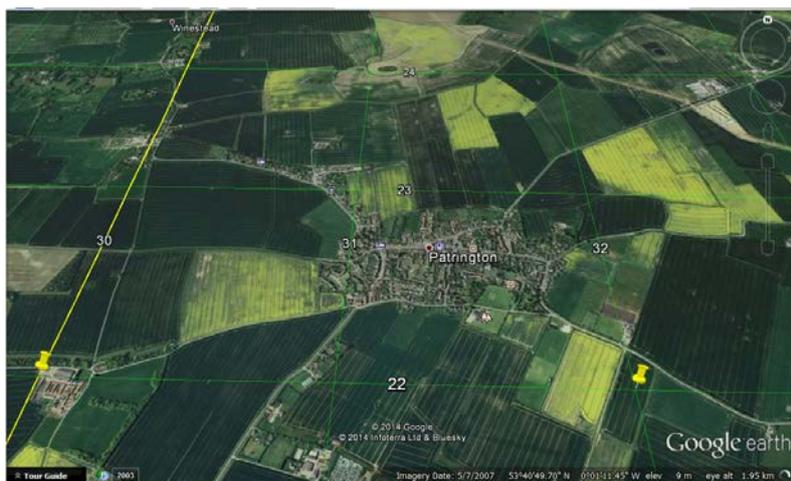


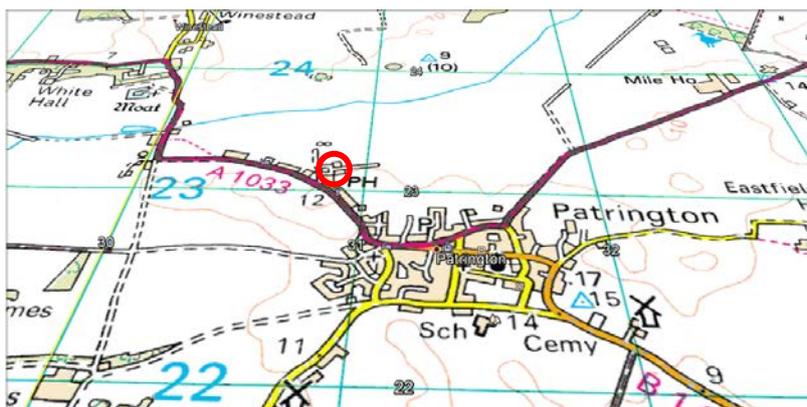
Recording and Grid References

Grid references are a way to precisely locate (how precisely depending on the number of digits you provide) your sighting to a point on an Ordnance Survey (OS) map. The whole of Britain and Ireland is covered by a series of OS maps. I recommend the OS Explorer Maps series at 1:25,000 scale (where 4 cm equals 1 km).

Say you were interested in the area around Patrington (in VC61), in the Holderness plain, some ways east of Hull. On Google Earth this looks like:



The corresponding area in the relevant OS Explorer Map (292) looks like below. How do I use a given location to find a place within the OS map and how do I record the grid reference of butterfly sightings I might see? This is how. Each OS Map looks at different areas of the country; first I need to know the letter code of the OS map. The whole of the country is split into 100 x 100 km areas, each designated by a two letter code. Look at the top-right of your OS map – it reads in this case 'TA'. Now I know the letter code all I need to know is the location *within* the map.



Note the horizontal and vertical lines that criss-cross the OS map. They partition the map into 1 x 1 km squares (technically known as monads). Let's say you saw a butterfly outside the Station Hotel pub at Patrington (I've circled that location in the above map). If you just wanted to record that location accurate to the 1 km square it's in then you note the letter code for your map (TA), you note the number of the vertical line to the *left* of the pub (technically known as the Easting, which is 30) and you note the number of the horizontal line just *below* the pub (technically known as the

IMPORTANT: In recording butterflies please observe common sense. This means amongst other things: do not trespass (keep to roads, footpaths and other public rights of way), unless you have permission from the landowner. Do not go onto MOD land. Given that a sighting anywhere within a 1 x 1 km square would tick it as being successfully visited then there is no reason to go onto private land. Obey the Countryside code (shut gates, don't light fires, keep dogs under control, don't litter etc). Look after yourself – wear sensible clothes (beware of ticks that can carry Lyme Disease), keep yourself well hydrated in hot weather, let people know where you are especially if recording in the more isolated and wild parts of Yorkshire.

Modern Developments: There are more modern ways of getting grid references than consulting an OS map. Certain apps on smart phones or other systems equipped with GPS can give quite accurate grid references. However, I wouldn't treat them as being accurate to the extremely high resolutions they can spit out – so please reduce. So for instance, a reading of TA3087223182 which is in theory accurate to a 1 x 1 metre area (!) should be reduced say to 100 x 100 metres (TA308231) or even 1 x 1 km (TA3023). In each case, the first half of the n-digits is the Easting and the other half is the Northing. You still need to give the descriptive name of the location to allow us to cross-check.

There are also web pages (<http://gridreferencefinder.com>) where you can click on the location of your sighting. For Station Hotel, Patrington it gives TA 30817 23055. This should be reduced to TA308230.

*Names and addresses will be used for verification of records only and for administration. Your details will not be passed to third parties without your consent. While your name will form part of the record as used by Butterfly Conservation (BC) this will strictly be in accordance with BC privacy policies (see www.butterfly-conservation.org).

June 2017 David R R Smith (County Butterfly Recorder)