



Sketch Map

Planning/Preparation:

Sketch maps can be drawn from aerial photographs, OS maps, or from memory or sight. They are useful for depicting a specific area that may be used for a short hike, orienteering, or a campsite layout.

What you will need:

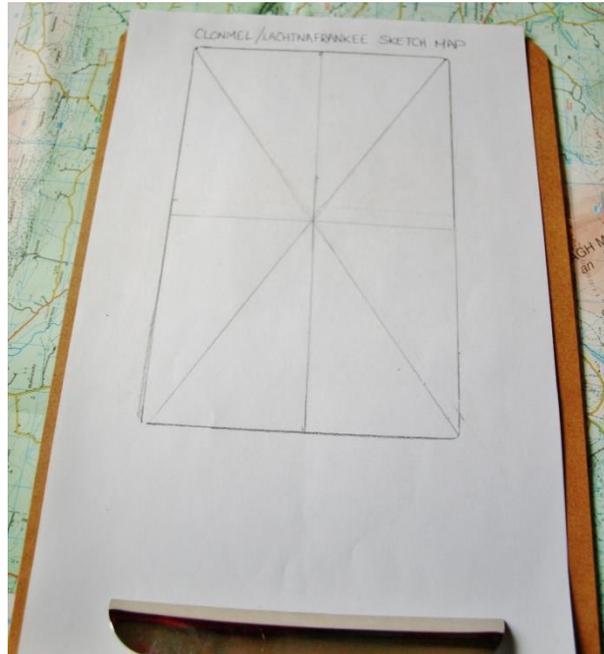
- A pencil and rubber
- A pen
- Paper, plain or with gridlines
- A ruler
- Coloured pencils (optional)

Doing/Making:

1. Select the area you wish to include on your map. For simplicity, it is best to choose a square or rectangular shaped plot of land. Measure out your map area on paper using a pencil and ruler. If you are sketching from another map or aerial photograph, don't be afraid to adjust the scale as necessary. The bigger your map is, the easier it will be to include and label the features!

2. Divide your map into a rough grid. This can be done by dividing the map into equal parts by drawing a faint line vertically, horizontally and through the two diameters to bisect the map as shown (on the next page). You can draw similar faint lines on your map or aerial photograph if you are using one to use as guidelines for your sketch map.





3. Draw a rough outline of any major features on the land such as a coastline, river, or boundary. Next you should include any other smaller features such as areas of forest, buildings, roads, and tracks. If your scale is large (close-up), you can identify very specific features such as large trees and the aerial shape of buildings. You do not need to include every feature on the map - only those that will be beneficial for you when using your map.

4. Features illustrated on your map may either be identified by labelling them or using symbols which can then be defined in a legend or key. It is not necessary to label a feature both on a map and in the legend.

5. Colouring-in the different features of a sketch map can make it easier to read and tell features apart. For example, you could colour an area of coniferous forest brown, areas of water blue and a building grey. If you cannot use colour, devise different patterns to identify such features e.g. dots for a building, diagonal lines for water and crosses for a forest.





6. To complete a sketch map, give it a title, and make reference to its scale. For example, if you have drawn a sketch map exactly half the size of a 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Map, your scale would be 1:100,000. If you cannot calculate your scale, simply write 'scale unknown' under your map.



Evaluate/Review:

Test the accuracy of your sketch map by using it to navigate a short hike route. Check to see if your features match up or are accurately positioned according to a couple of test legs of the hike using compass bearings. If you are writing up a mountain log, you should include sketch maps with an outline of your hike route to accompany your route card.

