

## Rural-Urban definition for Small area Geographies

A post-2011 Census Rural-Urban definition, or classification (RUC), was prepared by the University of Sheffield under Peter Bibby and Paul Brindley in 2012/13. The coverage is England and Wales. The terms used are slightly different to those in the original 2004 definition, with more classes introduced. There was previously just one urban morphology type for the 2004 definition, but the new typology subdivides 'urban' into major and minor conurbations or 'City and Town' thereby using types only seen in the Rural-urban classification for local authorities.

| 2004 Definition (Morphology & Context)    | 2011 Rural-Urban Typology                                 |
|---|---|
| Urban >10K - Less Sparse                  | Urban: Major Conurbation                                  |
|   | Urban: City and Town                                      |
| Town & Fringe - Less Sparse               | Rural: Town and Fringe                                    |
| Village - Less Sparse                     | Rural: Village  |
| Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings - Less Sparse | Rural: Hamlets and Isolated Dwellings                     |
| Hamlet & Isolated Dwelling - Sparse       | Rural: Hamlets and Isolated Dwellings in a Sparse Setting |

Other types used but not present in Lancashire: Urban: Minor Conurbation; Urban: City and Town in a Sparse Setting; Rural: Town and Fringe in a Sparse Setting; Rural: Village in a Sparse Setting.

Table 1 shows the new typology alongside the old, as it applies to Lancashire.

The Office for National Statistics have a page (now archived) [dedicated to the revised classifications](#), and tools for accessing the associated data.

The criteria for allocation to the types is explained in the leaflet, which can be downloaded from the above, while most of the data can still be downloaded from the Office of National Statistics [geoportal](#). It should be noted that the classifications are based entirely on population. To quote from the ONS page 'OAs are treated as "urban" if they were allocated to a 2011 [built-up area](#) with a population of 10,000 or more.' Confusingly, built-up areas are not necessarily population based themselves. There are over 300 in England with no population. There are also over 100 built-up area sub-divisions in England with no residential buildings. Please refer to the final section of this article about built-up areas in Lancashire.

The 'Urban: Major Conurbation' category is found in 5 places in England: Greater London, the West Midlands, West Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear and the conurbation including Merseyside and Greater Manchester. Clearly there is an association between these areas and London plus the Metropolitan counties, but their extents are not identical. For example, the West Midlands conurbation extends west into South Staffordshire and north towards Cannock Chase, but does not include Coventry because of the rural belt known as the 'Meriden Gap' between Solihull and Coventry. As a result Coventry is given the 'Urban: City and Town' classification. In the case of Lancashire the 'Urban: Major Conurbation' class is applied to Skelmersdale and, at OA level, Broadley in Rossendale because of their proximity to the Greater Manchester districts of Wigan and Rochdale respectively.

The 'Urban: Minor Conurbation' category is only found in the South Yorkshire Metropolitan county and parts of Nottinghamshire.

Lancashire only has a couple of output areas in the 'Sparse setting for Hamlets and Isolated Dwellings', which follows the pattern for most of England. In contrast most of Wales and the marches fall into the sparse categories, as do parts of Cumbria, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, Devon and Cornwall in the northern and south-western fringes of the country.

All of the Office for National Statistics own hierarchical statistical units: Output Areas (COAs), Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) and Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) were revised for the release of the 2011 Census (and this was the first ever revision) so it can be understood why a revision of the RUC was undertaken soon afterwards. Some of the Areas needed to be split or merged in order to conform to ONS's threshold criteria for the maximum and minimum number of persons and households present.

**Table 2 Overview of rurality at Census output area level in Lancashire and change from the 2004 definition.**

| 2011 Rural-Urban Typology                                | Lancashire (12-district area) |                           |                 | Lancashire (14-authority area) |                           |                 |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
|  | Hectares:                     | Population: (2011 Census) | % of population | Hectares:                      | Population: (2011 Census) | % of population |
| Rural hamlets and isolated dwellings in a sparse setting | 3,317.9                       | 442                       | 0.04%           | 3,317.9                        | 442                       | 0.03%           |
| Rural hamlets and isolated dwellings                     | 159,999.8                     | 55,460                    | 4.73%           | 164,037.0                      | 57,401                    | 3.93%           |
| Rural village  | 46,553.0                      | 55,508                    | 4.74%           | 50,724.3                       | 57,886                    | 3.96%           |
| Rural town and fringe                                    | 21,018.9                      | 130,300                   | 11.12%          | 21,601.9                       | 133,467                   | 9.14%           |
| Urban city and town                                      | 56,941.8                      | 887,982                   | 75.81%          | 65,345.6                       | 1,170,050                 | 80.09%          |
| Urban major conurbation                                  | 2,591.0                       | 41,647                    | 3.56%           | 2,591.0                        | 41,647                    | 2.85%           |
|  |                               | 1,171,339                 |                 |                                | 1,460,893                 |                 |

| 2004 Definition (Morphology & Context)    | Lancashire (12-district area) |   |                 | Lancashire (14-authority area) |   |                 |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
|   | Hectares: Lancashire 12       | Population: Lancashire 12 (2001 Census) | % of population | Hectares: Lancashire 14        | Population: Lancashire 14 (2001 Census) | % of population |
| Hamlet & Isolated Dwelling - Sparse       | 7,257.1                       | 851                                     | 0.07%           | 7,257.1                        | 851                                     | 0.06%           |
| Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings - Less Sparse | 130,720.0                     | 51,003                                  | 4.49%           | 134,190.7                      | 52,659                                  | 3.72%           |
| Village - Less Sparse                     | 82,993.4                      | 74,309                                  | 6.55%           | 88,114.5                       | 77,855                                  | 5.50%           |
| Town & Fringe - Less Sparse               | 18,976.8                      | 133,836                                 | 11.79%          | 19,117.9                       | 135,434                                 | 9.57%           |
| Urban >10K - Less Sparse                  | 50,480.3                      | 874,975                                 | 77.09%          | 58,940.9                       | 1,147,928                               | 81.14%          |
|   |                               | 1,134,974                               |                 |                                | 1,414,727                               |                 |

Source: LCC Business Intelligence

Table 2 shows the relative area and populations of the 2004 and 2011 definition/classification. Please note that inter-censal mid-year estimates are not issued for areas as small as COAs, so the 2001 census figures have been used for the earlier definition. In population terms there are not great differences between the definitions. Number of people living in urban areas only rises from 81.14% to 82.94% for the 14 authority Lancashire area, and from 77.09% to 79.37% in the less urbanized 12 district Lancashire county. In area terms there is an increase of around 9,000 hectares (90 km<sup>2</sup>) which affects the 12 district Lancashire. The urban extent in Blackburn with Darwen is entirely unchanged, while the previously completely urban Blackpool authority has an area around the Cemetery and Crematorium re-classified as Rural town and fringe (please see details for each district.)

The area of the Rural Village type goes down by around 37,000 hectares from the 2004 definition, but that of the Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling types go up by about 25,000 hectares, which accounts for a lot of this change. The remainder goes mostly into the urban types, discussed above, and over 2,000 hectares into the Rural Town and Fringe type.

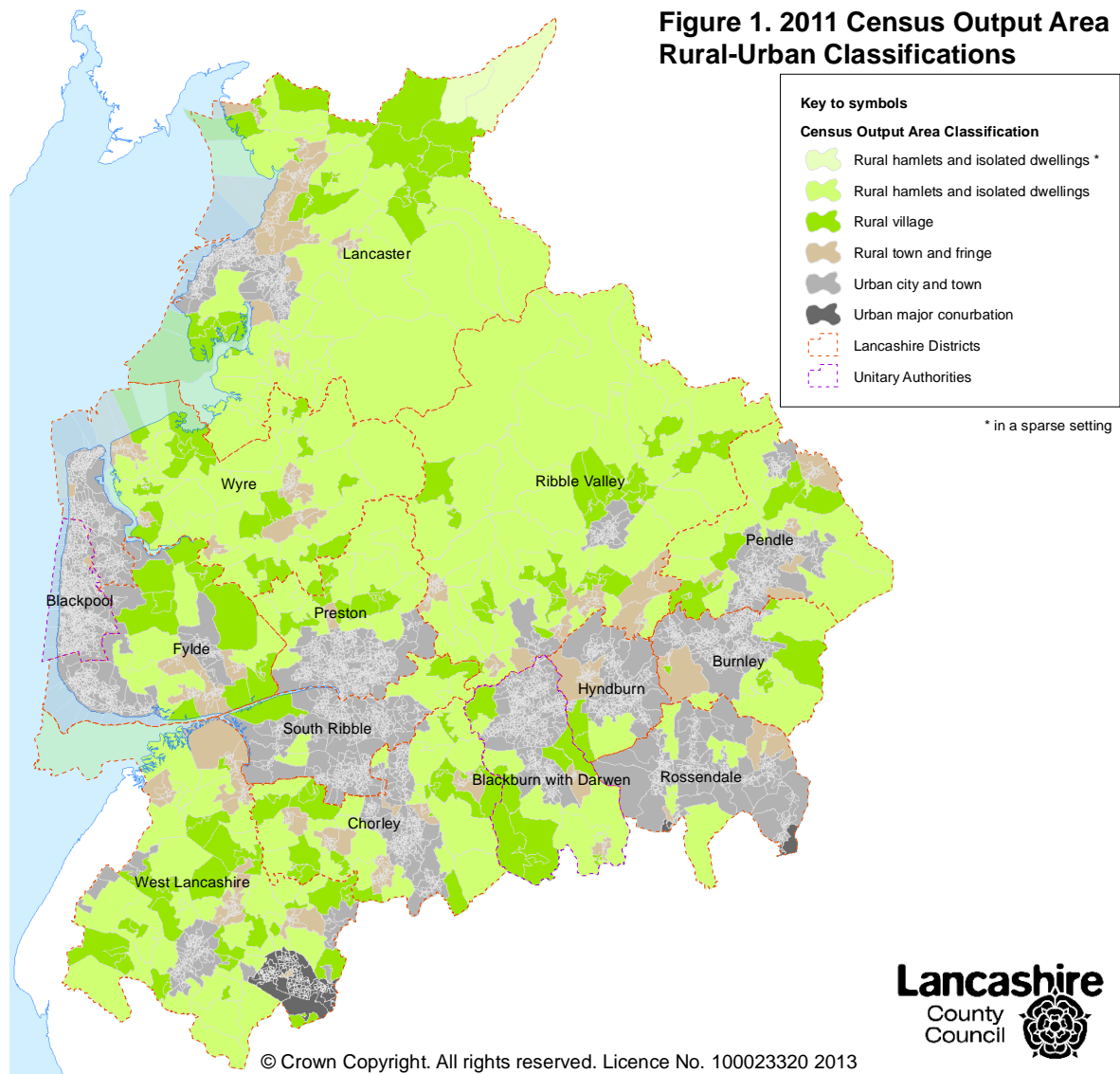


Figure 1 maps out the 2011 Rural-Urban classification by all types.

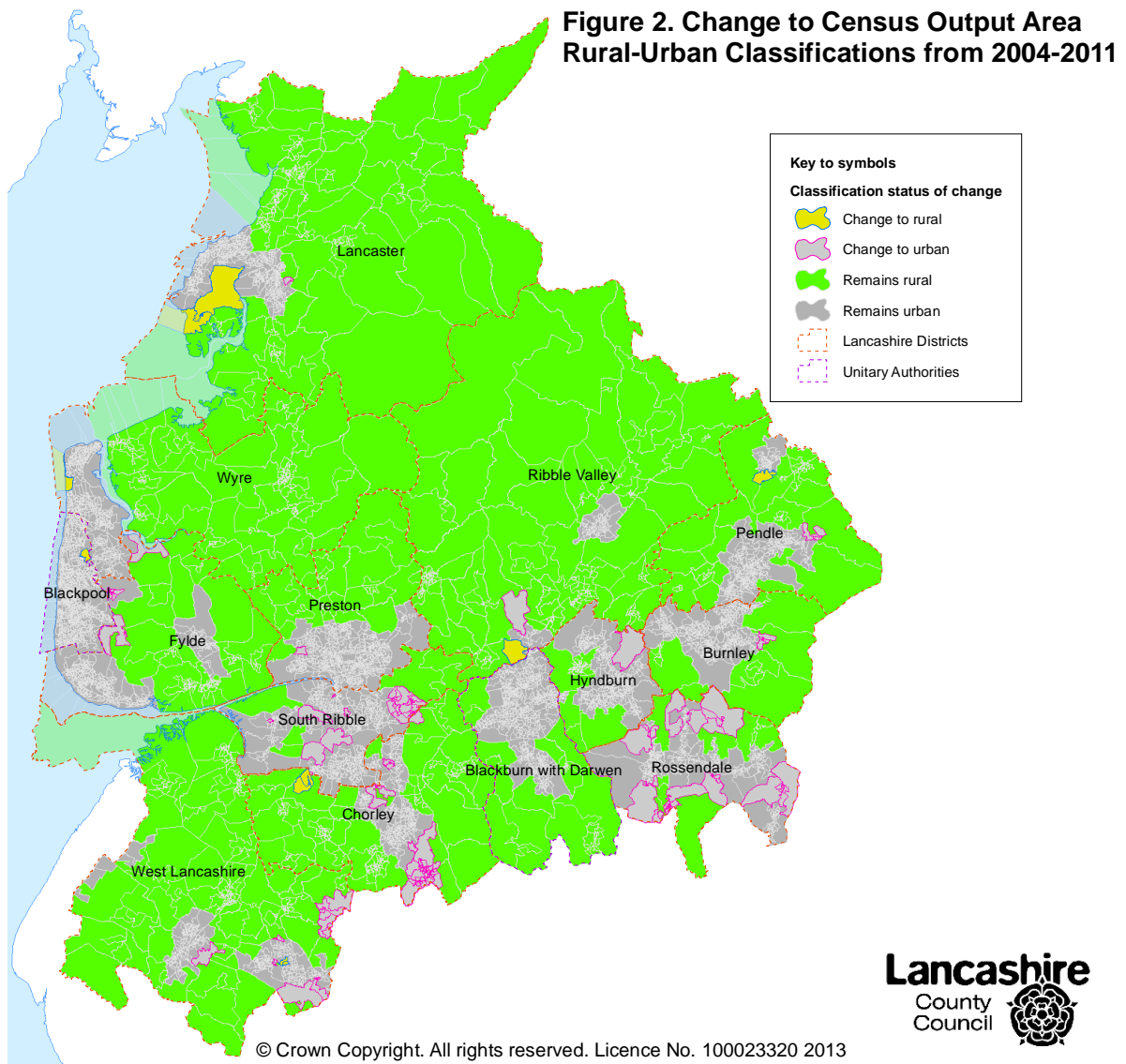


Figure 2 only maps out the Rural or Urban groups, but shows where this has changed since 2004.

### Detailed changes by district in Census Output Area Rural-Urban Classification

In this section 'Urban' means 'Urban: City and Town' in the new definition or 'Urban >10K - Less Sparse' in the old unless otherwise specified.

'Town and Fringe – Less Sparse' and 'Rural: Town and Fringe' are called 'Town and Fringe'

'Village - Less Sparse' and 'Rural: Village' are referred to by 'Village'

'Hamlet' means 'Rural: Hamlets and Isolated Dwellings' in the new definition or 'Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings - Less Sparse' in the old unless otherwise specified.

## **Burnley**

The settlement of Worsthorne changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban'.

Areas around Holme Chapel and Mereclough in the south-east of Cliviger with Worsthorne ward change from 'Village' to 'Hamlet'. The large COA in the south of Hapton with Park ward running from the Network 65 Business Park towards Hameldon Hill changes from 'Village' to 'Town and Fringe'.

## **Chorley**

The area of Jack Green by Gregson Lane changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban' as do parts of Clayton Wood and Buckshaw Village (though not the railway station.) Substantial areas at Adlington change to 'Urban' from 'Town and Fringe', 'Village' and 'Hamlet'. The area around the prisons at Wymott changes from 'Urban' to 'Village'.

The area between Croston and Mawdesley becomes 'Hamlet' from 'Town and Fringe'. Charnock Richard and an area south-west of Heskin Green turn 'Village' to 'Hamlet'. The Great Knowley and Little Knowley areas turn from 'Village' and 'Hamlet' to 'Town and Fringe' and this also applies to 2 COAs north of Withnell.

## **Fylde**

Staining and the area at the western end of the M55 motorway (including Carr Bridge Residential Park) change to 'Urban' from 'Hamlet' and 'Town and Fringe'. Little Singleton changes from 'Village' to 'Urban', continuing the spreading-out of the Fylde Coast Conurbation previously noted in Skippool.

Roseacre, Wharles and Treales and Warton Bank/part of Warton aerodrome change from 'Hamlet' to 'Village'. Westby and Plumpton change from 'Village' to 'Hamlet'.

## **Hyndburn**

Altham (the whole parish area) changes from 'Hamlet' to 'Urban'.

An area north of Belthorn and south of Knuzden changes from 'Hamlet' to 'Village'.

## **Lancaster**

A small area containing the Ashton Memorial changes from 'Hamlet' to 'Urban'. A small area around Middleton changes from 'Urban' to 'Hamlet'. In Figure 2 the area affected appears much larger and appears to include Heaton, but this is because of boundary changes to the Output Areas.

The Lowgill/Tatham Fell area changes from 'Hamlet & Isolated Dwelling – Sparse' to the standard 'Rural: Hamlets and Isolated Dwellings' category. The Goodber Common/Thrushgill area, Dolphinholme and Cockerham change from 'Village' to 'Hamlet'. Stodday and the part of Slyne with Hest south of Slyne change from 'Hamlet' to 'Town Fringe'.

## **Pendle**

Laneshaw Bridge and areas that connect it to Colne change from 'Village' and 'Hamlet' to 'Urban'. An area south of Barnoldswick and west of Salterforth changes from 'Urban' to 'Hamlet'.

Around Kelbrook a wider area changes from 'Hamlet' to 'Village'. The south-western part of Fence changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Village'.

## **Preston**

In Cottam the area between the Blackpool railway line and Tom Benson Way that contains the Sports Arena turns from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban'.

Lightfoot Green, part of Woodplumpton and an area east of Barton that stretches almost to Bilsborrow and Inglewhite changes from 'Village' to 'Hamlet'. At Broughton, an area reaching to just east of the M6 motorway and north of the Blundel Brook turns from 'Hamlet' to 'Village'. In the west of Broughton a small COA by the main railway line turns from 'Village' to 'Town and Fringe'. The central part of Goosnargh that was 'Town and Fringe' becomes 'Village'.

## **Ribble Valley**

Copster Green changes to 'Urban' from 'Village'. Ramsgreave changes from 'Urban' to 'Town and Fringe'.

The COA containing Pendleton is merged with Worston. This is now of type 'Hamlet', but Pendleton used to be in type 'Village'. Slaidburn, Newton, Grindleton, Downham, Sawley, Hothersall and the area north of Osbaldeston village also go from 'Village' to 'Hamlet'. Bolton by Bowland and Holden, an area just east of Hurst Green, the old Calderstones site and an adjoining area near Whalley change 'Hamlet' to 'Village'. The centre of Chatburn and part of Whalley change from 'Village' to 'Town and Fringe' while other areas around Whalley change from 'Hamlet' to 'Town and Fringe'.

## **Rossendale**

Rossendale sees major changes to 'Urban' in an already highly urbanised district. In the far south-eastern corner, which was previously categorised as 'Urban,' a small area covering Broadley and Tonacliffe is now classed as 'Urban: major conurbation' as it must be considered as a continuation of the Greater Manchester conurbation that includes Rochdale. Over in the south-west of the district Stubbins and Chatterton change directly from 'Village' to 'Urban: major conurbation'. This is just north of Ramsbottom in Greater Manchester. Areas around Shawforth change to 'Urban' from 'Town and Fringe' and 'Village'. Edenfield changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban' and an area just to its north but stretching 2 miles east changes from 'Village' to 'Urban'. Adjacent to this area and south-west of Waterfoot an area previously classed as 'Hamlet' becomes 'Urban'. The much smaller area of Hugh Mill changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban'. The area north west of Stubbins and south of Helmshore changes to 'Urban' from 'Hamlet', as does a small area just east of Helmshore. Acre and the larger area west of Rising Bridge change from 'Hamlet' to 'Urban'. The part of Rising Bridge that was previously 'Village' now becomes 'Urban'. Goodshaw and Goodshaw Fold, previously 'Hamlet' become 'Urban'. East of Goodshaw Chapel the 'Town and Fringe'

area turns into 'Urban'. East of here in Whitewell ward, the area around Water that was 'Village' becomes 'Urban'.

Less significant changes are: Weir and other previously 'Village' classed areas to the south become 'Town and Fringe' but the small 'Hamlet' area near Broad Clough remains 'Hamlet'. An area east of Chatterton and Lumb changes from 'Hamlet' to 'Town and Fringe', but just north-east of here the former 'Village' area containing Irwell Vale Station becomes 'Hamlet'.

### **South Ribble**

A continuous area from Higher Walton to Gregson Lane turns to 'Urban' from 'Town and Fringe', 'Village' and 'Hamlet'. Large areas at Farington and Midge Hall, and smaller enclaves at Penwortham Lane, the caravan site at Lower Penwortham and a piece of Longton change from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban'. An area around Lindle Lane, including the Police HQ at Hutton, changes from 'Hamlet' to 'Urban'.

A large area along Ratten Lane at Hutton and extending towards the Ribble Marshes changes from 'Hamlet' to 'Village'.

### **West Lancashire**

Most of the previously 'Urban' part of Skelmersdale is reclassified to 'Urban: Major Conurbation'. As mentioned above the proximity to Orrell and Wigan in Greater Manchester is behind this change. But there are a couple of exceptions affecting adjoining settlements. To the west of Skelmersdale the linear settlement at Blaguegate becomes the 'City and Town' version of 'Urban', and extending north of Up Holland towards Roby Mill another small linear settlement is classed as 'Urban: City and Town'. South-east of Skelmersdale areas of 'Town and Fringe' and 'Village' change to 'Urban: Major Conurbation' including the Pimbo areas and Upholland Station. At its northern tip, at Whalleys north of Ashurst, a 'Town and Fringe' area becomes 'Urban: Major Conurbation', making the whole of Ashursty ward Urban. There was previously a 'Town and Fringe' enclave in North Skelmersdale ward. Part of this remains, but the western half of it changes to 'Urban: Major Conurbation'. Just to the east in Birch Green ward 2 COAs change from 'Urban' to 'Town and Fringe'. This is actually in the town centre, containing the Police Station, Library and Bus Station! It may be that as Skelmersdale is a new town there are few residential areas in this central section, and this Rural-Urban Classification is based on population alone. Appley Bridge changes from 'Hamlet' and 'Village' classifications to 'Urban: City and Town'. The Scarth Hill area east of Aughton Park in Ormskirk changes from 'Village' to 'Urban: City and Town'.

A couple of areas at Bickerstaffe, one north-west of Newburgh, Bescar Lane Station, Heaton's Bridge, Smithy Lane Ends, the Holmes Moss area north of Mere Brow, a small area north of Rufford along the A59 and Leeds Liverpool Canal, Shirdley Hill and adjoining area north of Halsall, Great Altcar and Downholland Cross all change from 'Village' to 'Hamlet'. The eastern end of Newburgh and the western end of Banks changes 'Village' to 'Town and Fringe'. Small parts of Beconsall and part of Tarleton north of Doctor's Lane change to 'Town and Fringe' from 'Hamlet', but Sollom changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Hamlet'. The eastern part of Rufford, including the station, changes to 'Village' from 'Town and Fringe'. An area west of Aughton containing West Tower Hotel changes to 'Village' from 'Hamlet'. The old airfield and industrial estate west of Burscough turns to 'Hamlet' from

'Town and Fringe', but a small adjacent COA at the south of Burscough that was 'Hamlet' becomes 'Town and Fringe'.

### **Wyre**

Wyre district has no changes of classifications to 'Urban', but one large coastal COA containing Rossall Beach and Rossall School turns from 'Urban' to 'Town and Fringe'.

St. Michael's on Wyre, Ratten Row, Crossmoor, Street, Potter's Brook near Forton and the area north of Cabus and west of Scorton turn from 'Village' to 'Hamlet'. An area to the south and east of Hambleton goes from 'Hamlet' to 'Village'. The area between Catterall and St. Michael's turns from 'Hamlet' to 'Town and Fringe'.

### **Blackburn with Darwen**

There are no changes to or from 'Urban' in the Blackburn with Darwen unitary authority.

Areas around Huddlesden and Edgworth change from 'Village' and 'Hamlet' to 'Town and Fringe'. The Tockholes, Darwen Moor and northern Edgworth areas change from 'Village' to 'Hamlet'. Near Turton Bottoms there is a change from 'Hamlet' to 'Village', as in the north-western corner of the authority.

### **Blackpool**

Blackpool was classed as entirely 'Urban' in the 2004 definition, but in 2011 the Cemetery and Crematorium location near Carleton becomes 'Town and Fringe'.

### **Built-up areas in Lancashire**

There are a few potential anomalies arising from the way that a classification of 'urban' is partly dependent on the status of the built-up area that overlaps the output area. Ribby Hall Leisure Village has been designated a 'built-up area sub-division' called 'Ribby' and no population has been allocated to it, but by looking at the postcode headcounts\* it seems that it does have a population in the order of circa 70-90. A small corner of the built-up area extends into Kirkham, and that OA is urban, but that is not pertinent to this particular matter. The output area which contains most of 'Ribby' also includes parts of Wrea Green, and has a population of 288. The postcode headcount is in the order of 286 including the 70-90 in the 'Ribby' part. The classification that has been given to it is 'Rural: Town and Fringe' which is the same as for the other parts of Wrea Green.

Near Padiham there is another 'built-up area sub-division' with no allocated population. ONS have labelled it 'Padiham' but it basically consists of the Simonstone Business Park and the Shuttleworth Mead Business Park. It appears to include only 2 postcodes that have a population headcount, and these are very low figures\*. The presence of this 'built-up area' does not appear to have any influence on the classification of the output areas it straddles, the Simonstone part being classed as 'Rural: Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling'.

BAe Samlesbury is included in the 'built-up area' labelled Mellor Brook. Most of the site is classified as 'Rural: Village' and the northern part is in an output area classified as 'Rural: Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling'. The fact that this is one of the main manufacturing sites in Lancashire has no bearing on this classification. Nearby is the Samlesbury Brewery in a

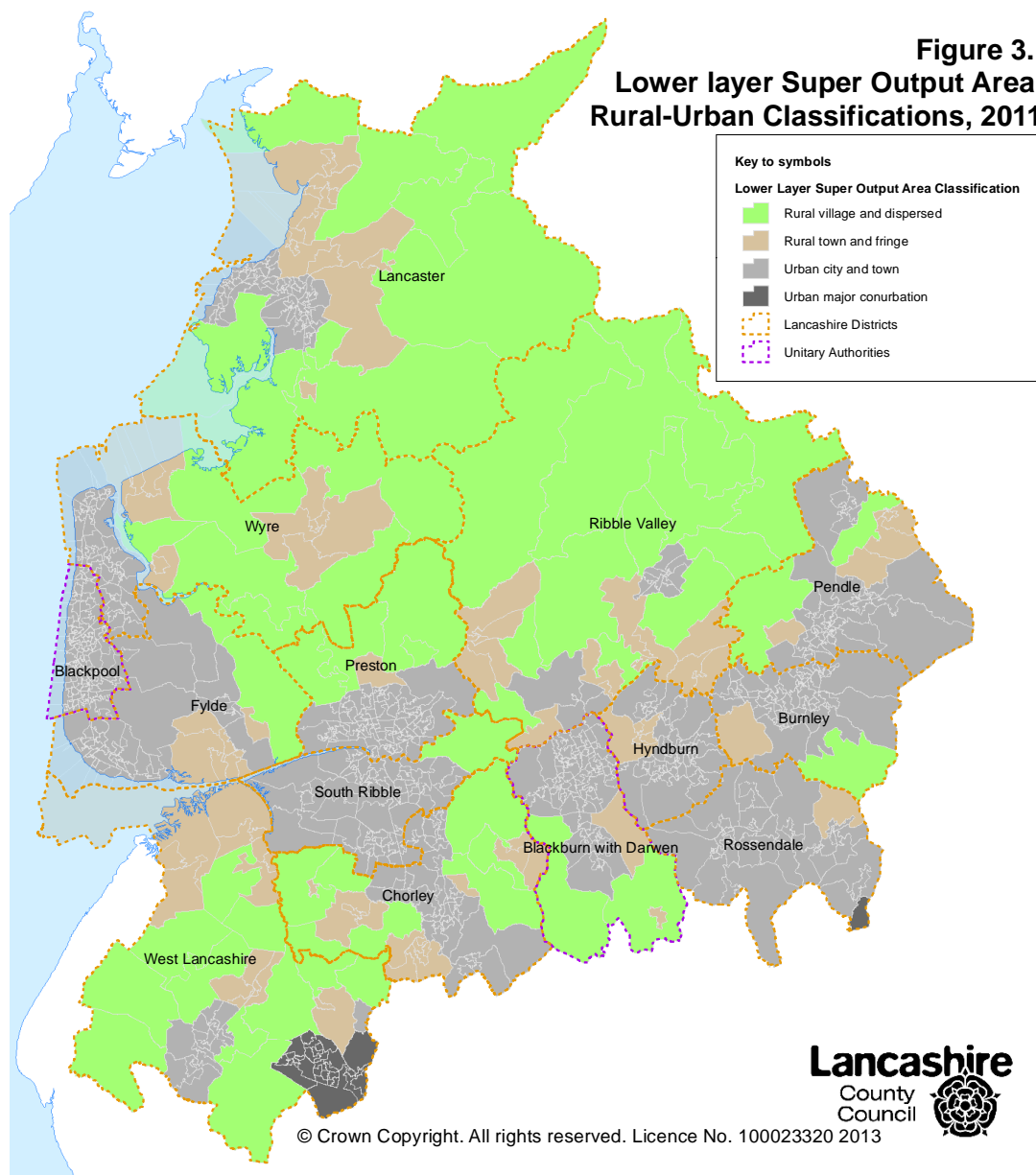


'Hamlet' classed OA. It would appear that this site is just below the 20 hectare threshold for 'built-up areas'.

\* Basing a population count on postcode headcounts is not a particularly robust method, particularly in sparsely populated areas. This is because the entire headcount is allocated to a postcode centroid, whereas the population is actually spread around the nearby properties. Postcode unit areas can straddle 2 output areas and may also be incompatible with small and very irregular (grid-based) geographies such as built-up areas.

### Classifications for Super Output Areas and higher geographies

In geographies higher than Census Output Areas the 'Rural: Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling' and 'Rural: Village' types are combined to form the 'Rural: Village and Dispersed' type. The classifications for LSOA, MSOA and ward are built up from the COA classifications. Classifications at Local Authority level have not at present been provided. Figure 3 maps the LSOAs, Figure 4 maps the MSOAs and Figure 5 maps the wards.



## **Burnley**

At LSOA level, the southern part of Hapton with Park ward, that contains Hapton, changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Rural: town and fringe'. In Cliviger with Worsthorne ward the northern part that contains Worsthorne and Hurstwood changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban: city and town'.

At MSOA level, Burnley 009, which largely covers Briercliffe ward and Cliviger with Worsthorne ward changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Urban: city and town', meaning that Burnley is entirely classed as an 'Urban' type at MSOA level.

There are no changes at ward level.

## **Chorley**

At LSOA level, Adlington and Rivington (all of Adlington and Anderton ward plus all of Heath Charnock and Rivington ward) change from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban: city and town'. The part of Chorley North East ward, east of the M61 motorway and including Botany Bay, changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Rural: town and fringe'. The same change occurs for the settlement of Charnock Richard in Chisnall ward, and for Abbey Village in Wheelton and Withnell ward.

At MSOA level, Chorley 014, which is identical to Adlington and Anderton and Heath Charnock and Rivington wards, changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban: city and town'.

At ward level, Adlington and Anderton and Heath Charnock and Rivington change from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban: city and town'. Chisnall and Wheelton and Withnell change from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Rural: town and fringe'.

## **Fylde**

At LSOA level, all of Singleton and Greenhalgh ward and the Westby and Plumpton part of Warton and Westby ward change from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Urban: city and town'.

At MSOA level, Fylde 001, the large area from Little Eccleston in the north to Moss Side in the south changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Urban: city and town', leaving Fylde with no MSOAs in the renamed 'Rural: village and dispersed' class.

At ward level Singleton and Greenhalgh changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Urban: city and town'. Staining and Weeton changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban: city and town'.

## **Hyndburn**

Hyndburn is unchanged at LSOA, MSOA and ward level in that the whole of Rishton ward, which is identical to the MSOA Hyndburn 003, remains 'Rural: town and fringe' while the rest of the district remains of the 'Urban' type.

## **Lancaster**

The only change in Lancaster seems to result from a boundary change to LSOAs. Overton ward contained 2 LSOAs prior to 2011, but these have been merged into one identical to the ward. The northern part, which contained Heaton, Heysham Harbour, the power station and part of Middleton village was previously urban, but the resulting merged area is classified as 'Rural: village and dispersed'.

Classifications at MSOA level are unchanged because Lancaster 016, which consists of all of Overton and Heysham South wards and part of Heysham Central ward, was previously of the 'Urban' type and remains so.

At ward level Overton ward changes to 'Rural: village and dispersed' from 'Urban' while Ellel changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Rural: village and dispersed'.

## **Pendle**

At LSOA level, the Laneshaw Bridge area changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Urban: city and town', with the result that all of Boulsworth ward is now 'Urban'. The Kelbrook area changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Rural: town and fringe'.

Classifications at MSOA level are unchanged. Pendle 003 remains as 'Rural: town and fringe', the rest of the district is of the 'Urban' type.

There are no changes at ward level.

## **Preston**

Preston's rural classifications are unchanged at LSOA, MSOA and ward levels.

## **Ribble Valley**

At LSOA level, the Copster Green/Clayton-le-Dale area changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Urban: city and town', making the whole of Clayton-le Dale and Ramsgreave ward belong to the 'Urban' type.

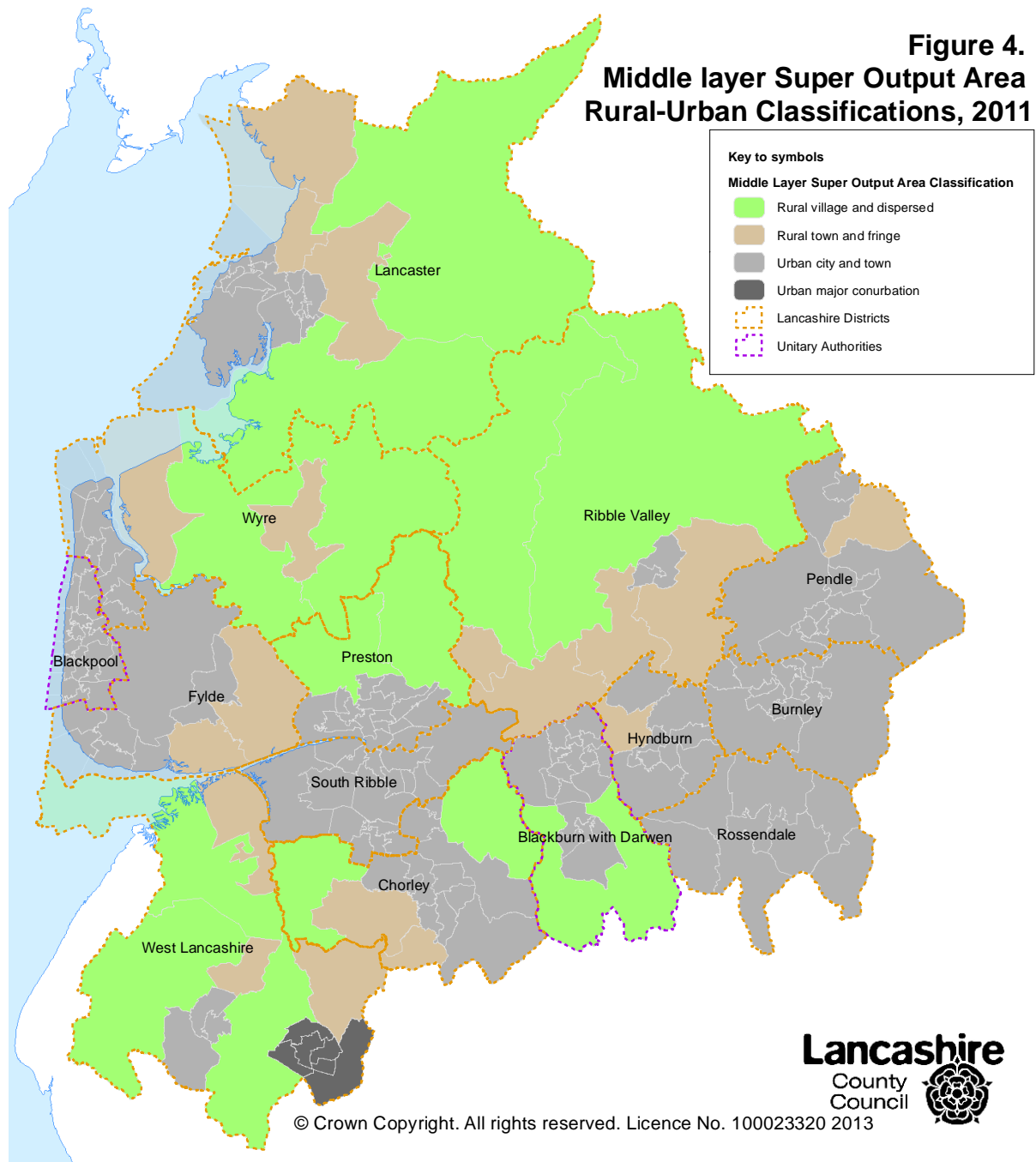
Classifications at MSOA and ward level are unchanged.

## **Rossendale**

At LSOA level, the Broadley area within Healey and Whitworth ward becomes 'Urban: Major Conurbation'. This is a single LSOA and one of only 2 in the ward. Previously both LSOAs were of the 'Urban > 10K – Less Sparse' type. Both LSOAs in Eden ward change to 'Urban: city and town'; the smaller one at Stubbins from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' and the larger one including Edenfield from 'Town and Fringe'. The larger LSOA in Facit and Shawforth ward around Shawforth changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Urban: city and town', making the whole of the ward belong to the 'Urban: city and town' type. This is also true of the LSOA containing Water village in Whitewell ward, which becomes entirely 'Urban'. The LSOA containing Weir in Greensclough ward changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Rural: town and fringe'. This is the only LSOA in Rossendale not to be classified as one of the 'Urban' types.

At MSOA level, Rossendale 008 changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Urban: city and town'. This is an area similar to Eden ward, but also including parts of Greenfield and Longholme wards. Rossendale 009, consisting of both Facit and Shawforth and Healey and Whitworth wards, is classified as 'Urban: city and town' not 'Urban: Major Conurbation'. Rossendale is therefore uniformly 'Urban: city and town'.

At ward level Eden changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban: city and town', meaning that all wards are now urban.



### South Ribble

At LSOA level, the whole of Coupe Green and Gregson Lane ward (or both LSOAs) changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban: city and town'. The Higher Walton area east of the M6

motorway changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Urban: city and town'. This is part of Samlesbury and Walton ward. Only the LSOA containing Samlesbury remains in the 'Rural: village and dispersed' class, the rest of South Ribble is of the 'Urban' type.

At MSOA level, South Ribble 002, which consists of the Coupe Green and Gregson Lane and Samlesbury and Walton wards, changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban: city and town'. Therefore South Ribble is uniformly 'Urban: city and town'.

At ward level Coupe Green and Gregson Lane changes from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Urban: city and town' like the MSOA it forms part of, with the same effect that all of South Ribble's wards are now urban.

### **West Lancashire**

At LSOA level, the area around Skelmersdale which was previously 'Urban > 10K – Less Sparse' is now classified as 'Urban: Major Conurbation'. This is a large area containing 28 LSOAs and more than 8 whole wards. The ward boundaries have changed since 2004 but the LSOA boundaries have not, leaving a small degree of incompatibility. The one LSOA which includes Appley Bridge, in Wrightington ward, and adjacent to the already 'Urban' classified Roby Mill area changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Urban: city and town'. The rest of the district is unchanged.

At MSOA level the same thing happens around Skelmersdale with exactly the same area being reclassified as 'Urban: Major Conurbation'. This consists of MSOAs West Lancashire 009, 010, 011, 013, 014 and 015. West Lancashire 015 includes the part of Wrightington ward that was previously classed as 'Urban'. The other part of the ward is joined with Parbold ward to form the MSOA West Lancashire 005. This one changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Rural: town and fringe' even though it includes Appley Bridge which has become an 'Urban' class at lower geographies. The rest of the district is unchanged.

At ward level, Ashurst, Birch Green, Digmaor, Moorside, Skelmersdale North and Skelmersdale South plus Up Holland all change from 'Urban' to 'Urban: major conurbation'. Wrightington changes from 'Village, Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings' to 'Urban: city and town'.

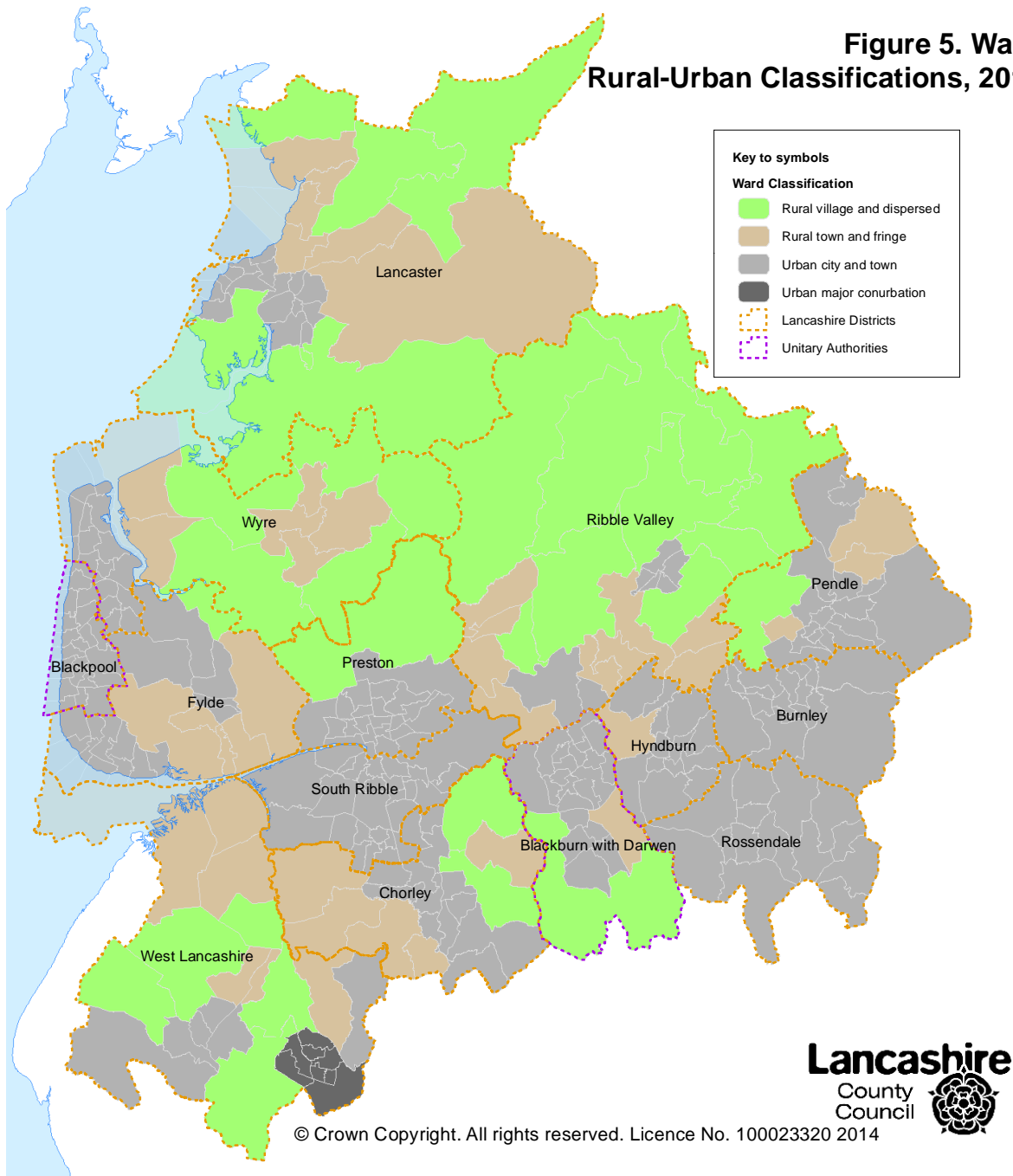
### **Wyre**

At LSOA level, the only change is that Calder ward, which is a single LSOA, turns from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to 'Rural: town and fringe'. All of the district to the west of the Wyre estuary remains 'Urban' and to the east of it everywhere is 'Rural'.

At MSOA level there are no changes in Wyre. Wyre 006 consists of Brock, Calder and Wyresdale wards and this remains 'Rural: village and dispersed'.

At ward level the change to Calder ward is described above. Great Eccleston changes the other way from 'Town and Fringe' to 'Rural village and dispersed'.

**Figure 5. Ward Rural-Urban Classifications, 2011**



### **Blackburn with Darwen**

At LSOA level Blackburn with Darwen has been affected by the most complicated boundary change for anywhere in the Lancashire area. Whereas all other changes to the shape and size of LSOAs are either splits or mergers, the changes around Edgworth and Turton Bottoms seem to be a regrouping of COAs. One of the 2004 LSOAs was a small area including Turton Bottoms and the Isherwood Fold/ Horrocks Fold end of Edgworth. This was mostly surrounded by a much larger LSOA comprising a portion of the remaining part of North Turton with Tockholes ward that is east of the A666. The revised LSOAs feature a small area in a similar location, but this basically is Edgworth village and does not include Turton Bottoms. The new small LSOA is classified as 'Rural: town and fringe'. In the 2004 definitions all of North Turton with Tockholes ward was classed as 'Village, hamlet and

isolated dwelling'. A more straightforward change is that East Rural ward, which is a single LSOA, also changes from 'Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling' to as 'Rural: town and fringe'. There are no changes to 'Urban' classifications.

At MSOA level there are no changes. Blackburn with Darwen 018, which is East Rural and North Turton with Tockholes wards combined and is the only non-urban MSOA in the authority remains 'Rural: village and dispersed'.

The only change at ward level is that for East Rural described above.

### **Blackpool**

Blackpool is unchanged at LSOA, MSOA and ward level, remaining entirely 'Urban'.

This article was originally prepared in September 2013 after the release of the 2011 classifications by [LCC Business Intelligence](#).