

# Using the National Grid

**1** The National Grid provides a unique reference system, which can be applied to all Ordnance Survey maps of Great Britain, at all scales.

**2** Great Britain is covered by 100 kilometre grid squares, each grid square is identified by two letters, as shown in **diagram A**.

**3** On Ordnance Survey maps these squares are further divided into smaller squares by grid lines representing 10 kilometre spacing, each numbered from 0 to 9 from the south-west corner, in an easterly (left to right) and northerly (upwards) direction, as shown in **diagram B**.

Diagram A

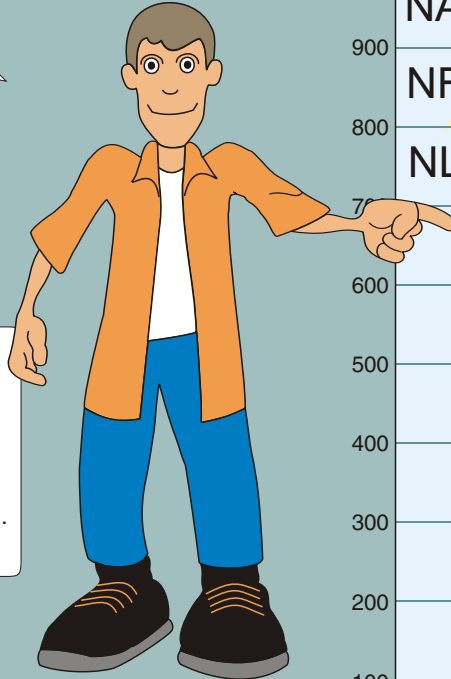
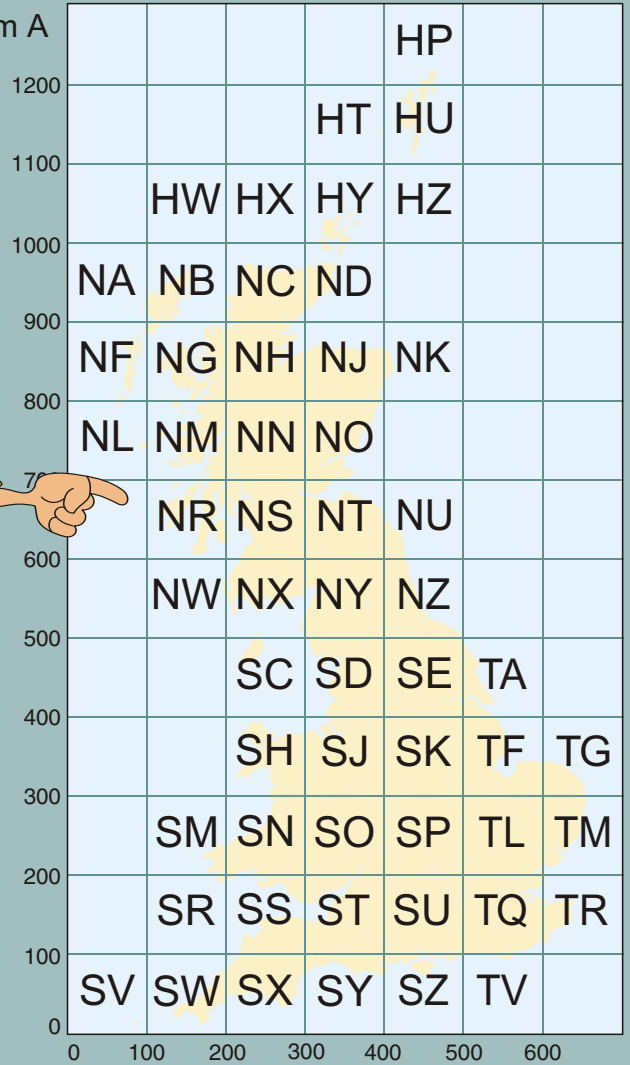
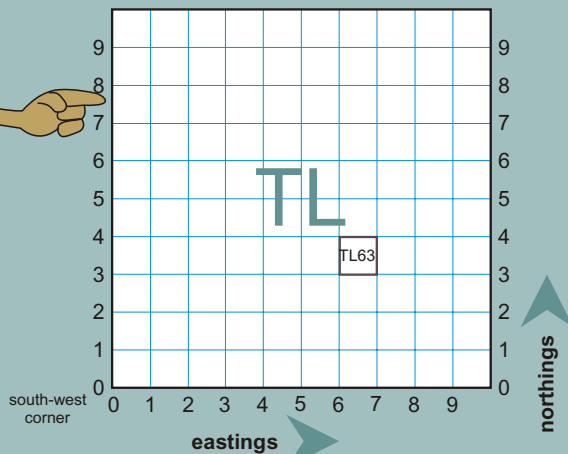



Diagram B



**4** Using this system you can identify a 10 kilometre grid square. For example, here is TL63. After the letters you quote the **eastings** (6) first, then the **northings** (3).

If you have trouble remembering, say...

Along the hall, THEN  Stairs the

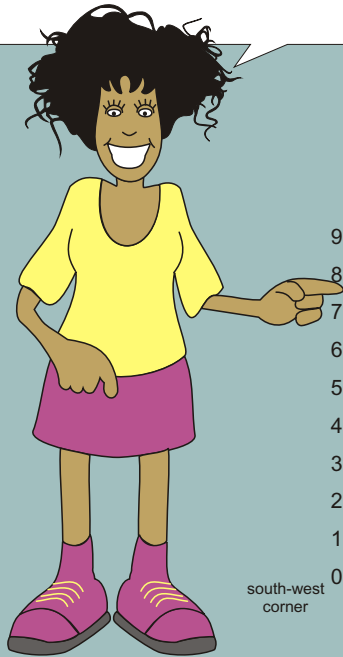
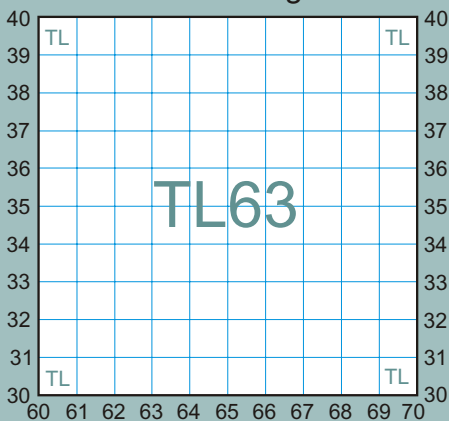


Diagram C



**5** On OS Landranger Maps you can find the two grid letters TL on the legend, or on the corner of the map, and the grid has been further divided into 1 kilometre intervals, as shown in **diagram C**. You can estimate distances between the grid lines to give a more precise reference.

**6** Turn the page and see how easy it is to use a 6-figure grid reference to pinpoint a place on the map...



# Using the National Grid continued

## The 6-figure grid reference

**7** The 6-figure grid reference is very useful to locate a particular place on a map.

**8** By estimating the eastings and northings to one tenth of the grid interval, you can specify a full 6-figure grid reference, accurate to within 100 metres on the ground.

**9** All you do is estimate how many tenths away from the grid your point falls. For instance, the point in **diagram D** is 3 tenths east of grid 62 and 7 tenths north of grid 31.

**10** Once again, reading from the south-west corner, quote all the eastings first, then the northings. The 100-metre grid reference of the point in the diagram is shown like this: TL 623317.

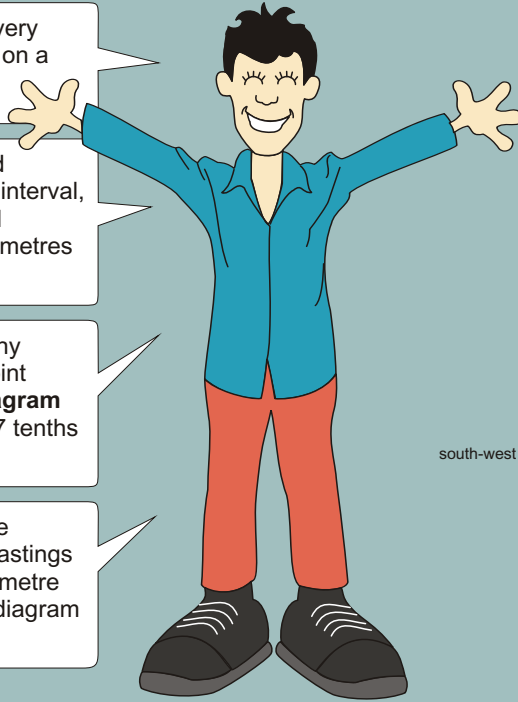
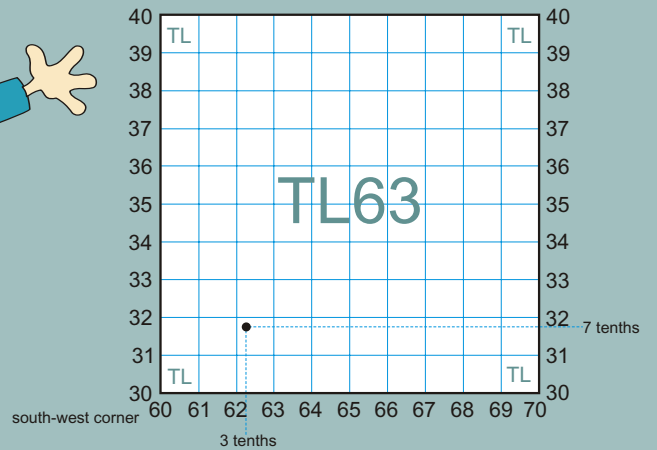


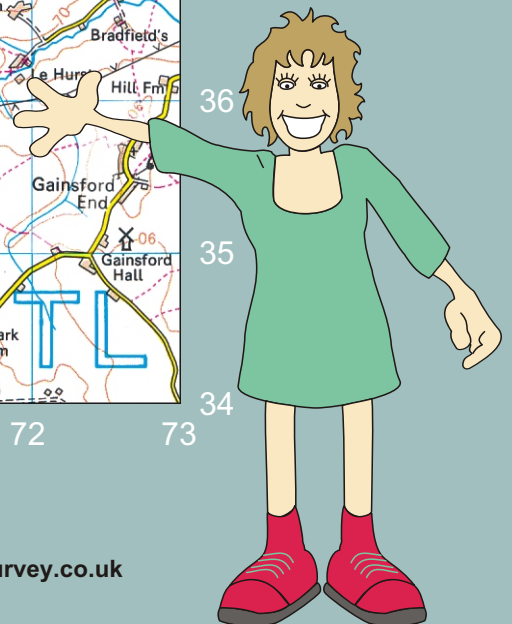
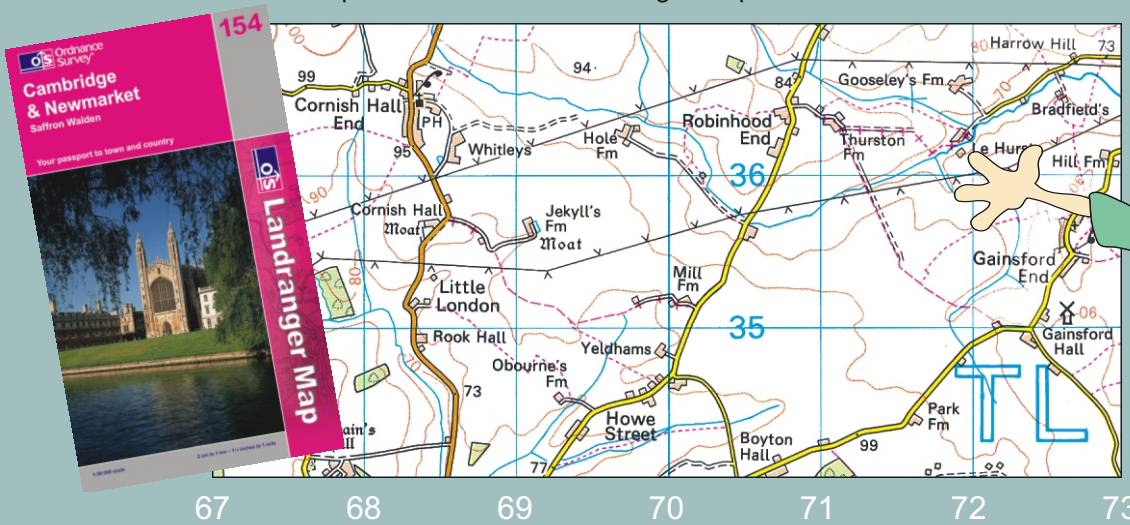
Diagram D



**11** Here is an extract from a 1:50 000 scale map. Use the National Grid reference system to find:

- The Church at TL683365**
- The Windmill at TL726350**
- Mill Farm at TL701352**

Map extract from OS Landranger Map Sheet 154.



**Customer Contact Centre: 08456 05 05 05** (calls charged at local rate)  
**We also have a dedicated Welsh language HelpLine. Phone: 08456 05 05 04**  
**Textphone: 023 8079 2906** (hearing impaired users only please) **Fax: 023 8079 2615**  
**Email: customerservices@ordnancesurvey.co.uk. Email: complaints@ordnancesurvey.co.uk**  
**Web site: www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk**