**Islands 2022 - Information Note**

The geography of Scotland comprises the mainland plus many islands. Some of these islands are inhabited and through time their inhabited/uninhabited status can change.

Most of Scotland’s islands are found in 3 main areas, Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands and the Hebrides. However, there are also clusters in the Firth of Clyde, Firth of Forth and within bodies of fresh water such as Loch Lomond.

For National Records of Scotland, the prime reason for identifying inhabited islands was to aid the delivery and collection of Census questionnaires. If an island is inhabited, then Royal Mail will allocate postcodes to the island’s addresses. Many of the larger islands, with relatively large populations, will have postcodes that cover only the island. However, some of the smaller inhabited islands have very few households and in some cases the postcode for these island addresses is the same as that of some households on the mainland. In order to ensure that Census questionnaires are collected and delivered correctly, it is important that both parts of the postcode (the island addresses and the mainland addresses) are contained within the same Census Enumeration District. The identification of inhabited islands helps with the creation of meaningful Census Enumeration Districts.

In addition to the enumeration aspect of the census, there has always been an interest in the statistics associated with Scotland’s inhabited islands and this dataset helps ensure that they are all identified.

Islands 2022 dataset

1. Ordnance Survey Positional Accuracy improvement

We were advised in December 2020 that Bell Rock positional improvement occurred in October 2020 and released in November OS MasterMap Topography Layer.

This discrepancy was due to original co-ordinates used to triangulate the position within MasterMap. New aerial imagery flown as part of Ordnance Survey’s National Cyclic Revision allowed them to correct the error on their datasets, which in turn has allowed us to provide a more accurate islands map.

1. Changing Statuses

The following Islands have changed status since Islands 2021.

* Pabay – inhabited – code 100

1. Basis of Islands Map

The islands map was revamped for Islands 2020. The following processes were completed.

* The Islands map revamp is based on Ordnance Survey (OS) High Water Polyline (October 2018 release). This is the most up-to-date high water polyline from OS that doesn’t have errors when converting to polygon.
  + We have fed back issues regarding the High Water Polyline to OS following both May and October 2019 releases from OS.
  + The October 2018 High Water Polyline was converted to a polygon for this work.
  + This High Water Mark (HWM) polygon was then exploded so each island / rock had its own polygon.
  + Where we know an island has been inhabited or is currently inhabited we have updated the attributes. If never inhabited the 999 code is used.
  + The original Islands map (Islands 2016) was PiPped to the HWM and a manual check of all islands was completed to ensure no islands were lost.
  + Using the latest version of OS AddressBase we PiPped the addresses against the new Island dataset to ensure none are outwith the HWM.
  + Where this has occurred, we have investigated and amended the coastline to cover reclaimed land.
  + Created new islands, where the property was on an island / rock that was either uninhabited or never inhabited on our dataset.
  + On occasion it has been the address in the wrong location so this information has been fed back to OS.

**Removal of areas of high water mark due to causeways etc.**

There were some causeways that were connecting individual islands on the HWM, these have been removed.

* Causeways removed (approx. location):

142873 : 932166 (Causeway)

179693 : 707910 (Causeway)

347336 : 998581 (Churchill Barrier 3)

347864 : 995194 (Churchill Barrier 4)

348032 : 999755 (Churchill Barrier 2)

348425 : 1001032 (Churchill Barrier 1)

63728 : 797561 (Vatersay Causeway)

78046 : 842740 (Loch Bee Causeway)

78108 : 812873 (Eriskay Causeway)

78117 : 813690 (Eriskay Causeway)

80067 : 862767 (Baleshare Causeway)

80138 : 847221 (South Ford Causeway)

82413 :847881 (Causeway)

83166 : 856901 (North Ford Causeway)

84213 : 857424 (North Ford Causeway)

84619 : 859033 (North Ford Causeway)

84852 : 857899 (North Ford Causeway)

84886 : 858128 (North Ford Causeway)

91129 : 879629 (Berneray Causeway)

91246 : 867851 (Causeway)

* Additional areas removed (approx. location):

170799 : 709351 (division of island areas)

170878 : 710044 (division of island areas)

188204 : 825874 (division of island areas)

210763 : 726014 (division of island areas)

**Rockall**

The boundary for Rockall is based on the Holland & Gardiner map <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1796950?origin=crossref&seq=1>

The island has a code of 999 however as it is not part of the original Ordnance Survey High Water Polyline we have provided the name.

**Change of name**

During the review period we discovered that one of the Islands on the Islands2016 map was named incorrectly.

Island code 062 ‘Oigh-sgier / Hyskier’, is the name for the main islet, however there are 3 parts to it. The largest part on the east is called ‘Cnoc na h-Airigh’ and the western part is called ‘Cnoc nan Uibhean’.

For Islands 2020 we have corrected the name for island code 062 to ‘Cnoc na h-Airigh’.

**Coastline updates**

Due to using the October 2018 High Water Polyline, there are some areas of coastline where we have manually applied updates to ensure address content is within the HWM.

* Locations:

370540 : 758903 (UPRN 117105915)

370561 : 758899 (UPRN 117104845)

370587 : 758894 (UPRN 117104843)

370614 : 758893 (UPRN 117104842)

370601 : 758895 (UPRN 117104117)

370574 : 758895 (UPRN 117104113)

370690 : 758916 (UPRN 117118556)

370765 : 758926 (UPRN 117118550)

316467 : 721486 (UPRN 124061803)

211375 : 709892 (UPRN 125054645)

150779 : 755307 (UPRN 125060512)

150783 : 755308 (UPRN 125060514)

196010 : 733984 (UPRN 125064023)

150541 : 754990 (UPRN 125077577)

332653 : 972653 (UPRN 130125764)

270879 : 868363 (UPRN 130174046)

256447 : 665020 (UPRN 10091960260)

251196 : 668216 (PA4 8FU)

251277 : 668217 (PA4 8FT)

337246 : 1013219 (UPRN 134013972)

337221 : 1013220 (UPRN 134020521)

82939 : 843078 (UPRN 139019349)

115780 : 899829 (UPRN 139021703)

319422 : 685090 (UPRN 320189436)

Some addresses are not contained within the HWM due to them being on structures that are floating or have water passing under them, i.e. on stilts.

* Locations:

343286 : 866067 (UPRN 133044353)

258089 : 664891 (UPRN 906700354844)

314442 : 678855 (UPRN 906495526)

122613 : 756145 (UPRN 125072801)

**Retired Island codes**

Island code 064 – Inchbraoch (also known as Rossie)

An area of land between what was the island, near Montrose, and the mainland was reclaimed resulting in the area of Inchbraoch being considered as part of the mainland.