

Finding Grid References of your stocking site

Introduction

Applications to the Scottish Government for authorisation to introduce fish, fry or ova using form SG35S or SG35B require the applicant to use six-figure grid references to complete the forms.

This enables Fisheries Research Services to locate where the introduction will take place e.g. a commercial stillwater fishery or a particular stretch of river.

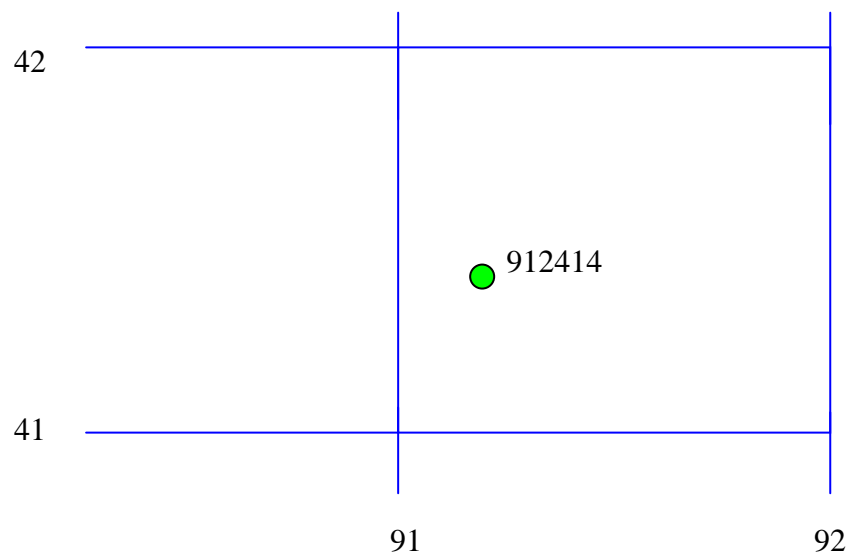
Using an OS map

When you look for a place on a map you use grid lines, a system of vertical and horizontal lines which divide the OS map into squares. The vertical lines are called eastings because they run west to east (left to right) and the horizontal lines are called northings because they run south to north (bottom to top).

Great Britain is split into 100 x 100km grid squares. Two letters, for our example below NT, identify each of these grid squares. These letters form the first part of any grid reference enabling the map-reader to locate the relevant Grid Square to which the grid reference relates. Each 100 x 100km grid square is covered by grid lines spaced 1km apart. The horizontal lines are called Northings and vertical lines are called Eastings. They have reference numbers and form the second part of a grid reference, for example 912414, and enable the map-reader to locate the reference point into a 1km square area.

The best OS maps for you to use for this purpose are called OS Landranger 1:50,000 maps. There is a series of these which cover the whole of the British Isles, each with a specific number for the area covered, in our example below map sheet 72 'Upper Clyde Valley'.

The map is divided into 1 km squares by grid lines numbered along the edges. You have to look along the bottom or top edges first and find the number of the square, then estimate, by eye, the site's exact position in tenths of a square. Then you do the same along the left or right edges. The numbers are also printed every so often on the map, which makes things easier:



The position shown above has a six-figure reference of 912414. To complete the reference, you need the two letters which are given in a key somewhere at the bottom of the map, so the full reference might be NT912414 (The River Clyde at Hyndford Bridge).

Using the Web

If you have access to the internet and you know the postcode of your fishery or a location nearby then you can use online mapping. This is free and can give you pin-point accuracy e.g. for a specific stretch of river.

Visit the Ordnance Survey website at <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/>

Go to 'Get-a-Map' and fill in the place name or postcode of the stocking location to show a small-scale map of the area. Click on the big + sign to the left and you will get a more detailed section of the 1:50,000 map. Below the map you will see the grid reference of the centre of the map itself. You can also move the + around using your mouse to pin-point exact locations on the receiving water. The exact grid reference, which changes as you navigate, is shown beside the icon at the lower left-hand corner of the map.

Using GPS or Sat Nav devices

Alternatively, a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) receiver e.g. handheld or vehicle sat' nav' device can be used to determine the Grid Reference of the stocking location.