# 1. ABOUT ANNANDALE AND ESKDALE

Annandale and Eskdale lies in the east of Dumfries and Galloway, , and is bordered by the Nithsdale area in the west, South Lanarkshire in the north, Scottish Borders in the east and Cumbria in the south. Most of its southern boundary is made up of the Solway Firth Coastline. Two main rivers, the Annan and the Esk run through the area draining into the Solway Firth. The Southern Uplands form the northern boundary. Covering 156,286 hectares, it accounts for around a quarter of the total area of Dumfries and Galloway.

**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 data zone in Scotland 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 illustrated below, over half of the population of Annandale and Eskdale live in rural areas. The remainder live in accessible small towns.

**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 and Galloway** | **-** | **28** | **17** | **8** | **24** | **23** |
| **Scotland** | **39** | **30** | **9** | **4** | **12** | **7** |

**Source: Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics**