

OneScotland Gazetteer Searching

Experience with other users of the OneScotland Gazetteer has shown that often the best subset of “postal” addresses is returned by searching using a full POSTCODE as a single search parameter. If a search either returns what is deemed to be too many addresses to the end-user or no matching address, the next option would be to search using a combination of at least 2 parameters, i.e. BUILDING_NAME/BUILDING_NO and STREET/POSTCODE.

Example 1) a user might enter BUILDING_NAME = “Viewforth” and POSTCODE = “FK8 3UF”

Example 2) a user might enter BUILDING_NO = “12” and STREET = “Smart Street” (note depending on the street name this search may not be as successful as example 1, e.g. a search for such as BUILDING_NO = “12” and STREET = “High Street” is likely to return a large number of addresses).

Some generic guidance on search tips for end users are provided below.

Building numbers/names

Most address records will either have a building number or name. If a property has both, the number takes priority and is more likely to be found in the gazetteer. Many local authorities will hold both, but not all.

Example: Rose Cottage is actually 3A.

Searching success can be effected when searching for flats etc. Flat numbers are not standardised across Scotland. Where a user can't find a flat address they can try searching under postcode or street so you can select from a list of flats.

Example: 11A, 11/1, 11 First Floor Left, and 11 Flat 1 may all be variants of the same property.

Similarly, Organisation or business names may not be in the address record. These properties may have a building number instead.

Example: Lily's Café is actually Unit 2.

Street names

All address records will have a street in the gazetteer. However, only officially named streets tend to be found in a search. Some local authorities hold popular “alternative names” for streets, but not all. If in very common use for addressing purposes, local authorities may reference a Type 4 street (alternative) in the address, to make the address more useful.

Example: a street is commonly nicknamed “Lovers Lane” but it is officially recorded as the “A97 between Stirling and Dunblane”.

Described streets, that is streets that do not have a officially approved name and usually found outwith towns and cities, are known as Type 2 streets. Although LPIs must reference a street, if a rural property references a Type 2 street, the street name/descriptor is not rendered as part of the address.

Example: a rural street not in a town or village could be recorded as “A99 between Lauder and Oxton”. A property attached to this street, such as “Hillhead Farm”, would be rendered as “Hillhead Farm, Oxton”, omitting the street descriptor for this Type 2 street.

Some building names sound like street names so users could try searching under both.

Example 1: “Thistle Court” could be street or a building.

Example 2: “Argyll Terrace” could be street or a building.