

## Scottish Postcode Directory

### GridLink® Information Note

#### What is Gridlink®

Maintained by Ordnance Survey, Gridlink® is a database system designed to store and supply consistent high quality location data. It includes National Grid co-ordinates for each unit postcode in the UK as well as administrative area code information.

Its data sources are Ordnance Survey (OS) Address-Point® and Boundary-Line™ products, Royal Mail (RM) Postzon product, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) National Health Service and administrative codes, and postcode data from National Records of Scotland (NRS), and Northern Ireland Land and Property Services (LPS).

Gridlink® grid references were used for the first time in data 2003/2 and Over 96 per cent of NRS live small user postcodes now have a Gridlink® coordinate as the grid reference.

#### Gridlink® consortium

The Gridlink® consortium comprises the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Ordnance Survey (OS), Royal Mail Group plc, National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Northern Ireland Land and Property Services (LPS). The consortium was formed in 1999.

In the past, competition between different organisations had led to duplication of effort on postcode products. Gridlink® now ensures a standard and consistent approach to postcode referencing products in the UK. It is an important example of modernising government and implementing 'joined-up geography'.

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

Gridlink® is the brand name for the joint approach to creating postcode location products.

#### How do Ordnance Survey allocate the Gridlink® grid references

Ordnance Survey take the mean position of high quality addresspoints (APs) for each postcode and then determine which AP is nearest to the mean position. The location of this AP becomes the Gridlink® grid reference. The grid reference is recorded on the postcode index to one metre resolution.



## How NRS applies GridLink®

Gridlink® is applied to our data on a monthly basis.

NRS extract the Gridlink® grid reference for higher area assignment providing the Gridlink® grid reference is within the NRS postcode boundary.

Gridlink® grid references falling out-with the postcode boundary are replaced with a NRS grid reference that lies within the postcode boundary.

Research has shown that the situation where Gridlink® grid references are outside the postcode boundary is most likely to occur because of digitising conventions that we use. For example there are a few occasions where we will not use the Gridlink® grid reference:

- NRS split postcodes
  - a postcode straddles two or more council area boundaries,
  - a postcode straddles the Scottish/English border,
  - an island and the mainland share a postcode,
  - or a postcode contains property on more than one island,
- Multi storey buildings
- Multi-postcoded buildings

## NRS grid references

The address judged to be nearest to the centre of the populated part of the postcode is used as the position for the NRS grid reference. The grid reference is recorded on the Postcode Index to one metre resolution.