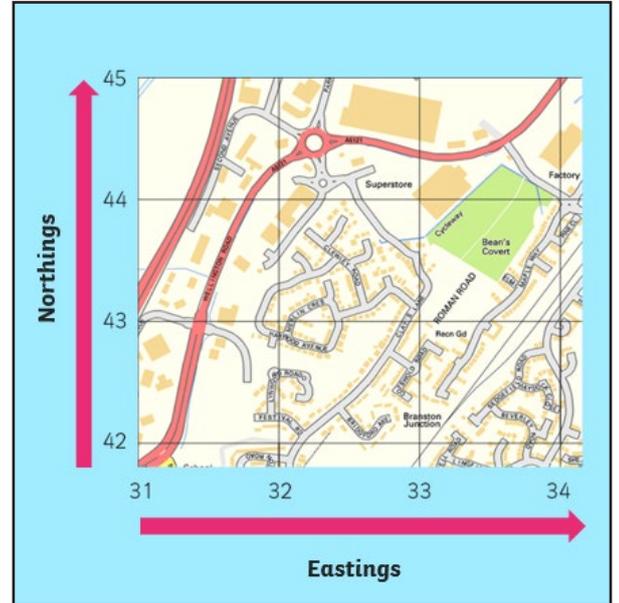


Use an OS Map

An OS (Ordnance Survey) Map is a useful tool if you are planning a route for a long walk off-road. It has symbols to explain the features of different areas so walkers know where and where not to go. You can download OS maps from the Internet or buy them in shops. Use this sheet to help you understand OS maps. Then why not ask an adult to take you out to try and use your skills?

OS maps have a scale. On some smaller maps, 1cm on the map equals 250m in real life. On some larger maps, 1cm on the map equals 500m. Different maps might have different scales, so check on your map to find its scale.

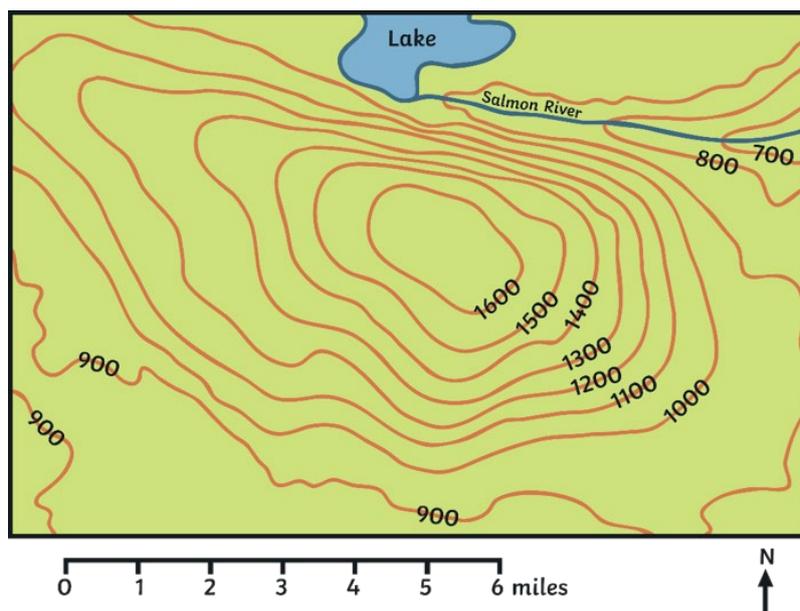
OS maps have faint blue lines which divide the map into square. Along the edges of each map there are numbers. These numbers help you work out where a location is on a map. This would be helpful if you were lost and needed to call for help.



Northings are numbers that go from bottom to top, Eastings go from left to right.

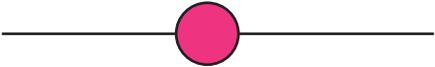
Here are some of the major Ordnance Survey symbols and their meanings. You put the Eastings first, so ROMAN ROAD is (33, 43).

On some OS maps, you will see wiggly lines that look like this:



The closer the lines are together, the steeper the slope.

Here are some other symbols you will find on an OS map.

Symbol	Meaning
	Motorway
	Main road
	Footpath
	Bridleway
	Train station (single black line on its own means rail track).
	Forest
	Important building
	Bus or coach station
FB	Footbridge
	Mud
	River

You could also try some of these activities to test out your OS map reading skills:

- [Map Symbol Matching Activity](#)
- [Using Ordnance Survey Maps](#)
- [Using Maps Pack](#)