

# STAYin(g)Rural

## BACKGROUND CONTEXT TO NORTHERN IRELAND STUDY AREA

LAUNCH MEETING  
MAY 2019  
CO. TYRONE



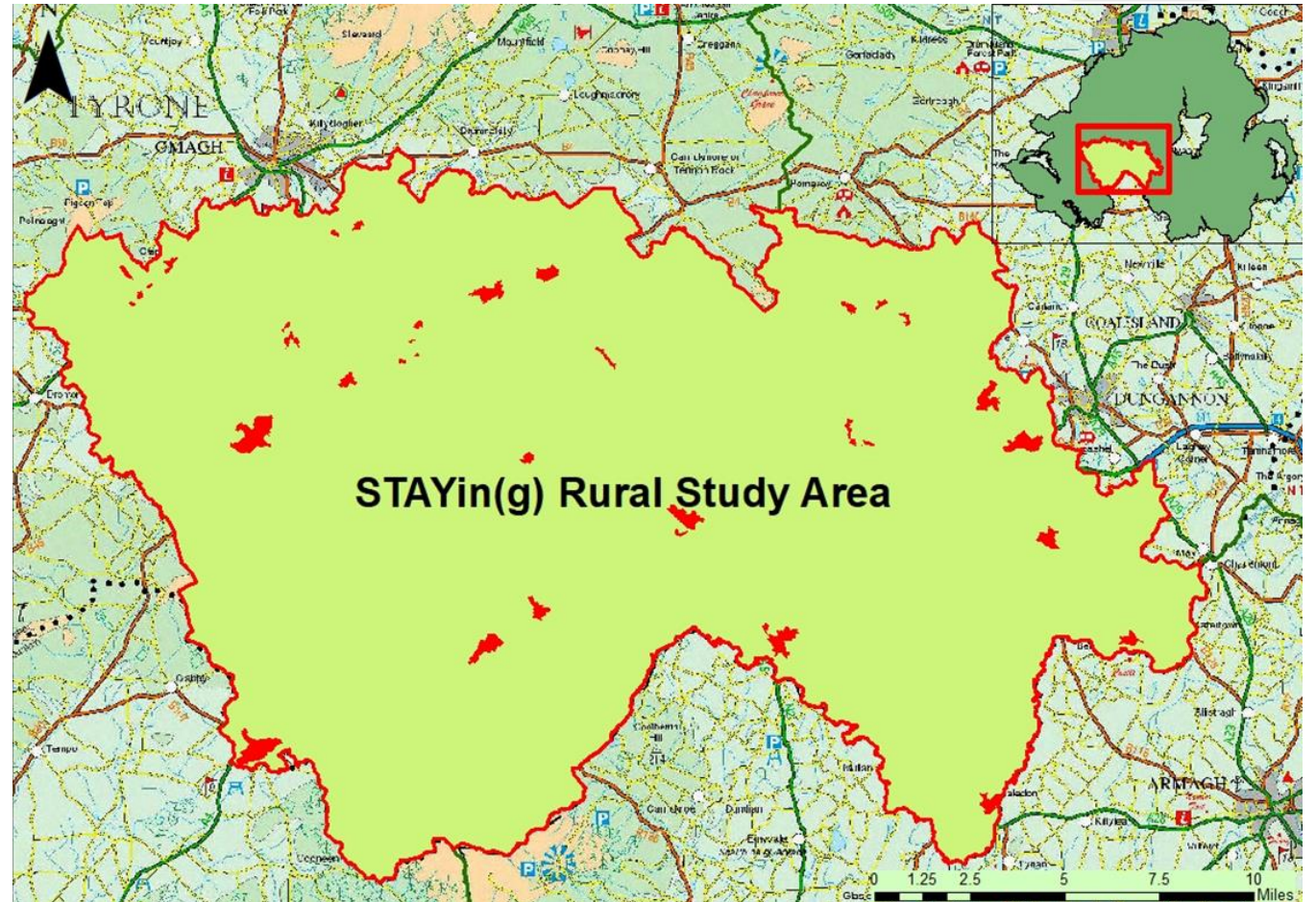
# Background

- Situated within South/West Tyrone.
- Intersects two Local Government Districts:
  - Fermanagh & South Tyrone
  - Mid-Ulster
- Two of the largest districts in terms of land mass and smallest in terms of population
  - Study Area: 940km<sup>2</sup>
  - Population: 36,956 persons
- Population dispersed across array of rural villages, small settlements and single dwellings in countryside.

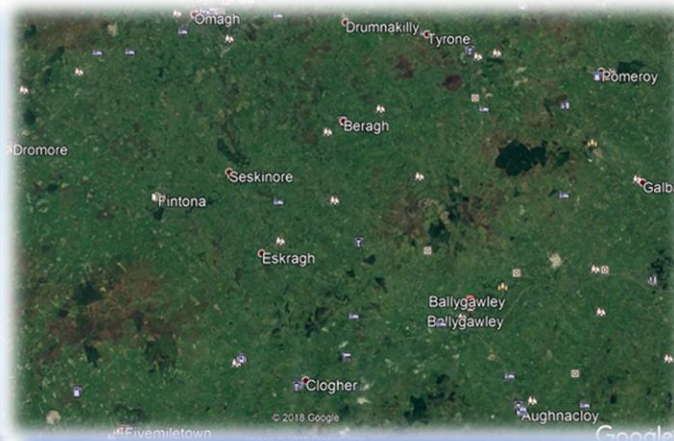


# Geography

- Population: 36,956 persons
  - NI: 1.87 million
- Low population density: 43 persons/km<sup>2</sup>
- Mosaic of large and small rural villages, hamlets and open countryside.
  - 3 Large Villages (population >1000)
  - 15 Small Villages (population: 100-1000 persons)
  - 5 Hamlets (population < 100 persons)
- Nearest urban centres: Omagh and Dungannon



# Characteristic Rural Landscapes





# Characteristic Rural Settlements

Average Area: 0.53km<sup>2</sup>  
Average Population: 430

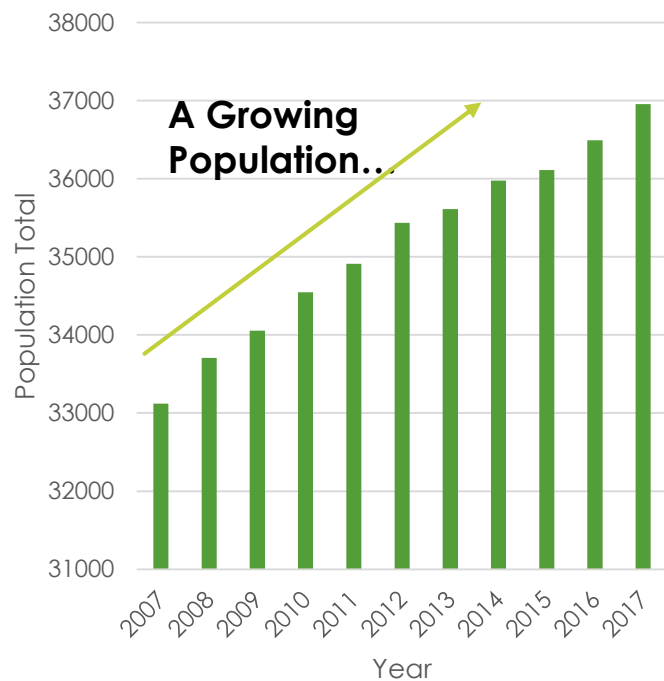


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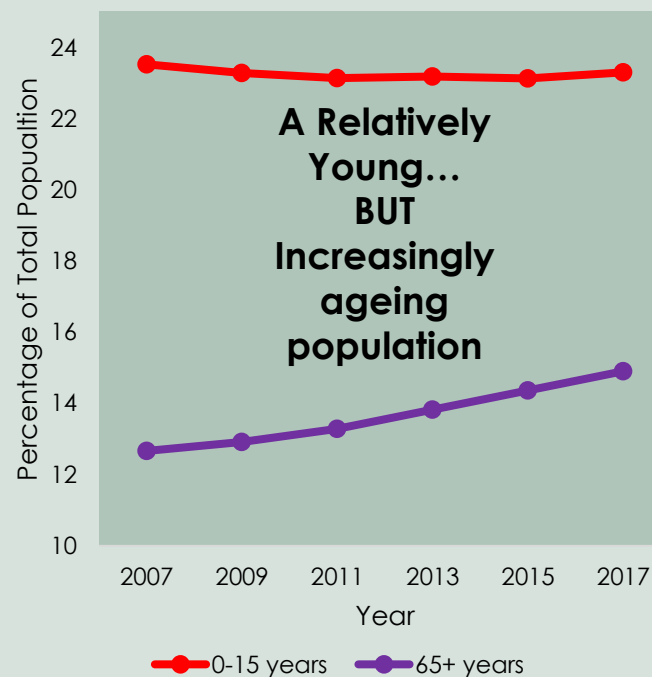
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# Characteristic Rural Populations

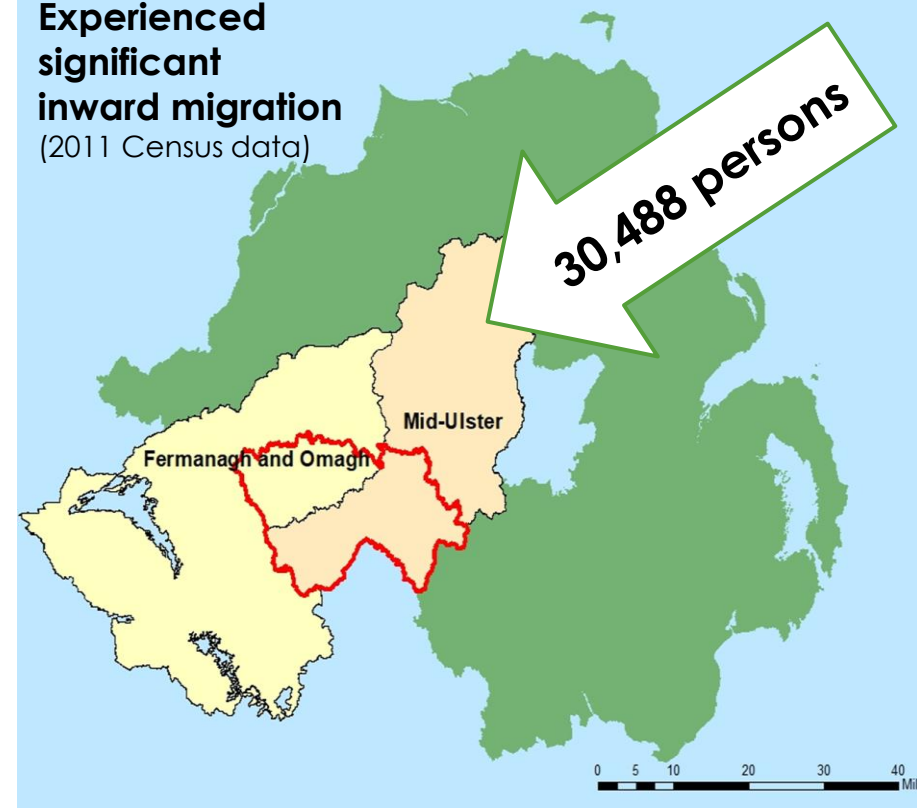
STAYin(g)Rural Study Area  
Population Change 2007-2017



Age Demographics in the  
STAY(in)gRural Study Area

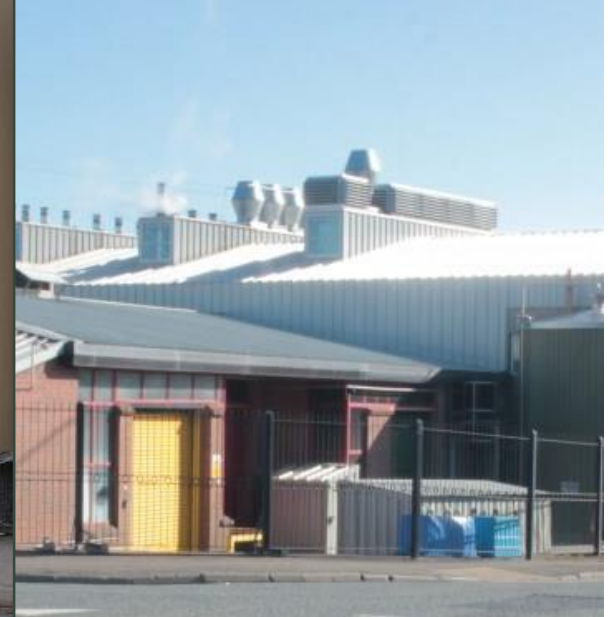
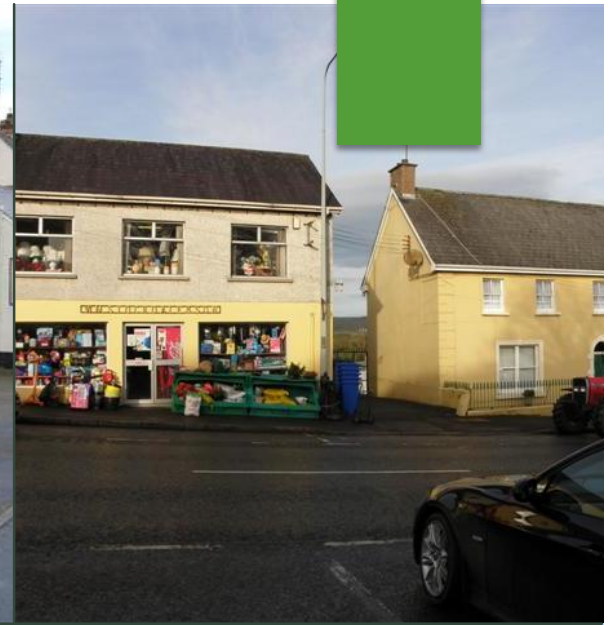


Experienced  
significant  
inward migration  
(2011 Census data)



# Industry & Employment

- Rural west: 15% of income derived from self-employment
  - c.25% of males self-employed
- Key industries of employment:
  - Wholesale and retail (15%)
  - Health and social care (13.6%)
  - Manufacturing (13.6%)
  - Construction (12.1%)
  - Education (10.2%)
- Average distance to work: 15.6km
  - Many travel to nearby service centres for employment



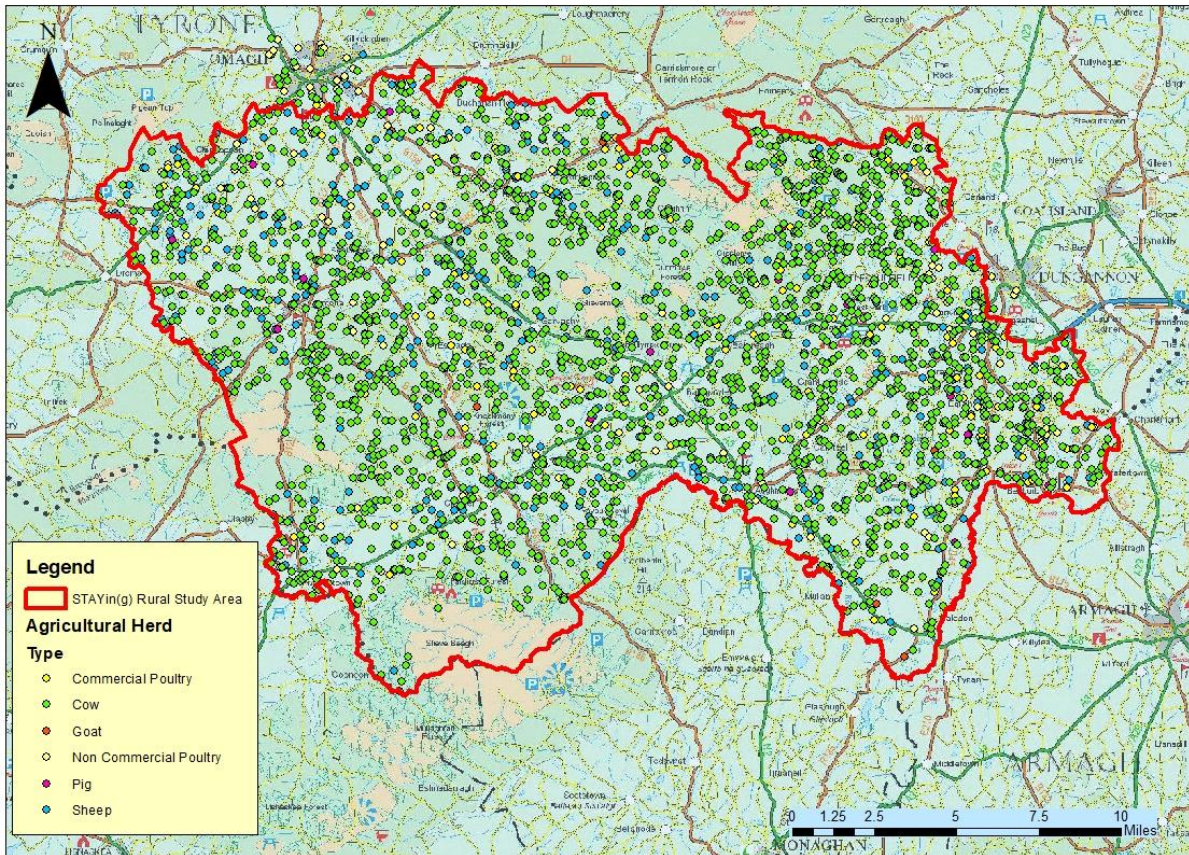


# Agriculture

- Small proportion of NI industry/emp. = 2%
  - Study Area: 8.02%
- Difficult to 'make a living' out of farming
  - NI 1981: 31% of farmers = Part-time.
  - NI 2017: >45% of farmers = Part-time.
- 37.2% of **all** NI farms located within study area LGDs
- Predominantly pastoral farming
  - 96.6% of area farmed = Grass/rough grazing
  - 1.42% of area farmed = Arable
- 80% classified as 'very small' farms
- <10% classified as 'large or very large' farms



# Distribution of Agricultural Herds



- Over 1/3 of all NI registered herds are within study area.
- Within study area: predominantly cattle (diary and beef) and sheep farming

Animal	Number	Percent
Cow	2192	54.96
Sheep	1214	30.44
Commercial Chicken	269	6.75
Non Commercial Chickens	232	5.82
Pig	49	1.23
Goat	32	0.80
Total	3988	100

# Housing

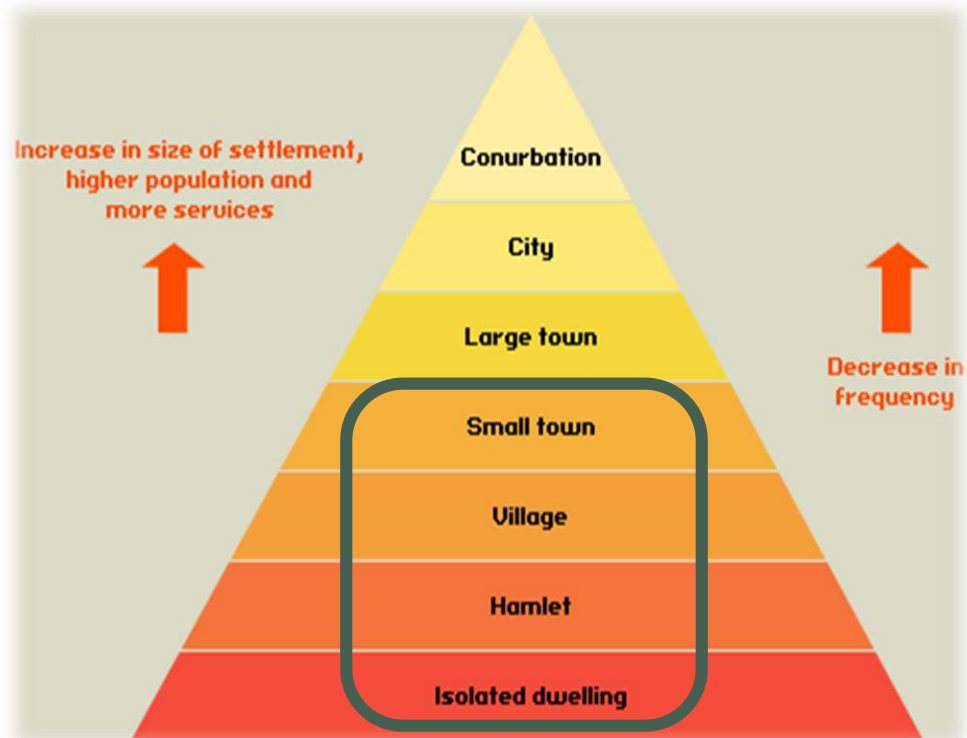
- Housing type: traditional farmhouses and modern detached dwellings in the countryside.
- Predominantly private housing developments within settlements. Limited social housing.
- Study Area:
  - Housing density: 14.76 houses/km<sup>2</sup>
  - Occupancy: 93%
  - Detached: 72%
  - Owner Occupied: 81%
- Planning policy making it increasingly difficult to build new houses in countryside.



# Study Area Settlements

	Name	20 min drive of service provision location	30 min drive of a service provision location	Usual Residents	Occupied Households
Large Village	FIVEMILETOWN	N	N	1243	552
	FINTONA	Y	Y	1160	532
	AUGHNACLOY	N	Y	1041	402
Small Village or Hamlet	BALLYGAWLEY	N	Y	711	271
	CLOGHER	N	N	709	272
	CASTLECAULFIELD	Y	Y	659	258
	BERAGH	Y	Y	585	232
	EGLISH	Y	Y	492	143
	CALEDON	Y	Y	468	192
	BENBURB	Y	Y	409	144
	AGHAGINDUFF / CABRAGH	Y	Y	374	129
	CLANABOGAN	Y	Y	365	124
	AUGHER	N	Y	305	132
	GRANVILLE	Y	Y	300	115
	SIXMILECROSS	N	Y	260	114
	GALBALLY	Y	Y	179	71
	SESKINORE	Y	Y	157	61
	TATTYREAGH	Y	Y	125	35
	ALTAMUSKIN	N	Y	79	23
	EDENDERRY	Y	Y	78	28
	GORTACLARE / MOYLAGH	Y	Y	69	26
	GARVAGHEY	Y	Y	67	25
	CAPPAGH	N	Y	53	25

# Settlements & Services



	Small Town/Large Village	Small Village
<b>Skills</b>	Post Primary	Primary School
<b>Health</b>	Pharmacy/ Health centre	Doctor
<b>Social</b>	Community Centre	Local Hall
<b>Commercial</b>	Supermarket	Shop, pub, post office
<b>Justice</b>	Police Station	Neighbourhood Watch
<b>Productive</b>	Enterprise Centre	Workshop
<b>Networks</b>	Bus to larger centres	Local Bus

- Smaller settlements typically only contain social facilities and services – e.g. sewage treatment works
  - E.g.: Gortaclare; Newtownsaville; Tattyreagh

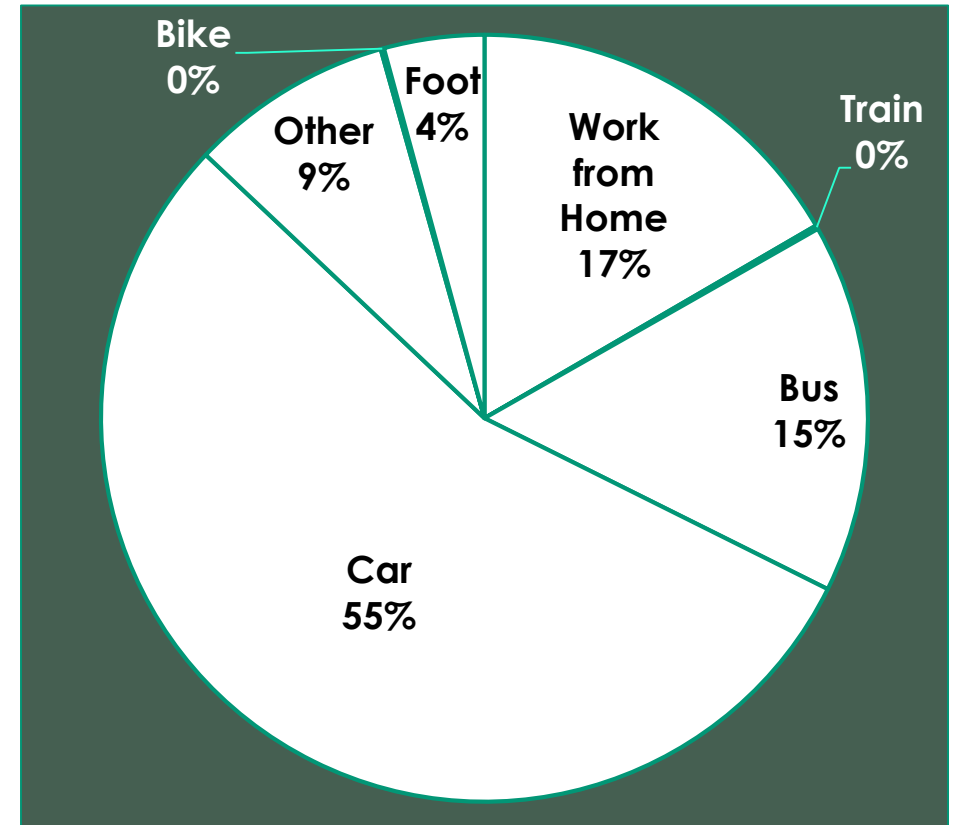
# Issues within Study Area Settlements

- **Service Centre Decline** – Vacancy rates of properties in the smaller towns and villages are on the increase due to shop closures - resulting in reduced local services and dereliction.
- **Service Provision in Rural Areas** – Concerns often raised on the ‘running down’ of services in the rural areas such as education, health and community.
  - *Education* – closure of small rural schools
  - *Health* – closure of medical services within the isolated rural communities
  - *Community* – Closure of community facilities such as police stations and libraries



# Issues within wider STAY(in)g Rural Study Area

- ▶ Distance to services: All study SOAs within top 25% most deprived in relation to access to services
  - ▶ 50% of area within the top 10% most deprived.
- ▶ Limited public transport provisions: Dispersed nature of study area makes services unviable.
- ▶ Results in a car dependent population.
- ▶ Increases vulnerability to social isolation and feelings of exclusion
- ▶ Issue compounded by poor quality broadband/internet provision/mobile coverage



# Summary

- ▶ **Population:** slowly growing...increasingly ageing
- ▶ **Geography:** small contained settlements widely dispersed amongst open countryside
  - ▶ Distance to majority of services – min.20 minutes by car
- ▶ **Landscape:** idyllic but largely unproductive
- ▶ **Industry and Employment:** Part-time farms and family-orientated businesses.
- ▶ **Challenges:** Service and settlement sustainability

