

JOHN SMITH'S PLAYING FIELD



The Park

This Ribble Valley Borough Council parkland with stunning views of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has a varied and interesting past. In the early 1800's the Park was a quarry from which the stone was used for local buildings and major developments in Lancashire, such as The Harris Museum and the Railway Station in Preston. Evidence of this history is still visible in the park, eg, quarry tunnels, a cast iron base of a crane, and glimpses of the quarry face. Once the quarry railway which connected to the town was dismantled, the area was used as landfill before being landscaped into today's park. To find out more about the history within this thriving small town pick up a free 'Longridge Heritage Trails' leaflet available from Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre and selected venues in Longridge, including the Library.



A view of the Bowland Fells

By working with Longridge youth and community groups over a number of years this community facility has been developed to provide a local venue encouraging outdoor activities. These activities include a permanent orienteering course, nature and sculpture trails. The park now offers a more active and educational visit for families, local community groups, schools and tourists.

Stone sculptor Martyn Bednarczuk and ceramic artist Julie Miles worked with the community of Longridge to create original designs for signage and markers, transforming a simple orienteering course into an exciting and functional form of sculpture for the park. This creative solution also provides the general visitors to the park with a nature/sculpture trail to take in at their leisure.



What is orienteering?

The objective of orienteering is to find your way round an area using a map, progressing from the starting point to all the control points on your chosen route, you can run energetically or wander round enjoying the park. As well as teaching basic skills, orienteering offers fun, adventure and healthy exercise for everyone.

This project has been supported by Lancashire County Council, the Local Strategic Partnership, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Longridge Youth and Community Centre and The Longridge Partnership.

What you need

This leaflet (will need protection if it is raining heavily)
Shoes and clothing suitable for walking on uneven ground.
Pen/pencil to fill in your control point answers.

Choose a course

- Course 1** – Easy for beginners, 8 control posts at easily recognized features.
- Course 2** – Medium/difficult, 11 control posts at different types of tree.



What to do

You should first of all study the map carefully so that you understand what all the symbols mean.

You will notice that on the map there is a set of numbered circles. These show the sites of control points. In the park the 'control' points are represented by wooden posts approximately half a metre high. Each post has its own individual number and letter.

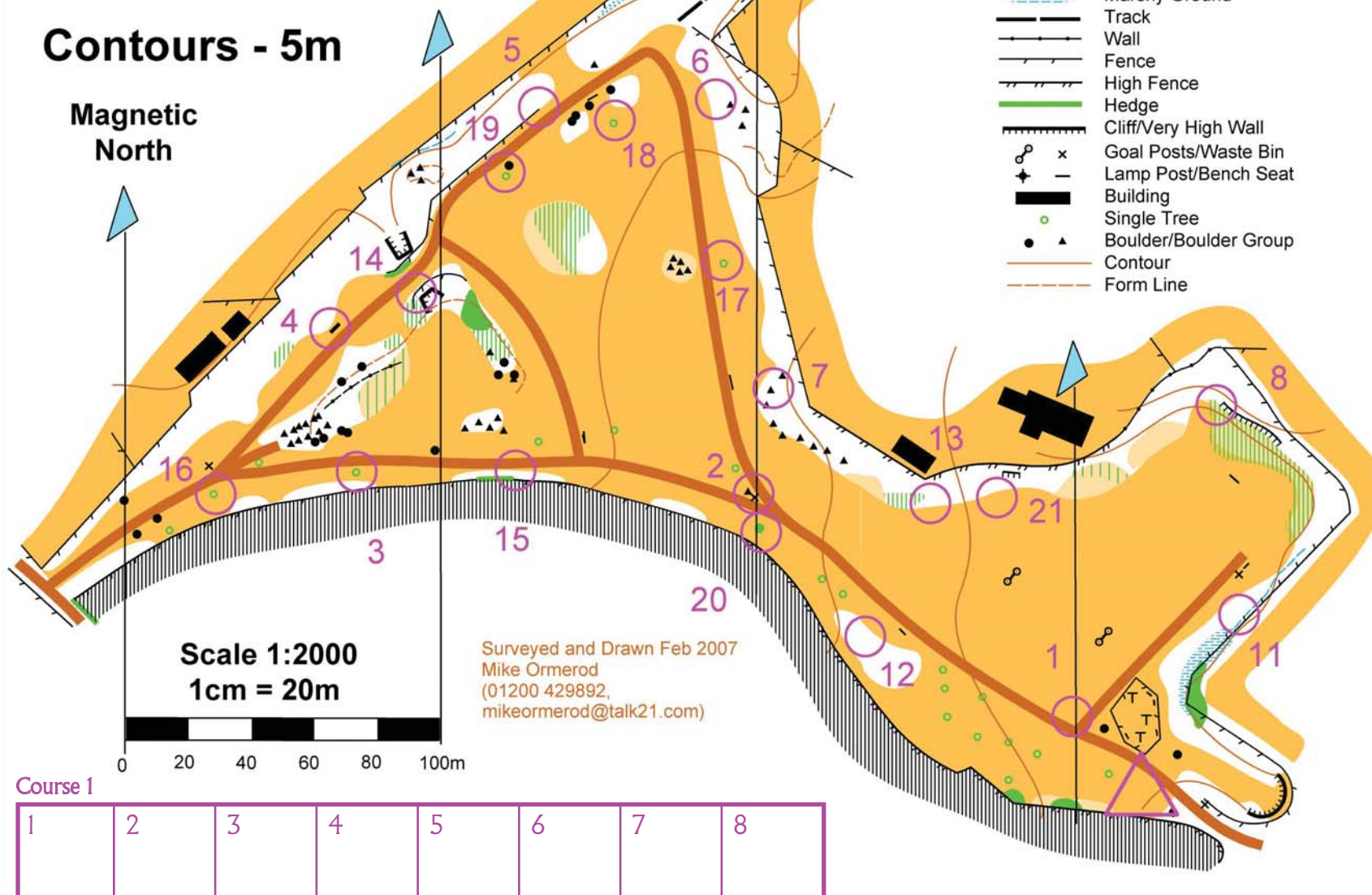
You should start and finish by the post at the triangle marked on the map - this is situated close to the eastern entrance of the park. The aim is to visit the control points on your chosen course, in order, by navigating with the map.

When you get to each control you should check that the number on the post corresponds to that on your map. You should then write down the letter on the post in the appropriate box in the table below.

Copies of this orienteering map are available for a small charge at Longridge Youth and Community Centre, Berry Lane, Longridge, tel.no. 01772 782909 and Platform Gallery, Station Road, Clitheroe, tel. no. 01200 443071.

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Permanent Orienteering Course



Course 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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Course 2

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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Course 1

Control numbers

Control Site Feature

Start

- 1 Path Junction
- 2 Boulder
- 3 Tree
- 4 Park Bench
- 5 Fence End
- 6 Vegetation Boundary
- 7 Boulder Group
- 8 Woodland Edge

Finish

When you have finished you should be able to rearrange the letters into two well-known trees one has 3 letters, one has 5.

Course 2

Control numbers

Tree close to the post

Start

- 11 Ash
- 12 Maple
- 13 Elder
- 14 Hawthorne
- 15 Sycamore
- 16 Crab Apple
- 17 Swedish Whitebeam
- 18 Beech
- 19 Sycamore
- 20 Californian Lilac
- 21 Rowan

Finish

When you have finished you should be able to rearrange the letters into two well-known trees. One has 3 letters, one has 8.

If you have enjoyed the experience of orienteering at John Smith's Playing Field there is a local club that runs orienteering competitions and social activities through the year: 'South Ribble Orienteering Club', the first to be set up in England in 1964 always welcome newcomers. For more details visit www.sroc.org or tel. 01772 721573.

You may orienteer in John Smith's Playing Field on the understanding that you do so at your own risk Ribble Valley Borough Council cannot be held responsible in the event of any accident, loss, injury or damage to anyone using the orienteering course.