Statistical coverage of urban structure

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Örebro
116 000 inh
Hudiksvall
16 000 inh
Grums
5 000 inh
General urban morphological patterns in Sweden

• Towns and cities (≈≥15 000 inh)
  • Centre of perimeter blocks
  • Surrounding/adjacent fringe area of perimeter blocks
  • Residential/suburban areas of different kinds

• Smaller localities (≈<15 000 inh)
  • “Open” centre
  • Residential/suburban areas of different kinds

• Exceptions:
Karlskoga; 27 000 inh
Öregrund 1 600 inh
Exceptions:

• 86 urban localities* >15 000 inhabitants* in Sweden

• Of the 86 largest urban localities* in Sweden, 20 are lacking an area of perimeter blocks [“sluten bebyggelse”] **
  • Mainly modern manufacturing cities and suburban “new towns”

• 64 urban localities*, below the 86 largest, hold an area of perimeter blocks [“sluten bebyggelse”] **
  • Mainly small towns with charters since centuries

*according to Statistics Sweden

**according to Lantmäteriet; the Swedish Ordnance Survey
Does this matter?

- May the occurrence/lack of perimeter blocks (or other types of areas) be of importance to urban attractiveness, prosperity, sustainability, etc?
- May the size of the perimeter block area (or other types of areas) be of importance to urban attractiveness, prosperity, sustainability, etc?
- May the (built) character of the perimeter blocks (or other types of areas) be of importance to urban attractiveness, prosperity, sustainability, etc?
- May the composition (in terms of activities) of perimeter blocks (or other types of areas) be of importance to urban attractiveness, prosperity, sustainability, etc?
- Data is needed!
  - The classification of urban areas by Lantmäteriet (the Swedish Ordnance Survey) is limited to areas of perimeter-blocks, high-rise buildings, low-rise buildings, and manufacturing
  - The areas classified by Lantmäteriet (the Swedish Ordnance Survey) are lacking attribute data
Perimeter-block areas (red)** in five urban localities (yellow)*

*according to Statistics Sweden
**according to Lantmäteriet; the Swedish Ordnance Survey
Data availability

• Statistics Sweden (and other bureaus of statistics)?
• Commercial data suppliers?
• Open data (e.g. Open Street Map, etc)?
• Big data?
• Other sources?