

**ACTIVITY FOUR: TRENCH AREA****Learning objectives**

To calculate the area of composite rectilinear shapes in metres  
(Year 5 – Measurement)

**Prior learning**

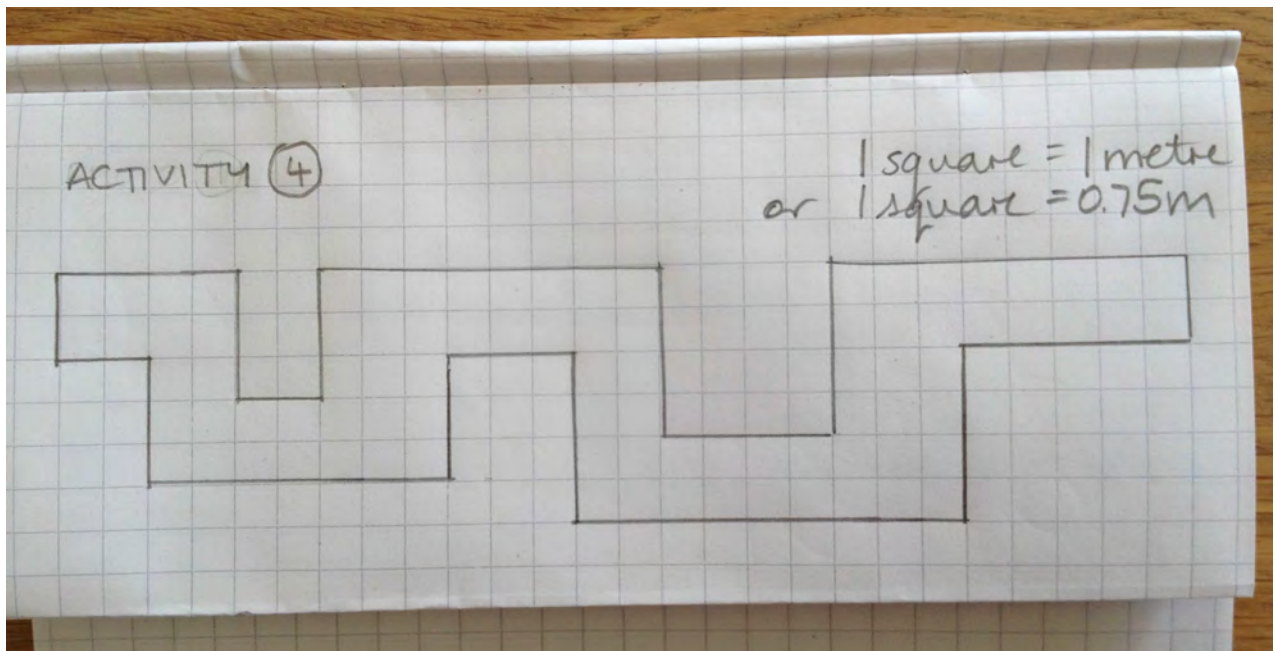
Students should be familiar with calculating the area of rectangles and have some experience of calculating the area of simple composite rectilinear shapes.

**Introduction**

Model how to calculate the area of a composite shape by calculating the area of the rectangles within it.

**MAIN TASKS**

1. Draw a map of the trenches similar to the one below. Show map of trenches and ask students how we could calculate the area of the trenches in metres squared.



2. Model using composite shape strategy then students complete task independently.

**Ideas for differentiation**

Lower attainers: find the rectangles within the composite shapes then count squares to work out the area – photo 1

Higher attainers: use a scale of 1 square = 0.75m

**Review**

Show children a triangle. How can we work out the area of a triangle? Discuss working out the area of a rectangle with the same length sides, then halving that amount.

