

Grid references help you find an exact location on a map using the grid.

REMEMBER: ALONG THE CORRIDOR, THEN UP THE STAIRS.

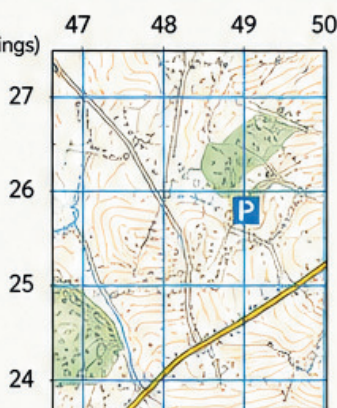
1 THE GRID

Most OS maps have a printed grid of vertical (eastings) and horizontal (northings) lines.

The grid helps you find any place on the map.

→ Eastings
(Left to Right)

↑ Northings
(Bottom to Top)



2 4-FIGURE GRID REFERENCE

Use the grid numbers on the margins of the map.

- 1 Read the eastings (left to right).
Use the first 2 digits.
- 2 Then read the northings (bottom to top).
Use the first 2 digits.
- 3 Put the eastings first, then the northings.

4-Figure Grid Reference
example: **4826**

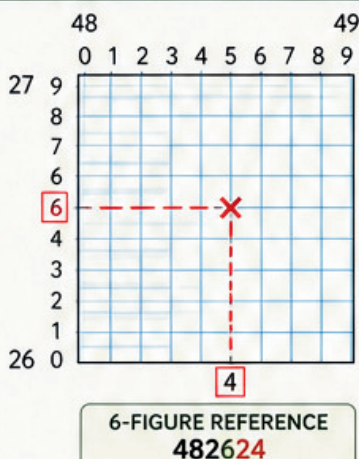


3 6-FIGURE GRID REFERENCE

Use the grid to pinpoint a more exact location.

- 1 Locate your 4-figure square.
- 2 Estimate eastings to the 10th digit (1 tenths).
- 3 Then estimate northings to the 10th digit (1 tenths).
- 4 Read eastings first, then northings.

6-Figure Grid Reference
example: **482624**



 **TIP:** Each grid square is 1 kilometre (on 1:25 000 maps).
Each smaller square (1 tenths) is 100 metres.

4 GRID REFERENCE ON THE GROUND

You can use a grid reference to describe a place to others or to find it yourself.

- 1 Stand the map so north is at the top.
- 2 Identify the place on the ground.
- 3 Find the grid square on the map.
- 4 Give or note the grid reference.

 **TIP:** Double-check your reference and the map scale before you set off.



5 MORE PRECISION

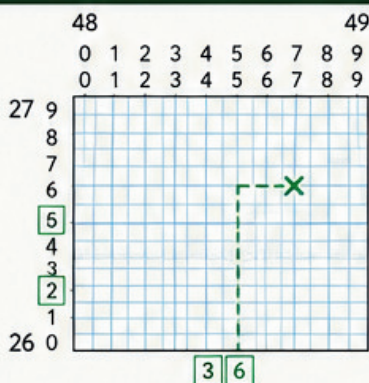
You can give even more precise references by estimating to the 100th (2 tenths) or 1000th (3 tenths) if needed.

Example (2 tenths):

48262362

Example (3 tenths):

482623362



The more digits you use, the more precise the location.

6 HANDY EXAMPLES

Reference	What it means
4826	4-figure reference to a 1km grid square
482624	6-figure reference to a 100m square
48262362	8-figure reference to a 10m square
482623362	10-figure reference to a 1m square

QUICK REMEMBER
**ALONG THE CORRIDOR,
THEN UP THE STAIRS.**

1. Eastings (along)
2. Northings (up)

→ → → ↑ ↑ ↑

EXTRA TIPS



Always check the map scale and key.



Keep your map oriented with north at the top.



Use clear landmarks and features to confirm your location.



Share clear references with your group.



Practice regularly – it gets easier with experience!