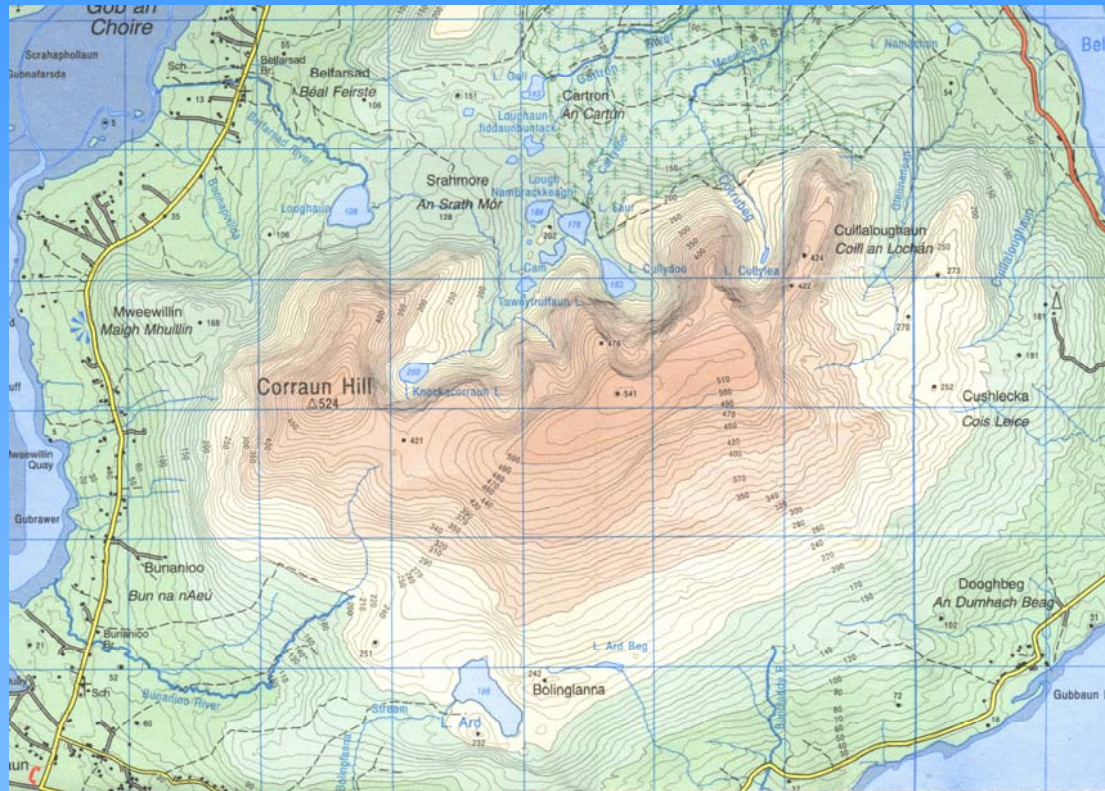


Map Scale



Map Scale

Scale is the relationship between a distance on a map and the actual distance on the ground.

**The scale is written on the map as a ratio e.g. 1:50000
Common map scales for hillwalking are**

- 1:50000** - **The most common scale of Irish maps
The Discovery Series maps**
- 1:25000** - **Only a few Irish maps of this scale
Killarney National Park**
- 1:63360** - **The old 1inch = 1mile
Now replaced by the 1:50000**

Interpreting the scale

Interpreting the scale e.g. 1:50000

On the map	On the ground
1 of anything	50000 of the same thing
1cm or 10mm	50000 cm or 500m
1mm	50m

Therefore 2cm on the map is 1km on the ground

When you know the scale of a map you can measure the length between two points in centimetres or millimetres and convert it into actual distance on the ground

Grid lines on a map are also 2cm/1km apart, which makes it possible to estimate distance quite quickly.
Also the diagonal of a square is approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ km

