ONS Postcode Directory Version Notes

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Contents

1. Introduction

The ONS Postcode Directory (ONSPD) Version Notes contain specific information about each quarterly release of the postcode directory, including details of recent changes that have impacted on the data. Various annexes and tables provide more detailed supporting information. ONS Geography also supplies a User Guide that contains descriptions of the ONSPD, its derived postcode directories and their contents along with information about the methodologies used, data quality and limitations. Both documents are included with the postcode directories as .pdf files.

2. News

2.1 CSV file available for each postcode area

In order to facilitate using the ONSPD in popular spreadsheet packages, it is now also available in a separate CSV file for each postcode area.

2.2 Final release of Boundary-Line™

Areas orders affecting Northumberland, Gateshead, East Hertfordshire and Stevenage that were received too late to be included with the draft release of Boundary-Line™ in May are now included on the ONSPD.

2.3 Scottish 2011 Census output areas now added to the ONSPD

From August 2013, the 2011 Census output areas (OAs) for Scotland are available on the re-released ONSPD, with data and intermediate zones available next year. See the ONSPD **User Guide** for further details.

2.4 Corrected LAU2 codes added to the ONSPD

Following two 2012 Areas Orders (St Albans - UKH2311 and Welwyn Hatfield – UKH2312), the LAU1 changes were not cascaded to the 37 affected LAU2 codes. This has now been corrected and ONS Geography would like to apologise for the oversight.

2.5 2011 Census rural-urban classification added to the ONSPD

From August 2013, the 2011 Census rural-urban classification for England and Wales is available on the ONSPD. See the **User Guide** for further details.

2.6 Built-up areas and built-up area sub-divisions added to the ONSPD

From August 2013, built-up areas and built-up area sub-divisions for England and Wales are available on the ONSPD. See the **User Guide** for further details.

2.7 Earlier inclusion of ward boundary changes

The May 2013 ward boundary changes were first included on the May 2013 release of the ONSPD.

2.8 2011 small areas and LSOAs added to the ONSPD

From May 2013, 2011 Census small areas and LSOAs for Northern Ireland were added to the ONSPD. 'Small areas' are the maintained 2001 output areas for Northern Ireland. See the **User Guide** for further details.

2.9 Field names added (CSV file) and Re-introduction of MS Access

From May 2013, the Comma Separated Variable version of the ONSPD (.csv) contains the field names in row 1 and from August 2013 the MS Access version is re-instated, due to popular demand, but split into two files due to size limitations.

2.10 Parish abolished

On 1 April 2013, the parish of Letchworth Garden City (E04004801) was abolished and became a Non-Parished Area.

2.11 Parishes and Workplace Zones added to the ONSPD

From February 2013, 2012 parishes and 2011 Census workplace zones were included on the ONSPD. See the **User Guide** for further details.

2.12 9-character coding structure – inclusion of lookups

The 9-character coding structure for current statistical geographies was introduced from January 2011. For those geographies affected by the changes, a set of lookup tables is included in the metadata, linking the 9-character codes with the old ones. The ONSPD metadata includes these lookups in the format 'newcode:oldcode' in 9-character code order. **N.B. The old codes will cease to be maintained after the end of 2013.**

3.   Changes to postcode content

3.1   Postcode counts and currency

The ONSPD contains postcodes within the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. They are current to the previous month and include both live and terminated postcodes.

Table 1 shows the split between large and small users by country, and the change in the numbers of postcodes since the previous quarter.

Table 2 shows the numbers of postcodes, postcode sectors and postcode districts by postcode area.

Table 3 shows the numbers of postcodes assigned grid references by positional quality indicator, country and user type.

Table 4 shows the numbers of terminated postcodes.

3.2   Postcode reorganisations

Postcode reorganisations are included in a series of 'Update' lists by Royal Mail. The latest issue is 'Update 57' which contains no postcode reorganisations. Details can be found at the [Royal Mail](#) website.

4.   Currency of the administrative and health geographies

This release of the ONSPD relates current postcodes in the United Kingdom to May 2010 electoral areas, May 2013 administrative areas and to July 2006 health areas and April 2013 Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Table 1

Numbers of postcodes by user type
(and the changes since the previous release)

Country	Large users			Small users			Total		
	AUG 2013	NOV 2013	Change	AUG 2013	NOV 2013	Change	AUG 2013	NOV 2013	Change
England	612,725	614,221	+1,496	1,509,839	1,511,236	+1,397	2,122,564	2,125,457	+2,893
Wales	26,596	26,624	+28	109,894	109,961	+67	136,490	136,585	+95
Scotland	40,327	40,364	+37	178,395	178,516	+121	218,722	218,880	+158
Great Britain	**679,648**	**681,209**	**+1,561**	**1,798,128**	**1,799,713**	**+1,585**	**2,477,776**	**2,480,922**	**+3,146**
Northern Ireland	9,051	9,056	+5	50,702	50,769	+67	59,753	59,825	+72
United Kingdom	**688,699**	**690,265**	**+1,566**	**1,848,830**	**1,850,482**	**+1,652**	**2,537,529**	**2,540,747**	**+3,218**
Guernsey	880	880	0	2,479	2,479	0	3,359	3,359	0
Jersey	1,130	1,130	0	2,358	2,358	0	3,488	3,488	0
Channel Islands	**2,010**	**2,010**	**0**	**4,837**	**4,837**	**0**	**6,847**	**6,847**	**0**
Isle of Man	1,604	1,604	0	4,340	4,340	0	5,944	5,944	0
All	**692,313**	**693,879**	**+1,566**	**1,858,007**	**1,859,659**	**+1,652**	**2,550,320**	**2,553,538**	**+3,218**

NB. The above figures include 'live' and terminated postcodes.

Table 2

Numbers of postcodes, postcode sectors and postcode districts

Postcode area	Post code area code	Postcode districts	Post code sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Aberdeen	AB	40	177	16,644	21,363	38,007
St Albans	AL	10	39	7,719	3,300	11,019
Birmingham	B	79	268	41,357	18,098	59,455
Bath	BA	19	81	14,829	4,303	19,132
Blackburn	BB	15	79	13,023	5,243	18,266
Bradford	BD	27	112	16,886	5,814	22,700
Bournemouth	BH	26	103	15,149	6,384	21,533
Bolton	BL	12	53	10,325	3,263	13,588
Brighton	BN	37	143	21,944	11,772	33,716
Bromley	BR	9	39	6,948	3,294	10,242
Bristol	BS	47	205	26,449	17,372	43,821
Belfast	BT	82	278	48,293	11,532	59,825
Carlisle	CA	30	84	12,391	3,336	15,727
Cambridge	CB	16	83	10,240	8,093	18,333
Cardiff	CF	46	203	23,101	18,276	41,377
Chester	CH	37	213	18,530	4,956	23,486
Chelmsford	CM	28	103	17,623	8,362	25,985
Colchester	CO	16	75	12,878	4,376	17,254
Croydon	CR	11	66	8,056	6,042	14,098
Canterbury	CT	22	83	14,661	4,353	19,014
Coventry	CV	24	104	19,487	7,370	26,857
Crewe	CW	13	52	8,989	4,098	13,087
Dartford	DA	18	59	8,861	3,370	12,231
Dundee	DD	11	52	8,873	2,155	11,028
Derby	DE	25	129	16,579	12,421	29,000
Dumfries	DG	15	41	6,798	808	7,606
Durham	DH	12	47	8,836	2,248	11,084
Darlington	DL	18	68	13,052	3,073	16,125
Doncaster	DN	33	117	21,493	5,531	27,024
Dorchester	DT	11	39	7,678	1,738	9,416
Dudley	DY	14	59	10,942	3,154	14,096
London E	E	22	108	15,859	10,642	26,501
London EC	EC	30	140	4,274	8,018	12,292
Edinburgh	EH	57	168	23,845	7,115	30,960
Enfield	EN	12	48	8,582	3,983	12,565
Exeter	EX	33	129	21,664	5,678	27,342
Falkirk	FK	21	49	7,615	1,752	9,367
Blackpool	FY	9	42	7,209	2,503	9,712
Glasgow	G	57	241	31,471	14,065	45,536
Gloucester	GL	27	118	20,383	6,945	27,328
Guildford	GU	40	144	21,935	12,279	34,214
Harrow	HA	10	58	10,361	6,534	16,895
Huddersfield	HD	9	42	7,084	3,427	10,511
Harrogate	HG	5	25	4,372	1,722	6,094
Hemel Hempstead	HP	24	77	13,693	7,138	20,831
Hereford	HR	9	33	6,300	1,369	7,669

Postcode area	Post code area code	Postcode districts	Post code sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Hebrides	HS	9	11	956	110	1,066
Hull	HU	21	70	10,774	3,953	14,727
Halifax	HX	7	32	5,647	1,548	7,195
Ilford	IG	11	35	5,989	3,578	9,567
Ipswich	IP	34	115	20,612	5,427	26,039
Inverness	IV	53	84	7,123	3,225	10,348
Kilmarnock	KA	30	87	11,521	2,297	13,818
Kingston upon Thames	KT	24	92	14,379	7,258	21,637
Kirkwall	KW	16	22	1,840	225	2,065
Kirkcaldy	KY	17	75	9,966	2,835	12,801
Liverpool	L	66	582	20,297	21,972	42,269
Lancaster	LA	23	66	11,756	2,579	14,335
Llandrindod Wells	LD	8	16	2,190	407	2,597
Leicester	LE	28	152	21,578	11,427	33,005
Llandudno	LL	67	150	20,056	3,829	23,885
Lincoln	LN	13	49	8,953	2,594	11,547
Leeds	LS	32	150	21,297	9,354	30,651
Luton	LU	8	36	6,195	3,740	9,935
Manchester	M	48	302	31,515	25,423	56,938
Medway	ME	21	83	15,956	5,059	21,015
Milton Keynes	MK	28	110	14,774	6,678	21,452
Motherwell	ML	12	55	9,554	1,775	11,329
London N	N	25	112	17,459	10,633	28,092
Newcastle upon Tyne	NE	67	230	32,671	10,898	43,569
Nottingham	NG	32	167	28,423	7,636	36,059
Northampton	NN	20	101	15,617	8,073	23,690
Newport	NP	25	142	13,480	16,322	29,802
Norwich	NR	36	114	22,778	4,395	27,173
London NW	NW	13	82	13,951	10,315	24,266
Oldham	OL	17	70	13,045	4,222	17,267
Oxford	OX	28	146	19,114	14,173	33,287
Paisley	PA	77	115	9,219	3,359	12,578
Peterborough	PE	39	162	25,677	11,841	37,518
Perth	PH	43	61	6,009	1,161	7,170
Plymouth	PL	36	99	17,062	4,361	21,423
Portsmouth	PO	34	131	23,715	7,881	31,596
Preston	PR	13	83	12,705	6,334	19,039
Reading	RG	35	184	22,887	21,457	44,344
Redhill	RH	21	89	15,734	7,210	22,944
Romford	RM	21	71	9,741	4,765	14,506
Sheffield	S	55	249	33,002	14,491	47,493
Swansea	SA	53	152	23,090	5,639	28,729
London SE	SE	30	129	20,233	12,191	32,424
Stevenage	SG	19	65	11,616	4,532	16,148
Stockport	SK	19	113	16,133	7,906	24,039
Slough	SL	12	58	10,785	5,360	16,145
Sutton	SM	7	29	4,404	2,003	6,407
Swindon	SN	23	113	13,966	6,387	20,353
Southampton	SO	30	179	18,102	20,810	38,912
Salisbury	SP	11	47	8,329	2,465	10,794
Sunderland	SR	11	41	6,557	1,876	8,433
Southend-on-Sea	SS	19	81	11,769	4,903	16,672

Postcode area	Post code area code	Postcode districts	Post code sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Stoke-on-Trent	ST	22	90	17,382	4,615	21,997
London SW	SW	29	139	20,758	14,325	35,083
Shrewsbury	SY	26	86	14,211	2,501	16,712
Taunton	TA	24	67	11,409	2,722	14,131
Galashiels	TD	15	35	4,442	680	5,122
Telford	TF	13	43	6,631	2,095	8,726
Tonbridge	TN	40	128	22,405	8,891	31,296
Torquay	TQ	14	50	9,841	2,854	12,695
Truro	TR	28	68	11,755	2,804	14,559
Cleveland	TS	30	103	17,173	5,083	22,256
Twickenham	TW	20	80	11,267	8,113	19,380
Southall	UB	12	41	7,112	4,014	11,126
London W	W	35	217	19,626	19,430	39,056
Warrington	WA	18	97	17,973	6,784	24,757
London WC	WC	15	46	2,864	4,440	7,304
Watford	WD	14	70	7,427	8,060	15,487
Wakefield	WF	18	75	13,990	3,478	17,468
Wigan	WN	8	35	7,044	1,800	8,844
Worcester	WR	17	50	8,354	3,552	11,906
Walsall	WS	15	67	9,887	4,481	14,368
Wolverhampton	WV	18	60	9,936	3,622	13,558
York	YO	37	161	18,026	15,116	33,142
Shetland	ZE	3	4	639	92	731
United Kingdom	**121**	**3,086**	**12,277**	**1,733,634**	**807,112**	**2,540,746**
Guernsey	GY	10	16	3,334	25	3,359
Isle of Man	IM	11	53	4,728	1,216	5,944
Jersey	JE	5	29	3,213	275	3,488
Channel Islands/ Isle of Man	**3**	**26**	**98**	**11,275**	**1,516**	**12,791**
Total	**124**	**3,112**	**12,375**	**1,744,909**	**808,628**	**2,553,537**

NB. The postcode directory also contains the Santander UK plc postcode GIR 0AA, giving a total of **2,553,538** unit postcodes.

Table 3

Numbers of postcodes with a grid reference

PQI	England				Wales				Scotland			
	Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	368,156	59.9%	1,452,609	96.1%	14,149	53.1%	91,251	83.0%	21,882	54.2%	160,434	89.9%
2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	358	0.2%
3	839	0.1%	3,039	0.2%	23	0.1%	159	0.1%	68	0.2%	520	0.3%
4	76	0.0%	114	0.0%	2	0.0%	15	0.0%	7	0.0%	5	0.0%
5	38,246	6.2%	5,189	0.3%	1,598	6.0%	272	0.2%	2,371	5.9%	611	0.3%
6	66,532	10.8%	130	0.0%	2,230	8.4%	3	0.0%	4,199	10.4%	12	0.0%
8	134,050	21.8%	49,983	3.3%	7,962	29.9%	18,259	16.6%	11,448	28.4%	16,567	9.3%
9	6,322	1.0%	172	0.0%	660	2.5%	2	0.0%	389	1.0%	9	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	**614,221**	**100%**	**1,511,236**	**100%**	**26,624**	**100%**	**109,961**	**100%**	**40,364**	**100%**	**178,516**	**100%**

PQI	Great Britain				Northern Ireland				United Kingdom			
	Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	404,187	59.3%	1,704,294	94.7%	1,374	15.2%	45,929	90.5%	405,561	58.8%	1,750,223	94.6%
2	0	0.0%	358	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	358	0.0%
3	930	0.1%	3,718	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	930	0.1%	3,718	0.2%
4	85	0.0%	134	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	85	0.0%	134	0.0%
5	42,215	6.2%	6,072	0.3%	3,235	35.7%	1,526	3.0%	45,450	6.6%	7,598	0.4%
6	72,961	10.7%	145	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	72,961	10.6%	145	0.0%
8	153,460	22.5%	84,809	4.7%	2,828	31.2%	2,875	5.7%	156,288	22.6%	87,684	4.7%
9	7,371	1.1%	183	0.0%	1,619	17.9%	439	0.9%	8,990	1.3%	622	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	**681,209**	**100%**	**1,799,713**	**100%**	**9,056**	**100%**	**50,769**	**100%**	**690,265**	**100%**	**1,850,482**	**100%**

Table 3 (cont'd)

Numbers of postcodes with a grid reference (continued)

PQI	Channel Islands				Isle of Man				All			
	Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		405,561	58.4%	1,750,223	94.1%
2	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		0	0.0%	358	0.0%
3	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		930	0.1%	3,718	0.2%
4	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		85	0.0%	134	0.0%
5	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		45,450	6.6%	7,598	0.4%
6	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		72,961	10.5%	145	0.0%
8	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		156,288	22.5%	87,684	4.7%
9	2,010	100.0%	4,837	100.0%	1,604	100.0%	4,340	100.0%	12,604	1.8%	9,799	0.5%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	**2,010**	**100%**	**4,837**	**100%**	**1,604**	**100%**	**4,340**	**100%**	**693,879**	**100%**	**1,859,659**	**100%**

Table 4

Numbers of terminated postcodes

Country	Number
England	686,725
Wales	45,860
Scotland	62,995
Great Britain	**795,580**
Northern Ireland	11,532
United Kingdom	**807,112**
Channel Islands	300
Isle of Man	1,216
All	**808,628**