



Royal Mail Postcode Reference

With Postcode Sector Delivery Points Weighted Centroids

2014.01

PRODUCT GUIDE

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Product Overview

Welcome to the Royal Mail Postcode Reference. This chapter provides an overview of the product and the documentation, and provides source information.

In this chapter:

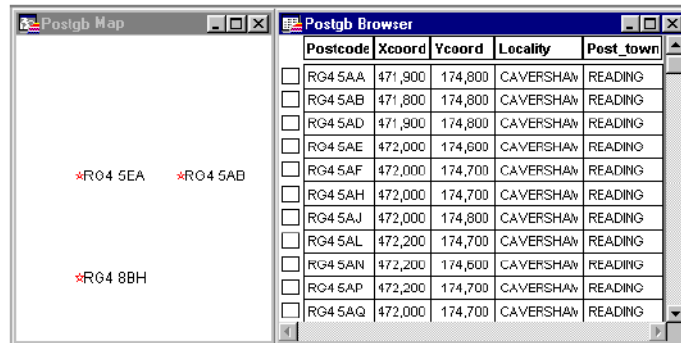
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About the Royal Mail Postcode Reference

Royal Mail Postcode Reference contains the names and geographical locations of the 1.7 million unique postcodes in the United Kingdom. The database can be used with geocoding software to quickly add grid references to other postcoded databases. Also, the full postcodes can be mapped as symbols at their approximate locations.

Royal Mail Postcode Sector Delivery Points Weighted Centroids contains the names and delivery points weighted centroids of all postcode sectors in the United Kingdom (over 9,000). You can add additional data fields to create your own postcode sector database. This data can also be used to geocode your existing postcode referenced database to the postcode sector centroid.

The image below shows a map and a browser of the Postcodes in Great Britain table.



About This Document

The *Royal Mail Postcode Reference Guide* explains the information contained in the Royal Mail Postcode Reference database so you can use it to your greatest advantage. The guide assumes that you are familiar with your mapping software. For information about MapInfo Professional, please consult the MapInfo Professional documentation set. Please direct any technical or customer support questions concerning MapInfo Professional software to the Technical Support department, at +44 (0)1753 848 200. Questions about other mapping software programs should be directed to their respective companies.

Source

The data are sourced directly from the latest Post Office Royal Mail Address File (PAF) and the Postzon File and converted into the format supplied with the permission of Royal Mail. All PAF and Postzon data is copyright of Royal Mail. The data supplied contains all the postcodes included on the latest PAF and Postzon files with their respective grid coordinates.

Users should note that a significant number of the 1.7 million postcodes are non-geographic and hence do not have an associated geographic grid reference. The positional accuracy of individual postcodes is variable and care should be exercised when using the data to ascertain the precise location of specific records.

Pitney Bowes Software calculated the postcode sector delivery point weighted centroids.

Getting Started

This chapter explains file names and provides you with instructions for installing the data.

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File Names

The Royal Mail Postcode Reference database contains the following eight file sets:

Filename	Coverage	Projection	Content
POSTGB.*	Great Britain	British National Grid	Postcodes
POSTUK.*	United Kingdom		
POSTNI.*	Northern Ireland		
NIPOST.*	Northern Ireland	Irish Transverse Mercator	Postcode Sector Centroids
SCTXYGB.*	Great Britain	British National Grid	
SCTXYUK.*	United Kingdom		
SCTXYNI.*	Nothern Ireland		
NISCTXY.*	Northern Ireland	Irish Transverse Mercator	

Each file set contains five different file types. Refer to the table below:

File Types

.DBF	Data file
.ID	Identification file
.IND	Index file
.MAP	Map file
.TAB	Tabular file

The table below shows an example of a complete file set.

File Set

POSTGB.DBF
POSTGB.ID
POSTGB.IND
POSTGB.MAP
POSTGB.TAB

In order to use a database correctly, you must have access to all of the files in a file set. They must all be located in the same directory.

Installing the Files Onto Your System

The data is supplied on disk(s) to ISO 9660 standard and may be either used directly from the disk or installed to your hard disk drive.

We recommend that the data is installed into a data directory separate from any program or application directories.

Proceed as follows:

1. Insert the installation disk into your disk drive, close all other Windows applications, and run **setup.exe** from the root of the disk.
2. Once the **Welcome** screen is displayed, click **Next** to continue.
3. Read the **License Agreement**, and, provided only that you accept all the terms and conditions, click "I accept the agreement", followed by **Next**.
4. Either accept the default destination location or click **Browse** to select a different folder (which must be on a local drive).
5. Click the **Install** button if you wish to proceed. Otherwise, click **Back** to change the folder, before proceeding.
6. Allow the installer to finish running. Once the installation is complete, you will be prompted to click **Finish**, in order to exit **Setup**. There is no need to restart the PC.

Database Description

This chapter describes the database's spatial referencing, display characteristics and table structure.

In this chapter:

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Spatial Referencing

The Royal Mail Postcode Reference database uses the projection and coordinates listed in the tables below.

Spatial Referencing for Great Britain and the United Kingdom

Projection	British National Grid
Coordinates	British National Grid to one metre resolution

Spatial Referencing for Northern Ireland

Projection	Irish Transverse Mercator Grid and British National Grid
Coordinates	National Grid coordinates to one metre resolution

Display Characteristics

Objects in the Royal Mail Postcode Reference database are displayed as **points**.

Table Structures

Postcodes in Great Britain / United Kingdom

POSTGB/POSTUK

Projection British National Grid
Coordinates British National Grid coordinates to one metre resolution

Field	Description	Type (Width)	Indexed
POSTCODE	The full postcode name as normally written with a single blank between the 'outward' and 'inward' codes.	Character(8)	Yes
XCOORD	British National Grid eastings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(6,0)	No
YCOORD	British National Grid northings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(7,0)	No
LOCALITY	Postcode locality name.	Character(35)	No
POST_TOWN	Postcode major town name.	Character(22)	No

Postcodes in Northern Ireland

POSTNI

Projection British National Grid
Coordinates British National Grid coordinates to one metre resolution

Field	Description	Type (Width)	Indexed
POSTNI (Point file)			
POSTCODE	The full postcode name as normally written with a single blank between the 'outward' and 'inward' codes.	Character(8)	Yes
XCOORD	British National Grid eastings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(6,0)	No
YCOORD	British National Grid northings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(7,0)	No
I_XCOORD	Irish Transverse Mercator Grid eastings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(6,0)	No
I_YCOORD	Irish Transverse Mercator Grid northings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(7,0)	No

Field	Description	Type (Width)	Indexed
LOCALITY	Postcode locality name.	Character(35)	No
POST_TOWN	Postcode major town name.	Character(22)	No

Postcodes in Northern Ireland

NIPOST

Projection Irish Transverse Mercator Grid
Coordinates National Grid coordinates to one metre resolution

Field	Description	Type (Width)	Indexed
NIPOST (Point file)			
POSTCODE	The full postcode name as normally written with a single blank between the 'outward' and 'inward' codes.	Character(8)	Yes
XCOORD	British National Grid eastings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(6,0)	No
YCOORD	British National Grid northings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(7,0)	No
I_XCOORD	Irish Transverse Mercator Grid eastings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(6,0)	No
I_YCOORD	Irish Transverse Mercator Grid northings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(7,0)	No
LOCALITY	Postcode locality name.	Character(35)	No
POST_TOWN	Postcode major town name.	Character(22)	No

Postcode Sector Centroids in Great Britain / United Kingdom

SCTXYGB/SCTXYUK

Projection British National Grid
Coordinates British National Grid coordinates to one metre resolution

Field	Description	Type (Width)	Indexed
POSTSECT	Six character postcode sector code as normally written with a single blank between the 'outward' and 'inward' codes.	Character(6)	Yes
XCOORD	Delivery points weighted British National Grid eastings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(6,0)	No
YCOORD	Delivery points weighted British National Grid northings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(7,0)	No

Postcode Sector Centroids in Northern Ireland**SCTXYNI****Projection** British National Grid**Coordinates** British National Grid coordinates to one metre resolution

Field	Description	Type (Width)	Indexed
POSTSECT	Six character postcode sector code as normally written with a single blank between the 'outward' and 'inward' codes.	Character(6)	Yes
XCOORD	Delivery points weighted British National Grid eastings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(6,0)	No
YCOORD	Delivery points weighted British National Grid northings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(7,0)	No
I_XCOORD	Delivery points weighted Irish Transverse Mercator Grid eastings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(6,0)	No
I_YCOORD	Delivery points weighted Irish Transverse Mercator Grid northings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(7,0)	No

Postcode Sector Centroids in Northern Ireland**NISCTXY****Projection** Irish Transverse Mercator Grid**Coordinates** National Grid coordinates to one metre resolution

Field	Description	Type (Width)	Indexed
POSTSECT	Six character postcode sector code as normally written with a single blank between the 'outward' and 'inward' codes.	Character(6)	Yes
XCOORD	Delivery points weighted British National Grid eastings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(6,0)	No
YCOORD	Delivery points weighted British National Grid northings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(7,0)	No

Table Structures

Field	Description	Type (Width)	Indexed
I_XCOORD	Delivery points weighted Irish Transverse Mercator Grid eastings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(6,0)	No
I_YCOORD	Delivery points weighted Irish Transverse Mercator Grid northings reference to one metre resolution.	Decimal(7,0)	No



Appendix: Notes

The appendix contains important information about the database.

Non-Geographic Postcodes

A significant number of postcodes do not have geographic references in this database. Some of these, mainly the large user postcodes, are non-geographic postcodes, such as box numbers. Many of the other postcodes without geographic references are new postcodes to which The Royal Mail has not yet assigned geographic references. Most of these will be assigned appropriate grid references in later releases.

Geographic and non-geographic postcodes are supplied together in one file. Non-geographic postcodes have zero in the co-ordinate fields, and are not assigned a graphic object. Consequently, they are not mappable.

Non-geographic postcodes may be selected by either picking all postcodes with zero co-ordinates, or picking all postcodes without objects. To do this in MapInfo Professional, use Query>SQL Select, and select postcodes where Xcoord = 0. Alternatively, enter 'not obj' in the Where Condition box.

Non-Geographic Postcode Sectors

Some postcode sectors are comprised of non-geographic postcodes or postcodes for which grid references are not currently available. Therefore, these postcode sectors do not have an associated geographic reference.

Geographic and non-geographic postcode sectors are supplied together in one file. Non-geographic postcode sectors have zero in the coordinate fields, and are not assigned a graphic object. Consequently, they are not mappable.

Non-geographic postcode sectors may be selected by either picking all postcode sectors with zero coordinates, or picking all postcode sectors without objects. To do this in MapInfo Professional, use Query> SQL Select, and select postcode sectors where Xcoord = 0. Alternatively, enter 'not obj' in the Where Condition box.