</i>	<i>E07000179 / E06000041</i>
Hexham BUA	E34004191	11,388	<i>Northumberland</i>	<i>E06000048</i>
Honiton BUA	E34002446	11,483	<i>East Devon</i>	<i>E07000040</i>
Huntingdon BUA	E34002257	23,937	<i>Huntingdonshire</i>	<i>E07000011</i>
Ilfracombe BUA	E34002653	11,184	<i>North Devon</i>	<i>E07000043</i>
Ilkley BUA	E34004322	14,809	<i>Bradford & Harrogate</i>	<i>E08000032 / E07000165</i>
Immingham BUA	E34004847	10,750	<i>North East Lincolnshire & North Lincolnshire</i>	<i>E06000012 / E06000013</i>
Ivybridge BUA	E34000867	11,851	<i>South Hams</i>	<i>E07000044</i>
Kendal BUA	E34005015	29,147	<i>South Lakeland</i>	<i>E07000031</i>
Kidlington BUA	E34004616	15,829	<i>Cherwell</i>	<i>E07000177</i>
Knutsford BUA	E34002605	13,191	<i>Cheshire East</i>	<i>E06000049</i>
Leek BUA	E34004811	19,903	<i>Staffordshire Moorlands</i>	<i>E07000198</i>
Leominster BUA	E34001545	10,938	<i>Herefordshire, County of</i>	<i>E06000019</i>
Lewes BUA	E34003222	17,297	<i>Lewes</i>	<i>E07000063</i>

Built-up area hub town	Built-up area code	Built-up area population	Within local authority district(s)	Local authority district code(s) 2011
Louth BUA	E34001434	16,419	<i>East Lindsey</i>	<i>E07000137</i>
Ludlow BUA	E34003206	10,515	<i>Shropshire</i>	<i>E06000051</i>
Lymington BUA	E34004953	16,446	<i>New Forest</i>	<i>E07000091</i>
Mablethorpe BUA	E34000776	12,531	<i>East Lindsey</i>	<i>E07000137</i>
Maldon BUA	E34002041	21,462	<i>Maldon</i>	<i>E07000074</i>
March BUA	E34000055	21,051	<i>Fenland</i>	<i>E07000010</i>
Market Deeping BUA	E34000508	13,574	<i>South Kesteven & Peterborough</i>	<i>E07000141 / E06000031</i>
Market Drayton BUA	E34001024	11,773	<i>Shropshire</i>	<i>E06000051</i>
Market Harborough BUA	E34004281	22,911	<i>Harborough</i>	<i>E07000131</i>
* Marlow BUA	E34004673	18,261	<i>Wycombe & Windsor and Maidenhead</i>	<i>E07000007 / E06000040</i>
Matlock BUA	E34004225	14,956	<i>Derbyshire Dales</i>	<i>E07000035</i>
Melksham BUA	E34004479	19,357	<i>Wiltshire</i>	<i>E06000054</i>
Melton Mowbray BUA	E34004343	27,158	<i>Melton</i>	<i>E07000133</i>
Midsomer Norton/Radstock BUA	E34005049	27,136	<i>Bath and North East Somerset & Mendip</i>	<i>E06000022 / E07000187</i>
Mildenhall BUA	E34004588	14,382	<i>Forest Heath</i>	<i>E07000201</i>
Minehead BUA	E34000469	11,981	<i>West Somerset</i>	<i>E07000191</i>
Minster (Swale) BUA	E34004619	22,167	<i>Swale</i>	<i>E07000113</i>
Morpeth BUA	E34004229	14,403	<i>Northumberland</i>	<i>E06000048</i>
* Nailsea BUA	E34004581	20,543	<i>North Somerset</i>	<i>E06000024</i>
Nantwich BUA	E34000994	17,226	<i>Cheshire East</i>	<i>E06000049</i>
Newmarket BUA	E34001461	20,384	<i>Forest Heath & East Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>E07000201 / E07000009</i>
Newport (Isle of Wight) BUA	E34001267	24,884	<i>Isle of Wight</i>	<i>E06000046</i>
Newport (Telford and Wrekin) BUA	E34002854	12,741	<i>Telford and Wrekin</i>	<i>E06000020</i>
Newquay BUA	E34002180	20,189	<i>Cornwall</i>	<i>E06000052</i>
Newton Aycliffe BUA	E34002689	25,964	<i>County Durham & Darlington</i>	<i>E06000047 / E06000005</i>
North Walsham BUA	E34003606	12,463	<i>North Norfolk</i>	<i>E07000147</i>
Northallerton BUA	E34000922	16,832	<i>Hambleton</i>	<i>E07000164</i>
Norton-on-Derwent/Malton BUA	E34004960	11,937	<i>Ryedale</i>	<i>E07000167</i>
Oakham BUA	E34001373	10,922	<i>Rutland</i>	<i>E06000017</i>
Penrith BUA	E34000039	15,181	<i>Eden</i>	<i>E07000030</i>

Built-up area hub town	Built-up area code	Built-up area population	Within local authority district(s)	Local authority district code(s) 2011
Penzance BUA	E34004797	19,872	<i>Cornwall</i>	<i>E06000052</i>
Petersfield BUA	E34001430	14,974	<i>East Hampshire</i>	<i>E07000085</i>
Prudhoe BUA	E34004966	12,075	<i>Northumberland</i>	<i>E06000048</i>
Retford BUA	E34001504	22,023	<i>Bassetlaw</i>	<i>E07000171</i>
Ringwood BUA	E34004899	14,084	<i>New Forest</i>	<i>E07000091</i>
Ripon BUA	E34002624	16,363	<i>Harrogate</i>	<i>E07000165</i>
Ross-on-Wye BUA	E34000710	10,582	<i>Herefordshire, County of</i>	<i>E06000019</i>
Royston BUA	E34000067	15,781	<i>North Hertfordshire</i>	<i>E07000099</i>
Rugeley BUA	E34002554	24,033	<i>Cannock Chase & Lichfield</i>	<i>E07000192 / E07000194</i>
Ryde BUA	E34005000	26,082	<i>Isle of Wight</i>	<i>E06000046</i>
Saffron Walden BUA	E34002562	15,210	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>E07000077</i>
Sandbach BUA	E34004336	17,976	<i>Cheshire East</i>	<i>E06000049</i>
Sandown/Shanklin BUA	E34004806	21,374	<i>Isle of Wight</i>	<i>E06000046</i>
Sandy BUA	E34004794	11,657	<i>Central Bedfordshire</i>	<i>E06000056</i>
Selby BUA	E34005037	24,859	<i>Selby</i>	<i>E07000169</i>
Selsey BUA	E34002637	10,550	<i>Chichester</i>	<i>E07000225</i>
Sevenoaks BUA	E34004987	29,506	<i>Sevenoaks</i>	<i>E07000111</i>
Sheerness BUA	E34001491	11,938	<i>Swale</i>	<i>E07000113</i>
Shepton Mallet BUA	E34004415	10,369	<i>Mendip</i>	<i>E07000187</i>
Sidmouth BUA	E34000796	12,569	<i>East Devon</i>	<i>E07000040</i>
Skegness BUA	E34004327	24,876	<i>East Lindsey</i>	<i>E07000137</i>
Skipton BUA	E34003174	14,623	<i>Craven</i>	<i>E07000163</i>
Sleaford BUA	E34003071	17,359	<i>North Kesteven</i>	<i>E07000139</i>
* South Elmsall/South Kirkby BUA	E34004896	18,899	<i>Wakefield</i>	<i>E08000036</i>
St Austell BUA	E34004956	25,447	<i>Cornwall</i>	<i>E06000052</i>
St Ives (Huntingdonshire) BUA	E34004769	19,519	<i>Huntingdonshire</i>	<i>E07000011</i>
Stamford BUA	E34004894	20,592	<i>South Kesteven & Peterborough & Rutland</i>	<i>E07000141 / E06000031 / E06000017</i>
Stocksbridge BUA	E34003743	13,069	<i>Sheffield</i>	<i>E08000019</i>
Stone (Stafford) BUA	E34004421	16,385	<i>Stafford</i>	<i>E07000197</i>
Stourport-on-Severn BUA	E34004706	20,586	<i>Wyre Forest & Wychavon</i>	<i>E07000239 / E07000238</i>

Built-up area hub town	Built-up area code	Built-up area population	Within local authority district(s)	Local authority district code(s) 2011
Stowmarket BUA	E34004865	21,028	<i>Mid Suffolk</i>	<i>E07000203</i>
Stratford-upon-Avon BUA	E34004210	27,830	<i>Stratford-on-Avon</i>	<i>E07000221</i>
Street BUA	E34000656	12,911	<i>Mendip</i>	<i>E07000187</i>
Sudbury BUA	E34002053	22,213	<i>Babergh</i>	<i>E07000200</i>
Swanage BUA	E34004282	10,454	<i>Purbeck</i>	<i>E07000051</i>
Tadley BUA	E34004604	15,836	<i>Basingstoke and Deane</i>	<i>E07000084</i>
Tavistock BUA	E34004090	12,280	<i>West Devon</i>	<i>E07000047</i>
Teignmouth BUA	E34004878	17,463	<i>Teignbridge</i>	<i>E07000045</i>
Tewkesbury BUA	E34004442	19,778	<i>Tewkesbury & Wychavon</i>	<i>E07000083 / E07000238</i>
Thame BUA	E34004485	11,329	<i>South Oxfordshire</i>	<i>E07000179</i>
Thetford BUA	E34004143	24,833	<i>Breckland</i>	<i>E07000143</i>
Thornbury BUA	E34000645	11,687	<i>South Gloucestershire</i>	<i>E06000025</i>
Thorne BUA	E34004742	17,295	<i>Doncaster</i>	<i>E08000017</i>
Tiverton BUA	E34003112	19,544	<i>Mid Devon</i>	<i>E07000042</i>
Todmorden BUA	E34003742	11,690	<i>Calderdale</i>	<i>E08000033</i>
Tring BUA	E34002511	11,929	<i>Dacorum</i>	<i>E07000096</i>
Truro BUA	E34004757	23,041	<i>Cornwall</i>	<i>E06000052</i>
Uckfield BUA	E34004591	18,452	<i>Wealden</i>	<i>E07000065</i>
Ulverston BUA	E34000573	11,356	<i>South Lakeland</i>	<i>E07000031</i>
Uttoxeter BUA	E34003596	13,089	<i>East Staffordshire</i>	<i>E07000193</i>
Verwood BUA	E34002917	13,360	<i>East Dorset</i>	<i>E07000049</i>
Wallingford BUA	E34005025	10,348	<i>South Oxfordshire</i>	<i>E07000179</i>
Walton-on-the-Naze BUA	E34004815	17,458	<i>Tendring</i>	<i>E07000076</i>
Wantage BUA	E34003553	18,505	<i>Vale of White Horse</i>	<i>E07000180</i>
Warminster BUA	E34004483	17,490	<i>Wiltshire</i>	<i>E06000054</i>
Wellington (Taunton Deane) BUA	E34004795	13,822	<i>Taunton Deane</i>	<i>E07000190</i>
Wells BUA	E34004695	11,343	<i>Mendip</i>	<i>E07000187</i>
Wetherby BUA	E34004992	13,572	<i>Leeds</i>	<i>E08000035</i>
Whitby BUA	E34003687	13,213	<i>Scarborough</i>	<i>E07000168</i>
Whitehaven BUA	E34004947	24,900	<i>Copeland</i>	<i>E07000029</i>

Built-up area hub town	Built-up area code	Built-up area population	Within local authority district(s)	Local authority district code(s) 2011
Whittlesey BUA	E34003389	12,745	<i>Fenland</i>	<i>E07000010</i>
Witham BUA	E34000527	25,353	<i>Braintree</i>	<i>E07000067</i>
Witney BUA	E34004274	29,103	<i>West Oxfordshire</i>	<i>E07000181</i>
Wootton Bassett BUA	E34001070	11,265	<i>Wiltshire</i>	<i>E06000054</i>
Workington BUA	E34005018	27,120	<i>Allerdale</i>	<i>E07000026</i>
Wymondham (South Norfolk) BUA	E34003864	13,587	<i>South Norfolk</i>	<i>E07000149</i>

1. An asterisk (*) indicates that hub town criteria are met at the BUA subdivision level only.
2. To produce the rural-urban statistical classification Ordnance Survey, the national mapping agency of Great Britain, were commissioned by a cross government working group to create the digital boundaries for the 2011 built-up areas using an automated approach based on grid squares and the proportion of categorised features with them. Where the resulting grid-based built-up areas were less than 200 metres apart they were joined to form a single built-up area (built-up areas so joined are referred to as subdivisions of the larger built-up area). Output areas overlaying the built-up areas were then used to determine the population, and where the aggregate population was greater than 10,000 then the built-up areas were classed as urban, as were the underlying output areas.
3. For more information refer to the built-up area user guide: www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/beginner-s-guide/census/built-up-areas---built-up-area-sub-divisions/index.html
4. The methodology applied is different from that used to identify the larger towns in the previous Local Authority classification. Furthermore the list of possible towns to be investigated is different as some towns that were below 10,000 population in 2001 have populations in 2011 above that level and hence are now classed as urban and were included in the investigation; similarly some larger towns identified last time will have increased in population by the 2011 Census and are now above the 30,000 threshold applied.

Official Statistics

These statistics have been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which sets out eight principles including meeting user needs, impartiality and objectivity, integrity, sound methods and assured quality, frankness and accessibility. More information on the Code of Practice can be found at www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html.

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