

# Comparing Rural and Urban Areas of Northumberland – 2011 Census Analysis

## Northumberland Knowledge Research Report

February 2014

**Prepared by**

Shona Rowe

Northumberland County Council Policy and Research Team

e-mail: [shona.rowe@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:shona.rowe@northumberland.gov.uk)

telephone: (01670) 624746



*This page has been left blank*

## Contents

1 INTRODUCTION .....	4
1.1 2011 Rural-Urban Classification for small area geographies .....	4
1.2 Rural- Urban Classification Methodology .....	4
1.3 Super Output Areas (SOAs) and wards .....	7
2 RURAL-URBAN CLASSIFICATION: CHANGE BETWEEN 2001 -2011.....	8
3 RURAL-URBAN POPULATION IN NORTHUMBERLAND 2011 .....	9
4 NORTHUMBERLAND POPULATION CHANGE 2001 – 2011 .....	10
5 NORTHUMBERLAND RURAL-URBAN CHARACTERISTICS.....	11
5.1 Who we are .....	11
5.2 How we live .....	14
5.3 What we do .....	15
6 2013 WARD RURAL-URBAN CLASSIFICATION .....	17
7 KEY LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE RURAL-URBAN CLASSIFICATION .....	20

## 1 Introduction

This research summary provides analysis of the 2011 Census by the Rural and Urban Classification 2011 at output area (OA) level, links to census factcards providing statistical profiles of the ten classification categories and a short ward level assessment of the classification.

### 1.1 2011 Rural-Urban Classification for small area geographies

It is important to distinguish between rural and urban areas as the composition of both the population and businesses can be markedly different. The opportunities, challenges and barriers to the services people receive and their quality of life can also vary considerably between towns and cities and rural settlements. The 2011 rural-urban classification for small area geographies provides a rural/urban picture at output area (OA), super output area (SOA) and ward level. The classification is a revised version of that produced after the 2001 Census.

### 1.2 Rural- Urban Classification Methodology

Constructing the Rural-Urban Classification begins with defining built-up areas. A built-up area is characteristic of a village, town or city and is defined by land use. They include areas of built-up land with a minimum of 20 hectares (200,000m<sup>2</sup>). Any areas with less than 200 metres between them are linked to become a single built-up area. This was done using an automated method that replicated the manual procedure used to create the 2001 classification (for more information on the methodology used to define built-up areas [click here](#)).

This analysis grouped built-up areas into five types based on population: 'Major', 'Large', 'Medium', 'Small' and 'Minor'. Comparisons were also made to the non built-up areas. Built-up areas with a population of 10,000 or more usual residents are defined as urban. Using population densities at a number of scales, these areas are then divided into three subgroups:

- Major conurbation
- Minor conurbation
- City and town.

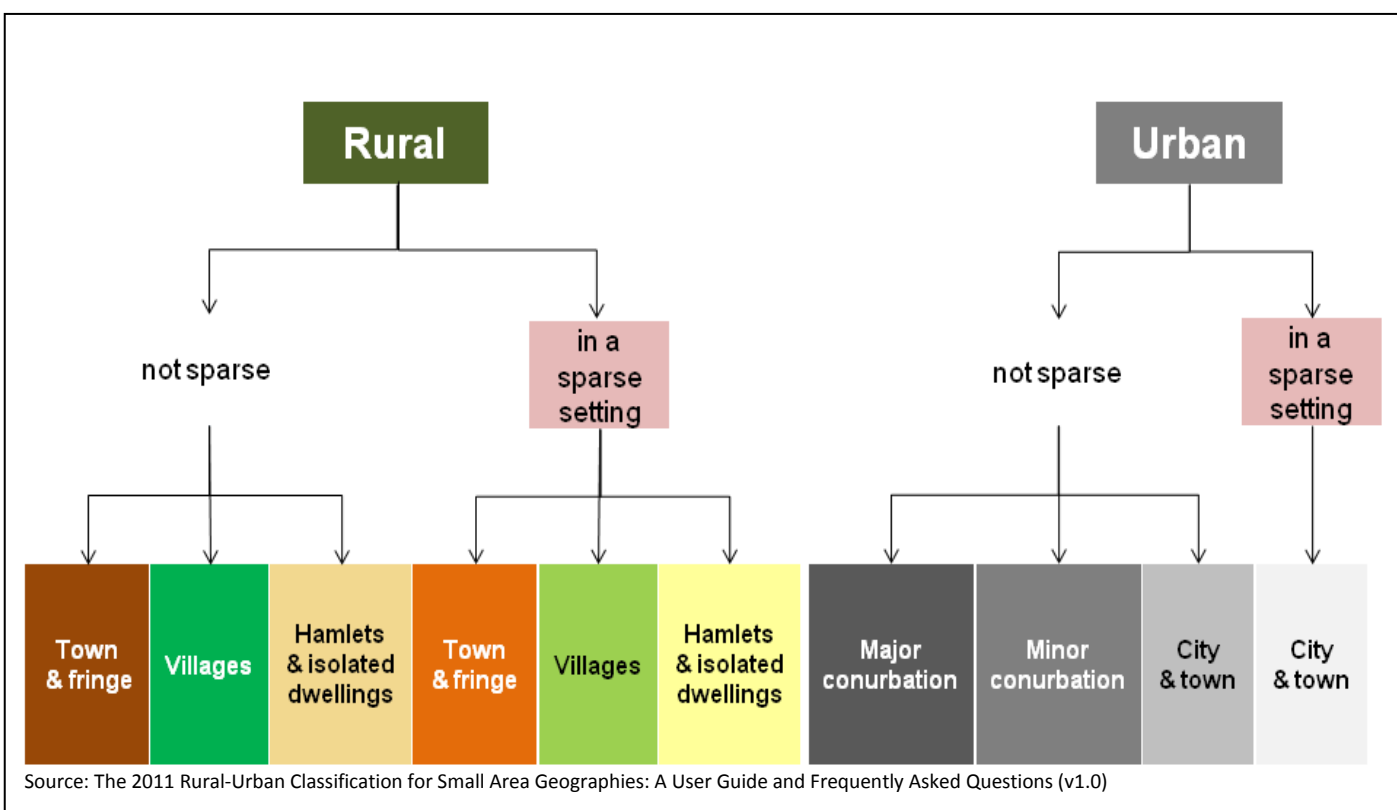
The 'Minor' built-up areas – those with a population of fewer than 10,000 usual residents – and the non built-up areas are defined as rural and further classified into one of three subgroups:

- Town and fringe
- Village
- Hamlet and isolated dwellings.

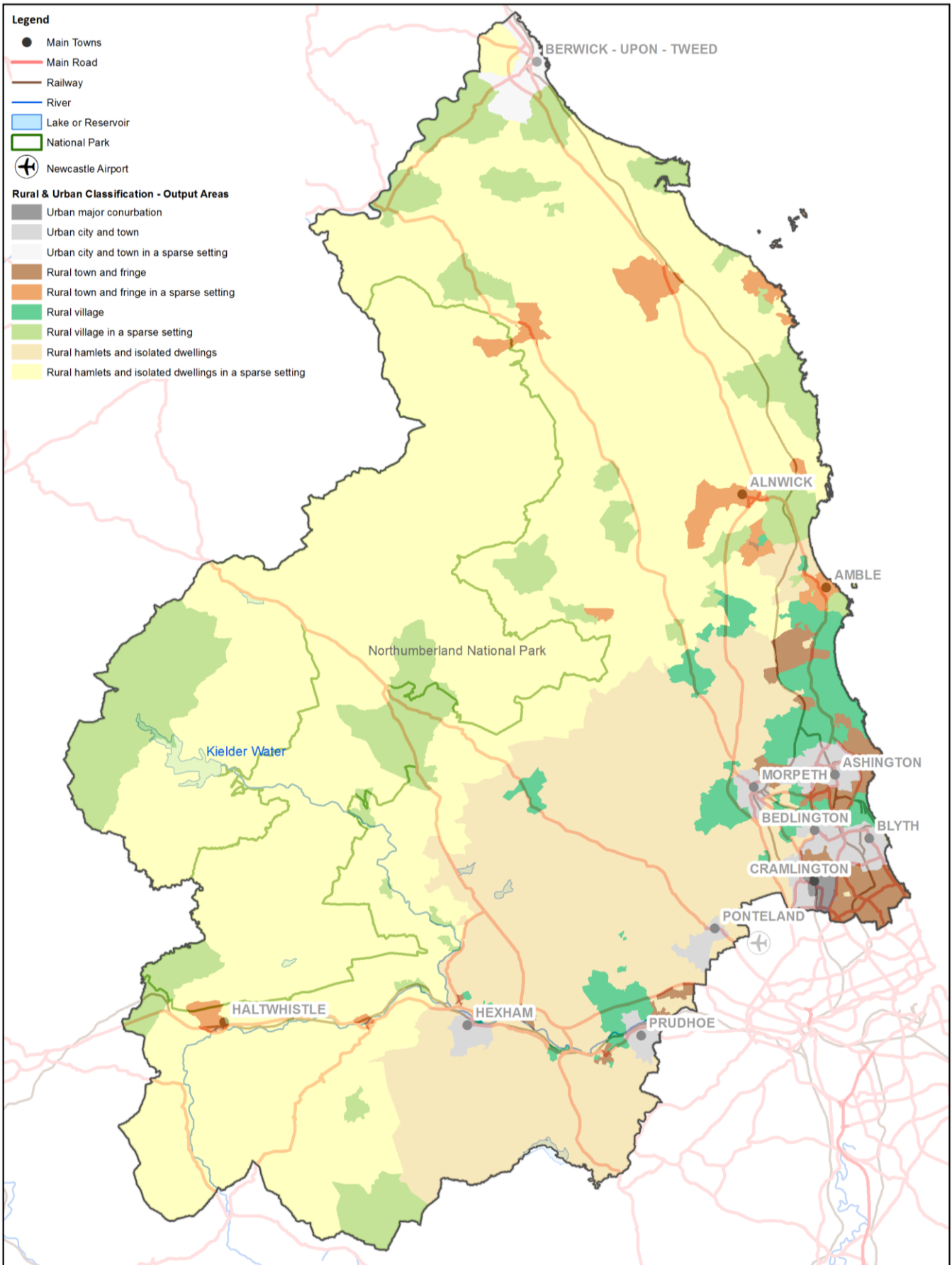
The classification also categorises areas based on context – i.e. whether the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated or less sparsely populated (this broadly reflects the surrounding 30 kilometres being characterised by low population density). The [methodology](#) paper gives a fuller explanation of how sparse areas are defined.

The smallest level for which the classification is available is Output Area (OA). OAs are the lowest geographical level at which census data is released and each one contains approximately 125 households (309 residents). Following the methodology described above this has resulted in 10 categories at an OA level. Details of the resulting classes can be found in the [User Guide](#) and chart 1 below. Maps 1 and 2 show the Rural-Urban classification and level of sparsity for each of the 1,084 output areas in Northumberland.

**Chart 1: Typology – Output Area Level**

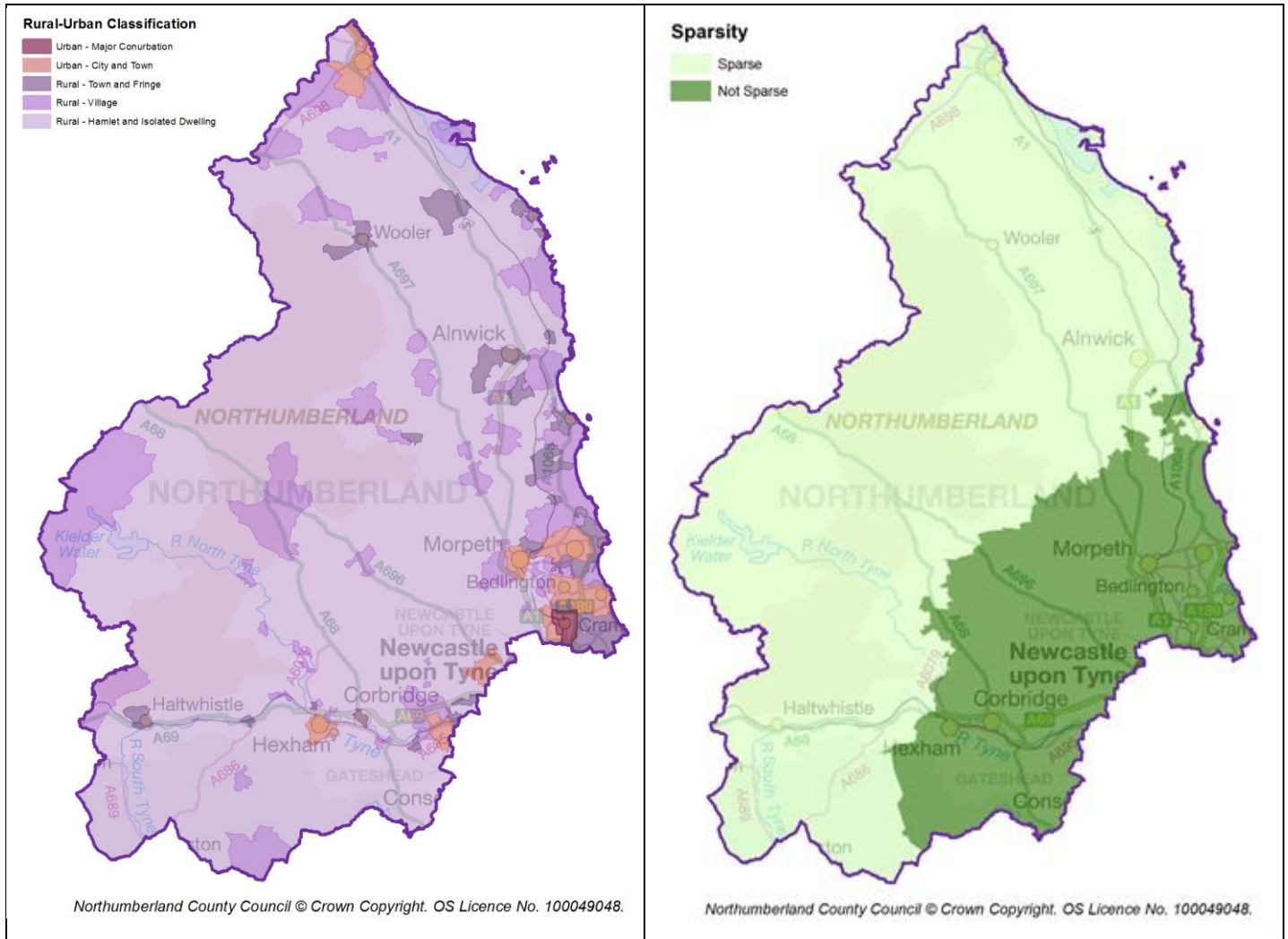


Map 1: Rural-Urban Classification – Output Areas



Published October 2013. Scale: 1:434,675  
 Produced by the Policy and Research Team, Transformation Service, Northumberland County Council.  
 © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL - OS Licence No. 100049048.

Map 2: Rural-Urban Classification and Sparsity, Northumberland, Output Areas, 2011



### 1.3 Super Output Areas (SOAs) and wards

The rural-urban classification is also available at lower and middle layer super output area (LSOA and MSOA) and ward level. For these geographies the classification is built from the OA level classification. Assignments of LSOAs, MSOAs and wards to urban or rural categories are made by reference to the category to which the **majority** of their constituent OAs is assigned. At the SOA/ward level there are only five settlement categories (see chart 2 below). As the rural-urban classification is only produced for 2011 census wards the same methodology has been followed by the policy and research team to produce a classification based on the current Northumberland ward boundaries.

Chart 2: SOA, MSOA and Ward Level Classification Typology

	Urban			Rural	
	Major conurbations	Minor conurbations	City and town	Town and fringe	Village and dispersed
Less Sparse	Urban major conurbation	Urban minor conurbation	Urban city and town	Rural town and fringe	Rural village and dispersed
Sparse			Urban city and town in a sparse setting	Rural town and fringe in a sparse setting	Rural village and dispersed in a sparse setting

Source: The 2011 Rural-Urban Classification for Small Area Geographies: A User Guide and Frequently Asked Questions (v1.0)

## 2 Rural-Urban Classification: Change between 2001 -2011

In 2011 the classification shows that:

- Of the 1,084 OA's in Northumberland 580 (53.5%) are classed as urban and 504 (46.5%) as rural. This is an increase in the number of urban output areas from 2001 when 530 of the 1,074 OA's (49.3%) were classed as urban.
- 54% of the population of Northumberland lives in an output area classed as urban.
- The largest percentage of people live in an output area classed as city and town (41.4%).
- 16.9% of people live in an output area classed as town and fringe (16.9%).
- No one in Northumberland lives in an area class as a minor conurbation.

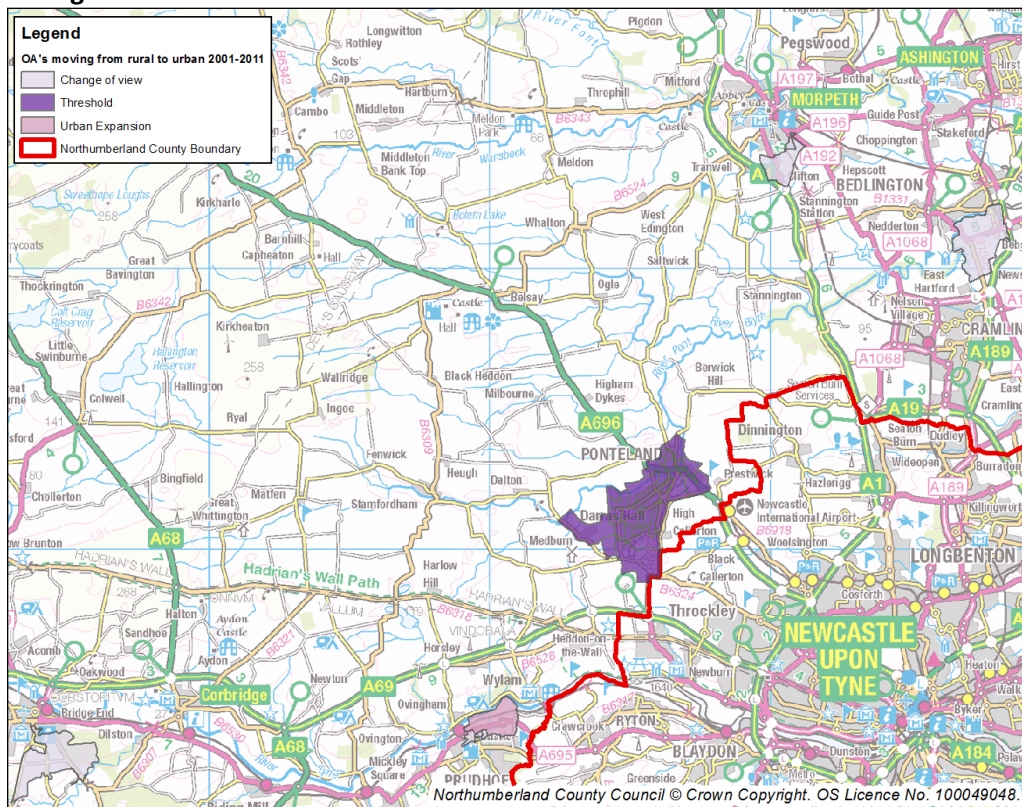
Between the Rural-Urban classification based on 2001 data and the 2011 update, 40 output areas in Northumberland (3.7%) have moved from a rural to an urban classification. No output areas have moved from an urban to a rural classification. The map below shows the output areas which have been reclassified as urban in 2011. The output areas are located in Ponteland, Prudhoe, Morpeth and Blyth. There are three reasons why these areas have been reclassified (table 1).

**Table 1: Reason OA's reclassified between 2001 and 2011**

Reason for Reclassification	Description	No. of Output Areas
Change of View	A result of the rules used to create the 2011 built-up areas rather than physical change	7
Threshold	Settlement population increased above the 10,000 threshold	32
Urban Expansion	Physical Development (Residential)	1

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

**Map 3: OA's moving from a rural to an urban classification 2001 to 2011**





### 3 Rural-Urban Population in Northumberland 2011

Table 2 shows a detailed breakdown of the 2011 population into the 10 subgroups of the rural-urban classification for Northumberland and England and Wales. In Northumberland 54.1% (170,932) of the population live in an area classed as urban and 45.9% (145,096) live in a rural area. This is in marked contrast to the population of England and Wales as a whole where 81.5% of the population live in an urban area. Like England and Wales however the largest proportion of the population of Northumberland lives in a city or town (45.6% compared to 44.6%). In Northumberland there are a greater proportion of people living in an area classified as town and fringe (26% to 9.2%) and in a hamlet / isolated dwelling (10.4% to 3.5%). In Northumberland there are no people living in an area classed as a minor conurbation.

**Table 2: Usual Resident population of urban and rural areas, Northumberland & England & Wales, 2011**

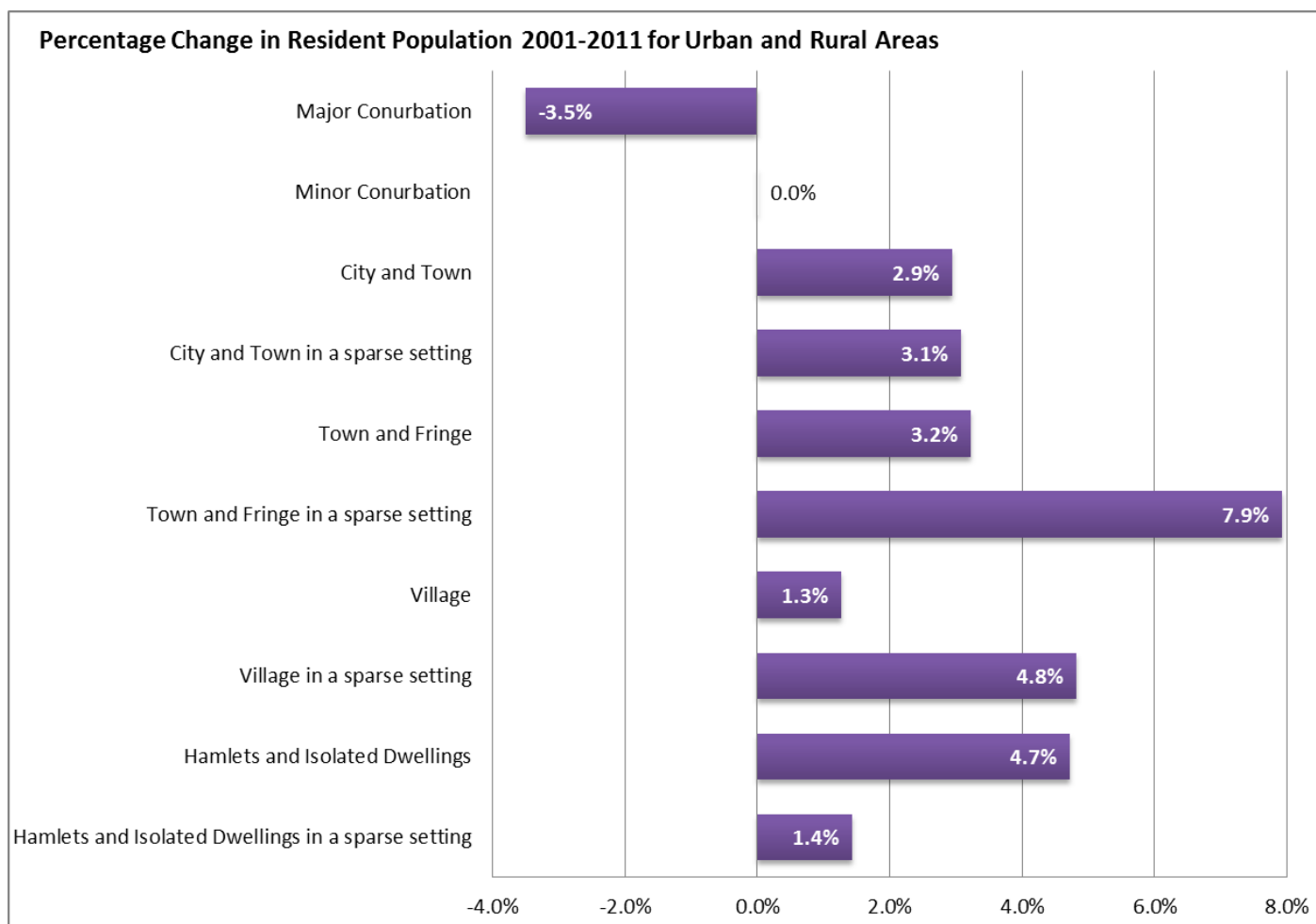
Classification	Northumberland	Percentage	England & Wales	Percentage
<b>Urban</b>	<b>170,932</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>45,726,291</b>	<b>81.5</b>
Major Conurbation	26,699	8.4	18,783,742	33.5
Minor Conurbation	0	0.0	1,906,101	3.4
City and Town (Total)	144,233	45.6	25,036,448	44.6
In a non-sparse setting	130,968	41.4	24,890,130	44.4
In a sparse setting	13,265	4.2	146,318	0.3
<b>Rural</b>	<b>145,096</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>10,349,621</b>	<b>18.5</b>
Town and Fringe (Total)	82,319	26.0	5,140,355	9.2
In a non-sparse setting	53,488	16.9	4,844,185	8.6
In a sparse setting	28,831	9.1	296,170	0.5
Village (Total)	29,871	9.5	3,245,156	5.8
In a non-sparse setting	12,880	4.1	2,943,043	5.2
In a sparse setting	16,991	5.4	302,113	0.5
Hamlets and Isolated Dwellings (Total)	32,906	10.4	1,964,110	3.5
In a non-sparse setting	15,983	5.1	1,714,121	3.1
In a sparse setting	16,923	5.4	249,989	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>316,028</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>56,075,912</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

## 4 Northumberland Population Change 2001 – 2011

Between 2001 and 2011 methodology changes in the urban-rural classification have resulted in a move from 8 subgroups to 10. To allow comparisons to be made the 2011 classification of 10 subgroups has been applied to 2001 output areas. This is based on how each area is categorised in the 2011 classification and looks back to see how much population growth occurred over the 2001 to 2011 period in the corresponding 2001 geographical areas.

**Chart 3: Percentage change in the resident population between 2001 and 2011**



Source: 2001 & 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

Chart 3 shows the percentage change in the usual resident population by 2011 rural-urban categories. Overall the rural population increased more than the urban population in Northumberland, 4.1% compared to 1.9%. In Northumberland major conurbation was the only category to experience a population decrease over the decade, the population falling by 3.5%. All other categories increased over the period, with the largest growth in the town and fringe in a sparse setting (7.9%), a rise of 2,115 people.

## 5 Northumberland Rural-Urban Characteristics

This section focuses on the population and household characteristics of urban and rural areas as a whole in Northumberland broken down into three sub-categories: who we are, how we live and what we do. For full data tables for each of the 10 rural-urban categories [click here](#). Detailed factsheets for each individual classification group can be accessed [here](#).

### 5.1 Who we are

For both urban and rural areas in Northumberland there are more women than men. The population density is higher in urban areas (1,215 people per km<sup>2</sup>) than rural areas (30 people per km<sup>2</sup>).

**Table 3: Age & Gender**

	Key Population Statistics (all usual residents)		All People	All Males	All Females	Number of people per hectare*	Number of people per square km*
	No.	%					
Urban	No.		170,932	82,653	88,279	12.1	1,215
	%		100	48.4	51.6		
Rural	No.		145,096	71,471	73,625	0.3	30
	%		100	49.3	50.7		
<b>Total</b>	<b>No.</b>		<b>316,028</b>	<b>154,124</b>	<b>161,904</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>63</b>
	<b>%</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>51.2</b>		

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

The median age of people in urban and rural areas in Northumberland is higher than the England average. In urban areas people are on average 6 years older than the England average and 2 years older in rural areas. Looking at the population by age band for rural areas between 2001

and 2011 the percentage of the population aged 5-15 has decreased slightly with the percentage of people aged 65-74 and 75+ increasing. In urban areas of Northumberland the percentage of the population aged 5-15 has also decreased with the 16-24, 65-74 and 75+ age bands increasing slightly.

**Table 4: Median age Northumberland England 2011**

	Northumberland		England	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Median age	43	47	37	45

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

**Table 5: Population by Age Band**

	Rural		Urban	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
0 – 4	4.8%	4.6%	5.4%	5.4%
5 – 15	13.1%	11.3%	14.2%	12.6%
16 – 24	8.7%	8.9%	9.9%	10.5%
25 – 64	54.6%	53.5%	53.9%	52.9%
65 – 74	10.4%	12.0%	8.9%	9.9%
75 +	8.4%	9.7%	7.7%	8.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>139,503</b>	<b>145,096</b>	<b>167,703</b>	<b>170,932</b>

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

The population of Northumberland is predominantly White with 98.1 % of the population in urban areas and 98.8% in rural areas falling into this category.

**Table 6: Ethnic Group (all usual residents)**

	White	Mixed / multiple	Asian / Asian British	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Other
Urban	98.1	0.6	1.1	0.1	0.1
Rural	98.8	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

54% of the population in urban areas of the county and 46% in rural areas were born in the United Kingdom. In both urban and rural areas the next two largest groups were other Europe and Middle East / Asia.

**Table 7: Country of Birth (all usual residents)**

	Total	Urban		Rural	
		No.	%	No.	%
United Kingdom	307,103	165,925	54.0	141,178	46.0
Channel Islands	38	15	0.0	23	0.0
Isle of Man	32	13	0.0	19	0.0
Ireland	606	315	0.1	291	0.1
Other Europe	3,628	2,033	0.7	1,595	0.5
Africa	1,105	556	0.2	549	0.2
Middle East and Asia	2,282	1,491	0.5	791	0.3
The Americas and the Caribbean	851	385	0.1	466	0.2
Antarctica and Oceania	382	199	0.1	183	0.1
Other	1	0	0.0	1	0.0

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

The largest percentage of residents in both urban and rural parts of Northumberland site Christian as their religion. A large percentage in both urban (25.3%) and rural areas (22.3%) has no religion.

**Table 8: Religion (all usual residents)**

	Urban		Rural		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Christian	114,977	67.3	101,696	70.1	216,673	68.6
Buddhist	264	0.2	314	0.2	578	0.2
Hindu	266	0.2	69	0.0	335	0.1
Jewish	84	0.0	85	0.1	169	0.1
Muslim	702	0.4	316	0.2	1,018	0.3
Sikh	373	0.2	121	0.1	494	0.2
Other	467	0.3	513	0.4	980	0.3
No Religion	43,266	25.3	32,354	22.3	75,620	23.9
Not stated	10,533	6.2	9,628	6.6	20,161	6.4

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

The majority of the population in both urban and rural parts of the county (78.9% and 79.8%) are not affected by a disability. A slightly higher percentage of people in urban areas (10.3%) have their day-to-day activities limited a lot by disability.

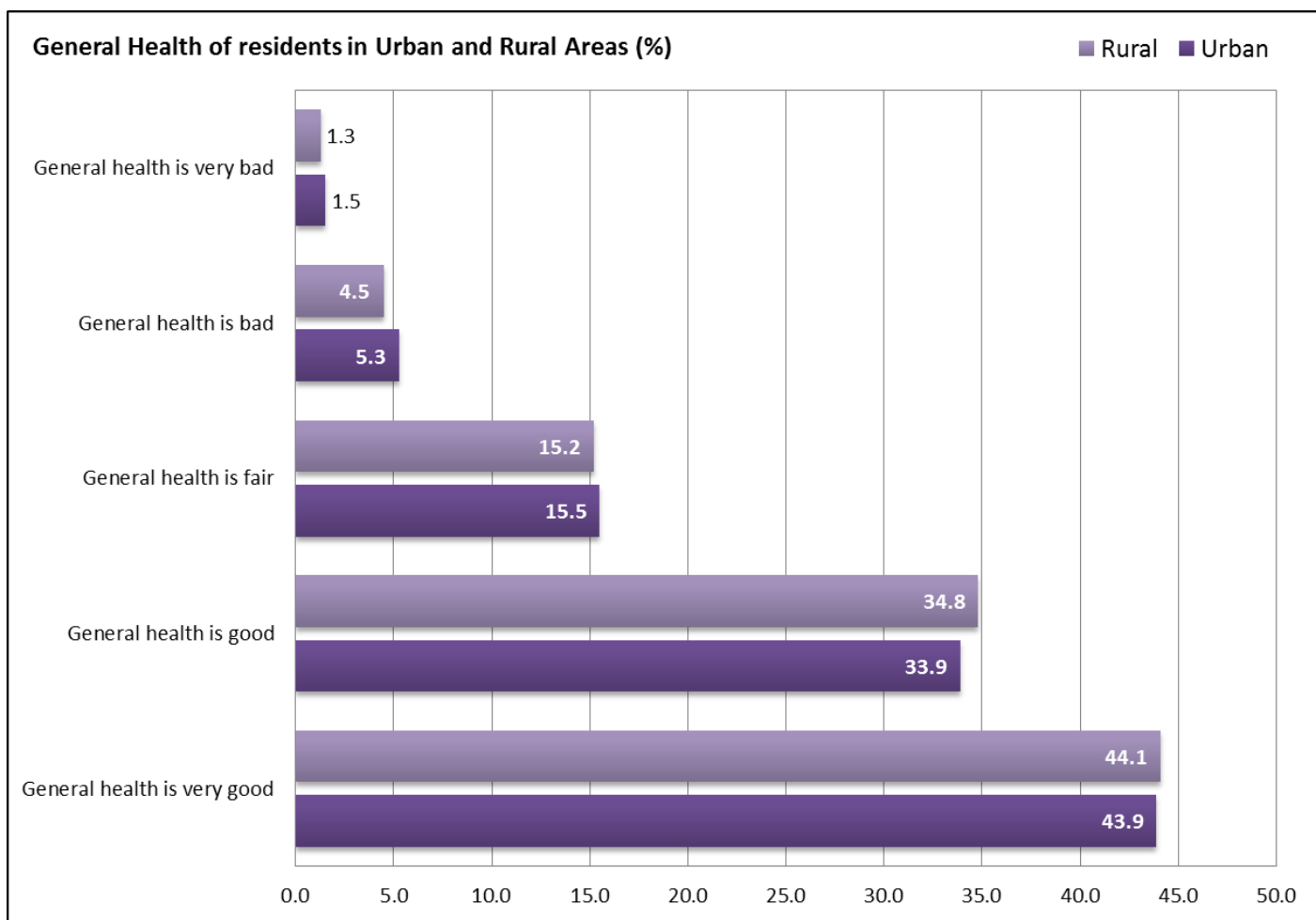
**Table 9: Disability**

	Urban		Rural		Total	
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	17,632	10.3	13,308	9.2	30,940	9.8
Day-to-day activities limited a little	18,490	10.8	16,068	11.1	34,558	10.9
Day-to-day activities not limited	134,810	78.9	115,720	79.8	250,530	79.3

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

In Northumberland a larger percentage of people in rural parts of the county feel their health is good or very good, 78.9% compared to 77.8%. A very small percentage of people in both urban and rural parts of the county say their health is very bad.

**Chart 4: General Health**



Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

## 5.2 How we live

96.1% of household spaces in urban areas of Northumberland have at least one resident. Rural areas have a higher percentage of household spaces with no residents (9.2%). Overcrowding is slightly worse in urban than rural areas of the county (4.1% of households compared to 3%) but rural areas have a higher percentage of households without central heating (1.9%).

**Table 10: Households (all household spaces)**

	Urban		Rural		Total	
<b>Households (all household spaces)</b>						
All Household spaces	77,516	100.0	70,527	100.0	148,043	100.0
Household spaces with at least one resident	74,511	96.1	64,023	90.8	138,534	93.6
Household spaces with no residents	3,005	3.9	6,504	9.2	9,509	6.4
Average Household size	2.3	n/a	2.2	n/a	2.2	n/a
<b>Overcrowded households (all households)</b>						
Occupancy rating of -1 or worse (rooms)	3,065	4.1	1,939	3.0	5,004	3.6
Households without central heating	663	0.9	1,195	1.9	1,858	1.3

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

The highest percentage of households in both urban and rural areas is composed of one family unit. The percentage of lone parent households is higher in urban areas (10.9% compared to 8.2%) however rural areas have a larger percentage of households where all people are aged 65 and over (11.5% compared to 9.2%).

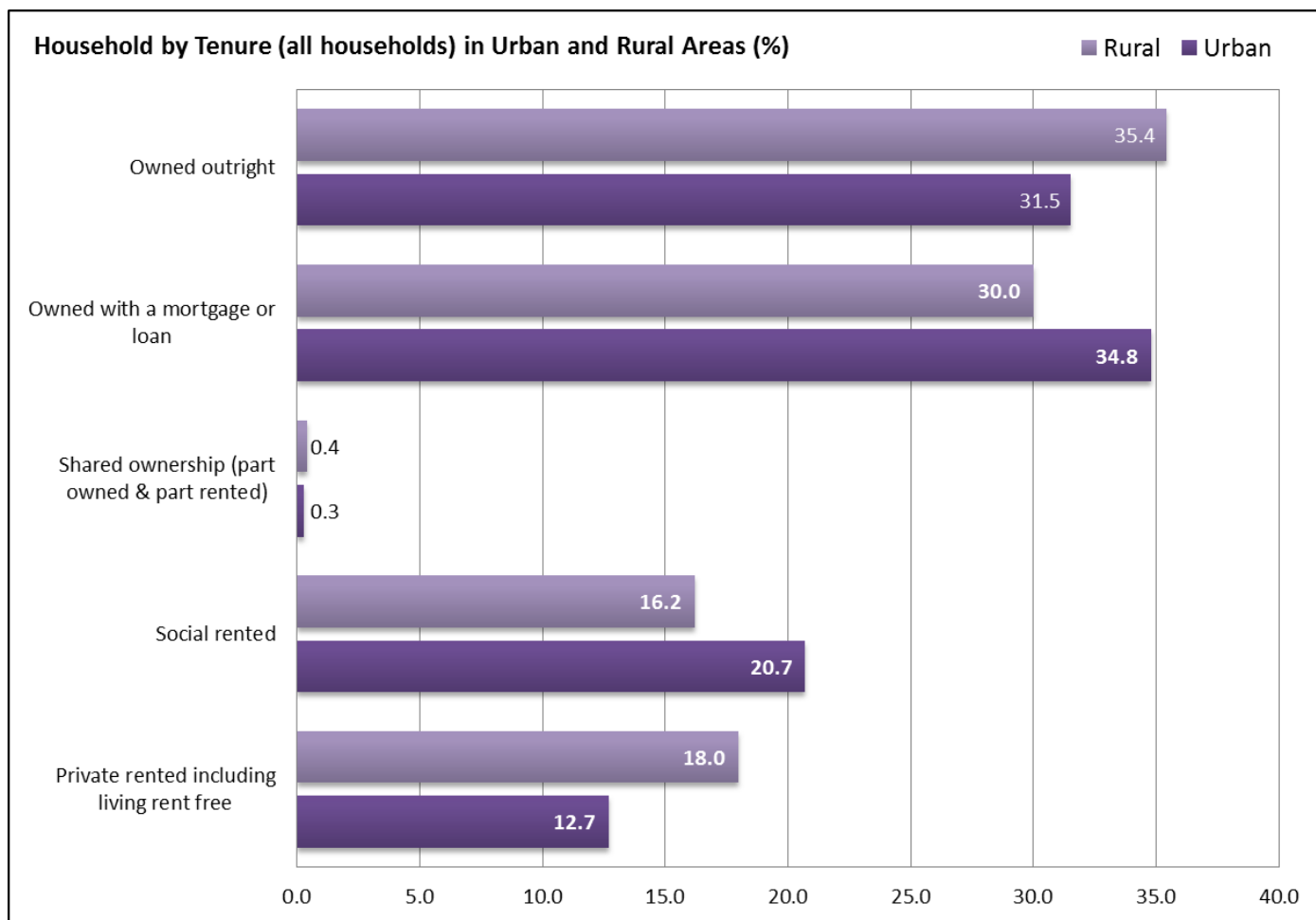
**Table 11: Household composition (all households)**

	Urban		Rural		Total	
One person household	22,545	30.3	18,861	29.5	41,406	29.9
Aged 65 and over	10,158	13.6	9,249	14.4	19,407	14.0
Other one person	12,387	16.6	9,612	15.0	21,999	15.9
One family only	48,948	65.7	42,861	66.9	91,809	66.3
All aged 65 and over	6,874	9.2	7,365	11.5	14,239	10.3
Married/same-sex civil partnership couple	26,700	35.8	24,190	37.8	50,890	36.7
Cohabiting couple	7,255	9.7	6,038	9.4	13,293	9.6
Lone parent	8,119	10.9	5,268	8.2	13,387	9.7
Other household type	3,018	4.1	2,301	3.6	5,319	3.8

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

Households in rural areas are more likely to own their house outright but urban dwellers are more likely to own their home with a mortgage. The percentage of households who are in social rented accommodation is higher in urban areas of the county but rural households have a larger percentage of people living in the private rented sector.

Chart 5: Tenure



Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

26.1% of households in urban parts of Northumberland have no access to a car or van compared to 17.3% in rural areas of the county.

Table 12: Cars & van availability (all households)

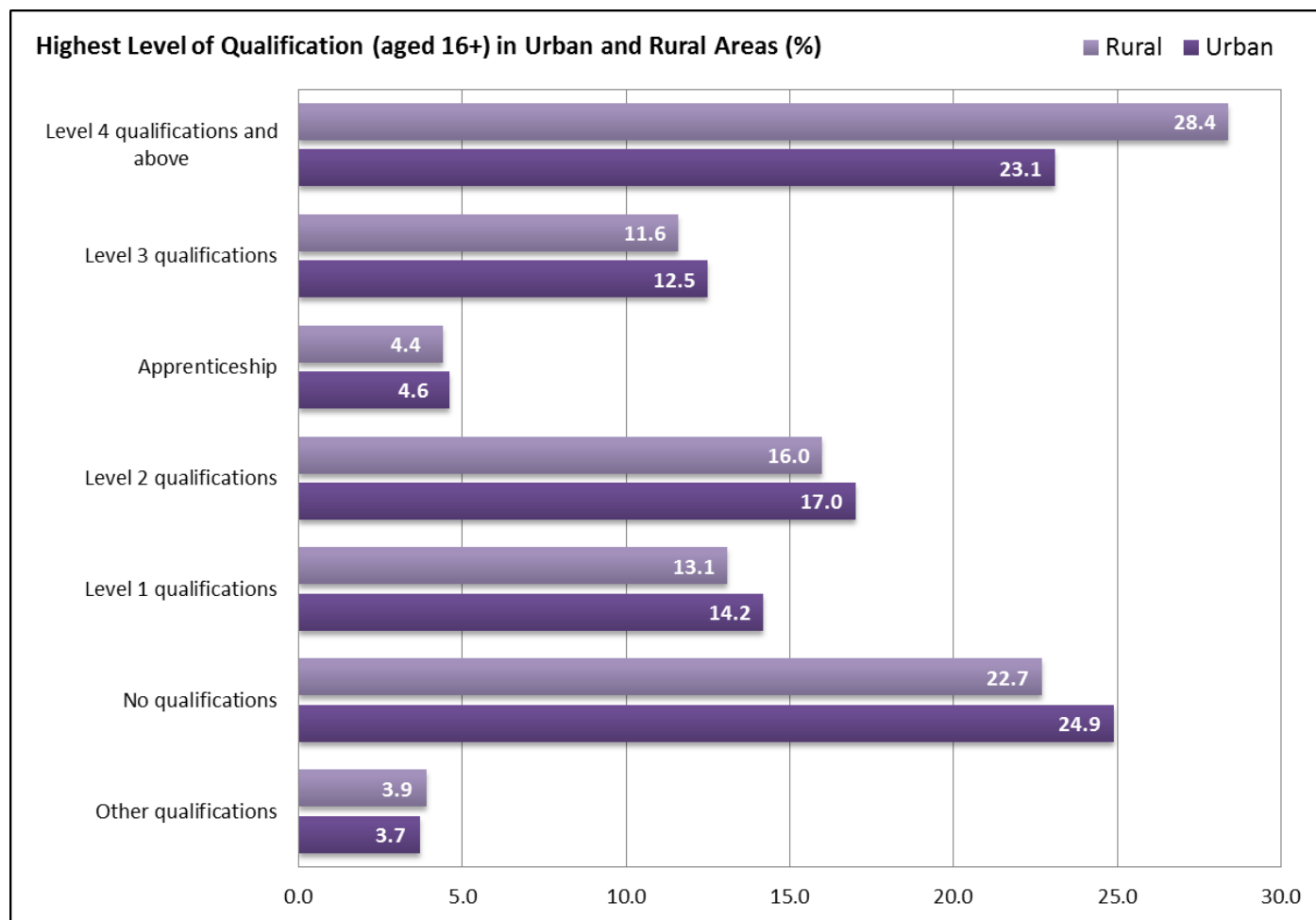
	Urban		Rural		Total	
No cars or vans in household	19,459	26.1	11,084	17.3	30,543	22.0
1 car or van in household	32,905	44.2	27,970	43.7	60,875	43.9
2 cars or vans in household	17,844	23.9	19,072	29.8	36,916	26.6
3 cars or vans in household	3,341	4.5	4,330	6.8	7,671	5.5
4 or more cars or vans in household	962	1.3	1,567	2.4	2,529	1.8
Average number of cars per household	1.1	n/a	1.3	n/a	1.2	n/a

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

### 5.3 What we do

A higher proportion of people in rural areas have a level 4 qualification or above (28.4% compared to 23.1% in urban areas). 24.9% of the population of urban areas have no qualifications compared to 22.7% in rural parts of the county.

Chart 6: Qualifications



Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

67% of people in urban and rural areas are economically active. People in rural areas are more likely to be self-employed (12.6% compared to 6.8%). A higher proportion of people in urban areas are unemployed.

Table 13: Economic Activity (aged 16-74)

	Urban		Rural		Total	
Economically Active	84,902	67.8	73,366	67.9	158,268	67.9
Employees part-time	18,834	15.0	15,534	14.4	34,368	14.7
Employees full-time	48,345	38.6	38,035	35.2	86,380	37.0
Self-employed	8,511	6.8	13,552	12.6	22,063	9.5
Unemployed	6,196	4.9	4,133	3.8	10,329	4.4
Full-time student	3,016	2.4	2,112	2.0	5,128	2.2
Economically Inactive	40,347	32.2	34,609	32.1	74,956	32.1

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

In both urban and rural areas the largest percentage of people are employed in Human Health and Social work and wholesale and retail trade.



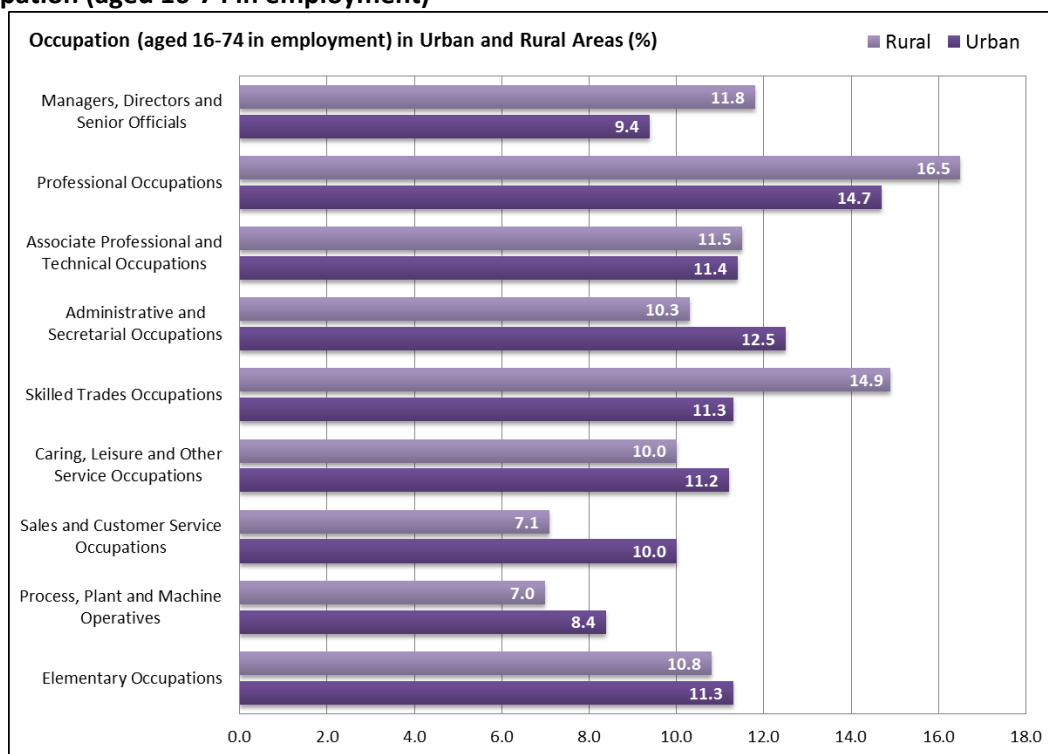
**Table 14: Industry (aged 16-74 in employment)**

	Urban		Rural		Total	
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	401	0.5	3,338	4.8	3,739	2.5
Mining & quarrying	352	0.5	418	0.6	770	0.5
Manufacturing	8,249	10.6	5,320	7.7	13,569	9.2
Elec, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	531	0.7	327	0.5	858	0.6
Water sply; sewage, wste mgmt & remediaton	557	0.7	503	0.7	1,060	0.7
Construction	6,044	7.7	5,585	8.1	11,629	7.9
Whsale & ret trade; repair motor vehicles...	12,207	15.6	9,270	13.5	21,477	14.6
Transport & Storage	3,475	4.5	2,735	4.0	6,210	4.2
Accommodation & Food Svc Activities	4,167	5.3	4,627	6.7	8,794	6.0
Information & Communication	2,086	2.7	1,571	2.3	3,657	2.5
Financial & Insurance Activities	2,122	2.7	1,358	2.0	3,480	2.4
Real Estate	1,031	1.3	1,133	1.6	2,164	1.5
Professional, Scientific & Technical	3,600	4.6	4,016	5.8	7,616	5.2
Administrative & Support Service	3,081	3.9	2,561	3.7	5,642	3.8
Pub Admin & Def; Compulsory Soc Sec	7,177	9.2	6,244	9.1	13,421	9.1
Education	6,844	8.8	6,237	9.1	13,081	8.9
Human Health & Social Work	12,569	16.1	10,022	14.6	22,591	15.4
Other	3,541	4.5	3,602	5.2	7,143	4.9

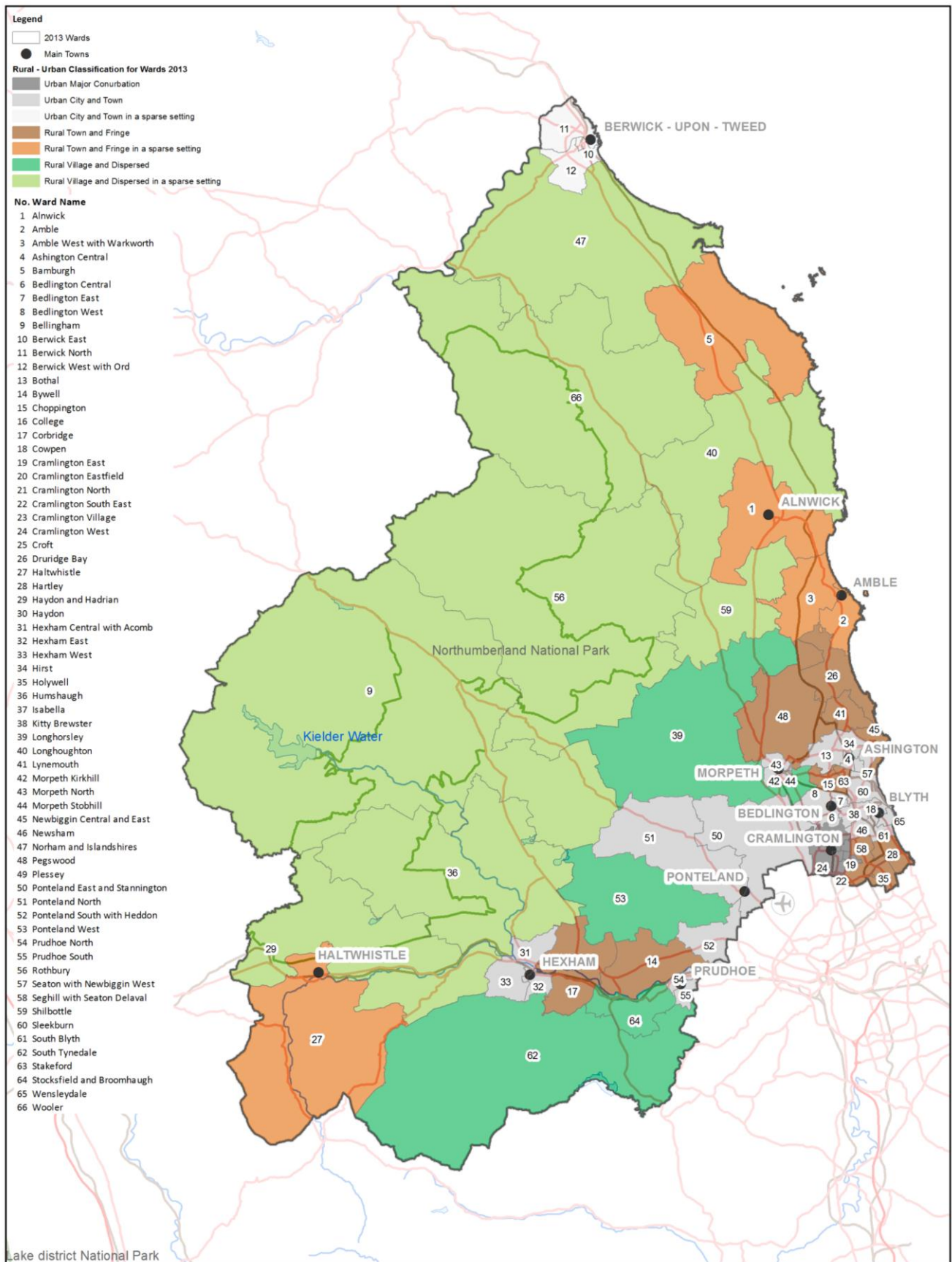
Source: 2011 Census ONS, Key Statistics Tables, via NOMIS

A larger percentage of people living in rural areas in Northumberland are managers, directors & senior officials, are employed in professional occupations or skilled trade occupations. In urban areas a larger percentage of people work in administrative & secretarial occupations, sales and customer services and caring occupations.

**Chart 7: Occupation (aged 16-74 in employment)**



## 6 2013 Ward Rural-Urban Classification



Published October 2013. Scale: 1:500,000

Produced by the Policy and Research Team, Transformation Service, Northumberland County Council.

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL - OS Licence No. 100049048.

The 2011 Rural-Urban classification has been applied to the 2013 wards for Northumberland. Table 15 shows a list of wards broken down by the 8 rural-urban classification groups in the ward level classification. Demographic data for each of the wards can be accessed via the [Northumberland Knowledge](#) website. By far the largest number of wards (29, 43.9%) is classified as Urban City and Town. The lowest number (3) falls into the Urban City and Town in a sparse setting group, all in Berwick-upon-Tweed.

**Table 15: 2013 Wards by Rural-Urban Classification 2011**

<b>Rural Town and Fringe</b>	<b>Urban City and Town</b>
Bywell ED	Ashington Central ED
Choppington ED	Bedlington Central ED
Corbridge ED	Bedlington East ED
Druridge Bay ED	Bedlington West ED
Hartley ED	Bothal ED
Holywell ED	College ED
Lynemouth ED	Cowpen ED
Newbiggin Central and East ED	Croft ED
Pegswood ED	Haydon ED
Seghill with Seaton Delaval ED	Hexham Central with Acomb ED
Stakeford ED	Hexham East ED
<b>Rural Town and Fringe in a sparse setting</b>	Hexham West ED
Alnwick ED	Hirst ED
Amble ED	Isabella ED
Amble West with Warkworth ED	Kitty Brewster ED
Bamburgh ED	Morpeth Kirkehill ED
Haltwhistle ED	Morpeth North ED
<b>Rural Village and Dispersed</b>	Morpeth Stobhill ED
Longhorsley ED	Newsham ED
Ponteland West ED	Plessey ED
South Tynedale ED	Ponteland East and Stannington ED
Stocksfield and Broomhaugh ED	Ponteland North ED
<b>Rural Village and Dispersed in a sparse setting</b>	Ponteland South with Heddon ED
Bellingham ED	Prudhoe North ED
Haydon and Hadrian ED	Prudhoe South ED
Humshaugh ED	Seaton with Newbiggin West ED
Longhoughton ED	Sleekburn ED
Norham and Islandshires ED	South Blyth ED
Rothbury ED	Wensleydale ED
Shilbottle ED	<b>Urban City and Town in a sparse setting</b>
Wooler ED	Berwick East ED
<b>Urban Major Conurbation</b>	Berwick North ED
Cramlington East ED	Berwick West with Ord ED
Cramlington Eastfield ED	
Cramlington North ED	
Cramlington South East ED	
Cramlington Village ED	
Cramlington West ED	

## 7 Key links and further information on the Rural-Urban Classification

For detailed demographics by each of the 10 Rural-Urban categories in Northumberland please see the [Northumberland Knowledge](#) website. A short summary report for Northumberland can also be accessed here.

The Rural-Urban Classification for OA, LSOA, MSOA and 2011 wards, together with user guidance and a methodology report, can be downloaded from [ONS Open Geography Portal](#). A short leaflet explaining the rural-urban classification at a national level can be accessed [here](#).

Rural–urban analysis of the 2011 Census is now available for a wide range of Census data via the Office for National Statistics. A guide on how to access the data is provided [here](#).

[Regional and Local Enterprise Partnership \(LEP\)](#) maps of the Rural-Urban Classification have also been produced by DEFRA.

The rural-urban classification for local authority areas will be available sometime in 2014.

Please direct enquiries to Shona Rowe (01670) 624746, [knowledge@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:knowledge@northumberland.gov.uk).