



NATIONAL STATISTICS GEOGRAPHY GLOSSARY

The glossary contains over 180 entries relating to:

- different types of geographic area;
- geographic products;
- geographic information systems (GIS) and mapping;
and
- organisations and initiatives involved with geographic information.

This glossary is also available online at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/glossary>

The online version also links to further information on the National Statistics webpages and relevant external sites.

The glossary is continually updated to reflect any applicable UK geography changes that occur.

The glossary was last updated on 06 November 2006.

A

Acacia

'Acacia' was a work programme involving a number of organisations holding extensive property data and address information: the Valuation Office Agency, Land Registry, Registers of Scotland, Ordnance Survey, Local Government Information House and Royal Mail. The programme considered how to join up these data sources to form one, accurate, up-to-date and readily accessible national infrastructure of addresses, along with related mapping and property information. The work was completed in June 2004.

ACORN Neighbourhood Classification

ACORN stands for 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhood' and is a geodemographic classification using census and other data to classify postcodes into neighbourhood categories. The classification has been developed by the marketing-data firm CACI.

ADDRESS-POINT®

ADDRESS-POINT® is an Ordnance Survey product providing locational information for every postal address in Great Britain

All Fields Postcode Directory (AFPD)

ONS Geography's All Fields Postcode Directory (AFPD) was replaced by the National Statistics Postcode Directory (NSPD) in March 2006. The NSPD lists all postcodes in the United Kingdom and assigns them to a range of administrative, health, electoral and other geographies. It is a key product for anyone needing to relate postcodes to statutory areas.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

41 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) have been established in England and Wales to conserve and enhance the landscape in areas that have distinctive character and natural beauty, but which have not been designated as national parks.

Area of Residence Classification Manual

ONS Geography's Area of Residence Classification Manual lists the names and codes of the electoral wards/divisions (by local authority) occurring in each health authority across the UK.

This product has now been superseded by the **Ward:Health Matrix**.

Assisted Area

Assisted Areas are those areas of Great Britain where regional aid may be granted under European Community law. Assisted areas are categorised into 3 levels (Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3) depending on the form of aid that may be given.

Association for Geographic Information (AGI)

AGI is a non-commercial organisation representing users and vendors of Geographic Information (GI) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). It aims to encourage the use of GI and GIS in both public and private sectors, and does so by producing various publications and arranging meetings and seminars across the country, as well as its annual conference and trade exhibition. AGI plays a key role in developing and implementing GI standards and is involved in many important geographic initiatives in the UK.

B

Borough

The term 'borough' occurs in several contexts. Many English districts are described as 'boroughs'; there are also county boroughs in Wales, borough constituencies and the London boroughs. The unifying factor is that 'borough' always refers to an area that is substantially urbanised.

Boundary Commission for England (BCE)

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is responsible for reviewing English parliamentary constituency boundaries.

Boundary Commission for Scotland

The Boundary Commission for Scotland is responsible for reviewing Scottish parliamentary constituency boundaries.

Boundary Commission for Wales (BCW)

The Boundary Commission for Wales is responsible for reviewing Welsh parliamentary constituency boundaries.

Boundary Committee for England (BCFE)

The Boundary Committee for England (BCFE) is responsible for reviewing local government boundaries and arrangements in England.

Boundary-Line™

Boundary-Line™ is an Ordnance Survey product containing digital boundaries for administrative and electoral areas.

British Isles

The British Isles are the islands of North-Western Europe comprising all of the United Kingdom, the Irish Republic, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

British National Grid

The British National Grid is a common referencing format for all geographic data in Great Britain. The result is that any location can be described in terms of its distance from the origin (0,0), which lies to the west of the Scilly Isles. Grid references are always presented in terms of eastings (distance east from the origin) and northings (distance north from the origin). Within a Geographic Information System (GIS), British National Grid references are usually stored at 1-metre resolution - eg 271384, 096572 indicates a point 271km, 384m east and 96km, 572m north of the origin.

Note: British National Grid references are not used in Northern Ireland, which, along with Eire (the Irish Republic), is covered by the Irish National Grid.

Buffering

Buffering is a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) term describing the creation of a zone of specified width around any feature - eg a zone of 1km radius around a doctor's surgery.

Business Link Area

Business Link is a business advice service for England, and operates via 45 local offices each covering an area based on local authority geography.

C

Care Trust

Care Trusts (CTs) are a form of statutory health body in England and were established to provide integrated services. For the purposes of this glossary we are only interested in those CTs which are based on the Primary Care Trust (PCT) model and which, like the PCTs, report to the Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs). As at 1 October 2003 there were three such CTs, with the rest of the country being covered by PCTs. However, whereas PCTs have a health remit only, CTs also deliver the health services usually provided by local authorities. The number of CTs may increase in future as PCTs apply for conversion to CT status.

Census Area Statistics (CAS) Ward

Census Area Statistics (CAS) wards are used for 2001 Census outputs. Unlike actual electoral wards/divisions they are required to meet certain minimum size thresholds in order to prevent disclosure of Census data.

Census Enumeration District (ED)

Census Enumeration Districts (EDs) are used across the UK for the purposes of census data collection. They were formerly also the base unit of census output, but Census Output Areas (OAs) were introduced for this purpose in 1991 (Scotland) and 2001 (rest of the UK).

Choropleth Map

Choropleth maps compare the characteristics of different areas by means of shading; areas with similar characteristics are shaded the same colour.

City of London

The City of London is a local authority in central London but is unique in that it is administered by the Corporation of London rather than a standard local authority council. It is however considered as a London borough for many statistical purposes.

Civil Parish

See **Parish**.

Communal Establishment File

ONS Geography's Communal Establishment File provides details of communal establishments (eg hospitals, rest homes, prisons, boarding schools) where births or deaths have been registered.

The Communal Establishment File has been withdrawn from the website for reasons of potential disclosure.

Community

Community is a very general term referring to the people living in a locality or to the locality itself. In Wales and Scotland however, specific communities have been defined:

1. Welsh communities are subdivisions of unitary authorities and their councils are the most local level of government in Wales. They are the equivalent of (civil) parishes in England, but unlike English parishes, communities cover the whole of Wales.
2. Scottish communities are subdivisions of council areas but community councils have a limited role and are not generally regarded as a tier of local government. Communities cover the whole of Scotland.

Connexions Partnership Area

Connexions is the government support service for all young people aged 13-19 in England, helping them make a smooth transition to adulthood and working life. It operates via 47 Connexions Partnership areas which cover the same areas as the Local Learning and Skills Councils (LLSCs); they are accordingly based on a variety of local authority constitutions. Connexions Partnerships will be replaced by Children's trusts by April 2008. Children's trusts are being established in each local authority area to replace Connexions Partnerships with funding going directly to each of the 150 local authority areas by April 2008.

Constituency

Constituencies are used to elect members to legislatures. The different constituencies in the UK include:

- Greater London Authority Assembly constitutions
- Northern Ireland Assembly constitutions
- Scottish parliamentary constitutions
- Welsh Assembly constitutions
- Westminster parliamentary constitutions (i.e. constitutions for the UK Parliament at Westminster)

Council Area

32 council areas were established across the whole of Scotland in 1996. Their respective councils form the single tier of local government in Scotland.

Country

In the context of the UK, each of the 4 main subdivisions (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) is referred to as a country.

County

Counties were formerly administrative units across the whole UK. Due to various administrative restructurings however then the only administrative areas still referred to as counties are the non-metropolitan (shire) counties of England. The English metropolitan counties, although no longer administrative units, are also used for statistical purposes.

County Electoral Division

County electoral divisions are the areas used to elect members to county councils in England. They should not be confused with the unitary authority electoral divisions found in Wales and the Isle of Wight.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships have been established in every local authority in England and Wales (metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts, unitary authorities and London boroughs) . They involve local authorities, police and other relevant groups working together to reduce crime and disorder in their area.

D

Data Zone

Data zones are a new geography used for small area reporting in Scotland. They are built from 2001 Census Output Areas and are subdivisions of the 'intermediate geography'. Each data zone contains at least 500 residents. As with their Super Output Area (SOA) counterparts in the rest of the UK, data zones are intended to be a stable geography.

Digital Boundaries

Digital boundaries are electronic (as opposed to paper) records of geographic boundaries. Digital boundary sets can be used in geographic information systems (GIS) to create maps or to facilitate data analysis.

Digital National Framework (DNF)

The Digital National Framework (DNF) is a nationally consistent geographic referencing system for Great Britain. All geographic features that have been surveyed and captured by Ordnance Survey are included - examples include buildings, roads, fields, rivers, woods etc. Each feature in the DNF has a unique topographic identifier (TOID), to which any data item can be referenced.

Directorate of Health and Social Care (DHSC)

The 4 Directorates of Health and Social Care (DHSCs) were established on 1 April 2002 and abolished on 1 July 2003. They were part of the Department of Health and were each responsible for a number of Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs). Each DHSC covered one or more Government Office Regions (GORs).

Disclosure

Disclosure in statistical terms refers to the release of data which could be traced to a particular individual. As it is critical that data supplied in confidence remains so, disclosure control is fundamental to National Statistics outputs. This explains for example why Census Output Areas (OAs) must have a certain minimum size.

District

Districts are local administrative units and have at various times been used in all four countries of the UK. The only current references to districts however are found in metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts in England, and district council areas in Northern Ireland.

District Council Area

26 district council areas were established across the whole of Northern Ireland in 1996. Their respective councils form the single tier of local government in Northern Ireland. Within Northern Ireland, district council areas are also commonly known as 'local government districts (LGDs)'

District Health Authority (DHA)

District Health Authorities (DHAs) were the lower tier of NHS administration in England between 1982 and 1996, when they were replaced by Health Authorities (HAs).

Division

See **Electoral Ward / Electoral Division** and also **County Electoral Division**.

E

Education and Learning Wales (ELWa) Region

Education and Learning Wales (ELWa) is responsible for funding and planning post-16 education and training in Wales. ELWa has 4 regional offices; the 4 ELWa regions correspond with the National Assembly Economic Regions.

Education and Library Board (ELB)

Education and Library Boards (ELBs) are responsible for the local administration of state sector education services in Northern Ireland. There are 5 ELBs, each covering one or more complete district council areas.

Electoral Division

See **Electoral Ward / Electoral Division**.

Electoral Region

Electoral regions are large areas from which multiple members are elected to legislatures on a proportional basis. The electoral regions in the UK include:

- European electoral regions (EERs)
- Scottish parliamentary electoral regions
- Welsh Assembly electoral regions

- **Electoral Ward / Electoral Division**

Electoral wards/divisions are the base unit of UK administrative geography such that all higher units are built up from them. They are also used as a base unit for many other geographies such as parliamentary constituencies and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). Electoral wards are found across Scotland, Northern Ireland and most of England, whereas the equivalents in Wales and the Isle of Wight are known as electoral divisions.

Enumeration District (ED)

See **Census Enumeration District (ED)**.

Environment Agency Region

The Environment Agency is the leading public body for protecting the environment in England and Wales. It is divided into 8 regions (7 in England, 1 in Wales) that are defined by a combination of administrative and physical geography. Each region is subdivided into 3 or 4 Area Offices, of which there are 26 in all.

European Electoral Region (EER)

European electoral regions (EERs) are used to elect members to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. There are 12 EERs in the UK, one in each of the 9 Government Office Regions (GORs) in England, and one in each of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Area

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is provided by the European Union and is co-ordinated in England by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). It is considered to be an Area Based Initiative (ABI) and aims to promote economic development and regeneration in deprived regions.

European Structural Fund Area

Structural funds are the European Union's (EU's) means of supporting social and economic restructuring across the region. An area's access to structural funds depends on whether it has been classified as an Objective 1 area, an Objective 2 area or an Objective 3 area. Objective 1 areas are those which have less than 75% of the EU average GDP; this applies to the least prosperous parts of the UK. The Objective 1 funding is the highest level of regional funding available from the EU. Objective 1 areas are equivalent to NUTS level 2 units.

Objective 2 areas are those defined as facing structural difficulties; the areas included cover around a third of the UK population. Objective 2 areas are built

up of electoral wards. Objective 3 applies to the whole UK, apart from those areas which are Objective 1 areas.

There were also formerly Objective 4 and Objective 5 areas, but these schemes were ended in 1999.

F

Fire Service Area

In England there is one fire service in each of the former metropolitan counties and Greater London, and also one in each of the non-metropolitan counties existing before the Local Government Reorganisation in the mid-1990s.

In Wales there are 3 fire services (North; Mid and West; South), each covering a number of unitary authorities.

In Scotland there are 8 fire services, each based on one or more council areas (and reflecting the local government regions existing before 1996). There is one fire service for Northern Ireland.

G

Gazetteer of the old and new geographies of the United Kingdom

ONS Geography's 'Gazetteer of the old and new geographies of the United Kingdom' is a comprehensive and illustrated guide to the changes resulting from the local government reorganisation (LGR) in the 1990s.

General Register Office for Scotland (GROS)

The General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) is the organisation responsible for the registration of births, marriages, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland. It is also responsible for Scottish censuses.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

Geographic information systems (GIS) are computer-based systems for managing, analysing and presenting geographically referenced data.

Glgateway

Glgateway (formerly known as 'askGlraffe') is an online geographic information service which enables users to identify UK geographic information resources. It is maintained by the Association for Geographic Information (AGI).

Government Office Region (GOR)

The nine Government Office Regions (GORs) are the primary statistical subdivisions of England and also the areas in which the Government Offices for the Regions fulfil their role. Each GOR covers a number of local authorities.

Great Britain (GB)

Great Britain is strictly speaking just the largest island in the British Isles, but is generally taken to refer to the whole of England, Scotland and Wales, including offshore islands. It does not include Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

Greater London

Greater London is a collective term for the area covered by the 32 London boroughs and the City of London, and is also the area subject to the Greater London Authority (GLA). It is often considered as a county for statistical purposes, but does not have legal status as such.

Greater London Authority (GLA)

The Greater London Authority (GLA) is the body responsible for strategic citywide government for London, and consists of the Mayor of London and the London Assembly. The remit of the GLA covers the Greater London area.

Greater London Authority Assembly Constituency

Greater London Authority (GLA) Assembly constituencies are used to elect members to the London Assembly, which is part of the GLA. There are 14 Assembly constituencies, each consisting of groupings of either 2 or 3 London boroughs.

Gridlink®

'Gridlink®' is the brand name for 'Joint Venture on Postcode Location' and its outputs. The Joint Venture has involved a coordinated cross-organisational approach to the creation of postcode location products, such as ONS Geography's postcode directories.

Grid Reference

See **British National Grid**

H

Health Action Zone (HAZ)

Health Action Zones (HAZs) are public/private partnerships which have been established in 26 of the most deprived areas of England. Their aim is to tackle health inequalities and modernise services. HAZs have a variety of geographic constitutions, varying from single local authority areas through to groups of several local authorities.

As well as the 26 English HAZs, there are 4 Northern Irish HAZs, which are not all based on complete local authorities.

In addition there are 10 Associated HAZs in England, which have a more limited remit and less funding. These are also not all based on complete local authorities.

Health and Social Services Board (HSSB)

The 4 Health and Social Services Boards (HSSBs) are responsible for local health and social services in Northern Ireland. They report to the Northern Ireland Executive and are built from groups of district council areas.

Health Authority (HA)

Health Authorities (HAs) were the intermediate level of health administration in England prior to the NHS restructuring in April 2002. There were 95 HAs at the time of abolition, reporting to the 8 NHS Regional Offices. They generally covered groups of one or more complete local authorities, but there were cases where local authorities were split.

In addition there were 5 HAs in Wales, reporting to the National Assembly. The HAs were built from groups of unitary authorities, each of which had its own Local Health Group (LHG). These HAs and LHGs were abolished when the Welsh NHS was restructured in April 2003.

Health Board (HB)

The 14 Health Boards (HBs) are responsible for local health care in Scotland. They report to the Scottish Executive and are based on groups of the local government districts that existed before the introduction of council areas in 1996. This means that although most HBs cover one or more complete council areas, there are cases where council areas are split. There were originally 15 HBs but in April 2006 the Argyll & Clyde HB was abolished and the area absorbed by two existing HBs (Greater Glasgow & Clyde HB and Highland HB).

I

Imputation

Imputation is the process of estimating an unknown value. ONS Geography's postcode directories therefore contain imputed grid references for those postcodes that have not had a definitive grid reference supplied by Ordnance Survey.

Index of Place Names (IPN)

ONS Geography's Index of Place Names (IPN) relates nearly 70,000 named places in England and Wales to their respective local government areas and other geographies. Grid references are also provided and, for entries with legally defined boundaries, 1991 population counts.

Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE)

INSPIRE is an initiative of the European Commission to develop the availability of spatial information for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of European Union policies. INSPIRE encompasses a wide range of subject matter including technical standards and protocols, organisational issues and data policy. It will coordinate the creation and maintenance of geographic information for a wide range of themes, of which environmental information will be the first.

Inner London

Inner London refers to the part of Greater London falling within the boundaries of the former London County, which existed from 1889 to 1965. The Inner London area includes the City of London and 13 of the London boroughs.

Intermediate Geography

The intermediate geography is a new geography used for small area reporting in Scotland. Intermediate zones are built from clusters of data zones and fit within council area boundaries. Each intermediate zone contains at least 2500 residents. As with the Super Output Area (SOA) geographies in the rest of the UK, the intermediate geography is intended to be stable.

Intermediate Zones

See **Intermediate Geography**

Intra-governmental Group on Geographic Information (IGGI)

The Intra-governmental Group on Geographic Information (IGGI) is a body of representatives from around 80 different government bodies with an interest in Geographic Information (GI). IGGI's aim is 'to promote the effective use of government geographic information', benefitting member organisations by enabling them to operate more efficiently and better fulfil their duties as GI providers.

Irish National Grid

The Irish National Grid is a common referencing format for geographic data in Ireland, and covers both Northern Ireland and Eire (the Irish Republic). The result is that any location in Ireland can be described in terms of its distance from the origin (0,0), which lies off the southwest coast.

IT Cluster

IT clusters occur in the National Health Service (NHS). They consist of groups of between five and seven Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) working together to implement the NHS's new technology and information systems.

J

Terms will be added as they become required.

K

Terms will be added as they become required.

L

Learning Partnership Area

101 Learning Partnerships have been set up across England to promote lifelong learning opportunities and maximise the contribution of learning to local regeneration. The Learning Partnerships each cover one or more Local Education Authorities (LEAs), with the exception of Essex, Lancashire and Nottinghamshire LEAs, which have each been divided into two Learning Partnerships.

Line

In terms of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), a line is a feature whose general shape is defined by a set of coordinates in sequence - eg a street or river.

Line in Polygon

Line in polygon is an overlay operation used in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). It is used to determine whether a given line crosses or lies inside a given polygon (area). For example, it could be used to determine whether a major road crosses a particular electoral ward.

Local Administrative Units (LAU)

Before 11 July 2003, Local Administrative Units 1 and 2 were known as Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) 4 and 5. LAUs are still based on the same constitution as the old NUTS areas but will be subject to change.

See **Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS)**

Local Authority (LA)

Local authority (LA) is a generic term for any level of local government in the UK. In geographic terms LAs therefore include English counties, non-metropolitan districts, metropolitan districts, unitary authorities and London boroughs; Welsh unitary authorities; Scottish council areas; and Northern Irish district council areas.

Local Authority District (LAD)

See **Non-metropolitan (Local Authority) District**.

Local Education Authority (LEA)

Local Education Authorities (LEAs) are responsible for the local administration of state sector education services in England and Wales. They are based on complete local authorities. In the parts of England that still have a two-tier local government structure, LEAs are based on the whole county.

Local Enterprise Company (LEC)

Local Enterprise Companies (LECs) are government-funded bodies which aim to foster local economic growth and development in Scotland. There are 22 LECs and these cover the whole of Scotland.

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (LGBCS)

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (LGBCS) is responsible for reviewing local government boundaries and arrangements in Scotland.

Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (LGBCW)

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (LGBCW) is responsible for reviewing local government boundaries and arrangements in Wales.

Local Government District (LGD)

See **district council area**.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is the collective term describing the extensive changes to local government structure that occurred in England, Scotland and Wales in the period 1995-98.

Local Health Board (LHB)

Local Health Boards (LHBs) are responsible for local health administration in Wales and were established as part of the restructuring of NHS Wales in April 2003. There is one LHB in each of the 22 unitary authorities; each LHB reports to the appropriate Regional Office of the NHS Wales Department of the National Assembly.

Local Health Group (LHG)

Local Health Groups (LHGs) were responsible for local health administration in Wales prior to their replacement by Local Health Boards (LHBs) in April 2003. There was one LHG in each of the 22 unitary authorities (UAs); the LHGs reported to Health Authorities (HAs).

Local Health and Social Care Group (LHSCG)

The 15 Local Health and Social Care Groups (LHSCGs) are responsible for the planning and delivery of primary and community care in Northern Ireland and report to the Health and Social Services Boards (HSSBs).

Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG)

A Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) is a land and property database maintained by a local authority. LLPGs feed into the **National Land and Property Gazetteer**.

Local Learning and Skills Council (LLSC)

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for funding and planning post-16 education and training in England. The LSC has 47 local offices known as Local Learning and Skills Councils (LLSCs). LLSC areas have a variety of local-authority-based constitutions and cover the whole of England.

London Borough

The London boroughs are the local government areas within Greater London. The borough councils are unitary administrations with a status similar to metropolitan districts, but will also be affected by any policies implemented by the Greater London Authority (GLA). There are 32 London boroughs, but the City of London (which has a different legal status) is often considered as a borough for statistical purposes. The London boroughs and the City of London together cover the whole Greater London area.

M

Maps on Tap

Maps on Tap is an initiative to allow everyone in central government to have online access to Ordnance Survey data.

Map Projection

A wide range of map projections have been developed to try to portray the curved surface of the Earth on a flat piece of paper. This cannot be done accurately so any map will contain some distortion, but different projections have different advantages. For example, some of them portray relative distances accurately, whereas others display relative areas better. Note that the distortion will be greater the larger the area of the Earth's surface portrayed.

Map Scale

Map scale refers to the extent to which reality is reduced to display it on a map - eg a scale of 1:25,000 means that 1 centimetre on the map represents 25,000 centimetres (250 metres) on the ground. Large scale maps (eg 1:1,250 or 1:2,500) show a small area of the Earth's surface in a lot of detail. Small scale maps however (eg 1:1,000,000) show large areas in very little detail.

MasterMap

See **OS Mastermap**.

Metropolitan County

The six metropolitan counties were administrative areas in England from 1974 to 1986, forming the upper tier of a two-tier local government structure. They were subdivided into metropolitan districts but when the metropolitan county councils were abolished in 1986 the district councils became unitary administrations. The metropolitan county areas are still used for statistical purposes however.

Metropolitan District

The 36 metropolitan districts are subdivisions of the 6 metropolitan county areas of England. Since the abolition of the metropolitan county councils in 1986 the metropolitan district councils have been unitary administrations.

N

National Assembly Economic Region

The 4 National Assembly Economic Regions in Wales have the same boundaries as the National Assembly Regional Committee Areas (see below).

National Assembly Regional Committee Area (NARCA)

The National Assembly for Wales (NAW) has five regional committees to advise on regional affairs. NARCAs used to share the same boundaries as the four National Assembly Economic Regions but in April 2005 the NAW decided that the boundaries should share the same boundaries as the five NAW Electoral Regions, which themselves are made up of groups of NAW Constituencies.

The full regional committee area constitutions (in terms of NAW Constituencies) are:

- North Wales: Ynys Môn; Caernarfon; Conwy; Clwyd West; Vale of Clwyd; Delyn; Alyn and Deeside; Wrexham; Clwyd South
- Mid and West Wales: Meirionnydd Nant Conwy; Montgomeryshire; Brecon and Radnorshire; Ceredigion; Preseli Pembrokeshire; Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire; Carmarthen East and Dinefwr; Llanelli
- South Wales West: Gower; Swansea West; Swansea East; Neath; Aberavon; Bridgend; Ogmere
- South Wales Central: Vale of Glamorgan; Cardiff South and Penarth; Cardiff Central; Cardiff North; Cardiff West; Pontypridd; Rhondda; Cynon Valley
- South Wales East: Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney; Caerphilly; Islwyn; Blaenau Gwent; Torfaen; Monmouth; Newport East; Newport West

National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG)

The National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) is a national land and property database and is planned to become the single, authoritative source of address data for Great Britain. The NLPG is an aggregation of the Local Land and Property Gazetteers (LLPGs) produced by local authorities.

National Parks

National parks are designed to conserve the natural beauty and cultural heritage of areas of outstanding landscape value, and to promote public understanding and enjoyment of these areas. National parks exist in England, Scotland and Wales. Their boundaries are not constrained by any other geography.

National Statistics Geography Group (NSGG)

The National Statistics Geography Group (NSGG) is a government forum which aims to provide strategic direction for the development and use of geography in National Statistics (NS), and to coordinate the approach.

National Statistics Postcode Directory (NSPD)

ONS Geography's National Statistics Postcode Directory (NSPD) replaced the All Fields Postcode Directory (AFPD) in March 2006. The NSPD lists all postcodes in the United Kingdom and assigns them to a range of administrative, health, electoral and other geographies. It is a key product for anyone needing to relate postcodes to statutory areas.

Neighbourhood Statistics (NeSS)

Neighbourhood Statistics (NeSS) is ONS's online service providing socio-economic statistics (including 2001 Census data) for small areas. The primary rationale for NeSS is to provide detailed data to support the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal, which will involve all levels of authority working together to tackle problems such as deprivation, crime and community breakdown. In practice however NeSS provides a valuable resource for the whole community.

NHS

NHS is the acronym for the UK's National Health Service, and is often used in preference to the full name. The NHS is a public sector organisation providing a wide range of health services and infrastructure across the whole country.

NHS Organisation Manual

ONS Geography's NHS Organisation Manual relates UK health authorities/boards to their respective local authorities.

This product has now been superseded by the **Ward:Health Matrix**.

NHS Postcode Directory (NHSPD)

ONS Geography's NHS Postcode Directory (NHSPD) is produced for the NHS and is a specially tailored extract of the All Fields Postcode Directory (AFPD).

NHS Regional Office

See **Regional Office (NHS)**.

Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS)

The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) is a hierarchical classification of spatial units that provides a breakdown of the European Union's territory for the purposes of producing comparable regional statistics. There were originally 5 different NUTS levels but as from 11 July 2003, NUTS levels 4 and 5 became Local Administrative Units (LAUs). The remaining NUTS levels 1-3 will be fixed for a few years but the LAUs will not. NUTS and LAUs are generally based on different levels of administrative geography, meaning that in the UK the levels vary from Government Office Regions (with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland counting as equivalents) down to electoral wards/divisions.

See **Local Administrative Units (LAU)**

Non-metropolitan (Shire) County

The 34 non-metropolitan (shire) counties form the upper tier of the two-tier local government structure found in many parts of England. The lower tier of the structure is the non-metropolitan districts.

Non-metropolitan (Local Authority) District

The 239 non-metropolitan districts (also known as local authority districts) form the lower tier of the two-tier local government structure found in many parts of England. They are subdivisions of the 34 non-metropolitan (shire) counties.

Northern Ireland Assembly Constituencies

The 18 Northern Ireland Assembly constituencies are used to elect members to the Northern Ireland Assembly. The constituencies are identical to the 18 Westminster parliamentary constituencies in Northern Ireland.

O

ONS Geography

ONS Geography is the geographic support service of the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

ONS Geography User Guide

The ONS Geography User Guide provides a record of administrative area boundary changes in England and Wales between the 1991 Census and the 2001 Census.

Ordnance Survey

Ordnance Survey is the national mapping agency for Great Britain.

Ordnance Survey ADDRESS-POINT Reference (OSAPR)

Ordnance Survey ADDRESS-POINT References (OSAPRs) are the unique reference number given to every postal address in ADDRESS-POINT®.

Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI)

Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI) is the national mapping agency for Northern Ireland.

OS MasterMap

OS MasterMap is Ordnance Survey's intelligent digital map of Great Britain. It contains a wide range of different layers of mapping data and is designed for use with geographic information systems (GIS) and database systems. OS MasterMap is the branded product of the Digital National Framework (DNF).

Outer London

Outer London refers to the part of Greater London falling outside the boundaries of the former London County, which existed from 1889 to 1965. The Outer London area includes 19 of the London boroughs.

Output Area (OA)

Output Areas (OAs) are used across the UK as the base unit of census output. They were introduced in Scotland in 1991 and the rest of the UK in 2001. They superseded Census Enumeration Districts (EDs), although EDs are still used for census data collection.

P

Parish

Parishes are subdivisions of local authorities in many parts of England, and their councils are the most local level of government. Unlike electoral wards/divisions however, parishes are not found in all parts of England. The Welsh and Scottish equivalents are communities. Note that the full term for administrative parishes is 'civil parishes', to distinguish them from the ecclesiastical parishes which are found in all parts of the UK.

Parliamentary Constituency

See **Constituency**

PO Box

If individuals or organisations prefer that their mail is not delivered to an identifiable postal address, they may opt to set up a PO Box. PO Box addresses do not have a specific geographic location; instead the mail is sent to a local delivery office, from where it can be forwarded to the real address or collected by the addressee.

Point

In terms of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), a point is a feature that can be defined by a single (x,y) co-ordinate pair.

Point in Polygon

Point in polygon is an overlay operation used in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). It is used to determine whether a given point lies inside a given polygon (area). For example, it might be used to establish whether a particular address (identified by a grid reference) falls within a particular electoral ward.

Police Force Area

There are 43 police force areas in England and Wales, each covering one or more complete local authorities. Scotland has 8 police force areas, each covering one or more council areas. Northern Ireland is covered by one police force.

Polygon

In terms of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), a polygon is a feature defined by a series of sequential co-ordinates that join up to make a closed shape. Examples of polygons include buildings, tracts of water and any geographic units (electoral wards, districts, health authorities etc).

Polygon in Polygon

Polygon in polygon is an overlay operation used in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). It is used to determine whether a given polygon lies inside (or overlaps) another polygon. For example, it might be used to establish which Census Output Areas fall within a particular electoral ward.

Postcode

Postcodes are assigned by Royal Mail to identify postal delivery areas across the UK. They are also a key means of providing locational references for statistical data.

Postcode: Non-geographic

Non-geographic postcodes can either be special postcodes assigned to some large users of the postal service, or PO boxes that lie within a (pseudo) postcode district that does not form a discrete part of a postcode area.

Postcode: Terminated

Terminated postcodes are postcodes which are no longer used for mail delivery. The most frequent reasons for this are postcode reorganisations or the demolition/redevelopment of buildings. Terminated postcodes are occasionally re-used by Royal Mail but not before an elapsed period of 2 years. Terminated postcodes are retained on ONS Geography's postcode directories until or unless they are re-used.

Postcode Address File (PAF)

The Postcode Address File (PAF) is a database of all UK addresses and postcodes. It is produced by Royal Mail and is continuously updated.

Primary Care Group (PCG)

Primary Care Groups (PCGs) were a local unit of health administration in England between 1999 and 2002, although by the end of this period many of them had converted to Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). Until the reorganisation of English health geography on 1 April 2002, PCGs/PCTs reported to Health Authorities (HAs). Unfortunately they were defined in different ways in different parts of the country, thus providing a very inconsistent geography.

Primary Care Organisation (PCO)

Primary Care Organisations (PCOs) is a generic term including English Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Care Trusts (CTs) based on the PCT model, and Welsh Local Health Boards (LHBs). It also incorporates the former English Primary Care Groups (PCGs) and Welsh Local Health Groups (LHGs).

Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) are a local unit of health administration in England and since the reorganisation of English health geography on 1 April 2002 have reported to the Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs). PCTs are generally built up of complete electoral wards/divisions as at 1 May 2002, but there are exceptions. Although most of England falls within a PCT, some areas have Care Trusts (CTs) based on the PCT model instead. PCTs did exist before 1 April 2002 and, together with Primary Care Groups (PCGs), reported to Health Authorities (HAs). Their remit was however much more limited than that of the current PCTs.

Prison Service Area

Prison service areas cover England and Wales. There are 11 in England and 1 in Wales. The English prison service areas correspond with the Government Office Regions (GORs), with the exception that the South East and East Midlands GORs have each been split into 2 prison service areas.

Proportional Symbol Map

Proportional symbol maps display data by using symbols that vary in size in proportion to the data values.

Q

Terms will be added as they become required.

R

Region

The term 'Region' is frequently used to describe any of the 9 Government Office Regions (GORs) of England.

Region (Local Government)

9 Local Government Regions existed in Scotland between 1975 and were each split into a number of districts, thus forming a 2-tier local government structure. During this period Scotland also had 3 single-tier island authorities (Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands and Western Isles). In 1996 the existing Scottish administrative structure was abolished and replaced by 32 unitary council areas.

Regional Committee Area

The 4 areas covered by the regional committees of the National Assembly for Wales (NAW). See **National Assembly Regional Committee Area**.

Regional Development Agency (RDA)

The 9 Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) in England are responsible for promoting sustainable economic development and economic and social regeneration within their regions. The areas covered by the RDAs coincide with the Government Office Regions (GORs).

Regional Health Authority (RHA)

Regional Health Authorities were the upper tier of NHS administration in England between the 1970s and 1996, when they were replaced by NHS Regional Offices.

Regional Office (NHS)

Three Regional Offices were introduced in April 2003 as subdivisions of the NHS Wales Department of the National Assembly. Each Regional Office is responsible for performance managing groups of the new Local Health Boards (LHBs), one of which is found in each Welsh unitary authority.

NHS Regional Offices were also the top level of the NHS in England prior to April 2002, when they were replaced by 4 Directorates of Health and Social Care (DHSCs). The Regional Offices covered groups of Health Authorities (HAs) and did not fit into the Government Office Region (GOR) structure.

Registration District

Registration districts are the areas used for recording births, marriages and deaths.

Royal Mail

Royal Mail Group plc is a public limited company wholly owned by the government, responsible for the main UK postal service.

Rural Area

There is no single definition of a rural area as there are many different approaches to classifying what is 'rural' (or 'non-urban'). These include approaches based on population, on population density, on land use and on socio-economic characteristics, and all have different advantages and disadvantages depending on what the classification is being used for. However, the Rural and Urban Area Classification 2004 is now available as a National Statistics standard. This classifies Output Areas and wards as either urban or rural depending on whether the bulk of their population falls in a settlement of greater than 10,000 residents. It also offers subclassifications of urban and rural, based on population density.

Rural Priority Areas

Rural Priority Areas (RPAs), previously known as Rural Development Areas (RDAs), are those parts of England where rural regeneration activities are focused in order to address concentrations of economic and social need. Rural Priority Areas ceased to exist in 2002.

S

Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies

The 73 Scottish parliamentary constituencies are used to elect members to the Scottish Parliament. They correspond with the 72 Westminster parliamentary constituencies, except that 'Orkney & Shetland' has been split into 'Orkney Islands' and 'Shetland Islands'.

Scottish Parliamentary Electoral Regions

The 8 Scottish parliamentary electoral regions are used for the proportional component of the elections to the Scottish Parliament. They are made up of groups of Scottish parliamentary constituencies.

Shire county

See **Non-metropolitan (Shire) County**.

Standard Area Measurements (SAM)

Standard Area Measurements (SAM) are a definitive list of measurements for administrative and electoral areas in the UK. The measurements provided are defined by topographic boundaries (coastline and inland water) where available.

Standard Names and Codes (SNAC)

ONS Geography's Standard Names and Codes (SNAC) database is an annual product containing definitive ONS names and codes for a range of UK geographies.

Standard Statistical Region (SSR)

The 8 Standard Statistical Regions (SSRs) were the primary statistical subdivisions of England before the Government Office Regions (GORs) were adopted for this purpose in 1996. They are now rarely used.

Standard Table (ST) Ward

Standard Table (ST) wards are those for which the 2001 Census Standard Tables are available. They are a subset of the Census Area Statistics (CAS) wards with the smaller CAS wards merged to prevent data disclosure.

Statistical Ward

Statistical wards are a variant form of electoral ward/division; they have been introduced across National Statistics in order to minimise the statistical impact of frequent electoral ward/division boundary changes.

Statutory Ward

'Statutory wards' is another term used to describe the standard electoral wards/divisions that are defined by Statutory Instrument and used for local government elections across the UK. There are a number of other types of ward (statistical ward, Census Area Statistics ward and Standard Table ward) but these are used for statistical purposes only and are not statutory.

Straddling

Straddling refers to the phenomenon of unit postcodes overlapping administrative (or other geographic) boundaries. This is due to the fact that postcodes are defined for mail delivery only and take no account of other geographies. Postcodes are frequently used for referencing data however, so straddling creates problems when we want to relate postcode-referenced data to any of these other geographies (eg electoral wards).

Strategic Health Authority (SHA)

The 10 Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) were created in July 2006, following restructuring of the 28 SHAs originally established in April 2002. The boundaries of the new SHAs are coterminous with Government Office Regions (GORs), with the exception of the South East GOR which comprises two SHAs (which are constituted from groups of local authorities). SHAs are responsible for performance managing their respective Primary Care Organisations (PCOs).

Super Output Area (SOA)

Super Output Areas (SOAs) are a new geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics.

- Within England and Wales a Lower Layer (minimum population 1000) and a Middle Layer (minimum population 5000) were introduced in 2004. Unlike electoral wards, these SOA layers are of consistent size across the country and won't be subjected to regular boundary change. Decisions on a possible Upper Layer are expected in 2006.
- In Northern Ireland there is a single layer of SOAs with minimum population 1300.
- The Scottish equivalents of SOAs are 'data zones' (minimum population 500) and the 'intermediate geography' (minimum population 2500).

T

Thematic Map

Thematic maps use graphical styles (eg colours or fill patterns) to display information relating to a specific statistical theme - eg birth rates by district. Thematic maps are mostly choropleth maps or proportional symbol maps.

Topographic Identifier (TOID)

Topographic Identifiers (TOIDs) are the 16-digit numbers that uniquely identify every feature in the Digital National Framework (DNF) and the associated OS MasterMap. TOIDs are a stable geographic reference as they are assigned to a feature throughout its life and are not reassigned when a feature disappears.

Tourist Board Region

Tourist board regions are areas in which the respective tourist boards promote tourism. They are found across the UK - there are 9 in England, built up from local authority geography, and one in each of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Training and Enterprise Council (TEC)

Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) were government-funded bodies which aimed to foster local economic growth and development. They existed across England and Wales, but were replaced in 2001 by Local Learning and Skills Councils (LLSCs) in England, and in Wales by the regional offices of Education and Learning Wales (ELWa).

Travel to Work Area (TTWA)

Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) are used in labour market analysis and reflect reasonably self-contained zones in which the bulk of the resident population also work. They are built from 1991 electoral wards but no account is taken of local authority boundaries. TTWAs do not however cross national boundaries.

U

Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN)

Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRNs) are the unique geographic identifiers used in the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG).

Unitary Administration

'Unitary administrations' is used in this glossary to describe all local authorities that form a single tier of local government - i.e. all UK local authorities except for English counties and non-metropolitan districts. The term therefore covers unitary authorities, metropolitan districts and London boroughs in England; unitary authorities in Wales; council areas in Scotland; and district council areas in Northern Ireland. Note though that the term is not in common use and that it is a generic term rather than one which reflects a specific geographic type.

Unitary Authority (UA)

Unitary authorities (UAs) are areas with a single tier of local government (as opposed to the two-tier county:district structure). In practice the term is only applied to the 22 UAs established across the whole of Wales in 1996, and the 46 UAs established in parts of England between 1995 and 1998. However, London boroughs and metropolitan districts in England, council areas in Scotland and district council areas in Northern Ireland are all also served by single-tier (unitary) administrations.

United Kingdom (UK)

The United Kingdom (UK) is the nation state consisting of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

UK Statistical Geographies Database

The UK Statistical Geographies Database provides a consistent knowledge base of the range of statistical geographies which are being used across National Statistics (NS).

Urban Area

There is no single definition of an urban area as there are many different approaches to classifying what is urban. These include approaches based on population, on population density and on land use, and all have different advantages and disadvantages depending on what the classification is being used for. However, the Rural and Urban Area Classification 2004 is now available as a National Statistics standard. This classifies Output Areas and wards as either urban or rural depending on whether the bulk of their population falls in a settlement of greater than 10,000 residents. It also offers subclassifications of urban and rural, based on population density.

V

Terms will be added as they become required.

W

Ward

See **Electoral Ward / Electoral Division**.

Ward:Health Matrix

ONS Geography's Ward:Health Matrix lists the names and codes of the electoral wards/divisions (by local authority) occurring in each health authority across the UK. The information is ordered within each of the Health Boards (Scotland), Local Health Boards (Wales), Strategic Health Authorities (England) and Health and Social Services Boards (Northern Ireland).

Ward History Database

ONS Geography's Ward History Database provides details of changes to electoral wards/divisions in England since 1991.

Welsh Assembly Constituencies

The 40 Welsh Assembly constituencies are used to elect members to the National Assembly for Wales (NAW). The constituencies are identical to the 40 Westminster parliamentary constituencies in Wales.

Welsh Assembly Electoral Regions

The 5 Welsh Assembly electoral regions are used for the proportional component of the elections to the National Assembly for Wales (NAW). They are made up of groups of Welsh Assembly constituencies.

Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies

Westminster parliamentary constituencies are used to elect members to the UK Parliament in Westminster, London. There are currently 646 such constituencies covering the entire UK. Constituencies may straddle local authority boundaries, but are always based on whole electoral wards/divisions at the time of definition.

X

Terms will be added as they become required.

Y

Terms will be added as they become required.

Z

Terms will be added as they become required.