

GRID REFERENCES

Definition, how to read a grid reference...



DEFINITION OF A GRID REFERENCE

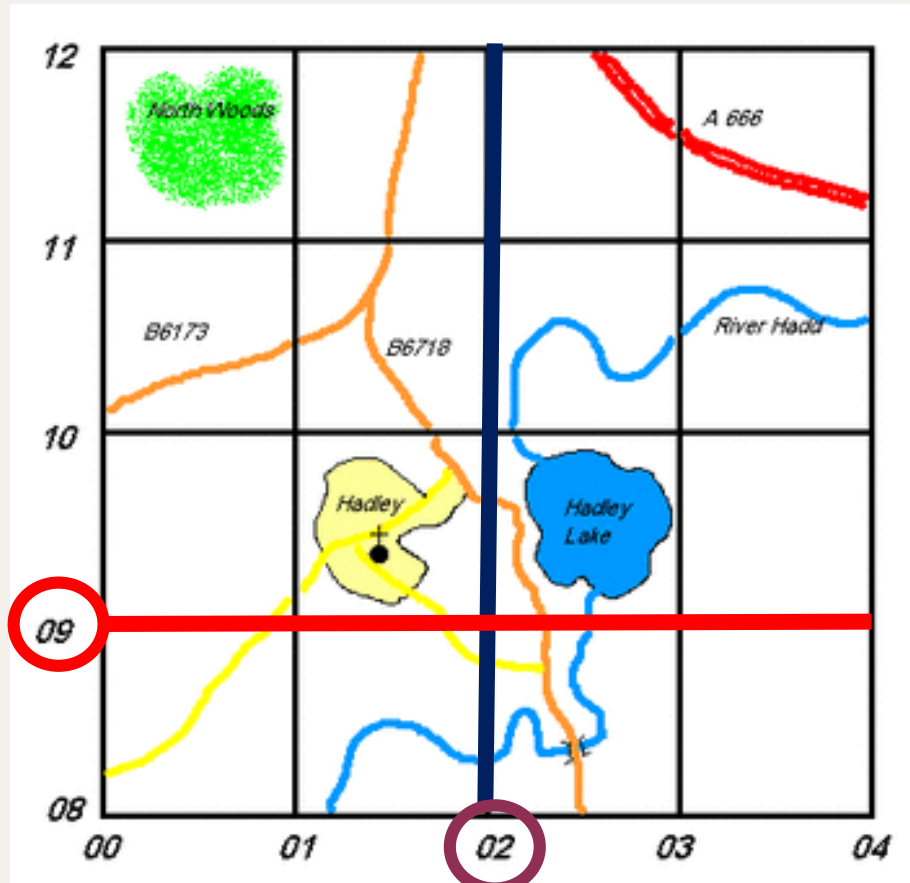
« A grid of squares helps the map-reader to locate a place. The horizontal lines crossing the map from one side to the other are called *northings*. They are numbered – the numbers increase to the north. The vertical lines crossing the map from top to bottom are called *eastings* as the numbers increase in an easterly direction. When you give a grid reference, always give the easting first. »



HOW TO READ A FOUR-FIGURE GRID REFERENCE

- On an OS map each grid square is 1 km x 1 km or 1 sq km.
- Four-figure grid references can be used to pinpoint a location to within a square measuring 1 sq km. To find the number of the square:
- **STEP 1:** Start at the left-hand side of the map and go to the right until the easting crossing through the bottom-left-hand corner of the square you want. Write this number down.
- **STEP 2:** Move north until you get to the northing crossing the bottom-left-hand corner of the square you want. Write the number of this grid line next to the number you already have. This is your four-figure grid reference.

HOW TO READ A FOUR-FIGURE GRID REFERENCE



- **EXAMPLE: HADLEY LAKE**

- **EASTING:** The grid line which is at the left of Hadley Lake is the grid line 02, so this is the easting number.

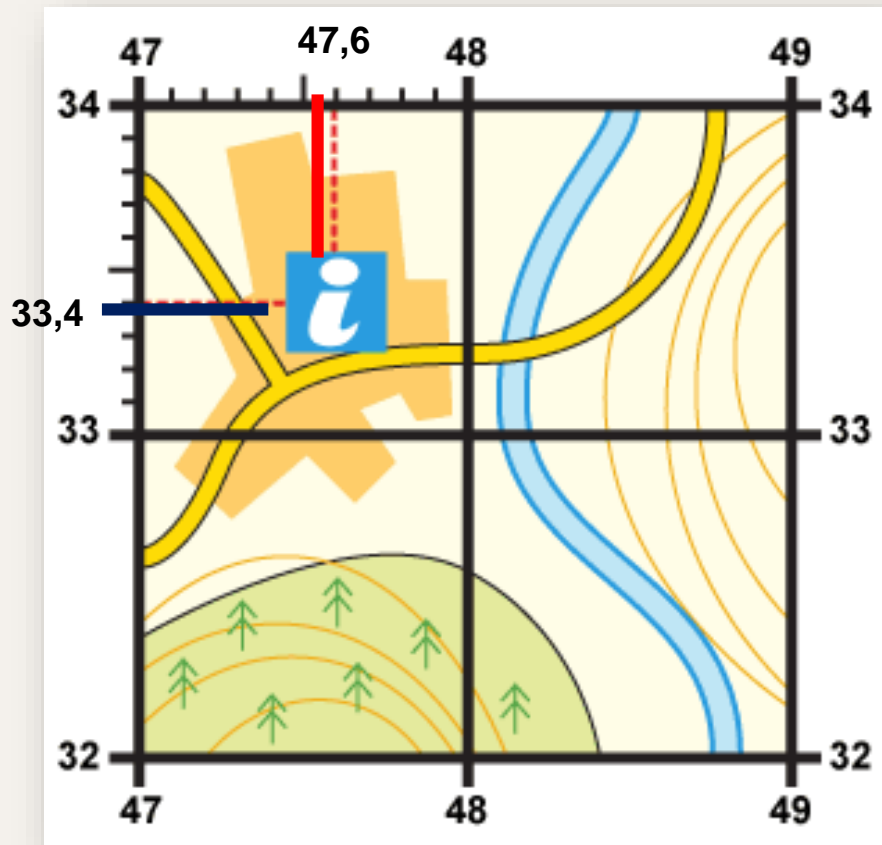
- **NORTHING:** The grid line which is at the bottom of Hadley Lake is the grid 09, so this is the northing number.

→ The four figure grid reference for Hadley Lake is 0209.

HOW TO READ A SIX-FIGURE GRID REFERENCE

- 6-figure grid reference gives a more precise location of a point with a grid square. In this case you can imagine that each grid is divided into 100 tiny squares. The distance between one grid line and the next is divided into tenths.
- **STEP 1:** To use a 6-figure grid reference, divide each space between two eastings into 10 equal intervals, do the same with northings. Each interval or line is $1/10^{\text{th}}$.
- **STEP 2:** Starting with “0” as the number of the first $1/10^{\text{th}}$ and count across from the easting line to where you are and add this to your easting number of your four figure grid reference. Do the same with the northings. You will obtain a six-figure grid reference.

HOW TO READ A FOUR-FIGURE GRID REFERENCE



- **EXAMPLE: TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE (TIO)**
- **EASTING:** The grid line which is at the left of the tourist information office is 47 but the TIO is situated between grid lines 47 and 48, exactly at 6 tenths so the easting 6-figure grid reference is 476
- **NORTHING:** The grid line which is at the bottom of the tourist information office is 33 but the TIO is situated between grid lines 33 and 34, exactly at 4 tenths so the northing 6-figure grid reference is 334

→ The six figure grid reference for the TIO is 476 334