

# Postcode Administrative Table Notes

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## Table Structure

Field	Description
Postcode	The Full Postcode (eg UB7 0EB)
Postcode_Sector	The Postcode Sector (eg UB7 0)
Postcode_District	The Postcode District (eg UB7)
Postcode_Area	The Postcode Area (eg UB)
Country	Country Name
Region_Code	Region Code
Region	Government Office Region Name
County_Code	Administrative County Code
County	Administrative County Name
District_Code	4 digit Local Authority District Code
District	Official District Name
Ward_Code	6 Digit Ward Code
Ward	Official Ward Name

## Wards and Districts

Electoral wards/divisions are the key building block of administrative geography in England and Wales. They are the spatial units used to elect local government councillors in metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts, unitary authorities and the London boroughs in England; and unitary authorities in Wales. Electoral wards are found in most of England but in Wales and the Isle of Wight the equivalent areas are legally termed 'electoral divisions', although they are frequently also referred to as wards. The only part of England and Wales without electoral wards/divisions is the Isles of Scilly, which has its own council but no electoral zoning. For statistical purposes however, ONS treats the islands' five parishes as electoral wards. Electoral wards/divisions (and the Scilly parishes) cover the whole of England and Wales and all higher administrative units are necessarily built up from them. They are also used to constitute many other geographies such as NUTS areas and Westminster parliamentary constituencies. Electoral ward/division boundary changes are usually enacted on the first Thursday in May each year, to coincide with the local government elections.

Local Authority Districts (LADs) is a generic term to describe the 'district' level of local government in England and Wales. It includes non-metropolitan districts, metropolitan districts, unitary authorities and London boroughs in England; and Welsh unitary authorities. The areas are made up of whole electoral wards/divisions.

## The Postcode

Formerly a Postcode could contain between 1 and over 300 addresses. This is now restricted to a maximum of 100 although the average number of addresses per Postcode is 15.

There can be only one Locality per Postcode, i.e. all addresses in a Postcode have the same Locality.

Formerly a Postcode could cover addresses on up to 12 Thoroughfares. This is now restricted to 1 although some historic Postcodes may contain more.

## Area/ Ward Codes & Names

Administrative and health authority codes are those used by Office for National Statistics (ONS). Allocation of Local Government codes to Postcode is by point-in-polygon comparison against Boundary-Line data, excluding Northern Ireland. This can result in up to 8% of the file supplied by Ordnance Survey missing the relevant Ward codes.

Therefore we have undertaken geographic proximity analysis to allocate every Postcode to an appropriate Ward. It should be noted that proximity analysis is based on the assumption that an unallocated Postcode falls within the same Ward as its nearest neighbour and therefore the process cannot be guaranteed to provide exact results.

The Ward code is a 2 digit alpha code for England and Wales and a 2 digit numeric code for which when taken in conjunction with the relevant County, District or Unitary Authority codes uniquely identified each Electoral Ward.

For the purpose of the Coding system the Isles of Scilly has been included in the County of Cornwall.

Where the County Code is '00', the Postcode is allocated to a Unitary Authority whose name is given in the *District* field.

## PCL-WRD-UK-CSV-Unclassified File

Not all Postcodes can be assigned Ward Codes. Reasons for this include:

- The Postcode has just been introduced and has not been allocated a grid reference by Ordnance Survey yet,
- Postcodes for Jersey, Guernsey and Isle of Man are not recognised by Ordnance Survey and therefore have no grid references.
- Postcodes are for PO Boxes.

Postcodes which have no Ward Code at this release have been supplied in the accompanying PCL-WRD-UK-CSV-Unclassified.csv file.