

Scottish Postcode Directory 2016/2

October 2016

Introduction

The Scottish Postcode Directory (SPD) bulletin contains specific information about each release of the Postcode Index and accompanying spatial data.

The Scottish Postcode Directory contains the

- Postcode Index;
- Digital postcode boundaries (which correspond to the live small user postcodes);
- Lookup tables;
- Data Dictionary; and
- This document, the News Bulletin.

The Postcode Index links live and deleted postcodes to administrative, health, statistical and other areas. It also contains the Gridlink[®] one metre grid reference as well as National Records of Scotland (NRS) assigned grid references. The SPD is produced by NRS Geography, who provides geographic support to the Scottish Government 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 Scottish Government (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 ['Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics Reference Documents'](#) section of the SG website. Customers 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 2016 release of Royal Mail's Postal Address File (PAF).

This version contains:

	All postcodes	Live postcodes	Deleted postcodes
All postcodes	235,314	156,697	78,617
Small User	187,808	149,883	37,925
Large User	47,506	6,814	40,692
<i>Small User Linked</i>	19,111	4,273	14,838
<i>PO Boxes</i>	28,310	2,475	25,835
<i>Unmapped</i>	85	66	19

Please note that there are 264 deleted small user postcodes that do not hold a grid reference on our Postcode Index. These grid references have not been included because we did not digitise the postcode boundaries for these postcodes however they have been used for higher area assignments.

News

1. New Postcode Management and Address Register System

1.1 Progress

Since the 2016/1 release we have been updating our postcode boundaries to Extent of the Realm, which mirrors the Ordnance Survey's Boundary-Line™ product.

To do this we started with the 2011 Census postcode boundaries (which were aligned to Extent of the Realm) and processed over 5,000 postcode updates (adding in new postcodes, and removing postcodes no longer in existence) that have occurred since the Census up to the latest July release of Royal Mail's PAF.

Due to the amount of postcode updates, we have been unable to process postcode boundary amendments. Amendments occur where the address content of a postcode are not contained within the postcode boundary. This issue is temporary and we plan to have the postcode amendments completed for the 2017/2 release. More information on this is available at 'Next Steps' below.

Please note that output prior to the re-alignment (boundaries from 2016/1 and previous) was up to date using the Ordnance Survey's AddressPoint product, up until its withdrawal on 31 October 2014. Following the final AddressPoint update, we could only maintain boundaries based on the PAF updates.

1.2 Data Improvements in the new Postcode Index output

Large to Small User postcodes

Royal Mail introduced a mix of small and large user postcodes prior to the 2007 Election. These postcodes were introduced for use in postal votes. As they were planned for an 'administrative' use, we could not digitise the small user postcodes as they had no distinctive geographical position.

Unfortunately due to the way the previous postcode management system worked, and to avoid confusion, these postcodes were all listed as Large Users and flagged as 'Unmapped' in the Large User table.

There are 1,375 small user postcodes (1,270 live and 105 deleted) that were listed in this manner. Following further data improvements, we have updated these postcodes to show their true postcode type (as defined by Royal Mail) of Small Users.

We have provided an ad-hoc look-up of the live undigitised small user postcodes contained in the 2016/2 postcode index for reference.

Gridlink Indicator

We have added in a Gridlink Indicator field to the Postcode Index to allow users to identify which postcodes have been assigned via the Gridlink product, and which postcodes are NRS defined.

Please note that this field is still being refined and currently only provides the indicator for live small user postcodes.

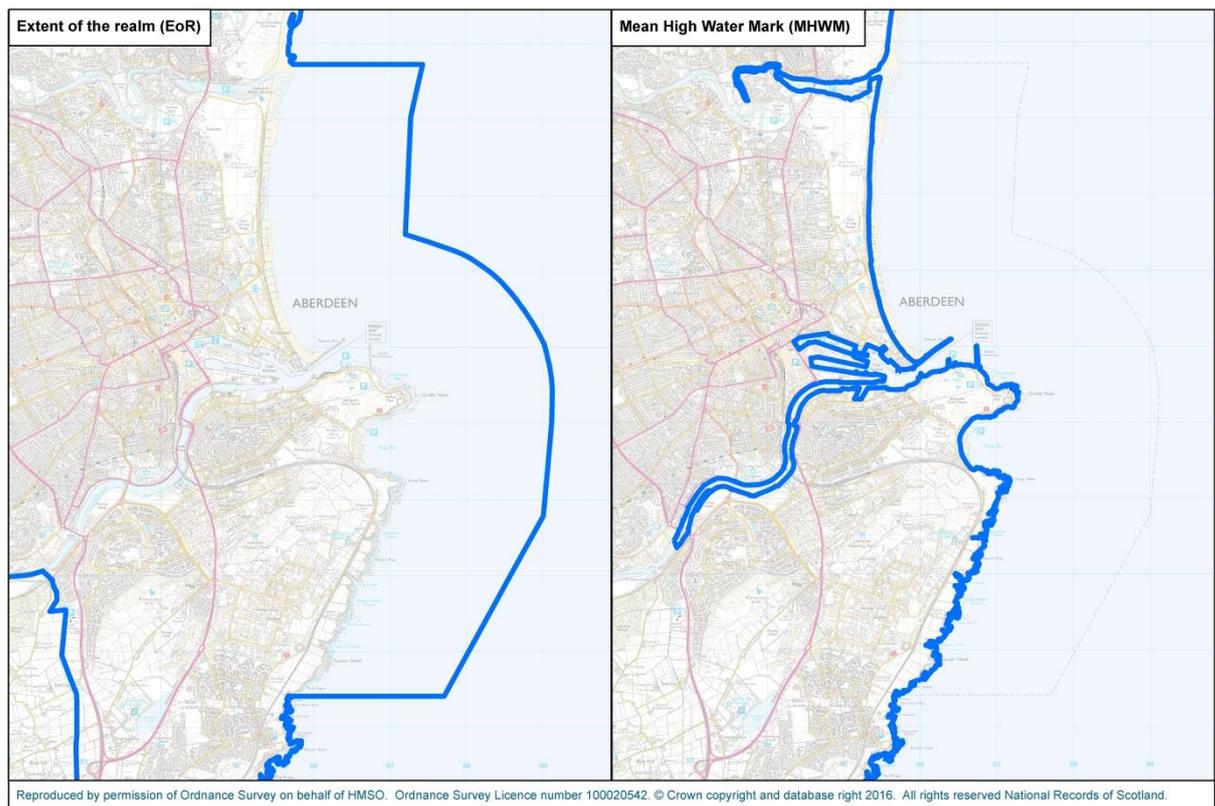
Mean High Water Mark boundaries

Following the successful re-alignment to the Extent of the Realm, we can now provide users with a higher quality coastline using the Ordnance Survey's Mean High Water Mark dataset.

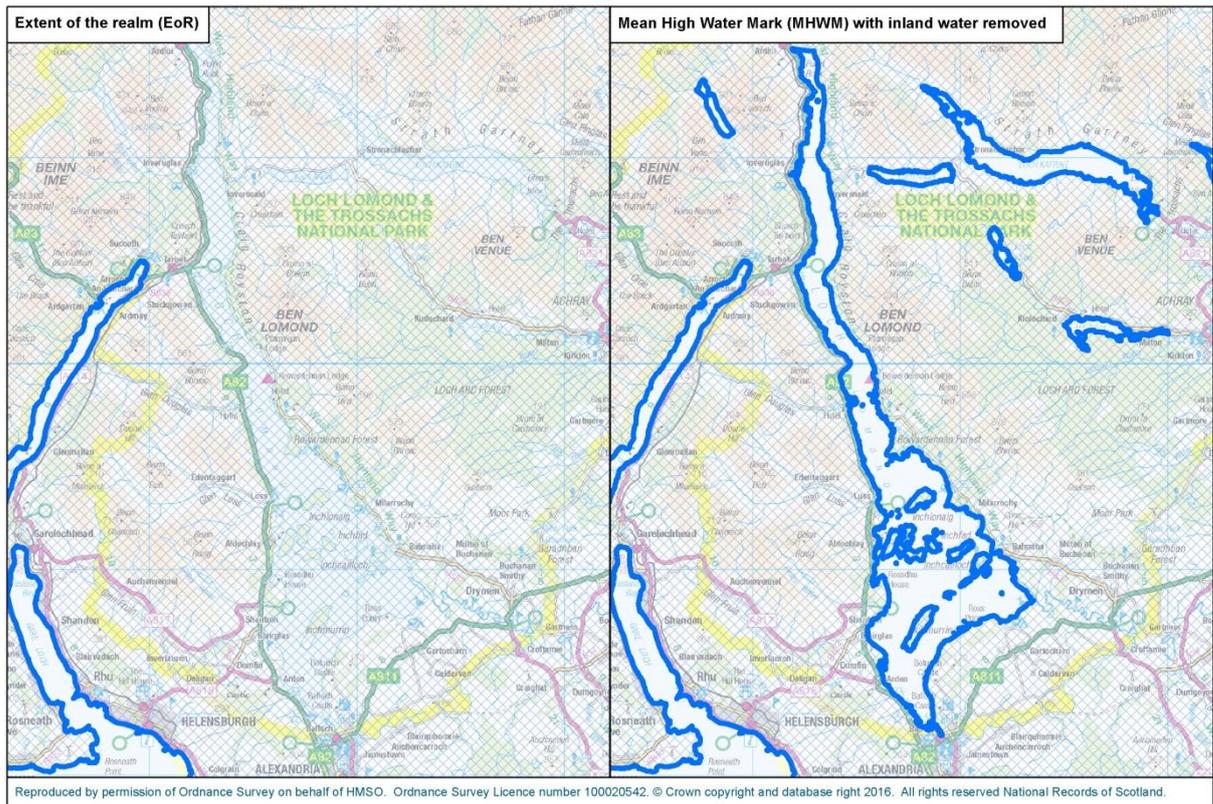
This update also ensures consistent alignment for future products that use the postcode boundaries as their building brick.

The Extent of the Realm boundaries are not currently planned for customer output, however if you require this dataset please get in touch.

Example: the area around Aberdeen harbour is included in the Extent of the Realm, compared with the coastline depicted by the Mean High Water Mark.



We have also updated our Inland Water dataset to agree with the Office for National Statistics Standard Area Measurements (SAM).



1.3 Next Steps

We are now moving on to amend the postcode boundaries to ensure they contain all their address content.

This process will use the NRS Scottish Address Directory which is derived from the Ordnance Survey AddressBase product and Royal Mail's Postcode Address File.

Our aim is to complete all postcode amendments in time for the 2017/2 release. Following this we will move to our next stage of improvement work. Planned improvement work:

- Align boundaries (where possible) to the National Parks.
- Align boundaries (where possible) to the Strategic Development Plan Areas.
- Improvement to postcodes in a Locality area.
- Boundaries containing shared access postcodes (i.e. multi storeys)
- Split postcode review and possible consultation

Are there any areas you want us to look at? If so, please contact our Geography Customer Services team (email: geographycustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk) and we can look into this as part of the project. Any feedback is welcomed.

2. New Geographies

2.1 Integration Authorities 2016

In the 2016/1 postcode index, the IntegrationAuthority2016 field had been included, however it was not populated as the geography was still to be introduced.

The geography has since been introduced (in April 2016), and supersedes the Community Health Partnership geography.

Please note that the Integration Authorities geography can also be referred to as Health and Social Care Partnerships.

2.1.1 Community Health Partnerships and Sub Areas

Following the introduction of the Integration Authority geography we plan to remove the Community Health Partnerships and Sub Areas geographies.

These geographies were superseded by the Integration Authorities. The Community Health Partnership, and Sub Area geographies were terminated following recommendations in the [Public Bodies \(Joint Working\) \(Scotland\) Act 2014 \(asp 9\)](#).

We have kept the fields CommunityHealthPartnershipYYYYCode (YYYY = 2012, 2011, 2007, and 2004) and CommunityHealthPartnershipSubAreas2011Code in the postcode index for the Scottish Postcode Directory 2016/2 release; however they will be removed in the 2017/1 release.

Should users still require a postcode assignment of the Community Health Partnerships and Sub areas please contact Geography Customer Services (email: geographycustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk).

2.2 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2016

The SIMD 2016 was published (31 August) shortly after our database freeze, and as such could not be included in the 2016/2 postcode index.

We have provided an ad-hoc look-up of the postcodes contained in the 2016/2 postcode index to the new SIMD 2016 for reference.

The field 'ScottishIndexofMultipleDeprivation2016Rank' will be in the 2017/1 postcode index and the field 'ScottishIndexofMultipleDeprivation2012Rank' will be removed.

3. Known Errors

3.1 Errors from 2016/1

Postcode Index

Thank you to Open University in Scotland for alerting us to some small anomalies (listed below) with the 2016/1 postcode index. These issues have been fixed in time for the 2016/2 Scottish Postcode Directory.

- Small User postcode PA13 4RZ was holding on to the introduction date of 01/08/1973, instead of taking on the new date of 02/09/2009 when it became a whole postcode.
- Large User postcodes AB32 6AB and AB32 6ZL both had dates of introduction that were later than their dates of deletion. In both cases the dates of deletion should be 01/04/1996.

We have also discovered a small anomaly regarding the grid references of historical deleted large user postcodes which have since been reintroduced where the grid references assigned to them held the same location however the 'LinkedSmallUserPostcode' differed. This issue has been resolved in time for the 2016/2 Scottish Postcode Directory.

An example of the issue based on the postcode index from 2016/1 is shown below:

Postcode	Date of Introduction	Date of Deletion	Linked Small User Postcode	Grid Reference Easting	Grid Reference Northing
DD2 5NH	01-Aug-73	01-Jul-92	DD2 5NJ	334464	734231
DD2 5NH	01-Sep-95		DD2 5NG	334464	734231

And the correction in 2016/2:

Postcode	Date of Introduction	Date of Deletion	Linked Small User Postcode	Grid Reference Easting	Grid Reference Northing
DD2 5NH	01-Aug-73	01-Jul-92	DD2 5NJ	334453	734343
DD2 5NH	01-Sep-95		DD2 5NG	334464	734231

Data Dictionary

Thank you to ISD for alerting us to some small anomalies (listed below) with the 2016/1 postcode index data dictionary. These issues have been fixed in time for the 2016/2 Scottish Postcode Directory.

Small User table

Page 7, Type/Size for Locality1991Code changed to Char(3)

Page 7, Range for Locality1991Code changed to 001 to 603

Large User table

Page 12, Type/Size for Locality1991Code changed to Char(3)

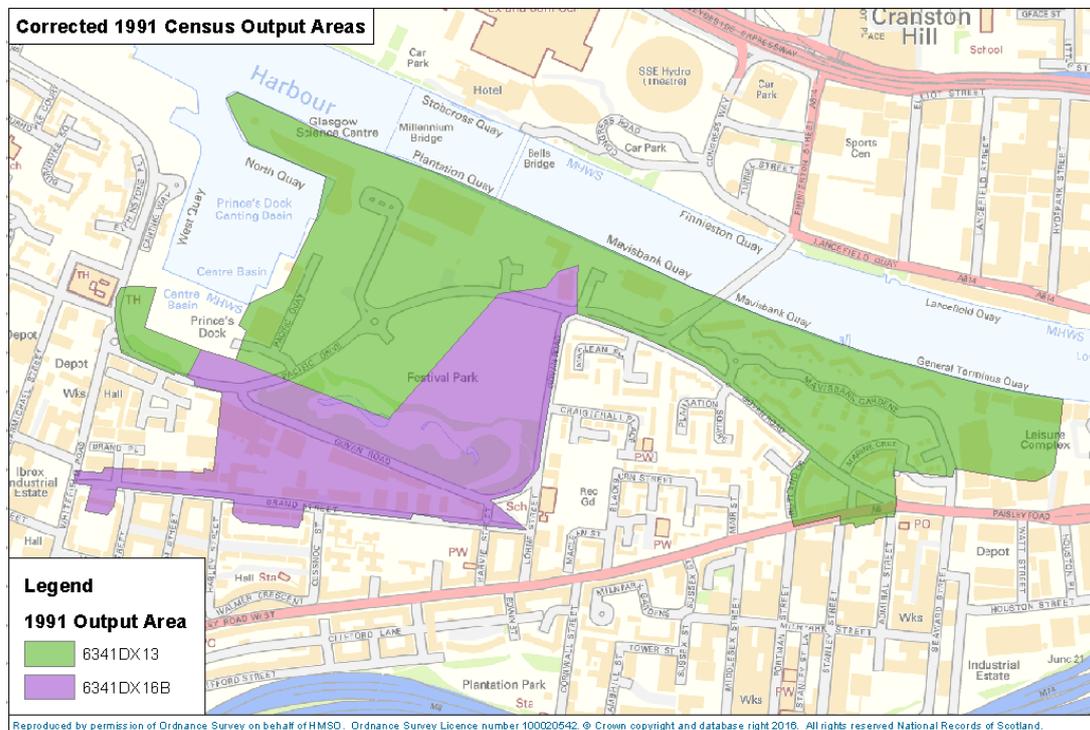
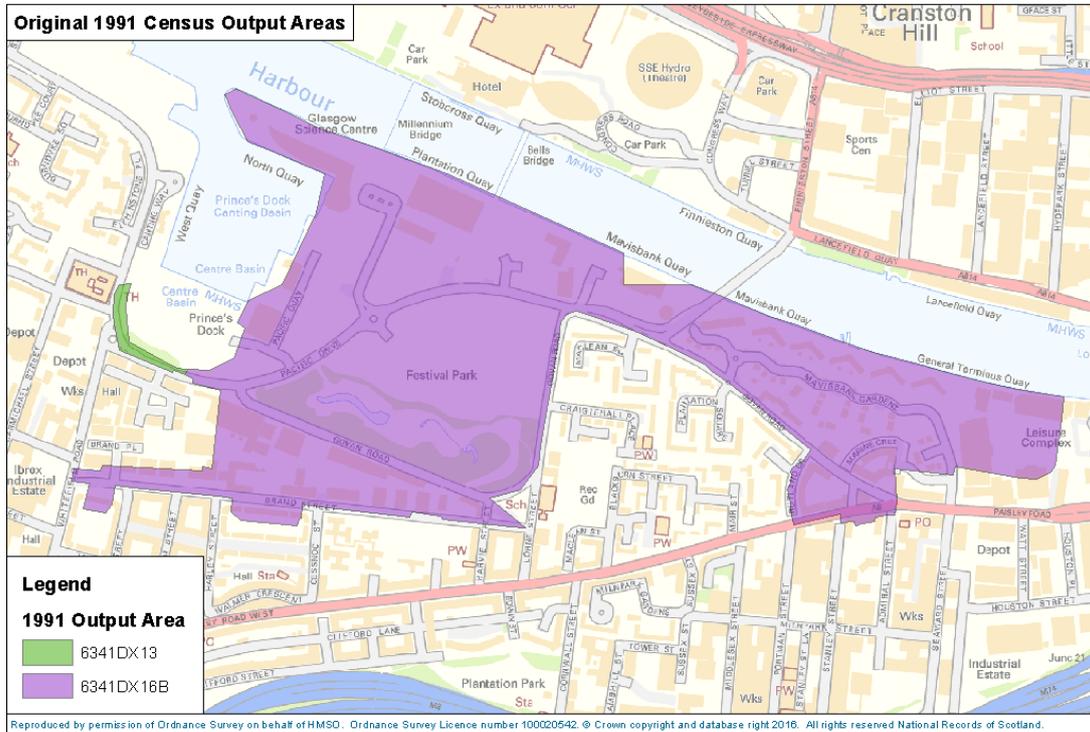
Page 12, Range for Locality1991Code changed to 001 to 603

Lookup tables

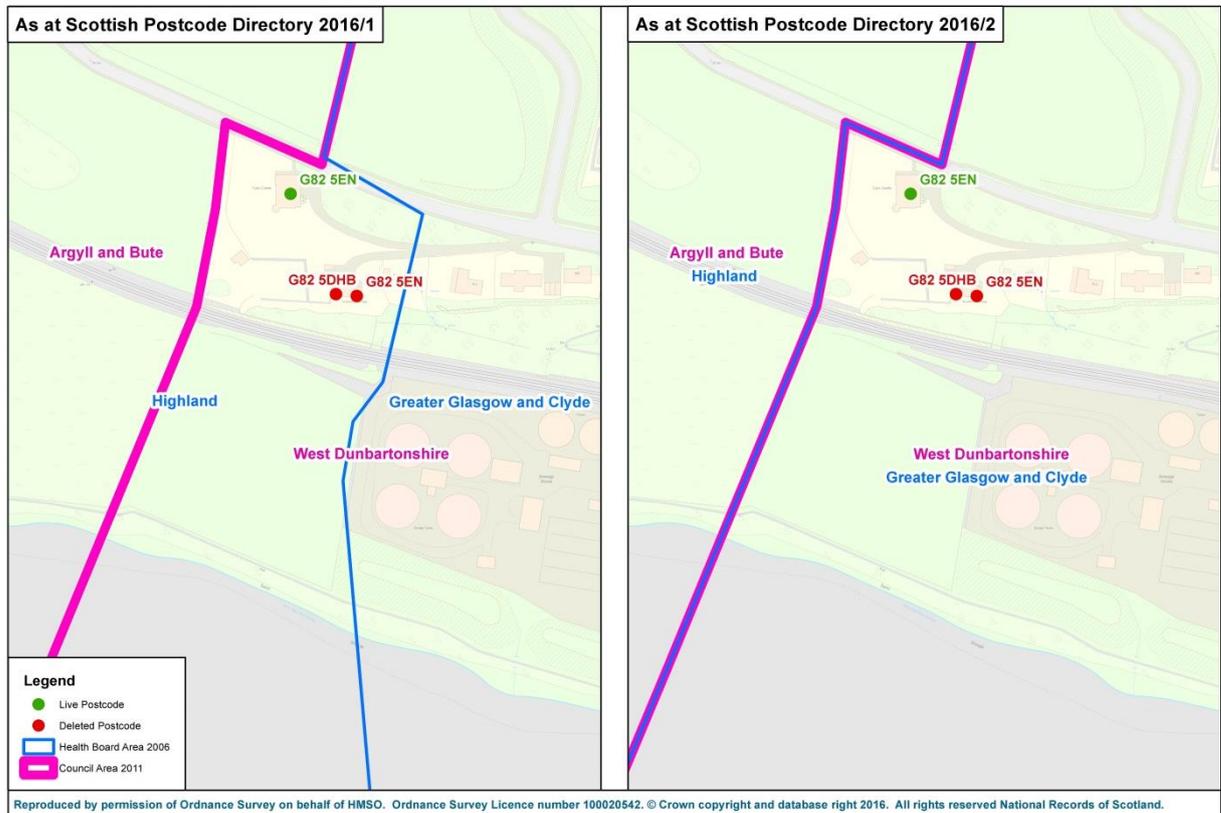
Page 23, Locality 1991 Lookup, Type/Size changed to Char(3)

3.2 Corrections to 1991 Census Output Areas

An anomaly was discovered in the 1991 Output Area boundaries where the boundaries for Output Areas 6341DX13 and 6341DX16B were not following the postcodes that they were built up from, as shown below:



- 3.3 Compatibility issue - Corrections to 2006 Health Board Areas
Following consultation with the Scottish Government, we have amended the Health Board Area 2006 map we hold so that it follows the Council Area 2011 boundary as shown below:



4. Supply arrangements

4.1 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 Text or Microsoft (MS) Access 2000 compatible format

4.2 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.

5. Copyright and reproduction

5.1 Licence

Postcode Boundaries and Index – Cut Version

You may use this information (not logos) free of charge in any format or medium under the terms of the [Open Government Licence](#) (National Archives website).

5.2 Copyright Statement

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'Contains NRS data © Crown copyright and database right [year]'.
'Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [year]'.

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

6. User Guides

We are still planning to release 'How to' guides to help users extract data from our Scottish Postcode Directory products.

The guides will be based on ArcGIS and Microsoft Access, as these are the software packages we use to produce and interrogate the data. Our current plans for the content of the guides are based on the queries we have received:

ArcGIS

- Basics of Arc
- Calculate Area
- Join Data and Create Thematic map
- Define Projection
- Layout views, legends, labels
- Selections
- Format data for inclusion in Arc

Access

- List of live postcodes
- List of live postcodes and all the associated higher areas
- List of live postcodes for specific higher area
- Linking the Metadata to the Index
- Obtain Census population and household counts
- Join the Small and Large User tables

Are there any specific guides that you require? If so, please contact our Geography Customer Services team and we can look into this as part of the project.

7. Enquiries

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

E-mail: geographycustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk