

Identification of dwellings, 2001 (with comparisons with 1991)

Introduction

1. This note documents the account given orally at the last meeting of HARG of the way the 2001 Census identifies dwellings by grouping household spaces that can be said to 'share' accommodation. Information is also provided about the equivalent 1991 process.
2. To ease the flow of the narrative, I will refer to the Enumerator as 'she' and the Householder/Form-filler as 'he'. For the same reason I use the terms 'household' and 'household space' as equivalents where there is no loss of clarity.

GROS provides Enumerator record books (ERBs)

3. To underpin the geography of the Census, in December 2000 GROS 'froze' the set of postcodes to be used for Census enumeration and processing. Royal Mail's Postal Address File was then used to list the addresses in each Enumeration District (ED). Where the PAF indicated that there was more than one delivery point at an address, multiple entries were listed in the ERB. The ERB also had blank spaces for the enumerator to add entries for households not covered by the pre-listed entries.
4. The file of all addresses printed in the ERBs was retained for processing (see below).
5. In 1991, no printing of addresses in ERBs was done. The enumerator had to create the list from scratch in a preliminary round of her ED.

Enumerator creates list of addresses

6. One of the Enumerator's tasks was to check the list of addresses in the ERB. She would mark off any pre-listed address that was non-residential (shop, office, etc), that was derelict or demolished, or that was - through an error in the PAF, say - not in her ED. This latter instance usually occurred because the PAF had entries for addresses that didn't exist.
7. She was also to write entries for any households whose addresses were not pre-printed. Such entries fell into two categories.
 - Property built since the postcode base was frozen.
 - Households where there were more than one household at a pre-listed address. In deciding that there were two or more households sharing an address, the enumerator would apply the definition of a household. This was that a household is *either* one person living alone *or* a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping - sharing either a living room or sitting room, or at least one meal a day. (This essentially unchanged from 1991.)

8. There were various checks in the field designed to ensure that the Enumerator accounted satisfactorily for all the pre-listed addresses in her ERB.
9. Before issuing the form to the householder, the Enumerator had to write the name and address of the householder in the Address Panel on the Census form.
10. The Enumerator had an additional task in 1991. This was to ensure that all households at the same address were listed together in her ERB. This was so that she could group these households together in the ERB by drawing a 'building bracket' around their entries. If she discovered a household late in enumeration and she had already listed households with no room for the new entry, she had to re-write all of the households in the building and delete the previous entries.

Householder completes form

11. The household's task was to complete the form and post it back. Two of the questions he had to answer were to be used in identifying dwellings. These were: H1 What type of accommodation does your household occupy? and H2 Is your household's accommodation self-contained. One of the answer categories for H1 was 'Part of a converted or shared house (includes bedsits)'.
12. In 1991, the Enumerator completed the equivalent to H1 and the householder had to complete the equivalent of H2 if the answer to H1 was 'Part of a converted or shared house, bungalow or flat'. Also, in 1991, the category of 'Part of *etc*' was sub-divided into 'separate entrance into the building' and 'shared entrance into the building'.

GROS processes forms

13. One of the processes carried out by GROS in preparing the data on the forms for tabulation was the Dwellings Algorithm. The algorithm was one of those that followed the addition of household records to allow for under-enumeration (the 'One Number Census' adjustment). The original purpose of the algorithm identified households with answers 'Part of *etc*' to H1 and 'Not self-contained' to H2 at the same address. Determining whether households were at the same address was to be done by examining the text for the address of each household. The text for pre-listed addresses came originally from the PAF and had been saved from the process of printing ERBs (see paragraph 4). The text for an added address was as entered by the Enumerator on the Address Panel on the form (paragraph 9).
14. There were two main problems with this approach. First, householders were not consistently accurate in answering questions H1 and H2 – particularly it is suspected in non-straightforward cases where there was sharing of accommodation. Second, while the text of pre-listed addresses adhered to a predictable format, that written by Enumerators did not. GROS decided that the algorithm needed to be supplemented by a clerical exercise:
 - If a postcode contained at least one household with 'Not self-contained' as response to H2, the following items were listed for all households in the postcode: Household id, Address text - either from PAF (pre-listed entries) or

form (added entries), Accommodation type (question H1) and Whether self-contained (question H2).

- Possible groupings of household spaces into shared dwelling were investigated, in most cases, by examining the forms themselves – in particular the names of occupants (sometimes deleted names offer clues), whether the household shared bath/shower/toilet (question H4).
15. In 1991, the equivalent process was largely automatic once a substantial clerical exercise had been completed. Processing staff had to transfer the information contained in the building brackets in the ERBs on to the Census forms before they were keyed. Clerical staff would mark on each form whether or not it was within a range of forms denoted in the ERB by a bracket, and, if it was, whether it was the first form, the last form, or a form in between. Thus the forms belonging to each bracket were identified for the 1991 dwellings algorithm. A household was designated as belong to a shared dwelling if it was part of a converted house, bungalow or flat, it had a shared entrance into the building and it was not self-contained – and there were at least two such households in the building (bracket). If there was only one such household, it was designated an ‘unattached household space’.

Results

16. There were 2,308,939 household spaces (UV53) in the Census. This number reduced to 2,307,305 dwellings (UV55), a ‘contraction’ of 1,634 or 0.07%. This compares with a contraction of 5,351 or 0.25% in 1991. In 2001, we created 665 shared dwellings, with 1716 shared dwellings in 1991. The average number of household spaces per dwelling in 2001 was 3.5, while in 1991 it was 4.1.
17. A more detailed account of the 1991 results is at Annex A.

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DWELLINGS IN THE 1991 CENSUS

1. In Scotland, enumerators identified 2,160,186¹ household spaces. Of these 8,724² (0.40%) were in non-permanent structures.
2. Of the 2,151,462³ spaces in permanent accommodation, 58,326⁴ (2.7%) were grouped by enumerators into 19,720⁵ 'buildings' defined with brackets in the ERB. 47,471⁶ bracketed spaces were subsequently found in processing to be 'self-contained' and a further 1,035⁷, although not self-contained, each had its separate entrance into its building. These two groups were designated unshared dwellings and represent 86.6% of the bracketed spaces. (17,249⁸ 'buildings' consisted entirely of unshared dwellings.)
3. The remaining 7,820⁹ bracketed spaces which were not unshared dwellings fell into two groups. 7,067¹⁰ were grouped into 1,716¹¹ 'dwellings' each dwelling with at least two such spaces. The remaining 753¹² were 'unattached household spaces', each the sole non-self-contained space sharing an entrance into the building where all the other spaces were unshared dwellings. Spaces that were not unshared dwellings represented 0.36% of all spaces in permanent accommodation.
4. The result of all this is that from the 2,151,462 spaces in permanent accommodation we formed 2,145,358¹³ dwellings and 753 unattached household spaces- a net fall of 5,351. (The same figure is obtained from subtracting 1,716 shared dwellings and 753 unattached household spaces from the 7,820 spaces from which they have been created.) The 'contraction' from spaces to dwellings may be represented by this fall of 5,351 or 0.25%.
5. The same contraction can be calculated for any part of GB.

Area	Contraction (%)
Great Britain	0.70
England	0.75
Wales	0.60
Scotland	0.25

It can be seen that the difference between 'spaces' and 'dwellings' is relatively far less in Scotland than in the rest of GB.

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- ¹ LBS56 (and elsewhere)
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 - ³ LBS55 (and elsewhere and calculation from 1 and 2)
 - ⁴ LBS60
 - ⁵ LBS60
 - ⁶ LBS60
 - ⁷ LBS61
 - ⁸ LBS60
 - ⁹ Calculated from 4, 6 and 7
 - ¹⁰ LBS66
 - ¹¹ LBS66
 - ¹² Calculated from 9 and 10 and confirmed by LBS55
 - ¹³ LBS61