

Royal Mail PAF® version 11/12

The **Street/Postcode Dataset** includes 4 related tables;

Table	Name	Records
1. Postcode Master	PCS_1112	1,751,988
2. Posttown Names	PTN_1112	1,500
3. Locality Names	LOC_1112	30,488
4. Thoroughfare Names	TFR_1112	369,953

POSTCODE MASTER TABLE

Postcode - Outcode	4
Postcode - Incode	3
Postcode Type	1
Posttown Key	4
Locality Key	5
Thoroughfare Key	6
Dependent Thoroughfare Key	6
Delivery Point Count	3
Total	32

L = Large User, S = Small User, s = Small User Duplicate entry
 Pointer to Town Names Table
 Pointer to Locality Names Table
 Pointer to Thoroughfare Names Table
 Pointer to Thoroughfare Names Table
 No. of Addresses (Delivery Points)

An "s" postcode type indicates that the postcode covers more than one Thoroughfare and therefore multiple duplicate Postcode Master Table records will exist.

Keys are numeric with leading zero's. An empty key (ie zero filled) indicates that the address element (Thoroughfare or Locality name) is blank. All postcodes will return a Town name.

POSTTOWN NAMES TABLE

Posttown Key	4
Postal Area	2
Town Name	22
Postal County Name	18
County Flag	1
Country Code	1
Total	48

Index
 Upper case text
 Mixed case text
 R / N / S
 E / S / W / N / C / I

The County Flag indicates whether the postal county name was a required address element prior to the introduction of flexible addressing in 1996. R = Required, N = Not Required, S = Same as Town name. ALL county names were removed from PAF in December 2000.

Postal county names are retained on our datasets for reference purposes only and are not necessarily consistent with traditional or current administrative boundaries.

LOCALITY NAMES TABLE

Locality Key	5
Locality Name	50
Total	55

Index
 Mixed case text

Locality descriptions may include a dependent locality name in which case the elements are separated by a comma eg "Upper Twinhoe, Midford"

THOROUGHFARE NAMES TABLE

Thoroughfare Key	6
Thoroughfare Name	50
Total	56

Index
 Mixed Case Text

Please note that this table is used to return both Dependent Thoroughfare AND Thoroughfare name.

How do I construct an address from these tables?

Look up the postcode on the postcode master table and use the keys to return the address elements in the following order;

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Dependant Thoroughfare | eg | "Station Approach" | |
| 2. Thoroughfare | | "Blackwater Trade Park" | "High Street" |
| 3. Locality | | "Blackwater" | |
| 4. Town | | "CAMBERLEY" | "GUILDFORD" |
| 5. Postcode | | "GU17 9AF" | "GU1 1AD" |

Warning! - if the postcode type is a lower case "s", there will be more than one entry on the Postcode Master Table returning different Thoroughfare names.

Why do some postcodes return no Thoroughfare or Locality names?

Some Large user postcodes and ALL PO Box codes do not require Thoroughfare or Locality names for Royal Mail delivery purposes.

Why don't London postcodes return district names such as "Wimbledon" or "Soho"?

To optimise mail distribution efficiency PAF splits London into 8 distinct postal areas - N, NW, SW, SE, E, EC, W & WC and therefore district names are not required.