

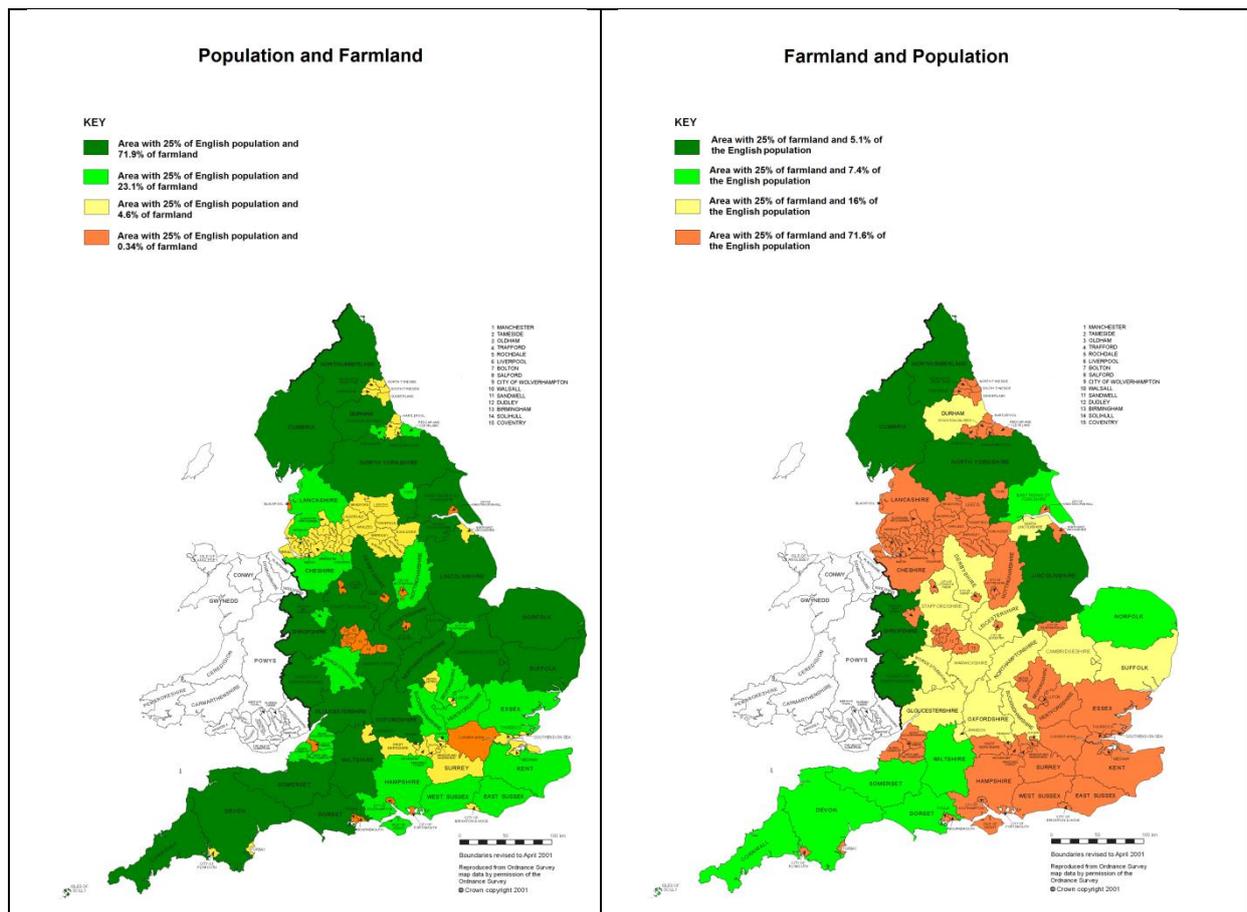
A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURAL ENGLAND

Stephen Parsons

Farming is the signature occupation of the countryside.

Two pictures of England according to this observation are illustrated in the maps below.

The areas coloured deepest green are in each case the most agricultural, and the same information is represented in both maps. They show two ways of looking at the same thing.



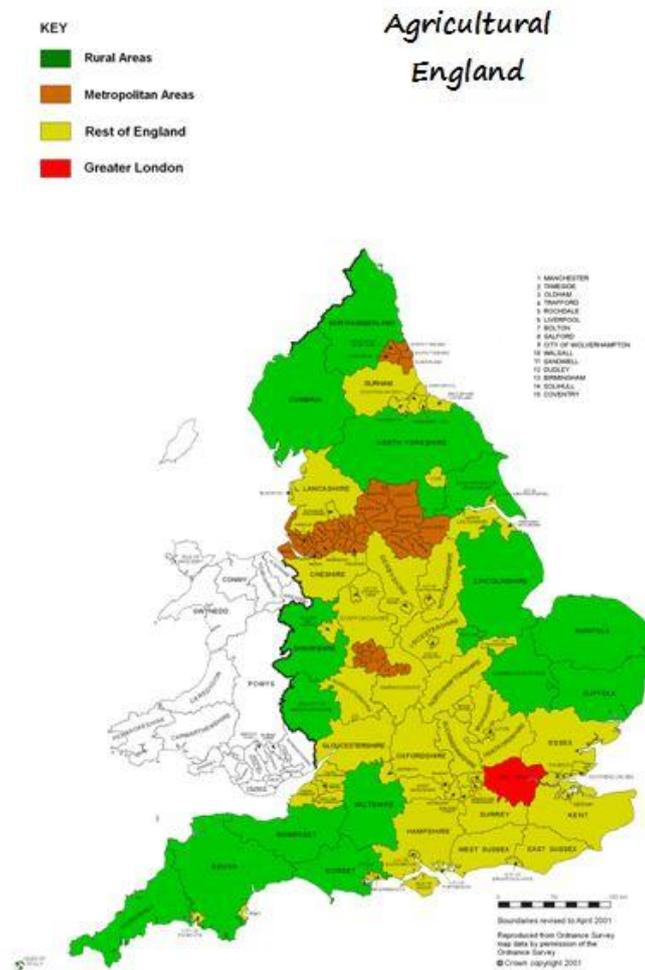
In the map on the left ('Population and Farmland') the country is partitioned to show where all four quarters of the resident population live, divided into localities categorised and sorted by how much farmland there is per resident. The deepest green areas, where there's most farmland per resident, contain a quarter of the English population and nearly three quarters of the country's farmland. The brown areas also contain a quarter of the

population, but less than one percent of the farmland. In between, in yellow and light green, there might be Middle England (half the population and a quarter of the farmland).

In the map on the right ('Farmland and Population') the country is partitioned to show where all four quarters of the farmland are, again divided into localities categorised and sorted by how much farmland there is per resident. The deepest green areas contain the least congested quarter of the farmland, with only 5% of the population living there. The brown areas are the most congested quarter of the farmland, containing most of the people (over 70%). In between, in yellow and light green, there might be another Middle England (half the farmland and a quarter of the population).

Agricultural England

Agricultural England is a hybrid vision: a third way of looking at the country.



By separately identifying the most congested metropolitan-urban (metro-urban) areas, and also singling out London for special consideration, the remaining countryside can be partitioned according to the amount of farmland per resident in the locality.

The bright green areas labelled Rural are accordingly defined as the least residential as much as the most agricultural part of the country. Middle England, according to this classification, is elsewhere: the rest of England; where half the people live.

The relative proportions of population, farmland and various types of agricultural activity within the different areas are set out in the table below.

Relative Proportions: Population and Farming in England
(% of national totals in each area)

	London	Metro-urban	Rural	Elsewhere
Population	14.6	22.0	15.0	48.4
Farmland	0.2	3.0	55.7	41.2
Cereals	0.1	2.5	55.2	42.0
Potatoes	0.1	2.5	66.4	30.0
Horticulture	0.3	1.7	62.7	34.7
Dairying	0.1	2.7	52.2	44.8
Beef cattle	0.0	4.2	59.3	36.2
Sheep	0.0	2.6	60.8	33.8
Pigs	0.1	2.8	68.5	27.8

Rural England has a preponderance of farming of all sorts, in accordance with the principle that farming is the signature occupation of the countryside. It has more than half of all the main categories of farming, whether of crops or livestock. The resident population is roughly equivalent to that of London, where there's next to no farming at all. The normal forces of commercial gravity should emphasise the flow of produce across the country and into metro-urban centres and the capital.

(Stephanie Masters made the maps)