# Points of Interest
## User guide

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Preface

This user guide (hereafter referred to as the guide) is designed to provide an overview of Points of Interest (hereafter referred to as the product) and it gives guidelines and advice on how a customer might derive the maximum benefit from the product. It assumes a general knowledge of geographic information. If you find an error or omission in this guide, or otherwise wish to make a comment or suggestion as to how we can improve the guide, please contact us at the address shown below under contact details or complete the product and service performance report form at annexe C and return it to us.

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If you are unfamiliar with any words or terms used and require clarification please refer to the glossary at the end of the document.
Chapter 1  Introduction

Points of Interest is a dataset containing around 4 million different geographic features. All features are supplied with location, functional information and addresses where possible. It has been available continuously since 2002. The product covers all of Great Britain.

This user guide describes the main features of the data, suggests how customers can use the data and explains how the data are supplied. Whilst some of the more technical information may be of greater interest to those using the data on a regular basis within applications, everyone reading this user guide will gain an understanding of the key concepts of the data and the benefits an organisation can obtain from using it within location-based applications.

Points of Interest has a three-level classification to assist customers in identifying the features or sets of features they require. This classification is explained in detail in chapter 3 of this user guide, but to illustrate the wide range of features included within Points of Interest, the first level of classification, comprising nine groups, is given below.

- Accommodation, eating and drinking
- Commercial services
- Attractions
- Sport and entertainment
- Education and health
- Public infrastructure
- Manufacturing and production
- Retail
- Transport

As each feature is provided with a national grid coordinate, it can be visualised as points on a map using a geographical information system (GIS). When the data are combined with topographic data as shown in figure 1 below, Points of Interest becomes a useful component in location-based applications.

![Figure 1: Points of Interest features over OS MasterMap® Topography Layer data. A legend for the symbols can be found in chapter 7.](image-url)
Common applications that customers are already using Points of Interest for include:

- Citizen information services
- Distribution and provision of facilities and infrastructure
- Driver routing and navigation
- Emergency planning
- Location-based services
- Tourism

Each feature comes with a set of attribution that can be manipulated and analysed within a GIS or database so that customers can customise the data and learn more about the facilities within their chosen geographic areas.

The data are delivered in a text file format. The data can be ordered in a number of different geographic units, including a customer's own defined area. It is also possible to order either the whole dataset or subsets of data, based on the classification system, to suit particular needs.

Roles and responsibilities

Points of Interest is created and maintained by PointX, an independent company in the joint ownership of Ordnance Survey and Landmark® Information Group. Ordnance Survey is the sole 'data only' distributor for Points of Interest.

PointX collects data from around 150 suppliers, including Ordnance Survey. It receives updates from these suppliers on an ongoing basis. The suppliers are chosen for being the most authoritative source or sources for the particular type of feature they supply and for the quality and completeness of the data they supply. It should be noted, however, that for many types of feature there is no absolute, definitive source, nor can any list of the types of features found in Points of Interest be said to be complete. Points of Interest therefore comes with a number of indicators as to the likely currency and positional accuracy of any given set, which customers should take into consideration when using the data. More information on these issues can be found in chapter 5 and chapter 8.

PointX runs verification checks, provides National Grid coordinates and classifies each feature. PointX sends the data, quarterly, to Ordnance Survey, which distributes it to customers. Ordnance Survey manages the customer relationship.

The suppliers are responsible for providing the data to PointX in a manner and timescale agreed between each supplier and PointX.

Using Points of Interest

The primary use of Points of Interest is to allow identification of different facilities, resources or functions within the built and natural environment.

The data can be used within a table format, such as a spreadsheet or a database, to create gazetteer or list type applications that allow people to search for a particular facility or resource. These applications make use of the attributes supplied for each feature and depend on the application system having a searching or querying facility that the customer can supply with search criteria.

For example, a query could be run to find out how many banks are within a certain locality or to compare the distribution of a number of different facilities across certain postcodes by using the classification and address attribution.

To achieve the greatest possible value from the data, it is best viewed and analysed within a GIS that can use the coordinates to display each feature's geographic location as a point in combination with a topographic map. The combination of Points of Interest with topographic mapping gives context to the features, which cannot be derived from using it within a table or spreadsheet. It also provides the opportunity, depending on the functionality of the GIS, to:

- group the features into other subsets of data;
- combine the data with a customer's own, complementary datasets;
- customise the appearance of the Points of Interest features to suit the customer's requirements (Ordnance Survey provides a suggested set of symbols to get customers started); and
- extend the queries on the attributes by using a spatial element.
Taking the above example of banks, a GIS could calculate the distance between each bank to judge how far apart they actually are or from a position supplied by the customer. This could be a feature such as a car park or a train station, or a coordinate supplied from a mobile phone.

The customer could also input a geographic area, such as an electoral ward, within which the GIS could return a list of all the banks that fall within that boundary.

It is also recommended that customers update their holdings from Ordnance Survey at the very least every six months, and more frequently if possible to make sure that they comply with the terms of their licence and so that their applications are always serving the most current version of the data. Quarterly updates are included for all Points of Interest licences.

A customer can extend the functionality by linking their own data to the Points of Interest dataset and use both with other Ordnance Survey products to derive extra value and further datasets.

In summary, Points of Interest provides a customer with:

- over 600 different classifications of features supplied from the most authoritative sources available;
- a flexible method of ordering data by group or category and by area, up to national coverage;
- the attribution to develop location finding and facility distribution applications; and
- access to regular updates so that applications can be kept current.
Chapter 2  Using Points of Interest data with other Ordnance Survey products

This section places the Points of Interest dataset within the context of other Ordnance Survey products and discusses how additional value can be gained by associating it with a customer’s own data.

Coordinate precision

The precision of all coordinates to British National Grid will be to at least 1 metre and in some cases better. The following table shows the coordinate precision of a sample of the dataset taken in December 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Feature easting (%)</th>
<th>Feature northing (%)</th>
<th>ITN* easting (%)</th>
<th>ITN northing (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 decimal places</td>
<td>75.51</td>
<td>75.47</td>
<td>19.38</td>
<td>19.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 decimal place</td>
<td>24.49</td>
<td>24.53</td>
<td>80.62</td>
<td>80.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample record count</td>
<td>28826</td>
<td>28826</td>
<td>28826</td>
<td>28826</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: coordinate precision

* ITN is an abbreviation of OS MasterMap Integrated Transport Network™ Layer.

Viewing the data

As seen in figure 1, providing the context of the physical environment within which the Points of Interest features exist adds another dimension of meaning to the data. It allows a spatial understanding of the features to develop. The National Grid coordinates that accompany each feature allows it to be displayed as a point, in its correct position with regard to the National Grid and any other map based on the same reference system.

The best combination from the point of both clarity and the ability to derive additional value from both products is OS MasterMap Topography Layer, which was used in figure 1 and is a large-scale product (typically between 1:1250 and 1:2500 scales). Another example is given below in figure 2.

Figure 2: OS MasterMap Topography Layer with Points of Interest

At larger scales the real-world features represented by the Points of Interest feature can clearly be seen. A slightly smaller scale, such as 1:10 000 Scale Raster or OS Street View® (a 1:10 000 scale product) can also provide the necessary context.
Examples of each are given below in figures 3 and 4.

**Figure 3**: Points of Interest over 1:10 000 Scale Raster

**Figure 4**: Points of Interest over OS Street View
OS MasterMap Imagery Layer is a dataset providing aerial images that can provide context that maps cannot. In figure 5, it is possible to determine the types of activities that take place within the industrial units by using the classification scheme and symbols.

![Figure 5: Points of Interest over OS MasterMap Imagery Layer](image)

Whilst it is possible to view the data at any scale, the smaller the scale, the harder it is to see what real-world feature the point represents. There are problems of points either being difficult to distinguish from each other or, if they are set to enlarge as the map is zoomed out, they can disappear behind each other.

**OS MasterMap Address Layers**

OS MasterMap Address Layers provide a comprehensive set of address information, including postal addresses, (including alternative names or aliases) geographic addresses and addresses for multiple premises. It is more extensive in terms of the address details it contains than Points of Interest. Points of Interest contains many features that are not found in OS MasterMap Address Layers, such as cash machines, bus stops and WiFi hotspots. OS MasterMap Address Layers are used to find out where an address is located and Points of Interest is used to find out what activity takes place at the location.

For example, if an insurance company received a claim concerning an activity at a certain address; it could use both products to do an initial evaluation of the claim. Using OS MasterMap Address Layers they can identify the premise. It would be possible, using Points of Interest, to see if the alleged activity does take place there. If there is no match (Points of Interest shows no activity at the premise) or an inconclusive match (Points of Interest shows a different activity at the address) this might indicate that the claim needs further checking before it is processed. If there is a match, the claim might still need further checking, but being able to do a certain number of verification or logic checks at the desktop may result in more efficient and faster processing. Points of Interest could also provide telephone numbers and area context information.
Boundary-Line™

Boundary-Line provides a number of geographic administrative areas. Administrative areas can be used in spatial queries to link a feature to the administrative area and to look at distribution of services or infrastructure on an administrative area basis. Figure 6 shows the number and distribution of a range of health practitioners (Category 0528) within a city ward, shown outlined in blue.

![Map of City of Southampton showing a city ward](image)

**Figure 6**: health practitioners in a city ward

Data association

Data association is a means of deriving more value from the data. It refers to the practice of linking the customers’ own data to the product. There are tools readily available within GIS and most databases to link two or more datasets together through a common reference.

The common reference from one dataset is added to another. This leaves both datasets in their own tables but allows a query to link them together, on demand, to provide the requested information from each.

Points of Interest has a unique reference number for each record so that such associations can be made relatively easily.

In addition, the Topographic_TOID and ITN_TOID attributes provide links that help customers who also take OS MasterMap Topography Layer and/or OS MasterMap ITN Layer. Each feature within OS MasterMap Topography Layer has a unique reference called a TOID®. Each TOID has a version number. Whenever there is a geometric change made to the data, such as an extension to a building or a realignment of a fence, or an attribute change, the version number is incremented to reflect the fact that different versions of the same feature have existed over time. In the same way, TOIDs are allocated to an ITN feature for the duration of its life cycle. Any changes that occur to the feature’s attributes throughout its life cycle will be recorded with a new version number.
The example below explains how data association works.

Each OS MasterMap Topography Layer area feature has, as part of its attribution, a calculated area value in square metres. If a customer wanted to find out the approximate area of square metres given over to eating establishments within a certain area of a town centre, it would be possible to search the Points of Interest dataset for all features within the eating category. The TOIDs from the records returned can be cross-referenced to the OS MasterMap Topography Layer table to return the area values from the records that match. In figure 7, all the eating places (those features having a classification that starts ‘0102’) on a street in a city were identified and linked, in the manner described above, to their associated building, to produce a list of calculated area values, in square metres. Table 2 shows the results of the link based on the shared TOID (columns ‘Points of Interest TOID’ and ‘OS MasterMap Topography Layer TOID’). When the areas are added together, it gives an indicative street-level floor area, for dining and eating, of just over 2,271 square metres.

![Figure 7: restaurants](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points of Interest unique reference number</th>
<th>PointX classification code</th>
<th>Points of Interest TOID</th>
<th>OS MasterMap Topography Layer TOID</th>
<th>Calculated area value (sqm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>345.804</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total area**: 2,782.2035

**Table 2**: area values derived through data association using the TOID as a common reference.
Analysis like this can be used by property and land professionals to monitor the retail space given over to certain commercial activities, monitor the change in floor-space use over time and compare city centres from across the country. This example also demonstrates the additional value derived from different datasets by using them in combination and by exploiting the typical functionality available in modern GIS and database systems.

It is worth noting that the level to which the TOID and TOID version in the two datasets match up depends on the update cycles of each product. Currently, the Topographic TOID and TOID version attributes within Points of Interest are updated for at least three out of the four quarterly releases each year. It will only ever not be completed if the OS MasterMap Topography Layer release does not systematically coincide with the Points of Interest release and there is not enough time for the process of TOID updates to be completed. Customers can take OS MasterMap Topography Layer more frequently than PointX can update the values within the Points of Interest product. As a result, there may be a percentage of TOIDs/versions in a customer's holdings of the products that do not match.

Where features have a Topographic TOID value of ‘Not Assigned’ and TOID version of ‘0’ it means that the position of the Points of Interest feature cannot be established to a level of accuracy where it references a TOID for a building where the activity or resource takes place. Including TOIDs for features with a lesser accuracy may locate the point to an entirely different type of feature, such as the road or the pavement, or even an adjacent premise.
Chapter 3 Classification

Points of Interest has its own classification scheme. Each Points of Interest feature is assigned to a Class within the system. The classification is central to the Points of Interest dataset as it provides a hierarchical structure to the data that makes it efficient to store in a computer system and easier to search. It also provides a means of subdividing the data so that customers can order only the features they want.

The classification was created by PointX. It is designed to be comprehensive, intuitive and easy to use. It provides the necessary level of detail to be useful and flexible without being so complex that it becomes difficult to use the product in applications. There are three levels of classification: the Group, the Category and the Class and there are nine Groups at level 1. This provides the broadest categorisation.

Level 2 comprises 52 Categories. Level 2 Categories are broken down into over 600 Classes of Points of Interest to form the third level of the classification scheme. This is the most specific level of classification. The full classification is given at annexe A. Over the life of the product, some Classes have been changed, added or merged with other classes, which is why numbers are not sequential.

Having three levels of classification enables customers to make general searches at the Group level, for example, education and health, specific searches at the Category level, such as primary, secondary and tertiary education, or specialist searches, such as special schools and colleges, at the Class level.

Customers can order Points of Interest at either the Group or the Category level. Features are allocated a classification based on either:

- a classification provided by the original data supplier; or
- where no classification is provided, PointX uses its experience and understanding of the dataset itself, or elements within it, to allocate a classification.

It is possible to map the Points of Interest classification to the Local Government Business Category List (LGBCL) using the keyword search facility. Each feature has a classification code as part of its attribution that comprises the Group, Category and Class numbers.

In figure 8 below, Property lettings and Property sales have the following codes: 02110192 and 02110190.

![Figure 8: classification examples](image)

This breaks down as:

- Group: 02 = Commercial services
- Category: 11 = Property and development services
- Class: 0192 = Property lettings
  0190 = Property sales
This means that it is easy to use GIS or database tools to search, analyse and display features based on their Class. When used in conjunction with the attribution, it is possible to compile, for instance, a list of the names and addresses of estate agents within a given geographic area.

Classification provides structure to the data, which helps when storing it, a way of ordering the data, a means of visualising the data and a way for customers to find the features they are interested in quickly.

The structure of Points of Interest can be described as relational in nature. Each Group has one or more Categories below it. Each Category in turn has one or more Classes related to it. This type of structure is used extensively in database management technologies as it provides a way of storing the data that reduces the amount of space the data requires and speeds up the retrieval of information. Having this classification, therefore, provides an opportunity to store the data in an efficient way.

In summary, the classification provides a twofold benefit. It breaks the data into logical groups that the customer can tailor to their own requirements and it comes in a structure that can be adapted to take advantage of modern database management techniques.
Chapter 4  Attribution

Each record is supplied with a standard set of attributes. The following section describes the nature of each of the attributes. Please note that in some cases, some attributes may not be populated.

Unique reference number (URN)

A numeric identifier that is allocated to and retained by an individual record within Points of Interest. The URN has three uses:

1. To enable users to index POI easily for quicker searching within a database or GIS.
2. To create a unique foreign key upon which other datasets can be referenced in a relational database.
3. To identify and therefore reduce any ambiguity between similar or identical features.

Note that due to the nature of Points of Interest, URNs can change. Points of Interest is concerned with activities and functions at specific locations. These naturally change over time and the URN may also change to reflect this. For example, a church or chapel may be converted to a wine bar or other licensed premise. The name and function at that location therefore changes and it is also likely that the provenance of that particular record will change. As URNs are linked to a record’s provenance, then it will change as the provenance changes. Other common reasons for URN change are:

- Through ranking used by PointX to ensure the most up-to-date record is selected from the database. If a record’s rank changes, for whatever reason (for example, the supplied record is missing some attribution or the position changes) then a different record from the database may be selected for publication.
- Suppliers may remove a feature from a supply to PointX and then add it again, with a new URN.

Users are advised to take care in designing data relationships to take account of these factors.

PointX Ltd is taking care to ensure that URNs are as stable as possible. In the March 2010 supply, just 2% of URNs changed.

Name

This is the name of the organisation or feature provided by the data supplier, for example, ‘Southampton General Hospital’. Where the source of the data does not specify a name for the premises, then the activity or function is reported, based on the classification. Every record has a name value.

PointX classification code

This attribute contains an eight-digit number made up of the Group Category and Class numbers of the feature. This code can be looked up in the classification look-up table supplied with the product to identify the textual description associated with this eight-figure code.

Feature easting

This is the easting element of the record’s National Grid reference. This is provided to a resolution of 1 metre or better.

Feature northing

This is the northing element of the record’s National Grid reference. This is provided to a resolution of 1 metre or better.

The coordinate attributes are used by GIS to create points in their correct National Grid position as shown in figures 1 and 2. It is not essential to use a GIS. The file format can be imported into many databases or spreadsheets as a table, although it will not be possible to view the data over a map without some spatially-enabled system. For more on the supply format, see chapter 5.
Positional accuracy

This attribute provides an indication of the positional accuracy of the record in the form of a numeric code. This code can be used to link to the positional accuracy look-up table to identify the textual description associated with this numeric code. The following values are used for positional accuracy:

1 = Positioned to the address or location, usually within the building footprint.
2 = Positioned to an adjacent address or location for non-addressable features.
3 = Positioned to the road within the address or location.
4 = Positioned within the geographical locality.

Table 3, below, shows the counts for each positional accuracy code

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positional accuracy code</th>
<th>% of total dataset - Dec 2010</th>
<th>% of total dataset - Sept 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>71.75</td>
<td>79.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>27.21</td>
<td>19.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: range of positional accuracy codes

Table 4, below, shows the confidence levels in the positional accuracy of a sample of Points of Interest features. For example, 95% of Points of Interest features contained in the sample are within 17.51 metres of the real-world features they represent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance (metres)</th>
<th>RMSE</th>
<th>95% confidence level</th>
<th>99% confidence level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.11</td>
<td>17.51</td>
<td>26.59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 confidence levels of positional accuracy

NOTE:

The confidence levels were calculated from a representative sample from the March 2010 dataset of 61 849 Points of Interest features with positional accuracy code 1 and 2 in the 100 km grid square of SU.

Values are rounded to 2 decimal places.

These confidence levels do not constitute a guarantee of accuracy.

UPRN

The Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN) in POI represents the value assigned to the related unit of land or property in Ordnance Survey’s AddressBase® suite of products, where the POI and AddressBase records have been successfully address matched. There is a combination of one to one matches between POI and AddressBase products (e.g. a restaurant on a high street), and multiple POI records matched to a single AddressBase record (e.g. a single record for the property of a petrol station in AddressBase, but multiple records for petrol station, convenience store and car wash in POI). The UPRN will enable customers to link their POI and AddressBase data more easily.

Topographic TOID

This is a unique identifier provided on features within the OS MasterMap Topography Layer product. Please refer to chapter 2 for more information on the value of using the Topographic TOID. The coordinates assigned to the Points of Interest feature are compared against OS MasterMap Topography Layer and the TOID is allocated based upon where these coordinates fall. In most cases, this will be within a building where the activity or resource takes place. In some instances, the position of the Points of Interest cannot be established to this level of accuracy and so the Topographic TOID attribute will contain the value ‘Not Assigned’ and the TOID version attribute will be ‘0’, as the feature within which the coordinates locate the point could be an entirely different type of feature (such as the road or the pavement or even an adjacent premise). There is more information on positional accuracy in this chapter and in chapter 5 and chapter 8.
Topographic TOID version

This identifies which version of the TOID is used for each record if a TOID is assigned, but if a TOID is ‘Not Assigned’ then the TOID version will be ‘0’. Currently, the TOID and versions are updated in the following manner – PointX takes a full copy of OS MasterMap Topography Layer. A process is run to update all TOIDS and versions within Points of Interest to match those in PointX’s copy of OS MasterMap Topography Layer. As and when new Points of Interest features are created or amended, a process is run against the full OS MasterMap copy to pick up the relevant TOIDs/versions. These created or amended features are supplied to customers in their quarterly updates. However, PointX does not take a full resupply of the latest copy of OS MasterMap Topography Layer before each Points of Interest update so it is probable that a certain number of TOIDs/versions will be different between a customer’s holding of OS MasterMap Topography Layer and their holding of Points of Interest. For more information on using the TOID and version number, please see chapter 2.

Integrated Transport Network (ITN) easting

This is the ‘easting’ National Grid reference of the point on OS MasterMap ITN Layer. The easting provided is for the nearest point to the feature on the ITN road network, based on analysis of the feature’s street name and assigned location.

ITN northing

This is the ‘northing’ National Grid reference of the point on OS MasterMap ITN Layer. The northing provided is for the nearest point to the feature on the ITN road network, based on analysis of the feature’s street name and assigned location.

ITN TOID

This is the unique identifier provided for features within OS MasterMap ITN Layer. The TOID allocated is for the ITN road link, which is used for the ITN easting and ITN northing. This ITN TOID can be used to link Points of Interest to OS MasterMap ITN Layer.

ITN TOID version

This identifies which version of the TOID is used for each record if a TOID is assigned, but if a TOID is ‘Not Assigned’ then the TOID version will be ‘0’.

Distance

The value in meters between the feature easting and northing and the ITN easting and northing. The reported value is to 1 decimal place. This gives an indication of how far away the feature is from the ITN road network.

Address detail

For records that have an address successfully matched against Ordnance Survey address data, this attribute will contain the building name or number, with a sub-premise name and dependent thoroughfare if applicable.

For an unmatched address, any entry in this field is drawn from any location information that was provided with the data from the original supplier. Any location information contained within the source data may be used, such as a building name, but it cannot be guaranteed as being valid for the feature identified. It is, therefore, imperative to take the verified address attribute value into account when using other address attributes.

Street name

For records that have been successfully matched against Ordnance Survey address data, this will contain the name of the thoroughfare that the feature is located on. For an unmatched address, any entry in this field is drawn from any location information that was provided with the data from the original supplier. It may or may not be the road on which the feature is located. As with any attribute that forms part of the address, always check the verified address attribute for the feature’s status.
**Locality**

For records that have been successfully matched, this will contain the name of the postal town in which the feature is located. For extra clarification, when an address has a locality within it, both will appear as the attribute; the locality will prefix the postal town. The two elements, locality and post town, are separated by a comma.

With an unmatched address, any available information supplied with the data may be used, but it cannot be guaranteed that it is the correct postal town. As with any attribute that forms part of the address, always check the verified address attribute for the feature’s status.

**Geographic county**

The purpose of this attribute is to provide contextual information for the user. It is derived from the feature easting and northing attributes and populated by PointX.

**Postcode**

For features that have been successfully matched, this will contain the postcode in which the feature is located. With an unmatched address, any available information supplied with the data may be used, but it cannot be guaranteed that it is the correct or full postcode. In the majority of cases a full postcode is given. Where the address has not been verified, an outbound postcode may be used; this is the first part of a postcode. A value of ‘Pending’ may be used until a postcode can be confirmed. As with any attribute that forms part of the address, always check the verified address attribute for the feature’s status.

**Verified address**

The verified address attribute indicates the confidence with which the address attributes can be used and its suitability for applications. The attribute has a value of either ‘Y’ or ‘N’, indicating whether the provided address has been matched against Ordnance Survey address data by PointX and amended accordingly (Y), or has not been matched against Ordnance Survey address data (N). In the latter case, any information supplied by the source of the data will be included in the relevant field as outlined below.

For example, if features are supplied with only a postcode or partial postcode, the information will be included in the postcode attribute but the verified address value will be ‘N’.

The customer ultimately must use these quality indicators to determine the appropriateness of the data for the applications in question. For example, for some applications they may only wish to use records with a verified address value of ‘Y’.

**Administrative boundary**

This attribute will always be populated with the name of the administrative area, from Ordnance Survey’s Boundary-Line product, in which the record’s XY coordinates are positioned. Should any features fall outside these areas then the name of the closest administrative area will be assigned. The values assigned will be one of the unitary authorities, districts, London boroughs or metropolitan districts.

A lookup file, called ADMINISTRATIVE_BOUNDARY_LOOKUP.txt is supplied with the data. The customer can use the lookup file to find further information about the Administrative Boundary attribute, including the three-letter area code and full area description. Further information about this is given in Chapter 5.

**Telephone number**

This attribute provides telephone numbers considered to be relating to the organisation in the name field. All spaces have been removed from the number. If no number was supplied to PointX or the feature has no relevant number (for example, ponds), the text ‘Not supplied’ will appear.

**URL**

Where a suitable web address for the feature has been supplied or it has been possible to identify the appropriate address, it will be included in this field in the format of ‘www.address’.
Where no information has been provided by a supplier that can provide information, the value ‘Not Supplied’ will be reported and the field will be blank where no instances are received or the feature would not seem to be appropriate for reporting a web address, for example, a pond. Before reporting any URL information, the web address has been validated to check it exists. However, users need to be made aware that accessing any sites shown has the potential to expose them to possible malicious content that might be on those sites. These are likely to be few in number and neutralised by standard virus protection software.

**Brand**

Where a relevant brand name for the record has either been supplied to PointX or PointX has been able to assign one, it will be reported in this field. Examples of brand names include Tesco®, ASDA® and Sainsbury’s® for supermarkets, Barclays® and Halifax® for banks, Odeon® and Apollo for cinemas and Optical Express® and Specsavers® for opticians.

**Qualifier type**

Qualifier type is a constrained field that, where populated, indicates what value the qualifier data relates to, so this field is linked with the qualifier data attribute. For example, the qualifier type could be SMS number (a unique bus stop code that can be sent in a text message to obtain a bus timetable – the next three buses and bus service can be obtained), public accessibility (shows whether a cash machine is 24 hour or only accessible during office hours), restaurant type (defines the type of cuisine) or religion (for places of worship). The intention of the field is to allow reporting of additional information pertinent to the record that cannot readily be reported elsewhere. This field enables additional functionality and improved interrogation of the data.

**Qualifier data**

This attribute is linked with the Qualifier Type attribute. Qualifier Data reports the relevant values of the qualifier type for the record, so, for example, a value of ‘10’ will mean different things depending on the qualifier type the record has. For example, cash machines with a qualifier type of ‘Public accessibility’ can have the qualifier data populated with ‘24 hours’ or bank opening hours and for places of worship with qualifier data type of ‘Religion’ could be populated with ‘Christian’.

**Provenance**

This attribute is populated with the name of the data supplier. Customers are able to select one provenance to be removed from their data supply.

**Date of supply**

This is the release date of the data.

In summary, all the attribution within Points of Interest builds upon the classification to provide a means of searching by function, for example, all banks, to searching for a business or activity that has very specific criteria, such as by name or along a street or within a particular postcode area.
Chapter 5  Supply

The supply of the Points of Interest dataset is very flexible. Customers choose by geographic area and by group or category.

Geographic areas

User-defined area

Customers can define their own areas. These can be defined by supplying a list of National Grid 1-km tiles, the south-west and north-east coordinates of a bounding box or an irregular shape created in a GIS. In the case of an irregular shape, the format in which it can be supplied to Ordnance Survey needs to be agreed beforehand. On this, and for further information on user-defined areas, please contact Ordnance Survey's Customer Service Centre for details.

Administrative areas

Customers can also choose to receive data for the following geographic areas/regions (as defined by the Department for Communities and Local Government):

- Great Britain
- Scotland
- Wales
- England

Government Office Regions:

- East of England
- South East
- East Midlands
- South West
- London
- West Midlands
- North East
- Yorkshire and The Humber
- North West

Other administration areas available are:

- County authorities
- District authorities
- Metropolitan districts
- Unitary authorities
- London borough councils
- Scottish authorities
- Welsh authorities

The boundaries used to define the data are those contained within Boundary-Line. Please contact the Customer Service Centre (see Contact details for details).

A record of the selection criteria for each customer's order is created and retained by Ordnance Survey.

The initial full supply of data contains all records within the database that are within the specified geographic area and within the selected Group or Category; this is what the customer will initially receive.

PointX maintains the data and resupplies the changes to Ordnance Survey regularly.
After this initial full supply, the customer will receive full resupplies containing any updates to their selected dataset. A full resupply has the same customer order criteria as the original full supply. Supply of updates is nominally on a quarterly basis and Ordnance Survey will use reasonable endeavours to meet this schedule. Please see the Points of Interest pages on the Ordnance Survey website for further information on release dates. The suppliers of the source data provide updates at different frequencies. For example, some may provide their new, amended or deleted features every two months, whilst with others it may be every six months or only once a year. This means that the currency of the data will vary and customers may notice a time lag between a change to a building’s activity on the ground and that change being reported within Points of Interest.

Ordering Points of Interest

Points of Interest can be ordered by contacting the Customer Service Centre (see Contact details), through an Ordnance Survey account manager or via a form on the Ordnance Survey website.

Due to the commercially-sensitive nature of some of the data, there are certain restrictions on who can order the product. For further information on these restrictions, please contact the Customer Service Centre.

The order will come with the data files themselves and a number of text files containing important information regarding the data. Each file is described below.

Data file

This text file contains the actual Points of Interest records ordered by the customer. The data are provided in the form of an ASCII pipe (|) delimited (or separated) text file, with a qualifier set to double quotes for text attributes. A pipe delimiter is used rather than the more common comma-separated text (CSV) file because some of the text in the attribution, particularly the address information, may contain commas. This means that if a CSV file was used, some of the data would not be in the correct columns of the table. The features.txt file contains a header row containing the attribute names. The name of the text file is dependent upon the order number and customer configuration. A description of the contents of this file can be found within chapter 4 on attribution. An extract from the file is given below:

```
114112359|"YMCA"|"01010005"|442221.3|112930.2|"1"|||"0001000013243811"|4|"442222.9"|"112903.5"|"400000023364370"|"4.26.7"|"George Williams House"|"Cranbury Place"|"Southampton"|"Hampshire"|"SO14 0LG"|"|"City of Southampton"|"02380221202"|"www.ymca.org.uk"|"YMCA"|""|"Local Data Company"|"01-SEP-2014"
```

This file format is a standard format for a text file and can easily be imported into a GIS, a database or a spreadsheet for ease of viewing.

Classification lookup file

This lookup file provides the descriptions, or values, associated with the classification code attribute.

In the case of the classification code attribute, the lookup descriptions can be found in a file called classification_lookups.txt. The data are provided in the form of an ASCII pipe (|) delimited text file, with a qualifier set to double quotes.

This is an extract from the file:

```
114112359|"YMCA"|"01010005"|442221.3|112930.2|"1"|||"0001000013243811"|4|"442222.9"|"112903.5"|"400000023364370"|"4.26.7"|"George Williams House"|"Cranbury Place"|"Southampton"|"Hampshire"|"SO14 0LG"|"|"City of Southampton"|"02380221202"|"www.ymca.org.uk"|"YMCA"|""|"Local Data Company"|"01-SEP-2014"
```

This file format is a standard format for a text file and can easily be imported into a GIS, a database or a spreadsheet for ease of viewing.
The customer would use this in the following manner – when looking at the attributes of the feature, the PointX classification attribute contains an eight-digit number, that is the classification to level 3 of the feature, made up from the Group (for example, 01), Category (for example, 01) and Classification (for example, 0002). By searching for the code within this text file, the customer can find the textual description of the feature. A code value for the attribute and a lookup table are used instead of a full text description because it reduces the amount of space, and therefore the memory, needed to store and search the data, making it more efficient to use within GIS and database systems.

As with the features.txt file, it can easily be imported into a database table or spreadsheet to make it easier to read and query. The first row of the file, called a header row, contains the names for the columns when importing into a tabular format. Most systems will give a prompt to inform users whether there is a header file when importing a text file.

**Positional accuracy lookup file**

This lookup file provides the descriptions, or values, associated with the positional accuracy code attribute. The lookup file is called POSTIONAL_ACCURACY_LOOKUPS.txt. The data are provided in the form of an ASCII pipe (|) delimited text file, with a qualifier set to double quotes.

An extract from the file is shown below:

```
1|"Positioned to the address or location"
2|"Positioned to an adjacent address or location"
3|"Positioned to the road within the address or location"
4|"Positioned within the geographical locality"
```

The positional accuracy attribute contains a value from 1–4. By searching for that number within this text file, the customer can find a textual description of the accuracy. A feature that has the value of 1 for this attribute has the highest level of positional accuracy and a value of 4 is the lowest. The textual descriptions of the value, given above, indicate the actual positioning, so a value of 1 would indicate that the point has been matched to an address and its building. As with the verified address attribute, it is important to consider this value when performing searches and queries. For example, a customer may wish to exclude all features that have a value other than 1, if only features that have a full address and have been assigned to a particular topographic feature best serve the purpose of the application.

A code value for the attribute and a lookup table are used instead of a full text description because it reduces the amount of space, and therefore the memory, needed to store and search the data, making it more efficient to use within GIS and database systems.

As with the features file, it can easily be imported into a database table or spreadsheet to make it easier to read and query. The first row of the file, called a header row, contains the names for the columns when importing into a tabular format. Most systems will prompt to know if there is a header file when importing a text file.

**Administrative Boundary lookup file**

This lookup file provides the Area_Code and Area_Description from OS OpenData™ Boundary-Line. The lookup file called ADMINISTRATIVE_BOUNDARY_LOOKUP.txt. The data are provided in the form of an ASCII pipe (|) delimited text file, with a qualifier set to double quotes.

An extract from the file is shown below:

```
114115740|"Heathrow Airport Terminal 5 Arrivals"|"10530728"|505122.5|176006.8|"1"|"505120.4"|"176052.4"|"5000005104041760"|"2"|"45.6"|"Unit 35 Gate Level Terminal Five"|"London Heathrow Airport, Hounslow"|"Greater London"|"TW6 2GA"|""|"""|""|""|""|""|""|"Local Data Company"|"01- SEP-2014"
```

The customer can use the lookup file to find further information about the Administrative Boundary attribute, including the three letter area code and full area description.

A code value for the attribute and a lookup table are used instead of a full text description because it reduces the amount of space, and therefore the memory, needed to store and search the data, making it more efficient to use within GIS and database systems.

As with the features file, it can easily be imported into a database table or spreadsheet to make it easier to read and query. The first row of the file, called a header row, contains the names for the columns when importing into a tabular format. Most systems will prompt to know if there is a header file when importing a text file.
Keyword search file

Customer feedback had indicated that users of PointX data would benefit from having access to additional documentation that showed both where within the classification system certain features are held and, additionally, uses strings or keywords compatible with systems already in place to do this.

As an initial step for linking up with existing systems, the keyword list terms held in the Local Government Business Category List (LGBCL) version 1.00 have so far been classified and provided in the Keywords.txt file. It is an ASCII pipe ('|') delimited text file with no text qualifiers, unlike the lookup files.

An extract from the keyword search file is given below:

Bakery / confectionary | | | | | | 661 | 663 | 524 | 572 |
Banks | | | | | | 138 |
Beauty salons | | | | | | 156 |
Beauty shops | | | | | | 677 |
Bed and breakfasts - licensed | | | | | | 3 |

As with the features file, it can easily be imported into a database table or spreadsheet to make it easier to read and query. The first row of the file, called a header row, contains the names for the columns when importing into a tabular format. Most systems will prompt to know if there is a header file when importing a text file.

There is also supporting documentation in the form of the file Keywords Documentation.pdf. This explains how to use the keyword file and provides an example of how to read the relevant group, category or class from the table.

More information on the LGBCL, including a downloadable copy of the list, can be found on its website.

SIC search file

Customer feedback had indicated that users of PointX data would benefit from knowing how the Points of Interest classes relate to the SIC (Standard Industrial Classification) codes.

As an initial step for linking up with existing systems, the SIC list terms held in the SIC 2003 and 2007 classifications have so far been classified and provided in the POI_Class_To_SIC_Lookup.txt file. It is an ASCII pipe ('|') delimited text file similar to the Keywords.txt file.

An extract from the SIC search file is given below:

01010002 | Camping, Caravanning, Mobile Homes, Holiday Parks and Centres | 5522 | 5523 | | | | | | 5530 | 5520 | 5590 |
01010003 | Bed and Breakfast and Backpacker Accommodation | 5523 | | | | | | 5520 | | | |
01010005 | Hostels and Refuges for the Homeless | 5523 | | | | | | 5590 |
01010006 | Hotels, Motels, Country Houses and Inns | 5510 | | | | | | 5510 |

As with the features file, it can easily be imported into a database table or spreadsheet to make it easier to read and query. The first row of the file, called a header row, contains the names for the columns when importing into a tabular format. Most systems will prompt to know if there is a header file when importing a text file.

There is also supporting documentation in the form of the file SIC_Documentation_Sep07.pdf. This explains how to use the SIC file and provides an example of how to read the relevant class from the table.

Descriptive Class reporting file

This is a PDF document and relates to the ‘Class’ level of the Points of Interest classification. The document provides a description of the Class and, where available or appropriate, a selection of brand names associated with the Class. The purpose of the document is to help customers identify what the activities, businesses or facilities a class contains. Below shows the entry for the class 02060085 – ‘Civil engineers’, which includes a description (in bold italics) and a selection of brand names (normal italics):

02060085
"Civil Engineers"
Civil Engineer, Consulting Engineer, Drainage Contractor, Flood Control, Pile Driving, Water Engineer
Atkins, Edmund Nuttall Ltd, Faber Maunsell, Jacob Babtie, Halcrow Group Ltd,
Notes on the background of data suppliers

This is a PDF document that provides further information on the suppliers PointX uses to create Points of Interest.

Media formats

Points of Interest customer orders are currently supplied on CD or DVD if the data file size is too large. The current size of a full supply is about 1 Gb.
Chapter 6 Pricing and licensing

Ordnance Survey can license (subject to agreement and some restrictions that may apply) Points of Interest to organisations for their own use. Ordnance Survey can also license Points of Interest to organisations wishing to provide commercial services, including web services. Please contact Ordnance Survey to discuss commercial licensing (including Internet licensing) for Points of Interest.

Ordnance Survey distributes Points of Interest (PoI) on behalf of PointX Ltd. Prices are calculated using the number of points in the dataset. The number of points in your area of interest, as selected from the available Groups and Categories in the PoI Classification Scheme, are added up and priced for a one-year contract:

**Terminals**
The minimum number of terminals that can be licensed is five. Where more than five terminals are required, a sliding scale of prices is used to determine the terminal element in a licence price.

- 5 Minimum base price.
- 6–15 Each additional user is charged at 1/10th of the minimum base price.
- 16–25 Each additional user is charged at 1/20th of the minimum base price.

**Term**
Licences are available for one, two or three years. Discounts are applied for two- and three-year terms.

**Licence rights**
Licences are available for a range of uses and applications. Full details of licence rights are detailed in licence drafts, which are available from Ordnance Survey.

**Classification**
Customers can license the use of Points of Interest at either Group or Category level. Figure 9, below, shows the classification hierarchy. For example:

- A customer interested in transport data would order the ‘Transport’ Group.
- A customer interested in only in modes of air transport can order the relevant category within the ‘Transport’ group (Category 53 – ‘Air’) and will then receive the three Classes within this Category (‘Aeronautical features’, ‘Airports and landing strips’ and ‘Helipads’).
- Selection at Class level is not available.
- It is possible to mix and match combinations of data based on Group and Category level. The customer that ordered all of the ‘Transport’ Group may also wish to order Category 49, ‘Motoring’, from Group 09 (‘Retail’), which would provide car retailing information such as car sale showrooms.

![Classification hierarchy diagram](image)

**Figure 9: the classification hierarchy**

**Geographic extent**
Points of Interest can be licensed across any spatial extent, including Great Britain, Nationally and administrative boundary or a bespoke customer extent.
Chapter 7     Styling

Points of Interest is completely customisable in terms of the way a customer chooses to symbolise the points. The way in which the data appears on a screen is likely to be a combination of the wishes of the customer and the functionality of the system being used to display the points. The simplest way is to render all points with a single colour and shape, as in figure 10, below.

![Figure 10: Points of Interest with a single symbol](image)

Many GIS have tools that provide options for rendering data on screen. The availability of such choice can make the development of a style guide for a dataset a time-consuming task. Ordnance Survey has developed sets of symbols to use with the Points of Interest dataset so that customers can render the data very quickly and these can be used within most GIS. These are available to download from Ordnance Survey’s website free of charge.

Using a symbol set that makes use of the level of Category means that the viewer can understand the information quickly. Comparing figure 10, with figure 11, showing Points of Interest data rendered with a set of the supplied symbols, it is possible to get an idea of the range and type of features that are in this area without querying the attribution.
Points of Interest symbology

### Points of Interest – Categories

#### Points of Interest Symbology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Symbols</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Accommodation, eating and drinking</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Eating and drinking</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 Construction services</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 Consultancies</td>
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<td>46 Clothing and accessories</td>
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<td>47 Food and drink and multi item retail</td>
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<td>48 Household, office, leisure and garden</td>
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<td>49 Motoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>59 Bus transport</td>
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Table 5: Colour bitmap symbols for Points of Interest Categories
### Symbology – additional Classes – colour bitmaps

#### Points of Interest Symbology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>01 Accommodation, eating and drinking</th>
<th>02 Commercial services</th>
<th>03 Attractions</th>
<th>04 Sport and entertainment</th>
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<tr>
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<td>ATMs</td>
<td>Aquaria</td>
<td>Angling</td>
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<td>Camping and Caravaning</td>
<td>Financial Institutions</td>
<td>Bird reserves</td>
<td>Combat, laser and paintball games</td>
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<td>Hostels</td>
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<td>Butterfly farms</td>
<td>Hot air ballooning</td>
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<td>Hotels</td>
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<td>Farm based attractions</td>
<td>Outdoor pursuit organisers</td>
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<td>Self Catering</td>
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<td>Horticultural attractions</td>
<td>Parachuting</td>
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<td>Timeshare</td>
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<td>Salmon ladders</td>
<td>Hang gliding</td>
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<td>Youth Hostels</td>
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<td>Zoos</td>
<td>Riding schools</td>
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<td>Archaeological sites</td>
<td>Water sports</td>
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<td>Art Galleries</td>
<td>Athletics facilities</td>
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<td>Battlefields</td>
<td>Bowling facilities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Historic and ceremonial structures</td>
<td>Climbing facilities</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Historic buildings</td>
<td>Golf</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Historic ships</td>
<td>Leisure centres and gymnasiums</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Museums</td>
<td>Ice skating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Motorsports</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Banqueting and Function rooms
- Cafes
- Fast Food Delivery
- Fast Food and Takeaway
- Fish and chip shops
- Internet Cafes
- Pubs, Bars and Inns
- Restaurants
- Commons
- Country Parks
- Picnic Areas
- Playgrounds
- Scenic features
- Trigonometric points
- Tourist Information centres
- Planetaria and laseria
- Model villages
- Railways
- Visitor centres
- Theme parks
- Unspecified attractions
- Bodies of water
- Racecourses
- Shooting facilities
- Ski slopes
- Snooker and Pool halls
- Sports grounds
- Squash courts
- Swimming pools
- Tennis facilities
- Velodromes
- Cinemas
- Conference and exhibition centres
- Discos
- Nightclubs
- Social clubs
- Theatres
### 05 Education and health
- Accident and Emergency Hospitals
- Chemists and pharmacies
- Clinics
- Dentists
- Doctors
- Hospices
- Hospitals
- Nursing and Care Homes
- Opticians

### 06 Public infrastructure
- Coastguard Stations
- Police Stations
- Halls and community centres
- Letter boxes
- Libraries
- Places of worship
- Public telephone
- Fire Stations
- Ambulance Stations
- Public toilets
- Recycling centres
- Refuse disposal
- Wi-Fi
- Wi-Fi

### 10 Transport
- Helipads
- Bridges
- Motorway service stations
- Parking
- Petrol and fuel stations
- Roadside telephone boxes
- Tunnels
- Ferries and ferry terminals

**Table 6:** colour bitmap symbols for selected Points of Interest Classes
Chapter 8  Data sources and data measures

Supplier data are supplied to PointX in a wide variety of formats. Some of the data are supplied without grid references and efforts are made to geocode this data by identifying a grid reference for each record.

Positional accuracy

Ordnance Survey data and specialised geocoding software is used to achieve positional accuracy and to provide a confidence level indicator for each record. Data that cannot be given coordinates due to insufficient location or address detail are not supplied.

The positional accuracy falls into one of the following categories:

- positioned to the location or address;
- positioned to an adjacent location or address;
- positioned to the road within the address or location; or
- positioned within the geographic locality.

Typically, the majority of records are positioned on or adjacent to the address or location of the feature.

A very small proportion of records are positioned to the road within the address or location or within the geographic locality of the feature. This is used only for ATMs (cash machines), WiFi hotspots and public telephones, where the data is sourced from a single authoritative and non-duplicated source.

All geometries are represented as points. If the positional accuracy is stated as ‘1’ (see chapter 5), the coordinates should fall within the footprint of the real-world feature in question, typically a building or structure.

Where the positional accuracy is stated as ‘2’, the coordinates will either be placed centrally in the text that relates to the feature – and may be within the extent of the feature – or will be positioned close to the true location of a part of the feature. In practice, it will probably be within 10 metres of either the feature or an edge of the feature’s geographic extent, although this cannot be guaranteed.

A positional accuracy of ‘3’ indicates that the coordinates are placed centrally on the correct road. As road lengths vary and the central position could be very near or a long way from the true location on the road, it is difficult to say exactly how far these instances might be shown from their true location. In the majority, it is to be expected that the assigned coordinate could be up to a kilometre away, with a small number being even farther.

A positional accuracy of ‘4’ means that the location assigned is in the correct geographic locality, such as the right village or industrial estate, and that it has not been possible to locate to a specific relevant road. Depending on how big the geographic locality in question is, the record’s true location could in reality be up to a few kilometres from the reported coordinates.

It is very important that customers take the positional accuracy value of the feature into account when using it in applications.

Addressing

The data contains both addressable and non-addressable records. Structured address information is only provided for those records that are addressable and can be successfully matched against Ordnance Survey data. Records that have not been successfully matched will not necessarily have structured address information supplied in the output.

Unique referencing

Records have been attributed with both a TOID and TOID version that have been directly derived from area features within OS MasterMap Topography Layer based on the grid reference of the feature. There will be a number of features where a TOID value will not be provided because the feature does not sit within the correct OS MasterMap Topography Layer polygon and these will have a TOID value of ‘Not Assigned’ and a TOID version of ‘0’. The ITN TOID and TOID version reference the OS MasterMap ITN Layer road link that the ITN easting and ITN northing represent.
Classification

PointX relies upon over 150 data suppliers to provide the initial classification of each of the records. This is then used to allocate the appropriate class to the feature which can lead to examples where different classes are applied to the same real-world feature, dependent upon the base classification used by the different data suppliers. As part of the production process for the current product involves the removal of multiple instances of what is believed to be the same feature, it is possible that individual instances of what are, in fact, the same type of feature can be reported in different classes.

Sources of data

There are two main sources of data that provide approximately 75% of the Points of Interest features. The authoritative source for a type of feature is used to build the dataset where possible. More than 150 suppliers are used to create the dataset. Annexe B lists all the suppliers and indicates their level of contribution to the dataset.
Annexe A  Classification system (v3.1)

The classification scheme has three levels of information:

- There are 9 Groups at level 1 and each Group is numbered 01–10. Numbering is not sequential.
- There are 52 Categories at the second level, numbered 01–60. Numbering is not sequential.
- These are broken down into over 600 Classes of Points of Interest at the third level.

Customers can select Points of Interest from the Group and Category level.

01 Accommodation, eating and drinking
01 Accommodation
02 Eating and drinking

02 Commercial services
03 Construction services
04 Consultancies
07 Contract services
05 Employment and career agencies
06 Engineering services
60 Hire services
08 IT, advertising, marketing and media services
09 Legal and financial
10 Personal, consumer and other services
11 Property and development services
12 Recycling services
13 Repair and servicing
14 Research and design
15 Transport, storage and delivery

03 Attractions
58 Bodies of water
16 Botanical and zoological
17 Historical and cultural
19 Landscape features
18 Recreational
20 Tourism

04 Sport and entertainment
22 Gambling
23 Outdoor pursuits
21 Sport and entertainment support services
24 Sports complex
25 Venues, stage and screen

05 Education and health
26 Animal welfare
27 Education support services
28 Health practitioners and establishments
29 Health support services
31 Primary, secondary and tertiary education
32 Recreational and vocational education

06 Public infrastructure
33 Central and local government
34 Infrastructure and facilities
35 Organisations

07 Manufacturing and production
37 Consumer products
38 Extractive industries
39 Farming
40 Foodstuffs
41 Industrial features
42 Industrial products

09 Retail
46 Clothing and accessories
47 Food, drink and multi item retail
48 Household, office, leisure and garden
49 Motoring

10 Transport
53 Air
59 Bus transport
57 Public transport, stations and infrastructure
54 Road and rail
55 Walking
56 Water
01 Accommodation, eating and drinking

01 Accommodation
0002 Camping, caravanning, mobile homes, holiday parks and centres
0003 Bed and breakfast and backpacker accommodation
0005 Hostels and refuges for the homeless
0006 Hotels, motels, country houses and inns
0007 Self catering
0008 Timeshare
0009 Youth accommodation

02 Eating and drinking
0013 Cafes, snack bars and tea rooms
0018 Fast food and takeaway outlets
0019 Fast food delivery services
0020 Fish and chip shops
0034 Pubs, bars and inns
0043 Restaurants

02 Commercial services

03 Construction services
0045 Building contractors
0046 Construction completion services
0047 Construction plant
0048 Cutting, drilling and welding services
0049 Demolition services
0050 Diving services
0051 Electrical contractors
00778 Fencing and dry stone walling services
0052 Garden, landscaping and tree surgery services
0053 Glaziers
0044 Metalworkers including blacksmiths
0054 Painting and decorating services
0055 Plasterers
0056 Plumbing and heating services
0057 Pool and court construction
0058 Restoration and preservation services
0059 Road construction services
0060 Roofing and chimney services

04 Consultancies
0063 Architectural and building-related consultants
0064 Business-related consultants
0065 Computer consultants
0066 Construction service consultants
0067 Feng shui consultants, furnishers and shop fitters
0068 Food consultants
0069 Image consultants
0070 Interpretation and translation consultants
0071 Security consultants
0072 Telecommunications consultants
0074 Traffic management and transport-related consultants

05 Employment and career agencies
0075 Careers offices and armed forces recruitment
0076 Domestic staff and home help
0077 Driver agencies
0078 Employment agencies
0079 Modelling and theatrical agencies
0081 Nursing agencies

06 Engineering services
0083 Aviation engineers
0084 Chemical engineers
0085 Civil engineers
0086 Electrical and electronic engineers
0087 Hydraulic engineers
0088 Industrial engineers
0089 Instrumentation engineers
0090 Marine engineers and services
0091 Mechanical engineers
0092 Pneumatic engineers
0093 Precision engineers
0094 Structural engineers
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<td>0114 Advertising services</td>
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<td>0115 Artists, illustrators and calligraphers</td>
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<td>0116 Computer security</td>
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<td>0100 Contract cleaning services</td>
<td>0117 Computer systems services</td>
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<td>0124 Internet services</td>
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<td>0152 Solicitors, advocates and notaries public</td>
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<td>0145 Credit reference agencies</td>
<td>0153 Pawnbrokers</td>
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<td>0146 Currency conversion and money transfers</td>
<td>0811 PayPoint® locations</td>
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<td>0180 Tattooing and piercing services</td>
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<td>0187 Wheel-clampers</td>
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0774 Musicians and composers 0188 Window cleaners
0174 Party organisers

11 Property and development services
0189 Commercial property letting 0195 Property information services
0191 Estate and property management 0192 Property letting
0194 Property development services 0190 Property sales

12 Recycling services
0199 Clearance and salvage dealers 0200 Scrap metal dealers and breakers yards
0198 Rag merchants 0202 Waste paper merchants
0196 Recycling, reclamation and disposal

13 Repair and servicing
0204 Building repairs 0793 Shoe repairs
0205 Electrical equipment repair and servicing 0210 Sports and leisure equipment repair
0206 Household repairs and restoration 0211 Tool repairs
0207 Industrial repairs and servicing 0212 Vehicle repair, testing and servicing
0209 Service industry equipment repairs

14 Research and design
0214 Design services 0217 Testing and analysis services
0216 Research services

15 Transport, storage and delivery
0218 Airlines and airline services 0224 Ferry and cruise companies
0219 Animal transportation 0225 Import and export services
0221 Container and storage 0227 Railway related services
0222 Courier, delivery and messenger 0228 Removals and shipping agents
0223 Distribution and haulage 0230 Taxi services

60 Hire services
0097 Boat hiring services 0104 Leisure equipment hirings
0270 Bouncy castles and inflatables hire 0110 Renting and leasing of personal and household goods
0159 Clothing hire 0111 Sound, light and vision service and equipment hire
0099 Construction and tool hire 0113 Vehicle hire and rental

03 Attractions

16 Botanical and zoological
0231 Aquaria and sea life centres 0236 Horticultural attractions
0232 Bird reserves, collections and sanctuaries 0237 Salmon ladders
0233 Butterfly farms 0239 Zoos and animal collections
0235 Farm-based attractions

17 Historical and cultural
0240 Archaeological sites 0244 Historic buildings including castles, forts and abbeys
0813 Art galleries 0246 Historical ships
0241 Battlefields 0248 Museums
0245 Historic and ceremonial structures

18 Recreational
0252 Commons 0254 Picnic areas
0253 Country and national parks 0255 Playgrounds

19 Landscape features
0257 Designated scenic features 0259 Trigonometric points

20 Tourism
0268 Information centres 0267 Sightseeing, tours, viewing and visitor centres
0263 Laseria, observatories and planetaria 0266 Theme and adventure parks
0264 Model villages 0268 Tourist information centres
0265 Railways (heritage, steam and miniature) 0269 Unspecified and other attractions

58 Bodies of water
0804 Lakes and waters 0807 Reservoirs
0805 Lochs and lochans 0808 Settling, balancing and silt ponds
0803 Ponds 0806 Tams, pools and meres

04 Sport and entertainment

22 Gambling
0277 Amusement parks and arcades 0280 Casinos
0278 Bingo halls 0281 Pools promoters
0279 Bookmakers

23 Outdoor pursuits
0282 Angling and sports fishing 0285 Parachuting and bungee jumping
0283 Combat, laser and paintball games 0286 Paragliding and hang-gliding
0284 Hot air ballooning 0321 Riding schools, livery stables and equestrian centres
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49 Motoring

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59 Bus transport

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57 Public transport, stations and infrastructure

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<td>London Underground entrances</td>
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<td>Railway stations, junctions and halts</td>
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54 Road and rail

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Annexe B  Points of Interest provenance

The following percentages are indicative only. They are correct at October 2014 but are subject to change at each quarterly supply without notice.

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<td>Department for Transport</td>
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<td>VocaLink</td>
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<td>Beechwood House Publishing Ltd</td>
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<td>PointX</td>
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<td>Edubase</td>
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<tr>
<td>PayPoint</td>
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Additional Suppliers to Points of Interest (supplying <3% of total features between them)

Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions
Avon & Somerset Constabulary
Avon Fire Brigade
Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service
Bedfordshire Police
British Wind Energy Association
BT Openzone
Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service
Central Scotland Fire Brigade
Central Scotland Police
Cheshire Constabulary
Cheshire Fire Service
City of London Police
Cleveland Fire Brigade
Cleveland Police
Cornwall County Fire Brigade
Cumbria Constabulary
Cumbria Fire Service
Department for Transport (Parking)
Derbyshire Constabulary
Derbyshire Fire & Rescue
Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
Dorset Fire and Rescue Service
Dorset Police
Driving Standards Agency
Dumfries & Galloway Fire Brigade
Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority
Durham Constabulary
Dyfed-Powys Police
East of England Ambulance Service
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
Essex Police
Experian
Fife Constabulary
Fife Fire & Rescue Service
Gloucestershire Constabulary
Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue
Grampian Fire Brigade
Grampian Police
Great Western Ambulance Service
Greater Manchester Fire Service
Greater Manchester Police
Gwent Police
Hampshire Constabulary
Hampshire Fire & Rescue
Health of Wales Information Service
Hereford & Worcester Fire Brigade
Hertfordshire Constabulary
Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue
Highlands & Islands Fire Brigade
Historic Houses Association
Humberside Fire Brigade
Humberside Police
Information and Analytical Services Division - Education Department
Isle of Wight Ambulance Service
Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue
Kent County Constabulary
Kent Fire Brigade
Lancashire Constabulary
Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service
Leicestershire Constabulary
Leicestershire Fire & Rescue
Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue
Annexe C  Product and service performance report form

Ordnance Survey welcomes feedback from its customers about Points of Interest.

If you would like to share your thoughts with us, please print a copy of this form and when completed post or fax it to the address below.

Your name: ..........................................................................................................................................................
Organisation: .....................................................................................................................................................
Address: .............................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................................
Postcode: .............................................................................................................................................................
Phone: ..................................................................................................................................................................
Fax: ......................................................................................................................................................................
Email: ...................................................................................................................................................................
Quotation or order reference: ..............................................................................................................................

Please record your comments or feedback in the space below. We will acknowledge receipt of your form within three (3) working days and provide you with a full reply or a status report within 21 working days.

If you are posting this form, please send it to:
Points of Interest Product Manager, Ordnance Survey, Adanac Drive, SOUTHAMPTON, SO16 0AS.
If you wish to return it by fax, please dial +44 (0)8450 990494.

Any personal information that you supply with this report form will be used by Ordnance Survey only in the improvement of its products and services. It will not be made available to third parties.
## Points of Interest

### Technical specification

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v3.2 – 03/2012
Introduction

Purpose of this specification and disclaimer

This is the technical specification (hereafter referred to as the specification) applicable to the Points of Interest (hereafter referred to as the product) which is referred to in the Framework Direct Licence, Specific Use Framework Partner Licence or your other customer contract for the product.

Copyright in this specification

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Some elements of this user guide are PointX® Ltd copyright and are used with the kind permission of PointX Ltd.
Chapter 1 Utilising Points of Interest

Requirements
Points of Interest is a data product and does not include software for analysis, but can be used with a variety of programs and applications. Points of Interest can be loaded onto any desktop or laptop PC that has a program capable of importing a delimited text file. If using a geographical information system (GIS), customers are encouraged to contact the system vendor to establish actual system requirements.

Supply definition
Points of Interest is only available for Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and is supplied on CD or DVD. Points of Interest is only available in pipe delimited text file format.

File sizes
A national (Great Britain) set of Points of Interest is currently approximately 700 Mb in size but can change for each release.

Points of Interest directory structure
The directory structure of the CD/DVD is shown below:

```
ROOT
        DATA
        DOC
        LOOKUPS
        POI_README
```

ROOT Directory
The ROOT directory will contain the following ASCII text file:

- POI_README.txt

The ROOT directory will contain the following directories:

- DATA
- DOC
- LOOKUPS

DATA directory
The DATA directory will contain the data file for your order:

- Pointx_v2_CustomerAccountNumber_Mmmyy

See chapter 2 in this technical specification for more details about pipe delimited files and the other files supplied with your order.

DOC directory
- CLASSIFICATION_SCHEME_V_X_X.pdf – POI classification.
- DATA_SUPPLIES_MMMYY.pdf – background notes on the data suppliers.
- DESC_CLASS_REPORT_MMMYY.pdf – descriptive class reporting documentation.
- DISCCARE.txt – information on the care of CDs/DVDs.
- FEEDBACK_FORM.xls
- FEEDBACK_FORM_EXAMPLE.xls
- FEEDBACK_NOTES.pdf
• KEYWORDS_DOCUMENTATION.pdf – using the keywords information.
• POI_USERGUIDE_V_X_X_MMMYY.pdf – the POI user guide.
• PRODUCT_AMENDMENTS_MMMYY.txt – product amendment information.
• SIC_DOCUMENTATION_V_X_X_MMMYY – using the POI class to SIC lookup.

The DOC directory may also contain documentation relating to the specification of the requested data format.
The DOC directory may contain additional documentation specific to that supply.

**LOOKUPS directory**
The LOOKUPS directory will contain the ASCII text files:

• ADMINISTRATIVE_BOUNDARY_LOOKUP.txt – the administrative boundary lookup.
• KEYWORDS.txt – keywords information.
• POI_CATEGORIES.txt – the categories lookup within the classification.
• POI_CLASSIFICATIONS.txt – the classifications lookup.
• POI_CLASSIFICATION_V_X_X.mdb – The relationship between group, category and classification
• POI_GROUPS.txt – the groups lookup within the classification.
• POI_CLASS_TO_SIC_LOOKUP.txt – the POI classes linked to the SIC.
• POSITIONAL_ACCURACY_LOOKUP.txt – the positional accuracy lookups.

The LOOKUPS directory may include updates to the lookups for a specific release.
Chapter 2   Pipe delimited text (PDT) file format

The PDT format

Pipe delimited text format is a text file format, similar in principle to the more common comma separated values (CSV) format. PDT is a de facto standard method for delivering data. PDT has been chosen instead of CSV because some of the attribution may contain commas, for example, within addresses. This is one of the simplest data formats in which to supply data. PDT can be imported and used in most desktop spreadsheet or database applications, as well as within more complex geographical information systems. Once imported, it may be possible, depending on the application, to export to word processing or presentation packages.

Rules for holding Points of Interest in PDT

Points of Interest information in PDT is held within individual fields. Each field is either textual (can contain letters or numbers), for example, ‘SO16 0AS’, or numeric, for example, ‘21’. Each field is separated from the next by the ASCII pipe symbol (|), which is a keyboard symbol often found on the backslash key. If the field is textual, or should be treated as a character field even when the stored value is a number, then the text is enclosed in double quotes.
Chapter 3    Record structures for the transfer of Points of Interest in PDT format.

Record structure

The PDT file will contain the following attributes, separated by a pipe, in this order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute name</th>
<th>Mandatory population</th>
<th>Data type</th>
<th>Double quotes</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unique_Reference_Number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Unique identifier for each record within the database.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>Name of the organisation or record provided by the data supplier. May be created using the classification if no name is supplied.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PointX_Classification_Code</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>An eight-digit number that equates to the three levels – Group, Category and Class – of the record. Text type to prevent leading zero loss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature_Easting</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Easting element of the record’s National Grid reference. Allows for six characters followed by one decimal place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature_Northing</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Northing element of the record’s National Grid reference. Allows for seven characters followed by one decimal place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positional_Accuracy_Code</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>A flag for the positional accuracy of the feature. Value of 1-4 only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPRN</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>The AddressBase Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN), where populated, will be a number up to 12 digits or null. Example: 100023432716.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topographic_TOID</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Value of the topographic identifier (TOID) in OS MasterMap and will be ‘Not Assigned’ where a TOID is not provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topographic_TOID_Version</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Identifies the version of the topographic TOID. If the topographic TOID value provided is ‘Not Assigned’ then the value of the topographic TOID version will be 0 (zero).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITN_Easting</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>OS MasterMap Integrated Transport Network (ITN) Layer easting element of the record’s National Grid reference for the nearest access point on the ITN Road Network. Allows for six characters followed by one decimal place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITN_Northing</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>ITN northing element of the record’s National Grid reference for the nearest access point on the ITN Road Network. Allows for seven characters followed by one decimal place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITN_TOID</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Value of the ITN TOID in OS MasterMap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITN_TOID_Version</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Identifies the version of the ITN TOID.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Distance in metres, to one decimal place, between the Feature Easting and Northing and the ITN Easting and Northing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address_Detail</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>Matched addresses (Verified_Address = ‘Y’) will contain the building name or number with a sub-premise and dependant thoroughfare if applicable. Not always supplied for a verified address. The field may be null if Verified_Address = ‘N’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street_Name</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>Matched addresses (Verified_Address = ‘Y’) will contain the name of the thoroughfare if applicable. Not always supplied for a verified address. The field may be null if Verified_Address = ‘N’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locality</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>Matched addresses (Verified_Address = ‘Y’) will contain the name of the postal town that the feature is located within. For extra clarification, when an address has a dependent locality within it, this will prefix the postal town in the resulting output with a comma separating the two elements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic_County</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Matched addresses (Verified_Address = ‘Y’) will contain the geographic county that the feature is located within.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcode</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Matched addresses (Verified_Address = ‘Y’) must contain the postcode that the feature is located within. Unmatched addresses (Verified_Address = ‘N’) will contain the outbound postcode.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verified_Address</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>‘Y’ indicates that the provided address has been matched against Ordnance Survey address data and amended accordingly. ‘N’ indicates an unmatched semi-automatic structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative_Boundary</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Populated with the name of the administrative area in which the record’s XY coordinates are positioned or if outside the extent of Great Britain then the nearest administrative area name is applied. Examples ‘Cambridge District’, ‘City of Derby’ and ‘Lambeth London Boro’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone_Number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Contains telephone number. Field is null if not supplied.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>Feature URL, for example ‘www.manorfarmcp.co.uk/’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brand</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>Brand name associated with a feature. Can be null.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifier_Type</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>Linked to qualifier data attribute and states the type of data used in qualifier type, for example, restaurant type.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifier_Data</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>Linked to qualifier type attribute and allows reporting of extra information about a feature, for example, ‘Indian’ or ‘Chinese’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provenance</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>Name of the data supplier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date_Of_Supply</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>PointX release date in the form DD-MMM-YYYY.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fields containing text or alphanumerics will be enclosed by double quotes; the double quotes have not been included in the sizes listed above. Numerical fields not starting with a 0 will not contain double quotes.

Fields with null data will appear empty.

Each record will be terminated with a carriage return character (ASCII 13) and a line feed character (ASCII 10).

**Examples of Points of Interest records:**

```
21970586|"Verrington Hospital"|"10590759"|370753|128961|"1"||"Not Assigned"||"Somerset"|"BA9"||"South Somerset District"|""|"SMS Number"|"sotdjmm"|"Department for Transport"|"01-SEP-2014"

103310133|"Wickes Building Supplies Ltd"|"09480680"|295322.8|17.4||"1"|"0001000017333847"|29|"441643.8"|"295305.4"|"4000000019229127"|"11"|"17.4"|"Sword Drive"|"Hinckley"|"Leicestershire"|"LE10 0GL"|"Y"|"Hinckley and Bosworth District"|"01455613385"|"www.wickes.co.uk"|"Wickes"|"118 Information"|"01-SEP-2014"

114115740|"Heathrow Airport Terminal 5 Arrivals"|"10530728"|176006.8|17.6||"1"|"1000001793821323"|22|"505120.4"|"176052.4"|"5000005104041760"|"2"|"45.6"|"Unit 35 Gate Level Terminal Five"|"London Heathrow Airport, Hounslow"|"Greater London"|"TW6 2GA"|"Y"|"Hillingdon London Boro"|""|"Local Data Company"|"01-SEP-2014"
```
Annexe A  Glossary

The purpose of this chapter is to provide a glossary of terms used in the definition of products, services, licensing and other terms and conditions for Points of Interest.

Where terms refer to other terms within the glossary, they are connected by means of hyperlinks to the relevant entries.

account
Every OS MasterMap customer has an account. This is more than just a financial account, but is an overarching term for the agreements, orders, access rights and financial arrangements that a customer has with Ordnance Survey.

application service provider (ASP)
A company that offers individuals or enterprises access over the Internet to an application programmes provider (for example, GIS) and related services that would otherwise have to be located in their own personal or enterprise computers. This may also include access to relevant related data.

area of interest
The spatial extent that a customer has access to for a specific product. This area of interest may include a number of different spatial extents. The area of interest is an integral part of a contract.

area of order
The spatial extent of data requested by a customer as part of an order. It may comprise a number of different spatial extents, but all of them will fall completely within the customer’s area of interest.

associated data
A dataset held by third parties that has been linked to features within OS MasterMap by means of identifiers (TOIDs).

attribute
Any item of information packaged to a Points of Interest feature. The reference number and the geometry of the feature are both examples of the attributes of the feature.

attribute set
A group of attributes that can legitimately be used together.

commercial service provider
See application service provider (ASP).

complex feature
A feature that is a collection of other features. An example could be a feature representing a river, composed of many area and line features representing parts of the river.

contract
The agreement that a customer has for access to Ordnance Survey products and services. The contract will include a time period, the number of terminals the data will be used on and a set of terms and conditions.

coordinate transformation
A computational process of converting an image or map from one coordinate system to another.

customer
An organisation or individual that makes use of Ordnance Survey’s data supply facilities. This includes both direct sales customers of Ordnance Survey as well as customers of Licensed Partners. It does not include anyone, or any organisation, that has access to Ordnance Survey material without charge.

dataset
An identifiable set of data that share common characteristics and that is managed as a subset of the data within a database.

delivery mechanism
The method of supply of data to a customer (for example, offline and online).
**digital identifier**
An identifier that is primarily intended to provide unique and unambiguous feature identification for the purposes of exchanging feature-based information between computer systems or associating data within a computer system.

**direct sale**
A direct transaction between Ordnance Survey and a customer.

**direct sale price**
Those prices that are applied where Ordnance Survey supplies OS MasterMap-based products and services directly to customers.

**estimate**
A single price being offered to the customer as the cost of a proposed service definition agreement.

**feature**
An abstraction of a real-world object. It is not the real world object itself.

**feature attribute**
See attribute.

**Licensed Partner**
Any organisation that has entered into a formal licence agreement with Ordnance Survey to market map information or to incorporate map data with their application or service.

**local holdings**
The situation where a customer has to hold and manage data that is supplied to them.

**media supply**
See offline supply.

**metadata**
Graphical or textual information about the content, quality, condition, origins and characteristics of data.

**National Grid**
A unique referencing system that can be applied to all Ordnance Survey maps of Great Britain at all scales. It provides an unambiguous spatial reference for any place or entity in Great Britain.

**Object-based data**
Data in which one entity (feature) represents one real-world object, for example, a building or land parcel.

**offline supply**
The supply of data to a customer on physical media (for example: CD and DVD).

**online supply**
The supply of data to a customer using Internet technologies.

**order**
A request from a customer for the supply of data. The scope of an order may be constrained by an agreement for a period licence service.

**pay as you go**
See pay as you use service.

**pay as you use service**
A service provided by Licensed Partners giving access to Ordnance Survey data for business use on a transaction basis as an added value service.

**PAYU**
Pay as you use.
**period licence**
A licence to use a data product or any other value added service or product derived from detailed datasets, for business use for an agreed period of one or more years. It covers the initial supply of the data, and supply of updates.

**period licence service**
A service provided to customers by Ordnance Survey or Licensed Partners giving access to Ordnance Survey data for business use, including update maintenance. The service will be for a defined period. These services will be available under a period-licence agreement.

**point**
A pair of coordinates.

**point feature**
A feature representing a real-world object. The geometry of a point feature is a single point (a pair of coordinates) with optional size and orientation.

**positional accuracy**
The accuracy of the feature geometry relative to the coordinate spatial reference system.

**real-time**
An immediate response. The processing of data by a computer as rapidly as the data is input, or within some small upper limit of response time. This is not synonymous with online.

**real-world object**
The real thing represented by a feature; for example, a building, a section of fence, the boundary of a wood, or a sharp change of gradient.

**representative point**
A point feature used to represent a real-world object.

**SLA**
Service level agreement.

**spatial reference system**
See National Grid.

**supply format**
The file format in which the data is supplied to the customer.

**TOID**
A number that uniquely identifies every feature. No intelligence (for example, its coordinate position) about the feature can be derived from either the allocated number or the process by which it is allocated. The TOID will remain with the feature throughout its life and will not be reassigned to a new feature when the existing feature is deleted.

**tuple (coordinate tuple)**
A set of n coordinates representing a point in n-dimensional space, as defined by a spatial reference system. The British National Grid reference system is 2-D only, so coordinate tuples consist of an easting and a northing coordinate.

**unit of supply**
The definition of the way in which the area of order is broken up into manageable, physical units (files) for supply to the customer.

**version**
Version number for the feature’s TOID.

**version date**
The date the version of the feature was created by Ordnance Survey within the master OS MasterMap database.
version number
A version number will identify that a feature has been altered. Version numbers will be allocated sequentially, with version 1 representing the creation of the feature.