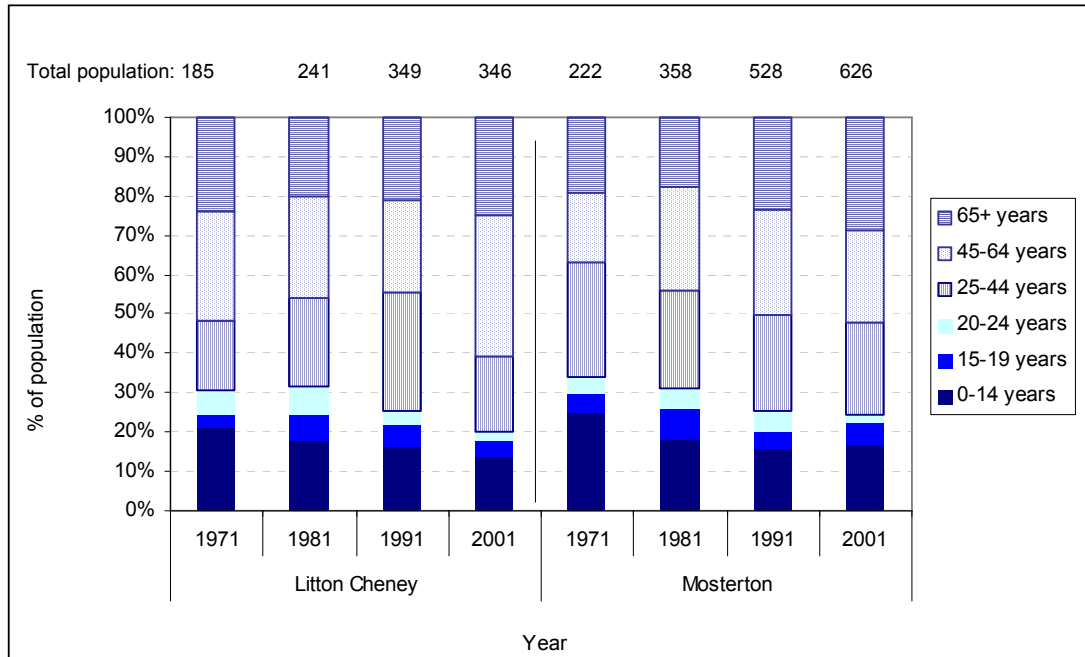


CHAPTER 3: Desktop Analysis

Investigating patterns between development in villages and changes in the population age structure

Housing completion records and officer knowledge were used to identify villages that had received significant residential development over the past four decades. Litton Cheney and Mosterton were identified as having residential development during the 1970's. Figure 53 shows the changes in the population age structure of the parishes in which these villages are situated.

Figure 53: Change in the population age structure of Litton Cheney and Mosterton (Census information supplied by Dorset County Council)

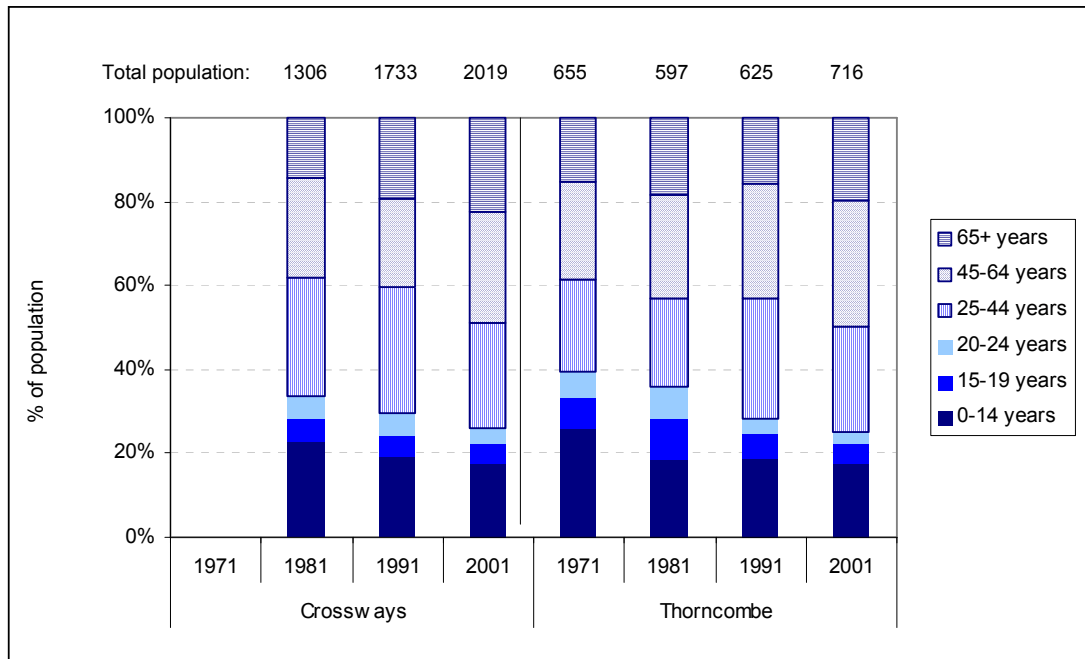


The graph shows the population age structure in 1971, before development took place in the villages. Common to both villages is a decrease in the population aged up to 14 years since the 1971 census was taken. There has also been a slight increase in the population aged over 65 for the same time period in both villages. In Litton Cheney there was an increase in the population aged 25-44 years between the 1981 and 1991 censuses. This decreased significantly in the 2001 census when the population aged between 45 and 64 increased greatly. It is possible that the development in the 1970s' attracted people aged between 25 and 44 to the village, and these incomers had remained in the village and in the 2001 census had moved through to the next age category (45-64 years). A similar trend is repeated for Mosterton, except that the initial increase is in the population aged 45-64 years, and over time these people move through the age profile and by the time of the 2001 census some are represented in the 65+ age group.

Crossways and Thorncombe were identified as having received development in the 1980's and 1990's respectively. Crossways was named in the 1983 Structure plan as having received a significance amount of residential development, and Thorncombe was identified as a priority village for additional housing development. Figure 54

shows the changes in the population age structure of the parishes in which these villages are situated. The parish of Crossways did not exist in 1971, but was created in 1984 from parts of Woodsford, Owermoigne, Watercombe, Warmwell and West Knighton. The data for the 1981 census for Crossways is approximated, based on the new boundaries. The parish of Thorncombe includes a number of smaller clusters of houses outside of the village.

Figure 54: Change in the population age structure of Crossways and Thorncombe (Census information supplied by Dorset County Council)



Both villages show a decrease in the population aged 24 years or under, reflecting the trend shown in Figure 53 for Litton Cheney and Mosterton. Crossways received development in the 1980's, however there is no significant change in the age structure of the parish. There is a slight increase in the population aged 25-44 in the 1991 census, and a related increase in the 45-64 age group in the 2001 census as some of these people move up to the next age category. The pattern is similar for Thorncombe.

Figure 55 shows the changes in the population age structure of those villages receiving development during the 1990's. The study of changes in the age structure is limited because only one census has taken place since that time. The village of Charlton Down lies in the parish of Charminster, which also contains the village of the same name, therefore the values are not just for Charminster. Data for smaller geographical areas has only been possible since the 2001 census, the previous ones using parishes as the smallest unit for data collection.

Figure 55: Change in the population age structure of Charlton Down (& Charminster) and Puddletown (Census information supplied by Dorset County Council)

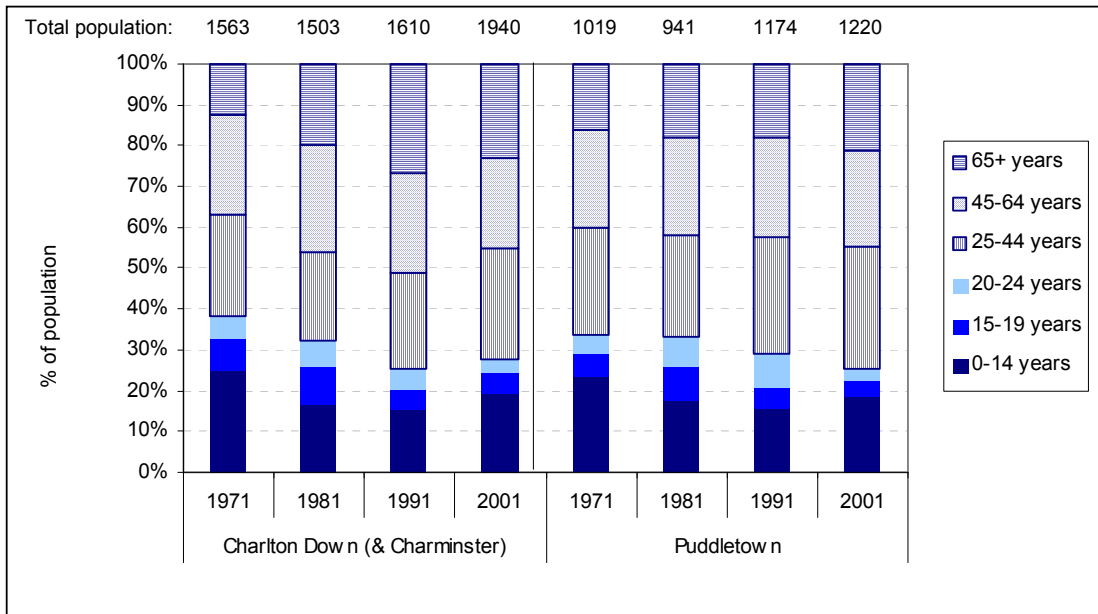
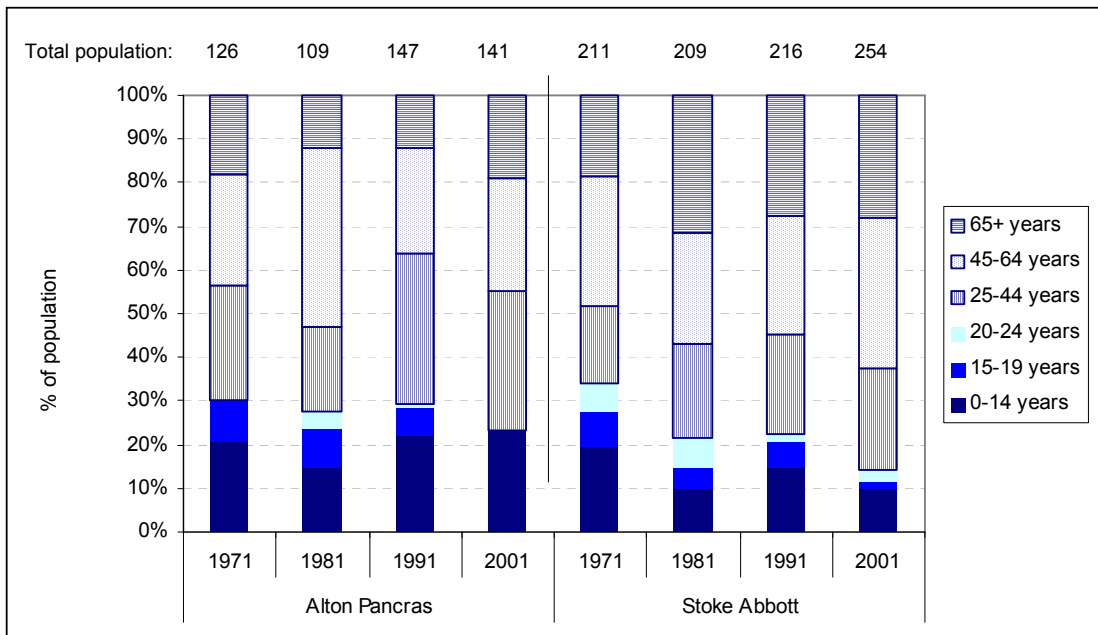


Figure 56: Change in the population age structure of Alton Pancras and Stoke Abbott (Census information supplied by Dorset County Council)



Interestingly, Figure 55 shows a different trend in the younger age ranges than for the previous villages. Rather than the population under the age of 20 showing a continuing decline in size, there was an increase in the number in this group between the 1991 and the 2001 census. For Puddletown, the population aged over 45 has remained static over the time period. Figure 56 shows changes in the

population age structure of two villages that have not received only minimal development over time. No pattern emerges for changes to the population age structure of the villages over time. The graph for Alton Pancras shows that the age group of 20-24 years olds to be underrepresented in this village compared to the other villages. From comparison of the data from the different villages it appears that development in a village does not have a significant impact on the age structure of the population over time.

Investigating potential links between development in villages and change in school roll numbers.

In order to establish whether there was a trend between development in a village and sustenance of the village school, the increase in the number of households over time was plotted against school roll numbers. The rate of development in a village was inferred from the household numbers provided at parish level from the census and the school roll numbers were provided by Dorset County Council.

The graphs on the following pages all show a net increase in the number of households in the villages through the decades which indicates that there has been some development (or conversion of buildings to form new dwellings) in all of the villages. There are however no clear trends between development in a village and the population of the village school. Litton Cheney received over fifty new houses between the 1981 and the 1991 census, however during this period there was a significant decline and subsequent recovery of the school population. The small increase in households over the following decade was matched by a gradual increase in the school population but after 2001 the school population declines sharply. Mosterton and Puddletown both have a net increase in dwellings over the period, along with an overall increase of the school population. It is interesting to note for Puddletown that between 1991 and 2001 there was an increase of almost 150 households in the village but the school population remained fairly constant. Conversely during the following decade there was only a modest increase in the number of households, yet there was an increase of over 200 pupils in the school population. The graph for Thorncombe (Figure 60) shows a greatly fluctuating school population with a significant rise from 1986 to 1996 even though the number of households was static until the early 1990's. This was followed by a sharp decline in the school population between 1996 and 2001 even though the census recorded 65 new households being gained since the 1991 survey.

The disparity between household numbers and the school population in villages may occur because there are other factors governing the attendance of the village school. Village schools cater for the wider area and their catchment area may extend beyond the parish boundaries which are used to calculate household numbers in the census. Changes in the population in the wider school catchment area would influence the population of the village school. It is also possible that the new households created were taken up by people without school age children, or with children attending private school.

Figure 57: Household numbers and school role population change for Litton Cheney
(Census and school information supplied by Dorset County Council)

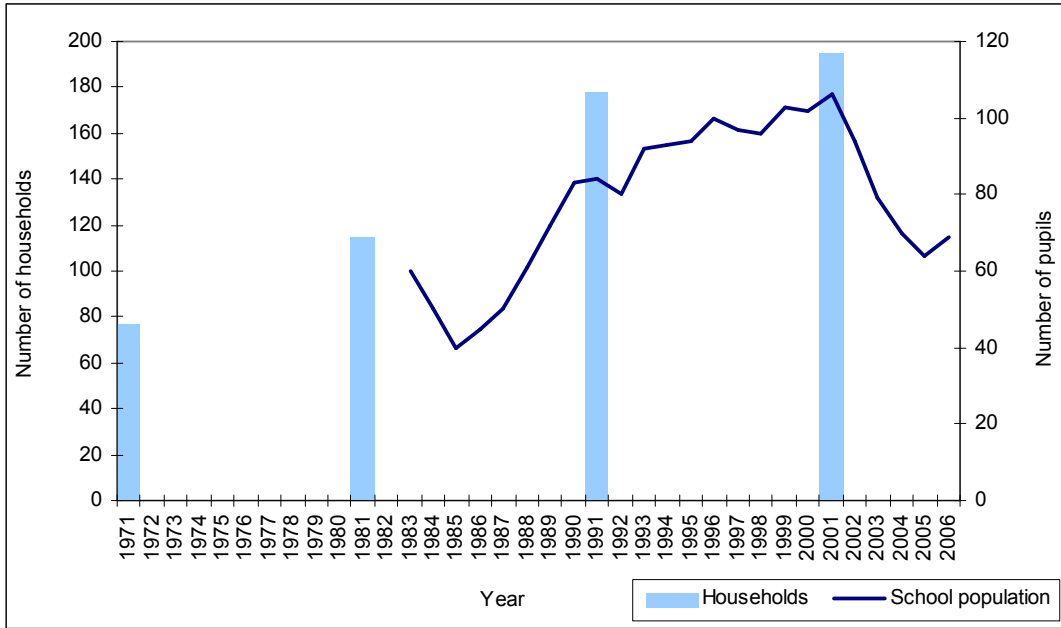
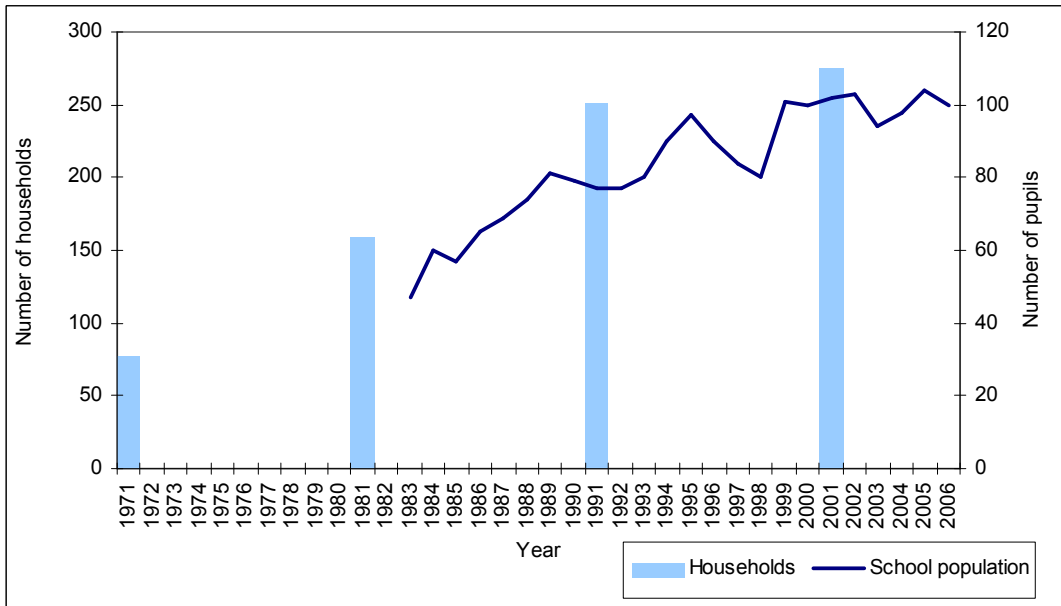
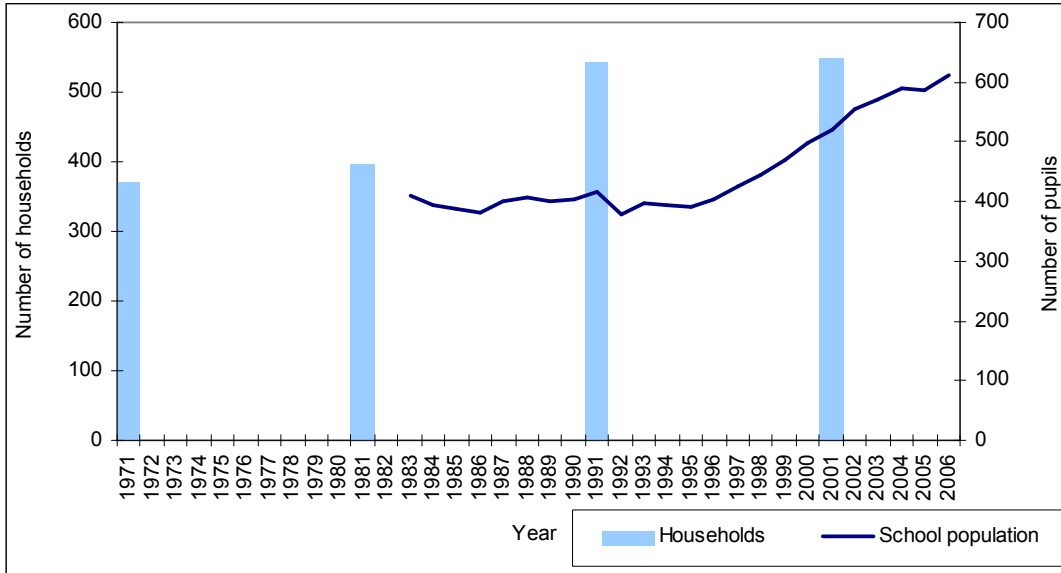


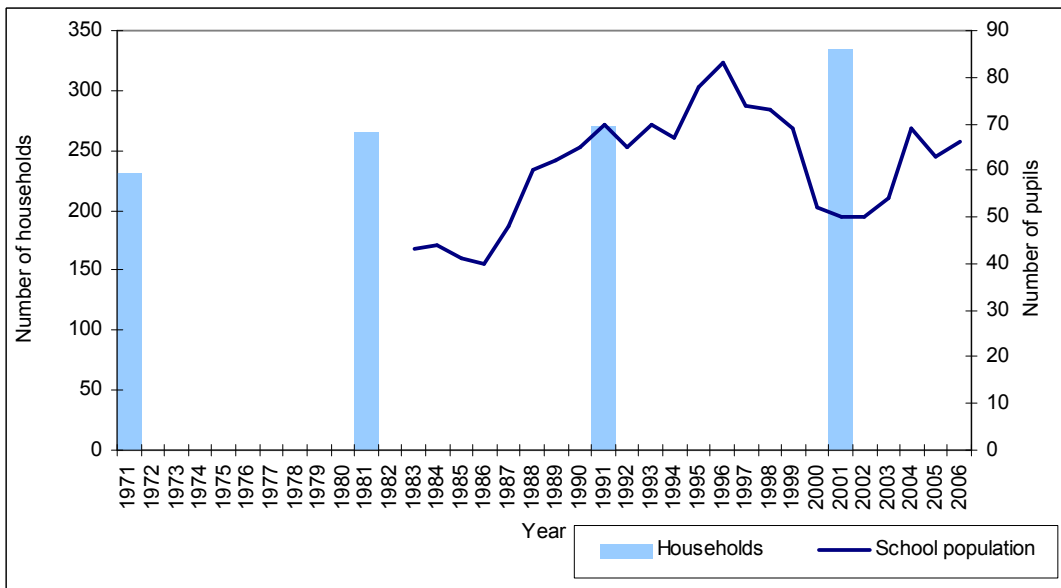
Figure 58: Household numbers and school role population change for Mosterton
(Census and school information supplied by Dorset County Council)



**Figure 59: Household numbers and school role population change for Puddletown
(Census and school information provided by Dorset County Council)**



**Figure 60: Household numbers and school role population change for Thorncombe
(Census and school information provided by Dorset County Council)**



Comparing changes in household numbers over time with gain/loss of village facilities

It has been hypothesised that development in villages sustains facilities in villages. To assess if this was the case, the change in household numbers over time was compared against when villages gained or lost facilities comprising primary schools, post offices, general stores, GP's surgeries, pharmacies, petrol stations, village halls, public houses, cash points and 'other' shops. This information was provided by Dorset County Council along with the change in the number of households in the parishes provided from the census. Charlton Down was not included as it was built recently. The current status of facilities in the study villages is shown in Table 2 on page 6.

There were no losses or gains of the above facilities in Mosterton despite it receiving a steady increase in the number of households in the parish from the 1971 census to the 2001 census. Losses or gains of facilities in the other villages in the study are shown in the graphs below. Alton Pancras has had the smallest increase in households of all the villages over the time period. It lost its post office and general store in the late 1970's and has not gained any facilities since. Of the facilities listed above it contains only a village hall. Chetnole saw an increase of 75 households between 1971 and 2001. During this time it gained a cash point in addition to its post office (with shop), village hall and pub. It has not lost any facilities. Due to the way the census areas were delineated there is only household data for Crossways from 1981 onwards. During this time the number of households increased by 342, the most of all the villages. Since 1981 the village gained a primary school, pharmacy and cash point. It lost a petrol station but one remains just outside of the village.

Figure 61: Retention/loss of facilities in Alton Pancras (Source: Census 2001 & Dorset County Council)

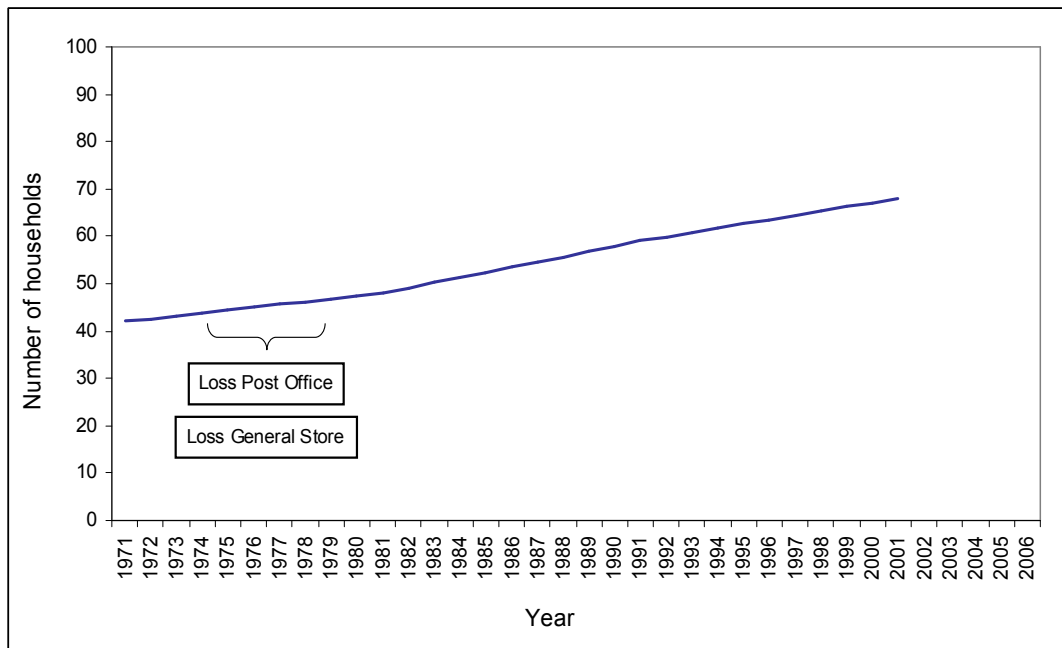


Figure 62: Retention/loss of facilities in Chetnole (Source: Census 2001 & Dorset County Council)

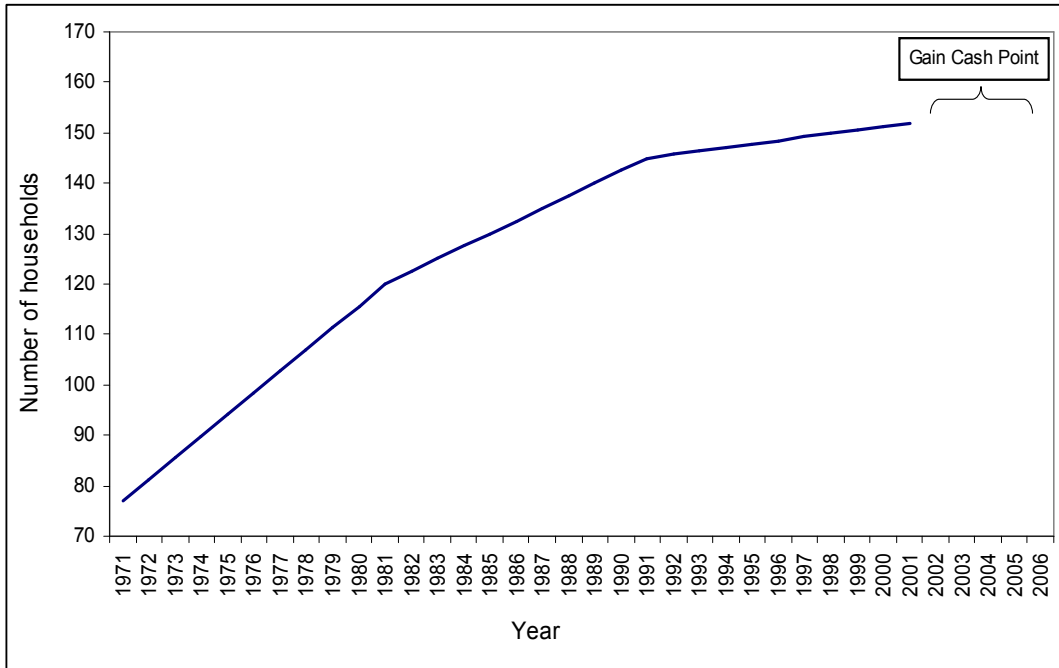


Figure 63: Retention/loss of facilities in Crossways (Source: Census 2001 & Dorset County Council)

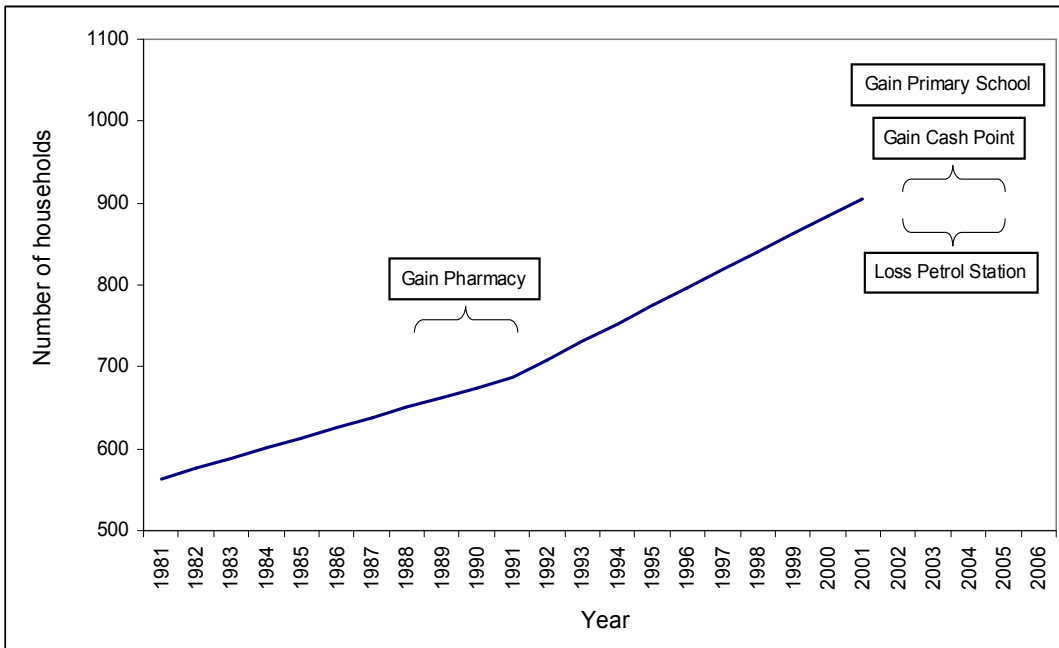


Figure 64: Retention/loss of facilities in Litton Cheney (Source: Census 2001 & Dorset County Council)

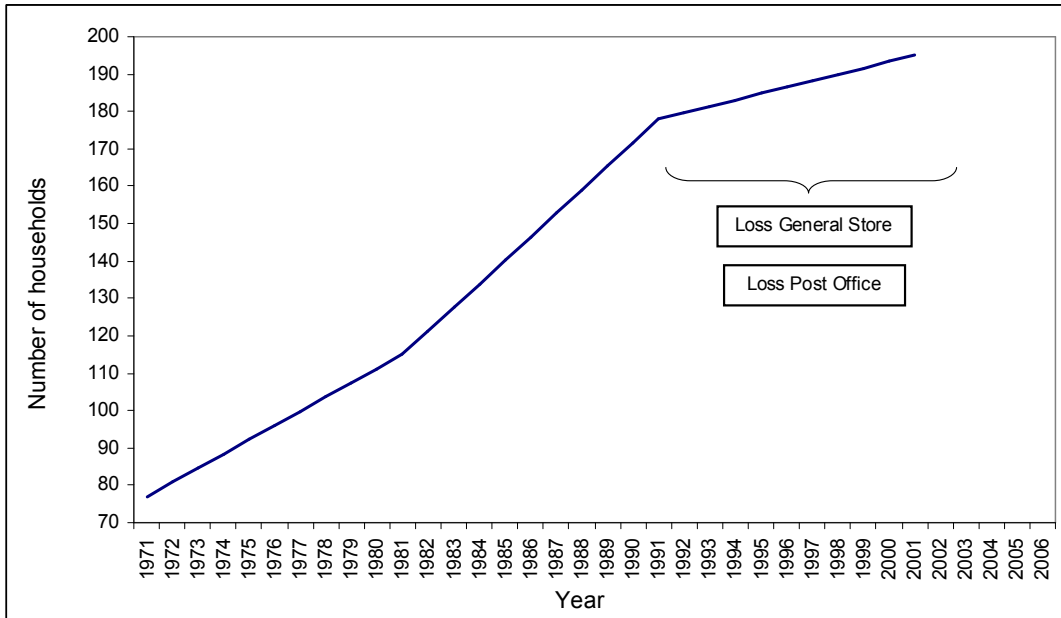


Figure 65: Retention/loss of facilities in Puddletown (Source: Census 2001 & Dorset County Council)

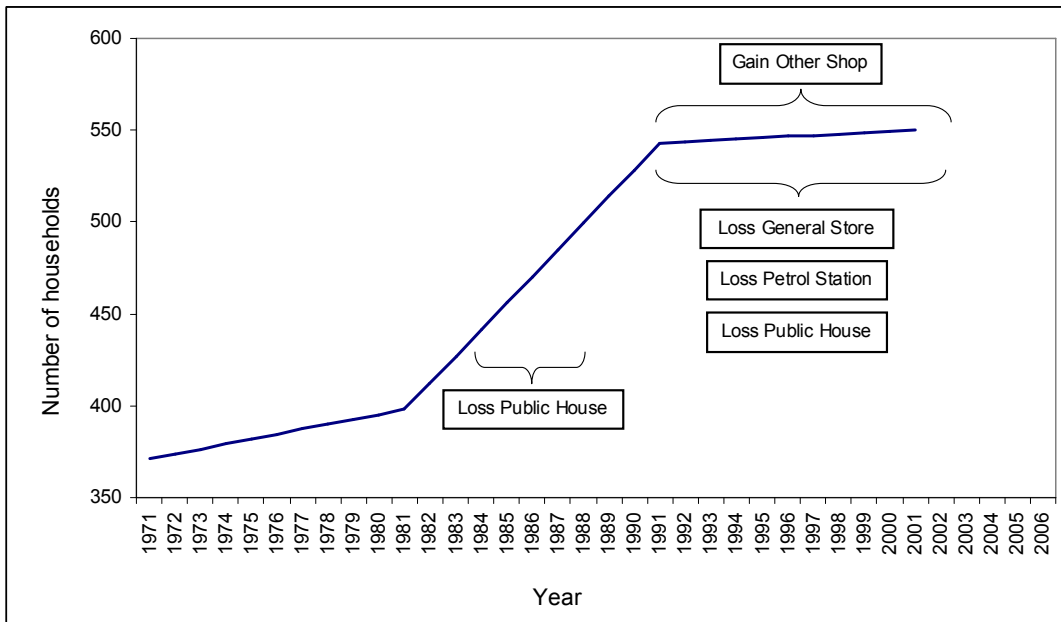


Figure 66: Retention/loss of facilities in Stoke Abbott (Source: Census 2001 & Dorset County Council)

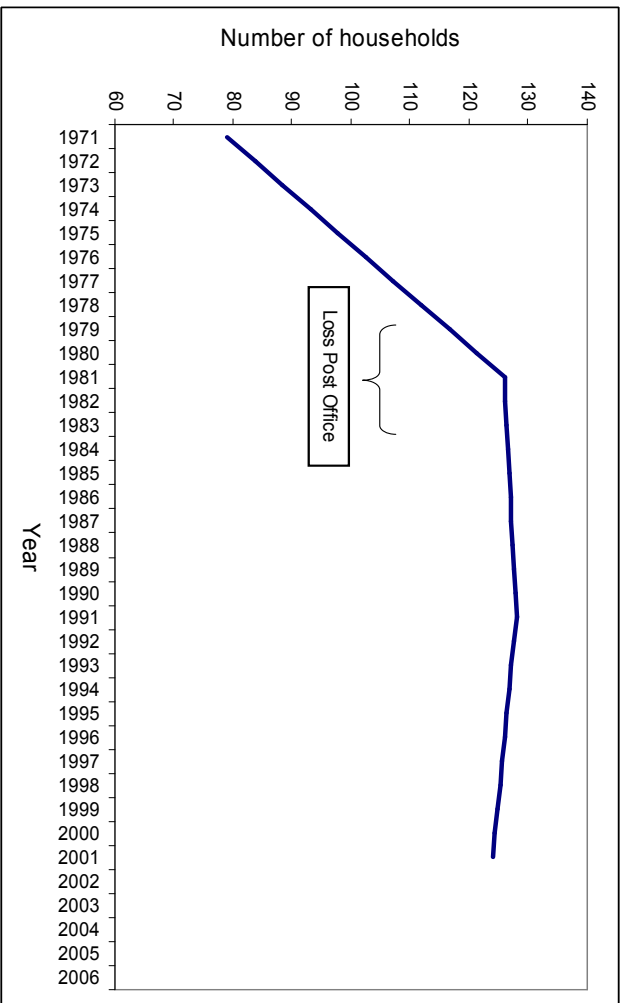


Figure 67: Retention/loss of facilities in Thorncombe (Source: Census 2001 & Dorset County Council)

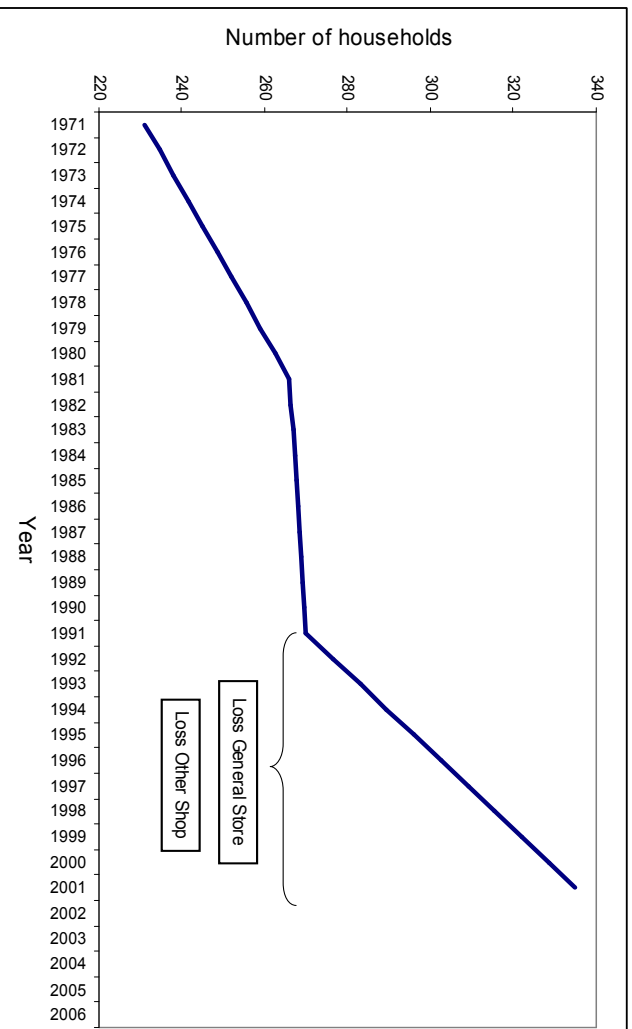
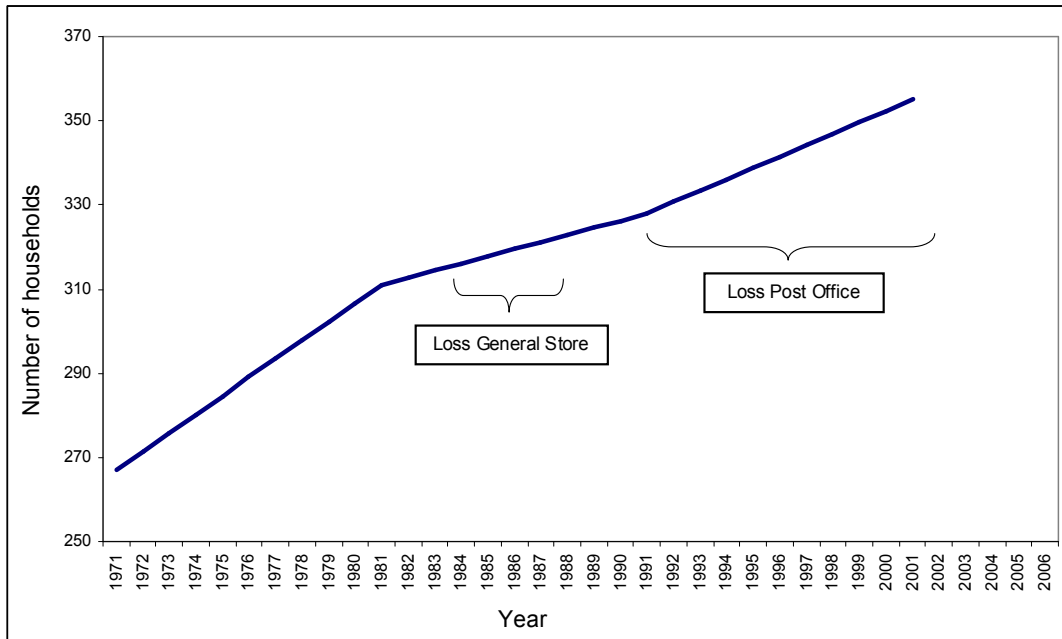


Figure 68: Retention/loss of facilities in Whitchurch Canonicorum (Source: Census 2001 & Dorset County Council)



There was an increase of 118 households in the Litton Cheney parish between the 1971 and the 2001 census. During this time there were no new facilities but a general store and a post office closed, leaving the village with a school and a pub. Puddletown saw an increase of 179 households between the 1971 and 2001 census during which time it gained an 'other' shop. There was a net loss of facilities in the village with it losing two pubs, a general store and a petrol station. This may be related to the opening of the bypass in the late 1990's. There was only a small increase in the number of households in Stoke Abbott over the three decades and in fact a net loss of households between 1991 and 2001. Over this time period it lost its post office and there now remains only a pub and a village hall. In the three decades since the 1971 census Thorncombe has seen an increase of 104 households. Its greatest increase in households was between 1991 and 2001, during which time it lost its general store and an 'other' shop. There remains in the village a post office (with store), a school and a village hall. The parish of Whitchurch Canonicorum increased in size by 88 households between the 1971 and 2001 census. During this time it lost both a post office and a general store.