

Scottish Postcode Directory 2020/2

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

	All postcodes	Live postcodes	Deleted postcodes
All postcodes	240,346	158,504	81,842
Small User	191,504	152,942	38,562
Large User	48,842	5,562	43,280
<i>Small User Linked¹</i>	19,236	3,881	15,355
<i>PO Boxes</i>	29,606	1,681	27,925
The number of live, digitised small user postcodes ² is 151,738.			

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 2020/1

1.1 COVID-19

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

The following geographies have changed on the Postcode Index:

- Islands2020Code
- ScottishIndexofMultipleDeprivation2020Rank

1.3 Boundaries

Our continuous postcode improvement work using the latest Scottish Address Register data is ongoing.

1.4 Scotland's Census 2022

Scotland's next Census is moving to March 2022 due to the impact of COVID-19, as announced on 27 July 2020.

The decision was not taken lightly. However, the quality of the census data must remain robust, and by moving to 2022 NRS can continue to deliver a census which ensures the highest possible response rate from people across Scotland, to allow government, local authorities and key services plan for every element of public life, from building homes to NRS support.

1.5 Stakeholder engagement exercise on draft Census Geographic Boundaries

As part of work leading up to the 2022 Census, colleagues in the Scottish Government and National Records of Scotland produced draft versions of new Data Zone (DZ) and Output Area (OA) boundaries. These were created to allow processes to be tested on creation of OA, potential issues with OA design and allow SG to access impact on DZ.

Due to COVID-19 we have been unable to respond to individual queries. Our GIS colleagues in Scottish Government who are working with us on this project are currently providing analytical support for COVID-19 resilience work. As such, it is going to take us a bit more time than we anticipated to respond with comments. We are very grateful for users taking the time to provide comments and feedback on this exercise. Please be assured that we will respond, once we have capacity.

Final OA and DZ boundaries will be based on results from the 2022 Census, rather than the Scottish Address Directory and population estimates used for these draft boundaries. It is also intended that there will be a public consultation on the final post-census DZ boundaries.

2. Known Errors

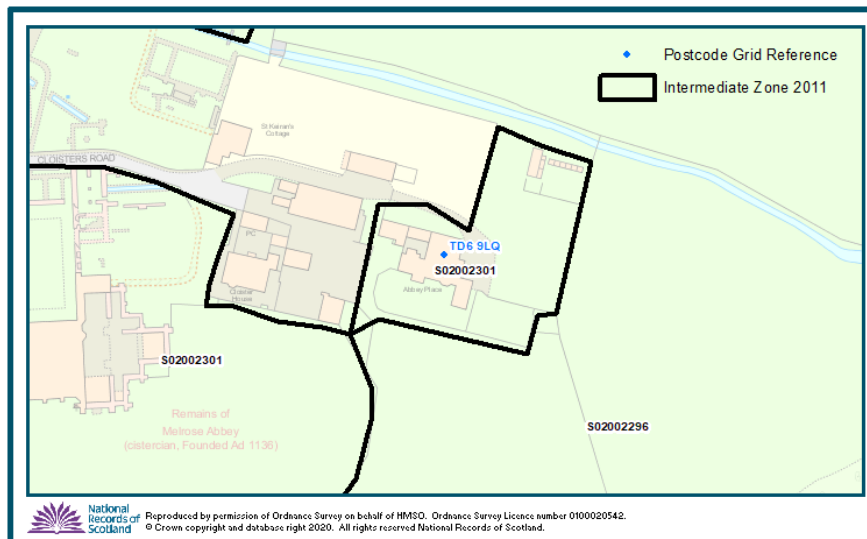
Corrections and identified omissions to the data content of the SPD Index and/or Spatial data are included on the subsequent SPD release.

2.1 Postcode Index – Assignment of 2011 Intermediate Zone

Thank you to ISD for alerting us to an issue with the 2011 Intermediate Zone assignment for TD6 9LQ.

Postcode	Wrong assignment	Correct assignment
TD6 9LQ	S02002296	S02002301

Following investigation, it has been discovered that this issue is due to the software we use to create the postcode index. The postcode was given the wrong allocation as the software doesn't like geographical boundaries that join at a point, which is what has happened with the postcode grid reference for that particular Intermediate Zone (as shown below).



As a result, we will be upgrading the software we use to create the Postcode Index.

2.2 Postcode Index – Nested Census Geographies

Following the issue on 2011 Intermediate Zones, we ran additional checks on nested geographies. There were an additional 2 postcodes where an issue was discovered, these were not due to the software issue and have since been rectified.

2001 Intermediate Zone assignment

We have discovered that the deleted postcode PA77 6UDB was wrongly assigned to a 2001 Intermediate Zone. The postcode is on an island (Skerryvore) which wasn't part of the 2001 Intermediate Zone boundaries when originally published. We have updated our version of the 2001 Intermediate Zone boundaries to ensure the postcode gets the correct allocation.

Postcode	Wrong assignment	Correct assignment
PA77 6UDB	S02000132	S02000151

2001 Data Zone assignment

We have discovered that there was a small sliver causing the wrong assignment of 2001 Data Zone for postcode AB1 7DH. We have updated our version of the 2011 Data Zone boundaries to ensure that the postcode gets the correct allocation.

Postcode	Wrong assignment	Correct assignment
AB1 7DH	S01000042	S01000044

2.3 Postcode Index – Islands 2016

As users are aware, we have been working on an Islands 2020 map which has been released as part of SPD 2020/2.

During the review period, the Islands2016Code for any postcode that fell into one of the new Island boundaries was assigned based on the Islands2016 map, on occasion this meant there were null entries. Postcode G3 8RS received a null entry due to the grid reference falling outwith the ‘mainland’ boundary at an area where there was reclaimed land. We have updated our Islands 2016 boundaries to ensure the postcode gets an allocation in future.

2.4 Postcode Index – Latitude and Longitude

Thank you to NHS Grampian for advising us on the format issue of the latitude and longitude fields for CSV output.

The latitude and longitude fields were being truncated to 2 decimal places. The CSV version of the postcode index is exported from the original Access database version which was unaffected.

Unfortunately, this truncation seems to be a ‘feature’ of Microsoft which we were aware of, however didn’t realise that the movement to our new environment would cause it to re-occur. We have amended our settings to avoid this happening in future releases.

2.5 Postcode Index – 2020/1 supplementary file for SIMD 2020

As users are aware we provided a supplementary postcode lookup file for SIMD2020 data that was published on 28 January 2020.

Unfortunately, the Scottish Government SIMD Team has to re-issue the data on 2 June 2020 due to issues identified with the income domain ranks provided by the Department for Work and Pensions.

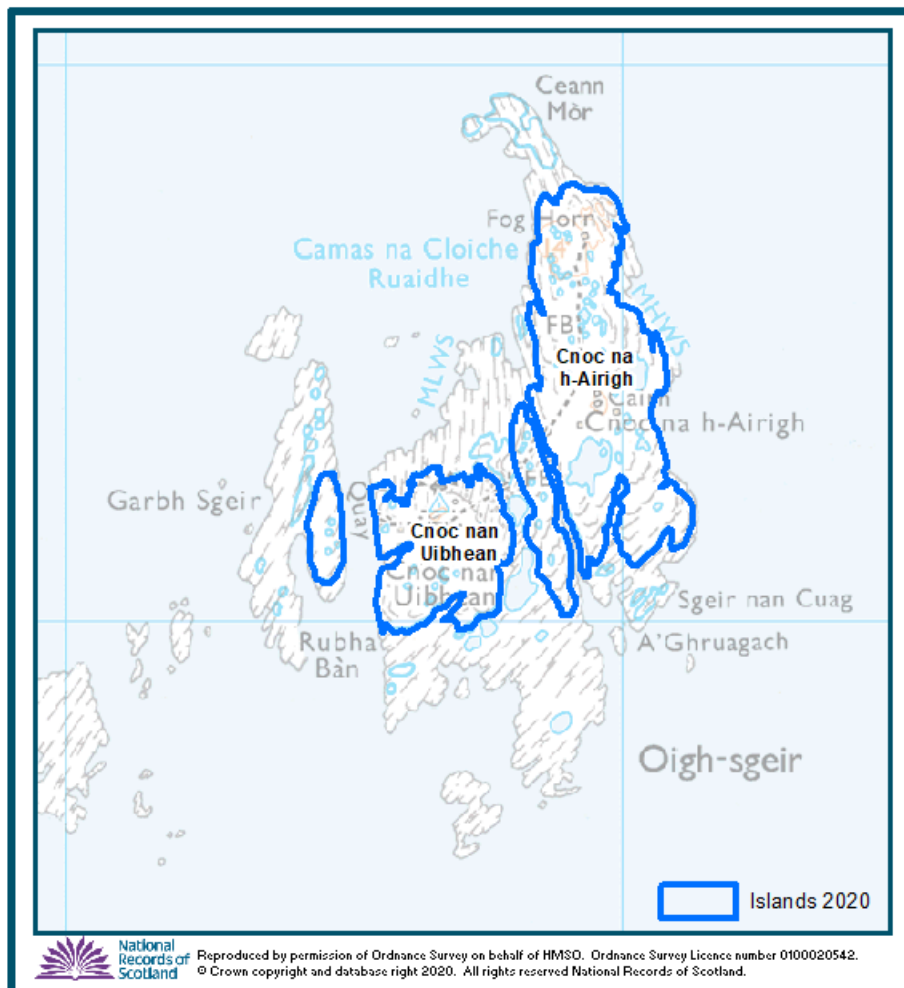
The SIMD2020 (release 2) has been included formally into our postcode management system, and has been released as part of SPD 2020/2.

2.6 Postcode Index – Islands 2020, Island code 062

During the review period we discovered that one of the Islands on the Islands2016 map was named incorrectly.

Island code 062 ‘Oigh-sgier / Hyskier’, is the name for the main islet, however there are 3 parts to it. The largest part on the east is called ‘Cnoc na h-Airigh’ and the western part is called ‘Cnoc nan Uibhean’.

For Islands 2020 we have corrected the name for island code 062 to 'Cnoc na h-Airigh'.



3. Changing Geographies

3.1 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](#).

- 3.2 Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries at Cardowan by Steps
Following on from the Cardowan by Steps 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 Steps.

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
Public Sector Geospatial Agreement (PGSA) 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

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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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7. Enquiries

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

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