

Table 1. Continuity and change in the upper reaches of the provincial urban hierarchy, 1670-1780

Blome's description(1673)	Households paying silver plate duty (1750)	Employers of manservants (1780)
Bath - 'fair and neat City ... well inhabited and resorted unto'	Bristol (790)	Bath (335)
Bristol - 'City of large extent ... exceeding well inhabited and frequented'	Norwich (245)	Bristol (151)
York - 'very populous, much resorted unto, and well inhabited by Gentry, and wealthy Tradesmen'	York (231)	York (145)
Newcastle - 'beautified with good buildings [and] much inhabited and frequented'	Exeter (218)	Newcastle (139)
Norwich - 'a City of great splendour and antiquity ... fair, large, populous, and well frequented'	Manchester (198)	Norwich (127)
Liverpool - 'beautified with many goodly Buildings' and home to, 'divers eminent Merchants and Tradesmen'	Bath (193)	Liverpool (120)
Chester - 'well frequented, and inhabited by Gentry and Tradesmen'	Newcastle (192)	Chester (118)
Oxford - 'very populous and well inhabited'	Liverpool (178)	Oxford (109)
Manchester - 'large, beautiful, and well inhabited Town, much resorted unto'	Oxford (143)	Manchester (107)
Birmingham - 'fair, neat, and large City ... beautified with good Buildings'	Plymouth (142)	Birmingham (104)

Source: R. Blome, *Britannia or a Geographical Description of the Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland* (London, 1673); Langford, *Polite and Commercial People*, pp.402-3; Schwarz, 'Residential leisure towns'.

Table 2. Leisure and improvement in selected provincial towns, c.1790

Number of facilities/ improvements	RLTs		Non-RLTs		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
8	12	22.6	1	2.9	13	14.8
7	7	13.2	2	5.7	9	10.2
6	13	24.3	4	11.2	17	19.3
4/5	11	20.8	12	34.3	23	26.1
2/3	8	15.1	8	22.9	16	18.1
1/0	2	3.8	8	22.9	10	11.4
Total	53		35		88	

Source: See note 14

Note: Leisure facilities: assembly rooms, theatres, libraries, horse racing, walks/gardens and music concerts/societies. Improvements: new/rebuilt town halls, residential squares, improvement acts, town histories.

Table 3. Luxury service scores and urban typologies in the 1790s

Score	RLTs		Non-RLTs		County		Commercial		Others	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2000 +	8	15.1	0	0.0	2	55.5	5	18.5	1	4.2
750-1999	12	22.6	1	2.9	10	27.8	3	11.1	0	0.0
500-749	11	20.8	4	11.8	9	25.0	3	11.1	3	12.5
250-499	13	24.5	8	23.5	6	16.7	6	22.2	9	37.5
<250	9	17.0	15	44.1	9	25.0	7	26.0	8	33.3
No data	0	0.0	6	17.6	0	0.0	3	11.1	3	12.5
Total	53		34		36		27		24	

Source: *Universal British Directory*.

Notes: see text for derivation of 'luxury service score'.

Table 4. High order luxury services and urban typologies in the 1790s

Service	RLTs	Non-RLTs	County	Commercial	Others
Optician	6	1	2	5	0
Architect	12	0	6	4	3
Language teacher	14	1	7	5	3
Portrait painter	15	4	6	10	3
Jeweller	18	5	8	9	6

Source: *Universal British Directory*.