



# **A Typology of 'Secondary Centres' in the East Midlands**

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# Objectives

1. Exploring the roles of 'secondary centres' in regional economic development terms
2. Developing a typology which enables these centres to be classified, and their roles and contributions to economic development to be assessed.
3. Developing a guide to policymaking and decision-making, which will enable different types of centre to contribute to regional economic development in the most effective ways.

# Approach

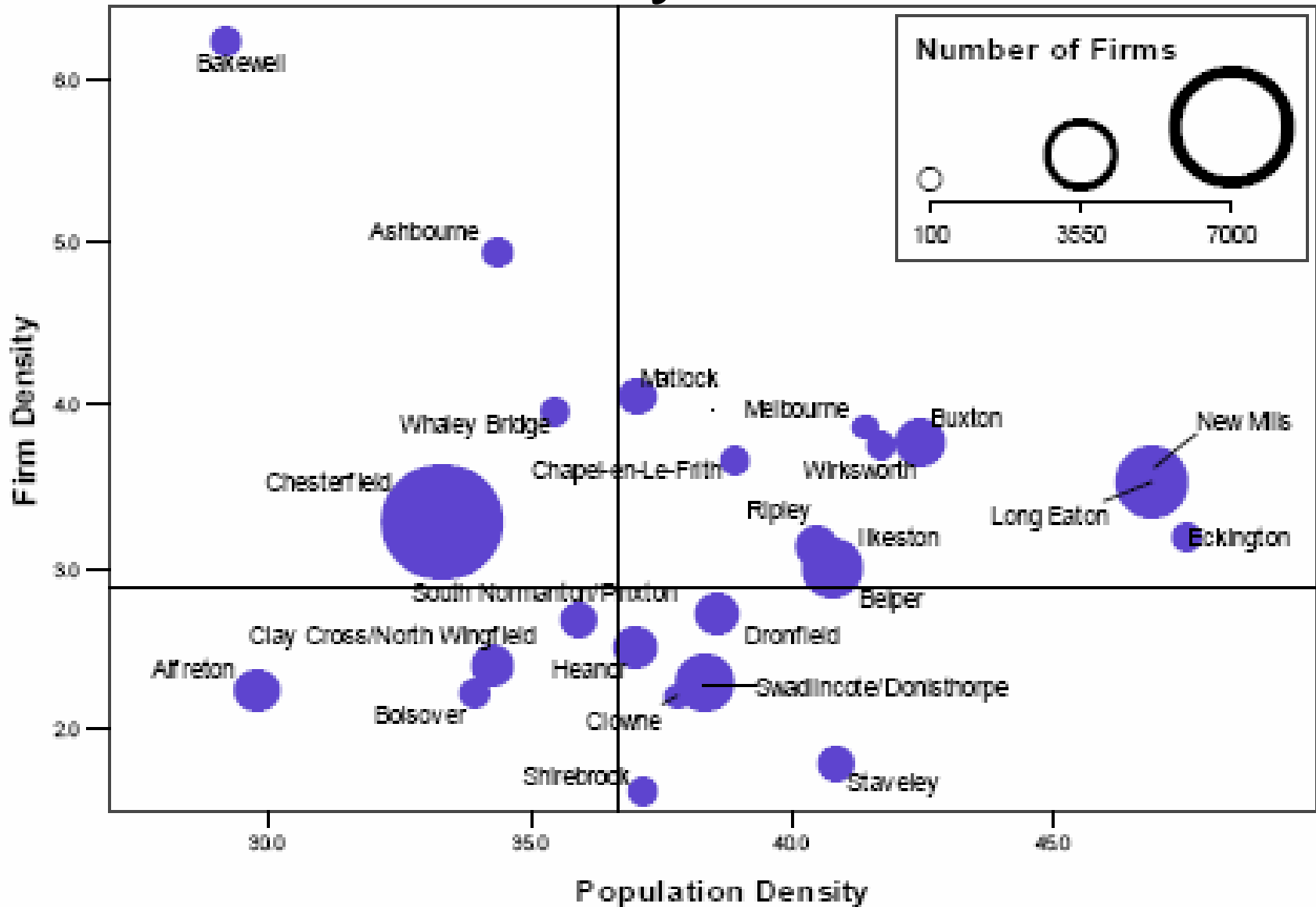
- Includes towns below 'Principal Urban Area' level in the region, from 70,260 to 1,965 population
- Analysis of variables at census urban area level, including the IDBR 2007 and Census 2001
- Interviews at district, county and town level to explore perceptions of towns, economic development strategies, and test the typology
- Case studies to illustrate each 'type' of town and the opportunities and challenges they face
- Identification of policy implications and potential interventions for each 'type' of town

# Data Sources

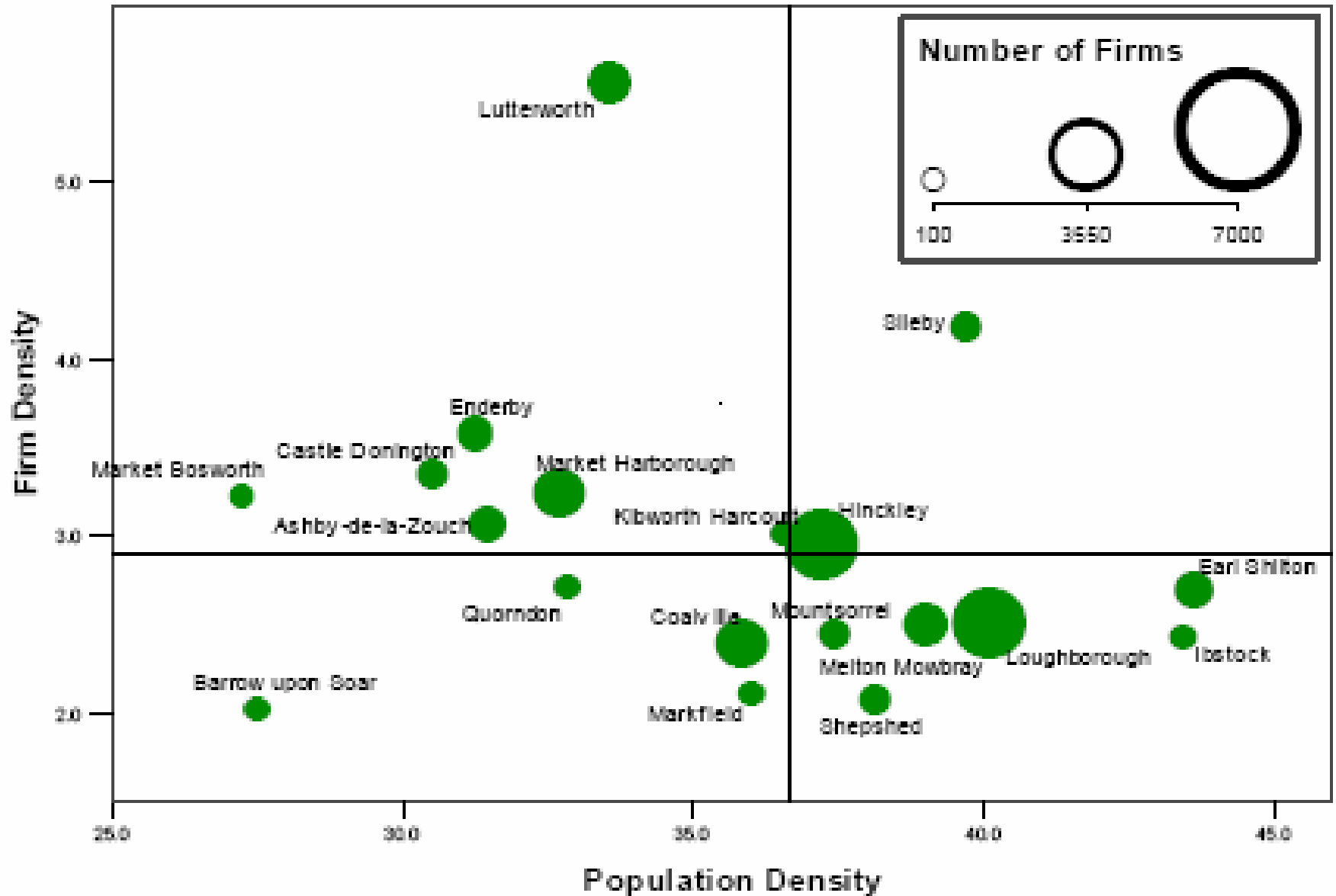
- **Population Density:** resident population divided by total area, measured in hectares (Census 2001)
- **Firm Density:** number of firms divided by total area, measured in hectares (IDBR 2007)
- **Economic Activity:** the 'economically active population' (employed, self-employed, unemployed, and students) as a proportion of total adult population (Census 2001)
- **Connectivity:** distance to the nearest city, airport and London. Measured using number of miles, total journey time in minutes, and minutes per mile to reflect efficiency of the journey (AA, National Rail)
- **Other measures:** jobs density, businesses with 20+ employees, business premises vacancy rate (NOMIS, ONS) at LAD level

# **1. Sub-Regional Analysis**

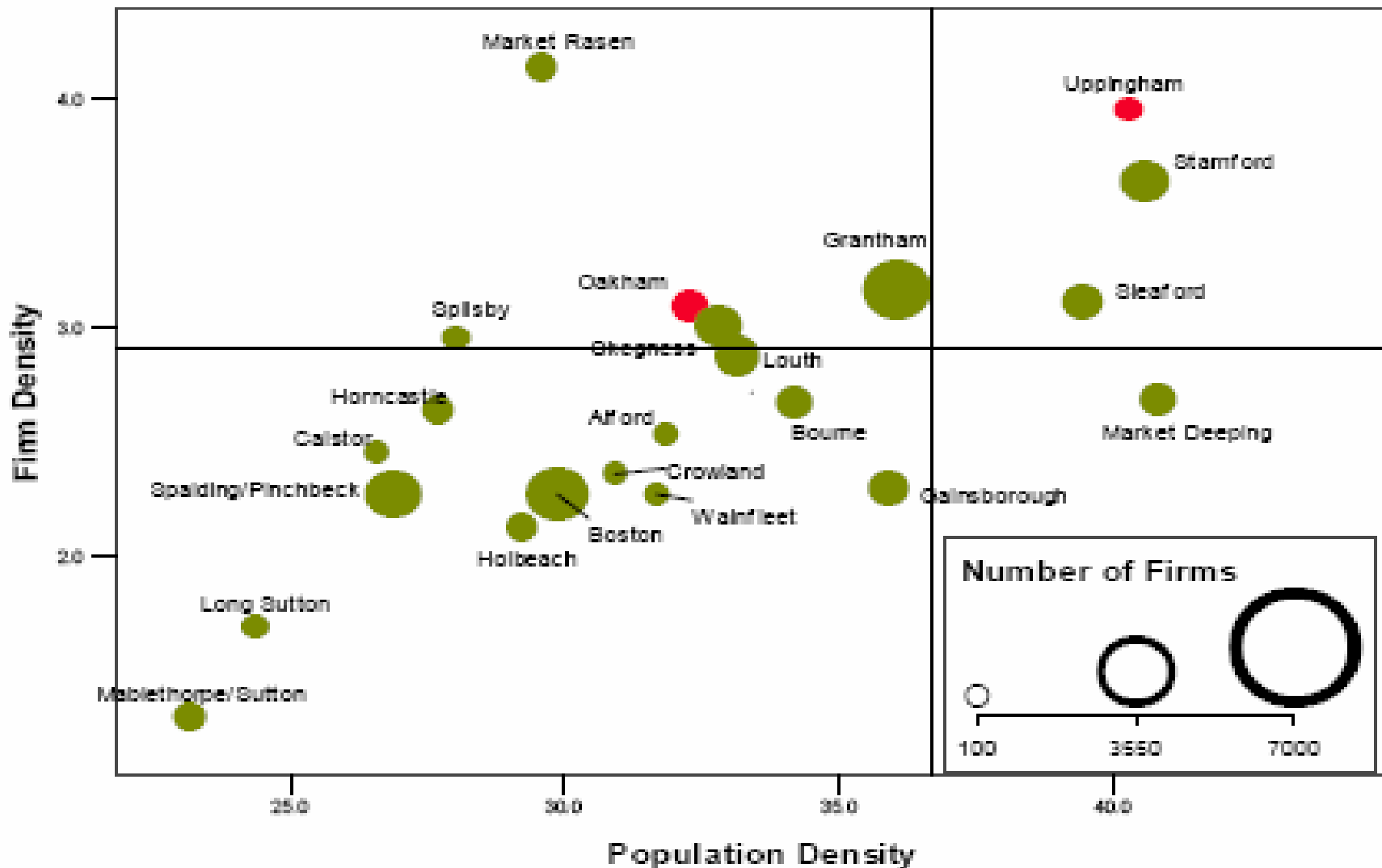
# Derbyshire



# Leicestershire



# Lincolnshire and Rutland



# **3. Towards a Typology of Secondary Centres in the East Midlands**

# Typology of Secondary Centres

**Sub Regional Centres:** large centres with a diverse economic base; the key secondary centres in the East Midlands, e.g. Chesterfield, Newark, Wellingborough

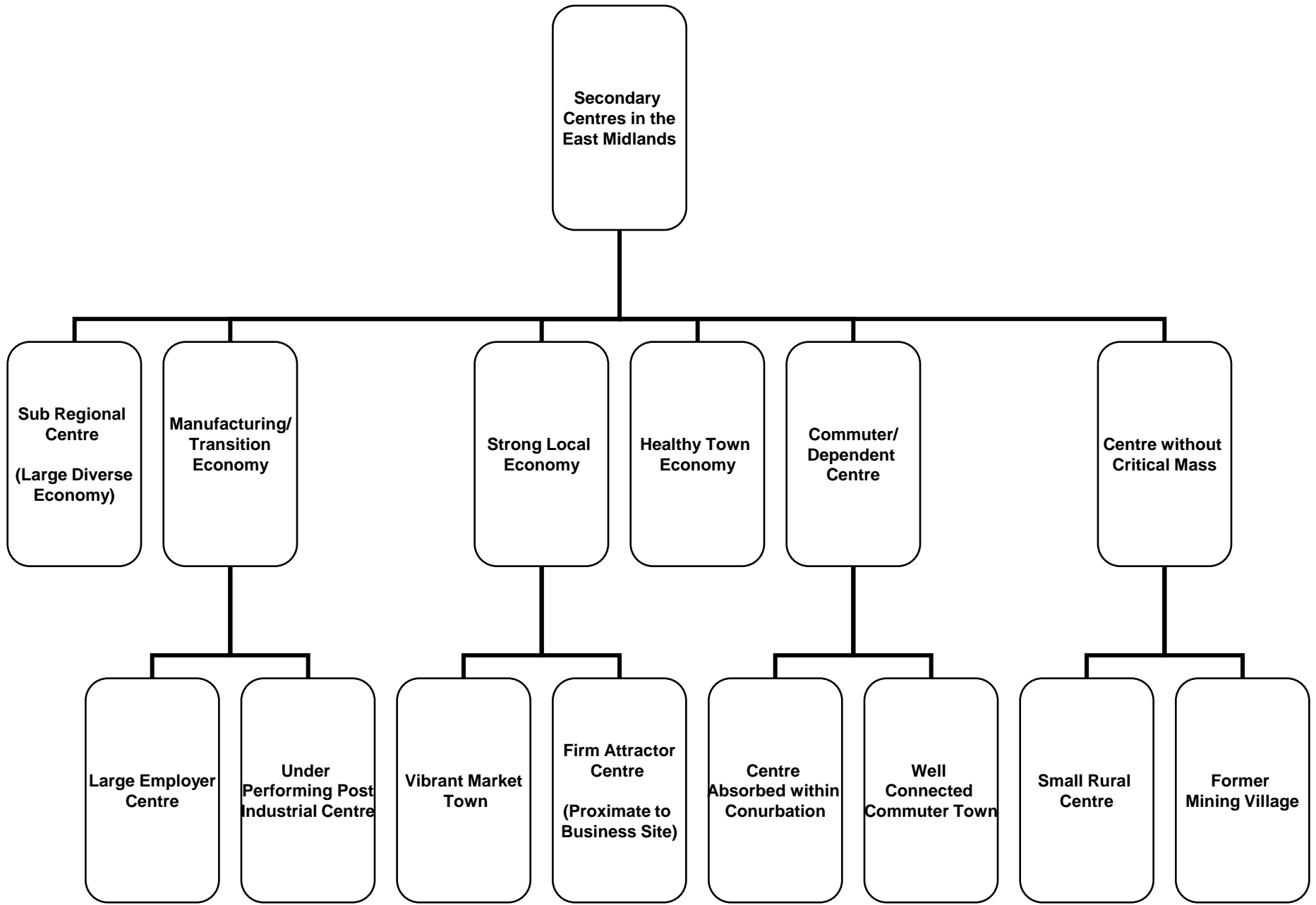
**Manufacturing/Transition Economies:** centres traditionally associated with manufacturing or mining and that still have a strong manufacturing sector, e.g. Corby, Mansfield, Worksop

**Strong Local Economies:** small centres with a high number of firms, and that serve a wide hinterland, e.g. Bakewell, Louth, Retford

**Healthy Town Economies:** centres that are well served, with services for the town and its immediate surrounding population, e.g. Towcester, Bingham

**Dependent/Commuter Centres:** well connected centres with high numbers in employment, but with few employment sites and sometimes services, e.g. Shepshed, Clifton, Rushden

**Centres without Critical Mass:** centres primarily in remote rural or former mining areas with insufficient numbers of residents or firms to bring about agglomeration effects, e.g. Shirebrook, Alford



**Secondary  
Centres in the  
East Midlands**

**Sub Regional  
Centre  
(Large Diverse  
Economy)**

**Manufacturing/  
Transition  
Economy**

**Strong Local  
Economy**

**Healthy Town  
Economy**

**Commuter/  
Dependent  
Centre**

**Centre without  
Critical Mass**

**Large Employer  
Centre**

**Under  
Performing Post  
Industrial Centre**

**Vibrant Market  
Town**

**Firm Attractor  
Centre  
(Proximate to  
Business Site)**

**Centre  
Absorbed within  
Conurbation**

**Well  
Connected  
Commuter Town**

**Small Rural  
Centre**

**Former  
Mining Village**

	<b>Common Challenges</b>	<b>Potential Responses</b>
<b>Sub Regional Centres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Retaining a mixed and diverse economy</li> <li>•Ensuring continued provision of employment sites</li> <li>•Congestion and the costs of transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Tailored development strategies to build on existing strengths in the economy</li> <li>•Strategies to minimise congestion to maximise agglomeration effects</li> </ul>
<b>Manufacturing Transition Economies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Decline in manufacturing and mining</li> <li>•Low levels of labour market participation</li> <li>•High levels of deprivation</li> <li>•Low skills and aspirations, lack of enterprise culture</li> <li>•Low number of SMEs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Foster enterprise culture through tailored training and initiatives</li> <li>•Provision of incubator centres to support early stage businesses</li> <li>•Attraction of high skilled, high wage employment</li> </ul>
<b>Strong Local Economies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Changing agricultural &amp; tourism patterns</li> <li>•Remoteness/poor transport infrastructure</li> <li>•Ageing population</li> <li>•Lack of available/affordable housing</li> <li>•Limited employment sites</li> <li>•Loss or consultation of govt services</li> <li>•Limited business support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Initiatives to encourage innovation in agriculture and tourism businesses</li> <li>•Support mid-life and early retiree entrepreneurship</li> <li>•Support for home-based businesses and home working</li> <li>•Explore innovative ways to deliver business support in remote centres</li> </ul>

	<b>Common Challenges</b>	<b>Potential Responses</b>
<b>Healthy Town Economies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Competition from or ‘leakage’ to nearby retail centres</li> <li>•Demand for housing and its effective integration</li> <li>•Provision and retention of employment sites</li> <li>•Retaining a balanced and mixed economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Tailored and specific strategies to support business development and retention</li> <li>•Ensure town integrated and embedded into local community via good transport links</li> <li>•Dedicated resource for town centre to ensure relevance/vitality</li> </ul>
<b>Commuter/ Dependent Centres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Loss of employment sites to housing</li> <li>•New housing not always integrated</li> <li>•Decline in retail &amp; government services</li> <li>•Loss of community engagement and identity</li> <li>•Reliance on cars, and problems of congestion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Ensure new housing development planned appropriately to give access to and support for local services</li> <li>•Dedicated resource for town centres and ensuring their relevance and vitality</li> <li>•Ensure access to govt services for those without access to transport</li> </ul>
<b>Centres without Critical Mass</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Decline in agriculture and mining workforce</li> <li>•Remoteness and/or poor access</li> <li>•Low levels of labour market participation and high levels of ill health</li> <li>•Loss of services to larger centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Growth in housing to ‘consolidate’ the fabric of the centre and improve demand for and viability of services</li> <li>•Promotion of broadband to increase accessibility of services and promote remote working</li> </ul>

# Strong Local Economy: Louth

- Lincolnshire market town with 16,000 population
- 50 minutes drive from Lincoln, 20 minutes from Grimsby
- Traditional role as centre for agricultural trade, and location of last livestock market in Lincolnshire
- Service centre for a wide hinterland, including nearby market towns of Alford and Spilsby
- Mixture of independent shops, market three times a week, range of larger firms on industrial estate
- Remote location and poor public transport
- Decline in government services, e.g. police, hospital
- Plans to promote the town for walking, food, eco tourism

# Commuter/Dependent Centre: Shepshed

- Leicestershire town with over 14,000 population
- Near to M1 motorway, 5 miles west of Loughborough
- Associated with wool and textiles industries, which closed in mid 1990s
- Former employment land developed into housing
- Well placed for commuting to Loughborough, Coalville, Derby
- Population growth (6,500 residents in 1963)
- Well served for healthcare and schools
- Decline in banks, pubs, shops, weekly market
- Concern for community identity and cohesion

## **4. A Typology of Smaller Rural Towns, Birkbeck College**

# Approach

- Focus on demographic, social and economic characteristics
- Includes all 1,627 urban settlements in England of between 1,500 and 40,000 population (not restricted to market towns)
- Analysis of 48 variables from 2001 census using cluster analysis

# A Typology of Smaller Rural Towns

<b>Group</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Examples</b>
<b>1</b>	Middle Aged, Managerial Jobs	Market Bosworth, Dronfield
<b>2</b>	Single Persons, Routine Jobs	Melton Mowbray, Oakham
<b>3</b>	Older Persons, Leisure Jobs	Bakewell, Mablethorpe
<b>4</b>	Young Families, Admin Jobs	Sleaford, Daventry
<b>5</b>	Professionals, Commuting	Bingham, Uppingham
<b>6</b>	Disadvantages	Worksop, Bolsover
<b>7</b>	Routine Jobs, Ag/Manufacturing	Coalville, Spalding
<b>8</b>	Age Mix, Professional Jobs	Market Harborough, Lutterworth

# Taking Typologies Forward

	LINCOLN					
BIRKBECK	Sub Regional Centres	Manufacturing/ Transition Economies	Strong Local Economies	Healthy Town Economies	Dependent/ Commuter Centres	Centres without Critical Mass
Middle aged, managerial						
Single persons, leisure jobs						
Older person, leisure jobs						
Young families, admin jobs						
Professionals, commuting						
Disadvantages						
Routine jobs, agriculture/ manufacturing						
Age mix, professional						

# Accessing the Typologies

‘Secondary Centres in the East Midlands’ can be accessed on the Intelligence East Midlands website:

[www.intelligenceeastmidlands.org.uk/content/view/1393/2/](http://www.intelligenceeastmidlands.org.uk/content/view/1393/2/)

‘A Typology of Smaller Towns for England’ can be accessed via the RERC website: [www.rerc.ac.uk/TypologyFinal.pdf](http://www.rerc.ac.uk/TypologyFinal.pdf)

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