

Map and Compass Exercises – Identifying Features on a Map

Introduction

A map is crammed full of information but writing all this information on the map would be impractical because maps would become cluttered and inaccurate. To make maps less cluttered, we use features or symbols to represent information. A list of notable features is given in the Legend or Key. When a Patrol is planning a route they must take a number of features into account.

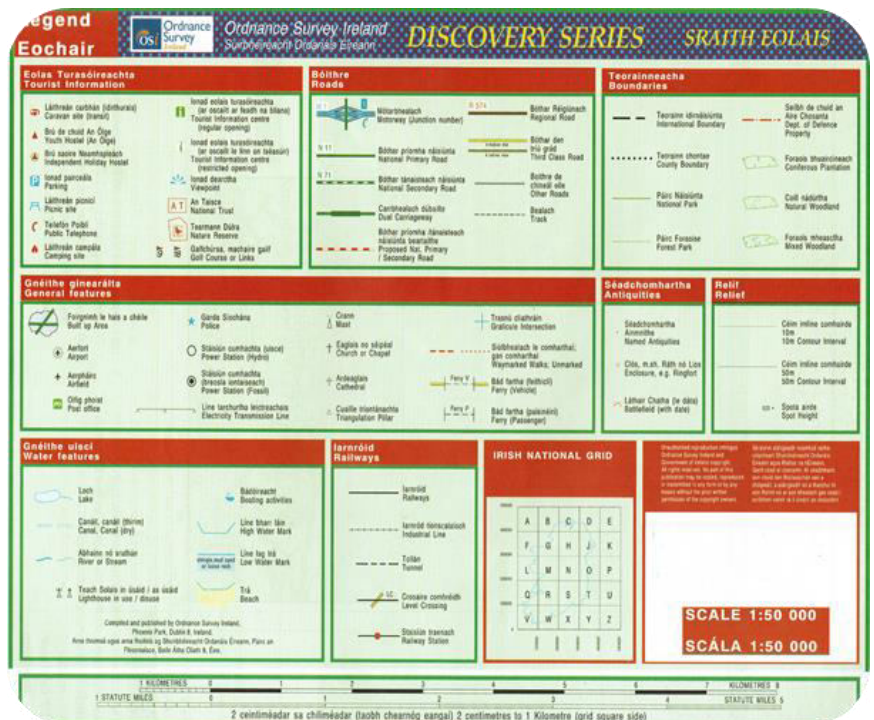
This exercise is to become familiar with important features when planning a route and to test the Patrols knowledge on these features.

Items Required

- A Map per Patrol

The Legend or Key

The Legend or Key provides a list of important features on the map. Here is an example of a legend from an Ordnance Survey Ireland map. Some features aren't included in the key and are noted below.



Identifying Key Features from Legend

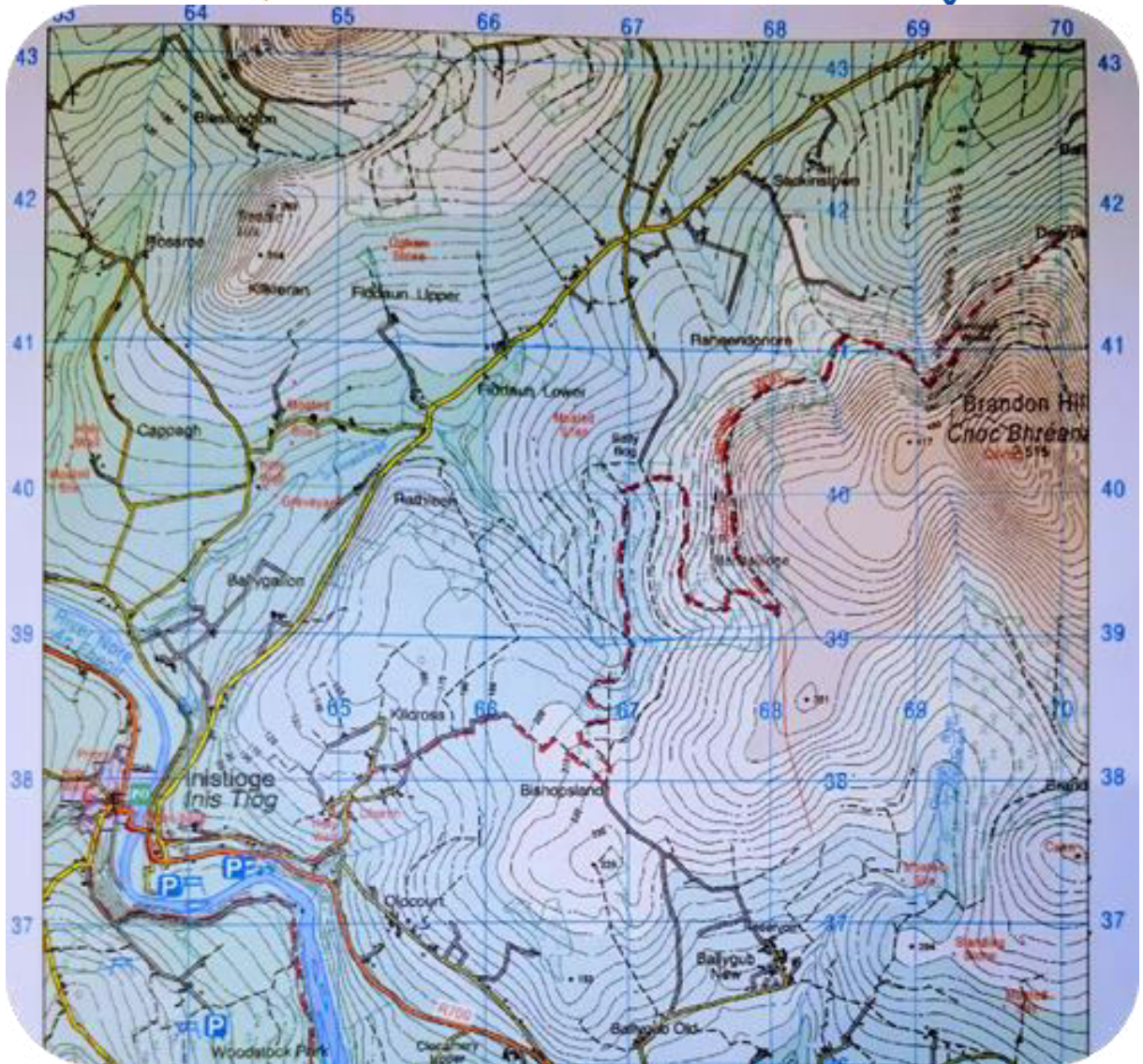
Using the legend of the map each member of the patrol should be able to identify the following key features on the map.

- **Rivers**
- **Lakes**
- **Beaches**
- **Forests** or Woodlands
- **Viewpoints** - Spots where there is a notably good view
- **Built Up Areas** - Towns or Urban areas
- **Spot Heights** - A mark on the map giving the altitude of a hill or mountain
- **Contour Lines** - Lines displaying equal elevation above sea level to show height

Features not included in The Legend

Patrols should be able to identify the following key features that aren't included in the legend.

- **Cliff** – Identifiable as really close contour lines (63,37)
- **Waterfall** – A river running over close contour lines (69,39)
- **Valley** – A low area of land between two hills or mountains (65,40)
- **Ridge** - A ridge is a line of high ground, with the land dropping away on either side. Ridges are common between two hilltops (64,41)
- **Col** or **Saddle** – A low point on a ridge (65,42)
- **Spur** - a long, gently-sloping 'tongue' of ground that runs down from a hill to lower ground (68,38)



Roads

There are a few types of roads and not all are appropriate for hiking. It is important to keep this in mind while planning your route.

- Primary Road – A Motorway e.g the M50
- Secondary Road – A smaller primary road with the same speed limit e.g the N59
- Regional Road – A local road not forming a major route, but still may have a large amount of traffic e.g the R403
- Third Class Road – A small usually remote road, often Narrow without a central dividing line.

Test Your Knowledge!

Using a map, challenge each member of the Patrol to find the following:

1. Using your map write a six figure grid reference for

- (i) a cliff _____
- (ii) a waterfall _____
- (iii) a lake _____

2. Identify the highest spot height on the map: _____

3. Using The Legend find 3 antiquities:

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____
- (iii) _____

4. Define a viewpoint and give a six figure grid reference from the map _____

5. Identify and write a six figure grid reference for the following:

- (i) A spur _____
- (ii) A saddle _____
- (iii) A ridge _____
- (iv) A valley _____

6. Identify the scale of the map: _____