A Guide to Location Referencing

As part of the National Harvest Mouse Survey, you will need to record the location of the sites you survey, preferably as the point, or a 100 m grid reference, of the rough centre of each of your chosen sites. This is crucial because as part of the survey we need to know where you have been looking for harvest mouse nests, so that we can map where and, just as importantly, where they were not found.

There are multiple ways of finding and recording the location of the site you are surveying, so feel free to use the method that you are most comfortable with, this may include latitude and longitude (either as decimal, degrees or minutes and seconds) or eastings and northings as well as grid reference. There is no right or wrong method to record a site's position and we will accept all formats of recording position. However, please see below for information on some of the various ways in which a location can be identified and recorded. Although not essential, when recording please feel free to also provide a location name, as a secondary source of location information.

We have also produced various printable and digital recording forms to help you record and submit all the survey information. These will be available on the survey webpage (https://www.mammal.org.uk/science-research/harvest-mouse-project/).

Using the Mammal Mapper App

The Mammal Society has developed the Mammal Mapper App as a survey recording tool and this smartphone app (freely available for download from Google Play and Apple App Store) represents one of the easiest methods for determining location, as well as recording other essential survey information. The app uses your phone's inbuilt GPS system to identify and record the position of your survey at the touch of a button. Note: you will need to have 'use location' switched on for the app to allow Mammal Mapper to access your location. Mammal Mapper also has the advantage that once a survey has been conducted, clicking the 'submit survey' will automatically send the information, including site location information, directly to the Mammal Society. For more information on the app and insightful videos of its use please see the survey webpage.

Using an OS map

Ordinance Survey (OS) maps represent a useful and classic method for recording positions, presenting locations as either 'grid references' or the map square that the site is located in. These grid references are recorded as two letters, that identify the 100 x 100 km grid, and subsequent numbers that identify the smaller grids within. The more numbers after the letters the higher the spatial resolution of the grid, i.e. TQ10 is a 10 km, TQ1202 is a 1 km and TQ123 021 is a 100 m grid.

For this survey we would ideally want at least a 6 figure or 100 m grid reference (i.e. TQ123 021). However, in order to record a grid reference you will need an OS map and be able to read a grid reference from it. It is relatively straightforward to extract an OS grid reference using a map and full guidance can be found [here](#)

Using GPS

Mammal Mapper is not the only way you can record your position using a smart phone. There are a number of freely available location apps that can extract OS grid references and latitude and longitude from your current or pinpointed position on a map. The Mammal Society does not recommend any location apps over others and the following list is simply a guide to provide some examples that could be used.

Such apps that are free for you to use include but are not limited to:

[Grid Reference Free OS](#)

[Grid Reference](#)

[UK Grid Reference Free](#)

What3Words

There are also various other ways to record your location, one example is "What3Words". This system gives every 3 m^2 on Earth a unique 3 word name. See [What3Words](#) for more information.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact: surveys@themammalsociety.org.uk