



Office for
National Statistics

Leveraging information infrastructure modernization programs

integration of statistical and
geospatial information

Organisational Setup



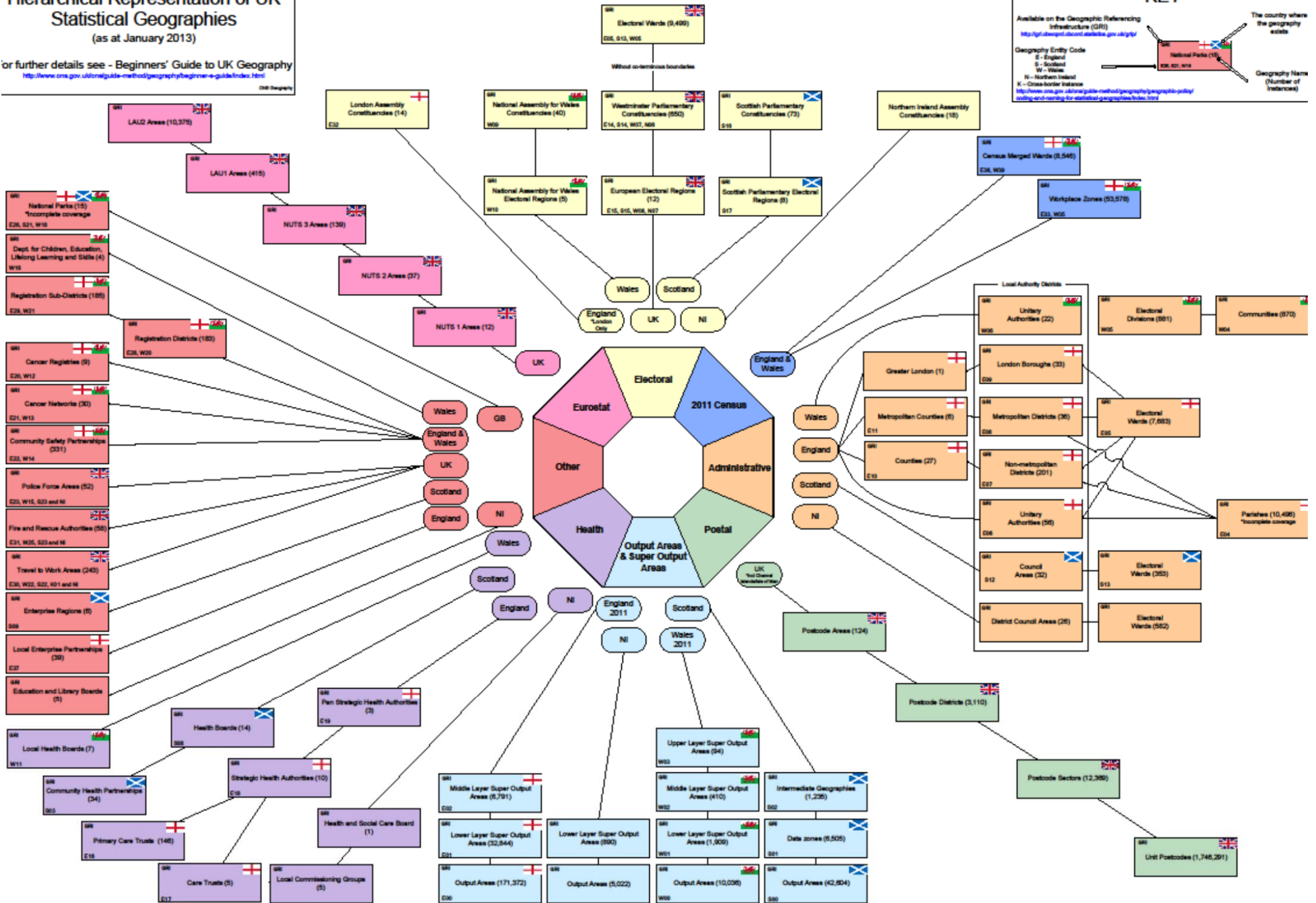
2007 Statistics and Registration Services Act
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/18/contents>)

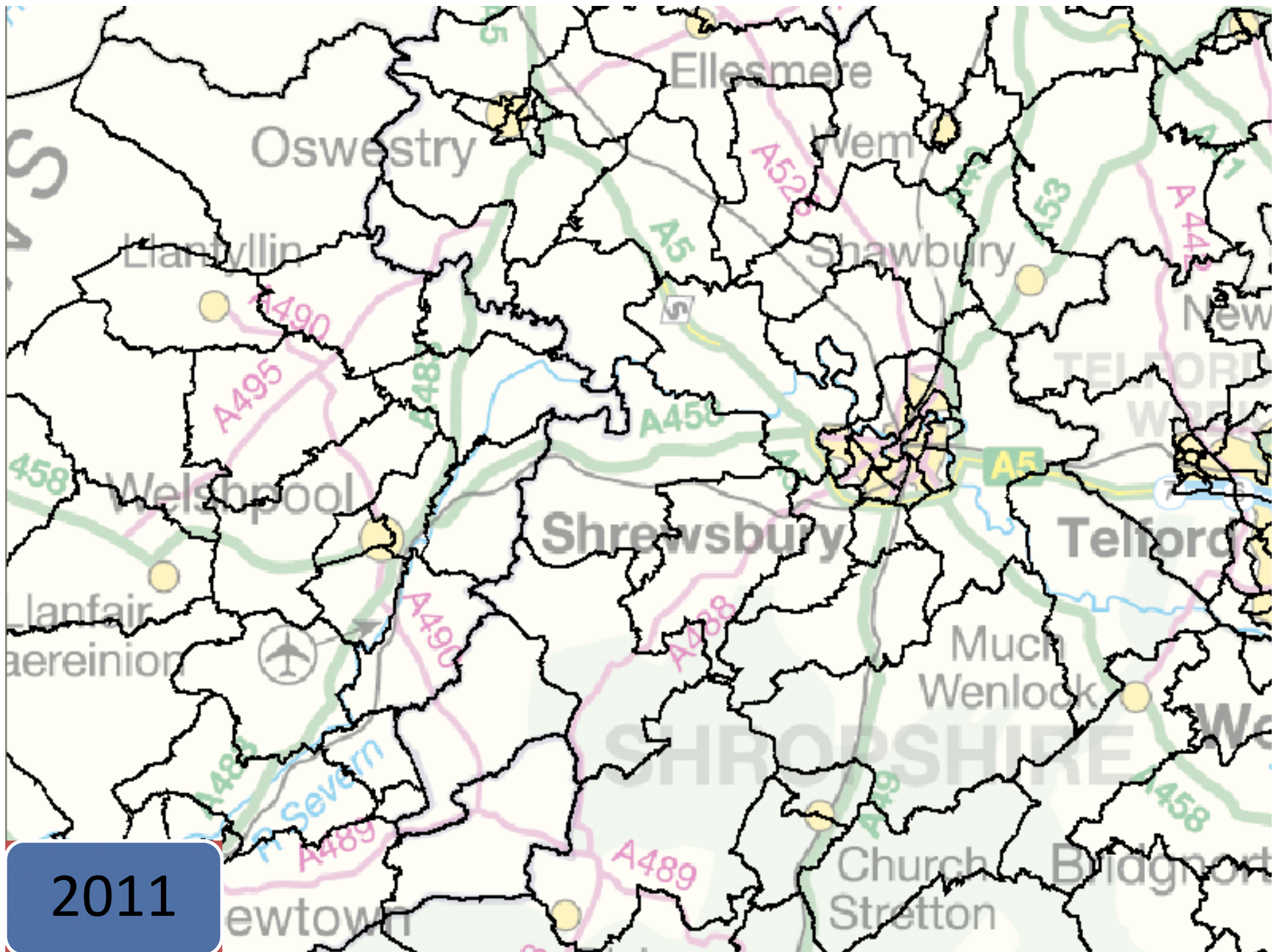
Hierarchical Representation of UK Statistical Geographies

(as at January 2013)

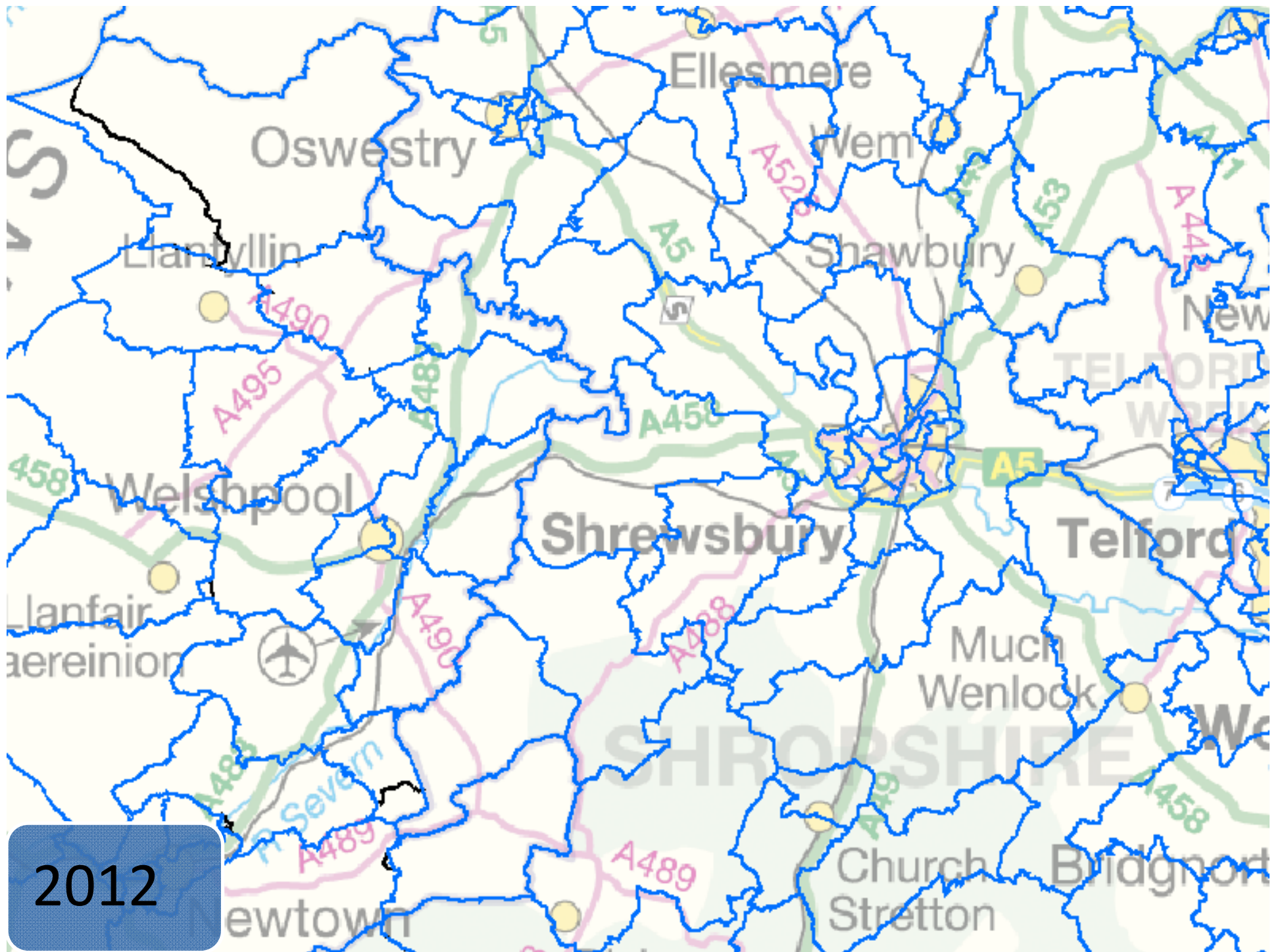
or further details see - Beginners' Guide to UK Geography
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/inequality/methods/geography/beginners-guide/index.html>

ONS Geography

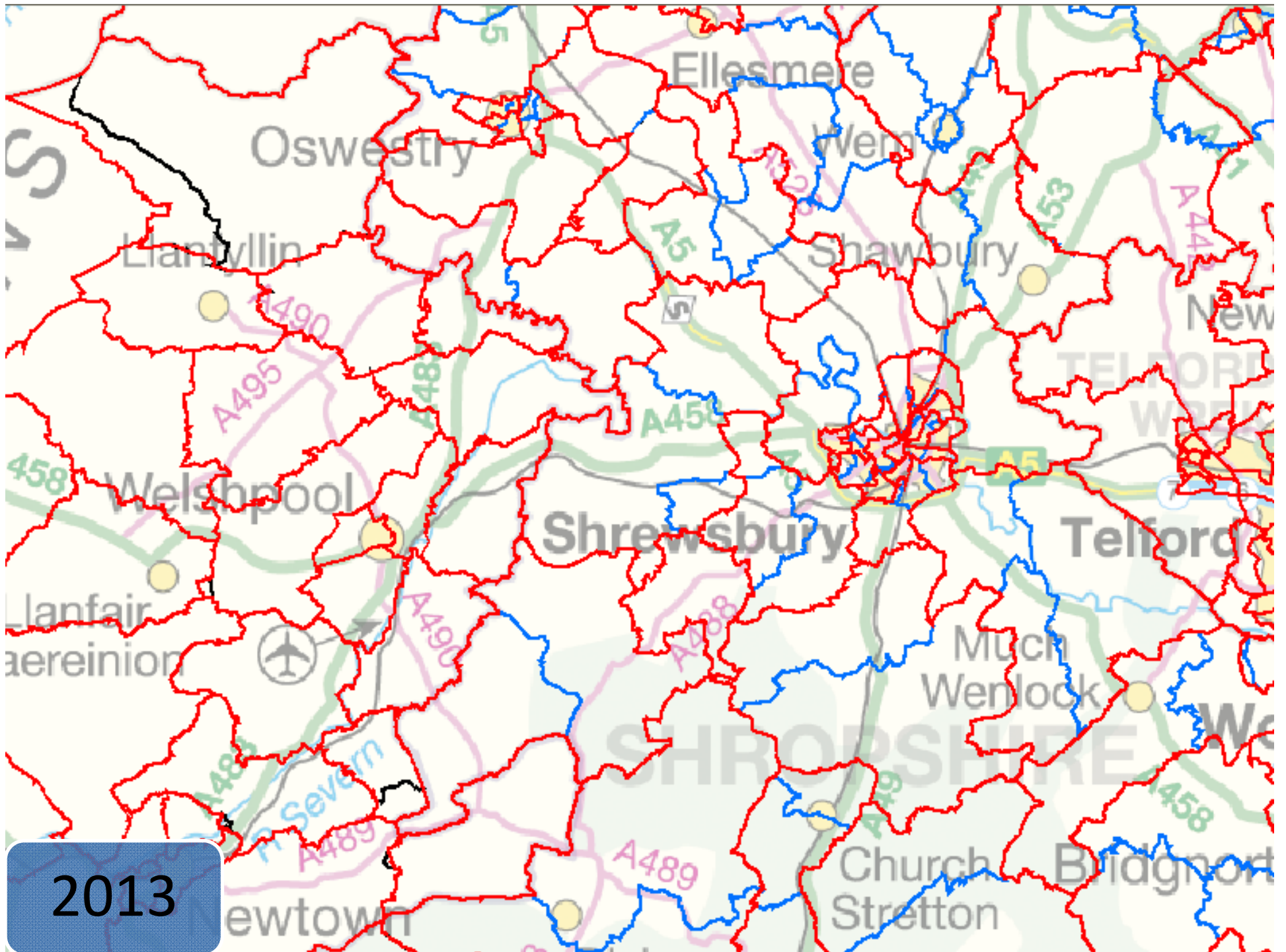




2011



2012

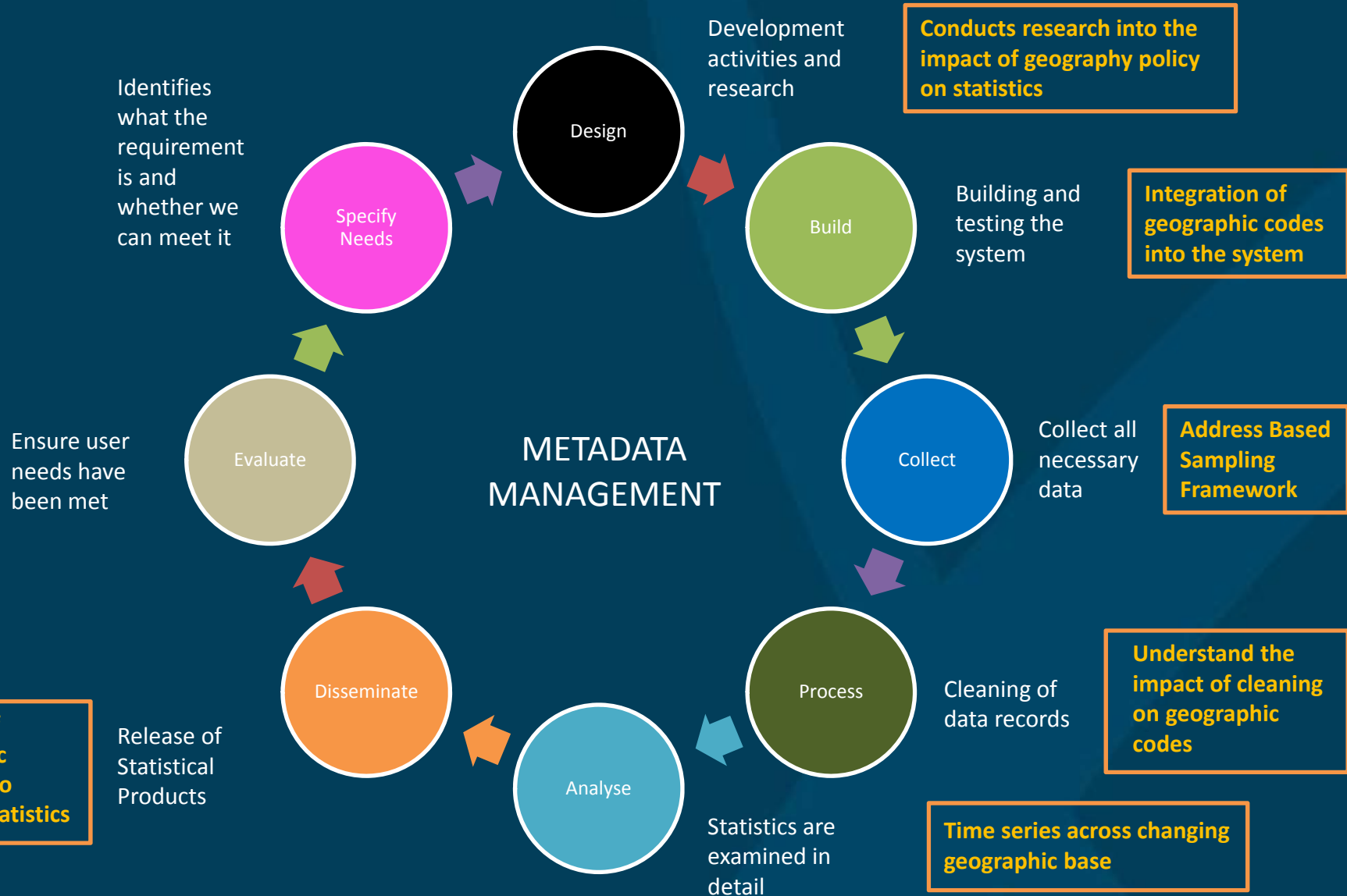


2013

What ONS understands by modernisation

- Standards Based Approach
- Administrative Sources
- Organisational Change
- New Methods of Data Collection
- Improved coherence of economic statistics
- Business Registers

Standards Based Approach



Standards Based Approach

Standards in UK Geography

- IST/36 – de jure standards
- OGC – de facto standards
- Association for Geographic Information

- INSPIRE Data Specifications
- GEMINI 2.1 metadata

Administrative Sources

- Beyond 2011 Research Programme
- Recommendation to Parliament of an online Census and register based Census for 2021
- UK legislation needed to provide access to UK registers
- UK address register is needed to support an administrative approach

But what impact do administrative sources have on the maintenance of small area statistical geographies?

Administrative Sources

- No person level identifiers available to join up administrative data
- Joining up of data needs to be done at the household level
- Previously several competing address databases with various levels of quality
- Cost £12m to attempt to resolve this for Census

- Now a single product – AddressBase that is the authoritative address set for Great Britain
- Provided to government agencies under the public sector mapping agreement

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July 20, 2014 6:40 pm

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We must innovate or die, says UK's new top statistician

By Chris Giles and Emily Cadman



John Pullinger: new head of the ONS

Britain's new national statistician has admitted that the increasing concern about the quality of official data in government departments, the Bank of England and among economists should serve as a "wake-up call" for the [Office for National Statistics](#).

The new head of the ONS, John Pullinger, said his organisation needed constantly to seek to find new data and ways to improve the accuracy of economic statistics.



"We must innovate, otherwise we will die," he said in an interview with the Financial Times.

More

ON THIS STORY

[Pullinger keen to speak out on key issues](#)

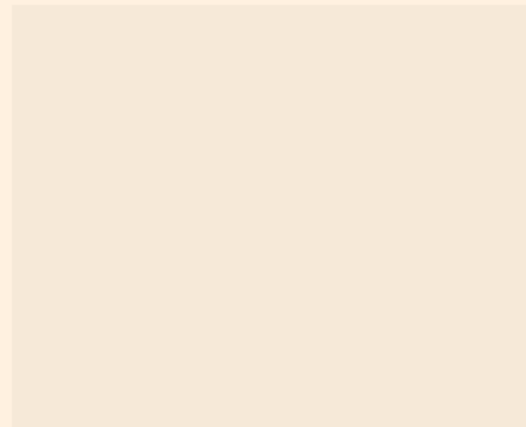
[New statistics chief vows to boost quality](#)

[Data shake-up turns UK into nation of savers](#)

ON THIS TOPIC

In the past two years, the ONS has come [under fire](#) for its [website](#) and for presenting official statistics on the economy that important users such as the [BoE](#) and Treasury find incomprehensible. Officials worry privately that there has been a significant reduction in the quality of statistics, particularly the crucial national accounts, since the move from [London to Newport](#).

Britain's central bank has even stopped using the



EDITOR'S CHOICE

JOHN MCDERMOTT



@Jonathan McHugh

The radical reformer felled by his imaginary Blob

VANESSA HOULDER



@AFP

The taxman's serious aversion to avoidance

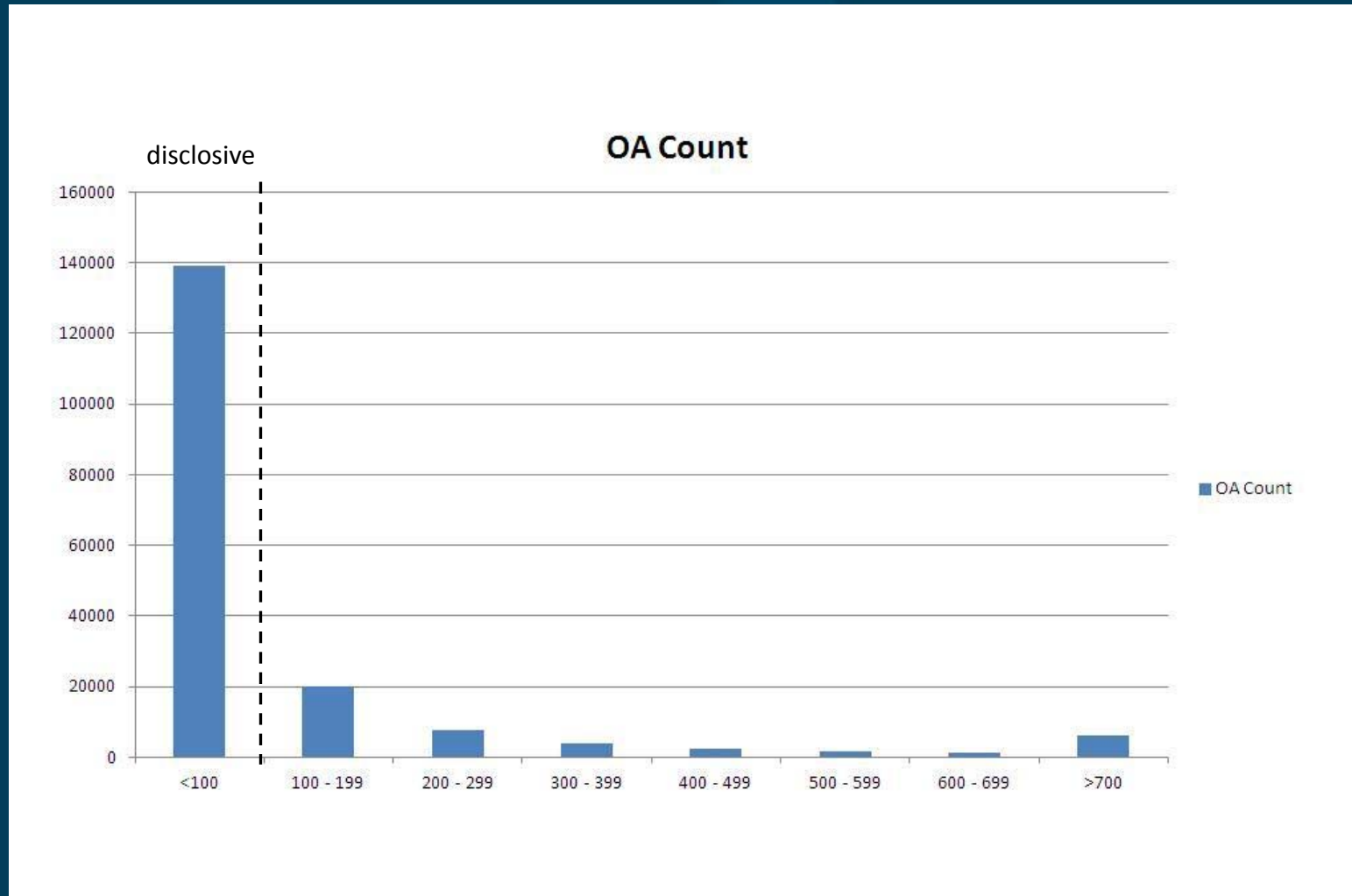
Organisational Change

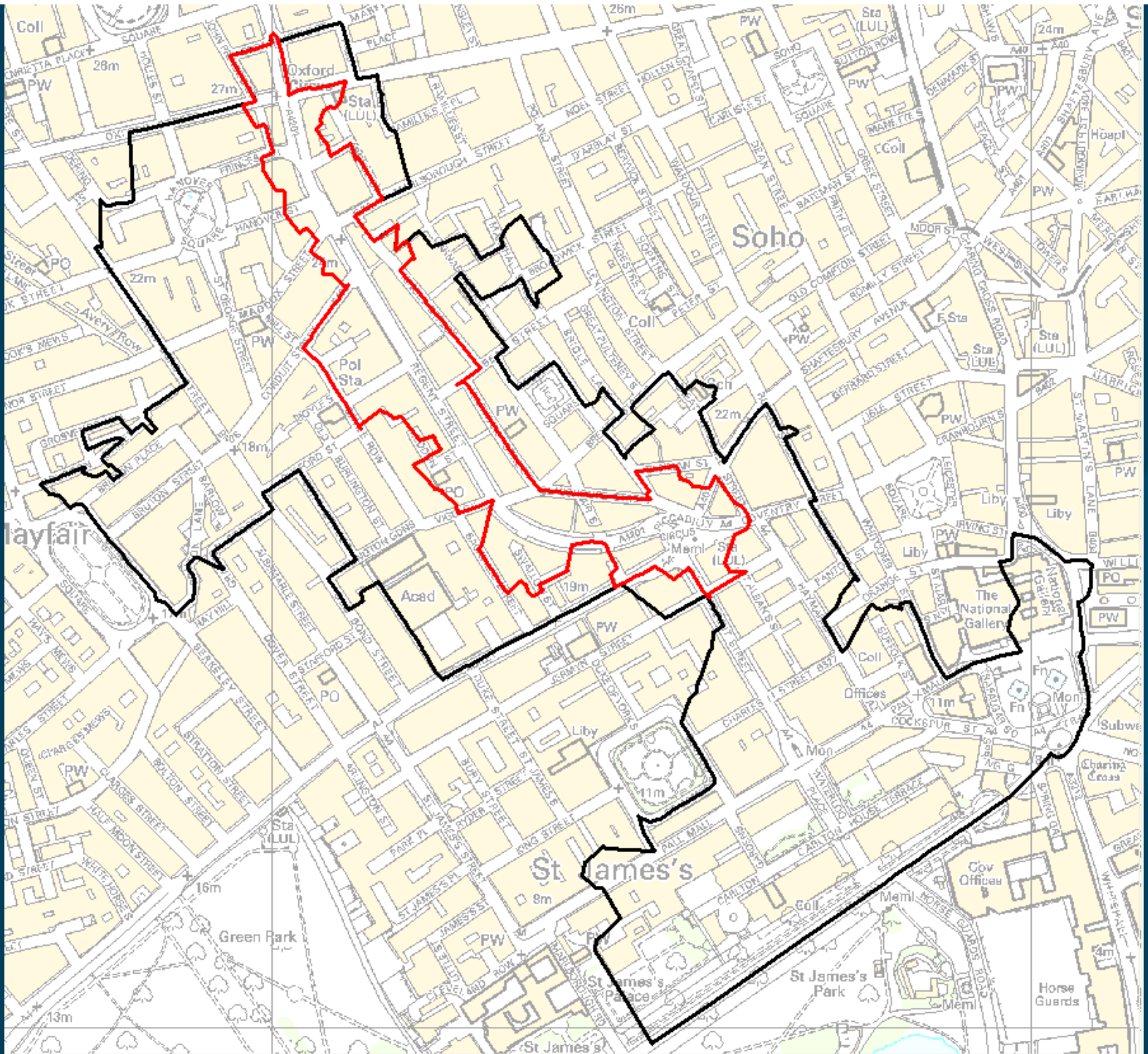
- 'Change Journey' has been implemented to try and standardise the ONS approach to change within the organisation
- Previous attempts at change have been ad hoc and largely unsuccessful
- In particular, IT projects have not handled change particularly well
- A new 'Strategy and Standards' Division has been established to bring together the methodological business areas with the IT leadership to attempt to improve this

Improved coherence of economic statistics

- UKSA monitoring report on the geography of economic statistics
- Greater flexibility in economic outputs is required as geographic requirements change regularly
- More understanding of the Geography Policy for National Statistics is required
- More access to register based data sources is required
- Recommended 'Workplace Zones' as the geography to deliver the requirements of the monitoring report

Workplace Zones





Open Data



Link your data to other people's data

Use URIs to identify things

Use open standard formats (XML, RDF)

Make it available as structured data (csv)

Put your data on the web (any format)

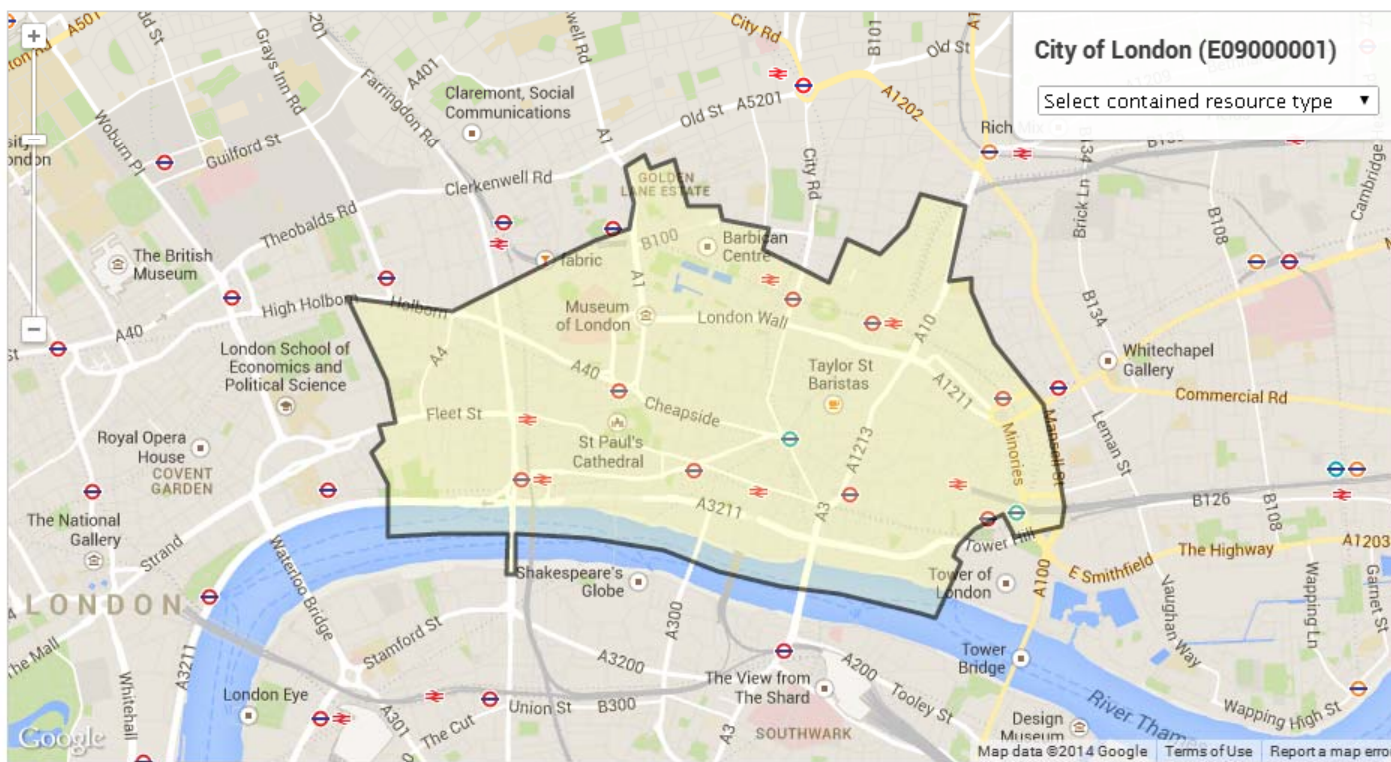
Dissemination

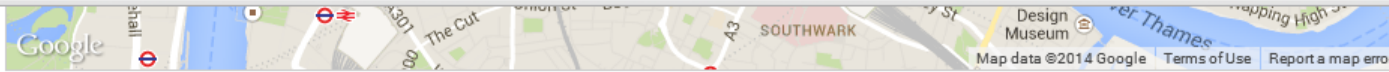
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/geoportal/catalog/main/home.page>. The page features the Office for National Statistics logo and an 'Open Geography' globe icon. A navigation menu includes 'HOME', 'FAQS', 'SEARCH', 'BROWSE', 'DOWNLOAD PRODUCTS', and 'LAUNCH MAP VIEWER'. The main content area is titled 'Home' and contains a red notice: 'Users are encouraged to register to receive regular bulletins highlighting updates and changes.' Below this, a paragraph states: 'The Open Geography Portal allows users to discover, view and download geographical reference data to support National Statistics.' The page is divided into two main sections: 'You can simply...' and 'Further Information'. The 'You can simply...' section has a 'Find Data' heading, a search input field with a 'Search' button, and links for 'Search Data' and 'Download Data'. The 'Further Information' section is split into 'ONS links' and 'Related Links'. 'ONS links' includes: [What's new](#), [ONS Geography](#), [ONS Linked Data](#), [Licensing](#), [Contact us](#), and [Getting Started](#). 'Related Links' includes: [INSPIRE](#), [data.gov.uk](#), and [OS Open Data](#).

Search for statistical geographies:

Please type either:

- name of geography: *Barking and Dagenham 002*
- code: *E00000012*





Explore > London > E09000001

City of London

Type: London Boroughs (LONB)

Export as: [RDF/XML](#) | [Turtle](#)

Theme: Administrative

Official URL : <http://statistics.data.gov.uk/id/statistical-geography/E09000001>

Related Resources

Workplace Zones(WZ)

- [E33028816](#)
- [E33028817](#)
- [E33028818](#)
- [E33028819](#)
- [E33028820](#)
- [E33028821](#)
- [E33028822](#)
- [E33028823](#)
- [E33028824](#)
- [E33028825](#)

[First](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#) [Last](#) Page of 35

Output Areas(OA)

- [E00000024](#)
- [E00000025](#)
-

City of London Metadata

Type

statistical-geography

Label

E09000001

Notation

E09000001

Official Name

City of London

Operative date

2009-01-01

Status

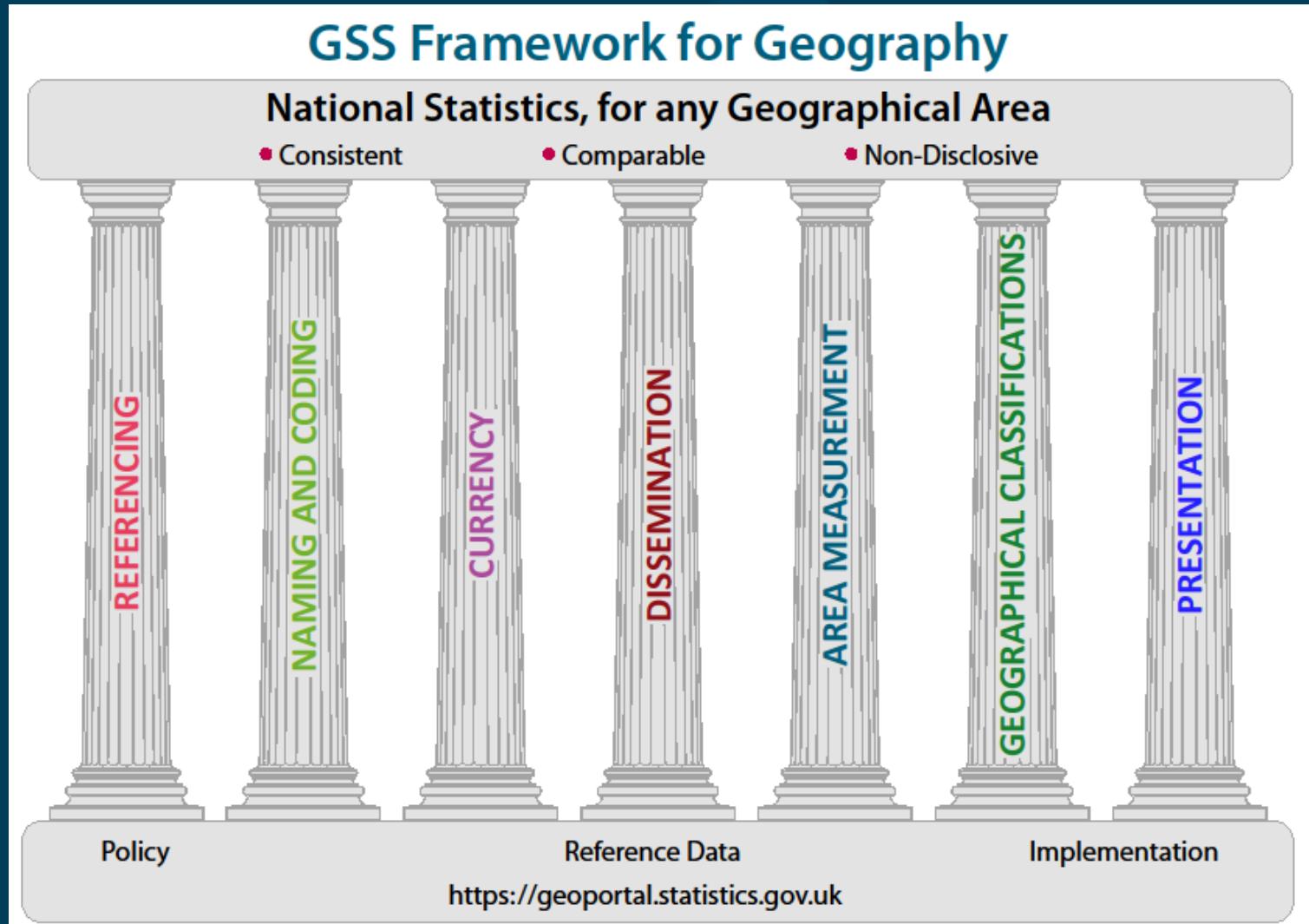
Collaboration

- Formal collaborative with National Mapping Agency Ordnance Survey
- Formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding
- Document and manage joint projects between the organisations
- Data access is provided through the Public Sector Mapping Agreement
- Technological collaboration exists to bring together the various geoportals into a single access point
- Collaboration exists across academia and the commercial sector as well

Metadata

- Metadata produced to the ISO19115 Standard
- UK Implementation of INSPIRE Directive set out GEMINI 2.1 as the metadata standard for geographic data
- ONS research programme designed to provide additional metadata for geographic and statistical product releases

Geography Policy for National Statistics



Summary

- A strong research programme is needed to inform policy and provide metadata
- Collaborations should be across sectors and formalised where possible
- Population based geographies allow them to be designed around particular demographics such as workers
- A strong organisational relationship between geographers and IT is required

Ensuring statisticians understand where geography fits into business processes is key!