Why were the standard UPRNs not used, and can this be rectified?

The UPRN allocated to buildings by Local Authorities, who have the statutory authority to name and number every street and property, and the Ordnance Survey who identify objects in the landscape that might not otherwise attract an address. UPRN ranges are centrally allocated and managed by geoplace, and guidance states that they should be assigned either when construction commences, or when when street naming and numbering is carried out, whichever happens first.

In practice, it can take up to 2 months from the generation of an Energy Performance Certificate for a new-build residence to the time when a UPRN is assigned. This is because the certificate for a new-build is generated using the SAP methodology, which is desk based and uses the building plans, rather than visiting the building.

As a result, Landmark have been assigning a unique identifier (LMK\_KEY) in place of the UPRN for Energy Performance Certificates. These unique identifiers have subsequently been used to access EPCs for a particular address.

Can this be rectified?

What ever is done, the timelag between assigning the certificate and the UPRN for a new-build will remain, so the LMK\_KEY should be retained as an identifier to cover this period. The field for the UPRN should be left blank when a new data record is lodged.

In the beta phase of the project, two methods need to be developed to match real UPRNs with the EPC data: one for the migration of the current data set, and a second for matching in real UPRNs as they become available.

The Ordnance Survey's AddressBase product contains both an up-to-date listing of addresses, and their associated UPRN. This database is updated every six weeks, and is available on an update-only licence. The addresses in this file are split out more than those in the EPC register and contain more fields, however some relatively simple code (eg adb\_addconcat.py; note that this code has not been tested and is likely to crash on large files) can be used to concatenate these fields, and compare them (using one of the methods to be tested on later tickets) to match on addresses, and insert the UPRN on that basis.