

1. About Wigtownshire

The Wigtownshire area lies in the west of Dumfries and Galloway and is bordered by the Stewartry in the east and South Ayrshire in the north. It covers an area of 176,584 hectares, includes Scotland's most southerly point, the Mull of Galloway, and the shortest sea crossing to Ireland from the port of Cairnryan.

Urban-Rural Classification

The Scottish Government produces an urban-rural classification which is based on settlement size defined by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and accessibility based on an analysis of the time taken to drive to larger settlements. Each of these data zones is then classified under one of six categories:

- **Large Urban Areas:** Settlements of over 125,000 people.
- **Other Urban Areas:** Settlements of 10,000 to 125,000 people.
- **Accessible Small Towns:** Settlements of between 3,000 and 10,000 people and within 30 minutes' drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more.
- **Remote Small Towns:** Settlements of between 3,000 and 10,000 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.
- **Accessible Rural:** Settlements of less than 3,000 people and within 30 minutes' drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more.
- **Remote Rural:** Settlements of less than 3,000 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.

As Figure 1.1 illustrates, over half of the population of the Wigtownshire live in areas classified as 'rural' and the remainder live in small towns. Nearly 70% of people live in areas classified as 'remote'.

Figure 1.1: % of Population by Urban/Rural Classification

	Large Urban	Other Urban	Accessible Small Town	Remote Small Town	Accessible Rural	Remote Rural
Annandale and Eskdale	-	-	41	-	36	23
Nithsdale	-	55	-	9	22	13
Stewartry	-	-	19	29	12	40
Wigtown	-	36		14	23	27
Dumfries & Galloway	-	28	17	8	24	23
Scotland	39	30	9	4	12	7

Source: Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics