ONS Postcode Directory User Guide

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Office for National Statistics

A National Statistics Publication

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Contents

1.   **Introduction**

The ONS Postcode Directory (ONSPD) relates both current and terminated postcodes in the United Kingdom to a range of current statutory administrative, electoral, health and other area geographies. The ONSPD is produced by ONS Geography, who provide geographic support to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and geographic services used by other organisations. We issue the ONSPD quarterly.

This User Guide contains information about the ONSPD 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 ONSPD reflects current and terminated postcodes using information supplied monthly by Royal Mail. It relates postcodes (as at the third Friday of the month prior to each release) to administrative and electoral areas as at the preceding May and to the latest known health areas. The area assignments for postcodes in Scotland are to the latest electoral wards and council areas. The area assignments for postcodes in Northern Ireland are to the latest electoral wards and district council areas.

The ONSPD uses the Government Statistical Service (GSS) standard 9-character codes for administrative, electoral and health areas. Code ranges for other geographies are those used by the organisation responsible for the geographies where a code range already exists. Lookup files linking these codes to statutory area names are included with the ONSPD, in the 'Documents' folder. You are encouraged to adopt these standard names and codes, as they are the recognised standard for National Statistics.

The Gridlink® methodology used to create the ONSPD, based on 1-metre grid references and digital administrative and electoral area boundaries, was introduced in November 2000. Further information on the Gridlink® initiative is provided in Section 8.

The ONSPD is available to download (see Annex B) and the record specification at Annex A contains details of all available fields.

2.   **News**

2.1   **New Built-up Areas (BUA)**

This release of the ONSPD includes the 2024 Built-up Areas for England and Wales, with pseudo codes currently included for Scotland. Please note that Built-up Area Sub-divisions (BUASD) no longer exist and have been removed from the ONSPD.

2.2   **New Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies**

This release of the ONSPD includes the new Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies as used in the recent general election.

2.3   **2021 Census Output Area (OA) Hierarchy**

This release of the ONSPD also includes the 2021 Census Output Area (OA) hierarchy for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. As well as the OAs, this includes the Lower and Middle Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA and MSOA respectively) for England and Wales, and LSOAs for Northern Ireland. It also includes the new OAs for Scotland. Please see Annex A for details and field names.

2.4   **Changes from NUTS to ITL**

Following the UK's withdrawal from the EU, a new UK-managed international statistical geography - ITL (International Territorial Levels) - has been 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 have been established to mirror the NUTS system. They will also follow a similar review timetable – every three years. Consequently, from May 2021, the 'NUTS' field has been renamed to 'ITL' and the content updated accordingly. Details of the ITLs and how they will be managed will be published on the ONS website.

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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 ONSPD 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.

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.

Table 4 shows the numbers of terminated postcodes.

5.   Currency of the Administrative and Health Geographies

This release of the ONSPD relates current postcodes in the United Kingdom to May 2010 electoral areas, May 2023 administrative areas and to April 2023 health areas.

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 9 and 10. In some cases the imputation procedure cannot assign a grid reference and, because the Gridlink® processing system assigns postcodes to administrative and electoral areas using grid references with digital administrative and electoral area boundaries, 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. <u>Imputation</u>: 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.

  2. <u>Straddling</u>: As the postal and administrative/electoral geographies do not map directly onto one another, postcodes often other boundaries. Postcodes are always assigned to single administrative and electoral areas 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 10).

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 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. <u>Update</u>: 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. <u>Drift</u>: 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. <u>Re-use</u>: 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.

7.   Postcode Format

The ONSPD 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 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.
- UK country codes.
- Electoral ward codes.

- Administrative local authority district codes.
- Administrative unitary authority codes.
- Administrative county codes.
- Health regional area codes.
- Health authority codes.

Each of the Gridlink® Consortium members produces their postcode products based upon the core data. A diagram showing the Gridlink® data and other geography allocation methods is included at Annex E.

9.   Geographic Coordinates

Postcode coordinates on the ONSPD 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.   Geographical Assignment of Postcodes

Administrative and electoral areas

As part of the Gridlink® initiative, GB postcodes in the ONSPD are assigned to administrative and electoral areas by OS using a 'point-in-polygon' methodology that matches grid references for postcodes (derived from OS AddressBase® – see previous section) against their Boundary-Line™ product. The draft version of Boundary-Line™ is produced in May and contains all administrative and electoral area boundary changes to that month, and is used for the May version of the ONSPD. Any errors, omissions or inconsistencies in this draft version are corrected by OS for the final release in

October, which is then included in the November ONSPD. A similar process is used by LPS in Northern Ireland, which enables us to produce a UK postcode directory.

<u>Health areas and administrative and electoral areas</u>

Changes to administrative and electoral area boundaries are not automatically applied to health areas so the two boundary sets have ceased to be co-terminous, but the impact on postcode assignments has been minimised through use of digital health area boundaries either defined in terms of co-terminous administrative and electoral areas or built from 2011 Census LSOAs.

Similarly, in Scotland, administrative and electoral boundary changes do not routinely affect health boundaries although health area boundaries may later be altered to align with changed administrative and electoral area boundaries.

As changes to administrative and electoral boundaries in Northern Ireland usually change about every 10 years or so, boundary co-terminosity is more stable than elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

<u>Other geographies</u>

Other area assignments are based on point-in-polygon techniques and the appropriate digital boundaries.

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 were assigned a PQI of 6 (see Section 9).

12. Terminated Postcodes

Postcodes are 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 ONSPD 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 ONSPD, 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 ONSPD. 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 ONSPD are shown in Table 4.

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 (including 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 ONSPD 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. 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.

17. 2001 Census Output Areas (OA)

Postcodes were originally assigned to 2001 Census OAs by one of two methods.

Method 1:

A postcode to OA lookup was compiled incorporating those 1.52 million postcodes existing at the date of the 2001 Census (29 April) used to create OAs. The design of the OAs was constrained by those electoral ward boundaries promulgated in Statutory Instruments by the end of December 2002. Consequently, some postcodes were split by the electoral ward boundaries. In these instances, the split postcodes were assigned to a single OA based on where the majority of the population was

located. This differed from the methodology used to assign postcodes to electoral wards and administrative areas, which use the grid reference of the address closest to the postcode mean and digital boundaries.

Assigning postcodes to OAs using a population-weighted methodology and the best-fitting OAs to electoral wards can result in different postcode:electoral ward assignments when compared to a direct address-weighted point-in-polygon assignment (i.e. Gridlink®). This is because there may be more people in one part of a split postcode which results in the whole postcode being assigned to a particular OA yet, in some circumstances, there may be more addresses in the other part of the split which results in the postcode being assigned to a different OA.

Within the 1.52 million postcodes, some 267,354 large user postcodes, mainly large employer PO Box postcodes, were reviewed for the purpose of producing Census statistics because their grid references were linked to the local Royal Mail sorting office rather than their physical location. The large user postcodes included in the review were assigned to the appropriate OAs based on their geographical location but their Gridlink® grid references were not changed. Consequently, the use of point-in-polygon methodology to assign these postcodes to OAs produced different OA assignments to those included on the lookup.

Method 2:

The remaining 0.54 million postcodes in England and Wales, which comprise both new postcodes since April 2001 and postcodes terminated prior to that date, were assigned to an OA using a set of digital OA boundaries and their Gridlink® grid references.

Over time, the use of the original methodologies to assign OAs to postcodes caused inaccuracies for some allocations. From August 2006, the common point-in-polygon methodology used in 'Method 2', above, was introduced to allocate all postcodes to OAs, bringing this geography in line with the majority on the ONSPD.

17.1 Postcode Assigned to both English and Scottish 2001 Census OAs

National Records of Scotland (NRS) maintains a separate Scottish postcode directory called the Postcode Index. One postcode (TD15 1UY) assigned to a Scottish OA in the Postcode Index (because a part of it falls in Scotland) is assigned to an English OA in the ONSPD (because the part of it falling in England comprises a larger population). Consequently, the assignments for this postcode will differ between the ONSPD and the Postcode Index.

18. 2001 Census Area Classification for Output Areas (OAC)

The 2001 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 2001 population census data. The classification was originally produced with lower case characters which have been converted to upper case for consistency purposes on the ONSPD.

19. 2001 Census Super Output Areas (SOA) and Scottish Data and Intermediate Zones (DZ & IZ)

SOAs exist in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; the Scottish equivalents are DZs and IZs (originally called Intermediate Geographies – IG).

England and Wales

The Lower Layer SOAs (LSOA) have been designed with a mean population figure of 1500 and each consists of a grouping of OAs, typically five. There are 34,378 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.

<u>Scotland</u>

DZs are the core Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics geography. There are 6,505 DZs, each containing 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. There are 1,235 IZs.

<u>Northern Ireland</u>

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.

20.   Statistical Wards

'Statistical' wards were those electoral wards promulgated in Statutory Instruments by the end of a calendar year and implemented for statistical purposes on 1 April in the following year, irrespective of the year of statutory operation. The policy on statistical wards was agreed by ministers and was originally intended to minimise the impact on statistics of the frequent changes to the electoral ward boundaries.

However, in 2006 a change to the policy on statistical wards was agreed by the then NSGG (the National Statistics Geography Group). The 1 April implementation date is retained but it now relates to those administrative and electoral areas that are statutorily operative on 31 December of the previous calendar year (i.e. statutory wards). As such, statistical wards no longer exist – the last set produced was 2005 statistical wards.

21.   2001 Census Area Statistics (CAS) Wards

In processing 2001 Census data for publication, 18 2003 statistical wards were identified as sub-threshold i.e. the count of population and households fell below the threshold for creating OAs and for the non-disclosive release of Census data. These 18 sub-threshold wards were combined with seven 'receiving' wards to form acceptably sized OAs and permit publication of data. The sub-threshold wards are not separately identified in the ONSPD and postcodes in these statistical wards have been assigned to their receiving ward. The resulting set of wards is known as CAS wards. Details of all the CAS ward code ranges are included in the Record Specification at Annex A. The 18 sub-threshold wards in England and their receiving wards are detailed in Annex C.

22.   Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies

<u>England and Wales</u>

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 2010 General Election.

<u>Scotland</u>

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 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.

23.   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.

24.   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 ONSPD 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.

25.   NHS England (Regions) (NHSER)

NHSERs (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.

26.   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 region covered a number of local authorities.

27.   Standard Statistical Regions (SSR)

The 8 SSRs were the primary statistical subdivisions of England before the GORs (see above) were adopted for this purpose in 1996. They are now rarely used.

28.   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, data zones in Scotland, and SOAs in Northern Ireland (see Section 34). The previous (2007) areas were based on the same statistical geographies from the 2001 Census.

29.   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.

30.   2001 Census Urban/Rural Indicators

England & Wales

The urban and rural classification of postcodes for England and Wales allows datasets to be analysed according to different types of urban and rural area. This is based on the National Statistics urban and rural classification of Output Areas (OA) released on 21 July 2004: the product of joint work between the Countryside Agency, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, National Assembly for Wales and Office for National Statistics.

Postcodes have been assigned to the urban or rural category of the OA into which each falls. OAs are treated as 'urban' if the majority of their population live within settlements with a population of 10,000 or more. The remaining 'rural' OAs are grouped into three other broad morphological types based on the predominant settlement component – i.e. whether the population density for the OA shows characteristics that are predominantly town and fringe, predominantly village or predominantly dispersed (the latter includes hamlets and isolated dwellings).

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:

1 = Urban ≥ 10k – sparse: OA falls within urban settlements with a population of 10,000 or more and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;

2 = Town and Fringe – sparse: OA falls within the Town and Fringe category and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;

3 = Village – sparse: OA falls within the Village category and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;

4 = Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling – sparse: OA falls within the Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling category and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;

5 = Urban ≥ 10k – less sparse: OA falls within urban settlements with a population of 10,000 or more and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;

6 = Town and Fringe – less sparse: OA falls within the Town and Fringe category and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;

7 = Village – less sparse: OA falls within the Village category and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;

8 = Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling – less sparse: OA falls within the Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling category and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated.

Scotland

The urban/rural classification in Scotland is consistent with the Scottish Executive's core definition of rurality which 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.

Postcodes have been assigned to the urban or rural category on an individual basis, based upon data received from GROS:

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

In Northern Ireland, an eight-band categorisation of settlements was introduced in February 2005. These categories range from Band A (Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area) to Band H (Small Village, Hamlet or Open Countryside) with bands A – E being classed as 'urban' and bands F – H being classed as 'rural'. The DOE (Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland) Planning Service statutory settlement development limits have been used as the geographical delineation of settlements:

A = Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area;
B = Derry Urban Area;
C = Large Town: 18,000 and under 75,000 people;
D = Medium Town: 10,000 and under 18,000 people;
E = Small Town: 4,500 and under 10,000 people;
F = Intermediate Settlement: 2,250 and under 4,500 people;
G = Village: 1,000 and under 2,250 people;
H = Small Village, Hamlet or Open Countryside: less than 1,000 people.

31.   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 approximately 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

In 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 are based on postcodes as at Census Day 2011 while the unmaintained OAs will still reflect 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 fitted into the appropriate locality (urban area) which are seen as an increasingly important statistical area. Where possible, postcodes which 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 that increased in size, particularly those that 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 9-character format. There are 4,537 small areas in Northern Ireland.

32.   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 ONSPD. You can download a complete listing of the OAC names and codes from the Open Geography portal.

33.   2011 Census Super Output Areas (SOA) and 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.

34.   Parishes and Unparished Areas

The smallest type of administrative area in England is the parish (also known as 'civil parish'); the equivalent unit in Wales is the community.

England (parishes)

Parishes are a very old form of spatial unit which originally represented areas of both civil and ecclesiastical administration. They used to be significant local government areas but now have very limited functions. Parishes are confined within local authority boundaries and are affected by the boundary changes of the county districts or unitary authorities in which they fall, but they are not contiguous with electoral wards. Some areas of the country have parishes and others not, making them an unsatisfactory unit for national statistical production. Many parishes are a similar size to wards, but some can contain several wards, and ward boundaries need not be followed.

England (unparished areas)

Within each English local authority, any area not covered by one or more parishes is known as 'unparished'. These areas are coded individually by local authority.

Wales (communities)

Communities fit into and change with unitary authorities. Unlike parishes in England, communities cover the whole of Wales, and this gives them greater potential as a statistical unit.

35.   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. The upper threshold of a WZ is unlimited postcodes or 625 workers and the lower threshold is three postcodes or 200 workers.

*Any queries regarding Scottish WZs should be directed to NRS Geography Customer Services.

36.   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 44).

37.   2021 Census Built-up Areas (BUA)

BUAs 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. They were updated after the 2021 Census.

38.   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 Output Areas (OA) 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 (see 2001 Census urban/rural indicators, above). OAs have been assigned to the urban or rural category on an individual basis, based upon data received from GROS.

Northern Ireland

This data is not yet available.

39.   **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.

40.   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.

41.   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.

42.   Cancer Alliances (CAL)

CALs lead the local delivery of the Independent Cancer Taskforce's ambitions for improving services, care and outcomes for everyone with cancer. There are currently 21 Cancer Alliances covering England.

43.   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.

44.   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 ONSPD uses the Government Statistical Service (GSS) standard 9-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.

45.   Directory Specifications

Annex A lists the specification for the records on the ONSPD, 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. If you use the .csv format, the field names are also given.

46.   Data Format

The ONSPD is available to download in comma separated variable (CSV) format. Details are given in Annex B.

47.   Limitations/Data Quality

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

Two types of errors may occur in the ONSPD - 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 ONSPD) 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 ONSPD. You should report missing postcodes 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 ONSPD 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 ONSPD are included on the subsequent ONSPD release.

Incompatibility with certain spreadsheet packages

Due to the large number of records on the ONSPD, 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		
	NOV 2024	FEB 2025	Change	NOV 2024	FEB 2025	Change	NOV 2024	FEB 2025	Change
England	655,114	655,652	+538	1,607,303	1,609,258	+1,955	2,262,417	2,264,910	+2,493
Wales	28,158	28,203	+45	113,337	113,397	+60	141,495	141,600	+105
Scotland	42,800	42,828	+28	186,885	187,048	+163	229,685	229,876	+191
Great Britain	**726,072**	**726,683**	**+611**	**1,907,525**	**1,909,703**	**+2,178**	**2,633,597**	**2,636,386**	**+2,789**
Northern Ireland	9,697	9,712	+15	53,232	53,268	+36	62,929	62,980	+51
United Kingdom	**735,769**	**736,395**	**+626**	**1,960,757**	**1,962,971**	**+2,214**	**2,696,526**	**2,699,366**	**+2,840**
Guernsey	881	881	0	2,502	2,502	0	3,383	3,383	0
Jersey	1,168	1,168	0	2,488	2,494	+6	3,656	3,662	+6
Channel Islands	**2,049**	**2,049**	**0**	**4,990**	**4,996**	**+6**	**7,039**	**7,045**	**+6**
Isle of Man	1,643	1,643	0	4,450	4,452	+2	6,093	6,095	+2
All	**739,461**	**740,087**	**+626**	**1,970,197**	**1,972,419**	**+2,222**	**2,709,658**	**2,712,506**	**+2,848**

NB. The above figures 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	17,386	21,886	39,272
St Albans	AL	10	39	7,796	3,689	11,485
Birmingham	B	79	268	41,904	20,747	62,651
Bath	BA	19	81	15,511	5,037	20,548
Blackburn	BB	15	79	13,546	5,751	19,297
Bradford	BD	27	112	17,293	6,582	23,875
Bournemouth	BH	26	103	15,282	7,386	22,668
Bolton	BL	12	53	10,397	3,728	14,125
Brighton	BN	38	146	22,458	13,407	35,865
Bromley	BR	9	39	6,805	3,952	10,757
Bristol	BS	47	206	27,348	19,165	46,513
Belfast	BT	82	280	50,032	12,948	62,980
Carlisle	CA	30	85	12,853	3,714	16,567
Cambridge	CB	16	87	11,114	8,547	19,661
Cardiff	CF	46	204	23,429	19,603	43,032
Chester	CH	37	213	19,072	5,651	24,723
Chelmsford	CM	28	105	18,488	9,774	28,262
Colchester	CO	16	76	13,687	4,957	18,644
Croydon	CR	11	66	8,017	7,083	15,100
Canterbury	CT	22	83	15,228	5,123	20,351
Coventry	CV	24	112	21,068	8,081	29,149
Crewe	CW	13	52	9,809	4,637	14,446
Dartford	DA	18	59	9,190	4,117	13,307
Dundee	DD	11	52	9,110	2,426	11,536
Derby	DE	25	130	17,878	12,910	30,788
Dumfries	DG	15	43	6,899	927	7,826
Durham	DH	12	47	9,148	2,589	11,737
Darlington	DL	18	68	13,500	3,524	17,024
Doncaster	DN	33	119	22,175	6,355	28,530
Dorchester	DT	11	39	7,923	2,156	10,079
Dudley	DY	14	59	11,107	3,604	14,711
London E	E	23	110	16,900	12,672	29,572
London EC	EC	30	140	3,602	9,031	12,633
Edinburgh	EH	58	169	25,247	8,292	33,539
Enfield	EN	12	48	8,546	4,791	13,337
Exeter	EX	33	132	22,818	6,600	29,418
Falkirk	FK	21	49	7,788	1,983	9,771
Blackpool	FY	9	42	7,400	2,907	10,307
Glasgow	G	57	243	32,345	15,301	47,646
Gloucester	GL	27	120	21,591	7,903	29,494
Guildford	GU	40	146	22,556	13,983	36,539

Postcode Area	Post code Area Code	Postcode Districts	Post code Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Harrow	HA	10	58	10,230	7,676	17,906
Huddersfield	HD	9	43	7,218	3,658	10,876
Harrogate	HG	5	25	4,499	1,959	6,458
Hemel Hempstead	HP	24	81	14,108	8,243	22,351
Hereford	HR	9	33	6,531	1,570	8,101
Hebrides	HS	9	11	976	138	1,114
Hull	HU	21	70	11,261	4,426	15,687
Halifax	HX	7	32	5,703	1,831	7,534
Ilford	IG	11	35	6,105	4,224	10,329
Ipswich	IP	34	121	21,763	6,009	27,772
Inverness	IV	53	85	7,536	3,478	11,014
Kilmarnock	KA	30	88	11,770	2,665	14,435
Kingston upon Thames	KT	24	92	14,255	8,580	22,835
Kirkwall	KW	16	22	1,857	270	2,127
Kirkcaldy	KY	17	76	10,283	3,136	13,419
Liverpool	L	66	582	20,811	23,150	43,961
Lancaster	LA	23	66	11,947	3,023	14,970
Llandrindod Wells	LD	8	16	2,219	476	2,695
Leicester	LE	28	153	23,161	12,429	35,590
Llandudno	LL	67	150	20,299	4,376	24,675
Lincoln	LN	13	53	9,517	2,810	12,327
Leeds	LS	33	151	22,093	10,644	32,737
Luton	LU	8	37	6,431	4,322	10,753
Manchester	M	48	302	32,308	27,590	59,898
Medway	ME	21	83	17,051	6,036	23,087
Milton Keynes	MK	28	115	16,075	7,544	23,619
Motherwell	ML	12	55	9,846	2,190	12,036
London N	N	25	113	17,624	12,681	30,305
Newcastle upon Tyne	NE	67	231	33,775	12,414	46,189
Nottingham	NG	32	172	29,612	8,832	38,444
Northampton	NN	20	102	16,936	8,957	25,893
Newport	NP	25	142	13,880	16,944	30,824
Norwich	NR	36	115	24,141	4,917	29,058
London NW	NW	13	85	14,228	12,179	26,407
Oldham	OL	17	70	13,198	4,762	17,960
Oxford	OX	28	146	20,399	15,550	35,949
Paisley	PA	78	117	9,495	3,675	13,170
Peterborough	PE	39	169	27,531	12,697	40,228
Perth	PH	43	62	6,212	1,367	7,579
Plymouth	PL	36	99	17,829	5,304	23,133
Portsmouth	PO	35	132	24,425	9,208	33,633
Preston	PR	13	83	13,599	7,077	20,676
Reading	RG	35	184	23,723	22,798	46,521
Redhill	RH	21	91	16,326	8,601	24,927
Romford	RM	21	71	9,995	5,706	15,701
Sheffield	S	56	250	34,346	16,137	50,483

Postcode Area	Post code Area Code	Postcode Districts	Post code Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Swansea	SA	53	153	23,331	6,393	29,724
London SE	SE	30	130	20,864	14,696	35,560
Stevenage	SG	19	65	12,098	5,296	17,394
Stockport	SK	19	113	16,698	8,848	25,546
Slough	SL	12	58	10,665	6,260	16,925
Sutton	SM	7	29	4,340	2,473	6,813
Swindon	SN	23	114	14,629	7,353	21,982
Southampton	SO	31	181	18,575	22,184	40,759
Salisbury	SP	11	47	8,714	2,874	11,588
Sunderland	SR	11	44	6,810	2,202	9,012
Southend-on-Sea	SS	19	81	11,975	5,621	17,596
Stoke-on-Trent	ST	22	90	17,813	5,190	23,003
London SW	SW	29	141	20,042	17,324	37,366
Shrewsbury	SY	26	87	14,618	2,946	17,564
Taunton	TA	24	67	12,059	3,141	15,200
Galashiels	TD	15	36	4,525	801	5,326
Telford	TF	13	44	7,186	2,345	9,531
Tonbridge	TN	40	129	23,079	10,381	33,460
Torquay	TQ	14	50	10,093	3,343	13,436
Truro	TR	28	68	12,476	3,387	15,863
Cleveland	TS	30	103	17,799	5,534	23,333
Twickenham	TW	21	82	11,114	9,473	20,587
Southall	UB	12	41	7,194	4,581	11,775
London W	W	35	217	18,629	21,928	40,557
Warrington	WA	18	97	18,321	7,813	26,134
London WC	WC	15	46	2,577	4,934	7,511
Watford	WD	14	70	7,422	8,733	16,155
Wakefield	WF	18	75	14,720	4,015	18,735
Wigan	WN	8	35	7,281	2,098	9,379
Worcester	WR	17	50	8,966	3,917	12,883
Walsall	WS	15	68	10,298	4,872	15,170
Wolverhampton	WV	18	62	10,612	3,855	14,467
York	YO	37	161	19,204	15,919	35,123
Shetland	ZE	3	4	657	100	757
United Kingdom	**121**	**3,095**	**12,391**	**1,792,757**	**906,608**	**2,699,365**
Guernsey	GY	10	16	3,315	68	3,383
Isle of Man	IM	11	53	4,584	1,511	6,095
Jersey	JE	5	29	3,246	416	3,662
Channel Islands/ Isle of Man	**3**	**26**	**98**	**11,145**	**1,995**	**13,140**
Total	**124**	**3,121**	**12,489**	**1,803,902**	**908,603**	**2,712,505**

NB. The postcode directory also contains the Santander UK plc postcode GIR 0AA, giving a total of **2,712,506** 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	417,004	63.6%	1,553,344	96.5%	15,902	56.4%	94,915	83.7%	24,747	57.8%	169,318	90.5%
2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	478	0.3%
3	795	0.1%	2,296	0.1%	23	0.1%	110	0.1%	68	0.2%	474	0.3%
4	38	0.0%	99	0.0%	2	0.0%	15	0.0%	6	0.0%	5	0.0%
5	40,202	6.1%	5,221	0.3%	1,620	5.7%	229	0.2%	2,441	5.7%	557	0.3%
6	64,611	9.9%	210	0.0%	2,204	7.8%	8	0.0%	4,146	9.7%	23	0.0%
8	125,969	19.2%	47,921	3.0%	7,796	27.6%	18,118	16.0%	10,971	25.6%	16,185	8.7%
9	7,033	1.1%	167	0.0%	656	2.3%	2	0.0%	449	1.0%	8	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	**655,652**	**100%**	**1,609,258**	**100%**	**28,203**	**100%**	**113,397**	**100%**	**42,828**	**100%**	**187,048**	**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	457,653	63.0%	1,817,577	95.2%	1,376	14.2%	48,371	90.8%	459,029	62.3%	1,865,948	95.1%
2	0	0.0%	478	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	478	0.0%
3	886	0.1%	2,880	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	886	0.1%	2,880	0.1%
4	46	0.0%	119	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	46	0.0%	119	0.0%
5	44,263	6.1%	6,007	0.3%	3,339	34.4%	1,548	2.9%	47,602	6.5%	7,555	0.4%
6	70,961	9.8%	241	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	70,961	9.6%	241	0.0%
8	144,736	19.9%	82,224	4.3%	2,685	27.6%	2,841	5.3%	147,421	20.0%	85,065	4.3%
9	8,138	1.1%	177	0.0%	2,312	23.8%	508	1.0%	10,450	1.4%	685	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	**726,683**	**100%**	**1,909,703**	**100%**	**9,712**	**100%**	**53,268**	**100%**	**736,395**	**100%**	**1,962,971**	**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		459,029	62.0%	1,865,948	94.6%
2	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		0	0.0%	478	0.0%
3	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		886	0.1%	2,880	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		47,602	6.4%	7,555	0.4%
6	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		70,961	9.6%	241	0.0%
8	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		147,421	19.9%	85,065	4.3%
9	2,049	100.0%	4,996	100.0%	1,643	100.0%	4,452	100.0%	14,142	1.9%	10,133	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%**	**4,996**	**100%**	**1,643**	**100%**	**4,452**	**100%**	**740,087**	**100%**	**1,972,419**	**100%**

Table 4

Numbers of Terminated Postcodes

Country	Number
England	775,687
Wales	49,388
Scotland	68,585
Great Britain	**893,660**
Northern Ireland	12,948
United Kingdom	**906,608**
Channel Islands	484
Isle of Man	1,511
All	**908,603**

Annex A

ONSPD 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**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
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 grid reference. E10000003 – 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	**OSCTY**
9	County Electoral Division	E58, pseudo or null	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 grid reference. 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	**CED**

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 LAD/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 grid reference. E06000001 – E06000066 = England (UA); E07000008 – E07000246 = England (LAD); 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	**OSLAUA**
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 grid reference. E05000932 – E05015926 = England; W05001039 – W05001800 = Wales; S13002516 – S13003156 = Scotland; N08000101 – N08001140 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**OSWARD**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Parish/ community	E04, W04, pseudo or null	The parish (also known as 'civil parish') or unparished area code in England or community code in Wales. Pseudo codes are included for Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. E04000001 – E04013349 = England (parish); E43000001 – E43000296 = England (unparished area); W04000001 – W04001085 = Wales (community); S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**PARISH**
1	Postcode user type	0 or 1	Shows whether the postcode is a small or large user. 0 = small user; 1 = large user	**USERTYPE**
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**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
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[1]; 9 = no grid reference available	**OSGRDIND**
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 grid reference. E18000001 – E18000010 = England (SHA); W11000023 – W11000031 = Wales (LHB); S08000015 – S08000032 = Scotland (HB); ZB001 = Northern Ireland (HSCB); L00000001 – L00000003 = Channel Islands (HA); M00000001 = Isle of Man (HA); null = no information available	**OSHLTHAU**

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[1] 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	NHS England (Region) (NHS ER)	E40, pseudo or null	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. 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	**NHSER**
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**
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 be blank for postcodes in England with no grid reference. 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	**RGN**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
1	Standard Statistical Region (SSR)	1-8, pseudo or null	The SSR code for the associated county or unitary authority to which each postcode is assigned. A pseudo code is included for postcodes not in England. The field will be blank for postcodes in England with no grid reference. 1 – 8 = former standard statistical regions in England; 9 (pseudo) = Wales; 0 (pseudo) = postcode not in England or Wales; null = no information available	**STREG**
9	Westminster parliamentary constituency	E14, W07, S14, N05, 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 grid reference. E14001063 – E14001605 = England; W07000081 – W07000112 = Wales; S14000021 – S14000111 = Scotland; N05000001 – N05000018 = 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 EER 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. 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 grid reference. 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 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 grid reference. 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	**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 (England), LHBs (Wales), CHPs (Scotland), LCG (Northern Ireland) or PHD (Isle of Man); there are no equivalent areas in the Channel Islands (for which a pseudo code is included). The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. E16000001 – E16000151 = England (PCT); E17000001 – E17000006 = England (CT); 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	**PCT**
9	International Territorial Level (former NUTS)	E06, E07, E08, E09, W06, S30, N09, pseudo or null	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 grid reference. E06000001 – E06000066 = England; E07000008 – E07000245 = 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	**ITL**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
6	2005 'statistical' ward (England and Wales only)	00AAFA-47UGGM, 00NAMA- 00PTPL, pseudo or null	The administrative and electoral areas in England and Wales for each postcode, used for statistical analysis. A pseudo code is included for Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no grid reference. 01 – 47 = county code (England); 00 = UA code; England AA – UG = district/UA code, FA – GM = ward code; Wales NA – PT = UA code, MA – PL = ward code; 99ZZ00 (pseudo) = Scotland/NI/Channel Is/IoM; null = no information available	**STATSWARD**
10	2001 Census Output Area (OA)	E00, W00, S00, 95AA010001- 95ZZ519999, pseudo or null	The 2001 Census OAs were built from unit postcodes and constrained to 2003 'statistical' wards, 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 – E00165665 = England; W00000001 – W00009769 = Wales; S00000001 – S00042604 = Scotland; 95AA010001 – 95ZZ519999 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**OA01**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name

6	Census Area Statistics (CAS) ward	00AAFA-47UGGM, 00NAMA-00PTPL, 01C01-32C31, 95AA01-95ZZ51, pseudo or null	Sub-threshold wards (those below the threshold for creating OAs and for the non-disclosive release of Census data) are not separately identified in this field and postcodes in these 'statistical wards' have been assigned to their 'receiving ward'. The resulting set of wards is known as 'CAS Wards'. A pseudo code is included for Channel Island and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.
			
			01-47 = county code (England);
			00 = UA;
			England AA – UG = district/UA code,
			       FA – GM = CAS ward code;
			Wales NA – PT = UA code,
			       MA – PL = CAS ward code;
			Scotland 01C – 32C = UA code,
			       01 – 99 = CAS ward code,
			       99C99 = Scottish postcode with no CAS ward assigned;
			Northern Ireland 95 = county code,
			       AA – ZZ = district code,
			       01 – 51 = CAS ward code;
			99ZZ00 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man;
			null = no information available
				CASWARD

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; E65000001 = 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	**NPARK**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	2001 Census Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)/ Data Zone (DZ)/ Super Output Area (SOA)	E01, W01, S01, 95AA01S1– 95ZZ16S2, pseudo or null	The 2001 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 grid reference. E01000001 – E01032482 = England; W01000001 – W01001896 = Wales; S01000001 – S01006505 = Scotland; 95AA01S1 – 95ZZ16S2 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**LSOA01**
9	2001 Census Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA)/ Intermediate Zone (IZ)	E02, W02, S02, pseudo or null	The 2001 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 grid reference. E02000001 – E02006781 = England; W02000001 – W02000413 = Wales; S02000001 – S02001235 = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**MSOA01**
1	2001 Census urban/rural indicator	1-8, 1-8, A-H, pseudo or Δ	The 2001 Census urban and rural classification of OAs for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. N.B. the code ranges 1-8 differ between England/Wales and Scotland – see paragraph 31 for details. 1 – 8 = England and Wales; 1 – 8 = Scotland; A – E (Urban) and F-H (Rural) = Northern Ireland; 9 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; Δ = no information available	**UR01IND**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
3	2001 Census Output Area classification (OAC)	1A1-7B2, pseudo or null	The 2001 Census OAC code for each postcode in the UK. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. 1A1 – 7B2 = United Kingdom; 9Z9 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available	**OAC01**
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	2011 Census Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)/ Data Zone (DZ)/ SOA	E01, W01, S01, 95AA01S1– 95ZZ16S2, pseudo or null	The 2011 Census LSOA (England and Wales), SOA (Northern Ireland) and DZ (Scotland) code. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. 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	2011 Census 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 zone 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 grid reference. 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 (WZ)	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	Sub ICB Location (LOC)/ 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 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 grid reference. 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	**SICBL**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Built-up Area (BUA)	E63, W45, K08, pseudo or null	The code for the BUAs in England and Wales. Cross-border codes are included for areas straddling the English/Welsh border. Pseudo codes are included for Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for non-BUA postcodes or those with no grid reference. 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	**BUA24**
2	2011 Census rural-urban classification	A1-F2, 1-8, 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 grid reference. See paragraph 39 for details. A1 – F2 = England and Wales: 1 – 8 = Scotland; null = 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 grid reference. 1A1 – 8D3 = 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**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
10	Decimal degrees longitude	Numeric	The postcode coordinates in degrees longitude for each postcode 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 remainder of the UK. The field will be blank for English postcodes with no grid reference. 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 be blank for English postcodes with no grid reference. E370000001 – 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**
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). Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. 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**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
5	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)	Numeric	The IMD rank for the LSOA (or OA or DZ) 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 grid reference. 1 – 32844 = England; 1 – 1909 = Wales; 1 – 6976 = Scotland; 1 – 890 = Northern Ireland; 0 = Channel Islands; 0 = Isle of Man; 0 = no information available	**IMD**
9	Cancer Alliance (CAL)	E56, pseudo or null	The Cancer Alliance 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 grid reference. E56000005 – E56000035 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**CALNCV**
9	Integrated Care Board (ICB)	E54, pseudo or null	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 grid reference. E54000007 – 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	**ICB**

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	The 2021 Census OAs in England, Wales and Scotland were based on 2011 Census OAs, and they form the building bricks for defining higher level geographies. DZs are included for NI and pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. 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	**OA21**
9	2021 Census Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)/Super Data Zone (SDZ)	E01, W01, S01, N21, pseudo or null	The 2021 Census LSOA codes in England, Wales and Scotland. SDZs are included for NI and pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for Scottish postcodes, and those with no grid reference. E01000001 – E01035762 = England; W01000003 – W01002040 = Wales; S01013482 – S01020873 = Scotland; N21000001 – N21000850 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**LSOA21**
9	2021 Census Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA)	E02, W02, S02, pseudo or null	The 2021 Census MSOA code for England, Wales and Scotland. 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. E02000001 – E02007116 = England; W02000001 – W02000428 = Wales; S02002515 – S02003848 = Scotland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	**MSOA21**

Annex B

Data Format

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

File name: ONSPD_MMM_YYYY_UK

Where 'MMM' = month e.g. 'AUG'
Where 'YYYY' = year e.g. '2022'

Format: Comma Separated Variable
File type: .csv
Record length: 404

Format: ASCII
File type: .txt
Record length: 404

2001 Census Sub-Threshold Wards and Their 'Receiving Wards'

Sub-threshold ward code	Sub-threshold ward name	Receiving ward code	Receiving ward name
City of London			
00AAFC	Bassishaw	00AAFE	Bishopsgate
00AAFH	Broad Street	00AAFE	Bishopsgate
00AAFM	Coleman Street	00AAFE	Bishopsgate
00AAFK	Castle Baynard	00AAFS	Farringdon Within
00AAFF	Bread Street	00AAFY	Queenhithe
00AAFL	Cheap	00AAFY	Queenhithe
00AAFN	Cordwainer	00AAFY	Queenhithe
00AAGA	Vintry	00AAFY	Queenhithe
00AAFB	Aldgate	00AAFZ	Tower
00AAFD	Billingsgate	00AAFZ	Tower
00AAFW	Lime Street	00AAFZ	Tower
00AAFG	Bridge & Bridge Without	00AAGB	Walbrook
00AAFJ	Candlewick	00AAGB	Walbrook
00AAFP	Cornhill	00AAGB	Walbrook
00AAFR	Dowgate	00AAGB	Walbrook
00AAFU	Langbourn	00AAGB	Walbrook
Isles of Scilly			
15UHFA	Bryher	15UHFB	St. Agnes
Lancaster			
30UHHH	University	30UHGN	Ellel

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		
E05011090	Bryher	E00096400

Geography Allocation Diagram

This diagram shows the data supplied to ONS through the Gridlink® process, and the methodology for adding each geography to the ONSPD.

SOA (from OA)	OA
Urban/rural indicator (from OA)	Parliamentary Constituency
Country (from LAD)	EER
SSR (from LAD)	LLSC/DCELLS/ER
CAS ward (from OA)	Region
OAC (from OA)	Statistical ward
NI Primary Care area (from ward)	National Park
ITL (from LAD)	Parish
Rural-urban classification (from OA)	Workplace Zone
SICBL (from LSOA)	Primary Care area (except NI)
TTWA (from LSOA)	Built-up area
PFA (from LAD)	Local Enterprise Partnership
IMD (from OA)	County Electoral Division
Cancer Alliance (from CCG)	
ICB (from SICBL)	