



ONS

Postcode Directory

User Guide

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A National Statistics Publication

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Government Statistical Service

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

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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. It also links postcodes to pre-2002 health areas, 1991 Census enumeration districts (for England and Wales), and both 2001 and 2011 Census Output Areas (OA) and Super Output Areas (SOA). It helps support the production of area based statistics from postcoded data. 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;
- the methodology for assigning areas to postcodes;
- names and codes;
- data formats; and
- data quality and limitations.

A set of **Version Notes** accompanies each quarterly release of the ONSPD. These contain a range of summary statistics and highlight important issues that may affect customers. The **Version Notes** provide information about postcode reorganisations, administrative and electoral area changes, the introduction of new methodologies and/or geographies and limitations that are specific to a particular release of the ONSPD.

The ONSPD reflects current and terminated postcodes using information supplied on a monthly basis by Royal Mail. The ONSPD 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 also 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 5.

The record specification at Annex B contains details of all available fields.

The ONSPD is available to download (see Annex C).

Unit postcodes remain the copyright of Royal Mail. All other information on the ONSPD is Crown copyright. You should be aware of the attribution and sub-licensing requirements associated with the use of the Code-Point® Open data (from which our postcode products are derived) contained in the OS OpenData Licence, namely that the licensee:

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

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

2. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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

- This mainly applies to new postcodes, which are assigned grid references by ONS Geography using imputation techniques - see Sections 6 and 7. In some cases the imputation procedure cannot assign a grid reference and, because the 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. Imputation: Some postcodes are assigned to administrative and electoral areas using an imputed grid reference. Imputation is not an exact science and can cause postcodes to be wrongly assigned until more accurate information becomes available.
 2. Straddling: As the postal and administrative/electoral geographies do not map directly onto one another, postcodes often cross 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 7).

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

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

Why do some postcodes appear to move around?

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

a different location. If this happens, the grid reference and geography allocations will change accordingly.

3. Postcode Content

The ONSPD contains both 'live' postcodes and postcodes which have been terminated by Royal Mail but not subsequently re-used (see Section 10).

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

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

The 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 B).

4. Currency of Data

Postcodes

We receive information about postcode changes from Royal Mail on a monthly basis and so the currency of the UK postcodes on any version of the ONSPD will usually be to the third Friday in the previous month.

Administrative/electoral and health areas

Information about the currency of administrative/electoral and health areas on the ONSPD is contained in the **Version Notes**.

5. 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 will continue to maintain 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 F.

6. 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 MasterMap® 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 MasterMap® 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.

7. 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 MasterMap® – 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.

Health areas and administrative and electoral areas

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.

Other geographies

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

8. Scottish Input

ONS routinely receives digital boundaries from colleagues at National Records of Scotland (NRS) - formerly General Register Office for Scotland (GROS).

9. 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 6).

10. 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 MasterMap®.

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 of the **Version Notes**.

11. 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.

12. 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. Details of the various code ranges are given at Annex B, and information regarding the latest changes can be found in the **Version Notes**. 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

13. 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 around June 2008 in order to support the rollout of NHS systems.

14. 1991 Census Enumeration Districts (ED)

1991 Census EDs are assigned to postcodes in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. For postcodes in England and Wales, there were originally two types of assignment:

- Postcodes existing at the 1991 Census where an ED was assigned using information on the census forms. These were mostly residential postcodes.
- Postcodes existing at the 1991 Census where an ED could not be assigned using Census forms, or postcodes introduced since the 1991 Census where an ED has been assigned by point-in-polygon techniques. These were a mix of residential and business postcodes.

Over time, the use of the original methodology to assign EDs to postcodes caused inaccuracies for some allocations. From February 2007, the common 'point-in-polygon' methodology was introduced to allocate all postcodes to EDs, bringing this geography in

line with the majority on the ONSPD. EDs use the postcode 1m grid reference to obtain an accurate assignment.

EDs have not been assigned to postcodes in Scotland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The ED field holds a pseudo code for postcodes in these countries.

15. 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 on the basis of 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.

15.1 Postcodes Assigned to both English and Scottish 2001 Census OAs

National Records of Scotland (NRS) maintains a separate Scottish postcode directory called the Postcode Index. Two postcodes assigned to Scottish OAs in the Postcode Index (because a part of each postcode falls in Scotland) are assigned to English OAs in the ONSPD (because the part of each postcode falling in England comprises a larger population). The postcodes are TD9 0TU and TD15 1UY. Consequently, the assignments for these postcodes will differ between the ONSPD and the Postcode Index.

16. 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. The 'documents' folder that accompanies each release contains a listing of the OAC names and codes.

17. 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.

Scotland

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.

18. 2001 Census Area Statistics (CAS) wards

In processing 2001 Census data for publication, eighteen 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 B. The 18 sub-threshold wards in England and their 'receiving' wards are detailed in Annex D.

19. 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.

20. Former Local Education Authorities (LEA)

Prior to 1 April 2009 Local Education Authorities (LEAs) were the bodies responsible for the local administration of state sector education services in England and Wales. In those parts of England that still had counties there was one LEA for each county - for example Cumbria LEA and Devon LEA etc. Otherwise there was one LEA in each unitary authority, metropolitan district or London borough. The Isles of Scilly also had its own LEA.

Although LEAs no longer exist the coding structure has been retained by the Department for Education (DfE).

In Northern Ireland local education administration was the responsibility of five Education and Library Boards (ELB) (Belfast, North Eastern, South Eastern, Southern, Western), which each covered one or more complete district council areas. ELBs were abolished on 1 April 2015.

In Scotland education administration is the responsibility of local government (i.e. the councils in each council area).

21. Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies

England and Wales

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

Scotland

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

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

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland the Commission's Fifth Periodical Report on Parliamentary Constituencies outlined changes to and the composition of constituencies in 2010. In practice the new Parliamentary Constituencies are not very different to their predecessors. As before there are 18 constituencies, all retaining the same name. In the main, the boundary amendment process has involved the re-assigning of existing electoral wards from one constituency into a neighbouring constituency. The only exception concerns 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.

22. 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.

23. Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS)

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

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

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

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

A very small number of Scottish LAU2 codes are split over two or more areas and so for these postcodes it is not possible to assign a NUTS allocation.

A summary of the NUTS structure, including the numbers of areas for each country at each level, is shown at Annex A.

24. Former Pan SHAs

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

25. Regions (Former Government Office Regions - GOR)

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

26. Standard Statistical Regions (SSR)

The eight 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.

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

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

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

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, ten 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. 1998 Electoral Wards

Electoral wards existing as at the end of 1998 are included on the ONSPD. The significance of these codes is that the initial Neighbourhood Statistics data were released for 1998 electoral wards.

31. 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 $\geq 10k$ – 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.

32. 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 E 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 nine-character format. There are 4,537 small areas in Northern Ireland.

33. 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. The 'documents' folder that accompanies each release contains a listing of the OAC names and codes.

34. 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.

35. 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. There are 10,722 parishes in England.

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. There are 870 communities in Wales.

36. 2011 Census Workplace Zones (WZ)

Following the 2011 Census, a new geography, WZ, was created for England and Wales. 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.

37. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)

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

38. 2011 Census Built-up Areas (BUA)/Built-up Area Sub-divisions (BUASD)

England and Wales

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

Scotland

This data is not yet available.

Northern Ireland

This data is not yet available.

39. 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, Department of the Communities and Local Government, Office for National Statistics and the Welsh Government. It is a revised version of the classification produced after the 2001 Census, but with additional detail in the urban domain.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scotland

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

Northern Ireland

This data is not yet available.

40. 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.

41. 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 nine-character codes for administrative, electoral and health areas. You are encouraged to adopt these standard names and codes, as they are the recognised standard for National Statistics. Full names and codes listings are supplied with the ONSPD in the **Documents** folder.

42. Directory Specifications

Annex B 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. For those customers using the .dbf or .csv formats, the field names are also given.

43. Data Formats

The ONSPD is available to download in a range of data formats. Details are given in Annex C.

44. Limitations/Data Quality

No warranty is given by ONS as to the accuracy or comprehensiveness of the data contained on the ONSPD. ONS 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. Missing postcodes should therefore be reported to ONS Geography Customer Services for forwarding to Royal Mail.

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

Customers 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.

Any errors and/or omissions identified by ONSPD customers should be notified to [ONS Geography Customer Services](#) who, with the assistance of the appropriate Gridlink Consortium member organisation, will endeavour to:

- investigate all reports of suspected errors and/or omissions to areal references; and
- inform the customer of the outcome of the report within 5 working days of the receipt of the notification if the query can be resolved within ONS.

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. The tabular extract tool on the [Open Geography portal](#) should be used instead.

Annex A

NUTS Classification Areal Levels

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

The NUTS 1-3 codes are current to 2012 and a summary of the structure, including the numbers of areas for each country at each level, is shown below.

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

Annex B**ONSPD Record Specification**

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
7	Unit postcode – 7 character version	AB1Δ1AA-ZE999ZZ (maximum range)	All current ('live') postcodes within the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, received monthly from Royal Mail. Also, all terminated ('closed') postcodes that have not been subsequently re-used by Royal Mail within the United Kingdom and by the postal administrations in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. 2, 3 or 4 character outward code - left aligned; 3 character inward code - right aligned; 3rd and 4th characters may be blank (Δ)	PCD
8	Unit postcode – 8 character version	AB1ΔΔ1AA-ZE99Δ9ZZ (maximum range)	As above, except: 2, 3 or 4-character outward code - left aligned; 3-character inward code - right aligned; 5th character always blank and 3rd and 4th characters may be blank (Δ)	PCD2
8	Unit postcode - variable length (e-Gif) version	AB1Δ1AAΔ-ZE99Δ9ZZ (maximum range)	2, 3 or 4-character outward code; Single space (Δ); 3-character inward code	PCDS
6	Date of introduction	YYYYMM (year and month)	The most recent occurrence of the postcode's date of introduction.	DOINTR
6	Date of termination	YYYYMM (year and month) or null	If present, the most recent occurrence of the postcode's date of termination, otherwise: null = 'live' postcode	DOTERM

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	County	E10, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>E10000002 - E10000034 = England; E99999999 (pseudo) = England (UA/MD/LB); W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	OSCTY
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	<p>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.</p> <p>E06000001 - E06000057 = England (UA); E07000004 - E07000243 = England (LAD); E08000001 - E08000037 = England (MD); E09000001 - E09000033 = England (LB); W06000001 - W06000024 = Wales (UA); S12000005 - S12000046 = Scotland (CA); N09000001 - N09000011 = Northern Ireland (DCA); L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	OSLAUA
9	(Electoral) ward/division	E05, W05, S13, N08, pseudo or null	<p>The current administrative/electoral area to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E05000026 - E05010773 = England; W05000041 - W05000991 = Wales; S13002476 - S13002834 = Scotland; N08000101 - N08001140 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	OSWARD

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

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	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	<p>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.</p> <p>E18000001 - E18000010 = England (SHA); W11000023 - W11000029 = Wales (LHB); S08000015 - S08000028 = Scotland (HB); ZB001 = Northern Ireland (HSCB); L00000001 - L00000003 = Channel Islands (HA); M00000001 = Isle of Man (HA); null = no information available</p>	OSHLTHAU
9	Pan SHA	E19, pseudo or null	<p>The Pan SHA responsible for the associated strategic health authority for each postcode in England. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England with no grid reference.</p> <p>E19000001 - E19000003 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	HRO
9	Country	E92, W92, S92, N92, L93 or M83	<p>The code for the appropriate country (i.e. one of the four constituent countries of the UK or Crown dependencies - the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man) to which each postcode is assigned.</p> <p>E92000001 = England; W92000004 = Wales; S92000003 = Scotland; N92000002 = Northern Ireland; L93000001 = Channel Islands; M83000003 = Isle of Man</p>	CTRY

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Region (former GOR)	E12, pseudo or null	<p>The region code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Island and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England with no grid reference.</p> <p>E12000001 - E12000009 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	GOR
1	Standard (Statistical) Region (SSR)	1-8, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>1-8 = former standard statistical regions in England; 9 (pseudo) = Wales; 0 (pseudo) = postcode not in England or Wales; null = no information available</p>	STREG
9	Westminster parliamentary constituency	E14, W07, S14, N06, pseudo or null	<p>The Westminster parliamentary constituency code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E14000530 - E14001062 = England; W07000041 - W07000080 = Wales; S14000001 - S14000059 = Scotland; N06000001 - N06000018 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	PCON

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	European Electoral Region (EER)	E15, W08, S15, N07, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>E15000001 - E15000009 = England; W08000001 = Wales; S15000001 = Scotland; N07000001 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	EER
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	TECLEC
9	Travel to Work Area (TTWA)	E30, W22, S22, K01, N12, pseudo or null	<p>The TTWA code for the postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E30000004 - E30000294 = England; W22000003 - W22000034 = Wales; S22000005 - S22000083 = Scotland; K01000009 - K01000014 = cross-border; N12000001 - N12000010 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	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	<p>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.</p> <p>E16000001 - E16000151 = England (PCT); E17000001 - E17000006 = England (CT); W11000023 - W11000029 = Wales (LHB); S03000001 - S03000044 = Scotland (CHP); ZC010 - ZC050 = Northern Ireland (LCG); M01000001 = Isle of Man (PHD); L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; null = no information available</p>	PCT
10	LAU2 areas	E05, W05, S31, UKN0100001-UKN0507021, pseudo or null	<p>The national LAU2-equivalent code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E05000026 - E05009437 = England; W05000041 - W05001001 = Wales; S31000001 - S31001229 = Scotland; UKN0100001 - UKN0507021 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	NUTS

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
8	1991 Census Enumeration District (ED)	(OGSS ² code range) 01AAFA01-63UEFZ14, 95AΔ0101-95ZΔ1506, pseudo or null	The code for the 1991 Census ED. A pseudo code is included for Scotland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. 2-digit county code, 2-digit district code, 2-digit ward code, 2-digit ED code = England and Wales; 2-digit county code, 1-digit district code, 2-digit ward code, 2-digit ED code = Northern Ireland; 99ZZ0099 (pseudo) = Scotland/Channel Is/IoM; null = no information available	PSED
6	1991 Census Enumeration District (ED)	(1991 Census code range) AAFA01- UEFZ14, AΔ0101 - ZΔ1506, pseudo or null	Same as above except a census code is provided. 2-digit district code, 2-digit ward code, 2-digit ED code = England & Wales; 1-digit district code, 2-digit ward code, 2-digit ED code = Northern Ireland; ZZ0099 (pseudo) = Scotland/Channel Is/IoM; null = no information available	CENED
1	ED positional quality indicator	1, 6, 9 or Δ	Shows the status of the assigned ED. 1 = assigned by point-in-polygon technique; 6 = Northern Ireland; 9 = Scotland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man; Δ = no information available	EDIND
3	Previous Strategic Health Authority (SHA)/ Health Board (HB)/ Health Authority (HA)/ Health and Social Services Board (HSSB)	01-Q28 (maximum range), Q99 (pseudo), SA9-SZ9, ZE0-ZW0, YAC-YAF or null	The health area code for the postcode prior to the NHS reorganisation on 1 July 2006. A pseudo code is included for Wales. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. Q01 - Q28 = England (SHA); Q99 (pseudo) = Wales; SA9 - SZ9 = Scotland (HB); ZE0 - ZW0 = Northern Ireland (HSSB); YAD - YAF = Channel Islands (HA); YAC = Isle of Man (HA); null = no information available	OSHAPREV

² Office Geographical Support Service (1991).

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
3	Local Education Authority (LEA)/ Education and Library Board (ELB)	201-938 (maximum range), 660-681, QA-RJ, 951-955, pseudo or null	The former LEA ³ (ELB in Northern Ireland) code for each postcode. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. 201 - 938 = England (LEA); 660 - 681 = Wales (LEA); QA - RJ = Scotland; 951 - 955 = Northern Ireland (ELB); 99Z (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available	LEA
3	Health Authority 'old-style'	QA2-QEY* (maximum range), QW1-QW5, SA9-SZ9, YAC-YAF, ZE0-ZW0, or null * the last character may be numeric	The 'old-style' health authority existing prior to the reorganisation of health areas (England in 2002, Wales in 2003). The field will be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. QA2 - QEY = England (HA); QW1 - QW5 = Wales (HA); SA9 - SZ9 = Scotland (HB); ZE0 - ZW0 = Northern Ireland (HSSB); YAD - YAF = Channel Islands (HA); YAC = Isle of Man (HA); null = no information available	OLDHA
6	1991 ward (Census code range)	01AAFA-55TTFZ, 71UB01-82UB30, 95AΔ01-95ZΔ51, pseudo or null	The 1991 administrative and electoral areas for each postcode. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. 2-digit county code, 2-digit district code, 2-digit ward code = England, Wales and Scotland; 2-digit county code, 1-digit district code, 2-digit ward = Northern Ireland; 99ZZ00 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available	WARD91

³ Each county, London borough, metropolitan district and unitary authority formed an LEA. The Isles of Scilly had an LEA separate from the Authority covering Cornwall.

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
6	1991 ward (OGSS code range)	01AAFA-63UEFZ, 71UB01-82UB30, 95AΔ01-95ZΔ51, pseudo or null	Same as above except an OGSS code is provided. 2-digit county code, 2-digit district code, 2-digit ward code = England, Wales and Scotland; 2-digit county code, 1-digit district code, 2-digit ward = Northern Ireland; 99ZZ00 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available	WARD091
6	1998 ward	00AAFA-47UGFT, 00NAMA-00PTNE, 00QA01-00RJ30, 95AΔ01-95ZΔ51, pseudo or null	The 1998 administrative and electoral areas for each postcode. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. 2-digit county code, 2-digit district code, 2-digit ward code = England, Wales and Scotland; 2-digit county code, 1-digit district code, 2-digit ward code = Northern Ireland; 99ZZ00 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available	WARD98
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

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
10	2001 Census Output Area (OA)	E00, W00, S00, 95AA010001- 95ZZ519999, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	OA01
6	Census Area Statistics (CAS) ward	00AAFA-47UGGM, 00NAMA-00PTPL, 01C01-32C31, 95AA01-95ZZ51, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	CASWARD

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	National park	E26, W18, W31, S21, pseudo or null	<p>The national parks cover parts of England, Wales and Scotland. Pseudo codes are included for Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E26000001 - E26000010 = England; E99999999 (pseudo) = England (non-national park); W18000001 - W18000003 = Wales; W31000001 = Wales (non-national park); S21000002 - S21000003 = Scotland; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland (non-national park); N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	PARK
9	2001 Census Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)/ Data Zone (DZ)/ Super Output Area (SOA)	E01, W01, S01, 95AA01S1- 95ZZ16S2, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	LSOA01
9	2001 Census Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA)/ Intermediate Zone (IZ)	E02, W02, S02, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	MSOA01

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
1	2001 Census urban/rural indicator	1-8, 1-8, A-H, pseudo or Δ	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	UR01IND
3	2001 Census Output Area classification (OAC)	1A1-7B2, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>1A1 - 7B2 = United Kingdom; 9Z9 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	OAC01
5	'Old' Primary Care Trust (PCT)/ Local Health Board (LHB)/ Care Trust (CT)	AA-5ZZ*, 6A1-6C4*, AC, TAG, TAK, TAL, 98 (pseudo), or null *maximum range	<p>The pre-October 2006 code for the primary care areas in England and Wales; primary care areas do not exist in Scotland or Northern Ireland. A pseudo code is included for Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>5AA - 5ZZ = England (PCT); TAC - TAL = England (CT); 6A1 - 6C4 = Wales (LHB); X98 (pseudo) = Scotland/Ni/Channel Is/IoM; null = no information available</p>	OLDPCT

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	2011 Census Output Area (OA)/ Small Area (SA)	E00, W00, S00, N00, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	OA11
9	2011 Census Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)/ Data Zone (DZ)/ SOA	E01, W01, S01, 95AA01S1-95ZZ16S2, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	LSOA11
9	2011 Census Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA)/ Intermediate Zone (IZ)	E02, W02, S02, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	MSOA11

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Parish/ community	E04, W04, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>E04000001 - E04012344 = England (parish); E43000001 - E43000237 = England (unparished area); W04000001 - W04000979 = Wales (community); S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	PARISH
9	2011 Census Workplace Zone (WZ)	E33, W35, pseudo or null	<p>The WZ code in England and Wales. Pseudo codes are 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.</p> <p>E33000001 - E33050868 = England; W35000001 - W35002710 = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	WZ11

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)/ Local Health Board (LHB)/ Community Health Partnership (CHP)/ Local Commissioning Group (LCG)/ Primary Healthcare Directorate (PHD)	E38, W11, S03, ZC010– ZC050, M01, pseudo or null	<p>The code for the CCG areas (England), LHBs (Wales), CHPs (Scotland), LCG (Northern Ireland) and 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.</p> <p>E38000001-E38000214 = England (CCG); W11000023-W11000029 = Wales (LHB); S03000001-S03000044 = Scotland (CHP); ZC010-ZC050 = Northern Ireland (LCG); M01000001 = Isle of Man (PHD); L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; null = no information available</p>	CCG
9	Built-up Area (BUA)	E34, W37, K05, pseudo or null	<p>The code for the BUAs in England and Wales. A pseudo code is included for those areas not classed as 'built-up' and 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 postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E34000001-E34005360 = England; E34999999 (pseudo) = England (not covered); W37000001-W37000459 = Wales; W37999999 (pseudo) = Wales (not covered); K05000001-K05000011 = cross-border; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	BUA11

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Built-up Area Sub-division (BUASD)	E35, W38, K06, pseudo or null	<p>The code for the BUASDs in England and Wales. A pseudo code is included for those areas not classed as 'built-up' and 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 be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no grid reference.</p> <p>E35000001-E35001672 = England; E35999999 (pseudo) = England (not covered); W38000001-W38000160 = Wales; W38999999 (pseudo) = Wales (not covered); K06000001-K06000004 = cross-border; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	BUASD11
2	2011 Census rural-urban classification	A1-F2, 1-8, TBA, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>A1-F2 = England and Wales: 1-8 = Scotland; TBA = Northern Ireland; Z9 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	RU11IND
3	2011 Census Output Area classification (OAC)	1A1-8B3, pseudo or null	<p>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.</p> <p>1A1 – 8D3 = UK; 9Z9 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	OAC11
10	Decimal degrees latitude	Numeric	<p>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.</p>	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 rest of the UK. The field will be blank for English postcodes with no grid reference. E370000001 – E370000040 = England; W999999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S999999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N999999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L999999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M999999999 (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. E3700000001 – E3700000040 = England; W999999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S999999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N999999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L999999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M999999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	LEP2

Annex C

Data Formats and Media

Available for free download in ASCII text, Comma Separated Variable, MS Access 2000 or DBASE IV compatible format from the [Open Geography Portal](#).

File name: ONSPD_mmm_yyyy_UK

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

Where 'yyyy' = year e.g. '2015'

Format: ASCII

File type: .txt

Record length: 384

Format: Comma Separated Variable

File type: .csv

Record length: 384

Format: MS Access 2000

File type: .mdb

Format: DBASE IV compatible

File type: .dbf

Annex D

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

Annex E

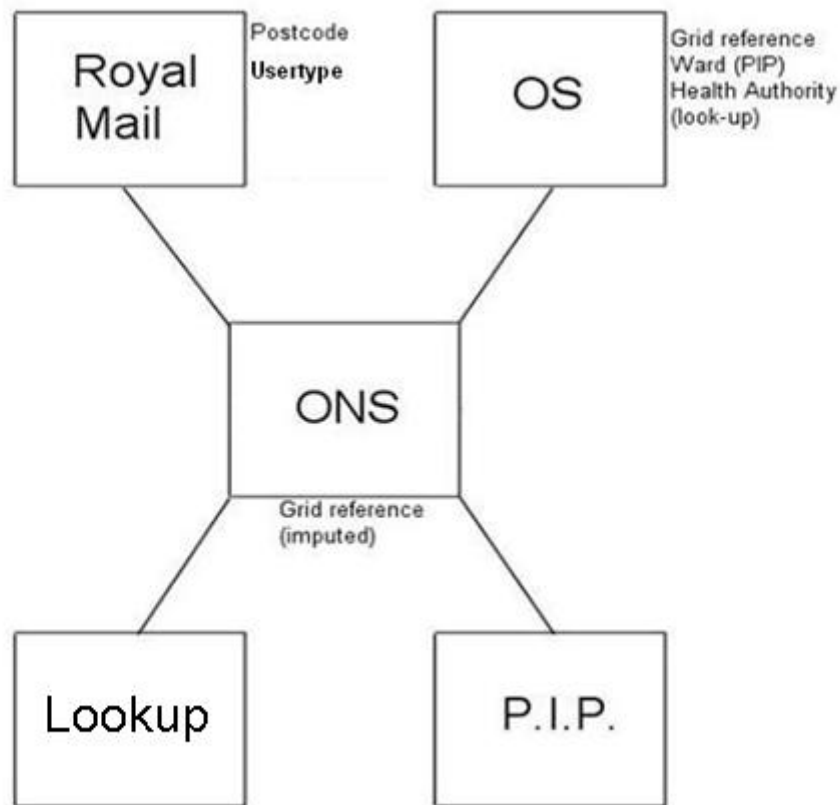
2011 Census Very Small Population Wards and Their Assigned OA

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

Annex F

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)
Urban/rural indicator (from OA)
Pan SHA (from SHA)
Country (from LAD)
SSR (from LAD)
CAS ward (from OA)
OAC (from OA)
NI Primary Care area (from ward)
NUTS (from Wards)
Rural-urban classification (from OA)
CCG (from LSOA)
TTWA (from LSOA)

OA
Parliamentary Constituency
EER
LLSC/DCELLS/ER
Region
1991 Census ED
Local Education Authority
1991 ward
1998 ward
Statistical ward
National Park
Old Primary Care Trust
Parish
Workplace Zone
Primary Care area (except NI)
Old Health Authority
Built-up area
Built-up area sub-division
Local Enterprise Partnership