

Yorkshire &
The Humber

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A Rural Evidence Base for

Yorkshire and The Humber

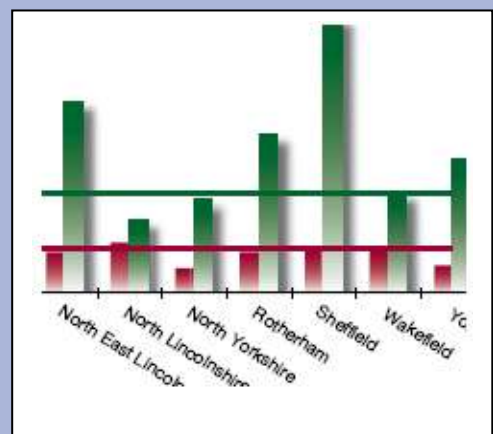
2006

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Executive Summary

This is the second Rural Evidence Base report following its initial publication in 2005. The report follows similar themes to the region's main annual monitoring document "Progress in the Region". It looks at the Advancing Together regional indicators from a rural perspective. It is designed to inform people of the progress in rural areas using evidence from a variety of sources.

This year the report covers the majority of topics from the 2005 report with some additional data as well. Where possible, time series data have been used, comparing the change from one year to the next along with some long-term trends and forecasts.

The main difference between this year's report and last is the use of the new rural classification of local authorities. Another difference is the data itself, new sources, surveys and publications have allowed further analysis into many of the topics, including an entirely new chapter – Governance and Civic Participation.

The data has been collected from many sources, but the main ones include the Regional Econometric Model from Experian, the Axiom National Lifestyle Database, Defra's Rural Evidence Hub, the Office of National Statistics and Nomis.

For most of the evidence examined, patterns established in the 2005 report have been repeated in the 2006 report. For example, rural Yorkshire and The Humber is home to 20% of the region's population and 86% of the region's land is classed as rural. Much of this land is in agricultural use, although at the regional level, farming is not a significant employer or a major sector of the economy.

The demographics of rural areas have also remained similar; although forecast data predicts an increase in the rural population over the next 30 years along with a rise in the percentage of over 60s and a decline in the 16-24s.

A high demand for rural living and a limited supply of rural housing have created an acute affordable rural housing problem. Very few of the region's rural areas are affordable to people with average household incomes.

Similarly to last year, this report found that although employment rates and incomes are higher in rural areas, some more remote rural areas have significant problems with low wages.

The Rural Evidence Base for this year includes more data on the climate change and carbon dioxide emissions. Climate change is a prominent issue that can be partly addressed at regional and local levels. The extent of climate change and its consequences are difficult to fully predict, but there is general consensus that climate change is currently and will increasingly have a major impact on the region's people, environment and economy. This report considers the carbon emissions at a local level, along with other environmental factors such as ecological footprints and household waste going to landfill.

Overall, some cross-cutting themes have been established. Firstly the report touches on the subject of City Regions. Recent publications have explored the extent of influence of a city on the surrounding rural hinterland. Evidence in this report suggests that areas in close proximity to cities or large towns may benefit from better infrastructure and greater economic prosperity. Further research into city regions and how rural areas are integrated with and affected by large urban areas is required.

Another theme is the emergence of different types of rural areas; those with low wages, seasonal or agricultural employment and low productivity; and those with a high number of commuters earning higher wages and consequently larger household incomes. Further evidence suggests that some peripheral districts (possibly those

furthest from the urban centres) may have a higher dependence on the agricultural sector and a lack of farm diversification.

The final crosscutting theme considers the rural environment. Over 20% of the region's land area is subject to national or international environmental designations and the countryside provides a key recreation, leisure and tourism resource. The region's rural environment also has significant indirect benefits such as clean air and water provision and flood control mechanisms. However, despite rural areas having a high-quality local environment the evidence suggests that there are wider problems to address such as the ecological footprint of rural areas, carbon dioxide emissions and waste production. These environmental problems are not only issues in their own right but are closely associated with the region's economy, infrastructure and quality of life.

1 Introduction

1.1 Why regional rural evidence?

This is the second year a Rural Evidence Base for Yorkshire and The Humber has been produced. This version builds upon the 2005 report. From 1999 to 2004, The Countryside Agency annually produced a regional version of their State of the Countryside report. Regional State of the Countryside reports are no longer produced. One function of the Rural Evidence Base for Yorkshire and The Humber is to report information that was previously covered by the Countryside Agency report.

This document uses the same methodology and indicators and updates data presented in the 2005 Rural Evidence report, where new data has been published.

The evidence base is critical for helping to determine the thematic and geographic priorities and targets appropriate for rural Yorkshire and The Humber and is thus a key part of ensuring that delivery is increasingly shaped to meet the needs and opportunities in our region.

To support a need for a stronger rural evidence base, the Yorkshire and The Humber Rural Observatory has been recently established, as part of the Yorkshire Futures network (Yorkshire and The Humber's Regional Observatory). The Rural Observatory provides a focus for rural evidence work in the region. Its key objectives are as follows:

- Regularly monitor the availability of quantitative and qualitative rural data and information and maximise rural reporting in Yorkshire Futures “Progress in the Region” annual report.
- Promote ‘best practice’ in rural evidence based policy making with partners through the use of rural evidence.
- Develop appropriate indicators and targets to monitor the outputs and outcomes of modernised sub-regional and local rural delivery arrangements
- Promote widespread use the government’s new rural-urban definition in evidence reporting in Yorkshire and The Humber
- Identify key rural issues, trends, needs and priorities within the region and report to the Rural Practitioners Group
- Identify gaps in current evidence base and where possible commission work to close such gaps.
- Make appropriate links with Yorkshire Futures, the regional observatory
- Provide a link between the regional activity and national rural evidence work, particularly in relation to the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC).

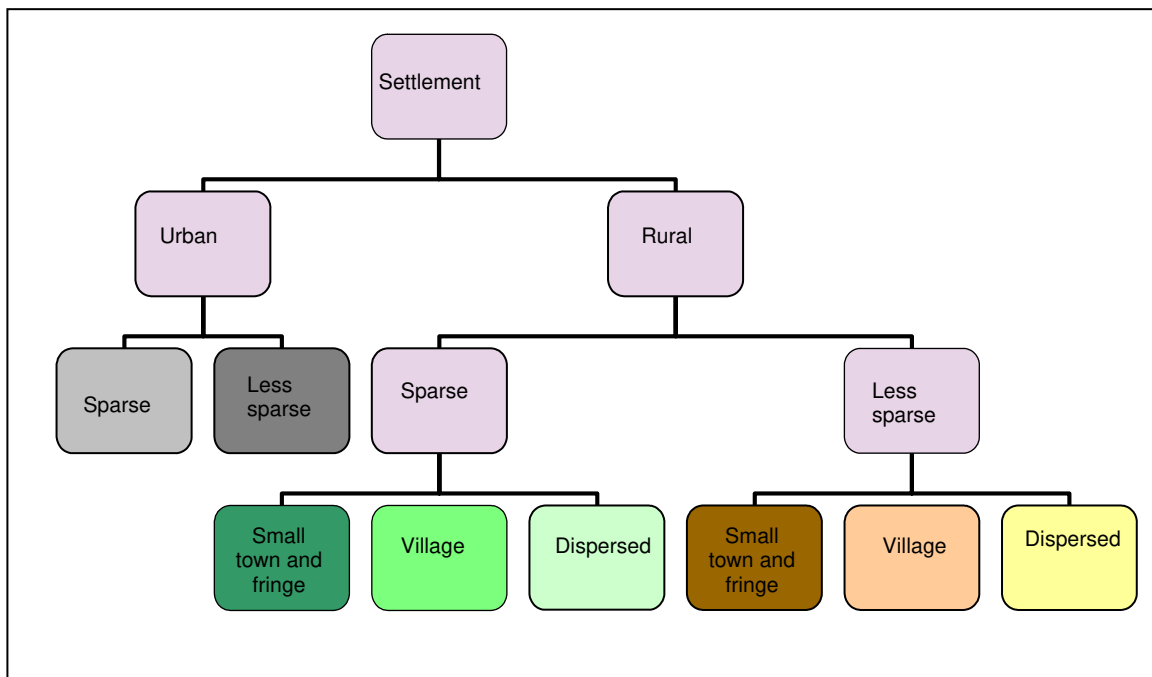
The following organisations are currently members of the Observatory:

GOYH (Chair)	Rural Development Service
Forestry Commission	Yorkshire Futures
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly	Defra
Yorkshire Rural Community Council	Yorkshire Forward
Learning & Skills Council	Environment Agency
Yorkshire Culture	West Yorkshire Economic Partnership
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit	South Yorkshire Partnership
Humber Economic Partnership	English Heritage
Framework for Change (Implementing the Region's Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy)	Yorkshire Universities

1.2 Rural and urban definition

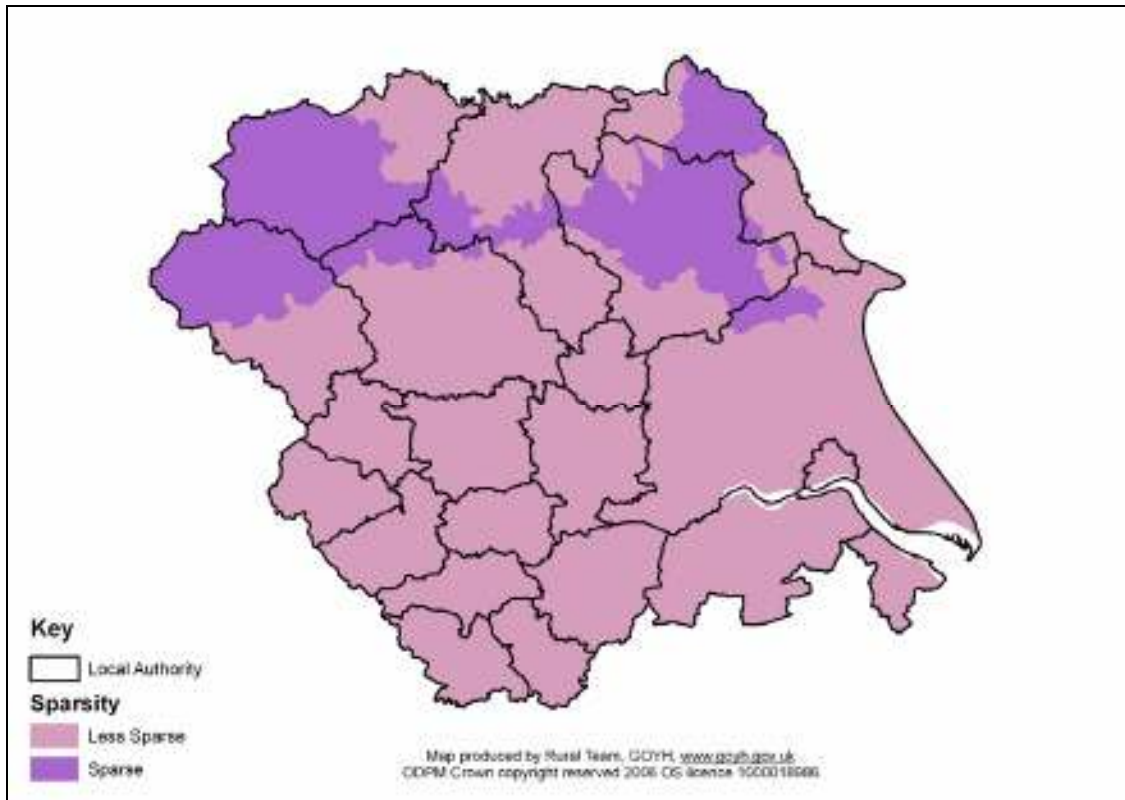
Publication of the Government's latest rural and urban definition in 2004 provides a consistent national and regional framework for collecting and analysing rural evidence, as shown in Figure 1.A. The content of this report is consistent with this latest definition as far as possible.

Figure 1.A The output area definition breakdown of rural and urban, 2004



Under this classification, output areas¹ are described as urban or rural depending on whether the majority of the population falls inside a settlement population of 10,000 or more. This is then sub-divided between a less sparse or sparse context, based on the number of households in surrounding hectare squares up to a distance of 30km. Figure 1.B shows the sparse and less sparse areas of the region.

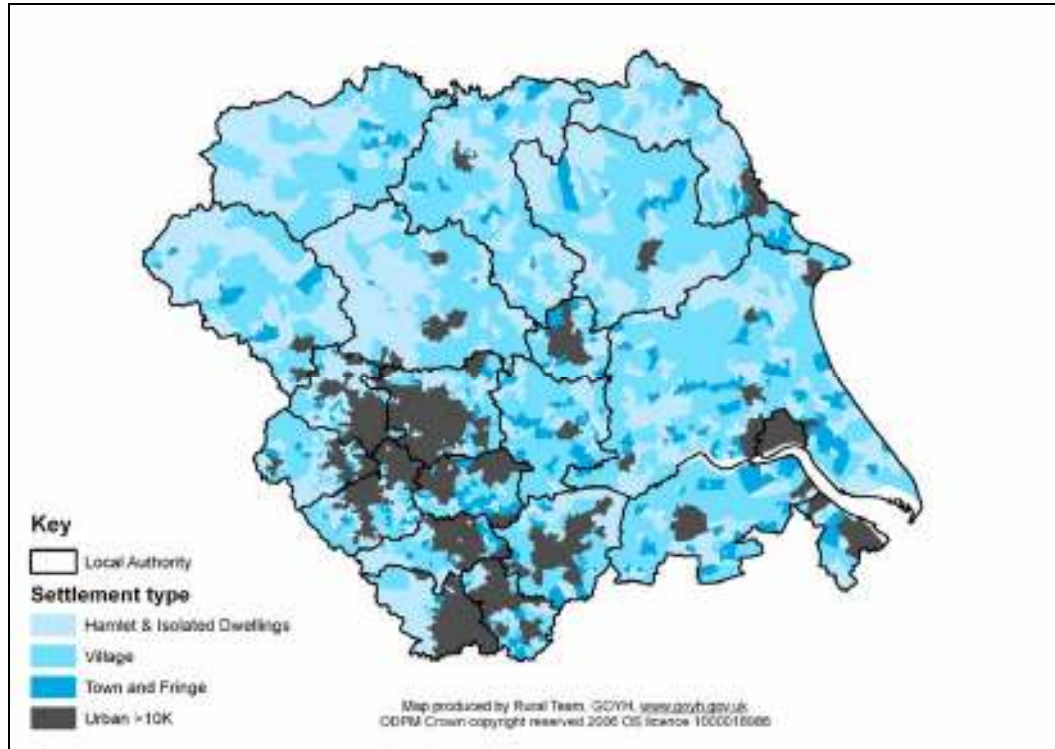
Figure 1.B Sparse and less sparse areas of the region, 2004



¹ See: www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp for further information.

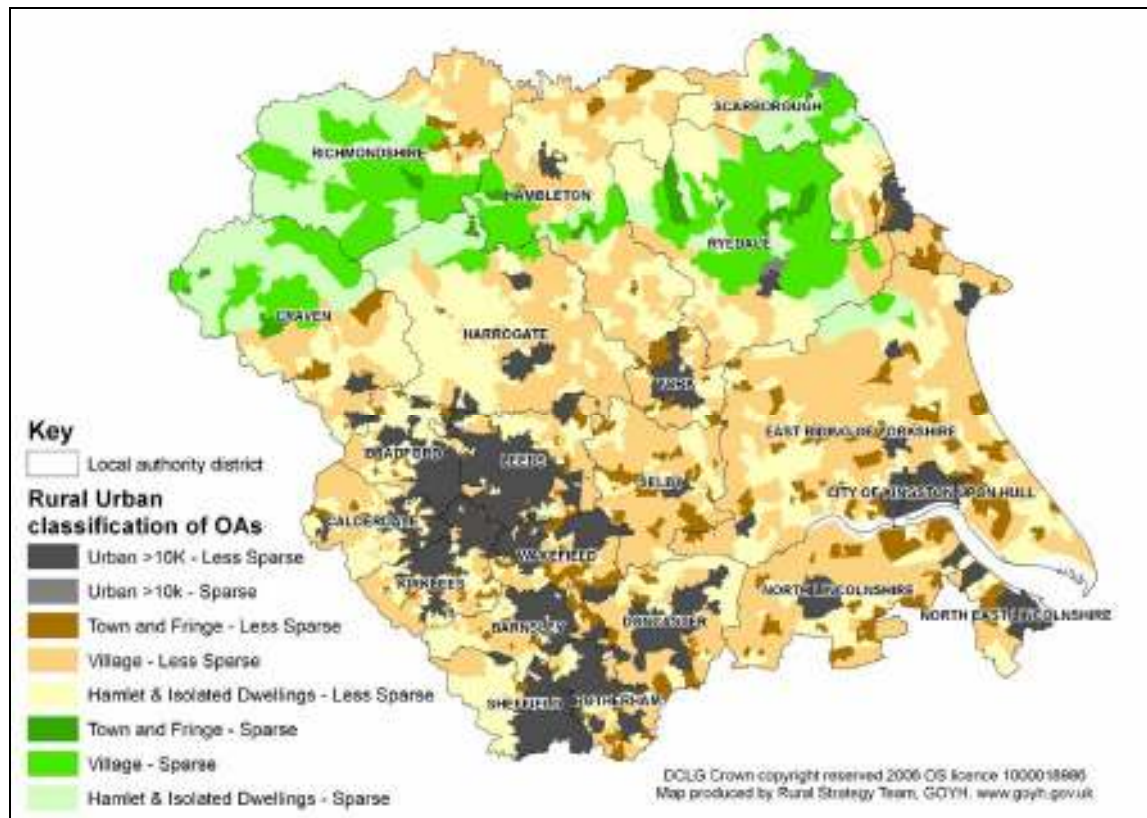
There is a further breakdown for rural areas into settlement types that builds upon the identification of rural towns, villages and scattered dwellings within a grid framework of cell size one hectare. This settlement framework grid is then used as the basis for the classification of output areas.

Figure 1.C Settlement types, 2004



The rural and urban definition is based on output areas, typically comprises around 125 households. Output areas were designed to have similar population sizes and be as socially homogenous as possible, based on the tenure of household and the type of dwelling. There are 175,000 output areas in England and they nest within statistical wards (2003). Figure 1.D shows the latest definition applied to the Yorkshire and The Humber region.

Figure 1.D Output Area definition of rural and urban areas in Yorkshire and The Humber, 2004



At this early stage, there is a limited amount of local level data available that has the latest rural and urban definition applied. In order to overcome this, Defra have developed a new rural urban classification of Unitary and District local authorities². This replaces the previously used Tarling rural and urban classification of districts. There were acknowledged weaknesses with this Tarling classification. The main problem being that districts tend to comprise a mixture of rural and urban populations and the classification does not reflect this complexity. The aim of the local authority classification is to identify different levels of rural population. It also enables the identification of districts otherwise classified as urban which have significant levels of rural population. The categories identified are as follows:

- Major Urban: districts with either 100,000 people or 50 percent of their population in an urban area with a population of more than 750,000
- Large Urban: districts with either 50,000 people or 50 percent of their population in one of 17 urban areas with a population between 250,000 and 750,000
- Other Urban: districts with fewer than 37,000 people or less than 26 percent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns

² For a detailed explanation of the six-fold grouping, please see:
http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/rural_resd/rural_defn/LAclassifications_introguide.pdf

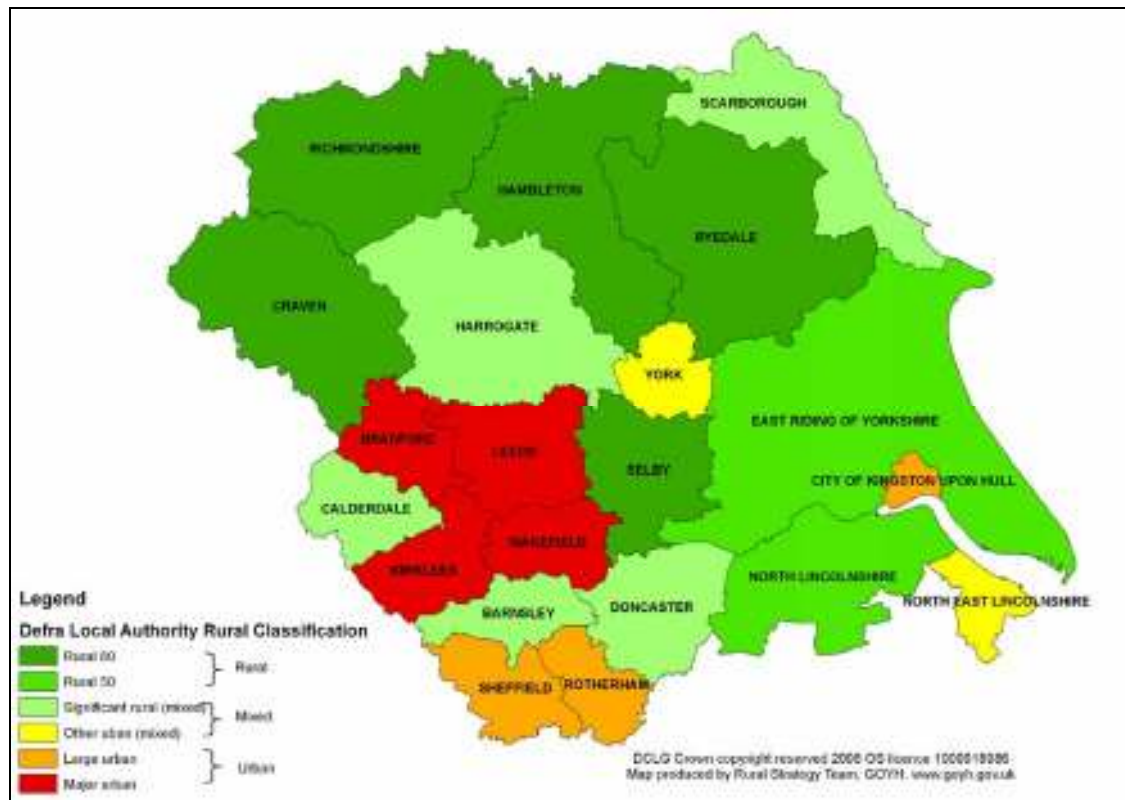
- Significant Rural: districts with more than 37,000 people or more than 26 percent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns
- Rural-50: districts with at least 50 percent but less than 80 percent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns
- Rural-80: districts with at least 80 percent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns

Table 1.A and Figure 1.E show how this classification is applied in Yorkshire and The Humber

Table 1.A Rural urban classification of districts and their respective rural population, 2005

Name	Total Rural Population	Rural Percent	Classification
Barnsley	43,616	20.0	Significant Rural
Bradford	58,992	12.6	Major Urban
Calderdale	56,847	29.6	Significant Rural
Craven	46,326	86.5	Rural 80
Doncaster	48,834	17.0	Significant Rural
East Riding of Yorkshire	222,643	70.9	Rural 50
Hambleton	84,063	100	Rural 80
Harrogate	66,204	43.7	Significant Rural
Kingston upon Hull		0.0	Large Urban
Kirklees	49,875	12.8	Major Urban
Leeds	87,721	12.3	Major Urban
North East Lincolnshire	19,132	12.1	Other Urban
North Lincolnshire	80,031	52.4	Rural 50
Richmondshire	47,018	100	Rural 80
Rotherham	29,912	12.1	Large Urban
Ryedale	50,917	100	Rural 80
Scarborough	48,648	45.7	Significant Rural
Selby	76,486	100	Rural 80
Sheffield	9,429	1.8	Large Urban
Wakefield	94,446	30.0	Major Urban
York	31,204	17.2	Other Urban

Figure 1.E Defra's classification of Unitary and District local authorities, 2005



1.3 Data methodology and analysis

Following extensive consultation, Yorkshire Futures and the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly (YHA) published an agreed set of 32 high-level indicators in 2003, which were designed to allow the Yorkshire and The Humber region to measure progress towards the *Advancing Together* regional vision.³ The approach to building a regional rural evidence base has been to follow this reporting structure, bringing together local level evidence, and where possible, applying the rural and urban definition to each of the indicators used. The goal has been to report on rural areas against each of the indicators, using urban areas as a comparison.

A variety of sources have been used in the report including:

- Defra Rural Evidence Hub (launched 29 November 2004 – limited access to registered users)
- Axiom National Lifestyle database
- Yorkshire Futures' Regional Econometric Model, developed by Experian Business Strategies Ltd.
- Office for National Statistics (ONS) datasets, in particular the 2001 census of population.
- Regional breakdown of data used in the Commission for Rural Communities State of the Countryside Report
- Various published research reports – see bibliography for further information.

The most recent dataset available at the time of release of the report has been used for each indicator.

³ For the full list of indicators see: www.yhassembly.gov.uk/p_contentDocs/215_1.pdf

1.4 Note about maps in this report.

Where appropriate, data in this report have been mapped to help illustrate spatial distributions across the region. Several of the maps show data collected at output area, super output area or ward level. These units are designed to have reasonably similar resident population levels. Consequently in sparsely populated rural areas these units cover a larger area than their densely populated urban equivalents. In Yorkshire and The Humber, the average urban output area is 53ha (130 acres) but the average rural output area is much larger, around 1,438 ha (3,553 acres). Rural output areas consequently appear much larger on maps in this report and mapping in this report can appear to over represent rural parameters.

2 Background and characteristics

2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a range of information covering the rural Yorkshire and The Humber region, in particular:

- General characteristics.
- Physical characteristics.
- Agriculture.
- Demographics.

2.2 General characteristics

Figure 2.A Map of the Yorkshire and The Humber region



The Yorkshire and The Humber region covers an area of 15,512km², 11.7% of England's land mass, making it the fifth largest region out of the nine English regions.¹ Particular characteristics of the region can be described as follows:

¹ *Progress in the Region 2004, Yorkshire Futures.*

- It is divided into the four sub-regions of North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and The Humber, comprising 21 local authority districts and 496 wards.
- It is bordered by the North East, North West and East Midlands regions.
- It is unique in structure as it contains coastland, National Park, remote rural, accessible rural and urban settlements.
- The region has a population of approximately five million, with nearly 20% of people living in rural areas. The majority of the population live in West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire along with a strong ethnic minority presence in West Yorkshire.
- The region's population is concentrated in and around the five major cities of Bradford, Leeds, Kingston upon Hull, Sheffield and York. Leeds is often described as the region's financial centre.
- In addition to these larger cities, which commonly have impressive Victorian buildings complemented by recent urban regeneration, the region benefits from other significant large towns, with medieval areas such as York, coastal resorts and fishing communities (including Scarborough, Whitby and Grimsby), smaller to medium-sized towns often functioning as market towns and service centres (for example, Beverly and Ripon) and numerous smaller traditional settlements.
- Population density is below the England average, and certain parts of North Yorkshire are amongst the most sparsely populated in the country (see Figure 2.P), and home to a predominantly ageing population.
- The region's environmental assets include the North Yorkshire Moors, the Yorkshire Dales and Peak District National Parks, a number of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Humber Estuary and a wide variety of agricultural land.

2.3 Physical characteristics

The region has a wide range of physical conditions, which are reflected in the diverse mix of landscape and habitat types found. West of the A1, the land is characterised by the carboniferous limestone and millstone grit of the Pennines chain, and rises to over 700m above sea level. In the north of the region are the Pennine Dales, with a series of river valleys flowing eastwards, dissecting the broad plateau; to the south this upland continues, merging into the hills of the Peak District.

To the north east of the region, the land rises to form the upland landscape of the North York Moors, including sandstone, mudstone and limestone deposits, over 400m above sea level at their highest point. To the south east, the extensive chalk deposits of the Yorkshire Wolds, a prominent plateau almost 300m above sea level, with steep-sided dry valleys, extend eastwards with spectacular cliffs where the outcrop meets the coast at Flamborough Head. South of the Humber, the area is dominated by the Lincolnshire Wolds.

In the south of the region, immediately east of the Pennine Hills, lie the shallow coal measures deposits of the Yorkshire coalfield, the eastern boundary of which is marked by the magnesian limestone ridge which bisects the region from north to south along the A1 corridor.

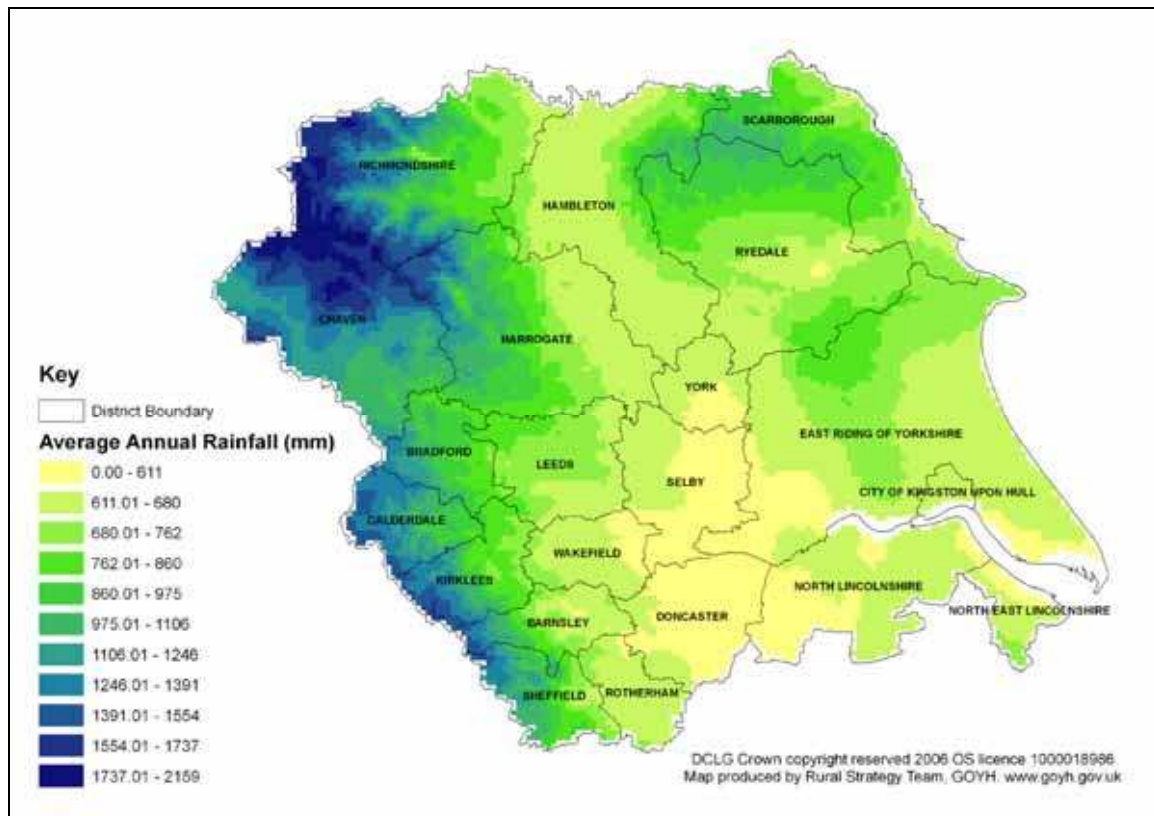
The large, central, low-lying area of the Vale of York constitutes the floodplain of many of the region's major rivers and is underlain by glacial deposits of sandstone and mudstone.

2.3.1 *Climate conditions*

Climatic conditions are most severe in the Pennines and on the North York Moors (see Figure 2.B and Figure 2.C).² This area has the coolest and wettest climate in the region, land is often steep sloping and soils are generally of poor quality. These conditions limit agriculture to extensive livestock farming. The uplands also contain a high proportion of land with landscape and wildlife designations, including the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks.

Recent evidence indicates that climate change will have a significant impact on yields and the range of crops that can be grown in all parts of the region (see the Environment Chapter (5)).³ These changes will also affect the region's important wildlife habitats and lead to more flooding and drought, which will impact directly upon human and economic activity in the region.

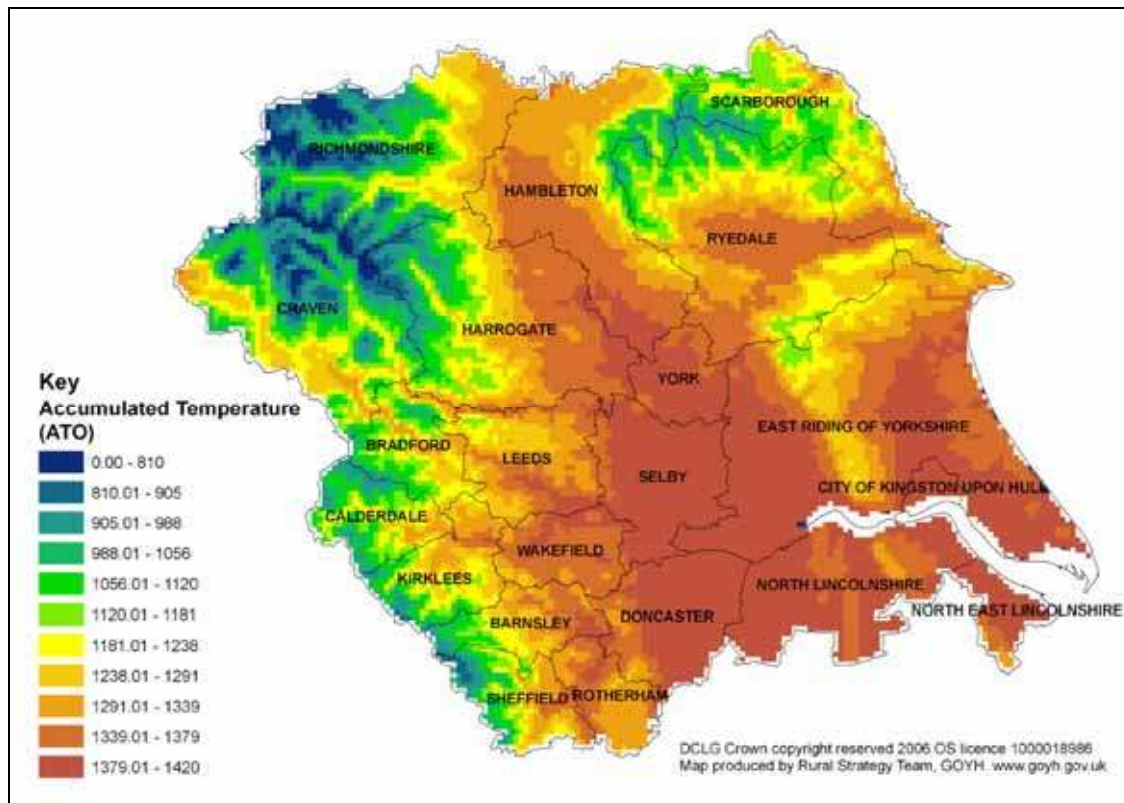
Figure 2.B Annual average rainfall (mm), 1989



² *Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification*, The Meteorological Office, 1989.

³ *Warming Up the Region: Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Impact Scoping Study*, Yorkshire Futures, 2002.

Figure 2.C Accumulated temperature above 0°C, January to June 1989



2.4 Agriculture

2.4.1 *Agricultural Land Classification*

Agricultural land represents 76% (1,095,544 ha) of the total regional area (1,542,951 ha). Defra has an Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system with 5 separate grades depending on physical limitations, whereby Grade 1 is the best quality and Grade 5 the worst, as shown in Table 2.A.

Table 2.A Agricultural Land Classification system

Grade	Quality	Percentage of region's agricultural land area
1	Excellent	1.2%
2	Very good	19%
3	Good to Moderate	37.7%
4	Poor	14.9%
5	Very poor	17.5%

Excellent quality agricultural land (Grade 1) accounts for 1.2% of the agricultural land in the region. It is most extensive on the lighter warp soils found alongside the lower reaches of the rivers Ouse and Trent but also occurs south east of Barton-on-Humber and on some deep sandy loam soils around Ripon. This land has few, if any, limitations and is capable of growing high yields of a wide range of arable and horticultural crops.

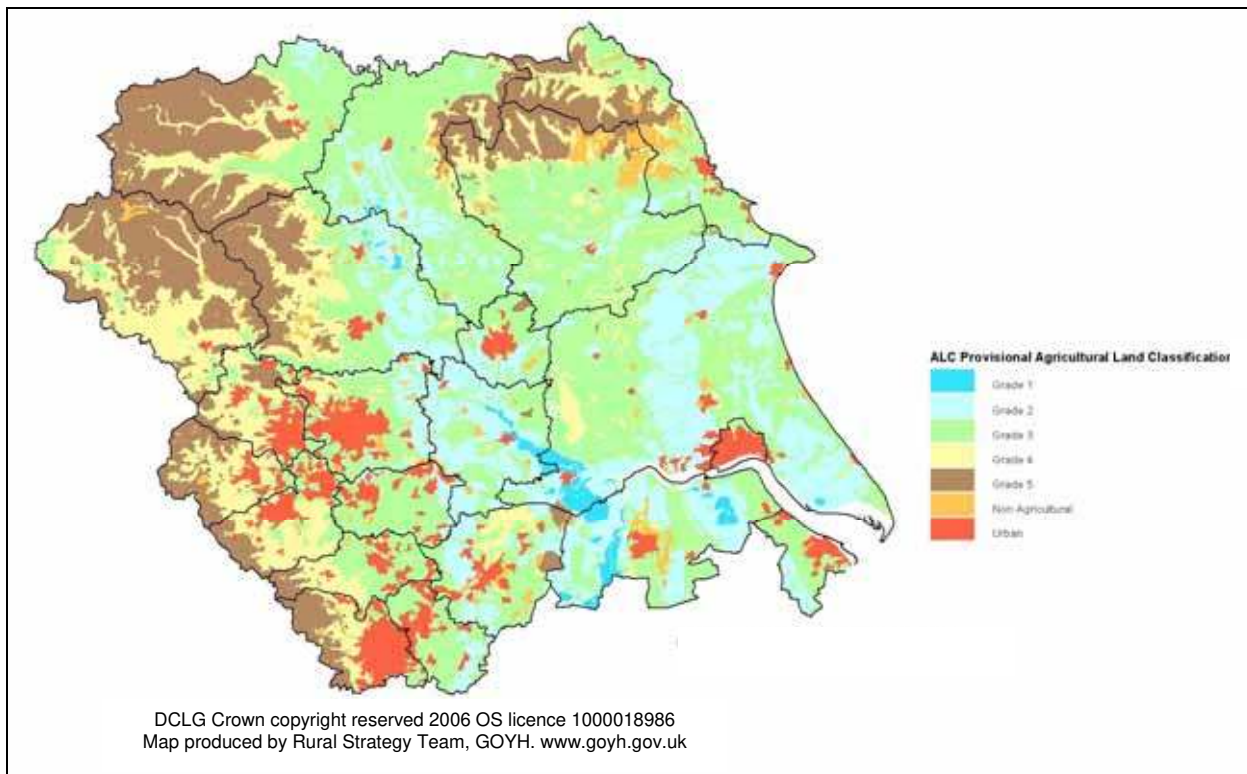
Very good quality agricultural land (Grade 2) accounts for 19% of the land in the region. It is extensive in the Vale of York, on the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds, on the heavier textured warp soils alongside the lower reaches of the rivers Ouse and Trent, and in Holderness. This land has only slight limitations, principally slight soil drought but also soil wetness/topsoil workability restrictions on the warp soils. This land is capable of growing a wide range of arable and horticultural crops.

Good to moderate quality agricultural land (Grade 3) accounts for 37.7% of the land in the region. Grade 3 land occurs extensively in the lowlands of Yorkshire and The Humber, often on soils derived from boulder clay, lacustrine clay or aeolian sand. The main limitation on Grade 3 land is soil wetness, but erosion and drought risk are also limiting factors on some lighter soils. Grade 3 land is capable of growing a restricted range of arable and some root crops, as well as producing good yields of grass. Land at the lower end of the grade is likely to produce only moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass.

Poor quality agricultural land, classed as Grade 4, accounts for 14.9% of the land in the region. It is located principally in the foothills of the Pennines and the valleys of the North York Moors, but also some very poorly drained and clayey soils in the Vale of York. Poor soil conditions due to high rainfall and poor drainage in the uplands are the main limitations on soil of this grade. Severe soil wetness and topsoil workability are limitations in the lowlands. Grade 4 land has severe limitations, which generally restrict it to grass production with occasional forage crops.

Grade 5 land is classed as very poor agricultural land and accounts for 17.5%⁴ of the land in the region. It is mainly located on the tops of the Pennine Hills and North York Moors and the undrained peat soils at Thorne Waste and Hatfield Moors between Doncaster and Goole. The principal limitations are the combination of climate and soil wetness. Grade 5 land is normally limited to rough grazing. Figure 2.D depicts the Agricultural Land Classification across the region.

⁴ The remaining 9.7% of area is classed as urban and non-agricultural.

Figure 2.D Agricultural Land Classification in Yorkshire and The Humber, 1988⁵

2.4.2 *Agricultural holdings*

Yorkshire and The Humber contains 12% of England's agricultural land and 11% of England's agricultural holdings. Patterns of farming reflect the region's diverse topography and all the major farming types are found within the region.

Significant sectors include upland livestock farming, arable cropping, horticulture and pigs and poultry production in the lowland areas as shown in Figure 2.E and Figure 2.F.

⁵ Details of the system of grading can be found in: *Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land*, Defra, 1988.

Figure 2.E Dominant farm type, 2004

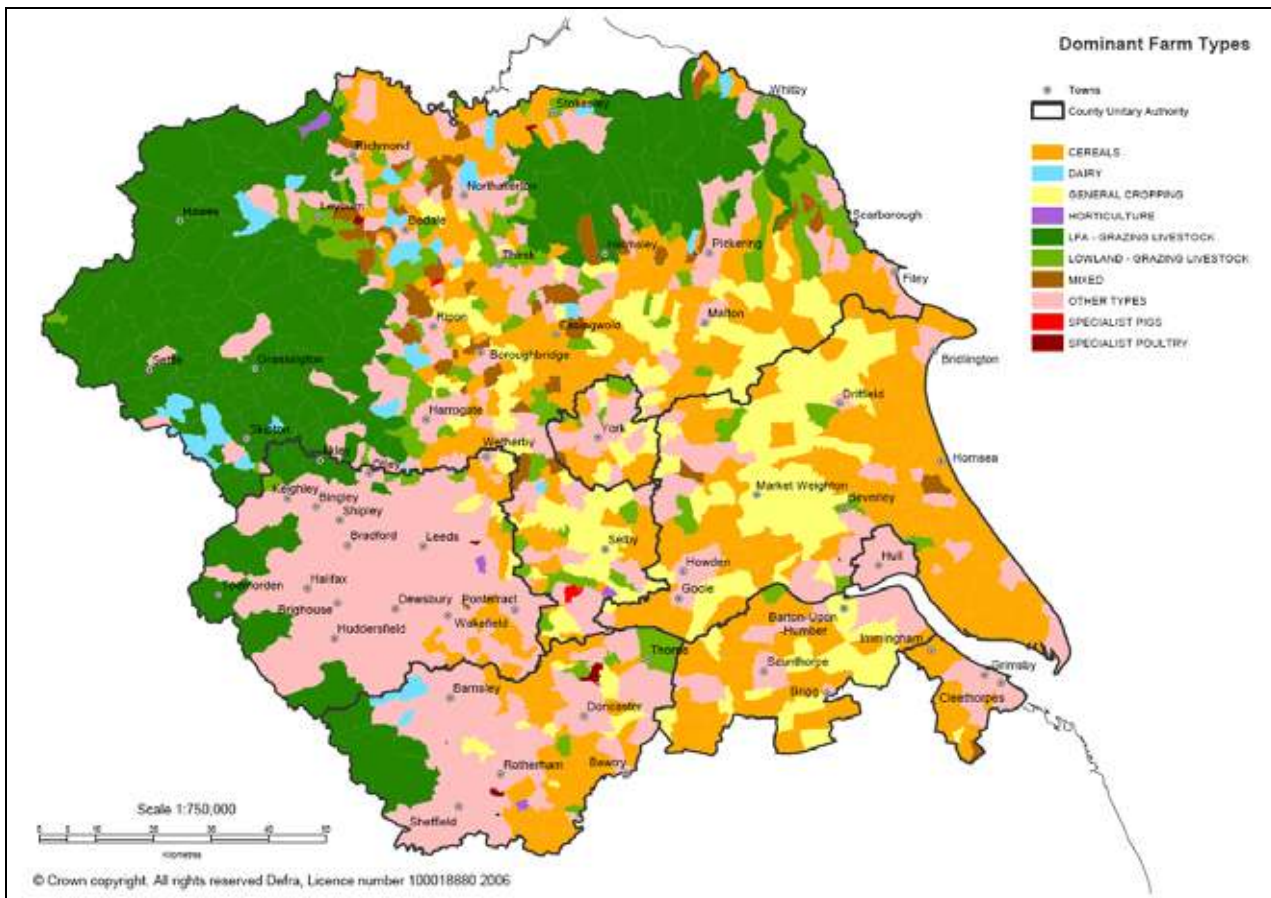
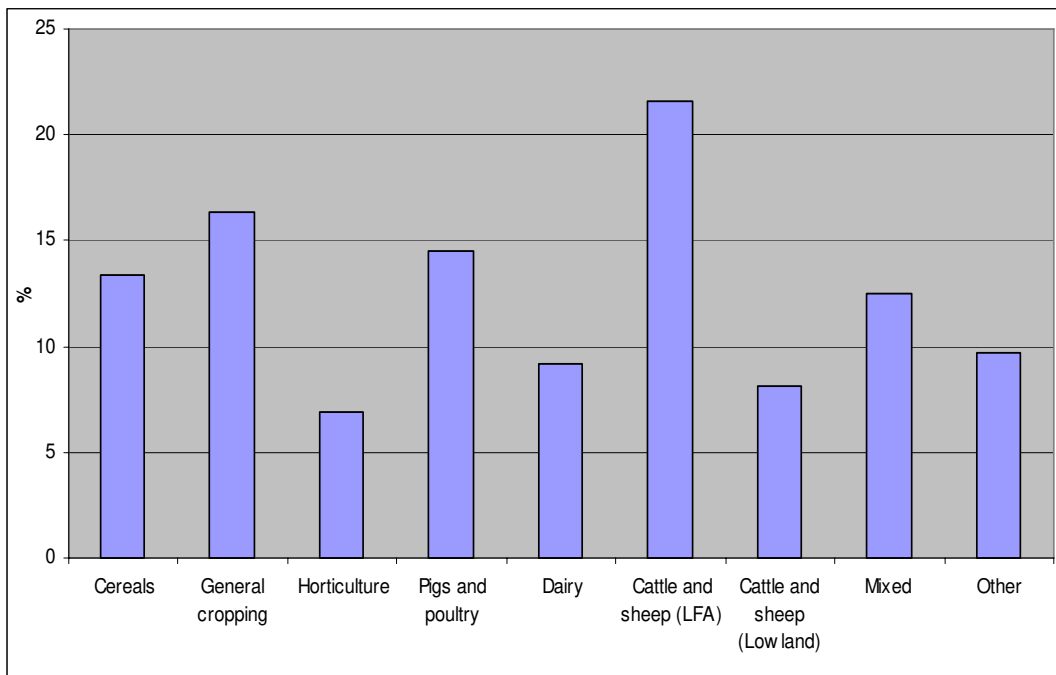


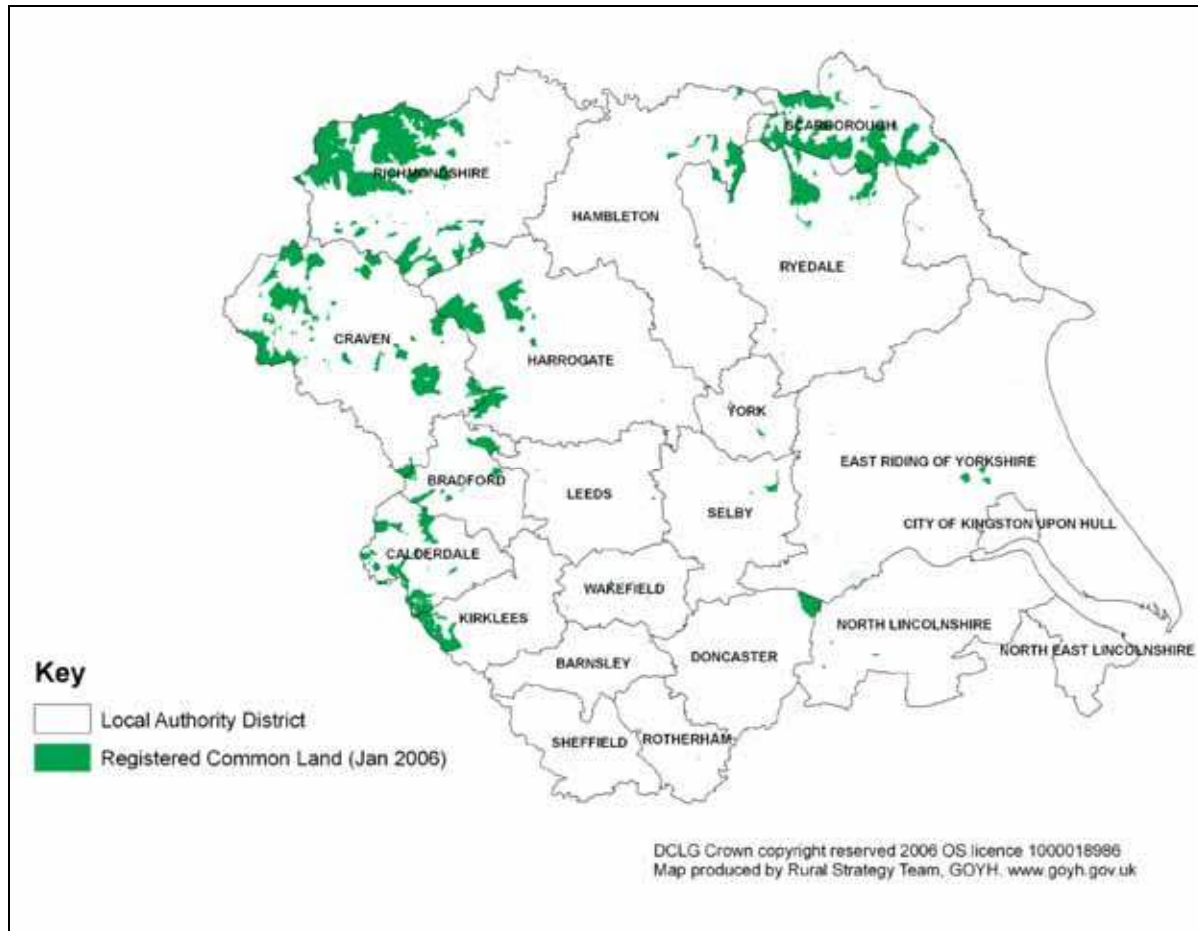
Figure 2.F Percentage of England's holdings in Yorkshire and The Humber, 2004⁶



⁶ Defra Agricultural Census, 2004; www.defra.gov.uk/esg

Returns from the 2004 Agricultural Census show that cropping is the main land use. However, the census does not record common land which comprises 5% of the region's land area and is a major part of the regions agricultural land, especially for upland rough grazing. See Figure 2.G for a map of common land in the region.⁷

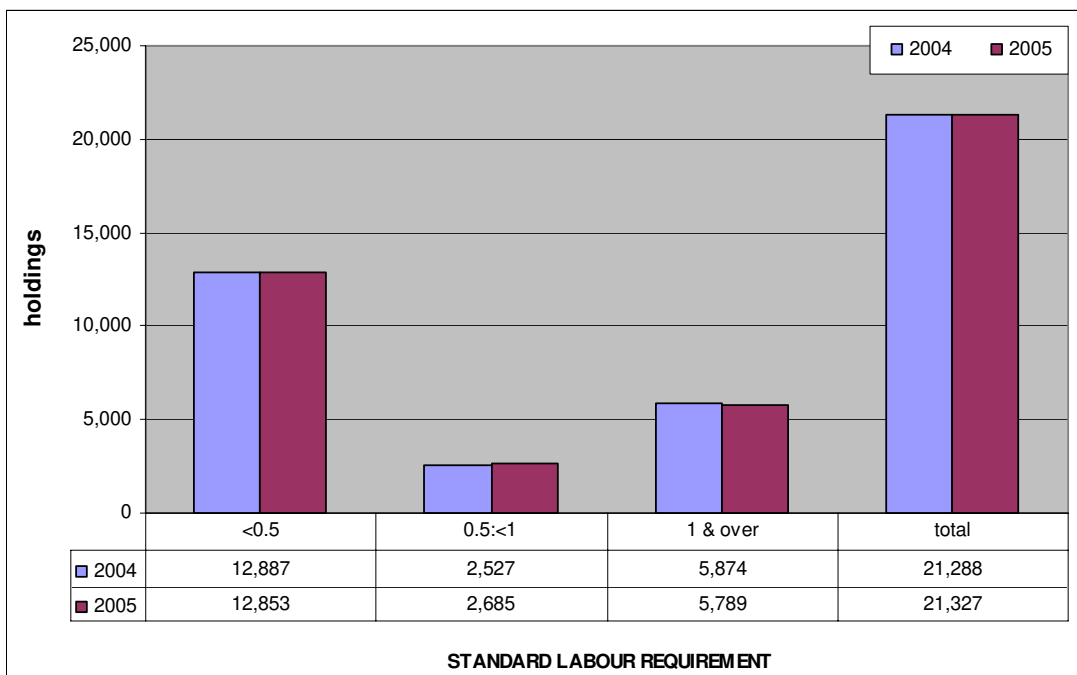
Figure 2.G Registered Common Land in Yorkshire and the Humber



⁷ Countryside Agency data 2006 via Department for Communities and Local Government spatial database.

Figure 2.H Agricultural land use in the region, 2004⁸

Data on farm size, measured using standard Defra's standard labour requirement measurement,⁹ shows that in 2005 there were just fewer than 6000 holdings with a theoretical requirement for one or more person. This represents 28% of the region's 21,327 holdings. In other words, 72% of the region's holdings theoretically are too small to require the full time input of one person. There has been little change in the number of holdings in the region since 2004.

Figure 2.I Standard labour requirement for holdings in Yorkshire and the Humber 2004/ 05

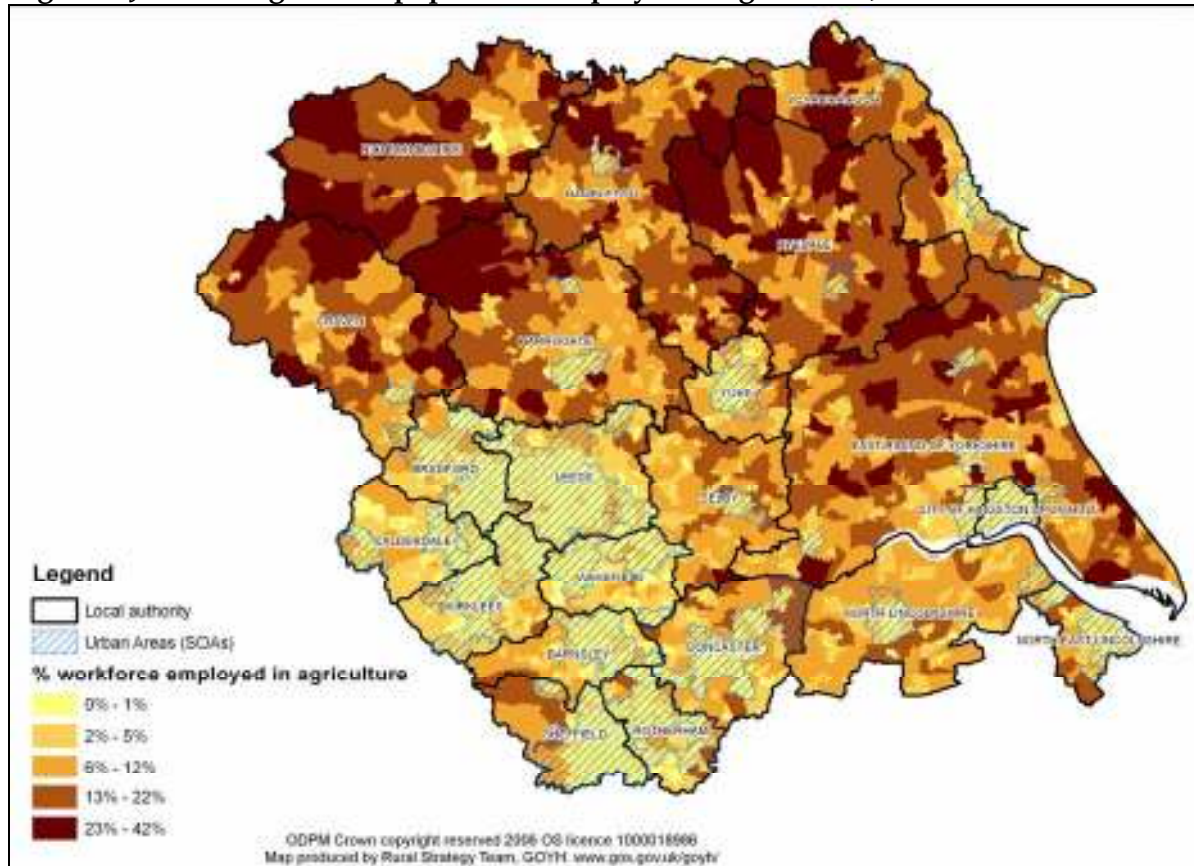
⁸ Defra Agricultural Census, 2004. See: www.defra.gov.uk/esg

⁹ Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) for a farm business represents the labour requirement (in full-time equivalents) for all the agricultural activities on the farm, based on standard coefficients for each commodity on the farm. The SLR is representative of labour requirement under typical conditions for enterprises of average size and performance. <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/asd/fbs/sub/slr.htm>.

2.4.3 *Employment in agriculture*

Figure 2.J show the distribution of agricultural employment across the region.¹⁰ Overall the agriculture industry employs less than 1% of the region's workforce in both urban and rural areas (see the Economy chapter (3) for more information on rural employment).

Figure 2.J Percentage of the population employed in agriculture, 2001



2.4.4 *Farm diversification*

Defra uses the Farm Business Survey (FBS) and the Survey of Personal Incomes (conducted by the Inland Revenue) to estimate the level of farm diversification activity in England. The data are reported annually by Defra in *Diversification in Agriculture*.¹¹ The statistical definitions of diversification comply with internationally agreed classifications of activities. Yorkshire and The Humber data are merged with the North East data due to the size of samples. The following are key findings from the 2006 report which covers 2004/05.

- 34% of farm businesses have diversified activity in the combined Yorkshire and The Humber and North East area; this is below the England average of 46%. (36% and 46% in 2003/04 respectively). This is the lowest proportion of diversification in England.
- 30% (23% in 2003/04) of farm businesses have either the farmer or spouse involved in off-farm employment or self-employment; this is the same as the England average.
- 47% (49% in 2003/04) of farm businesses have neither a diversification or off farm income source, this is the highest proportion in England.

¹⁰ ONS 2001 census via Defra Rural Evidence Hub

¹¹ <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/statnot/Diver06.pdf>

2.4.5 *Farm incomes*

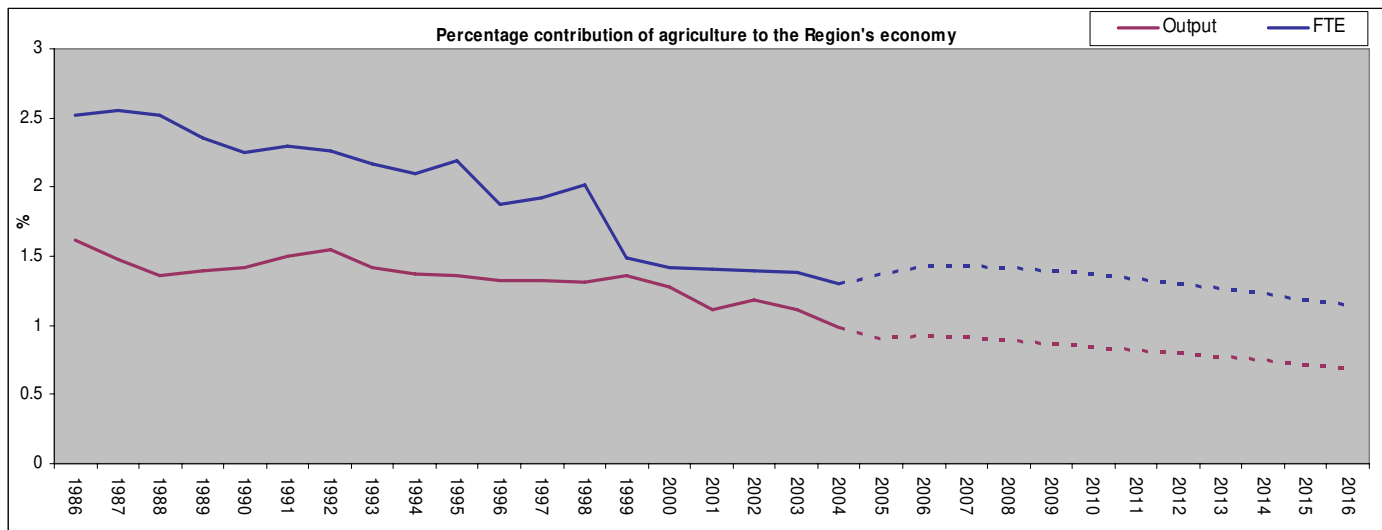
Data from Defra's Farm Business Survey (published in Farm Accounts in England¹²) shows that following improvements in 2003/04, income levels for all farm types in Yorkshire and The Humber and North East area declined in 2004/05. For all farm types, family farm income fell by 34% to £26,715 between 2003/04 and 2004/05. A new Defra report, again using data from the 2004/05 Farm Business Survey, shows average household income of principal farmers and their spouses (excluding income from other household members) was just over £35,000 in Yorkshire and the Humber, compared with an England average of £39,000.¹³ This is higher than the average of all household incomes in the region which is £25,700.¹⁴

Another significant factor for the agriculture sector is the recent difficulties of the European Union's Single Payment Scheme (SPS). The National Audit Office (NAO) reported that delays in making the SPS have "caused distress to a significant minority of farmers, cost farmers money in additional interest and bank charges, and undermined the farming industry's confidence in the agency".¹⁵ The NAO estimate that the delays have cost farmers in England between £18 million and £22.5 million in interest and arrangement fees on additional bank borrowing.

2.4.6 *Agricultural output and employment*

Data from the *Regional Econometric Model*¹⁶ displays a pattern of steady decline in full time equivalents (FTEs) employed in agriculture and agricultural output over the past 18 years.¹⁷ Agricultural output has declined from 1.62% of the region's economy in 1986 to 0.98% in 2004. Full time equivalents employed in agriculture have also declined from 2.52% of the region's FTEs in 1986 to 1.3% in 2004. The model forecasts that these trends will continue over the next 12 years, with a small increase in both FTEs and output in the short term, but a steady decline in the longer term. These trends are displayed in Figure 2.K.

Figure 2.K Percentage contribution of agriculture to the region's economy, 1986-2016



The y axis (%) was incorrectly labelled in this chart in last years report. Consequently the chart showed incorrect percentage contribution of agriculture to the region's economy.

¹² <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/asd/fbs/default.htm>

¹³ <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/statnot/householdincome.pdf>

¹⁴ CACI Subject : Annual Household Income - mean income per household via Defra Rural Evidence Hub

¹⁵ http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/05-06/05061631.pdf

¹⁶ Regional Econometric Model, Experian Business Strategies Ltd, 2004.

¹⁷ Regional Econometric Model, Experian Business Strategies Ltd, 2004. The dotted lines show projections between 2003 and 2016.

2.5 Demographics

All of the data for the graphs up to section 2.5.5 are taken from the 2001 Census of Population via Defra's Rural Evidence Hub.

2.5.1 *Population*

Data from the 2001 Population Census and the latest rural and urban definition indicates that just fewer than one million people, or 20% of the region's population, live in the rural parts of Yorkshire and The Humber. Figure 2.L shows the rural and urban split of each district in the region, ranging from Richmondshire (population classed as 100% rural) to Kingston upon Hull (100% urban). It is important to note however, that most districts have both urban and rural populations.

Figure 2.L Percentage split of rural and urban population, 2001

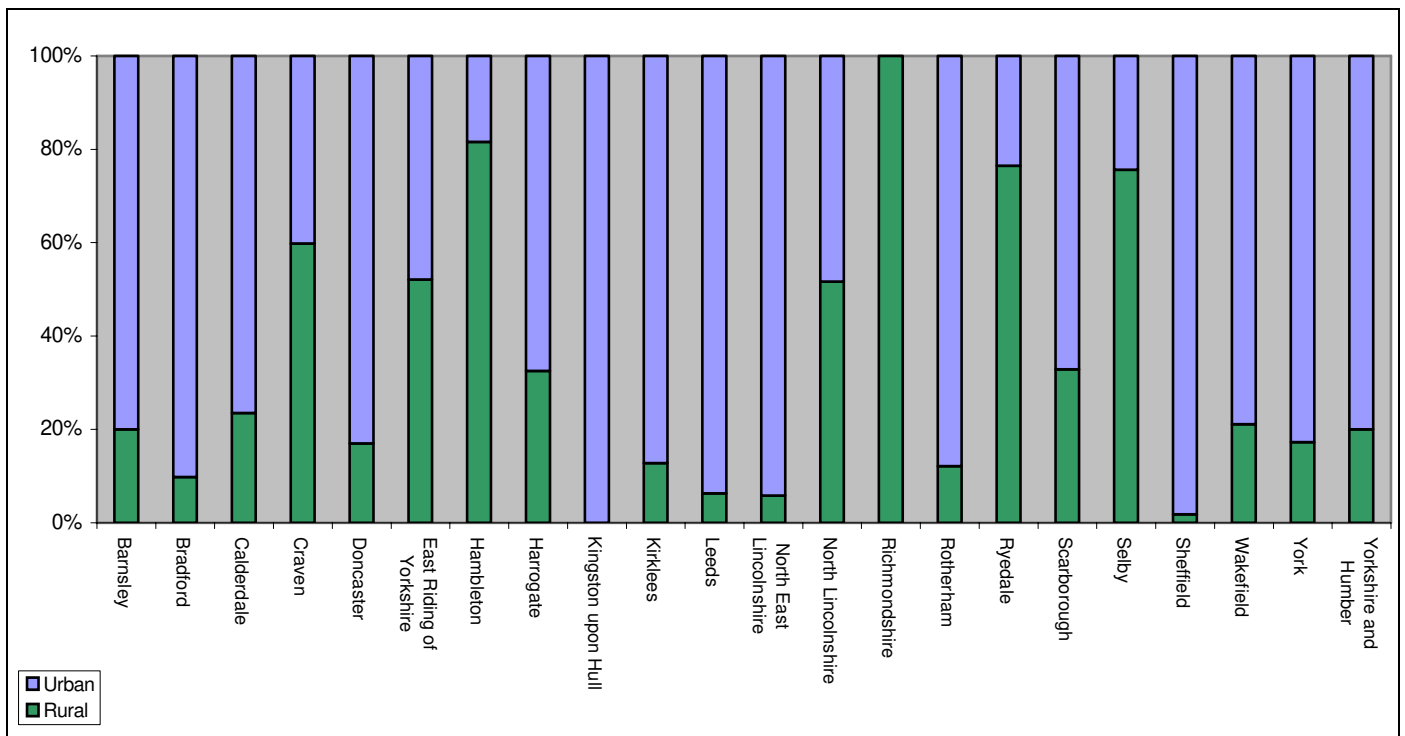
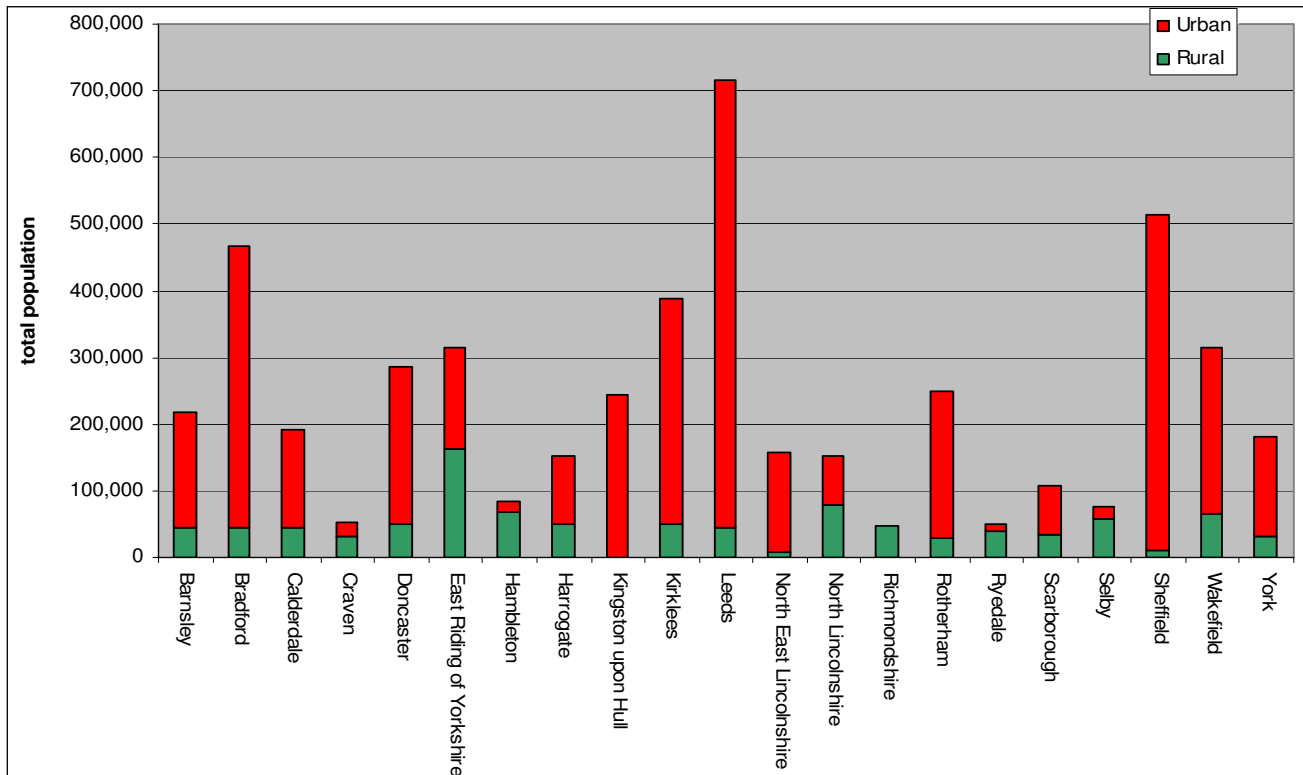
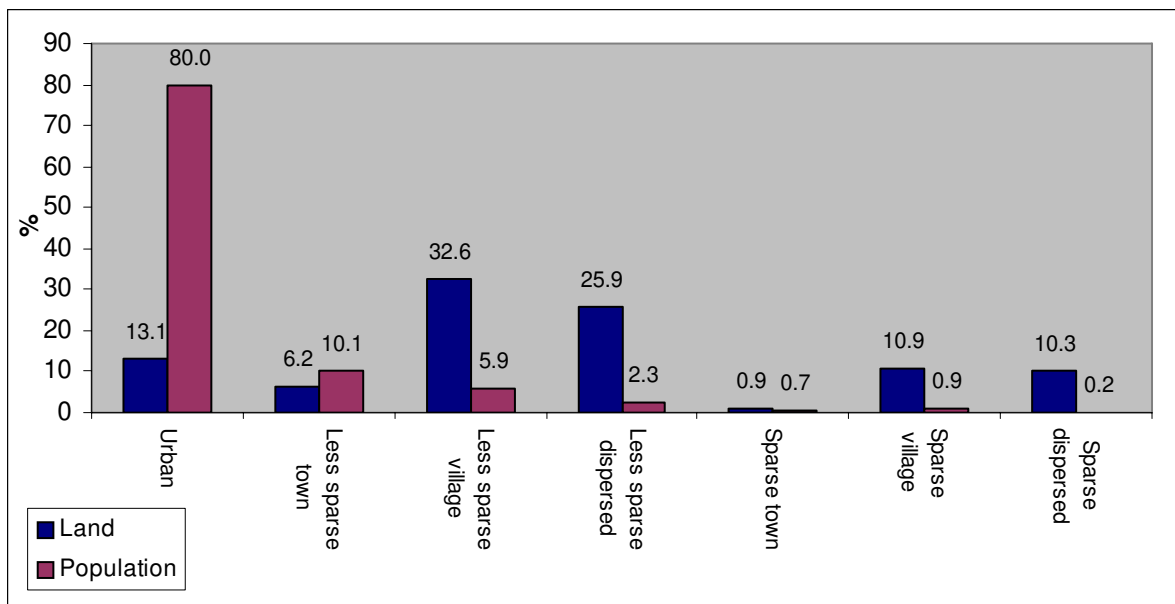


Figure 2.M Total rural and urban population by district, 2001



In population terms (as with the UK as a whole) the Yorkshire and The Humber region is predominantly urban, with 80% of the population classified as urban. However, urban areas constitute only 13.1% of the region's land area, as shown in Figure 2.N.¹⁸

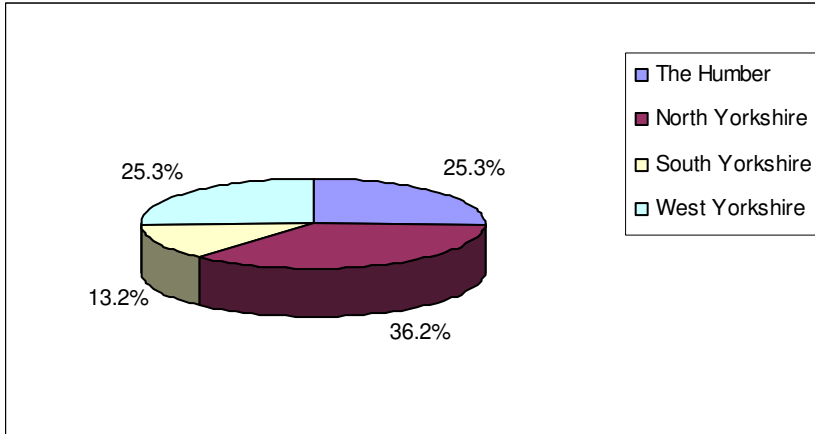
Figure 2.N Land and population distribution across Yorkshire and The Humber by area type, 2001



¹⁸ Percentages have been rounded to the nearest one decimal place.

Figure 2.O shows the breakdown of rural population by sub-region. North Yorkshire is home to 36.2% of the region's rural residents; just over a quarter live in the Humber sub-region and significantly, 38.5% live in the former metropolitan counties of West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire.

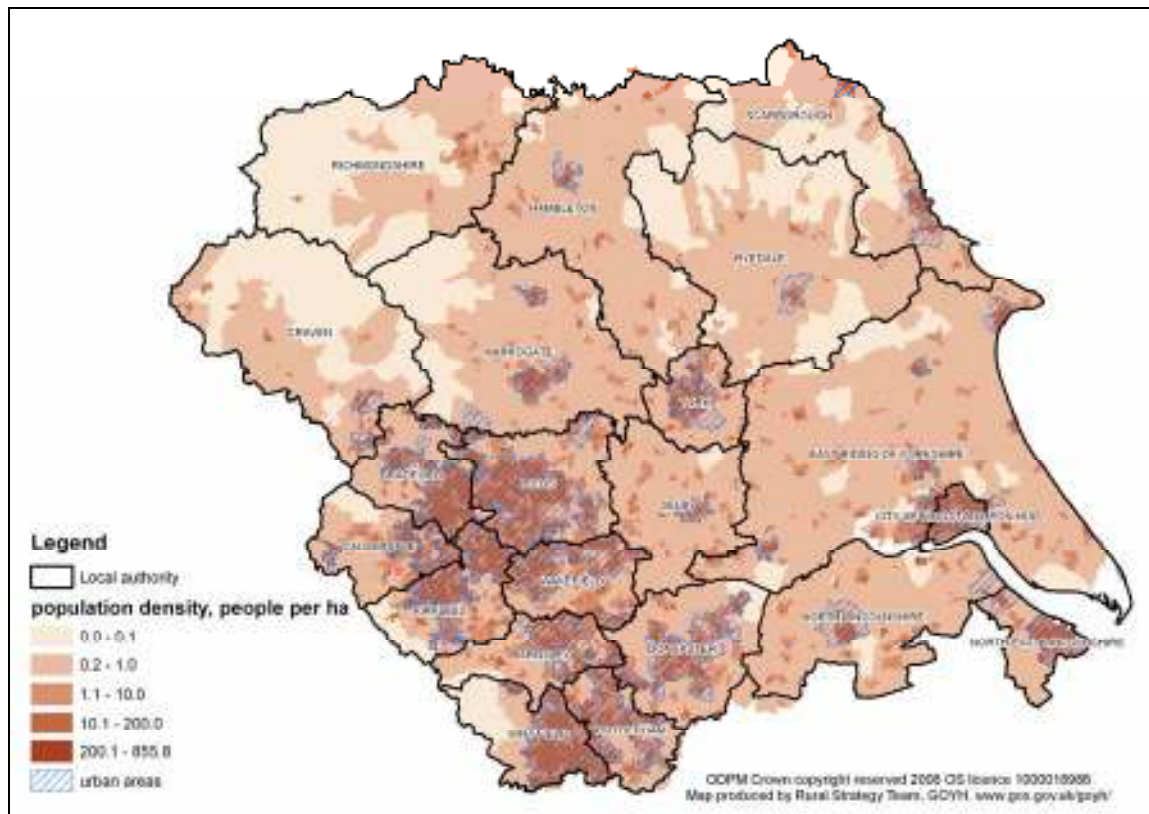
Figure 2.O Breakdown of rural population by sub-region, 2001



2.5.2 *Population density*

Figure 2.P shows the variation in population density across the region. Population densities are highest in the urban parts of West and South Yorkshire and the Humber. The lowest densities are found in the remote rural areas of North Yorkshire and the Humber.

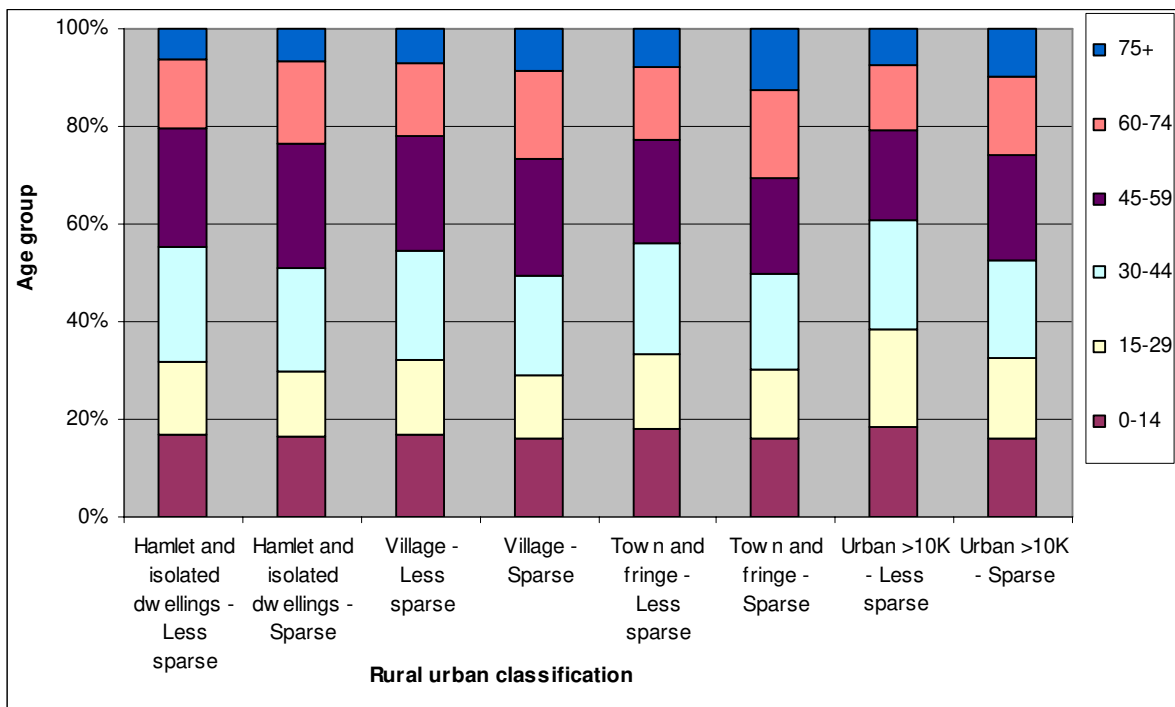
Figure 2.P Population density in the sub-regions of Yorkshire and The Humber (people per hectare), 2001



2.5.3 *Age profile*

Reflecting the national trend, rural districts of the region have proportionally fewer children and young adults and more people over the age of 45 than urban districts. In 2002, 10.6% of the region’s rural population were aged between 15 and 24 years, while 18.3% were 65 years or over. This compares to 13.6% and 15.6% respectively in urban districts, as shown in Figure 2.Q.

Figure 2.Q Age profile by rural and urban classification, 2001¹⁹



¹⁹ Census 2001, extracted from Defra’s rural evidence hub, 2004.

The map and graphs below (Figure 2.R to Figure 2.U) show the age breakdown spatially and also by district with the definition applied. Two clear patterns emerge; urban areas have the highest proportion of people in both the 0-14 and 15-29 age groups. Rural areas have the highest proportion of people in the 60+ cohorts. In particular East Riding of Yorkshire, a rural district with significant coastal communities, has the highest proportion of the population over 60 at 24%.

Figure 2.R Percentage of the population over the age of 65 years, 2001

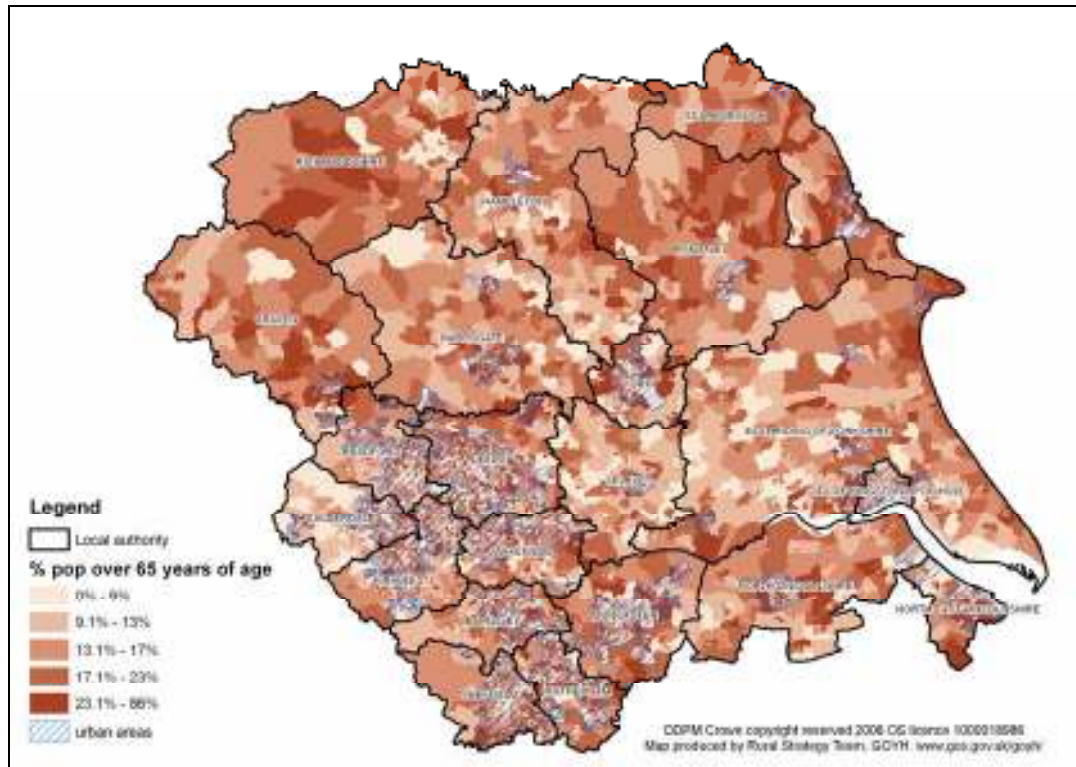


Figure 2.S Age profile by district for urban areas

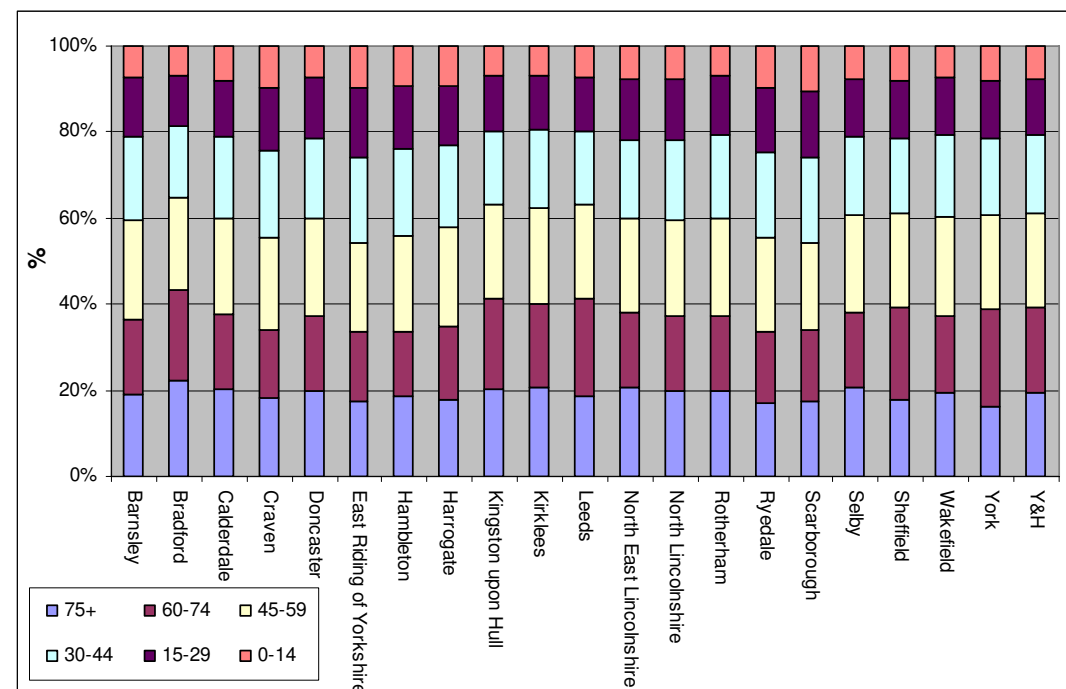


Figure 2.T Age profile by district for less sparse rural areas

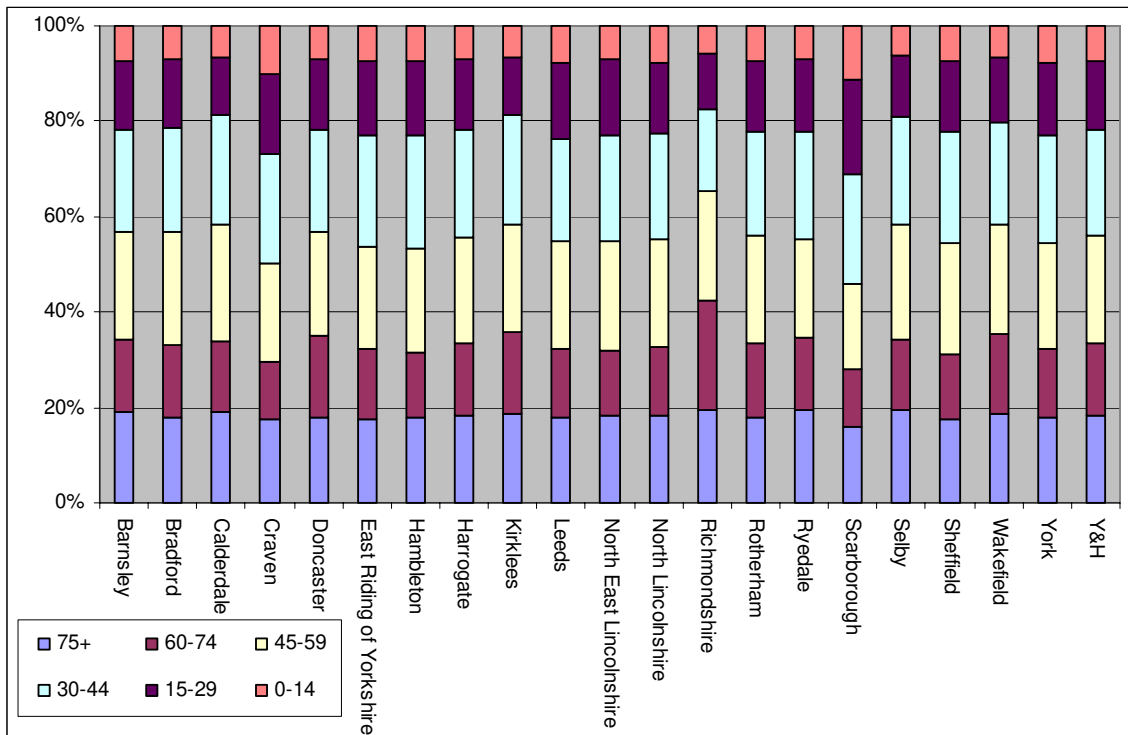
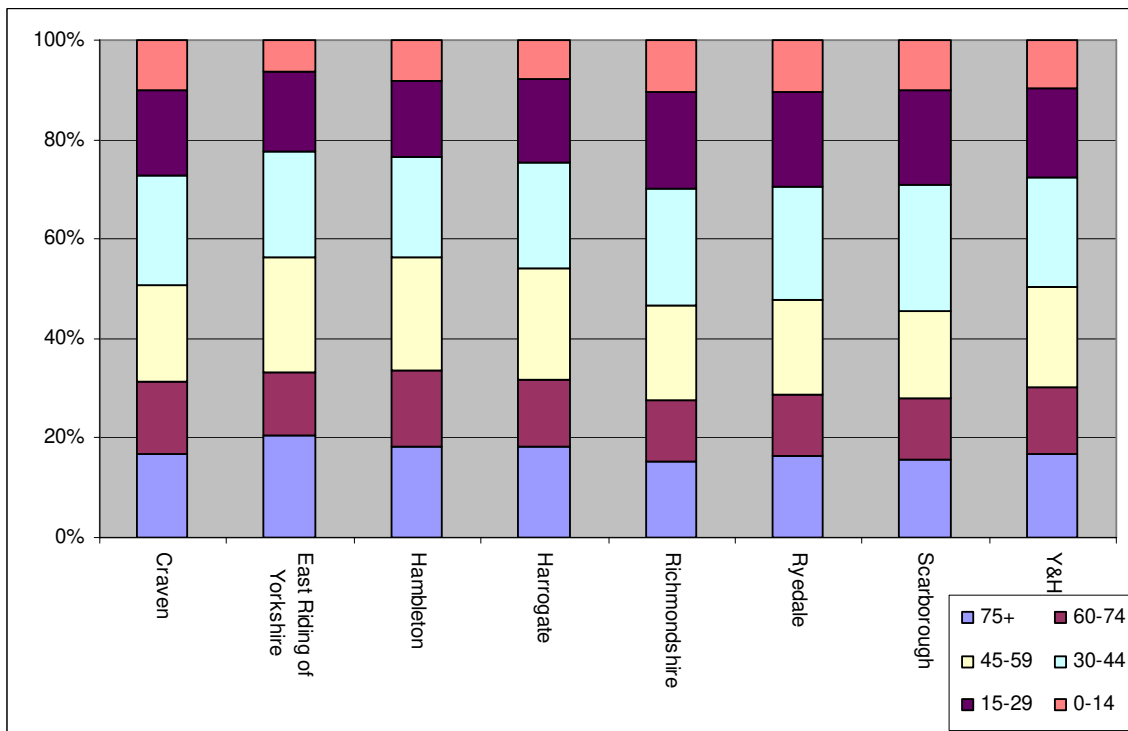


Figure 2.U Age profile by district for sparse rural areas



2.5.4 *Black and minority ethnic profile*

Almost every district in the region has a higher percentage of ethnic minorities living in urban areas than rural areas. This is especially true for districts in West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire. The rural population of Leeds has the highest proportion (2.4%) of black and minority ethnic groups, Ryedale and Scarborough have the lowest proportion (both at 0.6%), as shown in Figure 2.V and Table 2.B. Only North East Lincolnshire has a higher proportion of rural residents from an ethnic background than for urban areas (1.6% in comparison to 1.4%).

Figure 2.V Percentage of black and minority ethnic population, 2001

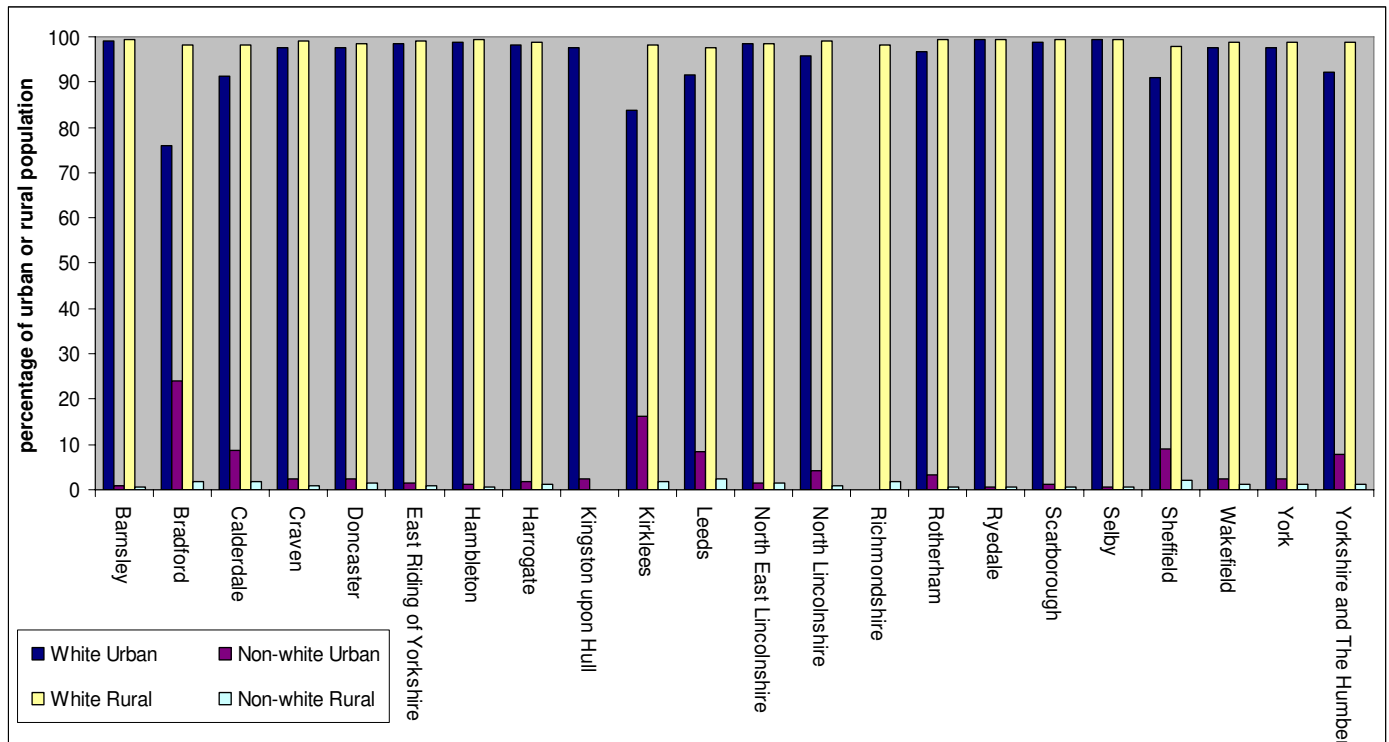


Table 2.B Percentage of black and minority ethnic population, 2001

	Urban		Rural	
	White Urban	Non-white Urban	White Rural	Non-white Rural
Barnsley	99.0	1.0	99.3	0.7
Bradford	76.1	23.9	98.3	1.7
Calderdale	91.3	8.7	98.3	1.7
Craven	97.7	2.3	99.2	0.8
Doncaster	97.5	2.5	98.5	1.5
East Riding of Yorkshire	98.5	1.5	99.0	1.0
Hambleton	98.9	1.1	99.3	0.7
Harrogate	98.2	1.8	98.9	1.1
Kingston upon Hull	97.7	2.3	-	-
Kirklees	83.8	16.2	98.1	1.9
Leeds	91.5	8.5	97.6	2.4
North East Lincolnshire	98.6	1.4	98.4	1.6
North Lincolnshire	95.9	4.1	99.0	1.0
Richmondshire	-	-	98.2	1.8
Rotherham	96.6	3.4	99.3	0.7
Ryedale	99.3	0.7	99.4	0.6
Scarborough	98.9	1.1	99.4	0.6
Selby	99.4	0.6	99.3	0.7
Sheffield	91.1	8.9	97.9	2.1
Wakefield	97.5	2.5	98.8	1.2
York	97.7	2.3	98.7	1.3
Yorkshire and The Humber	92.1	7.9	98.8	1.2

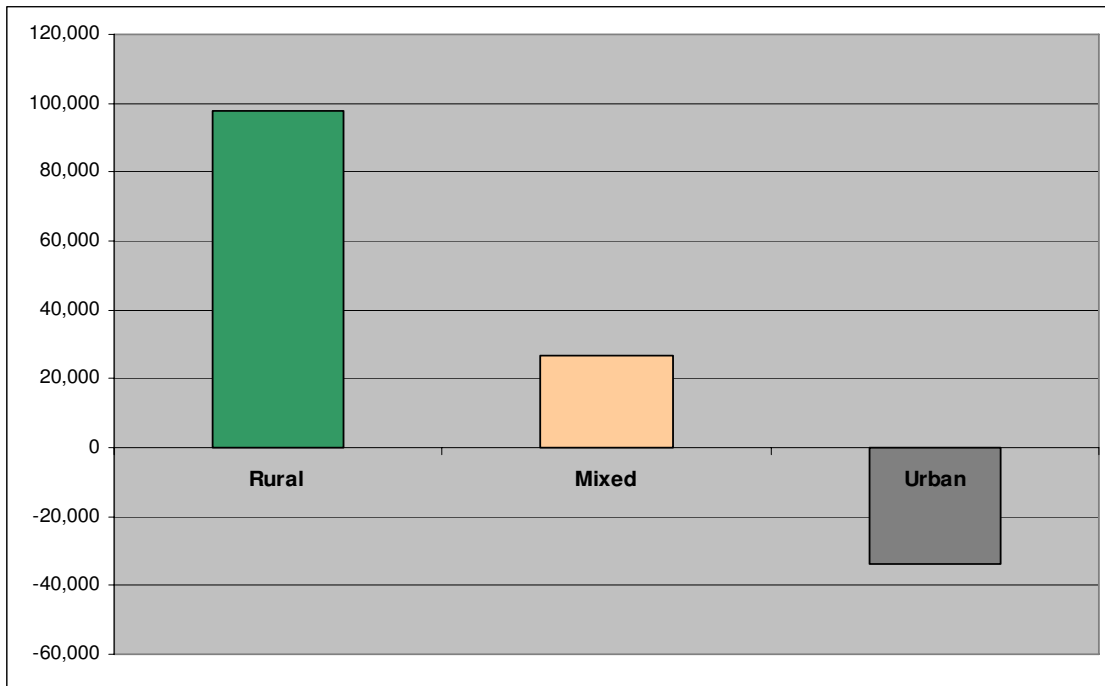
In terms of nationality, 92% of the region's population was born in England compared to the England average of 87.4%. Only 4% of the region's population was born outside the European Union in comparison to England's average of 7% and the London average of 22%.²⁰

2.5.5 *The rural population*

The 2005 Rural Evidence Base report highlighted that the rural population of the region had increased rapidly over the last 20 years, due mainly to net inward migration. This pattern is displayed in Figure 2.W showing that the region's rural districts have experienced a 14% increase in their population; almost 100,000 people. This demonstrates a growing trend of movement from urban to rural areas.

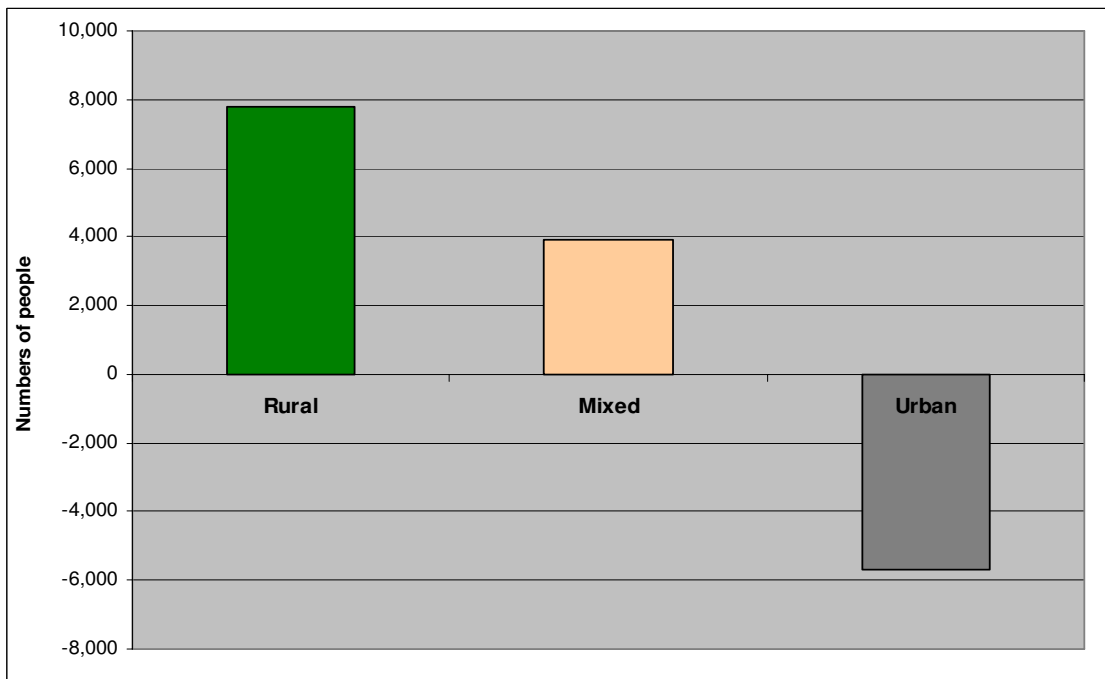
²⁰ *Progress in the Region 2004*, Yorkshire Futures.

Figure 2.W Population change 1981 - 2003²¹



The pattern of inward migration to rural areas identified in last years report has continued. Data for 2002-03 in Figure 2.X shows that rural and mixed districts in Yorkshire and The Humber are significant net recipients of migrants.

Figure 2.X Net migration within the region between urban and rural areas (2002-03)²²

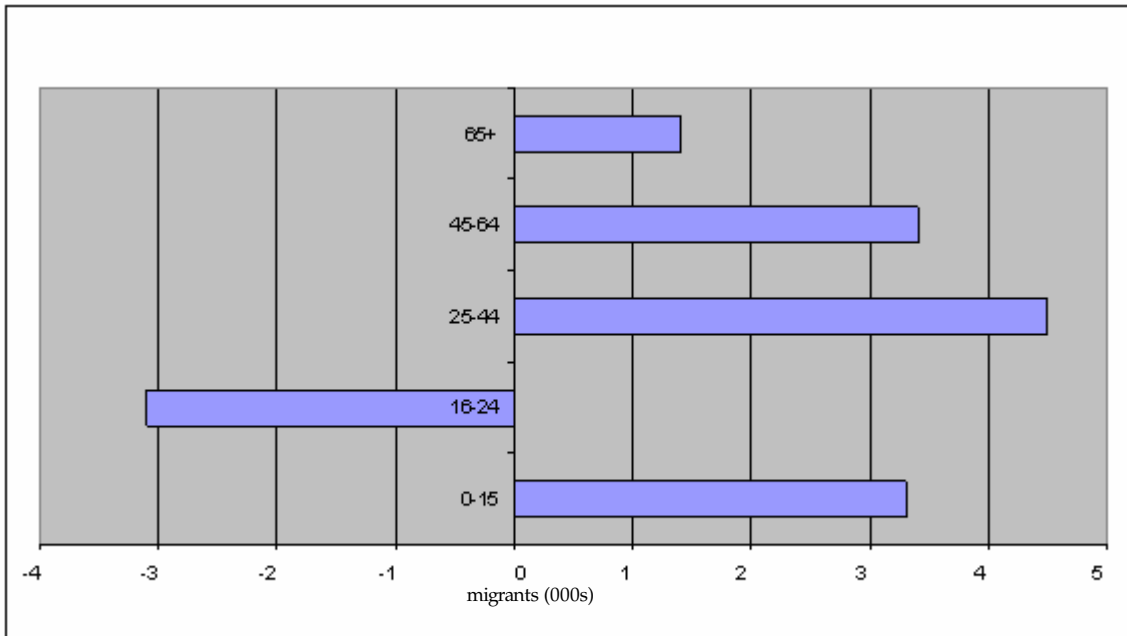


²¹ Source: ONS 2004, Mid-Year Population Estimates via CRC data hub

²² ONS 2004, Internal Migration Estimates via CRC data hub

Last years report also identified that rural areas in Yorkshire and The Humber are losing people in the 16 to 24 age group. Figure 2.Y shows that rural districts generally have a higher proportion of their population aged over 60.²³

Figure 2.Y Rural areas net migration balance by age bracket, 2001-02



2.5.6 *Population projections*

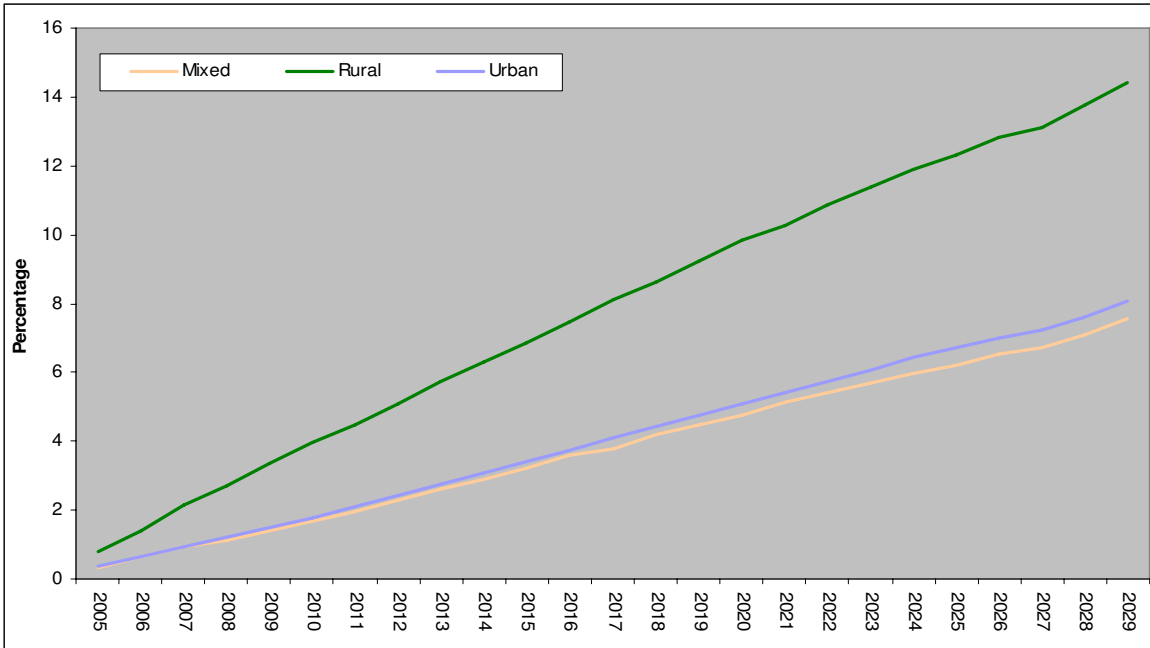
Yorkshire Futures recently commissioned Leeds University to produce local authority population projections for age and ethnicity in the region from 2005 to 2030.²⁴ This data has been examined at district level to forecast population changes for rural and urban areas.

²³ Internal migration estimates with age breakdown, ONS, 2002

²⁴ <http://www.yorkshirefutures.com/siteassets/documents/YorkshireFutures/3/9/390F5D3F-E067-4872-8C5C-AB95E8F47FB7/Yorkshire%20&%20The%20Humber%20Population%20Projections.pdf>

The forecasts suggest that the region’s rural districts are likely to see the biggest percentage increase in their populations over the next 25 years as shown in Figure 2.Z.

Figure 2.Z Cumulative population growth forecasts as a percentage of the baseline year 2005-2030



In terms of age structure urban, rural and mixed districts are forecast to see significant increases in their population over the age of 60. However, rural districts are forecast to see the biggest percentage increases in this cohort as shown in Figure 2.AA.

Figure 2.AA Population projections percentage change 2005-2030

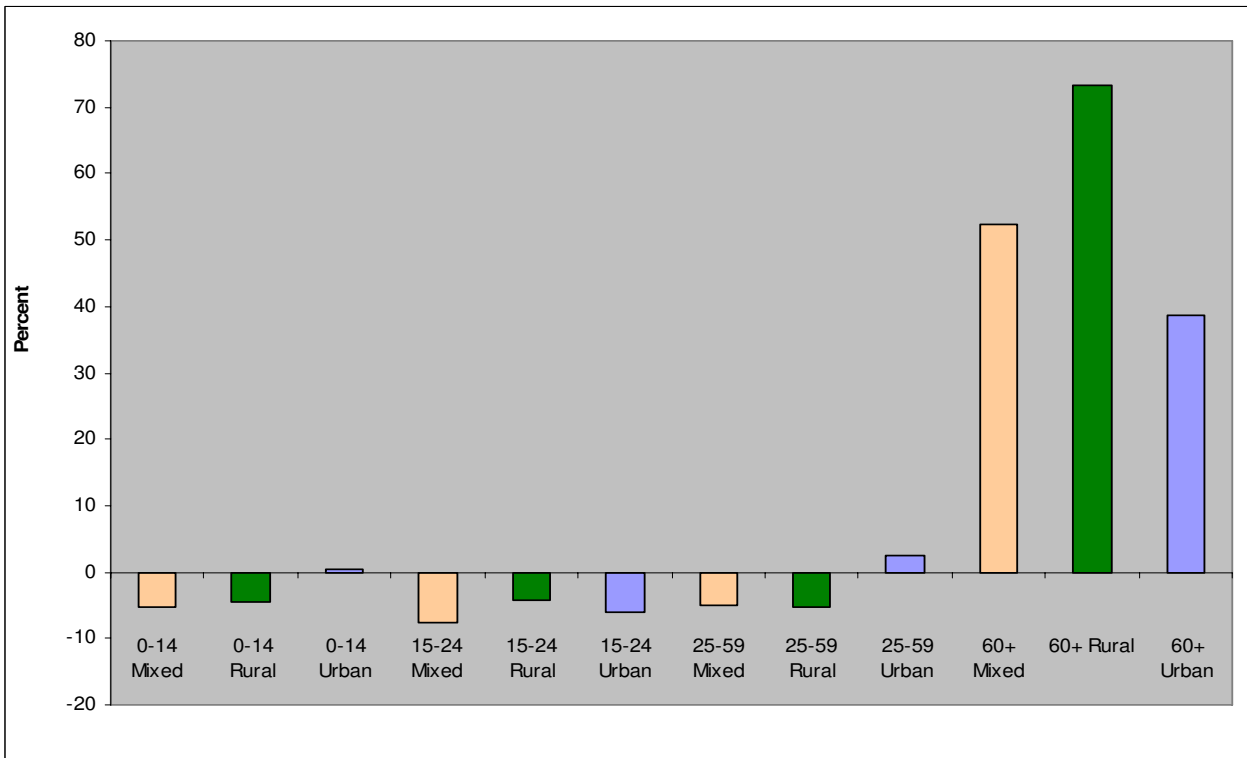


Figure 2.BB shows that rural districts generally have a higher proportion of their population aged over 60. By 2030 this trend will continue with five rural districts expected to have over 39% of their population aged 60 or above as shown in Figure 2.CC.

Figure 2.BB Percentage of people over 60 in 2005

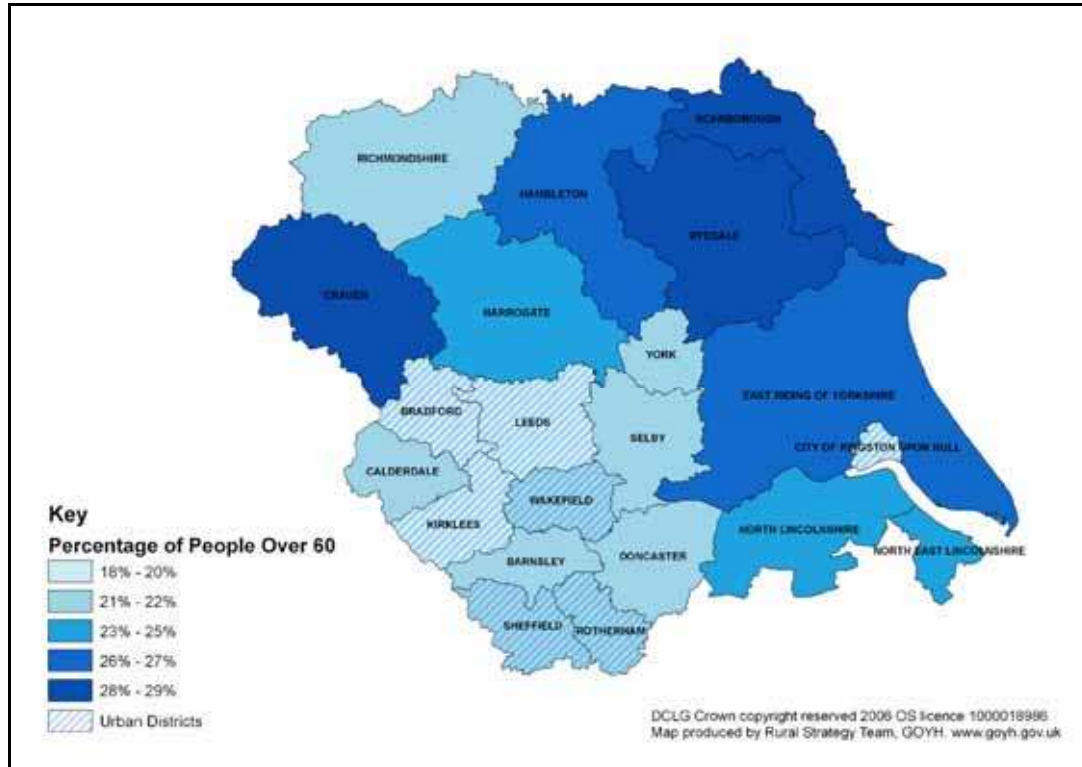
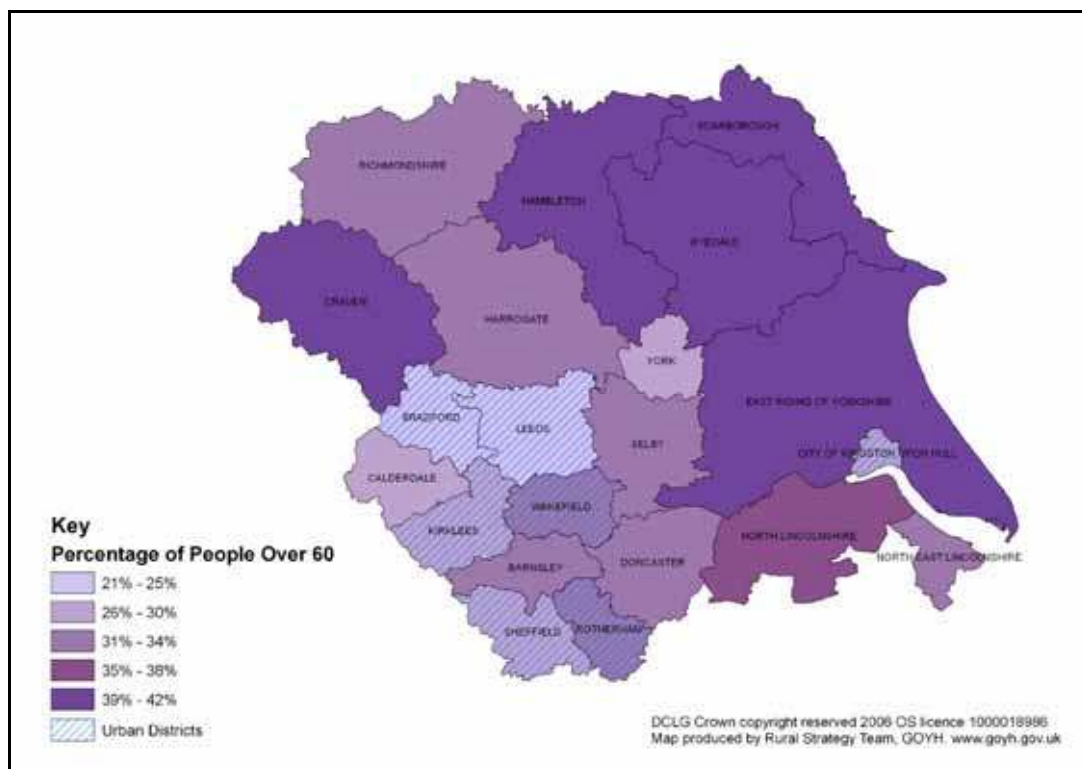
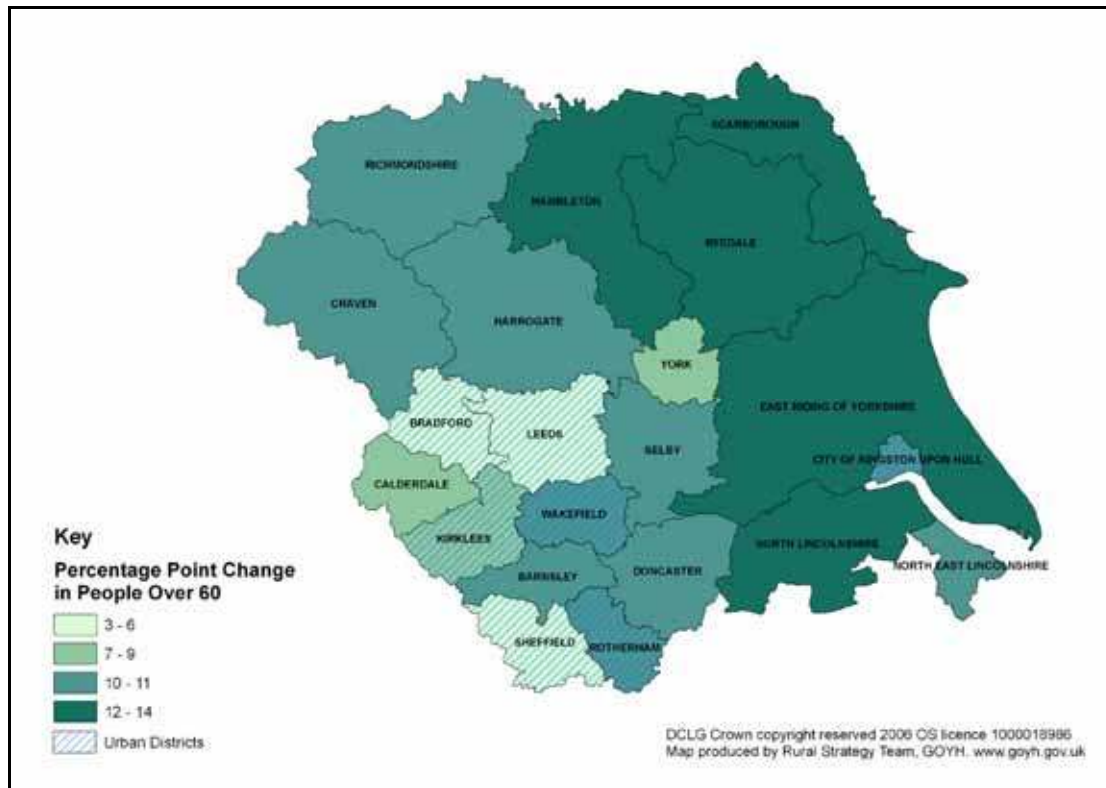


Figure 2.CC Percentage of people over 60 in 2030



The map below (Figure 2.DD) shows that rural districts, especially those with coastal resorts are expected to see the biggest percentage increase in their over 60 population.

Figure 2.DD Percentage point change in people over 60 between 2005 and 2030



2.6 Conclusion

The Yorkshire and The Humber is a diverse region with a wide range of physical conditions, reflected in the variety of landscapes and habitats found. There are areas of coastland and National Parks, vales, upland moors and dales.

The region has a population of five million people and nearly 20% of those people live in rural areas from the sparse villages and hamlets to market towns. There are also five major cities in the region, Bradford, Leeds, Kingston upon Hull, Sheffield and York.

Agricultural land covers 76% of the region's total land area. This land is very diverse. All of the Defra Agricultural Land Classification grades can be found in the region from grade 1 (of excellent quality) along the lower parts of the rivers Ouse and Trent to grade 5 (very poor agricultural land) on the Pennine Hills and North York Moors.

Agriculture employs less than 1% of the region's workforce and Defra has calculated that 72% of the farm holdings are too small to require the full time input of one person. Also, The Yorkshire and The Humber region has the lowest farm diversification rate in the country. This coupled with a predicted decline in the sector both in terms of output and full time equivalents presents a significant challenge to the managers of three quarters of the region's land.

The population as a whole is growing in rural areas and predicted to increase over the next 30 years. Rural districts are forecast to have the largest percentage increase in population over urban and mixed areas. The main increases will be in the 60 plus age group, with declines in the number of 15-24 year olds. Demographically, the rural areas in the region are not very ethnically diverse. North East Lincolnshire has the highest proportion of rural residents from an ethnic background at 1.6%, compared to 2.3% for the urban areas of the region as a whole.

3 Economy

3.1 Introduction

This chapter examines the economy of the rural areas in the region. The overall economic prosperity of a region has many influencing factors. This chapter looks at some of the key drivers of economic performance such as productivity, industry, enterprise and employment and the links between them. The region as a whole not only varies physically (as highlighted in previous chapters), but also economically, with a wide range of industry, business and workforce.

This chapter covers the following aspects:

- Economic growth.
- Productivity.
- Enterprise.
- Employment.
- Conclusion.

3.2 Economic growth

Gross Value Added (GVA) is an internationally recognised way of assessing the contribution of a business, industry or region to the economy by taking the sum of its Outputs *less* the sum of Intermediate purchases (such as the cost of raw materials or heating). This allows for consistent comparisons to be made.

3.2.1 GVA

The Office for National Statistics does not estimate GVA at district level for the following reasons:

- The current datasets do not support estimates at district level or below in terms of data quality or availability. The source data does not provide enough representation at such levels, thereby the quality at this level of geography is very poor.
- Conceptually, do estimates of GVA for local districts mean anything? GVA on a workplace basis means that commuting effects and the flow of goods and services across such small boundaries would significantly distort the estimates.
- There are also issues related to disclosure.

However, Experian Business Strategies have produced GVA estimates at district level for Yorkshire and The Humber, available via the Regional Econometric Model (REM).

In order to analyse relative economic performance in the region, the time series of GVA growth rates (1999 to 2004) have been used. Actual levels of growth within this period are higher in urban districts. However, if we look at percentage growth between 1999 and 2004, rural districts outperform urban districts. This is shown in Table 3.A.¹

¹ Regional Econometric Model, *Experian Business Strategies Ltd*, 2006

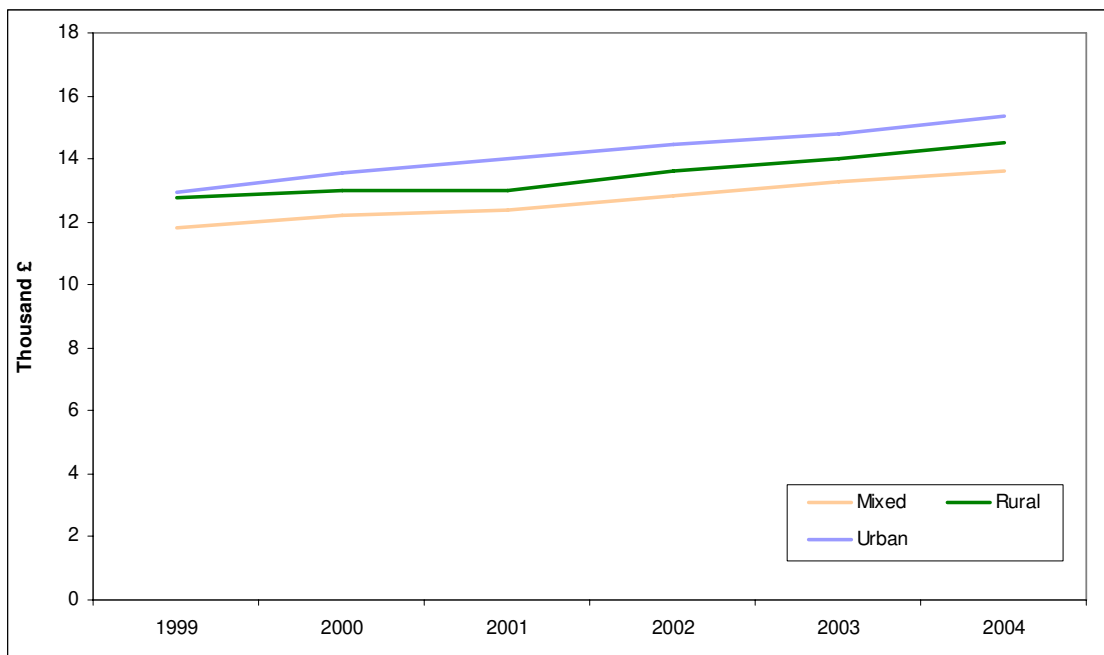
Table 3.A GVA growth performance, 1999-2004

Local Authority	Rural Urban Definition	£ Million		1999 – 2004				
		1999	2004	£m Change	Amount Rank	% growth	Growth Rank	Overall Rank
Rotherham	Urban	2,584	3,436	852	5	33.0	1	1
Kingston Upon Hull	Urban	3,271	4,129	858	4	26.2	3	2
Wakefield	Urban	3,843	4,814	971	3	25.3	4	3
Leeds	Urban	11,167	13,113	1,946	1	17.4	9	4
Doncaster	Mixed	2,918	3,630	712	8	24.4	5	5
Sheffield	Urban	6,475	7,525	1,050	2	16.2	12	6
East Riding of Yorkshire	Rural	3,401	4,018	617	9	18.1	6	7
Selby	Rural	1,022	1,350	329	15	32.2	2	8
North Lincolnshire	Rural	2,098	2,469	371	10	17.7	8	9
Kirklees	Urban	4,569	5,287	718	7	15.7	14	10
Harrogate	Mixed	1,991	2,335	344	13	17.3	10	11
Bradford	Urban	5,685	6,512	827	6	14.5	17	12
Craven	Rural	689	812	123	18	17.9	7	13
Barnsley	Mixed	2,069	2,408	339	14	16.4	11	14
Calderdale	Mixed	2,471	2,831	360	12	14.6	16	15
York	Mixed	2,668	3,034	366	11	13.7	18	16
North East Lincolnshire	Mixed	1,960	2,260	300	16	15.3	15	17
Richmondshire	Rural	605	701	97	20	16.0	13	18
Hambleton	Rural	1,200	1,349	150	17	12.5	19	19
Scarborough	Mixed	1,157	1,265	108	19	9.4	21	20
Ryedale	Rural	791	876	85	21	10.7	20	21
Yorkshire and The Humber		62,633	74,154	11,522	-	18.4	-	-
UK		862,521	982,085	119,564	-	13.9	-	-

Leeds had the highest GVA in the region (£13,113 million in 2004) and Richmondshire has the lowest at £701 million in 2004. The districts with the highest overall rank for increase in GVA and GVA growth are urban. Rotherham has the highest overall rank with £852 million increase in GVA between 1999 and 2004 which is a growth of 33%. The rural district of Selby however, had a high level of growth over the five year period at 32.2%, the second highest in the region. The districts with the lowest growth levels are Hambleton, Scarborough and Ryedale, all falling below the average for the region (18.4%) and the UK (13.9%). Regional growth as a whole was 4.5% higher than the average growth for the UK.

3.2.2 *GVA per head*

Ideally, GVA per hour worked forms the best measure of productivity, but this data is not currently available at district level. Therefore, in order to measure productivity, we have used the GVA and population estimates from the Regional Econometric Model (REM) to calculate GVA per head. Figure 3.A shows the GVA per head (in thousands of pounds) for the region's districts between 1999 and 2004, grouped by urban, rural and mixed. The GVA per head in urban areas is higher than that in rural and mixed. All areas show an increase over the six year period.

Figure 3.A GVA per head, 1999- 2004

The next table (Table 3.B) shows the GVA per head for each Local Authority between 1999 and 2004 with an average for the six years.² The Local Authorities are ordered by average GVA from largest (Leeds at £17,020 per head) to the smallest (Barnsley at £10,220 per head). It is important to note that GVA is a workplace based estimate. GVA per head in Leeds, Ryedale and York is higher than the UK value of £15,580 per head. All the other districts in the region fall below this level.

² Regional Econometric Model, Experian Business Strategies Ltd, 2005. Estimates of GVA per head in this table have been calculated using the resident-based population as the denominator.

Table 3.B Time series of GVA per head (£ 000s), 1999-2004

Local Authority	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Average
Leeds	15.62	16.32	16.80	17.38	17.71	18.29	17.02
Ryedale	15.86	15.73	15.25	15.96	16.46	17.11	16.06
York	15.05	15.03	15.25	15.99	16.55	16.45	15.72
UK	14.69	15.23	15.48	15.68	16.01	16.42	15.58
Selby	13.63	13.67	14.37	15.85	16.89	17.51	15.32
Hambleton	14.30	14.82	14.66	15.00	15.83	15.86	15.08
North Lincolnshire	13.78	14.47	14.88	15.57	15.46	15.83	15.00
Kingston Upon Hull	12.81	13.72	14.46	14.97	15.52	16.70	14.70
Harrogate	13.39	13.29	13.31	14.22	14.98	15.21	14.07
Craven	12.92	13.27	13.58	13.91	14.38	15.08	13.85
Calderdale	12.92	13.27	13.42	13.79	14.17	14.62	13.70
Yorkshire and The Humber	12.63	13.13	13.42	13.90	14.27	14.76	13.69
Sheffield	12.54	13.25	13.62	13.79	14.23	14.63	13.68
Wakefield	12.24	12.73	13.34	14.15	14.25	15.09	13.63
North East Lincolnshire	12.40	13.30	13.08	13.40	13.68	14.38	13.37
Richmondshire	13.26	13.15	13.22	13.10	13.45	13.81	13.33
Bradford	12.17	12.75	13.21	13.37	13.40	13.56	13.08
Kirklees	11.86	12.16	12.41	12.80	12.99	13.48	12.62
Rotherham	10.43	10.88	11.25	12.09	12.81	13.65	11.85
Scarborough	10.84	11.15	11.33	11.71	11.86	11.87	11.46
East Riding of Yorkshire	10.98	11.14	10.75	11.37	11.81	12.40	11.41
Doncaster	10.18	10.75	11.07	11.56	12.07	12.60	11.37
Barnsley	9.46	10.00	10.11	10.18	10.66	10.93	10.22

Figure 3.B below is a map of the data in the table above, for GVA per head in 2004. The darker areas have the lowest GVA per head, these include, Scarborough, East Riding of Yorkshire, Doncaster and Barnsley. Ryedale, Leeds and Selby have the highest GVA per head. East Riding of Yorkshire is the rural district with the lowest GVA per head followed by Richmondshire.

Figure 3.B GVA per head, 2004³

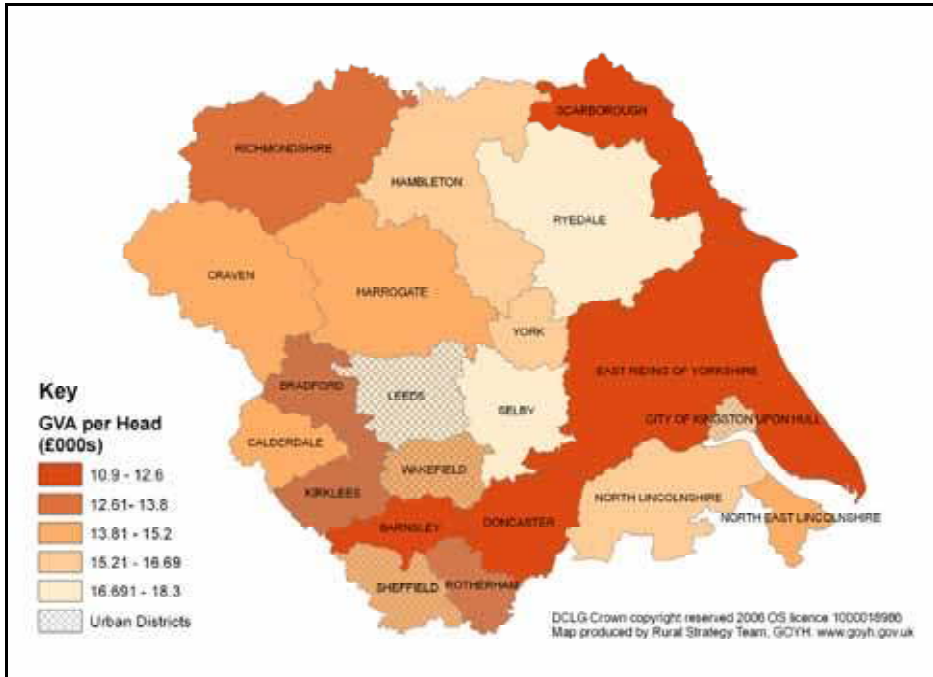
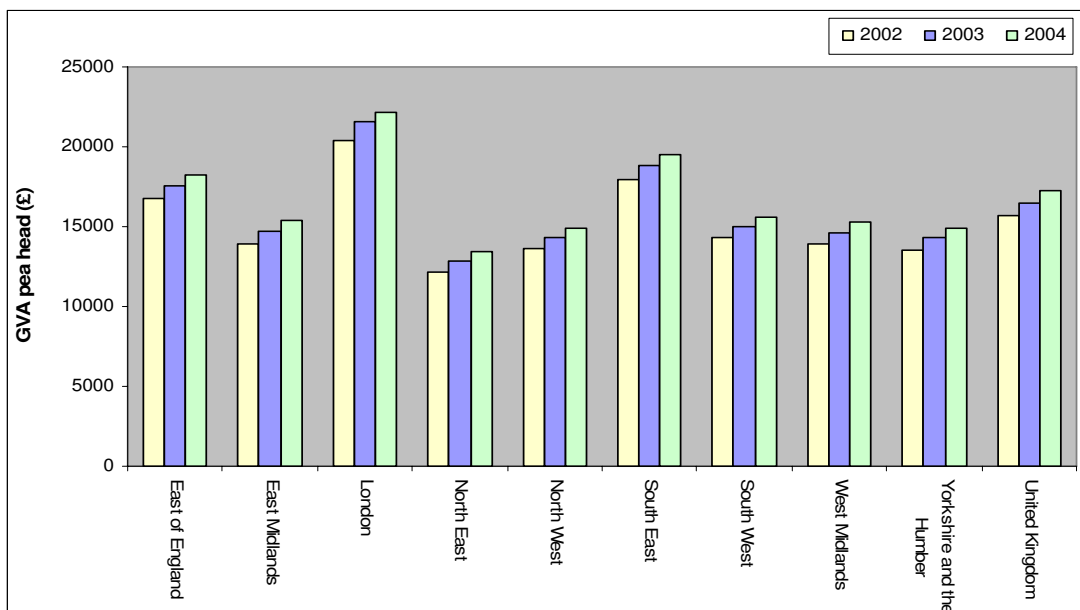


Figure 3.C compares the GVA per head across the regions. Yorkshire and The Humber had the second lowest GVA in 2004 at £14,928 per head, just after the North East which had a GVA of £13,433 per head in 2004. GVA per head has increased in all regions from 2002.⁴

Figure 3.C Regional GVA per head, 2002-2004



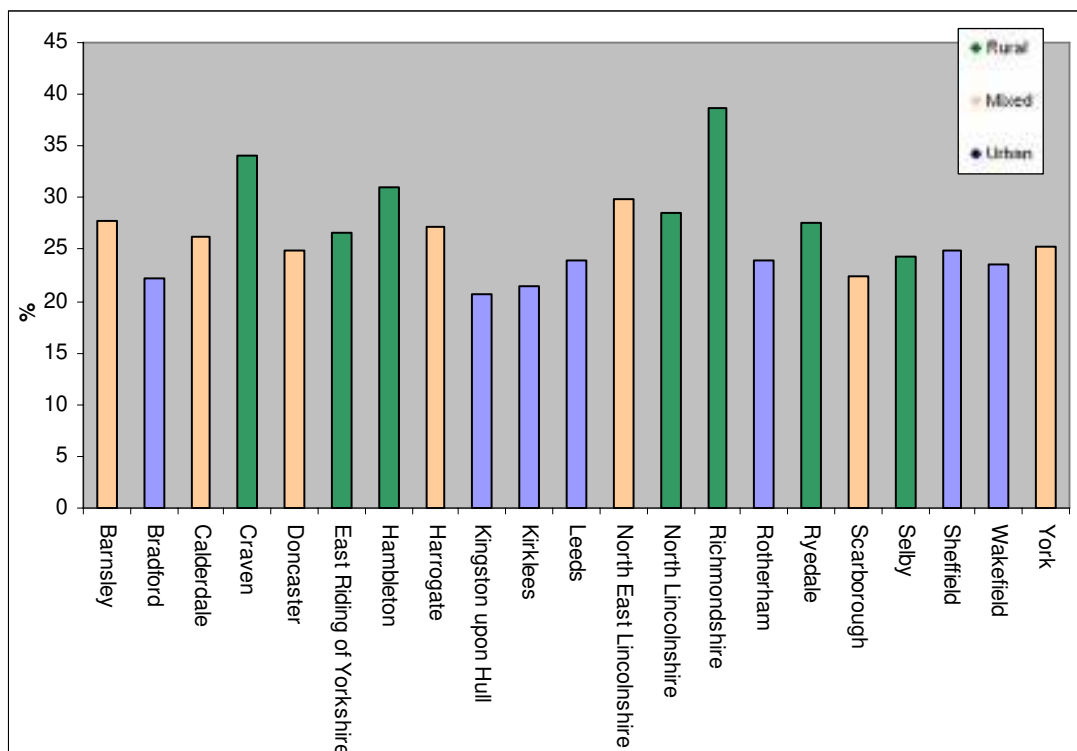
³ Regional Econometric Model, Experian Business Strategies Ltd, 2005, calculated using the resident-based population as the denominator.

⁴ Regional Trends 39 Data 2006, Office of National Statistics, Chapter 12 Regional Accounts - GVA table 12.01.

3.2.3 *Hours worked*

Figure 3.D displays the percentage of all in employment who work more than 45 hours per week for each district in the region.⁵ The data source is the Annual Population Survey and therefore figures are estimates based on a sample. The rural districts with a lower population have smaller sample sizes, which has an effect on the confidence of the estimate. In general the predominantly rural districts have higher proportion of employees working more than 45 hours per week than the urban and mixed districts. Richmondshire, Craven and Hambleton have the highest percentages at 38.7%, 34% and 31% respectively. The districts with the lowest percentage of people working over 45 hours per week are the urban areas; Kingston upon Hull, Kirklees and Bradford.

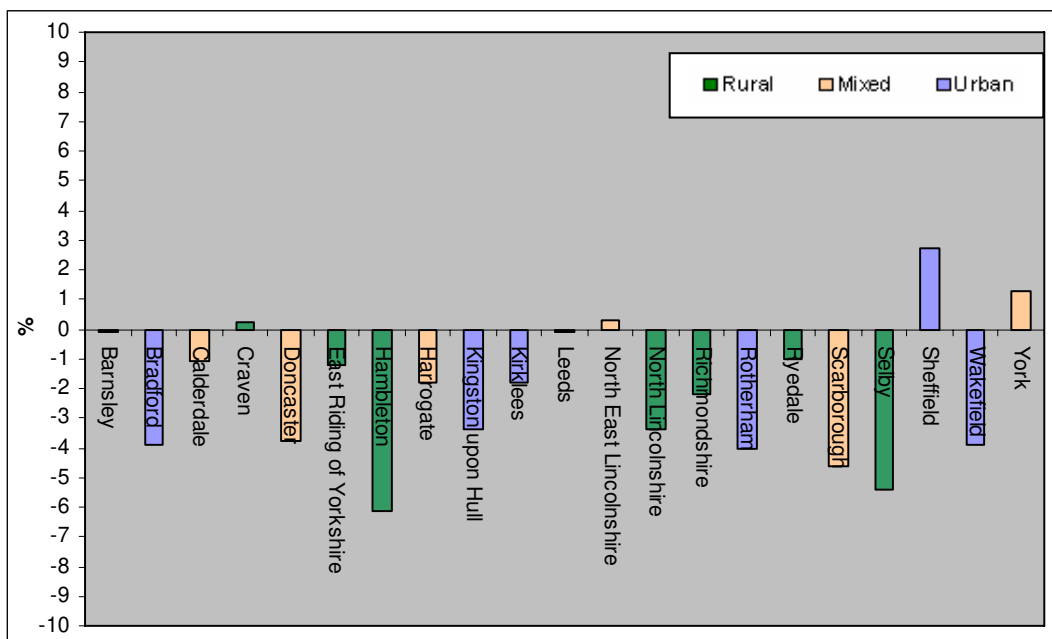
Figure 3.D Percentage of all in employment who work more than 45 hours a week, 2005



⁵ Annual Population Survey 2005, ONS Nomis 2006.

Figure 3.E shows the change in the percentage of people who worked over 45 hours per week over two years according to the Local Labour Force Survey of 2003/04⁶ and the Annual Population Survey of 2005. In the majority of districts the percentages have declined. The percentage in Hambleton (one of the highest in 2005) declined by 6.1% since 2003/04, however it remains the third highest after Richmondshire and Craven. Barnsley, Leeds and Ryedale had little change between the two years and all the other changes are of relatively small. The only districts to have an increase in percentage of people working over 45 hours per week between 2003/04 and 2005 are Craven, North East Lincolnshire, Sheffield and York. Sheffield had the largest increase at 2.7%.

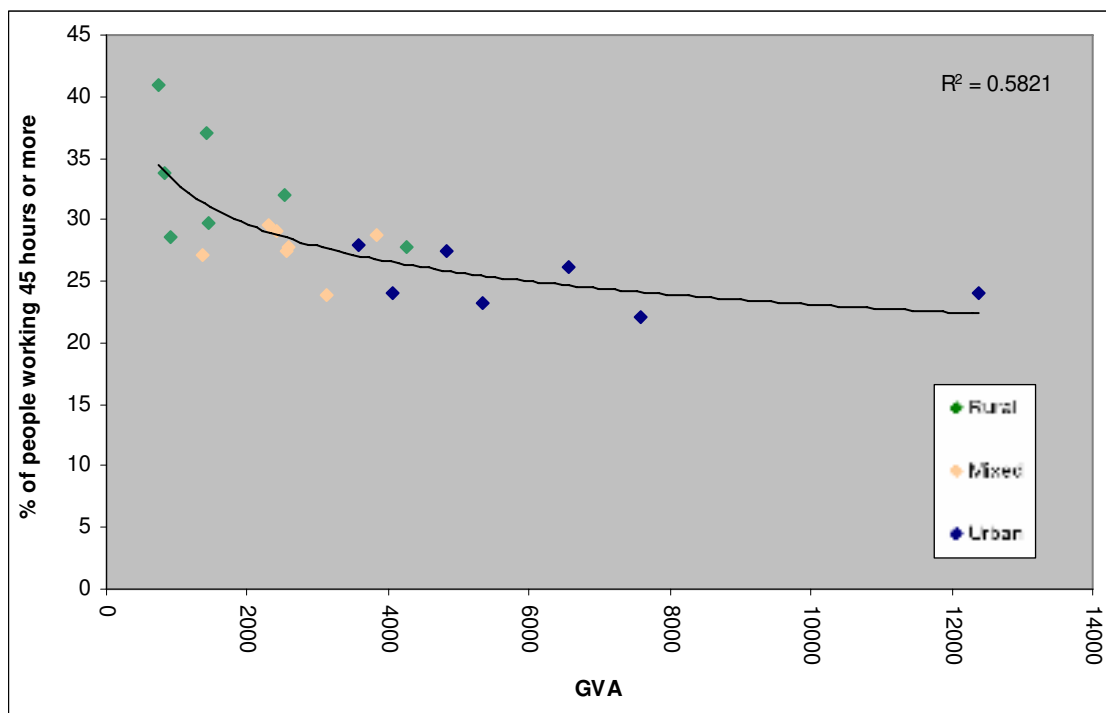
Figure 3.E Percentage point change of all in employment who work more than 45 hours a week between 2003/ 04 and 2005



⁶ Local Labour Force Survey, 2003/04, ONS Nomis 2006.

Figure 3.F considers the correlation between hours worked and GVA. The graph is colour coded according to whether the district is classified as rural, urban or mixed. It is apparent from this graph that for the rural districts in the region, GVA remains low despite a higher percentage of people working more than 45 hours per week. It may be necessary for a higher percentage of people in rural areas to work longer hours in order to achieve the levels of GVA recorded in Table 3.B above, although it is not possible to confirm this hypothesis with this data alone.

Figure 3.F GVA plotted against the percentage of people working 45 hours or more



3.3 Productivity

Productivity is determined by factors of production such as labour and capital. High productivity countries generate more wealth for the amount of inputs that they have available. To develop policy agenda on productivity, the Government has established five priority areas for action; skills, enterprise, innovation, investment and competition, often referred to as the five drivers of productivity growth.⁷ These priorities can be assessed in rural areas to give an indication of the levels of economic performance and productivity growth. Skills and access to training is analysed in the Education and Skills chapter (6). Enterprise and innovation can be examined using VAT (Value Added Tax) registrations and de-registrations of businesses, which are considered later in this chapter.

Defra has identified the rural areas in Scarborough, the East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire as the region's consistently lagging districts in terms of economic performance through their work on meeting the PSA4 target.⁸ The evidence so far on growth, productivity and hours worked supports this target.

⁷ Productivity in Rural England, Defra Rural Economics Unit, 2005

⁸ Public Service Agreement (PSA) 4: reduce the gap in productivity between the least well performing quartile of rural areas and the English median by 2008, demonstrating progress by 2006, and improve the accessibility of services for people in rural areas.

3.3.1 *Predictions*

The graph in Figure 3.G shows Regional Econometric Model (REM) productivity estimates for each of the districts in the region in 2004, along with values for the region as a whole and the UK. The productivity of the district is calculated using the output by sector and full time equivalents employed in that sector. The rural district of Selby has the highest productivity at 39,800 output per full time equivalent. All the other rural districts have productivity values less than most urban and mixed districts. Richmondshire, East Riding of Yorkshire and Hambleton have some of the lowest values in the region. Craven and North Lincolnshire however, are slightly higher both exceeding the regional average.

This graph correlates well with the GVA per head figures, showing Selby and Leeds as districts with high productivity. However, the productivity values in this graph are higher than those in the GVA per head table. This is due to the differences between the way the GVA and productivity are calculated. GVA is often lower than output (and consequently productivity) because a proportion of GVA for a particular sector may be accounted for in another region. This is because of statistical adjustments made to take into account the location of headquarters, this is often apparent in the financial sector.

Figure 3.G Productivity, 2004

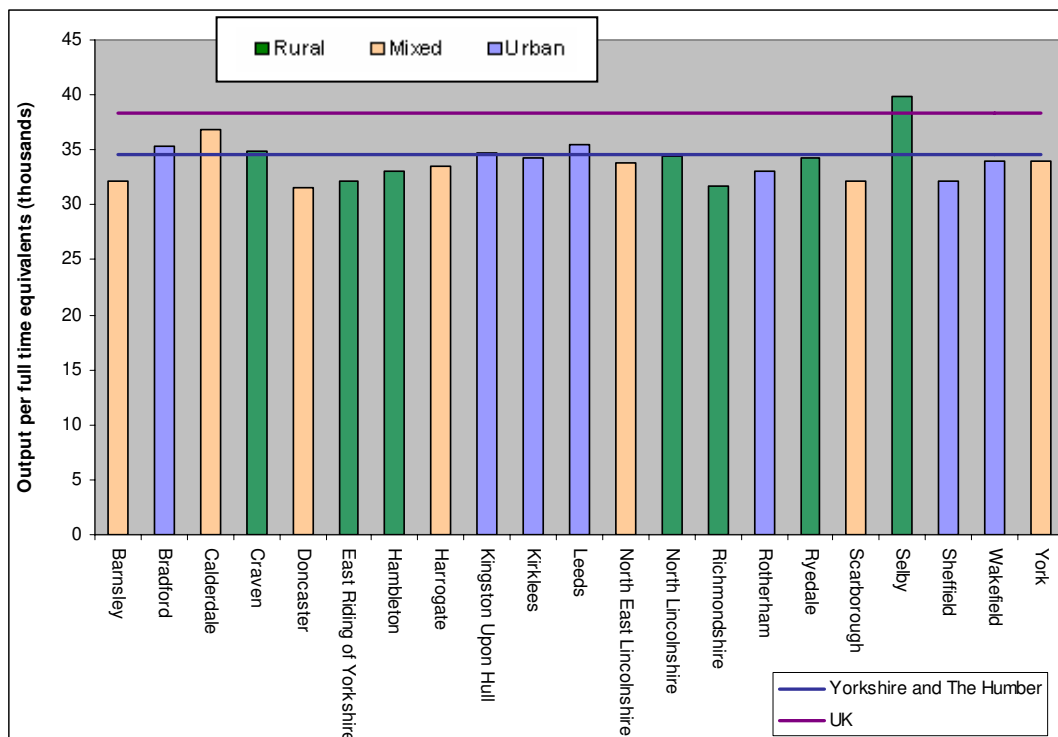
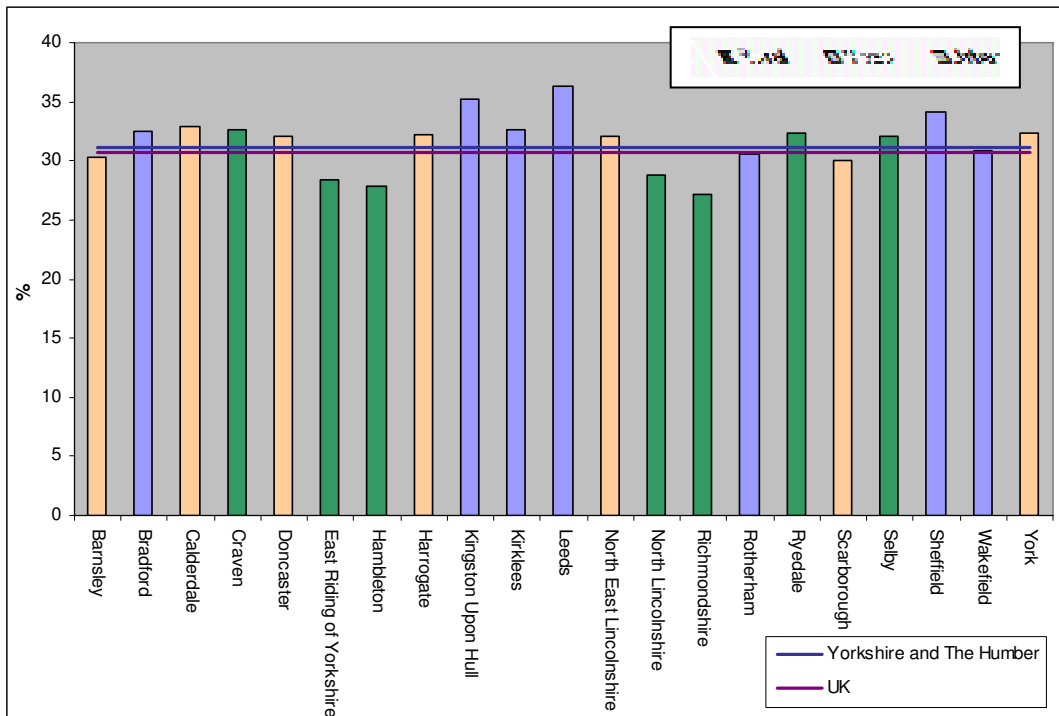


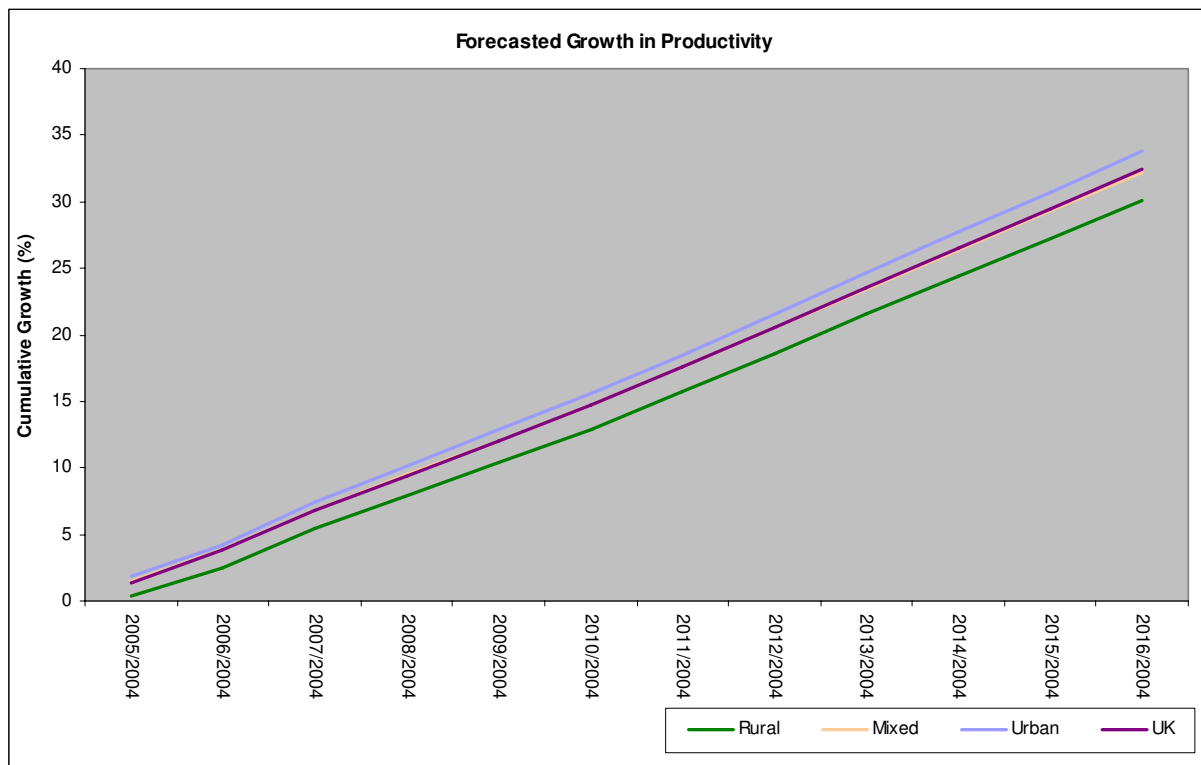
Figure 3.H shows the percentage change in forecasted productivity growth for each of the districts in the region, the Yorkshire and The Humber and the UK. The rural districts of East Riding of Yorkshire, Hambleton, North Lincolnshire and Richmondshire have the lowest predicted increase in productivity of all the districts. The remaining rural districts of Craven, Ryedale and Selby have higher productivity increase forecasts but only similar to the majority of mixed districts. The urban districts of Leeds, Kingston upon Hull and Sheffield have the highest changes in forecasted productivity growth between 2004 and 2016.

Figure 3.H Percentage change in forecasted productivity growth 2004-2016



The next graph in Figure 3.I shows the forecasted growth cumulatively over the same period as the previous graph (2004-2016). The trend of increase is similar for all areas; urban, mixed and rural. The lines do however move further apart as time progresses, indicating that growth rates in rural areas could fall behind those of urban and mixed areas. The trend in mixed districts follows a very similar line to the UK trend, although this is lower than the forecast for urban productivity growth in the region.

Figure 3.I Forecasted cumulative growth in productivity, 2004-16⁹



3.3.2 *Productivity Overall*

A main reason that productivity is lower in rural areas is that by definition the area is rural and therefore has fewer businesses and enterprise than an equivalently sized urban area. As Defra's Rural Productivity Report (*Rural Economics and Strategy, 2006*) states:

"The simple fact that rural areas contain smaller gatherings of economic agents than cities (which are in large part designed for the purpose of gathering) means that the external benefits predicted by this [report's] approach are lower in rural areas. This is not a market failure; rather it is simply a reflection of the nature and characteristics of rural, and urban, areas. In terms of rural areas this includes: a low skills equilibrium in some areas; potential for lower levels of competition as measured by some of the proxies used in this chapter; and fewer opportunities to network and exchange ideas/innovate."¹⁰

Despite rural areas having higher employment and income levels, productivity remains low. This could be explained to some extent by the commuter effect; with those with high incomes living in rural areas and commuting to nearby urban areas. GVA is a workplace based measure and consequently those higher incomes are recorded in area of the workplace. The difference between workplace based and resident based earnings are

⁹ Regional Econometric Model, Experian Business Strategies Ltd, 2005.

¹⁰ Productivity in Rural England, Defra Rural Economics Unit, 2005

analysed further in the Quality of Life chapter (7). Many factors affect productivity and these are analysed further in the next section.

3.4 Enterprise

Enterprise has been recognised by the Government as a key driver of productivity growth. The proportion of new business entrants in an area can be used to give an indication of enterprise and competitiveness.

Data from the 2003 Inter-Departmental Business Register (IBDR) and the 2001 Census show that 24% of all local business units in England were located in a rural area compared with only 19% of the population.

3.4.1 *New Businesses*

Table 3.C shows that in terms of business start-ups per 10,000 of population, rural areas perform better than all urban areas, apart from Major Urban areas (the results for which are skewed by the presence of the City of London).¹¹ Removing the City of London, rural areas are roughly equal to or better than the English average for business start-ups.¹²

Table 3.C England average number of Business Start-Ups per 10,000 of Population by district classification

District Classification	Average Number of Business Start-Ups per 10,000 of population (2002)
R80 – rural pop > 80%	32.99
R50 – 50% < rural pop < 80%	30.73
Significant Rural (SR)	33.37
Other Urban (OU)	25.94
Large Urban (LU)	25.18
Major Urban (MU)	51.82
England	34.65
England (excl. City of London)	31.06

¹¹ DTI Regional Economic Performance Team using Small Business Service and ONS estimates.

¹² Productivity in Rural England, Defra Rural Economics Unit, 2005

3.4.2 *Number of Business*

Table 3.D shows the number of businesses per 10,000 of the population for the rural and urban areas of each district in the region. The business data is taken from Neighbourhood Statistics¹³ and uses data from March 2005. The population estimates are taken from the Rural Evidence Hub and based on the 2001 Census of Population (2001 Census data is the most recent population estimate with a rural urban split at Local Authority level). These datasets have been used to calculate an estimate of businesses density in each district.

Business density is one of a number of input measures that can be used to determine the competitiveness of an area.¹⁴ The Defra report on Productivity in Rural England states that there are more businesses per 10,000 of the population on average, in remote rural areas. It does note however, that a number of the firms in rural areas will be agricultural, with their own distinctive competitive structure. Table 3.D has been produced to look at this subject in the districts of the Yorkshire and Humber region. The rural areas do have a higher number of businesses per 10,000 of the population than the urban areas in the same district. Wakefield is the only district where the urban areas have a higher business density.

Table 3.D Number of Businesses per 10,000 of the Population¹⁵

Local Authority	Businesses per 10,000 of population	
	Rural	Urban
Barnsley	231.9	167.4
Bradford	324.1	194.5
Calderdale	361.4	252.1
Craven	603.4	348.5
Doncaster	284.6	154.1
East Riding of Yorkshire	383.8	204.4
Hambleton	513.8	255.7
Harrogate	621.1	307.8
Kingston upon Hull	-	166.0
Kirklees	351.6	228.7
Leeds	381.9	217.4
North East Lincolnshire	333.6	182.0
North Lincolnshire	322.4	177.0
Richmondshire	423.2	-
Rotherham	241.9	162.9
Ryedale	617.4	384.2
Scarborough	389.3	227.3
Selby	358.8	241.3
Sheffield	376.9	191.5
Wakefield	171.1	203.7
York	370.3	207.2
Yorkshire and The Humber	380.1	202.0

¹³ www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

¹⁴ Productivity in Rural England, Defra Rural Economics Unit, 2005

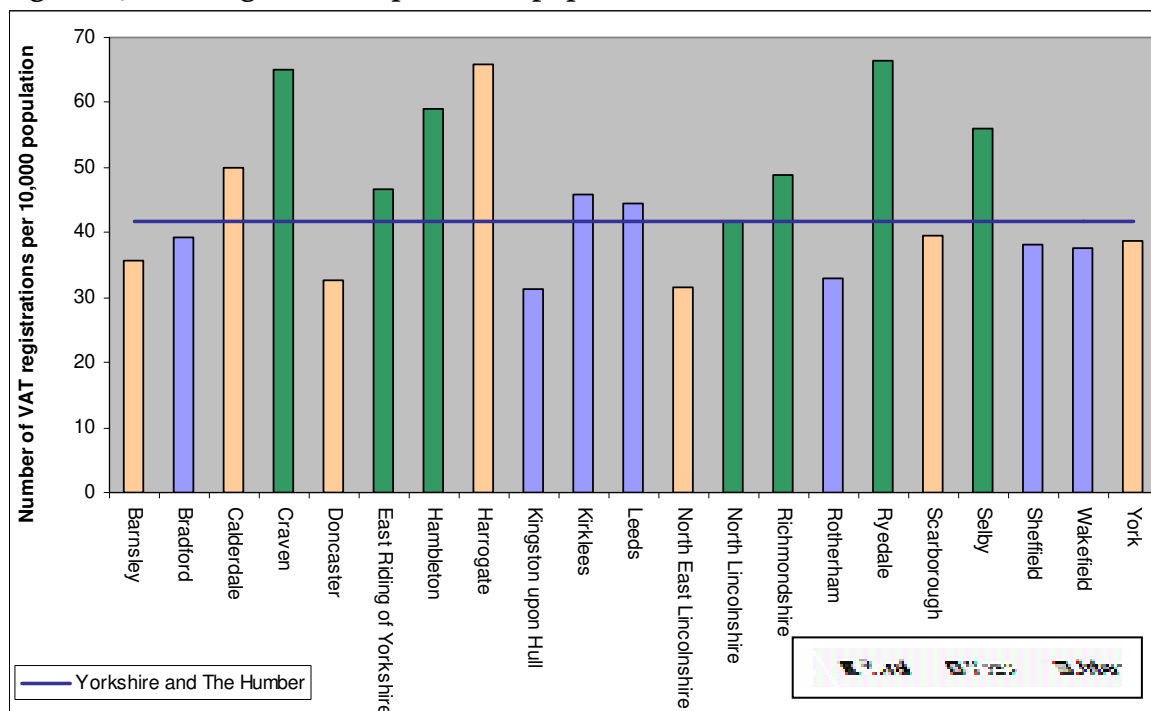
¹⁵ Counts of VAT Based Enterprises by Broad Industry Group - Totals, Neighbourhood Statistics, March 2005 and Population Estimates, Defra Rural Evidence Hub, Census 2001.

3.4.3 *Value Added Tax (VAT) registrations per 10,000 population*

Regional data for the Yorkshire and The Humber shows a similar pattern to the national data above. In 2004, there were more VAT registrations in rural areas than in urban areas per 10,000 of the working age population.¹⁶ Figure 3.J shows that all the rural districts have a higher number of VAT registrations than the regional average of 41.8 per 10,000 of the working age population.¹⁷ The lowest five on the graph include Kingston upon Hull, North East Lincolnshire, Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley, three of the four South Yorkshire districts and all either urban or mixed.

Notably, Kirklees and Leeds are the only urban districts performing above the regional average at 45.9 and 44.6 VAT registrations per 10,000 of the working age population respectively.

Figure 3.J VAT registrations per 10,000 population, 2004



¹⁶ 2003 working-age population has been used for this calculation.

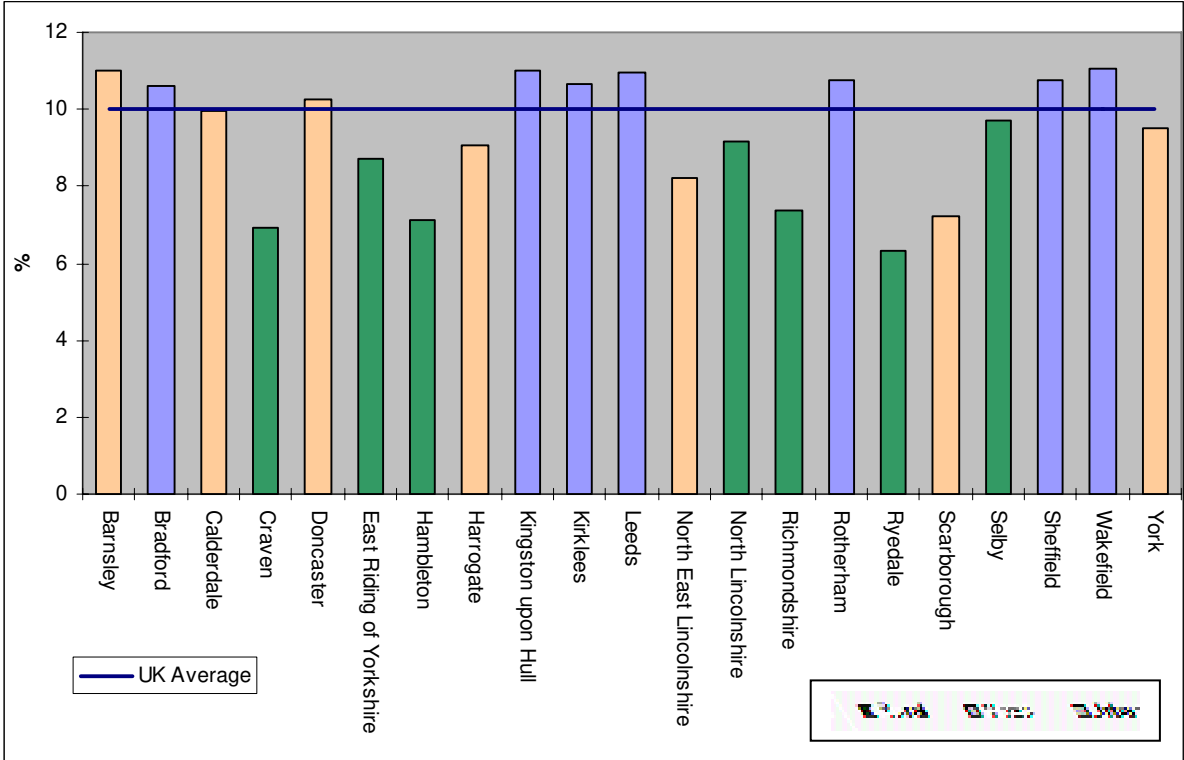
¹⁷ Small Business Service (SBS), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), 2004.

3.4.4 VAT registrations as a percentage of business stock

In the previous section it was concluded that there were more business start-ups per 10,000 of the population in rural than urban districts.

However, when the numbers of VAT registrations are taken as a percentage of the business stock (the total number of businesses in a given area), we get the opposite picture, with urban districts outperforming rural districts and most mixed districts. All of the urban areas have more VAT registrations per business stock than the average for the UK. All of the rural districts on the other hand fall short of the 10% UK average as shown in Figure 3.K. This could be because rural areas have a relatively higher number of businesses to start with.

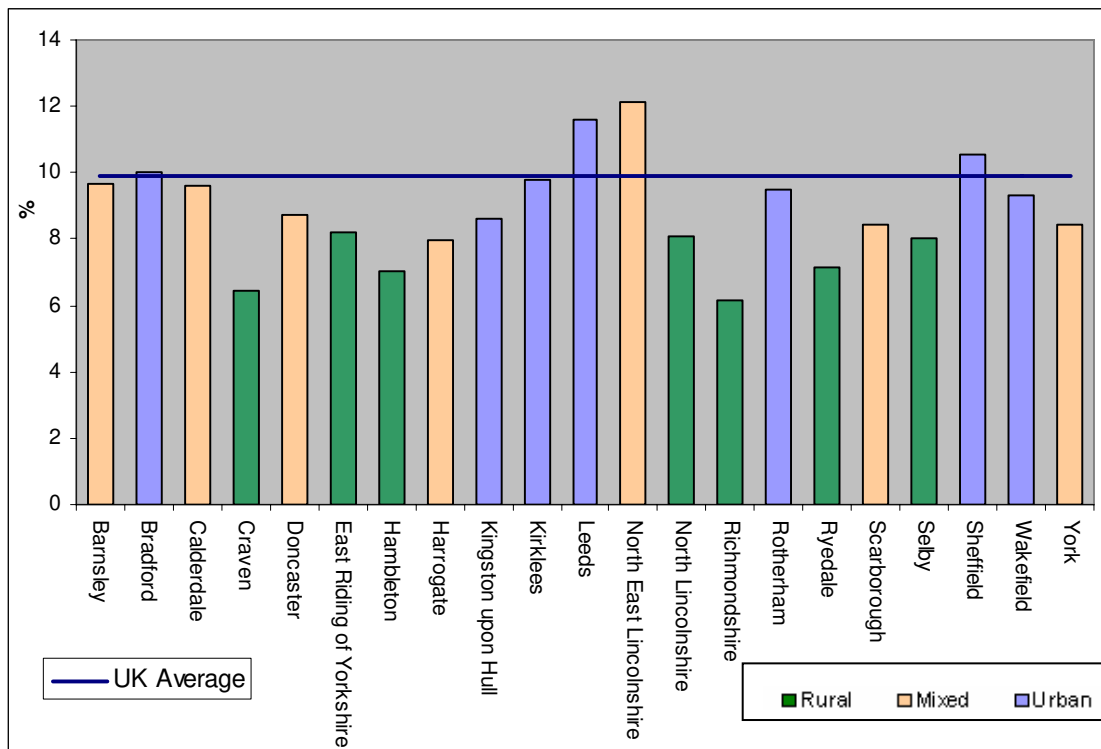
Figure 3.K VAT registrations as a percentage of business stock, 2004



3.4.5 *VAT de-registrations as a percentage of business stock*

As with VAT registrations per business stock, there are more de-registrations as a percentage of business stock in urban and mixed districts than in rural districts. The top ten areas with the highest number of VAT de-registrations as a percentage of business stock are all urban or mixed as shown in Figure 3.L.¹⁸ These results, alongside the results for registrations indicate a higher turnover rate of businesses in urban and mixed areas than rural. As previously mentioned, this evidence is slightly misleading as it does not take account of small businesses not registering for VAT, which may have a higher presence in rural areas.

Figure 3.L VAT de-registrations as a percentage of business stock, 2004



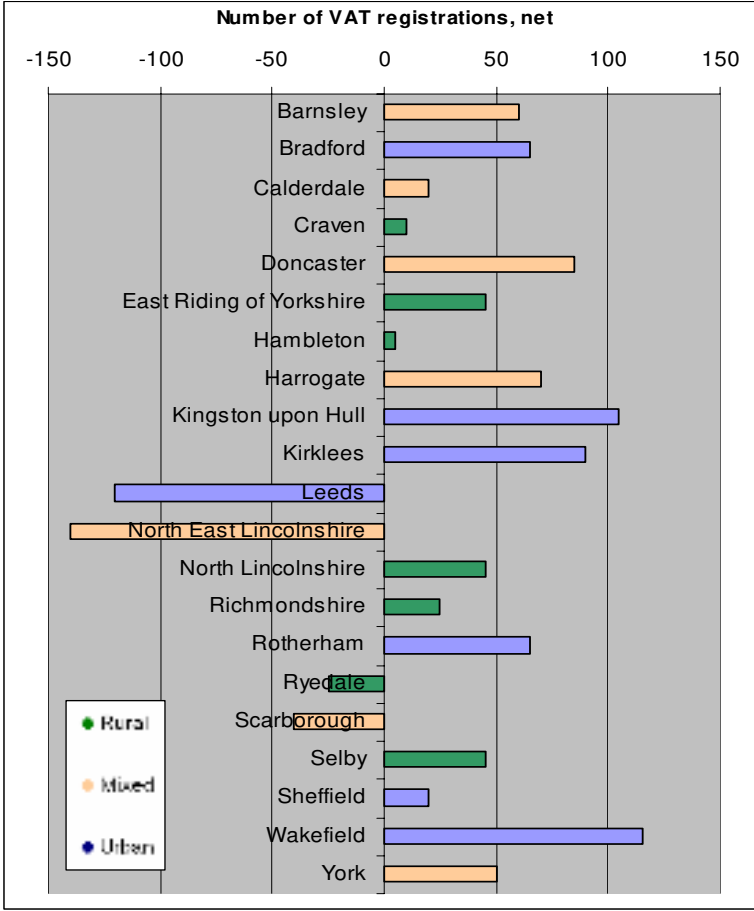
3.4.6 *VAT registrations less de-registrations*

Data for business survival rates, produced by the Small Business Service (SBS) is not available at district level. Therefore, we have used the total number of VAT registrations *less* the total number of VAT de-registrations in 2004 to obtain a net figure for each district.

Figure 3.M shows that in 2004, Wakefield had the highest number of net VAT registrations at 115. This is followed by Kingston upon Hull (105) and Kirklees (90). Although small, all the rural districts have a positive net VAT registration apart from Ryedale which had 25 more VAT de-registrations than registrations. It is to be expected that rural areas have a lower number of total registrations and de-registrations due the size and concentration of population in comparison to urban areas. Urban and mixed districts tend to have larger populations and therefore a higher absolute number (positive or negative) of net VAT registrations.

¹⁸ See note 17

Figure 3.M Net VAT registrations, 2004



Further work could be done to identify whether new or established businesses are deregistering.

Net VAT registrations fluctuate considerably from year to year as Figure 3.N shows. The ten year net registration pattern displays high fluctuation rates for all districts. It may therefore be difficult to draw conclusions from snapshot data and more appropriate to look at net registrations over a longer period of time.

Figure 3.N Net VAT registrations, 1994-2004

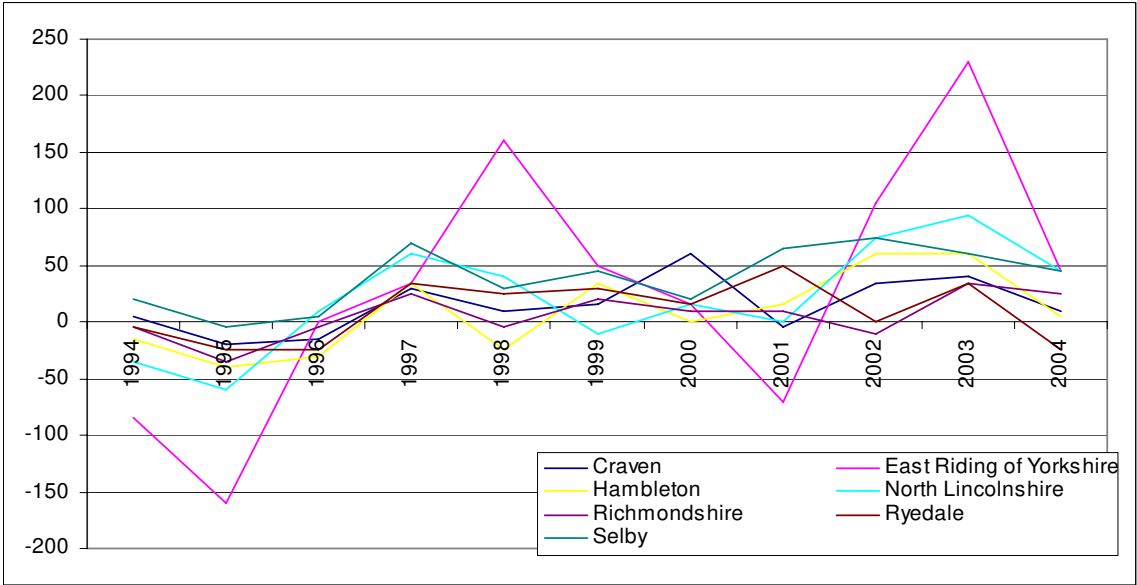
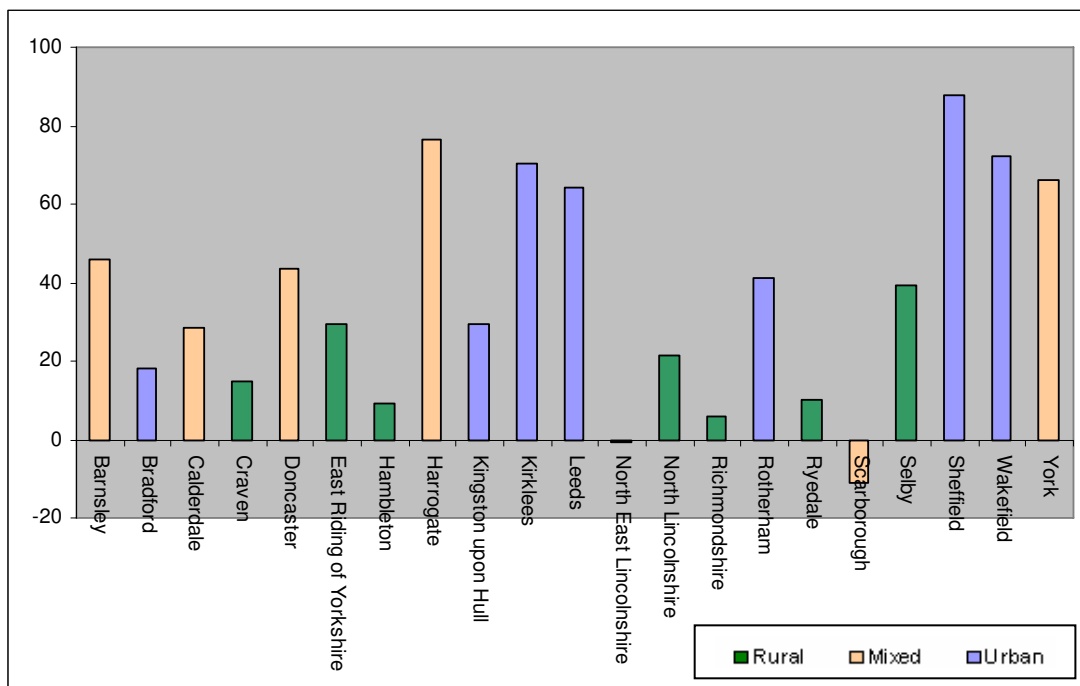


Figure 3.O shows the average net registrations for all districts over a ten year period from 1994-2004. All districts apart from North East Lincolnshire and Scarborough have had a positive net average number of VAT registrations. Similarly to Figure 3.M the rural areas have a lower number of total registrations and de-registrations due the size and concentration of population in comparison to urban areas. Of the rural districts Selby has the highest average of net registrations at 39 followed by East Riding of Yorkshire with 30 (which also had the highest fluctuation rate as shown in Figure 3.N).

Figure 3.O Average net VAT registrations over a 10 year period, 1994-2004

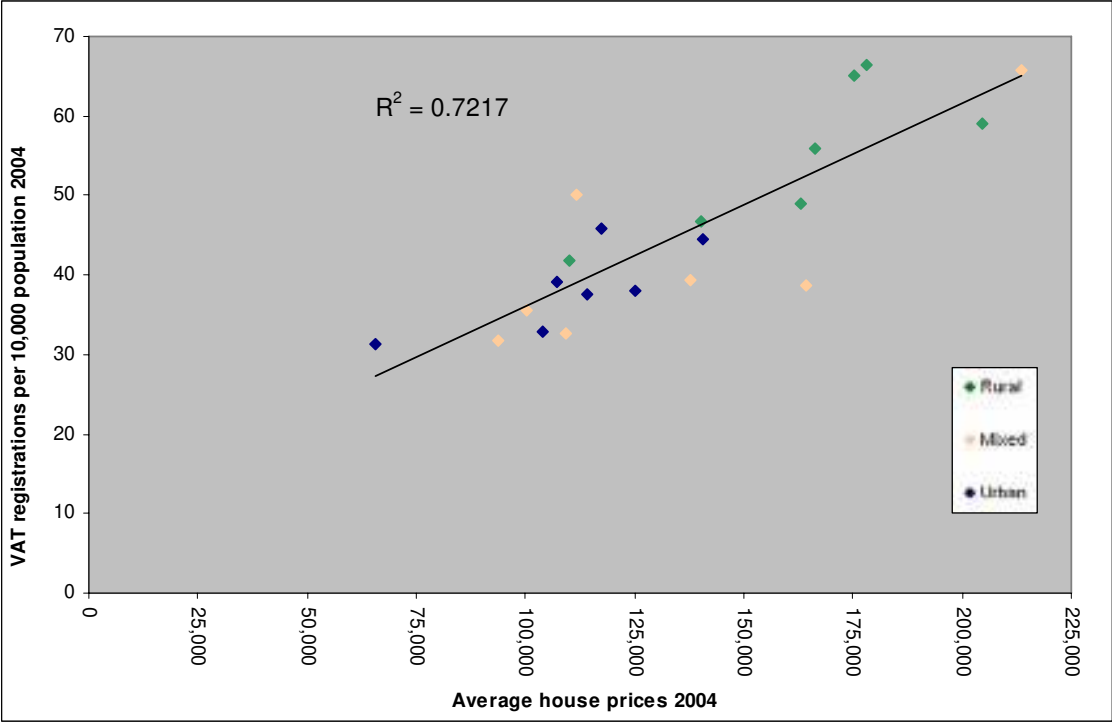


Defra's report on Productivity in Rural England (*Rural Economies and Strategy, 2006*)¹⁹ discusses the links between VAT registrations and house prices. Figure 3.P analyses the correlation between VAT registrations per 10,000 of the population and average house prices in the Yorkshire and The Humber region. Figures for each district are plotted and a trend line added. The type of district (urban, mixed or rural) can be identified by the colour. The R-squared value of 0.7217 indicates that VAT registration is strongly correlated with house prices in the region. One explanation for this is that high house prices in an area provide increase the availability of capital that can be invested in business start-ups.

¹⁹ Productivity in Rural England, Defra Rural Economics Unit, 2005

It is also possible to analyse the spread of the data according to the district classification. The majority of the rural districts (excluding North Lincolnshire which is slightly lower) tend towards the top right of the graph with a high number of VAT registrations per 10,000 of their populations and high average house prices. The mixed and urban districts fall more towards the centre and bottom left of the scatter. Kingston-upon-Hull has the lowest values. The anomaly to this pattern is Harrogate, a mixed district, which has the highest average house prices and second highest VAT registrations per 10,000 of the population.

Figure 3.P VAT registrations and average house prices, 2004



3.4.7 *Types of Industry*

The majority of businesses in rural Yorkshire and The Humber are in either the agricultural sector (with 23.3% of the total) or the finance sector (with 20.0% of the total) as shown in Figure 3.Q.²⁰ If we look at the same pie chart for the urban areas of the region, 24.3% of businesses are in the finance sector, followed by the wholesale and retail sector, which makes up 23.5% of the total businesses as shown in Figure 3.R.²¹

Figure 3.Q Split of businesses in *rural* areas of the region by broad industry group, 2005

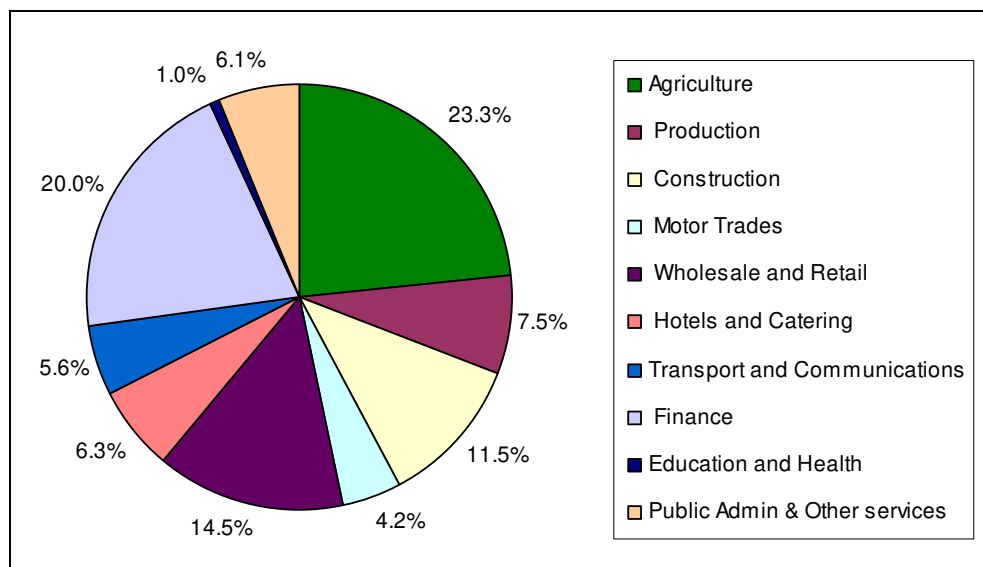
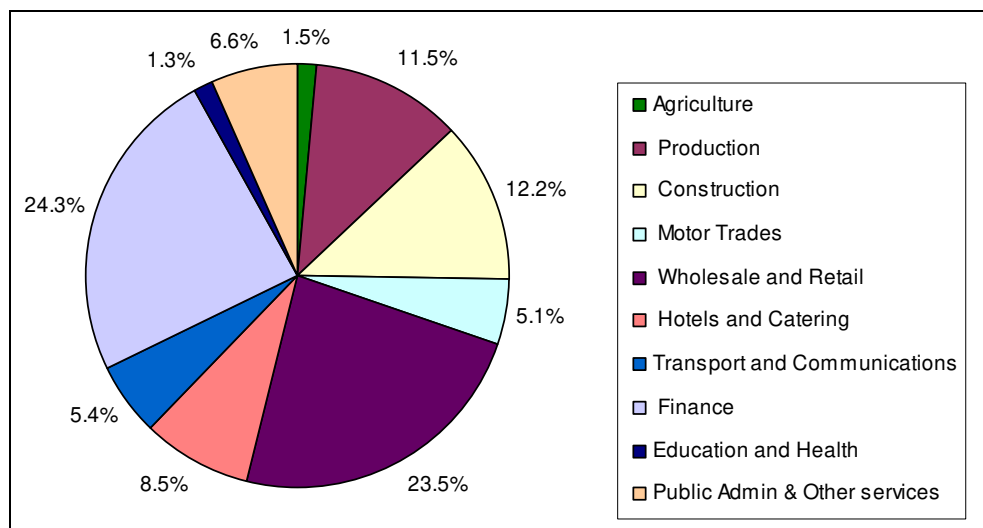


Figure 3.R Split of businesses in *urban* areas of the region by broad industry group, 2005



²⁰ Neighbourhood Statistics 2005, ONS. The data refers to VAT registered businesses only and with the latest rural and urban classification applied (as described in Chapter 1).

²¹ Neighbourhood Statistics 2005, ONS. The data refers to VAT registered businesses only and with the latest rural and urban classification applied (as described in Chapter 1).

3.4.8 *Industry type by location*

The dominant type of industry (by number of businesses) in each local authority is shown in Table 3.E.²² Agriculture does feature as the dominant industry in rural areas although financial intermediation is also prevalent in the rural areas of many districts. Wholesale and Retail and Financial Intermediation dominate the urban areas. This table shows the number of VAT registered businesses and does not give any indication of the numbers of people employed in that sector (employment is analysed in section 3.5).

Table 3.E Dominant industrial sector in urban and rural areas for each district, 2005

Local Authority	Most Dominant Sector in Rural Areas	Most Dominant Sector in Urban Areas
Barnsley	Financial Intermediation	Wholesale and Retail
Bradford	Financial Intermediation	Wholesale and Retail
Calderdale	Financial Intermediation	Wholesale and Retail
Craven	Agriculture	Wholesale and Retail
Doncaster	Wholesale and Retail	Wholesale and Retail
East Riding of Yorkshire	Agriculture	Financial Intermediation
Hambleton	Agriculture	Wholesale and Retail
Harrogate	Agriculture	Financial Intermediation
Kingston upon Hull	-	Wholesale and Retail
Kirklees	Financial Intermediation	Wholesale and Retail
Leeds	Financial Intermediation	Financial Intermediation
North East Lincolnshire	Financial Intermediation	Wholesale and Retail
North Lincolnshire	Financial Intermediation	Wholesale and Retail
Richmondshire	Agriculture	-
Rotherham	Financial Intermediation	Wholesale and Retail
Ryedale	Agriculture	Wholesale and Retail
Scarborough	Agriculture	Wholesale and Retail
Selby	Financial Intermediation	Financial Intermediation
Sheffield	Agriculture	Financial Intermediation
Wakefield	Financial Intermediation	Wholesale and Retail
York	Financial Intermediation	Financial Intermediation
Yorkshire and The Humber	Agriculture	Financial Intermediation

²² Counts of VAT Based Enterprises by Broad Industry Group - Totals, Neighbourhood Statistics, March 2005

Further to the table above, the number of businesses as a proportion of the total is shown for each industrial sector in the graphs below. Only the rural districts are displayed. As noted above, these graphs display the numbers of VAT registered businesses, and do not indicate the levels of employment.

The first graph in Figure 3.S shows the sector proportions for Craven. The rural areas of Craven are dominated by agricultural businesses, with over 30% of the businesses in rural areas grouped into the agricultural sector. This pattern is similar for East Riding of Yorkshire, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Ryedale in which over one quarter of the rural businesses are in the agricultural sector as shown in Figure 3.T to Figure 3.W.

Figure 3.S The proportion of businesses in each sector in craven, March 2005

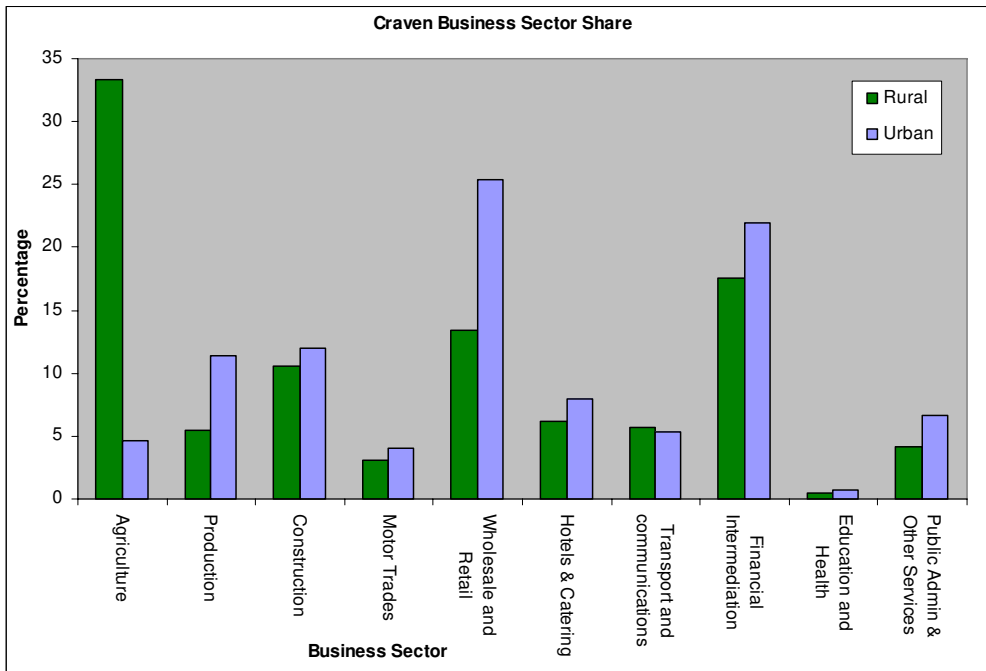


Figure 3.T The proportion of businesses in each sector in East Riding of Yorkshire, March 2005

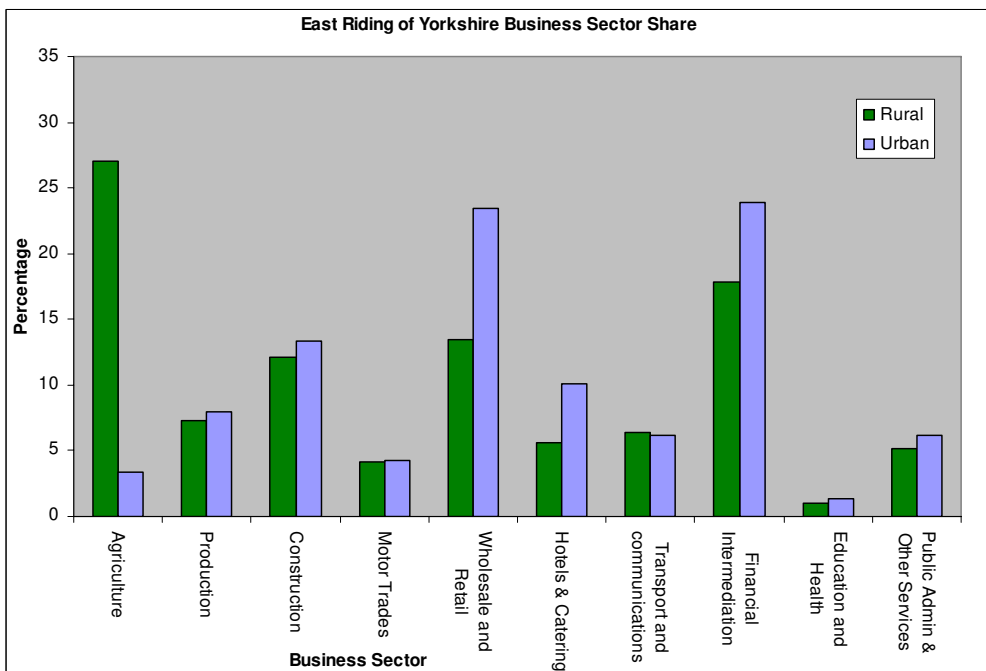


Figure 3.U The proportion of businesses in each sector in Hambleton, March 2005

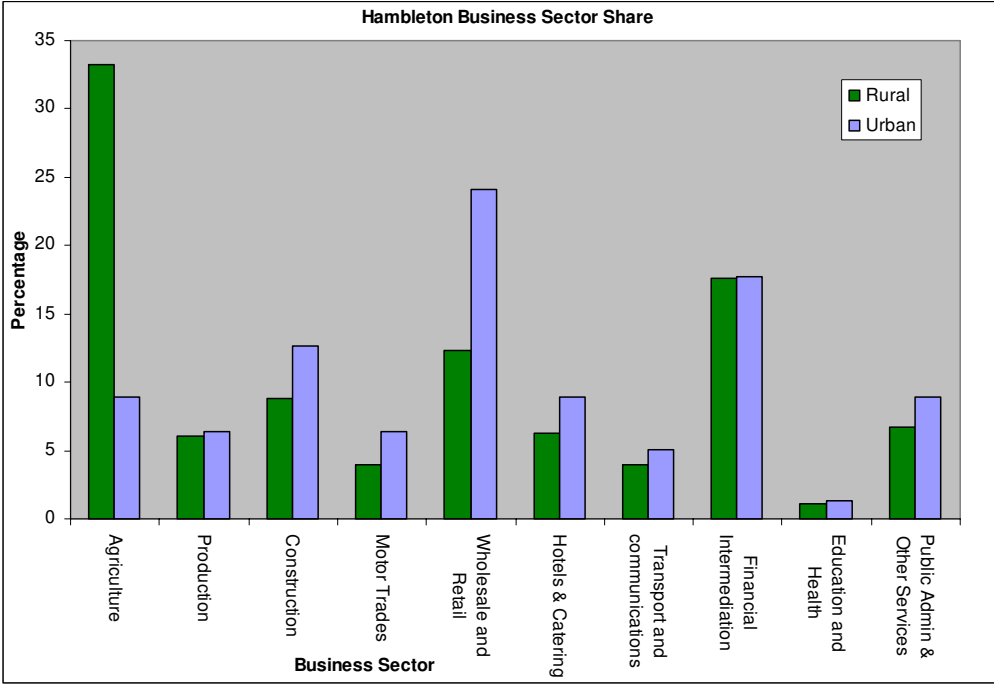
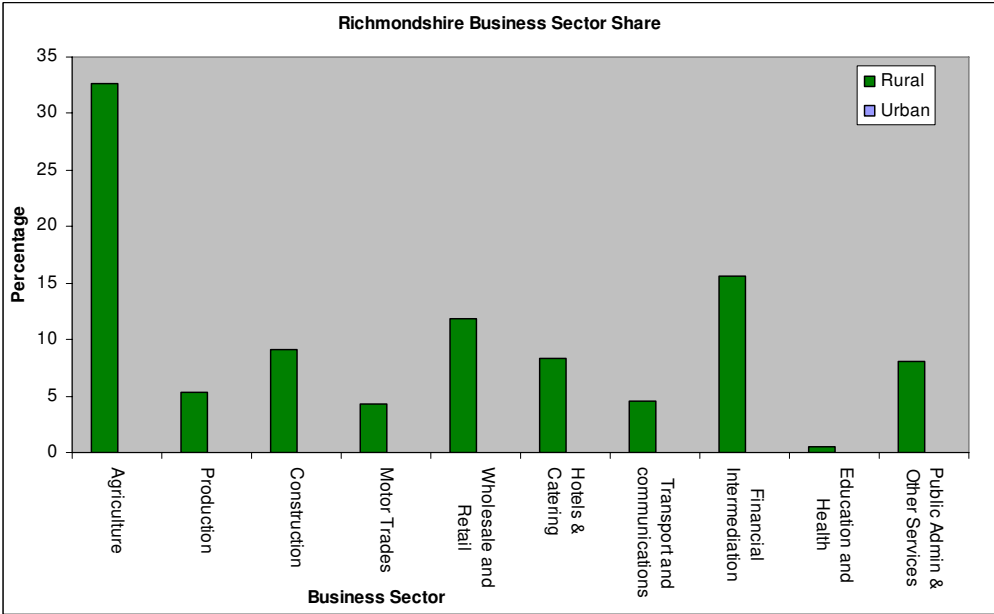
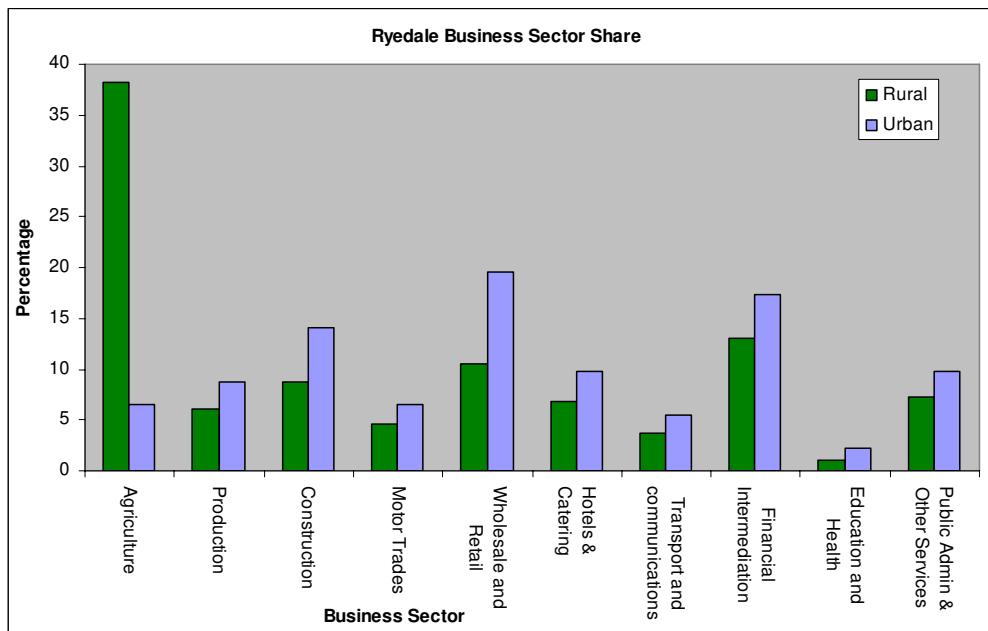


Figure 3.V The proportion of businesses in each sector in Richmondshire, March 2005



Caveat: Richmondshire has no areas classified as urban and therefore no businesses in urban areas.

Figure 3.W The proportion of businesses in each sector in Ryedale, March 2005



In the rural areas of North Lincolnshire and Selby, the proportion of business numbers is more evenly spread across industrial sectors. This pattern can be seen in the graphs of Figure 3.X and Figure 3.Y. In both districts the marginally dominant sector is financial intermediation at 18 and 22% respectively. However, the proportions are similar to that of the agricultural sector, and in North Lincolnshire construction and wholesale and retail.

Figure 3.X The proportion of businesses in each sector in Selby, March 2005

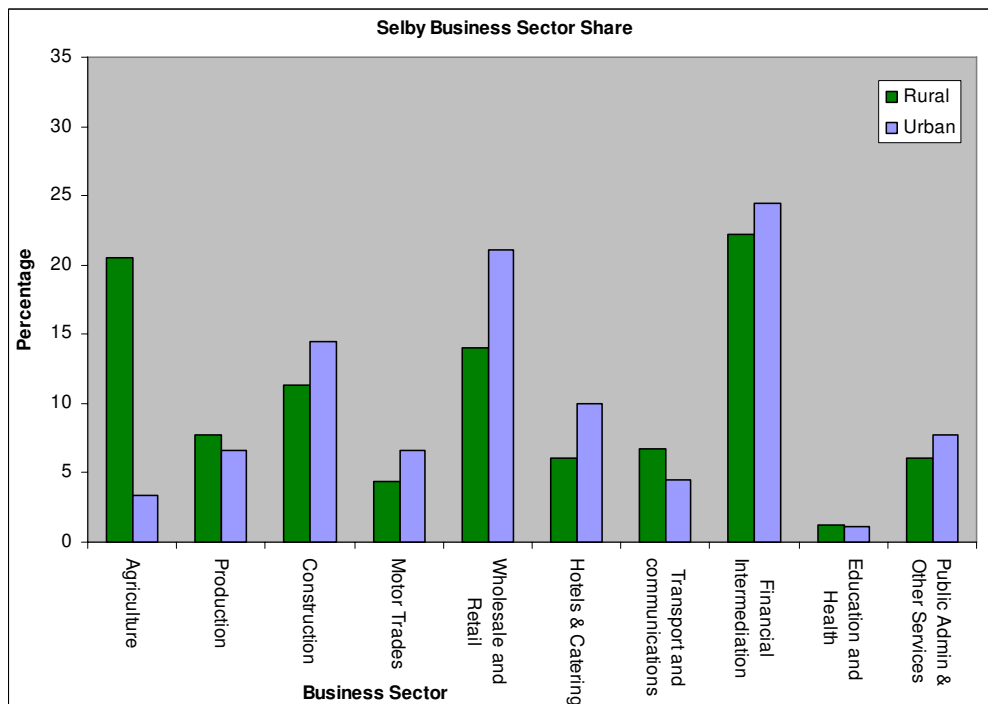
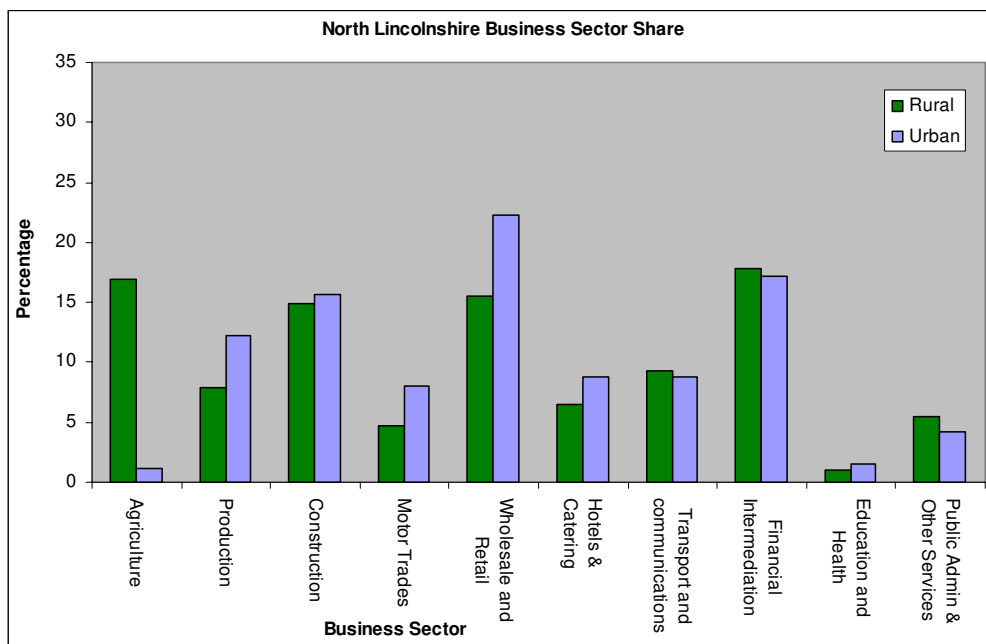


Figure 3.Y The proportion of businesses in each sector in North Lincolnshire, March 2005

3.4.9 *Industry type and Earnings*

The following table and graph provides an analysis into the relationship between percentage of people in rural local authorities and those employed in agriculture and local authority lower quartile wages. Table 3.F shows that, within the North Way group, the percentage of local authorities classified as rural with lower quartile wages below £6.50 and £6 per hour is higher than the percentage for those districts classified as urban. 35.1% of the rural local authorities have lower quartile wages below £6 per hour, compared to only 26% of urban districts.

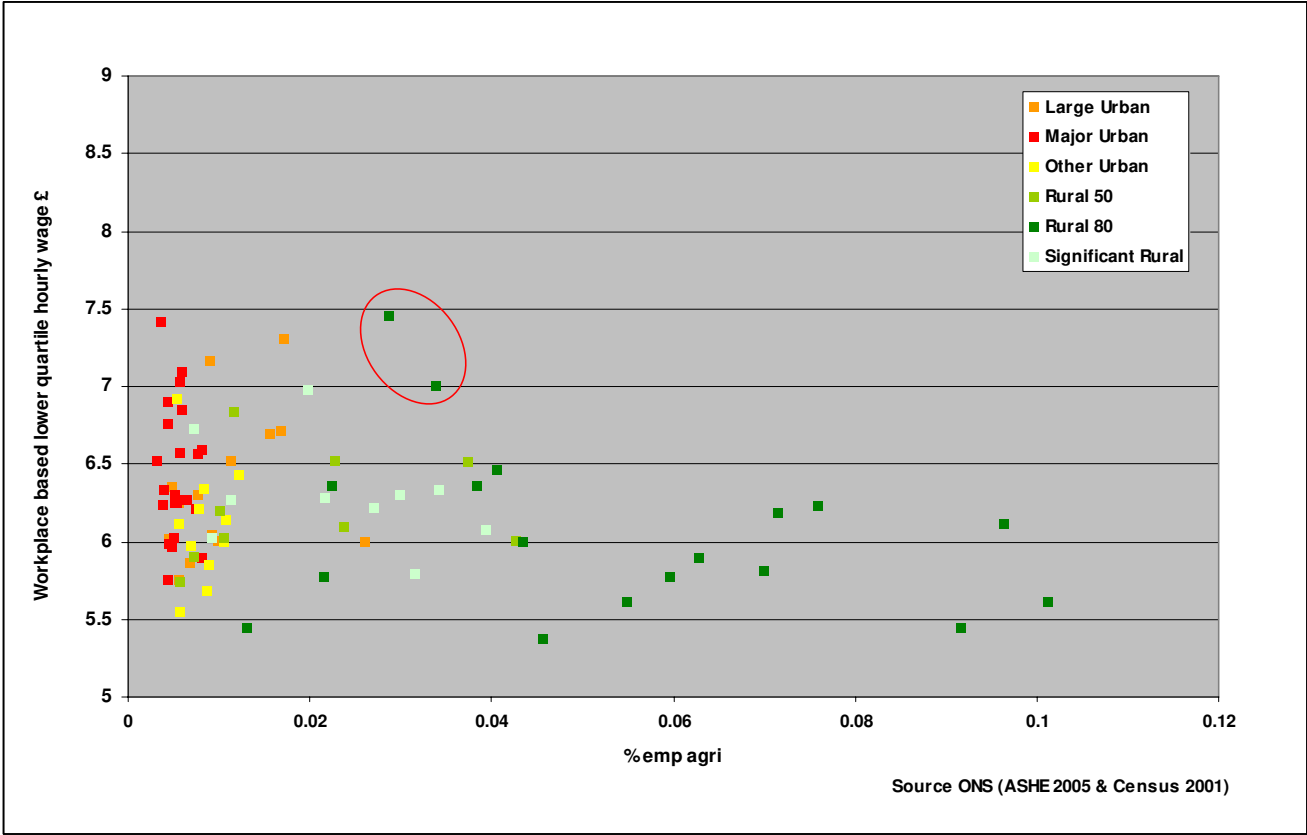
Table 3.F The Percentage of Local Authorities in the Northern Way group with average lower quartile wages below £ 6.5 and £ 6 per hour, ASHE 2005, Census 2001

	Rural Districts Total Percentage	Urban Districts Total Percentage
Less than £6.50/hr	81.1	66
Less than £6/hr	35.1	26

Further to this, Figure 3.Z shows the lower quartile wage plotted against the percentage of people employed in agriculture.²³ The majority of rural-50 and rural-80 districts fall below £6.5/hr lower quartile wage for the region, with the exception of Copeland and Castle Morpeth (circled in red) which have lower quartile wages of £7 and £7.46 (both of these districts also have a relatively low percentage of people employed in agriculture). This could suggest a link between the percentage of people employed in agriculture and low pay.

²³ Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ASHE 2005 (Nomis, ONS) and Population Census 2001 via Defra's Rural Evidence Hub

Figure 3.Z Workplace based lower quartile hourly wage and percentage employed in agriculture for Northern Way Local Authorities, ASHE 2005 and Census 2001



3.5 Employment

3.5.1 *Employment structure*

Table 3.G shows the total employment in the region's rural districts in each industrial sector for 2002, 2003 and 2004.²⁴ The change in number and percentage change from 2002-2004 is also shown. Two key industry groups; distribution, hotels and catering and other (mainly public) services together accounted for over 50% of employment in the rural districts of Yorkshire and The Humber in 2004. Employment in agriculture; engineering and metals; and minerals and chemicals has declined between 2002 and 2004. Employment in transport and communications had the largest increase in percentage at 15.92%.

Table 3.G Employment change in the Local Authorities in Yorkshire and The Humber, 2002-2003

Sector	Regional Data – Rural Local Authorities					Regional Urban data	Regional Mixed data	National data	
	2002	2003	2004	Change 2002-2004	Percentage Change 2002-2004 (%)	Rural employment in sector as % of Total Employment in Rural Districts 2004	Urban employment in sector as % of Total Employment in Rural Districts 2004	Mixed employment in sector as % of Total Employment in Rural Districts 2004	Percentage of Total Employment 2004 (Rural and Urban)
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Total	18,117	18,250	17,889	-228	-1.27	4.5	0.3	1.0	1.4
Construction	28,572	34,219	33,570	4,998	14.89	8.5	6.7	7.1	6.7
Distribution, Hotels and Catering	85,908	86,471	90,357	4,449	4.92	22.9	22.8	24.8	23.3
Engineering	11,100	10,183	9,932	-1,168	-11.76	2.5	2.9	2.5	3.4
Financial and Business Services	41,835	44,887	45,980	4,145	9.01	11.6	18.0	15.0	19.7
Metals, Minerals and Chemicals	18,386	17,253	16,444	-1,942	-11.81	4.2	3.9	3.0	2.7
Mining and Utilities	5,189	5,309	4,838	-351	-7.26	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.6
Other (mainly public) Services	106,905	110,684	122,786	15,881	12.93	31.1	31.6	31.7	30.7
Other Manufacturing	32,277	31,933	29,354	-2,923	-9.96	7.4	7.2	7.3	5.4
Transport and Communications	20,415	21,738	24,281	3,866	15.92	6.1	6.0	7.3	6.0
Total	368,708	380,922	395,430	26,722	6.76	100	100	100	100

It is useful to look at Table 3.G alongside Figure 3.Q. Figure 3.Q shows that the majority (23.3%) of businesses in the rural areas of the region are agricultural; however, Table 3.G indicates that agriculture, forestry and fishing only accounts of 4.5% of employment in the rural districts. Public services on the other hand, account for only 6.1% of businesses but over 30% of employment in the rural districts. The finance sector in rural areas is relatively similarly placed for businesses and employment, it is the second largest in terms of businesses and third in terms of employment.

Employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing is greater in the rural districts of Yorkshire and The Humber than it is on average across the UK. The other sectors are relatively similar to the national average, apart from financial and business services which are have slightly lower employment levels in the rural districts of the region than the UK as a whole.

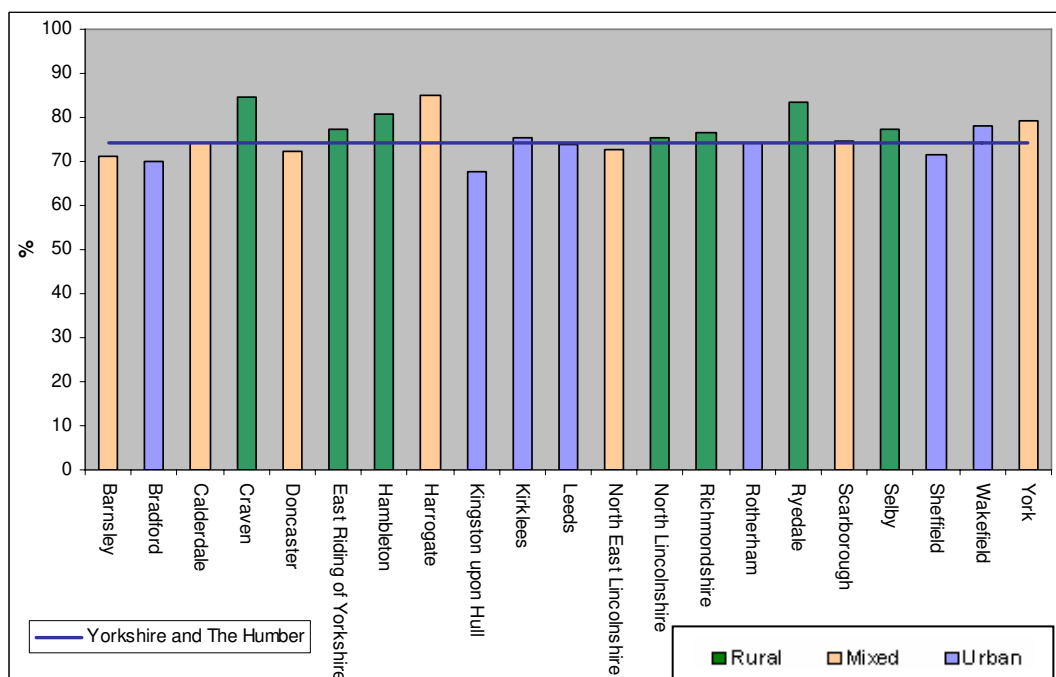
²⁴ Regional Econometric Model, Experian Business Strategies Ltd, 2006.

3.5.2 *Working-age employment rate*

The working-age employment rate is the percentage of the working-age population (age 16 to 64 for men and 16 to 59 for women) in employment. In 2004/5, the working-age employment rate in the region was 74.3%, which was just below the England average of 74.6%.²⁵

Figure 3.AA reveals that the top five districts in the region that outperform the 74.6% England average are all in North Yorkshire. These are Harrogate (84.9%), Craven (84.7%), Ryedale (83.5%), Hambleton (80.7%) and York (79.1%), all of which are rural or mixed districts.

Figure 3.AA Working-age employment rate, 2004/ 05



It is important to note that employment rates for rural districts may include seasonal employment and people employed in more than one job. High employment rates in rural districts may also be explained by a higher level of self employment and greater numbers of home workers.²⁶

A further point to note is that mixed districts such as Harrogate, may have high employment rates due to a high number of residents who commute to the nearby urban centres of Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, York and Kingston upon Hull. Commuting patterns are explored further in the Quality of Life chapter (7).

²⁵ Annual Population Survey, October 2004 to September 2005.

²⁶ Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber (GOYH) (2005) *Rural Evidence Base for Yorkshire and The Humber 2005*. - Figures 3.S and 3.T.

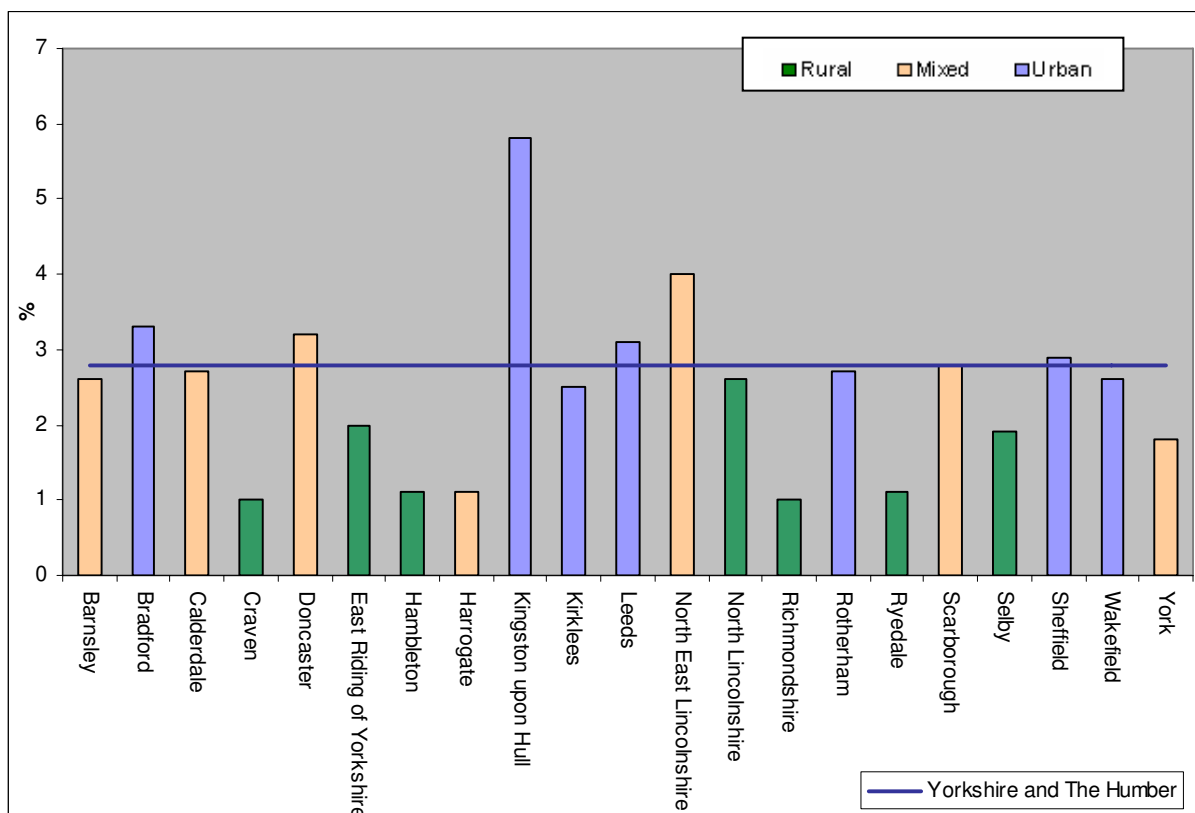
3.5.3 *Wholly unemployed benefit claimants as a percentage of the resident-based working age population*

Table 3.H and the graph in Figure 3.BB show that Kingston upon Hull has the highest claimant count rate of 5.8%.²⁷ This is followed by North East Lincolnshire, Bradford, Doncaster, Leeds and Sheffield; all of which are urban or mixed and have claimant count rates higher than the regional average of 2.8%. Craven, Richmondshire, Hambleton, Harrogate and Ryedale have the lowest claimant rates as shown in Table 3.H. Overall, rural districts have low proportions of claimants, below the regional average.

Table 3.H Resident-based claimant count rate, the region's highest and lowest figures, 2006

Local Authority	Classification	Resident-based claimant count rate
Kingston upon Hull	Urban	5.8
North East Lincolnshire	Mixed	4
Bradford	Urban	3.3
Doncaster	Mixed	3.2
Leeds	Urban	3.1
Sheffield	Urban	2.9
Hambleton	Rural	1.1
Harrogate	Mixed	1.1
Ryedale	Rural	1.1
Craven	Rural	1
Richmondshire	Rural	1

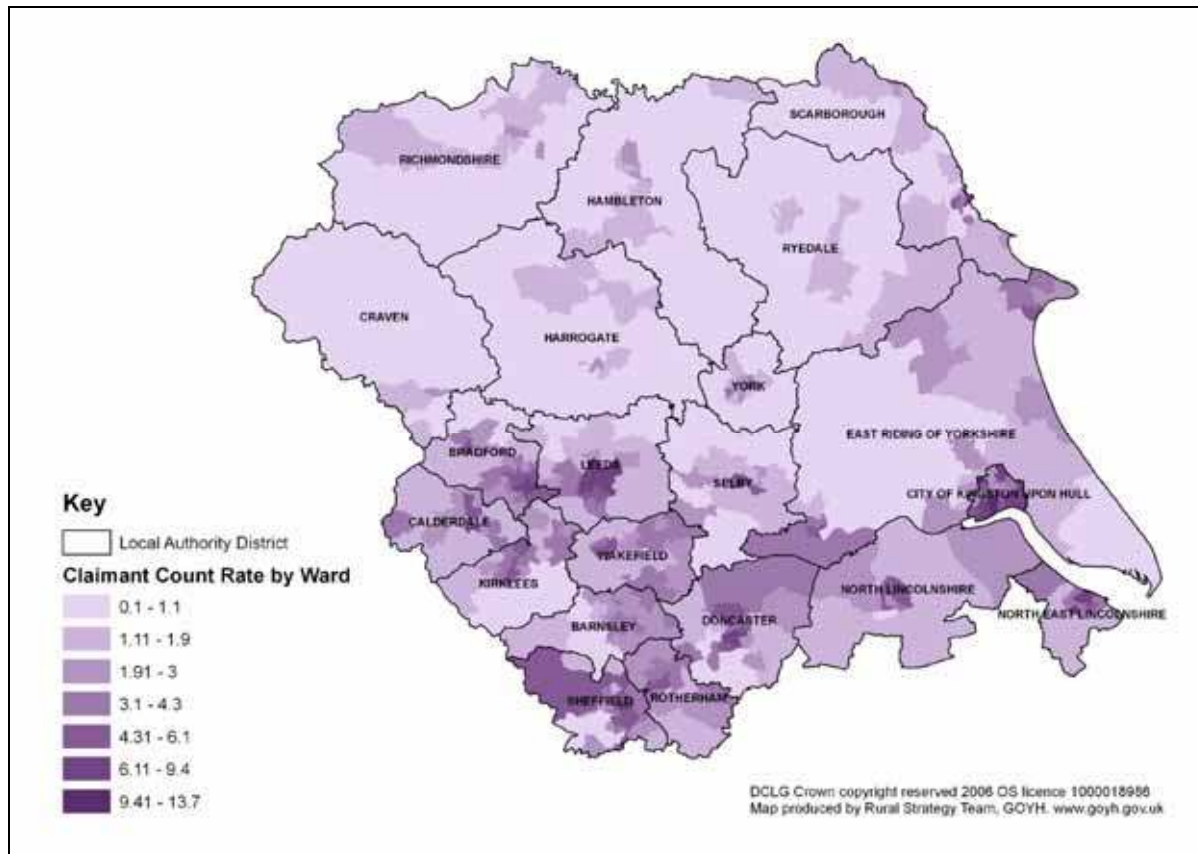
Figure 3.BB Resident-based claimant count rate for all districts, 2006



²⁷ ONS Crown copyright reserved June 2006 data. Proportions are calculated using the 2004 resident working age population.

Claimant count data is also available at ward level. Figure 3.CC shows this data mapped for each of the districts in the region. The claimant count is higher in the predominantly urban south west of the region (indicated by the darker shading). Ward in Leeds, Sheffield and Kingston upon Hull appear to have some of the highest claimant rate levels, giving a similar picture to the district level graph in Figure 3.BB above.

Figure 3.CC Claimant count rate as a proportion of resident working-age population



The claimant count rate corresponds with the employment rate. Higher employment rates in rural districts correlate with lower benefit claimant rates. Lower employment rates in urban districts correlate with higher benefit claimant rates. This can be clearly seen in Table 3.I, where the employment rate is ranked against the claimant rate for June 2006.

Table 3.I Employment and claimant count ranking, 2006

District	Rural-urban Classification	Employment rank (1 = highest)	Claimant rank (1=lowest)
Ryedale	Rural	1	3
Craven	Rural	2	4
York	Mixed	3	5
Harrogate	Mixed	4	1
Richmondshire	Rural	5	6
Hambleton	Rural	6	2
East Riding of Yorkshire	Rural	7	10
Wakefield	Urban	8	7
Leeds	Urban	9	11
Selby	Rural	10	8
Kirklees	Urban	12	13
Scarborough	Mixed	11	17
North Lincolnshire	Rural	13	9
Calderdale	Mixed	14	14
Bradford	Urban	15	20
Rotherham	Urban	16	12
North East Lincolnshire	Mixed	17	15
Doncaster	Mixed	18	18
Sheffield	Urban	19	21
Kingston upon Hull	Urban	20	19
Barnsley	Mixed	21	16

The rankings for both employment and benefit claimant rates are similar for each of the shaded areas (blue represents the top seven, yellow is mid-table and orange represents the bottom seven).

However, Scarborough has a rather unusual employment to claimant count relationship. It is ranked 11th for employment but 17th for claimant count rate (a difference of 6 rankings). This could be due to seasonal fluctuations as in June, when a higher number of people are likely to find temporary employment in the tourism sector. It is important to note that benefit claimant figures are not the same as unemployment rates.

3.6 Conclusion

Rural and urban economies have many similar characteristics and consequently the concept of a separate rural economy is false. Therefore, rather than treating each as a completely separate entity it is important to recognise their links and interdependencies.

For example, there is little difference between the sectoral employment structure in urban, rural and mixed districts. The rural districts have a high percentage of people employed in the distribution, hotels and catering sector and other (mainly public) services, with figures very similar to those in mixed and urban districts and the UK as a whole.

On the other hand, in some data there are obvious differences between urban and rural areas, for example:

- Rural districts have considerably lower claimant count rates than urban areas
- VAT registrations per 10,000 of the population are higher than average in all rural districts
- A larger percentage of people in the rural districts work more than 45 hours per week

Some rural areas are more economically prosperous than others. There are few distinct economic differences between all rural areas and all urban areas. There is instead a much more complex picture with some thriving rural areas and others which are lagging. The more prosperous areas can be identified by high GVA and productivity, higher number of VAT registrations and businesses, high incomes and wages and less reliance on one particular industrial sector. These areas are often in close proximity to large urban centres or market towns and likely to house a number of high-earning commuters. The district of Selby is a good example of this. This type of pattern has been similarly identified in the Defra report on Economic Performance of Rural Areas Inside and Outside of City Regions, which suggests that those areas within an affluent city region are likely to benefit economically.

The less prosperous areas may have a higher dependence on one sector (in the rural districts predominantly the agricultural sector) with consequent lower wages, productivity and GVA. As the City Regions report indicates they may be peripheral areas, further from the large urban communities and their associated transport and business networks such as Richmondshire or Craven.

4 Infrastructure

4.1 Introduction

The region's rural communities depend on various aspects of the region's infrastructure. The availability and efficiency of the transport infrastructure and equity of the housing infrastructure are particularly important. Additionally, it is also important that infrastructure investment, needed to meet economic growth challenges, does not come with a high price in environmental terms, which may degrade some of the attributes that contribute to the economic health and quality of life associated with rural areas.

This chapter covers:

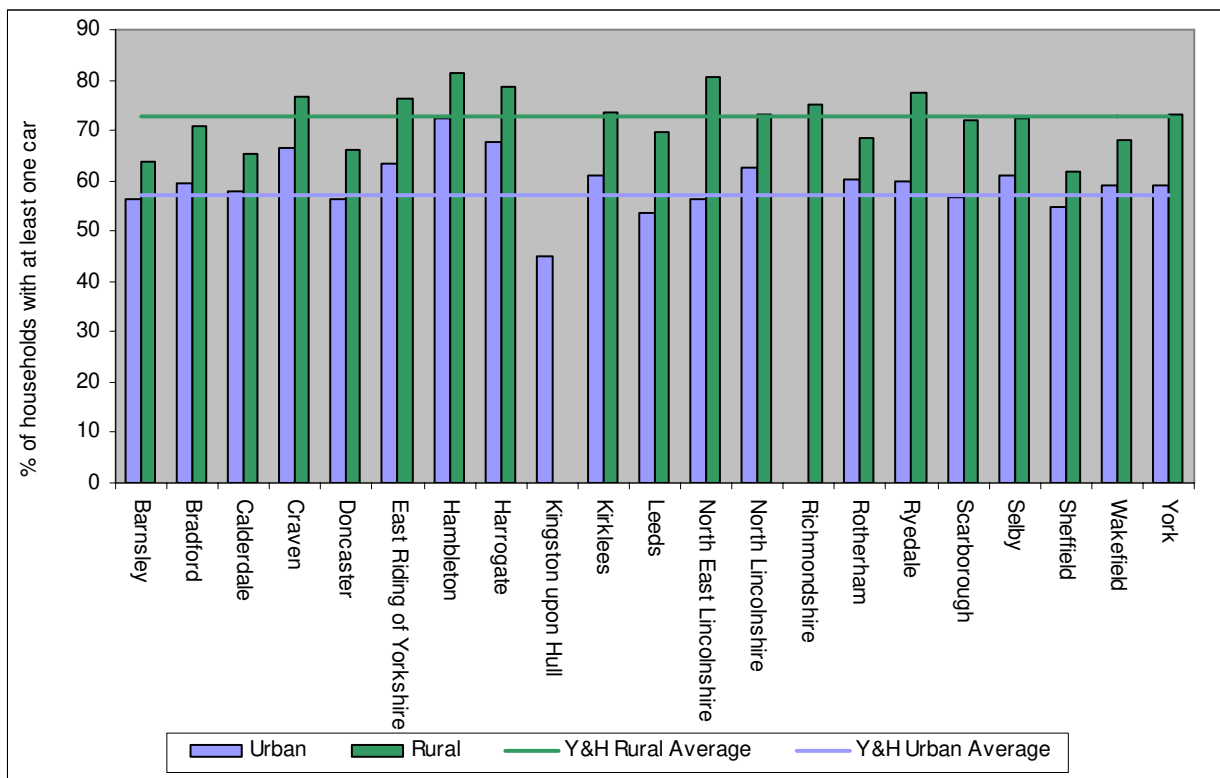
- Transport use
- Traffic volume
- Housing completions
- Housing affordability
- Land reuse
- Broadband and Information Communication Technology (ICT)

4.2 Transport use

4.2.1 *Car ownership*

Figure 4.A displays the percentage of households with at least one car.¹ Hambleton has the highest percentage of households with at least one car in both rural and urban areas, with 81% of households in rural areas having at least one car and 72% of households in urban areas. This is closely followed by Harrogate which has 79% of rural households and 68% of urban households with at least one car. Kingston upon Hull has the lowest percentage of car ownership in urban areas and Sheffield has the lowest percentage for rural areas. However, the percentage for rural Sheffield is still relatively high at 62%.

Figure 4.A Percentage of households with a car, 2005



Overall, the average car ownership for the region is 16 percentage points higher in rural areas than urban areas. This is to be expected as public transport and access to services is more limited in remote rural areas and consequently private vehicles are required. The travel to work graph in Figure 4.F further demonstrates this, with higher percentages of people using public transport in urban areas.

¹ Acxiom National Lifestyle Database, 2004

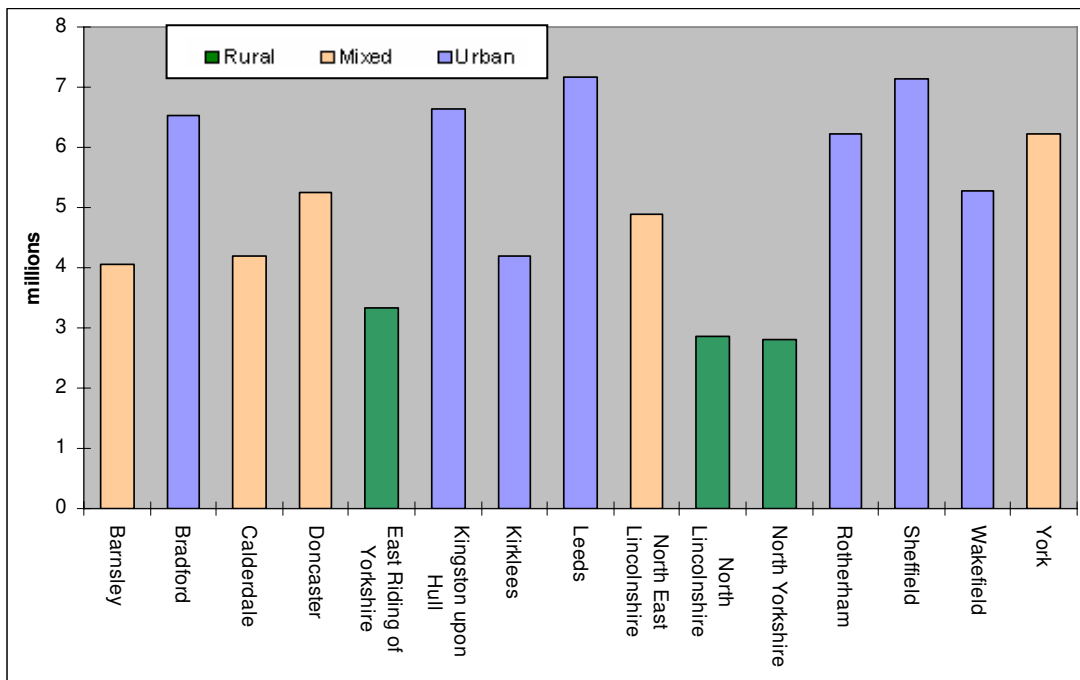
4.3 Traffic volume

4.3.1 *Average flow of all vehicles on principal roads*

Figure 4.B displays the average flow of vehicles on principal roads in 2003.² All of the urban districts have higher vehicle flows than the rural districts. York has the highest flow rates of all the mixed districts at 6.2 million, with higher flows than urban areas in some cases. Figure 4.C shows that for York, this was an increase of 0.3 million from the previous year, a 4.9% rise.

The rural districts of East Riding of Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire had flows of 3.3, 2.9 and 2.8 millions respectively in 2003, and all had an increase of 0.1 million from 2002 which in percentage terms were some of the highest increases as Figure 4.D shows. All other districts apart from Doncaster, Sheffield and York had a decrease in the annual flows between 2002 and 2003. However, in 2003 the region as a whole had an increase of 0.3 million flow, which was a 0.4% rise from 2002.

Figure 4.B Annual average flow of all vehicles on principal roads, 2003



Caveat: Data used in the REB 2005 report was 2001 data labelled as 2003. The graph above displays actual 2003 data from the 2005/06 Local Government Finance Amending Report.

² Local Government Finance Amending Report 2005/06, Individual Local Authority Tables. Not all Local Authorities have data, the districts of Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough, and Selby are grouped under the heading of North Yorkshire.

Figure 4.C Annual average flow of all vehicles on principal roads, 2002-2003

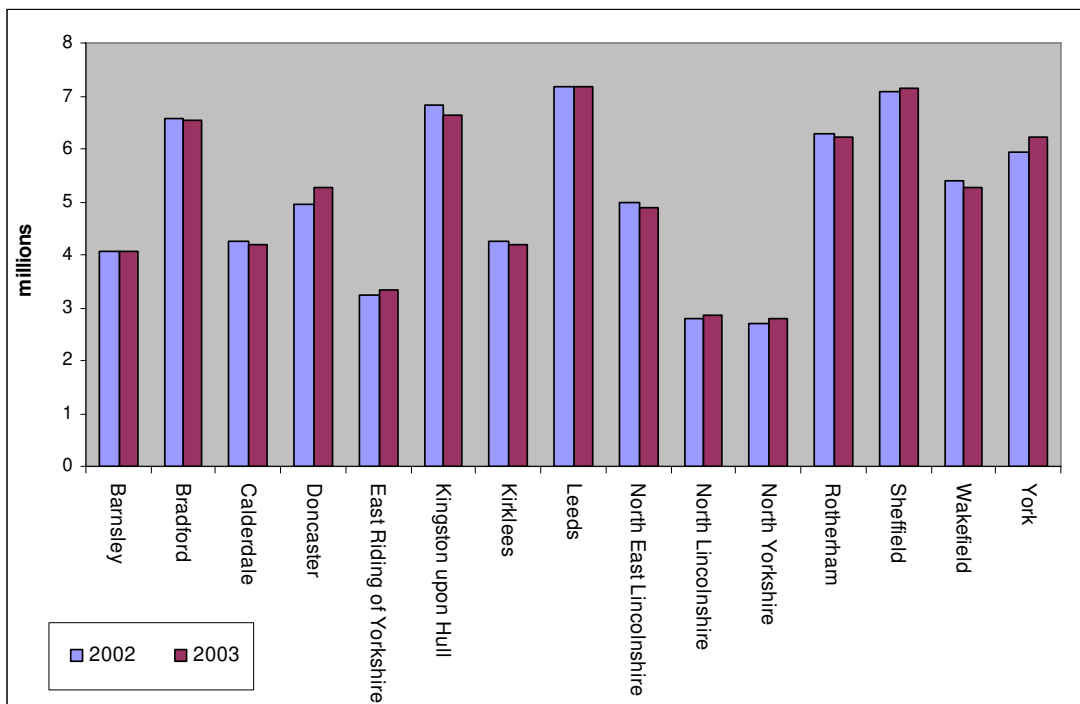
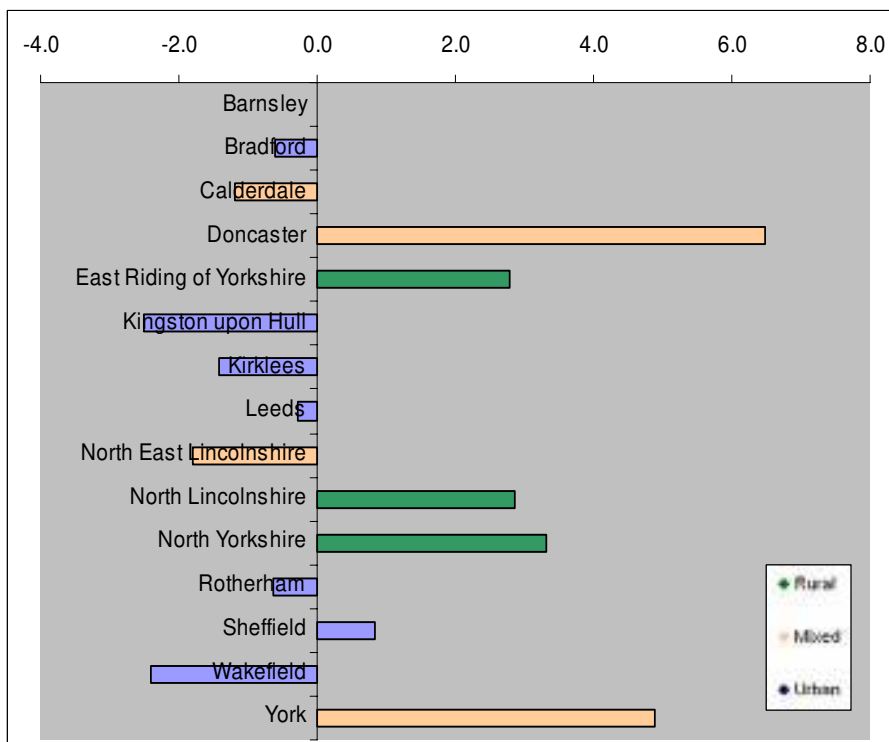
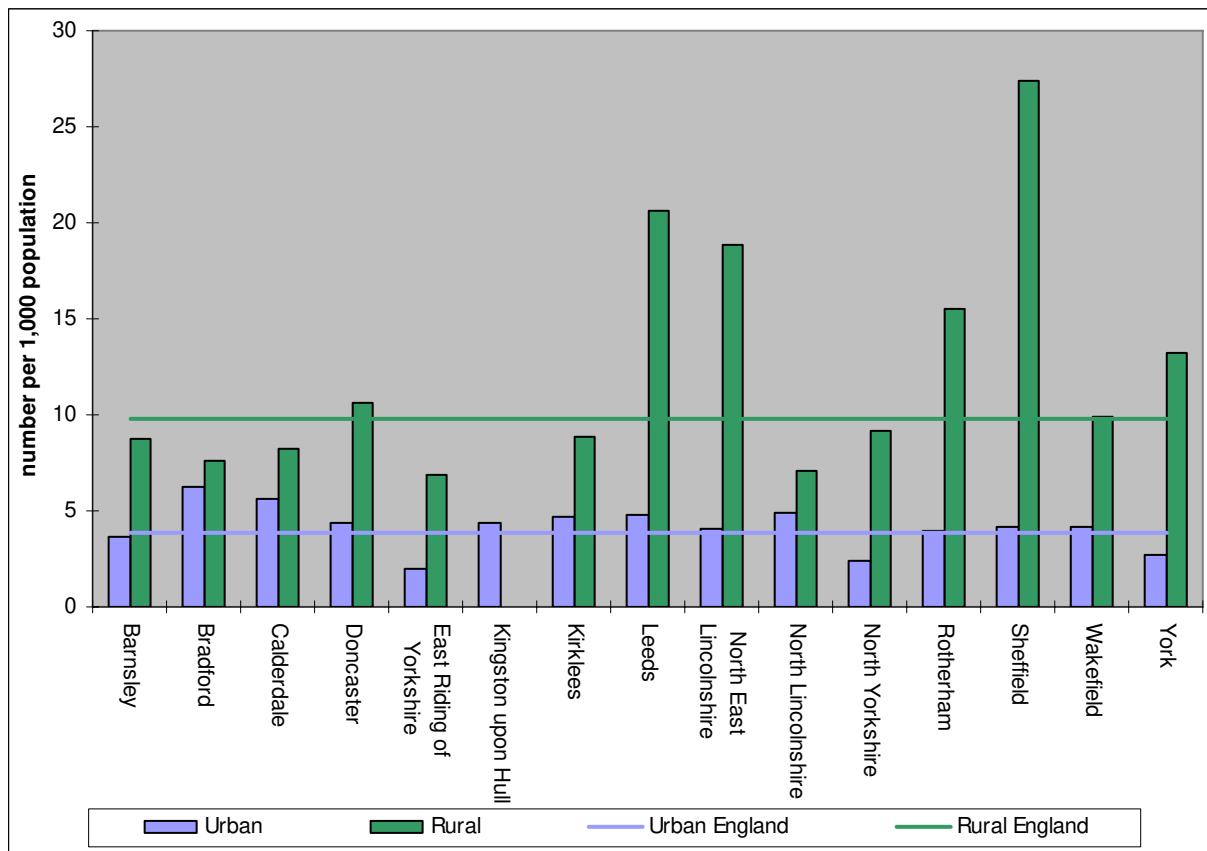


Figure 4.D Percentage change in annual average flows of all vehicles on principal roads, 2002-2003



These results are in line with the Department for Transport (DfT) report on traffic flows across the country, which reported a 0.8% rise in total traffic across Great Britain between 2002 and 2003.³

³ Road Traffic Statistics: 2003, DfT

4.3.2 *Road traffic accidents***Figure 4.E Road traffic accidents on all roads, 2004**

Note: Kingston upon Hull has no rural areas and therefore no road traffic accidents occur in rural Kingston upon Hull.

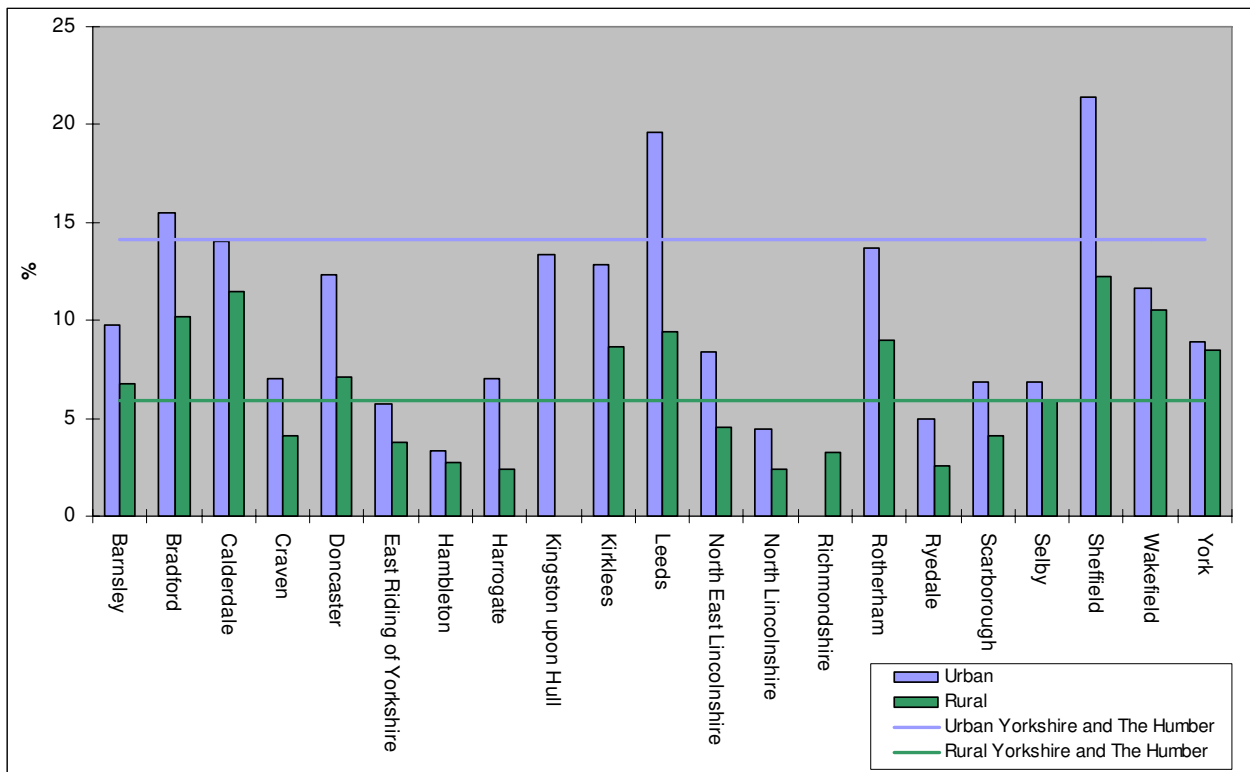
Rural roads had significantly more road traffic accidents per 1,000 of the population than urban areas in 2004, as shown in Figure 4.E. The definition of a rural road used by the DfT includes all major and minor roads outside urban areas, having a population of less than 10,000. Therefore some major roads such as motorways or A-roads are classified as rural. There were seven districts including Doncaster, Leeds, North East Lincolnshire, Rotherham, Sheffield, Wakefield and York that had a higher number of accidents per 1,000 people in rural areas than the average for England at 9.7 per 1,000 people. The actual number of accidents is considerably higher in urban areas. In general, the casualty rate from road accidents has been falling; in 2004 there were fewer than 281,000 casualties which is the lowest number of casualties in the last ten years; an 11% fall since 1994.⁴

⁴ Regional Transport Statistics, 2004.

4.3.3 *Method of travel to work*

Data from the 2001 Census also suggests that people in rural areas are less likely than their urban counterparts to use public transport to get to work, as shown in Figure 4.F.⁵ The regional averages show that 14.1% of people in the urban areas of the region use public transport to get to work, compared with only 5.8% in rural Yorkshire and The Humber. Rural parts of Harrogate and North Lincolnshire have the lowest percentage of public transport commuters at 2.4%, closely followed by Ryedale at 2.5%. Even in the region's cities, such as Leeds and Bradford, there is a sharp distinction between the percentages of public transport commuters in rural and in urban areas.

Figure 4.F Percentage of the resident population who travel to work by public transport, 2001



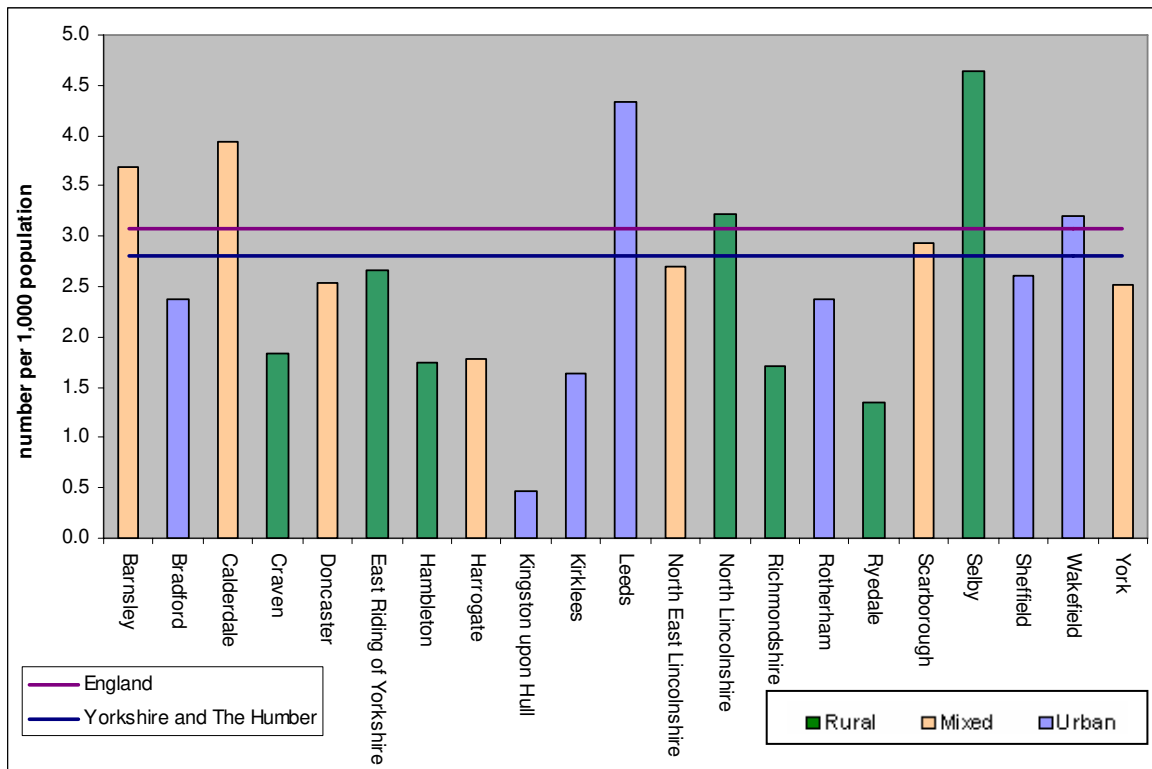
⁵ 2001 Census via Defra Rural Evidence Hub

4.4 Housing completions

4.4.1 Annual housing completions

As Figure 4.G shows the average number of housing completions for the region (2.8 per 1,000 of the population) was slightly lower than the national average of 3.1 houses per 1,000 of the population in 2004.⁶ However, there are some districts that have exceeded the national and regional average for house building completions including, Barnsley, Calderdale, Leeds, North Lincolnshire, Selby and Wakefield. The rural district of Selby had the highest number of completed dwellings at 4.6 per 1,000 of the population. This could be due to a large amount of land being available for house building in the area or represent increased popularity. Selby is classified as a rural district, but is within short commuting distance to York and Leeds, which may make the area more desirable.

Figure 4.G Number of housing completions per 1,000 of the population, 2004/ 05



Caveat: Doncaster, Kingston upon Hull and Richmondshire did not complete a full return.

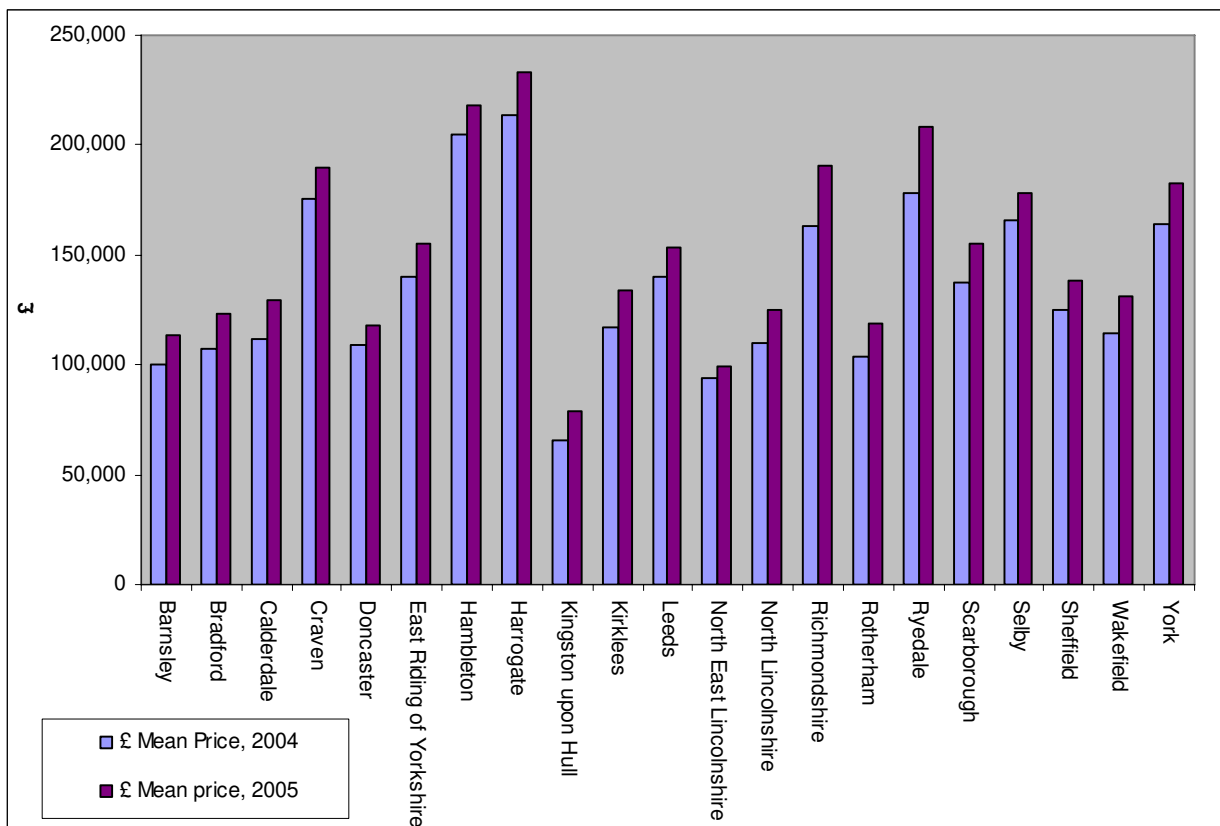
⁶ ODPM house building statistics, 2004/05 and P2M returns from Local Authorities and the National House Building Council (NHBC), 2004/05

4.5 Housing affordability

4.5.1 *House prices and sales*

Figure 4.H shows the average house price between April and June in 2004 and 2005 for each district.⁷ The average house price has risen in all of the districts between 2004 and 2005, which reflects the national trend. Average house prices were the highest in both 2004 and 2005 in the rural district of Hambleton and the mixed district of Harrogate; at £204,758 and £213,611 respectively in 2004; and £218,077 and £233,259 respectively in 2005. Kingston upon Hull had the lowest average house price in both years at £65,582 in 2004 and £78,982 in 2005. However, Kingston upon Hull has also had the largest percentage increase in average house price of 20% as Figure 4.I shows.⁸

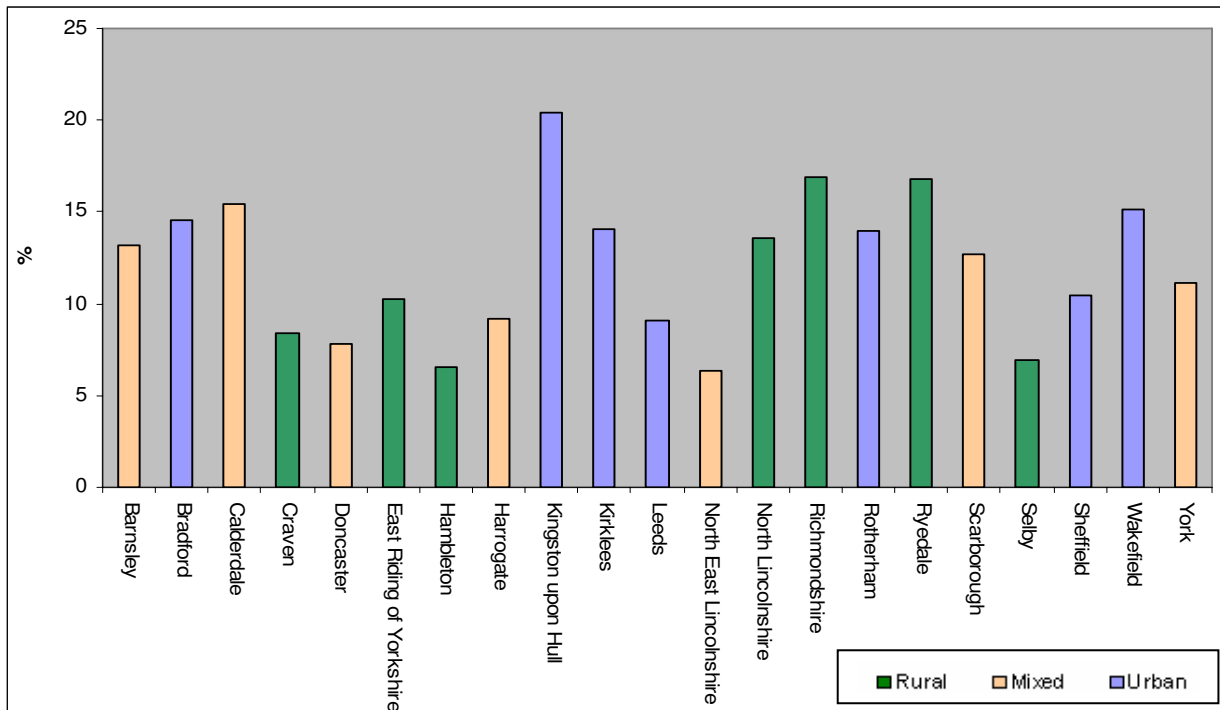
Figure 4.H Average house prices, April-June 2004, April-June 2005



⁷ ODPM house building statistics, 2004/05 and P2M returns from Local Authorities and the National House Building Council (NHBC), 2004/05.

⁸ ODPM land registry, 2004/05

Figure 4.I Percentage increase in house prices, April-June 2004, April-June 2005

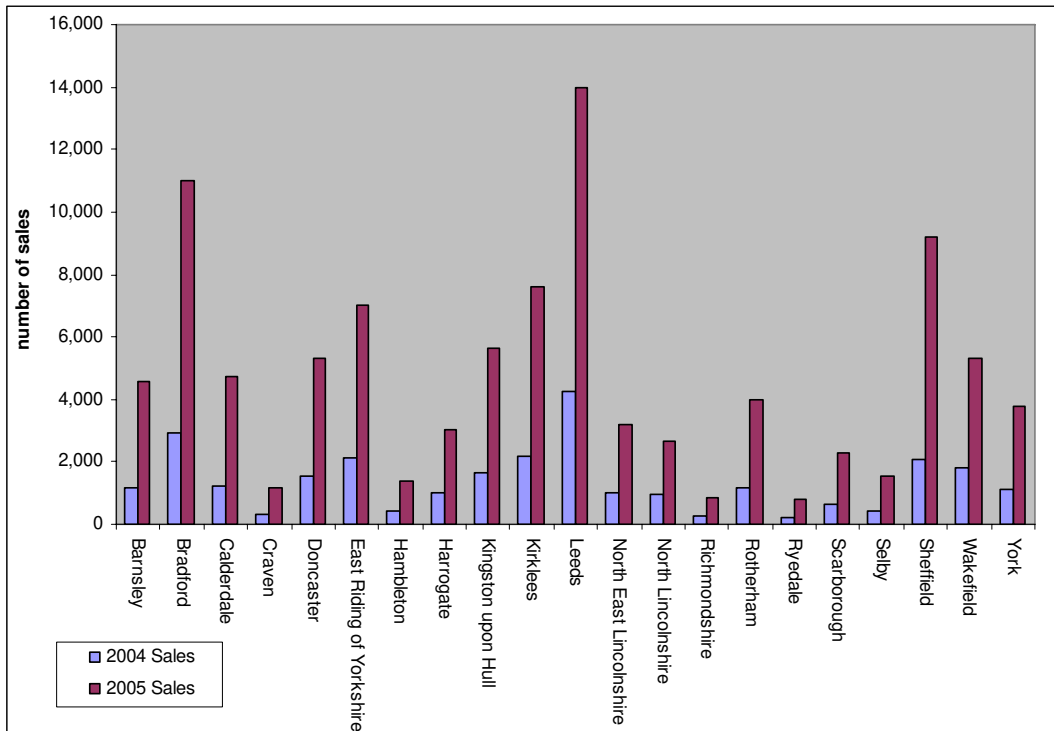


Hambleton and North East Lincolnshire have had the smallest increase in average house price of only 6.5% and 6.3% respectively.

After Kingston upon Hull, the rural districts of Richmondshire and Ryedale have had the next largest increases in average house price and they also have a high average house price as shown previously in Figure 4.H. However, they have both experienced a lower number of sales as Figure 4.J and Figure 4.K highlight.⁹ The number of house sales increased quite considerably in all districts between 2004 and 2005. Leeds had the highest number of sales in both years closely followed by Bradford and Sheffield. These areas have larger populations and would therefore be expected to have a larger number of house sales than smaller rural areas such as Ryedale.

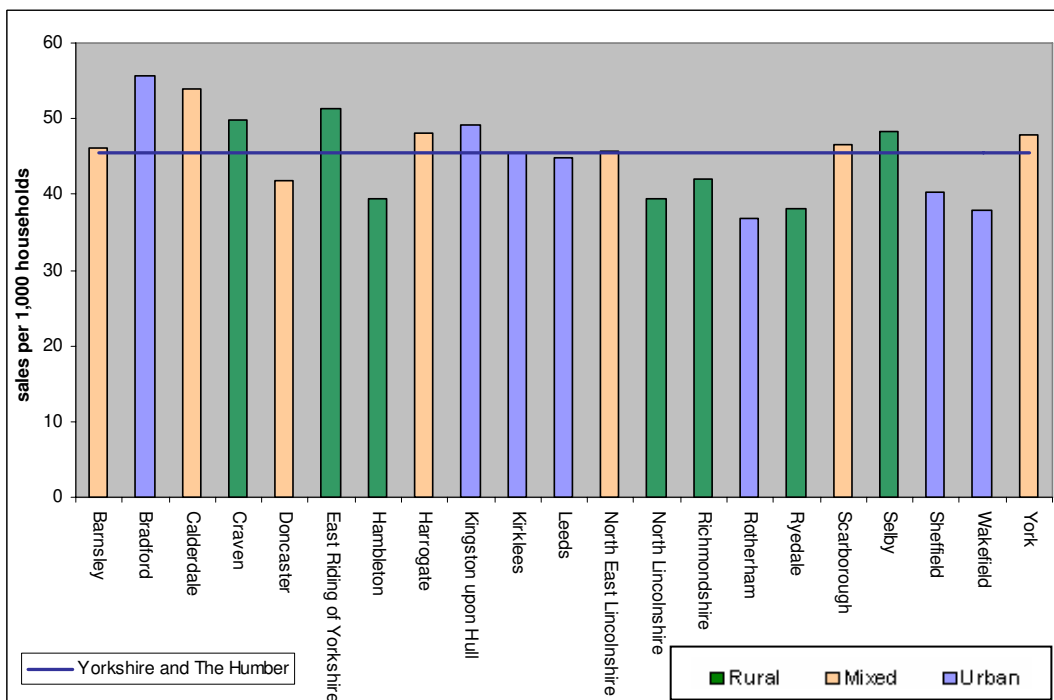
⁹ ODPM land registry, 2004/05

Figure 4.J Number of house sales, 2004 and 2005



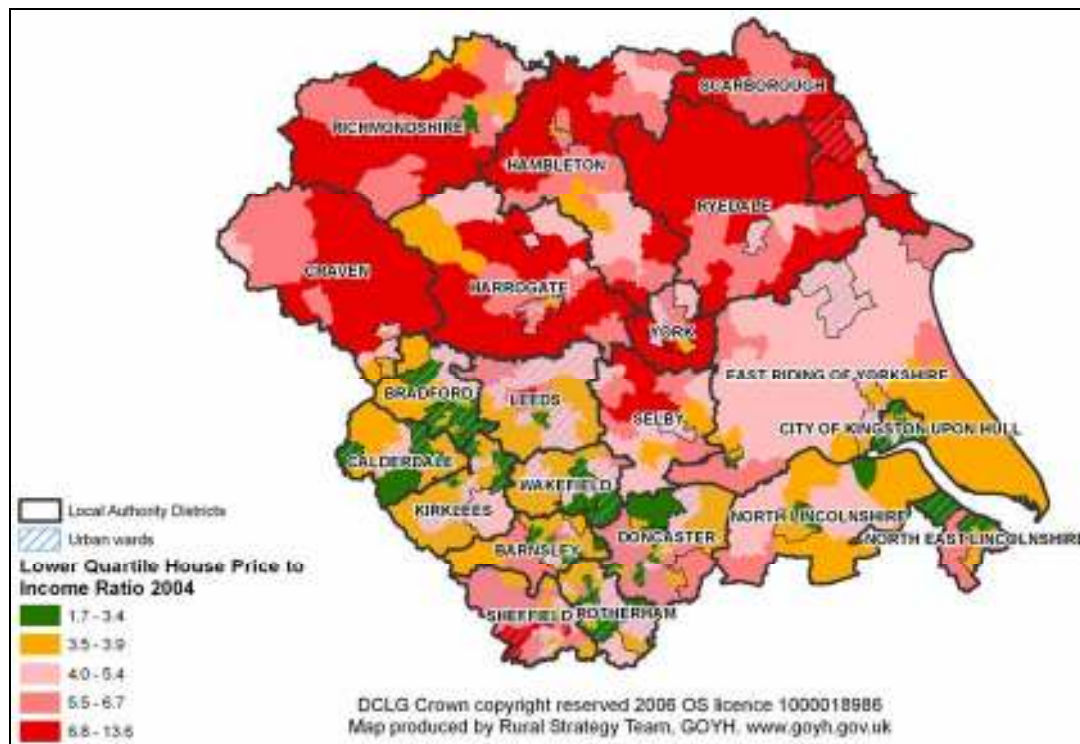
There are considerable differences between house sale figures across the districts sales, so the next graph considers house sales per 1,000 households, therefore taking the area size into account. Some rural districts experience slightly lower sales per 1,000 household figures, but others some of the highest. Selby, East Riding of Yorkshire and Craven for example, have above regional average sales per 1,000 people and have figures higher than many of the urban and mixed districts. This is can be seen in Figure 4.K which shows the number of house sales per 1,000 households in 2005.

Figure 4.K Number of house sales per 1,000 households, 2005



The Affordable Rural Housing Commission published a report on affordability of housing in May 2006.¹⁰ In the report the Commission used the definition of affordable as a house price to earnings ratio of 3.5 to 4.0. The map in Figure 4.L uses ward level data on lower quartile house prices¹¹ and median household incomes data¹² to display the affordability of housing in the region. As the index figure rises, house purchases become progressively less affordable. Lower quartile house prices have been used as they are the most affordable price range in each ward. A lack of affordability in rural areas may have adverse consequences on a range of social and economic conditions. The map shows that affordability is a problem across the whole region but is particularly acute in North Yorkshire. When individual wards are plotted on a graph of lower quartile house price and median household incomes, the vast majority of the regions rural wards are shown to be unaffordable.

Figure 4.L Lower quartile house price to income ratio, 2004



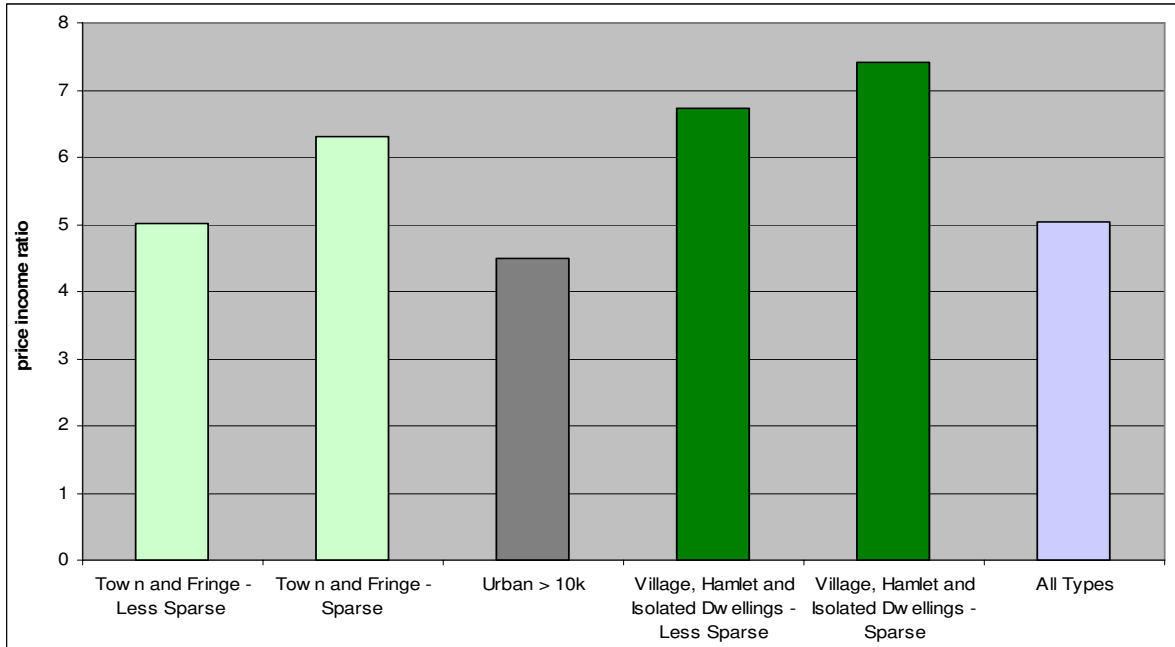
¹⁰ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/housing/commission/>

¹¹ ODPN Land Registry 2004

¹² Acxiom National Lifestyle database 2004

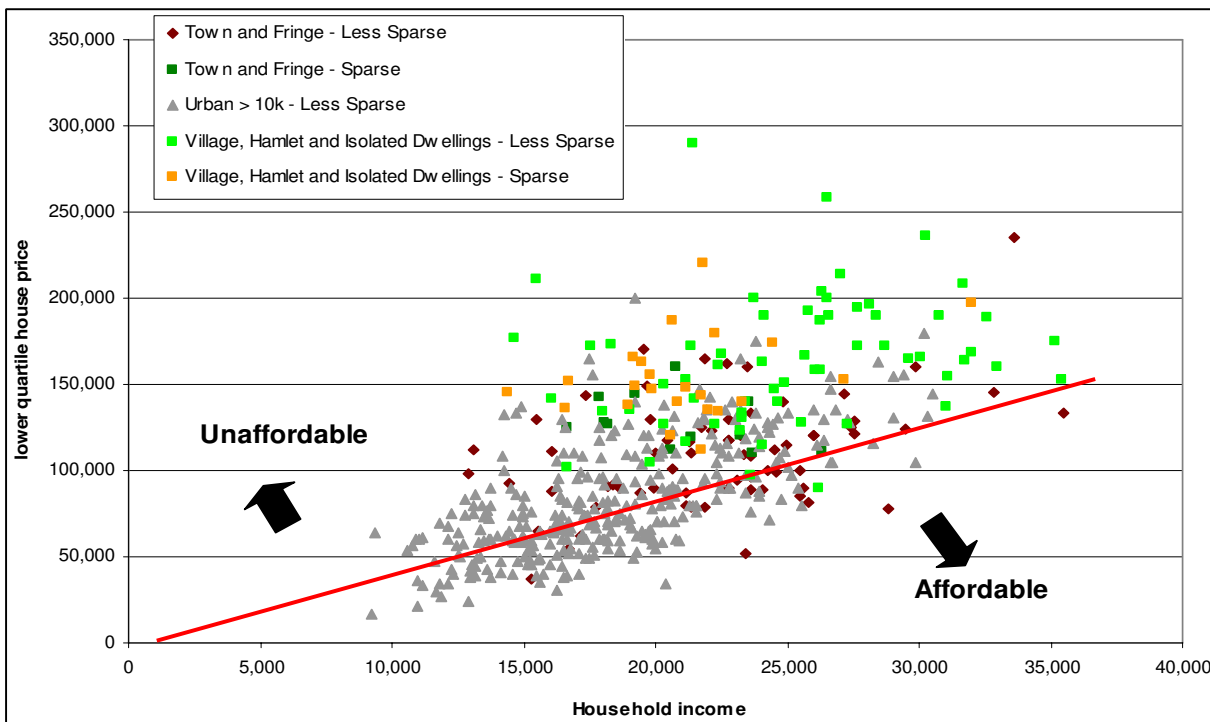
The same data aggregated by the rural urban definition (in Figure 4.M below) shows affordability is worst in the village, hamlet and isolated dwellings sparse category. Urban less sparse areas are most affordable, although still above the 4.0 ratio used by the Affordable Rural Housing Commission.

Figure 4.M Regional affordable housing graph by rural definition, 2004



The graph below (Figure 4.N) displays the same lower quartile housed price and median income data at ward level. This shows the wards where households on median incomes would find housing affordable and unaffordable. Wards above the red line are unaffordable and wards below the line affordable. Those in the rural areas are nearly all classed as unaffordable, having generally higher house prices and higher incomes than urban areas.

Figure 4.N Regional affordable housing, by rural definition at ward level, 2004



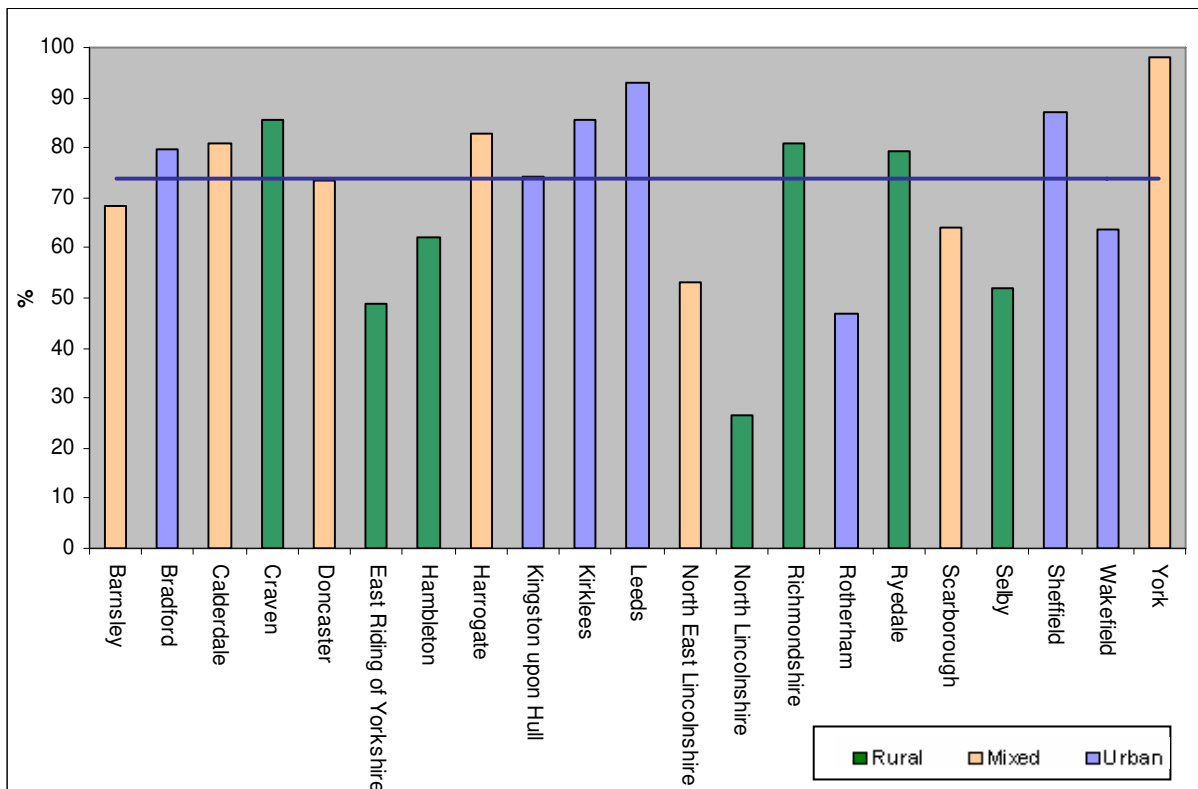
4.6 Land reuse

4.6.1 *Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land*

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) produces Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) for local authorities across the country. These provide measurable criteria by which each local authority can have a performance assessment in comparison to other local authorities.

Ten of the 21 local authorities in the region built a higher percentage of new homes on previously developed sites in 2004/05 than the average for England in the same year, as Figure 4.O shows.¹³ York and Leeds were the best performing districts both building over 90% of new homes on previously developed land. Of the rural districts, Craven, Richmondshire, and Ryedale all exceeded the national average of 73.7%. However, North Lincolnshire, Selby, East Riding of Yorkshire and Hambleton fall well below this average. Building on previously developed land is limited by the amount of land available. Consequently, a valid explanation for the lower percentages found in rural areas would be simply lack of availability. Urban areas may have more previously developed land available and can therefore report a high percentage use.

Figure 4.O Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land, 2004/ 05

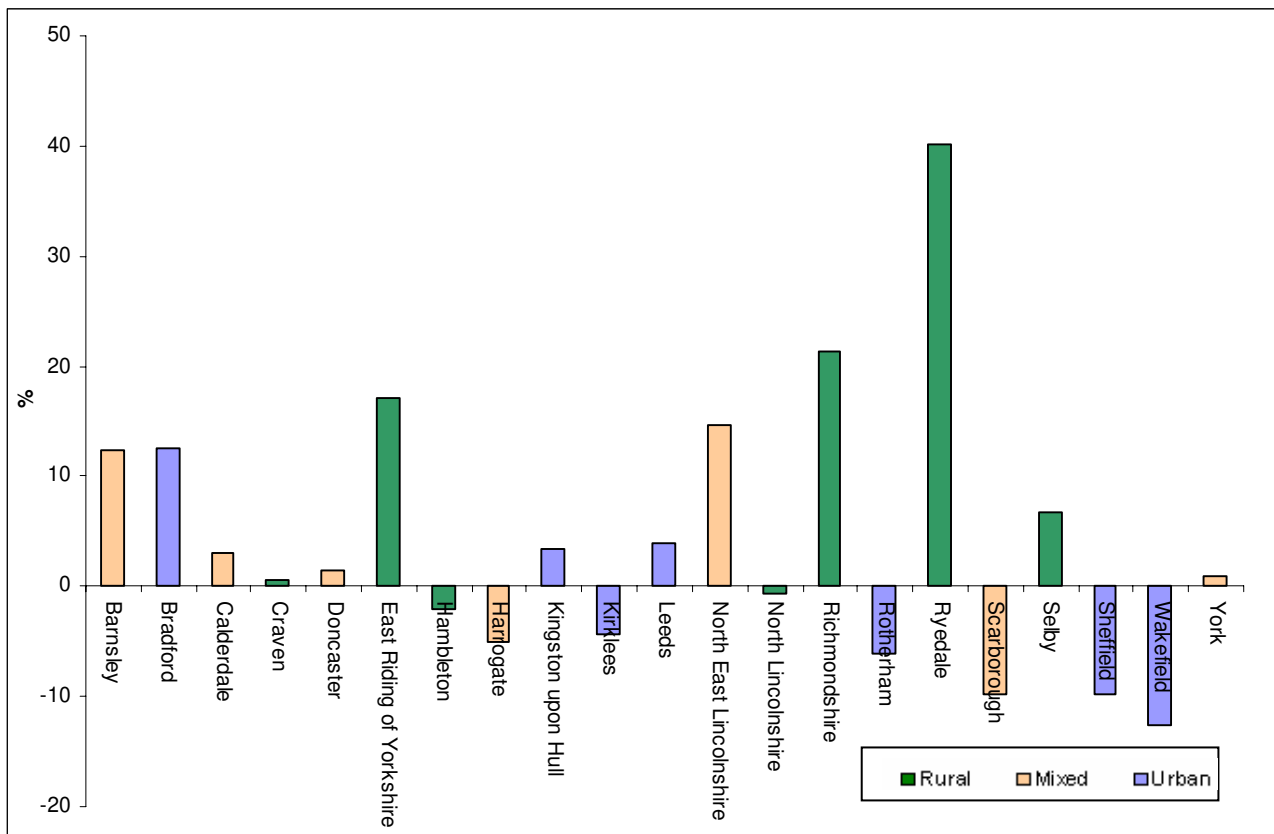


¹³ Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Best Value Performance Indicator 106

Figure 4.P shows the change in percentage of new homes built on previously developed land between 2003/04 and 2004/05.¹⁴ Again, this dataset may be affected by the availability of previously developed land, with there being more land available in one particular year. Therefore, this dataset should be viewed as a snapshot and not an indication of general trend or regular performance. Despite this, on a national scale the average percentage of previously developed land used has increased by 3.5% between 2003/04 and 2004/05 and over 8% from 2001/02. This trend is reflected in the region with an overall increase in percentage of previously developed land used for new homes between 2003/04 and 2004/05.

However, the urban districts with the lowest percentages in 2004/05 (Rotherham and Wakefield) are showing a decline from 2003/04. Ryedale by comparison had a large increase from 39% in 2003/04 to 79.2% in 2004/05 taking it above the national average in 2004/05. Similarly, large increases in percentage occurred in Richmondshire and East Riding of Yorkshire. However, despite the increase East Riding of Yorkshire did not meet the national average in 2004/05.

Figure 4.P Percentage change in new homes built on previously developed land, 2003/ 04 - 2004/ 05



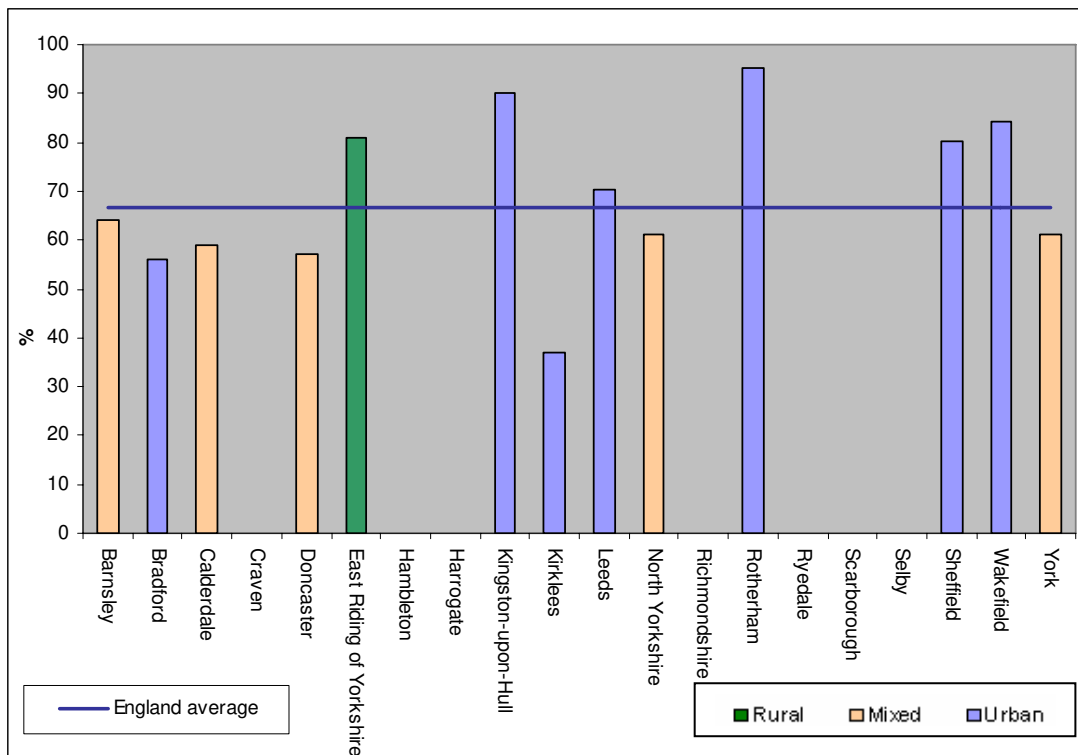
¹⁴ Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Best Value Performance Indicator 106

4.7 Access to footpaths and rights of way

4.7.1 *Percentage of accessible footpath*

The DCLG Best Value Performance Indicator 178 looks at the percentage of total length of footpath within the authority that is easily accessible. Figure 4.Q displays these statistics for the local authorities¹⁵ in the region.

Figure 4.Q Percentage of the total length of footpath that is easily accessible, 2004-2005



Caveat: The districts of Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby are included in the North Yorkshire statistic.

As Figure 4.Q shows East Riding of Yorkshire (the only rural district due to the grouping of North Yorkshire districts) has a high percentage of the length of footpath accessible, exceeding the national average of 66.8%. The districts with the lowest percentage of accessible footpath include Kirklees and Doncaster. Kirklees is the only district in the region to have under half of the area's footpaths accessible.

The Countryside Agency recently produced a report on Green Infrastructure in the Yorkshire and The Humber region.¹⁶ Data such as access to footpaths could be a valuable source of information to support and develop the green infrastructure of the region and provide a basis for further research into the access and use of footpaths in the region.

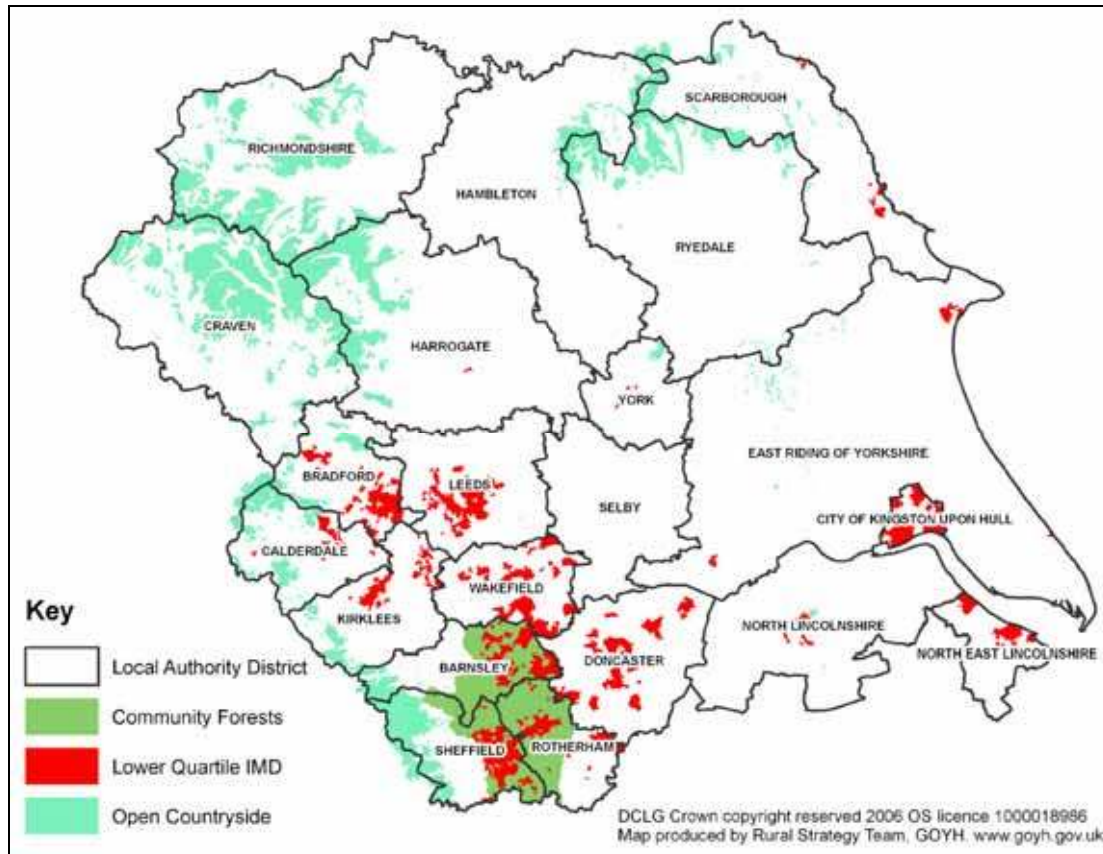
The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 gave the public new rights to walk on areas of open country and registered common land in England. 14% of land in Yorkshire and The Humber is defined as open countryside and registered common land; this is the third highest proportion of any English region. Analysis for this report has established that 77% of the region's population live within 10km of designated open countryside and 71%

¹⁵ Data for some local authorities is missing.

¹⁶ Countryside Agency *The Countryside in and Around Towns: The Green Infrastructure of Yorkshire and The Humber*, July 2006

of the region's most deprived communities¹⁷ live within 10km of open countryside. Figure 4.R shows the distribution of open countryside, community forests and the region's most deprived communities. The Community Forests Programme was established in 1990 to "demonstrate the potential contribution of environmental change to economic and social regeneration." There are 12 Community Forests in England and half of England's population lives within easy reach of a Community Forest.¹⁸

Figure 4.R Open countryside (2006), Community Forests (2006) and Index of Multiple Deprivation (2004)



¹⁷ Defined as lower quartile for overall Index of Multiple Deprivation

¹⁸ For more information please see: www.communityforest.org.uk

4.8 Broadband and ICT

In the past 12 months there has been a dramatic improvement in the availability of broadband internet across the region. In 2004 broadband availability was as low as 25% in the some sparse rural parts of the region (see Figure 4.S and Figure 4.T below). However, the latest data from Ovum and the CRC¹⁹ show that there is now nearly 100% broadband coverage across the region, mainly via DSL broadband (broadband delivered over the wired telephone network). Consequently the focus of attention is now moving to usage of broadband rather than availability.

Figure 4.S Regional residential delivery points with broadband by household area type, less sparse, 2004 and 2005

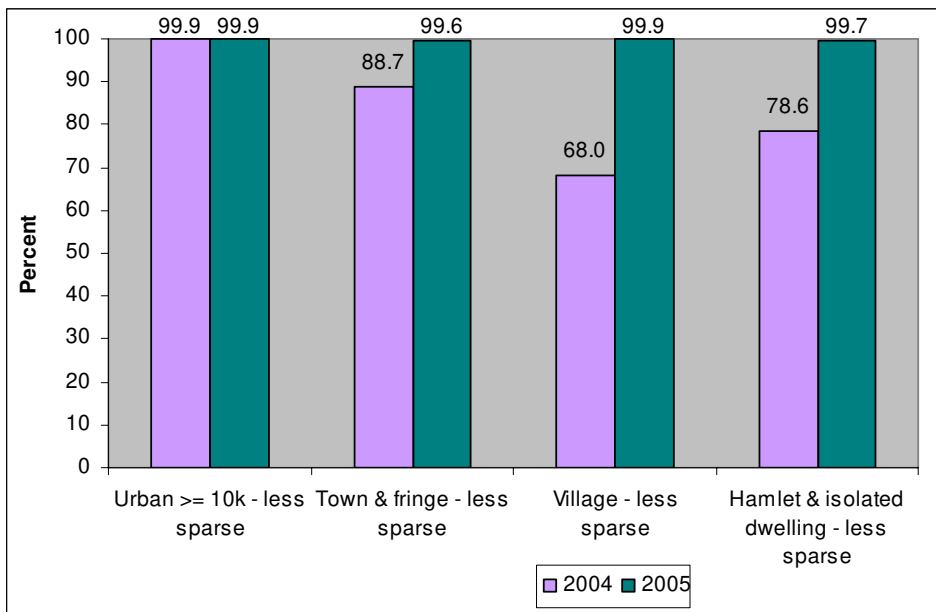
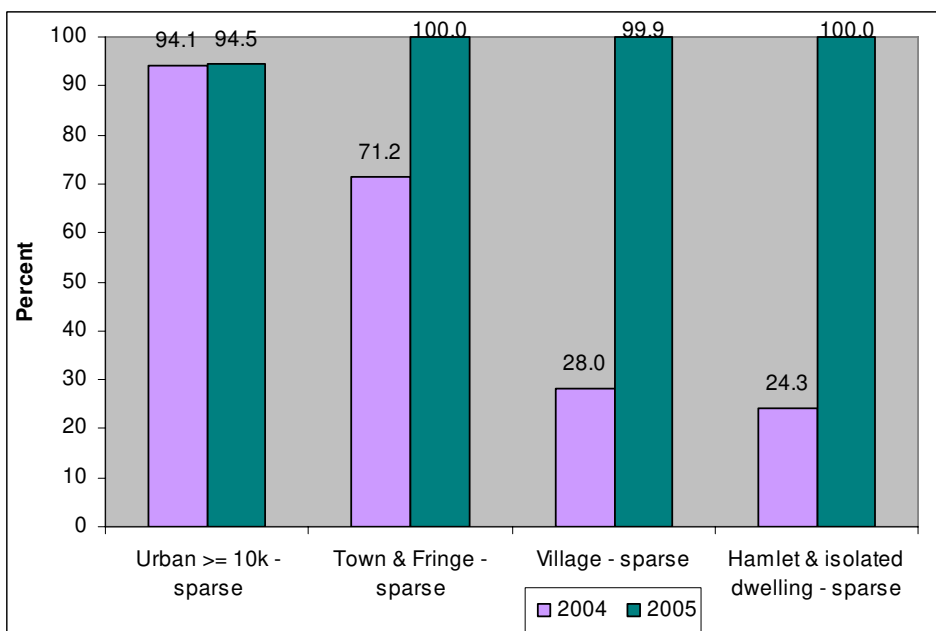


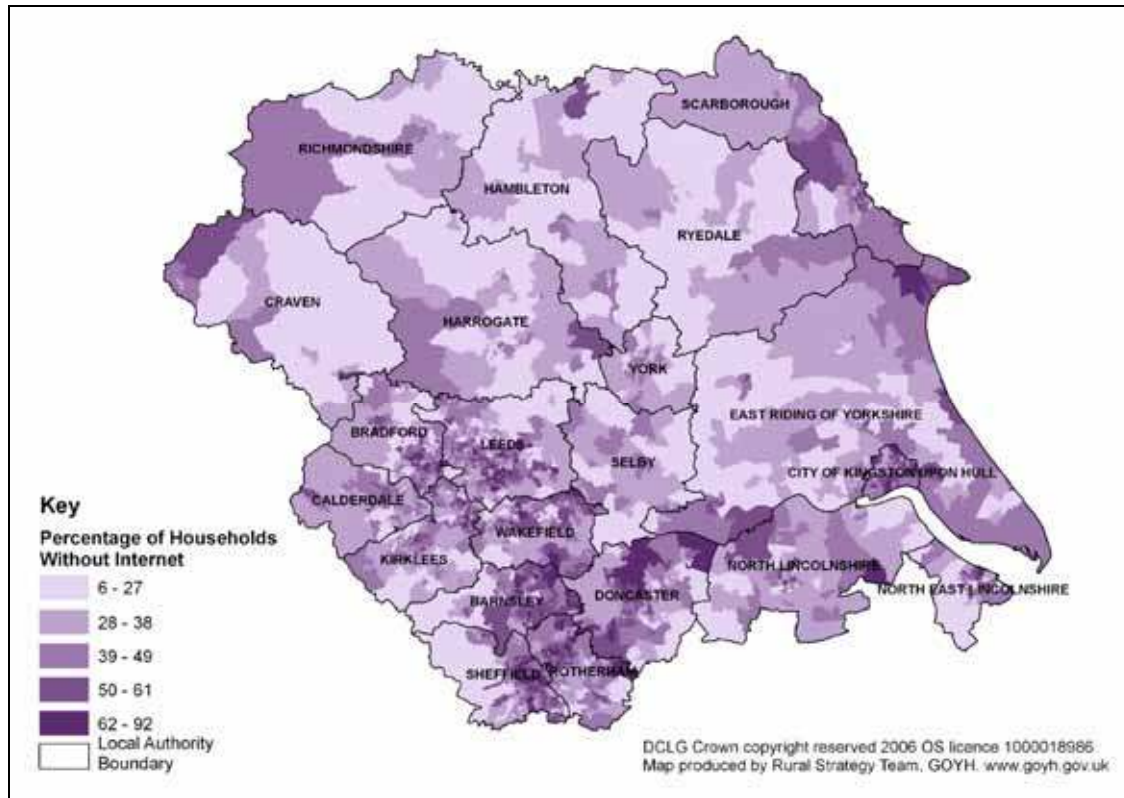
Figure 4.T Residential delivery points with broadband by household area type, sparse 2004 and 2005



¹⁹ Ovum Holdings Limited and Commission for Rural Communities

Now that nearly 100% of households have access to broadband it is interesting to look at the actual take-up and usage of the service. Figure 4.U shows the percentage of households without internet.²⁰ The darker shades represent those areas with a larger percentage without a connection. The main areas with higher percentages are the peripheral rural areas such as Scarborough, coastal East Riding of Yorkshire, and the Dales parts of Richmondshire and Craven. The urban areas of Barnsley, Doncaster and parts of Sheffield and Rotherham also have higher percentages without internet.

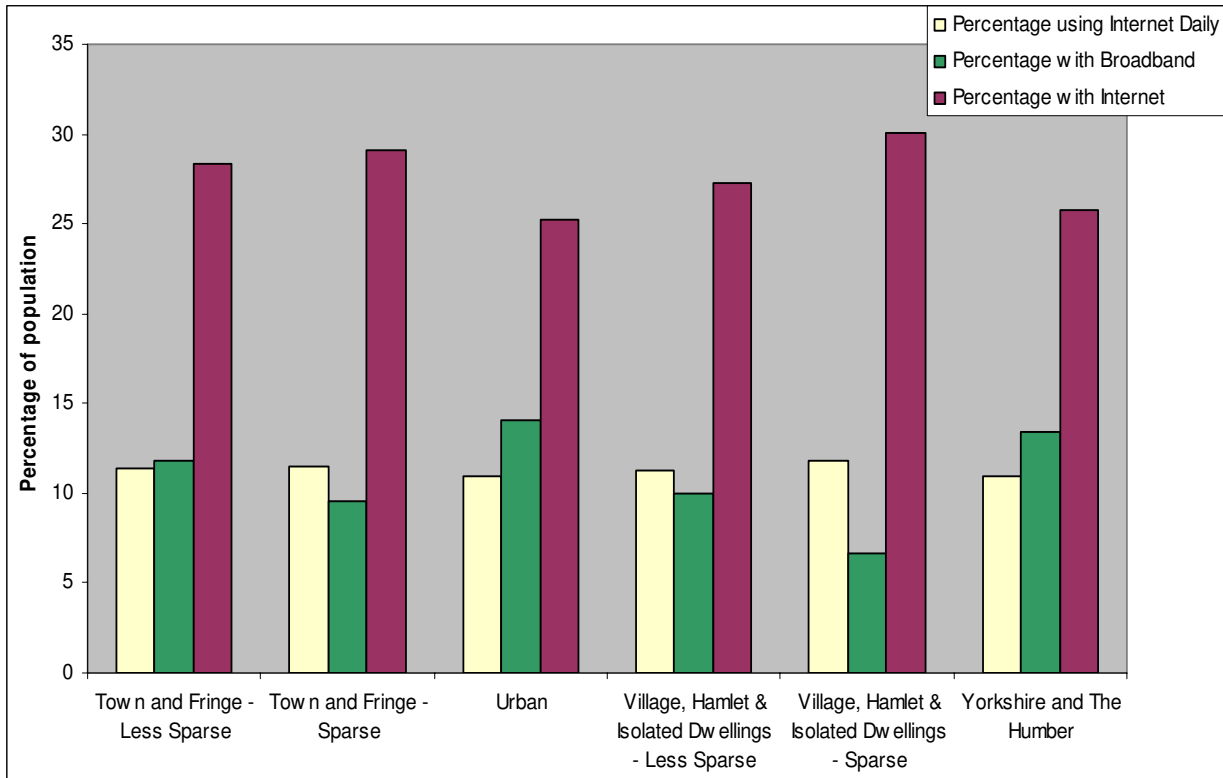
Figure 4.U Percentage of households without internet, 2005



²⁰ Acxiom National Lifestyle database 2005

When this data is grouped by the rural urban definition, it shows the sparse areas have the lowest take-up of broadband and use of the internet is below regional average (Figure 4.V).²¹ Despite the region's less sparse urban areas have the highest uptake of broadband; the highest rates of daily internet usage in the region are found in the village hamlet and isolated dwelling less sparse category.

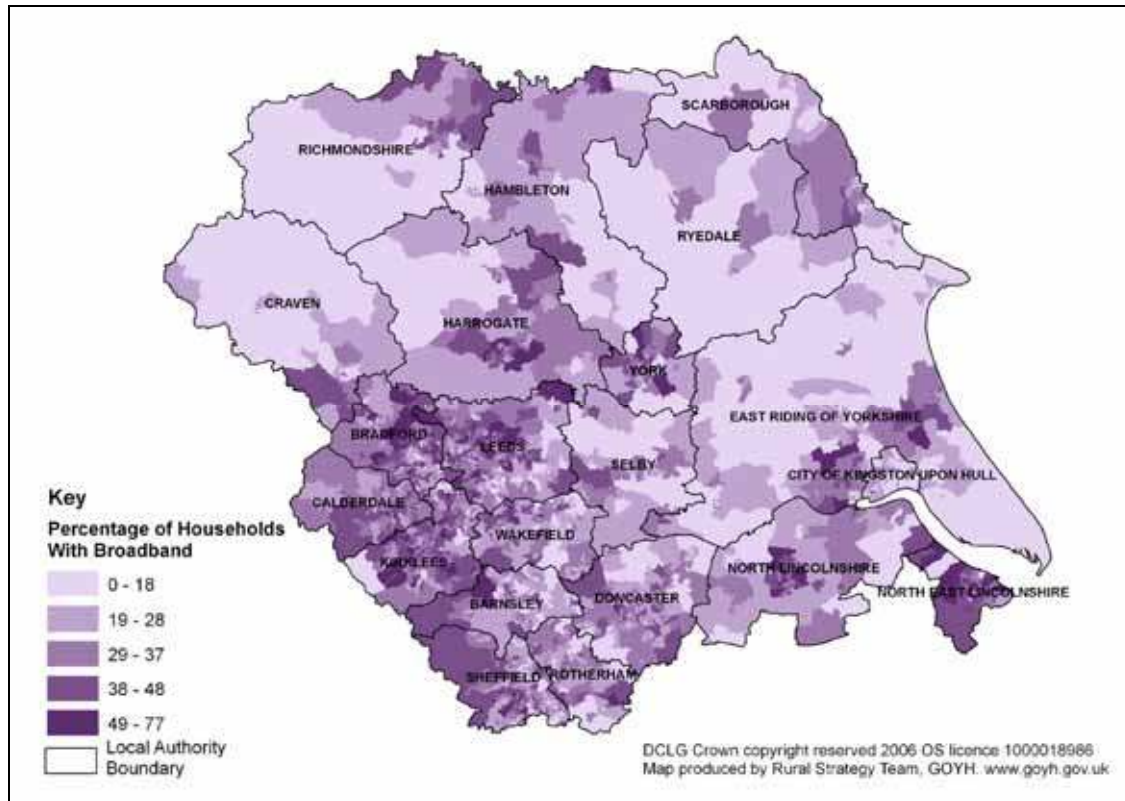
Figure 4.V Percentage of households with internet or broadband and percentage with daily use, by rural urban definition, 2005



²¹ Acxiom National Lifestyle database 2005

The next map in Figure 4.W shows people who have a broadband.²² The rural districts of Richmondshire, Craven, East Riding of Yorkshire and Selby have large areas with a small percentage (0-18%) of households with broadband. The more urban areas to the South West of the region have a higher percentage with broadband (up to 77% in some areas).

Figure 4.W Percentage of households with broadband, 2005



²² Acxiom National Lifestyle database 2005

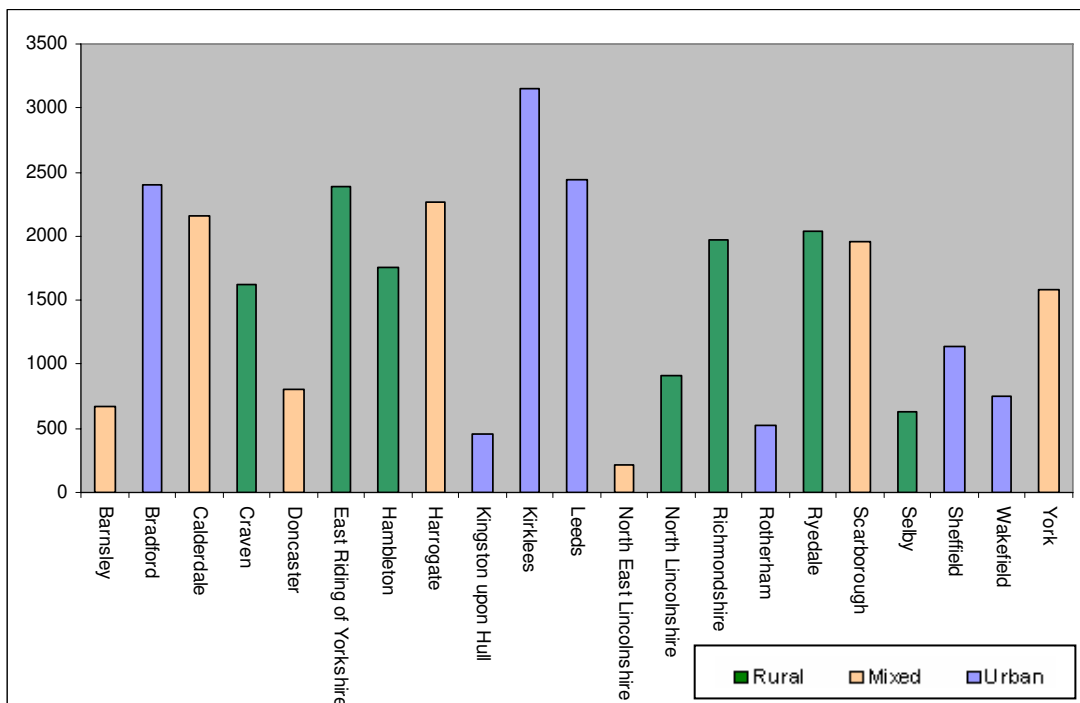
4.9 Heritage

An estimated £110 million has been spent on historic buildings in Yorkshire and The Humber by English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the European Regional Development Fund since 2000. The amount spent on historic infrastructure as a whole is expected to rise over twice the national average rate next year.²³

4.9.1 *Regional Heritage Buildings, Monuments and Conservation Areas*

The graph in Figure 4.X shows the number of listed buildings in each local authority in the region.²⁴ It is important to note that some areas may have a larger or smaller number due to their size. East Riding of Yorkshire, Richmondshire and Ryedale are the rural areas with the highest number of listed buildings.

Figure 4.X Number of designated listed buildings, 2005

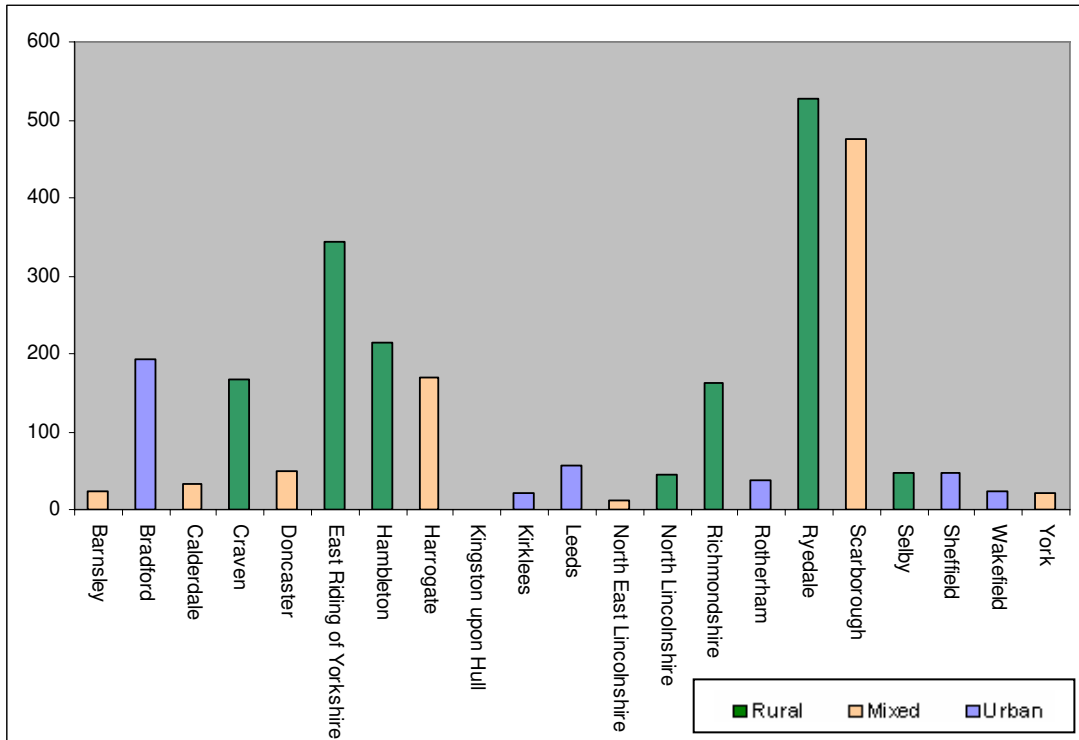


²³ Heritage Counts, The State of Yorkshire's Historic Environment 2005, English Heritage.

²⁴ Heritage Counts Regional Summaries, 2005 www.english-heritage.org.uk

Figure 4.Y shows the number of scheduled monuments in each local authority.²⁵ The rural district of Ryedale has the highest number in the region at 526, closely followed by Scarborough that has 475 scheduled monuments. Generally the rural districts have a higher number of scheduled monuments than the majority of the urban and mixed districts. It is important to note as before, that this dataset may vary due to the size of the areas.

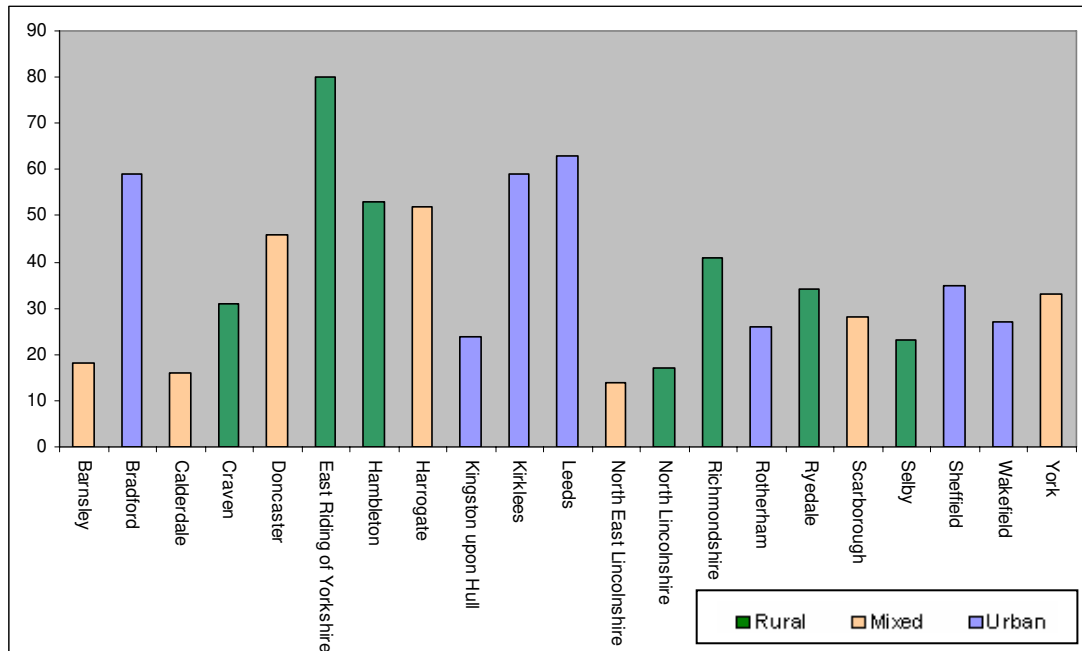
Figure 4.Y Number of scheduled monuments, 2005



²⁵ Heritage Counts Regional Summaries, 2005 www.english-heritage.org.uk

The number of conservation areas is shown in Figure 4.Z.²⁶ East Riding of Yorkshire has the highest number at 80, followed by Leeds, Kirklees and Bradford. The number of conservation areas does not seem to be that much higher in rural areas than urban, as the three districts with the greatest number after East Riding of Yorkshire are all urban. Again, the dataset will be affected by the size of the areas.

Figure 4.Z Number of conservation areas, 2005



4.10 Conclusion

There are some notable differences between the infrastructure of rural areas and the infrastructure of urban areas. One particular problem (also highlighted in the Rural Evidence Base 2005) is housing affordability. Rural areas have some of the most acute housing affordability problems, which have demographic and social implications. There is a more detailed evidence base on affordability this year, comparing the prices, sales and price to income ratios across the region. A high demand for housing in rural areas (which may rise in the future as the population of rural areas increases, see chapter 2) combined with a relatively fixed supply leads to an increase in price. The Affordable Rural Housing Commission has produced a report looking at the problems and solutions of affordable housing and the Government is expected to respond to this shortly.

Car ownership is another area where differences between rural and urban areas are apparent. Overall, car ownership in rural areas is 16 percentage points higher than in the urban areas of the region. Traffic flows in rural districts have also increased by a larger percentage than most urban and mixed districts. A higher percentage of car ownership is to be expected due to the lack of public transport in rural areas; however, car ownership (particularly if more than one vehicle is owned per household) could be related to higher income levels in rural areas.

A particular point to note (as it is a significant change from 2005) is that broadband availability is now nearly 100% for the region. With this improvement the sparse villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings now have the highest percentage of their population connected to the internet. This could be linked to access to services, with sparse rural households connecting to the internet to use services such as online shopping and banking.

²⁶ Heritage Counts Regional Summaries, 2005 www.english-heritage.org.uk

There is increasing awareness of the importance of green infrastructure, a term used to describe the green space and water assets in and around town and cities. Many rural areas may be part of this green infrastructure, providing a service to their neighbouring urban areas. This chapter also considered the number of cultural and historical assets in the region. The rural districts contain a large share of these assets and therefore have an important role to play in the maintenance and conservation of the region's rich cultural heritage.

The region's open access land identified in this chapter is also a key part of the rural infrastructure. Further analysis could be done to investigate its use, condition and accessibility; combining this information with other datasets, such as the accessibility of footpaths and use of Community Forests.

5 Environment

5.1 Introduction

The approach used elsewhere in this report draws distinctions between rural and urban parts of the region; this however, does not work well with some environment related indicators. Firstly, many of the region's environmental indicators (such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and woodland cover) are not collected for or are not relevant to urban areas. Secondly, indicators such as water quality and flood risk reflect conditions across wide areas, which typically comprise a mixture of rural and urban areas. However, some of the new datasets included in this year's report, such as Ecological Footprints, local carbon dioxide emissions and household waste statistics, are reported at local authority level and therefore allow comparison between urban and rural districts.

This chapter covers:

- Ecological footprint
- Land area
- Water quality
- Flood risk
- Household waste
- Carbon dioxide emissions
- Conclusion

5.2 Ecological Footprint

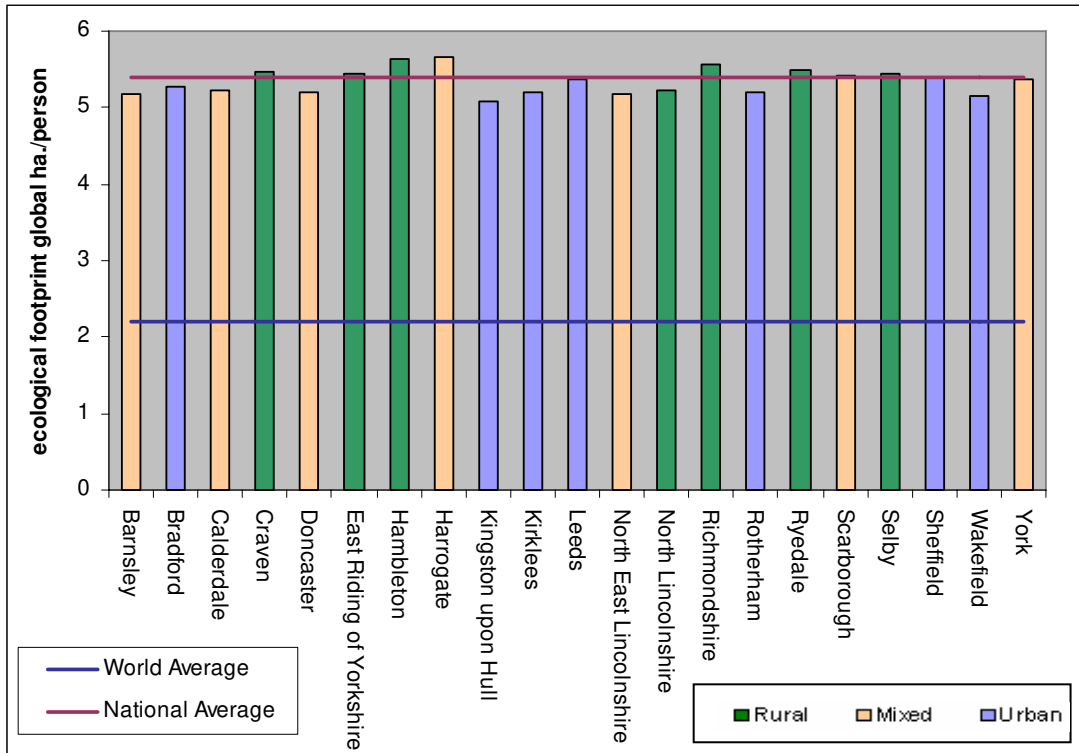
Ecological footprint analysis has recently been adopted by the Government as a means of measuring the impact of human activity on nature and the world's resources. It measures natural resource consumption and global environmental impact by considering how much land and sea area would be required to: provide the food, fibres and minerals consumed; absorb the waste produced (including carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions); and provide space for our infrastructure.

It is measured in global hectares per person. A global hectare is one hectare of biologically productive space with world-average productivity. In 2002 the biosphere had 11.4 billion hectares of biologically productive space (2 billion hectares of ocean and 9.4 billion hectares of land) corresponding to approximately one quarter of the planet's surface area. One global hectare is a hectare representing the average capacity of one of these 11.4 billion hectares. If the bioproductive hectares are divided up between the global population each person has a share of 1.8 global hectares.¹

¹ World Wildlife Fund, Ecological Budget www.wwflerning.org.uk

Data extracted from Local Authority reports completed by the Stockholm Environment Institute² were used to determine the ecological footprint (in global hectares per person) for each district of the region. This is shown in Figure 5.A. All of the rural areas (except North Lincolnshire) have an ecological footprint that is greater than the national average. Harrogate is the only other district that exceeds the national average.

Figure 5.A Ecological footprint in global hectares per person



² Stockholm Environment Institute website www.sei.se/eap

5.3 Land area

5.3.1 *Environmentally designated land*

The countryside of the region contains a diverse mixture of natural and built environments. Features of the landscape include dales, moors, wolds and vales, and a network of individual features like drystone walls and species-rich hay meadows. Over 20% of the land area has a national or international environmental designation (see Figure 5.B).³ This is the highest proportion of designated land of any English region and is a key asset of Yorkshire and The Humber.

Figure 5.B Land with environmental designation, 2006

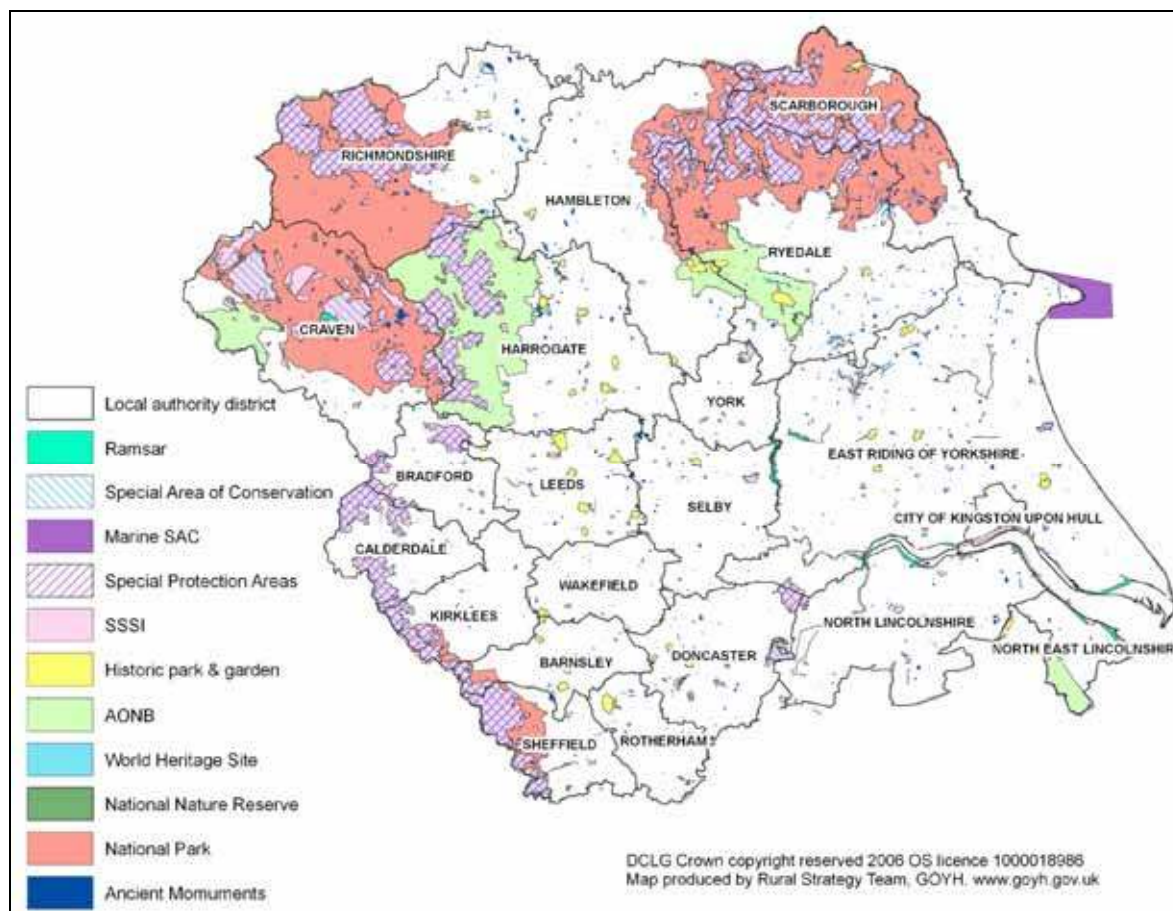


Table 5.A Environmental Designations

Designation	Full Name
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
Ramsar	A Ramsar site is a wetland of international importance (Convention Signed in city of Ramsar, Iran).

³ Defra "Geni" GI system, 2006

Following the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the public now have pedestrian access rights to large areas of officially designated open access land. 14% of the region's land area is now designated for open access, the third highest proportion of any English region.⁴

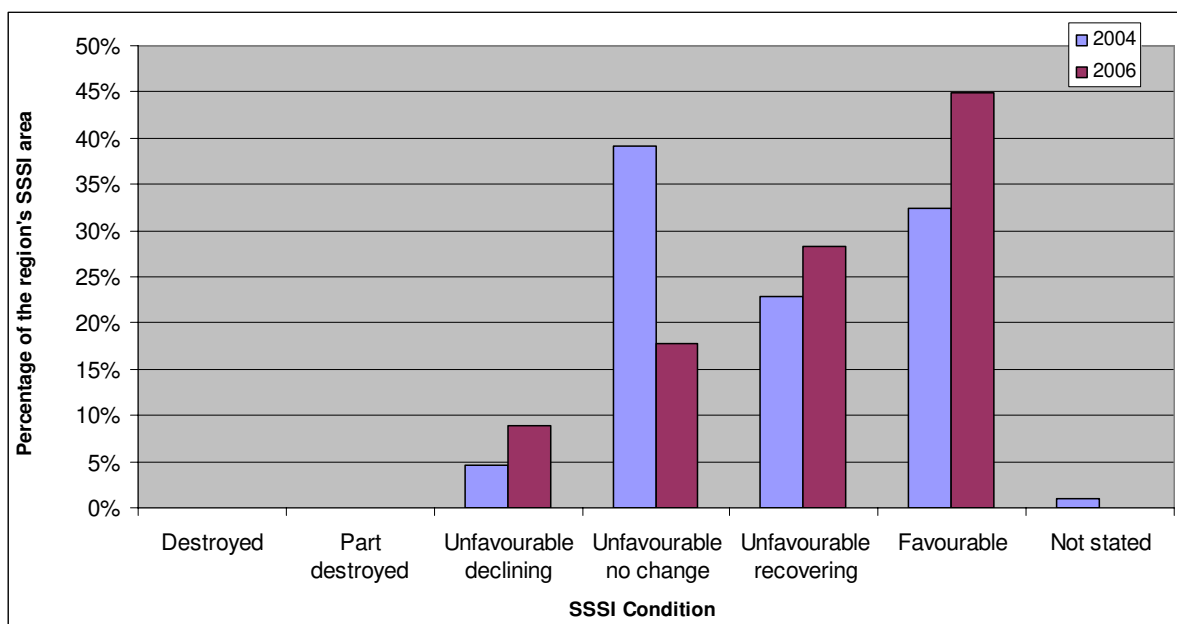
5.3.2 *Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest*

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. There are 374 SSSIs in Yorkshire and the Humber covering 180,000 hectares which is more than 17% of all SSSI land in England and 12% of the region's total land area. There is a significant proportion of the total in the large areas of upland moorland, limestone grassland and the extensive Thorne and Hatfield Moors (see Figure 5.B for the location of SSSIs). The Defra Public Service Agreement (PSA) target requires 95% of SSSIs to be in favourable condition or recovering to a favourable condition by 2010. Currently 63% of the region's SSSIs meet this PSA target⁵ (as shown in Figure 5.C). This is an improvement from 2004 when only 58% were on target. At present the North East region is the only region with a lower percentage of SSSI land in target condition. According to Natural England⁶ inappropriate land management (moor burning, overgrazing and drainage) and air pollution are the main reasons why the SSSIs in the region are not meeting the PSA target. However, sub-regionally the percentages of SSSIs in target condition are as follows:

- North Yorkshire 55.8%
- West Yorkshire 17.5%
- South Yorkshire 42.5%
- Humber 94.9%.

Securing voluntary management agreements under the Environmental Stewardship scheme is the primary mechanism for achieving the PSA target, although damage due to air pollution can only be tackled on a national or international level.

Figure 5.C Condition of SSSIs in Yorkshire and The Humber, 2004 and 2006



⁴ State of the Countryside 2006, Commission for rural Communities.

⁵ English Nature website www.english-nature.org.uk/special/sssi/report.cfm?category=R,RF

⁶ English Nature website www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/publication/PDF/Target2010Yorks.PDF

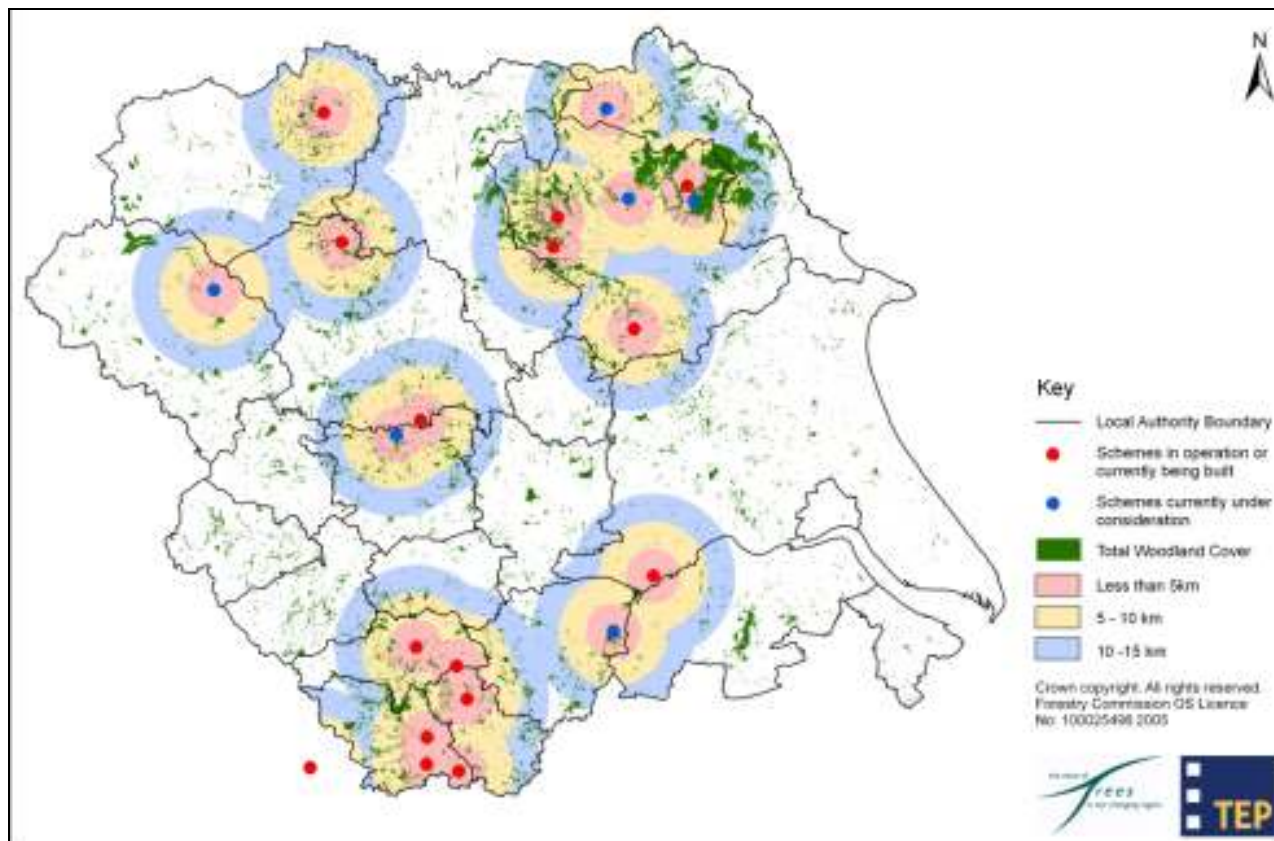
5.4 Renewable Energy

The renewable energy section is a new topic for this year's report. The data is however quite limited. We therefore hope to research into and publish more detailed information about this sector in the future.

5.4.1 Wood Burning Facilities

The Forestry Commission have mapped known wood burning facilities in relation to total woodland cover.⁷ This work shows activity is currently concentrated in North and South Yorkshire with limited known wood burning facilities and the Humber or West Yorkshire.

Figure 5.D Proximity to known wood burning facilities and total woodland cover



⁷ Forestry Commission, 2006

5.5 Water quality

5.5.1 *River water quality*

Table 5.B and Table 5.C contain a comparison between the biological and chemical river water quality in the Yorkshire and the Humber in 1995 and 2004 for all rural and non-rural areas.⁸ In 2004 27% of the river length was in non-rural areas and 73% was in rural areas. As expected, rural river quality was better than non-rural river quality due to the fewer and smaller sewage and industrial discharges found in rural areas. The tables also show that there has been a significant improvement in both biological and chemical quality over the nine years. The biological quality percentage of good or fair increased by 5.58% and the chemical quality percentage good or fair by 5.04%. The percentage poor or bad consequently decreased by the same amounts. These advances are due to better regulation and improvements to effluent discharges made by industry and water companies.

Table 5.B Biological water quality, 1995 and 2004

Biology		Percentage Good or Fair	Percentage Poor or Bad	Total Percentage
1995	Rural	90.14	9.86	100
	Non-Rural	64.47	35.53	100
2004	Rural	95.71	4.29	100
	Non-Rural	80.67	19.33	100

Table 5.C Chemical water quality, 1995 and 2004

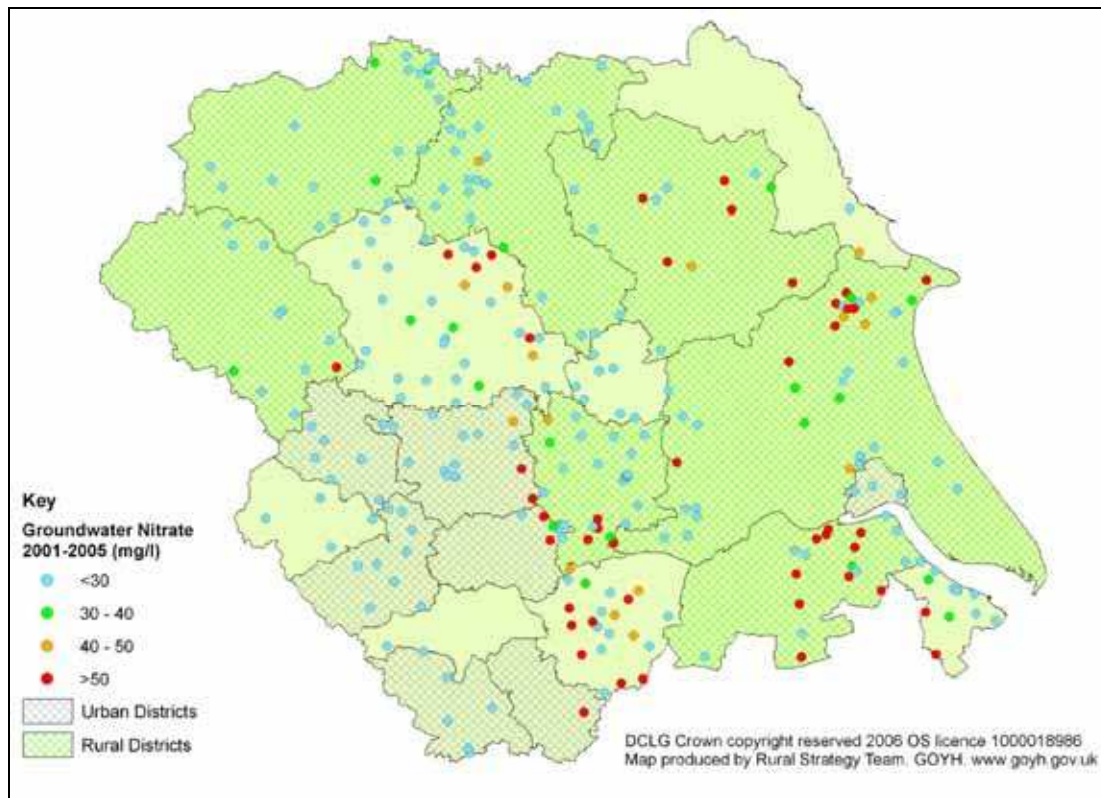
Chemistry		Percentage Good or Fair	Percentage Poor or Bad	Total Percentage
1995	Rural	87.34	12.66	100
	Non-Rural	69.68	30.32	100
2004	Rural	92.38	7.62	100
	Non-Rural	87.37	12.63	100

⁸ Environment Agency

5.5.2 *Groundwater quality*

Figure 5.E is a map of the mean nitrate levels in groundwater between 2001 and 2005. The drinking water standard is 50 milligrams per litre (mg/l) and the map shows all of those areas where groundwater nitrates exceed 50 milligrams per litre (mg/l) in red. Elevated nitrate levels in groundwater are a problem in the region, largely due to the use of nitrate fertilizers in agriculture.⁹ Many of the locations where the 50 mg/l standard is exceeded are in intensively farmed lowland rural districts, with the majority of the remaining locations in Harrogate, Leeds, Wakefield or Doncaster. Groundwater that exceeds the 50 mg/l standard is treated to reduce nitrate levels before it reaches the drinking supply.

Figure 5.E Mean groundwater nitrate levels 2001-2005



⁹ Environment Agency

5.6 Flooding

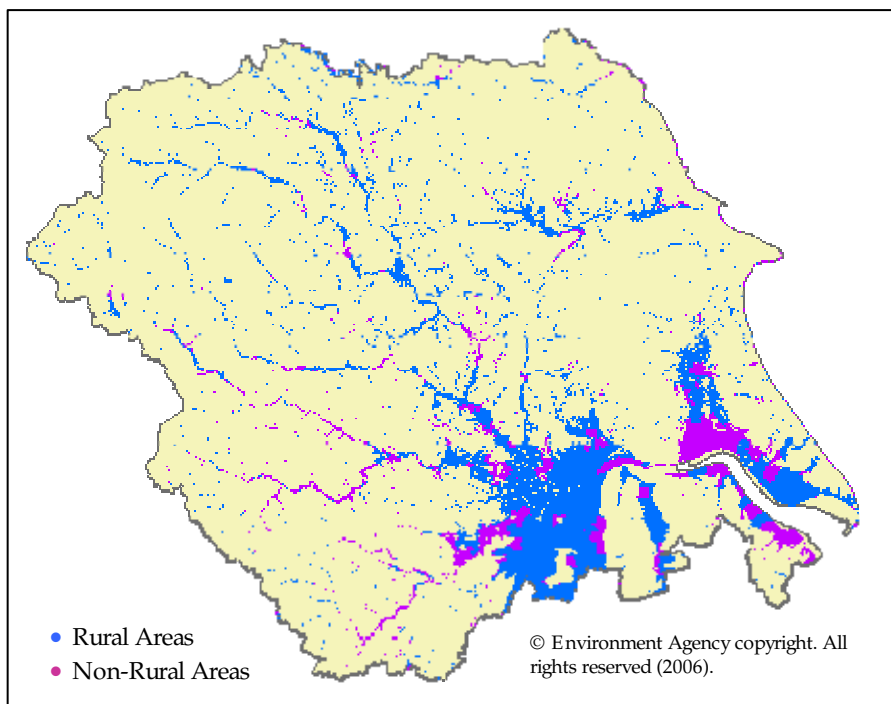
5.6.1 *Flood risk*

Table 5.D indicates that 13.4% of the total area of Yorkshire and The Humber is in a Flood Zone 3 area.¹⁰ This is the Environment Agency's best estimate of areas of land with a 1:100 chance (or greater) of flooding each year from rivers or a 1:200 chance (or greater) of flooding each year from the sea. 12.4% of rural areas in the Yorkshire and The Humber are also categorised as Flood Zone 3. This is displayed graphically in the map in Figure 5.F.

Table 5.D Areas within Flood Zone 3 for Yorkshire and The Humber, total and rural

Yorkshire and The Humber	Km ²	Percentage of Total Area in Flood Zone 3	m ²
Total Area	15,564.03		15,564,028,469
Flood Zone 3 Area	2,088.05	13.4	2,088,054,475
Total Rural Area	12,236.85		12,236,849,511
Flood Zone 3 Rural Area	1,522.76	12.4	1,522,760,806

Figure 5.F Flood Zone 3 for rural and non-rural areas



¹⁰Environment Agency

5.6.2 *Flood defence*

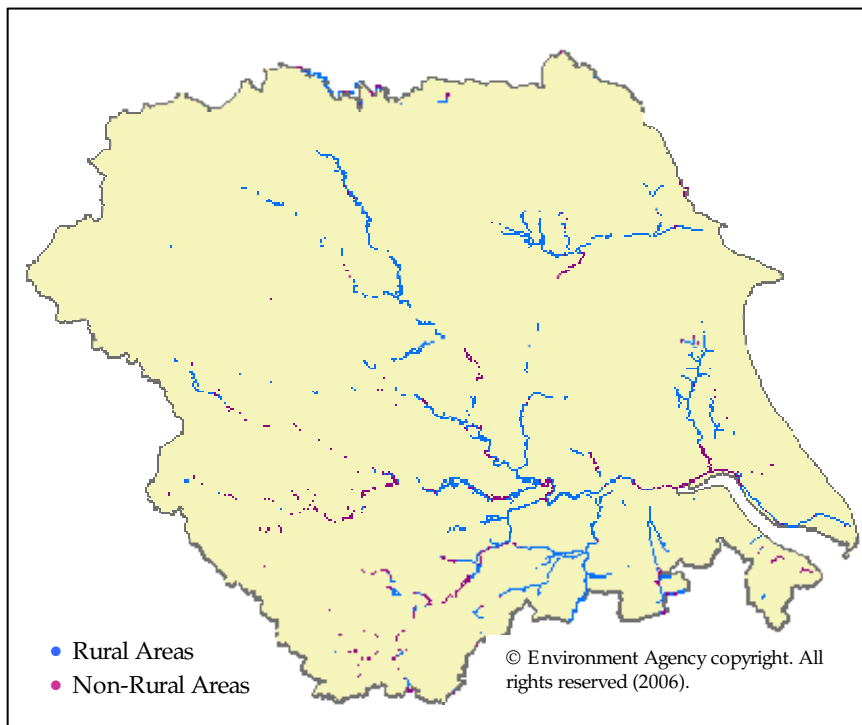
The table and graph below (Table 5.E and Figure 5.G) show the extent of flood defence in the region. The percentage of total of flood defence length in rural areas is 74.4%.¹¹

Table 5.E River length

Yorkshire and The Humber	km	m	Percentage of length that is rural
Total Length	1,577.32	1,577,320	
Total Rural Length	1,172.8	1,172,797	74.4

The location of the flood defences can be viewed on the map in Figure 5.G below.

Figure 5.G Rural and non-rural flood defences



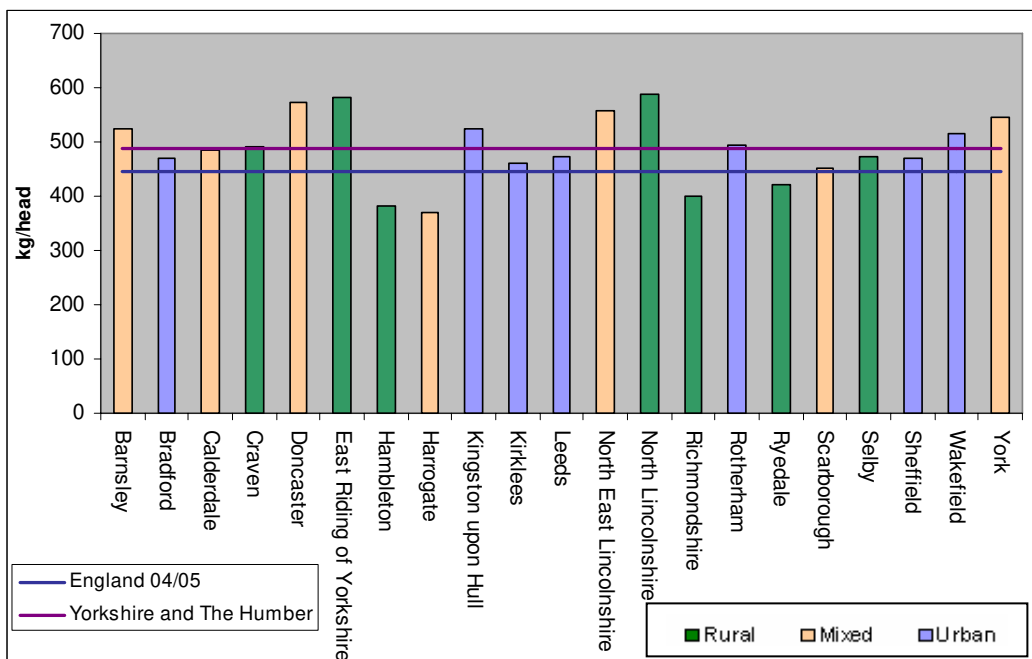
¹¹ Environment Agency

5.7 Household waste

5.7.1 *Total household waste*

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) produce Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) for each local authority in the country. It is possible to compare local authorities across a wide range of indicators. The following graph shows the volume of waste collected per person for 2004/05. East Riding of Yorkshire, Craven and Selby all have high volumes of waste collected at 580 kg, 492 kg and 472 kg per head, which is more than the English average of 445 kg per head.¹² Harrogate and Hambleton have the lowest kilograms of waste collected per head (380.5 kg/head and 369.2 kg/head respectively).

Figure 5.H Household waste collected (kg/ person), 2004/ 05

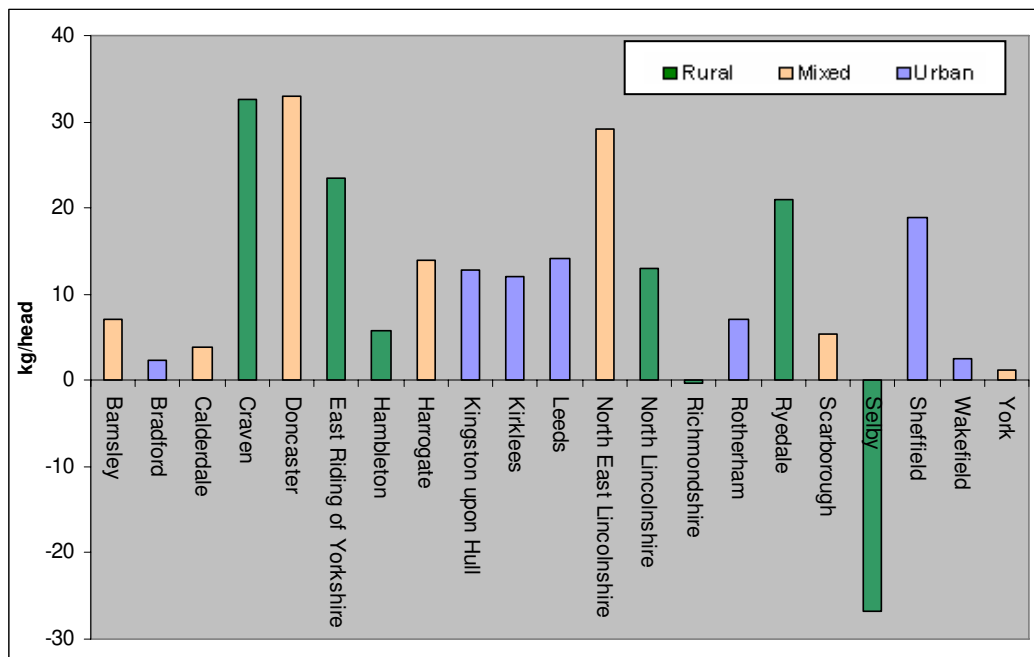


¹² Best Value Performance Indicator 84, Audit Commission, 2004/05.

It is important to consider the change in amount of waste collected from year to year. Figure 5.I indicates that all the districts in the region (apart from Selby and Richmondshire) have recorded an increase in the amount of household waste collected per head between 2002/03 and 2004/05. The rural districts of Craven, Ryedale and East Riding of Yorkshire had large increases of up to 32.6 kg per head.

Figure 5.H shows that despite the increase Ryedale (at 421 kg/head) remains below the England average and the regional average (444.2 kg/head and 487.6 kg/head respectively).¹³ Craven, East Riding of Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire and Selby however, still collect above the England and regional averages.

Figure 5.I Change in the number of kilograms of waste collected per head, 2002/ 03 to 2004/ 05



5.7.2 *Cost of waste collection*

The cost of household waste collection per household is shown in Figure 5.J.¹⁴ Of the rural areas Richmondshire and North Lincolnshire have the lowest costs per household. Selby, Ryedale and Hambleton all have costs above the average for England.

Figure 5.K shows how the cost has changed over three years.¹⁵ North East Lincolnshire is the only district where the cost has decreased. All the other districts in the region have had an increase in costs between 2002/03 and 2004/05. Selby had an increase of £22 per household, the largest in the region, causing the cost to rise above the England average of £43.40 per household, making it the second highest cost in the region in 2004/05 at £57.33 per household.

¹³ Best Value Performance Indicator 84, Audit Commission, 2004/05.

¹⁴ Best Value Performance Indicator 86, Audit Commission, 2004/05.

¹⁵ Best Value Performance Indicator 86, Audit Commission, 2004/05.

Figure 5.J Cost of household waste collection, per household 2004/ 05

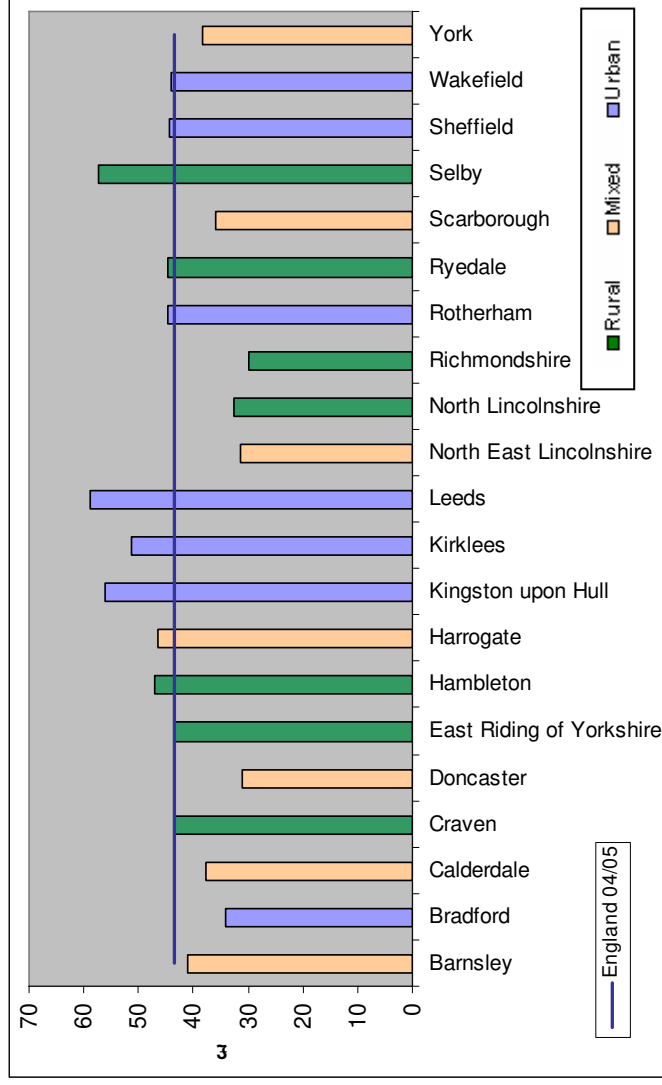
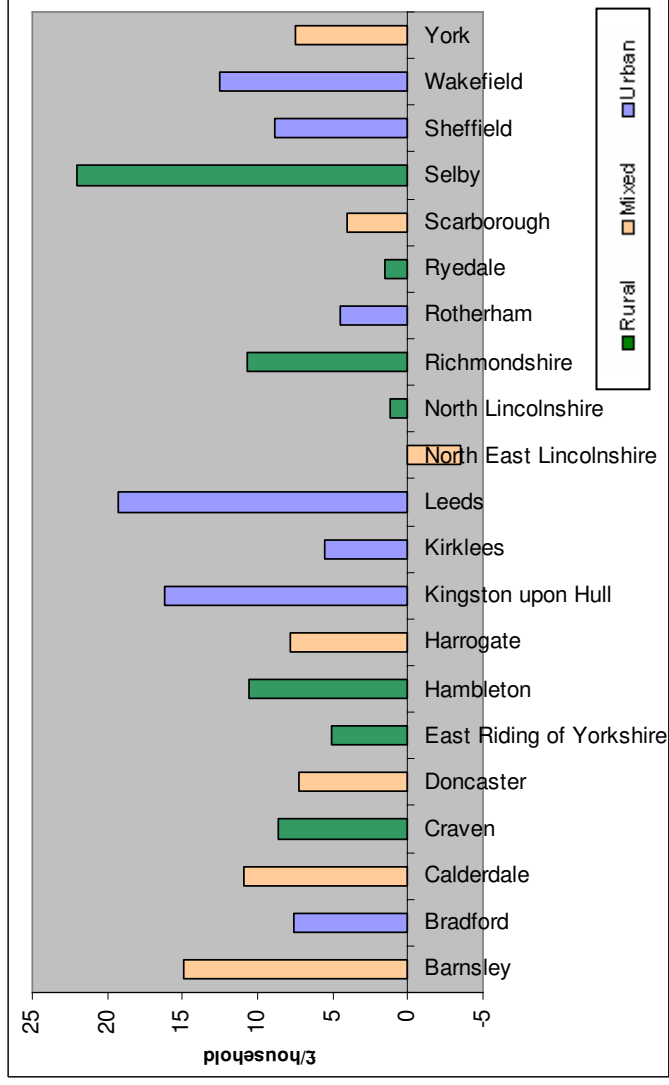


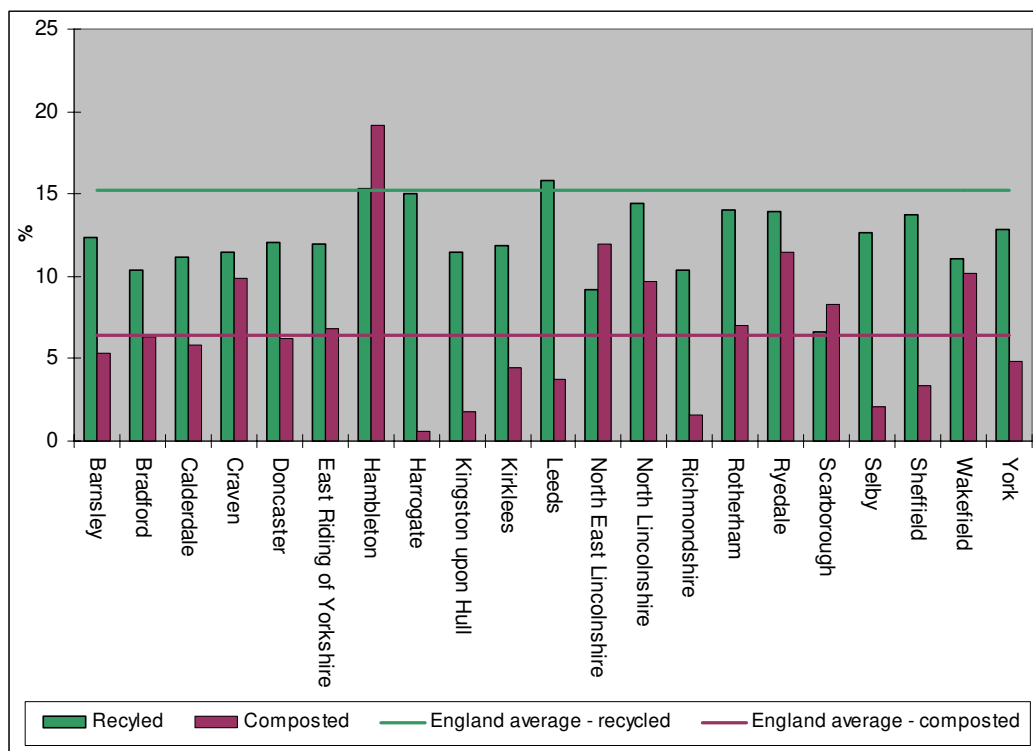
Figure 5.K Change in cost of household waste collection, pounds per household 2002/ 03 to 2004/ 05



Household waste recycled or composted

Figure 5.L compares the household waste recycled and composted across districts in the region.¹⁶ Some of the rural areas including Richmondshire and Selby have very low composting rates. Hambleton is the best performing rural district for both composting and recycling, meeting the national average for recycling and far exceeding the national average for composting. The districts of Harrogate, Kingston upon Hull, Richmondshire and Selby have some of the worst composting rates, closely followed by Leeds and Sheffield. Leeds does however have the highest percentage of household waste recycled in the region. Apart from Hambleton, North Lincolnshire and Ryedale are the rural areas with the highest percentage of household waste recycling at 14.4% and 13.9% respectively.

Figure 5.L Percentage of household waste recycled or composted, 2004/ 05



The Government has set nationwide targets to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill as follows:¹⁷

- by 2010 to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) going to landfill to 75% of that produced in 1995
- by 2013 to 50% of the 1995 figure
- by 2020 to 35% of the 1995 figure

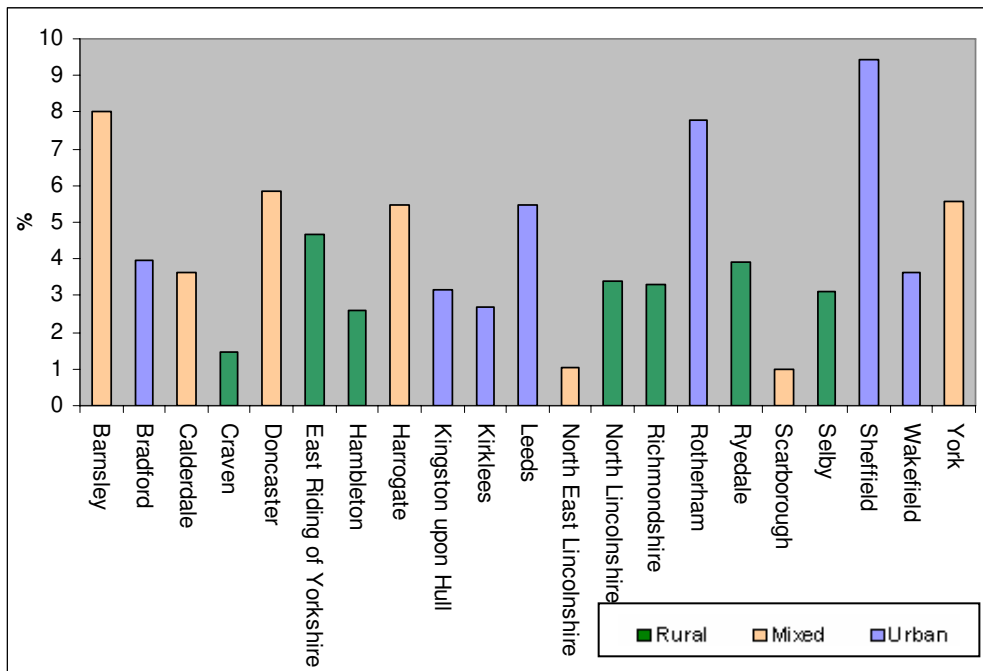
In response to this landfill allowances and trading schemes have been set up and were launched in April 2005. Under this initiative local authorities have a certain allowance for the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that they can landfill every year. Consequently local authorities have introduced schemes that help reduce the amount of BMW collected for landfill and have implemented green waste collections. Therefore local authorities across the region have reported an increase in composting and recycling.

¹⁶ Best Value Performance Indicators 82a and 82b, Audit Commission, 2004/05.

¹⁷ Landfill allowances and trading schemes, Environment Agency, www.environment-agency.gov.uk

The following graph in Figure 5.M shows the percentage change in household waste recycling over three years.¹⁸ All of the districts have had an increase in the percentage of waste recycled, although the rural areas have not increased as much as some of the urban areas such as Sheffield and Rotherham. Some of the districts that had lower than average percentages of recycling and composting in 2004/05 (Scarborough, Richmondshire and North East Lincolnshire, for example) have had only small increases in the waste recycled over the three year period which could account for their lower percentages in 2004/05.

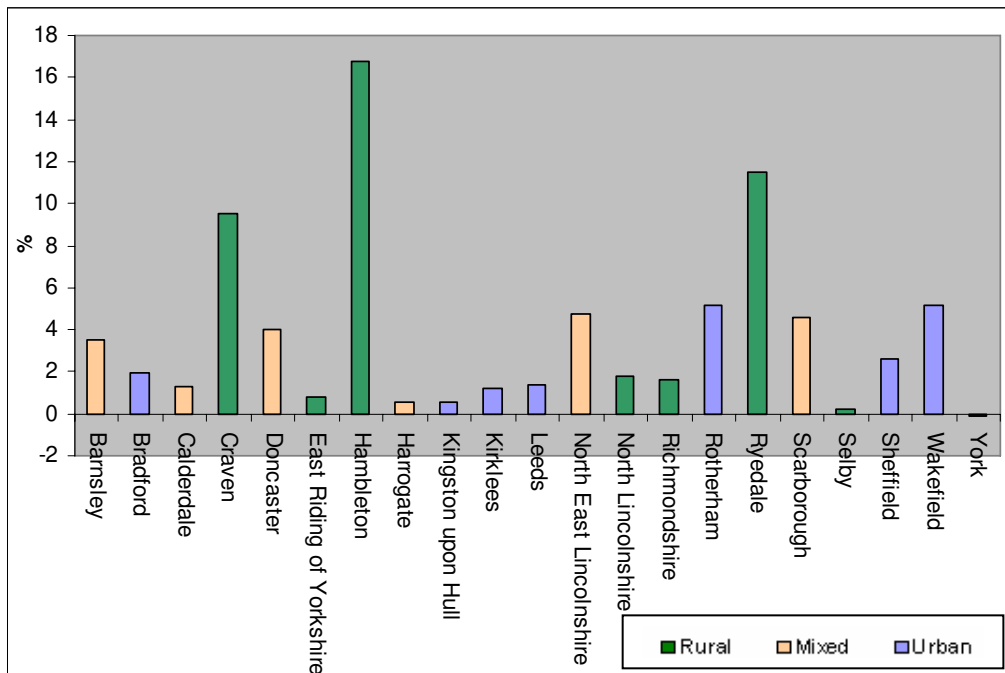
Figure 5.M Percentage change in household waste recycling, 2002/ 03 to 2004/ 05



¹⁸ Best Value Performance Indicator 82a, Audit Commission, 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05.

Figure 5.N below also shows widespread increase in the amount of household waste diverted from landfill.¹⁹ Composting has increased in many rural areas, often at a higher rate than urban areas. Hambleton for example, has had a large increase in composting over the past three years, with 19.2% of household waste composted in 2004/05. The local authorities in Hambleton and Ryedale recently set up green waste collections for every household, which explains their large increases in composting. Other areas (particularly the more urban districts) have piloted the scheme or implemented it in selected areas only. As a result their composting rates are lower. York shows a small decline in the amount of composting; however their green waste collection scheme has only recently been introduced.

Figure 5.N Percentage change in household waste composting, 2002/ 03 to 2004/ 05



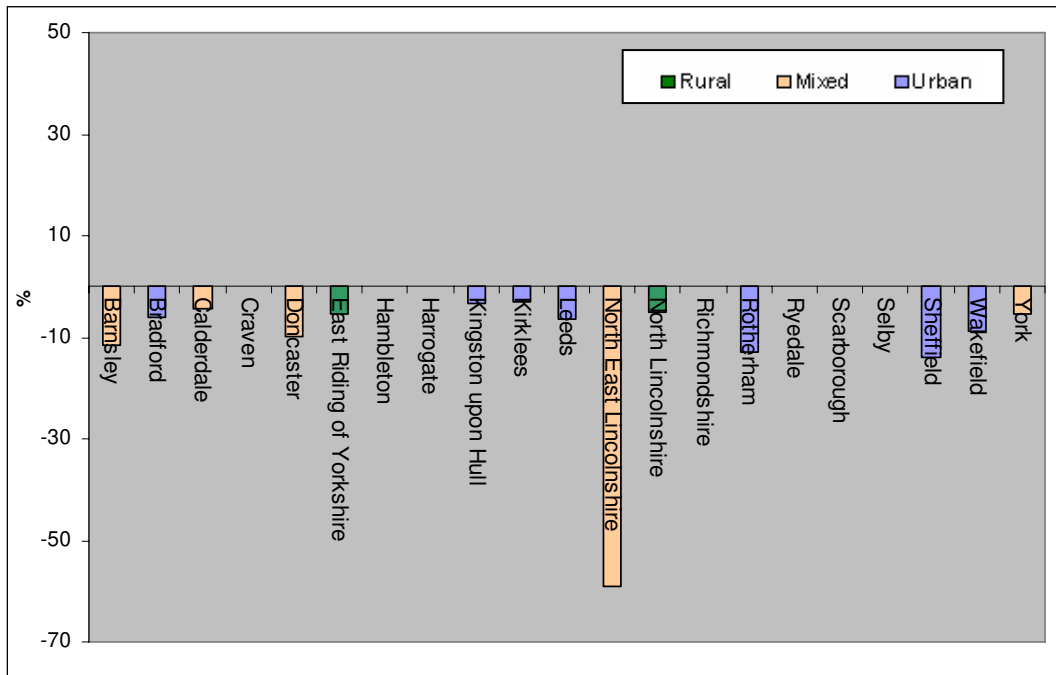
5.7.3 Landfill

Further to this it is possible to analyse the change in amount of waste sent to landfill. Following the introduction of local authority targets for landfill reduction as mentioned above, districts should have actively worked to reduce the amount of waste they send to landfill. As Figure 5.O indicates, over the past three years all local authorities in the region have had a decline in the amount of waste sent to landfill.²⁰ North East Lincolnshire had the largest decrease at 58.9%, which was mainly due to the recent installation of an energy from waste plant.

¹⁹ Best Value Performance Indicator 82b, Audit Commission, 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05.

²⁰ Best Value Performance Indicator 82d, Audit Commission, 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05.

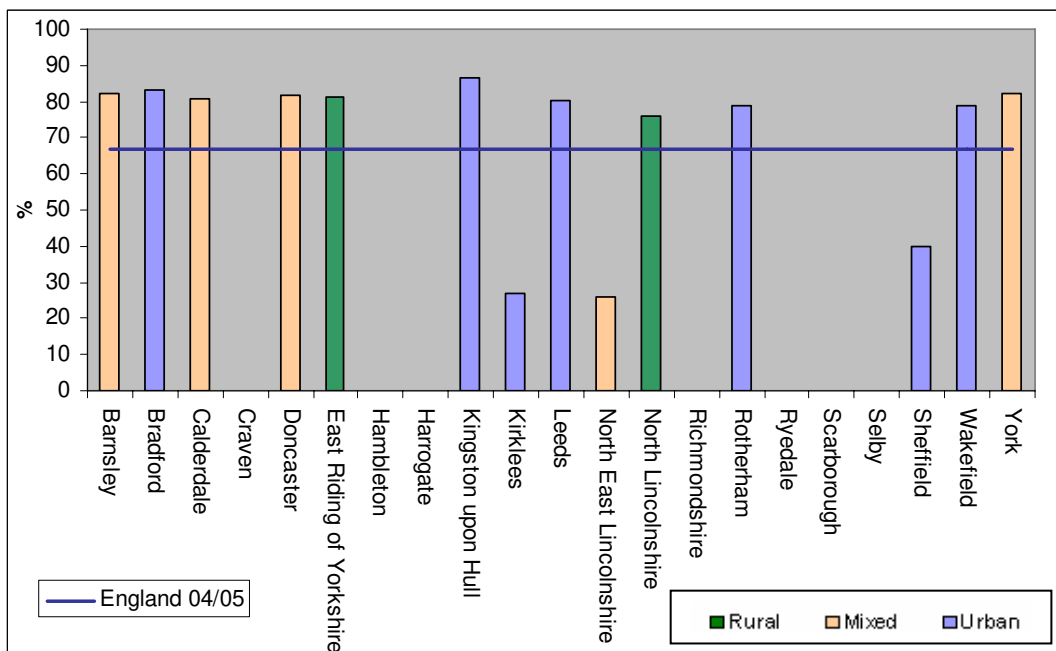
Figure 5.O Percentage change in household waste sent to landfill, 2002/ 03 – 2004/ 05



Caveat: Data for the districts in North Yorkshire are not shown on this graph.

Despite efforts to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill many districts still send over 75% of household waste to landfill as Figure 5.P shows.²¹ All districts apart from Kirklees, North Lincolnshire and Sheffield (all of which all have incineration plants) send amounts over the England average of 66.8%.

Figure 5.P Percentage of household waste sent to landfill, 2004/ 05



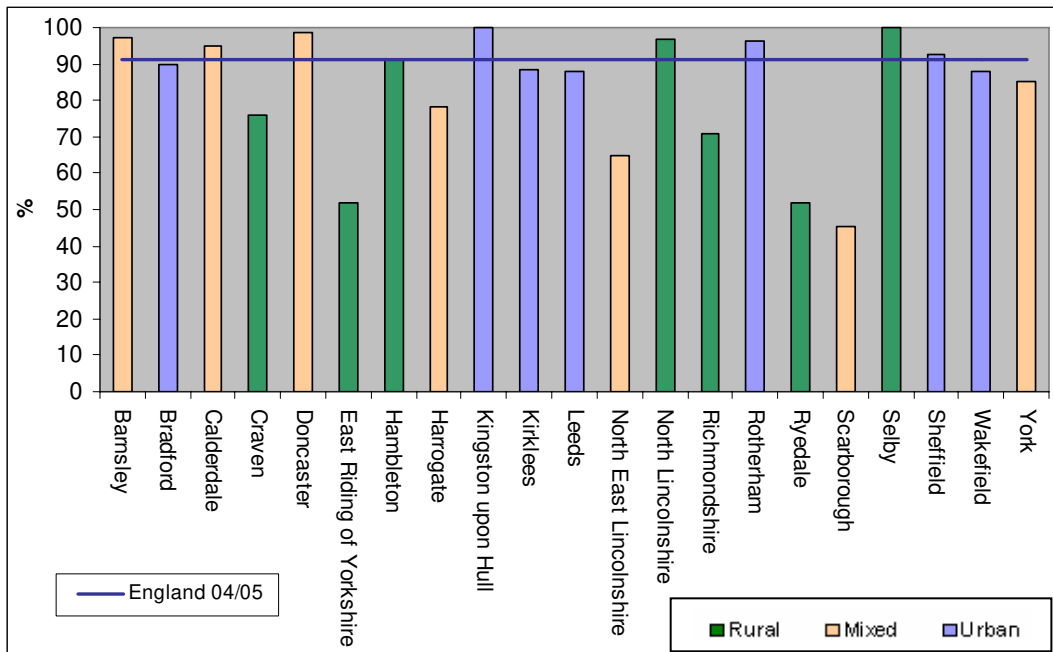
Caveat: Data for the districts in North Yorkshire are not shown on this graph.

²¹ Best Value Performance Indicator 82d, Audit Commission, 2004/05.

5.7.4 *Kerbside recycling*

Some of the rural districts in the region are less well served by kerbside recycling than the urban districts as Figure 5.Q shows.²² Ryedale, Richmondshire, East Riding of Yorkshire and Craven fall well below the average percentage for England (91.2%). East Riding of Yorkshire has the second lowest percentage of residents served by kerbside recycling at 51.7%, just above Scarborough which has only 45.2% of residents served.

Figure 5.Q Percentage of residents served by kerbside recycling 2004/ 05



²² Best Value Performance Indicator 91, Audit Commission, 2004/05.

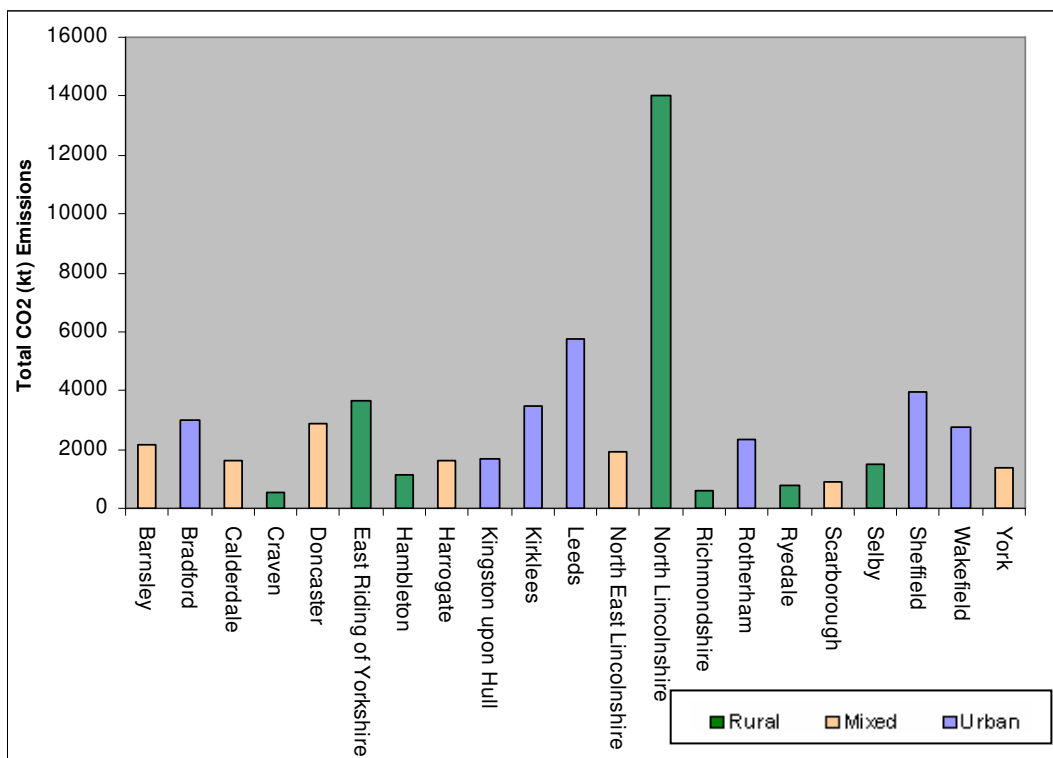
5.8 Climate change

All of the following carbon dioxide emissions data is taken from the Netcen Report of September 2005.²³

5.8.1 *Carbon dioxide emissions*

The graph in Figure 5.R shows the total carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions for each district for 2003. The area with the highest emissions level of 13999.4 kilo tonnes (kt) is the rural district of North Lincolnshire. When the breakdown is analysed it is apparent that the majority of these emissions come from Industry and Commerce, primarily commercial oil and process gases, along with solid fuel industry. A high proportion of output from these industries will be consumed outside of the districts, regionally and nationally. Leeds also has higher emission levels than other districts, the largest proportion of which come from industrial electricity sources. Excluding North Lincolnshire, the rural districts have low total emissions.

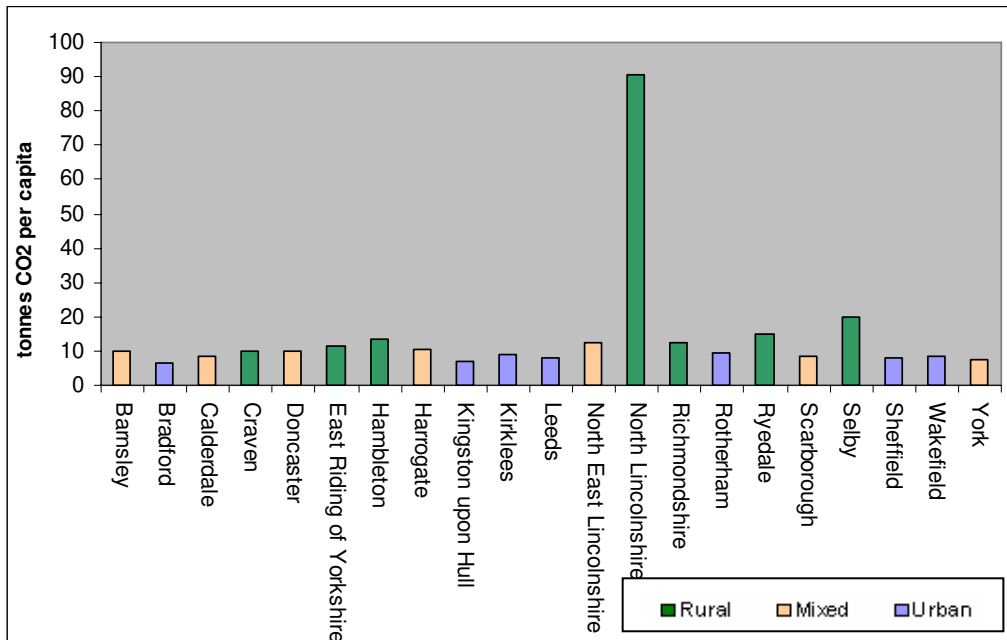
Figure 5.R Estimated total carbon dioxide emissions, 2003



²³ Netcen report, Defra September 2005

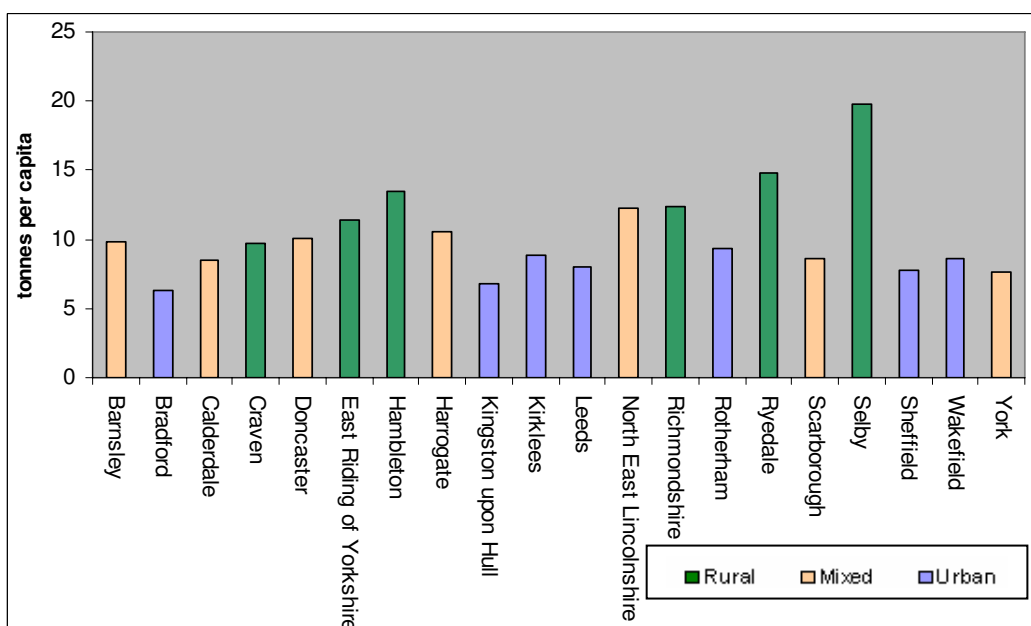
Figure 5.S shows the tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted per capita for each local authority. Again, North Lincolnshire is the highest with 90.3 tonnes of CO₂ per capita. Selby is the second highest district, despite having a low total emissions level (as indicated in Figure 5.R). Selby has a higher emissions rate relative to the population.

Figure 5.S Estimate carbon dioxide emissions per capita, 2003



The following graph (in Figure 5.T) is the same as Figure 5.S (tonnes of CO₂ per capita) but has the district of North Lincolnshire removed in order to look at the remaining districts more closely. Following North Lincolnshire, Selby has the highest tonnes of CO₂ per capita. The more rural districts of Selby, Ryedale, North Lincolnshire, Richmondshire and Hambleton have some of the highest emissions per capita, higher than many of the urban and mixed districts.

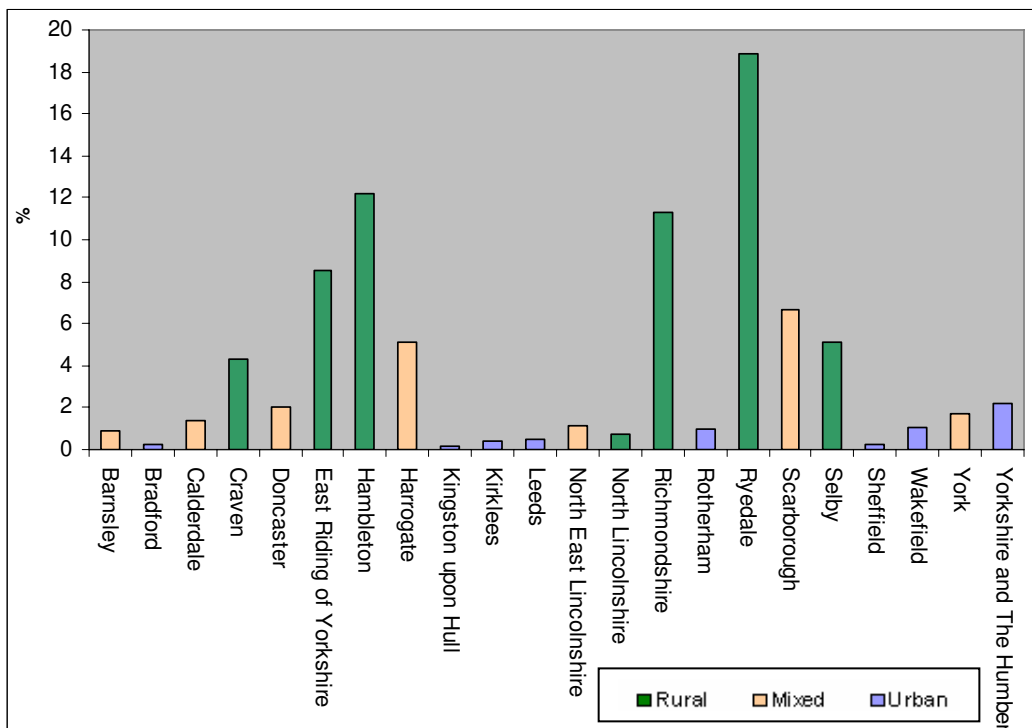
Figure 5.T Estimate carbon dioxide emissions per capita excluding North Lincolnshire, 2003



5.8.2 Sources of carbon dioxide emissions

The following section considers the source of the CO₂ emissions across the region and at district level. The first graph in Figure 5.U looks at the contribution of the land use change to carbon dioxide emissions (a source more common to rural areas). Land use change emissions are calculated by analysing natural carbon dioxide emissions from soils in proportion to the amounts of arable land use.²⁴ In Ryedale, for example, land use change accounts for nearly 20% of total emissions. The other rural districts of Richmondshire, Hambleton and East Riding of Yorkshire also have a relatively large percentage of emissions attributed to land use change compared with the urban and mixed districts of the region.

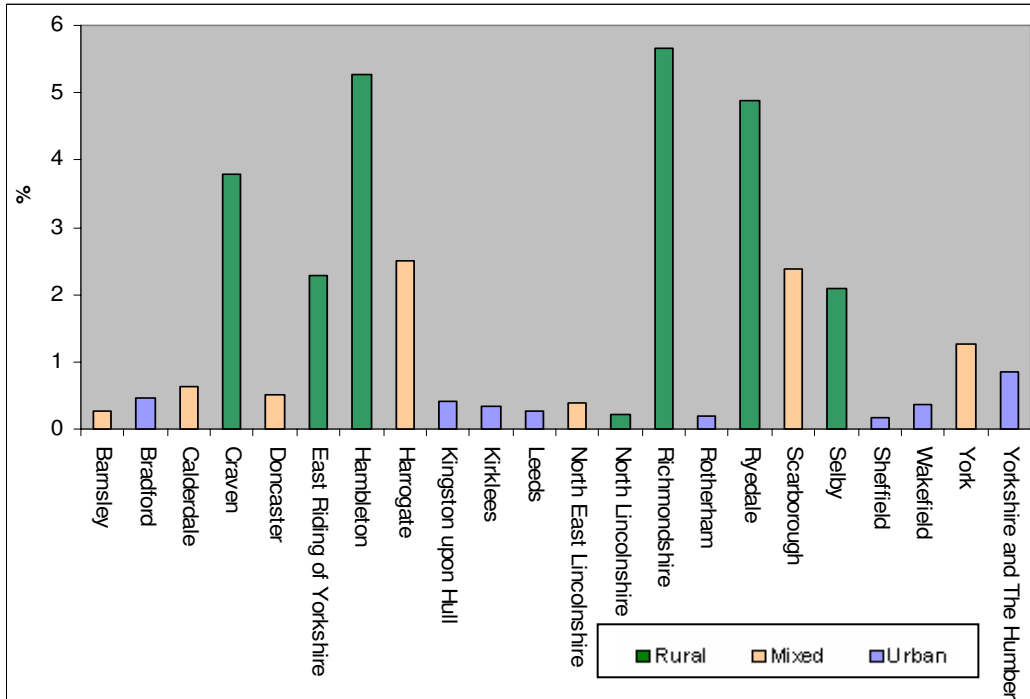
Figure 5.U The percentage of carbon dioxide emissions associated with land use change, 2003



²⁴ Netcen report, Defra September 2005

Domestic oil use is also a relatively high contributor to emissions in rural areas as Figure 5.V displays. The rural districts of Richmondshire and Hambleton have the highest percentages of the region at 5.7% and 5.3% respectively, followed by Craven at 3.8%. This probably reflects the limited availability of mains domestic gas in these areas.

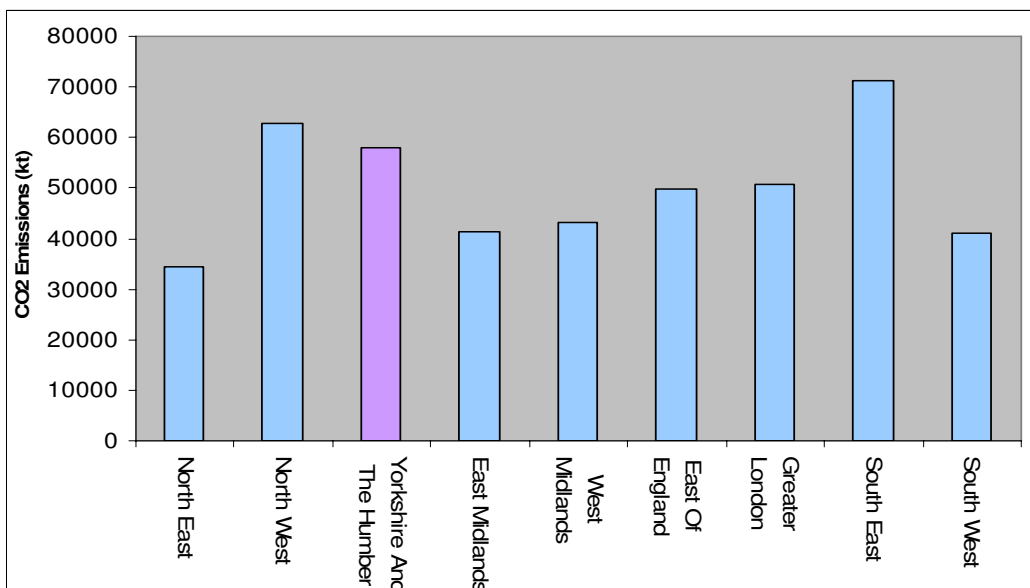
Figure 5.V The percentage of carbon dioxide emissions associated with domestic oil use, 2003



5.8.3 Regional carbon dioxide emissions

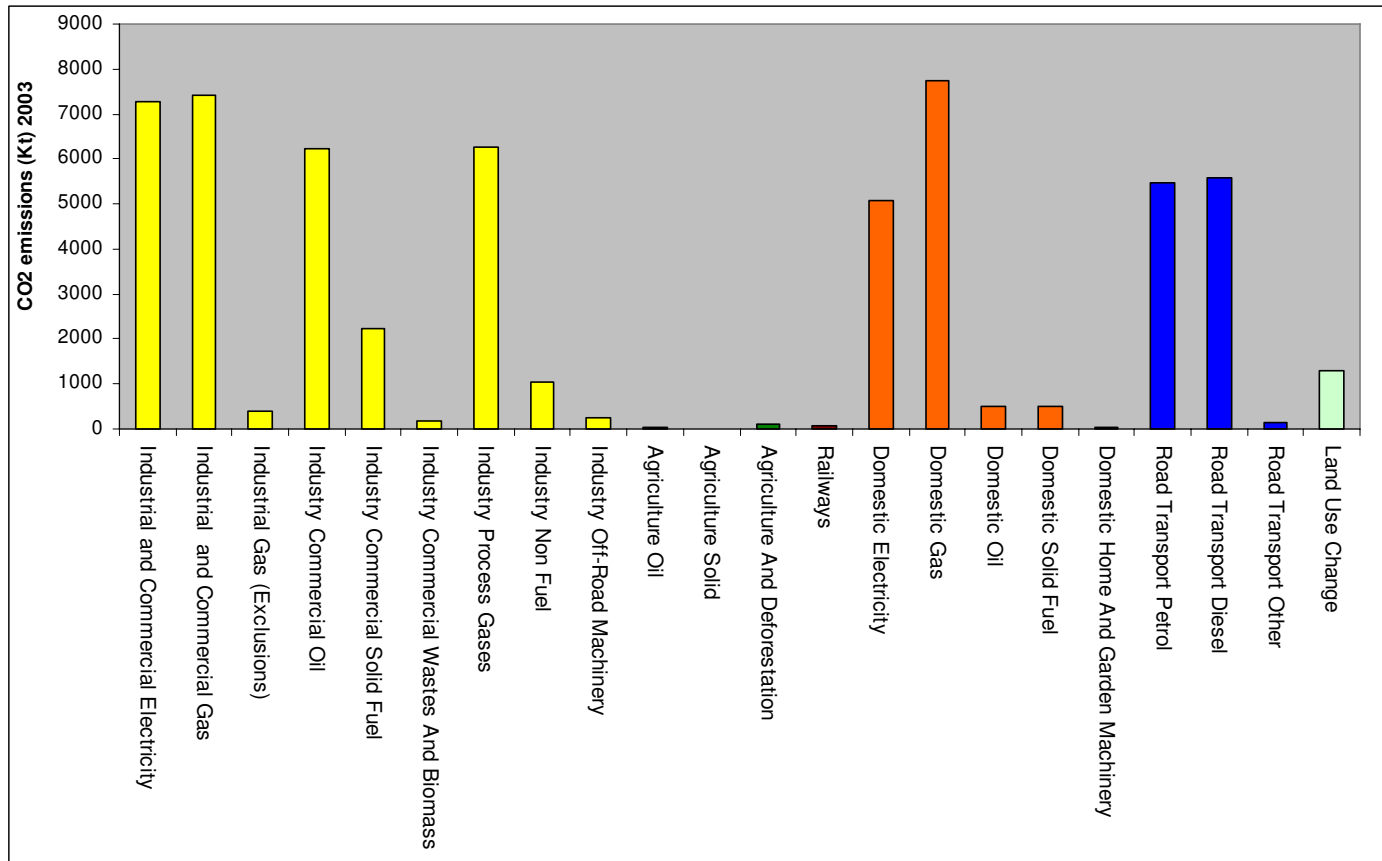
The next sets of graphs consider emission comparisons at a regional level and full sector breakdowns for the rural districts in the region. The first graph in Figure 5.W shows the CO₂ emissions for the Yorkshire and The Humber, in relation to the other Government Office Regions. Yorkshire and The Humber had the third highest emission level in 2003 after the South East and North West.

Figure 5.W Regional carbon dioxide emissions, 2003



The overall carbon dioxide emission levels can be broken down by sectors; this is shown in Figure 5.X. The sector with the largest emissions level is from domestic gas, closely followed by industrial and commercial gas. Domestic and industrial electricity is also a major contributor to the emission levels, along with petrol and diesel road transport.

Figure 5.X Regional carbon dioxide emissions, detailed sector split 2003



5.8.4 *Carbon dioxide emissions sector break down for the rural districts*

The sector breakdown displayed in Figure 5.X above can also be analysed at a district level. The following graphs analyse the percentage share of carbon emissions per sector for the rural districts. The first graph (Figure 5.Y) displays the source of CO₂ emissions in Craven, showing 20.1% of the total emissions in the district are from petrol road transport. The largest proportion of emissions in Hambleton also comes from road transport (but diesel rather than petrol) at 19.8%, as Figure 5.Z shows. East Riding of Yorkshire has a fairly even distribution of CO₂ emissions across industrial fuel use, domestic fuel use and road transport. North Lincolnshire has the opposite pattern with industry process gases making up 42.2% of the total carbon dioxide emissions. Richmondshire similarly has a dominating sector - road transport, which collectively accounts for 43.5% of total CO₂ emissions in the district. The sector with the largest percentage of emissions in Ryedale is land use change at 18.9%. The main sources of emissions in Selby on the other hand, come from industry, with gas, non-fuel and electricity having the largest percentage shares.

Figure 5.Y Craven carbon dioxide emissions (kt), detailed sector split 2003

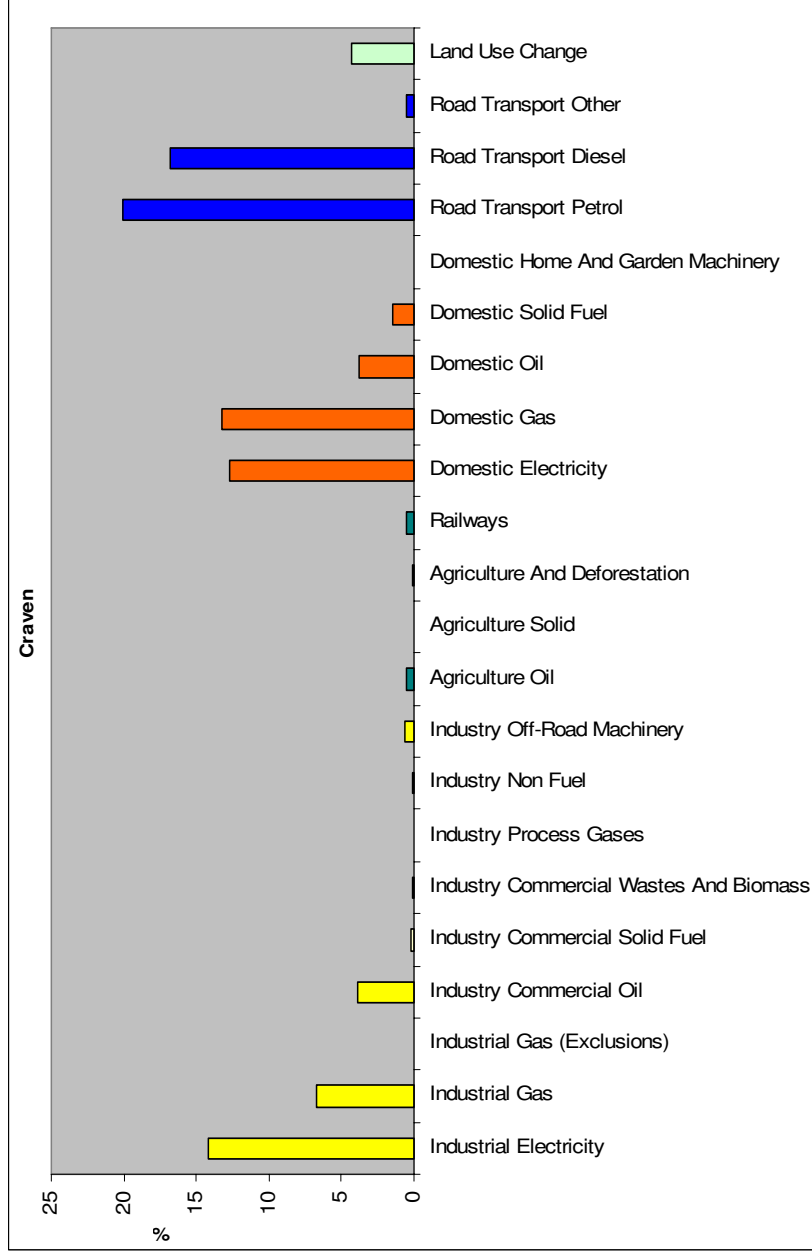


Figure 5.Z Hambleton carbon dioxide emissions (kt), detailed sector split 2003

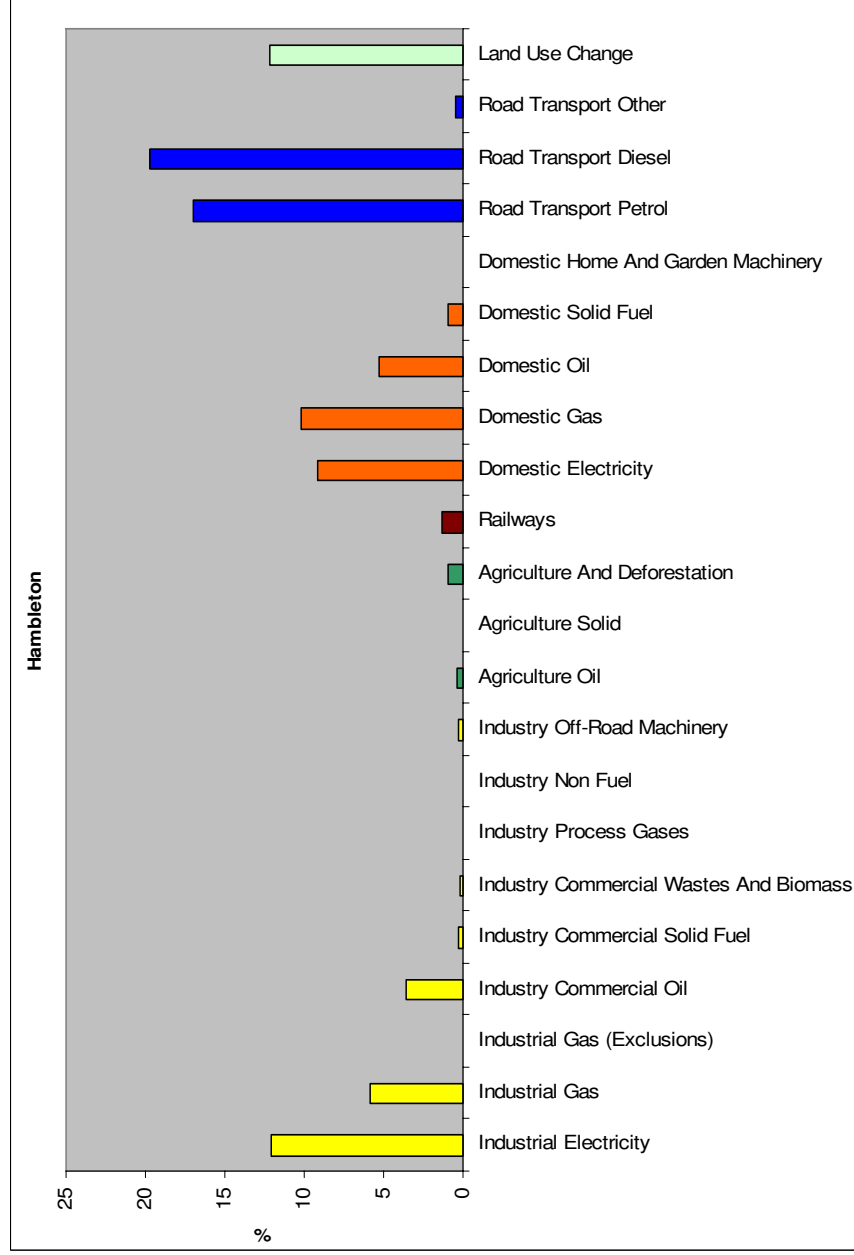


Figure 5.AA East Riding of Yorkshire carbon dioxide emissions (kt), detailed sector split 2003

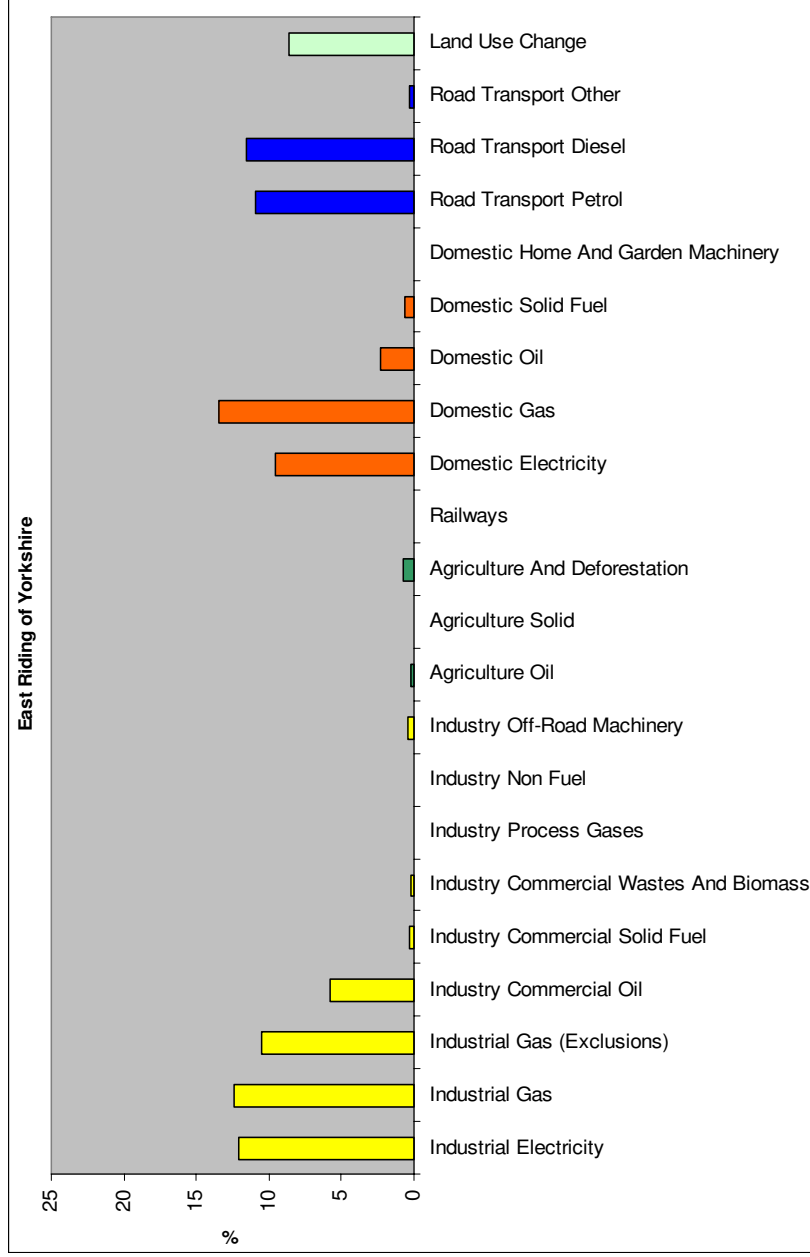


Figure 5.BB North Lincolnshire carbon dioxide emissions (kt), detailed sector split 2003

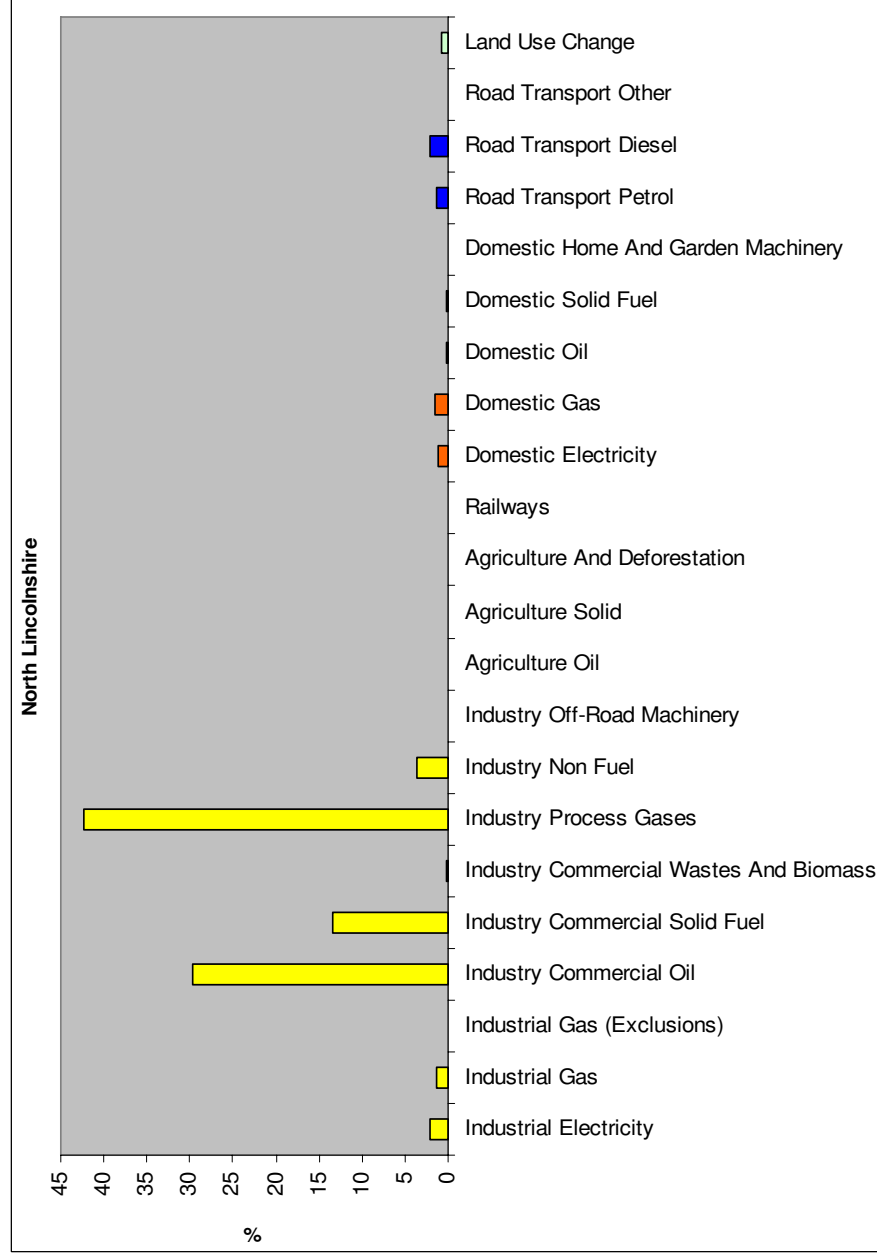


Figure 5.CC Richmondshire carbon dioxide emissions (kt), detailed sector split 2003

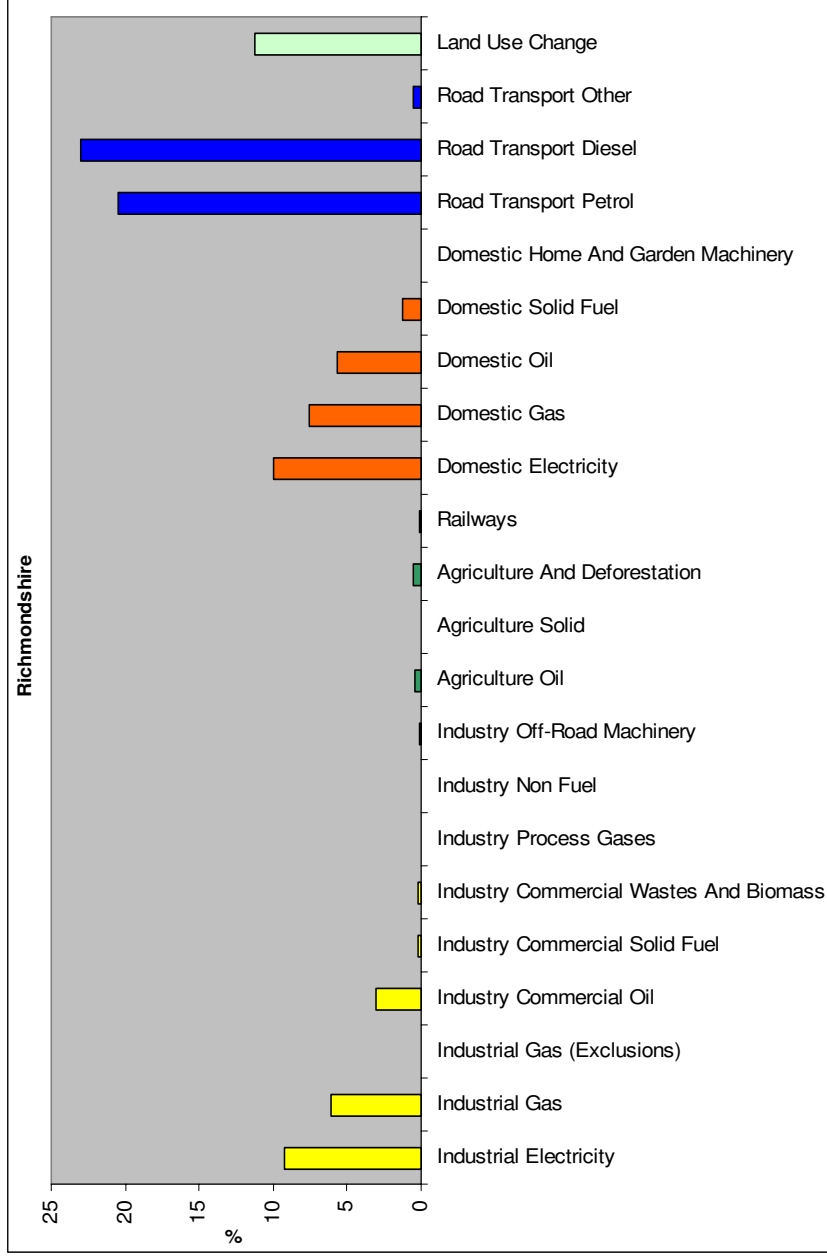


Figure 5.DD Ryedale carbon dioxide emissions (kt), detailed sector split 2003

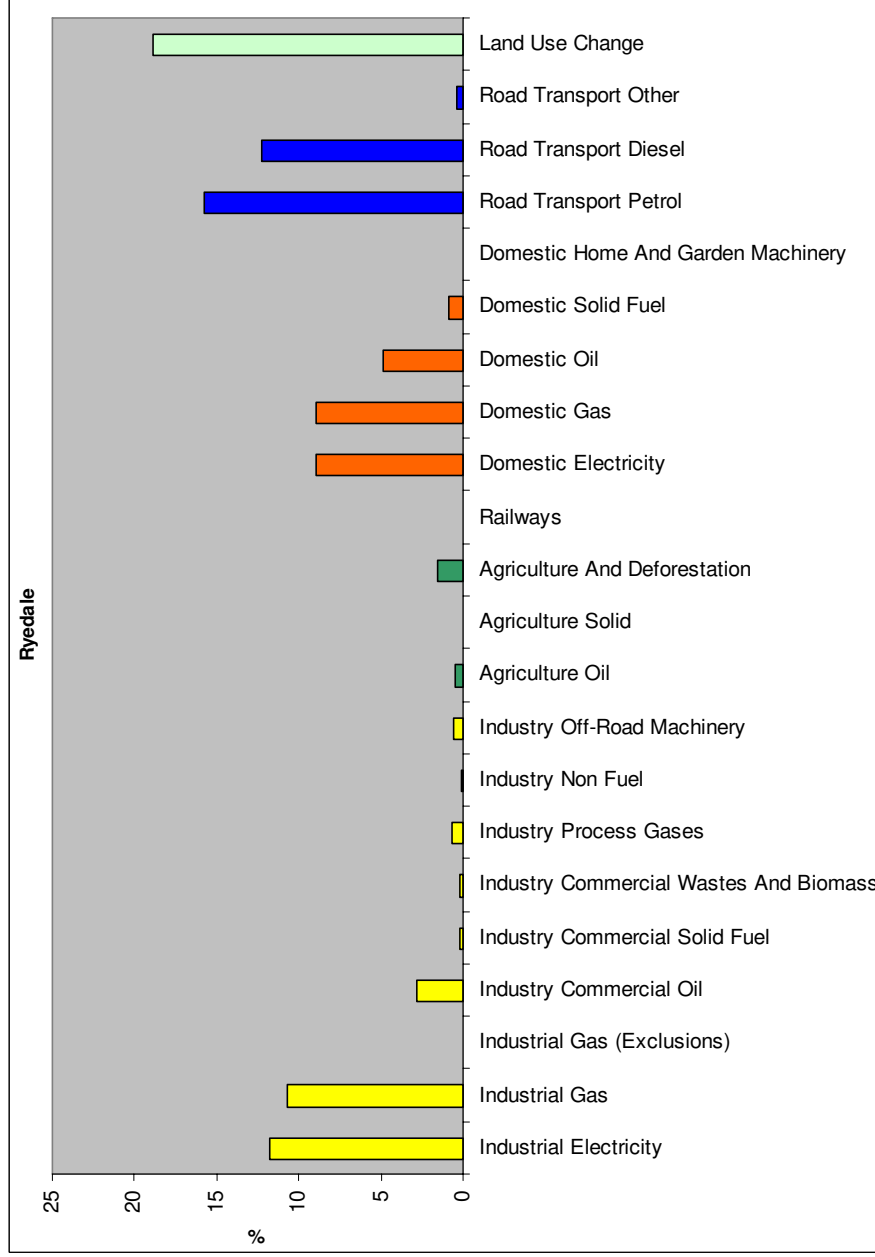
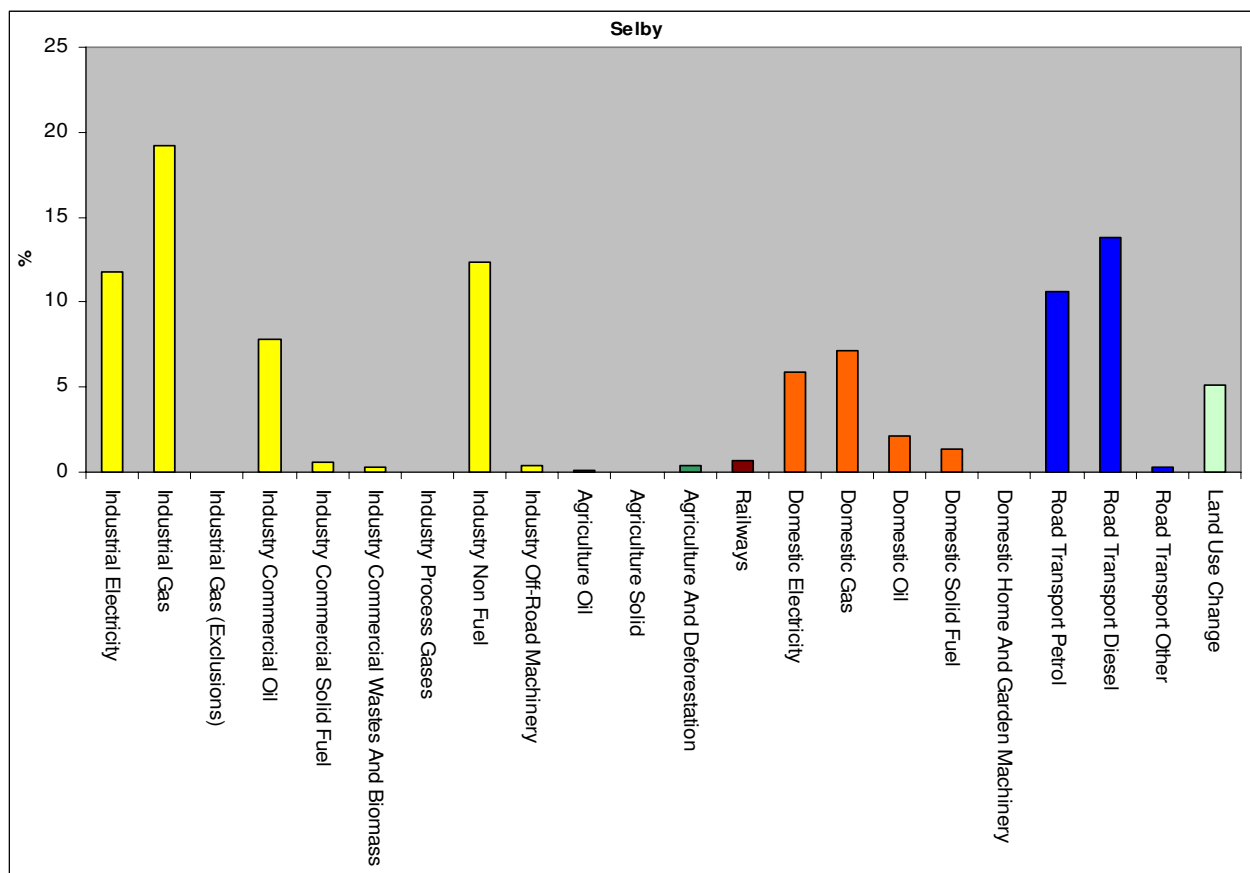


Figure 5.E E Selby carbon dioxide emissions (kt), detailed sector split 2003



5.9 Conclusion

Climate change is a prominent issue that can be partly addressed at regional and local levels. The extent of climate change and its consequences are difficult to fully predict; but there is general consensus that climate change is and will have a major impact on the region's people, environment and economy. Ecological footprint analysis is one way of analysing human impact on the environment and is reported in this document. All of the rural districts in the region (excluding North Lincolnshire) have an ecological footprint larger than the national average. This is an issue that needs to be addressed, particularly because the quality of the environment is such a large economic asset to the region.

It is encouraging to see that 63% of the region's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are now in or recovering to a favourable condition (this is an improvement from last year's figure of 58%). Despite this there is still a long way to go to meet the Defra Public Service Agreement target of 95%.

River water quality (both chemical and biological) has also improved over the past ten years; however this picture is not so positive for groundwater nitrate levels. There are many locations across the region where the recommended level for groundwater nitrate is exceeded.

The amount of waste collected in the region varies across districts. There is no clear distinction between urban and rural areas. Some rural areas have much higher composting rates than urban, although these figures largely depend on the level of service provision from the local authority. The Government has set strict landfill reduction targets and consequently many areas have introduced composting and recycling schemes. Some peripheral and sparse rural areas may not be well served by kerbside recycling which is a potential issue that should be addressed.

The Rural Evidence Base for this year includes more data on carbon dioxide emissions. As highlighted in the report, North Lincolnshire has the highest emissions per capita level followed by Selby and Ryedale. National targets for industry and the increased use of renewable fuels may help to reduce these levels; however a lot of the emissions are attributed to domestic use and road transport. These sources can be addressed at a local level by promoting energy efficiency more environmentally friendly modes of transport.

Overall, despite local environmental quality being higher in rural areas the evidence in this report suggests that there are wider problems to address. The region's rural areas could provide solutions to some of the environmental issues highlighted in the report. For example, rural areas would be the main source for biomass production and could accommodate other renewable energy sources.

6 Education and skills

6.1 Introduction

It is important to ensure that the region has a good pool of appropriately skilled and qualified people for the jobs on offer at present and in the future. This chapter highlights the skills of both young people not yet in the workforce and the adult working and non-working population.

This chapter covers:

- Skills in primary schools
- Education and skills of young people
- Workforce skills and training
- Higher level skills
- Conclusion

6.2 Skills in primary schools

6.2.1 *Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 at key stage 2 in English*

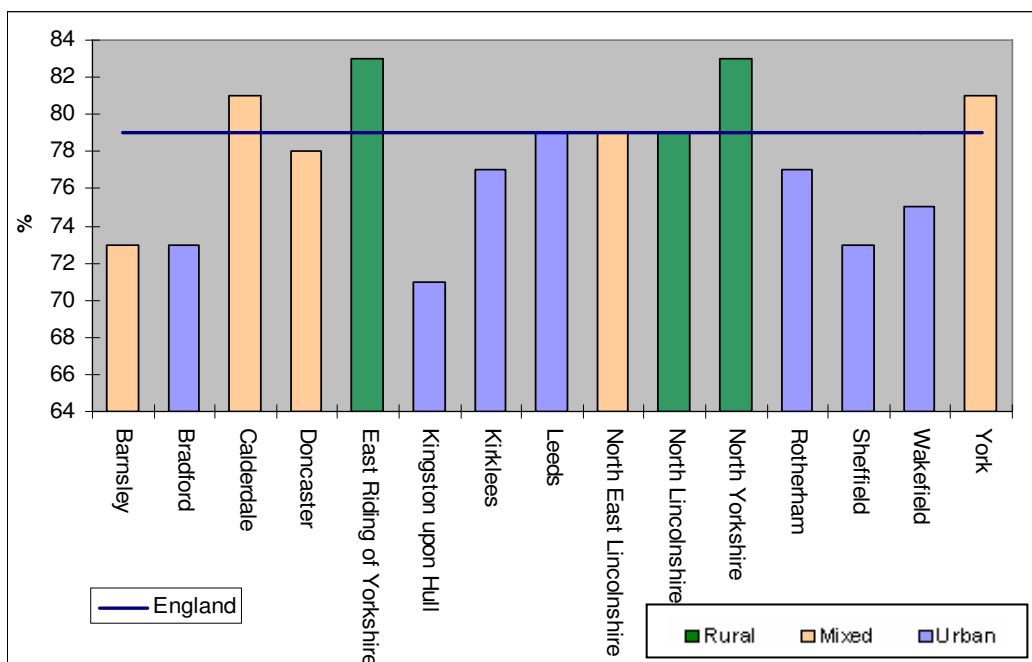
Key stage 2 is a national standard for primary school pupils as set out in the National Curriculum. The National Curriculum details at what age children are expected to attain a certain level of achievement in each subject.

School performance data at key stage 2 for English indicate that pupils in the majority of rural and mixed districts¹ are generally outperforming most of their urban counterparts in the region and also outperforming the national average of 79% of pupils achieving level 4,² as shown in Figure 6.A.

In 2005, Leeds was the only urban district that equalled the England national average (of 79%) with all other urban districts in the region falling below this average. The rural districts of North Yorkshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire both had the highest percentage of pupils attaining level 4, at 83%.

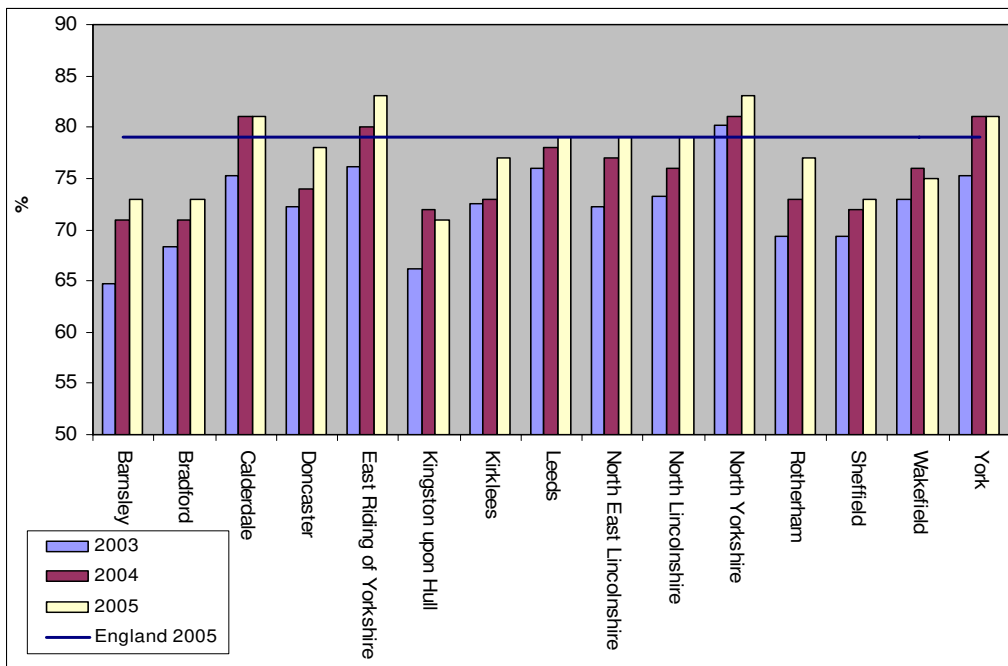
Using the data from previous years of 2003 and 2004, it is possible to analyse change over time. Figure 6.B shows that the majority of districts have seen an increase in the percentage of pupils gaining level 4 in English at key stage 2 over the past three years. The two urban districts of Kingston upon Hull and Wakefield had a slight decline between 2004 and 2005, but retained an overall increase from 2003.

Figure 6.A Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 at key stage 2 in English, 2005



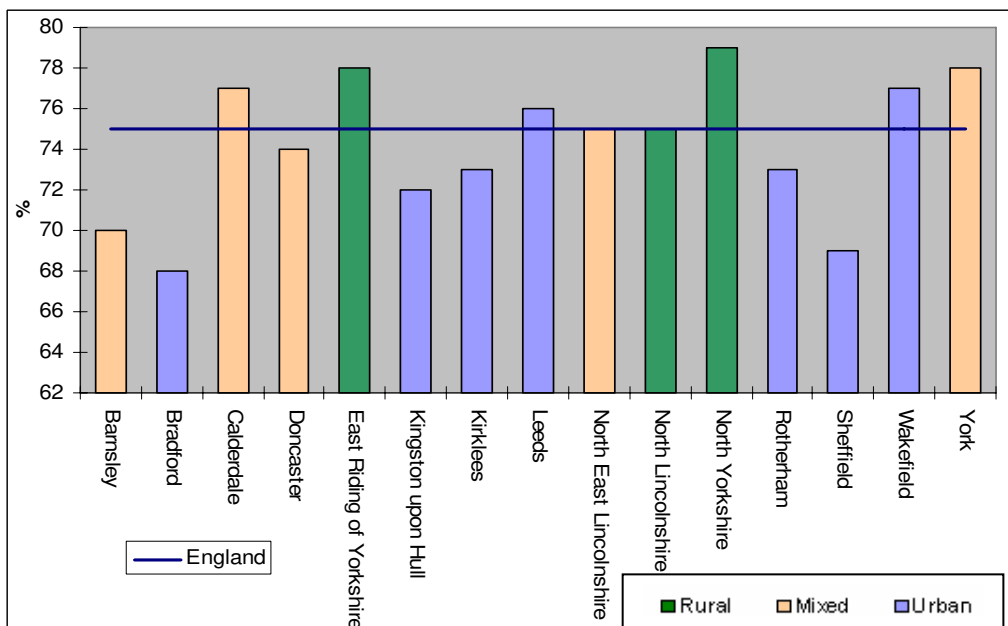
¹ Data for districts in the North Yorkshire sub-region (Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby) is not available. Data for the North Yorkshire sub-region has been used and treated as rural.

² *School Performance Tables*, Department for Education and Skills, 2005.

Figure 6.B Change in percentage of pupils achieving level 4 at key stage 2 in English, 2003-05

6.2.2 *Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 at key stage 2 in Maths*

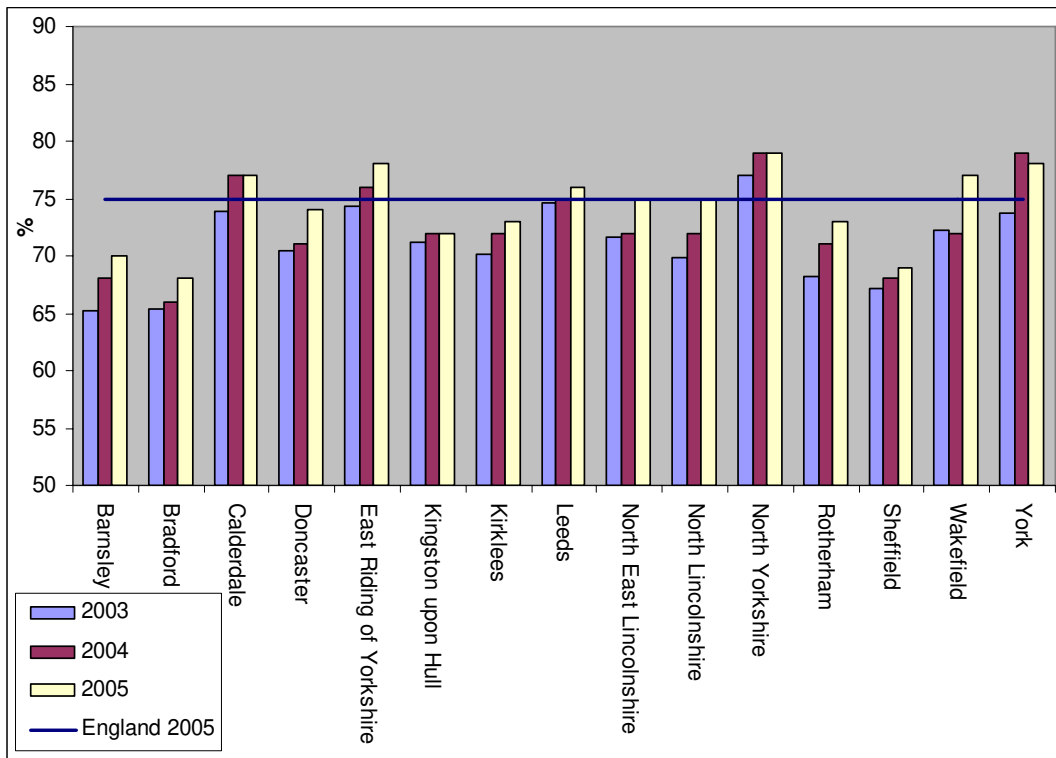
In 2005, the results for key stage 2 in Maths were very similar to those for pupils achieving level 4 in English. The two districts with the highest percentage of pupils achieving a level 4 or above in Maths were North Yorkshire (with 79%) and the East Riding of Yorkshire (with 78%), both of which are above the national average of 75%. Leeds and Wakefield are the only urban districts with pupils performing above the national average, as shown in Figure 6.C.³ Generally, pupils achieved better results in English than in Maths, but in Wakefield pupils performed better in Maths than in English.

Figure 6.C Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 at key stage 2 in Mathematics, 2005

³ See note 2.

Figure 6.D displays pupil achievement data from 2003, 2004 and 2005 for maths. It shows that the majority of districts have seen an increase in the percentage of pupils gaining level 4 in Maths at key stage 2 over the past three years.⁴ The district of York had a slight decline between 2004 and 2005, but retained an overall increase from 2003 and remains above the national average of 75%. All other districts had an increase every year, apart from Calderdale which remained at 77% between 2004 and 2005. Wakefield had the largest increase in percentage from 72% in 2004 to 77% in 2005, taking the district above the national average. The rural region of North Lincolnshire also increased, with percentages of 72% in 2004 and 75% in 2005, reaching the national average in 2005.

Figure 6.D Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 at key stage 2 in Mathematics, 2003-05



⁴ See note 2.

6.3 Education and skills of young people

6.3.1 *Percentage of 16 year olds with 5 or more GCSEs at grade A*-C*

Data for GCSE attainment reflects a similar picture to the key stage 2 information (as shown in Figure 6.E). In 2004/05 three districts, North Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire and York, outperformed the national average of 57.1% of pupils achieving five or more GCSE at grades A*-C or equivalent.⁵

Figure 6.E Percentage of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C, 2004/ 05

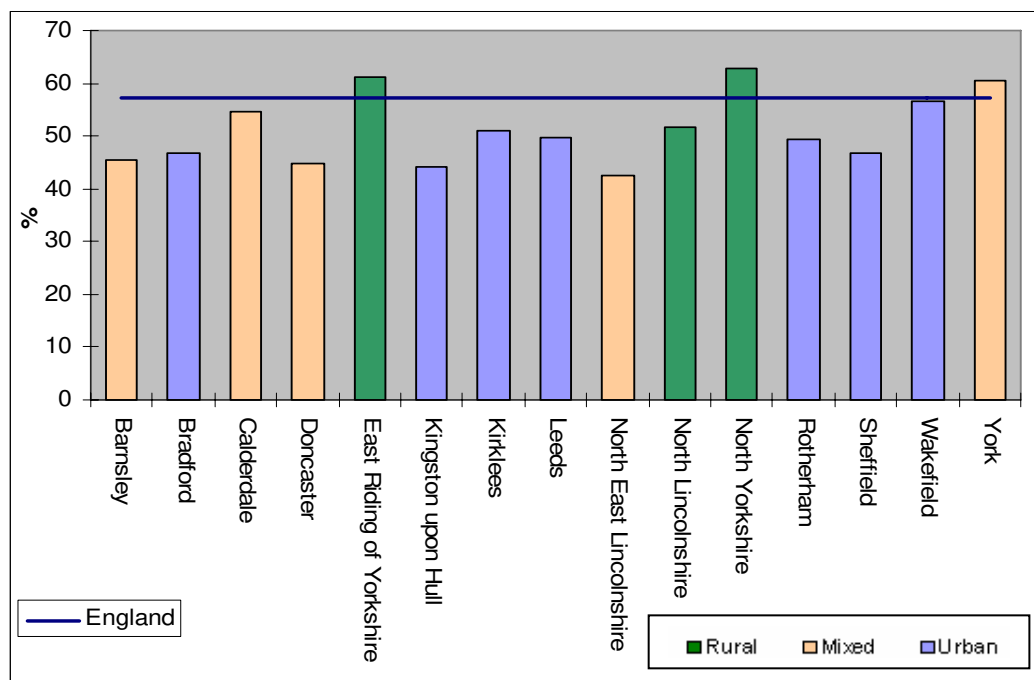


Figure 6.F shows the change in GCSE attainment levels between 2001/02 and 2004/05.⁶ Kirklees, North East Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire all had a decline in percentage of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C between 2001/02 and 2002/03. However, they all had an overall increase between 2001/02 and 2004/05.

The range between the districts with the lowest and highest percentages in 1998/99 was 33.4%, with Kingston upon Hull having the lowest percentage and North Yorkshire the highest. By 2004/05 this range had decreased to 20.2%, indicating that the gap between the best and worst performing districts is narrowing.

⁵ *School Performance Tables*, Department for Education and Skills, 2005.

⁶ See note 5.

In 2004/05 North East Lincolnshire had the lowest percentage of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C at 42.6%; North Yorkshire had the highest at 62.8%. These statistics and the change in ranking of districts are shown in Table 6.A. The general structure of district performance has remained unchanged with the bottom and top six performers the same in 2004/05 as they were in 1998/99.

Figure 6.F Percentage of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C, 2001/ 02 - 2004/ 05

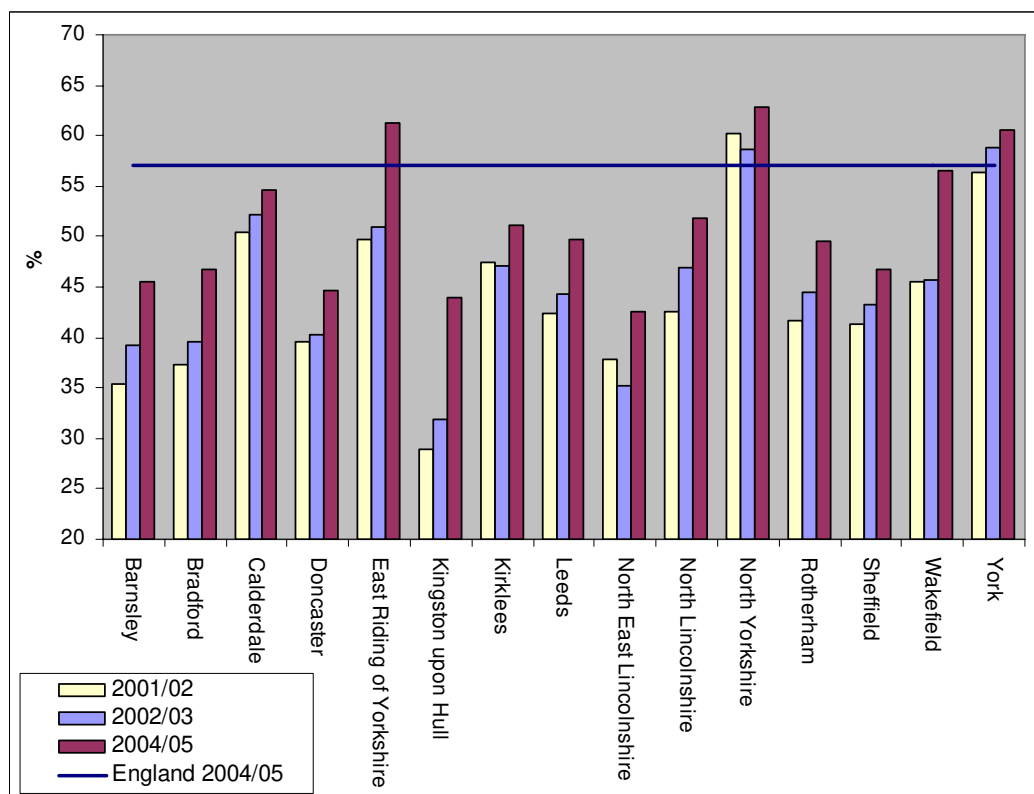


Table 6.A Percentage of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C, 1998/ 99 and 2004/ 05

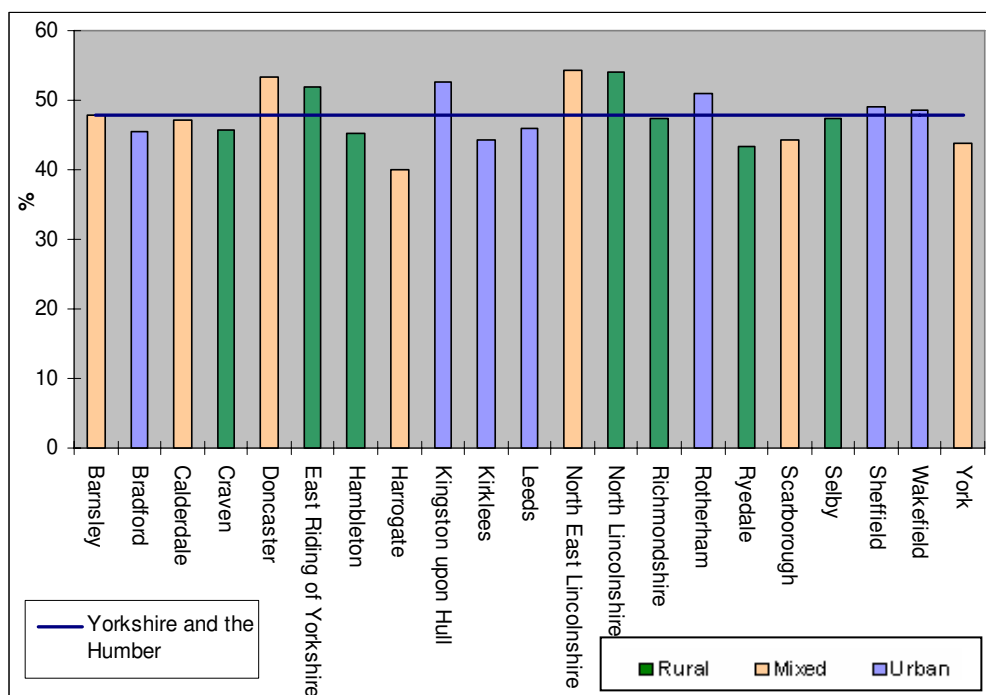
Local Authority	1998/99	Local Authority	2004/05
Kingston upon Hull	23.4	North East Lincolnshire	42.6
Bradford	32.1	Kingston upon Hull	44.0
Barnsley	32.4	Doncaster	44.7
North East Lincolnshire	35.5	Barnsley	45.6
Doncaster	36.2	Bradford	46.8
Sheffield	37.6	Sheffield	46.8
Leeds	39.4	Rotherham	49.5
Rotherham	40.4	Leeds	49.7
Kirklees	41.3	Kirklees	51.1
North Lincolnshire	41.6	North Lincolnshire	51.8
Wakefield	41.7	Calderdale	54.7
Calderdale	41.9	Wakefield	56.5
East Riding of Yorkshire	48.7	York	60.6
York	51.5	East Riding of Yorkshire	61.2
North Yorkshire	56.8	North Yorkshire	62.8
Range (top minus bottom percentage)	33.4		20.2

6.4 Workforce skills and training

6.4.1 *Percentage of economically active adults qualified up to NVQ level 1, 2 or 3*

Figure 6.G shows the percentage of economically active adults qualified to NVQ (National Vocation Qualification) level 1, 2 or 3 only in 2003/04.⁷ There is a mixed picture of performance from the rural urban and mixed districts in the region as the graph displays. The top performing districts are North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Doncaster and Kingston upon Hull, achieving 54.3%, 54.0%, 53.2% and 52.6% respectively, which is above the regional average of 47.9%. The figures are lowest for Harrogate (39.9%), Ryedale (43.3%) and York (43.8%). This is due to a larger percentage of people in these districts having a qualification above NVQ level 3 as shown in Figure 6.H.

Figure 6.G Percentage of economically active adults qualified to NVQ level 1, 2 or 3 only, 2003/ 04



6.4.2 *Percentage of economically active adults qualified to NVQ level 4 or 5*

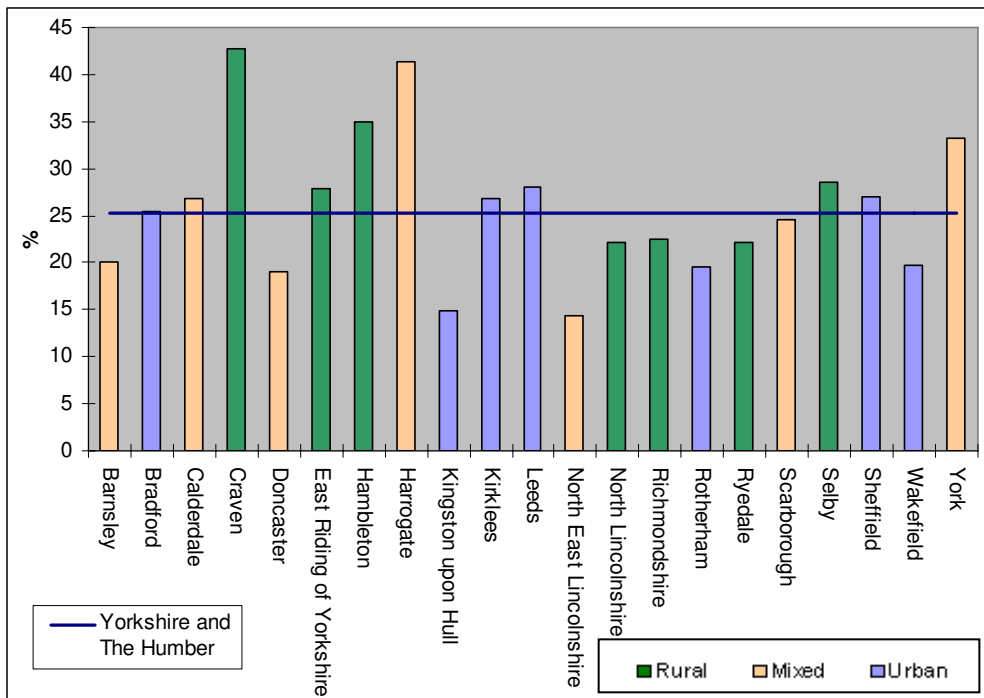
Data on higher level skills show that Craven (42.8%), Harrogate (41.4%), Hambleton (34.9%) and York (33.2%), all of which are either rural or mixed, have the highest proportions of economically active adults qualified to NVQ 4 or 5, which is above the regional average of 25.3%.⁸ There is a large difference between the districts with the highest and lowest proportion of NVQ 4 or 5 achievers, as shown in Figure 6.H. The data have a range of 28.5% which is the difference between Craven with the highest percentage and North East Lincolnshire with the lowest. Other low percentages occur in Kingston upon Hull (14.9%) and Doncaster (19.1%). The districts with low percentages were the top performers for qualification at NVQ level 1, 2 and 3 only in 2003/04, indicating that a large proportion of the workforce have lower skill levels in these districts. This pattern continues in the graph in Figure 6.I which shows the same districts with higher percentages of people with no qualifications.

⁷ Office of National Statistics (ONS), Nomis, 2006

⁸ Office of National Statistics (ONS), Nomis, 2006

As Defra's report on rural productivity states, the quantity and quality of skilled labour available in the economy are important determinants of economic performance and productivity growth.⁹ It mentions the relationship between the type of industry in the area and skill level; and how the skill level of a workforce can have an effect on ability to generate new ideas and adapt to change. With the majority of the rural districts performing well in the education level statistics, economic performance and productivity growth may benefit. This theory is consistent with the findings of the Economy chapter. Higher skill levels may also influence the location and success of businesses and as the V.A.T registration analysis in the Economy chapter showed, rural areas have a higher number of registrations per 10,000 of the population than many urban and mixed areas.

Figure 6.H Percentage of economically active adults qualified to NVQ level 4 or 5, 2003/ 04



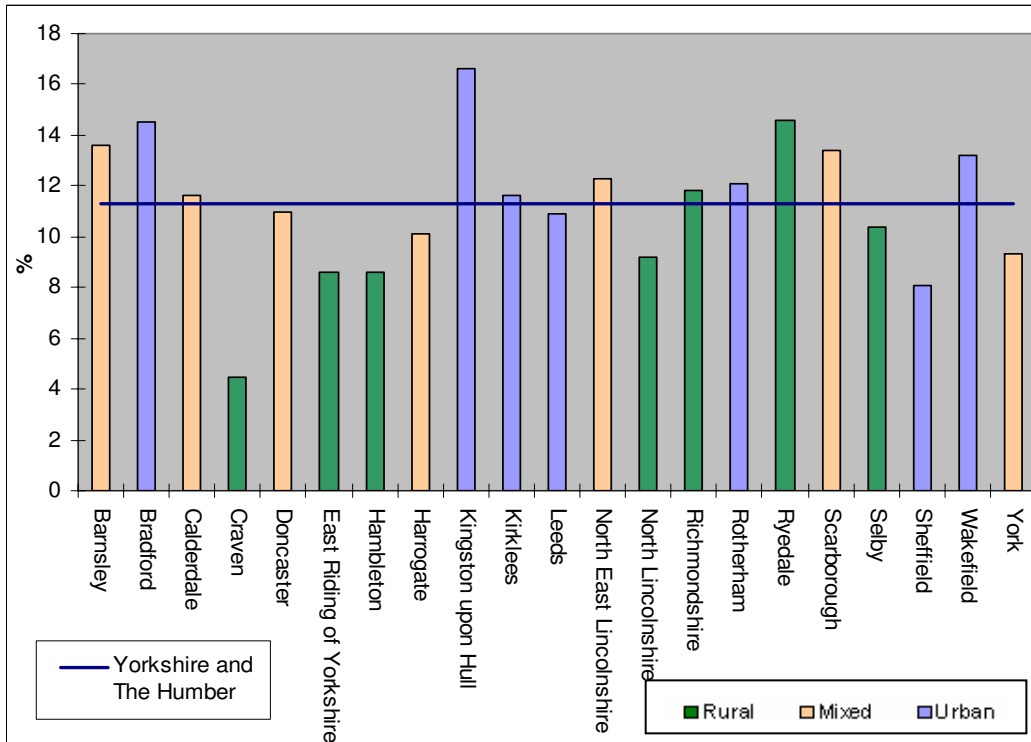
Higher NVQ levels in some rural and mixed areas can be explained by the number of skilled people relocating to rural or mixed parts of the region and commuting into the region's urban centres to work.

⁹ Defra Rural Economics Unit, *Productivity in Rural England*, November 2005

6.4.3 Percentage of people aged 16-74 without qualifications

Data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) show that the districts with the highest percentages of unqualified people are urban or mixed.¹⁰ Interestingly, Ryedale and Richmondshire also have a high proportion of economically active people without any qualification at 14.6% and 11.8% respectively; this is above the regional average of 11.3%. Craven had the lowest percentage of the economically active people without qualifications in 2003/04.

Figure 6.I Percentage of economically active without qualifications, 2003/ 04

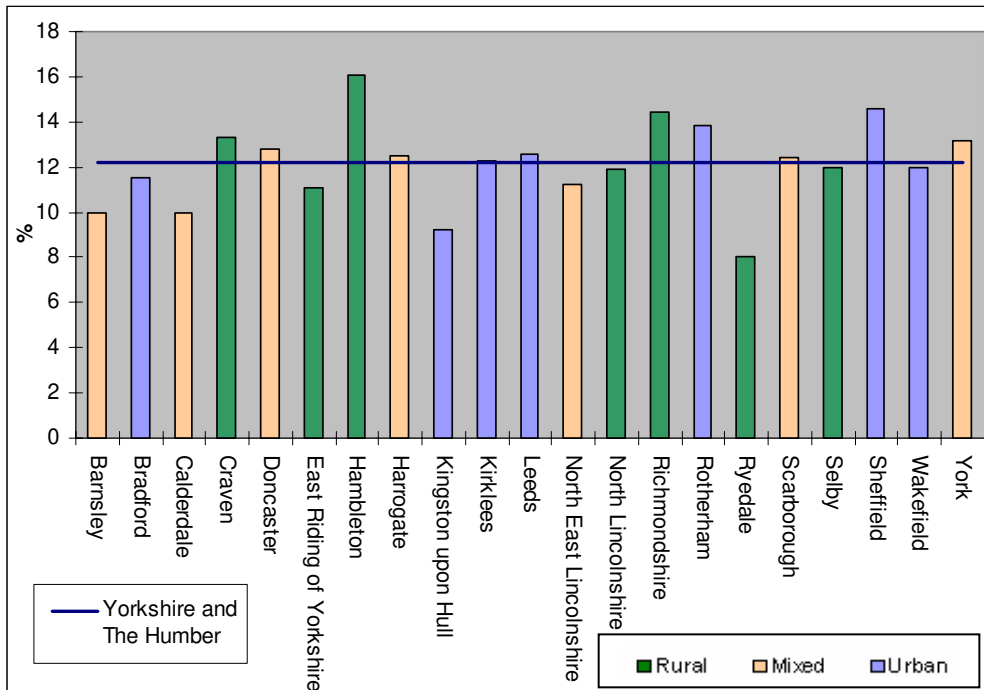


¹⁰ Local Area Labour Force Survey, Office of National Statistics (ONS), Nomis, 2006

6.4.4 *Percentage of the working-age population receiving job-related training in the last four weeks*

The percentage of the working-age population receiving job-related training is quite varied across the districts. Figure 6.J shows that Hambleton has the highest percentage of working-age people who have received training in last four weeks in 2003/04 at 16.1%.¹¹ The rural district of Ryedale has the lowest percentage with only 8.0% of its working-age population in job related training, which is below the regional average of 12.2%.

Figure 6.J Percentage of the working-age population receiving job-related training in the last four weeks, 2003/ 04



6.5 Conclusion

At the school level rural districts have some of the highest percentages of pupils gaining level 4 in Mathematics and English. In East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire attainment levels are above the national average. This pattern continues through to GCSE level, where again rural districts have higher than national average percentages of pupils gaining five or more A*-C grades.

Between 1998/99 and 2004/05 there has been little change in the regional pattern of educational attainment. The districts with the highest achievement levels (which include all of the rural districts) have remained at the top of the table for A*-C GCSE percentages and those at the bottom have remained there. There has however been a general increase in percentages of pupils gaining five or more A*-C GCSEs across all districts and the gap between the highest and lowest percentages has decreased.

At NVQ level some rural districts have a lower percentage of adults qualified to NVQ 1, 2 or 3 only, but have a higher percentage with higher level qualifications (NVQ 4 and 5 or above). Generally, the rural districts also have a lower percentage of economically active adults without qualifications, with the exception of Ryedale

¹¹ Local Area Labour Force Survey, Office of National Statistics (ONS), Nomis, 2006

which has a percentage above the regional average. Ryedale also has slightly lower percentage figures for adults qualified to NVQ 1, 2 or 3 and NVQ level 4 or 5+.

Overall, the rural areas appear to have a higher level of educational and skill attainment than the urban and mixed areas. This finding is echoed in the Commission for Rural Community's (CRC) 2006 State of the Countryside report which found that rural communities have consistently outperformed their urban counterparts in educational attainment. Nationally the CRC note that some rural areas have specific problems with educational under performance, especially parts of East of England and East Midlands. However, neither the CRC nor this report has found significant evidence of educational underperformance in this region's rural areas. Rural areas are performing well against regional and national averages and it is therefore difficult to make a case for further research. It is important to monitor education and skill levels but this chapter indicates that historically and at present, the majority of rural areas outperform the urban and mixed areas of the region. If required The National Employers Skills Survey could be source of information for monitoring and more detailed research into this area.

7 Quality of life

7.1 Introduction

This chapter considers some of the key indicators¹ of quality of life from a rural perspective. It presents the evidence to provide an understanding of the quality of life in rural areas and highlights areas for improvement or further analysis.

This chapter covers:

- Income
- Health
- Culture
- Crime
- Access to services
- Social exclusion

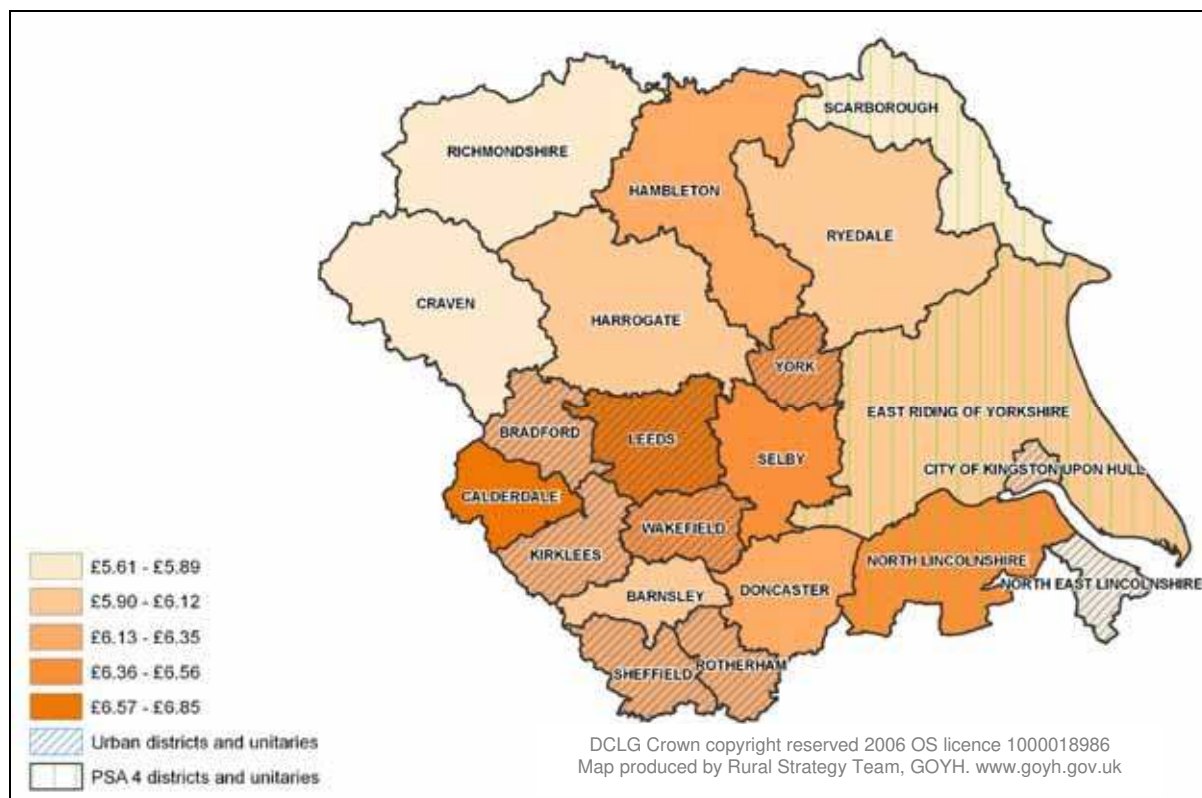
¹ Indicators as defined in Advancing Together High Level Indicators, Yorkshire and Humber Assembly, www.rayh.gov.uk.

7.2 Income

7.2.1 *Lower quartile pay*

Figure 7.A shows the lower quartile workplace-based hourly wage.² This dataset gives an indication of the wage rate for the lowest paid workers in each district. The lowest wage rates are found in the rural districts of Craven, Richmondshire and Scarborough, where 25% of workers earn under £5.89 per hour. This rate is just above the national minimum wage of £5.05 per hour. The English median hourly wage is £9.34 per hour. As discussed in the economy chapter, this suggests a significant low productivity sector in the economy of these rural areas.

Figure 7.A Lower quartile pay, 2005

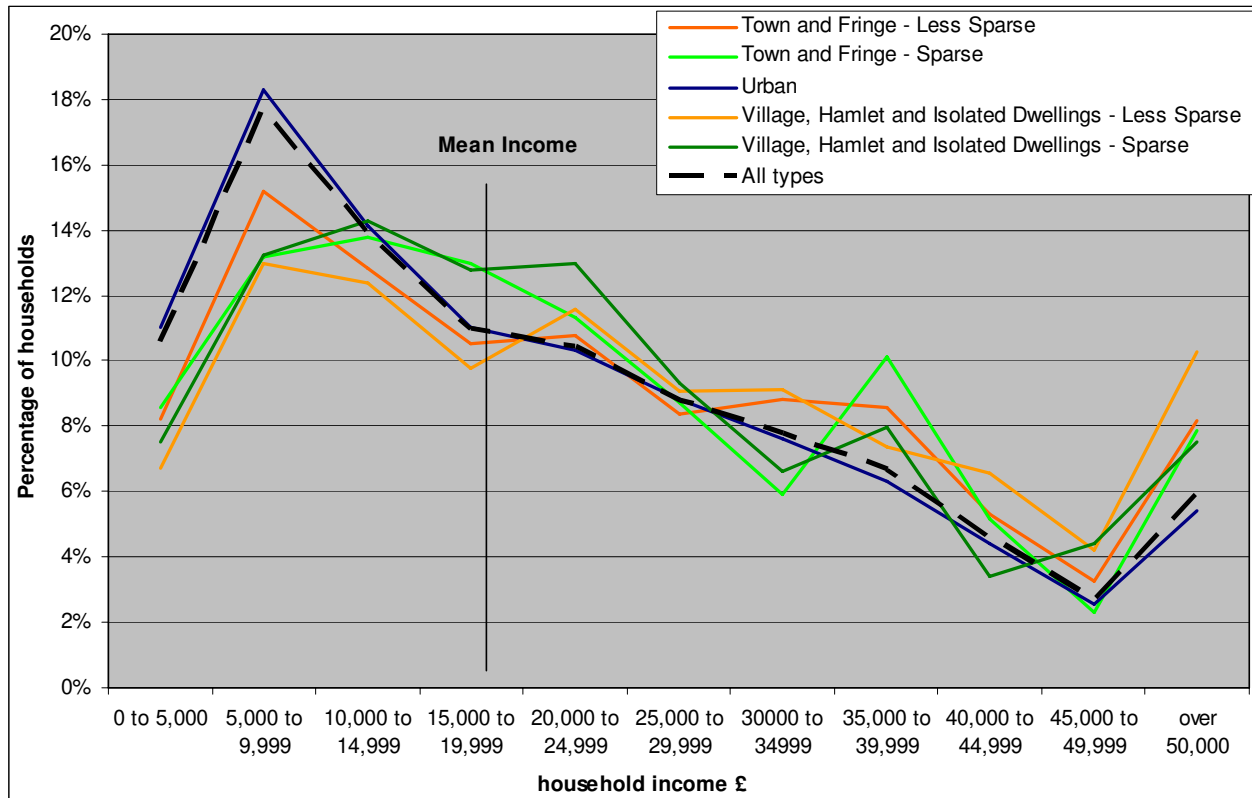


² Office for National Statistics (2006) *Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2005*.

7.2.2 *Annual mean household income*

The following section analyses household incomes across the region. The first graph in Figure 7.B shows how the income level varies across the rural and urban areas.³ The rural villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings have a smaller percentage of households with incomes below the mean than the urban areas. Also, the percentage of households with incomes greater than the mean and at the top end of the income scale is consistently larger in the rural areas than urban.

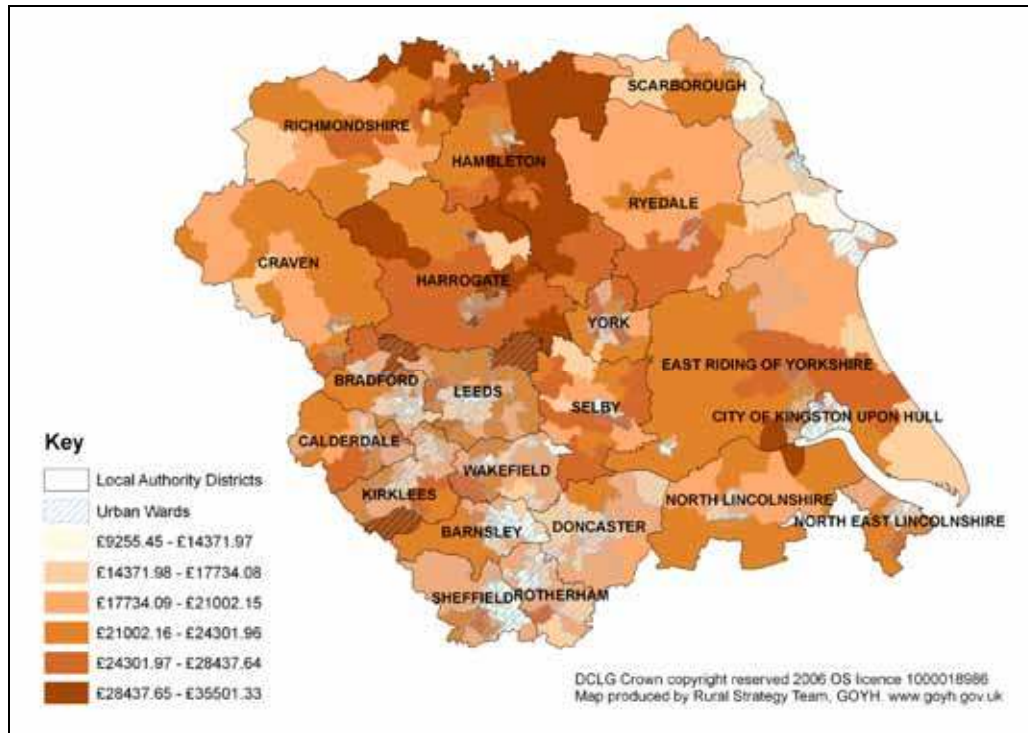
Figure 7.B Income distribution by rural and urban definition, 2004



³ Acxiom National Lifestyle database 2006

The following map in Figure 7.C presents a spatial analysis of median household incomes.⁴ Some of the lowest median incomes occur in the urban areas of South and West Yorkshire. However, there are particular areas along the East coast and some of the inland rural districts that also have lower median incomes. Areas of Harrogate, Hambleton and parts of Richmondshire have some of the highest median incomes.

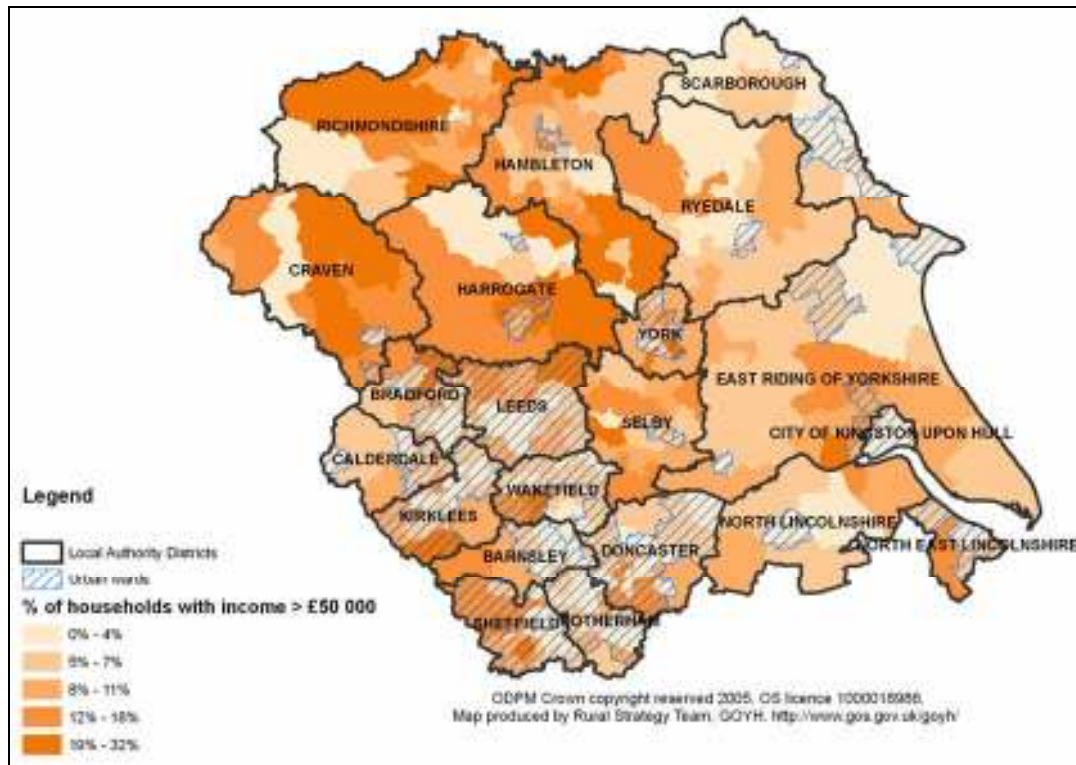
Figure 7.C Median household income, 2005



⁴ Axiom National Lifestyle database 2006

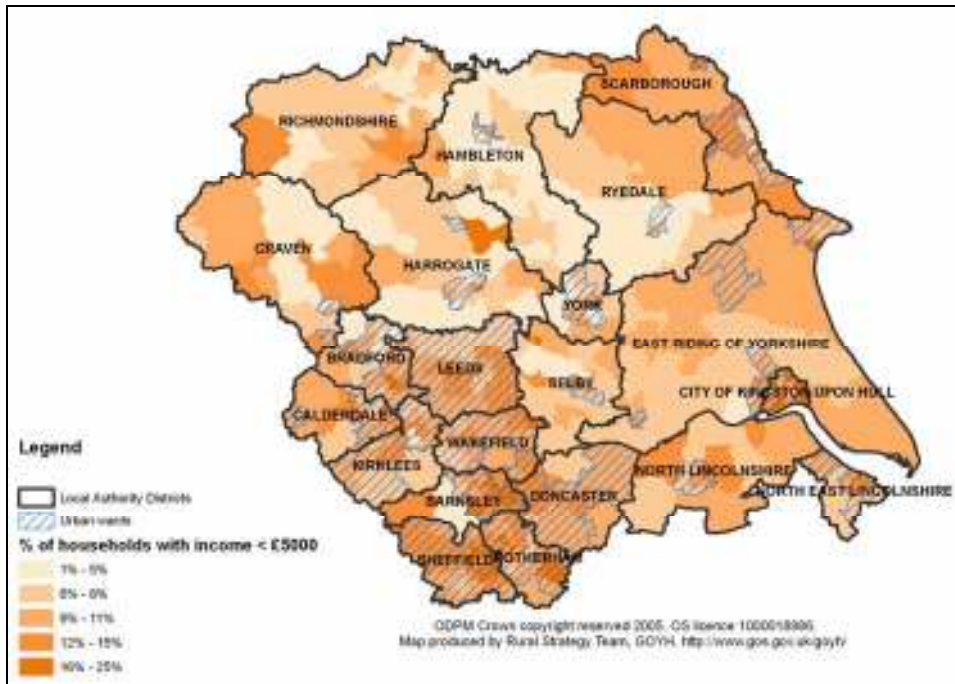
As well as looking at median and mean incomes it is interesting to consider the location of households with some of the highest and lowest incomes. The map in Figure 7.D and Figure 7.E show the percentage of households with incomes greater than £50,000 per year and less than £5,000 per year respectively.⁵ Many of the areas with the largest percentages of households with incomes over £50,000 per year are located in the rural districts of Richmondshire, Craven, Hambleton and Harrogate. There are other high percentages spread throughout the region, particularly the York and Leeds areas. The map of household incomes under £5,000 shows an opposite picture, with the highest percentages of low income households concentrated in the urban centres and peripheral areas.

Figure 7.D Percentage of households with incomes of greater than £ 50,000 per year, 2005



⁵ Acxiom National Lifestyle database 2006

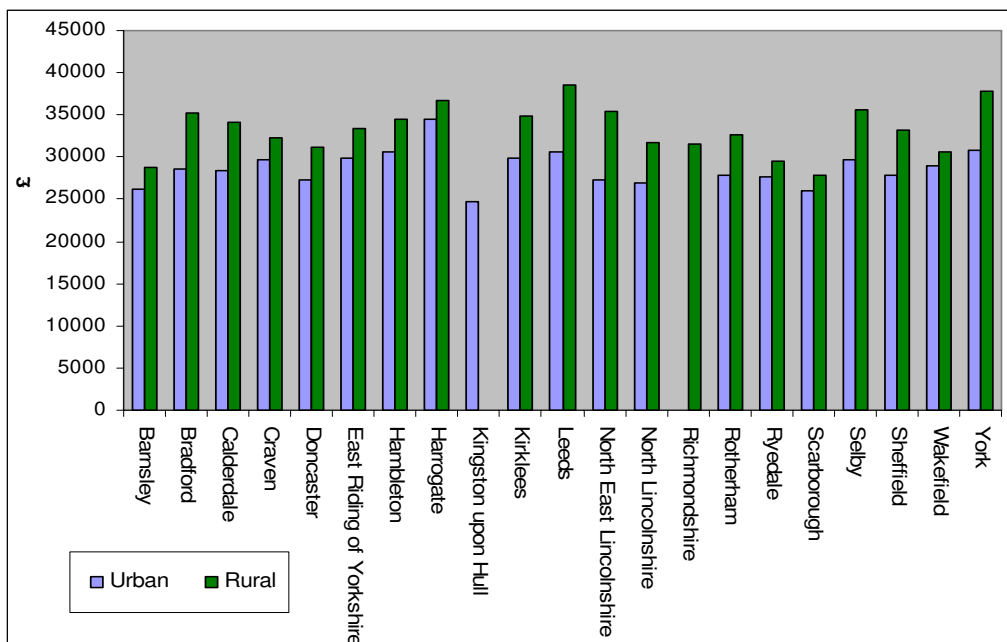
Figure 7.E Percentage of households with incomes of less than £ 5,000 per year, 2005



District level rural and urban area household incomes

Figure 7.F displays the annual mean household income for all urban and rural areas (as defined in the new rural urban definition, see chapter 1) in the region.⁶ In all cases, the rural areas have higher mean annual incomes than the urban areas. Rural Leeds has the highest mean annual income at £38,574 per year, closely followed by the rural areas of York at £37,841 per year. Rural Scarborough has the lowest mean annual income of all the rural areas at £27,836 per year however; this is still higher than eight of the remaining districts' urban areas.

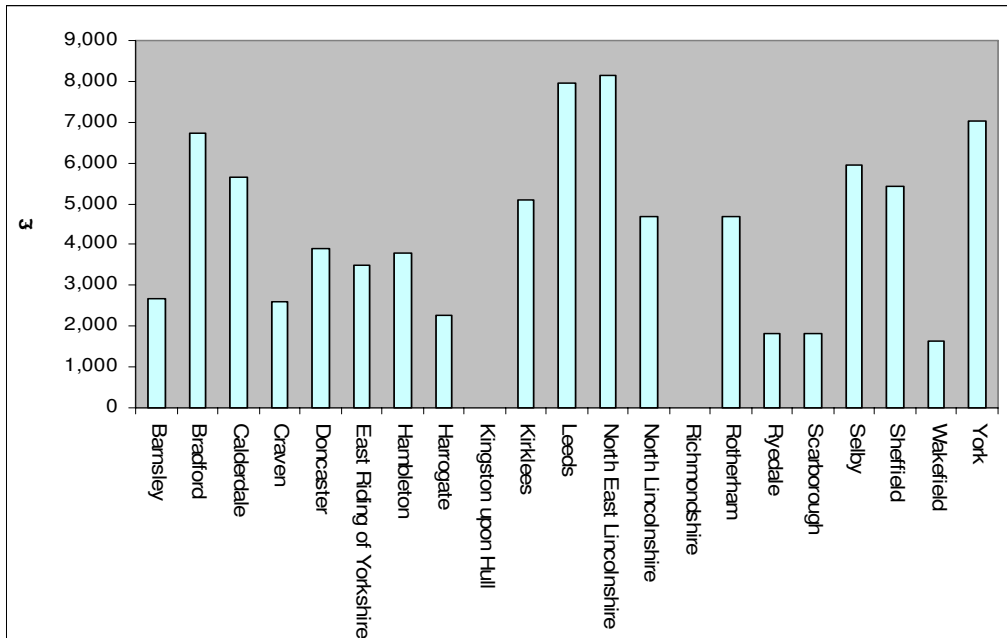
Figure 7.F Annual mean household income (rural and urban), 2005



⁶ Data produced by Defra Rural Statistics Unit, CACI Survey of Household Incomes.

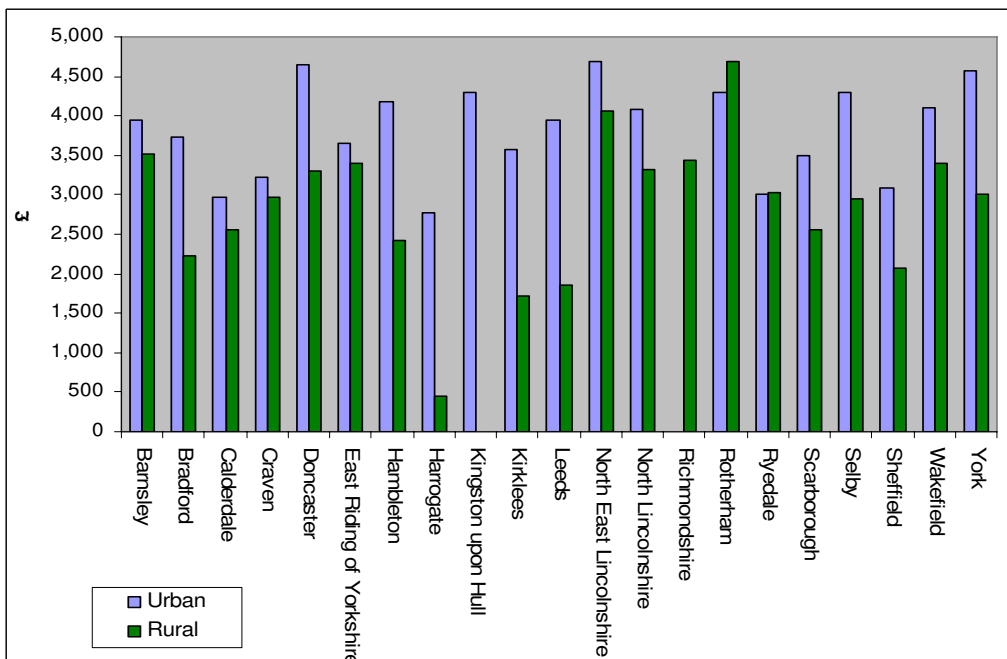
Figure 7.G shows the difference in household income between the urban and rural areas of each district.⁷ North East Lincolnshire has the largest difference, where annual mean rural incomes are £8,158 higher than they are in urban areas. This is closely followed by Leeds and York. Wakefield has the smallest difference of £1,636.

Figure 7.G Difference between rural and urban annual mean household income, 2005



Between 2004 and 2005 mean annual income increased in every district as Figure 7.H shows.⁸ Rural Harrogate had the smallest increase of only £448. However, Harrogate had the third highest rural income in 2005. Rotherham had the largest increase in rural incomes at £4,679.

Figure 7.H Change in annual mean household income (rural and urban), 2004 to 2005

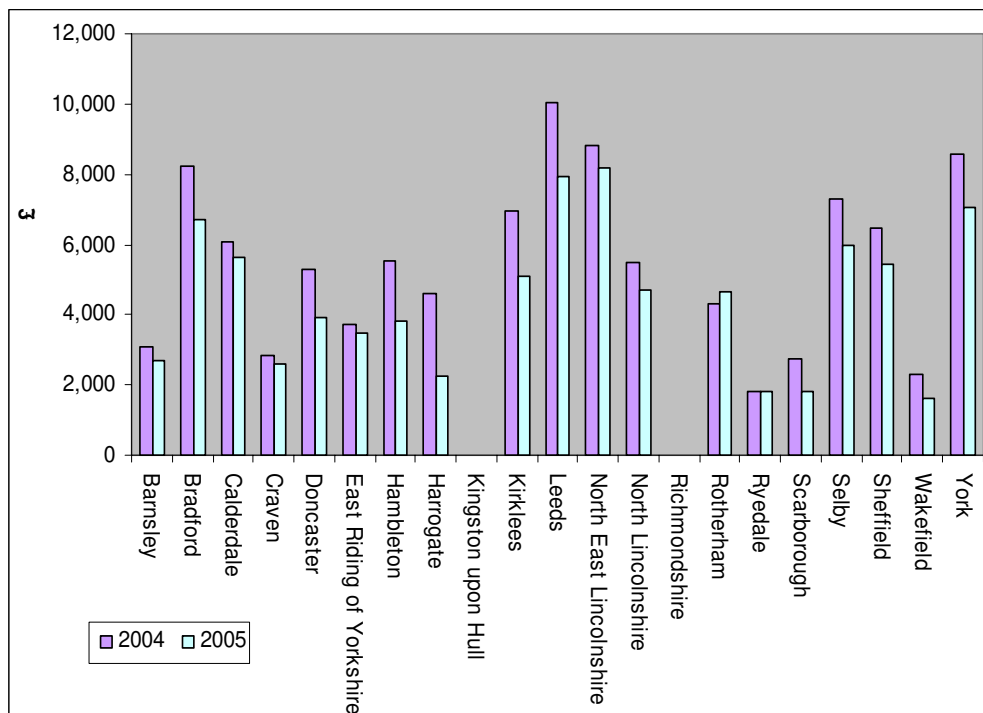


⁷ See note 6.

⁸ See note 6.

Figure 7.I shows the difference between rural and urban mean household incomes in 2004 and in 2005.⁹ This allows a comparison of the gap between rural and urban incomes over two years. The data shows that this gap is decreasing (the difference between rural and urban incomes is declining). This is however, a snapshot of two years and it is difficult to determine a long-term trend. More data are required to decide whether the gap between rural and urban incomes is closing. Harrogate had the largest decline in the gap between 2004 and 2005 and Rotherham and Ryedale were the only districts where the gap increased.

Figure 7.I Difference in mean rural and mean urban mean household incomes, a comparison between 2004 and 2005



7.2.3 Earnings

Analysis of residence-based earnings *less* workplace-based earnings can give an indication of the commuter effect. Figure 7.J shows the difference between the mean residence-based earnings and the mean workplace-based earnings.¹⁰ If the result is negative the workplace-based earnings are higher than resident-based earnings in that district. If the result is positive, the residence-based earnings are higher.

Figure 7.J shows that Calderdale, Kingston upon Hull, Barnsley, Leeds and Wakefield have higher workplace-based earnings than resident-based earnings. This could signify that higher earnings available in the area are made by in-commuters, rather than the residents.

All of the rural districts appear on the right-hand side of the graph showing that resident-based earnings in rural districts are higher than those offered by the workplaces in the area. This could be an indication of out-commuting from rural districts to places offering higher earnings than the area's workplaces.

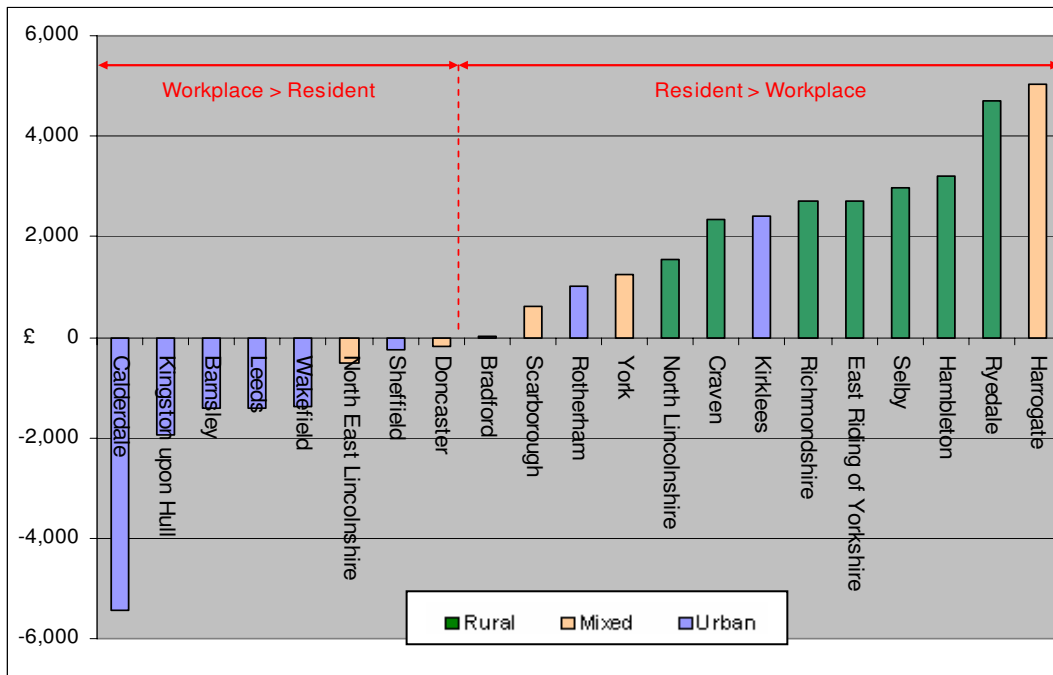
Harrogate, Ryedale have the most extreme examples of these disparities, with resident-based earnings of around £5,000 higher than their workplace-based earnings. The opposite is true of Calderdale, which has a similar

⁹ See note 6.

¹⁰ Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2005, ONS 2006.

difference between earnings, but with workplace-based higher than resident-based. All of the rural districts in the region have higher resident-based than workplace-based earnings.

Figure 7.J Resident-based less workplace-based average earnings, 2005



7.2.4 *Commuting*

Table 7.A shows how many people commute out *less* those who commute in to each district.¹¹ A negative figure indicates that more people commute in to that district than out of that district. Leeds, Sheffield and Kingston upon Hull have the highest number of in-commuters. The rural districts with the greatest number of in-commuters are North Lincolnshire and Ryedale.

¹¹ Regional Econometric Model, Experian Business Strategies Ltd, 2005.

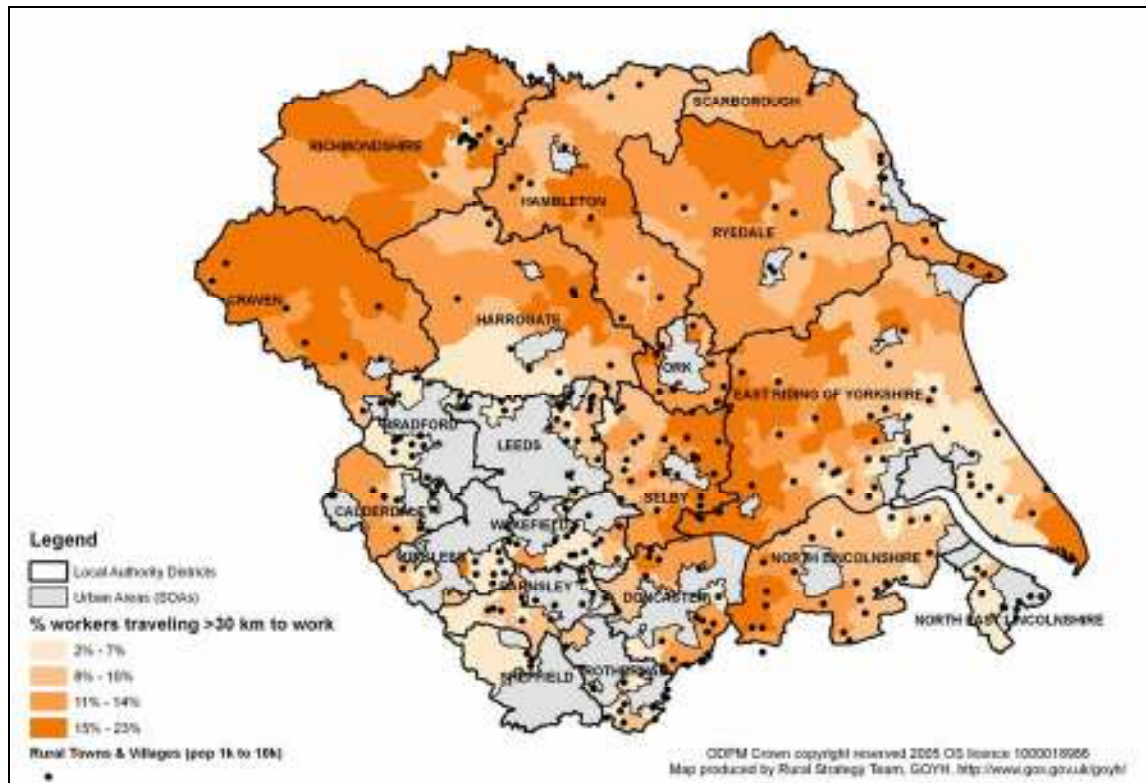
Barnsley has the highest number of net out commuters in the region at 16,865 people. The region as a whole has more people commuting in than commuting out with a net out commuter figure of -175,859.

Table 7.A Net out commuting, 2004

Local Authority	Classification	2004
Barnsley	Mixed	16,865
Bradford	Urban	1,051
Calderdale	Mixed	-7,252
Craven	Rural	-45
Doncaster	Mixed	-5,225
East Riding of Yorkshire	Rural	10,286
Hambleton	Rural	-4,945
Harrogate	Mixed	-4,616
Kingston Upon Hull	Urban	-28,780
Kirklees	Urban	15,943
Leeds	Urban	-85,313
North East Lincolnshire	Mixed	-9,020
North Lincolnshire	Rural	-7,950
Richmondshire	Rural	89
Rotherham	Urban	-1,439
Ryedale	Rural	-5,604
Scarborough	Mixed	1,600
Selby	Rural	5,606
Sheffield	Urban	-46,869
Wakefield	Urban	-7,452
York	Mixed	-12,789
Yorkshire and The Humber		-175,859

The map in Figure 7.K shows the percentage of workers who travel over 30 km to work.¹² The darker areas indicate a higher percentage of people travelling over 30 km. The more remote rural areas in Richmondshire, Craven, Ryedale and East Riding show a higher percentage of workers commuting over 30 km, than those areas on the outskirts of an urban centre.

Figure 7.K Percentage of workers travelling more than 30 km to work, 2005



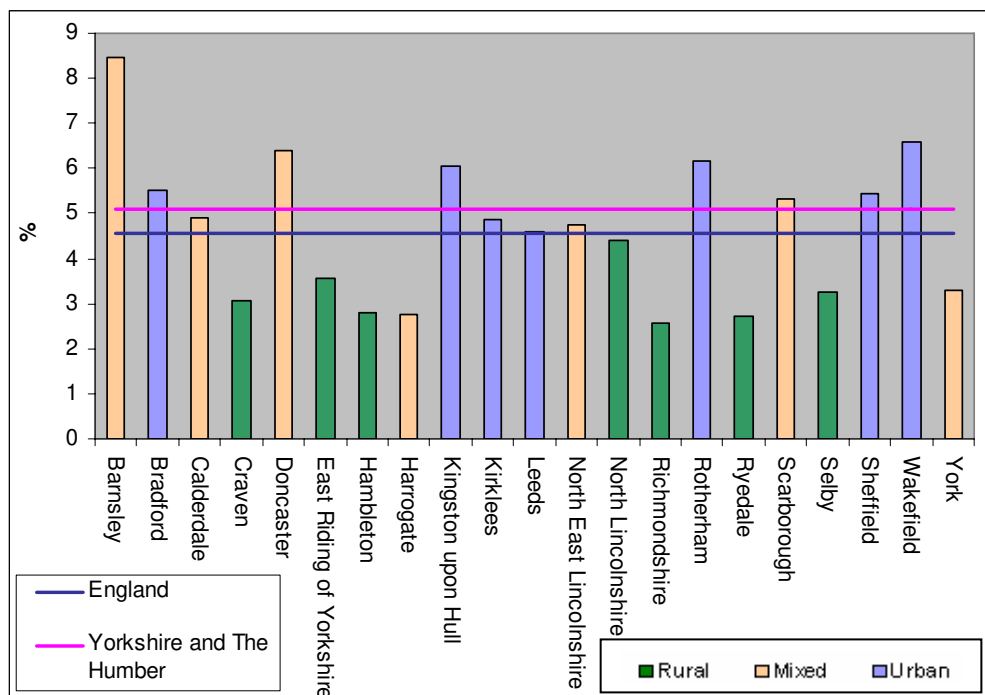
¹² Stockholm Environment Institute, Rural Economy and Land Use and Research Council UK (2005) *Social and Environment Conditions in Rural Areas*. Available online at <http://www.sei.se/relu/outline.html>

7.3 Health

7.3.1 *Long-term illness and disability*

The 2004 Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance data displayed below in Figure 7.L shows that a higher percentage of people in the region as a whole claim Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance than the average for England.¹³ All of the rural districts have a lower than average percentage of people claiming this allowance. North Lincolnshire has the highest percentage of claimants of all the rural districts at 4.41 percent, however this is still not as high as some of the mixed and urban districts including Barnsley, Rotherham and Wakefield. These results could be linked to industry type and retirement areas, with a higher percentage of benefit claimants in areas of former heavy industry such as Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham.

Figure 7.L Percentage of people claiming Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance, 2004



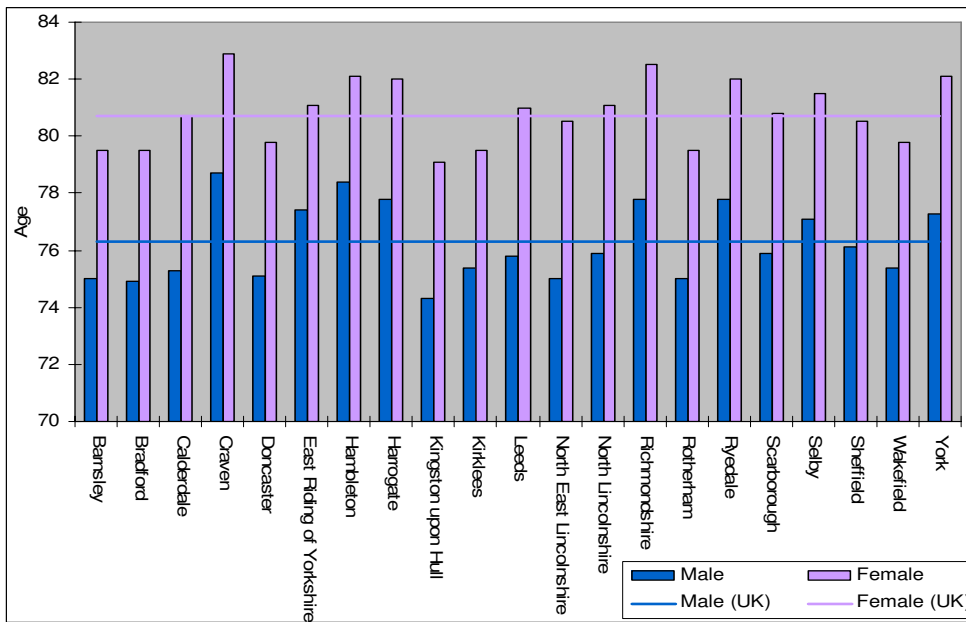
7.3.2 *Life expectancy*

Female life expectancy is higher than male life expectancy in every district in the region and life expectancy is higher in rural districts than in urban districts as shown in Figure 7.M. Males and females from Craven have the highest life expectancy of 78.7 and 82.9 years respectively, higher than the UK average of 76.3 and 80.9 years.¹⁴ Kingston upon Hull has the lowest life expectancy of 74.3 years for males and 79.1 years for females. North Lincolnshire's male life expectancy (75.9 years) is the only rural district below the UK male life expectancy of 76.3 years. On the whole, those living in rural areas of the Yorkshire and The Humber region have a life expectancy of two to three years more than those in neighbouring urban areas.

¹³ Department for Work and Pensions, Benefits Data Summary Statistics, 2004. Defra Rural Evidence Hub.

¹⁴ Office for National Statistics, 2006.

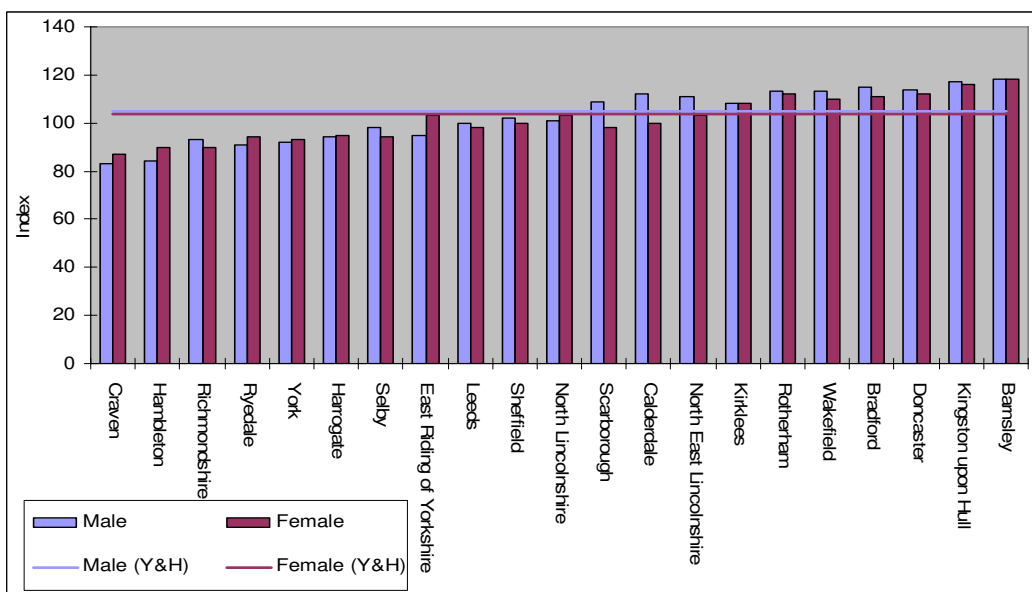
Figure 7.M Life expectancy, 2002-04



7.3.3 Standardised Mortality Rate

The Standardised Mortality Rate (SMR) is another useful mechanism to measure the health of a population. SMR is the ratio between the actual number of deaths in a given area and the expected number, taken from the number of deaths in a larger reference population, adjusting for sex and age. Any ratio over 100 indicates that the actual number of deaths is higher than expected (below 100 and number of deaths are lower than expected). Figure 7.N shows how the region’s rural, mixed and urban areas compare with the figures for England.¹⁵ It is evident that overall, urban districts and some mixed districts have higher SMRs than rural districts. North Lincolnshire is the rural district with the highest SMR, at 103 for females and 101 for males. Barnsley has the highest SMR overall at 118 for both males and females.

Figure 7.N Standardised Mortality Ratios, 2004 (100 = average SMR for England)



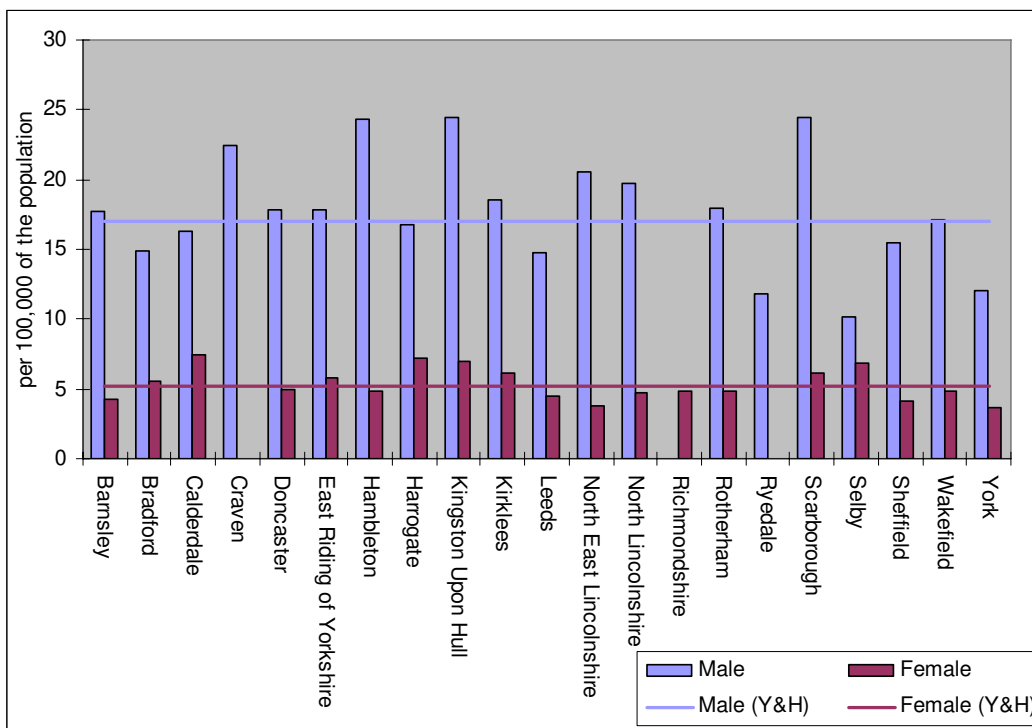
¹⁵ SMR, Birth and Mortality Statistics, ONS, 2006. Based on mid-2003 population estimates with 2004 live births (used for calculations involving deaths under 1 year)

7.3.4 *Suicide rates*

The data displayed in Figure 7.O show the adult suicide rate per 100,000 of the population.¹⁶ The male suicide rate is higher than the female suicide rate in all districts. Harrogate, Bradford, Calderdale and Selby all have higher female suicide rates than the national average of 5.2 per 100,000 of the population but male suicide rates for the same districts are lower than the national average of 17 per 100,000 of the population.

From a rural perspective, four out of seven rural districts have male suicide rates higher than the national average (Craven, East Riding of Yorkshire, Hambleton and North Lincolnshire). Hambleton has one of the highest male suicide rates in the region with 24.3 per 100,000 of the population. This is higher only in the districts of Scarborough and Kingston upon Hull which both have a male suicide rate of 24.4 per 100,000 of the population. The highest female suicide rate of the region (at 7.4 per 100,000 of the population) is in the urban district of Calderdale. Only two of the seven rural districts have female suicide rates higher than the national average; they are East Riding of Yorkshire and Selby, with rates of 5.8 and 6.9 per 100,000 of the population respectively.

Figure 7.O Adult suicide rates per 100,000 of the population, 2000-03¹⁷



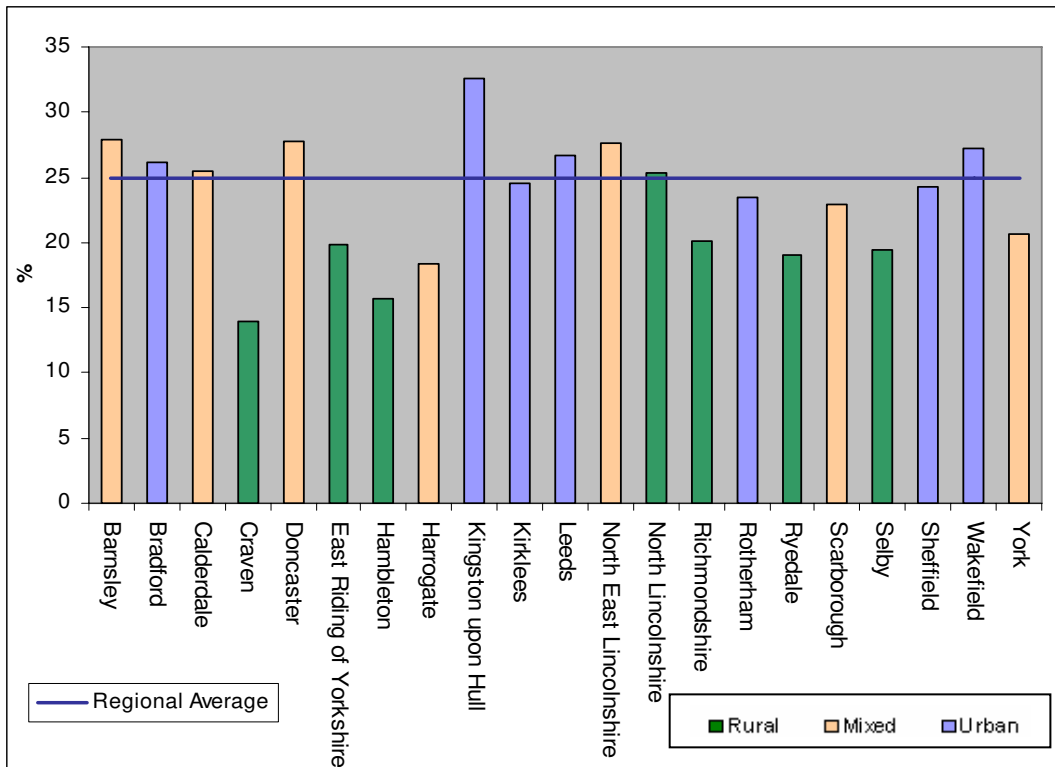
¹⁶ Adult suicide rates, by local authority in England and Wales (pooled), ONS, 2000-2003.

¹⁷ Data for Craven, Richmondshire and Ryedale is disclosive and therefore not shown on the graph.

Smoking prevalence

Figure 7.P shows the percentage of smoking households for each district in the region.¹⁸ North Lincolnshire is the only rural district with a percentage of smoking households above the regional average. All other rural districts fall below the regional average, with Craven having the lowest percentage of smoking households at 13.9%. The district with the highest percentage of smoking households is Kingston upon Hull with 32.6%.

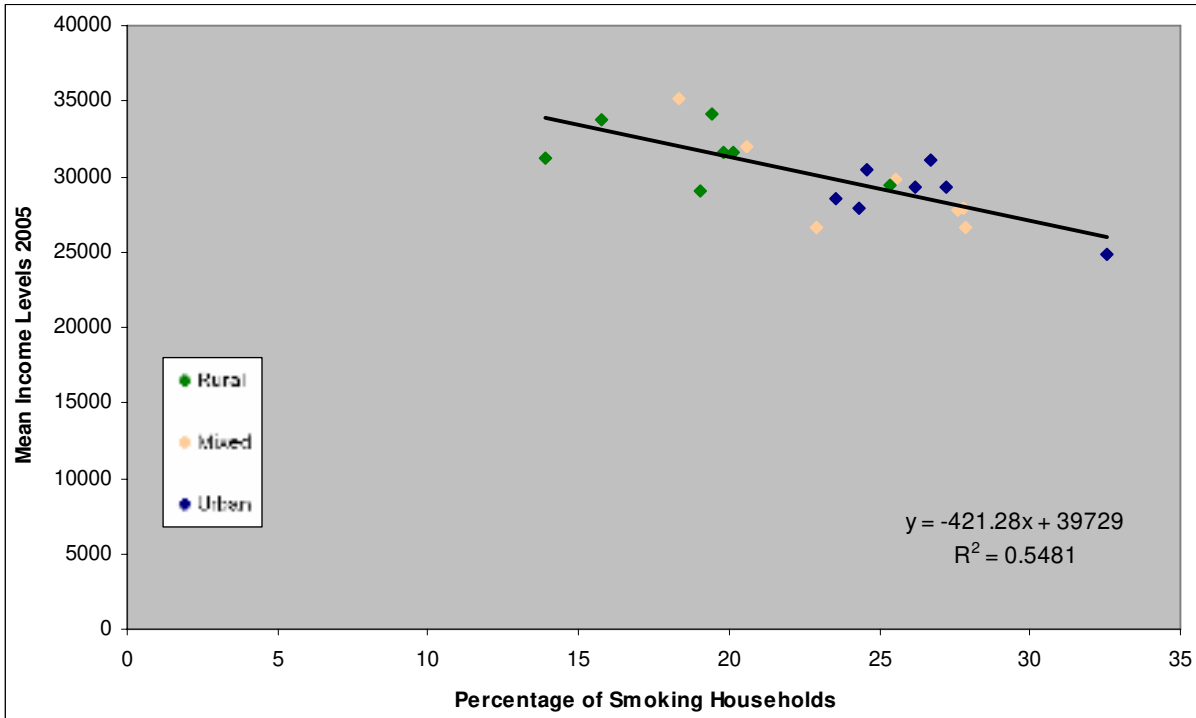
Figure 7.P Percentage of smoking households, 2005



¹⁸ Axiom National Lifestyle database 2004

Figure 7.Q shows the correlation between the percentage of smoking households in each local authority and the mean income level for that local authority.¹⁹ The correlation is relatively strong with an R-squared value of 0.55. As the mean income level for the district decreases the percentage of smoking households increase. The majority of the rural areas have higher mean income levels and lower percentages of smoking households. The opposite is true for the predominantly urban districts.

Figure 7.Q Percentage of smoking households plotted against mean income levels, 2005



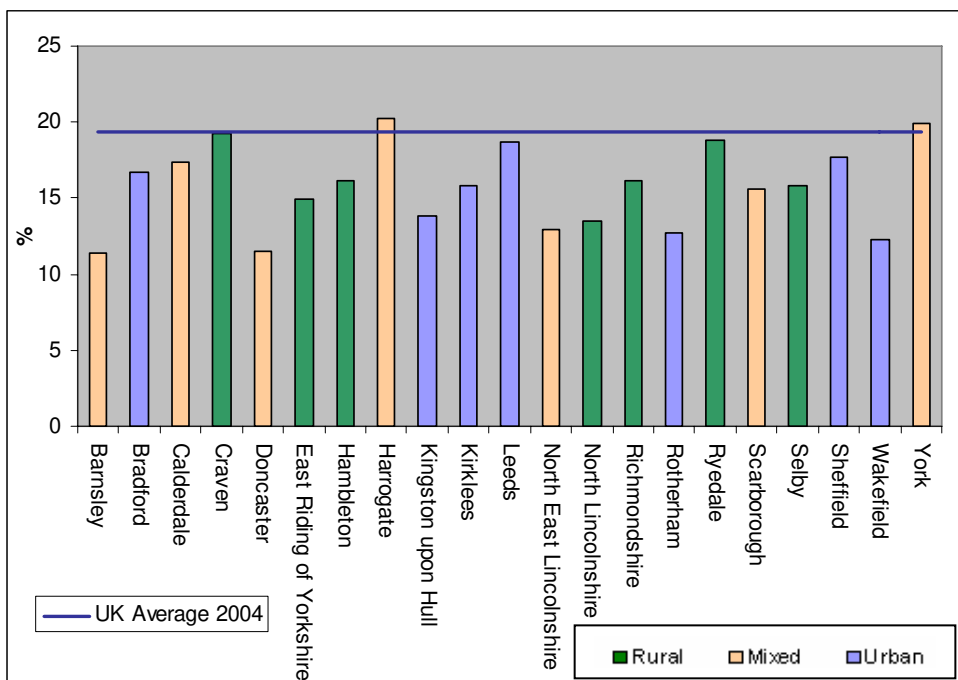
¹⁹ Axiom National Lifestyle database 2006 and Defra Rural Statistics Unit Income Data 2005

7.4 Culture

7.4.1 *Cultural activity*

Participation in cultural activities across the region is relatively low. Harrogate is the only district in Yorkshire and The Humber that had a participation rate higher than national average (of 19.4%) at 20.2%. Barnsley had the lowest participation rate of 11.4%, as displayed in Figure 7.R.²⁰ This result was the same in 2003, however the participation rate did increase 0.3% overall as Figure 7.S shows.

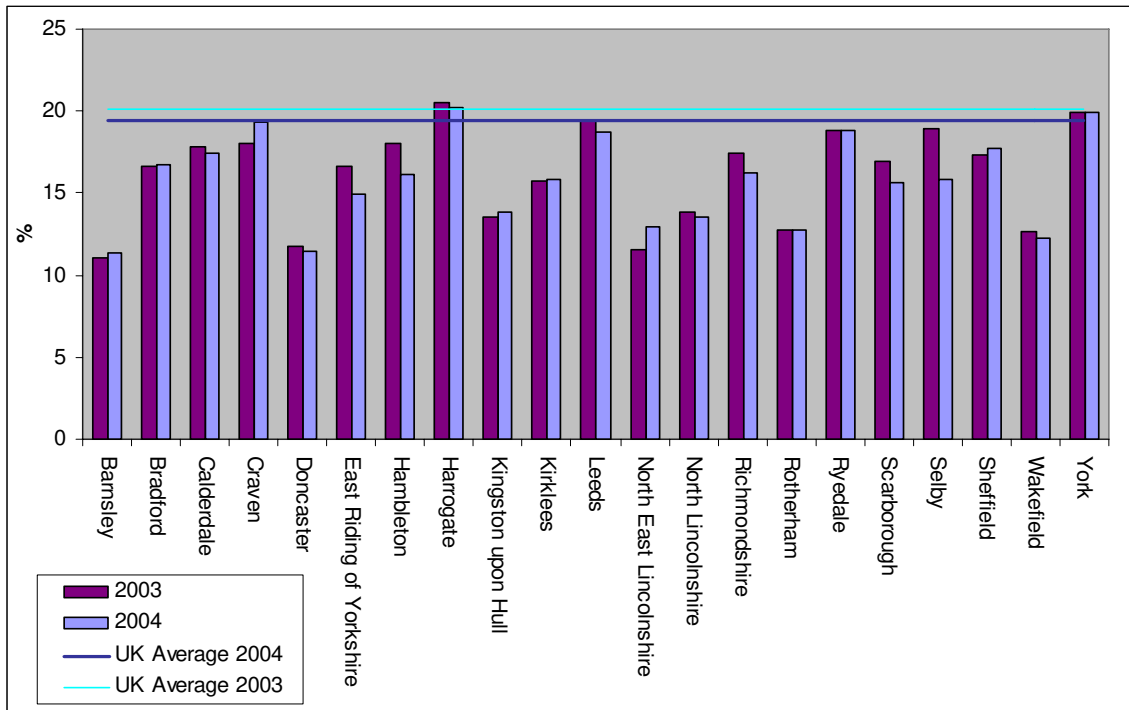
Figure 7.R Percentage of households that participate in cultural activity, 2004



²⁰ Extracted from *Progress in the Regions 2004*, Claritas-Acxiom UK Ltd.

Between 2003 and 2004 the cultural participation rate decreased in the majority of districts across the region, as Figure 7.S shows.²¹ The only districts that had an increase in participation rates were Barnsley, Bradford, Craven, Kingston upon Hull, Kirklees, North East Lincolnshire and Sheffield. These areas had relatively lower participation rates in 2003, so an increase brings them more in-line with other districts in the region. Doncaster, North Lincolnshire and Wakefield had some of the lowest participation rates in 2003 and a further decline in 2004.

Figure 7.S Change in percentage of households that participate in cultural activity, 2003-2004

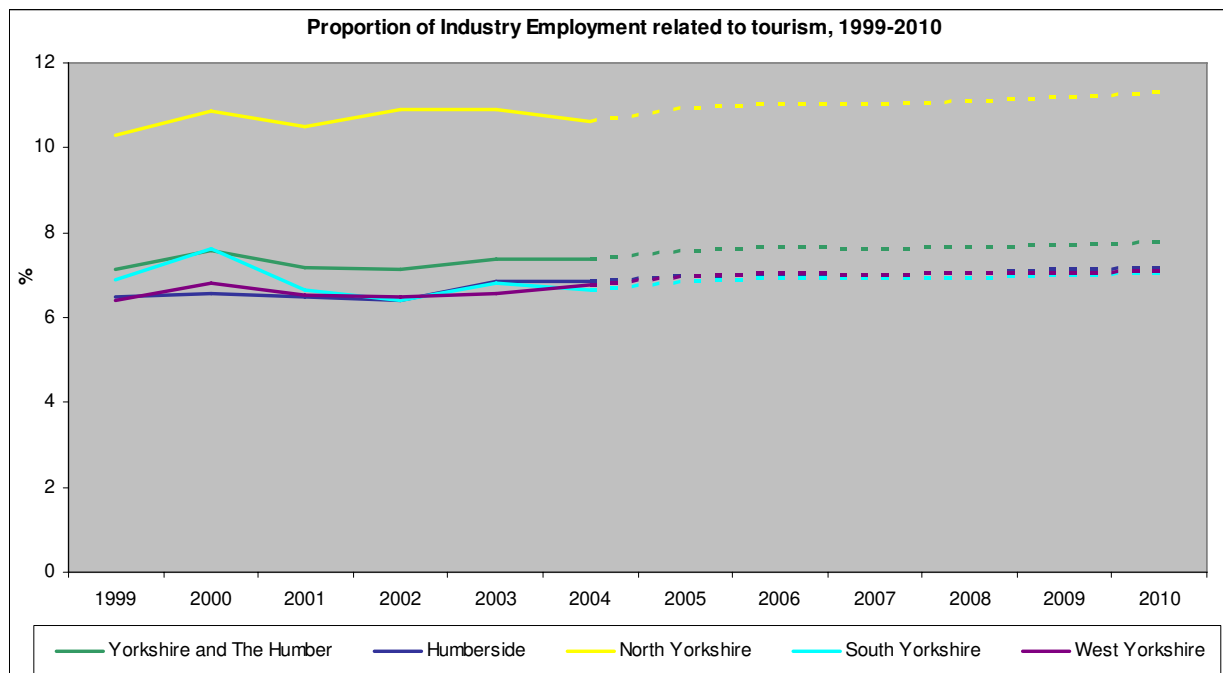


²¹ Extracted from *Progress in the Regions 2004*, Claritas-Accxiom UK Ltd.

7.4.2 *Tourism*

There are a high number of rural environmental assets in the region including the coastline, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding National Beauty, many of which attract visitors to the area. In 2004 the tourism industry employed 156,646 people accounting for 7.4% of the region's workforce as shown in Figure 7.T.²² On a sub-regional scale North Yorkshire has the highest employment levels in the tourism sector of approximately 35,500 people, accounting for over 10% of the region's workforce.

Figure 7.T Proportion of industry employment related to tourism, 1999 to 2010



Tourism is an important sector of the Yorkshire and Humber economy which contributed income of £4.2 billion in 2003.²³

Table 7.B shows the regional number of trips and spend from day visits, UK residents and overseas residents between 2000 and 2003.²⁴ Spend has increased by £239 million from UK residents and a further £35 million by overseas residents between. However, there was a noticeable drop in 2001, most likely the effects of Foot and Mouth disease and September the 11th.

Table 7.B Tourism in the region, 2000 to 2003

(Millions)	Tourism Day Visits		UK Residents			Overseas Staying Residents		
	Trips	Spend (£)	Trips	Nights	Spend (£)	Visits	Nights	Spend (£)
2003	87	1,900	13.1	35.8	1,930	0.9	6.5	294
2002	n/a	n/a	12.2	36.3	1,595	0.9	7.5	303
2001	n/a	n/a	11	30.8	1,452	0.8	6.3	251
2000	n/a	n/a	13.1	42.2	1,691	0.9	6.4	259

²² Experian Business Strategies Ltd (2005), Regional Econometric Model 1999 to 2010

²³ A Strategic Framework for the Visitor Economy, Yorkshire Forward.

²⁴ United Kingdom Tourism Survey (UKTS) 2003 / International Passenger Survey (IPS) 2003 / UK Day Visit Survey (UKDVS) 2003

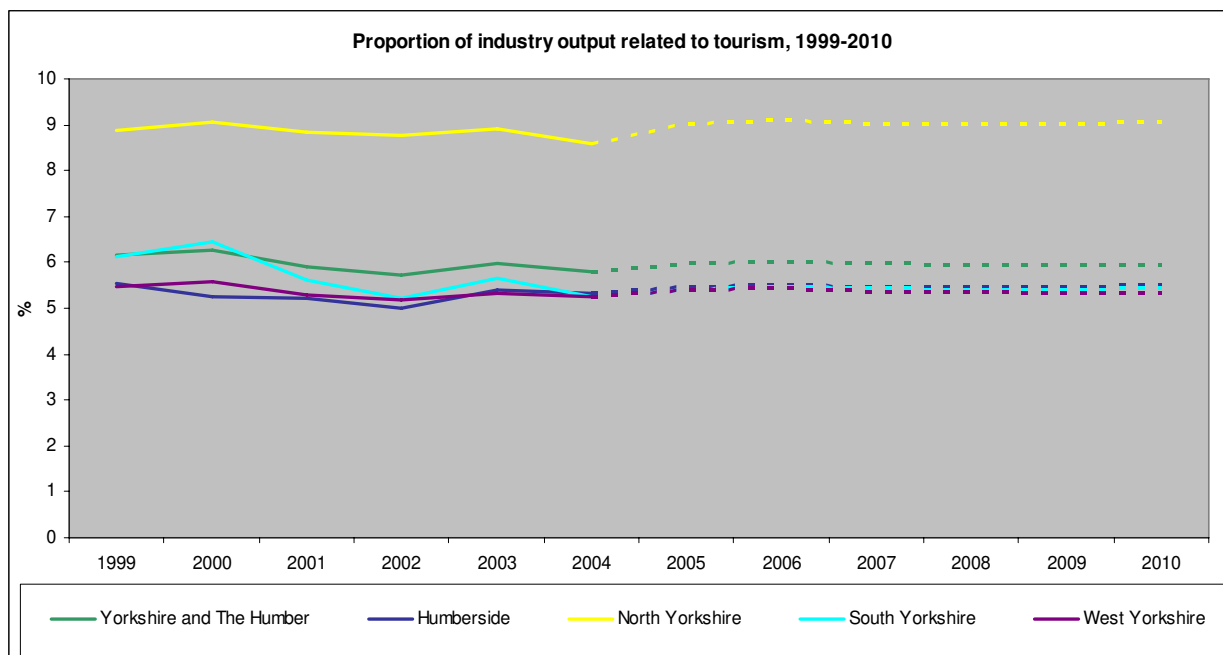
Table 7.C gives a sub-regional breakdown of the trips and amount spent by UK and Overseas visitors to the region in 2003.²⁵ North Yorkshire had the greatest number of trips, nights and spend. This is in-line with Figure 7.T and Figure 7.U which show that North Yorkshire has the highest proportion of employment and output related to tourism.

Table 7.C Tourism in the sub-regions, 2003

(Millions)	UK Residents			Overseas Staying Residents			Total Earnings £m
	Trips	Nights	Spend (£)	Visits	Nights	Spend (£)	
North Yorkshire	4.9	15.7	834	0.35	1.9	98	932
West Yorkshire	3.6	9.8	532	0.32	2.5	101	633
South Yorkshire	2.6	5.0	319	0.18	1.4	58	377
Humberside	2.0	5.2	245	0.11	0.7	37	282

Figure 7.U displays the proportion of industry output related to tourism between 1999 and 2004, with a forecast to 2010.²⁶ North Yorkshire has the highest percentage of its output related to tourism, with a predicted increase between 2004 and 2010. All of the sub-regions had a slight decline in 2001 and 2002, potentially due to the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak. From 2002 the output increased slightly, although for most of the sub-regions, has not yet returned to the levels of 1999 and 2000. The tourism output patterns are similar those for tourism employment shown in Figure 7.T above.

Figure 7.U Proportion of industry output related to tourism, 1999 to 2010



²⁵ United Kingdom Tourism Survey (UKTS) 2003 / International Passenger Survey (IPS) 2003 / UK Day Visit Survey (UKDVS) 2003

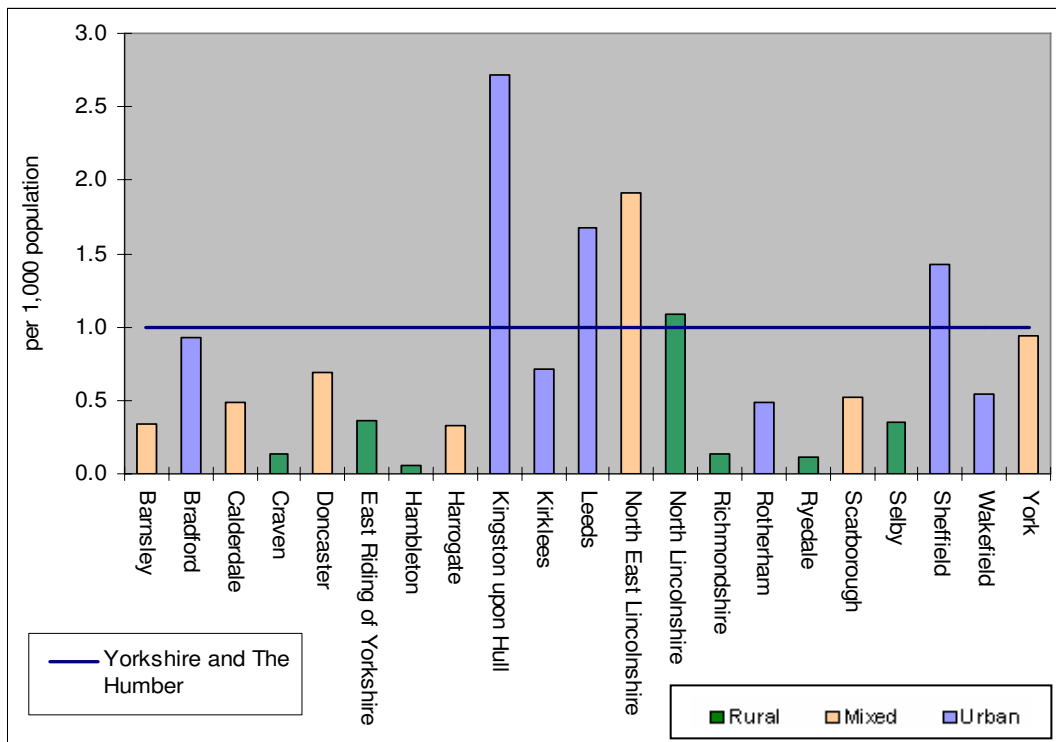
²⁶ Experian Business Strategies Ltd (2005) Regional Econometric Model 1999 to 2010

7.5 Crime

7.5.1 *Recorded robberies per 1,000 population*

Figure 7.V shows that very few robberies took place in rural districts in 2004/05.²⁷ Kingston upon Hull has the highest robbery rate of 2.7 offences per 1,000 of the population, whereas Craven, Hambleton, Ryedale, and Richmondshire have the lowest rates of 0.1 offences per 1,000 of the population. All the rural districts have less than one robbery per 1,000 of the population (the regional average), except North Lincolnshire, which has 1.1 offences per 1,000 of the population.

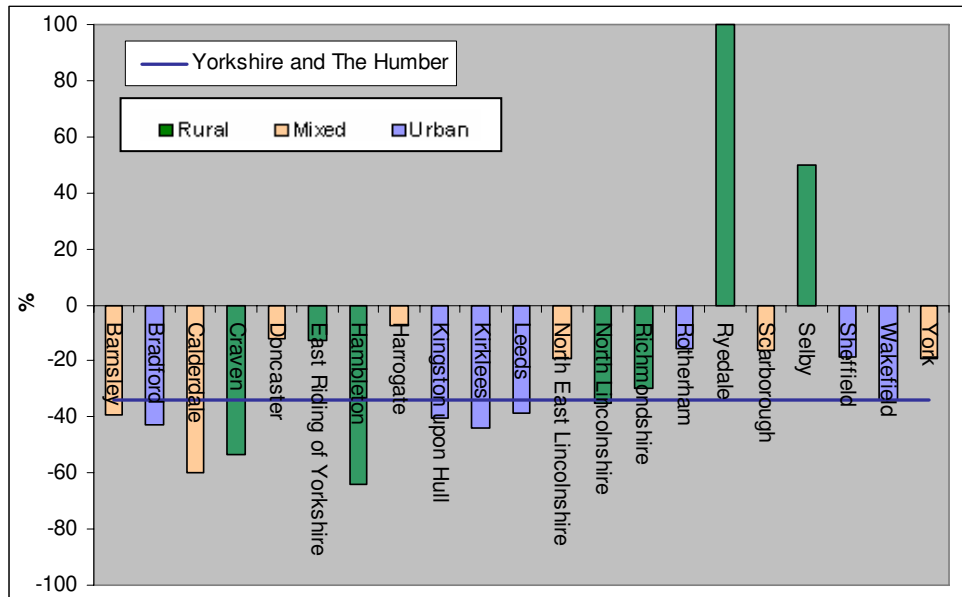
Figure 7.V Recorded robberies per 1,000 population, 2004/ 05



²⁷ Home Office, 2005.

Figure 7.W shows the percentage change in the total number of recorded robberies between 2003/04 and 2004/05. There was a decline in robberies in all districts apart from Ryedale and Selby which had considerably increased of 100% and 50% respectively. However, both of these districts had very low total numbers in both years. Ryedale had a total of six recorded robberies (increased from three in 2003/04) and Selby 27 (increased from 18 in 2003/04).

Figure 7.W Percentage change in total number of robberies, 2003/ 04 – 2004/ 05

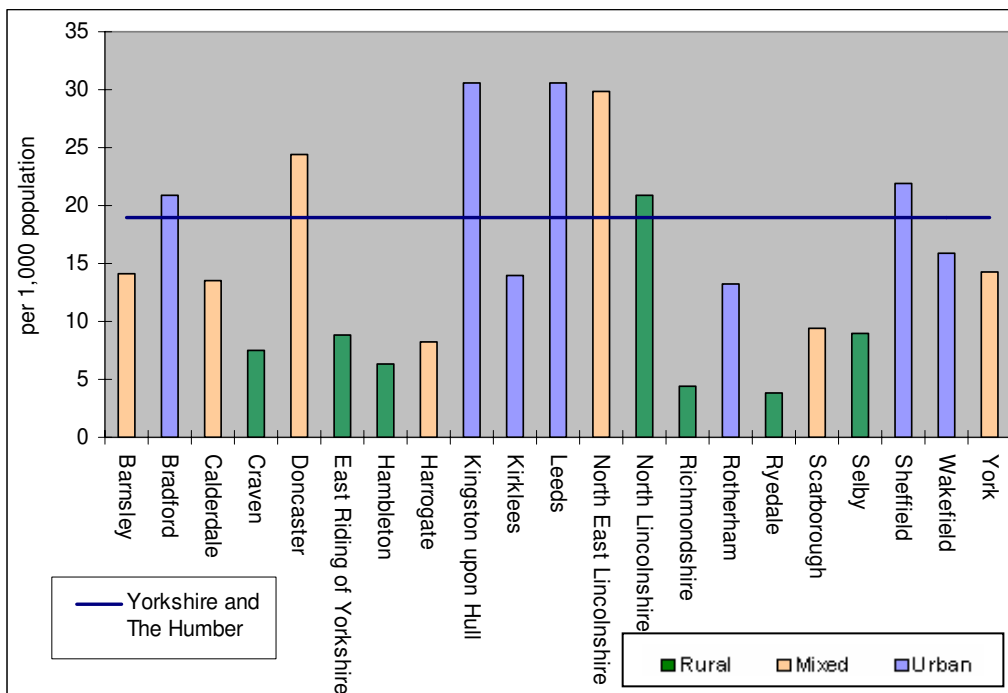


Local Authority	Robbery offences recorded 04/05
Barnsley	76
Bradford	445
Calderdale	95
Craven	7
Doncaster	200
East Riding of Yorkshire	117
Hambleton	5
Harrogate	50
Kingston upon Hull	675
Kirklees	280
Leeds	1202
North East Lincolnshire	301
North Lincolnshire	169
Richmondshire	7
Rotherham	123
Ryedale	6
Scarborough	56
Selby	27
Sheffield	732
Wakefield	174
York	173
Yorkshire and The Humber	4920

7.5.2 *Recorded burglaries in dwellings per 1,000 population*

Figure 7.X shows that although burglary is a more prevalent crime than robbery, they have a similar pattern across the region.²⁸ In 2004/05, Leeds had the highest rate of burglaries at 30.7 per 1,000 population closely followed by Kingston upon Hull with 30.5 burglaries per 1,000 of the population. Ryedale had the lowest rate of 3.9 break-ins per 1,000 of the population. All the rural districts are well below the regional average of 19.0 incidents per 1,000 of the population except North Lincolnshire, which has a rate of 20.9 robberies per 1,000 of the population.

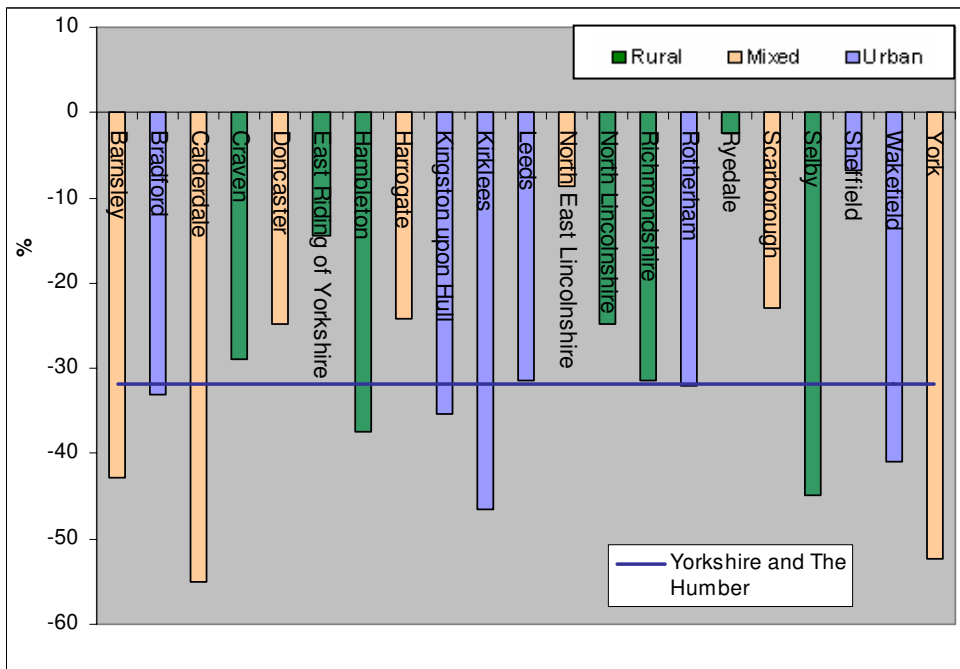
Figure 7.X Recorded burglaries in dwellings per 1,000 of the population, 2004/ 05



²⁸ Home Office, 2005.

Figure 7.Y displays the percentage change in the number of recorded burglaries between 2003/04 and 2004/05. All of the districts across the region have had a decline in the total number of recorded burglaries. The largest decline was in Calderdale with a 55% drop, closely followed by York and Kirklees with 52% and 46% declines respectively. North Lincolnshire (the rural area with the highest recorded burglaries in 2004/05) had a reasonable decline from 2003/04 at 25%. This was not as high as some of the other rural areas such as Selby and Hambleton which had declines above the regional average.

Figure 7.Y Percentage change in total number of recorded burglaries, 2003/ 04 – 2004/ 05



Local Authority	Burglary dwelling offences recorded, 04/05
Barnsley	1,302
Bradford	4,006
Calderdale	1,124
Craven	172
Doncaster	2,954
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,203
Hambleton	219
Harrogate	534
Kingston upon Hull	3,267
Kirklees	2,286
Leeds	9,441
North East Lincolnshire	1,966
North Lincolnshire	1,359
Richmondshire	83
Rotherham	1,389
Ryedale	81
Scarborough	439
Selby	286
Sheffield	4,850
Wakefield	2,128
York	1,117
Yorkshire and The Humber	40,206

7.6 Access to services

7.6.1 *Percentage of rural households with access to services within a specified distance*

The Commission for Rural Communities and Defra conduct an access to services analysis, looking at the accessibility of a number of key services using postcode and service location data.

Table 7.D displays the percentage of rural households in each local authority that have access to a service within a specified distance.²⁹ Only rural households are shown and consequently only those local authorities with a rural population (Kingston upon Hull is therefore excluded from this table and all subsequent graphs as it has an entirely urban population).

East Riding of Yorkshire has the largest number of rural households in the region. In this district access to cash points, petrol stations, post offices and primary schools is relatively high with over 80% of households within 4 km of a cash point and petrol station and 2 km of a post office and primary school. However, access to banks, dentists and secondary schools is lower with just over 60% of households within 4 km of a bank or dentist and only 54% within 4 km of a secondary school. Ryedale (another rural local authority) has the poorest access to services overall. Under half of all households in the area have a bank, dentist or secondary school within 4 km and fewer than 60% have a cash point, doctor's surgery or petrol station within 4 km.

Table 7.D Percentage of rural households within specified distance from local services, 2006

Local Authority	Number of Households	Banks <4km	Cash Points <4km	Dentists <4km	GP Surgeries <4km	Job Centres <8km	Petrol Stations <4km	Post Offices <2km	Primary Schools <2km	Secondary Schools <4km
Barnsley	26233	89.5	98.0	91.3	97.9	59.1	98.0	94.9	96.4	92.2
Bradford	20957	72.5	100	99.8	99.8	92.4	94.1	97.3	98.9	84.7
Calderdale	20505	96.6	98.9	98.9	99.6	93.9	96.3	93.6	98.9	90.9
Craven	14913	66.2	83.5	56.1	60.1	29.8	84.3	76.1	85.6	47.6
Doncaster	20325	90.8	99.5	91.0	98.1	48.7	92.1	94.9	92.7	73.7
East Riding of Yorkshire	87025	63.9	83.6	62.4	72.2	18.9	86.0	85.7	87.7	54.3
Hambleton	35120	54.2	76.3	55.4	74.2	16.4	77.7	68.0	82.8	49.9
Harrogate	24056	44.1	83.1	48.3	66.3	20.2	79.7	71.4	85.0	38.1
Kirklees	25377	93.1	100	91.1	98.9	54.2	91.3	95.6	99.8	88.3
Leeds	19120	73.9	100	94.7	97.7	75.5	87.9	92.2	92.6	73.2
North East Lincolnshire	5243	67.2	96.3	81.7	93.8	92.9	95.8	94.0	87.2	88.9
North Lincolnshire	35720	50.0	90.9	62.0	74.2	51.8	79.1	91.6	93.3	61.9
Richmondshire	21072	58.1	82.5	68.2	80.8	60.7	85.1	82.4	80.7	59.2
Rotherham	18560	98.4	100	99.3	100	100	99.1	87.5	97.9	98.2
Ryedale	24975	45.4	53.5	46.3	57.0	14.2	56.2	61.3	69.7	25.8
Scarborough	16772	49.4	84.8	66.4	87.6	46.2	92.5	88.9	88.1	59.1
Selby	30188	48.9	78.6	52.7	75.1	50.0	82.8	90.3	90.6	59.3
Sheffield	7035	74.1	97.4	94.1	97.5	93.7	92.1	93.7	92.8	96.6
Wakefield	28919	92.8	100	99.4	100	99.4	97.8	98.9	99.2	98.8
York	25006	79.1	98.9	88.3	88.5	75.8	98.9	96.2	97.8	50.4

²⁹ Commission for Rural Communities, 2006. Rural Services Series, Analysis by Defra RSU, 2006

Rural households close to major urban centres such as Bradford, Leeds or Sheffield have much better access to services. In many cases the proportion of households with access to the service is over 90%. The mixed districts give an interesting set of results. The rural households in Barnsley, Calderdale, Doncaster, North East Lincolnshire and York for example, have good access to services, with many areas having over 80% of households within the distance specified on the table. However, the rural areas in Harrogate and Scarborough have in some cases, a lower percentage of households with access to a service than some of the more rural districts. In Harrogate for example, a lower percentage of households are within 4 km of a bank or secondary school than in East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire. Similarly, the percentage of households within 8 km of a job centre in Doncaster and Scarborough is lower than those with access in Richmondshire and North Lincolnshire.

7.6.2 *Number of Service Outlets*

The State of the Countryside Report 2006³⁰ covered, along with access to services, the number of service outlets in 2006 and the change since 2000. Defra and the CRC³¹ have provided this data at regional level with an urban and rural split. It is useful to consider the change in number of outlets to analyse general trends for particular services and compare them in this region to England as a whole.

Table 7.E and Table 7.F show the number of service outlets in each of the eight urban and rural areas in the region. There are totals for rural and urban areas and a grand total of all the service outlets in the region. Table 7.E is the number of outlets in the year 2000 and Table 7.F is 2006. Table 7.G shows the change in service outlet numbers, the total number and percentage.

Table 7.E Number of outlets, 2000

2000	Rural Dispersed Less Sparse	Rural Dispersed Sparse	Rural Village Less Sparse	Rural Village Sparse	Rural Town Fringe Less Sparse	Rural Town Fringe Sparse	Urban Less Sparse	Urban Sparse	Rural Total	Urban Total	TOTAL
Banks and Building Societies	6	1	7	3	158	45	1084	10	220	1094	1314
Cash Points	35	2	68	10	246	39	2852	16	400	2868	3268
Principal GP Surgeries	2	1	19	4	88	11	715	1	125	716	841
Jobcentres	0	0	0	0	3	0	99	1	3	100	103
Petrol Stations	51	4	101	27	95	19	603	5	297	608	905
Post Offices	47	13	247	79	178	13	959	7	577	966	1543
Primary Schools	57	8	233	43	219	19	1335	5	579	1340	1919
Secondary Schools	4	0	8	1	35	7	270	3	55	273	328
Supermarkets	4	0	5	0	67	14	590	3	90	593	683

³⁰ State of the Countryside 2006, Commission for Rural Communities

³¹ Commission for Rural Communities, 2006. Rural Services Series, Analysis by Defra RSU, 2006

Table 7.F Number of outlets, 2006

2006	Rural Dispersed Less Sparse	Rural Dispersed Sparse	Rural Village Less Sparse	Rural Village Sparse	Rural Town Fringe Less Sparse	Rural Town Fringe Sparse	Urban Less Sparse	Urban Sparse	Rural Total	Urban Total	TOTAL
Banks and Building Societies	5	0	6	3	150	45	1048	8	209	1056	1265
Cash Points	62	3	130	14	284	38	3811	16	531	3827	4358
Principal GP Surgeries	2	1	19	4	88	10	702	1	124	703	827
Jobcentres	0	0	0	0	3	0	83	1	3	84	87
Petrol Stations	47	4	95	21	82	19	520	4	268	524	792
Post Offices	32	8	206	53	185	14	717	6	498	723	1221
Primary Schools	56	8	233	43	217	18	1311	6	575	1317	1892
Secondary Schools	4	0	8	1	34	7	266	3	54	269	323
Supermarkets	3	0	4	0	76	13	570	3	96	573	669

Table 7.G Change in number of outlets in the region, 2000-2006

Service	Change in Number of Rural Outlets	Change in Number of Urban Outlets	Percentage Change Rural	Percentage Change Urban
Banks and Building Societies	-11	-38	-5.0	-3.5
Cash Points	131	959	32.8	33.4
Principal GP Surgeries	-1	-13	-0.8	-1.8
Jobcentres	0	-16	0.0	-16.0
Petrol Stations	-29	-84	-9.8	-13.8
Post Offices	-79	-243	-13.7	-25.2
Primary Schools	-4	-23	-0.7	-1.7
Secondary Schools	-1	-4	-1.8	-1.5
Supermarkets	6	-20	6.7	-3.4

7.6.3 Percentage change in the number of service outlets

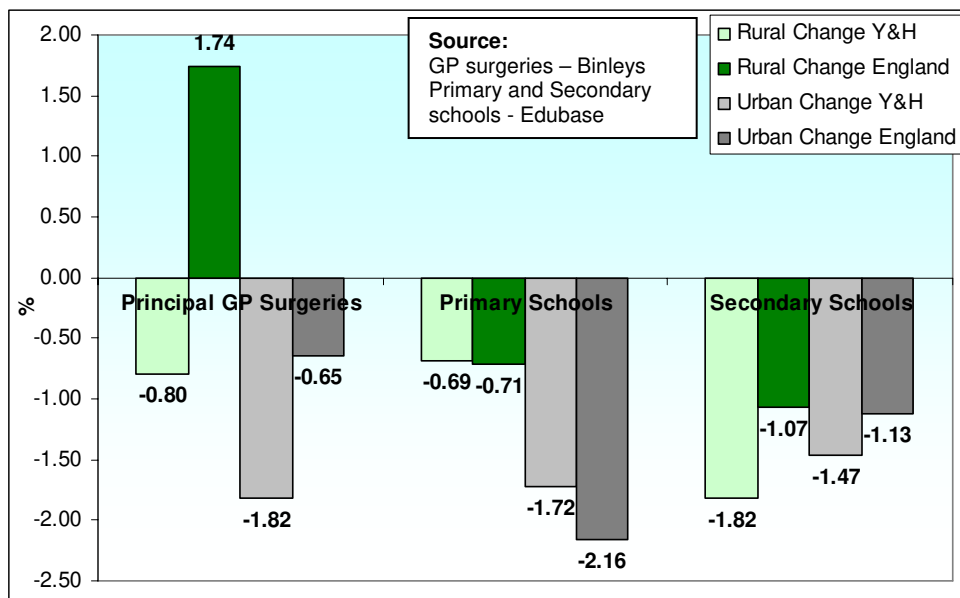
The services have been split up in order to display those services which show similar patterns on the same graph.

The data included in this section have been provided by a number of sources:

- GP surgeries - Binleys
- Banks and Building Societies - CACI Retail Locations
- Supermarkets - CACI Retail Locations
- Cash points - MI International
- Jobcentres - Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Petrol stations - Catalist
- Primary and Secondary schools - Edubase
- Post Offices - Post Office Ltd.

Figure 7.Z shows the percentage change in service outlets between 2000 and 2006 for GP surgeries, primary schools and secondary schools. Both rural and urban areas of the Yorkshire and The Humber have seen a decline in the number of outlets. GP surgery outlets in rural areas of the region have declined by 0.8% in comparison to the number for England which has increased by 1.74%. The urban areas of the region also had a larger decline than England as a whole. The decline in number of primary schools was slightly lower in rural and urban areas of the region, than England. Secondary schools however, fell by more than the decline for England at -1.82 in rural areas and -1.47 in urban.

Figure 7.Z Percentage change in number of service outlets 2000-2006



The next graph (Figure 7.AA) is the same analysis as Figure 7.Z above but for job centres, petrol stations and post offices. The decline in numbers of these services has been much larger than those analysed above, with reductions of between 7% and 20%. The only exception in this group is the number of job centres in rural Yorkshire and The Humber, which remained at three outlets.

The percentage decline of petrol stations in the rural areas of the region is lower than the decline for rural areas of England as a whole and the urban areas both regionally and nationally. However, post office outlets in the rural areas of the region have declined by a larger percentage than the decline across rural England, but this decline is not as large as the percentage reduction in urban areas.

Figure 7.AA Percentage change in number of service outlets 2000-2006

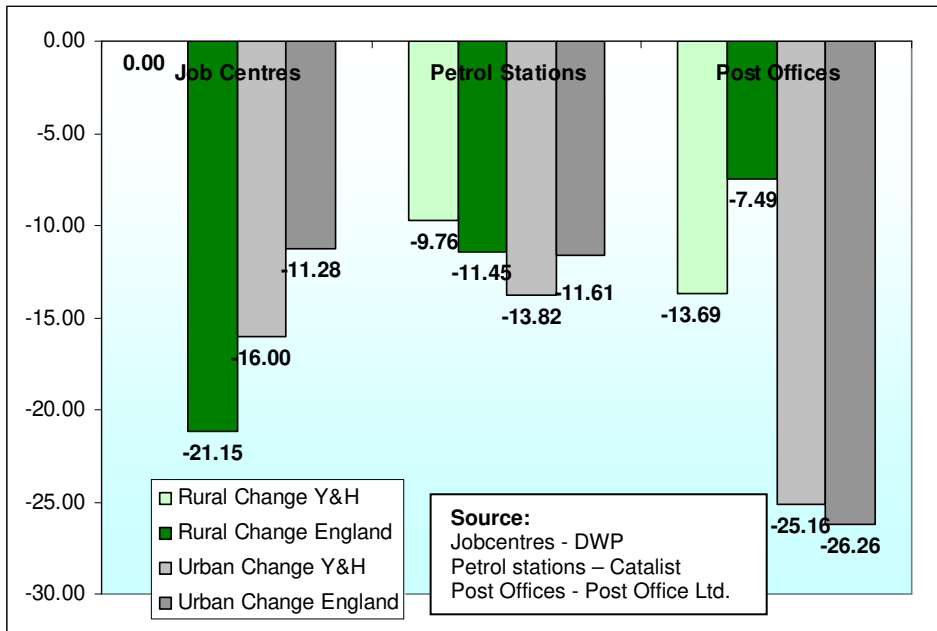
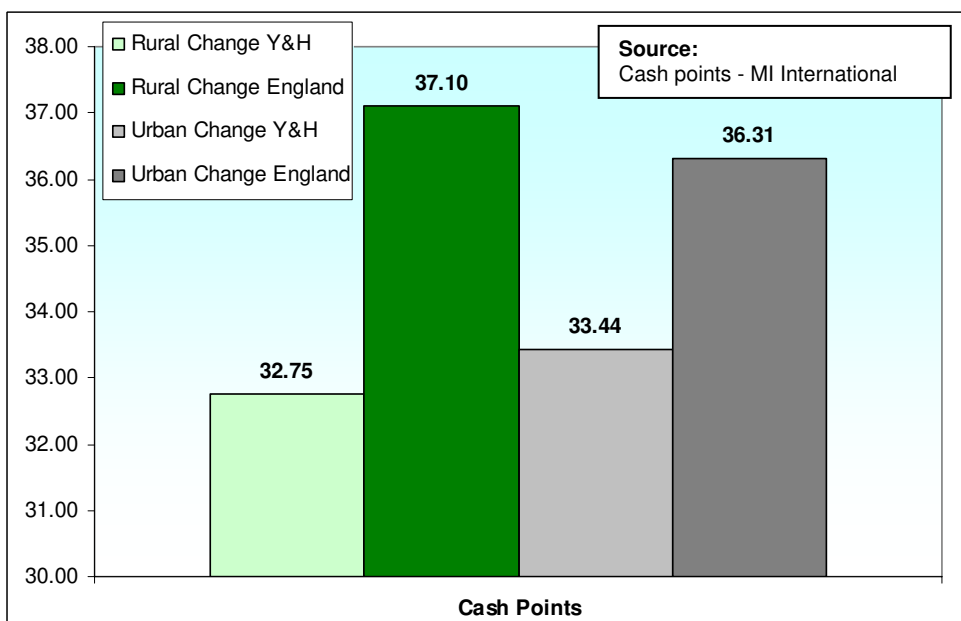


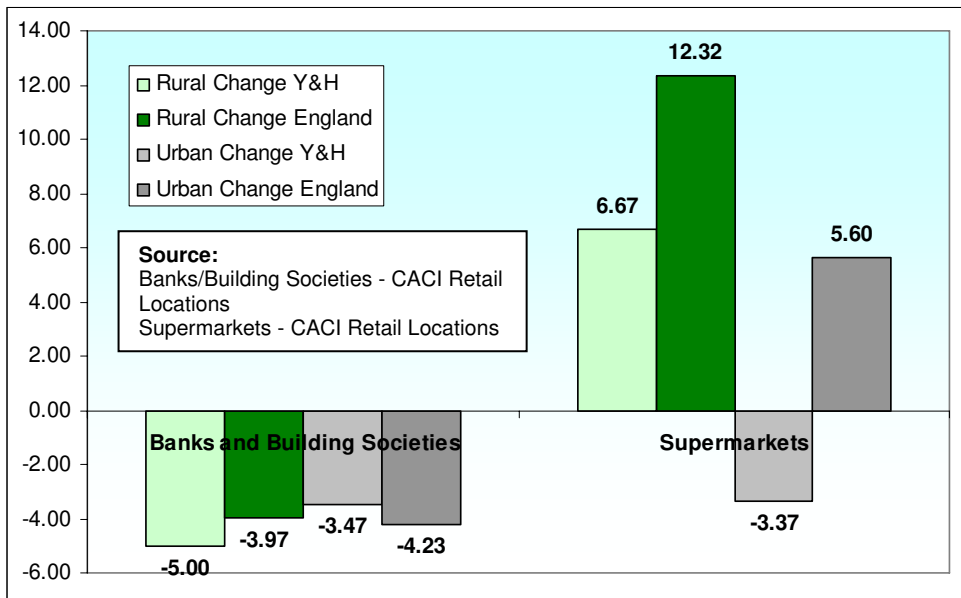
Figure 7.BB below shows the percentage change in the number of cash points. This graph is displayed separately as it is the only service that has seen large percentage increases across all areas. The increases are similar in rural and urban areas with rural cash points in the region increasing by 32.75% and urban cash points by 33.44%.

Figure 7.BB Percentage change in number of service outlets 2000-2006



The last of the service outlet graphs (Figure 7.CC below) shows the percentage change in the number of supermarkets and bank and building society branches in the region and for England. The number of supermarkets in the rural areas of the region has increased by 6.67%. This is smaller than the increase across rural areas of England as a whole, but larger than the urban areas of the region and of England. The number of bank and building society branches has decreased in all areas; however the decline in rural outlets in the region was greater than both the change in urban areas and the decline in rural areas of England as a whole.

Figure 7.CC Percentage change in number of service outlets 2000-2006



7.6.4 Regional comparison of the change in service outlets

The next series of graphs compare the percentage change in rural service outlets across all of the Government Office Regions; only those services for which the Yorkshire and The Humber compares poorly or particularly well are displayed. For example, the Yorkshire and The Humber had the third largest percentage decline in the number of banks and building societies of all the regions between 2000 and 2006 as Figure 7.DD shows. Despite this the Yorkshire and The Humber has 2.1 banks or building societies per 10,000 of the rural population which is the third highest rate in the country.

Figure 7.DD Percentage change in Banks and Building Societies 2000-2006, for all regions

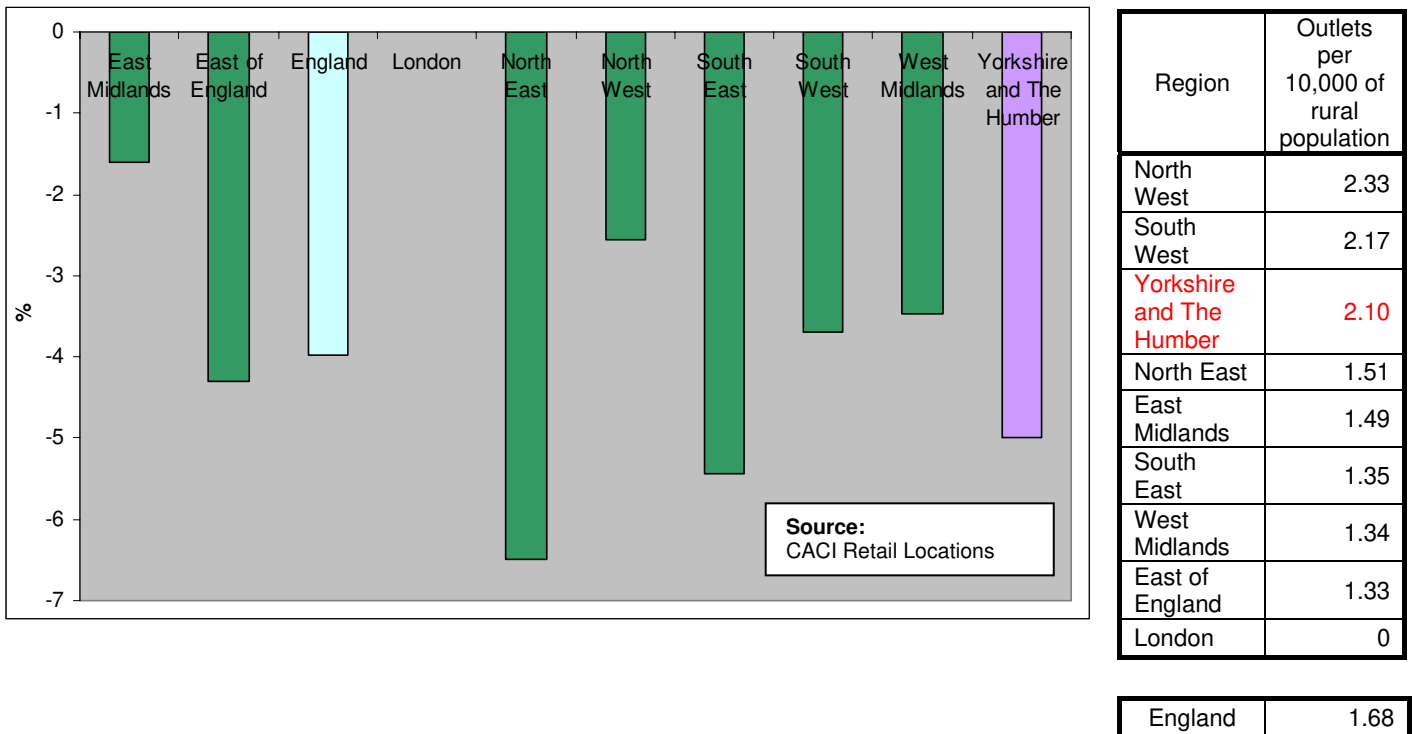
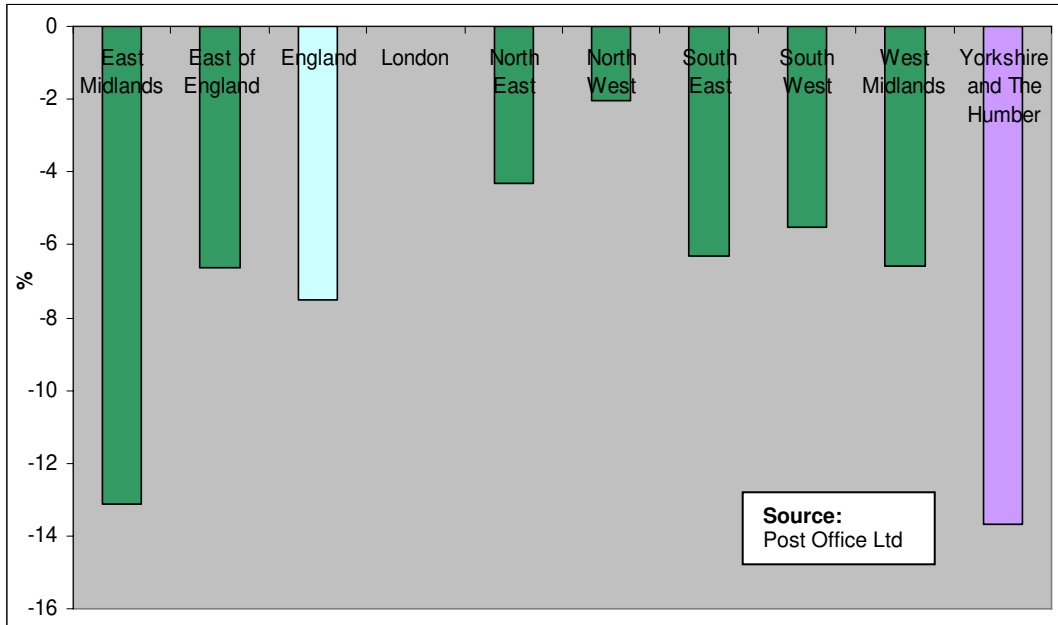


Figure 7.EE shows the decline in rural post offices across the country. Yorkshire and The Humber had the largest percentage decrease in rural post offices at 13.7%; however, it has the fifth largest number of outlets per 10,000 of the rural population of all the regions. The only other region to have a large decline in percentage was East Midlands. All the other regions had a decline of around six percent.

Figure 7.EE Percentage change in Post Offices 2000-2006, for all regions

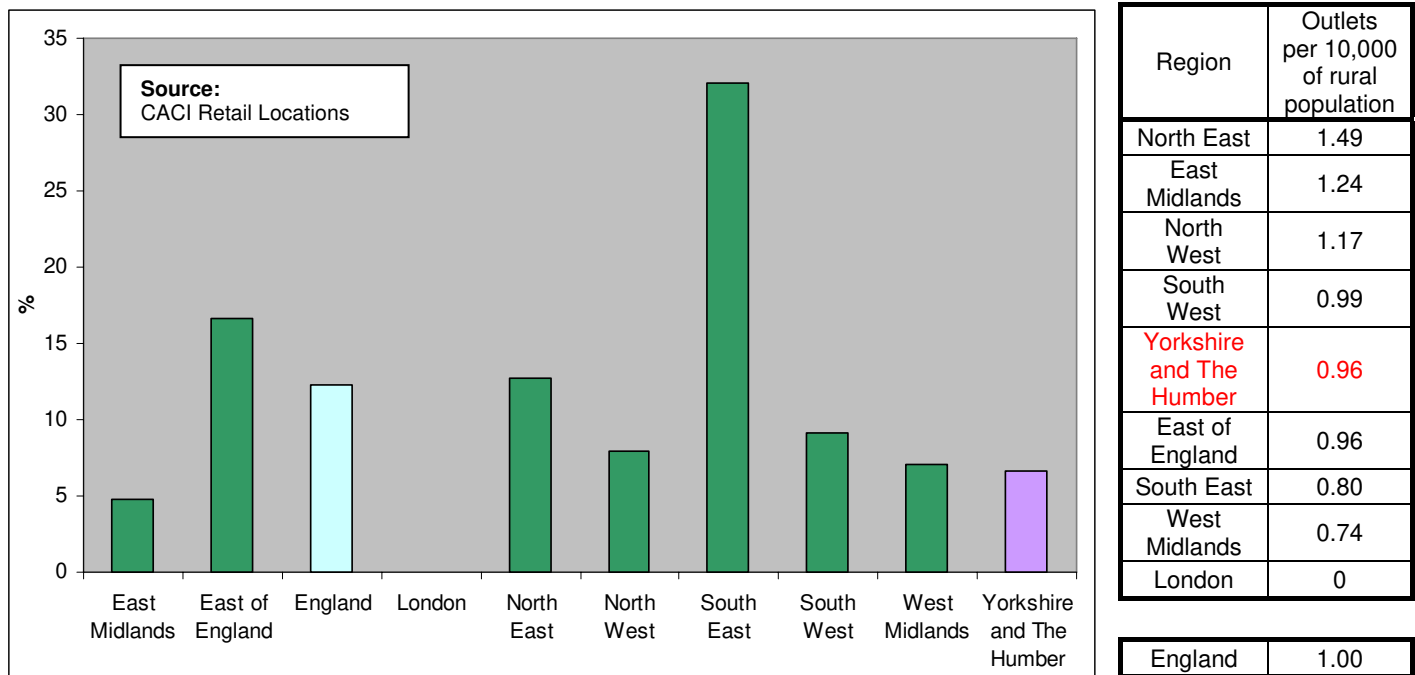


Region	Outlets per 10,000 rural population
South West	5.89
North East	5.58
North West	5.35
West Midlands	5.15
Yorkshire and The Humber	5.00
East Midlands	4.89
East of England	4.80
South East	4.13
London	1.44

England	5.01
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The last service outlet graph included is for supermarkets. Figure 7.FF displays the increase in supermarkets in rural areas of all the Government Office Regions between 2000 and 2006. The South East had the largest increase of 32.1%. Yorkshire and The Humber had a relatively small percentage increase in the number of rural supermarkets at 6.7% and in 2006 had the fifth highest total number of outlets per 10,000 of the rural population.

Figure 7.FF Percentage change in Supermarkets 2000-2006, for all regions



7.7 Social exclusion

7.7.1 *Homelessness*

Figure 7.GG shows that homelessness was less prevalent in mixed districts of the region in 2004/05 than urban and rural districts.^{32 33} Sheffield has the highest homelessness figure of the region at 10.6 homeless people per 1,000 of the population. North Lincolnshire is the worst performing rural district with 9.2 homeless per 1,000 of the population; which is above both the regional and England averages of 6.3 and 5.7 homeless per 1,000 of the population.

Figure 7.HH shows the change in homelessness between 2003/04 and 2004/05. The regional average decreased by 1.3 per 1,000 of the population. However, homelessness is increasing in rural districts.³⁴ For example, homelessness in Craven increased by 0.9, Hambleton by 2.1, North Lincolnshire by 2.0, Richmondshire by 0.8 and Ryedale by 0.7 per 1,000 of the population. The only other districts to see a rise in the number of homeless were Kirklees and North East Lincolnshire. All the other districts had a decrease in homelessness between 2003/04 and 2004/05.

³² The actual numbers of homeless people who are sleeping rough are hidden, as the number of people staying with family and friends are also included in these figures. For further information, see the Crisis website: http://www.crisis.org.uk/page.builder/about_homelessness.html

³³ Data supplied by Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

³⁴ Data supplied by Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

Figure 7.GG Number of homeless people per 1,000 households, 2004/ 05

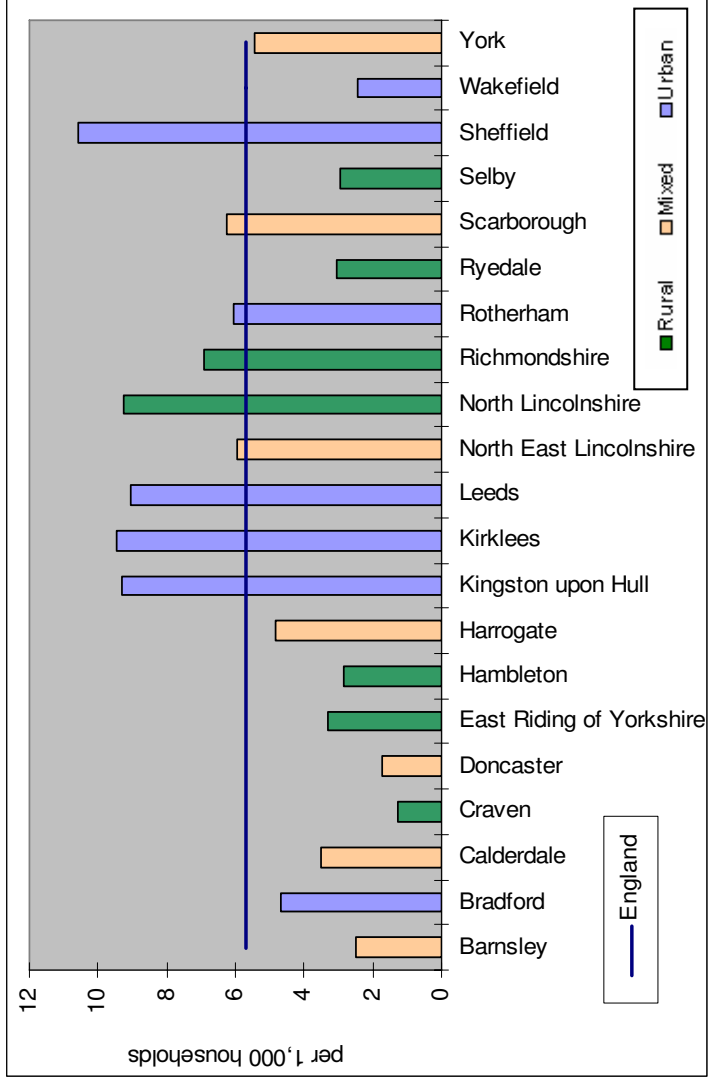
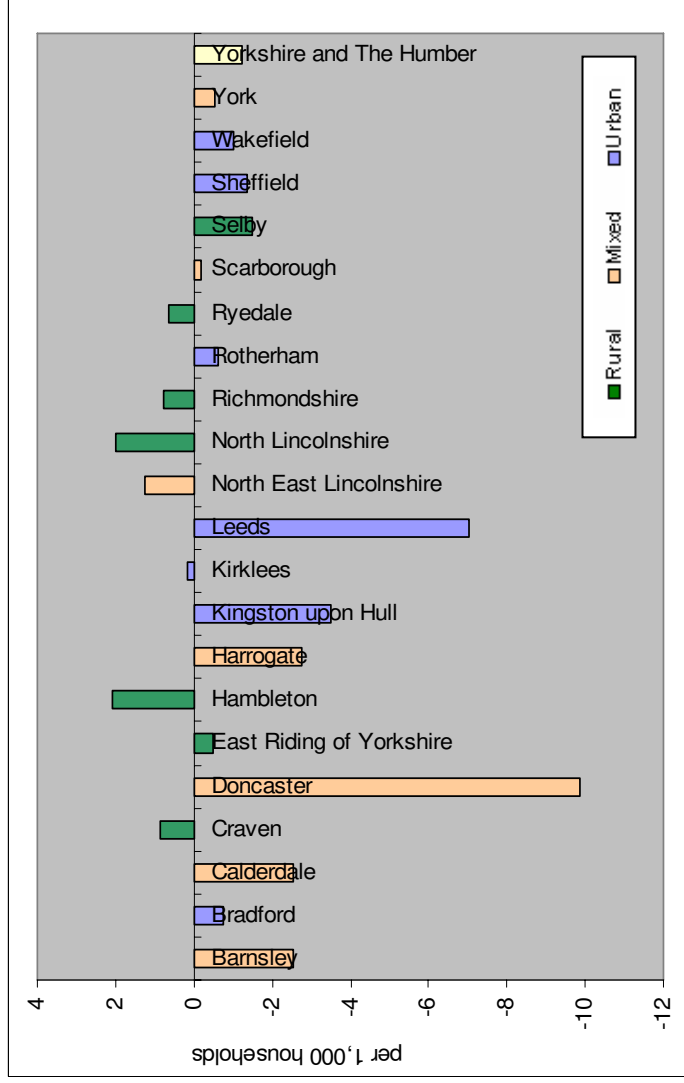


Figure 7.HH Change in number of homeless people per 1,000 households between 2003/ 04 and 2004/ 05



7.8 Conclusion

In this chapter quality of life is assessed by looking at income, health, culture, crime, access to services and social exclusion. In general, the rural districts perform well in many of these areas. However, there are some inconsistencies which are highlighted throughout. Much of the data in this chapter are closely linked to the economy of the area; consequently rural areas with higher median incomes perform well in some of the measures associated with higher incomes.

One of the inconsistencies uncovered in this chapter is the comparison between wages and income. Rural areas tend to have the lowest wage rates, but at the same time have some of the highest household incomes. Household incomes below £5,000 per year are more common in the urban than rural areas and those wards reporting incomes of greater than £50,000 per year are mostly found in the rural districts.

The lower quartile pay results for rural areas are not reflected in low household incomes. Factors such as higher employment rates (including more than one person per household in employment), higher percentages of people working longer hours and commuters resident in the area earning high incomes in nearby towns or cities, may all contribute to higher overall household income.

This is further demonstrated in the analysis between resident and workplace based earnings. All of the rural districts have higher resident based earnings than workplace based earnings. The lower workplace based earnings in rural areas may be related to the lower quartile wage rate data and the higher resident based earnings a contributing factor to higher mean household incomes.

There is a large gap between rural and urban average household incomes in some districts, with over £8,000 difference reported in North East Lincolnshire. This gap appears to be decreasing, although more data is required in order to fully analyse any long-term trends.

The region as a whole has an in-commuting flow of 175,859 people. There are large commuter movements internally as well, with a significant outflow from East Riding of Yorkshire and in-flows into the major urban areas including Leeds, Sheffield and Kingston upon Hull. Commuter patterns were analysed in more detail in the 2005 Evidence Base using the 2001 Census data. There is little to indicate that commuter patterns have changed significantly since then.

For the majority of the health indicators rural areas perform better than most urban and mixed areas. The percentage of Incapacity and Server Disablement Allowance claimants is lower; life expectancy generally higher and standard mortality ratios and adult suicide rates are also both lower in the rural districts. Smoking is less prevalent in rural areas; which is correlated to mean income levels. Rural areas have higher mean incomes and lower percentages of smoking households.

Cultural participation varies across the region; however, there is a pattern of general decline between 2003 and 2004. However, this is only a snapshot of data and can not be indicative of any long-term trends. Cultural participation across the region may need to be analysed further and addressed if the pattern continues.

Tourism is economically important for the region with high percentages of industry employment and output related to the sector. North Yorkshire (which includes a number of the region's rural districts) had a higher employment and output level related to tourism compared to the other sub-regions.

Crime is generally lower in the rural areas, except for North Lincolnshire which reported higher than regional average burglaries and robberies in 2004/05. It should be noted however, that North Lincolnshire is a Rural-50

district, with 52.4 percentage of its population classified as rural. Therefore, just under half of the population live in the urban areas, which may have an effect on these figures.

The following trends emerge in the access to services data; firstly, between 2000 and 2006 there has been a modest increase (6.7%) in the number of supermarkets in rural parts of the region and a significant increase (32.8%) in the number of cash points. The number of rural GP Surgeries, Job Centres, Primary Schools and Secondary Schools has remained almost static (less than a 2% change) over the last 6 years. Secondly, the region has lost 5% of its rural bank and building society branches, 9.8 % of its rural petrol stations and 13.7% of its rural post offices. However, urban parts of the region have seen a much steeper percentage decline in the petrol stations and post offices, of 13.8 and 25.2 % respectively. The rate of decline in rural post offices is greater than in any other English region; however, the region still has a higher number of rural post offices per head of rural population than the East Midlands, East of England or the South East.

Homelessness increased in five out of the seven rural districts between 2003/04 and 2004/05. Again, this is only a snapshot of data and can not be indicative of any long-term trends. Homelessness may need to be analysed further and addressed if the pattern continues.

8 Governance and civic participation

8.1 Introduction

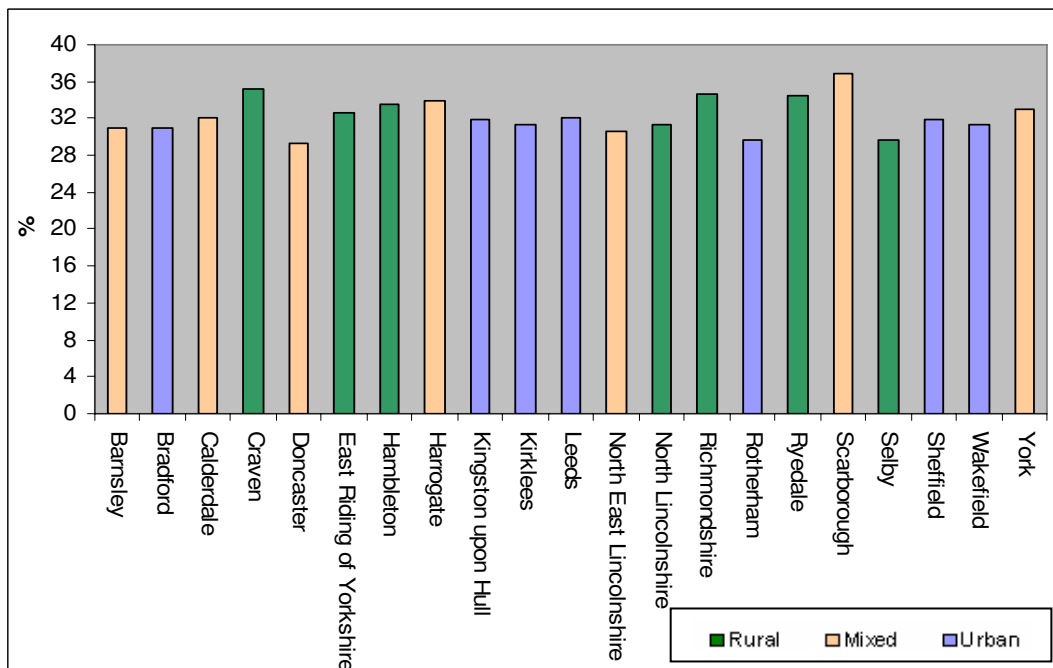
This is a new chapter for this years report. A lack of data prevented this chapter from being produced in 2005. Unfortunately there is still limited rural data available covering the region's indicators on governance and civic participation. However, as this report was completed the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) have made regional data from their "Rural Insights" survey¹ available. which reports on the perceptions and priorities of rural people. An initial look at the data suggests Rural Insights will provide a valuable boost to the evidence base on governance and civic participation. In this years report we have tried to fill this gap in the evidence base by looking at other sources of data which are available for the region's rural areas.

This chapter covers:

- Charity contributions.
- Civic affairs.
- Local government performance.

8.2 Charity contributions

Figure 8.A Percentage of households contributing to a charity by district, 2005



The data presented in Figure 8.A suggests that there is no clear relationship between percentage of households contributing to a charity and the districts rural urban classification.²

¹ <http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/publications/ruralinsights>

² Acxiom National Lifestyle survey 2005.

8.3 Civic affairs

8.3.1 *Civic participation*

The Home Office Citizenship Survey defines civic participation as engaging in at least one of the following activities:

- Contacting a local councillor
- Contacting a Member of Parliament
- Contacting a public official working for a local council
- Contacting a public official working for central government
- Contacting a public official or member working for the Greater London Assembly (GLA) or the National Assembly of Wales (NAW)³
- Attending a public meeting or rally
- Taking part in a public demonstration or protest
- Signing a petition

Figure 8.B shows the percentage of households that took part in some kind of civic affair in the last 12 months.⁴ All the rural districts score highly in this and well above the regional average of 11.2%. North Lincolnshire is the only rural district with a figure below the regional average of only 9.2%. Craven had the highest proportion of households participating in civic affairs at 16.6% in 2005. Civic participation rates across the whole of the North Yorkshire were above the regional average.

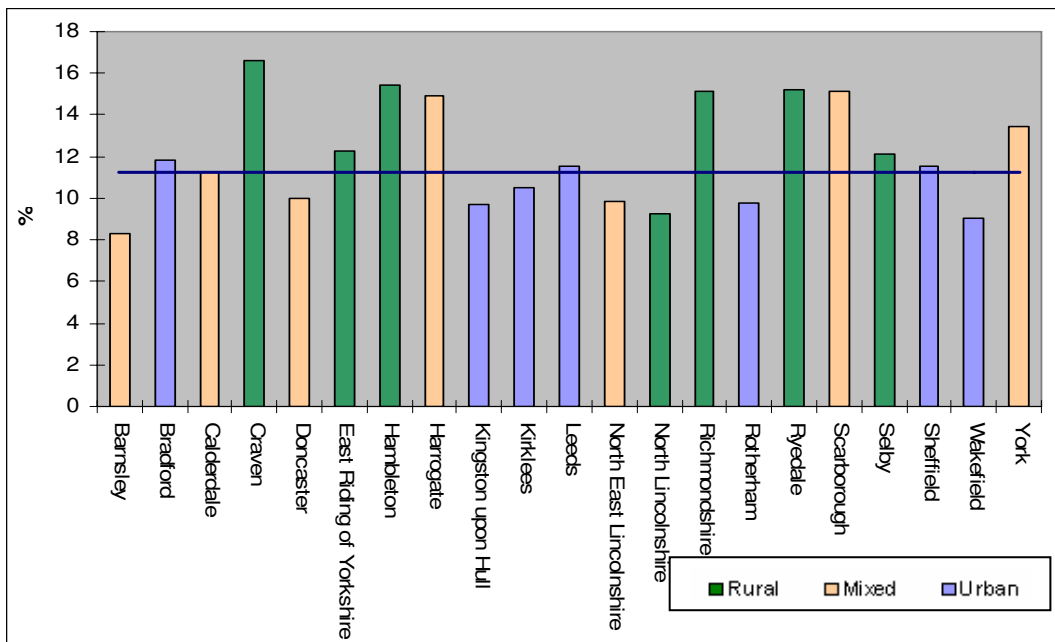
This pattern is similar to results published in the Rural Insights⁵ report by the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC). They asked people about their views, concerns and priorities for rural England and found that (for England as a whole) levels of socio-political activism were higher in rural areas than urban areas; although there is a high level of political disengagement in rural communities. Discussions with CRC about extracting data for this region from the survey are in progress. This will help provide useful evidence in this important area.

³ Not applicable to Yorkshire and The Humber. Respondents in the region were not asked if they had contacted the Yorkshire and The Humber Assembly/Yorkshire Forward/Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber.

⁴ Acxiom National Lifestyle Survey, 2006 *Civic Participation Data*

⁵ <http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/publications/ruralinsights>

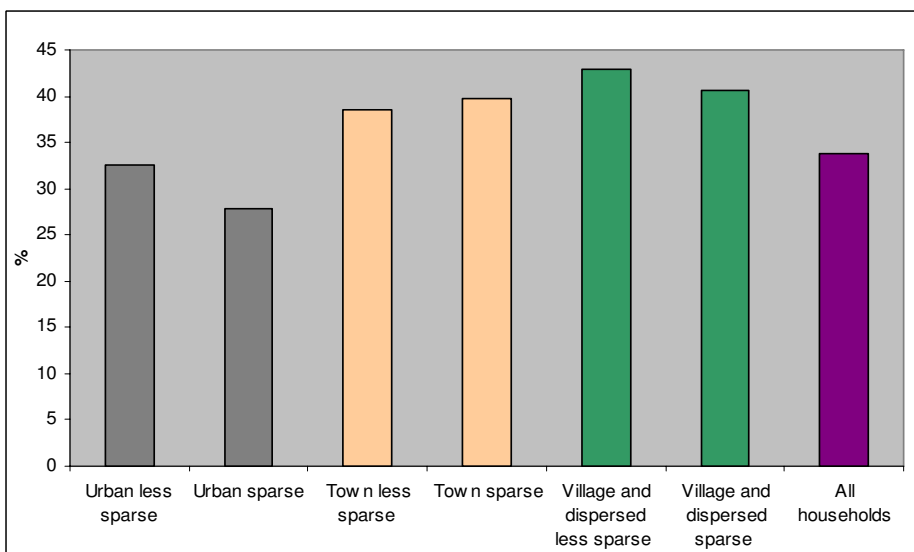
Figure 8.B Percentage of households that participate in civic affairs, 2005



8.3.2 *Local election turnout*

Data on local election turnout have been examined using the ward level rural urban definition.⁶ Figure 8.C shows that a higher percentage of residents in rural wards vote compared with those in urban wards. Those who live in a village or dispersed ward are more likely to vote than their urban counterparts, with a turnout of 42.8% in village and dispersed less sparse wards compared with 27.8% in urban sparse wards and 32.6% in urban less sparse. A possible explanation for this is the age of the population; rural wards tend to have a large percentage of older people who are more likely to vote than younger people. New analysis by the Electoral Commission suggests that this is a cohort effect; with generations carrying forward their voting or non-voting patterns as they get older.⁷

Figure 8.C Local election turnout in the Yorkshire and The Humber by ward area type, 2003

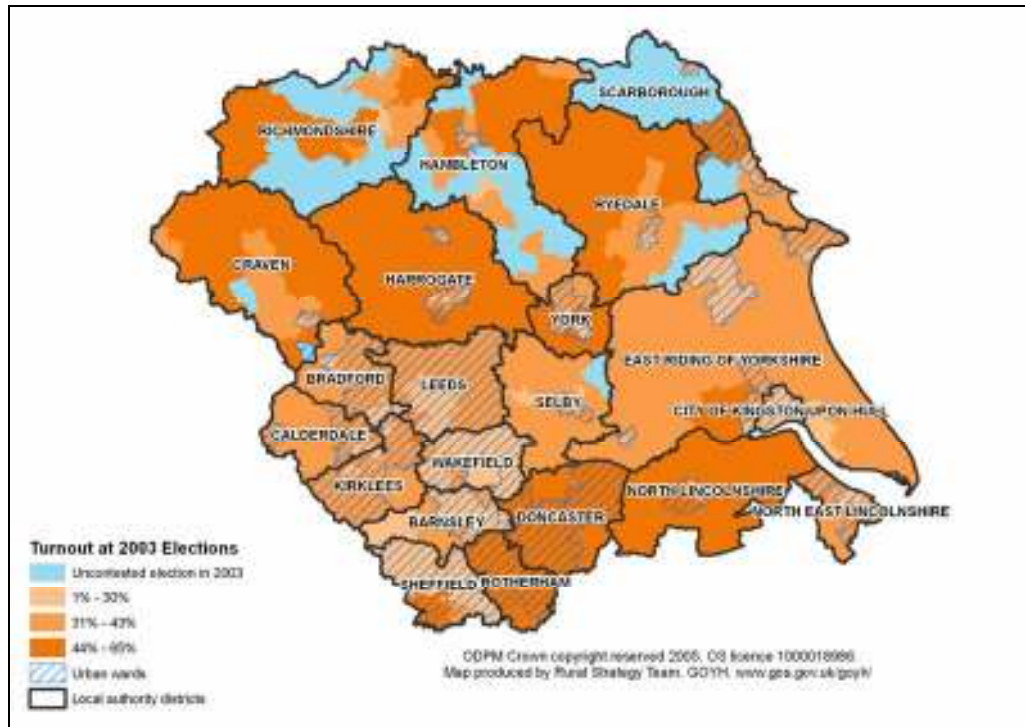


⁶ University of Plymouth (2003) *Local Election Handbook 2003*. Some wards did not have a local election in 2003, 2004 or 2002 data used instead.

⁷ Electoral Commission (2005) *Election 2005: Turnout*.

Figure 8.D maps the local election turnout in 2003 by ward.⁸ The rural wards across the region tend to have a higher percentage turnout than the urban wards, although Doncaster and Rotherham, which are made up of predominantly urban wards, also had a high percentage turnout in 2003.

Figure 8.D Local election turnout by ward area type, 2003



The Quality Parish and Town Council scheme was launched in June 2003, following the publication of the Government's Rural White Paper (2000).⁹ The scheme was designed to provide a benchmark for minimum standards of good governance and civic participation for parish and town councils and enable them to better represent the communities they serve. The scheme also aims to enhance relationships between local councils, principal authorities and community and voluntary sector organisations. Twenty parish councils in Yorkshire and The Humber have already achieved this status as of October 2006. However, there are 1328 parish and town councils in the region, with many of them actively working towards achieving the status.¹⁰

8.4 Local government performance

The Government uses Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) to classify the quality of public services. This is a significant tool, which is used as a mechanism to assess where local authorities can be given devolved freedoms, flexibilities and powers. It is important to note that local authorities with low CPA scores may still display best practice and provide good quality public services in specific areas.

CPA was introduced by the Government in 2002 as a way of supporting councils to deliver improvements in services to local people. CPA brings together existing information on service performance in councils with a corporate assessment of a council's ability to improve. This is used to reach an overall judgement of how a council is rated. In 2005, a new framework was set up to rate performance whereby a council could receive four down to zero stars (with four being the highest category of performance).¹¹

⁸ University of Plymouth (2003) Local Election Handbook 2003. Some wards did not have a local election in 2003, 2004 or 2002 used instead.

⁹ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralwp/default.htm>

¹⁰ A list of councils with the status can be found at: <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/quality/qualitycouncilslist.html>

¹¹ www.audit-commission.gov.uk/cpa/stcc/downloads/STCCFrameworkFor2006.pdf

For the first time a direction of travel assessment was made in 2005, which makes a judgement about how well councils are complying with their duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement.¹² The first results under the new methodology were published by the Audit Commission in December 2005 and are shown in Table 8.A.¹³

Table 8.A Unitary Authority and County Council CPA performance by individual authority, 2005

District		Score	Direction of travel
Barnsley	Mixed	3	Improving well
Bradford	Urban	3	Improving adequately
Calderdale	Mixed	Subject to review	Subject to review
Doncaster	Mixed	3	Improving adequately
East Riding of Yorkshire	Rural	3	Improving strongly
Kingston upon Hull	Urban	1	Improving adequately
Kirklees	Urban	3	Improving well
Leeds	Urban	4	Improving well
North East Lincolnshire	Mixed	0	Not improving adequately
North Lincolnshire	Rural	3	Improving adequately
North Yorkshire	Rural	3	Improving well
Rotherham	Urban	3	Improving strongly
Sheffield	Urban	4	Improving well
Wakefield	Urban	2	Improving well
York	Mixed	3	Improving adequately

In Yorkshire and The Humber only two authorities received four stars (Leeds and Sheffield), nine received three stars, one received two stars, one received one star (Kingston upon Hull) and one received no stars (North East Lincolnshire Council). With the exception of North East Lincolnshire all the rated councils were improving at least adequately. Calderdale's star rating and direction of travel is still subject to review. The three rural districts, East Riding of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, and North Lincolnshire all scored a rating of 3, improving strongly, well and adequately.

8.5 Beacon Council Status

Bradford Council's approach to delivering rural services is recognised as one of best examples of innovation in improving services in rural areas. This achievement was highlighted in Defra's Rural Services Review published in July 2006.¹⁴

¹² For further information on Comprehensive Performance Assessment, please visit: www.audit-commission.gov.uk/cpa/index.asp

¹³ Audit Commission, 2006.

¹⁴ www.defra.gov.uk/rural/services/

8.6 Conclusion

Rural districts have higher participation rates for civic affairs, and rural areas tend to have higher local election turnouts.

Only a small number (20 out of 1328) parish and town councils have achieved the Quality Parish and Town Council status.

Local government performance appears to be improving at least adequately in all rural districts, with strong improvements in East Riding of Yorkshire.

Abbreviations and symbols

ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASHE	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings
BVPIs	Best Value Performance Indicators
CA	Countryside Agency
CPA	Comprehensive Performance Assessment
CRC	Commission for Rural Communities
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DfES	Department for Education and Skills
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
EA	Environment Agency
EBSL	Experian Business Strategies Limited
FBS	Farm Business Survey
FTE	Full Time Equivalents
GB	Great Britain – England, Scotland and Wales
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographical Information System
GOYH	Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber
GP	General Practitioner
GVA	Gross Value Added
ICT	Information Communication and Technology
IDBR	Inter-Departmental Business Register
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
IPS	International Passenger Survey
LA	Local Authority
LSC	Learning and Skills Council
NAO	National Audit Office
NHBC	National House Building Council
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
OA	Output Area
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
ONS	Office for National Statistics

PCT	Primary Care Trust
PSA	Public Service Agreement
REM	Regional Econometric Model
RSU	Rural Statistics Unit (of Defra)
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SBS	Small Business Service
SME	Small to Medium Enterprise
SMR	Standardised Mortality Rate
SOA	Super Output Area
SPS	Single Payment Scheme
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UK	United Kingdom – England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
UKTS	United Kingdom Tourism Survey
VAT	Value Added Tax
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
YHA	Yorkshire and Humber Assembly
-	When used with year references this symbol indicates a calendar year
/	When used with year references this symbol indicates a financial/academic year
%	Percent
000s	Unit of measurement in thousands
°C	Measurement of temperature in Degrees Celsius.
£bn	Measurement of currency in pounds billion
£m	Measurement of currency in pounds million
mm	Unit of measurement in millimetres
m	Unit of measurement in meters
km	Unit of measurement in kilometres
ha	Unit of measurement in hectares
kt	Unit of measurement in kilo-tonnes
mg/l	Unit of measurement milligrams per litre
CO ₂	Chemical symbol for carbon dioxide

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