



British Household Panel Survey, waves 1-18 (1991-2009)

**User Documentation: National grid reference (GRIDREF: EASTING,
NORTHING, OSGRDIND)**

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National grid reference (Easting, Northing, Osgrdind)

The British National Grid is a common referencing format for all geographic data in Great Britain. The result is that any location can be described in terms of its distance from the origin (0,0), which lies to the west of the Scilly Isles. Grid references are always presented in terms of eastings (distance east from the origin) and northings (distance north from the origin). Within a Geographic Information System (GIS), British National Grid references are usually stored at 1-metre resolution - eg 271384, 096572 indicates a point 271km, 384m east and 96km, 572m north of the origin. Note: British National Grid references are not used in Northern Ireland, which, along with Eire (the Irish Republic), is covered by the Irish National Grid.

Postcode grid references in the National Statistics Postcode Directory (NSPD) are available in 1 or 100 metre resolution and the majority are derived from the Ordnance Survey product ADDRESS-POINT that contains grid references for each address to 0.1 metre resolution. Newly introduced postcodes will initially have a grid reference that has been imputed by ONS Geography. In due course though these will be replaced by improved ADDRESS-POINT grid references which use data supplied by Ordnance Survey's field surveyors.

The grid references provided for Northern Ireland postcodes are derived from the OSNI product 'Pointer' and use the Irish National Grid system that covers all of Ireland and is independent of the British National Grid. □

No grid references are provided for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

Details of the code ranges:

Data description	Range of codes	Comments
National grid reference - Easting	6 character numeric grid reference or ΔΔΔΔΔΔ (max)	The Ordnance Survey postcode grid reference Easting to 1 metre resolution; blank for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Grid references for postcodes in Northern Ireland relate to the Irish Grid system.
National grid reference - Northing	7 character numeric grid reference or ΔΔΔΔΔΔΔ (max)	The Ordnance Survey postcode grid reference Northing to 1 metre resolution; blank for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Grid references for postcodes in Northern Ireland relate to the Irish Grid system.
Grid reference positional quality indicator (osgrdind)	1-6, 8-9	Shows the status of the assigned grid reference: 1 = within the building of the matched address closest to the postcode mean; 2 = as for status value 1, except by visual inspection of Landline maps (Scotland only); 3 = approximate to within 50 metres; 4 = postcode unit mean (mean of matched addresses with the same postcode, but not snapped to a building); 5 = imputed by ONS, by reference to surrounding postcode grid references; 6 = postcode sector mean, (mainly PO Boxes); 8 = postcode terminated prior to Gridlink® initiative, last known ONS postcode grid reference ; 9 = no grid references available.

Source: National Statistics website: www.statistics.gov.uk

National Statistics Postcode Directory: 2007 User Guide v1

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