

GEOGRAPHY AND TRANSPORT

There is one city in Devon, Exeter, which has a significant impact on the economic character of the Devon economy as a whole. Exeter and its wider town area is home to approximately 15% of Devon's resident population. Outside of Exeter, Devon is overwhelmingly rural and its economic character is shaped significantly by two national parks (Dartmoor and Exmoor) and extensive areas of outstanding natural beauty.

96.3% of Devon County Council's administrative area is classified as being rural¹ with the remaining 3.7% being urban.

Table 1: Rural urban classifications 2011

	Exeter	East Devon	Mid Devon	North Devon	Torridge	South Hams	Teignbridge	West Devon	Devon
Rural village	2.3%	28.5%	11.0%	6.6%	6.0%	27.9%	13.2%	10.0%	14.0%
Rural town and fringe	-	4.6%	2.9%	1.9%	1.5%	4.4%	7.4%	0.8%	3.0%
Rural hamlets and isolated dwellings	-	61.3%	67.9%	26.8%	15.4%	63.0%	72.2%	46.4%	47.9%
Rural village in a sparse setting	-	-	1.5%	2.9%	15.4%	1.4%	-	5.5%	4.2%
Rural hamlets and isolated dwellings in a sparse setting	-	-	14.4%	56.8%	58.5%	2.2%	-	34.2%	26.5%
Rural town and fringe in a sparse setting	-	-	-	2.5%	0.4%	0.0%	7.2%	1.9%	0.8%
Urban city and town	97.7%	5.7%	2.3%	1.6%	2.8%	1.2%	-	1.1%	3.5%
Urban city and town in a sparse setting	-	-	-	0.9%	-	-	-	-	0.2%
Rural	2.3%	94.3%	97.7%	97.5%	97.2%	98.8%	92.8%	98.9%	96.3%
Urban	97.7%	5.7%	2.3%	2.5%	2.8%	1.2%	7.2%	1.1%	3.7%

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2013), Insight and Impact, Census Rural Urban Classifications 2011

However, table 1 demonstrates there is a significant difference between Exeter and all other districts.

Exeter and smaller towns on the main road/rail corridor are relatively well connected, whereas significant areas of the county are relatively remote. Transport links in the south of the county are reasonably good with areas relatively well connected, whereas districts such as Torridge and West Devon do not have good transport links.

¹ Census Classifications 2011 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2011-rural-urban-classification> [Accessed April 2016]

School transport

The majority of pupils make their own way to school or college. However, many pupils live too far from their school or college to be able to walk or cycle.

Devon County Council's school transport currently transports around 20,000 pupils each day on around 900 routes across Devon. School transport is only available to children attending the reception intake and beyond. There is no school transport for those attending a maintained nursery provision. To be eligible for school transport:



- Primary-aged children need to live within the designated area for a school and live beyond a walking distance of two miles. Transport can also be agreed to the nearest maintained school where this is beyond walking distance
- Secondary-aged children need to live beyond a walking distance of three miles and also attend either the school designated to serve the home address or attend the nearest school.

Extended rights to transport are available to families in receipt of certain benefits and secondary-aged pupils could attend one of the three nearest schools to their home (between two and six miles) and receive free transport. The entitlement to school transport is reviewed each year.

Transport to school will normally only run to the opening times for the school or college.

For more information please see [School and College Transport webpage](#).