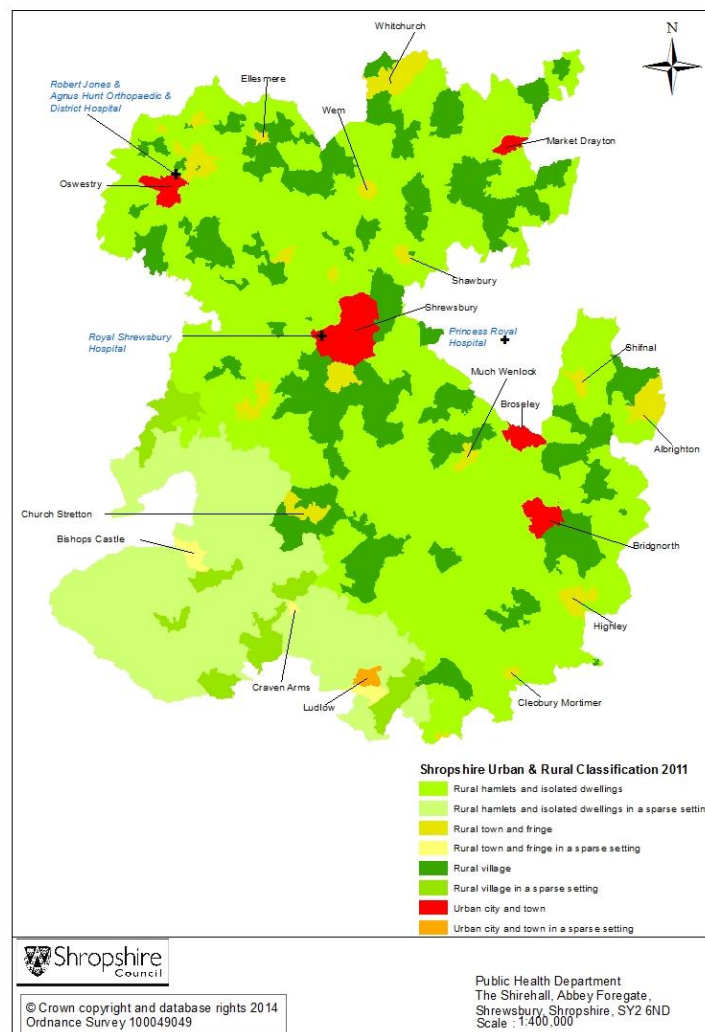


Urban and rural classification

The Rural/Urban classification was introduced in 2004 and defines the rurality of very small geographies. The classification has been updated in 2011 to account for the changes in the population identified in the 2011 Census. The updated classification identifies six settlement types (major conurbation, minor conurbation, city & town, town & fringe, village and hamlet and isolated dwelling) and with the exception of the major and minor conurbation categories classifications are assigned to either a 'sparse' or 'less sparse' regional setting. There are no areas in Shropshire classed as either a major or a minor conurbation.

Overall Shropshire is a rural county with around 66% of the population living what is classified as a rural area. Around 34% of the population reside in areas classed as being urban. Much of the south west of Shropshire is classified as being sparsely populated.

Figure 1 Rural and Urban Classification 2011 in Shropshire



Source: Rural and urban classification, ONS, 2011

The following table highlights the categories that are included in the 2011 rural and urban classification and how they are combined to be either rural or urban.

Urban and Rural Classification	Combined classification
Major Conurbation	Urban
Minor Conurbation	Urban
City and Town	Urban
City and Town – in sparse setting	Urban
Town & Fringe	Rural
Town & Fringe – in sparse setting	Rural
Village	Rural
Village – in sparse setting	Rural
Hamlet & Isolated Dwelling	Rural
Hamlet & Isolated Dwelling – in sparse setting	Rural