

Supplement 3: Rural Urban Classification

All post codes classified according to the RUC (2011) downloaded from:

<https://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/datasets/ons:national-statistics-postcode-lookup-2011-census-august-2023/about>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2011-rural-urban-classification-lookup-tables-for-all-geographies>

Spreadsheet used: 2011 Census Output Area Rural Urban Classification lookup table with worksheet label: 'OA11' and Geography: 'Output Areas (2011)'

Two classifying columns within this spreadsheet were used:

1. 'Rural Urban Classification 2011 (10 fold)'
2. 'Rural Urban Classification 2011 (2 fold)'

To select England-only post codes, the classifier for country was used. Column name: 'ctry' with the classification code of 'E92000001'.

The post codes were then sorted based on the Rural Urban Classification 2011 (2 fold) so that postcodes could be split by 'urban' vs. 'rural'.

Post code column used: 'pcds'

Post codes not classified as 'Urban' or 'Rural' (i.e. the entry was left blank), were excluded from the sample.

Post codes that had been classified as terminated under 'doterm' were also excluded.

Urban:

The operational definition of 'urban' was based on the RUC (2011) and for the purposes of this study the largest cities were targeted to create a clear distinction between urban and rural samples. London was excluded from the selection because it has characteristics that may not accurately represent a typical urban habitat in England.

8 cities were selected to represent England: Birmingham, Liverpool, Bristol, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, Hull (Kingston-upon-Hull) and Southampton. Within these cities, only post codes classified as 'Urban' under the column 'Rural Urban Classification 2011 (2 fold)' were included.

Rural:

All post codes classified as 'Rural' under the column 'Rural Urban Classification 2011 (2 fold)' were included.