

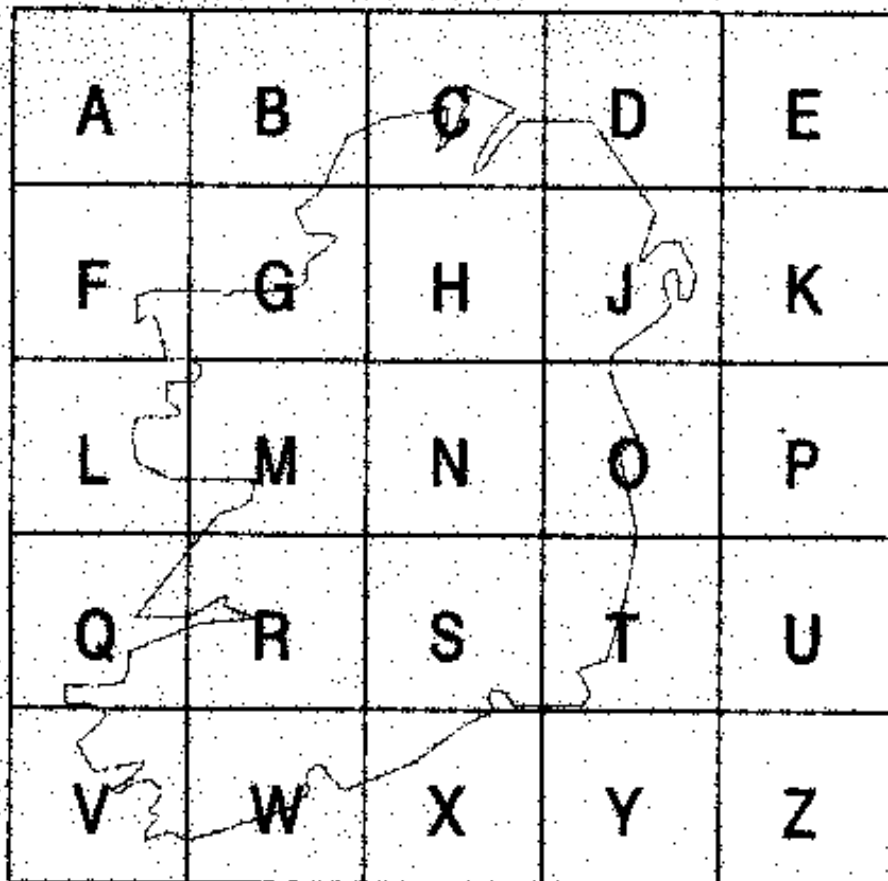
Grid Reference

Grid Reference is a way of defining where you are in the country

Ireland is covered by the National Grid

Each square is 100km x 100km

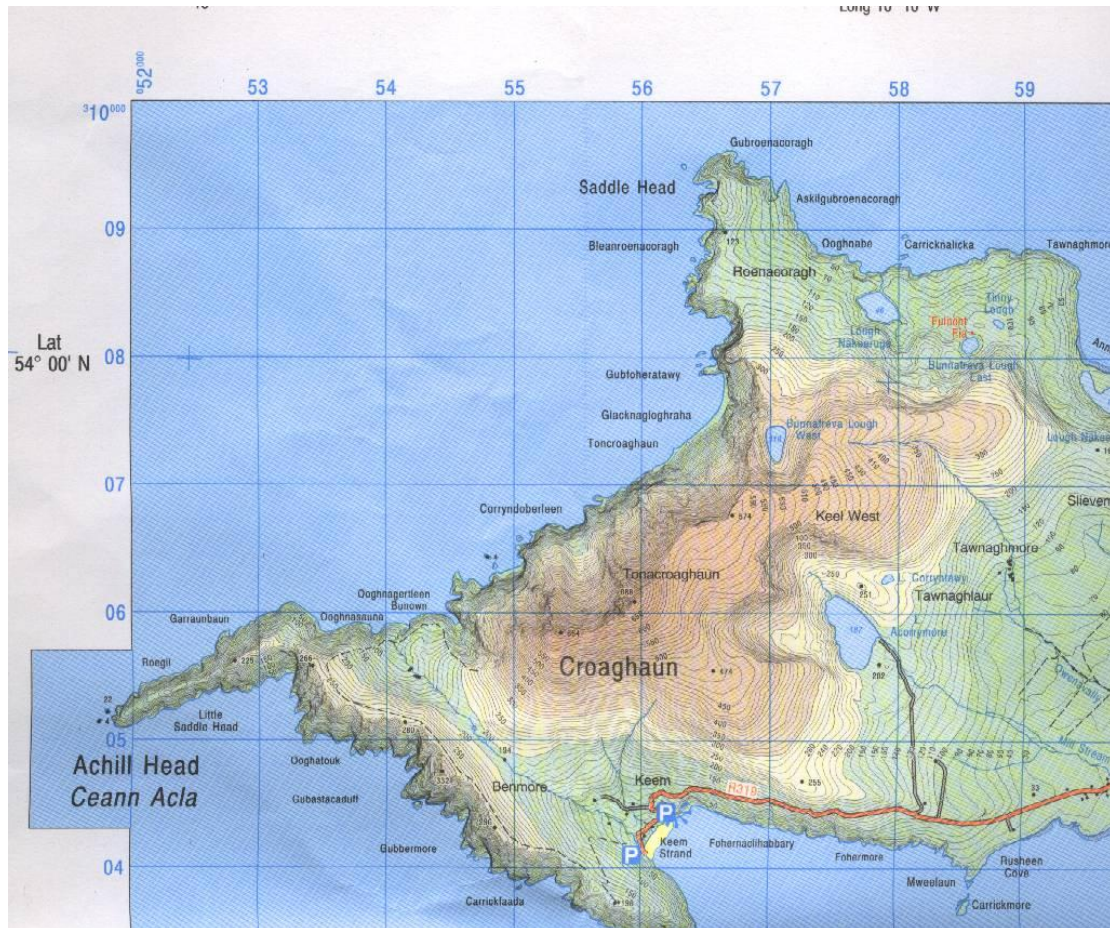
Each square is also given a letter



Grid Reference

This grid is then broken down to squares of 1km x 1km

These are the grid lines on our map



The grid is made up of the Eastings (Vertical lines) and the Northings (Horizontal lines)

Grid Reference are given in one of two ways

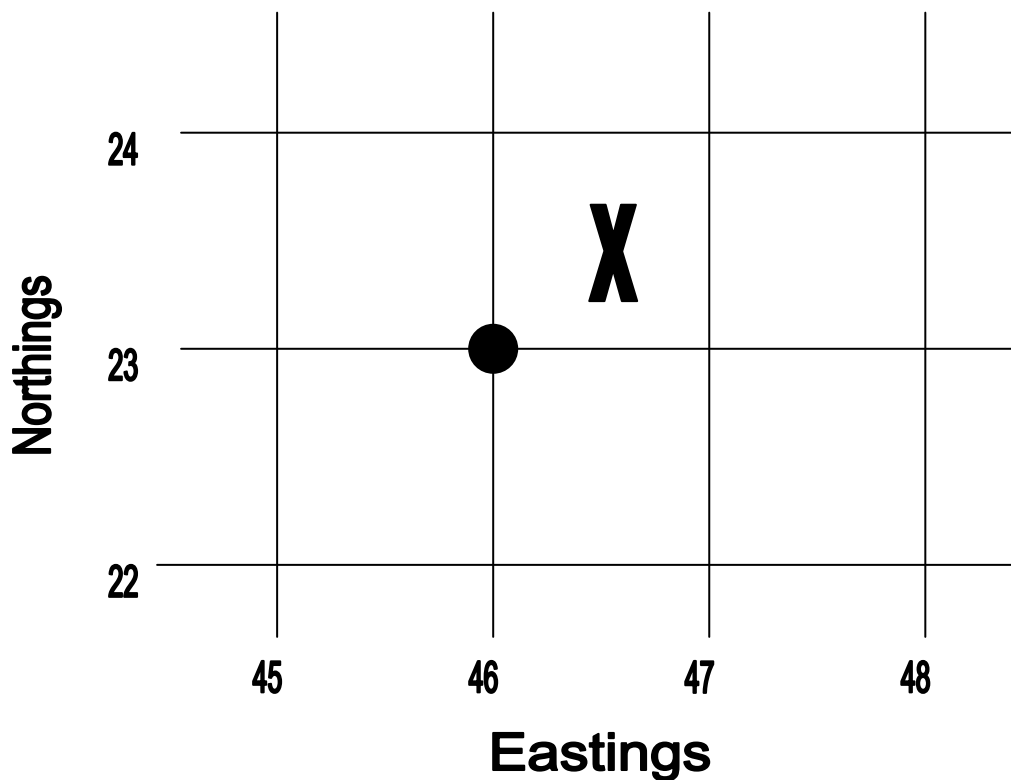
4 Figure - Used to identify a 1km x 1km square

6 Figure - Used to identify a location 100m x 100m

Grid Reference

4 Figure Grid Reference

We use a 4 figure grid reference if we want to identify a large object e.g. a lake



To give a 4 figure grid reference of the marked square we give the numbers of the two lines that cross at the bottom left of the square.

As with any graph or grid we say the numbers along the bottom first

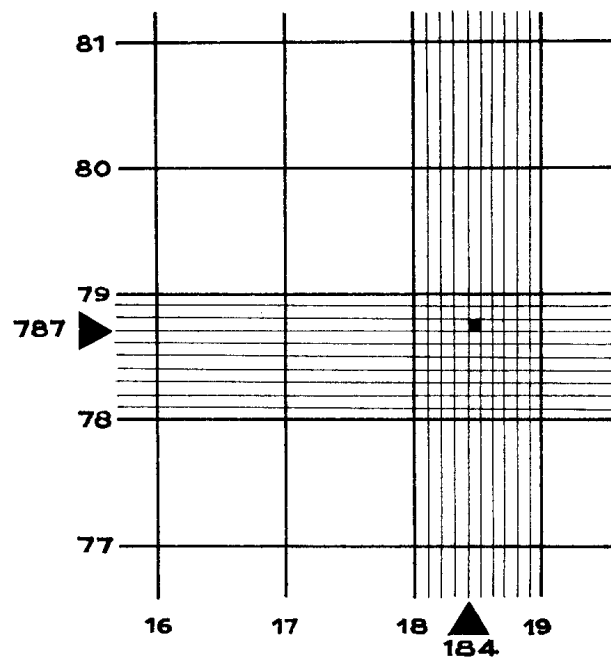
Therefore the 4 figure grid reference is **4623**

Grid Reference

6 Figure Grid Reference

The 6 figure grid reference is used when you want to identify a smaller object inside a square e.g. a stream junction

We need to subdivide our 1km x 1km square into smaller 100m x 100m squares



For the smaller square we still use the two subdivision lines at bottom left

The 4 figure reference for the main square is 1878 and the numbers of our 100m x 100m square is 4 and 7

The 4 is part of the eastings, and the 7 is part of the northings

Therefore the final 6 figure grid reference for our small area is **184787**

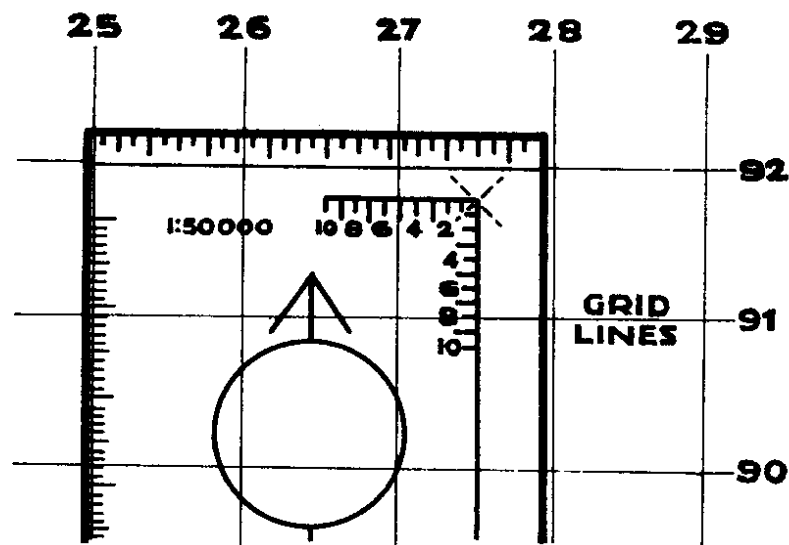
Remember, this points to an area 100m x 100m – not a specific point

Grid Reference

The easiest way to get a 6 figure grid reference is by using a Roamer

If you have a roamer on your compass, make sure that you use the 1:50000 roamer

Place the corner of the roamer on your object



To get the eastings, number read along the horizontal part of the roamer

To get the northings, read along the vertical part of the roamer

We never round up to the nearest number, we always round down to the nearest number

Grid Reference for above would be **275918**

Grid Reference

If you don't have a roamer you need to use the millimetre ruler, and measure the distance between the two grid lines and your object

When you have the amount of millimetres half it, and then always round down as with the roamer. This is your number

For example, If the 4 figure for our square is 2475, and our object is 13.5mm from the easting line, half this is 6.75 and then round down to 6

And if it is 5mm from the northing line, half this is 2.5, so we round down to 2

So your final grid reference is 246752

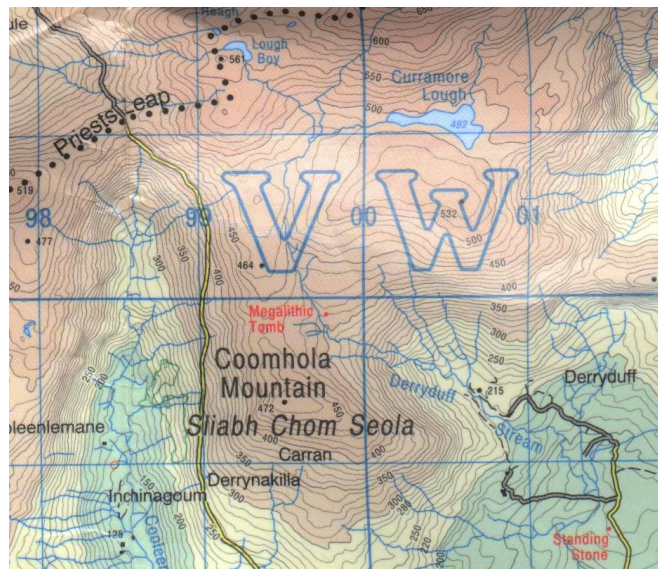
Grid Reference

Each grid reference is repeated in each of the 100km x 100km square of the National Grid

So to be unique, you need to add the letter of the National Grid square that your point is in e.g. **V184787**

This letter is printed somewhere on your map.

If a map covers an area that is in more than one of the main national grid squares, there will be more than one letter on the map. So make sure you use the correct letter



On this map any grid reference that you give that is to the left of the 00 line, the letter to use is V.

Any grid reference that you give that is to the right of the 00 line, the letter to use is W