



National Statistics Postcode Lookup User Guide

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1. Introduction

The National Statistics Postcode Lookup (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 2021 Census Output Areas (OA) in the UK. National Parks and Workplace Zones are exempt from 'best-fit' and use 'exact-fit' allocations – see Section 7 for further details. It helps support the production of area based statistics from postcoded data. The NSPL is produced by ONS Geography, who provide 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;
- latest news, including area changes;
- the methodology for assigning areas to postcodes;
- data format;
- summary statistics; and
- data quality and limitations.

The NSPL reflects current and terminated postcodes using information supplied monthly by Royal Mail. The NSPL relates postcodes (as at the third Friday of the month prior to each release) to the latest available updates of geographic areas.

The NSPL uses the Government Statistical Service (GSS) standard 9-character codes throughout. Lookup files linking these codes to statutory area names are included with the NSPL, in the 'Documents' folder. You are encouraged to adopt these standard names and codes, as they are the recognised standard for National Statistics.

The NSPL is available to download (see [Annex C](#)) and the record specification at [Annex B](#) includes complete details of all available fields.

2. News

2.1 Updates to Geographies

This release of the NSPL includes Ward changes as at 1 May 2026. The 2011 Output Area Classification (OAC11) has been updated to 2021 (OAC21). The 2011-based Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD20) has been updated to 2021-based (IMD25) for England and Wales; Scotland and Northern Ireland are not yet available.

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

4. Postcode Counts and Currency

The NSPL contains postcodes within the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. They are current to the 3rd Friday of the previous month and include both live and terminated postcodes.

[Table 1](#) shows the split between large and small users by country, and the change in the numbers of postcodes since the previous quarter (counts taken from the ONSPD).

[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 (counts taken from the ONSPD).

[Table 4](#) shows the numbers of terminated postcodes.

5. Geography Updates on the NSPL

The OA lookups that serve as inputs to each release of the NSPL are updated once the latest information has been received.

6. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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

- This mainly applies to new postcodes, which are assigned grid references by ONS Geography using imputation techniques – see Sections 6 and 7. In some cases the imputation procedure cannot assign a grid reference and, because the NSPL processing system assigns postcodes to 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 (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. 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, 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 6).

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

- Postcode areas are defined and used by Royal Mail for 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.

Why have some allocations changed after August 2012 when the geographies haven't changed?

- As part of the 2011 Census Output Area maintenance, OAs had their population weighted centroids recalculated using the latest Census populations. As well as this there was also a change in centroid calculation from the mean average to the median average. This change in the population and methodology means that almost all OA population weighted centroids have moved from their original position. In a number of cases the new OA population weighted centroids now fall into different higher geographies. This causes the differences in the allocations after August 2012, even where the geographies haven't changed.

7. Postcode Content

The NSPL contains both 'live' postcodes and postcodes which have been terminated by Royal Mail but not subsequently re-used (see [Section 8](#)).

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 A](#)).

8. Gridlink®

The postcode is a key piece of data that can provide a geo-spatial reference for many uses beyond the delivery of mail. In order to make full use of its potential, and to deliver improved consistency, a consortium of organisations was formed in 1999 to allow the specialist resources of each member to be pooled. The Gridlink® Consortium consists of Royal Mail Group plc, OS (GB), National Records of Scotland (NRS), Northern Ireland Land and Property Services (LPS) and ONS.

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

- All current (i.e. 'live') UK unit postcodes (but ONS maintains postcodes terminated and not subsequently re-used by Royal Mail).
- Grid references to 1 metre resolution.
- Positional quality indicators for grid references.

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

9. Geographic Coordinates

Postcode coordinates on the NSPL are available in two formats – 1 metre resolution grid reference and decimal degrees latitude and longitude.

The majority of grid references are derived from OS AddressBase® that contains grid references for each address. Newly introduced postcodes initially have a grid reference that has been imputed by ONS Geography. In due course these are replaced by improved OS AddressBase® grid references which use data supplied by OS field surveyors.

Each grid reference is given a Positional Quality Indicator (PQI) to denote the accuracy of the grid reference, as follows:

- 1 - within the building of the matched address closest to the postcode mean,
- 2 - as for 1 above, except by visual inspection of Landline maps (Scotland only),
- 3 - approximate to within 50 metres,
- 4 - postcode unit mean (mean of matched addresses with the same postcode, but not snapped to an address),
- 5 - imputed by ONS, by reference to surrounding postcode grid references,
- 6 - postcode sector mean (mainly PO Boxes),
- 8 - terminated postcode, last known ONS grid reference used,
- 9 - no coordinates available.

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

The degrees latitude and longitude are calculated from the 1 metre grid reference by converting the easting and northing to numeric and then one point shapefile is created for GB using the 'BritishNatGrid' coordinate system and another for Northern Ireland using 'Ireland 1965.ING'. These files are then projected to GCS_WGS_1984, using an OSGB_1936_to_WGS_1984_Petroleum transformation for GB and a TM75_to_WGS_1984_2 transformation for NI. Latitude and longitude are then calculated from the resulting x and y co-ordinates.

No geographic coordinates are provided for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

10. Assignment of Postcodes to Geographies on the NSPL

Postcodes 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 their centroid grid reference and the same point-in-polygon methodology. The exceptions are National Parks (these are exempt due to the nature of their boundaries) and Workplace Zones (these are exempt as they are not built from whole OAs) – postcodes are allocated to these on an 'exact-fit' basis using the same point-in-polygon methodology.

11. PO Boxes and Non-geographic Postcodes

Non-geographic postcodes can either be special postcodes assigned to some large users of the postal service or PO Boxes that lie within a (pseudo) postcode district that does not form a discrete part of a post town. These will all have been assigned a grid reference, usually the local Royal Mail sorting office, and the majority have a PQI of 1 but some have been assigned a PQI of 6 (see [Section 9](#)).

12. 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 or three 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 OS AddressBase®.

As the Gridlink® system processes only 'live' postcodes it is not possible to assign Gridlink® quality grid references to postcodes terminated prior to November 2000. Grid references for these postcodes have been copied from the old 'Traditional' postcode directory and have been given a single PQI (value 8).

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

13. Postcode Reorganisations

Royal Mail occasionally conduct postcode reorganisations in order to create more postcodes in areas where the number of postcodes that can be created under the current structure is exhausted. For example, SO3 was reorganised some years ago into SO31 and SO32 to cater for current demands, and the reorganisation additionally allows SO33-SO39 postcodes to be assigned at a later date.

Royal Mail issue lists of postcode reorganisations in their 'Update' series, details of which can be found at their website.

14. County Electoral Divisions (CED)

English county councils use county electoral divisions (CED) to elect councillors. These CEDs must be confined within district boundaries, but need not be based on whole electoral wards. The only exceptions are the Isles of Scilly and the Greater London Authority (GLA). CEDs do not exist within UAs.

15. 2021 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 homogeneous 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 more-or-less 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. These were maintained after the 2021 Census.

England and Wales

OAs were also maintained after the 2021 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 2021 Census maintenance were based on postcodes as at Census Day 2021 while the unmaintained OAs reflected the postcodes as at Census Day 2011. 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 188,880 OAs in England (178,605) and Wales (10,275).

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 C](#) for details).

Scotland

OAs for the 2021 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 latest Locality dataset

The main aim governing this order of geographies was to give continuity with the 2001 and 2011 OAs while ensuring, as far as possible, that 2021 OAs fit into the appropriate locality (urban area) which are seen as an increasingly important statistical area. Where possible, postcodes that were excluded from the 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 2021 OAs are of similar size to those used in 2001 and 2011 to allow as much comparison as possible with the previous Census data.

Northern Ireland

For the 2011 Census, NI Output Areas were updated slightly and renamed as 'Small Areas'. A public consultation on Census 2021 outputs in 2018/19 indicated a user need to update these geographies. Given this user input, NISRA has developed new statistical output geographies to support the dissemination of Census 2021 statistics, called 'Data Zones'.

16. 2021 Census Output Area Classification (OAC)

Output Area Classification 2021/22 was calculated by the Geographic Data Service and can be downloaded from their website – <https://data.geods.ac.uk/dataset/output-area-classification-2021>.

The 2021 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 2021 population census data.

17. 2021 Census Super Output Areas (SOA) & 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. They have 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 local authority boundaries.

The LSOAs and MSOAs have been maintained as part of the 2021 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.

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.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland 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.

18. 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.

19. International Territorial Levels (ITL) (Former Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS))

Following the UK's withdrawal from the EU, a new UK-managed international statistical geography - ITL (International Territorial Levels) - was introduced from 1st January 2021, replacing the former NUTS classification. They align with international standards, enabling comparability both over time and internationally. To ensure continued alignment, the ITLs mirror the NUTS system. They also follow a similar review timetable – every three years.

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

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

The NSPL contains the LAU1 code (9-character LAD/UA code for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and 'S30' code for Scotland). A comprehensive lookup of LAU and ITL codes is included with the accompanying metadata.

20. NHS England (Regions) (NHSER)

NHSERs (formerly NHS Commissioning Regions - NHS CR) are sub-divisions of the NHS commissioning board. There are four NHS ERs in England and they were renamed from NHS CRs in May 2017. The NHS CRs were formed on 1 April 2013, replacing pan SHAs, and are responsible for providing clinical and professional leadership at sub-national level. They are also responsible for the co-ordination of planning, operational management and emergency preparedness at sub-national level and undertaking direct commissioning functions and processes.

21. 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 and will remain as a 'frozen' geography on the NSPL.

22. 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, DZs in Scotland, and SOAs in Northern Ireland. The previous (2007) areas were based on the same statistical geographies from the 2001 Census.

23. National Parks

National parks are designed to conserve the natural beauty and cultural heritage of areas of outstanding landscape value, and to promote public understanding and enjoyment of these areas. There are currently 13 national parks in England and Wales. Of these, 10 were designated in the 1950s following the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, The Broads (Norfolk/Suffolk) has had a similar status since 1989 (the Broads has its own special authority, the Broads Authority, which is similar to the National Park Authorities but with extra powers in relation to navigation) and The New Forest was given national park status in 2005. The South Downs is the latest national park, becoming fully operational on 1 April 2011. In Scotland the National Parks (Scotland) Act was passed in July 2000. The first Scottish national park, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, was established in July 2002, and the Cairngorms National Park was established in March 2003. Their boundaries are not constrained by any other geography. Unlike other geographies (apart from Workplace Zones – see [next section](#)), postcodes are assigned to a national park on an 'exact-fit' basis rather than 'best-fit'.

24. 2011 Census Workplace Zones (WZ)

Following the 2011 Census, a new geography, WZ, was created for England and Wales, followed in due course by Scotland and Northern Ireland. These were produced based on workplace data collected from the Census. WZs are created by merging or splitting the 2011 OAs using WZ postcode building blocks, and because of this, postcodes are allocated to WZs on an 'exact-fit' basis rather than 'best-fit'. The upper threshold of a WZ is unlimited postcodes or 625 workers and the lower threshold is three postcodes or 200 workers.

25. Sub ICB Locations (SICBL) – formerly Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)

CCGs were groups of GPs responsible for designing local health services in England by commissioning or buying health and care services, and all GP practices had to belong to a CCG. They came into effect on 1 April 2013 and were built from 2011 LSOAs. In July 2022 they were renamed to Sub ICB (Integrated Care Board) Locations as part of the STP/ICB changes (see also [Section 36](#)).

26. 2021 Rural Urban Classification of OAs

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 2021 Rural Urban Classification (RUC) of OAs – a statistical classification which provides a consistent and standardised method for categorising geographies as either rural or urban, based on:

- address density
- physical settlement form
- population size
- Relative access to major towns and cities (populations of over 75,000 people)

The 2011 RUC used six broad settlement types. The 2021 RUC uses three simplified categories of:

- Urban
- Larger rural settlement
- Smaller rural settlement

Postcodes have been assigned to the urban or rural category of the OA into which each one falls. OAs are defined as Urban if they have a high density of residential addresses, or if they intersect with Amalgamated Built Up Areas (ABUAs) with a resident population of 10,000 or more. ABUAs are Built Up Areas (BUAs) within 200m of one another and with a direct road connection, representing larger conurbations. OAs that intersect with ABUAs with populations less than 10,000, or that have lower densities of addresses, are assigned to the Larger or Smaller rural settlement categories.

The 2021 RUC uses estimated travel time to divide each of the categories into 'Relative access' classes of 'Nearer' or 'Further' from a Major town or city. Areas considered 'Nearer' are those which could reach at least one BUA with over 75,000 people, within 30 minutes travel by car. Areas considered 'Further' are those which could not. The method takes actual, predicted, and historic average travel times and the road network into account. It should be noted that 'Relative access' is a proxy measure, attempting to capture the potential for residents to access goods, services, jobs and opportunities in larger urban centres.

The resulting classification produces the following 6 classes:

- RLF1 = Larger rural: Further from a major town or city
- RLN1 = Larger rural: Nearer to a major town or city
- RSF1 = Smaller rural: Further from a major town or city
- RSN1 = Smaller rural: Nearer to a major town or city
- UF1 = Urban: Further from a major town or city
- UN1 = Urban: Nearer to a major town or city

Scotland

The Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification provides a consistent way of defining urban and rural areas across Scotland. The classification is based upon two main criteria: (i) population, as

defined by the National Records of Scotland (NRS), and (ii) accessibility, based on drive time analysis to differentiate between accessible and remote areas in Scotland. The classification is available in multiple forms, including a 6-fold classification which distinguishes between urban, rural, and remote areas through six categories, and an 8-fold classification which further distinguishes between remote and very remote regions. The 6-fold classification is used by ONS for the RUC21IND field.

The population criteria is derived from the Settlements dataset produced by NRS, which defines areas of contiguous high density postcodes that make up a Settlement.

Accessibility is measured in terms of drive times to an urban area. This is done by calculating 30 and 60 minute drive times from the population weighted centroids of Settlements with a population of 10,000 or more (i.e. Large and Other Urban Areas).

By combining both the population and accessibility measures, a Scotland-wide Urban Rural Classification is defined. Categories of the 6-fold classification are:

1 = Large Urban Areas: Settlements of 125,000 people and over.

2 = Other Urban Areas: Settlements of 10,000 to 124,999 people.

3 = Accessible Small Towns: Settlements of 3,000 to 9,999 people, and within a 30 minute drive time of a Settlement of 10,000 or more.

4 = Remote Small Towns: Settlements of 3,000 to 9,999 people, and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a Settlement of 10,000 or more.

5 = Accessible Rural: Areas with a population of less than 3,000 people, and within a 30 minute drive time of a Settlement of 10,000 or more.

6 = Remote Rural: Areas with a population of less than 3,000 people, and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a Settlement of 10,000 or more.

Northern Ireland

This data is not yet available.

27. 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 38 LEPs in operation, with some areas overlapping. Please see the 'Guide to Presenting Statistics for LEPs' document on the [Open Geography portal](#) for further details.

28. Police Force Areas (PFA)

There are currently 43 PFAs in England and Wales (39 in England and 4 in Wales), with one each for Scotland and Northern Ireland. They each comprise one or more complete local authority. Please see the 'Guide to Presenting Statistics for Police Force Areas' document on the [Open Geography portal](#) for further details.

29. Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) for 2021 LSOAs

Deprivation measures are published independently for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland by the MHCLG (England), the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government, and NISRA respectively. All organisations use the same methodological framework, developed by the Social Disadvantage Research Centre at the University of Oxford.

England

The 2025 IMD ranks each English 2021 LSOA from 1 (most deprived) to 33,755 (least deprived).

English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release – GOV.UK

Dataset: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/691dece32c6b98ecdbc500d5/File_1_IoD2025_Index_of_Multiple_Deprivation.xlsx

Wales

The 2025 Welsh equivalent (WIMD) ranks each Welsh 2021 LSOA from 1 (most deprived) to 1,917 (least deprived).

Wales: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 – GOV.WALES

Dataset: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2025-11/wimd-2025-index-and-domain-ranks-by-small-area.ods>

Scotland

The IMD for 2022 Data Zones is not yet available.

Northern Ireland

The IMD for 2021 Super Data Zones is not yet available.

N.B. Each IMD is unique ONLY within each country, and therefore should not be used in isolation.

30. Integrated Care Boards (ICB) – formerly Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STP)

There were 42 STPs covering all of England, where local NHS organisations and councils had drawn up proposals to improve health and care in the areas they serve. STP also stood for ‘sustainability and transformation plan’ - plans drawn up in each of these areas setting out ways to improve NHS services and population health in England. They replaced NHSRLOs as the higher level health geography in April 2020 and were themselves replaced by ICBs in July 2022.

31. 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 NSPL 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. You can download full names and codes listings from the [Open Geography portal](#).

32. Directory Specifications

[Annex A](#) 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 .csv format, the field names are also given.

33. Data Format

The NSPL is available to download in comma separated variable format. Details are given in [Annex B](#).

34. Limitations/Data Quality

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

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.

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

You 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.

If you identify any errors and/or omissions, you should notify [ONS Geography Customer Services](#) and, with the assistance of the appropriate Gridlink Consortium member organisation, we will endeavour to:

- investigate all reports of suspected errors and/or omissions to areal references; and
- inform you of the outcome within 5 working days if we can resolve the query ourselves.

Corrections and identified omissions to the data content of the NSPL are included on the subsequent NSPL release.

Incompatibility with certain spreadsheet packages

Due to the large number of records on the NSPL, the standard CSV file is incompatible with certain standard spreadsheet packages. You should instead use the 'multi-CSV' file, which includes a file for each postcode area.

Table 1

**Numbers of Postcodes by User Type
(and the Changes Since the Previous Release)**

Country	Large users			Small users			Total		
	MAY 2026	AUG 2026	Change	MAY 2026	AUG 2026	Change	MAY 2026	AUG 2026	Change
England	658,242	658,611	+369	1,618,822	1,620,733	+1,911	2,277,064	2,279,344	+2,280
Wales	28,362	28,387	+25	113,722	113,796	+74	142,084	142,183	+99
Scotland	43,017	43,049	+32	187,907	188,048	+141	230,924	231,097	+173
Great Britain	729,621	730,047	+426	1,920,451	1,922,577	+2,126	2,650,072	2,652,624	+2,552
Northern Ireland	9,764	9,773	+9	53,476	53,520	+44	63,240	63,293	+53
United Kingdom	739,385	739,820	+435	1,973,927	1,976,097	+2,170	2,713,312	2,715,917	+2,605
Guernsey	880	880	0	2,504	2,507	+3	3,384	3,387	+3
Jersey	1,168	1,168	0	2,506	2,510	+4	3,674	3,678	+4
Channel Islands	2,048	2,048	0	5,010	5,017	+7	7,058	7,065	+7
Isle of Man	1,644	1,644	0	4,463	4,464	+1	6,107	6,108	+1
All	743,077	743,512	+435	1,983,400	1,985,578	+2,178	2,726,477	2,729,090	+2,613

NB. The above figures, taken from the ONSPD, include 'live' and terminated postcodes.

Table 2**Numbers of Postcodes, Postcode Sectors and Postcode Districts**

Postcode Area	Postcode Area Code	Postcode Districts	Postcode Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Aberdeen	AB	40	180	17413	21969	39382
St Albans	AL	10	39	7792	3717	11509
Birmingham	B	79	268	41844	21065	62909
Bath	BA	19	81	15524	5110	20634
Blackburn	BB	15	79	13608	5832	19440
Bradford	BD	27	112	17325	6689	24014
Bournemouth	BH	26	103	15253	7522	22775
Bolton	BL	12	53	10408	3783	14191
Brighton	BN	38	146	22567	13548	36115
Bromley	BR	9	39	6781	4024	10805
Bristol	BS	47	206	27448	19321	46769
Belfast	BT	82	281	50148	13145	63293
Carlisle	CA	30	85	12890	3759	16649
Cambridge	CB	16	87	11252	8578	19830
Cardiff	CF	46	205	23435	19768	43203
Chester	CH	38	214	19090	5770	24860
Chelmsford	CM	28	105	18674	9908	28582
Colchester	CO	16	76	13771	5020	18791
Croydon	CR	11	66	8009	7161	15170
Canterbury	CT	22	83	15378	5208	20586
Coventry	CV	24	113	21267	8176	29443
Crewe	CW	13	52	9862	4696	14558
Dartford	DA	18	59	9221	4157	13378
Dundee	DD	11	52	9123	2455	11578
Derby	DE	25	130	17984	12993	30977
Dumfries	DG	15	43	6912	951	7863
Durham	DH	12	47	9174	2643	11817
Darlington	DL	18	69	13555	3588	17143
Doncaster	DN	33	119	22343	6390	28733
Dorchester	DT	11	39	7945	2207	10152
Dudley	DY	14	59	11102	3680	14782
London E	E	23	110	17022	12818	29840
London EC	EC	30	140	3550	9105	12655
Edinburgh	EH	58	170	25448	8405	33853
Enfield	EN	12	48	8536	4877	13413
Exeter	EX	33	132	22913	6703	29616
Falkirk	FK	21	49	7789	2037	9826
Blackpool	FY	9	42	7390	2973	10363
Glasgow	G	57	243	32454	15402	47856
Gloucester	GL	27	120	21671	8054	29725
Guildford	GU	40	146	22616	14154	36770
Harrow	HA	10	58	10255	7717	17972

Postcode Area	Postcode Area Code	Postcode Districts	Postcode Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Huddersfield	HD	9	43	7202	3721	10923
Harrogate	HG	5	25	4528	1971	6499
Hemel Hempstead	HP	24	81	14101	8388	22489
Hereford	HR	9	33	6561	1606	8167
Hebrides	HS	9	11	981	138	1119
Hull	HU	21	70	11369	4417	15786
Halifax	HX	7	32	5715	1847	7562
Ilford	IG	11	35	6106	4266	10372
Ipswich	IP	34	121	21951	6072	28023
Inverness	IV	53	85	7576	3509	11085
Kilmarnock	KA	30	88	11797	2712	14509
Kingston upon Thames	KT	24	92	14273	8700	22973
Kirkwall	KW	16	22	1853	279	2132
Kirkcaldy	KY	17	76	10329	3184	13513
Liverpool	L	66	582	20862	23321	44183
Lancaster	LA	23	66	11945	3072	15017
Llandrindod Wells	LD	8	16	2216	488	2704
Leicester	LE	28	153	23346	12530	35876
Llandudno	LL	67	150	20324	4453	24777
Lincoln	LN	13	53	9575	2831	12406
Leeds	LS	33	151	22198	10790	32988
Luton	LU	8	37	6464	4386	10850
Manchester	M	48	302	32420	27778	60198
Medway	ME	21	84	17231	6088	23319
Milton Keynes	MK	29	117	16215	7643	23858
Motherwell	ML	12	55	9884	2228	12112
London N	N	25	113	17672	12848	30520
Newcastle upon Tyne	NE	67	231	33857	12591	46448
Nottingham	NG	32	173	29864	8953	38817
Northampton	NN	20	102	17156	9017	26173
Newport	NP	26	143	13893	17031	30924
Norwich	NR	36	115	24304	4991	29295
London NW	NW	13	85	14255	12326	26581
Oldham	OL	17	70	13212	4828	18040
Oxford	OX	28	146	20531	15686	36217
Paisley	PA	78	117	9504	3715	13219
Peterborough	PE	39	170	27768	12814	40582
Perth	PH	43	62	6235	1394	7629
Plymouth	PL	36	100	17884	5385	23269
Portsmouth	PO	35	133	24513	9348	33861
Preston	PR	13	84	13736	7121	20857
Reading	RG	35	185	23816	22915	46731
Redhill	RH	21	91	16366	8706	25072
Romford	RM	21	71	10007	5781	15788
Sheffield	S	56	250	34522	16274	50796
Swansea	SA	53	153	23295	6549	29844
London SE	SE	30	130	20971	14880	35851

Postcode Area	Postcode Area Code	Postcode Districts	Postcode Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Stevenage	SG	19	65	12179	5354	17533
Stockport	SK	19	113	16696	8977	25673
Slough	SL	12	58	10672	6317	16989
Sutton	SM	7	29	4326	2525	6851
Swindon	SN	24	115	14710	7454	22164
Southampton	SO	31	182	18624	22281	40905
Salisbury	SP	11	47	8753	2904	11657
Sunderland	SR	11	44	6881	2230	9111
Southend-on-Sea	SS	19	81	11987	5668	17655
Stoke-on-Trent	ST	22	90	17871	5232	23103
London SW	SW	29	141	20109	17448	37557
Shrewsbury	SY	26	87	14641	3033	17674
Taunton	TA	24	67	12113	3192	15305
Galashiels	TD	15	36	4538	816	5354
Telford	TF	13	44	7234	2377	9611
Tonbridge	TN	40	129	23179	10529	33708
Torquay	TQ	14	50	10115	3390	13505
Truro	TR	28	68	12559	3426	15985
Cleveland	TS	30	103	17884	5581	23465
Twickenham	TW	21	82	11122	9575	20697
Southall	UB	12	41	7216	4611	11827
London W	W	35	217	18480	22187	40667
Warrington	WA	18	97	18345	7944	26289
London WC	WC	15	46	2537	5000	7537
Watford	WD	14	70	7405	8805	16210
Wakefield	WF	18	75	14745	4106	18851
Wigan	WN	8	35	7289	2136	9425
Worcester	WR	17	50	9020	3960	12980
Walsall	WS	15	68	10307	4923	15230
Wolverhampton	WV	18	62	10650	3881	14531
York	YO	37	161	19287	16045	35332
Shetland	ZE	3	4	658	103	761
United Kingdom	121	3,099	12,409	1,799,257	916,659	2,715,916
Guernsey	GY	10	16	3300	87	3387
Isle of Man	IM	11	53	4591	1517	6108
Jersey	JE	5	29	3215	463	3678
Channel Islands/ Isle of Man	3	26	98	11,106	2,067	13,173
Total	124	3,125	12,507	1,810,363	918,726	2,729,089

NB. The postcode directory also contains the former National Girobank (now Santander UK plc) postcode GIR 0AA, giving a total of **2,729,090** 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	420,813	63.9%	1,564,993	96.6%	16,105	56.7%	95,312	83.8%	25,013	58.1%	170,331	90.6%
2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	517	0.3%
3	793	0.1%	2,284	0.1%	23	0.1%	109	0.1%	68	0.2%	473	0.3%
4	38	0.0%	99	0.0%	2	0.0%	15	0.0%	6	0.0%	4	0.0%
5	40,324	6.1%	5,320	0.3%	1,623	5.7%	240	0.2%	2,444	5.7%	555	0.3%
6	64,577	9.8%	145	0.0%	2,201	7.8%	7	0.0%	4,139	9.6%	14	0.0%
8	125,159	19.0%	47,727	2.9%	7,779	27.4%	18,111	15.9%	10,917	25.4%	16,146	8.6%
9	6,907	1.0%	165	0.0%	654	2.3%	2	0.0%	462	1.1%	8	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	658,611	100%	1,620,733	100%	28,387	100%	113,796	100%	43,049	100%	188,048	100%

PQI	Great Britain				Northern Ireland				United Kingdom			
	Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	461,931	63.3%	1,830,636	95.2%	1,373	14.0%	48,864	91.3%	463,304	62.6%	1,879,500	95.1%
2	0	0.0%	517	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	517	0.0%
3	884	0.1%	2,866	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	884	0.1%	2,866	0.1%
4	46	0.0%	118	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	46	0.0%	118	0.0%
5	44,391	6.1%	6,115	0.3%	3,359	34.4%	1,295	2.4%	47,750	6.5%	7,410	0.4%
6	70,917	9.7%	166	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	70,917	9.6%	166	0.0%
8	143,855	19.7%	81,984	4.3%	2,670	27.3%	2,838	5.3%	146,525	19.8%	84,822	4.3%
9	8,023	1.1%	175	0.0%	2,371	24.3%	523	1.0%	10,394	1.4%	698	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	730,047	100%	1,922,577	100%	9,773	100%	53,520	100%	739,820	100%	1,976,097	100%

Table 3 (cont'd)**Numbers of Postcodes With A Grid Reference (cont'd)**

PQI	Channel Islands				Isle of Man				All			
	Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	461,931	63.3%	1,830,636	95.2%	1,373	14.0%	48,864	91.3%	463,304	62.6%	1,879,500	95.1%
2	0	0.0%	517	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	517	0.0%
3	884	0.1%	2,866	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	884	0.1%	2,866	0.1%
4	46	0.0%	118	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	46	0.0%	118	0.0%
5	44,391	6.1%	6,115	0.3%	3,359	34.4%	1,295	2.4%	47,750	6.5%	7,410	0.4%
6	70,917	9.7%	166	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	70,917	9.6%	166	0.0%
8	143,855	19.7%	81,984	4.3%	2,670	27.3%	2,838	5.3%	146,525	19.8%	84,822	4.3%
9	8,023	1.1%	175	0.0%	2,371	24.3%	523	1.0%	10,394	1.4%	698	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	730,047	100%	1,922,577	100%	9,773	100%	53,520	100%	739,820	100%	1,976,097	100%

NB. The above figures, taken from the ONSPD, include 'live' and terminated postcodes.

Table 4

Numbers of Terminated Postcodes

Country	Number
England	784,336
Wales	49,936
Scotland	69,242
Great Britain	903,514
Northern Ireland	13,145
United Kingdom	916,659
Channel Islands	550
Isle of Man	1,517
All	918,726

Annex A

NSPL Record Specification

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
7	Unit postcode – 7 character version	AB1Δ0AA-ZE999ZZ (maximum range)	All current ('live') postcodes within the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, received monthly from Royal Mail. Also, all terminated ('closed') postcodes that have not been subsequently re-used by Royal Mail within the United Kingdom and by the postal administrations in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. 2, 3 or 4 character outward code - left aligned; 3 character inward code - right aligned; 3rd and 4th characters may be blank (Δ)	PCD7
8	Unit postcode – 8 character version	AB1ΔΔ0AA-ZE99Δ9ZZ (maximum range)	As above, except: 2, 3 or 4-character outward code - left aligned; 3-character inward code - right aligned; 5th character always blank and 3rd and 4th characters may be blank (Δ)	PCD8
8	Unit postcode - variable length (e-Gif) version	AB1Δ0AAΔ-ZE99Δ9ZZ (maximum range)	2, 3 or 4-character outward code; Single space (Δ); 3-character inward code	PCDS
6	Date of introduction	YYYYMM (year and month)	The most recent occurrence of the postcode's date of introduction.	DOINTR
6	Date of termination	YYYYMM (year and month) or null	If present, the most recent occurrence of the postcode's date of termination, otherwise: null = 'live' postcode	DOTERM
1	Postcode user type	0 or 1	Shows whether the postcode is a small or large user. 0 = small user; 1 = large user	USRTYPIND

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
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.	EAST1M
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.	NORTH1M
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	GRIDIND

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	2021 Census Output Area (OA)/ Data Zone (DZ)	E00, W00, S00, N20, pseudo or null	The 2021 Census OAs in England, Wales and Scotland are based on 2011 Census OAs, and they form the building bricks for defining higher level geographies. 2021 DZs for NI are included, along with pseudo codes for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. E00000001 - E00190594 = England; W00000001 - W00010697 = Wales; S00135307 - S00181669 = Scotland; N20000001 - N20003780 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	OA21CD
9	County	E10, E11, E13, pseudo or null	The current county to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E10000003 - E10000034 = England (non-Metropolitan County); E11000001 - E11000007 = England (Metropolitan County); E13000001 - E13000002 = England (Inner/Outer London); E99999999 (pseudo) = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	CTY26CD

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	County Electoral Division	E58, pseudo or null	The county electoral division code for each English postcode. Pseudo codes are included for the remainder of the UK. The field will be blank for English postcodes with no OA code. E58000050 – E58002117 = England; E99999999 (pseudo) = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	CED25CD
9	Local Authority District (LAD): unitary authority (UA)/non-metropolitan district (NMD)/metropolitan district (MD)/London borough (LB)/council area (CA)/district council area (DCA)	E06, E07, E08, E09, W06, S12, N09, pseudo or null	The local authority district 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 OA code. E06000001 - E06000066 = England (UA); E07000008 - E07000246 = England (NMD); E08000001 - E08000039 = England (MD); E09000001 - E09000033 = England (LB); W06000001 - W06000024 = Wales (UA); S12000005 - S12000050 = Scotland (CA); N09000001 - N09000011 = Northern Ireland (DCA); L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	LAD26CD

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	(Electoral) ward/division	E05, W05, S13, N08, pseudo or null	The current administrative/electoral area to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E05000954 – E05016632 = England; W05001039 – W05001800 = Wales; S13002516 – S13003156 = Scotland; N08000101 – N08001140 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	WD26CD
9	NHS England (Region) (NHS ER)	E40, pseudo or null	The NHSER code for the postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England with no grid reference. E4000003 – E40000014 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	NHSER24CD
9	Country	E92, W92, S92, N92, L93, M83 or null	The code for the appropriate country (i.e. one of the four constituent countries of the UK or Crown dependencies - the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man) to which each postcode is assigned. E92000001 = England; W92000004 = Wales; S92000003 = Scotland; N92000002 = Northern Ireland; L93000001 = Channel Islands; M83000003 = Isle of Man; null = no information available	CTRY26CD

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Region (former GOR)	E12, pseudo or null	The region code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Island and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. 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	RGN26CD
9	Westminster parliamentary constituency	E14, W07, S14, N06, pseudo or null	The Westminster parliamentary constituency code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E14000530 - E14001062 = England; W07000041 - W07000080 = Wales; S14000001 - S14000059 = Scotland; N05000001 - N05000018 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	PCON24CD
9	Travel to Work Area (TTWA)	E30, W22, S22, K01, N12, pseudo or null	The 2011 Census TTWA code for the postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E30000004 - E30000294 = England; W22000003 - W22000034 = Wales; S22000005 - S22000086 = Scotland; K01000005 - K01000014 = cross-border; N12000001 - N12000010 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	TTWA15CD

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	International Territorial Level (former NUTS)	E06, E07, E08, E09, W06, S30, N09, pseudo or null	The national LAU1-equivalent code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E06000001 – E06000066 = England (UA); E07000008 – E07000246 = England (NMD); E08000001 – E08000037 = England (MD); E09000001 – E09000033 = England (LB); W06000001 – W06000024 = Wales; S30000003 – S30000056 = Scotland; N09000001 – N09000011 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	ITL25CD
9	National park	E26, W18, W31, S21, pseudo or null	The National parks cover parts of England, Wales and Scotland. Pseudo codes are included for Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. E26000001 - E26000012 = England; 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	NPARK16CD

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	2021 Census Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)/Data Zone (DZ), Super Data Zone (SDZ)	E01, W01, N21, pseudo or null	The 2021 Census LSOA code for England and Wales, DZ code for Scotland, and SDZ code for Northern Ireland. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E01000001 - E01035762 = England; W01000001 - W01002040 = Wales; S01013482 – S01020873 = Scotland; N21000001 – N21000850 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	LSOA21CD
9	2021 Census Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA)/ Intermediate Zone (IZ)	E02, W02, S02, pseudo or null	The 2021 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 OA code. E02000001 - E02007116 = England; W02000001 - W02000428 = Wales; S02002515 – S02003848 = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	MSOA21CD
9	2011 Census Workplace Zone	E33, W35, S34, N19, pseudo or null	The UK WZ code. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for UK postcodes with no grid reference. E33000001 – E33050868 = England; W35000001 – W35002710 = Wales; S34000001 – S34005375 = Scotland; N19000001 – N19001756 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	WZ11CD

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Sub ICB Location (SICBL)/ Local Health Board (LHB)/ Community Health Partnership (CHP)/ Local Commissioning Group (LCG)/ Primary Healthcare Directorate (PHD)	E38, W11, S03, ZC010–ZC050, M01, pseudo or null	The code for the Sub ICB Locations in England, LHBs in Wales, CHPs in Scotland, LCG in Northern Ireland and PHD in the Isle of Man; there are no equivalent areas in the Channel Islands (for which a pseudo code is included). The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no OA code. E38000006 – E38000268 = England (SICBL); W11000023 – W11000031 = Wales (LHB); S03000001 – S03000044 = Scotland (CHP); ZC010 – ZC050 = Northern Ireland (LCG); M01000001 = Isle of Man (PHD); L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; null = no information available	SICBL26CD
9	Built-up Area (BUA)	E63, W45, K08, pseudo or null	The code for the BUAs in England and Wales. Cross-border codes are included for areas straddling the English/Welsh border. Pseudo codes are also included for Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for non-BUA postcodes and those with no OA code. E63007092 – E63014238 = England; E63999999 (pseudo) = England (not covered); W45000623 – W45001240 = Wales; W45999999 (pseudo) = Wales (not covered); K08000011–K08000020 = cross-border; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	BUA24CD

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
4	2021 Census rural-urban classification	RLF1-UN1, 1-6, pseudo or null	The 2021 Census rural urban classification for England and Wales, and 2022 Census rural urban classification for Scotland. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for Northern Ireland postcodes, and those with no grid reference. RLF1 – UN1 = England and Wales; 1 – 6 = Scotland; ZZZ9 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; ZZZ9 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	RUC21IND
3	2021 Census Output Area classification (OAC)	1a1-8b3, pseudo or null	The 2021 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 OA code. 1a1 – 8b3 = UK; 9Z9 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available	OAC21IND
10	Decimal degrees latitude	Numeric	The postcode coordinates in degrees latitude to six decimal places; 99.999999 for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and for postcodes with no grid reference.	LAT
10	Decimal degrees longitude	Numeric	The postcode coordinates in degrees longitude 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 otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E37000001 – E37000062 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	LEP21CD1

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
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 otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E37000001 – E37000062 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	LEP21CD2
9	Police Force Area (PFA)	E23, W15, S23, pseudo or null	The PFA code for each postcode. A single PFA covers each of Scotland and Northern Ireland (not coded). A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E23000001 – E23000039 = England; W15000001 – W15000004 = Wales; S23000009 = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	PFA23CD
5	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) for 2021 LSOAs	Numeric	The IMD rank for the 2021 LSOA of each postcode, where 1 is the most deprived. A zero is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man, also for postcodes with no OA code. 1 – 32844 = England; 1 – 1909 = Wales; 0 = Scotland (awaiting new IMD); 0 = Northern Ireland (awaiting new IMD); 0 = Channel Islands; 0 = Isle of Man; 0 = no information available The IMD for 2021 LSOAs for Scotland and for Northern Ireland are not yet available.	IMD25IND

Length	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	Integrated Care Board (ICB)	E54, pseudo or null	The ICB code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no OA code. E54000008 – E54000071 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	ICB26CD

Annex B**Data Format**

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

File name: NSPL_mmm_yyyy

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

Where 'yyyy' = year e.g. '2024'

Format: Comma Separated Variable

File type: .csv

Record length: 269

Format: ASCII

File type: .txt

Record length: 269

