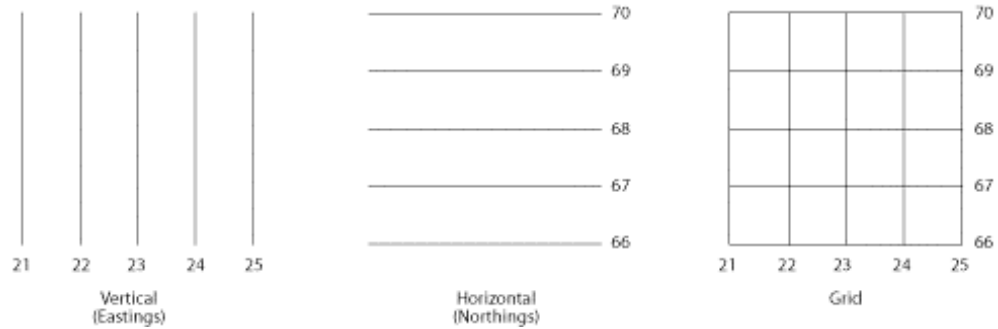

Understanding area and grid references



Eastings and northings grid

This diagram shows a square grid formed by a series of parallel vertical lines crossed by a series of horizontal lines.

Area and grid references help us to quickly locate places on maps. They are easy to use.

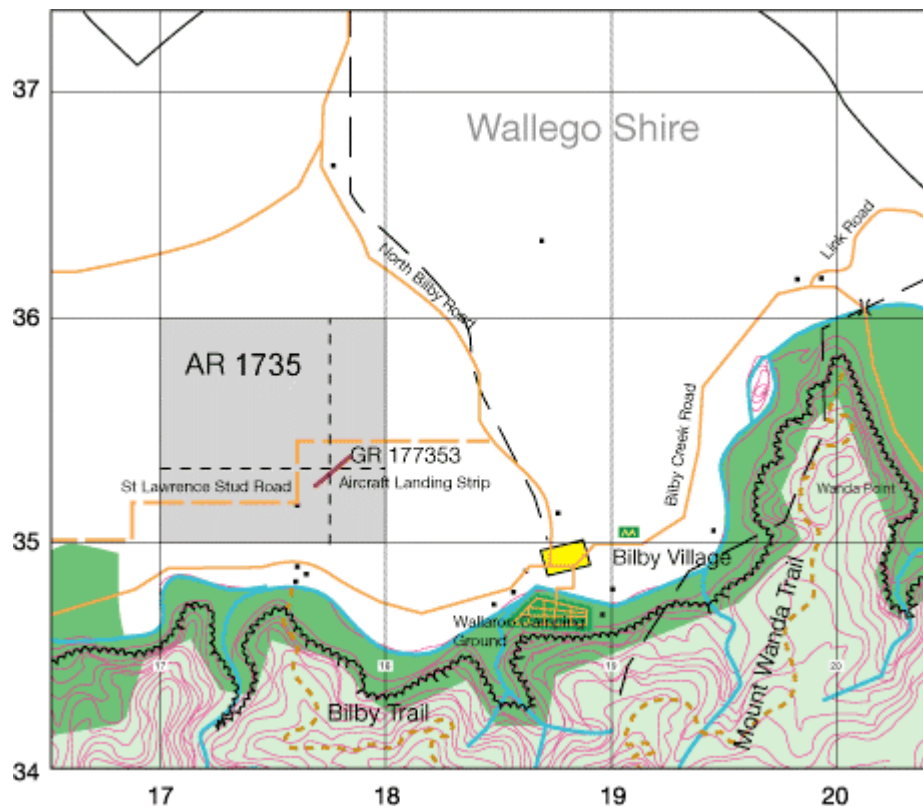
Here's what you need to know.

Area and grid references rely on a grid of horizontal and vertical lines drawn over an area.

The vertical lines are called eastings. The horizontal lines are called northings.

To locate an area on a map you read the easting number first then the northing.

Here's an example.



An extract from the Bilby Village map

This map has grid lines, flat land in the north, steep slopes in the south and features such as roads, a village, airstrip and camping grounds shown.

Notice how the eastings increase from 17 to 20 across the map.

The northings are labelled 34, 35, 36 and 37 from south to north.

The airstrip is at AR 1735. This means that it is in the grid square to the east and north of the corner formed by easting 17 and northing 35. Check that you can see this on the map.

Here's another example.

The junction between Bilby Creek Road and Link Road is at AR 1936. This means that it is in the grid square to the east and north of the corner formed by easting 19 and northing 36.

Area references direct us to grid squares on maps. For more precise locations, we use grid references. For example, the airstrip is at GR 177353.

To find its location, mentally divide the grid square (AR 1735) into ten equal spaces as you go east, and ten equal spaces as you go north.

Beginning at easting 17, the mid-point of the airstrip is 7 spaces into the grid square, 17. The reference is 177.

Moving north, the mid-point of the airstrip is 3 spaces into the grid square,
at 353.

Combining the two, the grid reference is GR 177353.