

Annex H

Recent research in Great Britain

Similar reports classifying settlements in England and Wales and Scotland were published in 2004, including a multi-level classification of settlements. The classifications are summarised below:

England and Wales

In England and Wales the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has recently published a report on urban and rural definitions⁵. The Rural and Urban Area Classification is a product of a joint project to produce a single and consistent classification of urban and rural areas. The project was sponsored by the Countryside Agency (CA), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the Welsh Assembly Government. A consortium consisting of South East Regional Research Laboratory (SERRL) at Birkbeck College and the Department of Town and Regional Planning at University of Sheffield carried out the research. A summary of the definition is given in the table below.

Band	Settlement definition (2004)	Urban/ Rural
Urban Areas	Settlements with a population of 10,000 or more people	Urban
Rural Areas		
a. Small Town	Identified using population densities of 1 hectare grid-squares of settlements with a population less than 10,000 people and open countryside	Rural
b. Village		
c. Hamlets and Dispersed		

The England and Wales report includes an urban-rural break-point at a settlement population of 10,000 people. Northern Ireland classification statistics can be presented on a common standard to the England and Wales definition at the 10,000 population break-point.

⁵ "A Review of Urban and Rural Area Definitions: Project Report" available from the Office for National Statistics website - http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/downloads/Project%20Report_22%20AugONS.pdf

Scotland

In Scotland, the Scottish Executive has published a report on urban and rural definitions⁶ - the report includes a six-way classification of settlements in Scotland. A summary of Scottish definition is given in the table below:

Band	Settlement definition (Scottish Executive 2004)	Urban/ Rural	Accessible/ Remote
Large Urban Areas	Over 125,000 people	Urban	Accessible
Other Urban Areas	Between 10,000 to 125,000 people	Urban	Accessible
Accessible Small Towns	Between 3,000 and 10,000 people and within 30 minutes drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more.	Urban	Accessible
Remote Small Towns	Between 3,000 and 10,000 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.	Urban	Remote
Accessible Rural	Less than 3,000 people and within 30 minutes drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more.	Rural	Accessible
Remote Rural	Less than 3,000 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.	Rural	Remote

The Scotland Executive report, whilst adopting an urban-rural break-point at 3,000 population, also has a 10,000 population break-point. Northern Ireland classification statistics can therefore be presented on a common GB standard at the 10,000 population break-point.

⁶ "Scottish Executive Urban Rural Classification 2003-2004" available from Scottish Executive website - <http://www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/library5/rural/seurc-00.asp>