

Scottish Postcode Directory 2019/2

August 2019

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® one metre grid reference or 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 ['Small Area Statistics – Reference Material'](#) section of the Scottish Government website. Users 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 July 2019 release of Royal Mail's Postcode Address File (PAF) and contains:

	All postcodes	Live postcodes	Deleted postcodes
All postcodes	239,238	157,872	81,366
Small User	190,700	152,226	38,474
Large User	48,538	5,646	42,892
<i>Small User Linked¹</i>	19,231	3,934	15,297
<i>PO Boxes</i>	29,307	1,712	27,595
The number of live, digitised small user postcodes ² is 151,021.			

¹ Small User Linked: The Small User postcode that contains the grid reference of the Large User postcode.

² Live digitised small user postcodes: There are 1,205 live, undigitised small user postcodes. These postcodes were planned for 'administrative' purposes; and cannot be digitised as they have no distinctive geographical position.

1. Updates since 2019/1

1.1 Geographies

The following geographies have changed on the Postcode Index:

- CouncilArea2019Code
- ElectoralWard2019Code
- HealthBoardArea2019Code
- IntegrationAuthority2019Code
- LAU2019Level1Code

1.2 Boundaries

Postcode alignment work is progressing; this is to provide a better 'fit' to the National Parks, and Strategic Development Plan Areas.

2. 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.

2.1 Postcode Index – GridLink Indicator and Positional Accuracy

We have completed work on the 'GridLinkIndicator' and 'GridLinkPositionalAccuracy' fields where the postcode management system was not updating records correctly. Further information on the issue is in the News Bulletin for SPD 2019/1.

2.2 Postcode Index - LAU Level 1 data

Thank you to colleagues in NRS Population and Migration Statistics branch who highlighted an anomaly between the LAU Level 1 data from 2011 and 2018.

LAU Level 1 boundaries should always be amended to reflect administrative boundary changes, i.e. new S-codes should be applied and the boundary files updated.

NRS downloaded the latest LAU and NUTS boundaries from the [ONS geoportal](#) in early 2018 for use in the postcode management system that produces the Scottish Postcode Directory. Unfortunately the LAU Level 1 boundaries on the [ONS geoportal](#) did not include the council boundary amendments that happened in 2010-2011.

Further investigation with the help of colleagues in the Scottish Government's Geographic Information Science & Analysis Team showed that there was another issue associated to this, where the LAU boundaries were not assigned new S codes for the boundary amendments in 2010-2011 during which time there were three changes made to Council Area boundaries in Scotland:

1. Glasgow City and North Lanarkshire changed at Cardowan, by Steps
SSI 2009 No 368, effective from 1 April 2010
2. Angus and Dundee City changed at Fithiebank
SSI 2009 No 442, effective from 1 April 2010
3. East Dunbartonshire and Glasgow City changed at Princes Gate and Greenacres, by Robroyston
SSI 2010 No 353, effective from 1 April 2011

However, Scottish Government did not create new S-codes or ask ONS to amend the LAU Level 1 boundaries they publish on our behalf when the 2010 – 2011 Council Area boundary changes were implemented. However, the LAU Level 1 boundaries used by NRS for the Scottish Postcode Directory and associated lookups were updated in 2011, but without any changes being made to the S-codes. This has led to a mis-match between the boundaries being used by NRS and Scottish Government (which were also published on spatialdata.gov.scot), and those being published on the [ONS geoportal](http://ONSgeoportal), despite both sets of boundaries sharing the same S-codes.

In order to apply formally the 2010-2011 Council Area changes retrospectively, new S-codes have had to be assigned for each change from 2010-2011 to allow a full time series of LAU Level 1 datasets to be created. The most up-to-date version of LAU Level 1 boundaries, which take into account all Council Area boundary changes since 2010, will be published on spatialdata.gov.scot. The new S-codes will be published in the 'Standard Geographic Codes Register – Scotland'. Both products have been sent to ONS so the boundaries and codes published on the [ONS geoportal](http://ONSgeoportal) can be updated.

2.3 Postcode Index and Boundaries - Postcodes crossing Council areas

There were 2 split postcodes (AB32 6XAA and EH27 8DZA) which crossed the Council area boundary, resulting in both parts of the split postcode being assigned to the same area. This was as a result of a digitising error which was not captured during processing.

This has been resolved for this release, and additional checks have been applied as a result.

2.4 Name corrections for Data Zones and Intermediate Zones

The Scottish Government's Geographic Information Science & Analysis Team has advised us of name corrections affecting Data Zone and Intermediate Zone geographies as shown in the tables below. The SPD Lookups for these geographies have been updated to the corrected names.

Data Zone 2011 Code	Data Zone 2011 Name	
	Before Correction	After Correction
S01008935	Siverknowes and Davidson's Mains - 01	Silverknowes and Davidson's Mains - 01
S01008936	Siverknowes and Davidson's Mains - 02	Silverknowes and Davidson's Mains - 02
S01008937	Siverknowes and Davidson's Mains - 03	Silverknowes and Davidson's Mains - 03
S01008938	Siverknowes and Davidson's Mains - 04	Silverknowes and Davidson's Mains - 04
S01008939	Siverknowes and Davidson's Mains - 05	Silverknowes and Davidson's Mains - 05
S01008940	Siverknowes and Davidson's Mains - 06	Silverknowes and Davidson's Mains - 06
S01010669	Lochlash - 01	Lochalsh - 01
S01010670	Lochlash - 02	Lochalsh - 02
S01010671	Lochlash - 03	Lochalsh - 03
S01010672	Lochlash - 04	Lochalsh - 04

Intermediate Zone 2001 Code	Intermediate Zone 2001 Name	
	Before Correction	After Correction
S02000725	Lochlash	Lochalsh

Intermediate Zone 2011 Code	Intermediate Zone 2011 Name	
	Before Correction	After Correction
S02002007	Lochlash	Lochalsh
S02001672	Siverknowes and Davidson's Mains	Silverknowes and Davidson's Mains

2.5 Islands Review

We are in the process of reviewing our Islands map to ensure that they are assigned the correct status (inhabited/not inhabited) and that all islands that are inhabited have been captured correctly.

During this review period, the Islands2016Code for any postcode that falls into one of the new Island boundaries will be assigned '000' mainland. This is a temporary measure until we complete the review.

Currently there are 4 postcodes that have been assigned a new island as shown in the table below.

Postcode	Island Name	Council Area
AB42 3NFB	Buchanness Lighthouse	Aberdeenshire
HS6 5HPB	Eilean Leathann	Na h-Eileanan Siar
PA34 4TXB	Rubha Fiola	Argyll and Bute
PA37 1SDB	Eriska	Argyll and Bute

3. Changing Geographies

3.1 Electoral arrangements for areas specified in the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018

On 14 January 2019, the Local Government Boundary Commission began reviews of electoral arrangements for the 6 Council areas specified in the [Islands \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#).

These are:

- Argyll and Bute,
- Highland,
- Na h-Eileanan Siar,
- North Ayrshire,
- Orkney Islands, and
- Shetland Islands.

The new islands legislation allows for use of 1 or 2 member wards, in addition to the current multi-member wards, where a ward includes an inhabited island.

More information can be found on the [Island Reviews](#) section of the [Local Government Boundary Commission's website](#).

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. Licence and Copyright Statements

6.1 Postcode Boundaries and Grid References

This dataset is being made available for your personal, non-commercial use under the terms of the [INSPIRE \(Scotland\) End User Licence](#) because it includes Ordnance Survey (OS) Licensed data.

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6.2 Postcode District and Sector Boundaries and Grid References

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6.3 Scottish Postcode Directory - Postcode Index

The following attribution statement must be acknowledged or displayed on any product using NRS data:

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6.4 Further information of licensing can be found in the geography [licensing](#) page of the NRS website.

7. Enquiries

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

E-mail: geographycustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk