



PostPoint[®] Professional

2014.02

PRODUCT GUIDE

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Further Information

Pitney Bowes Software UK and EMEA Headquarters
The Smith Centre
The Fairmile
Henley-on-Thames
Oxfordshire
RG9 6AB
Telephone: +44 0 800 840 0001
email: software.support@pb.com
<http://www.pb.com/software>

February 2014

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Product Overview

Welcome to PostPoint® Professional. This chapter provides an overview of the product.

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PostPoint® Professional Overview

PostPoint® Professional includes full postcode British National Grid references with accuracy to within one metre of a property near the centre of the postcode, and an indicator of the precision of each point.

Derived from Ordnance Survey's Code-Point®, PostPoint® Professional contains all geographically referenced postcodes in the United Kingdom. The Great Britain data includes full postcodes, an indicator of the precision of each point, the number of domestic, non-domestic, and post box delivery points, the number of addressed buildings, and ONS administrative and NHS Health Authority codes. The Northern Ireland data contains all of this information except for P.O. Boxes and delivery point information; an additional table contains the Northern Ireland data in Irish Transverse Mercator Grid projection.

PostPoint® Professional provides all the data that you need in order to put your customers, branches, depots and competitors, accurately and precisely on the map.

About This Document

This *PostPoint® Product Guide* explains the information contained in the PostPoint® Professional database so that 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 telephone numbers given at the front of the guide. Questions about other mapping software programs should be directed to their respective companies.

Source

The data is sourced directly from the Ordnance Survey (OS) Code-Point® product. Code-Point® is derived from Ordnance Survey ADDRESS-POINT, Boundary-Line, and Land-Line data, and the Royal Mail's Postcode Address File (PAF) and Postzon products.

The data contains all the postcodes included in the OS Code-Point® file with their respective grid coordinates, and an indicator of the precision of each point. Based on the Ordnance Survey's detailed knowledge of the position of every building in the United Kingdom, PostPoint® provides a national grid reference to a resolution of one metre for each unit postcode in the United Kingdom. The grid reference is allocated to a point that falls within the extent of the unit postcode. Even where a postcode has an unusual shape (e.g. a "new moon" crescent) the grid reference has been configured to lie within the boundary of the correct postcode. A small number of the 1.6 million postcodes are non-geographic and hence do not have an associated grid reference. Geographic and non-geographic postcodes are supplied together in one file.

The Administrative and NHS Health Authority codes are those used by the Office for National Statistics, and are allocated by the Ordnance Survey using the Boundary-Line polygon within which the Code-Point Location Coordinate (CPLC) falls; further administrative areas occurring in the same postcode are not included. The currency of the National Health Authority codes is that of the latest Boundary-Line data.

Getting Started

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

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File Names

The PostPoint® Professional database contains the following four file sets:

Filename	Coverage	Projection
POSTPNTP.*	Great Britain	British National Grid
PPNTPNI.*	Nothern Ireland	
POSTPTUK.*	United Kingdom	
NIPPNTP.*	Northern Ireland	Irish Transverse Mercator Projection

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

File Set

POSTPNTP.DBF

POSTPNTP.ID

POSTPNTP.IND

POSTPNTP.MAP

POSTPNTP.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

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Display Characteristics

Objects in the PostPoint® Professional database are displayed as **points**.

Table Structures

Convention



In the tables that follow, this icon is used to indicate that there is no data available for Northern Ireland. The column will contain zero.

Postcodes in Great Britain/United Kingdom

POSTPNTP/POSTPTUK

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
POSTSECT	Six-character postcode sector code as normally written, with a single blank between the 'outward' and 'inward' codes.	Character (6)	No
POSTFIXF	Seven-character fixed position full postcode reference in which the first two characters hold the area code, the next two characters the district code, the fifth character holds the sector code, and the last two characters hold the unit code.	Character (7)	No
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








Field	Description	Type (Width)	Indexed
PRECISION	<p>The positional accuracy of the coordinates.</p> <p>1: Within the building of the address closest to the postcode mean. All delivery points including most P.O. boxes in the postcode are of the highest positional accuracy. The coordinates of all delivery points in the postcode have been used to calculate the postcode mean.</p> <p>2: Within the building of the address closest to the postcode mean. At least one, but not all, delivery points in the postcode are of the highest positional accuracy. Only delivery points with the highest level of positional accuracy have been used to calculate the postcode mean.</p> <p>3: Approximate to within 50m of the postcode mean (postcodes relating to developing sites may be within 100 metres). Only delivery points second highest in the positional quality hierarchy have been used to calculate the postcode mean.</p>	Character (1)	No
PRECISION <i>contd.</i>	<p>4: Postcode Unit Mean.</p> <p>5: Royal Mail's 100m Postzon.</p> <p>6: Postcode Sector Mean (mainly P.O. Boxes).</p> <p>7: No coordinates available (almost entirely PO Boxes).</p> <p>The positional accuracy codes described above originate from the Ordnance Survey's ADDRESS-POINT product.</p>	Character (1)	No
PO_BOX_IND	 Shows whether the postcode only contains P.O. Box delivery points. Denoted by "Y" if postcode only contains P.O. boxes, otherwise "N".	Character (1)	No
DELIVERY_P	 The total number of delivery points.	Decimal (3,0)	No
DP_USED	 The number of delivery points used to calculate the PostPoint® postcode mean. Only applies to postcodes with a precision of 1, 2 or 3 (the most accurate), where it may be compared to the total number of delivery points within the postcode to indicate the proportion of delivery point coordinates used to calculate the PostPoint® postcode mean.	Decimal (3,0)	No

Table Structures

Field	Description	Type (Width)	Indexed
DOMESTIC	 The number of delivery points within the postcode with no Royal Mail 'Organisation Name' (excluding P.O. Boxes). This approximates to the number of domestic delivery points.	Decimal (3,0)	No
NON_DOMEST	 The number of delivery points within the postcode with a Royal Mail 'Organisation Name' (excluding PO Boxes). This approximates to the number of non-domestic (business) delivery points.	Decimal (2,0)	No
PO_BOX	 The number of P.O. Box delivery points within the postcode.	Decimal (1,0)	No
BUILDINGS	 The number of buildings in the postcode. Only applies to postcodes with a precision of 1, 2 or 3 (the most accurate), where it may be compared to the total number of delivery points within the postcode to give an indication of the proportion of delivery points in separate buildings.	Decimal (3,0)	No
WARDCODE	Four- or nine-character code for the local authority ward containing the postcode. Derived from the ONS Central Postcode Directory.	Character (9)	No
DIST_UA	ONS nine-character local authority district reference or two character metropolitan district, London borough, or unitary authority reference.	Character (9)	No
CNTY_UA	ONS nine-character county, metropolitan district, London borough, or unitary authority reference.	Character (9)	No
NHSCODE	The ONS NHS Postcode Directory code for the Health Authority or Health Board containing the postcode.	Character (9)	No
NHSREGCODE	The ONS NHS Postcode Directory code for the Regional Health Authority containing the postcode.	Character (9)	No

Postcodes in Northern Ireland

PPNTPNI/NIPPNTP

Projection British National Grid (PPNTPNI)/Irish Transverse Mercator (NIPPNTP)
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
POSTSECT	Six-character postcode sector code as normally written, with a single blank between the 'outward' and 'inward' codes.	Character (6)	No
POSTFIXF	Seven-character fixed position full postcode reference in which the first two characters hold the area code, the next two characters the district code, the fifth character holds the sector code and the last two characters hold the unit code.	Character (7)	No
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
PRECISION	<p>The positional accuracy of the coordinates.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Within the building of the address closest to the postcode mean. 2. Does not apply to Northern Ireland because there are no delivery points for Northern Ireland. All postcodes within a building are given a precision of 1. 3. Approximate to within 50m of the postcode mean (postcodes relating to developing sites may be within 100 metres). Only delivery points second highest in the positional quality hierarchy have been used to calculate the postcode mean. 4. Postcode Unit Mean. 5. Royal Mail's 100m Postzon. 6. Postcode Sector Mean (mainly P.O. boxes). 7. No coordinates available (almost entirely P.O. boxes). <p>The positional accuracy codes described above originate from the Ordnance Survey's ADDRESS-POINT product.</p>	Character (1)	No
PO_BOX_IND		Character (1)	No

Table Structures

Field	Description	Type (Width)	Indexed
DELIVERY_P		Decimal (3,0)	No
DP_USED		Decimal (3,0)	No
DOMESTIC		Decimal (3,0)	No
NON_DOMEST		Decimal (2,0)	No
PO_BOX		Decimal (1,0)	No
BUILDINGS		Decimal (3,0)	No
WARDCODE	ONS nine-character local authority ward code.	Character (9)	No
DIST_UA	ONS nine-character local authority district code. There are no unitary authority codes in Northern Ireland.	Character (9)	No
CNTY_UA	ONS nine-character county code. There are no unitary authority codes in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland is treated as one county with a code of 95.	Character (9)	No
NHSCODE	The ONS NHS Postcode Directory code for the Health Authority or Health Board containing the postcode.	Character (9)	No
NHSREGCODE	The ONS NHS Postcode Directory code for the Regional Health Authority containing the postcode.	Character (9)	No



Appendix A: Notes

This appendix contains important information about the database.

Allocation of Administrative and NHS Health Authority Codes

In the absence of very accurate coordinates, it is difficult to determine in which Administrative or NHS Health Authority a postcode lies. Thus, Administrative or NHS Health Authority codes have not been allocated to postcodes that have a Precision of 6 or 7.

Non-Geographic Postcodes

The database contains a small number of non-geographic postcodes or postcodes for which grid references are currently not available. Therefore, these postcodes do not have an associated geographic reference.

Geographic and non-geographic postcodes are supplied together in one file. Non-geographic postcodes have zero in the coordinate 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 coordinates, 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.

