

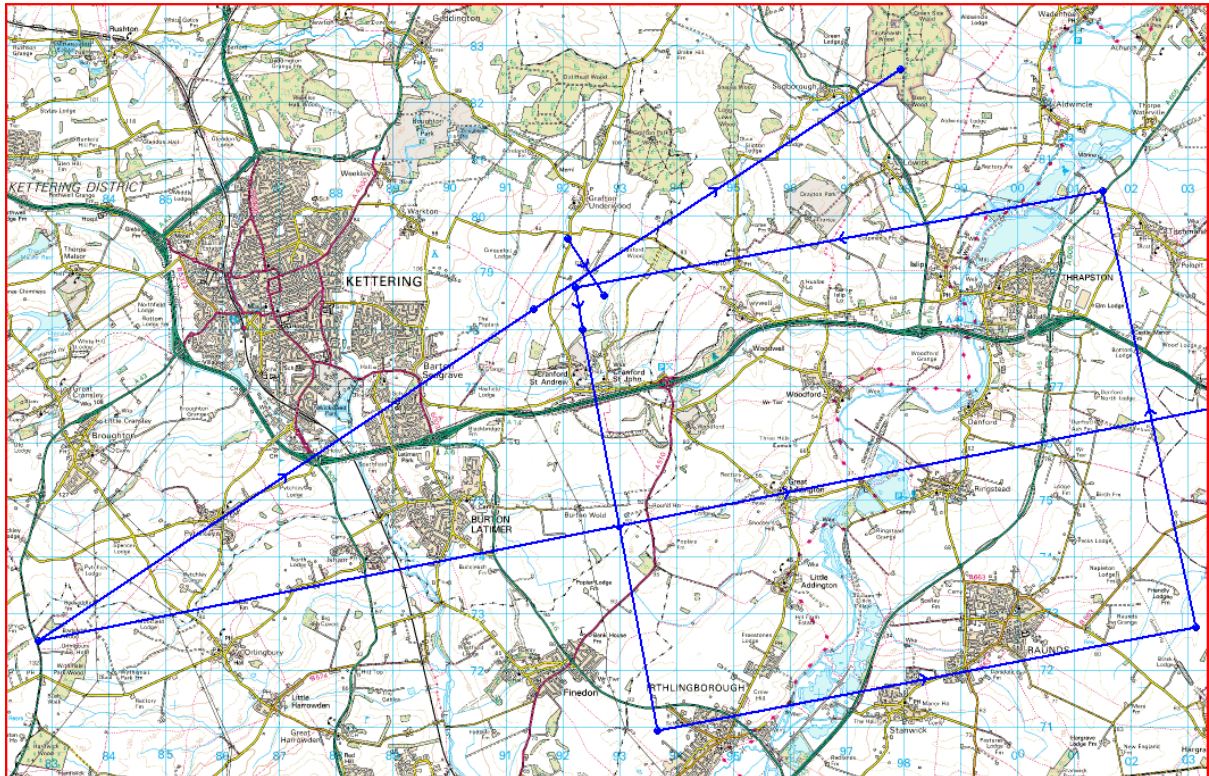
## Northampton Top Band DF Qualifier. 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017. How we were lucky.

Thanks to Northampton Radio Club for staging the event.

One signal, B, heard at the start. This was odd because several of us had heard station A “testing” with two short CW bursts.

We got 56degrees and a strength indicating about 10km

We all were given 77deg for A and between 10 and 20km



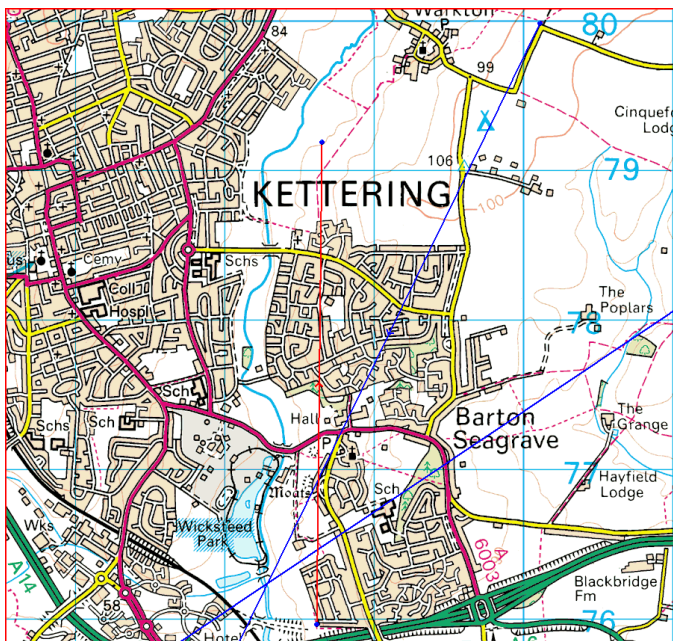
We decided to go for B and hope that the station A would sort itself out while we found B.

For the 2 o'clock I chose north of Kettering to the right of Warkton. I guessed the station might be in the wood near the Poplars farm.

2 o'clock bearing showed it was back toward Kettering. Power indicated 3km.



I thought he might be on the disused railway or on the river, so we went to the railway.



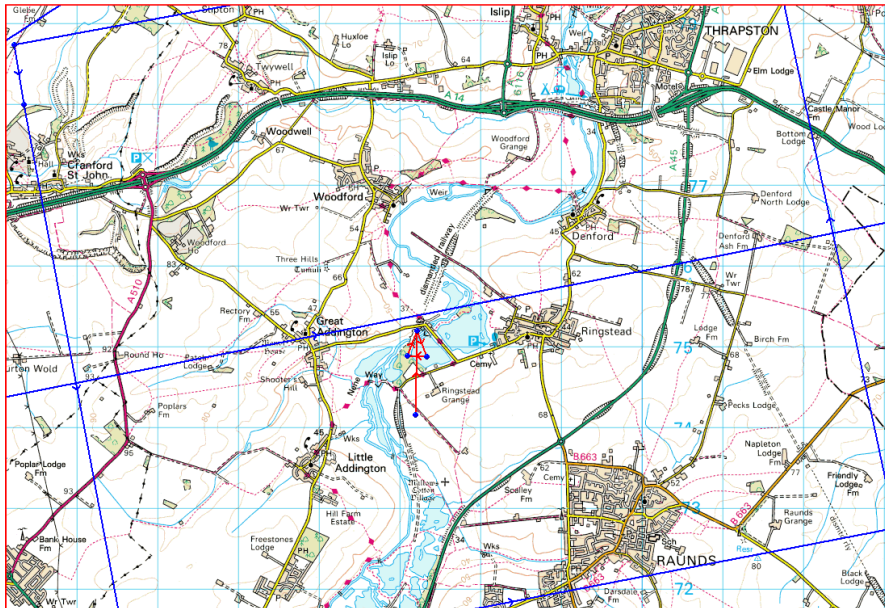
Signal came up, and power said maybe 2km away. The cross said at the "moats" and near the park, so we went up and parked near the Church. Still not sure if the transmitter was below or above the A6003 but decided to leg it.

Signal came up and said 500m toward the lake. After a couple of transmissions we were routing around the correct area and Dick found the wire and station while Matt and I were trying to keep our feet dry by the damp end of the antenna.

Back to the car as we were first into the B station and try to find A.



Nothing had been heard of A on the in car, so I chose to go for the disused railway in the middle of approximate area:-



When we got there we were in luck. Geoff Foster's car was there and Geoff wasn't. So that meant the station must be close.

We parked up and listened and could just hear station A – the first of the event. The bearing was not along the railway, but along the spit of land between the canal and lake. So off we went.

We met several walkers on the path, so asked if they had seen anyone like us with a receive set. Yes, some minutes ago going that way – along the path.

The last of three sets of walkers had not seen Geoff, so right – we must be there or just overshoot.

Dick went about 50 yards further and saw the antenna and shortly after Matt found the station at the end he followed. Job done at 3:20pm

We then helped the transmitter crew to try and get the signal out as it could only be heard within about 1km. We seemed to succeed as the signal shot up, but not sure what the problem had been. Maybe the insulation trapped so the antenna wasn't made?? Don't know.

Sorry that some thought that was the wrong thing to do, but we thought it was and many others thought so too. We tried to help the DFers to find both.

Tobay Tigers