Postcode to LSOA/MSOA/OA Specification

LSOA's are only available for England and Wales, the Scotland and Northern Ireland records are blank. The vast majority of place-based data is published at Output Area and Super Output Area levels. These are boundaries that were primarily designed for the publication of the Census.

Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for Scottish and NI postcodes, and those with no grid reference.

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.

England & Wales Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA's)

The LSOAs and MSOAs have been maintained as part of the 2011 Census OA maintenance. As with OAs, they have been split or merged where they have breached predefined population and household thresholds.

Definition of OAs, LSOAs and MSOAs - Output Areas (OAs) are the smallest of the geographies that data is published at and have an average population of about 310 residents. Not very much data is available at this level, although many Census outputs are.

Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are made up of groups of OAs, usually four or five. They comprise between 400 and 1,200 households and have a usually resident population between 1,000 and 3,000 persons. There are 33,755 LSOAs in England and 1,917 in Wales: LSOAs have an average population of 1500 people or 650 households. A lot more data is available directly at LSOA level.

LSOA's are useful for providing a structure for collecting and analysing data, as well as being a great unit to display data geographically. However, they are essentially unknown to the public and therefore have limited practical use without the Postcode to LSOA lookup database.

The Middle Layer SOAs (MSOA) have a mean population figure of 7,200 (minimum 5,000) and consist of a grouping of LSOAs. MSOAs are constrained by the 2003 local authority boundaries used for 2001 Census outputs.

Data Files

This product consists of 3 comma separated text files with a header record.

Files **LSOA-FLL-UK-CSV_1.csv** and **LSOA-FLL-UK-CSV_2.csv** together represent all current live Postcodes in the UK with their associated **Lower Layer Super Output Areas** (LSOA's). Each file contains half of the national file - approximately 870,000 Postcode records – which allows each half to be opened in Excel versions 2007 and later if required. For database applications, both files can be loaded into your choice of database (e.g. Microsoft Access) and appended to create a single national data table of Postcodes.

File **LSOA-FLL-UK-CSV-Retired.csv** contains Postcodes which have now been retired from the Postal system and therefore are no longer in circulation. This file is supplied free of charge to provide a comprehensive 'history' of Postcodes and the current LSOA's. It is recommended to use this data file in conjunction with the 'live' files above to achieve the maximum match rates for accurate analysis.

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)
LSOA Code	LSOA Code
LSOA Name	LSOA Name
Introduced	Date the Postcode was introduced/ created
Retired	Date the Postcode was retired/ terminated

Codes & Names

E01000001 – E01035765 = England;

W01000003 – W01002041 = Wales;

L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands;

M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man;

null = no information available