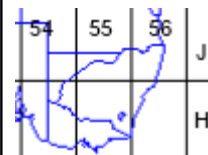


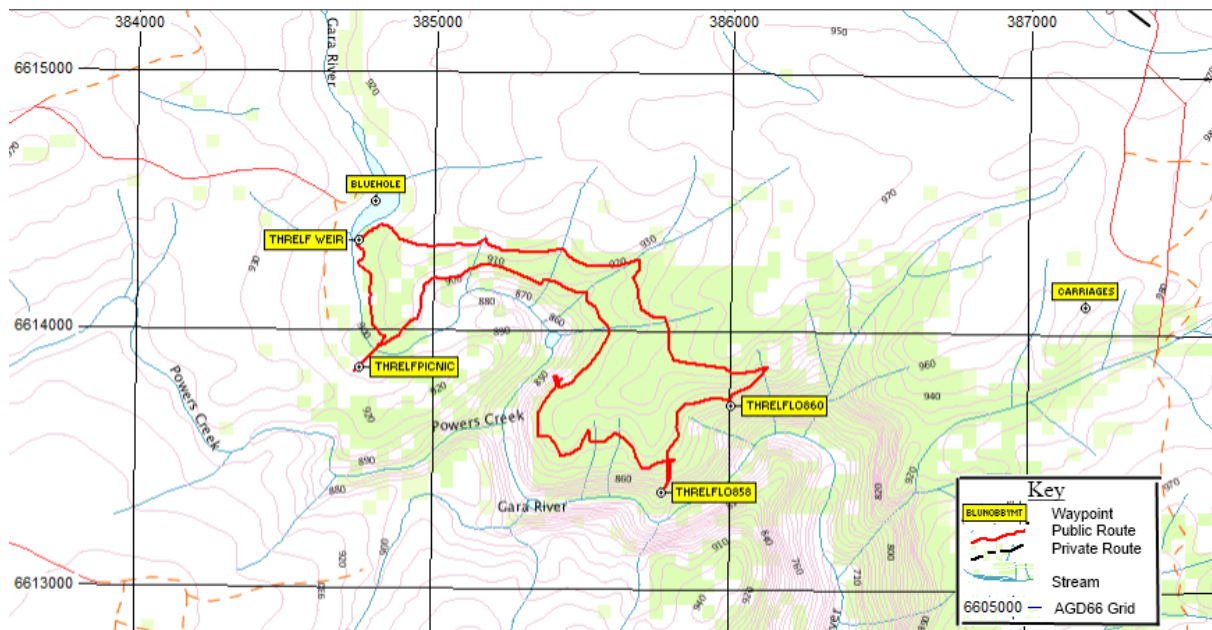
Map Grids

The common grid system used worldwide is Latitude and Longitude. The 180 lines of latitude run right around the world East to West, with the Equator called 0 degrees, the North Pole 90 degrees North, and the South Pole 90 degrees South. The 360 lines of Longitude run North to South, with the 0 degree line running through Greenwich in England. Heading East, the lines are number 1- 180 East. Heading west, the lines are correspondingly numbered 1-180 degrees West. So Armidale is 30.51520 S, and 151.66789 E (written in "Decimal Degrees")

Though there is increasingly broad international agreement about latitude and longitude, there are literally scores of other grid systems scattered around the world.

The UTM system used on this website is heavily based on Latitude and Longitude. It divides the surface of the Earth into 60 zones, each 6° of longitude in width. Zones are numbered from 1 to 60. Each zone is segmented into 20 latitude bands. Each latitude band is 8 degrees high, and is given a letter, starting at A counting north from Antarctica (for some weird reason, O and I are not used). For Australian purposes, a specific datum point was established in 1966, and all measurements taken from it. This Australian Geodetic Datum 1966 (= 'AGD66'), is used for most of the maps in this site. The image at right shows that most of the walks on this website are in Zone 56J.





The maps used on the site generally have a 1 km grid. To give a full grid reference to the nearest metre (using say Threlfall Picnic area), then

1. Firstly we establish the Zone- in this case, Zone 56J
2. Then we read the vertical ('Easting') line to left - 38400- which is 384 kilometres, or 384 000 metres, to the East of the origin datum
3. THRELFPICNIC is obviously between 384000 and 385000 metres- estimating or measuring- about 384750
4. We repeat the process for 'Northings' - obviously between 6613000 and 6614000- say 6613800
5. So, a full reference for Threlfall Picnic area would be 56J 384700.6613800
6. Local bushwalkers often substitute the map name instead of the first few digits, and round it to the nearest hundred metres- i.e. They'd say "Threlfall Picnic area- Enmore, about 847.138"
7. Using a GPS, we can fix a location more accurately and record it as a waypoint- so THRELFPICNIC waypoint reads on the GPS as "56J 384751.6613853" (really, this is a bit too exact- usually you can rely on a bushwalking GPS to be only within 20 metres or so).
8. On this website, we use the last 5 digits in each direction- Threlfall Picnic area would be written 84751.13853.