

## Definition

A grid reference is a series of numbers that give the location of a point on a map according to the map's grid lines.

## What are a map's grid lines?




Looking at an **Ordnance Survey** map and you will see that a grid lies over the top of the map's features. Lines in this grid running from North to South are called '**eastings**'. An easting tells you how far east or west a point is on a map. Eastings are quoted first in any grid reference.



Lines running from East to West are called '**northings**' and always form the second part of any grid reference. These tell the reader how far north or south a point is on a map.

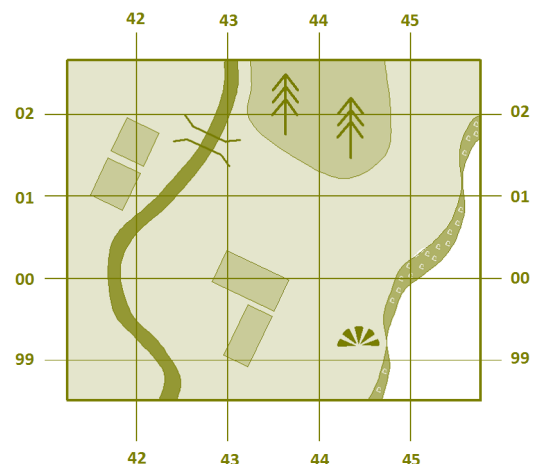
## Four Figure Grid References

Four figure grid references tell the reader the rough location of a feature.

In order to find the location of the bridge  the reader should first find the easting. The easting used in the grid reference is always that found on the left edge of the grid square in question. Therefore in this case the easting is **42**.

Then the reader needs to find the northing. The northing used in the grid reference is always that found on the bottom edge of the grid square in question. Therefore in this case the northing is **01**.

Therefore the four figure grid reference for the bridge is **4201**.



## Six Figure Grid References

Six figure grid references tell the reader a more precise location of a feature.

In order to find the exact location of where the bridge crosses the river, the reader should imagine that each easting and northing has been further divided into ten parts, numbered zero to nine. The more precise easting is the line number (in this case 42) followed by this division number (in this case 8). Therefore the precise easting for the bridge crossing is **428**.

Then the reader needs to find the precise northing. The left edge of the square can also be imagined to have these divisions. Therefore, reading from the bottom of the square to the top, the more precise northing for the bridge crossing is **017**.

Therefore the six figure grid reference for the bridge crossing is **428017**.

