

MAKING A SIMPLE MAP AND LOCAL STREET PLANS

Bird's Eye View

Maps today are created from an aerial photograph or collection of photographs which ensures greater accuracy than if compiled at ground level. Hence a map can be compared with a bird's eye view but is only accurate on the day it is drawn.

By using the map and the photograph, the cadet can see how the land is used. The area can be divided into uses — housing, leisure, transport and industry. However, for local use, a simple street plan is of more use to show points of local interest.

Scales

Because it is impossible to make a map the same size as the country which it represents, everything on the map has to be reduced, i.e., scaled down in a fixed proportion. The scale of a map is the proportion which the distance between two points on it bears to the distance between the same two points on the ground. Thus, when comparing two map sheets, each of exactly the same size, one might show the whole of England and Wales while the other might show only a small district. In other words, the scales of the two maps would be different.

The method of expressing a scale is as a representative fraction (RF). For example, the representative fraction 1:50,000 (the scale of the map most frequently used) means that one centimetre on the map represents 50,000 centimetres on the ground, and one metre on the map represents 50,000 metres (50 kilometres) on the ground. The representative fraction 1:25,000 (the scale of the map sometimes used) means that one centimetre on the map represents 25,000 centimetres on the ground and one metre on the map represents 25,000 (25 kilometres) on the ground.

Grids

To describe an exact position on a map can be lengthy and inaccurate unless a logical and precise method is used. The method most usually used is a grid.

A grid is formed on a map by vertical and horizontal equidistant lines. On local street maps and road maps, the squares formed by the grid lines are usually numbered or lettered