# UNITED NATIONS

**E**

 **Economic and Social Council**

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   ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
   GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR
REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE
SIXTH CONFERENCE

<u>Report of the United Kingdom</u>

<u>Paper submitted by the United Kingdom**</u>

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# SECTION A: ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANISATION

The United Kingdom divisional report to the Eighteenth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in 1996 (Working Paper No 39) provided detailed background information, maps and lists concerning the major restructuring of local government underway in England, Wales and Scotland (Northern Ireland remaining unaffected).

Wales and Scotland were divided in April 1996 into a number of unitary authorities, which may be considered as single-tier administrative structures with no further sub-divisions. There are 32 unitary authorities in Scotland and 22 in Wales; the titles of those in Wales are bilingual in English and Welsh. In England, the arrangement is more complicated in that a mixture of unitary authorities and counties has been approved, largely as the result of the canvassing of local preferences. Whereas the unitary authorities are single-tier structures, the English counties are two-tier entities in that each is sub-divided into a varying number of districts. This process began in April 1995, and by the time that the reorganisation in England is completed, on April 1st 1998, there will be 115 single-tier authorities and 35 counties. Of the 115 single-tier authorities, 46 are officially classified as unitary authorities, 33 as London boroughs, and 36 as metropolitan districts, though all are unitary in nature.

Some counties (Avon, Cleveland, Humberside) have been abolished altogether. A few traditional counties which had lost their individual identities in the previous major reorganisation of 1974 have been reinstated; Worcestershire, for example, is once again a county in its own right; and both Rutland and Herefordshire have also re-emerged (as unitary authorities). Conversely, the county of Berkshire is set to disappear in April 1998, to be replaced by six individual unitary authorities.

Yet the name "Berkshire" will not be lost entirely. Along with Greater London and the six former metropolitan counties, (Tyne and Wear, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, West Midlands), Berkshire will be deemed as continuing to exist for ceremonial purposes. This means that each of these areas continues to constitute a Lieutenancy, with a Lord Lieutenant in residence as the representative of the Crown. These names may also continue to exist in other contexts, for example in the titles of integrated transport systems. But, crucially, they have no relevance to the administrative structure of the territory of the United Kingdom, and are of no significance to the geographer or cartographer. One outcome of this reorganisation is that there is no longer a single administrative entity covering the capital city of the United Kingdom; London exists as a single populated place encompassing 33 separate single-tier authorities (London Boroughs).

It is sometimes the case that the name of the administrative division gives no immediate clue as to the names of the populated places contained therein. Thus, for example, Sefton includes Southport, while Halton comprises Runcorn and Widnes. Furthermore, since the various responsible agencies of each administrative unit (eg health, education etc) are frequently located in separate towns, it is not consistently possible to name a single administrative centre for each unit. Administrative units containing the term "City" in their title are larger in territorial extent than the actual populated places (cities) of the same name.

# ENGLAND

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | UA (LB) | East Sussex | TT |
| Barnet | UA (LB) | Enfield | UA (LB) |
| Barnsley | UA (MD) | Essex | TT |
| Bath and North East Somerset | UA | Gateshead | UA (MD) |
| Bedfordshire | TT | Gloucestershire | TT |
| Berkshire | TT/a | Greenwich | UA (LB) |
| Bexley | UA (LB) | Hackney | UA (LB) |
| Birmingham (City of) | UA (MD) | Halton | UA/b |
| Blackburn with Darwen | UA/b | Hammersmith and Fulham | UA (LB) |
| Blackpool | UA/b | Hampshire | TT |
| Bolton | UA (MD) | Haringey | UA (LB) |
| Bournemouth | UA | Harrow | UA (LB) |
| Bracknell Forest | UA/b | Hartlepool | UA |
| Bradford (City of) | UA (MD) | Havering | UA (LB) |
| Brent | UA (LB) | Hereford and Worcester | TT/a |
| Brighton and Hove | UA | Herefordshire | UA/b |
| Bristol, City of | UA | Hertfordshire | TT |
| Bromley | UA (LB) | Hillingdon | UA (LB) |
| Buckinghamshire | TT | Hounslow | UA (LB) |
| Bury | UA (MD) | Isle of Wight | UA |
| Calderdale | UA (MD) | Isles of Scilly | TT |
| Cambridgeshire | TT | Islington | UA (LB) |
| Camden | UA (LB) | Kensington and Chelsea | UA (LB) |
| Cheshire | TT | Kent | TT |
| Cornwall | TT' | Kingston upon Hull, City of | UA |
| Coventry (City of) | UA (MD) | Kingston upon Thames | UA (LB) |
| Croydon | UA (LB) | Kirklees | UA (MD) |
| Cumbria | TT | Knowsley | UA (MD) |
| Darlington | UA | Lambeth | UA (LB) |
| Derby (City of) | UA | Lancashire | TT |
| Derbyshire | TT | Leeds (City of) | UA (MD) |
| Devon | TT | Leicester (City of) | UA |
| Doncaster | UA (MD) | Leicestershire | TT |
| Dorset | TT | Lewisham | UA (LB) |
| Dudley | UA (MD) | Lincolnshire | TT |
| Durham | TT | Liverpool (City of) | UA (MD) |
| Ealing | UA (LB) | London, City of | UA (LB) |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | UA | Luton | UA |

Notes:

TT = county (two-tier structure)
UA = unitary authority (single-tier structure ie. Borough, London Borough or Metropolitan District)
LB = London Borough
MD = Metropolitan District
a = structure due to cease operating on 31 March 1998
b = structure due to come into operation on 1 April 1998

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Manchester (City of) | UA (MD) | Sunderland (City of) | UA (MD) |
| Medway Towns, The | UA/b | Surrey | TT |
| Merton | UA (LB) | Sutton | UA (LB) |
| Middlesbrough | UA | Swindon | UA |
| Milton Keynes | UA | Tameside | UA (MD) |
| Newbury | UA/b | Thurrock | UA/b |
| Newcastle upon Tyne (City of) | UA (MD) | Torbay | UA/b |
| Newham | UA (LB) | Tower Hamlets | UA (LB) |
| Norfolk | TT | Trafford | UA (MD) |
| North East Lincolnshire | UA | Wakefield (City of) | UA (MD) |
| North Lincolnshire | UA | Walsall | UA (MD) |
| North Somerset | UA | Waltham Forest | UA (LB) |
| North Tyneside | UA (MD) | Wandsworth | UA (LB) |
| North Yorkshire | TT | Warrington | UA/b |
| Northamptonshire | TT | Warwickshire | TT |
| Northumberland | TT | West Sussex | TT |
| Nottingham (City of) | UA/b | Westminster (City of) | UA (LB) |
| Nottinghamshire | TT | Wigan | UA (MD) |
| Oldham | UA (MD) | Wiltshire | TT |
| Oxfordshire | TT | Windsor and Maidenhead | UA/b |
| Peterborough | UA/b | Wirral | UA (MD) |
| Plymouth (City of) | UA/b | Wokingham | UA/b |
| Poole | UA | Wolverhampton | UA (MD) |
| Portsmouth (City of) | UA | Worcestershire | TT/b |
| Reading | UA/b | Wrekin, The | UA/b |
| Redbridge | UA (LB) | York (City of) | UA |
| Redcar and Cleveland | UA | | |
| Richmond upon Thames | UA (LB) | | |
| Rochdale | UA (MD) | | |
| Rotherham | UA (MD) | | |
| Rutland | UA | | |
| St. Helens | UA (MD) | | |
| Salford (City of) | UA (MD) | | |
| Sandwell | UA (MD) | | |
| Sefton | UA (MD) | | |
| Sheffield | UA (MD) | | |
| Shropshire | TT | | |
| Slough | UA/b | | |
| Solihull | UA (MD) | | |
| Somerset | TT | | |
| South Gloucestershire | UA | | |
| South Tyneside | UA (MD) | | |
| Southampton (City of) | UA | | |
| Southend on Sea | UA/b | | |
| Southwark | UA (LB) | | |
| Staffordshire | TT | | |
| Stockport | UA (MD) | | |

Stockton on Tees        UA
Stoke on Trent      (City of)    UA
Suffolk                TT

# WALES

| English language name | | Welsh language name |
|---|---|---|
| Blaenau Gwent | CB | ←—— |
| Bridgend | CB | Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr |
| Caerphilly | CB | Caerffili |
| Cardiff (City of) | C | Caerdydd |
| Carmarthenshire | C | Sir Gaerfyrddin |
| Ceredigion* | C | Sir Ceredigion* |
| Conwy | CB | ←—— |
| Denbighshire | C | Sir Ddinbych |
| Flintshire | C | Sir y Fflint |
| Gwynedd | C | ←—— |
| Isle of Anglesey | C | Sir Ynys Môn |
| Merthyr Tydfil | CB | Merthyr Tudful |
| Monmouthshire | C | Sir Fynwy |
| Neath Port Talbot | CB | Castell-nedd Port Talbot |
| Newport | CB | Casnewydd |
| Pembrokeshire | C | Sir Benfro |
| Powys | C | ←—— |
| Rhondda, Cynon, Taff | CB | Rhondda, Cynon, Taf |
| Swansea (City of) | C | Abertawe |
| Torfaen | CB | Tor-faen |
| Vale of Glamorgan, The | CB | Bro Morgannwg |
| Wrexham | CB | Wrecsam |

\*   This name derives from Cardiganshire, but note that the name of the town in this unit remains Cardigan (in English) or Aberteifi (in Welsh)

All 22 divisions are unitary authorities, but 11 are known as counties (C) and 11 as county boroughs (CB): cf England, where counties are two-tier authorities.

# SCOTLAND

Aberdeen City
Aberdeenshire
Angus
Argyll and Bute
Clackmannanshire
Dumfries and Galloway
Dundee City
East Ayrshire
East Dunbartonshire
East Lothian
East Renfrewshire
Edinburgh, City of
Falkirk
Fife
Glasgow City
Highland
Inverclyde
Midlothian

Moray
North Ayrshire
North Lanarkshire
Orkney Islands
Perth and Kinross
Renfrewshire
Scottish Borders, The
Shetland Islands
South Ayrshire
South Lanarkshire
Stirling
West Dunbartonshire
West Lothian
Western Isles

All 32 units are unitary authorities officially termed Council Areas.

# SECTION B: INFORMATION FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY

The Ordnance Survey large-scale database, relating to map series at scales of 1:10,000, 1:2,500 and 1:1,250, has now been completed and is available in a wide variety of digital and graphic output products. As far as geographical names are concerned, the principal Ordnance Survey products of interest are:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | OSCAR | A range of four digital road centreline products containing place names, road and street names, and Department of Transport road numbers. It is supplied in 5x5km, 50x50km, and 100x100km tiles. |
| 2. | Strategi | A 1:250,000 database aimed at planning and analytical applications. It contains a geographical names layer and is supplied by 50x50km tile or on a regional or national coverage basis. |
| 3. | ADDRESS-POINT | A national dataset that defines and locates residential, business and public postal addresses. It is supplied by 1x1km tile, postcode unit, and administrative area. |
| 4. | Gazetteer of Great Britain | A hardback gazetteer containing over 250,000 names extracted from the 1:50,000 (Landranger) series. It is also available in digital form by 20x20km tile, 1:50,000 map sheet number, and nationally. |

Map sheets of the 1:50,000 (Landranger) series falling wholly or partially in Wales will in future show a full and separate legend in the Welsh language. One such sheet has already been published in July 1997 in this new specification: sheet 135, Aberystwyth and Machynlleth. On the face of the map equal status is given to the Welsh equivalents of major settlement names and selected physical feature names. The method of portrayal is to show the English name first, with the Welsh name following after a separating solidus (slash). In addition, the map cover is bilingual.

Finally, a systematic revision of Gaelic names on the six 1:50,000 sheets covering the Western Isles of Scotland (sheets 8, 13, 14, 18, 22, 31) was completed in 1997.