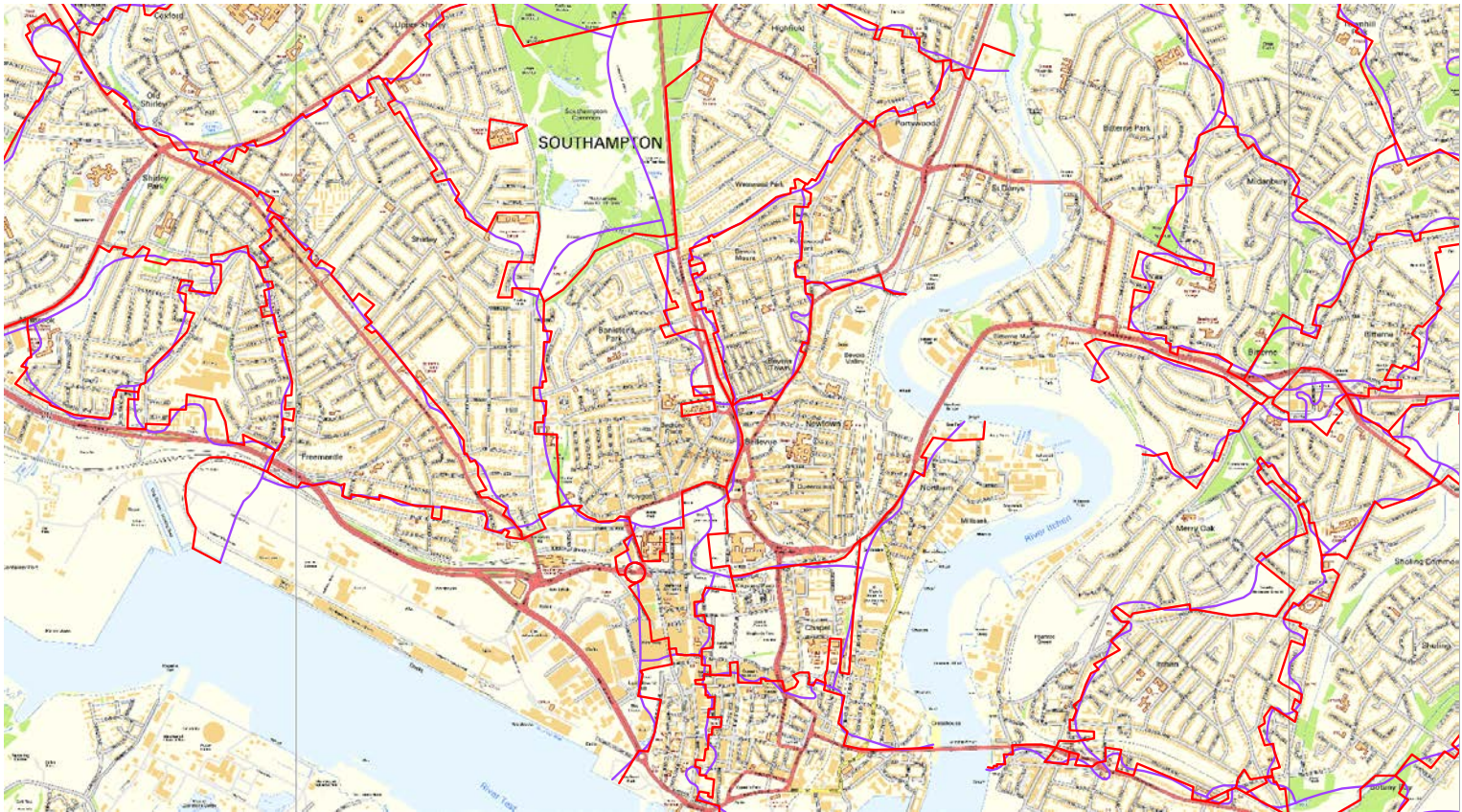
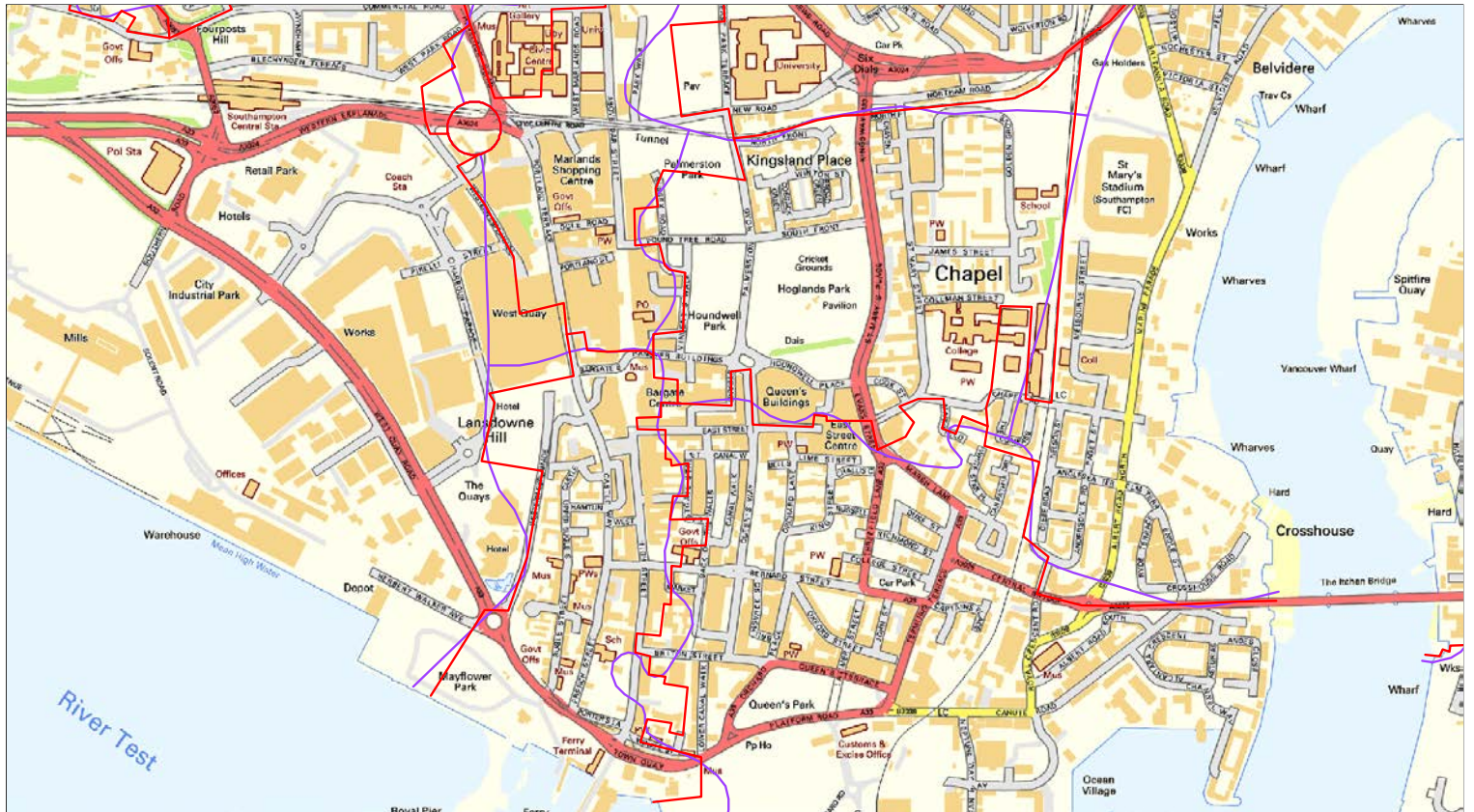


Postcode Boundary GIS Data



Purple lines:  STANDARD accuracy

Red Lines:  XTREME accuracy



Over the past three years we have been upgrading our Postcode Area, District and Sector Boundary data to what we are branding as Xtreme Accuracy. This means the lines still include the correct unit postcode points within the boundary as before, but the lines have been re-drawn to follow real features visible on high resolution air photography. Thus for example the boundaries now follow fences, hedges, roads, railways, streams, etc. These remain, of course, to an extent our interpretation as Royal Mail do not draw boundaries but rather classify just the address points. It does, though, mean that the user can clearly relate the Sector boundaries to features on the ground, and that something like a house and grounds would be all in one sector or another and not cut into pieces.

So far more than 80% of all of the Postcode Areas have been upgraded. The areas still left to do are 10 Postcode Areas around Chester, 14 Postcode Areas in Scotland, BT, IM, JE and GY.

As an Area is upgraded then the Xtreme Accuracy version becomes the live product and the Standard Accuracy version is retired. We do not intend to follow some competitors in offering different qualities of data. All customers will get the best available at the time.

Attribute Information:

There are two versions – with and without Address Counts, termed Crosstab and No-Extra in the file names. The address counts currently have the number of addresses in each Area, District or Sector from 2004 to 2015, based in each case on the mid-year PAF file. These are broken down into a Total, Residential (R), Large User (L) and Non-Residential (N) count. These data let you see areas of growing numbers of addresses, or such things as the potential market in an area, or just the number of leaflets needed for a mail campaign. Note that the data were not calculated in 2013.

Both versions have, depending on Area, District or Sector:

Pcode_Area: Example “L”

Pcode_Dist: Example “L39”

Pcode_Sect: Example “L39 8”

Pcode_Num: Example “39”

Post_Town: Example “Liverpool” - The Royal Mail have one post town per postcode area.

Area_SqKm: Example “18.7585”

Author: Example “XYZ CF” – Person who last edited the polygon. This was not used before 2012.

Scale: Example “1000000” – A standard part of our data model but not relevant to the postcodes.

Revised: Example “12/11/2013” – Last edit date. This was not used before 2012.

Code: 38.01 – Postcode Area, 38.02 – Postcode District, 38.03 - Postcode Sector, and 38.04 Floating Postcode Sector Used for PO Boxes. The latter is a small polygon that floats above the main Sector in the position of the Royal Mail Sorting Office. 38.05 – Postcode Area Boundary in the Sea, 38.06 – Postcode District Boundary in the Sea. The latter are used for visual purposes to make the maps clearer, for example to show that the Isle of White is part of the Portsmouth PO postcode area.

We separately provide a Line file for the Postcode Boundaries at Area, District and Sector Level. This is without the coastline and is intended for display purposes. The Code column is populated with 38.01 for an Area Boundary, 38.02 for a District Boundary and 38.03 for a Sector Boundary. Other columns are present to indicate the Left and Right Polygons and Postcodes, but these are used in the process of creating the Line files and may not always be 100% reliable.