



# **Geographical Alignment and Social Mix: A Practical Application of Network Theory for Policy Purposes.**

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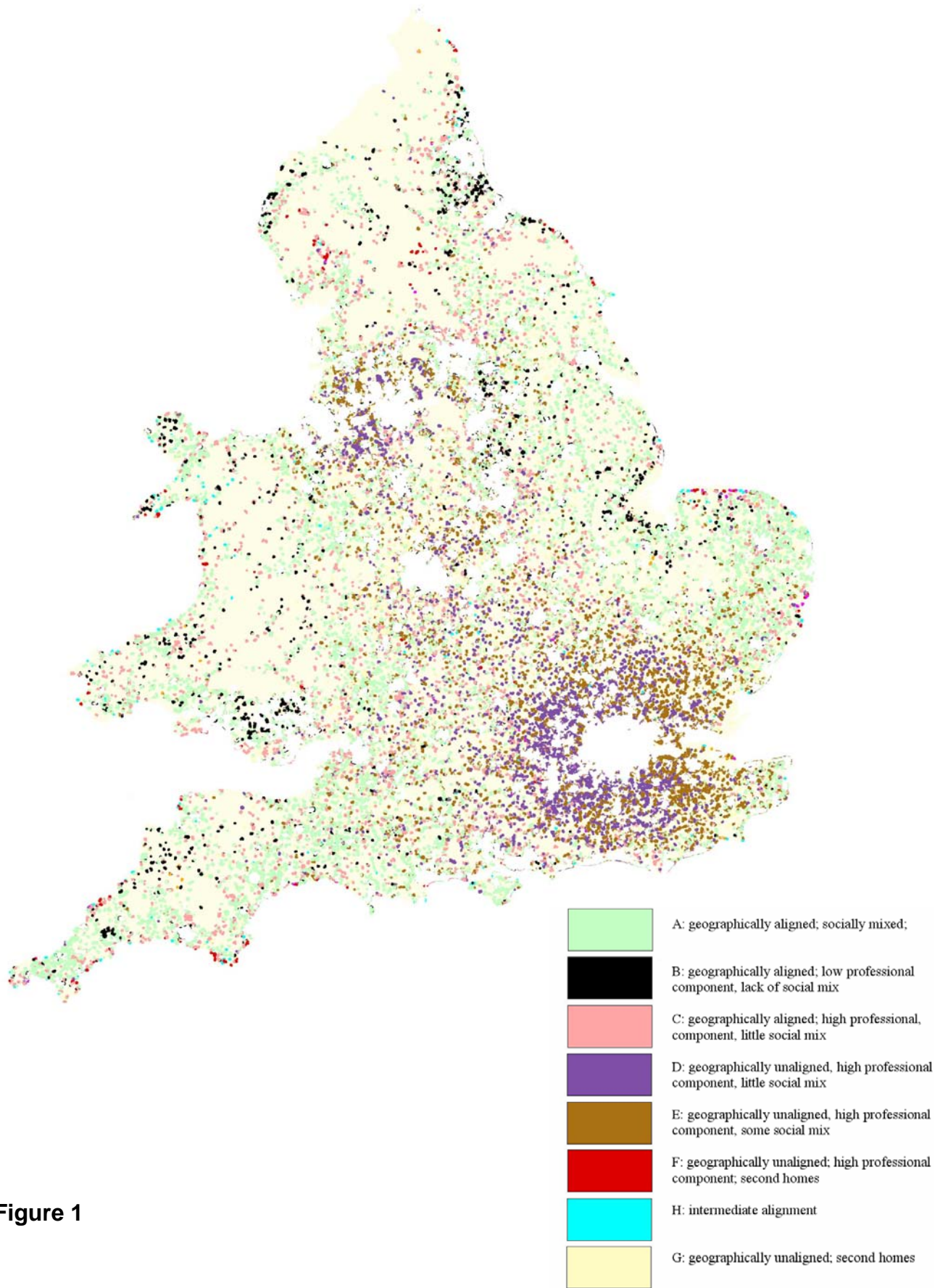
**March 2006**

## **Introduction**

1. This note suggests a way in which the key ideas of the Research Outlook paper might be realised as evidence for rural policy. Figure 1 assigns localities Rural England into a series of functional types (notice that the urban domain is not shown). Areas are classified with respect to three criteria; their pattern of workplace attachment, their social mix and the presence (or absence) of second homes.
2. With regard to workplace attachment, a distinction is made between localities where the workforce serves a restricted set of employment centres (described here as geographically aligned) and those where residents work in a broader range of centres. Where there is evidence of a broader range of workplace destinations localities are described here as geographically unaligned.
3. Social mix is considered on two dimensions; first there is a measure of occupational segregation and secondly a measure of the representation of professional and managerial occupations. If there is a higher than average proportion of professionals and managers this is termed a 'high professional component'. If this is accompanied by a higher than average coefficient of occupational segregation, this is described here as a lack of social mix.

## The Mapping

4. Much of rural England is assigned to **group A**, which is geographically aligned; and socially mixed. There are, however, **group B** communities which are also geographically aligned, lacking in social mix, and with low professional and managerial representation. These include former coal-mining villages (e.g. in Durham, Yorkshire-Derbyshire-Nottinghamshire), and settlements geared to China clay extraction)
- 5 **Group C** embraces localities where there is stronger attachment to particular workplaces (i.e. geographic alignment) but high professional representation and little social mix. These include localities such as Painswick, Lechlade, Much Wenlock, Church Stretton (Shropshire), Corbridge (Northumberland), and Grasmere (Cumbria).
6. Much of rural England is characterized by much weaker geographical alignment. Much of the South East of England, particularly to the West of London comprises localities whose workforces are geographically unaligned, have a high professional component, with little social mix and constitute **group D**. Localities in Group D are scattered more generally through an area West of a line linking Bournemouth and Preston and south of a line linking Preston and Clacton. **Group E** localities also have relatively weak geographic alignment, and high representation of professional workers but a more diverse social mix. They are most heavily concentrated in the South East to the East of London in Kent and Essex.
- 6 In **Group F** localities weaker geographic alignment, lack of ties to particular employment centres and high representation of professional and managerial workers is found together with concentrations of second homes. These localities include Chapel Stile, Little Langdale and Burneside (Cumbria), Gunnerside and Arkengarthdale (North Yorkshire); Brancaster, Burnham Market, Stiffkey and Blakeney (Norfolk), Kingswear, Salcombe and Thurlestone (Devon), Polzeath and St Mawes (Cornwall).
- 7 **Group G** comprises a second set of localities with a high representation of second homes usually with weak geographic alignment, but weaker representation of professional worker. Such localities include Weybourne and Cley (Norfolk), Anderby Creek (Lincolnshire), Bamburgh (Northumberland) or Thorpeness (Essex).
- 8 Finally **Group H** comprises localities of intermediate geographic alignment.



**Figure 1**