

## Scottish Postcode Directory 2018/1

April 2018

### Introduction

The Scottish Postcode Directory (SPD) bulletin contains specific information about each release of the Postcode Index and accompanying spatial data.

The Postcode Index links live and deleted postcodes to administrative, health, statistical and other areas. It also contains the Gridlink<sup>®</sup> one metre grid reference as well as National Records of Scotland (NRS) assigned grid references. The SPD is produced by NRS Geography, who provides geographic support to the Scottish Government (SG) and its associated agencies, as well as other organisations.

NRS have implemented the Government Statistical Service (GSS) standard 9-character codes for statistical geographies into the SPD. The SG maintains the 'Standard Geographic Codes Register – Scotland' and is responsible for assigning new geographies with a nine character code for Scotland. The register is available on the ['Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics Reference Documents'](#) section of the Scottish Government website. Customers are encouraged to adopt these standard names and codes, as they are the recognised standard to be used for National Statistics publications. More information on National Statistics can be found on the [UK Statistics Authority](#) website.

### Latest Statistics

The data is based on the January 2018 release of Royal Mail's Postal Address File (PAF) and contains:

	All postcodes	Live postcodes	Deleted postcodes
<b>All postcodes</b>	237,140	157,417	79,923
<b>Small User</b>	189,126	150,909	38,217
<b>Large User</b>	48,014	6,508	41,506
<i>Small User Linked<sup>1</sup></i>	19,216	2,409	26,389
<i>PO Boxes</i>	28,798	4,099	15,117
The number of live, digitised small user postcodes <sup>2</sup> is 149,704.			

<sup>1</sup> Small User Linked: The Small User postcode that contains the grid reference of the Large User postcode.

<sup>2</sup> Live digitised small user postcodes: There are 1,205 live, undigitised small user postcodes. These postcodes were planned for 'administrative' purposes; we could not digitise the small user postcodes as they had no distinctive geographical position.

## 1. New Postcode Management and Address Register System

### 1.1 Progress

Since the 2017/2 release we have been in an intensive testing phase to complete the outstanding changes to the postcode management system, and SPD. As a result of this work we have:

- Introduced new fields
  - 'NeverDigitised'.  
This allows users to filter out any small user postcodes that have not been digitised. These postcodes are 'voting' codes, and as mentioned in previous bulletins, were planned for 'administrative' purposes; and we could not digitise the small user postcodes as they had no distinctive geographical position.
  - 'GridLinkPositionalAccuracy'  
This indicates the positional accuracy of the GridLink grid reference allocated to each postcode.
- All grid references are provided  
Previously we omitted grid references for 264 deleted small user postcodes. These grid references were previously not included because we did not digitise the postcode boundaries for these postcodes. As we have now included the 'NeverDigitised' field we can now show them.
- Updated the Longitude and Latitude fields  
They are now on the WGS1984 datum (EPSG:4326) to follow the most common used web compatible co-ordinate system.
- Introduced more data quality checks.

We would like to thank our users for bearing with us while we go through these various testing phases and updates.

### 1.2 Next Steps

While the postcode management side of the project is complete, there is always room for improvement and we will continue to streamline the system. We can continue with processing improvements to the boundaries, compare our SPD to the Office for National Statistics Postcode Directory (ONSPD), and look at guidance on topics such as split postcodes.

Planned improvement work:

- Align boundaries (where possible) to the National Parks and the Strategic Development Plan Areas.
- Improvement to postcodes in a Locality area.
- Boundaries containing shared access postcodes (i.e. multi storeys).

Are there any areas you want us to look at? If so, please contact our [Geography Customer Services](#) team and we can look into them. All feedback is welcomed.

## 2. New Geographies

### 2.1 Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) 2018

As mentioned in the 2017/2 SPD bulletin the fields 'NUTS2018Level2Code' and 'NUTS2018Level3Code' have been introduced and the fields 'NUTS2013Level2Code' and 'NUTS2013Level3Code' have been removed.

### 2.2 Local Administrative Units (LAU) 2018

As mentioned in the 2017/2 SPD bulletin the field 'LAU2018Level1Code' has been introduced and the fields 'LAU2011Level1Code' and 'LAU2011Level2Code' have been removed.

### 2.3 Settlements and Localities 2016

National Records of Scotland published the 2016 version of Settlements and Localities in Scotland on 12 March. These were released shortly after our database freeze, and as such could not be included in the 2018/1 postcode index.

We have provided an ad-hoc look-up of the postcodes contained in the 2018/1 postcode index to the 2016 Settlements and Localities for reference.

The fields 'Settlement2016' and 'Locality2016' will be in the 2018/2 postcode index and the fields 'Settlement2012' and 'Locality2012' will be removed.

More information regarding the 2016 Settlements and Localities can be found on the [Population Estimates: Settlements and Localities section](#) of the National Records of Scotland website.

### 2.4 Scottish Government Urban/Rural Classification 2016

The Scottish Government Urban/Rural Classification 2016 was published on 29 March shortly after our database freeze, and as such could not be included in the 2018/1 postcode index.

We have provided an ad-hoc look-up of the postcodes contained in the 2018/1 postcode index to the new Urban/Rural 2016 for reference.

The fields 'UrbanRural6Fold2016Code' and 'UrbanRural8Fold2016Code' will be in the 2018/2 postcode index and the fields 'UrbanRural6Fold2013\_2014Code' and 'UrbanRural8Fold2013\_2014Code' will be removed.

More information regarding the Scottish Government Urban/Rural Classification 2016 can be found on the [Publications section](#) of the Scottish Government website.

## 2.5 Local Government Boundary Commission review

Following a Local Government Boundary Commission review at Keltybridge and Fife Environmental Energy Park at Westfield, the following geographies have changed:

Geography	Old Code	New Code	Name
Health Board area	S08000018	S08000029	Fife
Health Board area	S08000027	S08000030	Tayside
Council area	S12000015	S12000047	Fife
Council area	S12000024	S12000048	Perth and Kinross
Electoral ward	S13002951	S13003128	Cowdenbeath
Electoral ward	S13002957	S13003129	Glenrothes West and Kinglassie
Electoral ward	S13002952	S13003130	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty
Electoral ward	S13002945	S13003131	West Fife and Coastal Villages
Electoral ward	S13003070	S13003132	Kinross-shire
LAU1	S13000004	S30000042	Fife
LAU1	S30000010	S30000043	Perth and Kinross
Integration authority	S37000014	S37000032	Fife
Integration authority	S37000023	S37000033	Perth and Kinross

The Keltybridge Review ([SSI 2017/430](#)) came into effect on 2 February 2018. No population was affected by these changes; the boundary was updated due to the following reasons:

- The boundary passed through a house at Keltybridge and an industrial structure at Westfield.
- The boundary no longer followed the watercourse of the Kelty Burn.

Due to the amount of change we were already implementing to the postcode management system, and SPD, it was agreed that these changes would not be implemented until the 2018/2 postcode index.

Users should also be aware that there is another review that is currently in progress, the Cardowan review. Further information on this is available on the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's website, in the '[Reviews in Progress](#)' section.

## 3. Known Errors

Corrections and identified omissions to the data content of the SPD Index and/or Spatial data are included on the subsequent SPD release.

### 3.1 Postcode index

Thank you to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde for alerting us to a grid reference anomaly.

An example of the issue based on the postcode index from 2017/2 is shown below:

Postcode	Date of Introduction	Linked Small User Postcode	Grid Reference Easting	Grid Reference Northing	Council Area
KY12 2ET	21-Jul-17	NO LINKP	263413	665787	S12000046

And the correction in 2018/1:

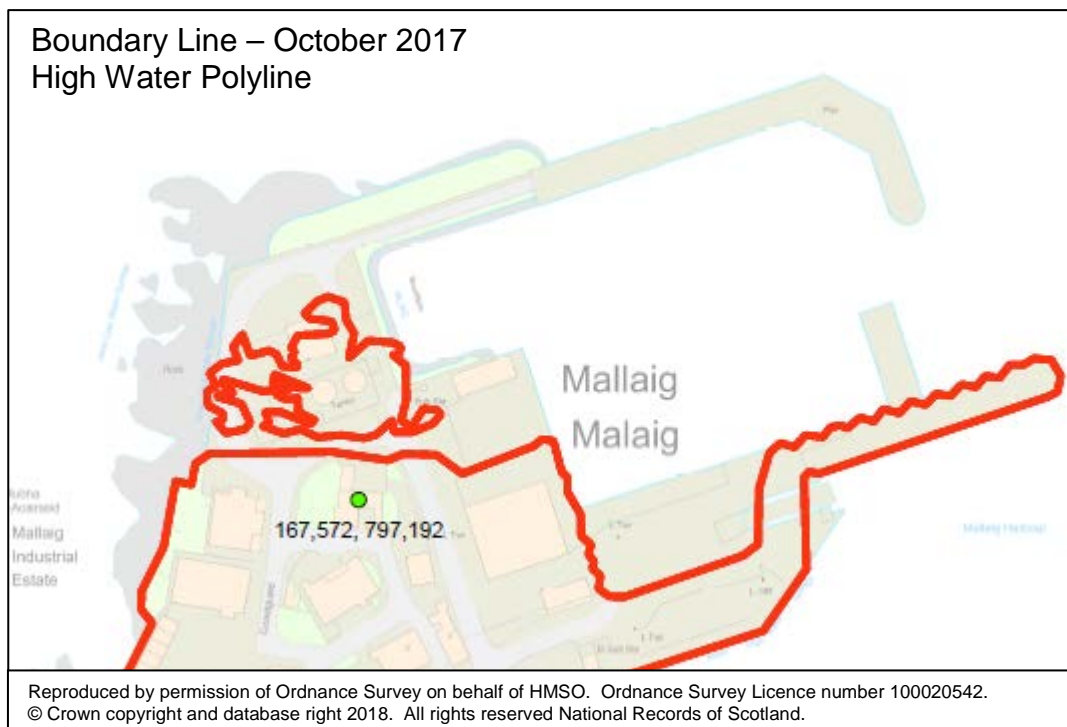
Postcode	Date of Introduction	Linked Small User Postcode	Grid Reference Easting	Grid Reference Northing	Council Area
KY12 2ET	21-Jul-17	NO LINKP	309851	687109	S12000015

While running data checks for the Scottish Address Directory, we discovered a live Large User postcode was being wrongly held as a PO Box (NO LINKP).

This has now been resolved, and a new check put in place. An example of the issue and the correction is provided below:

Postcode	Date of Introduction	Linked Small User Postcode	
		as at 2017/2	as at 2018/1
AB11 9DB	01-Apr-96	NO LINKP	AB11 9NX

- 3.2 Postcode boundaries (and boundaries built from them)  
 Users should note that we use Ordnance Survey BoundaryLine product's High Water Mark to produce our clipped boundaries.  
 If you notice any anomalies when working with the postcode boundaries (as shown below) please let us know and we can feed this back to them.



The Postcode District and Postcode Sector boundaries that we create are based on the Postcode Unit boundaries, all of which are clipped to the latest Ordnance Survey BoundaryLine High Water Mark.

#### 4. Differences in Scottish data between the Scottish Postcode Directory (SPD) Postcode Index and the Office for National Statistics Postcode Directory (ONSPD)

##### 4.1 Postcode History

The SPD Postcode Index provides full postcode history; the ONSPD provides the most current version of the postcode only (as shown below).

SPD Postcode Index:

Postcode	Date of Introduction	Date of Deletion
G31 4QD	01-Aug-73	01-May-95
G31 4QD	20-Apr-12	06-Jul-12
G31 4QD	17-Apr-13	07-Aug-13
G31 4QD	16-Jan-14	

ONSPD:

Postcode	Date of Introduction	Date of Deletion
G31 4QD	201310	

##### 4.2 Postcode Updates

Due to differing update regimes existing between ONS and NRS, the dates for introduction and deletion can differ. The SPD Postcode Index contains quarterly PAF updates, whereas the ONSPD contains monthly PAF updates.

##### 4.3 Split postcodes

Unlike the SPD Postcode Index the ONSPD does not recognise split postcodes. Instead the ONSPD holds the postcode as a whole record.

##### 4.4 PO Box postcodes

Users are reminded that grid references for PO Box addresses are assigned to the local Royal Mail sorting/delivery office and are deemed low quality

#### 5. Supply arrangements

##### 5.1 Data Formats

The 'Cut Version' of the Scottish Postcode Directory is available for free download from the [Scottish Postcode Directory](#) page of the National Records of Scotland website.

- Boundary files      Shape format  
One Scotland Mapping Agreement (OSMA) members only
- Index files            CSV, or Microsoft (MS) Access 2000 compatible format
- Lookup files          CSV, or Microsoft (MS) Access 2000 compatible format

5.2 Full Version

The 'Full Version' of the Scottish Postcode Directory can be supplied for a charge (a royalty payment to Royal Mail), please contact the Geography Customer Services team.

**6. Copyright and reproduction**

6.1 Licence

Postcode Boundaries and Index – Cut Version

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**7. Enquiries**

Please contact our Geography Customer Services team if you need any further information.

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