POINTER SPECIFICATION

Address Database for Northern Ireland

ORDNANCE SURVEY OF NORTHERN IRELAND®

POINTER IS THE ADDRESS DATABASE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND AND IS MAINTAINED BY LAND & PROPERTY SERVICES (LPS), WITH INPUT FROM LOCAL COUNCILS AND ROYAL MAIL (RM).

Contents

Introduction

1.1 POINTER

Pointer is the address database for Northern Ireland and is maintained by Land & Property Services (LPS), with input from local councils and Royal Mail (RM). This is the common standard address dataset for every property in Northern Ireland.

It is important to note that Pointer is a dataset for addressable buildings in Northern Ireland. Each building, which is a Primary Addressable object (PAO), is given a Unique_Building_ID.

Each addressable unit within a building, which is a Secondary Addressable Object (SAO), is given a Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN).

If a building has several addresses within it, it will have multiple UPRNs related to its Unique_Building_ID. See example 1.

In some instances, buildings can have more than one PAO and in such cases each PAO will have a separate UPRN. See example 2.

A Unique_Building_ID will have only one Building Name and/or Building Number. Councils may, on occasion, issue individual building numbers within the same building meaning multiple unique building IDs are required.

Example 3 demonstrates 6 apartments within the same building, which have been individually numbered. This results in 6 different unique building IDs for this building in the Pointer product.

Alternatively, if the council issued a single building number with sub building names used for each sub apartment e.g., Apartment 1, 60 Abbeyville Place, Apartment 2, 60 Abbeyville Place etc., the Pointer product will only have a single unique building ID for these 6 addresses.

Example 1

Building_num	Sub_building_name	Primary_thorfare	Unique_building_ID PAO	UPRN SAO
705	Apartment 1	Upper Newtownards Road	186769002	185016579
705	Apartment 2	Upper Newtownards Road	186769002	185016581
705	Apartment 3	Upper Newtownards Road	186769002	185016582
705	Apartment 4	Upper Newtownards Road	186769002	185016583
705	Apartment 5	Upper Newtownards Road	186769002	185016584
705	Apartment 6	Upper Newtownards Road	186769002	185016585

Building_num	Sub_building_name	Primary_thorfare	Unique_building_ID PAO	UPRN SAO
10A	Apartment	James Street	186876968	185668297
10B	Apartment	James Street	186971043	185838994
10C	Apartment	James Street	186971044	185838995
10D	Apartment	James Street	186971045	185838996
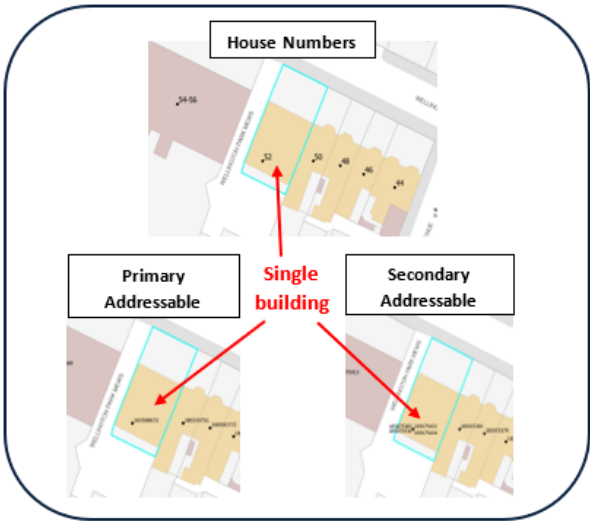
Pointer has been allocated a set of UPRNs from the national hub, which are allocated to all addresses within the dataset. This ensures consistency of UPRNs across Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

Each building is assigned a geographic position (X_Cor and Y_Cor) and a postal address.

1.2 THIS DOCUMENT

This document is a technical specification and provides detailed information on the fields contained within the Pointer product.

2 FIELD SPECIFICATION

Pointer Field Name	Responsible Party	Type	Size
ORGANISATION_NAME	Royal Mail	Alphanumeric	60
SUB_BUILDING_NAME	Local Council	Alphanumeric	60
BUILDING_NAME	Local Council	Alphanumeric	70
BUILDING_NUMBER	Local Council	Alphanumeric	20
PRIMARY_THORFARE	Local Council	Alphanumeric	60
ALT_THORFARE_NAME1	Local Council	Alphanumeric	60
SECONDARY_THORFARE	Local Council	Alphanumeric	60
LOCALITY	Local Council	Alphanumeric	40
TOWNLAND	LPS	Alphanumeric	40
TOWN	Local Council	Alphanumeric	40
COUNTY	LPS	Alphanumeric	40
POSTCODE	Royal Mail	Alphanumeric	8
BLPU	LPS	Integer	12
UNIQUE_BUILDING_ID	LPS	Integer	12
UPRN	LPS	Integer	12
USRN	LPS	Integer	10
LOCAL_COUNCIL	LPS	Alphanumeric	40
X_COR	LPS	Number	6
Y_COR	LPS	Number	6
TEMP_COORDS	Local Council	Alphanumeric	1
BUILDING_STATUS	All (Lifecycle)	Alphanumeric	40
ADDRESS_STATUS	All (Lifecycle)	Alphanumeric	11
CLASSIFICATION	LPS	Alphanumeric	20
CREATION_DATE	Local Council	Date	11
COMMENCEMENT_DATE	Local Council	Date	11
ARCHIVED_DATE	All (Lifecycle)	Date	11
ACTION	LPS	Alphanumeric	1
UDPRN	Royal Mail	Alphanumeric	20
POSTTOWN	Royal Mail	Alphanumeric	40
LP_FUSIONID	LPS	Alphanumeric	36
BU_FUSIONID	LPS	Alphanumeric	36

3.0 DEFINITIONS

This chapter explains the content of the Pointer fields.

3.1 ORGANISATION_NAME

Definition

The trading or business name of an organisation within an addressable property.

Constraints

Population of this field is optional.

Details

This field is updated with data supplied by Royal Mail where applicable. Use of this field incurs a Royal Mail licence fee.

See the links below for information:

https://www.poweredbypaf.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/PAF_Data_Solutions_Provider_Licence_24_December_2014_from_October_2022.pdf

Attribute	Example 1	Example 2
ORGANISATION_NAME	Mccoubrey Chemist	Land & Property Services
SUB_BUILDING_NAME		
BUILDING_NAME		
BUILDING_NUMBER	154	7
PRIMARY_THORFARE	Cavehill Road	Lanyon Place
ALT_THORFARE_NAME1		
LOCALITY		
TOWNLAND	Skegoneill	Town Parks
TOWN	Belfast	Belfast

3.2 SUB_BUILDING_NAME

Definition

The name or number of a flat, apartment, office, room or unit within a building identifying a Secondary Addressable Object (SAO). This name or number will usually be prefixed by the following: 'UNIT', 'FLAT', 'APARTMENT' etc.

Constraints

Population of this field is mandatory where a building has more than one addressable unit.

Attribute	Example 1	Example 2
ORGANISATION_NAME		Specsavers Opticians
SUB_BUILDING_NAME	Apartment 2.3	Unit 5
BUILDING_NAME	Obel Building	Fairhill Shopping Centre
BUILDING_NUMBER	62	1
PRIMARY_THORFARE	Donegall Quay	Fairhill Lane
ALT_THORFARE_NAME1		
LOCALITY		
TOWNLAND	Town Parks	Town Parks
TOWN	Belfast	Ballymena

3.3 BUILDING_NAME

Definition

A name given to a building.

Constraints

Population of this field is optional. Not all legacy records, which have a Building_Name, will have a building number.

Details

Not all legacy records which have a Building_Name will have a building number. LPS encourages the allocation of a building number to all new buildings which contain a building name, however this is at the discretion of the local council.

Attribute	Example 1	Example 2
ORGANISATION_NAME		
SUB_BUILDING_NAME	Apartment 3	
BUILDING_NAME	Lansdowne Manor	St Comgall's Primary School
BUILDING_NUMBER	2	
PRIMARY_THORFARE	Lansdowne Crescent	Brunswick Road
ALT_THORFARE_NAME1		
LOCALITY		
TOWNLAND	Portrush	Corporation
TOWN	Portrush	Bangor

3.4 BUILDING_NUMBER

Definition

This is the number the local council has allocated to the building.

Constraints

LPS encourages mandatory population of this field however it is at the discretion of the local council.

Details

The Building_Number will appear as entered by the local council. Council best practice states that all properties should be numbered to the street which provides direct access to the property.

A Building_Number may be singular, for example, 1, 11, 111 or a number range, for example, 1-11 or 1A-2A (without spacing).

Building_Numbers with letter suffixes are valid, for example 1A.

A Unit number or an apartment/flat number is also acceptable in the Building_Number field.

Numeric	1	11	111
Numeric with Suffix	1A	2B	3C
Numeric range	1-11	1A-2A	4&5

3.5 PRIMARY_THORFARE

Definition

A Primary_Thorfare is the name allocated by the local council to a road, street or named access route.

Constraints

Population of this field is mandatory.

Details

Thoroughfare names are allocated by the local councils.

Thoroughfare descriptors, for example, road and street are not abbreviated – they are always shown in full.

Guidelines to local councils on punctuation relating to Primary Thoroughfares

An **apostrophe** should only remain in addresses where it will follow an "O", for example, O'Neill Road

A **hyphen** should remain in certain addresses, for example, Alt-min Avenue. It is however recommended that the hyphen be removed from the word bypass, for example Dromore By-pass, as according to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word bypass should be spelt without the hyphen.

The **contraction** "St" should be used in place of the word Saint in addresses. As using "St" is a contraction, rather than an abbreviation, no full stop should follow (The Cambridge Guide to English Usage by Pam Peters). It is recommended this approach is adopted as standard practice.

Parenthesis/ampersands currently do not appear in any NI addresses. It is recommended, as is common practice, neither parenthesis nor ampersands should be used in any future street names.

Commas are only used in a total of 6 primary thoroughfare names within Northern Ireland. It is recommended commas are not used as it can cause formatting issues when exporting data in CSV format.

Examples of Street name descriptors

Avenue	Link
Close	Manor
Crescent	Meadows
Court	Mews
Drive	Parade
Gardens	Park
Glen	Place
Grove	Square
Heights	Street
Hill	Terrace
Hollow	Valley
Lane	Way

3.6 ALT_THORFARE_NAME

Definition

A locally known alternative or an official thoroughfare name in another language, see Appendix I.
These names are only included in Pointer once approved by the local council.

| Attribute	Example 1 - Irish	Example 2 - Ulster Scots
ORGANISATION_NAME		
SUB_BUILDING_NAME	Flat 2	
BUILDING_NAME		
BUILDING_NUMBER	69a	21
PRIMARY_THORFARE	Main Street	Tullyard Way
ALT_THORFARE_NAME1	An Tsráid Mhór	Heichbrae Airt
LOCALITY		
TOWNLAND	Lisoneill	Lisnasharragh
TOWN	Lisnaskea	Belfast

3.7 SECONDARY_THORFARE

Definition

The Secondary_Thorfare will be the main road off which the Primary_Thorfare is located.

Constraints

Population of this field is optional and is at the discretion of the local council.

Attribute	Example 1	Example 2
ORGANISATION_NAME		
SUB_BUILDING_NAME		
BUILDING_NAME		
BUILDING_NUMBER	1	1
PRIMARY_THORFARE	The Mews	The Close
SECONDARY_THORFARE	William Street	Millars Forge
LOCALITY		
TOWNLAND	Churchtown	Ballymaglaff
TOWN	Castlederg	Dundonald
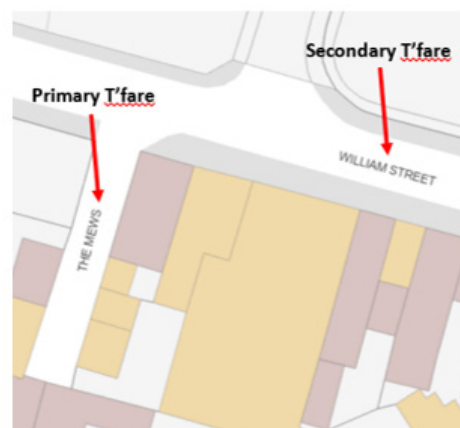
3.8 LOCALITY

Definition

Locality - a commonly known place, district or neighbourhood of indeterminate area.

Constraints

This field is populated by the local council and is mandatory in the absence of a town.

Details

The Locality field must be populated in the absence of an entry in the Town field. It is acceptable to have both populated.

Examples of localities can be seen below:

Locality Type	
Business Park	Industrial Estate
Business Centre	Industrial Park
Enterprise Park	Industrial Complex
Enterprise Centre	Hospital
Complex	Healthcare Park
Retail Park	Airport
Trading Centre	Student Village
Commercial Centre	Neighbourhood
Shopping Centre	Community Centre
Arcade	Caravan Park
Aghalee	Ballykelly
Dunmurry	Whiteabbey

3.9 TOWNLAND

Definition

The name of the townland within which the address is located.

Constraints

Population of this field is mandatory.

The system generates townland details for all address records using the OSNI Large Scale Townland Boundary dataset.

Details

Townland names are not unique either within a county or administrative area.

3.10 TOWN

Definition

The name of a city, town, village, hamlet, recognised settlement or a geographical identifier based on an attachment or proximity to a settlement

Constraints

This field is populated by the local council and is mandatory in the absence of a Locality.

Details

The town must be populated in the absence of an entry in the Locality field. It is acceptable to have both populated.

3.11 COUNTY

Definition

The name of the county within which the address is located.

Constraints

Population of this field is mandatory.

The system generates county details for all records using the OSNI County boundary dataset.

Details

There are 6 counties in Northern Ireland:

- Antrim
- Armagh
- Down
- Fermanagh
- Londonderry
- Tyrone

3.12 POSTCODE

Definition

A Postcode identifies a group of postal delivery points as defined by Royal Mail.

Constraints

Postcodes are allocated by Royal Mail once a building is deemed capable of receiving mail. Use of this field incurs a Royal Mail licence fee. See links below for information.

https://www.poweredbypaf.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/PAF_Data_Solutions_Provider_Licence_24_December_2014_from_October_2022.pdf

To Note: *A postcode can be activated only when the property is complete and ready for mail delivery. Royal Mail requires confirmation that the properties are completed/occupied before additions are made to the Postal Address File.*

It should also be noted that not all properties will be assigned a postcode by Royal Mail for example a group of holiday homes. In this case any post is sent to the property owners.

If the property loses its delivery point status the address will removed from PAF but will be retained in Pointer. For example,

1. The councils may occasionally issue an address for a property that Royal Mail would not recognise as being capable of receiving post e.g., warehouses, agricultural buildings and caravans. Royal Mail may not add these addresses to PAF but they will remain in Pointer as council approved addresses.

2. If a property no longer exists due to it being demolished, then the address will be removed from PAF but retained in Pointer with a Building Status of Demolished and an Address Status of Historical.

3.13 BLPU

The Basic Land and Property Unit attribute is included as a placeholder. This is not currently populated, however the unique identifier for the OSNI_Fusion land parcel in which the address is located is provided in the LP_FUSIONID attribute.

Constraints

This field is not currently populated, however the unique identifier for the land parcel in which the address is located is provided in the LP_FUSIONID attribute.

3.14 UNIQUE_BUILDING_ID

Definition

This is a unique sequential number allocated to a primary addressable object (physical footprint of the building).

Constraints

Population of this field is mandatory.

Details

A Unique_Building_ID will be assigned upon its creation in Pointer.

A Unique_Building_ID can relate to one or many UPRNs but it will have only one building name and/or building number.

If a building is sub-divided into a number of separate units that are new Secondary Addressable Objects (SAOs), the Unique_Building_ID for the building will remain the same and new UPRNs will be assigned.

If a number of Unique_Building_IDs are subsumed into a single PAO, then the Unique_Building_ID for the original buildings will be removed from the product. If an existing building is demolished and a new property/ies are built on the site, each new building will be assigned a new Unique_Building_ID and the previous Unique_Building_ID will be archived. A building polygon may have one or many Unique_Building_IDs. A Unique_Building_ID may on occasion be removed from the Pointer product as a result of the associated UPRN being moved to another Unique_Building_ID or when the UPRN is designated a Non_Postal address.

The following examples demonstrate when a unique building ID will be removed from the Pointer product:

1. A UPRN may be moved from one unique building ID to another to correct an error e.g., where two addresses have been captured with different building numbers but are later amended to two sub-buildings within a single PAO. The UPRN that has been amended will then take on the unique building ID of the PAO it has been moved to. The surplus unique building ID remains in the Pointer database but is no longer output in the Pointer product.

2. A unique building ID may also no longer appear in the Pointer product if all its associated UPRNs have been flagged as non-postal. Non-postal addresses are currently captured to facilitate valuation and rating but are not included in the Pointer product.

3.15 UPRN

Definition

A Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN) is a unique sequential number, which uniquely identifies a Secondly Addressable Object (units, flats or organisations) within a building.

Constraints

Population of this field is mandatory.

This number will be permanently associated with the address i.e., throughout its lifecycle.

The system generates this attribute automatically.

Details

The data structure of Pointer will enforce the allocation of a minimum of one UPRN to every building.

If a building is sub-divided into a number of separate units, which are new addressable buildings and/or postal delivery points, the Unique_Building_ID will remain and new UPRNs will be assigned to each of the units within the building.

If a number of units are subsumed into a single occupancy building, then the UPRNs for the original properties will be archived, and a new UPRN will be allocated. The original Unique_ Building_ID will be retained. A UPRN may on occasion be removed from the Pointer product when the UPRN is designated a Non_Postal address.

UPRNs are excluded from the Pointer product if they are deemed to be non-postal, which means that they were not allocated as an official address by the local council but were required for rating purposes. Examples of potentially non-postal addresses include caravans, golf courses, wind turbines, bus shelters and workshops.

Royal Mail will only allocate postal information if it meets the defined Royal Mail PAF criteria:

- The building has to be either a residential or a legitimate business address that has an office on site with clear signage displaying the business name.
- The building has a secure and lockable mail delivery point (letterbox) that is easily accessible for the delivery of mail at all times.
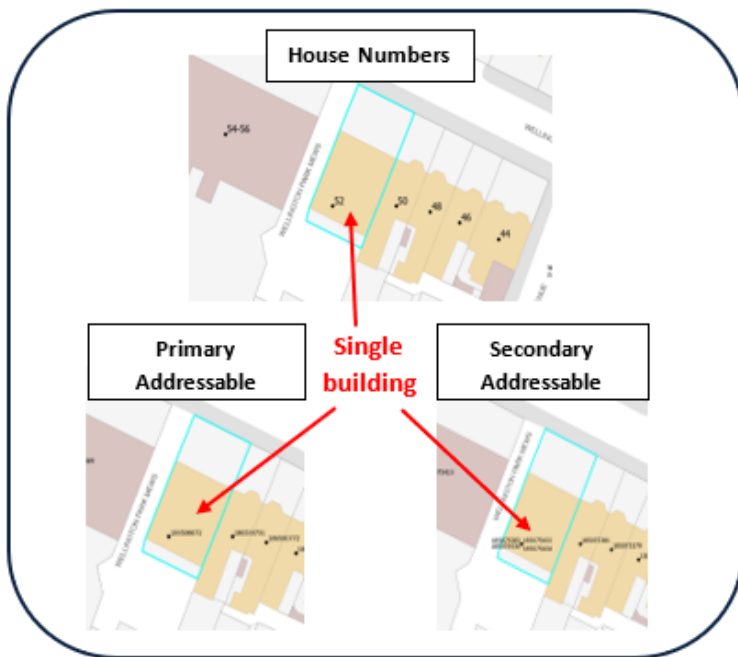
3.16 USRN

Definition

Unique Street Reference Number. Up to a 10-digit number that will uniquely identify each Primary Thoroughfare in Pointer.

Constraints

Population of this field is mandatory.

Details

This uniquely identifies each street.

Example where four Primary Thoroughfares meet

3.17 LOCAL_COUNCIL

Definition

The name of the administrative area (local council) in which the building exists

Constraints

Population of this field is mandatory.

The system will generate a local council for each record.

Local councils are contained in Appendix II.

3.18 X_COR

Definition

Each building is geo-referenced using co-ordinates on the Irish Grid. The X_Cor is represented by a 6-figure Easting.

Constraints

Population of this field is mandatory.

3.19 Y_COR

Definition

Each building is geo-referenced using co-ordinates on the Irish Grid. The Y_Cor is represented by a 6-figure Northing.

Constraints

Population of this field is mandatory.

3.20 TEMP_COORDS

Definition

This indicates whether the X_Cor and Y_Cor are permanent (assigned during an LPS survey, or identified on OSNI orthophotography or aligned with LPS valuation data) or temporary. When an address is created this field will be populated with a 'Y'. When it is made permanent it will have a value of 'N'.

Constraints

This field may only contain 'Y' or 'N' values.

Details

Temp_Coords status will be updated to permanent once the property has for example been surveyed by an LPS survey team or any other agreed methods.

Before the address has been surveyed it will be given a temporary Y_cor and X_cor when created in the system. When LPS survey the building, the property has been identified on OSNI orthophotography or aligned with LPS valuation data the co-ordinates will be given a permanent status. The value is held at 1 metre accuracy.

3.21 BUILDING_STATUS

Definition

The current physical status of the building.

Constraints

Population of this field is mandatory.

Permitted Unique Building ID Status values are:

None, Under Construction, Built, Derelict and Demolished

Details

This field reflects changes to the Building_Status and the values in this field are system generated.

A value of None indicates that there is nothing visible on the ground.

A value of Under_Construction indicates that building has commenced.

A value of Built indicates that the building has been completed and that the Temp_Coords field has been updated to N (permanent) by LPS.

A value of Derelict indicates that the building remains standing but is un-occupiable.

A value of Demolished indicates that a building has been removed and there is nothing visible on the ground.

Please note councils may notify LPS that a Building_Status is set directly to Built without having previously been set to None or Under Construction. LPS do not always get notifications for demolished and/or derelict buildings and they may only be identified through the latest OSNI mapping.

3.22 ADDRESS_STATUS

Definition

The current status of the address.

Constraints

Population of this field is mandatory.

Permitted Unique Address_Status values are:

Candidate, Provisional, Approved, Historical and Rejected.

Details

This field reflects changes to the Address_Status. The values in this field are system generated.

When planning permission has been granted but building has not commenced, the Building_Status is set to 'None' and the Address_Status set to 'Candidate'.

When LPS receives notification that building has commenced, the Building_Status is set to 'Under Construction' and the Address_Status set to 'Provisional'.

After LPS have confirmed the exact co-ordinates for the building or a Building Classification has been added, the Temp_Coords field is updated and the Building_Status is set to 'Built' and the Address_Status is set to 'Approved'.

A notification from a council that a building is derelict or demolished results in the Building_Status being updated and the Address_Status set to 'Historical'.

A value of Rejected indicates a rejection of an incorrect address. A Rejected record is a permitted value and is provided in a separate CSV within the Pointer product package with the following naming convention: ALLNI_YYYYMMDD_REJ_F.

Please note Councils may notify LPS that an Address_Status is set directly to Approved without having previously been set to Candidate or Provisional.

3.23 CLASSIFICATION

Definition

The classification code identifies Domestic or Non Domestic properties. The classification description represents the use to which the building is put.

Constraints

Data in this field is system generated.

Permitted classification values are shown in the table below. These are derived from the LPS list of valuation classifications.

Details

There are three main classification groups:

• Null – where the record has not yet been updated with an LPS classification.

• Non Domestic – these records are prefixed with 'ND_'

• Domestic – these records are prefixed with 'DO_'.

Where an individual is operating a business from a room within their home, LPS still classify this as a residential property.

These are subdivided into further classifications as detailed below.

When the building use of an addressable object changes, the Classification field will be updated to reflect this change.

Code	Classification Description
DO_Apart	Domestic - Apartments/flats
DO_Detached	Domestic - Detached
DO_Other	Domestic other (including lock-up garages)
DO_Semi	Domestic - Semi
DO_Terrace	Domestic - Terrace
ND_Agriculture	Agriculture (including farms, market gardens)
ND_Agriculture_Other	Miscellaneous Agriculture
ND_Comm_Other	Commercial other
ND_Culture	Cultural (including museums, libraries)
ND_Culture_Other	Miscellaneous Culture
ND_Education	Education (including schools, further education)
ND_Entertainment	Leisure and tourism (non-sporting - cinemas etc)
ND_Ents_Other	Miscellaneous Entertainment
ND_Freight_Other	Freight (canal, dock, railway undertaking
ND_Health	Health (including hospital,care homes,clinics)
ND_Hospitality	Hospitality (including hotels, b&b)
ND_Indust_Other	Miscellaneous Industry
ND_Industry	Industry (including factories,quarries)
ND_Legal	Law and Order
ND_Office	Commercial office - banks, post offices, offices
ND_Other	Interim ND property
ND_Religious	Religious establishment (including places of worship)
ND_Retail	Retail (shops, showrooms etc)
ND_Sporting	Recreation (sports facilities)
ND_Utilities	Public utilities
ND_Utilities_Other	Miscellaneous Utilities
Other	Other
Unknown	Unknown
Non_Postal	Property not receiving post

3.24 CREATION_DATE

Definition

The date when an address is first entered into the system.

Constraints

Records exist in this field dating from the creation of the current system in 2004 but not all addresses will have a creation date.

Details

The field is automatically populated when records are entered into the database after the creation of the system in 2004. It does not necessarily relate to the date of building but rather when the information was provided.

3.25 COMMENCEMENT_DATE

Definition

This is the date when Pointer is notified that construction on the property has begun.

Constraints

Records exist in this field dating from 2004, however not all addresses will have a commencement date.

Details

This indicates when the Building_status changes from 'NONE' to 'UNDER CONSTRUCTION'.

3.26 ARCHIVED_DATE

Definition

This is the date when the address is deemed to be no longer in use.

Constraints

This field is system generated.

Details

This indicates when the Address_Status has been set as 'Historical'

3.27 ACTION

Definition

This field is used to denote the nature of a change and is system generated.

Constraints

Permitted Action values are:

Insert (I) indicates a new address that has been created since the last refresh of the updates product.

Update (U) indicates any change that has occurred since the last update such as a change to any field in the Pointer address e.g., a building number, name and/or the coordinates.

Rejected (D) indicates the rejection of an incorrect address.

Details

This field will be blank in the full product.

This is populated in the updates products available; monthly, quarterly, yearly, weekly and daily but not populated in the full product.

3.28 UDPRN

Definition

Unique Delivery Point Reference Number (UDPRN)

This uniquely identifies each Delivery Point in Royal Mail products.

Constraints

This field is populated from Royal Mail data. Use of this field incurs a Royal Mail licence fee. See Links below for information.

https://www.poweredbypaf.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/PAF_Data_Solutions_Provider_Licence_24_December_2014_from_October_2022.pdf

Details

The UDPRN was introduced in 2004 by Royal Mail. UDPRNs are allocated to each delivery point and can be used to link to other RM datasets. The data is an 8 digit code, however users should be aware that if a code starts with a zero, this may be truncated from the front of the value. In this case they will show as 7 digit codes. Not all records will have a UDPRN, for instance where there is only one delivery point for a multiple occupancy building or where a building is derelict.

Classification	Building Status	UPRN	Post Town
	Built	27957137	Belfast
DO_TERRACE	Built	3185459	Belfast
DO_SEMI	Built	3192746	Belfast
DO_TERRACE	Built	3199512	Belfast
DO_APART	Built	28294762	Belfast
DO_TERRACE	Built	3199172	Belfast
DO_SEMI	Built	3146446	Belfast

3.29 POSTTOWN

Definition

Posttown is the town that royal mail allocate as the main postal centre for an area.

Constraints

This field is populated from Royal Mail data. Use of this field incurs a Royal Mail licence fee. See links below for information.

https://www.poweredbypaf.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/PAF_Data_Solutions_Provider_Licence_24_December_2014_from_October_2022.pdf

Details

Post towns represent the main centre for postal services for an area. This is distinct from the Town field which represents the settlement that residents would identify with. For example, the Posttown for Portaferry is Newtownards, whereas the Town field would be Portaferry. The Town field would more accurately reflect the relevant settlement name for an address.

3.30 LP_FUSIONID

Definition

LP_FusionID is a Globally Unique Identifier that represents each land parcel polygon feature in Northern Ireland.

Constraints

This field is system generated.

Details

This field is populated with the unique identifier generated within the OSNI Fusion mapping data. This creates a link between the Land Parcel in OSNI_Fusion large scale mapping and the buildings within it.

A Land Parcel 'Fusion ID' from OSNI_Fusion is added to the 'LP_FUSIONID' of its corresponding Pointer record if it has a Building Status of 'Built', 'Under Construction' or 'Derelict' and the point is located within the Land Parcel polygon. If the Pointer record is located upon overlapping Land Parcel polygons, the 'LP_FUSIONID' will not be populated.

3.31 BU_FUSIONID

Definition

BU_FusionID is a Globally Unique Identifier that represents each building polygon feature in Northern Ireland.

Constraints

This field is system generated.

Details

This field is populated with the unique identifier generated within the OSNI Fusion mapping data. This creates a link between the building in OSNI large scale mapping and the address of the building.

The building 'Fusion ID' from OSNI_Fusion is added to the 'BU_FUSIONID' of its corresponding Pointer record if it has a uilding Status of 'Built', 'Under Construction' or 'Derelict' and the point is located within the building polygon. If the Pointer record is located upon overlapping building polygons, the 'BU_FUSIONID' will not be populated.

APPENDIX I: USE OF IRISH AND ULSTER SCOTS IN POINTER

THE USE OF IRISH IN OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Pointer includes the official Primary_Thorfare_Name and/or Secondary_ Thorfare_Name form of an address as adopted by the relevant local council. Various language versions are catered for by using the alternative name fields described within this specification. Where Irish or Ulster Scots street names are considered the legal form, the English version must also be included in Pointer, as an Alt_Thorfare_Name1 value.

APPENDIX II: LOCAL COUNCILS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

District	Council
Antrim and Newtownabbey	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Ards and North Down	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Belfast	Belfast City Council
Causeway Coast and Glens	Causeway Coast and Glens District Council
Derry City and Strabane	Derry City and Strabane District Council
Fermanagh and Omagh	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
Lisburn and Castlereagh	Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
Mid and East Antrim	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Mid Ulster	Mid Ulster District Council
Newry Mourne and Down	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

APPENDIX III: POINTER ADDRESS LIFECYCLE

A key feature of the Pointer system is the implementation of the address lifecycle through a set of BUILDING and ADDRESS_STATUS indicators. These reflect the progress of address completion.

Pointer Building and Address Status Combinations

Pointer Lifecycle
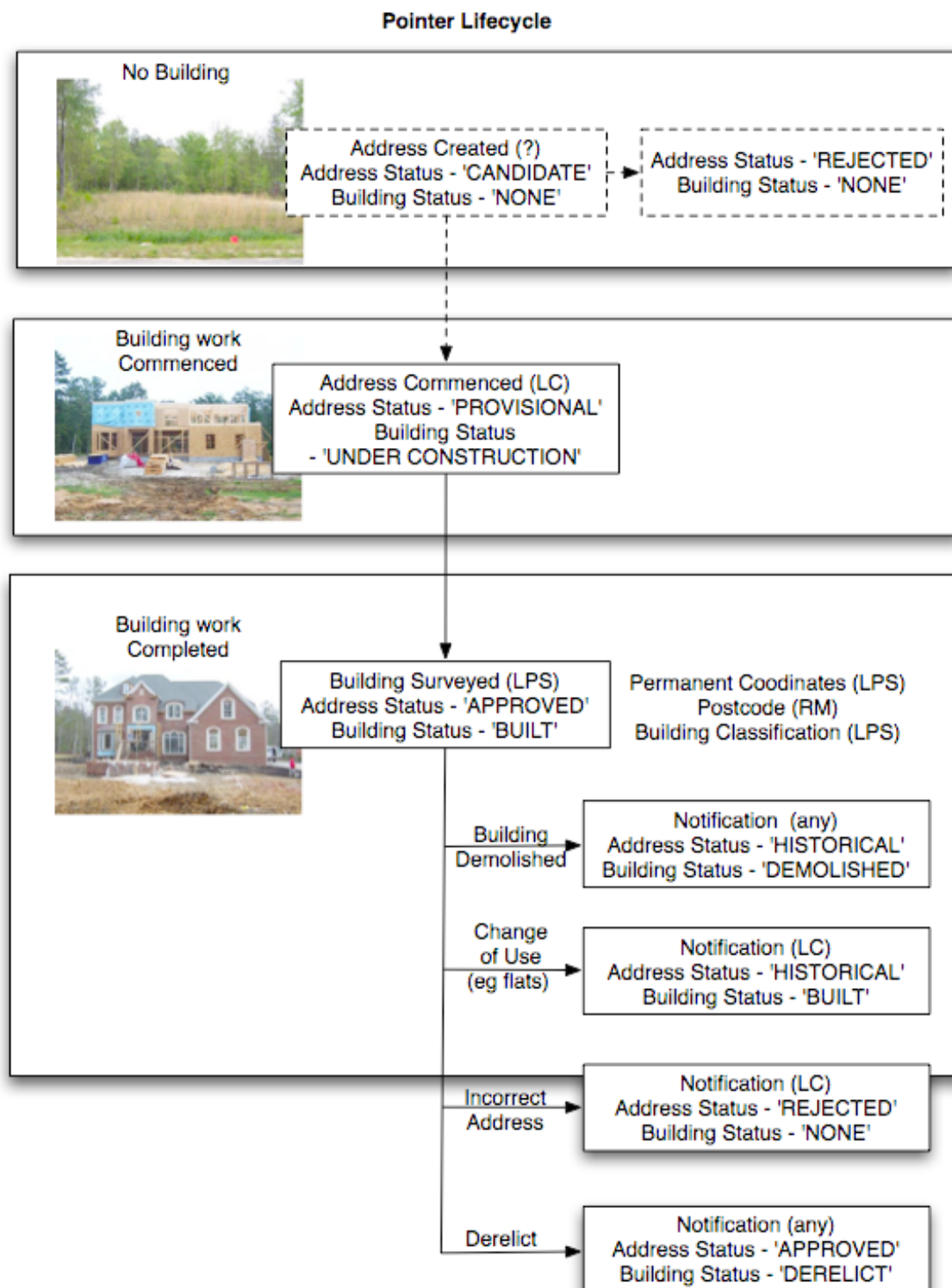
Addresses are provided by the local councils to LPS at various stages of completion. As a result, not all addresses will follow the complete life cycle. In some cases, addresses are provided at the Built and Approved stage.

APPENDIX IV: USING POINTER

Pointer is supplied in Comma Separated Value (CSV) file format.

The file naming convention is Council_DateCreated_Frequency.csv (e.g. NEWRY_20210309_F. csv) or ALLNI_DateCreated_Frequency.csv (e.g., ALLNI_20230309_F.csv). The data is supplied as all NI coverage. The full product is available daily and update-only products are available, monthly, quarterly, yearly, weekly and daily. Individual Local Government District (LGD) datasets are supplied as full product and monthly updates.

As part of the Pointer full product package there is an extension file provided, which links each Pointer record to additional administrative boundary information using the UPRN field. The full product package also includes a rejected file, which represents rejections of an incorrect address. Reasons for the rejection of an address include, but are not limited to, the address no longer being valid due to changes to the site layout, the address entered in error or a duplicate address.

To use within Microsoft Excel

When the CSV is opened in Excel the Building_Number field containing a numeric range, for example 2-6, it can come across as a date, such as 02-July. To prevent this please follow the steps below:

Open Microsoft Excel.

Within the toolbar select Data then select From Text.

Open the *.csv Pointer data which has been dowloaded from the website.
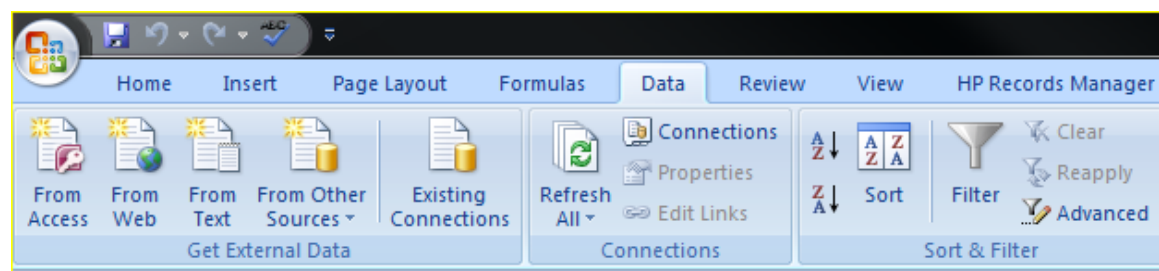
The following dialogue box will appear, select Next.
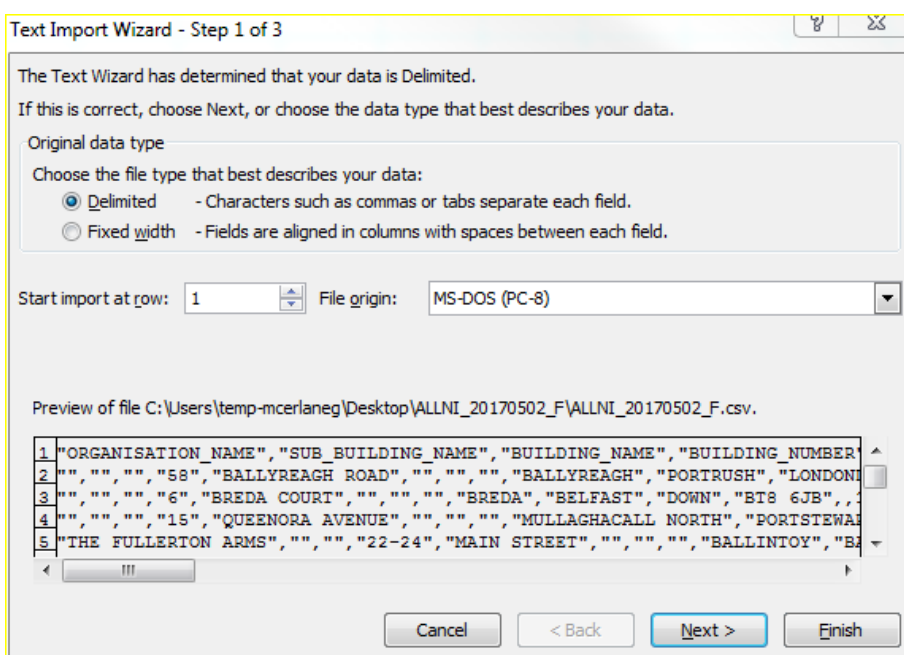
Within the next step, select Comma and then select Next.

Text Import Wizard - Step 2 of 3

This screen lets you set the delimiters your data contains. You can see how your text is affected in the preview below.

Delimiters
- ☐ Tab
- ☐ Semicolon   ☐ Treat consecutive delimiters as one
- ☑ Comma
- ☐ Space   Text qualifier: [" ▼]
- ☐ Other: [   ]

Data preview

ORGANISATION_NAME	SUB_BUILDING_NAME	BUILDING_NAME	BUILDING_NUMBER	PRIMARY
			58	BALLYREA
			6	BREDA CO
			15	QUEENORA
THE FULLERTON ARMS			22-24	MAIN STE

[Cancel] [< Back] [Next >] [Finish]

Within the next step, ensure the BUILDING_NUMBER column is selected and highlighted as shown within the image below, select Text and Finish.

Text Import Wizard - Step 3 of 3

This screen lets you select each column and set the Data Format.

Column data format
- ☐ General
- ◉ Text
- ☐ Date: [DMY ▼]
- ☐ Do not import column (skip)

'General' converts numeric values to numbers, date values to dates, and all remaining values to text.

[Advanced...]

Data preview

General	General	General	Text	General
ORGANISATION_NAME	SUB_BUILDING_NAME	BUILDING_NAME	BUILDING_NUMBER	PRIMARY
			58	BALLYREA
			6	BREDA CO
			15	QUEENORA
THE FULLERTON ARMS			22-24	MAIN STE

[Cancel] [< Back] [Next >] [Finish]

The Data is now ready to be inserted into Excel, select OK.
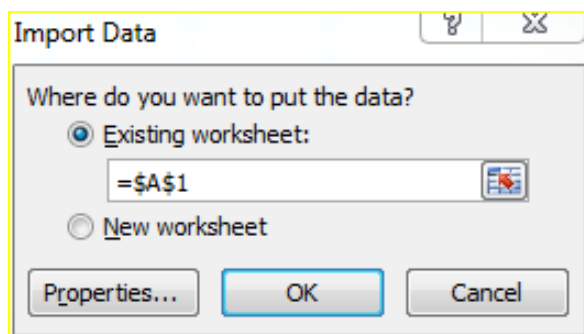
If you now search for Glenmount Manor, the data will display correctly.
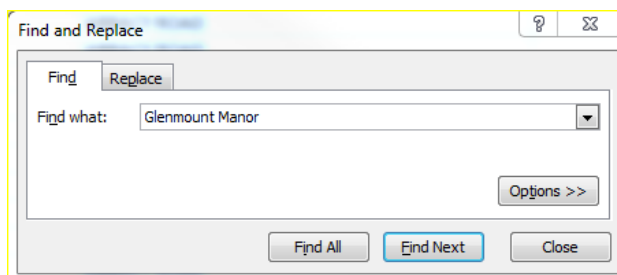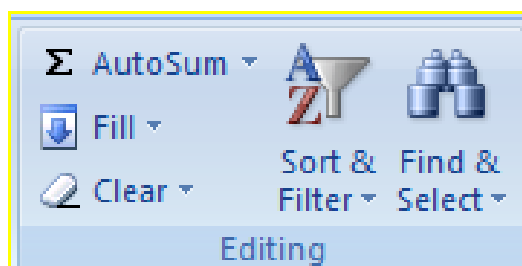

To use within Esri ArcMap

To add Pointer as a table. Click the add data button. Browse to the Pointer.csv file and click add.

To display as points. Right click on Pointer and select Display X, Y data. On the next dialogue box ensure X_COR is selected for the X Field box and Y_COR is selected for the Y Field box. Click OK.

To use within Esri ArcGIS Pro

Open the New Map template in ArcGIS Pro. Click the Add Folder button. Browse to the Pointer.csv file and click add. Right click the CSV in the Contents Pane and select Display XY Data. Fill in the table as shown below and click OK.
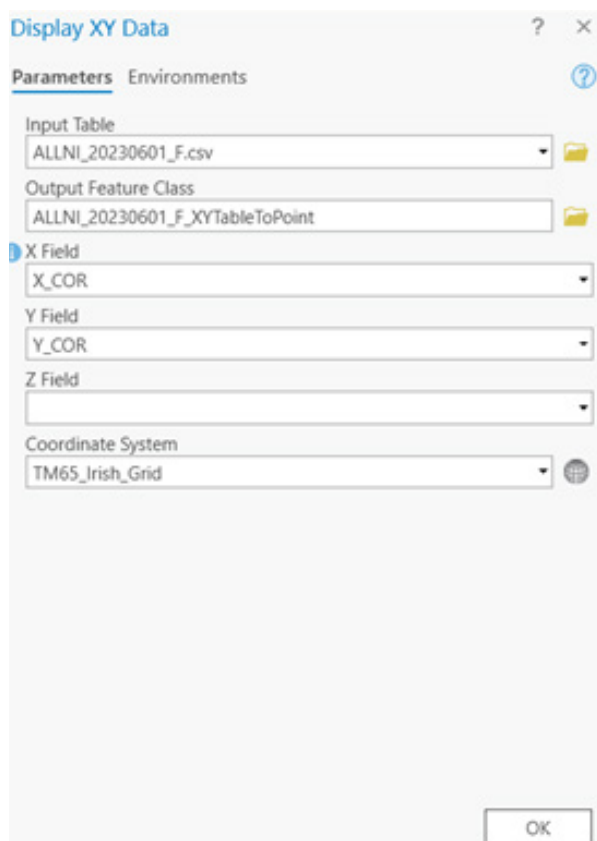
To use within MapInfo

Click the open existing table or workspace table button. Select CSV from the filetype dropdown list, browse to the Pointer.csv file, select and click Open. In the next dialogue box check the box for Use First Line for Column Titles. This will display the Pointer Table.

To display as a series of points, from the menu bar select Table > Create Points. Select the X_COR field from the Get X Coordinates dropdown list and Y_COR for the Y Coordinates. Click the Projection button and then select Irish Coordinate Systems from the Category dropdown list. Select Irish Transverse Mercator Grid in the lower box and click OK, and the OK again. Click the open new mapper button to see points displayed.

To use within AutoCAD

To bring Pointer data into AutoCAD. The data needs to be in an access database, so simply import the CSV data into Access as an external table. Save and close your Access database.
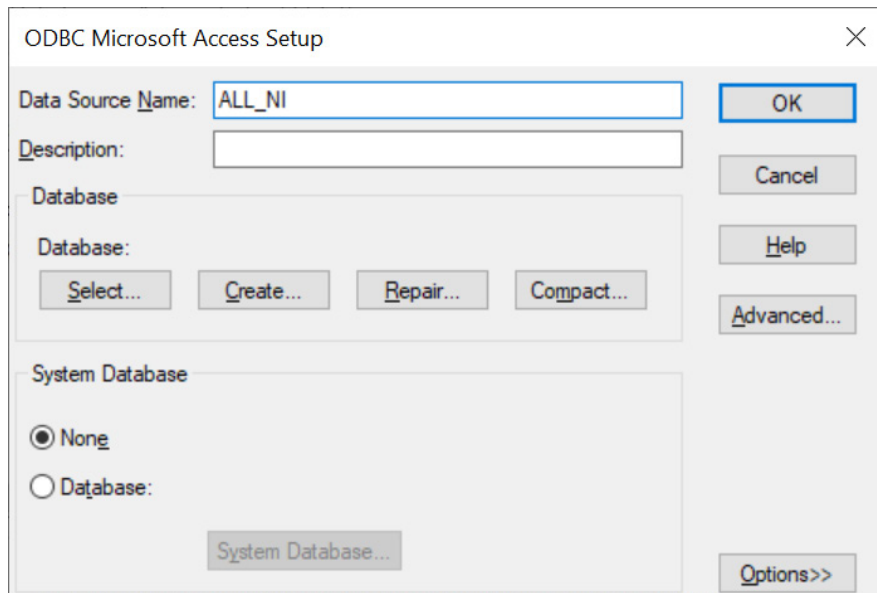
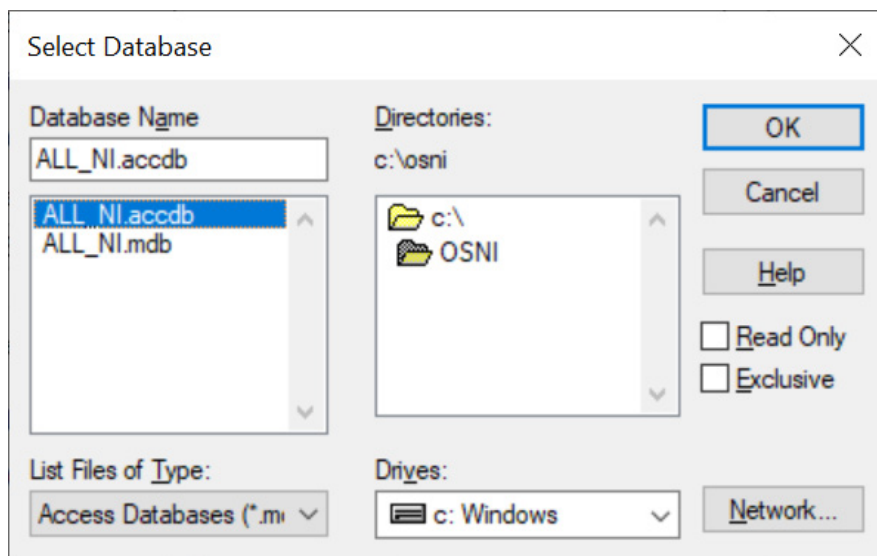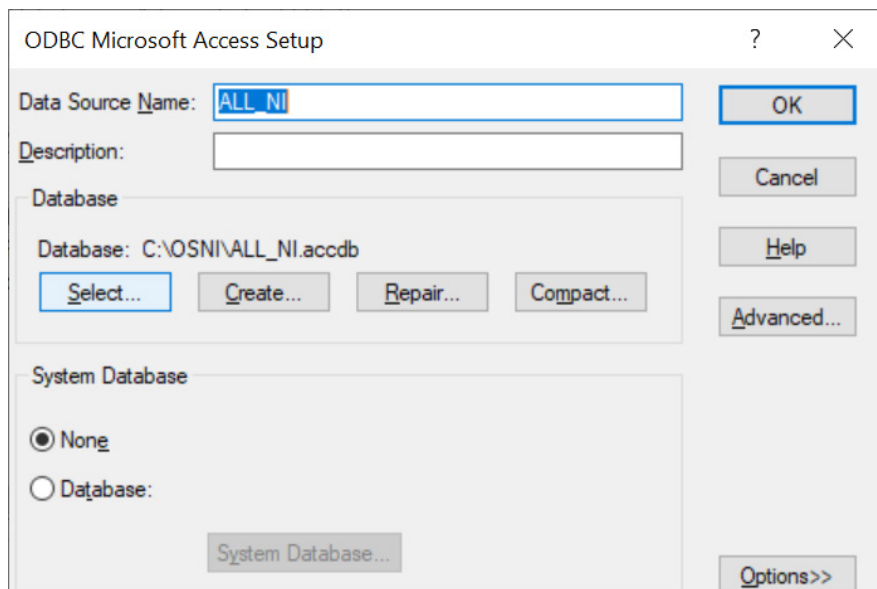## Open ODBC and Add a new Access database as shown:
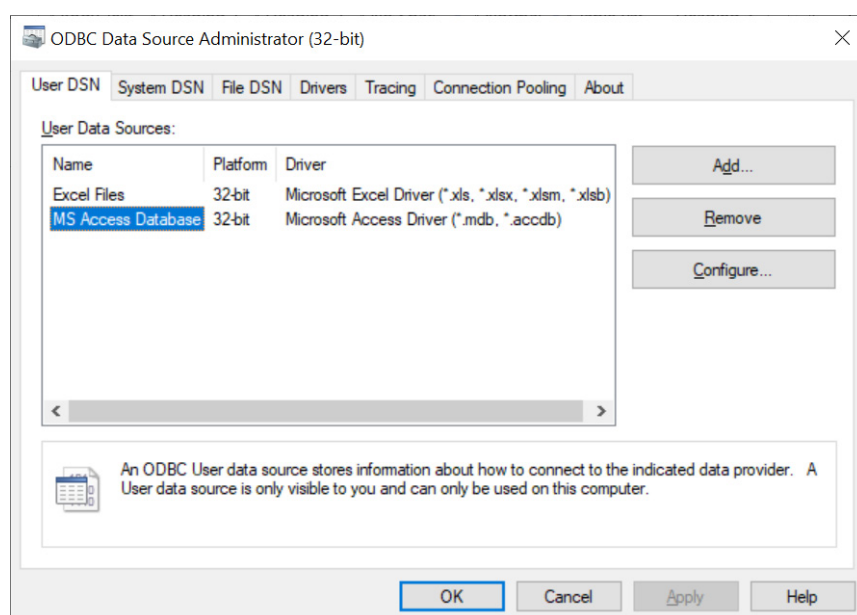
Use the accdb driver:
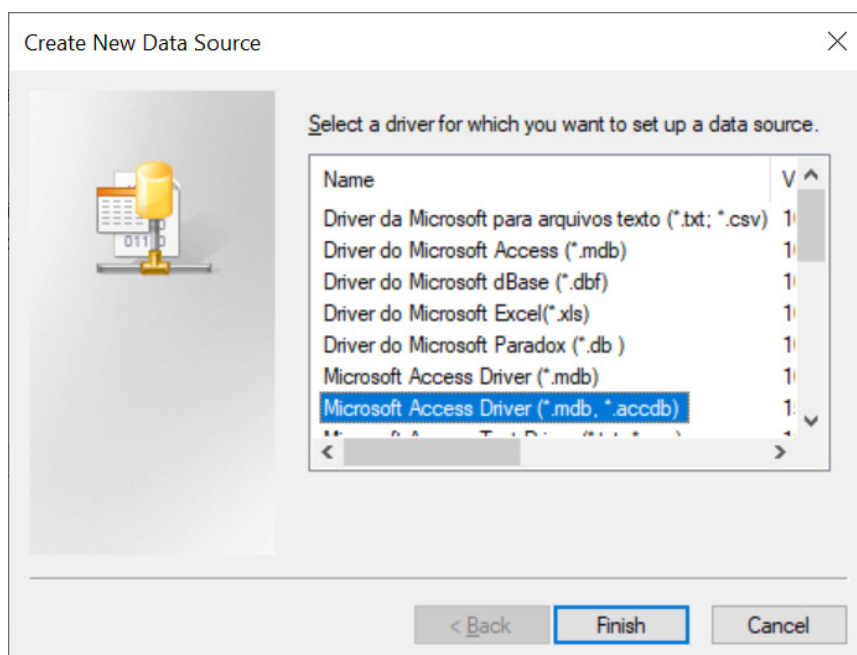
Give the file a data source name. Note this does not have to be the same as the filename.

Then select the database form the directory structure:

Once selected pick okay:


This defines the database.

The data source name is important ie "ALL_NI" in the example above. Keep a note of what it was called.

Select Add ODBC connection and select the source of the file named earlier, "Antrim" in the example.

Please note this is not the actual name of the file, but the shortcut name you created as an ODBC connection earlier.

Select Add ODBC connection and select the source of the file named earlier, "Antrim" in the example.

Please note this is not the actual name of the file, but the shortcut name you created as an ODBC connection earlier.
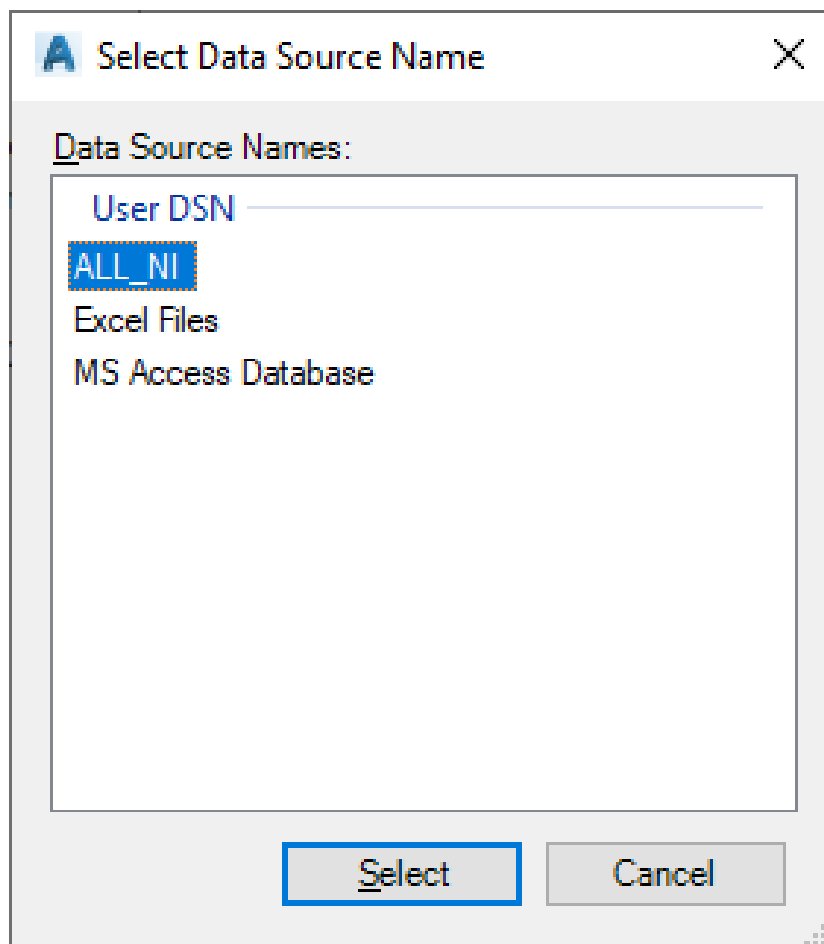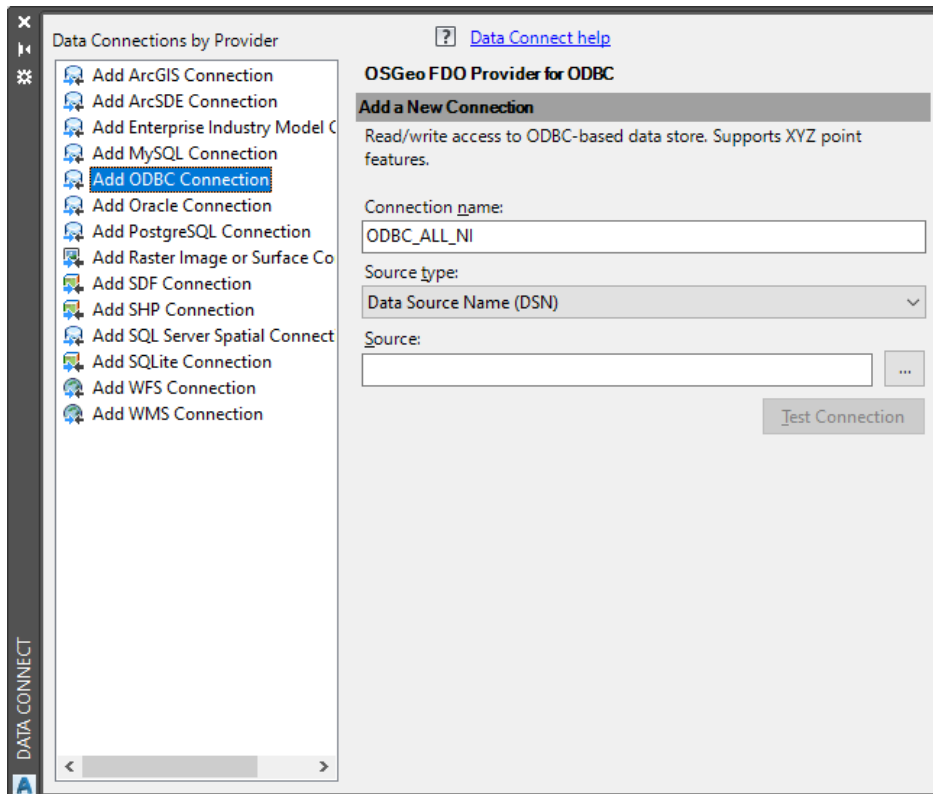
Accept login (no credentials required)

Tick the box next to the Pointer data and then specify the column name, to use for x and y coordinates. Click in the field then click the down arrow to choose from a list of column names. Ensure the columns are wide enough to display the dropdown list.
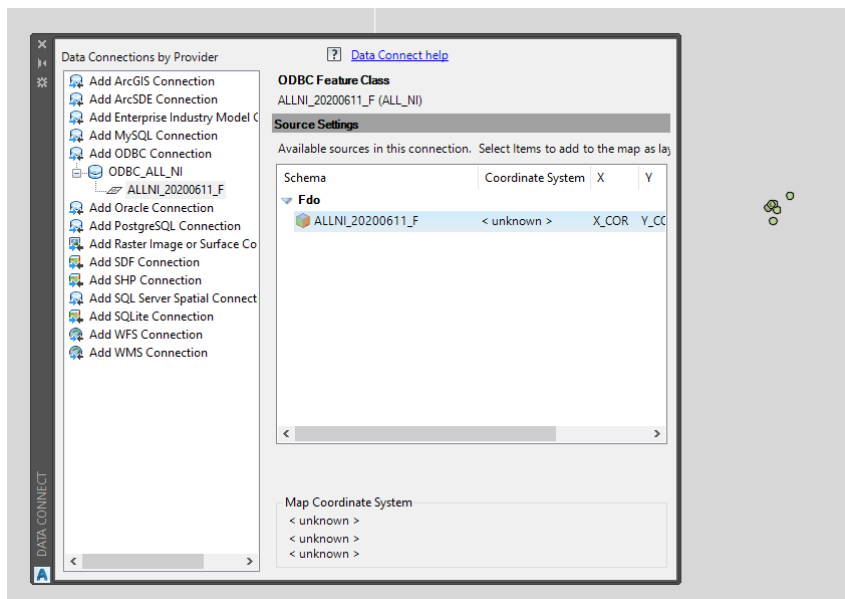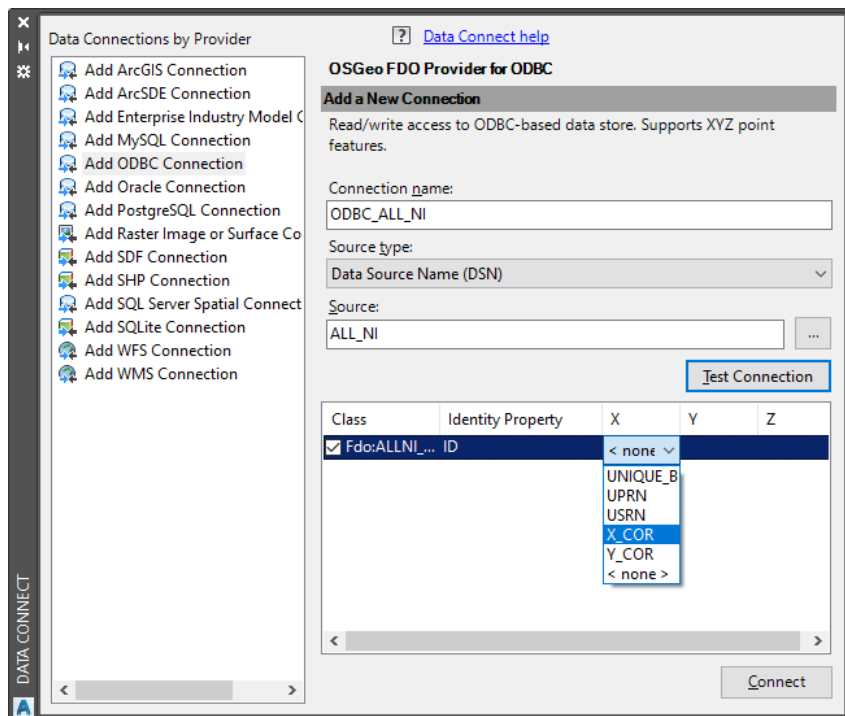
Click Add To Map. 25

If the Add To Map button is greyed, check that you have specified the coordinate system (Irish Grid) and X and Y columns for the table.

The data will appear on the screen. Don't forget the styles can be changed, queried and converted to SDF format

To use within Cadcorp

Select Map, Add, Database Overlay, View Points, Direct from file (browse to the Pointer .csv file), Select Table, Add selected columns, Specify X and Y fields, Finish.