



## **British Household Panel Survey, waves 1-18 (1991-2009)**

### **User Documentation: Area Classification for Output Areas (OAC)**

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## **Area Classification for Output Areas (wOAC)**

The 2001 Area Classification of output areas 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 largest cluster is the supergroup, of which there are seven. Each supergroup is further split into groups (21 in total) and further into subgroups (52 in total).

More information is available at:

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/methodology\\_by\\_theme/area\\_classification/oa/default.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/methodology_by_theme/area_classification/oa/default.asp)

The OAC user group website is:

<http://www.areaclassification.org.uk/>

## BHPS Geographical lookup tables – revised version

Version: 20131218

The revised geographical lookup tables for BHPS 1-18 are based on the November 2013 version of the ONS Postcode Directory.

| Wave | Wave Letter | Match | Postcode missing | Unmatched | Crown Dependencies | Total |
|------|-------------|-------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------|
| 1    | a           | 8523  | 1                | 0         | 0                  | 8524  |
| 2    | b           | 5697  | 283              | 4         | 0                  | 5984  |
| 3    | c           | 5886  | 638              | 10        | 0                  | 6534  |
| 4    | d           | 6238  | 279              | 41        | 0                  | 6558  |
| 5    | e           | 6223  | 306              | 24        | 0                  | 6553  |
| 6    | f           | 5512  | 974              | 1         | 0                  | 6487  |
| 7    | g           | 6350  | 1240             | 6         | 0                  | 7596  |
| 8    | h           | 6325  | 959              | 11        | 0                  | 7295  |
| 9    | i           | 10867 | 1070             | 7         | 0                  | 11944 |
| 10   | j           | 10540 | 1729             | 13        | 0                  | 12282 |
| 11   | k           | 12325 | 1641             | 20        | 0                  | 13986 |
| 12   | l           | 10415 | 1785             | 9         | 0                  | 12209 |
| 13   | m           | 10132 | 2017             | 27        | 0                  | 12176 |
| 14   | n           | 9866  | 2189             | 33        | 2                  | 12088 |
| 15   | o           | 9564  | 2323             | 25        | 3                  | 11912 |
| 16   | p           | 9414  | 2073             | 18        | 2                  | 11505 |
| 17   | q           | 9113  | 2340             | 43        | 2                  | 11496 |
| 18   | r           | 8832  | 2541             | 40        | 2                  | 11413 |

The table above shows the number of households with a matching, missing or unmatched postcode for each wave.

The main reason for not recording the postcode is for untraced moves.

Between Wave 7 and 11 the Northern Ireland ECHP panel households were interviewed as a part of BHPS. For these 135-149 households the postcode was not collected. The Northern Ireland ECHP panel can be identified through WHHORIZ.

Geographical codes are unavailable for a few households in the Crown dependencies.

### Study number (SN) description

| SN   | name       | type | varlab                                                   |
|------|------------|------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 7447 | acorn type | byte | acorn type 2013                                          |
| 6135 | casward    | str6 | census area statistics ward                              |
| 6029 | lea        | str3 | local education authorities/education and library boards |
| 6136 | lsoa01     | str9 | census 2001 lower layer super output area                |
| 7446 | msoa01     | str9 | census 2001 middle layer super output area               |
| 6290 | oac01      | str3 | census 2001 output area classification                   |
| 7448 | oshlthau   | str9 | strategic health authority                               |
| 6027 | oslaua     | str9 | local authority district                                 |
| 6033 | pcon       | str9 | westminster parliamentary constituencies                 |
| 6030 | pct        | str9 | primary care organisations                               |
| 6031 | ttwa       | str9 | travel to work areas                                     |
| 6032 | ur01ind    | str1 | census 2001 urban/rural indicator                        |
| 6330 | wardc91    | str6 | census 1991 ward (census code range)                     |
| 6340 | oseast1m   | long | national grid reference - easting                        |
| 6340 | osnrth1m   | long | national grid reference - northing                       |
| 6340 | osgrdind   | byte | national grid reference - quality indicator              |