

Data Boundary Areas

1.1 Purpose of Community-led LEP area boundary

Defining the geographical area of the LEP provides a focus for data collection and related analysis, but that doesn't mean it excludes the wider region if it's relevant to the challenges the community wants to address. For example, land may be available for energy generation (e.g. suitable sites for wind turbines or small hydro schemes) or transport links/corridors (e.g. ferry routes or major roads) outside of the geographical boundary.

1.2 Pre-defined geographical boundary areas

There are several pre-defined areas used for statistic collection across Scotland. There are also boundaries used by local authorities for policies and service delivery, such as school catchment areas. These may be useful for defining the boundary of your study area. Here are some examples of pre-defined areas:

Table 1 Examples of pre-defined geographical boundary areas

Item	Description	Data source
Output area	Smallest possible area used in census data collection. Contains at least 50 people and 20 households	Scotland's Census http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/ods-web/home.html
SNS datazone	Group of areas containing 500–1000 household residents	Scotland's Census http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/ods-web/home.html
Local characteristic postcode sector	Areas defined by postcode (e.g. EH1 2LP is defined as the area EH1 2)	Scotland's Census http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/ods-web/home.html
Settlement	Area with a relatively high density of people/properties (a population of at least 500) surrounded by lower density areas	Scotland's Census http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/ods-web/home.html
Primary school catchment area	Boundary for catchment of a given primary school	Local authority
Secondary school catchment area	Boundary for catchment of a given secondary school	Local authority

Note: Data sources offer maps showing boundary areas

There's likely to be a suite of government or public sector statistics for each of these areas. This means you can match up your selected study area with the greatest amount of available data.

1.3 Selecting an area

If your local area is an island community or a major settlement with clear boundaries that separate it from other smaller settlements nearby, a simple geographic boundary may be sufficient.

If it's a different area (other than one of the pre-defined boundaries described above), you'll have to do more work to compile your datasets. Collected statistics may not sit neatly inside your study area, so they'll need to be filtered to align with your boundary. It's not a barrier to selecting your study area, though.

The size of community that can develop a Community-led LEP is not prescribed, but the information here is most likely to apply to communities in classification groups 4–8 on the Scottish Government 8 fold Urban Rural Classification¹. Reflecting on your outlined challenges and the knowledge already available may help you decide the scale of your proposed study boundary.

¹ See <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-urban-rural-classification-2016/pages/2/> for details (Accessed March 2021)
