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Geographical Names**

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Item 5
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REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Report of the United Kingdom Division

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SECTION A : ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANISATION OF ENGLAND

The Report of the United Kingdom to the ~~Seventh~~ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (working paper E/CN.F.91/INF/17) noted the completion of a major restructuring of local government in Scotland and Wales.

At that time, January 1998, the process of restructuring in England was still under way. As of April 1 1998, it has been completed. There are now 149 first-order administrative divisions in England. Of these, 115 are unitary authorities of a single-tier structure, and 34 are counties which are two-tier structures sub-divided into districts. The reason for this dual approach is that some areas, although small territorially, nevertheless contain a population sufficiently large to warrant their own first-order government. Examples of this are Manchester and Southampton. But to have made Norwich, for example, a unitary authority separate from the large but relatively lightly populated county of Norfolk would have rendered that county unviable, so Norwich remains as the centre of a two-tier administrative division.

The name of each unit is determined by its own local authority. In England, each such authority is required to notify its decision to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, and also to the Registrar-General (who is the Director of the Office for National Statistics and the Head of the Government Statistical Service) and to the Ordnance Survey. There is no over-seeing government body involved in the naming process, and consequently there is not always an overall consistency in naming procedures. For example, the word "City" is a generic element in some names, but is part of the specific element in others.

It is important to note that, while Greater London and the six metropolitan counties (Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear, West Midlands, West Yorkshire) no longer exist as administrative divisions, their names are frequently still encountered as statistical units. The names of the former metropolitan counties are also still used by the postal authorities, as are the names of certain other counties which no longer function administratively, such as Berkshire and Middlesex.

The following list provides the names of all 149 first-order administrative divisions of England. Readers should please note that there are a few changes from the list contained in the 1998 Conference working paper mentioned above.

Unitary Authorities

Barking and Dagenham	Hounslow	Rutland
Barnet	Isle of Wight	St. Helens
Barnsley	Islington	Salford (City of)
Bath and North East Somerset	Kensington and Chelsea	Sandwell
Bexley	Kingston upon Hull, City of	Sefton
Birmingham (City of)	Kingston upon Thames	Sheffield
Blackburn with Darwen	Kirklees	Slough
Blackpool	Knowsley	Solihull
Bolton	Lambeth	South Gloucestershire
Bournemouth	Leeds (City of)	South Tyneside
Bracknell Forest	Leicester (City of)	Southampton (City of)
Bradford (City of)	Lewisham	Southend-on-Sea
Brent	Liverpool (City of)	Southwark
Brighton and Hove	London, City of	Stockport
Bristol, City of	Luton	Stockton-on-Tees
Bromley	Manchester (City of)	Stoke-on-Trent (City of)
Bury	Medway	Sunderland (City of)
Calderdale	Merton	Sutton
Camden	Middlesbrough	Swindon
Coventry (City of)	Milton Keynes	Tameside
Croydon	Newcastle upon Tyne (City of)	Telford and Wrekin
Darlington	Newham	Thurrock
Derby (City of)	North East Lincolnshire	Torbay
Doncaster	North Lincolnshire	Tower Hamlets
Dudley	North Somerset	Trafford
Ealing	North Tyneside	Wakefield (City of)
East Riding of Yorkshire	Nottingham (City of)	Walsall
Enfield	Oldham	Waltham Forest
Gateshead	Peterborough	Wandsworth
Greenwich	Plymouth (City of)	Warrington
Hackney	Poole	West Berkshire
Halton	Portsmouth (City of)	Westminster (City of)
Hammersmith and Fulham	Reading	Wigan
Haringey	Redbridge	Windsor and Maidenhead
Harrow	Redcar and Cleveland	Wirral
Hartlepool	Richmond upon Thames	Wokingham
Havering	Rochdale	Wolverhampton
Herefordshire	Rotherham	York (City of)
Hillingdon		

Two-Tier Authorities

Bedfordshire	Gloucestershire	Nottinghamshire
Buckinghamshire	Hampshire	Oxfordshire
Cambridgeshire	Hertfordshire	Shropshire
Cheshire	Kent	Somerset
Cornwall	Lancashire	Staffordshire
Cumbria	Leicestershire	Suffolk
Derbyshire	Lincolnshire	Surrey
Devon	Norfolk	Warwickshire
Dorset	North Yorkshire	West Sussex
Durham	Northamptonshire	Wiltshire
East Sussex	Northumberland	Worcestershire
Essex		

SECTION B : THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use (PCGN) is an inter-departmental body established in April 1919. Its principal function is to advise the United Kingdom government on policies and procedures for the proper writing of geographical names for places and features throughout the world, with the exception of the United Kingdom itself and the Antarctic.

A very significant element in fulfilling this function is for the PCGN to assist in promoting the international standardization of geographical names, by providing personnel to take part in the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), and by providing official United Kingdom representation at the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Fellow members of UNGEGN are very welcome to communicate with the PCGN on any policy or technical matters pertaining to geographical names issues. The address of the PCGN Secretariat is:

**Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
The Royal Geographical Society
1 Kensington Gore
London SW7 2AR
United Kingdom**

fax: 020-7591-3127 (+44-20-7591-3127)

The Chairman of the PCGN is:

Dr D M Munro

who can be contacted via the address of the Secretariat above.

The Staff of the PCGN Secretariat are:

Mr P J Woodman	Secretary, PCGN
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The PCGN Secretariat can be contacted at the address above, or by e-mail to:

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Please note that it is hoped to create a PCGN website some time during the year 2000.

SECTION C : INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORDNANCE SURVEY

The Ordnance Survey (OS), whose website can be visited at www.ordsvy.gov.uk, is the agency responsible for geographical names in Great Britain. The Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI) performs a similar function in Northern Ireland.

The OS is Great Britain's national mapping agency, and it determines geographical names during the course of its mapping programmes. It solicits the assistance of local authorities and other reliable organizations and individuals in its search for the most appropriate, authoritative and definitive name and spelling for each place and feature. Common local usage, preservation of historical form, and the current relevant language for the name are all factors taken into account before a name is committed to a map sheet. Efforts are continuing to ensure that the spelling of geographical names is consistent across the wide range of OS map series and other products, and databases have been created to assist in this task.

Maintenance of Great Britain's geographical names comes about as a natural constituent element of the maintenance of the various OS map series. The aim is to provide continuous improvements to the currency and accuracy of the names. For example, it may transpire during the course of a particular map sheet revision that the name of a hillside has fallen into disuse and can safely be omitted from the new edition. Conversely, housing development in another area of the map may call for new names to be added. Elsewhere, Gaelic spellings may need revision in Scotland, and in Wales the requirements of the 1993 Welsh Language Act have to be complied with to promote the equal status of Welsh in parity with English names. (Information on Welsh names was provided in the Report of the United Kingdom to the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, working paper E/CONF.91/INF/17).

The OS 1:50,000-scale Landranger map series of Great Britain contains approximately 250,000 geographical names. A greater number of names will of course be encountered if larger scale series are utilised. As explained above, the maintenance of names is principally driven by map production programmes. In effect, therefore, it is the various OS map series which act as the published authority for geographical names.

Finally, the OS has published a new geo-referenced street dataset called National Street Gazetteer (NSG), information about which is available on the NSG website at www.nsg.org.uk. Essentially, this is a comprehensive street referencing framework for Great Britain, integrated by the OS into a national dataset using data created, updated and maintained by local authorities. All roads, streets, thoroughfares, named paths and named walkways are included. Entries are named, classified, described, and given a unique reference number. Locational information is added by providing the National Grid reference for each end of the feature, as well as the locality, town and administrative division within which the feature occurs.