

Rural-urban relationships

The search for the evidence base

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Outline of presentation

- Rural-urban relationships in policy documents
- Interpretations of the term rural urban relationship
- Rural-urban classification
- Less-explored aspects of rural-urban relationships
- Analysis of Commuting based on Census 2001 figures
- Analysis of Business Moves using the Beta Model
- Conclusion

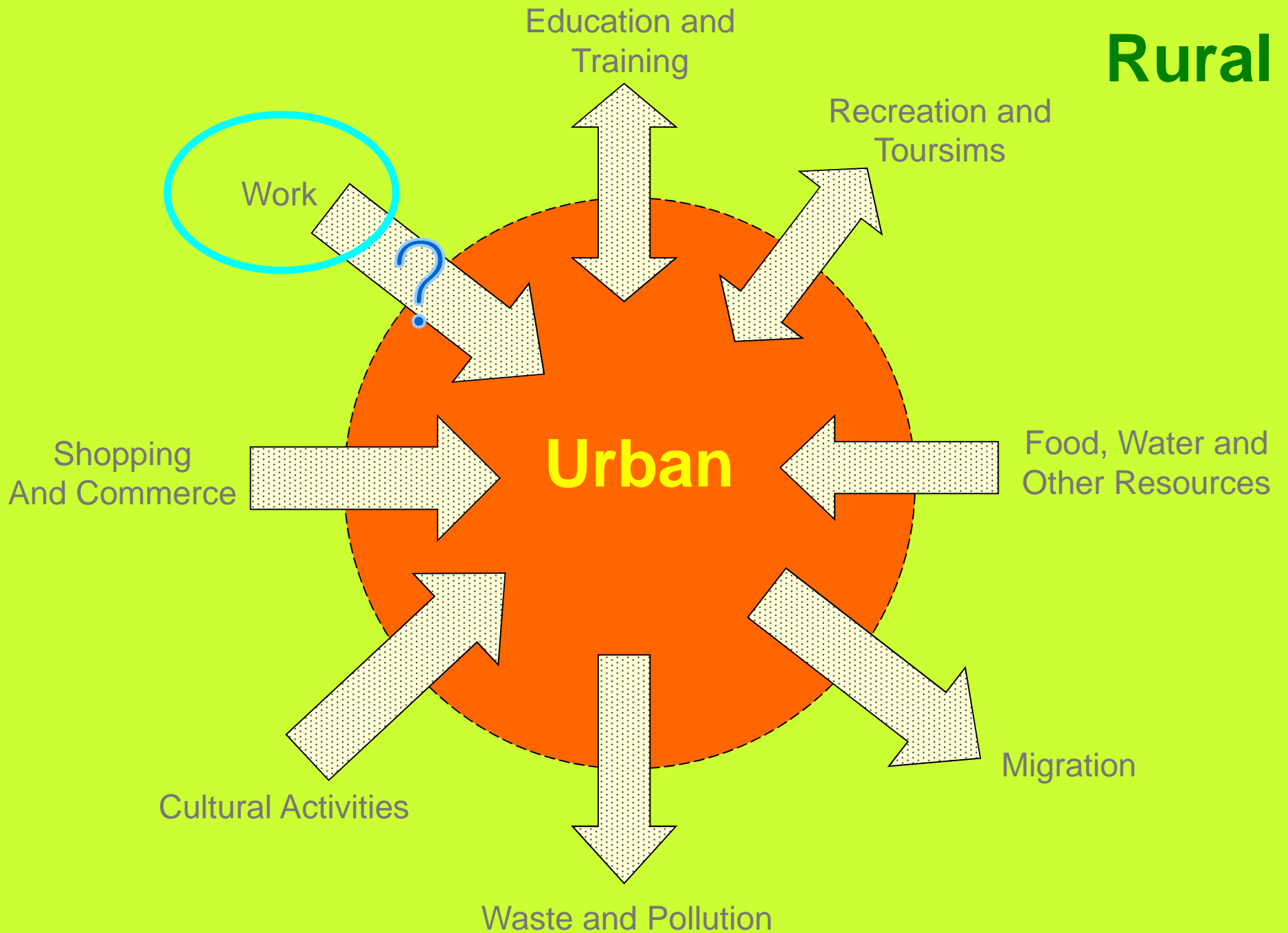
Rural-urban relationships in policy documents

- A number of policy documents both on national and regional level stress the importance of rural-urban relationships
- Yet it often remains unclear what is really meant by that
- Economic policies for rural areas tend to focus on agriculture/ marketing of regional products/ tourism
- At the same time a necessary diversification of the rural economy is stressed
- Lack of knowledge and detailed policies for the rest of the rural economy and their development in relation to urban areas

Interpretations of the term rural urban relationship

- Patterns of urbanization/”ruralization”
 - Linked to the debate about the definition and classification of rural and urban areas
- Flows (material/informational) or links between rural and urban areas
- Relationship as a partnership or cooperation between rural and urban areas
- ...

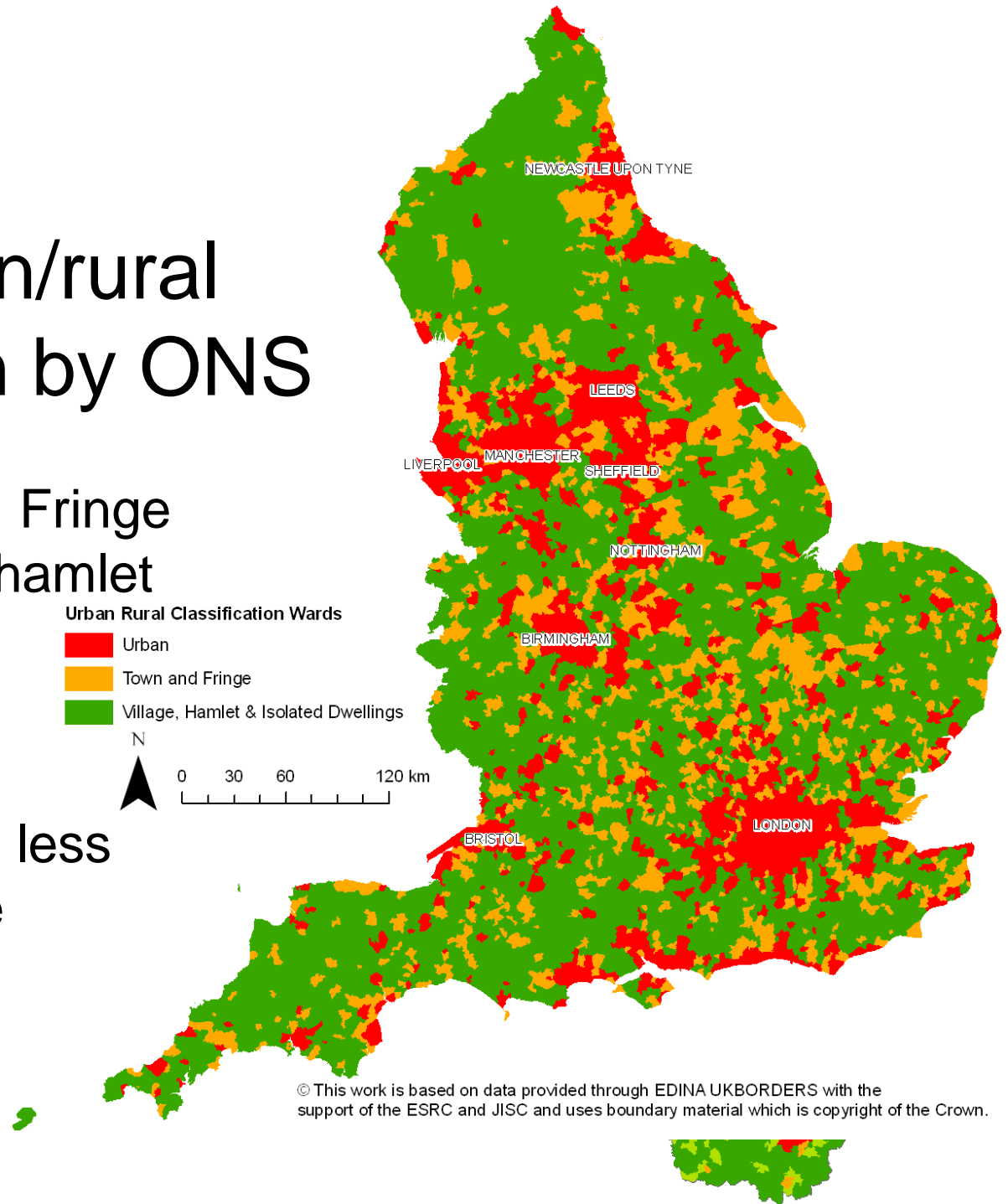
Rural



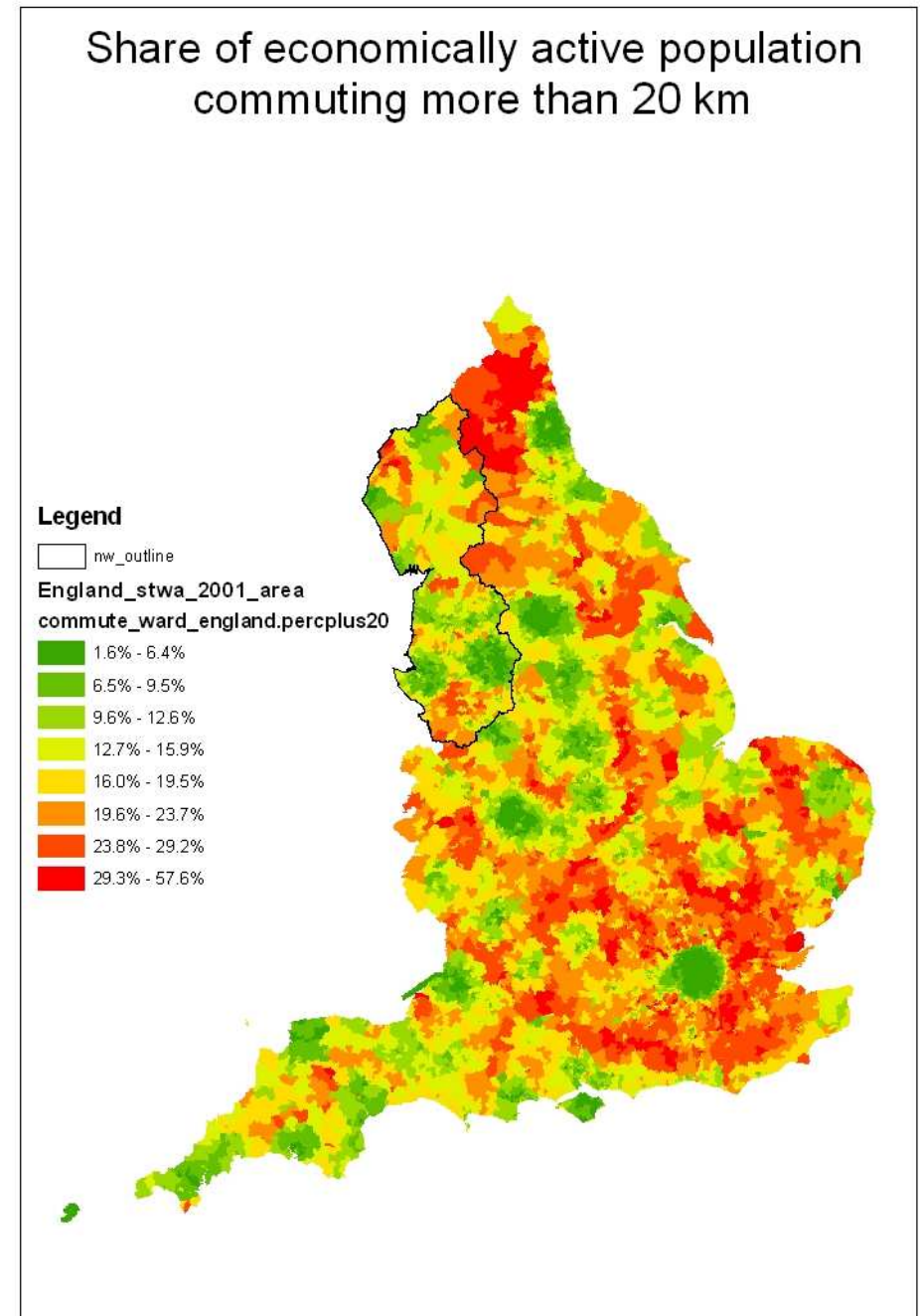
Adapted from: Nadin, V. and Stead, D. (2000). Interdependence between urban and rural areas in the West of England. Working Paper 59, Faculty of the Built Environment, University of West of England, Bristol.

New urban/rural classification by ONS

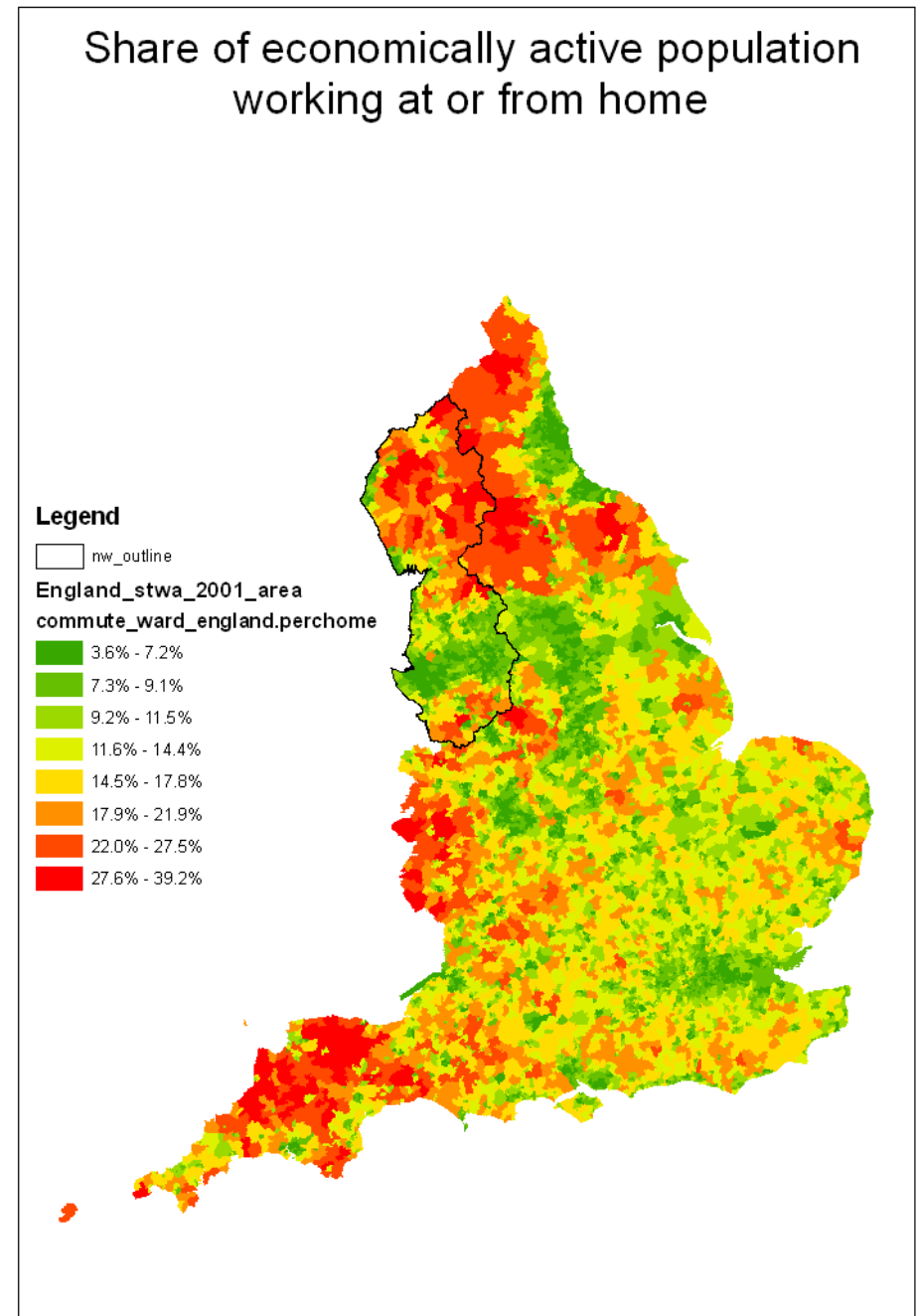
- Categories: Urban; Fringe and town; Village, hamlet and dispersed households
- Differentiation by sparse/remote and less sparse/non-remote



- Long distance commuting 2001
 - Based on Census 2001
 - Calculated distance between postcodes of place of work and place of residence
 - Easier to analyse than directional flows
 - High shares in parts of Allerdale, the southern wards of Lancaster and parts of Cheshire/ Vale Royal
 - Not surprisingly generally low rates in all urban areas
 - Surprisingly low rates in rural parts of Lancashire and South Lakeland
 - In comparison with the rest of England generally low rate of long distance commuting.

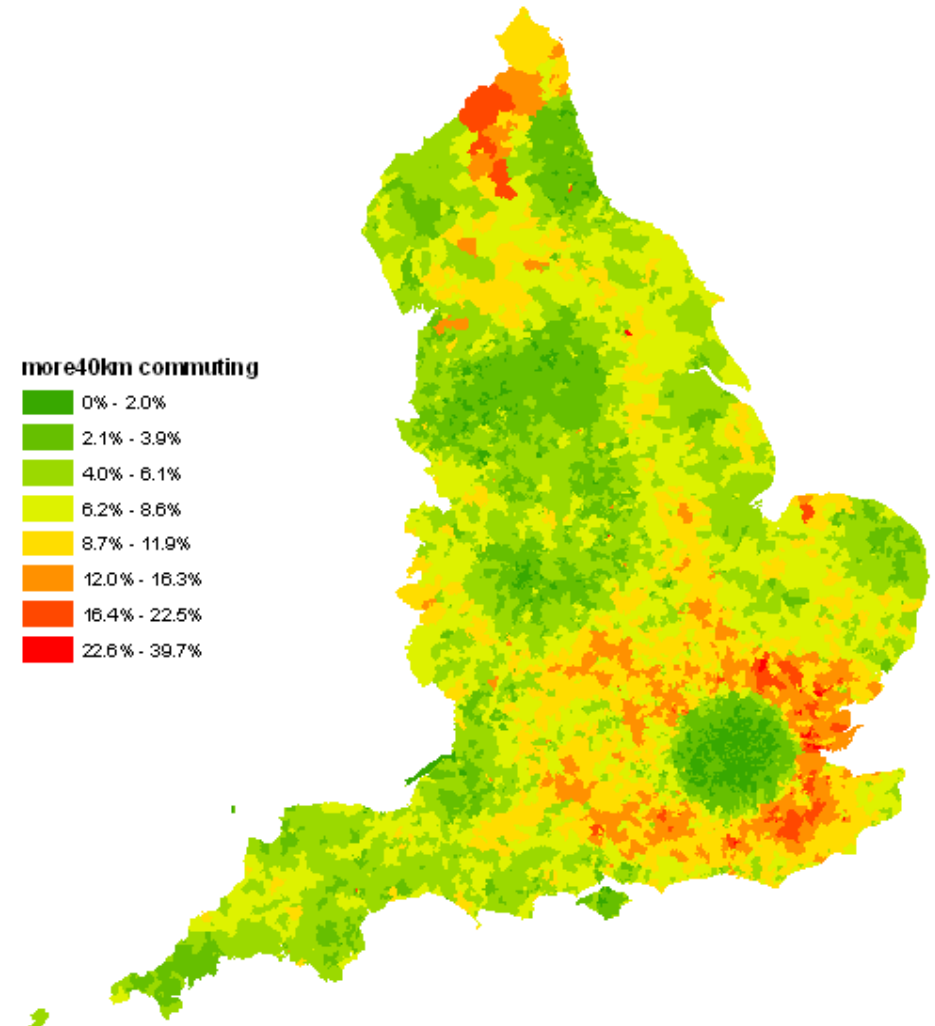


- Working at or from home 2001
 - Based on Census 2001
 - Calculated distance between postcodes of place of work and place of residence
 - Clear rural urban-difference
 - Reflection of the higher share of people working in agriculture or tourism
 - In comparison with the rest of England relatively high share of homework



- Changes in long-distance commuting
 - Comparison of Census 1991/2001
 - Figures for 1991 are less reliable as these are based on a sample
 - Decrease of the share of long distance commuting in some rural regions such as West of London
 - This trend is not as clear in the rest of England nor in the North West region

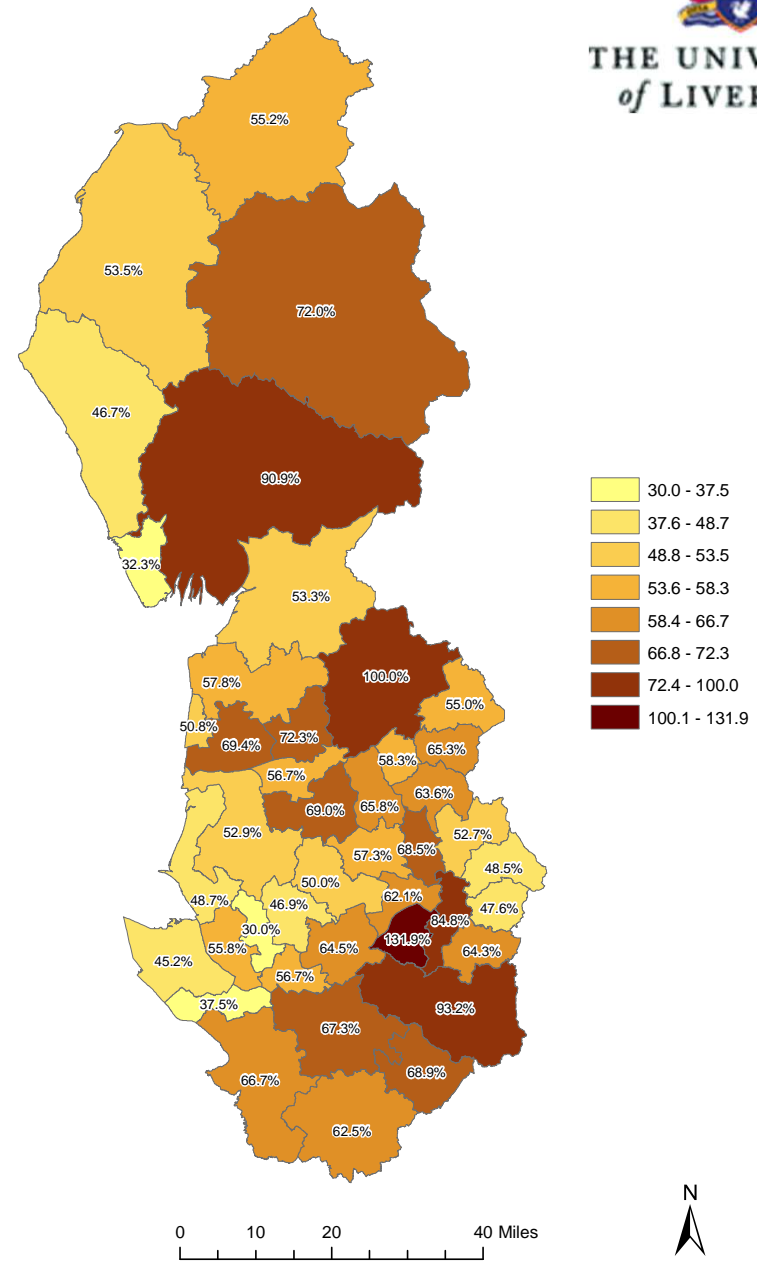
Share of people commuting more than 40 km
2001



Is there an urban-rural shift of business activities?

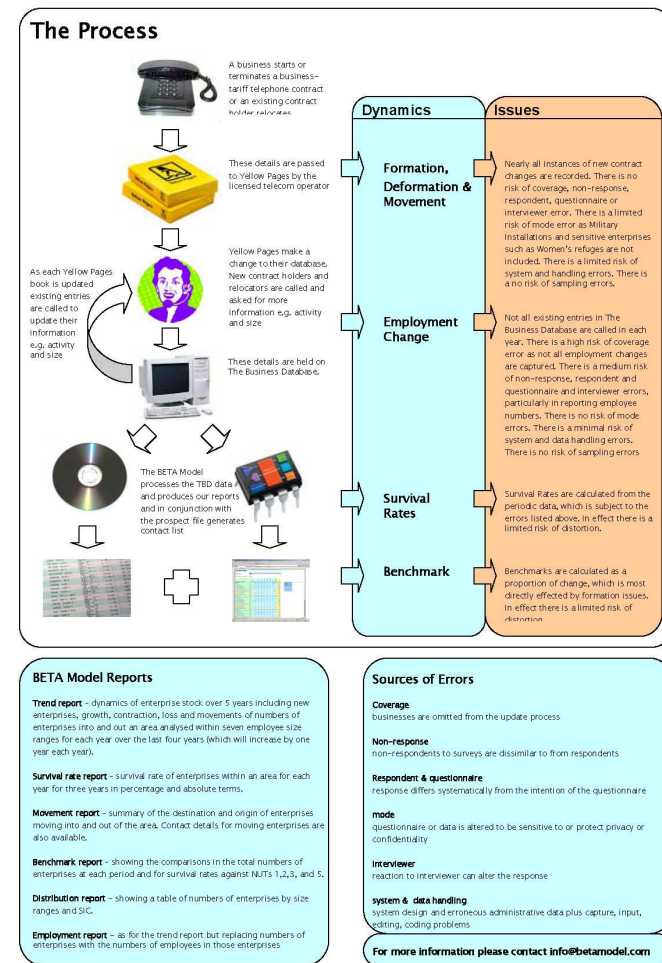
- Not many detailed studies about rural economy beyond agriculture and tourism
- Study by Keeble/Tyler in early 1990s
 - Different structures of change in accessible and remote rural locations
 - Both categories showed significant growth
 - High growth rates in job creation in the 1980s slowed down recently
 - High growth rates in manufacturing but increasingly also service sector
 - Definition used includes small- and medium-sized towns
- Study by Kiehl/ Panebianco about urban-rural employment shift in Western Europe
 - UK, Germany, Italy
 - importance of manufacturing sector
- The studies did not discuss the impact on rural-urban relationships or on issues like commuting flows
- Most studies so far investigate a rather large spatial scale

- Small firm birth rate 2003
 - VAT registrations per 10000 economically active population
 - Highest rates in Trafford, Ribble Valley Macclesfield and South Lakeland
 - Low rates in Merseyside and the north of Greater Manchester, Lancaster and the coastal districts in Cumbria
 - No clear rural-urban difference
 - Lowest possible level of analysis is local authority district

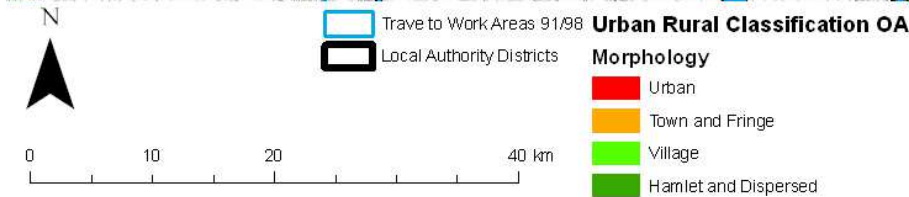
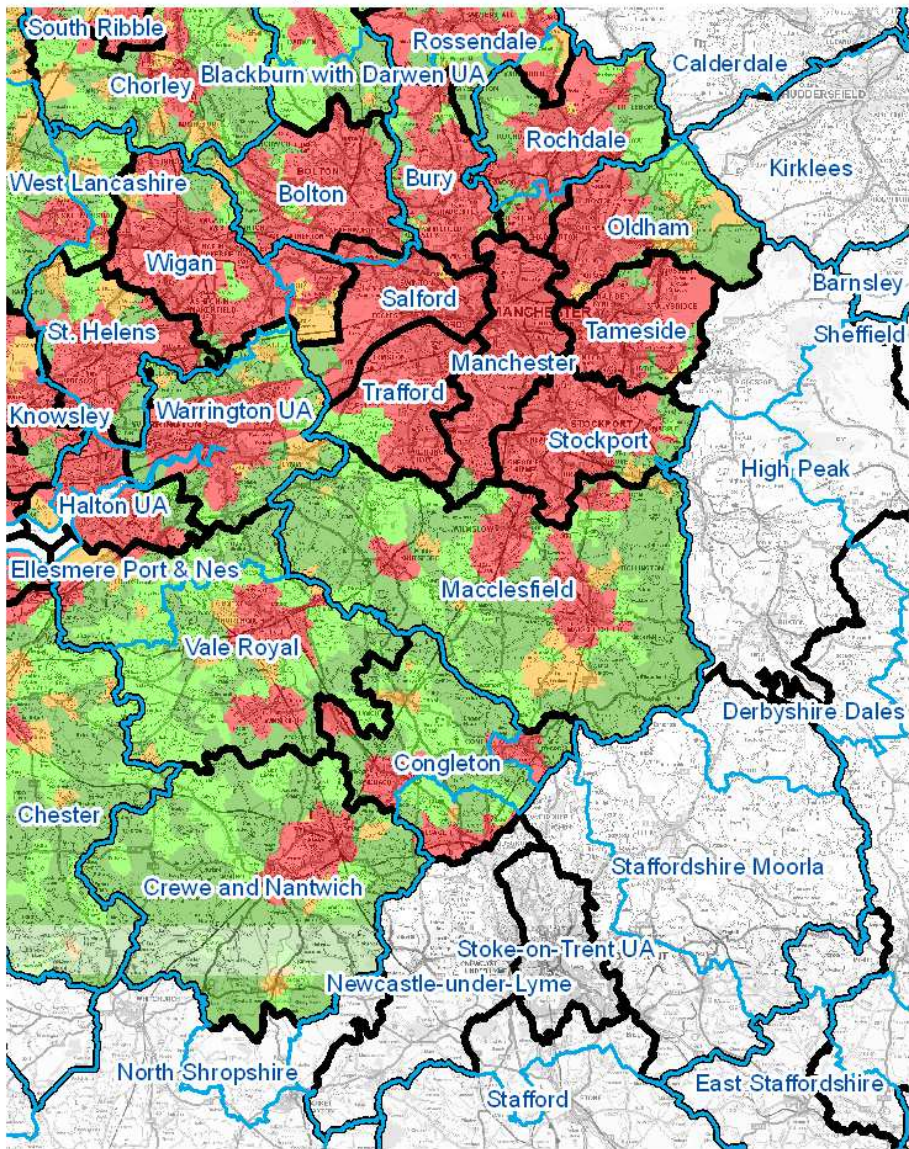


Getting a more detailed picture – the Beta Model

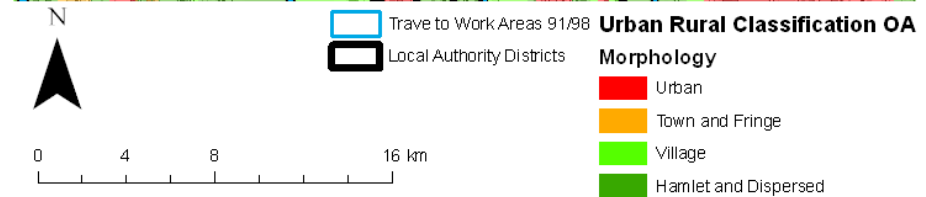
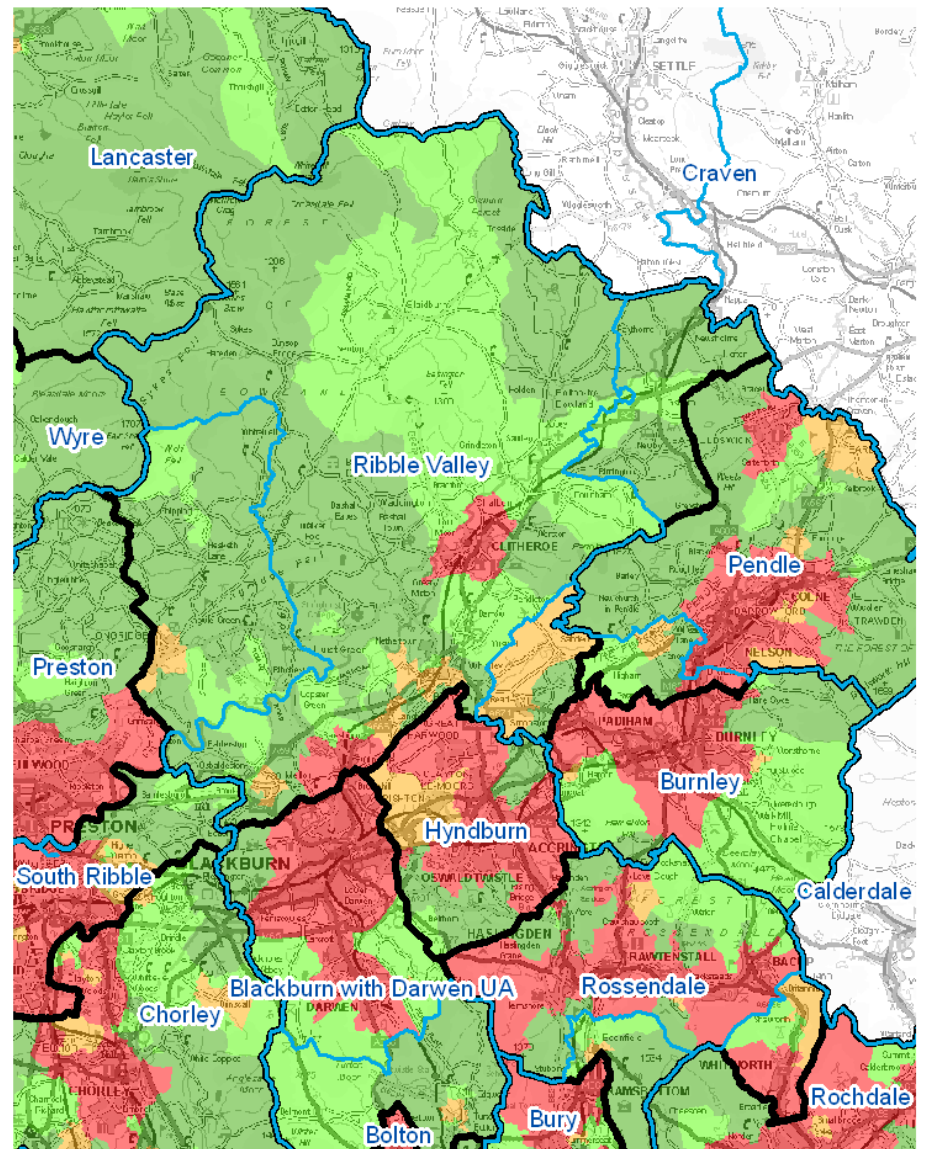
- Database monitoring business location, appearance and moves on a small scale
- Mainly based on address data from Yellow Pages
- Currently mainly used for policy evaluation of area based regeneration initiatives
- Not yet explored for academic work or used in a rural context
- Limited access allowed by the company for PhD research

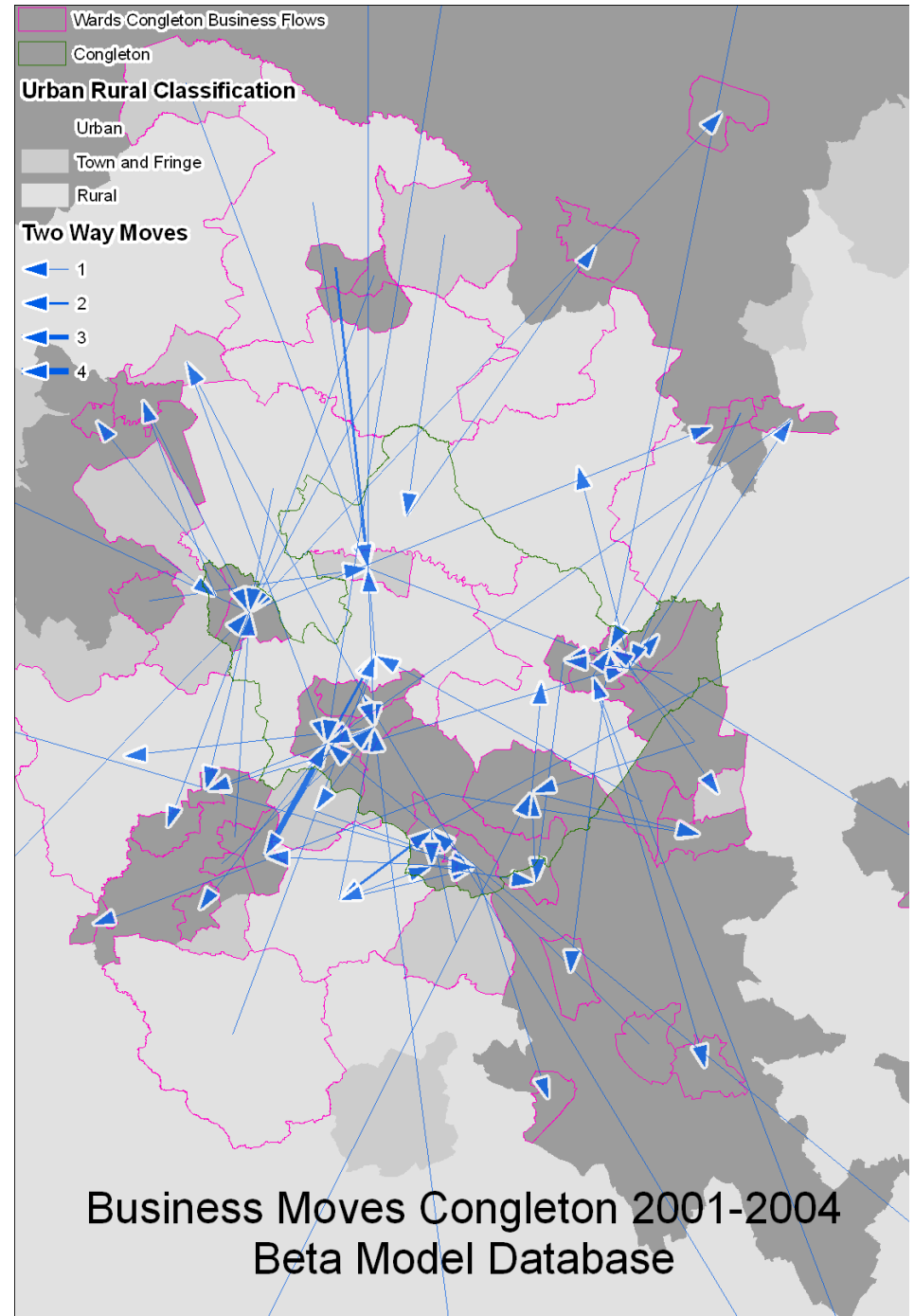
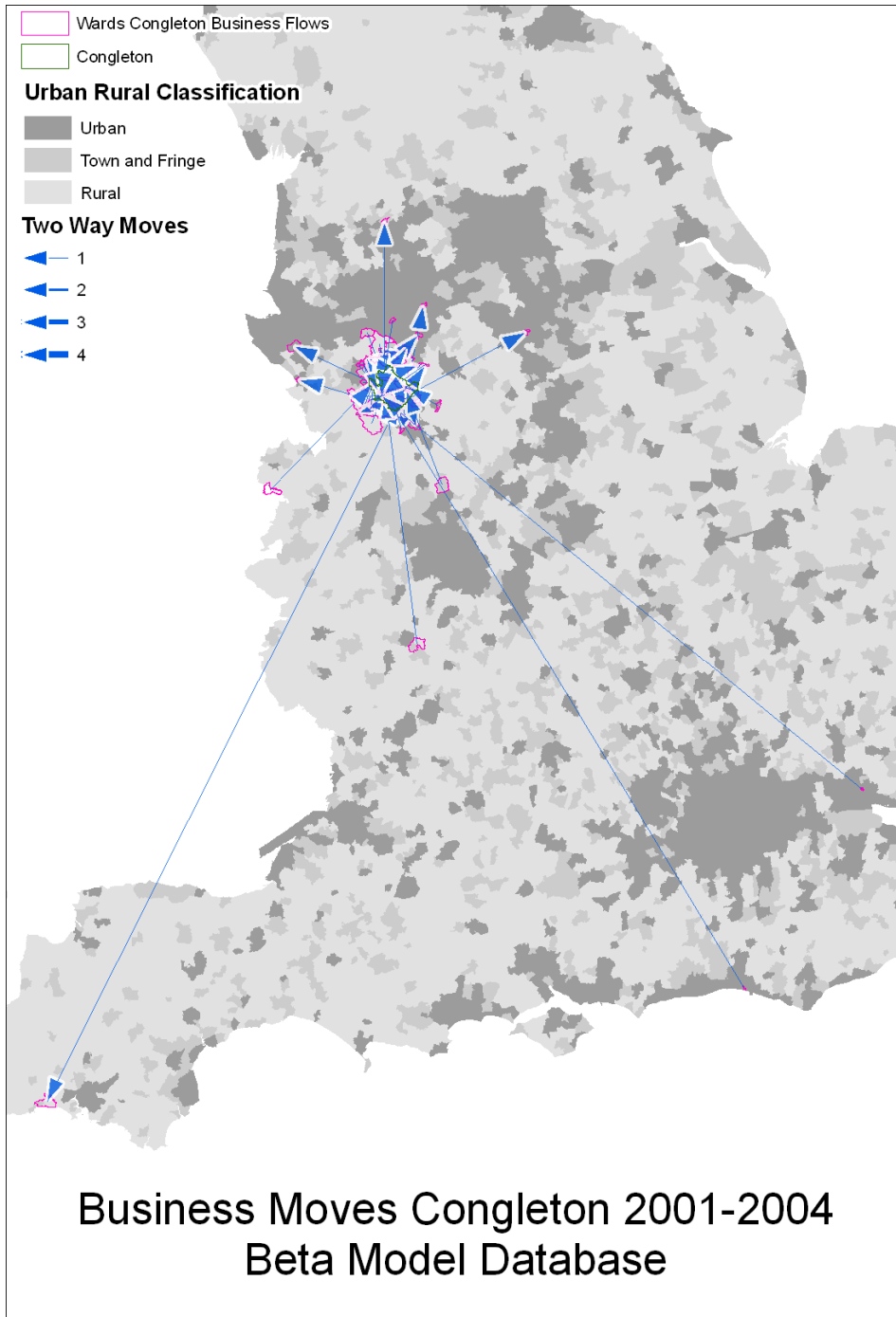


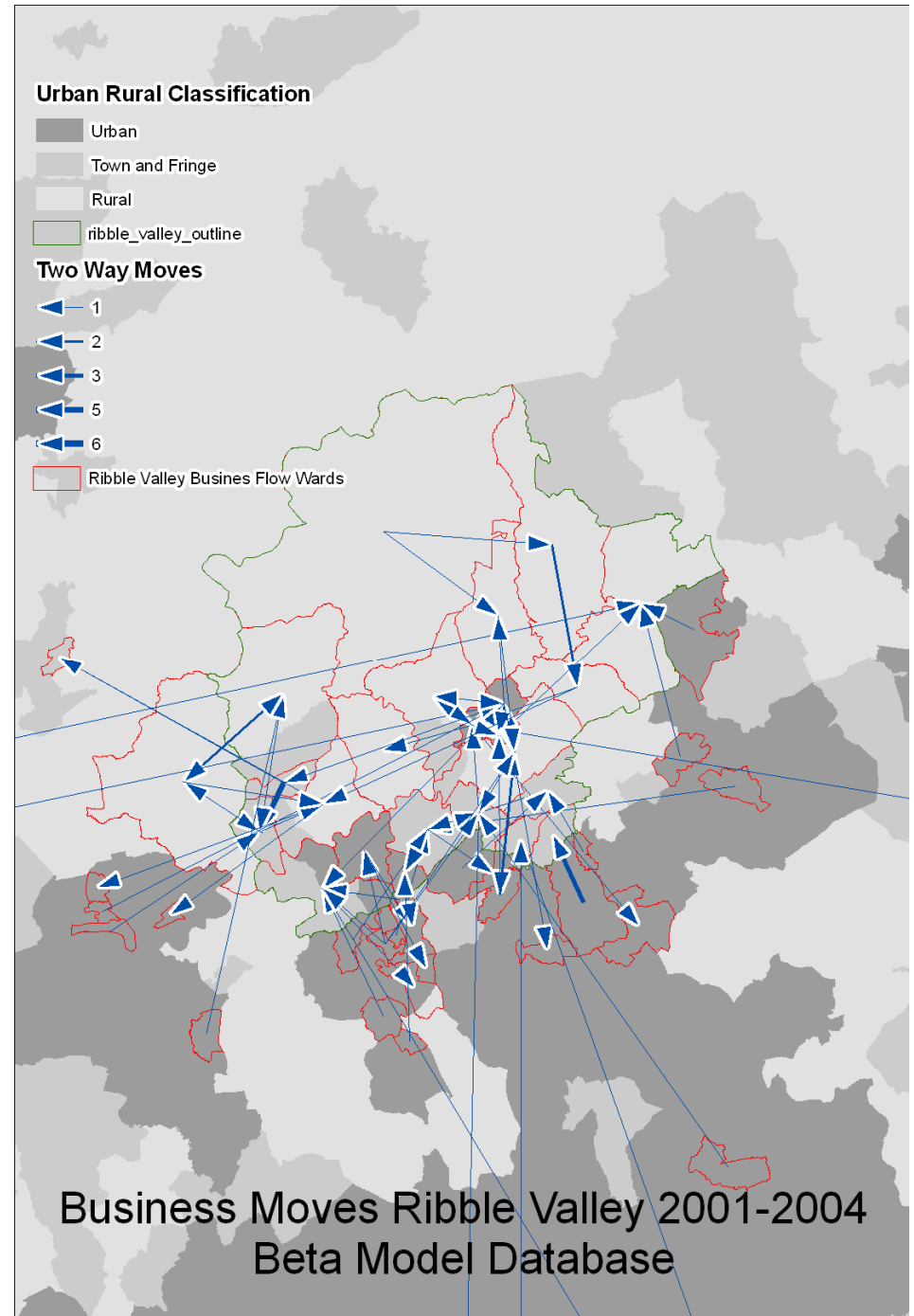
Congleton
Local Authority District and Travel to Work Area



Ribble Valley
Local Authority District and Travel to Work Area







Conclusion

- Number of overall movements is quite low per ward – typically 1 to 3 over the four years observed
- Movement tends to take place inside and between neighbouring local authorities and less on a region-wide level.
- No significant difference between the movement on the region-wide and nation wide level
- Analysis is currently quite time consuming due to necessary manual adjustments

Conclusion

- Some signs of increased economic independence of some rural areas
- This might lead to a strengthened socio-economic disparity between rural and urban areas
- It remains to be seen in how far these diverging interests would lead to a process of rational cooperation between rural and urban areas.
- Some evidence based approaches to understand rural-urban links and relationships might support such a process.
- Yet the voluntary evolvment of such a rational cooperation process is not very likely given the complex nature of rural-urban relationships.