

Reflecting on the Differentiated Countryside, 20 years on

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Plan

- ✦ Introduction
- ✦ The Dynamics of Differentiation
- ✦ Social Change in England and the Rise of the Radical Right
- ✦ Reflections and Implications



The Differentiated Countryside

- ✦ The Preserved Countryside
 - ✦ e.g. Buckinghamshire in SE England
 - ✦ Politically dominant affluent middle class

- ✦ The Contested Countryside
 - ✦ e.g. Devon in SW England
 - ✦ Affluent middle class incomers contesting with small farmers and developers

- ✦ The Paternalistic Countryside
 - ✦ e.g. Northumberland in NE England
 - ✦ Large private landowners control land development

The dynamics of differentiation

- ✦ The dynamics of differentiation
 - ✦ Balance of production and consumption interests
 - ✦ Marketisation and commoditisation
 - ✦ Networks of influence within political system
 - ✦ Changing nature of property rights

- ✦ Observations from 2014
 - ✦ Formal political dimensions to differentiation
 - ✦ Fundamental divide between forces of development and conservation
 - ✦ Prime emphasis on effects of counter-urbanising middle class
 - ✦ Little emphasis on rural working class

The rise of the radical right (in rural regions)



Explaining UKIP's appeal

- ✦ Hostility to the EU
- ✦ Hostility to immigration
- ✦ Hostility to conventional politicians in general
- ✦ The 'left-behind'

The social complexion of UKIP support

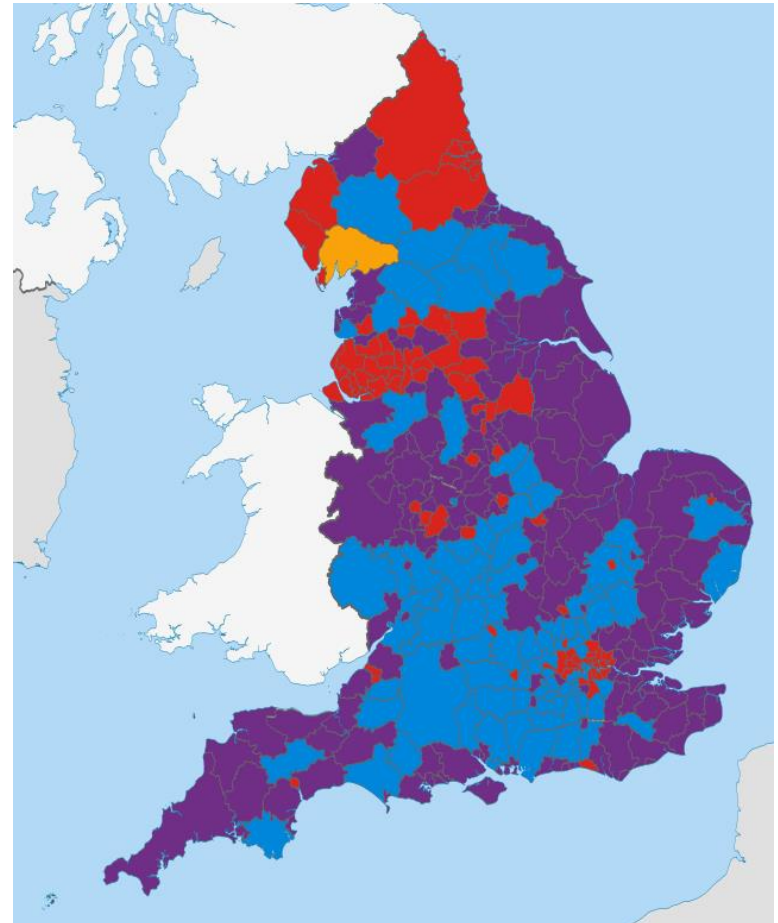
	UKIP	British National Party (2007-13)	Conservatives	Labour	Lib Dems	Greens	Overall
Social Class							
Professional / managerial middle class	30	22	44	36	43	44	39
Routine non-manual (clerical, sales, services)	27	23	28	29	29	27	28
Working class / other / never worked	42	55	28	35	27	28	33
Education (age left school)							
16 or younger	55	62	36	40	31	21	38
17 or 18	21	19	24	20	19	18	21
19 or older	24	19	40	40	50	60	41
Gender							
Male	57	64	49	49	47	46	50
Female	43	36	51	51	53	54	50
Age							
Under 35	12	20	24	28	32	37	26
35-54	31	41	32	38	33	35	34
55 plus	57	39	44	34	35	28	39
Ethnicity							
White	99.6	99.5	98.9	96.3	98.4	98.3	98.0
Non-white	0.4	0.5	1.1	3.7	1.6	1.7	2.0

Rural geographies of UKIP support

Parliamentary constituencies with the strongest UKIP support



Local districts with the strongest UKIP support



Explaining UKIP's appeal: the 'left-behind'

✦ Economy

- ✦ Low-skill, low-wage economies: sparsity, peripherality, fragility (seasonal, low value-added tourism / food processing)
- ✦ Fatalistic about economic prospects

✦ Culture

- ✦ Anti-metropolitanism
- ✦ In-migration from Eastern Europe in particular

✦ Politics

- ✦ Disaffection of the 'left-behind' through marginalisation by main parties
- ✦ Euroscepticism and anti-immigration

England's eastern coastal fringe



Fenland landscapes



Fenland landscapes



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Why Ukip's Little England is full of eastern promise

Nigel Farage's best hopes of electoral triumph rest on Lincolnshire and East Anglia, where a failing economy and isolation have boosted Ukip's appeal. But scratch under the surface, and the party's success looks rather more unstable



John Harris

The Guardian, Monday 24 March 2014 17:42 GMT



Matthew Smith: the Ukip councillor and parliamentary candidate for Great Yarmouth is facing charges of electoral malpractice. Photograph: Graham Turner for the Guardian

Implications

- ✦ For UK and European politics
 - ✦ More proactive Euroscepticism and stronger rhetoric on immigration in two main parties
 - ✦ Possible UK referendum on EU membership in 2017

- ✦ For UK local rural politics
 - ✦ Strengthening UKIP representation in local government
 - ✦ What will this mean for local development, services & austerity?

- ✦ For rural research
 - ✦ Post-2008 widening socio-political fissure and the 'left-behind'
 - ✦ Rethinking the differentiated countryside types in austere times
 - ✦ Class, ethnicity, social mobility and social values
 - ✦ International comparative analysis of rurality and the radical right