National Statistics Postcode Lookup User Guide

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Office for National Statistics

A National Statistics Publication

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Contents

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 2011 Census Output Areas (OA). 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 on a monthly basis by Royal Mail. In most instances, the NSPL relates postcodes (as at the third Friday of the month prior to each release) to geographic areas as at the end of the preceding year.

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   Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 (SIMD16)

    The latest Scottish IMD (SIMD16), based on 2011 DZs, is included in the 'IMD' field from November 2016.

    2.2   Workplace Zones (WZ) - Scotland and Northern Ireland

    Also from November 2016, the newly-released Scottish and NI WZs are included on the NSPL.

    2.3   Names and Codes - Update

    From November 2016, due to popular demand, the NSPL names and codes files are once again available in the 'Documents' folder. They are also available to download direct from the Open Geography portal.

    2.4   CSV and TXT Formats

    From August 2016, the NSPL is available in CSV and TXT formats. This allows the NSPL to be imported into the software packages with which the previous formats were also compatible. The ZIP file also includes the 'multi-csv' files (one file per postcode area) that were previously available.

    2.5   User Guide and Version Notes Merged

    Also from August 2016, the NSPL User Guide and Version Notes are a single document, called for example, NSPL User Guide Nov 2016, containing all the information from both. This is so the document can be easily accessed online without first downloading a .zip file.

2.6   National Park Boundary Changes

Effective from 1 August 2016, The Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks boundaries have been extended. These changes are reflected on the August release of the postcode products. Further information is available from the gov.uk website.

2.7   Police Force Areas (PFA) and Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Added

The 2015 PFAs (UK) and latest IMD (England and Wales) are both included on the NSPL from February 2016.

2.8   New Northern Ireland District Council Areas and Electoral Wards

From February 2016, the NSPL includes 9-character codes for the new district council areas (DCA) and electoral wards in Northern Ireland. The entity code for each DCA is 'N09' and the entity code for each electoral ward is 'N08' with a unique instance code for both. Listings of the names and codes can be downloaded from the Open Geography portal.

3.   Licensing Requirements

You should be aware of the attribution and sub-licensing requirements associated with the use of the Code-Point® Open data (from which our postcode products are derived) contained in the OS OpenData Licence, namely that you, the licensee:

- Must always use the following attribution statements to acknowledge the source of the information:

  Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights [year]

  Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and database rights [year]

  Contains National Statistics data © Crown copyright and database rights [year]

- Must ensure that the same attribution statements are contained in any sub-licences of the Information that are granted, together with a requirement that any further sub-licences do the same.

You should note that following agreement with Land and Property Services (LPS) Northern Ireland, Open Government Licensing terms do not apply to NI postcodes; separate licensing terms and conditions now apply in the form of an LPS End User licence or contact LPS directly for commercial use. Please see the Licences web page for further details.

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 usually updated at the end of each year. Therefore, the February release of the NSPL will generally be the first to reflect any geography changes in the previous year. This release contains 2015 LAD, ward and LAU2 codes, July 2015 CCG updates, August 2015 TTWA changes and August 2016 national park changes.

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 the purpose of 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 B).

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.   Former Strategic Health Authorities (SHA), Health Boards and Health & Social Care Board

The maintenance of health area codes is the responsibility of the Organisation Data Services (ODS) in England, and ONS on behalf of NHS Scotland and Health Solutions Wales. These areas were reorganised in England in 2002, in Wales in 2003 and in Scotland in 2006. The SHAs in England were further reorganised by the NHS on 1 July 2006 to reduce the number from 28 to 10 before being abolished on 31 March 2013. In Northern Ireland the Health & Social Care Board effective from 1 April 2009 replaced the four previous Health & Social Services Boards. The following health authority codes apply to Channel Islands and the Isle of Man:

> L00000001 – Jersey
> L00000002 – Guernsey (incl. Sark and Herm)
> L00000003 – Alderney
> M00000001 – Isle of Man

15.   Former Primary Care Organisations (PCO), Local Health Boards (LHB), Community Health Partnerships (CHP) and Local Commissioning Groups (LCG)

Postcodes on the NSPL have been assigned PCO codes (England), LHB codes (Wales), CHP codes (Scotland), LCG codes (NI) or Primary Healthcare Directorate code (Isle of Man). Postcodes in the Channel Islands (for which there are no equivalent areas) have been assigned a pseudo code.

The primary care geography in England was reorganised significantly on 1 October 2006. When PCOs were statutorily defined, they were done so in terms of whole local authority districts and/or electoral wards (in most instances) that existed at the time. There were 146 Primary Care Trusts (PCT) and five Care Trusts in place when they were abolished on 31 March 2013.

The 22 LHBs in Wales (from 1 April 2003) merged to form seven LHBs on 1 October 2009.

CHPs were established by the NHS boards in Scotland as key building blocks in the modernisation of the NHS joint services. Managed jointly by local authorities and health boards, CHPs nested within council area boundaries but some crossed health board boundaries. In April 2012, the 36 CHPs became 34, covering the whole of Scotland. CHPs were terminated on 31 March 2015.

Five LCGs were introduced in Northern Ireland on 1 April 2009.

A single Primary Healthcare Directorate was introduced in the Isle of Man in 2008 to support the rollout of NHS systems.

16.   2011 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.

England and Wales

OAs were maintained after the 2011 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 2011 Census maintenance were based on postcodes as at Census Day 2011 while the unmaintained OAs reflected the postcodes as at Census Day 2001. 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 181,408 OAs in England (171,372) and Wales (10,036).

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 D for details).

In 2003, OAs fitted within the boundaries of 2003 statistical wards (and parishes) but this relationship had not been maintained for 2011 due to the high levels of administrative geography boundary change. In 2003 postcodes that straddled an electoral ward/division (or parish) boundary were split between two or more OAs. This scenario is now more prevalent as the postcodes have changed during the intercensal period without this being reflected within the OA hierarchy.

Scotland

OAs for the 2011 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 2010 Locality dataset

The main aim governing this order of geographies was to give continuity with the 2001 OAs while ensuring, as far as possible, that 2011 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 2010 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 2011 OAs are of similar size to those used in 2001 to allow as much comparison as possible with the 2001 Census data. Where a 2001 OA dropped below the 2011 minimum thresholds for confidentiality (50 persons and 20 households) e.g. because of housing demolitions, it was merged with a neighbouring 2001 OA. In addition, 2001 OAs which increased in size, particularly those which exceeded the 2011 recommended maximum threshold (approximately 78 households), were split where possible into two or more OAs.

Northern Ireland

Updated 2011 Census OAs are called small areas and are re-coded to nine-character format. There are 4,537 small areas in Northern Ireland.

17.   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.

18.   2011 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. There are 34,753 LSOAs, with 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 the 2003 local authority boundaries used for 2001 Census outputs.

The LSOAs and MSOAs have been maintained as part of the 2011 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. Redrawn as a result of detailed population information from the 2011 Census, they have been available since November 2014.

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. There are 1,279 IZs.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland SOAs were released in 2005. 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.

19.   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.

<u>Northern Ireland</u>

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

20.   European Electoral Regions (EER)

EERs are as defined in the European Parliamentary Elections Bill (Bill 65, 1997) to amend the European Parliamentary Elections Act 1978 so as to alter the method used in Great Britain for electing Members of the European Parliament. The Bill created 9 EERs in England with 64 MEPs; Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland each constitute a single EER, with 7 MEPs, 4 MEPs and 3 MEPs respectively.

21.   Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS)

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

NUTS levels 1-3 are frozen for a minimum of three years and NUTS levels 4 and 5 are called local administrative units (LAU) levels 1 and 2 respectively.

The NSPL contains the LAU2 code (9-character ward code for England and Wales, 'S31' code for Scotland and, currently, the 10-character Eurostat code for Northern Ireland). A comprehensive lookup of LAU and NUTS codes is included with the accompanying metadata.

A summary of the NUTS structure, including the numbers of areas for each country at each level, is shown at [Annex A](#).

22.   Former Pan SHAs

Three pan SHAs replaced the 5 'IT Clusters' from 1 April 2007 and IT Clusters replaced directorates of health and social care from July 2003 to 31 March 2007. Each pan SHA consisted of a group of strategic health authorities and they are included in the 'HRO' field. They were abolished on 31 March 2013 and replaced by NHS commissioning regions (NHSCR).

23.   Regions (Former Government Office Regions - GOR)

The 9 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.

24.   Local Learning and Skills Council (LLSC)/Dept. of Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS), Enterprise Regions (ER)

LLSCs were introduced in 2001, replacing TECs in England. They were abolished on 31 March 2010. Also in 2001, TECs in Wales were replaced by ELWas (Education and Learning Wales). In April 2007 DCELLS replaced ELWas. These organisations were established to increase the standards and range of learning opportunities for businesses, communities and the individual. There were 47 LLSCs in England and there are four DCELLS areas in Wales.

ERs replaced LECs in Scotland after September 2007. Government-funded bodies, they aim to foster local economic growth and development in Scotland. There are currently 6 ERs.

25.   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.

26.   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 Section 27), postcodes are assigned to a national park on an 'exact-fit' basis rather than 'best-fit'.

27.   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.

28.   Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)

CCGs are groups of GPs that are responsible for designing local health services in England by commissioning or buying health and care services, and all GP practices have to belong to a CCG. They came into effect on 1 April 2013 and are built from 2011 LSOAs. There are currently 209 CCGs.

29.   2011 Census Built-up Areas (BUA)/Built-up Area Sub-divisions (BUASD)

England and Wales

BUAs and BUASDs were created as part of the 2011 Census outputs and provide information on villages, towns and cities, allowing comparisons between people living in built-up areas and those living elsewhere. Previously called urban areas, data has been produced every 10 years since 1981. A new methodology to capture the areas was used in the 2011 version, but it still follows the rules used in previous versions so that results will be broadly comparable.

There are areas included in the ONSPD but not in the NSPL. These BUAs and BUASDs have been identified as areas that have not been allocated a population. In most cases this is because they do not have any residential buildings – for example, industrial estates, airports, theme parks, etc. There are 337 BUAs where population has not been allocated (305 in England, 32 in Wales) and 133 BUASDs where population has not been allocated (123 in England, 10 in Wales).

Scotland

This data is not yet available.

Northern Ireland

This data is not yet available.

30.   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 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 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.

31.   **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 39 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.

32.   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.

33.   Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

England
The 2015 IMD ranks each English LSOA from 1 (most deprived) to 32,844 (least deprived). See link for further information.

Wales
The 2014 Welsh equivalent (WIMD) ranks each Welsh LSOA from 1 (most deprived) to 1,909 (least deprived). See link for further information.

Scotland
The 2016 Scottish equivalent (SIMD16), based on 2011 Census DZs, ranks each DZ from 1 (most deprived) to 6,976 (least deprived). See link for further information.

Northern Ireland
Compatible data is not expected until 2017 (the existing data is based on 2001 Census OAs).

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

34.   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.

35.   Directory Specifications

Annex B 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 .dbf or .csv formats, the field names are also given.

36.   Data Format

The NSPL is available to download in comma separated variable format. Details are given in Annex C.

37.   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 use the 'multi-CSV' file, which includes a file for each postcode area, instead.

Table 1

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

Country	Large users			Small users			Total		
	NOV 2016	FEB 2017	Change	NOV 2016	FEB 2017	Change	NOV 2016	FEB 2017	Change
England	623,959	624,800	+841	1,533,538	1,535,821	+2,283	2,157,497	2,160,621	+3,124
Wales	26,900	26,917	+17	110,795	110,897	+102	137,695	137,814	+119
Scotland	40,867	40,917	+50	180,444	180,620	+176	221,311	221,537	+226
Great Britain	**691,726**	**692,634**	**+908**	**1,824,777**	**1,827,338**	**+2,561**	**2,516,503**	**2,519,972**	**+3,469**
Northern Ireland	9,225	9,239	+14	51,478	51,534	+56	60,703	60,773	+70
United Kingdom	**700,951**	**701,873**	**+922**	**1,876,255**	**1,878,872**	**+2,617**	**2,577,206**	**2,580,745**	**+3,539**
Guernsey	880	880	0	2,486	2,486	0	3,366	3,366	0
Jersey	1,139	1,139	0	2,371	2,371	0	3,510	3,510	0
Channel Islands	**2,019**	**2,019**	**0**	**4,857**	**4,857**	**0**	**6,876**	**6,876**	**0**
Isle of Man	1,617	1,618	+1	4,370	4,374	+4	5,987	5,992	+5
All	**704,587**	**705,510**	**+923**	**1,885,482**	**1,888,103**	**+2,621**	**2,590,069**	**2,593,613**	**+3,544**

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	178	16,858	21,529	38,387
St Albans	AL	10	39	7,700	3,482	11,182
Birmingham	B	79	268	41,426	18,808	60,234
Bath	BA	19	81	14,926	4,542	19,468
Blackburn	BB	15	79	13,089	5,426	18,515
Bradford	BD	27	112	16,917	6,060	22,977
Bournemouth	BH	26	103	15,128	6,694	21,822
Bolton	BL	12	53	10,279	3,445	13,724
Brighton	BN	37	144	22,028	12,260	34,288
Bromley	BR	9	39	6,887	3,528	10,415
Bristol	BS	47	205	26,545	17,998	44,543
Belfast	BT	82	278	48,722	12,051	60,773
Carlisle	CA	30	85	12,496	3,442	15,938
Cambridge	CB	16	84	10,306	8,405	18,711
Cardiff	CF	46	203	23,184	18,610	41,794
Chester	CH	37	213	18,623	5,182	23,805
Chelmsford	CM	28	104	17,566	8,909	26,475
Colchester	CO	16	75	12,935	4,571	17,506
Croydon	CR	11	66	7,998	6,319	14,317
Canterbury	CT	22	83	14,684	4,615	19,299
Coventry	CV	24	105	19,775	7,583	27,358
Crewe	CW	13	52	9,217	4,293	13,510
Dartford	DA	18	59	8,932	3,557	12,489
Dundee	DD	11	52	8,888	2,241	11,129
Derby	DE	25	129	16,829	12,593	29,422
Dumfries	DG	15	42	6,816	844	7,660
Durham	DH	12	47	8,907	2,360	11,267
Darlington	DL	18	68	13,178	3,209	16,387
Doncaster	DN	33	117	21,494	5,844	27,338
Dorchester	DT	11	39	7,735	1,842	9,577
Dudley	DY	14	59	10,974	3,283	14,257
London E	E	22	108	16,144	11,115	27,259
London EC	EC	30	140	3,917	8,510	12,427
Edinburgh	EH	57	168	24,072	7,481	31,553
Enfield	EN	12	48	8,547	4,236	12,783
Exeter	EX	33	130	21,943	5,954	27,897
Falkirk	FK	21	49	7,667	1,801	9,468
Blackpool	FY	9	42	7,237	2,625	9,862
Glasgow	G	57	241	31,562	14,489	46,051
Gloucester	GL	27	118	20,668	7,267	27,935
Guildford	GU	40	145	21,916	12,833	34,749

Postcode Area	Post code Area Code	Postcode Districts	Post code Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Harrow	HA	10	58	10,310	6,827	17,137
Huddersfield	HD	9	42	7,081	3,513	10,594
Harrogate	HG	5	25	4,377	1,819	6,196
Hemel Hempstead	HP	24	78	13,825	7,428	21,253
Hereford	HR	9	33	6,307	1,458	7,765
Hebrides	HS	9	11	963	115	1,078
Hull	HU	21	70	10,825	4,123	14,948
Halifax	HX	7	32	5,655	1,629	7,284
Ilford	IG	11	35	5,878	3,863	9,741
Ipswich	IP	34	115	20,769	5,592	26,361
Inverness	IV	53	84	7,216	3,290	10,506
Kilmarnock	KA	30	87	11,550	2,397	13,947
Kingston upon Thames	KT	24	92	14,267	7,680	21,947
Kirkwall	KW	16	22	1,824	260	2,084
Kirkcaldy	KY	17	75	10,000	2,937	12,937
Liverpool	L	66	582	20,369	22,301	42,670
Lancaster	LA	23	66	11,770	2,720	14,490
Llandrindod Wells	LD	8	16	2,206	416	2,622
Leicester	LE	28	152	21,968	11,732	33,700
Llandudno	LL	67	150	20,096	3,986	24,082
Lincoln	LN	13	49	9,052	2,662	11,714
Leeds	LS	32	150	21,413	9,728	31,141
Luton	LU	8	36	6,205	3,906	10,111
Manchester	M	48	302	31,562	26,147	57,709
Medway	ME	21	83	16,064	5,377	21,441
Milton Keynes	MK	28	112	15,006	7,028	22,034
Motherwell	ML	12	55	9,556	1,938	11,494
London N	N	25	112	17,498	11,070	28,568
Newcastle upon Tyne	NE	67	230	32,914	11,331	44,245
Nottingham	NG	32	167	28,531	7,993	36,524
Northampton	NN	20	101	16,008	8,213	24,221
Newport	NP	25	142	13,566	16,505	30,071
Norwich	NR	36	114	23,096	4,579	27,675
London NW	NW	13	83	14,107	10,789	24,896
Oldham	OL	17	70	13,036	4,411	17,447
Oxford	OX	28	146	19,239	14,656	33,895
Paisley	PA	78	116	9,280	3,456	12,736
Peterborough	PE	39	162	25,995	12,112	38,107
Perth	PH	43	61	6,032	1,225	7,257
Plymouth	PL	36	99	17,264	4,642	21,906
Portsmouth	PO	34	131	23,846	8,286	32,132
Preston	PR	13	83	12,829	6,592	19,421
Reading	RG	35	184	22,770	22,063	44,833
Redhill	RH	21	90	15,856	7,630	23,486
Romford	RM	21	71	9,823	4,988	14,811
Sheffield	S	55	249	33,163	15,048	48,211

Postcode Area	Post code Area Code	Postcode Districts	Post code Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Swansea	SA	53	152	23,114	5,839	28,953
London SE	SE	30	129	20,435	12,734	33,169
Stevenage	SG	19	65	11,720	4,729	16,449
Stockport	SK	19	113	16,256	8,229	24,485
Slough	SL	12	58	10,719	5,678	16,397
Sutton	SM	7	29	4,369	2,131	6,500
Swindon	SN	23	113	14,204	6,617	20,821
Southampton	SO	31	181	18,122	21,256	39,378
Salisbury	SP	11	47	8,426	2,611	11,037
Sunderland	SR	11	41	6,546	1,968	8,514
Southend-on-Sea	SS	19	81	11,792	5,159	16,951
Stoke-on-Trent	ST	22	90	17,451	4,774	22,225
London SW	SW	29	141	20,369	15,335	35,704
Shrewsbury	SY	26	86	14,253	2,650	16,903
Taunton	TA	24	67	11,534	2,837	14,371
Galashiels	TD	15	36	4,459	709	5,168
Telford	TF	13	43	6,842	2,141	8,983
Tonbridge	TN	40	128	22,443	9,392	31,835
Torquay	TQ	14	50	9,927	3,010	12,937
Truro	TR	28	68	11,822	3,058	14,880
Cleveland	TS	30	103	17,292	5,233	22,525
Twickenham	TW	20	80	11,090	8,588	19,678
Southall	UB	12	41	7,083	4,199	11,282
London W	W	35	217	19,125	20,384	39,509
Warrington	WA	18	97	18,017	7,114	25,131
London WC	WC	15	46	2,739	4,629	7,368
Watford	WD	14	70	7,317	8,366	15,683
Wakefield	WF	18	75	14,178	3,654	17,832
Wigan	WN	8	35	7,062	1,914	8,976
Worcester	WR	17	50	8,479	3,673	12,152
Walsall	WS	15	67	9,939	4,618	14,557
Wolverhampton	WV	18	62	10,372	3,686	14,058
York	YO	37	161	18,250	15,364	33,614
Shetland	ZE	3	4	647	93	740
United Kingdom	**121**	**3,088**	**12,299**	**1,742,075**	**838,669**	**2,580,744**
Guernsey	GY	10	16	3,336	30	3,366
Isle of Man	IM	11	53	4,705	1,287	5,992
Jersey	JE	5	29	3,239	271	3,510
Channel Islands/ Isle of Man	**3**	**26**	**98**	**11,280**	**1,588**	**12,868**
Total	**124**	**3,114**	**12,397**	**1,753,355**	**840,257**	**2,593,612**

NB. The postcode directory also contains the Santander UK plc postcode GIR 0AA, giving a total of **2,593,613** 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	381,247	61.0%	1,478,999	96.3%	14,500	53.9%	92,331	83.3%	22,523	55.0%	162,795	90.1%
2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	332	0.2%
3	817	0.1%	2,421	0.2%	23	0.1%	118	0.1%	68	0.2%	481	0.3%
4	39	0.0%	106	0.0%	2	0.0%	15	0.0%	7	0.0%	5	0.0%
5	39,259	6.3%	4,662	0.3%	1,618	6.0%	220	0.2%	2,445	6.0%	533	0.3%
6	65,866	10.5%	132	0.0%	2,222	8.3%	3	0.0%	4,187	10.2%	12	0.0%
8	131,635	21.1%	49,334	3.2%	7,900	29.3%	18,208	16.4%	11,305	27.6%	16,454	9.1%
9	5,937	1.0%	167	0.0%	652	2.4%	2	0.0%	382	0.9%	8	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	**624,800**	**100%**	**1,535,821**	**100%**	**26,917**	**100%**	**110,897**	**100%**	**40,917**	**100%**	**180,620**	**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	418,270	60.4%	1,734,125	94.9%	1,383	15.0%	46,653	90.5%	419,653	59.8%	1,780,778	94.8%
2	0	0.0%	332	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	332	0.0%
3	908	0.1%	3,020	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	908	0.1%	3,020	0.2%
4	48	0.0%	126	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	48	0.0%	126	0.0%
5	43,322	6.3%	5,415	0.3%	3,264	35.3%	1,574	3.1%	46,586	6.6%	6,989	0.4%
6	72,275	10.4%	147	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	72,275	10.3%	147	0.0%
8	150,840	21.8%	83,996	4.6%	2,795	30.3%	2,868	5.6%	153,635	21.9%	86,864	4.6%
9	6,971	1.0%	177	0.0%	1,797	19.5%	439	0.9%	8,768	1.2%	616	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	**692,634**	**100%**	**1,827,338**	**100%**	**9,239**	**100%**	**51,534**	**100%**	**701,873**	**100%**	**1,878,872**	**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		419,653	59.5%	1,780,778	94.3%
2	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		0	0.0%	332	0.0%
3	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		908	0.1%	3,020	0.2%
4	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		48	0.0%	126	0.0%
5	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		46,586	6.6%	6,989	0.4%
6	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		72,275	10.2%	147	0.0%
8	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		153,635	21.8%	86,864	4.6%
9	2,019	100.0%	4,857	100.0%	1,618	100.0%	4,374	100.0%	12,405	1.8%	9,847	0.5%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	**2,019**	**100%**	**4,857**	**100%**	**1,618**	**100%**	**4,374**	**100%**	**705,510**	**100%**	**1,888,103**	**100%**

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

Table 4

Numbers of Terminated Postcodes

Country	Number
England	715,058
Wales	46,784
Scotland	64,776
Great Britain	**826,618**
Northern Ireland	12,051
United Kingdom	**838,669**
Channel Islands	301
Isle of Man	1,287
All	**840,257**

NUTS Classification Areal Levels

NUTS (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics) is a hierarchical classification of spatial units that provides a breakdown of the European Union's territory for producing regional statistics which are comparable across the Union.

The NUTS 1-3 codes are current to 2015 and a summary of the structure, including the numbers of areas for each country at each level, is shown below.

	England	**Wales**	**Scotland**	**Northern Ireland**	**Total**
NUTS 1	Regions (formerly Government Office Regions) (9)	Country (1)	Country (1)	Country (1)	12
NUTS 2	Individual counties or groups of counties/London boroughs/metropolitan districts/unitary authorities (30)	Groups of unitary authorities (2)	Groups of whole/part unitary authorities and/or local enterprise company areas (4)	Country (1)	37
NUTS 3	Individual counties/unitary authorities or groups of counties/London boroughs/metropolitan districts/unitary authorities/county districts (99)	Groups of unitary authorities (12)	Groups of whole/part unitary authorities and/or local enterprise company areas (23)	Groups of district unitary authorities (5)	139

Annex B

NSPL Record Specification

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
7	Unit postcode – 7 character version	AB1Δ1AA-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	AB1ΔΔ1AA-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	AB1Δ1AAΔ-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**

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[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	2011 Census Output Area (OA)/ Small Area (SA)	E00, W00, S00, N00, pseudo or null	The 2011 Census OAs in GB and SAs in Northern Ireland were based on 2001 Census OAs, and they form the building bricks for defining higher level geographies. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. E00000001 - E00176774 = England; W00000001 - W00010265 = Wales; S00088956 – S00135306 = Scotland; N00000001 – N00004537 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**OA11**
9	County	E10, pseudo or null	The current county to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for English UAs, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E10000002 - E10000034 = England; E99999999 (pseudo) = England (UA/MD/LB); W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**CTY**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Local Authority District (LAD)/unitary authority (UA)/ metropolitan district (MD)/ London borough (LB)/ council area (CA)/district council area (DCA)	E06, E07, E08, E09, W06, S12, N09, pseudo or null	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. E06000001 - E06000057 = England (UA); E07000004 - E07000243 = England (LAD); E08000001 - E08000037 = England (MD); E09000001 - E09000033 = England (LB); W06000001 - W06000024 = Wales (UA); S12000005 - S12000046 = Scotland (CA); N09000001 - N09000011 = Northern Ireland (DCA); L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**LAUA**
9	(Electoral) ward/division	E05, W05, S13, N08, pseudo or null	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. E05000026 - E05010773 = England; W05000041 - W05000991 = Wales; S13002476 - S13002834 = Scotland; N08000101 – N08001140 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**WARD**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Former Strategic Health Authority (SHA)/ Local Health Board (LHB)/ Health Board (HB)/ Health Authority (HA)/ Health & Social Care Board (HSCB)	E18, W11, S08, ZB001, L00, M00 or null	The health area code for the postcode. SHAs were abolished in England in 2013 but the codes remain as a 'frozen' geography. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E18000001 - E18000010 = England (SHA); W11000023 - W11000029 = Wales (LHB); S08000015 - S08000028 = Scotland (HB); ZB001 = Northern Ireland (HSCB); L00000001 - L00000003 = Channel Islands (HA); M00000001 = Isle of Man (HA); null = no information available	**HLTHAU**
9	Pan SHA	E19, pseudo or null	The Pan SHA responsible for the associated strategic health authority for each postcode in England. 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. E19000001 - E19000003 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**HRO**
9	Country	E92, W92, S92, N92, L93 or M83	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. E92000001 = England; W92000004 = Wales; S92000003 = Scotland; N92000002 = Northern Ireland; L93000001 = Channel Islands; M83000003 = Isle of Man	**CTRY**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Region (former GOR)	E12, pseudo or null	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. 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	**GOR**
9	Westminster parliamentary constituency	E14, W07, S14, N06, pseudo or null	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. E14000530 - E14001062 = England; W07000041 - W07000080 = Wales; S14000001 - S14000059 = Scotland; N06000001 – N06000018 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**PCON**
9	European Electoral Region (EER)	E15, W08, S15, N07, pseudo or null	The European Electoral Region code for each postcode. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E15000001 - E15000009 = England; W08000001 = Wales; S15000001 = Scotland; N07000001 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**EER**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Local Learning and Skills Council (LLSC)/ Dept. of Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS)/ Enterprise Region (ER)	E24, W16, S09, pseudo or null	The LLSC (England), DCELLS (Wales) or ER (Scotland) code for each postcode. 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. E24000001 - E24000047 = England (LLSC); W16000001 - W16000004 = Wales (DCELLS); S09000001 - S09000006 = Scotland (ER); N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**TECLEC**
9	Travel to Work Area (TTWA)	E30, W22, S22, K01, N12, pseudo or null	The 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. E30000004 - E30000294 = England; W22000003 - W22000034 = Wales; S22000005 - S22000083 = Scotland; K01000009 - K01000014 = cross-border; N12000001 – N12000010 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**TTWA**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Primary Care Trust (PCT)/ Care Trust/ Care Trust Plus (CT)/ Local Health Board (LHB)/ Community Health Partnership (CHP)/ Local Commissioning Group (LCG)/ Primary Healthcare Directorate (PHD)	E16, E17, W11, S03, ZC010– ZC050, M01, pseudo or null	The code for the PCT/CT areas in England, LHBs in Wales, CHPs in Scotland, LCG in Northern Ireland and PHD in the Isle of Man. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E16000001 - E16000151 = England (PCT); E17000001 - E17000006 = England (CT); W11000023 - W11000029 = Wales (LHB); S03000001 - S03000044 = Scotland (CHP); ZC010 - ZC050 = Northern Ireland (LCG); M01000001 = Isle of Man (PHD); L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; null = no information available	**PCT**
10	LAU2 area	E05, W05, S31, UKN0100001- UKN0507021, pseudo or null	The national LAU2-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 grid reference. E05000026 - E05010773 = England; W05000041 - W05000991 = Wales; S31000001 – S31001229 = Scotland; UKN0100001 - UKN0507021 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**NUTS**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	National park	E26, W18, W31, S21, pseudo or null	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. 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	**PARK**
9	2011 Census Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)/ Data Zone (DZ)/ SOA	E01, W01, S01, 95AA01S1– 95ZZ16S2, pseudo or null	The 2011 Census LSOA code for England and Wales, SOA code for Northern Ireland and DZ code for Scotland. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. N.B. NI SOAs remain unchanged from 2001. E01000001 - E01033768 = England; W01000001 - W01001958 = Wales; S01006506 - S01013481 = Scotland; 95AA01S1 - 95ZZ16S2 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**LSOA11**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA)/ Intermediate Zone (IZ)	E02, W02, S02, pseudo or null	The 2011 Census MSOA code for England and Wales and IZ code for 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. E02000001 - E02006934 = England; W02000001 - W02000423 = Wales; S02001236 - S02002514 = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**MSOA11**
9	2011 Census Workplace Zone	E33, W35, S34, N19, pseudo or null	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. 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	**WZ11**
9	Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)/ 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	The code for the CCG areas in England, LHBs in Wales, CHPs in Scotland, LCG in Northern Ireland and PHD in the Isle of Man. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands. The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no OA code. E38000001-E38000214 = England (CCG); W11000023-W11000029 = Wales (LHB); S03000001-S03000044 = Scotland (CHP); ZC010-ZC050 = Northern Ireland (LCG); M01000001 = Isle of Man (PHD); L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; null = no information available	**CCG**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Built-up Area (BUA)	E34, W37, K05, pseudo or null	The code for the BUAs in England and Wales. Pseudo codes are included for those OAs not classed as 'built-up' and 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 postcodes with no OA code. E34000001-E34005057 = England; E34999999 (pseudo) = England (not covered); W37000001-W37000427 = Wales; W37999999 (pseudo) = Wales (not covered); K05000001-K05000011 = cross-border; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**BUA11**
9	Built-up Area Sub-division (BUASD)	E35, W38, K06, pseudo or null	The code for the BUASDs in England and Wales. Pseudo codes are included for those OAs not classed as 'built-up' and 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 postcodes with no OA code. E35000001-E35001670 = England; E35999999 (pseudo) = England (not covered); W38000001-W38000153 = Wales; W38999999 (pseudo) = Wales (not covered); K06000001-K06000004 = cross-border; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**BUASD11**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
2	2011 Census rural-urban classification	A1-F2, 1-8, TBA, pseudo or null	The 2011 Census rural-urban classification of OAs for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. A1-F2 = England and Wales: 1-8 = Scotland; TBA = Northern Ireland; Z9 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available	**RU11IND**
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 – E37000040 = 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**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
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 – E37000040 = 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**
9	Police Force Area (PFA)	E23, W15, S23, pseudo or null	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. 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	**PFA**
5	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)	Numeric	The IMD rank for the LSOA of each postcode, where 1 is the most deprived. A zero is included for Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man, also for postcodes with no OA code. 1 – 32844 = England; 1 – 1909 = Wales; 1 – 6976 = Scotland; 0 = Northern Ireland; 0 = Channel Islands; 0 = Isle of Man; 0 = no information available	**IMD**

Annex C

Data Formats and Media

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. 'NOV'
Where 'yyyy' = year e.g. '2016'

Format: Comma Separated Variable
File type: .csv
Record length: 297

Format: ASCII
File type: .txt
Record length: 297

2011 Census Very Small Population Wards and Their Assigned OA

Very Small Population Ward code	Very Small Population Ward name	Assigned OA
City of London		
E05009298	Cheap	E00000007
E05009299	Coleman Street	E00000019
E05009290	Bassishaw	E00000021
E05009293	Bread Street	E00000024
E05009297	Castle Baynard	E00000024
E05009289	Aldgate	E00000035
E05009291	Billingsgate	E00000035
E05009294	Bridge	E00000035
E05009306	Langbourn	E00000035
E05009295	Broad Street	E00166755
E05009296	Candlewick	E00166755
E05009301	Cornhill	E00166755
E05009307	Lime Street	E00166755
E05009300	Cordwainer	E00166757
E05009303	Dowgate	E00166757
E05009311	Vintry	E00166757
E05009312	Walbrook	E00166757
Isles of Scilly		
E05008322	Bryher	E00096400