

Orienteering Challenge Tips & Advise

I would like to try this, but I do not understand maps. Can I get Help?

Yes. If you are a novice at using maps, then you can get help. There are club members who are willing to go out with you, 'shadow' you and offer help, while you navigate the course. Please contact the organiser to arrange this.

What do I need to know?

For beginners, who may not be familiar with maps, the first course at Beacon Fell uses an orienteering map and the other 3 courses an Ordnance Survey (OS) map.

On the Beacon Fell map there is a map legend. It is a visual explanation of the symbols used on the map, say a footpath, forest, or stream. It also has a scale, which helps you work out the approximate distance from one point to another.

For the OS maps the legend can be found here.

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/documents/25k-raster-legend.pdf>

Further information about map reading can be found here.

<https://getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/site/uploads/files/map-reading.pdf>

You do not need to know everything in this booklet, but some parts may be useful.

A Grid Reference is used to help you locate an exact position on a map. On the Longridge Fell course the clue to the last checkpoint is a grid reference. Page 8 & 9 of the Map Reading booklet explains how to find the location of a 6 figure grid reference.

Other useful tips

- The grid lines shown on an OS map form squares. Each square is 1km x 1km. This will help you work out the approximate distance from one point to another.
- Footpaths and Public Rights of Way are shown on the map. There may be other footpaths that you can see 'on the ground' that are not shown on the map.
- When navigating a course there are times when you may need to re-trace your steps to get to the next checkpoint.
- Almost all the checkpoints are on or near a footpath. It is possible to visit almost all the checkpoints by staying on footpaths.
- North is always facing the top of OS maps. Although, you do not need a compass to navigate these courses, it may be useful to know the main points of a compass, for example north, east, south west, north west etc. Found here <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/assets/doc/map-skills/Compasses-and-Directions-en.pdf>
- All the red and yellow checkpoint discs are screwed into wood (tree, fence, post etc).



Organiser

Roy Parkinson, Mobile – 07840 898139, Email – rwpark57@hotmail.co.uk