

GEOPLAN OPEN POSTCODE BOUNDARIES

Introduction

These Postcode Sector boundaries represent extremely good value for money and deliver a high quality Postcode solution for national, regional, local and street level use. The product is based on tessellation and provides a high level of accuracy when used in conjunction with Geopoint (the Points used as part of the tessellation Process)

Product Details

- Coverage: UK
- Format: Various
- File Suffix: .Various
- Source: Geoplan
- The data is sorted on SECTOR
- Projection: OSGB (Including that of Northern Ireland)
- License type – Annual
- Update frequency per annum: 4 Geoplan Updates are conducted as standard
- Copyright Information: © Geoplan Spatial Intelligence Ltd 2017. Postcodes are copyright of the Post Office 2017.

Update Information

The primary source of the Geoplan's Open Postcode Sector boundaries data is from Geopoint (Postcode Points) and these are used to generate the Postcode Sector boundary using a tessellation to generate the boundary. Geoplan also supplements the tessellation using Geoplan SuperPro Postcode Sector Boundaries to create a detailed coastline for the product. Also to add further value add to the product Geoplan provide a range of Demographics primarily sourced from the UK Census. Geoplan update the Geoplan Open Postcode Sector boundaries data on a quarterly basis in line with the Postal Address File (PAF) updates of the following months:

- MARCH (03)
- JUNE (06)
- SEPTEMBER (09)
- DECEMBER (12)

The standard supply option for this data is to receive a quarterly supply as part of the perpetual licence. Geoplan often refer to the release of these updates as "Release 57", "Release 57-2", "Release 58" etc which is a direct reference to the Postcode Updates of Royal Mail. Other Postcode changes occur at other months of the year but are not release changes to existing postcodes – this to limit the impact of these types of changes to users by such amendments to the various postcode products.

Level of Detail

Open Postcode Sector Level Boundaries:

The data is provided at POSTCODE SECTOR level. The Number of records will vary between releases but as a guide number of records is 9500 (approximate only)

Open Postcode District Level Boundaries:

The data is provided at POSTCODE DISTRICT level. The Number of records will vary between releases but as a guide the number of records is 2830 (approximate only).

Open Postcode Area Level Boundaries:

The data is provided at POSTCODE AREA level. There are currently Postcode 124 areas.

Attributes

Header Records	Description	Type
SECTOR*	Commercial Sector	Character (6)
DISTRICT	Commercial District	Character (4)
AREA	Postcode Area	Character (2)
AREA_KM	Area (KM)	Decimal
AREA_MI	Area (Miles)	Decimal
AGE0_15	Population Aged 0 to 15 years	Integer
AGE16_24	Population Aged 16 to 24 years	Integer
AGE25_44	Population Aged 25 to 44 years	Integer
AGE45_64	Population Aged 45 to 64 years	Integer
AGE65_PL	Population Aged 65 and above	Integer
POP_TOT	Population: Total	Integer
POP_M	Population: Male	Integer
POP_F	Population: Female	Integer
POP_TOT	Population: Total	Integer
H_HOLDS	Households: Total	Integer
SG_AB**	Approximated social grade: A or B. <i>(Higher and intermediate managerial / administrative / professional occupations)</i>	Integer
SG_C1**	Approximated social grade: C1. <i>(Supervisory, clerical and junior managerial / administrative / professional occupations.)</i>	Integer
SG_C2**	Approximated social grade: C2. <i>(Skilled manual occupations.)</i>	Integer
SG_DE**	Approximated social grade: D or E. <i>(Semi-skilled and unskilled manual occupations, Unemployed and lowest grade occupations.)</i>	Integer

H_HOLDS	Households: Total	Integer
BUS_CNT	Businesses: Total	Integer

* The attribute SECTOR, will be named DISTRICT or AREA in the Postcode District or Postcode Area Boundaries respectively.

** Social grade is a socio-economic classification used by market research industries to analyse spending habits and consumer attitudes. The classification is approximated from information collected in the 2011 Census using a method defined by the Market Research Society. A person's approximated social grade is based primarily on their occupation but also includes information about their employment status, qualifications gained, tenure and whether they work full-time, part-time or are not working. Using this information a person living in a household can be classified in one of the following categories of social grade.

The Social Grade counts provided represent the Social Grade of the "Household Reference Person" (HRP), and is only provided when the HRP is between 16 and 74.

File Names

Geoplan Open Sector Boundaries are supplied as a set of files for each level of geography (Including associated files for the chosen format):

- Tssp_09_15 (Geoplan Open Sector Boundaries)
- Tsdp_09_15 (Geoplan Open District Boundaries)
- Tsap_09_15 (Geoplan Open Area Boundaries)

In the lists above the month of September 2015 is used as an example to illustrate the file name, this will change according to the month and year of the data supply it represents e.g. Tssp_03_16 will represent March 2016 for the Geoplan Open Sector Boundary file.

Other Products

Geoplan have a range of other Postcode related products that are available and can be supplied separately or in a combination with the Geoplan Pro Sector Boundaries, including the Postal Address File (PAF), & Geopoint.

Further Information

Recognition of Inland Water:

Inland water bodies are not included as 'holes' in Geoplan boundaries, although there is 1 exception -Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland.

Coastline Source:

The coastline is very detailed is provided as part of the Geoplan value add and comes directly from Geoplan SuperPro Postcode Sector Boundaries.

Non-Geographic Postcodes:

The Non-Geographic Postcode Sectors (and districts) are not provided as part of this product.

Isle of Man:

The Geoplan product also contains the Isle of Man Sectors IM1 0, IM2 0, IM3 0 and IM8 0, but do not actually exist as real codes. This is because, although the extents of the Districts IM1, IM2, IM3 and IM8 are known, the boundaries of the Sectors within them cannot be determined. No maps exist at the Isle of Man Post Office which show these Sectors, so the non-existent Sectors listed above were created by Geoplan to take their place.

Contact Information:

If you have any queries or require any assistance, please contact Geoplan using the following details:

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APPENDIX A

Breakdown of a Postcode

A Postcode is a combination of letters and numbers. A Postcode defines four different levels of geographic unit. Each Postcode consists of two parts, called the Outward Code (e.g. 'PO1') and the Inward Code (e.g. '1AF'). The first part, or Outward Code, is separated from the second part, the Inward Code, by a single space.

Outward Code

Enables mail to be sorted to the correct local area for delivery. This part of the code contains the area and the district to which the mail is to be delivered, e.g. 'PO1', 'SW1A' or 'B23'

The letters Q, V and X are not used in the first alpha position

The letters I, J and Z are not used in the second alpha position

The only letters to appear in the third position are A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, K, S, T, U and W.

Inward Code

The second part is known as the Inward Code because it is used to sort the mail INTO the local area delivery office

This part is one number followed by two letters. The number identifies the sector in the postal district. The letters then define one or more properties in that sector.

The letters C I K M O V are not used in the second part of the Postcode.