

Postcode County Data Notes

Table Structure

Field	Description
Postcode	Full UK Postcode
Traditional_County	Traditional County name
Administrative_County	Administrative County Name

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.

About Counties

Counties are no longer required as part of a correct postal address provided the Post Town and Postcode are present.

The Traditional County is the county name most recognised by the public even if the counties do not technically exist anymore – for example Middlesex. This county field is most useful for website applications where users are requested to select a County for an address etc. Whilst these county definitions are no longer maintained by Royal Mail or Ordnance Survey, we have applied geographic analysis to the data to ensure that every Postcode is allocated to a County.

The Administrative County provides the latest County name for each Postcode based upon administrative geography. This field includes Unitary Authorities where applicable, for example York is within the Unitary Authority of 'York' but in the County of 'Yorkshire'.

Extract from Royal Mails PAF Digest Issue 6.0 (December 2003) and ONS (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/health_geog.asp)

Data Source: www.postcodeaddressfile.co.uk & www.list-logic.co.uk