

# A note on the use of Grid References and OS Tools for Smartphones

## Introduction

Traditionally reporting footpath problems would entail the use of a six figure Ordnance Survey grid reference , preceded by the appropriate letters taken from the OS National grid e.g. SP 095 805 . This provides us with an accuracy of 100 metre square .

With the increasing use and the development of smartphones a number of “Apps” have become available which will allow us to pinpoint areas of interest more accurately e.g. stiles on a footpath . In such cases a ten digit number will be generated , and this will give us the ability to identify a feature to the nearest metre . Free grid reference Apps : Android- GridReferencefreeOS, Apple – GBGridconverter .

If you wish to use a web based system (using a computer or smartphone) , a rather useful grid converter can also be found on the links page of our web site or at

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/gridconvert.html>

This also provides mapping and post code conversion features.

Using the national grid . There is a useful fact sheet on the OS web site , a copy of which is published as a PDF . <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/docs/support/guide-to-nationalgrid.pdf>

## APPS for Smartphones

Ordnance Survey Apps (free for Android and Apple phones ):

- OS Maps – shows your current location on an OS map and the eight figure grid reference, and allows you to download a digital version of a new paper map, with the appropriate code . It also allows you to plot or record routes.
- OS Locate - shows your current location and altitude on a compass , and a six figure grid reference , allows you to share your location with friends , and there is a link to Mapfinder (see below).
- OS Mapfinder – shows current location on an OS map and the ten figure grid reference , also allows you to share location and buy digital maps . Also it allows you to plan or record walks.

Post Code Finder (Free) – available for Android Phones

- Postcode Finder

Rob Swainston  
Footpaths Secretary  
May 6<sup>th</sup> 2017