

The Legend

Number 198



Newsletter of
North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club
October 2021

www.ngoc.org.uk



NGOC Committee

The Principal Officers	
Chairman Paul Taunton chairman@ngoc.org.uk	Secretary Kim Liggett secretary@ngoc.org.uk
Treasurer Alan Pucill treasurer@ngoc.org.uk	Vice Chairman Vacant
The Officers	
Membership Secretary Simon Denman membership@ngoc.org.uk	Equipment & Development Pat MacLeod equipment@ngoc.org.uk
Mapping Officer Ian Phillips mapping@ngoc.org.uk	Fixtures & Permissions Officer Greg Best permissions@ngoc.org.uk
Legend Editor Alan Brown legend@ngoc.org.uk	Captain Shirley Robinson Shirley.robinson18@btinternet.com
Welfare Officer Ashleigh Denman welfare@ngoc.org.uk	
Two Additional Voting Members	
Results John Fallows john@greyeye.co.uk	Technical Support Steve Lee steve9lee@gmail.com
Additional Co-opted Committee Members (Non-voting)	
Volunteer Coordinator Kevin Brooker ngocvolunteer@gmail.com	Communications & Publicity Tom Cochrane communications@ngoc.org.uk

The above shows the committee structure set out in the NGOC constitution.

Front cover: If you have a model railway with an odd corner to fill how about an orienteering scene?

Chairman's Chat

I'm pleased to say that although some restrictions are still in place, the programme of orienteering events is now almost as full as it was pre-Covid. Since events restarted in April, NGOC members have been competing in events both locally and further afield. This is clear from looking at the results of the UK Orienteering League, which currently shows NGOC in 19th place of almost 100 clubs, based on members' performances at a wide range of prestigious events. This year NGOC runners have been awarded points at all the UKOL events so far, including the British Sprint and Middle Distance Championships, the Northern Championships, the Scottish 6 Days and the Caddihoe Chase. Let's hope that with our strong contingent of 25 runners off to the British Championships we can improve our standing in the league table! No longer does NGOC stand for Never Go Out of County!

The South West Junior Orienteering Squad (SWJOS) was in action last weekend at the Junior Inter-Regional Championships (JIRCS) organised by CLOK near Redcar in Cleveland. The squad included three NGOC runners: Rose Taylor, Jessica Ward and Rebecca Ward. The results are somewhat complicated, but it's clear that our runners contributed to SWJOS being placed 2nd overall (of 12 regions) in the individual events. Well done team! Rebecca ran the final relay leg for SWJOS women, in a field of 25 teams. She took over in 2nd place, almost two minutes behind the local Yorkshire and Humberside team, then ran strongly to win by over two minutes. Congratulations Rebecca!

Remember that the NGOC AGM is coming up soon, on Monday 18th October. It will be a virtual event, using Zoom, so it's easy to have your say. Please look at the agenda and other details which are on the NGOC website and sign up to attend – you will then be sent a link so that you can join the virtual meeting. Sorry, but

signing up does not mean that Deliveroo will arrive at your house half-an-hour before the meeting bringing the traditional AGM buffet – maybe we will try to arrange that next year?

The British Night Championships on Cleeve Hill will be on Saturday 27th November. Organiser Pat Macleod is currently looking for plenty of helpers to make sure that this Major event goes smoothly. Keep the weekend free to help early on Saturday evening, have a late run, then go to the BOK Regional event at Cannop Ponds the following day. As Controller for BOK's event I can give you some inside information: the terrain is runnable and the courses look interesting!

Even at this very late stage, gaining permission for the JK22 Middle race next Easter is still proving problematic. We believe that permission will be forthcoming to run in the dunes at Merthyr Mawr, a National Nature Reserve, but parking and assembly will have to be off-site. The NGOC organising team has plenty of ideas how to make this work for perhaps 3,000 entrants but, as yet, no confirmed permissions are in place. We are confident that the event will go ahead somewhere, as permissions are currently being sought for a potential alternative area. So keep Easter 2022 free, as the JK is rarely so close to us. If you haven't been to a Major event before, please do try JK2022!

Hope to see you at an event soon!

Paul Taunton

Selsley Common Relay

On Saturday 21 August NGOC held a relay event for the first time in many years, at a brand new area: Selsley Common in the Cotswolds. The relay was in 2x2 format: teams of two runners, each running two courses (of varying lengths to suit all ages).

25 teams took on the courses, undeterred by the waves of rain that swept through during the event. They enjoyed some fast grassland running, controls in the humps and hollows of old quarries, and very docile cows.

Overall it was a good chance to hold a more sociable event than has been possible recently!



All are ready to start, including Greg's dog, Daisy



Mass start



There were even some spectators

Thanks to NGOC helpers

Paul,

I have been coming to many of your events this year along with Axel Blomquist, even though it is a bit of a journey for us.

We have enjoyed the events that NGOC have put on and are grateful for the number that you have put on and look forward to the Selsey Common Relay next week.

Please pass on our thanks to all involved in putting on some excellent events.

Regards

Mike Frizzell

Coaching Day - November

The Orienteering Foundation wishes to publicise their Coaching Day on Saturday 20th November 2021 in the Lake District. This is aimed principally at adult orienteers but juniors are always welcome. Details are here:

<https://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/coaching-day-nov-2021>

Bertie hits a brick wall



www.ngoc.org.uk

1:4000; 5.0m contours

I don't know if you chaps remember the urban event in Stroud last July? I wasn't going to include it in my orienteering memoirs but Jeeves insisted, saying that my mistakes, basic he called them – the blighter, would prove instructive to youngsters and newcomers to the sport. Well, I rather objected to my mistakes being described as basic but I eventually relented.

I had been keen to go, of course, since it was a new map and a new area and I don't visit Stroud very often although it is just down the road.

We, that is a young lady and I, travelled in the two-seater and arrived at the car park in good time.

“Don't worry, Bertie darling, I'll get the ticket. My phone is already set up for these coves.” And off she tottered.

I completed my preparations by retying the shoelaces and inserting the thumb into the compass strap; then I looked over to the ticket machine. The girl was peering at the machine like it was a particularly obtuse shop assistant and then poking at her

phone in an overwrought sort of way. I could see that it was time for Bertie to take command.

“Er, anything wrong, old thing?”

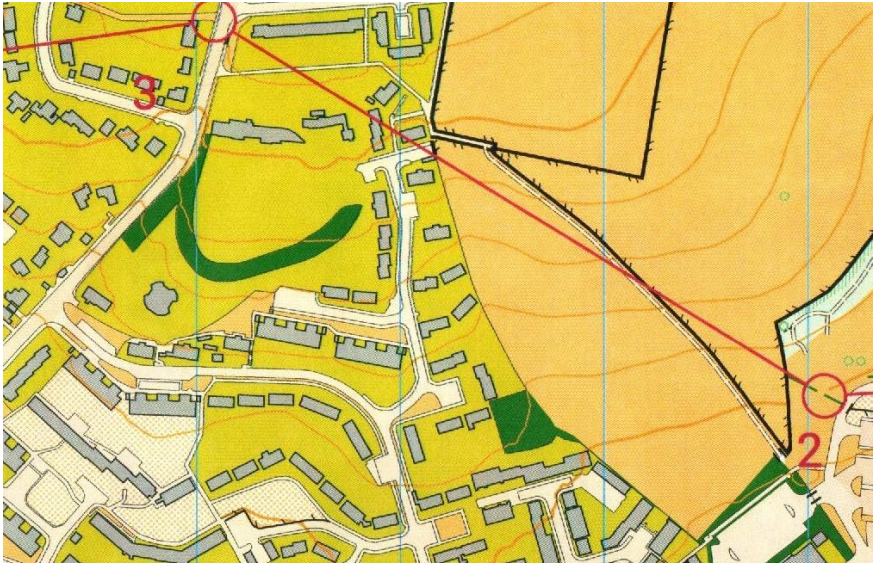
“Yes, there is, for a start I don’t like being called ‘old thing’. Also, this stupid machine doesn’t seem to recognise me and keeps asking for the married name of my mother’s maternal aunt.”

Eventually I got to the nub of the matter, viz she was in the middle of changing phone companies, the old one had upset her in some way and she was using a temporary number and was wondering why the machine wasn’t playing the game.

“It’s no good, Bertie, you’ll have to put some coins in. Why didn’t you do this in the first place instead of getting me to traipse all the way over here? Well, go on then, hurry back to the car and get some coins. Honestly. Some people are so helpless . . .”

Ticket stashed on the dash I had to rush to the Start to meet my starting slot. This is what, or whom, I blame for all my troubles round the course. Since Jeeves wanted this to be an instructive piece let this be lesson one for newcomers and youngsters: arrive in plenty of time and don’t let other people go to the ticket machine. If they offer to pay grab the cash off them first. I mean to say, one wants to start in a calm, contemplative frame of mind. Jeeves said that I should include this; he apparently got it from some foreign friend of his called Zen.

Since call up started at minus 4 minutes I did have a short while to collect my thoughts and then I was off. I must say here that it was a jolly clear map and on a rather large piece of paper. 1:4,000 scale, but for some reason more confusing than 1:7,500. I mean, run a hundred yards and you’re halfway across the map. Lesson two for newcomers and youngsters: check the scale of the map before you rush off.



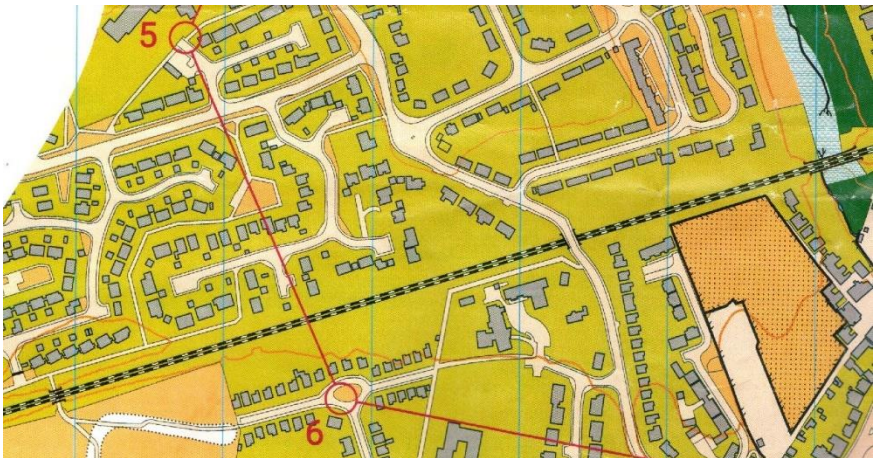
Homework Q.1 for youngsters and newcomers: can you identify where went Bertie go wrong between 2 and 3?

The third mistake wasn't for a long time – until I was on the way to control 2. I had just squeezed past a woman coming the other way along a narrow path with a big pram (what do people think they're up to, pushing prams round a park on a Sunday morning?) when I had a feeling something was wrong. Some chaps think a compass is unnecessary for these urban binges but a quick look at my thumb told me that I was 90 degrees off. I hear fellows go on endlessly about 180 degree errors but with me it is usually 90 degrees. Only half as much I hear you say but there was an impassable hedge stopping me from cutting off the corner and that bally female with the pram was blocking the only route. She was going so slowly that I had time to work out the routes for the next three controls before I could get back on track. My customers can call that lesson three.

I eventually got to 3 and then had to turn the map over. I'm not one to complain or whinge, but the first side was printed landscape and the second was portrait. Despite this dastardly trick by the planners I reached 4 and 5 without mishap.

But it was then that Fate stepped in, sloshing Bertram round the head with a large sandbag. To get to 6 one had to either go under the railway via a footpath or over the railway on a road bridge. I chose the footpath option, following some speedy cove who had overtaken me. Halfway there he stopped, turned round and came back in my direction, muttering words not suitable for a family publication like Legend.

“What a chump!” I thought, “what is he doing?” I soon found out when, a couple of hundred yards further on, I came across a brick wall blocking my way and then saw the thick black line on the map. Who put that there? It wasn’t even a nice-looking wall. It didn’t seem very high and I’m sure anyone as athletic as myself would have had no trouble scaling it. After all, I have escaped the clutches of various aunts many times at country houses by shinning down drainpipes to catch the milk train back to the old metrop. But “Play fair, Wooster” is my motto so I retraced my steps and went a very long way round by the road bridge.



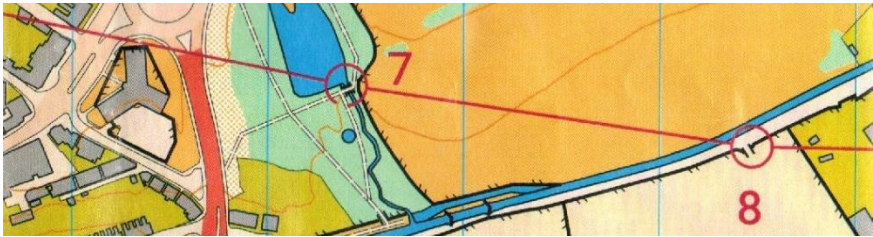
Homework Q.2: can you identify Bertie’s brick wall?

Q.3: can you find Bertie’s route after meeting a brick wall?

Q.4: can you find the best route as pointed out by the Controller?

After what seemed like a very long time indeed I reached 6 and then, still in the spirit of fair play, I had to work out where to cross

a busy main road, most of which was O-O-B and then where to cross the canal. It wasn't until I'd turned over the map (again) and taken a poor route choice from 8 to 9 and was slipping about in the mud in my new trainers that I had a sinking feeling. I turned the map over yet again and looked at 7, thinking "I don't remember that one." And I was right and I was too far gone to go back for it and then redo 8 and 9.



Homework Q.5: why do you think Bertie missed out Control 7? Write as many reasons as you can think of. A separate paragraph for each reason, please. Use no more than 500 words.

Metaphorically, if that is the correct term, and almost literally, given the slippery track, I picked myself up, hoping that I would be able to rise on the stepping stones of my dead self to higher things and complete the course.

My omission of control 7 caused hilarity and tutting in equal measure at Download and I had to explain to several officious officials why I hadn't returned to dib it. I was tempted to say that "I didn't expect the Spanish Inquisition" but Fate had done enough damage to Bertie already that day. Besides, I had spotted several chaps in red clothing hanging about.

I got away at last and then saw the Controller; he was in the usual controller's pose, leaning back in a folding chair and sipping a mug of coffee. After exchanging what hos I magnanimously congratulated him on an excellent course and managing to catch me out with that brick wall obstacle. He looked blank, a bit like that wall I suppose, so I pointed to it on my map.

“Oh, ah, ooooh. I hadn’t noticed that. A brick wall you say? Ha, ha, ha!” After a minute or two he was able to speak again. “But it’s not too far to get back on track – round here” and he traced a route about half the distance of the one that I had actually taken. To add injury to insult my route had taken a narrow path with overgrown foliage both overhead and on either side. Wet foliage, naturally. I staggered back to the car park.

I found the girl sitting in the car drumming her fingers on the dashboard. She appeared a little impatient, I thought.

“Bertie! Where have you been?”

“Well, I . . . “

“Don’t you realise how boring it is waiting for you in a car park in Stroud? I’ve been here hours.”

“I had some bad luck, don’t you know, I . . .”

“Are these your times? What does DSQ mean? Is that good?”

“Actually . . .”

“Now let me have a look at your map. Isn’t it a pretty colour? Oh, but look at this nasty crease. You’ve spoilt your map again. I’m always telling you about that. We’ll have to see if Jeeves can iron it out for you.”

“He usually does iron my maps. That is, after he’s . . . “

“Not that you’ll have Jeeves to iron your maps for much longer.”

I goggled. “What do you mean?”

“He’ll have to find a new situation when we get married. I’ll be looking after you then.”



Map, ironing board and iron waiting for Jeeves

Model railways and orienteering

If you have a model railway with an odd corner to fill how about an orienteering scene? The first picture shows a typical NGOC Start scene with taped lanes, maps (actually the Stroud map), feather banners etc. One punter is waiting for the clock to show 1201 before starting; in the background one runner in red and white has fallen over (looks like Bertie?), another is running up to the level crossing and a third is waiting for the train to pass.

Pictures of the feather and start banners were taken from old copies of Legend; to get the red and white tape just search on the web for “red and white stripes”, hit “images” and choose an image with diagonal stripes. The figures are from various old Airfix packs of figures: some are from a Wild West wagon train and others from the Foreign Legion (with rifles cut off).



The starter is sitting on a box and a helper is lounging next to the clock; the start triangle is just beyond the box that contains the maps for the blue course.



A punter waits to pay his entrance fee and a puzzled competitor with his map stares at the old carriage body – perhaps he has finished his course and is looking for the NGOC café?



One runner is sensibly going to use the footbridge rather than trespass across the tracks. Looking at the map boxes it seems that this event is offering blue, green and yellow courses.



Orienteers should be encouraged to use public transport to get to and from the event but not DURING the event.



"Mum, why are those funny people over there running around with maps on a model railway?"



Seeing the small, private coal mine this event must be in the Forest of Dean and the planner has apparently forgotten to mark it on the map as OOB: the runner with the red top is looking lost, Bertie has tripped over the rails this time and the chap in blue and yellow seems to think he will find the control in the mine entrance!



A few minutes later and red top still hasn't decided where he should go and blue & yellow is still doing his headless chicken act. His control was not down the mine then!

Codeword puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Y		G		

A B C D E F **G** H I **J** K L M N O P **Q** R S T U **V** W **X** **Y** **Z**

You may already have seen this type of puzzle in newspapers and the Radio Times. The idea is to fill in each square with one letter; the number already printed in the square always represents the same letter. The words on the grid are all National Trust properties with permanent orienteering courses, not all of them are those named in the following article so it will test your knowledge of NT properties as well! There is also one National Trust for Scotland property.

Once you think you have identified a letter (say 26 stands for U) write U in each box on the grid with the number 26, cross off U in the A-Z bar above and write U next to 26 in the box above that. This helps you keep track of how far you have got.

To start you off you have been given the letters **G** and **Y** and these have been added to the grid. The letters **J**, **Q**, **V**, **X** and **Z** have not been used.

The block of 8 letters at the top left are just one word/one property; the block of 7 and 5 letters in the centre are two words/one property (to make them fit!). Some answers are two words joined together, e.g. Carding Mill.

The solution is at the end of the newsletter in Brashings

13	21	2	G 19			5						
10	15	14	18			16						
						21						
						8	16	21	21	20	3	
G 19						12						
11	13		3	11	G 19	15	18	21	21	1	10	
5						14						
10	14	13	9	16	14	20						
11						7					12	
1	4	1	20	14	10	9	21	2			3	
3						21					1	
8		14	16	1	11	2	G 19	20	11	13	13	
16											3	
21		5		16	11	20	15	14	20	10		
6		16		21	8	12	10					9
9											21	
8		16	11	8	12	13	3	Y 17			2	
14				16							15	
10				14	2				7	14		
9				9	21				16	13		
13				15	10				11	13		
3				3	9				21	13		
				10	3				16	14		
				8	13		Y 17			2		
				14	13					G 19		
				10						1		
18		15	11	9	5	4	16	2			14	
				13							13	
				3							3	
1	21	18	2	10	5	14	2	12	10			

The National Trust and permanent orienteering courses

NGOC and other clubs use NT land such as Sheepscombe or Standish for “normal” orienteering events but what about permanent orienteering courses on Trust properties? Are they of any interest to a club orienteer or only for beginners? Is it easy to find out where the courses are and how to obtain a map?

Kedleston, Derbyshire



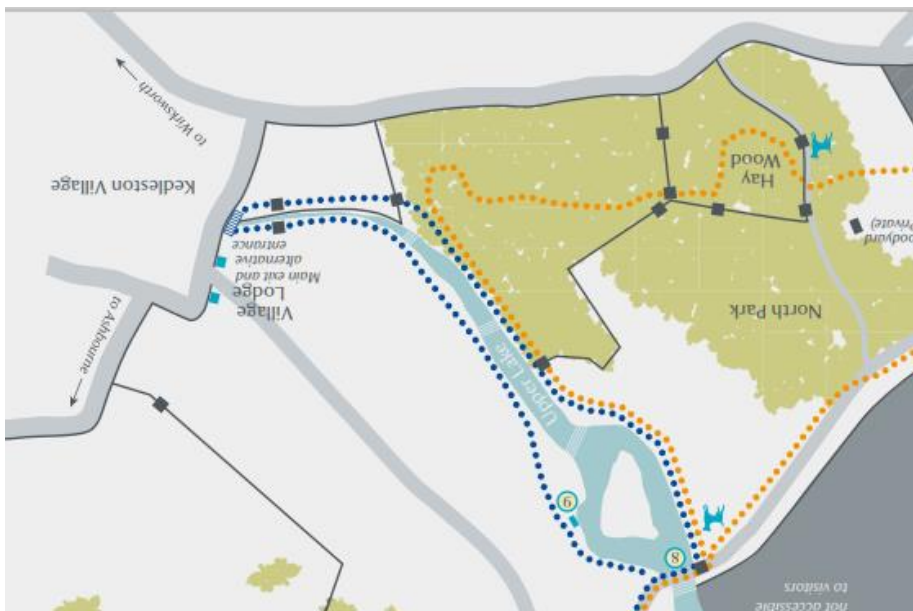
The top left-hand corner of the orienteering map of Kedleston; the full map covers the whole grounds

At [Kedleston Hall](#), courtesy of DVO, you can try either the Junior course or the Family course. The Junior course has 11 controls and the Family course has the same 11 controls with another 5 added on. Maps costs £1.50 to either print at home or for a printed map at reception or you can download onto a

smartphone. More details at: [Kedleston Park - Go Orienteering](#)

We found this a very pleasant stroll, which took us to parts of the estate we would probably not have visited otherwise. Navigating was very suitable for beginners and a compass was not necessary but it did feel strange not to have one on the end of my thumb!

Compared to the NT map that I downloaded from their website the “O” map was much more accurate and showed all the features but the NT map did name the main features. The NT map is also “upside down” because this fits in with the way visitors approach the house.

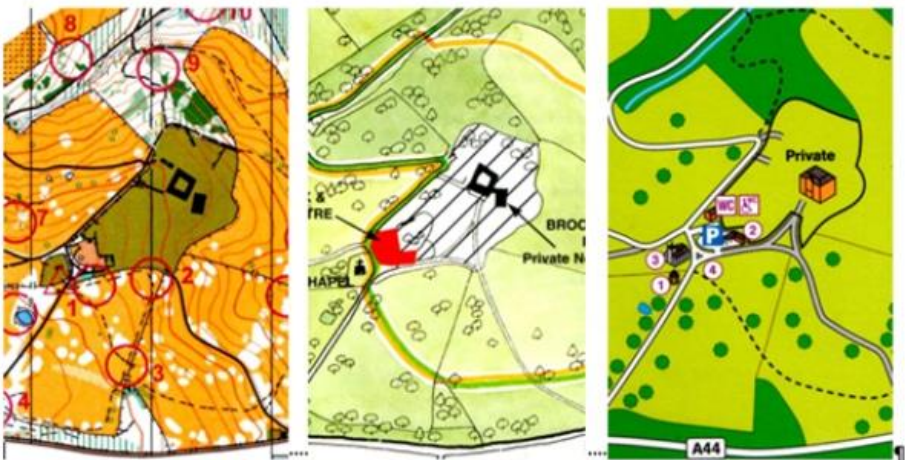


Part of the NT map for comparison

Brockhampton near Bromyard, Herefordshire

Another property where you can orienteer is [Brockhampton](#). Maps may be available at the property but it is best to download from the web for free: [Brockhampton Estate \(NT\) - Go Orienteering](#)

You may like to compare part of the Brockhampton orienteering map with the same parts of a couple of different National Trust maps:



Part of the orienteering map of Brockhampton (left) compared to the same area on two different National Trust maps (centre and right)

To find a course near you

Not all Trust properties have an orienteering course; the easiest way to find a course at a Trust property near you is to visit [Find a Course - Go Orienteering](#) and look on the map for your favourite Trust property.

It is best to print out a map beforehand as they might have run out of maps or the person on the ticket desk might not know about the orienteering!

Some (fairly) local NT properties with orienteering courses

Clicking on the first blue name in the entry will take you to the NT website with details of the property – opening times, entry prices etc; the second will take you to the BOF site with details of the orienteering and is where you can download the maps. Some courses are quite long: at Croft one is 6 km with 16 controls with route choice that can avoid paths.

[Carding Mill Valley](#), near Church Stretton ([Wrekin Orienteers](#))
[Cardingmill Valley \(NT\) - Go Orienteering](#)

[Crickley Hill](#), Gloucestershire (NGOC)
[Crickley Hill Country Park - Go Orienteering](#)

[Croft Castle](#), near Leominster, Herefordshire (Harlequins)
[Croft Castle - Go Orienteering](#)

[Croome](#), Near High Green, Worcestershire (Harlequins)
[Croome Park - Go Orienteering](#)

[Dudmaston Hall Woods](#), Quatt, near Bridgnorth, Shropshire (Harlequins). This is a mile from the entrance to Dudmaston House. Clicking on the link will show on an O.S. map where to park.

[Dudmaston Hall Woods - Go Orienteering](#)

[Leigh Woods](#), Bristol (BOK)
[Leigh Woods \(NT\) - Go Orienteering](#)

In conclusion: a good variety of orienteering but nothing too difficult and a good way of getting your “O” fix combined with a day out.

At Crickley Hill:



from the . . . NGOC Archive

From the front cover of the August 2005 Legend. The caption reads: The Scottish 6-Days: "It sums up the week" says Paul Taunton.



If anyone can think of a better caption please email to legend@ngoc.org.uk and get your name in lights in the next issue!

September 2006 Legend:

CLUB TENT IN ACTION!

Just to show that the wonderful new club tents don't spend all their time in garages (as suggested in the last Legend), here are a few examples of recent outings, where they were more often sunshades than rain shelters:

(below) Berkeley Castle, 24-25 June, at the celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. More traders and exhibitors than punters, and a distinct lack of adventurous spirit coupled with an alarmingly mercenary approach from some of the teams ('Do we have to?' and 'How much do we win?' being the most frequent questions). But a brilliant effort by Bob Teed and John Fallows to map the site (40-minute survey), set a course and borrow electronic controls.



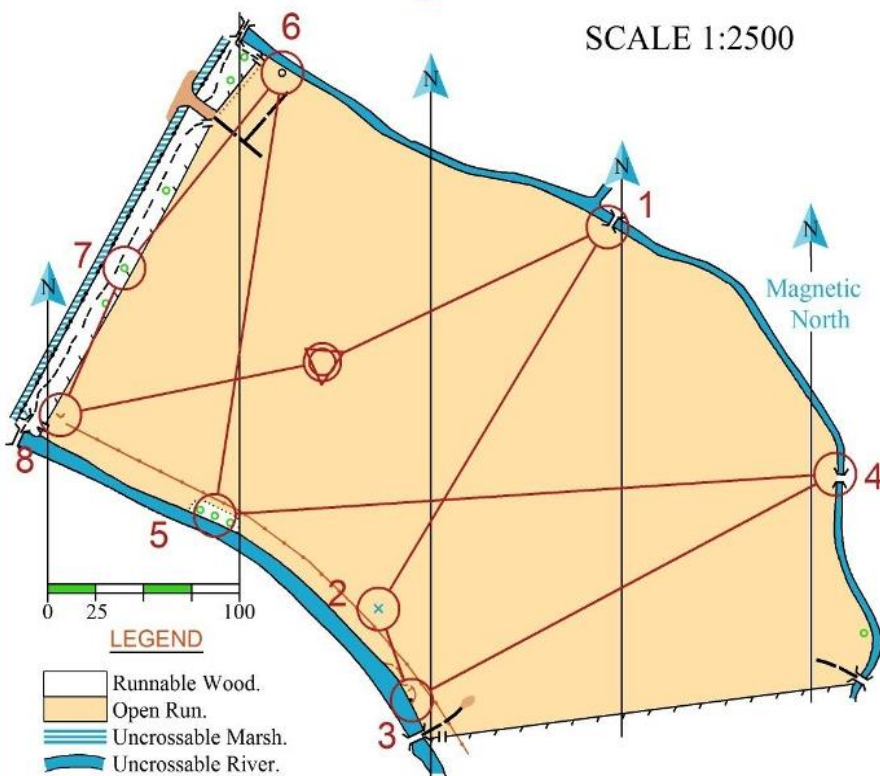
Berkeley Castle: 50th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. See the preceding item, "Club Tent in action", for details of this event. Can you match the two controls in these photographs with the map on the following page?



BERKELEY CASTLE

50th Anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme.

SCALE 1:2500



LEGEND

- Runnable Wood.
- Open Run.
- Uncrossable Marsh.
- Uncrossable River.
- Uncrossable Wall.
- Vegetation Boundary.
- Vehicle Track.
- Indistinct path.
- Gateways shown open.
- Bridge.
- Fence crossable.
- Post, Boulder.
- Formline.
- Isolated or Distinct Tree.
- Water Feature



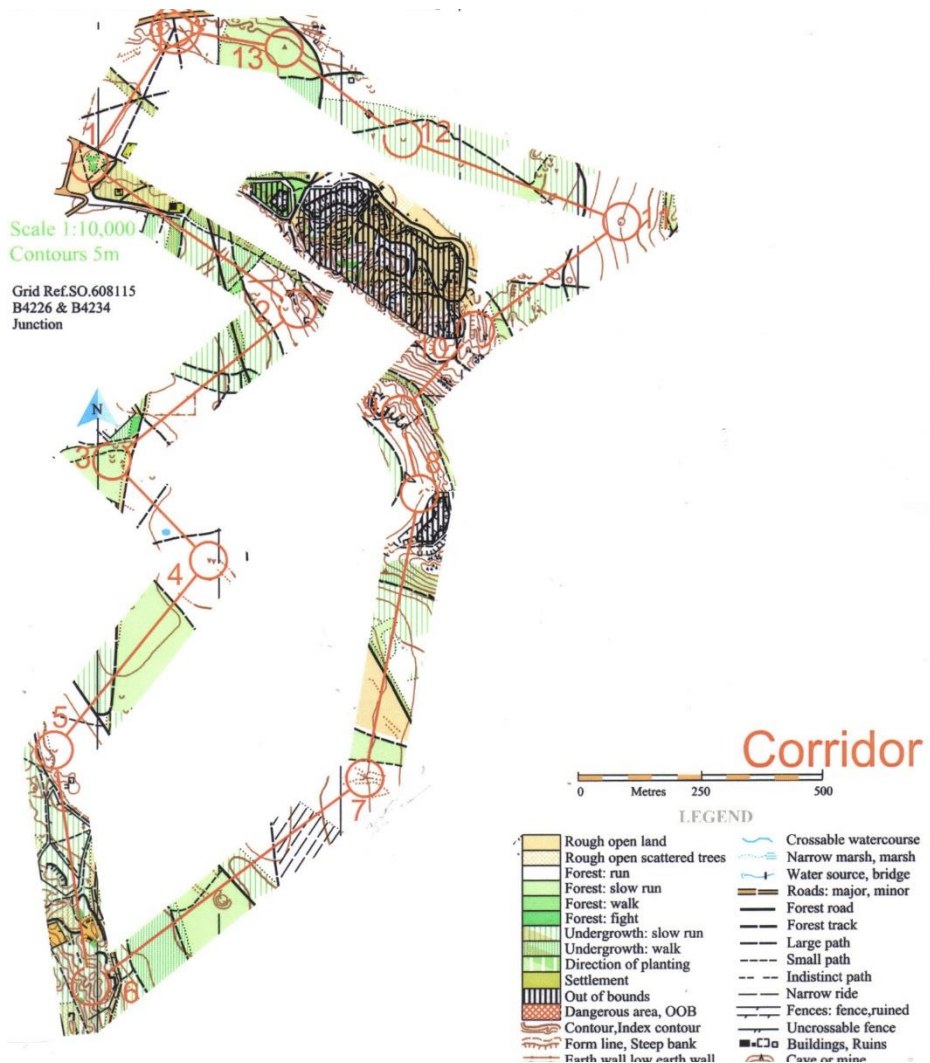
NGOC welcomes new members at all its League & informal events where there is something for all from Beginners & Elites. You will made most welcome and instruction is available if required.
Further information is available on our Web site www.ngoc.org.uk or phone Matthew King on 01242 226195 for an information pack.



Possession of this map does not imply a right of way for Orienteering or any other purpose. Permission must be obtained from the landowners. The representation of a track or path does not indicate a right of way.

Bob Teed's informal – less is more

As well as the usual fare of blue, light green and yellow courses Bob's informal at **(guess where?)** in January 2006 offered a “no tracks” blue course (described as “very difficult”), a “corridors” course (“elite”) and a “windows” (“well, courses close at 1530”):



Scale 1:10,000
Contours 5m

Grid Ref.SO.608115
B4226 & B4234
Junction

Window

0 Metres 250 500

LEGEND

	Rough open land		Crossable watercourse
	Rough open scattered trees		Narrow marsh, marsh
	Forest: slow run		Water source, bridge
	Forest: walk		Roads: major, minor
	Forest: fight		Forest road
	Undergrowth: slow run		Forest track
	Undergrowth: walk		Large path
	Direction of planting		Small path
	Settlement		Indistinct path
	Out of bounds		Narrow ride
	Dangerous area, OOB		Fences: fence,ruined
	Contour,Index contour		Uncrossable fence
	Form line, Steep bank		Buildings, Ruins
	Earth wall,low earth wall		Cave or mine
	Gully: large, small		Crags impassable
	Knoll: large, small		Crags Passable
	Pit, Platform (non IOF)		Boulder field,Special fe
	Depression: large, small		Boulders: big small Gro
	Pond: uncrossable, crossable		Mine Fenced, unfenced

Survey 1999 - 2000 Bob Rogers, Revision L. Callard 2004. update Aug 2
Cartography Jan 2004 on O-Cad by R Teed Copyright NGOC 2004/5
Based on the Ordnance Survey mapping with
the permission of the Controller of Her
Majesty's Stationary Office Crown copyright

License No. 43423U BOF Registration No SW - 00 - 187
Possession of this map does not imply a right of
way for Orienteering or any other purpose.
Permission must be obtained from the landowners.
The representation of a track or path does not



Printed by
NGOC



Brashings

Codeword solution

Across (from top left): Longshaw, Croome, Leigh Woods, Saltram, Dudmaston, Carding Mill, Brimham Rocks, Crickley, Whitburn, Downs Banks.

Down (from top left): Brockhampton, Gibside, Kedleston Hall, Croft Castle, Crathes Castle, Nostell Priory, Langdale.

British Orienteering incentive scheme Awards

Congratulations to the following members who have been awarded incentive scheme certificates for their performances at orienteering events.

Samuel Horsfall	Navigation Challenge ** Racing Challenge: Bronze Award **
Si Read	Navigation Challenge *****
Hannah Bradley	Racing Challenge: Silver Award *****
Kim Liggett	Racing Challenge: Gold Award ***** Racing Challenge: Silver Award *****
Claire Horsfall	Navigation Challenge *****
Alan Stringer	Navigation Challenge ***
Daniel Edwards	Navigation Challenge *****
Seth Lawson	Navigation Challenge *****

White Rose miracle

A competitor returned to the download on Saturday at Skipwith, having lost their SIAC dibber. Although they were fairly sure of the area where they had lost it, they hadn't found it when looking. However, when the courses had closed and control collectors had ventured out, they borrowed one of the SI boxes. Using the SI box like a metal detector, they searched around the area and it worked. The SI box beeped as a sign that a SIAC dibber was close, and they were able to narrow down the search area. One missing dibber found!

(Thanks to Paul Taunton and EBOR)

Have your say!

Are there any matters that you would like the Committee to consider? Contact the Club Secretary, Kim Liggett, or any member of the Committee.

Articles for Legend

We are always looking for articles and photographs on anything to do with orienteering. Send your article/pictures to legend@ngoc.org.uk. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of Legend.

Disclaimer

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club.

