



GRID REFERENCE SQUARES

Grid References give the south west corner of a square – the size of the square being dependent upon the number of numerical digits in the grid reference – see below:

SJ		= 100 Kilometre Square
SJ12	- 2 fig. Grid ref.	= 10 Kilometre Square
SJ1234	- 4 fig. Grid ref.	= 1 Kilometre Square
SJ123456	- 6 fig. Grid ref.	= 100 Metre Square
SJ12345678	- 8 fig. Grid ref.	= 10 Metre Square
SJ1234567890	- 10 fig. Grid ref.	= 1 Metre Square
SJ123456789012	- 12 fig. Grid ref.	= 10 Centimetre Square

'SJ' is the 100Km square which covers Cheshire (Vice-county 58). Before Ordnance Survey applied the alphabetic designations to 100Km squares they used numeric designations. Under the old numeric designation the 100Km square covering Cheshire was '33'. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) on computers still use the old numeric system and split the northings from the eastings. So on a GIS the grid ref. SJ123456 would be written as 33/123456 and in the software would be stored as 3123 3456 (note: the 33 is split and half is apportioned to both the northings and the eastings).

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