



National Statistics Postcode Lookup User Guide

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1. Introduction

The National Statistics Postcode Lookup (NSPL) relates both current and terminated postcodes in the United Kingdom to a range of current statutory administrative, electoral, health and other statistical geographies via 'best-fit' allocation from 2021 Census Output Areas (OA) in the UK. National Parks and Workplace Zones are exempt from 'best-fit' and use 'exact-fit' allocations – see Section 7 for further details. It helps support the production of area based statistics from postcoded data. The NSPL is produced by ONS Geography, who provide geographic support to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and geographic services used by other organisations. The NSPL is issued quarterly.

This User Guide contains information about the NSPL including:

- directory content;
- data currency;
- latest news, including area changes;
- the methodology for assigning areas to postcodes;
- data format;
- summary statistics; and
- data quality and limitations.

The NSPL reflects current and terminated postcodes using information supplied monthly by Royal Mail. The NSPL relates postcodes (as at the third Friday of the month prior to each release) to the latest available updates of geographic areas.

The NSPL uses the Government Statistical Service (GSS) standard 9-character codes throughout. Lookup files linking these codes to statutory area names are included with the NSPL, in the 'Documents' folder. You are encouraged to adopt these standard names and codes, as they are the recognised standard for National Statistics.

The NSPL is available to download (see [Annex C](#)) and the record specification at [Annex B](#) includes complete details of all available fields.

2. News

2.1 2021 Census Rural Urban Classification (RUC)

This release of the ONSPD includes the 2021 RUCs, replacing the 2011 RUCs.

2.2 New International Territorial Levels (ITL)

This release of the NSPL includes the 2025 ITLs.

2.3 New Built-up Areas (BUA)

This release of the NSPL includes the 2024 Built-up Areas for England and Wales, with pseudo codes currently included for Scotland.

2.4 NSPL Field Changes

From August 2023 the following obsolete fields are no longer included:

HLTHAU, EER, TECLEC, PCT, CALNCV, BUASD

And as more Census data is processed, the following fields have been/will be updated:

TTWA, BUA22 (BUA11), RU21IND (RU11IND), OAC21 (OAC11), IMD

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Note: We do not have the capability to deal with detailed postcode queries relating to Scotland and Northern Ireland, but can pass them on to the appropriate government departments.

4. Postcode Counts and Currency

The NSPL contains postcodes within the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. They are current to the 3rd Friday of the previous month and include both live and terminated postcodes.

[Table 1](#) shows the split between large and small users by country, and the change in the numbers of postcodes since the previous quarter (counts taken from the ONSPD).

[Table 2](#) shows the numbers of postcodes, postcode sectors and postcode districts by postcode area.

[Table 3](#) shows the numbers of postcodes assigned grid references by positional quality indicator, country and user type (counts taken from the ONSPD).

[Table 4](#) shows the numbers of terminated postcodes.

5. Geography Updates on the NSPL

The OA lookups that serve as inputs to each release of the NSPL are updated once the latest information has been received.

6. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why are some postcodes not assigned to administrative and electoral areas?

- This mainly applies to new postcodes, which are assigned grid references by ONS Geography using imputation techniques - see Sections 6 and 7. In some cases the imputation procedure cannot assign a grid reference and, because the NSPL processing system assigns postcodes to OAs using grid references, codes for the administrative and electoral areas cannot be derived. In time, the addresses in the new postcodes are surveyed by Ordnance Survey (OS), who then assign accurate grid references.

Why are some postcodes assigned to the wrong administrative and electoral areas?

- There are two reasons:
 1. Imputation: Some postcodes are assigned to administrative and electoral areas using an imputed grid reference. Imputation is not an exact science and can cause postcodes to be wrongly assigned until more accurate information becomes available. Please inform ONS Geography Customer Services of any postcodes considered to be wrongly assigned.
 2. Straddling: As the postal, OA and higher geographies do not map directly onto one another, addresses within a postcode often straddle boundaries. Postcodes are always assigned to single administrative and electoral areas via 'best-fit' allocation of OA whilst allocation of postcode to OA is based upon a single grid reference (which is the mean of all the addresses in the postcode, snapped to the address closest to the mean). This will inevitably lead to

apparent wrong assignments, where addresses in a postcode fall in two administrative/electoral areas (see Section 6).

Why don't postcode areas follow administrative and electoral area boundaries?

- Postcode areas are defined and used by Royal Mail for efficient mail delivery and have no relationship with administrative and electoral areas. Royal Mail requires a relatively stable geography in order to deliver its services, which the administrative and electoral area geography cannot provide.

Why do some postcodes appear to move around?

- There are three main reasons:
 1. Update: As the grid reference allocation is updated from imputed to surveyed (see Section 6), so the allocation of one or more geographies may also change.
 2. Drift: With demolition and new-build, the addresses that constitute a postcode may change. If this happens the centroid grid reference will also change, and the geography allocations will be updated accordingly.
 3. Re-use: Royal Mail endeavour to never re-use a postcode, but under some circumstances a postcode may be terminated and then brought back into use in a different location. If this happens, the grid reference and geography allocations will change accordingly.

Why have some allocations changed after August 2012 when the geographies haven't changed?

- As part of the 2011 Census Output Area maintenance, OAs had their population weighted centroids recalculated using the latest Census populations. As well as this there was also a change in centroid calculation from the mean average to the median average. This change in the population and methodology means that almost all OA population weighted centroids have moved from their original position. In a number of cases the new OA population weighted centroids now fall into different higher geographies. This causes the differences in the allocations after August 2012, even where the geographies haven't changed.

7. Postcode Content

The NSPL contains both 'live' postcodes and postcodes which have been terminated by Royal Mail but not subsequently re-used (see [Section 8](#)).

Postcode coverage is for the entire United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The split between large and small users and country and the changes in the numbers of postcodes since the previous NSPL are shown in Table 1 of the Version Notes.

The numbers of postcodes, postcode sectors and postcode districts by postcode areas are shown in Table 2 of the Version Notes.

The NSPL contains fixed length 7- and 8-character postcode formats, and the variable length e-Gif (e-Government Interoperability Framework) standard postcode format. The latter allows for a single space between the two (outward and inward) parts of the postcode (see [Annex A](#)).

8. Gridlink®

The postcode is a key piece of data that can provide a geo-spatial reference for many uses beyond the delivery of mail. In order to make full use of its potential, and to deliver improved consistency, a consortium of organisations was formed in 1999 to allow the specialist resources of each member to be pooled. The Gridlink® Consortium consists of Royal Mail Group plc, OS (GB), National Records of Scotland (NRS), Northern Ireland Land and Property Services (LPS) and ONS.

It was recognised that a core set of data within each Consortium member's postcode products needed to be consistent and branded. The branding name is 'Gridlink®' and the core data used in the NSPL are:

- All current (i.e. 'live') UK unit postcodes (but ONS maintains postcodes terminated and not subsequently re-used by Royal Mail).
- Grid references to 1 metre resolution.
- Positional quality indicators for grid references.

Each of the Gridlink® Consortium members produces their postcode products based upon the core data.

9. Geographic Coordinates

Postcode coordinates on the NSPL are available in two formats – 1 metre resolution grid reference and decimal degrees latitude and longitude.

The majority of grid references are derived from OS AddressBase® that contains grid references for each address. Newly introduced postcodes initially have a grid reference that has been imputed by ONS Geography. In due course these are replaced by improved OS AddressBase® grid references which use data supplied by OS field surveyors.

Each grid reference is given a Positional Quality Indicator (PQI) to denote the accuracy of the grid reference, as follows:

- 1 - within the building of the matched address closest to the postcode mean,
- 2 - as for 1 above, except by visual inspection of Landline maps (Scotland only),
- 3 - approximate to within 50 metres,
- 4 - postcode unit mean (mean of matched addresses with the same postcode, but not snapped to an address),
- 5 - imputed by ONS, by reference to surrounding postcode grid references,
- 6 - postcode sector mean (mainly PO Boxes),
- 8 - terminated postcode, last known ONS grid reference used,
- 9 - no coordinates available.

The grid references provided for Northern Ireland postcodes are derived from the LPS 'Pointer®' product and use the Irish National Grid system that covers all of Ireland and is independent of the British National Grid.

The degrees latitude and longitude are calculated from the 1 metre grid reference by converting the easting and northing to numeric and then one point shapefile is created for GB using the 'BritishNatGrid' coordinate system and another for Northern Ireland using 'Ireland 1965.ING'. These files are then projected to GCS_WGS_1984, using an OSGB_1936_to_WGS_1984_Petroleum transformation for GB and a TM75_to_WGS_1984_2 transformation for NI. Latitude and longitude are then calculated from the resulting x and y co-ordinates.

No geographic coordinates are provided for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

10. Assignment of Postcodes to Geographies on the NSPL

Postcodes are assigned to administrative, electoral and health areas by 'best-fit' allocation to OA using the population-weighted centroid grid reference for each OA plotted against a range of digital boundaries using a 'point-in-polygon' methodology. Postcodes are themselves plotted to OA boundaries using their centroid grid reference and the same point-in-polygon methodology. The exceptions are National Parks (these are exempt due to the nature of their boundaries) and Workplace

Zones (these are exempt as they are not built from whole OAs) – postcodes are allocated to these on an 'exact-fit' basis using the same point-in-polygon methodology.

11. PO Boxes and Non-geographic Postcodes

Non-geographic postcodes can either be special postcodes assigned to some large users of the postal service or PO Boxes that lie within a (pseudo) postcode district that does not form a discrete part of a post town. These will all have been assigned a grid reference, usually the local Royal Mail sorting office, and the majority have a PQI of 1 but some have been assigned a PQI of 6 (see [Section 9](#)).

12. Terminated Postcodes

Postcodes are frequently terminated by Royal Mail for various reasons but most commonly it is due to the demolition/re-development of buildings or to postcode reorganisations (see [next section](#)).

Terminated postcodes are occasionally re-used by Royal Mail but not usually before an elapsed period of two or three years. In such circumstances, all terminated postcodes and their grid references are retained on the NSPL and a 'termination' date is added which provides a clear indication of a postcode's status.

Areal data assigned to terminated postcodes are updated prior to each release of the NSPL, so the directory contains *current* information linked to each record.

If, and when, a postcode is subsequently re-used by Royal Mail the old grid reference and termination date are removed, thus deleting all reference to the former existence of the postcode from the NSPL. The new location of the postcode will initially have a grid reference imputed by ONS Geography, which will eventually be replaced by an improved one derived from OS AddressBase®.

As the Gridlink® system processes only 'live' postcodes it is not possible to assign Gridlink® quality grid references to postcodes terminated prior to November 2000. Grid references for these postcodes have been copied from the old 'Traditional' postcode directory and have been given a single PQI (value 8).

The numbers of terminated postcodes included in each issue of the NSPL are shown in Table 4 of the Version Notes.

13. Postcode Reorganisations

Royal Mail occasionally conduct postcode reorganisations in order to create more postcodes in areas where the number of postcodes that can be created under the current structure is exhausted. For example, SO3 was reorganised some years ago into SO31 and SO32 to cater for current demands, and the reorganisation additionally allows SO33-SO39 postcodes to be assigned at a later date.

Royal Mail issue lists of postcode reorganisations in their 'Update' series, details of which can be found at their website.

14. County Electoral Divisions (CED)

English county councils use county electoral divisions (CED) to elect councillors. These CEDs must be confined within district boundaries, but need not be based on whole electoral wards. The only exceptions are the Isles of Scilly and the Greater London Authority (GLA). CEDs do not exist within UAs.

15. 2021 Census Output Areas (OA)

2001 Census OAs were built from clusters of adjacent unit postcodes but as they reflected the characteristics of the actual Census data they could not be generated until after data processing. They were designed to have similar population sizes and be as socially homogenous as possible (based on tenure of household and accommodation type) - note though that homogeneity was not used as a factor in Scotland. Urban/rural mixes were avoided where possible (i.e. OAs preferably consisted entirely of urban postcodes or entirely of rural postcodes). They had more-or-less regular shapes and tended to be constrained by obvious boundaries such as major roads. The OAs were required to have

a specified minimum size to ensure the confidentiality of data. These were maintained after the 2021 Census.

England and Wales

OAs were also maintained after the 2021 Census so that they could be adjusted where the populations had changed significantly. Where an OA had breached its upper threshold of 625 population or 250 households it was split down to create a number of smaller OAs. Where an OA had breached its lower threshold of 100 population or 40 households it was merged with an adjacent OA to create a geography that was within threshold.

OAs created as part of the 2021 Census maintenance were based on postcodes as at Census Day 2021 while the unmaintained OAs reflected the postcodes as at Census Day 2011. The minimum OA size is 40 resident households and 100 resident persons but the recommended size was rather larger at 125 households. These size thresholds meant that unusually small wards and parishes were incorporated into larger OAs. In total there are 188,880 OAs in England (178,605) and Wales (10,275).

National Statistics policy is that estimates published for any geographical area are aggregations of whole OAs (the lowest geographical level for which census estimates are produced). This policy ensures that estimates can be released for any area that contains at least one OA, in that it will contain the minimum population to ensure confidentiality. Eighteen wards have a very small population and have been assigned to a 'parent' OA (see [Annex C](#) for details).

Scotland

OAs for the 2021 Census were created as groups of postcodes nesting as well as possible into the following geographies, in descending order of preference (when not all postcodes in the OA belong to a single combination of these area types).

- Council Area
- The latest Locality dataset

The main aim governing this order of geographies was to give continuity with the 2001 and 2011 OAs while ensuring, as far as possible, that 2021 OAs fit into the appropriate locality (urban area) which are seen as an increasingly important statistical area. Where possible, postcodes that were excluded from the Locality dataset, but subsequently met the population density criteria for inclusion in a locality, were included in an OA in the locality or grouped to form a new urban OA.

The majority of 2021 OAs are of similar size to those used in 2001 and 2011 to allow as much comparison as possible with the previous Census data.

Northern Ireland

For the 2011 Census, NI Output Areas were updated slightly and renamed as 'Small Areas'. A public consultation on Census 2021 outputs in 2018/19 indicated a user need to update these geographies. Given this user input, NISRA has developed new statistical output geographies to support the dissemination of Census 2021 statistics, called 'Data Zones'.

16. 2011 Census Area Classification for Output Areas (OAC)

The 2011 Census OAC is used to group together geographic areas according to key characteristics common to the population in that grouping. These groupings are called clusters, and are derived using 2011 population census data. The classification was originally produced with lower case characters but these have been converted to upper case for consistency purposes on the NSPL. You can download a complete listing of the OAC names and codes from the [Open Geography portal](#).

17. 2021 Census Super Output Areas (SOA) & Scottish Data and Intermediate Zones (DZ & IZ)

SOAs exist in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; the Scottish equivalents are DZs and IZs.

England and Wales

The Lower Layer SOAs (LSOA) were designed with a mean population figure of 1,500 and each consists of a grouping of OAs, typically five. They have an absolute minimum population size of 1,000.

The Middle Layer SOAs (MSOA) have a mean population figure of 7,200 (minimum 5,000) and consist of a grouping of LSOAs. MSOAs are constrained by local authority boundaries.

The LSOAs and MSOAs have been maintained as part of the 2021 Census OA maintenance. As with OAs, they have been split or merged where they have breached predefined population and household thresholds.

Scotland

DZs are groups of OAs which have populations of between 500 and 1,000 household residents.

IZs are the geography that sits above DZs and they have a minimum population of 2,500 - 6,000, which are of a size between the LSOAs and MSOAs in England and Wales.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland there is one layer of SOA, with a population size between 1,300 and 2,800, similar in size to the LSOAs in England and Wales.

18. Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies

England and Wales

Parliamentary constituencies relate to those defined by the Parliamentary Constituencies (England) Order 2007, the Parliamentary Constituencies (England) (Amendment) Order 2008 and the Parliamentary Constituencies (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2008, and which came into effect at the May 2010 General Election. No further changes are envisaged until 2020.

Scotland

The Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, passed by the UK parliament in July 2004, came into effect upon the dissolution of the last UK parliament and breaks the linkage between UK parliamentary constituencies and Scottish parliamentary constituencies. This Act has enabled the Westminster government to reduce the number of Scottish constituencies in the UK parliament in line with recommendations made by the Boundary Commission for Scotland following its Fifth Periodical Review of Constituencies (December 2004).

The Parliamentary Constituencies (Scotland) Order 2005 details the reduction of the number of constituencies for the UK parliament from 72 to 59 Scottish seats. The changes bring the size of Scottish constituencies more into line with the size of English seats. English constituencies currently contain nearly 70,000 voters on average, compared to the Scottish average of 53,500.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland the commission's Fifth Periodical Report on Parliamentary Constituencies outlined changes to and the composition of constituencies in 2010. In practice the new parliamentary constituencies are not very different to their predecessors. As before there are 18 constituencies, all retaining the same name. In the main, the boundary amendment process has involved the re-assigning of existing electoral wards from one constituency into a neighbouring constituency. The only exception concerns Derryagh ward within Lisburn City local government district which previously resided entirely within Lagan Valley county constituency. It has now been split into two separate wards - Derryagh

(North) and Derryaghy (South), the former now included in Belfast West borough constituency, the latter remaining where it was.

19. International Territorial Levels (ITL) (Former Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS))

Following the UK's withdrawal from the EU, a new UK-managed international statistical geography - ITL (International Territorial Levels) - was introduced from 1st January 2021, replacing the former NUTS classification. They align with international standards, enabling comparability both over time and internationally. To ensure continued alignment, the ITLs mirror the NUTS system. They also follow a similar review timetable – every three years.

NUTS is a hierarchical classification of spatial units that provides a breakdown of the European Union's territory for producing regional statistics that are comparable across the Union.

The ITL area classification in the UK comprises current national administrative and electoral areas, except in Scotland where some ITL areas comprise whole and/or part Local Enterprise Regions.

The NSPL contains the LAU1 code (9-character LAD/UA code for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and 'S30' code for Scotland). A comprehensive lookup of LAU and ITL codes is included with the accompanying metadata.

20. NHS England (Regions) (NHSE)

NHSEs (formerly NHS Commissioning Regions - NHS CR) are sub-divisions of the NHS commissioning board. There are four NHS ERs in England and they were renamed from NHS CRs in May 2017. The NHS CRs were formed on 1 April 2013, replacing pan SHAs, and are responsible for providing clinical and professional leadership at sub-national level. They are also responsible for the co-ordination of planning, operational management and emergency preparedness at sub-national level and undertaking direct commissioning functions and processes.

21. Regions (Former Government Office Regions - GOR)

The nine GORs were abolished on 1 April 2011 and are now known as 'regions' for statistical purposes. They were the primary statistical subdivisions of England and also the areas in which the Government Offices for the Regions fulfilled their role. Each GOR covered a number of local authorities and will remain as a 'frozen' geography on the NSPL.

22. Travel to Work Areas (TTWA)

TTWAs are used in labour market analysis and reflect reasonably self-contained zones in which the bulk of the resident population also work. The 228 current TTWAs were defined in 2015 using 2011 Census information on home and work addresses and are built from 2011 Census LSOAs in England and Wales, DZs in Scotland, and SOAs in Northern Ireland. The previous (2007) areas were based on the same statistical geographies from the 2001 Census.

23. National Parks

National parks are designed to conserve the natural beauty and cultural heritage of areas of outstanding landscape value, and to promote public understanding and enjoyment of these areas. There are currently 13 national parks in England and Wales. Of these, 10 were designated in the 1950s following the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, The Broads (Norfolk/Suffolk) has had a similar status since 1989 (the Broads has its own special authority, the Broads Authority, which is similar to the National Park Authorities but with extra powers in relation to navigation) and The New Forest was given national park status in 2005. The South Downs is the latest national park, becoming fully operational on 1 April 2011. In Scotland the National Parks (Scotland) Act was passed in July 2000. The first Scottish national park, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, was established in July 2002, and the Cairngorms National Park was established in March 2003. Their boundaries are not constrained

by any other geography. Unlike other geographies (apart from Workplace Zones – see [next section](#)), postcodes are assigned to a national park on an 'exact-fit' basis rather than 'best-fit'.

24. 2011 Census Workplace Zones (WZ)

Following the 2011 Census, a new geography, WZ, was created for England and Wales, followed in due course by Scotland and Northern Ireland. These were produced based on workplace data collected from the Census. WZs are created by merging or splitting the 2011 OAs using WZ postcode building blocks, and because of this, postcodes are allocated to WZs on an 'exact-fit' basis rather than 'best-fit'. The upper threshold of a WZ is unlimited postcodes or 625 workers and the lower threshold is three postcodes or 200 workers.

25. Sub ICB Locations (LOC) – formerly Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)

CCGs were groups of GPs responsible for designing local health services in England by commissioning or buying health and care services, and all GP practices had to belong to a CCG. They came into effect on 1 April 2013 and were built from 2011 LSOAs. In July 2022 they were renamed to Sub ICB (Integrated Care Board) Locations as part of the STP/ICB changes (see also [Section 36](#)).

26. 2011 Census Rural-Urban Classification

England and Wales

The rural and urban classification of postcodes for England and Wales allows a rural/urban view of datasets. It is based on the 2011 rural-urban classification of OAs released in August 2013. This product was sponsored by a cross-Government working group comprising Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Department of the Communities and Local Government (DCLG), ONS and the Welsh Government. It is a revised version of the classification produced after the 2001 Census, but with additional detail in the urban domain.

Postcodes have been assigned to the urban or rural category of the OA into which each one falls. OAs are treated as 'urban' if they were allocated to a 2011 built-up area with a population of 10,000 or more. The urban domain is then further sub-divided into three broad morphological types based on the predominant settlement component. As with the previous version of the classification, the remaining 'rural' OAs are grouped into three broad morphological types based on the predominant settlement component.

The classification also categorises OAs based on context – i.e. whether the wider surrounding area of a given OA is sparsely populated or less sparsely populated.

The resulting classification produces the following 10 classes (note, there are no major or minor conurbations in a sparse context):

	Urban			Rural		
	Major conurbation (A)	Minor conurbation (B)	City and town (C)	Town and fringe (D)	Village (E)	Hamlet and isolated dwellings (F)
Less Sparse (1)	A1	B1	C1	D1	E1	F1
Sparse (2)			C2	D2	E2	F2

A1 = urban major conurbation: OA falls within a built-up area with a population of 10,000 or more and is assigned to the 'major conurbation' settlement category. The wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;

B1 = urban minor conurbation: OA falls within a built-up area with a population of 10,000 or more and is assigned to the 'minor conurbation' settlement category. The wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;

C1 = urban city and town: OA falls within a built-up area with a population of 10,000 or more and is assigned to the 'city and town' settlement category. The wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;

C2 = urban city and town in a sparse setting: OA falls within a built-up area with a population of 10,000 or more and is assigned to the 'city and town' settlement category. The wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;

D1 = rural town and fringe: OA is assigned to the 'town and fringe' settlement category. The wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;

D2 = rural town and fringe in a sparse setting: OA is assigned to the 'town and fringe' settlement category. The wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;

E1 = rural village: OA is assigned to the 'village' settlement category. The wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;

E2 = rural village in a sparse setting: OA is assigned to the 'village' settlement category. The wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;

F1 = rural hamlet and isolated dwellings: OA is assigned to the 'hamlet and isolated dwelling' settlement category. The wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;

F2 = rural hamlet and isolated dwellings in a sparse setting: OA is assigned to the 'hamlet and isolated dwelling' settlement category. The wider surrounding area is sparsely populated.

Scotland

The rural-urban classification in Scotland is consistent with the Scottish Executive's core definition of rurality that defines settlements of 3,000 or less people to be rural. It also classifies areas as remote based on drive times from settlements of 10,000 or more people. This definition is unchanged from the 2001 Census:

1 = Large Urban Area: Settlement of over 125,000 people;

2 = Other Urban Area: Settlement of 10,000 to 125,000 people;

3 = Accessible Small Town: Settlement of 3,000 to 10,000 people, within 30 minutes' drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more;

4 = Remote Small Town: Settlement of 3,000 to 10,000 people, with a drive time of 30 to 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more;

5 = Very Remote Small Town: Settlement of 3,000 to 10,000 people, with a drive time of over 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more;

6 = Accessible Rural: Settlement of less than 3,000 people, within 30 minutes' drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more;

7 = Remote Rural: Settlement of less than 3,000 people, with a drive time of 30 to 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more;

8 = Very Remote Rural: Settlement of less than 3,000 people, with a drive time of over 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.

Northern Ireland

This data is not yet available.

27. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP)

LEPs are voluntary partnerships between local authorities and businesses in England set up in 2011 by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within the local area. They carry out some of the functions previously carried out by the regional development agencies which were abolished in March 2012. To

date there are 38 LEPs in operation, with some areas overlapping. Please see the 'Guide to Presenting Statistics for LEPs' document on the [Open Geography portal](#) for further details.

28. Police Force Areas (PFA)

There are currently 43 PFAs in England and Wales (39 in England and 4 in Wales), with one each for Scotland and Northern Ireland. They each comprise one or more complete local authority. Please see the 'Guide to Presenting Statistics for Police Force Areas' document on the [Open Geography portal](#) for further details.

29. Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

England

The 2019 IMD ranks each English LSOA from 1 (most deprived) to 32,844 (least deprived). See [link](#) for further information.

Wales

The 2019 Welsh equivalent (WIMD) ranks each Welsh LSOA from 1 (most deprived) to 1,909 (least deprived). See [link](#) for further information.

Scotland

The 2020 Scottish equivalent (SIMD), based on 2011 Census DZs, ranks each DZ from 1 (most deprived) to 6,976 (least deprived). See [link](#) for further information.

Northern Ireland

The 2017 NI equivalent based on 2001 SAs (unchanged for 2011) ranks each SA from 1 (most deprived) to 890 (least deprived). See [link](#) for further information.

N.B. Each IMD is unique ONLY within each country, and therefore should not be used in isolation.

30. Integrated Care Boards (ICB) – formerly Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STP)

There were 42 STPs covering all of England, where local NHS organisations and councils had drawn up proposals to improve health and care in the areas they serve. STP also stood for 'sustainability and transformation plan' - plans drawn up in each of these areas setting out ways to improve NHS services and population health in England. They replaced NHSRLOs as the higher level health geography in April 2020 and were themselves replaced by ICBs in July 2022.

31. Names and Codes

The names of all administrative and health areas are the standard names adopted for use throughout National Statistics. The names are those used in Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments to publish changes to the administrative and health geographies.

The NSPL uses the Government Statistical Service (GSS) standard nine-character codes for administrative, electoral and health areas. You are encouraged to adopt these standard names and codes, as they are the recognised standard for National Statistics. You can download full names and codes listings from the [Open Geography portal](#).

32. Directory Specifications

[Annex A](#) lists the specification for the records on the NSPL, giving the length and description of each field, the range of possible codes and any qualifying comments. It also provides further general information on each field, such as source, currency and extent of data. For those customers using the .csv format, the field names are also given.

33. Data Format

The NSPL is available to download in comma separated variable format. Details are given in [Annex B](#).

34. Limitations/Data Quality

No warranty is given by ONS as to the accuracy or comprehensiveness of the data contained on the NSPL. We will take reasonable steps to correct any identified errors and, if appropriate, will re-issue the NSPL.

Two types of errors may occur in the NSPL - omissions and inaccuracies. With such a large file it is inevitable that some information will be missing. With monthly postcode updating procedures the likelihood of missing postcodes is small. The very latest postcodes (i.e. those introduced between the latest monthly postcode update and the issue of the NSPL) will not be included, but any other missing postcodes are likely to have been absent from the Royal Mail data file which forms the basis of the monthly input into the NSPL. Missing postcodes should therefore be reported to ONS Geography Customer Services for forwarding to Royal Mail.

As previously stated, inaccuracies also originate from two sources – straddling and wrong assignments (imputation).

You should also note that the use of the NSPL to allocate individual addresses to geographies might be imprecise because of the effects of straddling and wrong assignments.

If you identify any errors and/or omissions, you should notify [ONS Geography Customer Services](#) and, with the assistance of the appropriate Gridlink Consortium member organisation, we will endeavour to:

- investigate all reports of suspected errors and/or omissions to areal references; and
- inform you of the outcome within 5 working days if we can resolve the query ourselves.

Corrections and identified omissions to the data content of the NSPL are included on the subsequent NSPL release.

Incompatibility with certain spreadsheet packages

Due to the large number of records on the NSPL, the standard CSV file is incompatible with certain standard spreadsheet packages. You should instead use the 'multi-CSV' file, which includes a file for each postcode area.

Table 1

**Numbers of Postcodes by User Type
(and the Changes Since the Previous Release)**

Country	Large users			Small users			Total		
	FEB 2025	MAY 2025	Change	FEB 2025	MAY 2025	Change	FEB 2025	MAY 2025	Change
England	655,652	656,122	+470	1,609,258	1,610,937	+1,679	2,264,910	2,267,059	+2,149
Wales	28,203	28,222	+19	113,397	113,458	+61	141,600	141,680	+80
Scotland	42,828	42,854	+26	187,048	187,205	+157	229,876	230,059	+183
Great Britain	726,683	727,198	+515	1,909,703	1,911,600	+1,897	2,636,386	2,638,798	+2,412
Northern Ireland	9,712	9,724	+12	53,268	53,299	+31	62,980	63,023	+43
United Kingdom	736,395	736,922	+527	1,962,971	1,964,899	+1,928	2,699,366	2,701,821	+2,455
Guernsey	881	881	0	2,502	2,503	+1	3,383	3,384	+1
Jersey	1,168	1,168	0	2,494	2,495	+1	3,662	3,663	+1
Channel Islands	2,049	2,049	0	4,996	4,998	+2	7,045	7,047	+2
Isle of Man	1,643	1,643	0	4,452	4,453	+1	6,095	6,096	+1
All	740,087	740,614	+527	1,972,419	1,974,350	+1,931	2,712,506	2,714,964	+2,458

NB. The above figures, taken from the ONSPD, include 'live' and terminated postcodes.

Table 2

Numbers of Postcodes, Postcode Sectors and Postcode Districts

Postcode Area	Post code Area Code	Postcode Districts	Post code Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Aberdeen	AB	40	180	17,389	21,899	39,288
St Albans	AL	10	39	7,800	3,692	11,492
Birmingham	B	79	268	41,929	20,791	62,720
Bath	BA	19	81	15,513	5,050	20,563
Blackburn	BB	15	79	13,545	5,766	19,311
Bradford	BD	27	112	17,280	6,618	23,898
Bournemouth	BH	26	103	15,275	7,404	22,679
Bolton	BL	12	53	10,394	3,743	14,137
Brighton	BN	38	146	22,454	13,437	35,891
Bromley	BR	9	39	6,800	3,963	10,763
Bristol	BS	47	206	27,371	19,185	46,556
Belfast	BT	82	280	50,053	12,970	63,023
Carlisle	CA	30	85	12,851	3,729	16,580
Cambridge	CB	16	87	11,129	8,550	19,679
Cardiff	CF	46	204	23,432	19,626	43,058
Chester	CH	37	213	19,085	5,662	24,747
Chelmsford	CM	28	105	18,516	9,790	28,306
Colchester	CO	16	76	13,710	4,951	18,661
Croydon	CR	11	66	8,023	7,093	15,116
Canterbury	CT	22	83	15,253	5,137	20,390
Coventry	CV	24	112	21,096	8,089	29,185
Crewe	CW	13	52	9,824	4,646	14,470
Dartford	DA	18	59	9,191	4,127	13,318
Dundee	DD	11	52	9,118	2,434	11,552
Derby	DE	25	130	17,892	12,919	30,811
Dumfries	DG	15	43	6,893	937	7,830
Durham	DH	12	47	9,143	2,601	11,744
Darlington	DL	18	68	13,487	3,552	17,039
Doncaster	DN	33	119	22,190	6,362	28,552
Dorchester	DT	11	39	7,923	2,163	10,086
Dudley	DY	14	59	11,111	3,610	14,721
London E	E	23	110	16,896	12,704	29,600
London EC	EC	30	140	3,607	9,030	12,637
Edinburgh	EH	58	169	25,259	8,327	33,586
Enfield	EN	12	48	8,546	4,801	13,347
Exeter	EX	33	132	22,824	6,620	29,444
Falkirk	FK	21	49	7,788	1,997	9,785
Blackpool	FY	9	42	7,398	2,920	10,318
Glasgow	G	57	243	32,360	15,310	47,670
Gloucester	GL	27	120	21,602	7,918	29,520
Guildford	GU	40	146	22,577	14,001	36,578

Postcode Area	Post code Area Code	Postcode Districts	Post code Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Harrow	HA	10	58	10,239	7,678	17,917
Huddersfield	HD	9	43	7,203	3,675	10,878
Harrogate	HG	5	25	4,500	1,961	6,461
Hemel Hempstead	HP	24	81	14,107	8,264	22,371
Hereford	HR	9	33	6,536	1,576	8,112
Hebrides	HS	9	11	977	138	1,115
Hull	HU	21	70	11,278	4,422	15,700
Halifax	HX	7	32	5,707	1,833	7,540
Ilford	IG	11	35	6,099	4,233	10,332
Ipswich	IP	34	121	21,781	6,025	27,806
Inverness	IV	53	85	7,543	3,480	11,023
Kilmarnock	KA	30	88	11,776	2,667	14,443
Kingston upon Thames	KT	24	92	14,249	8,601	22,850
Kirkwall	KW	16	22	1,857	272	2,129
Kirkcaldy	KY	17	76	10,290	3,142	13,432
Liverpool	L	66	582	20,820	23,162	43,982
Lancaster	LA	23	66	11,943	3,037	14,980
Llandrindod Wells	LD	8	16	2,220	476	2,696
Leicester	LE	28	153	23,176	12,450	35,626
Llandudno	LL	67	150	20,299	4,387	24,686
Lincoln	LN	13	53	9,522	2,816	12,338
Leeds	LS	33	151	22,059	10,703	32,762
Luton	LU	8	37	6,419	4,342	10,761
Manchester	M	48	302	32,301	27,651	59,952
Medway	ME	21	83	17,075	6,047	23,122
Milton Keynes	MK	28	115	16,099	7,555	23,654
Motherwell	ML	12	55	9,850	2,195	12,045
London N	N	25	113	17,622	12,710	30,332
Newcastle upon Tyne	NE	67	231	33,758	12,467	46,225
Nottingham	NG	32	172	29,650	8,861	38,511
Northampton	NN	20	102	16,992	8,953	25,945
Newport	NP	25	142	13,886	16,949	30,835
Norwich	NR	36	115	24,163	4,926	29,089
London NW	NW	13	85	14,245	12,187	26,432
Oldham	OL	17	70	13,211	4,763	17,974
Oxford	OX	28	146	20,417	15,577	35,994
Paisley	PA	78	117	9,492	3,687	13,179
Peterborough	PE	39	169	27,580	12,705	40,285
Perth	PH	43	62	6,215	1,371	7,586
Plymouth	PL	36	99	17,841	5,319	23,160
Portsmouth	PO	35	133	24,430	9,231	33,661
Preston	PR	13	83	13,617	7,082	20,699
Reading	RG	35	184	23,727	22,827	46,554
Redhill	RH	21	91	16,323	8,634	24,957
Romford	RM	21	71	9,996	5,723	15,719
Sheffield	S	56	250	34,348	16,175	50,523

Postcode Area	Post code Area Code	Postcode Districts	Post code Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Swansea	SA	53	153	23,296	6,445	29,741
London SE	SE	30	130	20,876	14,735	35,611
Stevenage	SG	19	65	12,108	5,304	17,412
Stockport	SK	19	113	16,704	8,857	25,561
Slough	SL	12	58	10,654	6,279	16,933
Sutton	SM	7	29	4,339	2,481	6,820
Swindon	SN	23	114	14,611	7,390	22,001
Southampton	SO	31	181	18,588	22,196	40,784
Salisbury	SP	11	47	8,723	2,876	11,599
Sunderland	SR	11	44	6,826	2,203	9,029
Southend-on-Sea	SS	19	81	11,987	5,621	17,608
Stoke-on-Trent	ST	22	90	17,816	5,202	23,018
London SW	SW	29	141	20,050	17,348	37,398
Shrewsbury	SY	26	87	14,620	2,960	17,580
Taunton	TA	24	67	12,065	3,152	15,217
Galashiels	TD	15	36	4,526	803	5,329
Telford	TF	13	44	7,197	2,351	9,548
Tonbridge	TN	40	129	23,110	10,400	33,510
Torquay	TQ	14	50	10,097	3,355	13,452
Truro	TR	28	68	12,498	3,390	15,888
Cleveland	TS	30	103	17,805	5,542	23,347
Twickenham	TW	21	82	11,118	9,493	20,611
Southall	UB	12	41	7,201	4,582	11,783
London W	W	35	217	18,628	21,946	40,574
Warrington	WA	18	97	18,334	7,827	26,161
London WC	WC	15	46	2,576	4,941	7,517
Watford	WD	14	70	7,429	8,736	16,165
Wakefield	WF	18	75	14,728	4,026	18,754
Wigan	WN	8	35	7,293	2,096	9,389
Worcester	WR	17	50	8,971	3,925	12,896
Walsall	WS	15	68	10,285	4,893	15,178
Wolverhampton	WV	18	62	10,597	3,872	14,469
York	YO	37	161	19,225	15,931	35,156
Shetland	ZE	3	4	656	101	757
United Kingdom	121	3,095	12,392	1,793,502	908,318	2,701,820
Guernsey	GY	10	16	3,311	73	3,384
Isle of Man	IM	11	53	4,588	1,508	6,096
Jersey	JE	5	29	3,235	428	3,663
Channel Islands/ Isle of Man	3	26	98	11,134	2,009	13,143
Total	124	3,121	12,490	1,804,636	910,327	2,714,963

NB. The postcode directory also contains the Santander UK plc postcode GIR 0AA, giving a total of **2,714,964** unit postcodes.

Table 3

Numbers of Postcodes With A Grid Reference

PQI	England				Wales				Scotland			
	Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	417,656	63.7%	1,555,137	96.5%	15,925	56.4%	94,977	83.7%	24,777	57.8%	169,472	90.5%
2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	479	0.3%
3	795	0.1%	2,293	0.1%	23	0.1%	110	0.1%	68	0.2%	473	0.3%
4	38	0.0%	99	0.0%	2	0.0%	15	0.0%	6	0.0%	5	0.0%
5	40,226	6.1%	5,176	0.3%	1,616	5.7%	230	0.2%	2,442	5.7%	577	0.3%
6	64,720	9.9%	177	0.0%	2,204	7.8%	7	0.0%	4,145	9.7%	14	0.0%
8	125,858	19.2%	47,890	3.0%	7,796	27.6%	18,117	16.0%	10,964	25.6%	16,177	8.6%
9	6,829	1.0%	165	0.0%	656	2.3%	2	0.0%	452	1.1%	8	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	656,122	100%	1,610,937	100%	28,222	100%	113,458	100%	42,854	100%	187,205	100%

PQI	Great Britain				Northern Ireland				United Kingdom			
	Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	458,358	63.0%	1,819,586	95.2%	1,375	14.1%	48,411	90.8%	459,733	62.4%	1,867,997	95.1%
2	0	0.0%	479	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	479	0.0%
3	886	0.1%	2,876	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	886	0.1%	2,876	0.1%
4	46	0.0%	119	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	46	0.0%	119	0.0%
5	44,284	6.1%	5,983	0.3%	3,343	34.4%	1,538	2.9%	47,627	6.5%	7,521	0.4%
6	71,069	9.8%	198	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	71,069	9.6%	198	0.0%
8	144,618	19.9%	82,184	4.3%	2,683	27.6%	2,841	5.3%	147,301	20.0%	85,025	4.3%
9	7,937	1.1%	175	0.0%	2,323	23.9%	509	1.0%	10,260	1.4%	684	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	727,198	100%	1,911,600	100%	9,724	100%	53,299	100%	736,922	100%	1,964,899	100%

Table 3 (cont'd)**Numbers of Postcodes With A Grid Reference (cont'd)**

PQI	Channel Islands				Isle of Man				All			
	Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		459,733	62.1%	1,867,997	94.6%
2	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		0	0.0%	479	0.0%
3	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		886	0.1%	2,876	0.1%
4	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		46	0.0%	119	0.0%
5	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		47,627	6.4%	7,521	0.4%
6	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		71,069	9.6%	198	0.0%
8	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		147,301	19.9%	85,025	4.3%
9	2,049	100.0%	4,998	100.0%	1,643	100.0%	4,453	100.0%	13,952	1.9%	10,135	0.5%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	2,049	100%	4,998	100%	1,643	100%	4,453	100%	740,614	100%	1,974,350	100%

NB. The above figures, taken from the ONSPD, include 'live' and terminated postcodes.

Table 4

Numbers of Terminated Postcodes

Country	Number
England	777,151
Wales	49,487
Scotland	68,710
Great Britain	895,348
Northern Ireland	12,970
United Kingdom	908,318
Channel Islands	501
Isle of Man	1,508
All	910,327

Annex A

NSPL Record Specification

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
7	Unit postcode – 7 character version	AB1Δ0AA-ZE999ZZ (maximum range)	All current ('live') postcodes within the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, received monthly from Royal Mail. Also, all terminated ('closed') postcodes that have not been subsequently re-used by Royal Mail within the United Kingdom and by the postal administrations in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. 2, 3 or 4 character outward code - left aligned; 3 character inward code - right aligned; 3rd and 4th characters may be blank (Δ)	PCD
8	Unit postcode – 8 character version	AB1ΔΔ0AA-ZE99Δ9ZZ (maximum range)	As above, except: 2, 3 or 4-character outward code - left aligned; 3-character inward code - right aligned; 5th character always blank and 3rd and 4th characters may be blank (Δ)	PCD2
8	Unit postcode - variable length (e-Gif) version	AB1Δ0AAΔ-ZE99Δ9ZZ (maximum range)	2, 3 or 4-character outward code; Single space (Δ); 3-character inward code	PCDS
6	Date of introduction	YYYYMM (year and month)	The most recent occurrence of the postcode's date of introduction.	DOINTR
6	Date of termination	YYYYMM (year and month) or null	If present, the most recent occurrence of the postcode's date of termination, otherwise: null = 'live' postcode	DOTERM
1	Postcode user type	0 or 1	Shows whether the postcode is a small or large user. 0 = small user; 1 = large user	USERTYPE

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
6	National grid reference - Easting	numeric or null	The OS grid reference Easting to 1 metre resolution; blank for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Grid references for postcodes in Northern Ireland relate to the Irish National Grid.	OSEAST1M
7	National grid reference - Northing	numeric or null	The OS grid reference Northing to 1 metre resolution; blank for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Grid references for postcodes in Northern Ireland relate to the Irish National Grid.	OSNRTH1M
1	Grid reference positional quality indicator	1-6, 8-9	Shows the status of the assigned grid reference. 1 = within the building of the matched address closest to the postcode mean; 2 = as for status value 1, except by visual inspection of Landline maps (Scotland only); 3 = approximate to within 50 metres; 4 = postcode unit mean (mean of matched addresses with the same postcode, but not snapped to a building); 5 = imputed by ONS, by reference to surrounding postcode grid references; 6 = postcode sector mean, (mainly PO Boxes); 8 = postcode terminated prior to Gridlink® initiative, last known ONS postcode grid reference ² ; 9 = no grid reference available	OSGRDIND

² Postcodes with an '8' code are those that were terminated prior to the Gridlink® initiative which became operational in November 2000. The grid references are those assigned by ONS for postcodes in England and Wales and those assigned by the General Register Office for Scotland and the Department for Economic Development in Northern Ireland for their respective postcodes. Consequently, the grid references for England and Wales will be mainly to 100 metre resolution while the grid references for other parts of the UK will be to 10 metre resolution.

Postcodes terminated since November 2000 retain the same positional quality indicators as they had prior to their termination.

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	2021 Census Output Area (OA)/ Data Zone (DZ)	E00, W00, S00, N20, pseudo or null	<p>The 2021 Census OAs in England, Wales and Scotland are based on 2011 Census OAs, and they form the building bricks for defining higher level geographies. 2021 DZs for NI are included, along with pseudo codes for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E00000001 - E00190594 = England; W00000001 - W00010697 = Wales; S00135307 – S00181669 = Scotland; N20000001 – N20003780 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	OA21
9	County / UA	E10, E11, E13, pseudo or null	<p>The current county or UA to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code.</p> <p>E10000003 - E10000034 = England (non-Metropolitan County); E11000001 - E11000007 = England (Metropolitan County); E13000001 - E13000002 = England (Inner/Outer London); E99999999 (pseudo) = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	CTY

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	County Electoral Division	E58, pseudo or null	<p>The county electoral division code for each English postcode. Pseudo codes are included for the remainder of the UK. The field will be blank for English postcodes with no OA code.</p> <p>E58000050 – E58001795 = England; E99999999 (pseudo) = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	CED
9	Local Authority District (LAD) - unitary authority (UA)/non-metropolitan district (NMD)/metropolitan district (MD)/London borough (LB)/council area (CA)/district council area (DCA)	E06, E07, E08, E09, W06, S12, N09, pseudo or null	<p>The current district/UA to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code.</p> <p>E06000001 - E06000066 = England (UA); E07000008 - E07000246 = England (NMD); E08000001 - E08000037 = England (MD); E09000001 - E09000033 = England (LB); W06000001 - W06000024 = Wales (UA); S12000005 - S12000050 = Scotland (CA); N09000001 - N09000011 = Northern Ireland (DCA); L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	LAUA

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	(Electoral) ward/division	E05, W05, S13, N08, pseudo or null	<p>The current administrative/electoral area to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code.</p> <p>E05000650 – E05014393 = England; W05001039 – W05001800 = Wales; S13002516 – S13003156 = Scotland; N08000101 – N08001140 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	WARD
9	NHS England (Region) (NHS ER)	E40, pseudo or null	<p>The NHS ER code for the postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England with no grid reference.</p> <p>E4000003 – E40000014 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	NHSER
9	Country	E92, W92, S92, N92, L93 or M83	<p>The code for the appropriate country (i.e. one of the four constituent countries of the UK or Crown dependencies - the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man) to which each postcode is assigned.</p> <p>E92000001 = England; W92000004 = Wales; S92000003 = Scotland; N92000002 = Northern Ireland; L93000001 = Channel Islands; M83000003 = Isle of Man</p>	CTRY

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Region (former GOR)	E12, pseudo or null	<p>The region code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Island and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code.</p> <p>E12000001 - E12000009 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	RGN
9	Westminster parliamentary constituency	E14, W07, S14, N06, pseudo or null	<p>The Westminster parliamentary constituency code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code.</p> <p>E14000530 - E14001062 = England; W07000041 - W07000080 = Wales; S14000001 - S14000059 = Scotland; N05000001 - N05000018 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	PCON
9	Travel to Work Area (TTWA)	E30, W22, S22, K01, N12, pseudo or null	<p>The 2011 Census TTWA code for the postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code.</p> <p>E30000004 - E30000294 = England; W22000003 - W22000034 = Wales; S22000005 - S22000086 = Scotland; K01000005 - K01000014 = cross-border; N12000001 - N12000010 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	TTWA

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	International Territorial Level (former NUTS)	E06, E07, E08, E09, W06, S30, N09, pseudo or null	<p>The national LAU1-equivalent code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code.</p> <p>E06000001 – E06000066 = England; E07000008 – E07000246 = England (LAD); E08000001 – E08000037 = England (MD); E09000001 – E09000033 = England (LB); W06000001 – W06000024 = Wales; S30000003 – S30000056 = Scotland; N09000001 – N09000011 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	ITL
9	National park	E26, W18, W31, S21, pseudo or null	<p>The National parks cover parts of England, Wales and Scotland. Pseudo codes are included for Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E26000001 - E26000012 = England; E99999999 (pseudo) = England (non-National Park); W18000001 - W18000003 = Wales; W31000001 = Wales (non-National Park); S21000002 - S21000003 = Scotland; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland (non-National Park); N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	PARK

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	2021 Census Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)/Super Data Zone (SDZ)	E01, W01, N21, pseudo or null	<p>The 2021 Census LSOA code for England, Wales and Scotland, and SDZ code for Northern Ireland. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code.</p> <p>E01000001 - E01035762 = England; W01000001 - W01002040 = Wales; S01013482 – S01020873 = Scotland; N21000001 – N21000850 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	LSOA21
9	2021 Census Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA)	E02, W02, S02, pseudo or null	<p>The 2021 Census MSOA code for England, Wales and Scotland. Pseudo codes are included for Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code.</p> <p>E02000001 - E02007116 = England; W02000001 - W02000428 = Wales; S02002515 – S02003848 = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	MSOA21
9	2011 Census Workplace Zone	E33, W35, S34, N19, pseudo or null	<p>The UK WZ code. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for UK postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E33000001 – E33050868 = England; W35000001 – W35002710 = Wales; S34000001 – S34005375 = Scotland; N19000001 – N19001756 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	WZ11

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Sub ICB Location (SICBL)/ Local Health Board (LHB)/ Community Health Partnership (CHP)/ Local Commissioning Group (LCG)/ Primary Healthcare Directorate (PHD)	E38, W11, S03, ZC010–ZC050, M01, pseudo or null	<p>The code for the Sub ICB Locations in England, LHBs in Wales, CHPs in Scotland, LCG in Northern Ireland and PHD in the Isle of Man; there are no equivalent areas in the Channel Islands (for which a pseudo code is included). The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no OA code.</p> <p>E38000006 – E38000265 = England (Sub ICB Location); W11000023 – W11000031 = Wales (LHB); S03000001 – S03000044 = Scotland (CHP); ZC010 – ZC050 = Northern Ireland (LCG); M01000001 = Isle of Man (PHD); L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; null = no information available</p>	SICBL
9	Built-up Area (BUA)	E63, W45, K08, pseudo or null	<p>The code for the BUAs in England and Wales. Cross-border codes are included for areas straddling the English/Welsh border. Pseudo codes are also included for Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for non-BUA postcodes and those with no OA code.</p> <p>E63007092 – E63014238 = England; W45000623 – W45001240 = Wales; K08000011–K08000020 = cross-border; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	BUA24
4	2021 Census rural-urban classification	RLF1-UN1, pseudo or null	<p>The 2021 Census rural-urban classification for England and Wales. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for Scottish and NI postcodes, and those with no grid reference.</p> <p>RLF1 – UN1 = England and Wales; ZZZ9 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; ZZZ9 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	RUC21

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
3	2011 Census Output Area classification (OAC)	1A1-8B3, pseudo or null	The 2011 Census OAC code for each postcode in the UK. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. 1A1 – 8B3 = UK; 9Z9 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available	OAC11
10	Decimal degrees latitude	Numeric	The postcode coordinates in degrees latitude to six decimal places; 99.999999 for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and for postcodes with no grid reference.	LAT
10	Decimal degrees longitude	Numeric	The postcode coordinates in degrees longitude to six decimal places; 0.000000 for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and for postcodes with no grid reference.	LONG
9	Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) - first instance	E37, pseudo or null	The primary LEP code for each English postcode. Pseudo codes are included for the rest of the UK. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E37000001 – E37000062 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	LEP1
9	Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) – second instance	E37, pseudo or null	Where LEPs overlap, the secondary code for each affected English postcode. Pseudo codes are included for the rest of the UK. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E37000001 – E37000062 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	LEP2

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Police Force Area (PFA)	E23, W15, S23, pseudo or null	<p>The PFA code for each postcode. A single PFA covers each of Scotland and Northern Ireland (not coded). A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code.</p> <p>E23000001 – E23000039 = England; W15000001 – W15000004 = Wales; S23000009 = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	PFA
5	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)	Numeric	<p>The IMD rank for the LSOA of each postcode, where 1 is the most deprived. A zero is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man, also for postcodes with no OA code.</p> <p>1 – 32844 = England; 1 – 1909 = Wales; 1 – 6976 = Scotland; 1 – 890 = Northern Ireland; 0 = Channel Islands; 0 = Isle of Man; 0 = no information available</p>	IMD
9	Integrated Care Board (ICB)	E54, pseudo or null	<p>The ICB code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code.</p> <p>E54000008 – E54000064 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	ICB

Annex B**Data Format**

Available for free download in ASCII text and Comma Separated Variable format from the [Open Geography Portal](#).

File name: NSPL_mmm_yyyy

Where 'mmm' = month e.g. 'FEB'

Where 'yyyy' = year e.g. '2024'

Format: Comma Separated Variable

File type: .csv

Record length: 269

Format: ASCII

File type: .txt

Record length: 269

