# 2001 Census - Geography Classifications

## 1. Postcode

All Census geography is based on the set of postcodes and their boundaries, which were frozen in January 2001. Any postcode collected in enumeration that does not belong to this set was replaced during processing by the most appropriate frozen postcode.
Counts of the number of households with residents and the number of residents in each postcode are generated during processing. These headcounts are used to create Output Areas (OA's) and are also published in their own right as a Census product on the postcode index.

The Postcode to Output Area Index is a look-up table that indicates to which OA a Postcode belongs. Contact GROS Statistics Customer Services using our Contact Form to obtain a copy of the Index.

## 2. Ad-hoc Areas

These can be aggregated from the optimal set of the area types formed in most cases from OA's so CAS level information will be available.

## 3. Output Area

Output Areas (OA's) for 2001 are created as groups of postcodes nesting as well as possible into the following areas: Council Area, 2001 locality, 1991 OA, postcode sector and 2001 electoral ward in descending order of preference (when not all postcodes in the OA belong to a single combination of these area types). The main aim governing this order of areas is to give continuity with the 1991 OA while ensuring, as far as possible, that 2001 OAs fit into the locality or urban area which is seen as an increasingly important area type.

The OA's cover a sufficiently small area that are user defined areas or ad-hoc. The areas can be created while maintaining a sufficient level of quality for user defined areas.

GROS creates only one set of OA's and allocates all other output geographies using the OA as the building brick. Each OA is assigned to an area in a 'higher' geography by first selecting one of the postcodes in the OA as a 'master' postcode. The OA inherits all of the characteristics of the master postcode including its assignments to higher areas and its centroid grid reference.

The OA is the building brick for geographies based on either of the two 'remote' postcodes collected on the Census form: address one year ago and destination of travel to work or study.

An index, or a look-up table is available which provides a link between the OA and the "higher" areas that the OA belongs to, enabling users to aggregate OA level Census results to "higher" areas, such as Council areas or user defined areas. Contact GROS Statistics Customer Services using our Contact Form to obtain a copy of the OA Index.

## 4. Council Areas

The Council Area is the main area for 2001 output. Council Areas were created on 1 April 1996 following a review of the local government structure in Scotland and the Council Areas provide a single tier of local government covering the whole of Scotland. There are 32 Council Areas in Scotland. They are groupings of contiguous electoral wards that are contained within a boundary defined by statute and Council.

## 5. Parliamentary Constituencies

Parliamentary Constituencies were defined in terms of wards existing at the time of their definition, 2001 wards do not nest exactly into any of the current parliamentary areas: Scottish Parliamentary Regions, Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies, or Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies (1996 or 2005).

## 6. Health Board Areas

In 1974, 15 Health boards were set up to administer the Scottish Health Service. On 1st April 2006, this was reduced to 14 areas, following the disbanding of Argyll & Clyde NHS Board.

## 7. Postcode Sector

A postcode sector is the set of unit postcodes that are the same apart from the last two characters and has been used in Census output since 1981. Special postcode sectors are created for Census output to ensure that sectors conform to a minimum threshold and do not cross Council Area boundaries. Because the confidentiality thresholds (method B disclosure control) differ for Census Area Statistics (CAS) and Standard tables (ST), there are two types of postcode sectors in Census output: Standard Table (ST) and Census Area Statistic (CAS).

- Census Area Statistics (CAS) - First postcode sectors that cross council areas are split and each treated as a postcode sector in its own right. Then as described above (using master postcodes) OA's are assigned to postcode sectors. The resulting 1,010 aggregations we denoted CAS sectors will meet the minimum threshold for CAS (20 households and 50 persons). CAS sector names that include '(part)' indicate that the original sector had to be split.
- Standard Table (ST) - ST Sectors that are mergers of CAS sectors are labelled 'DD1 1;DD1 3' with a semi-colon to indicate the merger. Where a CAS sector fails to meet the minimum threshold for Standard tables (400 households and 1,000 persons) it is merged with one or more neighbouring CAS sectors within the same council area so that these thresholds are met.

Census data is not available for true postcode sectors because they cross council area boundaries.

The method for creating CAS and ST sectors can lead to cases of multi-extent sectors or instances where a sector is not wholly contained within one boundary and may consist of a number, usually two, of non-contiguous boundaries for the same sector.

## 8. 2001 Wards

There are two types of Census wards, CAS and Standard Table (ST). These are both created by aggregating output areas and are only best fit for electoral wards. No census information is available for true electoral wards.

- Census Area Statistics (CAS) - As described above (using master postcodes) OAs are assigned to wards. The resulting 1,222 aggregations are denoted CAS wards and will fall within a council area boundary and meet a threshold of 20 households and 50 persons.
- Standard Table (ST) - Where CAS wards fall below the ST thresholds (400 households and 1,000 persons) they are merged with neighbouring CAS wards to exceed the threshold. It is also necessary to make a few adjustments to ST wards so as to remove any 'slivers' below ST threshold created by differencing ST wards and ST sectors. The processes result in 1,176 ST wards

ST Wards that are mergers of CAS wards are labelled 'South Ronaldsay; Holm and Burray' with a semi-colon to indicate the merger. For slivers, ST wards containing part, or sliver, of a CAS ward are labelled ending in part 'Innerleithen and Walkerburn; Peebles and District South (part)'.The method for creating CAS and ST wards can lead to cases of multi-extent wards or instances where a ward is not wholly contained within one boundary and may consist of a number, usually two, of non-contiguous boundaries for the same ward. More information explaining how this happens and the extent of the occurrence is given in the section on multi-extent wards and sectors.

## 9. Settlement and Locality

2001 Settlements, of which there are 493, have been created from groups of neighbouring urban OAs grouped so that each OA contains at least a given number of addresses per hectare and the group contains at least 500 residents.

Localities are sub-divisions of 2001 Settlements that are based on 1991 Locality boundaries.

## 10. Civil Parish

Although Civil Parishes lost their former administrative function in 1929, they have changed very little since the 20th Century and Census data has been produced for these areas for all Censuses from 1891. There are 871 Civil Parishes. For the 2001 Census, Civil Parishes are a best-fit aggregation of 2001 output areas.

## 11. Inhabited Islands

At the time of the Census, there were 117 islands known to receive mail of which 95 were recorded as having at least one resident during enumeration. The process of creating Output Areas resulted in the smaller islands (in terms of population) becoming merged with neighbouring islands. Census output is to be produced for 53 islands or groups of islands that meet the confidentiality thresholds for Census Area Statistics.

## 12. Hectarage

The area of each Output Area (OA) in hectares forms part of the OA to higher areas index information and are derived from the OA digital boundaries. The hectarage of higher areas is aggregated from OAs, except for Scotland, the council areas and the health boards. Ordnance Survey supplied the hectarage of Scotland, the council areas and the health boards.

## 13. Multi-extent Wards and Sectors

GROS create all census output geographies using the OA as the building brick. During processing, some non-contiguous census output geographies have been created for census wards and sectors i.e. they are split by another area of the same type.

Details of the areas affected are:-

- CAS Wards: 172 of 1,222 areas have two (or more) extents.
- CAS Sectors: 59 of 1,010 areas have two (or more) extents.
- ST Wards: 158 of 1,176 areas have two (or more) extents.
- ST Sectors: 51 of 859 areas have two (or more) extents.

## 14. How does this happen?

For example, there are 158 non-contiguous Standard (ST) wards out of a total of 1,176 i.e. these CAS Wards have more than one extent.

- Each postcode has a National Grid Reference assigned by inspection to the building nearest the centre of the populated part of the postcode. OAs are groups of adjoining postcodes and are the lowest geographic level used in the presentation of Census results. A Master Postcode is selected for each OA and its Grid Reference becomes the OA Grid Reference in order to index the complete OA to higher census geographic areas.
- Postcode boundaries - and hence Output Area boundaries - do not match Electoral Ward boundaries exactly, other than by coincidence. Each OA whose Grid Reference is inside the same Electoral Ward boundary is used to aggregate to a CAS Ward. Non-contiguity occurs when the shape of the constituent OAs of one CAS Ward splits another CAS Ward.