

2 RURAL STATISTICS: APPENDICES

Appendix 2: "SETTLEMENT & SPARSITY PROFILES"

In Unit 2.04: "The 'Make Up' of - and Changes to - the Rural Population" the issues of both rural settlement type and sparsity were considered in passing. As with population age information, the distribution of populations by settlement and by sparsity can be obtained from the 2001 Census information made available through DEFRA's "Rural Focus" reports.

[CLICK HERE](#) -> to reach DEFRA's "Rural Focus" Reports

The information is provided at a variety of levels: National, Regional, Local Authority Districts (LADs) or Unitary Authorities (UAs), Parliamentary Constituencies and for the so-called "Pathfinder" County Councils.

Settlement information distinguishes four categories:

- Urban
- Rural Towns
- Rural Villages
- Rural Dispersed

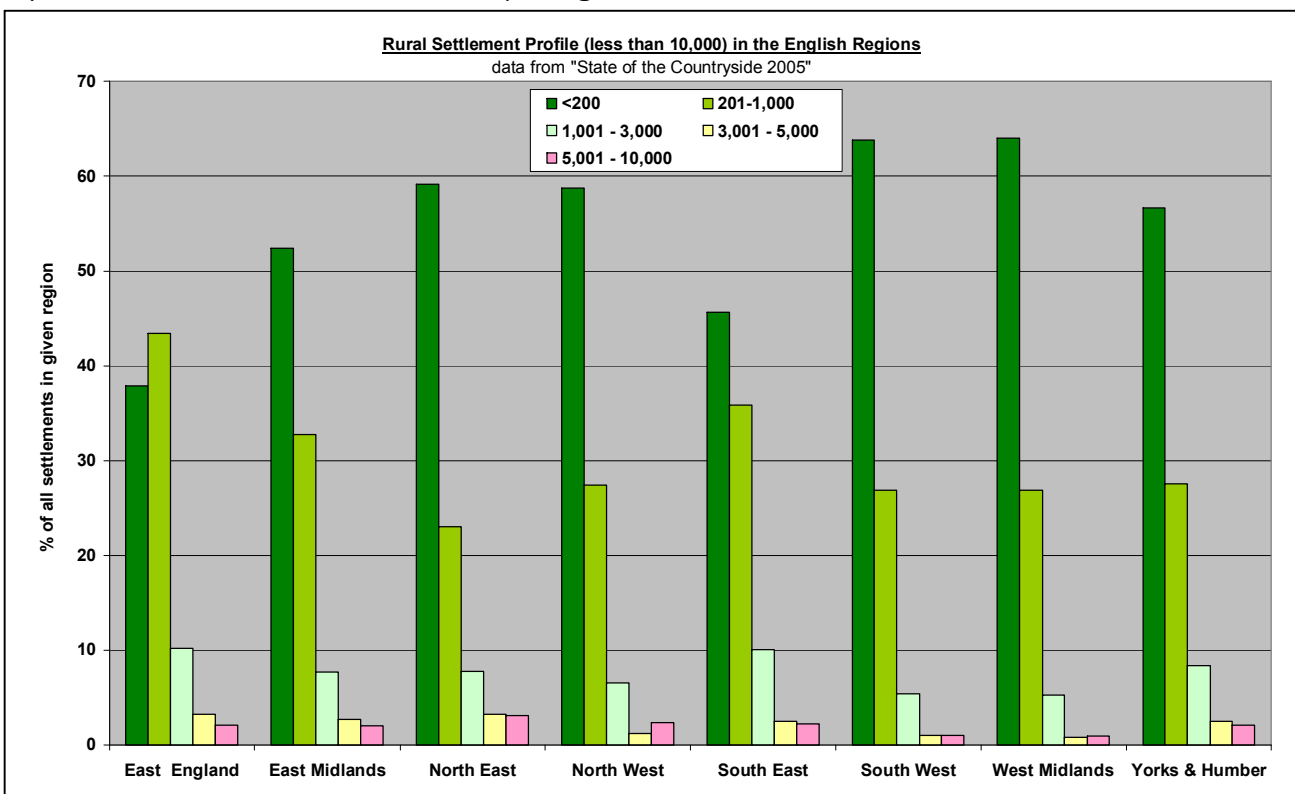
Sparsity information (for both rural & urban areas) distinguishes two categories:

- Sparse
- Less Sparse

This provides an alternative way of looking at the rural population, and especially of comparing different rural areas with each other. Some examples are provided here.

By Settlement Type

Under the new government definition of rurality, a population of 10,000 is the 'cut-off' point between rural & urban. Anything less than this is considered rural.



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There are clear differences in rural community distribution between the regions, on the basis of 5 size 'bands'. In particular, differences between the two smallest sizes of community: those with less than 200 inhabitants and those with 200-1,000 inhabitants.

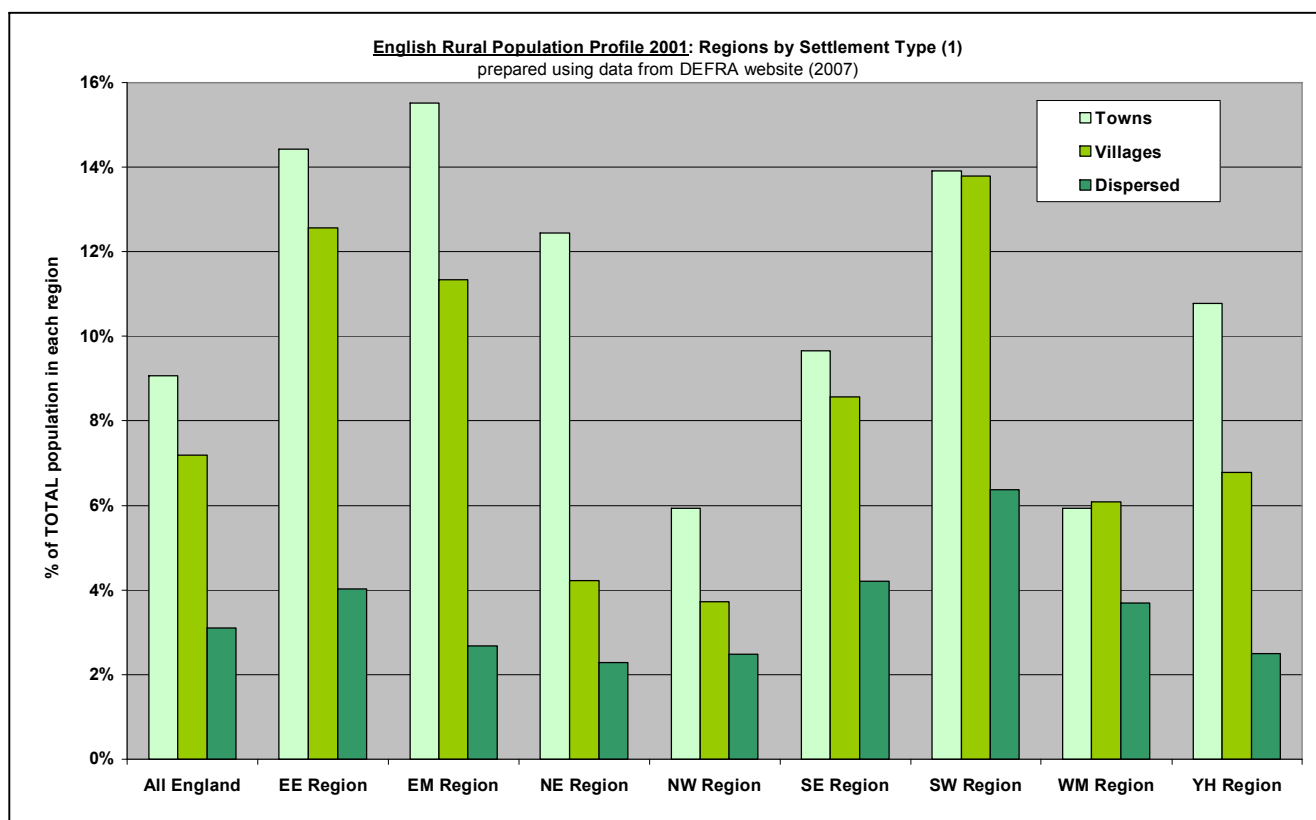
The following table reintroduces the 'breakdown' of urban & rural inhabitants for all regions (except London). In terms of rural definitions, the rural population for each region is the part of its population that is considered in the above chart - all those living in settlements of population less than 10,000. It is important to recognise when total regional or district populations are being considered, and when just their rural population is provided.

Region	Urban Population	Rural Population
East of England	69.0%	31.0%
East Midlands	70.5%	29.5%
North East	81.1%	18.9%
North West	87.9%	12.1%
South East	77.6%	22.4%
South West	65.9%	34.1%
West Midlands	84.3%	15.7%
Yorkshire & Humber	80.0%	20.0%
ALL ENGLAND	80.7%	19.3%

[CLICK HERE](#) -> for a larger table

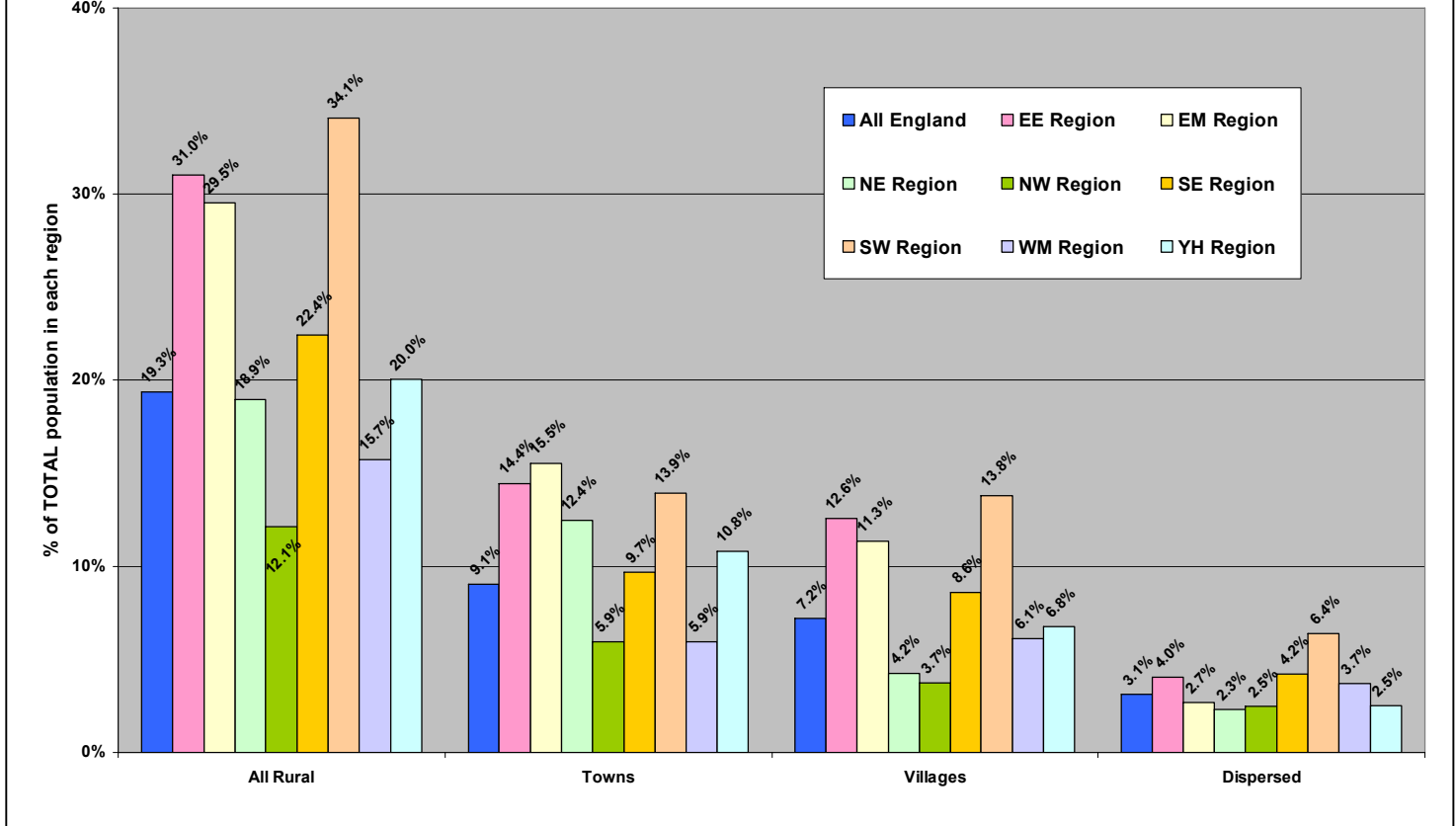
A word of caution here. It is important to remember that these rural population figures DO NOT include people living in the 207 "Key Market Towns" (which have populations of 10-30,000) considered in other sections. The Key Market Towns are ONLY employed when considering district definitions of rural.

[CLICK HERE](#) -> for a table of rural districts, showing how KMTs affect the numbers



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English Regional Rural Population Profile 2001: Regions by Settlement Type (2)
 prepared using data from DEFRA website (2007)



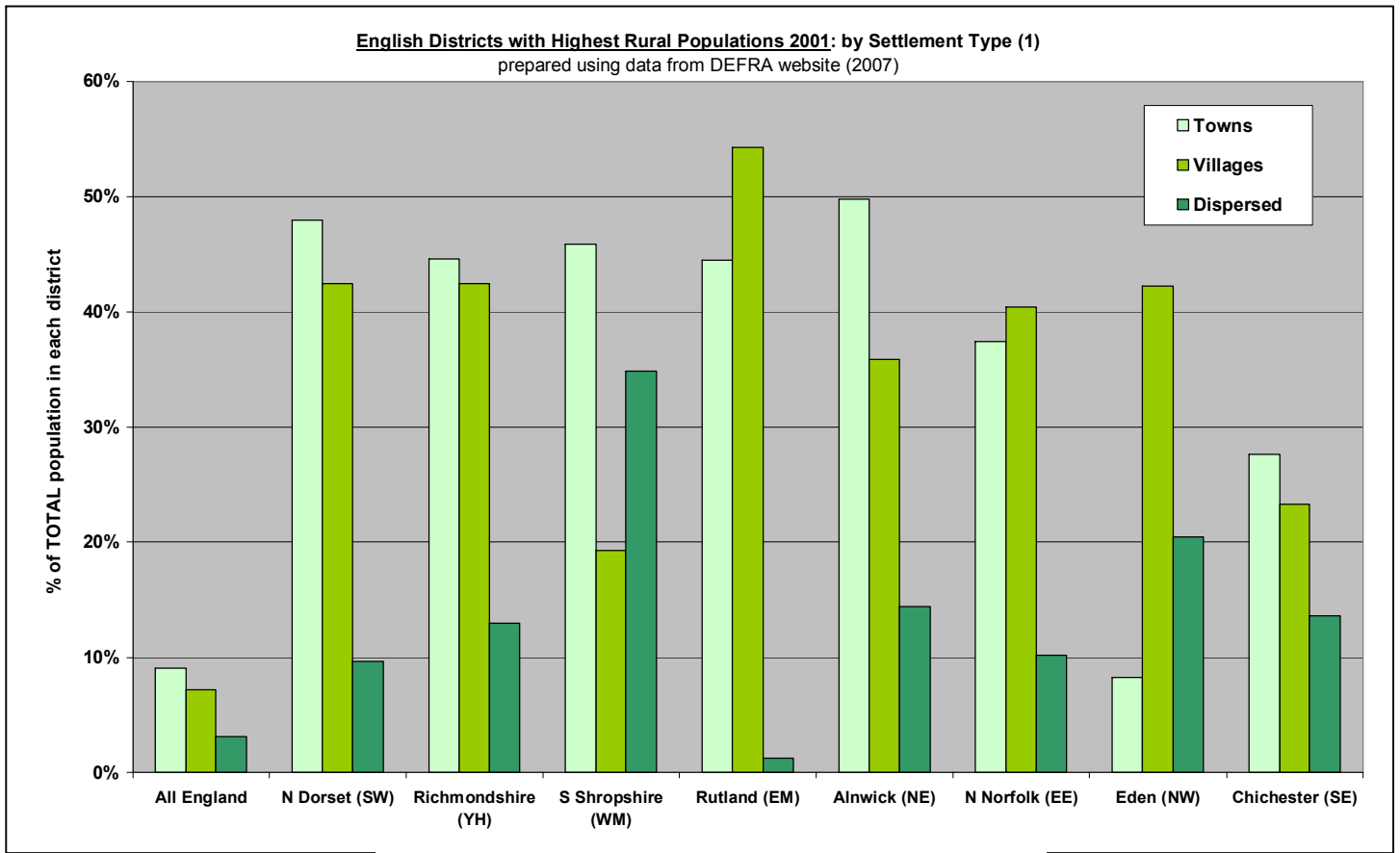
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These two charts provide a rather different perspective on the distribution of the rural population of England's regions compared to the first chart above. In the first chart, the numbers of settlements were given; in the next two charts, the numbers of people living in different settlement types is considered. The 'balance' of the rural population between the three settlement types within each region is quite variable; and there are marked differences between the regions in the contribution made by each settlement type to the overall rural population.

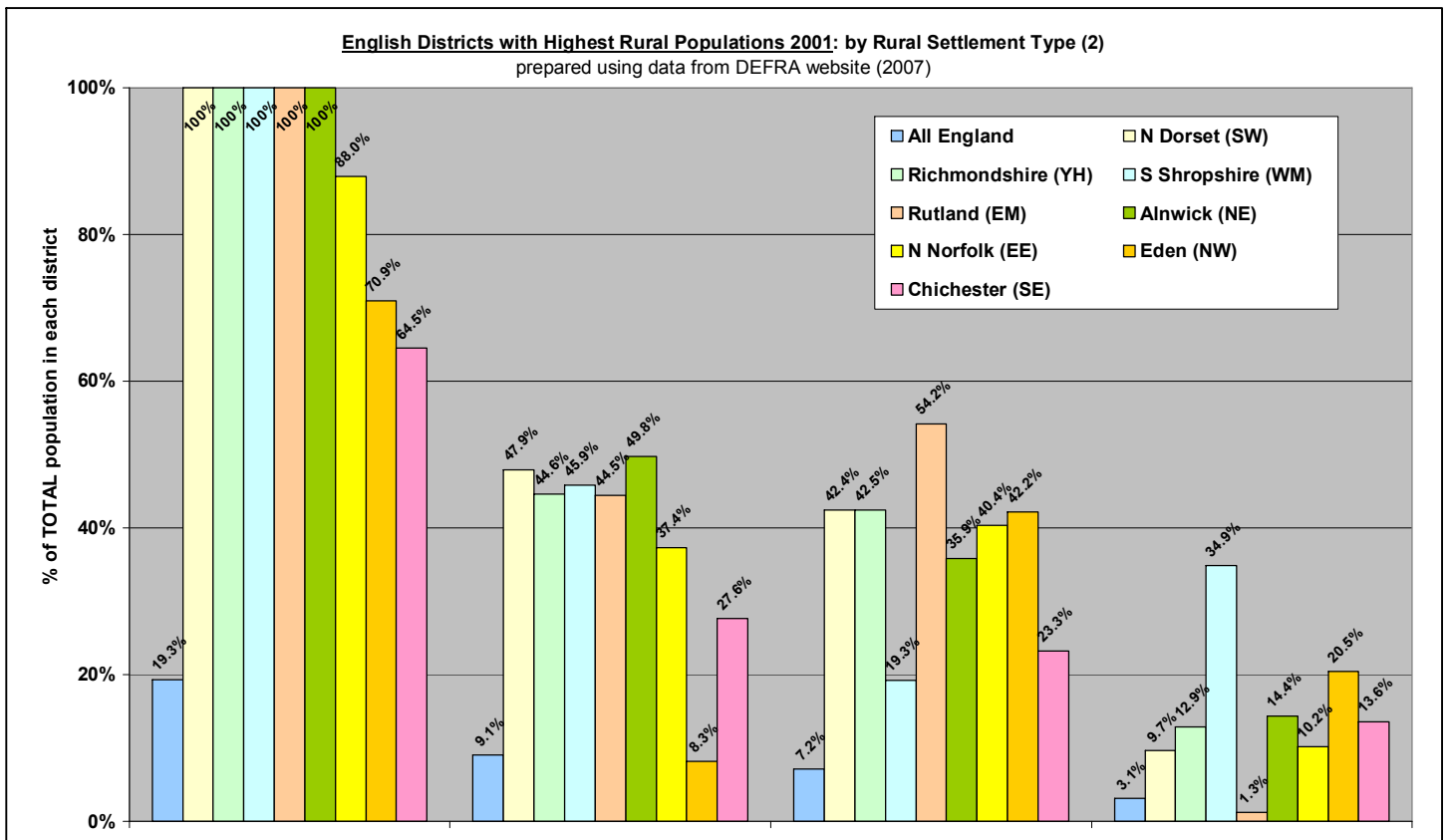
It is possible to look at the settlement profiles from the districts with the highest rural populations. One district was chosen from each English region (excluding London); in each case this was the district within that region having the highest proportion of rural to urban inhabitants.

District	Urban Population	Rural Population
N Dorset (SW)	0.0%	100.0%
Richmondshire (YH)	0.0%	100.0%
S Shropshire (WM)	0.0%	100.0%
Rutland (EM)	0.0%	100.0%
Alnwick (NE)	0.0%	100.0%
N Norfolk (EE)	12.0%	88.0%
Eden (NW)	29.1%	70.9%
Chichester (SE)	35.5%	64.5%
ALL ENGLAND	80.7%	19.3%

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A much wider diversity of population distribution is seen here both within and among the rural settlements of the eight English districts having the highest proportion of rural

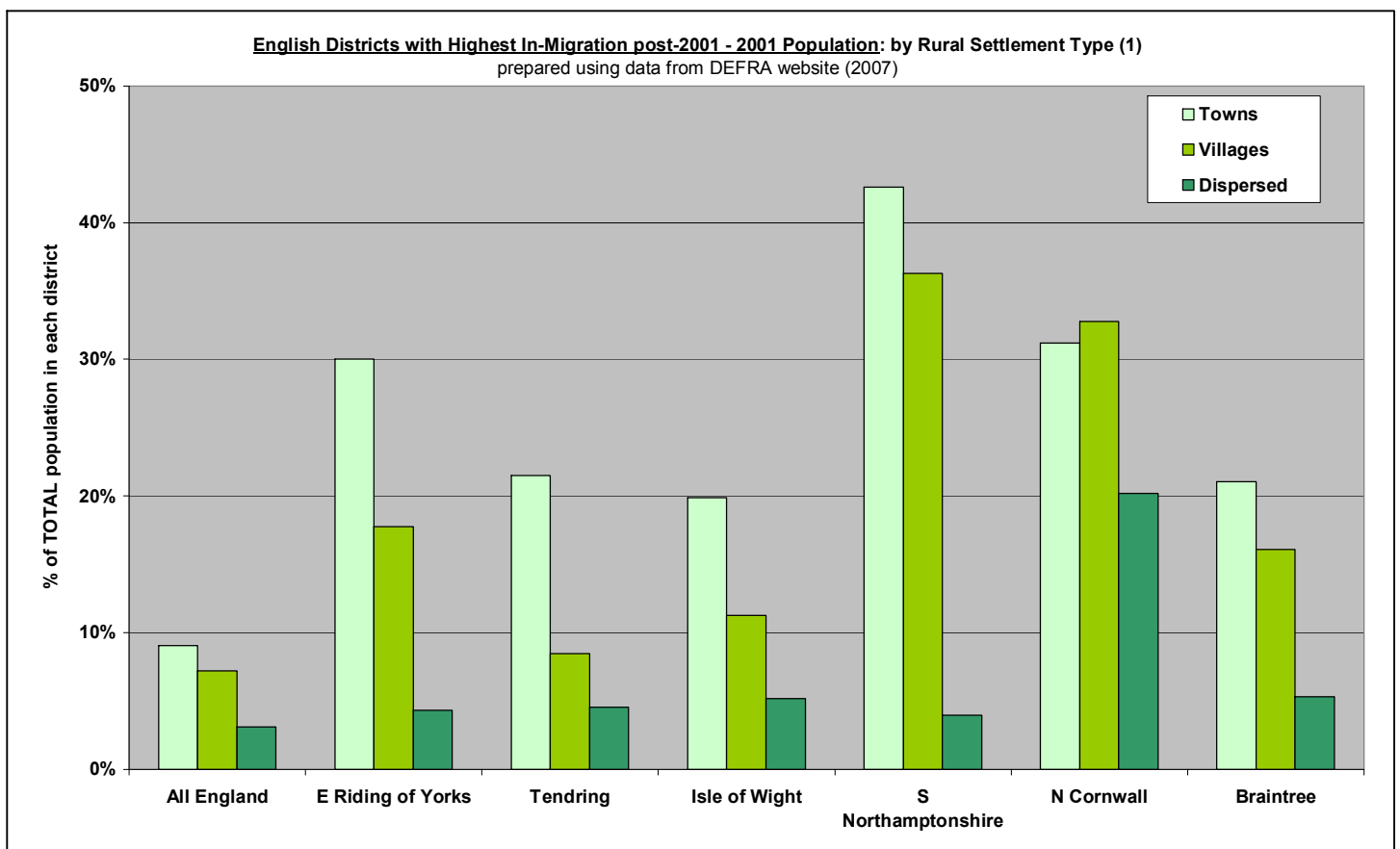
residents. It is hard to draw any meaningful conclusions from the spread of examples provided ... except to say that the most rural districts are highly heterogeneous in terms of the numbers & distribution of their rural settlements! These results can helpfully be compared with the profiles of the same districts from the perspective of their *sparsity* - which can be found below.

It is also possible to look at the rural districts that have experienced the highest rates of in-migration in the period since the 2001 census. Again, the population profile across the three different types of rural settlement - based on the figures from that census - gives a baseline to look at the settlement patterns existing within the districts to which most people have moved in the past few years. More data on these districts, considered in the context of migration within England as a whole, is found elsewhere:

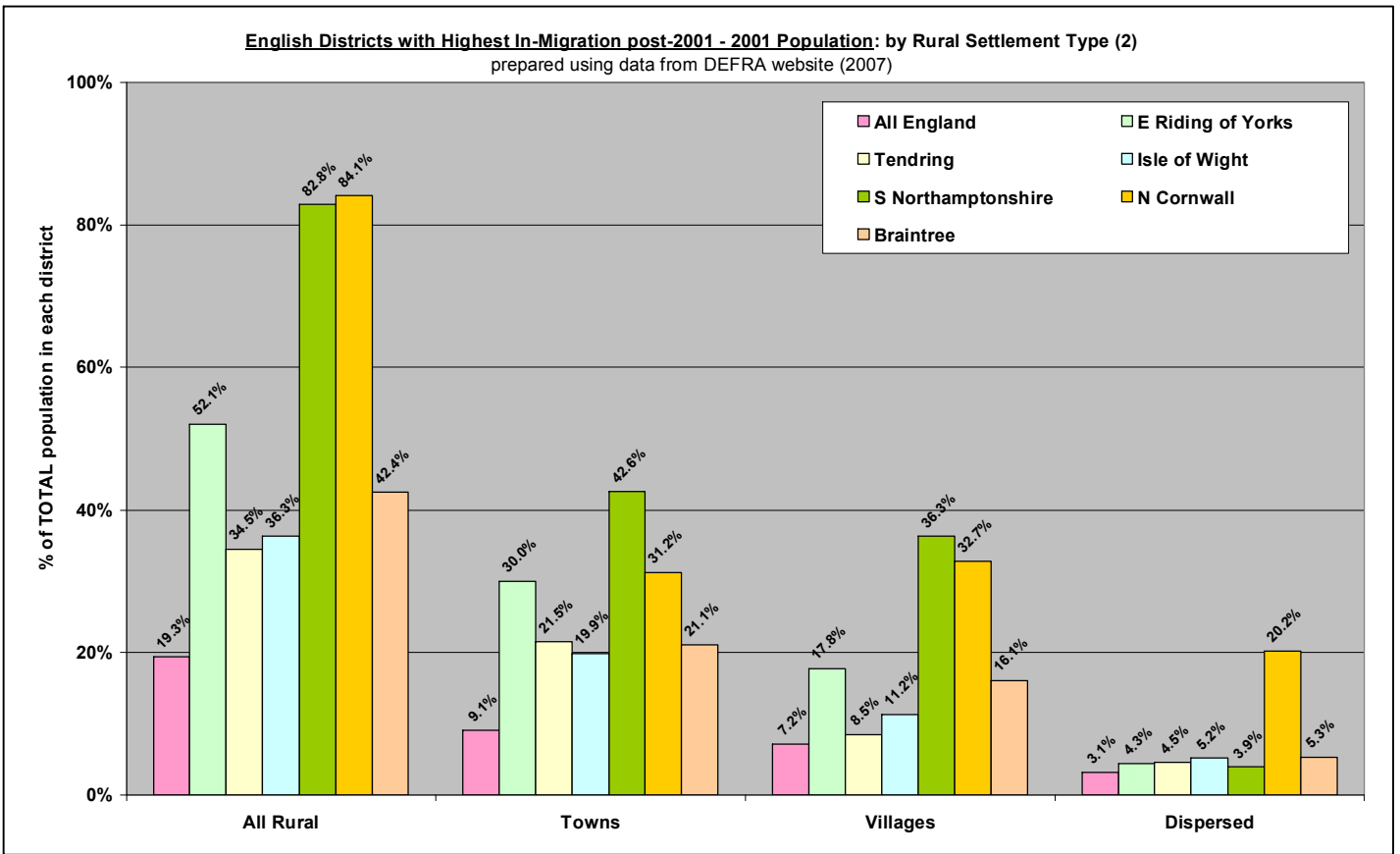
[CLICK HERE](#) -> for **Appendix 4: "Migration & the Rural Population"**

District	Urban Population	Rural Population
E Riding Yorks (YH - R50)	47.9%	52.1%
Tendring (EE - R50)	65.5%	34.5%
Isle of Wight (SE - R80)	63.7%	36.3%
S Northants (EM - R80)	17.2%	82.8%
N Cornwall (SW - R80)	15.9%	84.1%
Braintree (EE - R50)	57.6%	42.4%
ALL ENGLAND	80.7%	19.3%

[CLICK HERE](#) -> for a larger table



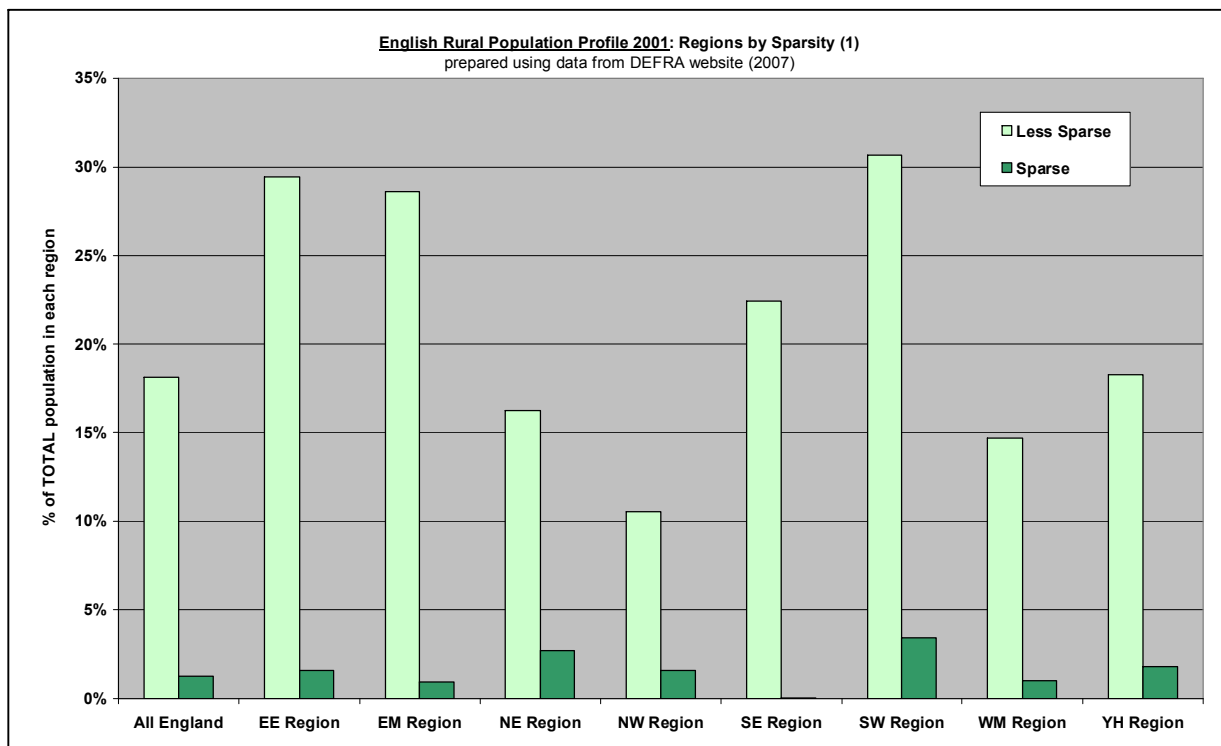
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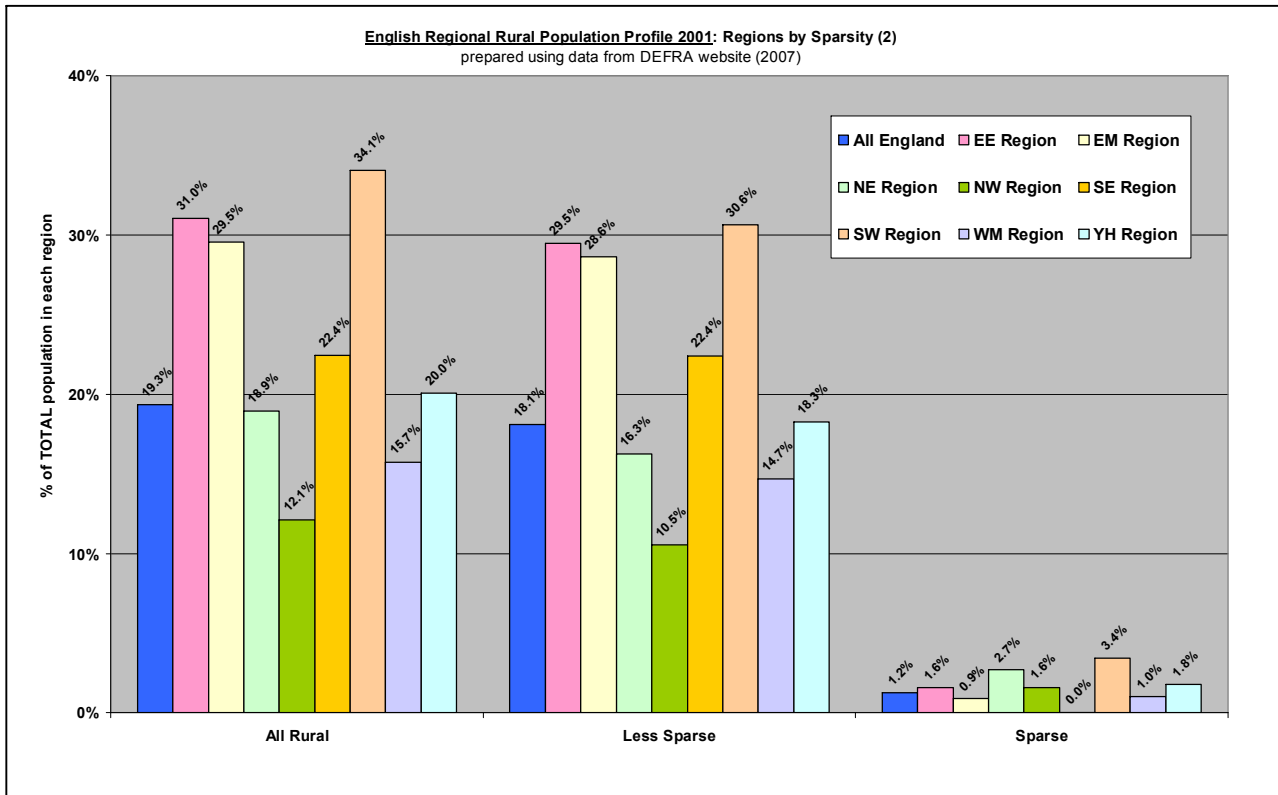
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These districts don't show the same population profile across the three rural settlement categories as the most rural districts did (see earlier). There is far less variation in the distributions between the different districts, and with one exception (North Cornwall) all the districts show a small & relatively similar proportion of the population living in the most dispersed settlements. The reason behind this, and other features of these high in-migration districts, will be discussed in **Appendix 4: "Migration & the Rural Population"**.

By Sparsity

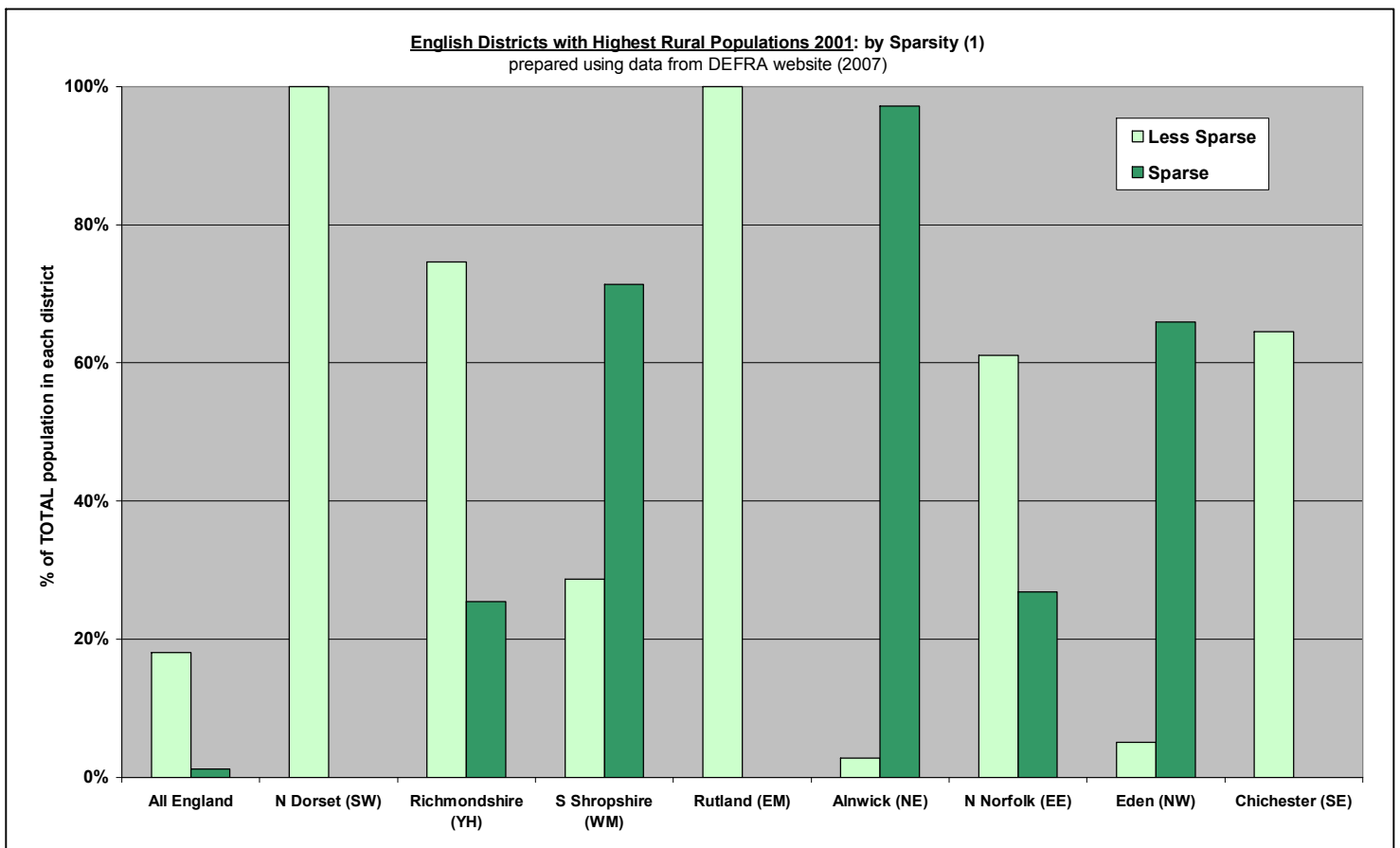


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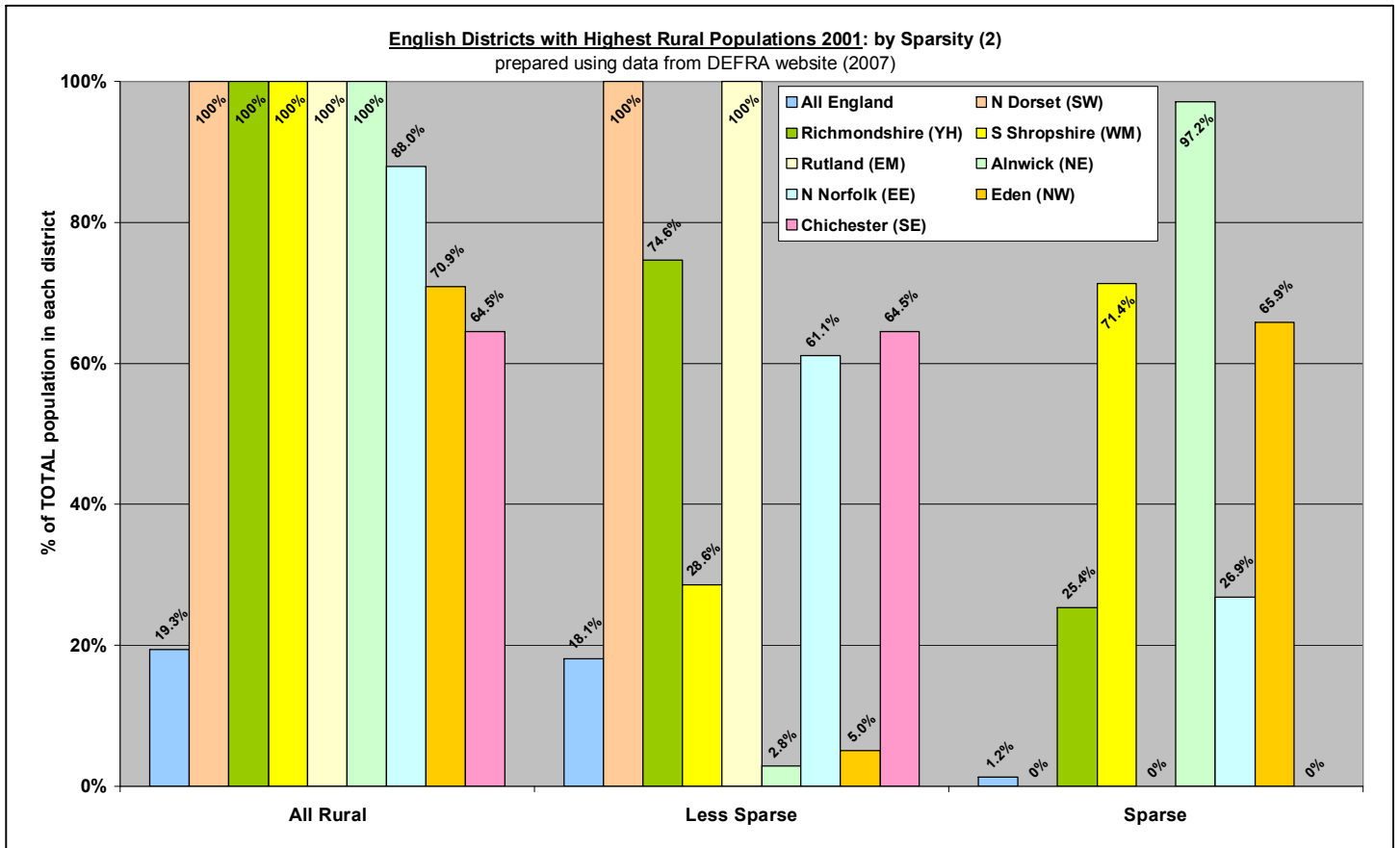


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The regional sparsity 'profiles' show that there are wide regional variations in the relative proportions of the rural population in less sparse & sparse areas - from 32 times (ratio less sparse:sparse) in the East Midlands, to 6 times (less sparse:sparse) in the North East. The SE region, perhaps unsurprisingly, has no people living in sparse areas.

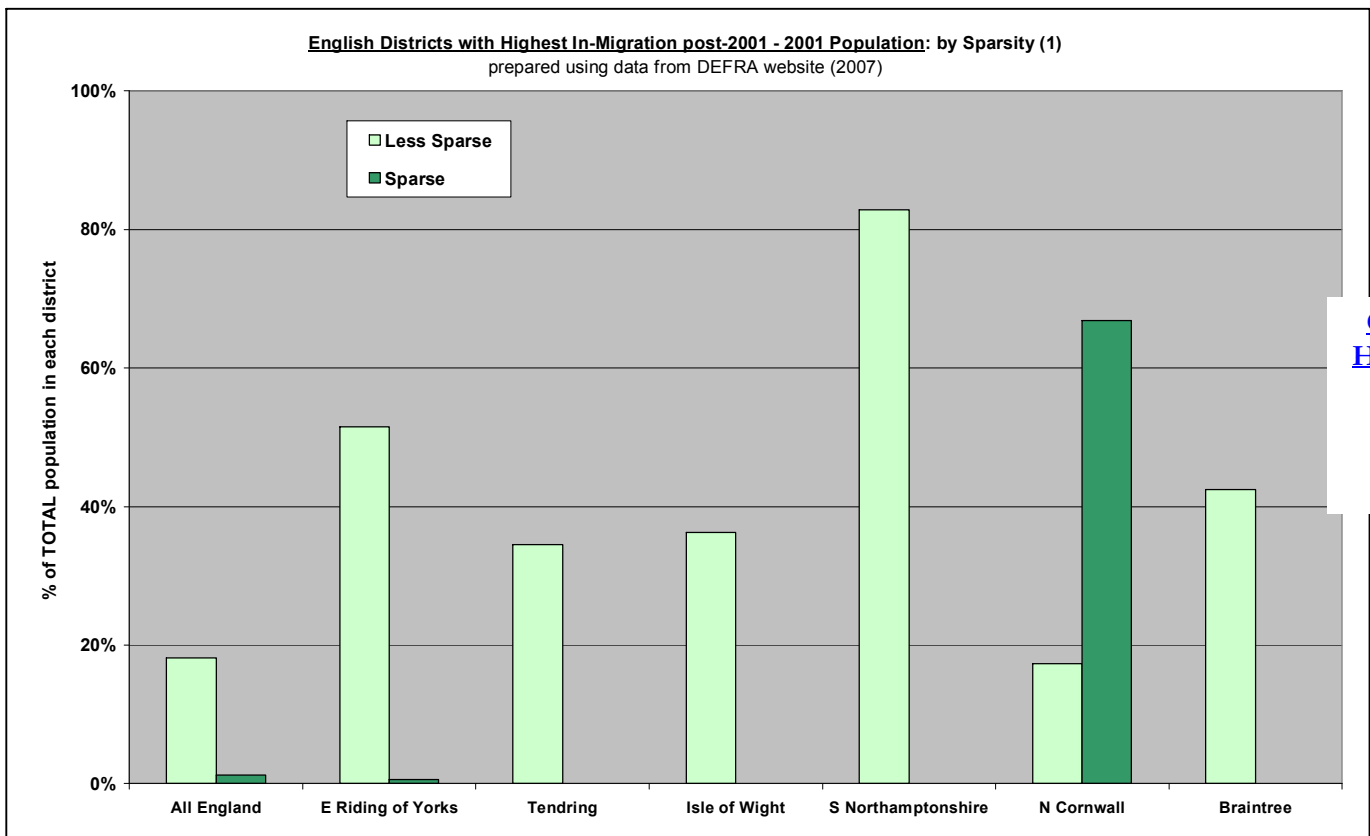


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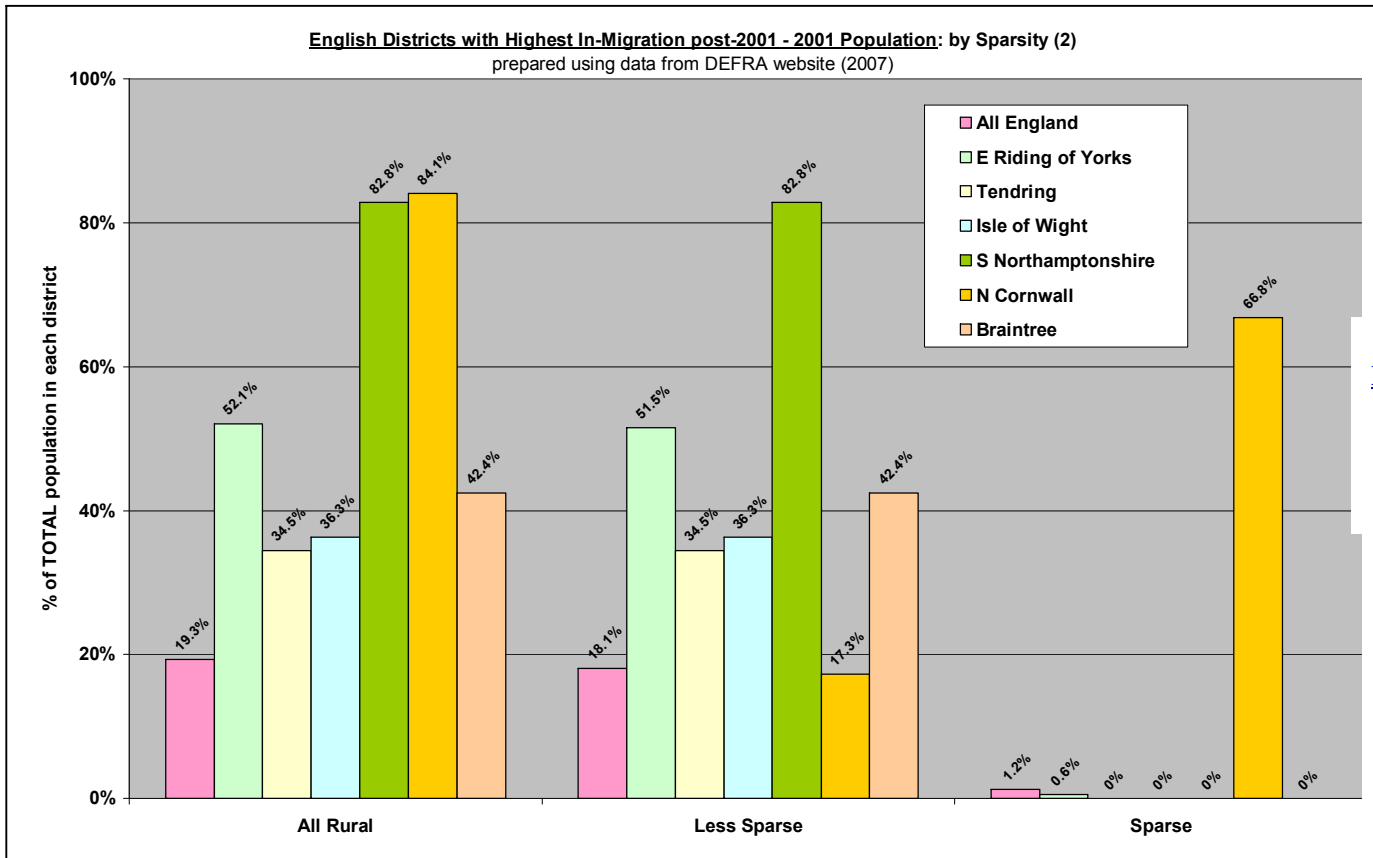


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For districts with the highest rural populations (detailed earlier), variations are even wider: from North Dorset, Rutland & Chichester with no people living in sparse areas, to Alnwick where 98% of the rural population live in sparse areas. For the rest, some have more people in sparse areas while for others it is the reverse. There is no clear 'pattern'.



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Given the 'picture' of the previous sparsity profiles, the case of the rural districts exhibiting highest in-migration is very distinct. With a single exception - that of North Cornwall, with 67% of the population from 2001 living in sparse areas - all these districts have no, or very few, people living in sparse areas. For some reason, it would appear that most migration into rural areas occurs for 'destination' districts with very low sparse populations. This finding matches the earlier conclusion regarding the settlement profiles of the same group of districts; most migration is into districts with relatively low population numbers in the most dispersed settlements.

This is worth following up, as already indicated earlier, and it is considered further in the following appendix:

Appendix 4: "Migration & the Rural Population" [[CLICK HERE](#) -> to access this material]

[CLICK HERE](#) -> to return to the start of this section

[CLICK HERE](#) -> to return to Unit 2.04:
"The 'Make Up' of - and Changes to - the Rural Population"

[CLICK HERE](#) -> to return to breakdown of Unit 2

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