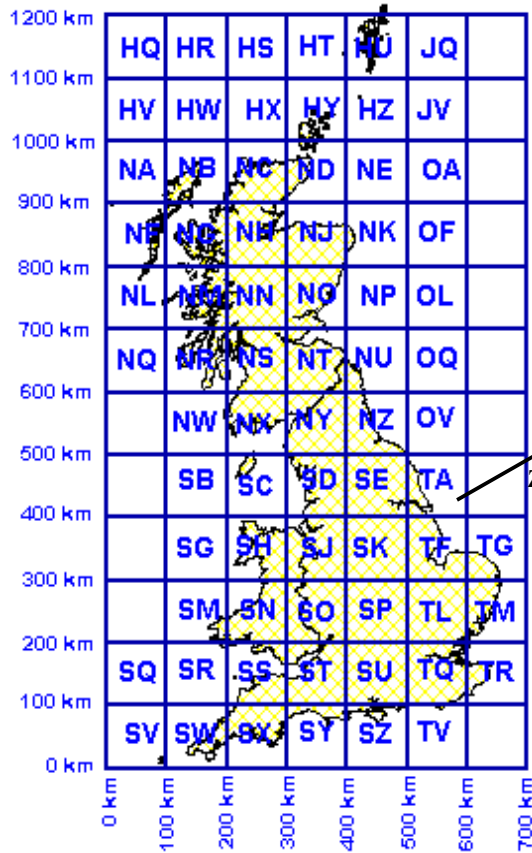


Map Reading – The Grid System

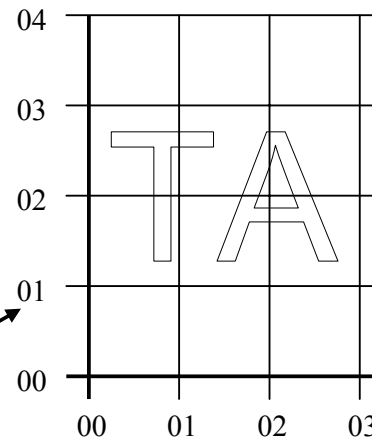
1. The British National Grid (BNG):

This is an imaginary grid of squares over the UK. Each national grid square measures 100 km by 100 km and is identified by a two-letter code:

Figure 1. The British National Grid



Each national grid square is further broken down into 1 km by 1 km squares:



As you can see, the lines between these squares are numbered from 00 to 99 upwards and across. The vertical line 00 separates the SE and TA national grid squares. The horizontal line 00 separates the TA and TF squares.

On the map the grid lines are solid and usually coloured blue.

Key idea: A grid reference can identify any point on the map. The two letters of the large national grid square and the numbers of the smaller (1 km by 1 km) squares make up the grid reference.

Key idea: The top of the map is always north, therefore the right is east, bottom is south and left is west.

Key idea: Look at the numbers on the grid (above, right). Notice how the numbers along the bottom increase as you head right (as you go EAST on the map). These lines are called EASTINGS. Notice how the numbers up the side increase as you head up (as you go NORTH on the map). These lines are called NORTHINGS.

Key idea: When you give a grid reference you always give the EASTING first then the NORTHING.