



National Statistics Postcode Look-up User Guide

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The Government Statistical Service

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1. Introduction

The National Statistics Postcode Look-up (NSPL) relates both current and terminated postcodes in the United Kingdom to a range of current statutory administrative, electoral, health and other statistical geographies via 'best-fit' allocation from Census Output Areas. It helps support the production of area based statistics from postcoded data. The NSPL is produced by ONS Geography, which provides geographic support to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and geographic services used by other organisations. The NSPL is issued quarterly.

This User Guide contains information about the NSPL including:

- directory content;
- data currency;
- the methodology for assigning areas to postcodes;
- standard names and codes;
- data formats; and
- data quality and limitations.

A set of **Version Notes** accompanies each release of the NSPL. 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 NSPL.

The NSPL reflects current and terminated postcodes using information supplied on a monthly basis by Royal Mail. The NSPL 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 NSPL uses the NS Policy codes throughout. These 9-character codes replace the former administrative, electoral and health area codes. Look up files linking these codes to statutory area names are sent out with the NSPL. Customers are encouraged to adopt these standard names and codes, as they are the recognised standard for National Statistics.

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

The NSPL is currently available on CD-ROM (see Annex C) and order forms can be obtained by contacting ONS Geography Customer Services (see above). Any queries that are not answered within this User Guide or in the accompanying Version Notes should also be directed to ONS Geography Customer Services.

A selection of useful web links is included at Annex D.

Unit postcodes remain the copyright of Royal Mail. All other information on the NSPL is Crown copyright.

Note: ONS Geography does 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. New Information

Latest geographies included on the NSPL

The following geographies are now routinely available on the NSPL:

- LLSCs in England and DCELLS in Wales, replacing TECs
- Latest Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies for UK

- Primary Healthcare Directorate for Isle of Man
- South Downs National Park
- Revised Local Health Boards for Wales

Further information is provided in the **Version Notes**.

3. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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 7 and 8. In some cases the imputation procedure cannot assign a grid reference and, because the NSPL processing system assigns postcodes to Census Output Areas (OAs) using grid references, codes for the administrative and electoral areas cannot be derived. In time, the addresses in the new postcodes are surveyed by Ordnance Survey, who then assign accurate grid references. See also Section 9.

Why are some postcodes assigned to the wrong administrative and electoral areas?

- There are two reasons:
 1. **Imputation**: Some postcodes are assigned to administrative and electoral areas using an imputed grid reference. Imputation is not an exact science and can cause postcodes to be wrongly assigned until more accurate information becomes available. Please inform ONS Geography Customer Services of any postcodes considered to be wrongly assigned.
 2. **Straddling**: As the postal, OA and higher geographies do not map directly onto one another, addresses within a postcode often straddle boundaries. Postcodes are always assigned to single administrative and electoral areas via 'best-fit' allocation of OA whilst allocation of postcode to OA is based upon a single grid reference (which is the mean of all the addresses in the postcode or 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 8).

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.

4. Postcode content

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

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

The NSPL contains fixed length 7- and 8-character postcode formats, and the variable length e-Gif (e-Government Interoperability Framework) standard postcode format. The latter allows for a single space between the two (outward and inward) parts of the postcode (see Annex B).

5. Currency of data

Postcodes

Information about changes to the postcode geography is routinely received from Royal Mail on a monthly basis and so the currency of the UK postcodes on any version of the NSPL 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 NSPL is contained in the **Version Notes**.

6. Gridlink®: general

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, Ordnance Survey (GB), General Register Office for Scotland, Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI®) and ONS.

It was soon recognised that a core set of data within each Consortium member's postcode products needed to be consistent and branded. The branding name is 'Gridlink®' and the core data used in the NSPL are:

- All current (i.e. 'live') UK unit postcodes (but ONS 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.

Each of the Gridlink® Consortium members produces their postcode products based upon the core data.

7. Grid references

Postcode grid references in the NSPL are available in 1 metre resolution and the majority are derived from the Ordnance Survey product OS MasterMap® that contains grid references for each address to 0.1 metre resolution. Newly introduced postcodes will initially have a grid reference that has been imputed by ONS Geography. In due course these will be replaced by improved OS MasterMap® grid references which use data supplied by Ordnance Survey's 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 co-ordinates available.

The grid references provided for Northern Ireland postcodes are derived from the OSNI® product 'Pointer®' and use the Irish National Grid system that covers all of Ireland and is independent of the British National Grid.

No grid references are provided for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

8. Assignment of postcodes to geographies on the NSPL

Postcodes in Great Britain are assigned to administrative, electoral and health areas by 'best-fit' allocation to OA using the population-weighted centroid grid reference for each OA plotted against a range of digital boundaries using a 'point-in-polygon' methodology. Postcodes are themselves plotted to OA boundaries using a centroid grid reference and the same 'point-in-polygon' methodology (see Section 7).

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 have been assigned a PQI of 6 (see Section 7).

10. Terminated postcodes

Postcodes are frequently terminated by Royal Mail for various reasons but most commonly it is due to the demolition/re-development of buildings or to postcode reorganisations (see next section).

Terminated postcodes are occasionally re-used by Royal Mail but not usually before an elapsed period of two years. In such circumstances, all terminated postcodes and their grid references are retained on the NSPL and a 'termination date' is added which provides a clear indication of a postcode's status.

Areal data assigned to terminated postcodes are updated prior to each release of the NSPL, so the directory contains *current* information linked to each record.

If, and when, a postcode is subsequently re-used by Royal Mail the old grid reference and termination date are removed, thus deleting all reference to the former existence of the postcode from the NSPL. The new location of the postcode will initially have a grid reference imputed by ONS Geography, which will eventually be replaced by an improved one derived from Ordnance Survey's OS MasterMap® product.

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). However, in instances where terminated postcodes have been replaced by new postcodes on a one-for-one basis (as part of postcode reorganisations) the area information and the associated PQIs for the 'reorganised' postcode have been copied back to the terminated postcode.

The numbers of terminated postcodes included in each issue of the NSPL are shown in Table 4 of the **Version Notes**.

11. Postcode reorganisations

Royal Mail conduct biannual postcode reorganisations (usually in May and November) 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 the latest updates that have been incorporated in the current version of the NSPL are given in the **Version Notes**. Details of postcode reorganisations can also be found at royalmail.com - the Royal Mail website.

12. Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs), Health Boards and Health & Social Care Board

Organisation Data Services (ODS) in England, ONS on behalf of Scotland, Health Solutions Wales and Health & Social Care in Northern Ireland are responsible for maintaining their respective health area codes, and these were reorganised in 2002 (England), 2003 (Wales), 2006 (Scotland) and 2009 (NI). The SHAs in England were further reorganised by the NHS on 1st July 2006 to reduce the number from 28 to 10. In Northern Ireland the Health & Social Care Board effective from 1st April 2009 replaced the 4 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:

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

13. Primary Care Organisations (PCOs), Local Health Boards (LHBs), Community Health Partnerships (CHPs) and Local Commissioning Groups (LCGs)

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

The Primary Care geography in England was reorganised significantly on 1st 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 are now 148 Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and four Care Trusts.

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

Community Health Partnerships (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 nest within Council Area boundaries but may cross Health Board boundaries. There are 36 CHPs covering the whole of Scotland.

Five Local Commissioning Groups (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. Census Output Areas (OAs)

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 dwelling 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 2001 Census OAs are based on postcodes as at Census Day and fit within the boundaries of 2003 statistical wards (and parishes). If a postcode straddled an electoral ward/division (or parish) boundary, it was therefore split between two or more OAs. 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 175,434 OAs in England (165,665) and Wales (9,769).

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland OAs have the same minimum size but are based on postcodes as at January 2000. They also fit within 2001 electoral ward boundaries (there were in any case no differences between wards as at Census Day and the 2003 statistical ward set). There are 5022 OAs in Northern Ireland.

The OAs to Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies all fit exactly into the constituencies except for 3 OAs. The best-fit methodology used for these 3 OAs is assigned based on the constituency with the higher population count from the 2001 Census.

Scotland

In Scotland OAs are based on postcodes as at December 2000 and are related to 2001 wards. Note though that OAs do not necessarily fit inside ward boundaries where confidentiality issues made it more appropriate to straddle. The minimum OA size is 20 resident households and 50 resident persons, but the target size was 50 households. There are 42,604 OAs in Scotland.

Point-in-polygon methodology is used to create a link between the OA and the 'higher' area geographies that each OA belongs to. Each OA has been assigned to an area in a higher geography by first selecting one of the postcodes in the OA as a 'master postcode'. The OA inherits all the characteristics of the master postcode including its assignments to higher areas and its centroid grid reference. The master postcode is the postcode with grid references closest to the centre of the OA weighted by census household counts.

14.1 Postcodes assigned to both English and Scottish OAs

The Scottish Census Office, GROS, maintain 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 NSPL (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 NSPL and the Postcode Index.

14.2 OA classification

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 (see web link at Annex D for further details). The classification was originally produced with lower case characters which have been converted to upper case for consistency purposes on the NSPL.

15. Lower and Middle Layer Super Output Areas (SOAs) & Scottish data and intermediate zones

SOAs exist in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; the Scottish equivalents are called data zones and intermediate zones.

England and Wales

The Lower Layer SOAs have been designed with a mean population figure of 1500 and each consists of a grouping of Output Areas, typically five. There are 34,378 Lower Layer SOAs, with an absolute minimum population size of 1000.

The Middle Layer SOAs have a mean population figure of 7200 (minimum 5000) and consist of a grouping of Lower Layer SOAs. Middle Layer SOAs are constrained by the 2003 local authority boundaries used for 2001 Census outputs.

Scotland

Data zones are the core Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics geography. There are 6505 data zones, each containing between 500 and 1000 household residents.

Intermediate zones are the geography that sits above data zones and they have a minimum population of 2,500 - 6,000, which are of a size between the lower and middle layer SOAs in England and Wales. There are 1235 intermediate zones.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland Super Output Areas (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 lower layer SOAs in England and Wales.

16. 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 2014/2015.

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 Parliament constituencies and Scottish Parliament constituencies. This 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 Derryagh 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 - Derryagh (North) and Derryagh (South), the former now included in Belfast West Borough Constituency, the latter remaining where it was.

Details of the code ranges are included in the Record Specification at Annex B.

17. European Electoral Regions (EERs)

European Electoral Regions 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 nine Electoral Regions in England with 64 MEPs; Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland each constitute a single Electoral Region, with 7 MEPs, 4 MEPs and 3 MEPs respectively.

18. 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 which are comparable across the Union.

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

NUTS levels 1-3 are frozen for a minimum of three years and NUTS levels 4 and 5 are now local Administrative Units (LAU) levels 1 and 2 respectively.

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

19. Pan SHAs

Three pan SHAs replaced the five 'IT Clusters' from 1st April 2007 and IT Clusters replaced Directorates of Health and Social Care from July 2003 to 31st March 2007. These pan SHA codes are included in the 'HRO' field on the NSPL. Each pan SHA consists of a group of Strategic Health Authorities.

20. Regions (Formerly Government Office Regions -GORs)

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

21. Standard Statistical Regions (SSRs)

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.

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

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 in Wales. 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.

Enterprise Regions 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 Enterprise Regions.

23. Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs)

TTWAs are used in labour market analysis and reflect reasonably self-contained zones in which the bulk of the resident population also work. The previous areas were built from 1991 electoral wards and the 243 current TTWAs were defined in 2007 using 2001 Census information on home and work addresses. They are based on Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales, data zones in Scotland, and Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland.

24. 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.

25. Urban/rural indicators

England & Wales

The rural and urban classification of postcodes for England and Wales allows datasets to be analysed according to different types of rural and urban area. This is based on the National Statistics Rural and Urban Classification of Output Areas 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 on the NSPL have been assigned to the urban or rural category of the Output Area into which each falls. Output Areas are treated as 'urban' if the majority of the population of an Output Area lives within settlements with a population of 10,000 or more. The remaining 'rural' Output Areas are grouped into three other broad morphological types based on the predominant settlement component – i.e. whether the population density for the output area shows characteristics that are predominantly town and fringe, predominantly village or predominantly dispersed (the latter includes hamlets and isolated dwellings).

The classification also categorises Output Areas based on context – i.e. whether the wider surrounding area of a given output area is sparsely populated or 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 on the NSPL have been assigned to the urban or rural category on an individual basis, based upon data received from GROS.

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 and 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.

Details of the code ranges are included in the Record Specification (Annex B) and a web link is included at Annex D.

26. Names and codes

The names of all administrative and health areas are the 'standard' names being 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 codes contained in the NSPL are the corporate ONS codes. In establishing a set of corporate area codes, ONS has adopted the NHS coding scheme for health areas and the codes for other higher area geographies where they are already established and in current use. It is intended that the corporate ONS codes will also be adopted for use within National Statistics, but it is recognised that many data systems will be dependent on other existing coding systems and that wider acceptance and use of the corporate ONS codes will not be achieved in the short term. To overcome potential coding incompatibility ONS Geography has developed a Standard Names and Codes (SNAC) database containing a matrix look-up between the various coding schemes where links are possible and also an extended list of names and codes for other geographies (e.g. Parliamentary Constituencies):

Standard Names and Codes

Full names and codes listings are supplied with the NSPL.

27. Directory specifications

Annex B lists the specification for the records on the NSPL, giving the length and description of each field, the range of possible codes and any qualifying comments. It also provides further general information on each field, such as source, currency and extent of data. For those customers using the .dbf or Access 97 formats, the field names are also given.

28. Data formats

The NSPL is available on CD-ROM in a range of data formats. Details are given in Annex C.

29. Use of the NSPL

The NSPL may be used freely and widely with virtually no restriction as it is solely covered by the new [Open Government Licence](#). This allows for use both within the Customer's organisation and for commercial exploitation to third parties. The main condition of use is that the attribution statement provided on the Order Form is applied to acknowledge the source of the information (see also 'Copyright and reproduction', above).

30. Limitations/data quality

No warranty is given by ONS as to the accuracy or comprehensiveness of the data contained on the NSPL or to the physical condition of the medium on which it is supplied. ONS will take reasonable steps to correct any identified errors and, if appropriate, will re-issue the NSPL without further charge.

Two types of errors may occur in the NSPL - omissions and inaccuracies. With such a large file it is inevitable that some information will be missing. With monthly postcode

updating procedures the likelihood of missing postcodes is small. The very latest postcodes (i.e. those introduced between the latest monthly postcode update and the issue of the NSPL) will not be included, but any other missing postcodes are likely to have been absent from the Royal Mail data file which forms the basis of the monthly input into the NSPL. Missing postcodes should therefore be reported to ONS Geography Customer Services for forwarding to Royal Mail.

Inaccuracies also originate from two sources:

Straddling

The addresses forming each small user postcode are not co-terminous with the boundaries of Output Areas. The inevitable result is that some postcodes straddle the boundaries of other OAs. As each areal reference is generally assigned using the postcode's 1 metre grid reference clipped to the address closest to the postcode mean or the postcode unit mean (see Section 7), some addresses within a postcode may fall in two or more different OAs.

It is possible therefore that the majority of addresses in a postcode are assigned to an OA on the basis of the postcode's grid reference whereas they actually fall within one or more adjacent OAs.

Wrong assignments

Given the necessity to impute 1 metre grid references for new postcodes (most of which will ultimately be replaced by better quality grid references derived from either Ordnance Survey's MasterMap® or OSNI's Pointer® product) it is likely that the NSPL will always contain some wrong assignments. There will also be instances where accurate postcode grid references are unable to be obtained for other reasons, thus affecting the quality of the area assignments. Quality can be subjectively assessed from the PQIs of the grid references.

In the few instances where imputation techniques are unable to assign grid references to postcodes (usually where the base data are already imputed), it will not be possible to assign postcodes to the range of geographies included on the NSPL.

Customers should also note that the use of the NSPL to allocate individual addresses to geographies might be imprecise because of the effects of straddling and wrong assignments.

Any errors and/or omissions identified by NSPL 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 NSPL are included on the subsequent NSPL release.

Incompatibility with certain spreadsheet packages

Due to the large number of records on the NSPL, the full file is incompatible with certain standard spreadsheet packages. The customer should read and understand the help notes of their particular software package before attempting to load the NSPL data.

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.

N.B. Due to the length of time taken by Eurostat to ratify the NUTS boundaries, and ONS Geography policy of using only boundaries that have been validated, the latest NUTS 1-3 codes for UK are current to 2008 and LAU 2 are current to 2010.

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	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 (93)	Groups of unitary authorities (12)	Groups of whole/part unitary authorities and/or local enterprise company areas (23)	Groups of district unitary authorities (5)	133
LAU 1	Individual London boroughs/metropolitan districts/unitary authorities/ county districts (354)	Individual unitary authorities (22)	Individual or groups of whole/part unitary authorities and/or local enterprise company areas (41)	Individual district unitary authorities (26)	443
LAU 2	Electoral wards/divisions (7,618 ¹)	Electoral divisions (881)	Individual or groups of whole unitary authorities (1,225)	Electoral wards (582)	10,306

¹ As at December 2010. The figure for England includes five parishes on the Isles of Scilly, which is not warded.

NSPL Record Specification

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
7	Unit postcode – 7 character version	AB1Δ1AA-ZE999ZZ (maximum range)	All current ('live') postcodes within the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, received monthly from Royal Mail. Also, all terminated ('closed') postcodes that have not been subsequently re-used by Royal Mail within the United Kingdom and by the postal administrations in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. 2, 3 or 4 character outward code - left aligned; 3 character inward code - right aligned; 3rd and 4th characters may be blank (Δ)	PCD
8	Unit postcode – 8 character version	AB1ΔΔ1AA- ZE99Δ9ZZ (maximum range)	As above, except: 2, 3 or 4-character outward code - left aligned; 3-character inward code - right aligned; 5th character always blank and possibly 3rd and 4th characters blank also (Δ)	PCD2
8	Unit postcode - variable length (e-Gif) version	AB1Δ1AAΔ- ZE99Δ9ZZ (maximum range)	2, 3 or 4-character outward code Single space (Δ) 3-character inward code	PCDS
6	Date of introduction	YYYYMM (year and month)	The most recent occurrence of the postcode's date of introduction.	DOINTR
6	Date of termination	YYYYMM (year and month) or null	If present, the most recent occurrence of the postcode's date of termination, otherwise: null = 'live' postcode	DOTERM
1	Postcode user type	0 or 1	Shows whether the postcode is a small or large user. 0 = small user; 1 = large user	USERTYPE
6	National grid reference - Easting	numeric or null	The Ordnance Survey postcode 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 Grid system.	OSEAST1M

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
7	National grid reference - Northing	numeric or null	The Ordnance Survey postcode 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 Grid system.	OSNRTH1M
1	Grid reference positional quality indicator	1-6, 8-9	Shows the status of the assigned grid reference. 1 = within the building of the matched address closest to the postcode mean; 2 = as for status value 1, except by visual inspection of Landline maps (Scotland only); 3 = approximate to within 50 metres; 4 = postcode unit mean (mean of matched addresses with the same postcode, but not snapped to a building); 5 = imputed by ONS, by reference to surrounding postcode grid references; 6 = postcode sector mean, (mainly PO Boxes); 8 = postcode terminated prior to Gridlink® initiative, last known ONS postcode grid reference ² ; 9 = no grid reference available	OSGRDIND
10	Output Area	E00, W00, S00, 95AA010001- 95ZZ519999, pseudo or null	The 2001 Census Output Areas were built from unit postcodes and constrained to 2003 'statistical' wards, and they form the building bricks for defining higher level geographies. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no grid reference. E00000001 - E00165665 = England; W00000001 - W00009769 = Wales; S00000001 - S00042604 = Scotland; 95AA010001 - 95ZZ519999 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	OACODE

² Postcodes with an '8' code are those that were terminated prior to the Gridlink® initiative which became operational in November 2000. The grid references are those assigned by ONS for postcodes in England and Wales and those assigned by the General Register Office for Scotland and the Department for Economic Development in Northern Ireland for their respective postcodes. Consequently, the grid references for England and Wales will be mainly to 100 metre resolution while the grid references for other parts of the UK will be to 10 metre resolution.

Postcodes terminated since November 2000 retain the same positional quality indicators as they had prior to their termination.

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	County	E10, 95, pseudo or null	<p>The county to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for English UAs, Wales, Scotland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England with no grid reference.</p> <p>E10000001 - E10000034 = England; E99999999 (pseudo) = England (UA); W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; 95 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	CTY
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, 95A-95Z, pseudo or null	<p>The district/UA to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E06000001 - E06000056 = England (UA); E07000001 - E07000239 = England (LAD); E08000001 - E08000036 = England (MD); E09000001 - E09000033 = England (LB); W06000001 - W06000024 = Wales (UA); S12000005 - S12000044 = Scotland (CA); 95A - 95Z = Northern Ireland (DCA); L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	LAUA
9	(Electoral) ward/division	E05, W05, S13, 95AΔ01-95ZΔ99 (maximum range), pseudo or null	<p>The administrative/electoral area to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E05000001 - E05008517 = England; W05000001 - W05000902 = Wales; S13002476 - S13002832 = Scotland; 95AΔ01-95ZΔ99 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	WARD

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Strategic health authority (SHA)/ health board (HB)/ health authority (HA)/ health & social care board (HSCB)	E18, S08, ZB001, L00, M00, pseudo or null	The health area code for the postcode. The field will be blank for postcodes in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland with no grid reference. E18000001 - E18000010 = England (SHA); W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S08000001 - S08000014 = Scotland (HB); ZB001 = Northern Ireland (HSCB); L00000001 - L00000003 = Channel Islands (HA); M00000001 = Isle of Man (HA); null = no information available	HLTHAU
9	Pan SHA	E19, pseudo or null	The Pan SHA responsible for the associated strategic health authority for each postcode in England. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England with no grid reference. E19000001 - E19000003 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	HRO
9	Country	E92, W92, S92, N92, L93 or M83	The code for the appropriate country (i.e. one of the four constituent countries of the United Kingdom or the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man) to which each postcode is assigned. E92000001 = England; W92000004 = Wales; S92000003 = Scotland; N92000002 = Northern Ireland; L93000001 = Channel Islands; M83000003 = Isle of Man	CTRY

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Region (formerly 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
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 be blank for postcodes in England or Wales 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
9	European Electoral Region (EER)	E15, W08, S15, N07, pseudo or null	<p>The European Electoral Region code for each postcode. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England 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

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Local Learning and Skills Council (LLSC)/ Dept. of Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS)/ Enterprise Region (ER)	E24, W16, S09, pseudo or null	<p>The Local Learning and Skills Council (England), DCELLS (Wales) or Enterprise Region (Scotland) code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for 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>E24000001 - E24000047 = England (LLSC); W16000001 - W16000004 = Wales (DCELLS); S09000001 - S09000006 = Scotland (ER); N999999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L999999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M999999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	TECLEC
9	Travel-to-work area (TTWA)	E30, W22, S22, K01, 007-209 (maximum range), pseudo or null	<p>The Travel to Work Area code for the postcode. Travel-to-work areas are as defined in 2007 and are based on 2001 Census information. The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no grid reference.</p> <p>E30000001 - E30000158 = England; W22000001 - W22000020 = Wales; S22000001 - S22000046 = Scotland; K01000001 - K01000008 = cross-border; 007 - 209 = Northern Ireland; L999999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M999999999 (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 Primary Care areas in England, LHBs in Wales, CHPs in Scotland, LCG in Northern Ireland and PHD in the Isle of Man; there are no equivalent areas in the Channel Islands (for which a pseudo code is included). The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no grid reference.</p> <p>E16000001 - E16000151 = England (PCT); E17000001 - E17000006 = England (CT); W11000023 - W11000029 = Wales (LHB); S03000001 - S03000043 = Scotland (CHP); ZC010 - ZC050 = Northern Ireland (LCG); M01000001 = Isle of Man (PHD); L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; null = no information available</p>	PCT
10	NUTS areas ³	UKC1101001- UKN0507021 (maximum range), pseudo or null	<p>The NUTS code for each postcode. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no grid reference.</p> <p>Characters 1-3 = NUTS1 level; characters 1-4 = NUTS2 level; characters 1-5 = NUTS3 level; characters 1-7 = LAU1 level; characters 1-10 = LAU2 level.</p> <p>UKC1101001 - UKK4308021 = England; UKL1100001 - UKL2400082 = Wales; UKM2101001 - UKM6600022 = Scotland; UKN0100001 - UKN0507021 = Northern Ireland; ZZZ9999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	NUTS

³ Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics, a classification of spatial units used within the UK for producing regional statistics for comparison with other regions within the European Union.

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, covering parts of England, Wales and Scotland. A pseudo code is included for Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will 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	Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)	E01, W01, pseudo or null	<p>The Lower Layer SOA code for each postcode in England and Wales. A pseudo code is included for Scotland (covered by data zones – see below), 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>E01000001- E01032482 = England; W01000001- W01001896 = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	SOA1
9	Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA)	E02, W02, pseudo or null	<p>The Middle Layer SOA (MSOA) code for each postcode in England and Wales. A pseudo code is included for Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. MSOAs sit above LSOAs. The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no grid reference.</p> <p>E02000001- E02006781 = England; W02000001- W02000413 = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	SOA2

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Scottish data zone	S01, pseudo or null	<p>The data zone code for each postcode in Scotland. A pseudo code is included for England and Wales (covered by LSOAs – see above), Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.</p> <p>S01000001- S01006505 = Scotland; E99999999 (pseudo) = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	DZONE1
9	Intermediate zone (Scotland)	S02, pseudo or null	<p>The geography above data zones for each postcode in Scotland, with a minimum population of 2,500 - 6,000. There are 1235 intermediate zones. A pseudo code is included for postcodes in England and Wales (covered by MSOAs – see above), Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.</p> <p>S02000001 - S02001235 = Scotland; E99999999 (pseudo) = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	DZONE2
8	Super Output Area (Northern Ireland)	95AA01S1– 95ZZ16S2, pseudo or null	<p>The SOA code for each postcode in Northern Ireland. A pseudo code is included for England and Wales (covered by LSOAs – see above), Scotland (covered by data zones – see also above), Channel Islands and Isle of Man.</p> <p>95AA01S1 - 95ZZ16S2 = Northern Ireland; 99ZZ99Z9 (pseudo) = England/Wales/Scotland/ Channel Is/IoM; null = no information available</p>	SOA1NI

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
1	Urban/rural indicator (England & Wales)	1-8, pseudo or null	<p>Urban and rural classification of Output Areas for England and Wales. A pseudo code is included for postcodes in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>2 = Town and Fringe – sparse: OA falls within the Small Town and Fringe areas category and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;</p> <p>3 = Village – sparse: OA falls within the Village category and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;</p> <p>4 = Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling – sparse: OA falls within the Hamlet & Isolated Dwelling category and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;</p> <p>5 = Urban ≥ 10k – less sparse: OA falls within Urban settlements with a population of 10,000 or more and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;</p> <p>6 = Town and Fringe – less sparse: OA falls within the Small Town and Fringe areas category and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;</p> <p>7 = Village – less sparse: OA falls within the Village category and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;</p> <p>8 = Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling – less sparse: OA falls within the Hamlet & Isolated Dwelling category and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;</p> <p>9 (pseudo) = Scotland/NI/Channel Is/IoM;</p> <p>null = no information available</p>	URINDEW

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
1	Urban/rural indicator (Scotland)	1-8, pseudo or null	<p>Urban and rural classification of postcodes for Scotland. A pseudo code is included for England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.</p> <p>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; 9 (pseudo) = England/Wales/NI/Channel Is/IoM; null = no information available</p>	URINDSC
1	Urban/rural indicator (Northern Ireland)	A-E (Urban), F-H (Rural), pseudo or null	<p>Urban and rural classification of postcodes for Northern Ireland. A pseudo code is included for England, Wales, Scotland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.</p> <p>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; Z (pseudo) = England/Wales/Scotland/ Channel Is/IoM; null = no information available</p>	URINDNI

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
3	Output Area classification (OAC)	1A1-7B2, pseudo or null	<p>The OA classification code for each postcode in the UK. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no grid reference.</p> <p>1A1 - 7B2 = United Kingdom; 9Z9 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	OAC

Annex C

Data Formats and Media

Available on CD-ROM or DVD -R in ASCII text, Comma Separated Variable, MS Access 2000 and DBASE IV compatible format.

File name: NSPL_mmm_yyyy

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

Where 'yyyy' = year e.g. '2011'

Format: ASCII

File type: .txt

Record length: 237

Format: Comma Separated Variable

File type: .csv

Record length: 237

Format: MS Access 2000

File type: .mdb

Format: DBASE IV compatible

File type: .dbf

Useful Web Links

[Ward History Database](#)

[Standard Names and Codes \(SNAC\) Database](#)

[Royal Mail Postcode Updates](#)

[Urban Rural Classification](#)

[Census Output Area Allocation Corrections](#)

[OA Classification Details](#)

[Code History Database](#)