Grid References



The whole country is divided into squares each one being 100 Kilometres (1 kilometre is a thousand meters) across. Each square is represented by a two letter code as shown in the diagram.

Figure 1 - National Grid

These large squares are then subdivided into smaller squares each one being 1 kilometre across. These squares are represented using the numbers 00, 01, 02...99 which increase towards the east and are called **Eastings** or increase towards the north and are called **Northings**.



Figure 2 - The Square TL Subdivided

We can the identify the squares using this grid system for example;

The **red** square is at grid reference: TL 63/36 The **green** square is at grid reference: TL 67/34

When writing down a grid reference we first quote the Eastings then the Northings. This is summed up by the saying 'along the field and up the tree'.



Figure 3 – Identifying a square

We can then subdivide these smaller squares even further into smaller squares; this allows us to identify an area of land 100 meters square. The extra numbers needed are not given in the maps marginal information and must be obtained using a **Romer** (found in the top right hand corner of your compass) the corner of the Romer is placed on the point to be identified and read off the numbers where the Romer intercepts with the grid lines as



before the Eastings are read off first followed by Northings. For example looking at figure 4 and 5 the **red** dot is at TL 645/357



Figure 5 – Using a Romer

We have now completed a six figure grid reference. On certain maps with low scales (1:25 000) it is possible to identify with more position using an 8 figure grid reference this is done the same as a six figurer. In figurer 5 you can see 3 lines between 4 and 6 on the Romer these denote 4.5, 5 and 5.5 respectively and can be used estimate what the 4th and 8th numbers are in your reference.