

Understanding Society Geographical Lookup Tables

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Introduction

Understanding Society source data when collected from respondents contains postcode information. These postcodes are used as the basis for producing various geographical data files which are released with the relevant individual Special Licence datasets. Appropriate geographical information is extracted from the ONS Postcode Directory and in one case from the Acorn file.

ONSPD Files Used

The geographical data files for all waves of Understanding Society (Main panel) deposited at wave 5 were all based on geographical data in the November 2014 version of the ONS Postcode Directory (ONSPD_NOV_2014). For wave 6 this approach has changed with the data files being based, where possible, upon ONS Postcode Directories for the corresponding period covered by each wave, as follows:

- Wave 1: ONSPD_MAY_2010
- Wave 2: ONSPD_MAY_2011
- Wave 3: ONSPD_MAY_2012
- Wave 4: ONSPD_MAY_2013
- Wave 5: ONSPD_MAY_2014
- Wave 6: ONSPD_MAY_2015

There are cases, however, for certain variables for certain waves, where it has been necessary to utilise ONSPD Postcode Directories from later years, for example, if the specific variable is not available in the earlier directory. The following table shows the ONS Postcode Directory used for each variable / wave combination. Combinations that deviate from the general rule are shown in blue and are italicised.

Table 1: ONSPD Directory used for Variable / Wave Combinations

Variable	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6
casward	ONSPD_MAY_2010	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
lea	ONSPD_MAY_2010	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
lsoa01	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2013</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2013</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2013</i>	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
lsoa11	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2015</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2015</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2015</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2015</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2015</i>	ONSPD_MAY_2015
msoa01	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2013</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2013</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2013</i>	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
msoa11	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2013</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2013</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2013</i>	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
oac01	ONSPD_MAY_2010	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
oac11	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2015</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2015</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2015</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2015</i>	<i>ONSPD_MAY_2015</i>	ONSPD_MAY_2015

oshlthau	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
oslaua	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
pcon	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
pct	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
ttwa	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
ur01ind	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
ru11ind	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
oseast1m	ONSPD_MAY_2010	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
osnrth1m	ONSPD_MAY_2010	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015
osgridind	ONSPD_MAY_2010	ONSPD_MAY_2011	ONSPD_MAY_2012	ONSPD_MAY_2013	ONSPD_MAY_2014	ONSPD_MAY_2015

The ONS Postcode Directories and corresponding documentation can be downloaded from the Office for National Statistics website, if required.

Acorn type

The geodemographic variable **acorn type** for all waves is derived from the June 2015 version of the Acorn file. This file and the corresponding User Guide can be obtained from the UKDS as part of SN 7381, if required.

Matching, Missing and Unmatched Postcodes

The table below shows the number of households with a matching, missing or unmatched postcode for each wave. The main reason for missing postcodes is untraced moves. Geographical codes are unavailable for the Crown dependencies.

Table 2: Matching, Missing and Unmatched Postcodes per Wave

Wave	Wave Letter	Match	Postcode missing	Unmatched	Crown Dependencies	Total
1	A	95308	0	0	0	95308
2	B	37496	3305	90	2	40893
3	C	35100	2600	45	0	37745
4	D	31159	1960	24	0	33143
5	E	28451	1746	23	0	30220
6	F	46776	2519	9	0	49304

At Wave 1, a total of 95,308 households were issued in the screening process for the Ethnic Minority Boost sample and only a subset of these were selected into the sample. Only productive households

from Wave 1 were followed up at Wave 2. The following rules for later waves are documented in the user guide.

name	type	varlab
acorn	byte	acorn type 2015
casward	str6	census area statistics ward
lea	str3	local education authorities/education and library boards
lsoa01	str9	census 2001 lower layer super output area
lsoa11	str9	census 2011 lower layer super output area
msoa01	str9	census 2001 middle layer super output area
msoa11	str9	census 2011 middle layer super output area
oac01	str3	census 2001 output area classification
oac11	str3	census 2011 output area classification
oshlthau	str9	strategic health authority
oslaua	str9	local authority district
pcon	str9	westminster parliamentary constituencies
pct	str9	primary care organisations
ttwa	str9	travel to work areas
ur01ind	str1	census 2001 urban/rual indicator
rullind	str2	census 2011 urban/rual indicator
oseast1m	long	national grid reference - easting
osnrth1m	long	national grid reference - northing
osgrdind	byte	national grid reference - quality indicator