

Geography – Background Information –

National Records of Scotland (NRS) Geographic Framework an overview

We have a postcode-based geographic referencing strategy and used postcodes as building bricks for our business requirements in the collection, processing and presentation of population and vital statistics for more than 25 years.

The use of the postcode as a geo-coding methodology has been developed to enable NRS to assign any address in Scotland to an extensive range of higher level geographies – statistical, electoral, administrative and census via the postcode.

Our postcode based geography products have been used widely throughout central and local government in Scotland supporting a range of policies and activities, such as:

- the definition of urban areas (Scottish Governments Urban Rural classification),
- the creation of Datazones – the core geography for the dissemination of results in Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS), and
- Land Reform Act Community Right to Buy
- More recently our products have been used by the Digital Division working on the Next Generation Broadband Strategy.

We have recently developed an address register which will be used to support all NRS business areas dependent on addressing. The address register has been geo-referenced and we have plans to add a number of useful indicators to it over time. The address register will run in parallel with our postcode geography database.

We remain committed to the postcode and have no plans to move away from postcode as our building brick geography.

More information on 'postcodes' can be found in the Postcode Background Information note within the [NRS Postcode Extract](#) section of the NRS website.