TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

NON-DOMESTIC RATES

RURAL RATE RELIEF SCHEME

QUALIFYING RURAL SETTLEMENTS

2025-2026

RURAL RATE RELIEF SCHEME

RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST

SECTION 42A LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988

Rural Rate Relief is available to certain businesses in designated rural areas with populations under 3,000. Unless otherwise indicated rural areas are based on parish boundaries.

From 1 April 2017, rate relief of 100% can be granted provided the business is:

* the only general store, food shop (excluding catering premises) or post office in a qualifying rural settlement, with a rateable value of £8,500 or less, or
* the only public house or petrol filling station in a qualifying rural settlement, with a rateable value of £12,500 or less.

Test Valley Borough Council also has the power to grant discretionary rural rate relief of up to 100% to any business in a qualifying rural settlement which the Council considers to be of benefit to the local community, with a rateable value of £16,500 or less, and that it is considered reasonable to grant such relief having regard to the interest of all its Council Taxpayers.

The following list identifies the qualifying rural settlements in the Test Valley Borough Council area effective for the financial year 2025-2026. The list is reviewed annually and is published by 31st December each year in respect of the following financial year.

**QUALIFYING RURAL SETTLEMENTS**

The following are designated as qualifying settlements within designated rural areas and will be included in the Rural Rate Relief scheme in their entirety:

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| Ampfield Amport  Appleshaw  Ashley  Awbridge  Barton Stacey  Bossington  Braishfield  Broughton  Buckholt  Bullington  Chilbolton  East Dean  East Tytherley  Faccombe  Frenchmoor  Fyfield  Goodworth Clatford  Grateley  Houghton  Hurstbourne Tarrant  Kimpton  Kings Somborne Leckford Linkenholt  Little Somborne | Lockerley  Longparish  Longstock  Melchet Park  Michelmersh  Monxton  Mottisfont  Nether Wallop  Over Wallop  Penton Grafton  Penton Mewsey  Plaitford  Quarley  Sherfield English  Shipton Bellinger  Smannell  Stockbridge  Tangley  Thruxton  Timsbury  Upper Clatford  Vernham Dean  West Tytherley  Wherwell |

**QUALIFYING RURAL SETTLEMENTS**

The following areas have not been designated as solely rural by statute, and applications will be decided by reference to maps identifying and separating the designated rural and urban areas.

These maps are held by the Revenues & Welfare Service.

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|  |
| Abbotts Ann  Charlton  Chilworth  Enham Alamein  North Baddesley |
| Nursling & Rownhams |
| Penton Grafton  Penton Mewsey  Valley Park  Wellow |

The towns of Andover and Romsey are wholly urban areas, and no parts thereof are designated as rural areas. Therefore, businesses within these areas will not be eligible for Rural Rate Relief.

If you would like any further information regarding the Rural Rate Relief scheme, please contact:

Finance & Revenues Service

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