



Dawn patrol Riders take to the gallops to train racehorses on Middleham Low Moor as the sun rises on a mild day in Wensleydale, North Yorkshire. Temperatures are set to turn cooler today. Forecast, page 57

# Brain drain created north-south divide

Richard Ford Home Correspondent

The north-south divide is the result of a brain drain that has been going on for 200 years, researchers say.

A migration study found that an important element in the decline of the north has been the movement out of the area by those with education and talent to the south over many years. At the same time migration to the north has been by less advantaged southerners.

It said that the outward migration of those with talent from the north began in the early 19th century or earlier. It concluded that those with northern surnames in the south were "a social elite" who were doing well while those with southern surnames in the north appeared to be "an underclass".

Neil Cummins, co-author of the arti-

cle, said: "It is an absolute brain drain from the north. People who originate from the north do as well as people from the south. They go south and they do extraordinarily well. We have evidence of them being an elite group in terms of status, how many of them go to Oxford and Cambridge, and wealth."

Dr Cummins, associate professor in the economic history department at the London School of Economics, added: "We do not know what kicked off the process. The north was the crucible of the Industrial Revolution with high demand for those with low skills and then something switches and by the mid-20th century we had demand for high skilled labour in the West Midlands."

The study is based on research into movement within Britain on the basis of surnames between 1837 and 2006

and a large sample of individuals born between 1780 and 1929. It defines the north as Northumberland, Cumberland, Durham, Westmorland, Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire.

It said that those with ancestral northern names who had migrated out of the region had a higher rate of enrolment at Oxford and Cambridge with a "very similar pattern" emerging for the number of doctors registered from 1940 to last year.

It also found that those with ancestral northern surnames living in the south had higher house values than those living in the south with ancestral southern names: £363,000 compared with £339,000. For those with an ancestral northern name living in the north the figure was £163,000.

Mean wealth at death, based on

surname ancestry and region of death, also supports the idea of selective migration of the brightest to the south, according to the study.

"The ancestral northern names in the south are wealthier than their native southern counterparts for most of the period 1892 to 1980. But in the north the ancestral northern names have wealth lower than ancestral southern names in the south," it said. "Ancestral southern names in the north have lower wealth than their counterparts dying in the south."

The surname results were confirmed from a genealogical study of 277,000 people mostly born in England and Wales. It showed that throughout different generations born between 1780 and 1929 there was net movement into the south by those with higher

occupational background and net movement into the north by those of a lower occupational background.

It suggested that one reason for the movement of talented people to the south was that industries in the north, such as shipbuilding and textiles, relied on relatively unskilled labour and limited demands for skilled and educated workers. By comparison those in the south, such as insurance, banking, government and education, had more skilled positions available.

The paper, published by the Centre for Economic Policy Research, also suggests that migration of the skilled to the south may be linked to better weather and the London area offering a greater variety of cultural amenities valued by middle and upper-class families.

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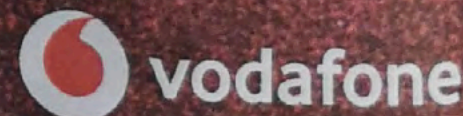
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