

Scottish Postcode Directory 2020/1

April 2020

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 January 2020 release of Royal Mail's Postcode Address File (PAF) and contains:

	All postcodes	Live postcodes	Deleted postcodes
All postcodes	239,923	158,326	81,597
Small User	191,237	152,717	38,520
Large User	48,686	5,609	43,077
<i>Small User Linked¹</i>	19,235	3,911	15,324
<i>PO Boxes</i>	29,451	1,698	27,753
The number of live, digitised small user postcodes ² is 151,513.			

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 1,204 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 2019/2

1.1 Migration to new environment and COVID-19

As users are aware we have been involved in an NRS IT migration project which involved upgrading all of our software and moving to a new server. This resulted in us having to test all aspects of our postcode management system, as well as the new environment.

Due to this work, there has been a delay in processing the January PAF update, and the production of this SPD. There has also been no resource available to implement changes to the SPD (i.e. SIMD 2020) or any changes to specialised/custom versions of the SPD.

We moved to our new environment in mid-March and as with anything new, it has taken slightly longer to process and produce data.

On 23 March the Prime Minister advised that people should work from home where possible to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. NRS took the decision to close the buildings following this announcement and we have been working remotely since.

Due to this situation it has added additional time on our operations and how we send data out to customers.

As ever, we are trying our best to keep things moving in a timely manner and we thank you for your patience during this time.

1.2 Geographies

There have been no changes to the geographies on the SPD Postcode Index.

1.3 Boundaries

Postcode alignment work has been completed on providing 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 – Spatial check on deleted postcodes

We have run a check on all of our deleted postcodes to ensure that they are on land. There was one postcode that we have had to move as it was sitting within Loch Mhor, IV1 2YR.

2.2 Look-ups – Electoral Ward 2019

A corruption has been discovered in the Electoral Ward 2019 look-up where 24 records were not showing the full name of the ward. This has occurred in the Electoral Ward names where there are additional commas. This effected both Access and CSV versions of the look-up.

This has been corrected for 2020/1, however a list of the wards effected by this are shown below:

EW2019Code	Corrupt name	ElectoralWard2019Name - Corrected
S13002600	"Barraigh	Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas
S13002736	"East Mainland	East Mainland, South Ronaldsay and Burray
S13002821	"Broxburn	Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh
S13002861	"Huntly	Huntly, Strathbogie and Howe of Alford
S13002862	"Aboyne	Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside
S13002872	"Arbroath West	Arbroath West, Letham and Friockheim
S13002909	"Preston	Preston, Seton and Gosford
S13002910	"Tranent	Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry
S13002914	"Barrhead	Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
S13002917	"Clarkston	Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood
S13002939	"Carse	Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst
S13002953	"Burntisland	Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy
S13002958	"Glenrothes North	Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch
S13002965	"Leven	Leven, Kennoway and Largo
S13002966	"Buckhaven	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages
S13002990	"North	North, West and Central Sutherland
S13002994	"Wester Ross	Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh
S13003047	"Gartcosh	Gartcosh, Glenboig and Moodiesburn
S13003083	"Johnstone North	Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch
S13003084	"Houston	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood
S13003085	"Bishopton	Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank
S13003093	"Maybole	Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton
S13003130	"Lochgelly	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty
S13003134	"Stepps	Stepps, Chryston and Muirhead

2.3 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.

As a result, the following islands have changed their status. This will be reflected on the new Island boundaries map, however for users interest we have provided the new statuses below.

Island Name	Council Area	Status
Killegray / Ceileagraigh	Na h-Eileanan Siar	Inhabited
Sunamul	Na h-Eileanan Siar	Inhabited
Isle Martin	Highland	Inhabited
Eilean an Stalcaire / Castle Stalker	Argyll and Bute	Uninhabited

During this review period, the Islands2016Code for any postcode that falls into one of the new Island boundaries will be assigned based on the Islands2016 map. This is a temporary measure until we complete the review.

Postcodes that have been assigned a new island as shown in the table below.

Postcode	Island Name	Council Area
AB42 3NFB	Buchanness Lighthouse	Aberdeenshire
HS1 2RS	Goat Island / Eilean na Gobhail	Na h-Eileanan Siar
HS6 5HPC	Eilean a'Ghiorr	Na h-Eileanan Siar
HS6 5HPB	Eilean Leathann	Na h-Eileanan Siar
HS6 5HTB	Eilean na h-Airigh	Na h-Eileanan Siar
HS6 5HUB	Froach-eilean	Na h-Eileanan Siar
PA34 4TXB	Rubha Fiola	Argyll and Bute
PA37 1SDB	Eriska	Argyll and Bute
PA75 6NUB	Rubha nan Gall	Argyll and Bute

3. Changing Geographies

3.1 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020

The Scottish Government published the latest version of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation on 28 January.

SIMD 2020 data and supporting resources are available on the [SIMD website](#). There is also a [new interactive mapping tool](#) where you can find the last three SIMDs.

This data has been provided as a supplementary file for SPD 2020/1, however we plan to include it in the 2020/2 SPD Index, replacing SIMD2016.

The 2020/2 SPD Postcode Index will be updated as shown below.

2020/1 fieldname	2020/2 fieldname
ScottishIndexofMultipleDeprivation2016Rank	ScottishIndexofMultipleDeprivation2020Rank

3.2 2019 Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

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 [Reviews in Progress](#) section of the [Local Government Boundary Commission's website](#).

- 3.3 Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries at Cardowan by Stepps
Following on from the Cardowan by Stepps Review ([SSI 2018/308](#)) which came into effect on 1 April 2019, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland has completed an Interim Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries (Regions and Constituencies) at Cardowan by Stepps.

The Commission submitted their report and final to Scottish Ministers, on 18 March 2020.



More information can be found on the [Reviews in Progress](#) 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

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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