

### 3.1.3 North point

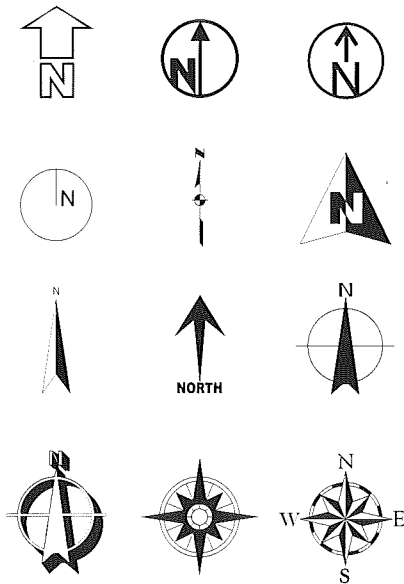
The north point should always appear on drawings. It is useful for establishing aspect and shadow paths but mainly for ensuring that all concerned orientate all drawings the right way up.

There are effectively three types of north:

- **True north** – the direction of a meridian of longitude which converges on the North Pole
- **Magnetic north** – the direction indicated by a magnetic compass. Magnetic north moves slowly with a variable rate and currently is west of grid north in Great Britain
- **Grid north** – the direction of a grid line which is parallel to the central meridian on the Ordnance Survey® grid.

The UK convention is to use grid north. It is good practice to orientate plans with north at the top. Keep the orientation simple and consistent with other related drawings.

The north point is traditionally a decorative as well as a functional graphic device. The style may be used to reflect that of the project or the team, but it should always be obvious what it is.

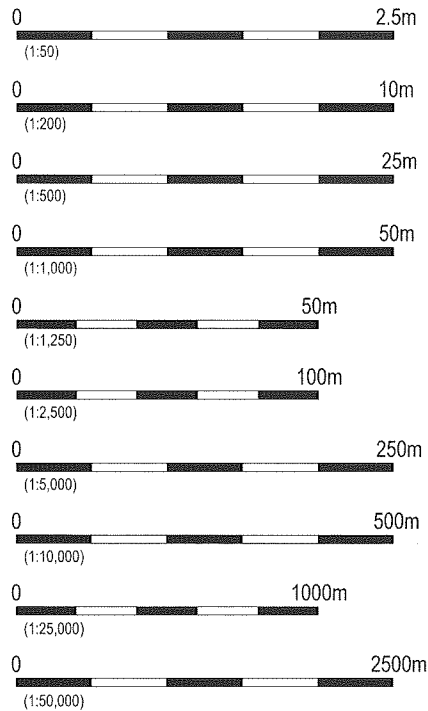


### 3.1.4 Scale

The scale is a ratio used to represent actual size. Scaled drawings allow different levels of detail to be presented on similarly sized plans. There are three ways to show scale:

- numeric/written scale (1:100)
- scale bar
- grid lines.

Whenever possible the scale should be included on a drawing. The following scales are typically used in mapping and urban design.



Grid lines are normally set at intervals of 50m, 100m or 1000m. The example below shows grid lines at intervals of 100m at a scale of 1:50,000.

