

## Grid References

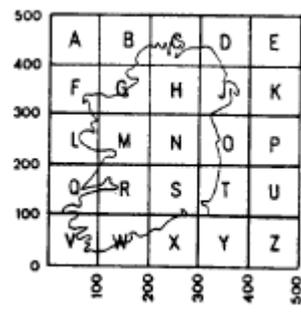
This resource will help you with the following stages;

**Stage 4** – I can follow our route on a map and find the main points using a compass.

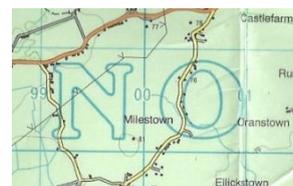
**Stage 5** – I know the main principles of navigating using a map and compass.

**Stage 5** – I can complete and use a route card.

As Scouts, we need to be able to identify places exactly on a map - for example we may wish to describe to emergency services exactly where we are or co-ordinate the group met at a specific place. Maps of Ireland generally use the national grid. It is a set of 25 squares measuring 100km x 100km. Each Square is identified by a letter, from A – Z with I omitted as it can be mistaken for 1 (L).



Ireland is covered by 89 1:50,000 (Discovery Series) maps and sometimes these maps overlap two or more of the national grid divisions – if you choose the wrong letter you will be 100km out so look for a large blue letter on the map.



### In the Grid

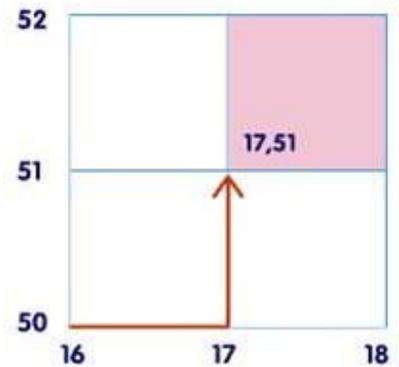
Each of these squares is further divided into 100 smaller boxes. These are demonstrated by a series of light-coloured (blue on Discovery Series maps), vertical and horizontal lines, covering the whole map in squares.

Each line is numbered on the edges of the map, so that each square can be identified by its vertical and horizontal number. The vertical lines are called ‘easting’s’, because their numbers always increase from west to east (left to right). The horizontal lines are called ‘northing’s’ as their numbers always increase from south to north (bottom to top).

To identify a particular square on the map you give its grid reference by quoting the numbers of its grid square. This consists of giving the number of the easting on the left side of the square, plus the number of the northing at the bottom of the square.



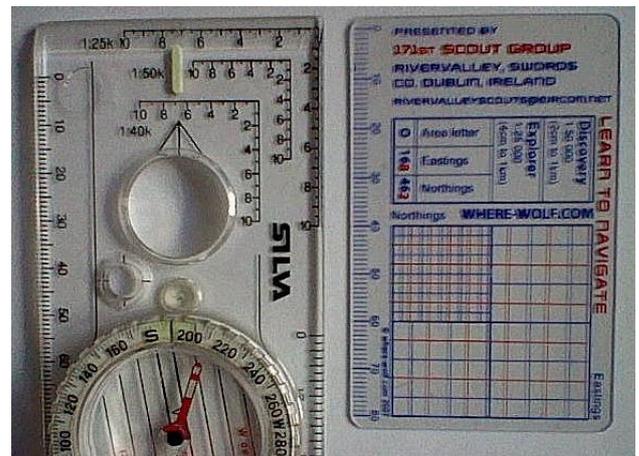
For example in the diagram below the coloured square would have a grid reference 1751. You go across the easting at the bottom and up the northings on the side. This is known as a four figure grid reference. This image is from the UK Scout Association's document on grid references: [goo.gl/Cv74Hq](http://goo.gl/Cv74Hq)



## Six – Figure Grid Reference

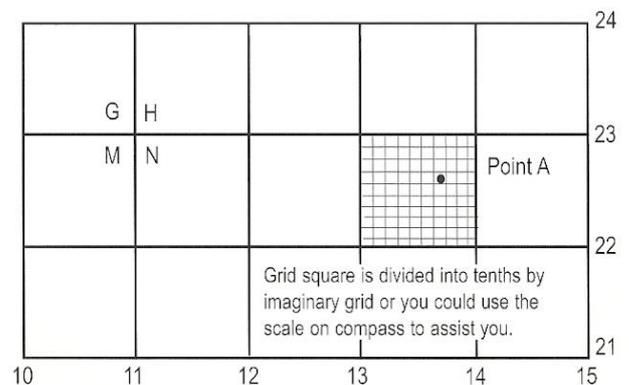
If you want to give a precise location, accurate to within 100 meters (the distance you should be able to see in reasonable visibility) you mentally divide the grid square into tenths.

These divisions are often marked out on a compass base or you could use a roamer



## Putting it all together

1. Find the grid letter (N)
2. Going left to right across the map find the line nearest **and to the left** of your location. This is your easting, the first two numbers of your reference. (13)
3. Divide up the grid square into tenths from left to right and state your location as a decimal. This is your third number (7)
4. Going from bottom to top find the line nearest **but below** your location. This is your northing, the fourth and fifth numbers in your reference (22)
5. Divide up your grid square into tenths from bottom to top and state your location as a decimal. This is your sixth number (7)



Grid reference for point A is N 137 227

