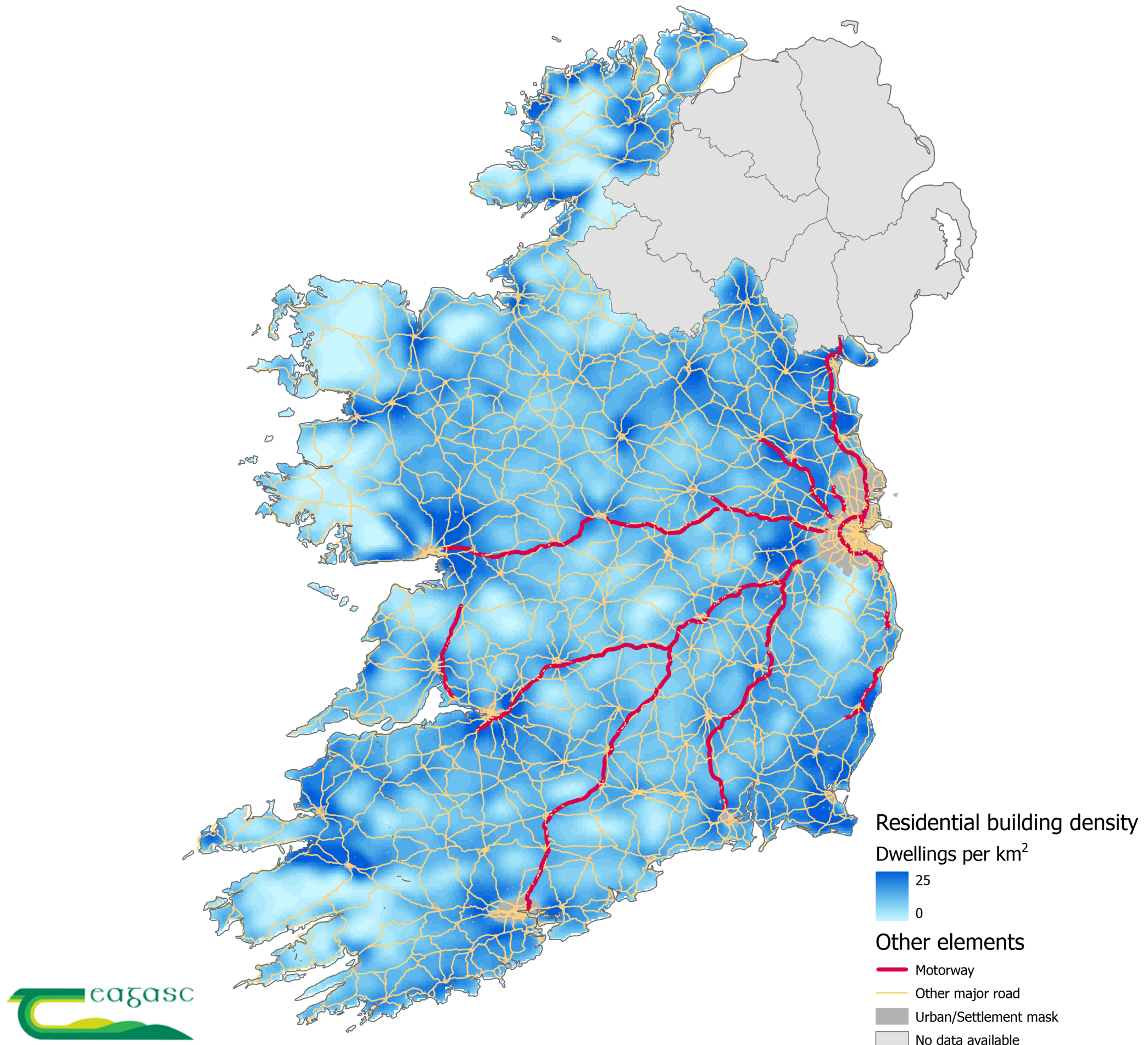


Country living: Rural housing density in Ireland



Housing in the countryside comes in a variety of patterns, including independent towns and villages, residential estates, clusters of houses and "one-off" housing following roads (referred to as ribbon developments).

In this month's map we are using the OSI Prime2 buildings dataset to map the density of residential buildings in rural Ireland. The map shows some clear patterns in rural housing density with a concentration around urban centres (both large such as Dublin or Galway, and smaller centres such as Longford or Cavan). According to the map the most densely housed area is the Galway commuter belt, in particular around Claregalway. There are also bands of high housing density in e.g. south Wexford, Kerry (especially around Tralee, and between Killarney and Killorglin). Overlaying the density map with the major road network shows these bands of higher density along the road networks. The major driver of very low density is topography, with the areas of lowest density being situated in mountainous areas (such as the Wicklow Mountains) as well as areas of blanket bog (such as west Mayo).

Projection: Irish Transverse Mercator

Datasets used:
Ordnance Survey Ireland Prime2

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