

## Safety Alert - what3words

There is no longer any need to struggle to describe exactly where you are, *what3words* is a free app that can pinpoint your location precisely. *what3words* has assigned every 3m x 3m square in the world a unique 3 word address that will never change. Providing you have a signal and data, the app will locate you in one of the 3m x 3m squares.

All English emergency services support the app and can access *what3words* to obtain an accurate location reference. In an emergency, open the app and tap the 'Locate me' icon to find your current 3 word address, then dial 999 and then use this information to tell the operator where you are.

The location can be shared by text, email or WhatsApp. It is particularly useful in remote locations and places where there are no postcodes or it is difficult to describe your location.

Take care, one wrong word can give the wrong location. For example, omitting the last "s" in the example shown below (leads.bride.kinds) gives an address in Wisconsin.

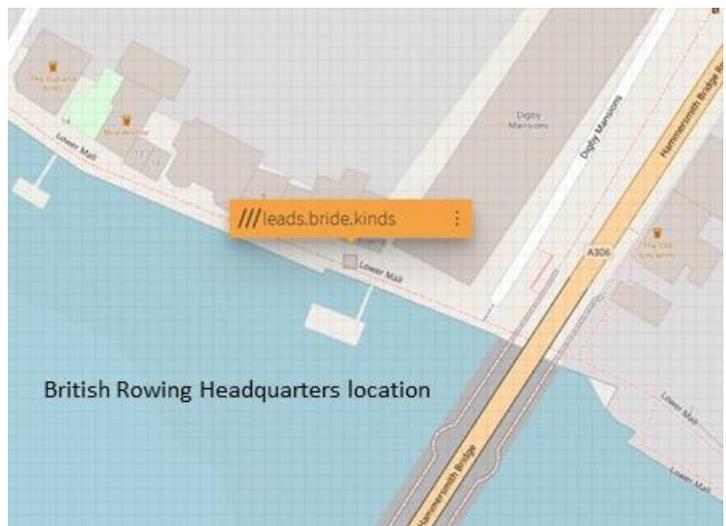
*what3words* references can be used on maps showing the location of your club or event and access points to the water where you row.

Add the references to Club and Event safety documents such as Emergency Plans and Safety Plans and maps displayed in the boathouse. You could also produce laminated cards to be carried in boats, listing these locations.

Make it Club practice to carry mobile phones in waterproof covers when afloat.

*what3words* works on smart phones and pc's. You can find out more about it at

<https://what3words.com> and download it for free through your store app. You can see how it works in the Tutorials at <https://what3words.com/products/what3words-app/>.



## Don't wait for an emergency, try it now

Stephen Worley  
Honorary Rowing Safety Adviser  
[safety@britishrowing.org](mailto:safety@britishrowing.org)

November 2019

[This Safety Alert is a safety guidance document. Please read our safety message and disclaimer in RowSafe.](#)