Index of Place Names (IPN) 2012 User Guide

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ONS Geography

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The Government Statistical Service

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) is a network of professional statisticians and their staff operating both within the Office for National Statistics and across more than 30 other government departments and agencies.

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Contents

Background Information

Indexes of Place Names have previously been produced in the series of Census publications. An Index of Place Names was first produced for the 1831 Census and the last Index to be produced as a separate (1981) Census volume was published in 1985.

Given the frequency with which the boundaries of administrative areas change, Indexes of Place Names are now being produced annually.

Local Government Structure

England

Local government in England currently reflects two structures introduced at different times. The first of the structures was introduced in 1974 as a consequence of The Local Government Act, 1972. This Act, which came into operation on 1st April 1974, altered the constitution of local authorities in England (and Wales) and, apart from the Greater London Council area which had been subject to change in 1965, sub-divided the country into metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties. These counties were further divided into metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts respectively. The boundaries of these areas can change as a result of reviews carried out by the Local Government Commission for England.

Modifications to this structure were first made in April 1986 when the Greater London Council and metropolitan county councils were abolished under the Local Government Act 1985, though the Greater London and metropolitan county areas are still recognised for many purposes.

A second restructuring of local government has recently been concluded in some parts of England as a consequence of the Local Government Act 1992. Forty-six unitary authorities have been created to form a single tier of local government in those areas affected. The unitary authorities were introduced over a four-year period, which started in 1995 with the creation of a single authority for the Isle of Wight on 1st April. Subsequently, 13 unitary authorities were created on 1st April 1996, 13 unitary authorities came into existence on 1st April 1997, a further 19 unitary authorities were introduced on 1st April 1998 and a further 10 unitary authorities were introduced on 1st April 2009.

Wales

In Wales, the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 introduced a unitary authority structure throughout Wales on 1st April 1996 when the then-existing 8 counties and 37 districts were replaced by 22 unitary authorities.

Index of Place Names Contents

The Index contains some 70,000 entries. These include the names of some 8,000 electoral wards and divisions and 44,000 villages, hamlets and localities without legally defined boundaries. English civil parishes, Welsh communities, local government districts, unitary authorities, counties, government office regions and some 7,000 built up areas and their sub-divisions (created since the 2011 Census) are also included as place names. The urban areas and sub-divisions have been updated from those first defined after the 2001 Census and represent the 'bricks and mortar' definition of a built-up area.

ONS implemented a new coding and naming policy for some statistical geographies on 1st January 2011. This policy has already been separately and independently implemented since 2004 by Scotland for all new or amended statistical geographies.

Coding policy - code structure

The code consists of a 9 character alpha-numeric code (ANNNNNNNN) consisting of two parts; the entity and the instance.

The first part (ANN) identifies the geographical entity (area type). The first alpha character of the entity code indicates the country (or Isle of Man, or Channel Islands or 'cross-border' status) within which the entity is bounded. The 2nd and 3rd numeric characters will represent a specific geographic entity, but with no other intelligence in the code. Where similar geographic entities exist across the UK, they will be considered as different geographic entities within each constituent country. Consideration has been given to a UK-wide entity code but rejected on the basis of political factors, user requirements and an extremely limited number of truly UK-wide, consistent geographies. 'I' and 'O' will not be used to avoid possible confusion with numeric characters. Table 1 below illustrates the 'country' allocations. It demonstrates the degree to which this situation is 'future-proofed' in terms of capacity for the creation of new entities.

Country/Part	Approximate number of entities	'A' in ANN (and those available)	Number of entities possible
England	70	E (ABCDFGH)	8*99 = 792
Wales	35	W (XYZ)	4*99 = 396

Each area instance will have a 6 digit numeric code. This instance will be uniquely identified within England and Wales by its combination with the entity code. Instances must not be coded with, and/or be based on, inbuilt intelligence (e.g. alphabetically or hierarchically), as any later change (like renaming) that inevitably occurs might upset this inbuilt intelligence. The nature of hierarchical relationships and any other classification-type of intelligence must be recorded and managed

elsewhere. For ONS managed geographies, this will be within their Code History Database (CHD) product.

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/geographic-policy/best-practice-guidance/index.html

The 'old' style codes have also been included.

All the place names have been assigned to the appropriate administrative areas existing as at 31st December 2012.

A file specification is shown below and each field is described in more detail in the following text.

IPN 2012				
Field Headings	**Field Description**	**Field Length**	**Field Type**	**Field Values**
PLACE12NM	Place name	57	Text	Full textual name
POPCNT	Population count (based on 2011 OA 'bestfit' population)	8	Numeric	Numeric or blank
DESCNM	Record description	5	Text	COM, CTY, GOR, LOC, LONB, MD, NMD, NPARK, PAR, SETT, UA, URB, URBSD, WD,
CTY12CD	County code	9	Character	E10XXXXXX or blank
CTY12CDO	'Old' style county code	2	Numeric	2 numeric or blank
CTY12NM	County name	30	Character	Full textual name or blank
NMD12CD	Non metropolitan district code	9	Character	E07XXXXXX or blank
NMD12CDO	'Old' style non	4	Character	2 numeric, 2 alpha or blank

	metropolitan district code			
NMD12NM	Non metropolitan district name	30	Character	Full textual name or blank
UA12CD	Unitary authority code (England)	9	Character	E06XXXXXX or blank
UA12CD	Unitary authority code (Wales)	9	Character	W06XXXXXX or blank
UA12CDO	'Old' style unitary authority code	4	Character	00 and 2 alpha or blank
UA12NM	Unitary authority name	30	Character	Full textual name or blank
MD12CD	Metropolitan district code	9	Character	E08XXXXXX or blank
MD12CDO	'Old' style metropolitan district code	4	Character	00 and 2 alpha or blank
MD12NM	Metropolitan district name	20	Character	Full textual name or blank
LONB12CD	London borough code	9	Character	E09XXXXXX
LONB12CDO	'Old' style London borough code	4	Character	00 and 2 alpha or blank
LONB12NM	London borough name	23	Character	Full textual name or blank

WD12CD	Ward/electoral division code (England)	9	Character	E05XXXXXX or blank
WD12CD	Electoral division code (Wales)	9	Character	W05XXXXXX or blank
WD12CDO	'Old' style ward/electoral division code	6	Character	2 numeric, 4 alpha or blank
HLTH12CD	Strategic health authority code (England)	9	Character	E18XXXXXX or blank
HLTH12CD	Local health board code (Wales)	9	Character	W11XXXXXX or blank
HLTH12CDO	'Old' style strategic health authority code (England) local health board code (Wales)	3	Character	SHA - Q and 2 numeric or blank LHB - 1 numeric, 1 alpha, 1 numeric or blank
HLTH12NM	Strategic health authority name (England) local health board name (Wales)	30	Character	Full textual name or blank
REGD12CD	Registration district code (England)	9	Character	E28XXXXXX or blank

REGD12CD	Registration district code (Wales)	9	Character	W20XXXXXX or blank
REGD12CDO	'Old' style registration district code (England and Wales)	3	Character	3 numeric or blank
REGD12NM	Registration district name	35	Character	Full textual name or blank
GOR10CD	Government office region code (England)	9	Character	E12XXXXXX or blank
GOR10CDO	'Old' style government office region code (England)	1	Character	1 alpha or blank
GOR10CDO	'Old' style government office region code (Wales)	1	Character	'Pseudo' code – W or blank
GOR10NM	Government office region name	25	Character	Full textual name or blank
NPARK12CD	National park code (England)	9	Character	E26XXXXXX or blank
NPARK12CD	National park code (Wales)	9	Character	W18XXXXXX or blank
NPARK12CDO	'Old' style national park code (England and Wales)	2	Character	2 numeric or blank

NPARK12NM	National park name	33	Character	Full textual name or blank
BUA11CD	Built up area code	9	Character	E34XXXXXX or blank
PCON12CD	Parliamentary constituency code (England)	9	Character	E14XXXXXX or blank
PCON12CD	Parliamentary constituency code (Wales)	9	Character	W07XXXXXX or blank
PCON12CDO	'Old' style parliamentary constituency code (England and Wales)	3	Character	1 alpha and 2 numeric or blank
PCON12NM	Parliamentary constituency name	39	Character	Full textual name or blank
EER12CD	European electoral region code (England)	9	Character	E15XXXXXX or blank
EER12CD	European electoral region code (Wales)	9	Character	W08XXXXXX or blank
EER12CDO	'Old' style European electoral region code (England and Wales)	2	Character	2 numeric or blank

EER12NM	European electoral region name	25	Character	Full textual name or blank
GRIDGB1	1metre grid reference	12	Numeric	12 numeric or blank
GRIDGB1E	1 metre Easting grid reference	6	Numeric	6 numeric or blank
GRIDGB1N	1 metre Northing grid reference	6	Numeric	6 numeric or blank
GRID1KM	1 kilometre grid reference	6	Character	2 numeric, 4 alpha or blank
PAR12CD	Civil parish code (England)	9	Character	E04XXXXXX or blank
PAR12CD	Community code (Wales)	9	Character	W04XXXXXX or blank
PAR12CDO	'Old' style civil parish / community code (England and Wales)	7	Character	2 numeric, 2 alpha, 3 numeric or blank

Place Name

Field Name: PLACE12NM

The spellings of place names are, where applicable, the full constitutional names as included in the appropriate Statutory Instruments promulgating administrative areas. Other names generally follow those by Ordnance Survey and the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions. Place names are arranged in alphabetical order.

Prefixes such as Great, Little, North, and South may not be commonly used so compound names have been indexed twice - once under the prefix and once under the substantive proportion of the name e.g. "Great Hampton" and "Hampton, Great".

Place names that straddle area boundaries (e.g. where a district has more than one registration district within its boundary) are repeated in the Index and linked to the appropriate higher level areas. In such instances the place names are suffixed with a closed bracket to indicate that the entries relate to the same places.

Where built up area place names comprise more than one place, all the individual names are included in the Index with the full built up area place name shown in brackets.

Record Description

Field Name: DESCNM

An abbreviated description of the place name type.

Abbreviations in this column of the Index are:

COM	Community (in Wales)
CTY	County
GOR	Government office region
LOC	Locality
LONB	London borough
MD	Metropolitan district
NMD	Non-metropolitan district
NPARK	National park
PAR	Parish (in England)
SETT	Settlement
UA	Unitary authority
BUA	Built up area
BUASD	Built up area sub division
WD	Electoral ward/division

County Name

Field Name: CTY12NM

Name of the county in which the place lies.

On 31st December 2012, there were 35 (two-tier) counties in England, including Greater London, the six metropolitan county areas and Berkshire. Apart from Greater London, these counties date from 1974 though many have been subject to boundary changes in the meantime.

The counties existing on 31st December 2012 were:

	Greater London	
Metropolitan counties:	Greater Manchester	
(see note i)	Merseyside	
	South Yorkshire	
	Tyne and Wear	
	West Midlands	
	West Yorkshire	
Non-metropolitan counties:	Berkshire (see note ii)	Leicestershire
	Buckinghamshire	Lincolnshire
	Cambridgeshire	Norfolk
	Cumbria	Northamptonshire
	Derbyshire	North Yorkshire
	Devon	Nottinghamshire
	Dorset	Oxfordshire
	East Sussex	Somerset
	Essex	Staffordshire
	Gloucestershire	Suffolk
	Hampshire	Surrey
	Hertfordshire	Warwickshire

Kent	West Sussex
Lancashire	Worcestershire

Notes:

i.   The Greater London Council and the metropolitan county councils (but not the counties) were abolished in 1986.

ii.   Berkshire County Council was abolished in 1998 but not the county.

This field is blank for those place names that are unitary authorities, counties and government office regions, and for all places that now fall within unitary authorities (because unitary authorities do not form part of counties).

Unitary authority Name

Field Name: UA12NM

Name of the unitary authority in which the place lies.

England - Unitary authorities

There were 56 unitary authorities in England on 31st December 2012. The first unitary authority was created in April 1995, 13 unitary authorities were created in April 1996, a further 13 unitary authorities came into existence in April 1997, a further 19 unitary authorities came into operation in April 1998 and the remaining 10 unitary authorities came into existence on the 1st April 2009. Those existing at the end of 2012 were:

April 1995:	Isle of Wight	
April 1996:	Bath and North East Somerset	Bristol, City of
	East Riding of Yorkshire	Hartlepool
	Kingston upon Hull, City of	Middlesbrough
	North East Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire
	North Somerset	Redcar and Cleveland
	South Gloucestershire	Stockton-on-Tees
	York	
April 1997:	Bournemouth	Brighton and Hove
	Darlington	Derby
	Leicester	Luton

Milton Keynes	Poole
Portsmouth	Rutland
Southampton	Stoke-on-Trent
Swindon (formerly Thamesdown)	
April 1998: Blackburn with Darwen	Blackpool
Bracknell Forest	Halton
Herefordshire, County of	Medway
Nottingham	Peterborough
Plymouth	Reading
Slough	Southend-on-Sea
Telford and Wrekin	Thurrock
Torbay	Warrington
West Berkshire	Windsor and Maidenhead
Wokingham	
April 2009: Cornwall	Isles of Scilly
Bedford	Shropshire
Wiltshire	County Durham
Northumberland	Central Bedfordshire
Cheshire East	Cheshire West and Chester

Wales – Unitary authorities

22 unitary authorities (with 12 having county status and 10 having county borough status) replaced the complete two-tier local government structure of 8 counties and 37 seven local authority districts in Wales in April 1996. The unitary authorities are:

Bleanau Gwent (county borough)	Bridgend (county borough)
Caerphilly (county borough)	Cardiff (county)
Carmarthenshire (county)	Ceredigion (county)

Conwy (county borough)   Denbighshire (county)

Flintshire (county)   Gwynedd (county)

Isle of Anglesey (county)   Merthyr Tydfil (county borough)

Monmouthshire (county)   Neath Port Talbot (county borough)

Newport (county borough)   Pembrokeshire (county)

Powys (county)   Rhondda, Cynon, Taff (county borough)

Swansea (county)   Torfaen (county borough)

The Vale of Glamorgan (county)   Wrexham (county borough)

This field is blank for those place names that are government office regions, counties, unitary authorities, London boroughs, metropolitan districts or non-metropolitan districts.

London borough name

Field Name: LONB12NM

Name of the London borough in which the place lies. *(See 'Non metropolitan district name' below.)*

Metropolitan district name

Field Name: MD12NM

Name of the metropolitan district in which the place lies. *(See 'Non metropolitan district name' below.)*

Non metropolitan district name

Field Name: NMD12NM

Name of the non-metropolitan district in which the place lies. *(See 'England - local authority districts' below.) Metropolitan districts exist only in England.*

There were 270 local authority districts in England on 31st December 2012. They comprise The City of London Corporation and 32 London boroughs introduced in 1965, and 36 metropolitan districts and 201 non-metropolitan districts introduced in 1974. Many have been subject to minor changes to their boundaries since introduction but others have been subject to more significant change, e.g. Harrogate, Ryedale and Selby in North Yorkshire where significant parts were transferred to York unitary authority.

Health authority name

Field Name: HLTH12NM

Name of the health authority in which the place is situated.

Currently there are 10 strategic health authorities in England and 7 local health boards in Wales. The SHAs came into operation on 1st July 2006 following a restructuring of health areas within England. The LHBs in Wales were reorganized from 22 to 7 in October 2009.

This field is blank for those place names that are government office regions or built up areas.

Registration district name

Field Name: REGD12NM

Name of the registration district (births, marriages and deaths) in which the place is situated.

This field is blank for those place names that are government office regions, counties, built up areas or built up area sub-divisions.

Government office region name

Field Name: GOR10NM

Name of the government office region in which the place lies.

government office regions were the primary classification for the presentation of regional statistics in England but, after the Comprehensive Spending Review, it was confirmed that they would close on 31st March 2011, shifting focus away from regions to local areas.

However, there is still a requirement to maintain a regional level geography for statistical purposes.

This field is blank for the government office region names.

European electoral region name

Field Name: EER12NM

Name of the European electoral region in which the place lies.

This field is blank for the European electoral region names.

Parliamentary constituency name

Field Name: PCON12NM

Name of the Westminster parliamentary constituency in which the place lies.

This field is blank for those place names that are government office regions, counties, built up areas or built up area sub-divisions.

Grid reference

Field Name: GRID1KM

National Grid 1 kilometre square reference.

A National Grid 1 km reference has been included in the Index to enable users to quickly identify place names on Ordnance Survey maps. Where possible the National Grid reference relates to the position of place names on Ordnance Survey maps; where it is not possible to do this (e.g. because the name is repeated for groups of dwellings scattered over an area) and for built up areas and built up area sub-divisions the reference is to the point which has been considered as the geographical centre of the area.

This field is blank for the government office region and county place names.

Population count

Field Name: POPCNT

The population counts are based on re-aggregated 'best-fit' output areas defined for the 2011 Census.

The Index shows how the total population of persons enumerated in England and Wales was distributed among the various local administrative sub-divisions of the country. Population figures for county, unitary authority, London borough, metropolitan district, non-metropolitan district, electoral ward/division, parish (England), and community (Wales) are given. Where areas have been subject to boundary changes or new areas have been created since the date of the Census, the population has been re-aggregated to reflect the population of the new area.

Population figures are also shown for built up areas and built up area sub divisions.

This field is blank for all place names that do not have legally defined boundaries.

Examples   (NB. The full range of data fields is not included.)

Example 1

PLACE12NM	DESCNM	CTY12NM	NMD12NM	GRID1KM
Lincolnshire	CTY			

This entry relates to the county of Lincolnshire.

Example 2

PLACE12NM	DESCNM	CTY12NM	NMD12NM	GRID1KM
Hartlepool	UA			NZ4931

This entry relates to the unitary authority of Hartlepool (unitary authorities do not form part of counties).

Example 3

PLACE12NM	DESCNM	CTY12NM	NMD12NM	GRID1KM
Redditch	NMD	Worcestershire		SP0364

This entry relates to the district of Redditch, which is situated in the county of Worcestershire.

Example 4

PLACE12NM	DESCNM	CTY12NM	NMD12NM	GRID1KM
Cerne Abbas	PAR	Dorset	West Dorset	ST6601

This entry relates to the parish of Cerne Abbas, which is situated in the district of West Dorset in the county of Dorset.

Example 5

PLACE12NM	DESCNM	CTY12NM	NMD12NM	GRID1KM
Abbey	LOC	Cumbria	Allerdale	NY1227

This entry shows that Abbey is the name of a locality in the district of Allerdale in the county of Cumbria.

Example 6

PLACE12NM	DESCNM	CTY12NM	NMD12NM	GRID1KM
Exebridge)	LOC	Devon	Mid Devon	SS9324
Exebridge)	LOC	Somerset	West Somerset	SS9224

This entry shows that Exebridge is the name of a locality, which is situated partly in the district of Mid Devon in the county of Devon and partly in the district of West Somerset in the county of Somerset

Example 7

PLACE12NM	DESCNM	CTY12NM	NMD12NM	GRID1KM
Axminster	BUA	Devon		SY2998

This entry shows that the built up area of Axminster is situated in the county of Devon.

Example 8

PLACE12NM	DESCNM	CTY12NM	UA12NM	GRID1KM
Great Malvern)	BUA	Worcestershire		SO7846
Great Malvern)	BUA		Herefordshire, County of	SO7542

This entry shows that the built up area of Great Malvern is situated in all or parts of the current county of Worcestershire and County of Herefordshire UA.

Example 9

PLACE12NM	DESCNM	CTY12NM	NMD12NM	UA12NM	GRID1KM
Eastleigh)	BUASD	Hampshire	Eastleigh		SU4419
Eastleigh)	BUASD	Hampshire	Test Valley		SU4221
Eastleigh)	BUASD	Hampshire	Winchester		SU4522

This entry shows that the built up area sub-division of Eastleigh is situated in all or parts of Eastleigh, Test Valley and Winchester districts in the current county of Hampshire

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