

# **Solving Puzzle Caches**



**The Not-So-Definitive Guide**

# Puzzle Caches - The Rules

- The posted coordinates are usually bogus coordinates
- Must solve a puzzle on the cache page to get the coordinates
- All clues needed to solve the puzzle must be on the cache page
- All the information to solve the puzzle must be publicly available
- The final cannot be more than 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from the posted coordinates

# Posted Coordinates

- The posted coordinates are usually bogus coordinates

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## Geocache Description:

Cache is not at listed coordinates - this location is not likely to be helpful to you.



- There is no soup at this location...

# Posted Coordinates

- The posted coordinates are usually bogus coordinates
- The final cannot be more than 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from the posted coordinates
- This already gives us much of the final coordinates

# Example Posted Coordinates

- E.g. S 27° 19.088 E 153° 02.282
- 2 miles
  - North: **S27° 17.345'** E153° 02.282'
  - South: **S27° 20.831'** E153° 02.282'
  - East: S27° 19.088' **E153° 04.233'**
  - West: S27° 19.088' **E153° 00.331'**
- **S27** [17-20].??? **E153 0** [0-4].???

# Example - GC88Q0X



GV2020-85

A cache by [GeoVenture2020](#)



Message this owner

Hidden : 2019-05-30

Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆

Terrain: ★★★☆☆

Size:  (micro)



0 Favorites

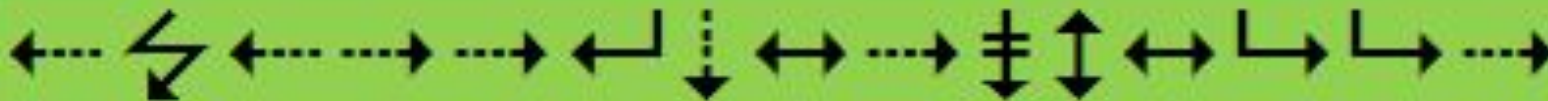


**S 37° 34.989 E 140° 21.543** 

UTM: 54H E 443408 N 5840240

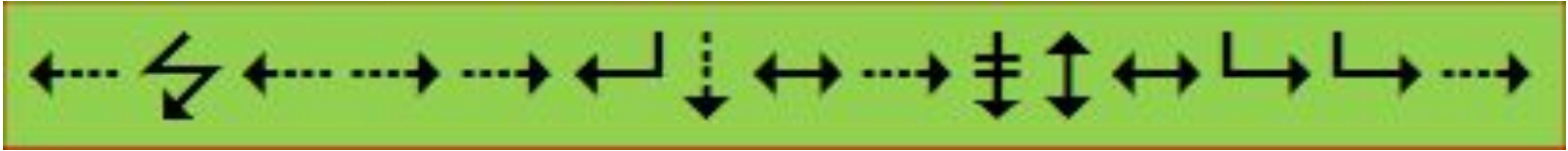
In South Australia, Australia

SW 1645.8 km from your home  
location



# Example - GC88Q0X

- This is probably some sort of code... but I could not find it!



- Lets see what we can do without knowing!
- 15 symbols long
- S ?? ??..??? E ??? ??..???



# Example - GC88Q0X

- S ?? ??.??? E ??? ??.???



- From the placed coordinates we can assume:

**S 37 3?.??? E 140 [1,2]?.???**

- Fill in known numbers:

**S 37 34.4?? E140 21.??4**

# Example - GC88Q0X

- S 37 34.4?? E140 21.??4



- What numbers are left? 5, 6, 8, 9
- Down to 24 possibilities!

# Example - GC88Q0X

- S 37 34.4?? E140 21.??4



- What numbers are left? 5, 6, 8, 9
- Down to 24 possibilities!
- Look at the arrows for 3 & 4
- What can we assume for two of the remaining symbols?
- Down to four possibilities! Time for some guessing...

# Where To Find Clues

- All clues needed to solve the puzzle must be on the cache page
- Some are obvious, some are not...

# Most Puzzle Clues are Obvious

- For lower difficulty puzzles (and many high difficulty ones), the clue is obvious.
- What to do with the clue may be less obvious...

# Most Puzzle Clues Are Obvious

## Geocache Description:

THE CACHE IS NOT AT THE ABOVE CO-ORDINATES

To find the final coordinates you will need to research some history on Sir Isaac Newton to complete the mathematical equation.

While you won't need to be a mathematical genius to solve "THIS" equation, a calculator may come in handy.

According to the new style date (NS) Isaac Newton was born in the year? \_\_\_\_ = A

Isaac Newton died in the year? \_\_\_\_ = B

With the above information, now complete the following equation.

$185.27^2 / A = C$  (To three decimal spaces only)

$53.09^2 / B = D$  (To three decimal spaces only)

The cache can be located at:

S 27° C

E 153° 0 D

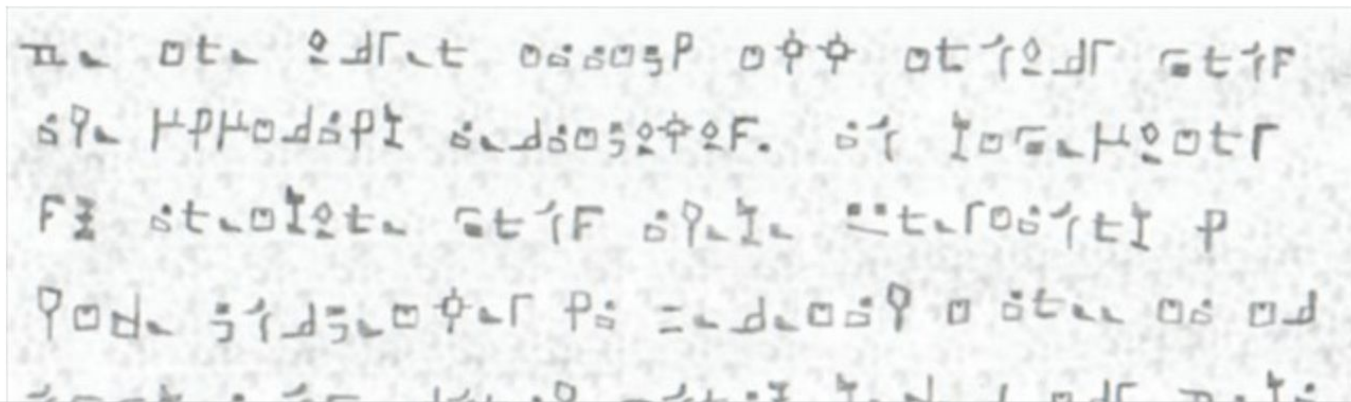
# Most Puzzle Clues Are Obvious

## Geocache Description:

The published coordinates are NOT those of the cache (however, they are a useful starting point -- check out the attributes!)

While excavating for the new Fitzgibbon Chase housing estate, contractors recently unearthed a document buried for many thousands of years. Attempts to decipher it have so far been unsuccessful, though there is a strong suspicion that it describes the location of something else hidden nearby.

Can you unravel the mystery?



# Most Puzzle Clues Are Obvious

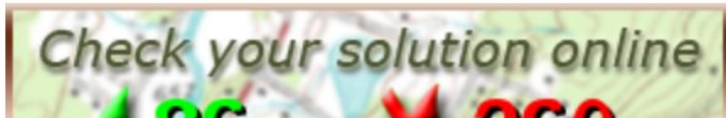
## Geocache Description:

This cache is a dedication to my nana who taught me to crochet at 3.

I decorated three caravans side by side before my chain was perfect enough to learn the next stitch.

The above co-ordinates are not the location of the cache container.

Cache container can be found at S 27° htr dc. dtr (tr + dtr) htr E 153° slst tr. slst htr 2dtr





# Other Puzzle Clues Are Less Obvious...

- Where to look if there is no obvious clue?
- What parts of the geocaching page does the submitter control?
  - Cache description (including images, hint)
  - Owner Name
  - Background image
  - Attributes
  - Inventory

# Other Puzzle Clues Are Less Obvious...

- The cache description can hide text

## **Geocache Description:**

A cache in the Hook series

We hope you enjoy this series.

## **Additional Hints** ([Decrypt](#))

Cerff PGY+N

# Other Puzzle Clues Are Less Obvious...

- The cache description can hide text

## Geocache Description:

A cache in the Hook series

We hope you enjoy this series.

The cache can be found at S 35° 06.774 E 136° 57.798

Additional Hints ([Decrypt](#))

Cerff PGY+N

[Decrypt](#)

[A](#) | [B](#) | [C](#) | [D](#)

# Other Puzzle Clues Are Less Obvious...

- Can have “comments” in a listing’s source code
- View source (“Ctrl + U” on a web browser) and look for “UserSuppliedContent”

```
659      <br />
660      <div class="UserSuppliedContent">
661
662          <span id="ctl00_ContentBody_LongDescription">—— (♥) (♥) (♥) —— (♥) (♥) (♥) ____<br>
663 — (♥) [REDACTED] (♥) (♥) [REDACTED] (♥) ____<br>
664 — (♥) [REDACTED] (♥) [REDACTED] (♥) ____ Two roads<br>
665 — (♥) [REDACTED] (♥) ____ diverged in the woods.<br>
666 — (♥) [REDACTED] (♥) ____ And I took the one,<br>
667 — (♥) [REDACTED] (♥) ____ less traveled...<br>
668 — (♥) [REDACTED] (♥) ____<br>
669 — (♥) [REDACTED] (♥) ____ That's how I<br>
670 — (♥) [REDACTED] (♥) ____ found the cache.<br>
671 — (♥) <!-- Hidden at S 27° 26.731' E 153° 8.546' --><br></span>
672
673      </div>
674
```

# Other Puzzle Clues Are Less Obvious...

- Clues hidden in images (including background images...)
- EXIF
- Steganography
- Do a reverse image search in Google. Has the image been edited?
- Online Tools for Comparing Images (<https://online-image-comparison.com/>)

# Know Your Puzzle Solving Tools

- Geocaching Toolbox ([www.geocachingtoolbox.com](http://www.geocachingtoolbox.com))
- One stop shop for many puzzles!
- Coordinate conversion, projection, notation, intersection of circles, ...
- Text analysis and conversions, digital root, ...
- Encryptions and cyphers
- Many, many code tables
- Image tools

# Example - GC6474Q

## The Puzzle.

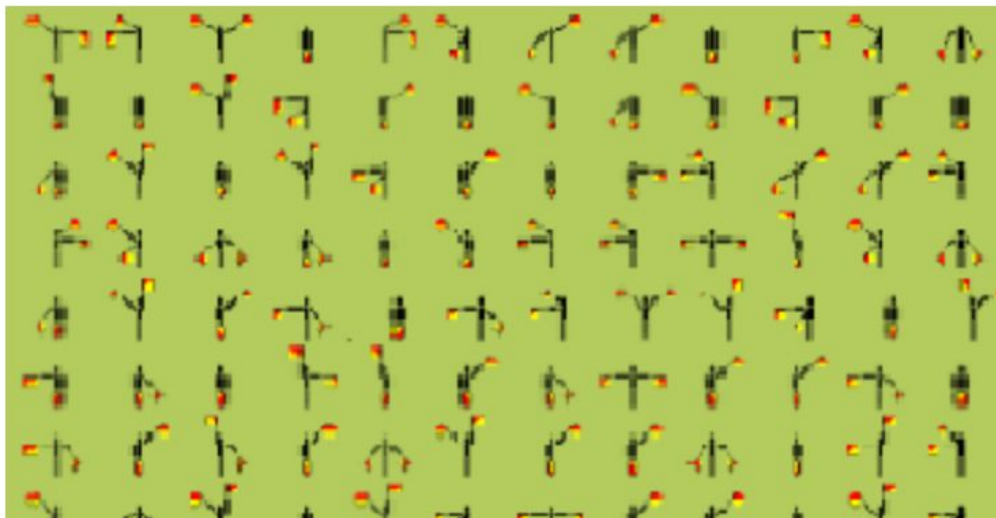
You will need to solve the below puzzle to work out the location of the cache itself.

A nice easy one for the beginner puzzle solvers. Here are the co-ordinates for the cache. 56J 438189 7000225 Just in a different format. You should be able to do this on your GPSr.

# Example - GC6AEDD

## The Puzzle.

You will need to solve the below puzzle to work out the location of the cache itself.





# Know Your Puzzle Solving Tools

- Other useful sites
- Multi Decoder ([http://fbcs.bplaced.net/multi\\_encoder\\_decoder.html](http://fbcs.bplaced.net/multi_encoder_decoder.html))
- dCode (<https://www.dcode.fr/>)
- Cipher Identifier (<https://www.boxentriq.com/code-breaking/cipher-identifier>)
- Geocaching Code Book (<https://geoleaks.com/gccodebook-v2-0-h.pdf>)
- Red Luth Riddle Tools (<http://luthorien.altervista.org/Tools/>)
- ....

# Example - GC64754

## The Puzzle.

You will need to solve the below puzzle to work out the location of the cache itself.

PSAJPU OARAJ ZACNAAO VANK AECDP LKEJP OET VANK PDNAA IEJQPAO OKQPD WJZ KJA BEBPU PSK  
ZACNAAO PSAJPU PDNAA LKEJP PSK OARAJ PSK IEJQPAO AWOP EO SDANA UKQ SEHH BEJZ PDA  
YWYDA BKN PDEO LQVVHA AJFKU PDA NEZA KJ UKQN IKQJPWEJ XEGA KN DKNOA KN FQOP SWHG  
PDANA.

# Example - GC64747

## The Puzzle.

You will need to solve the below puzzle to work out the location of the cache itself.

VGhIIGNhY2hIIGlzIGxvY2F0ZWQgYXQgdGhIIGZvbGxvd2luZyBjby1vcnRpbmF0ZXMGUyAyNyAwNi4wM

# Big Walls of Text

Sometimes the cache listing just has a big wall of text?

How to approach these?

# Big Walls of Text

Sometimes the cache listing just has a big wall of text?

How to approach these?

# PANIC!

# Example - GC2E4CA

## Geocache Description:

Hey everyone! I've hidden another cache!

It's not particularly hard to find, as long as you know where to look, but I'm not going to make it easy for you, either. You just have to use your brain to solve my little puzzle.

See, I've been thinking, there's plenty of number puzzles out there, so I thought I'd do something different.

I do hope you enjoy figuring this one out. Geocachers are a clever bunch, I know, so I'm sure you'll have no hassles working out the coordinates. You just have to put on your thinking cap, and look at what is right in front of you. Everything you need (except for the hint) is here in this text.

It's quite simple, honestly. You'd be surprised just how simple, in fact.

There are no obscure number sequences to confuse you, no tricky mathematical formulae or the like. Just a short little essay that I've written for you. There's most definitely nothing more to it.

Once you've figured it out, the cache itself is not difficult to find. You'll be able to spot the feature that I've placed it beneath without any trouble at all. The container is camouflaged, but it's in rather an obvious location.

With that, you have all the info you need to find my cache. Good luck!

[Click here to verify your solution](#)

# Big Walls of Text

Sometimes the cache listing just has a big wall of text?

How to approach these?

- Look for hidden text or numbers
- Are there words that could be converted into numbers?
  - Hardness scale
  - Wind scale
- Does the text read strangely?

# Example - GC9687F



## INTO THE BILLOWING WIND

ALONE BY THE FIRE, SMOKE FROM HIS PIPE  
RISES VERTICALLY THROUGH THE NIGHT

WITH THE SUN, THE BREEZE AROSE  
SMOKE DRIFTS ACROSS THE FIELD AS SHE GOES,

AND SMOOTH SHE RUSTLES FAR AND WIDE  
DUST, LEAVES AND PAPER LIFTED BY HIS SIDE.

THROUGH ALL THE LAND HER TALE SHE MAY  
SMALL TREES AND LEAVES BEGIN TO SWAY



# Just Google It

- If all else fails, try pasting the puzzle in Google
- Might find an easier variant on the puzzle elsewhere in the world
- Or...

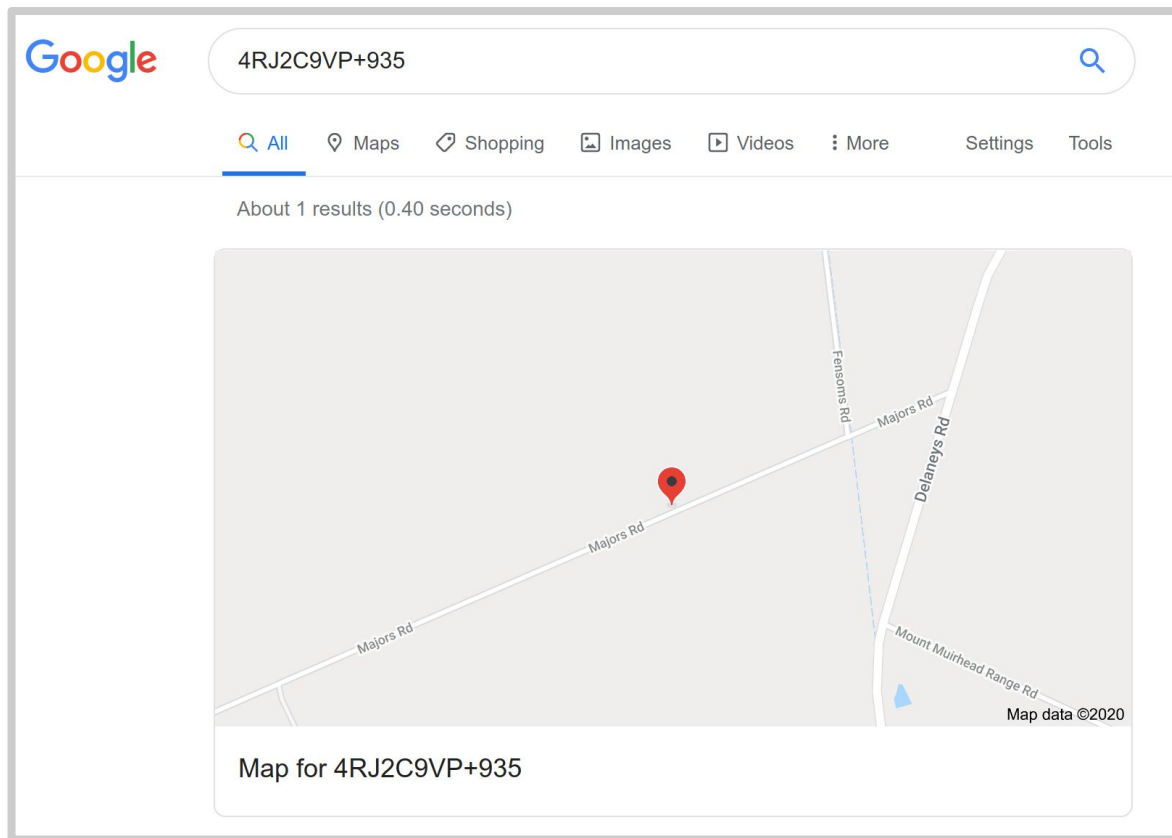
## Example - GC88PZD

Solve the following puzzle to find the geocache.

**4RJ2C9VP+935**

- I have no idea what this is...
- Paste it into Google

# Example - GC88PZD



# Starting Your Puzzle Solving Journey

- Pick easy difficulty puzzles to start with
- Don't worry if you can not solve a puzzle! It will still be there when you improve your puzzle solving skills.
- Read the logs. A naughty solver may have left a subtle hint... Cache owners probably do not like people doing that!
- Ask the CO for a hint. People want their caches found. (But do not expect a big hint for a D5 - they are supposed to be hard!)

# Starting Your Puzzle Solving Journey

- Try some geoart!

