

Course setting using Purple Pen

An introduction

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What you need

- A computer running Windows
- Purple Pen software. Freeware and downloadable from
- http://purplepen.golde.org/download.htm
- A map file of the area. This will normally be sent to you, most likely as an OCAD file but possibly also PDF / JPG etc.

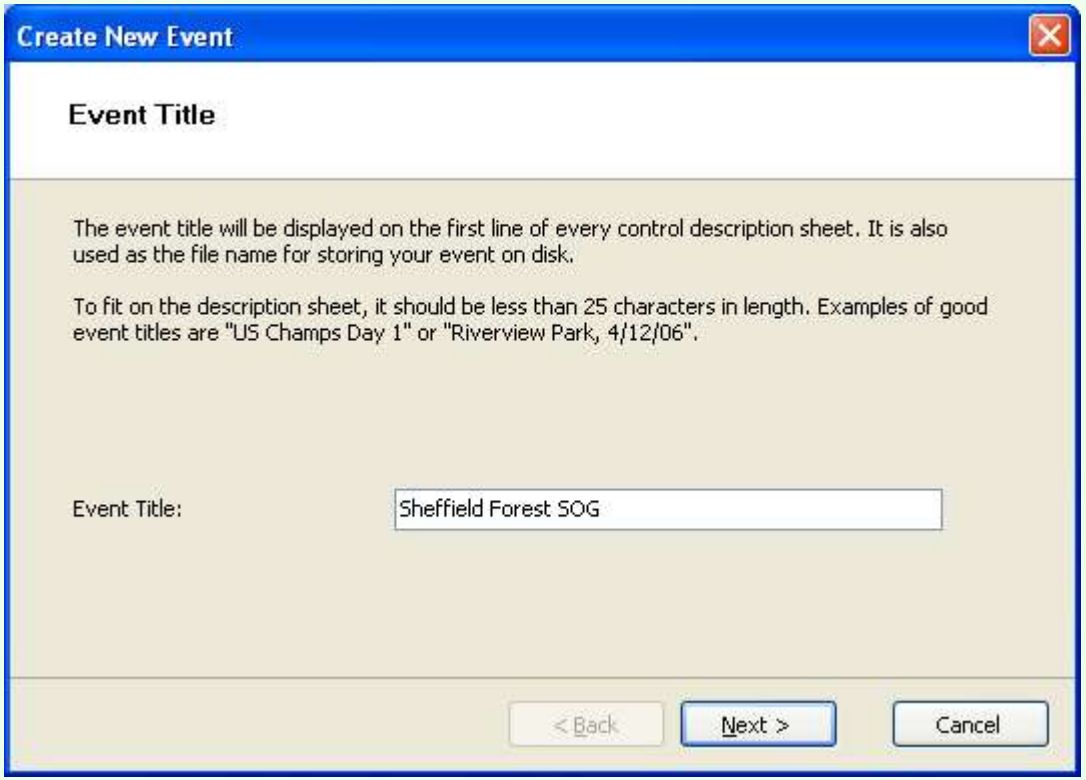
The basic concept

- Course planning works in two layers which exist as two separate files.
- The bottom layer (background map) is the actual map. You will not be altering this map.
- The top layer / file consists of the course overprints. It is this layer that you will create and modify.
- The person checking/printing your courses will need both files.

Create a new course planning file

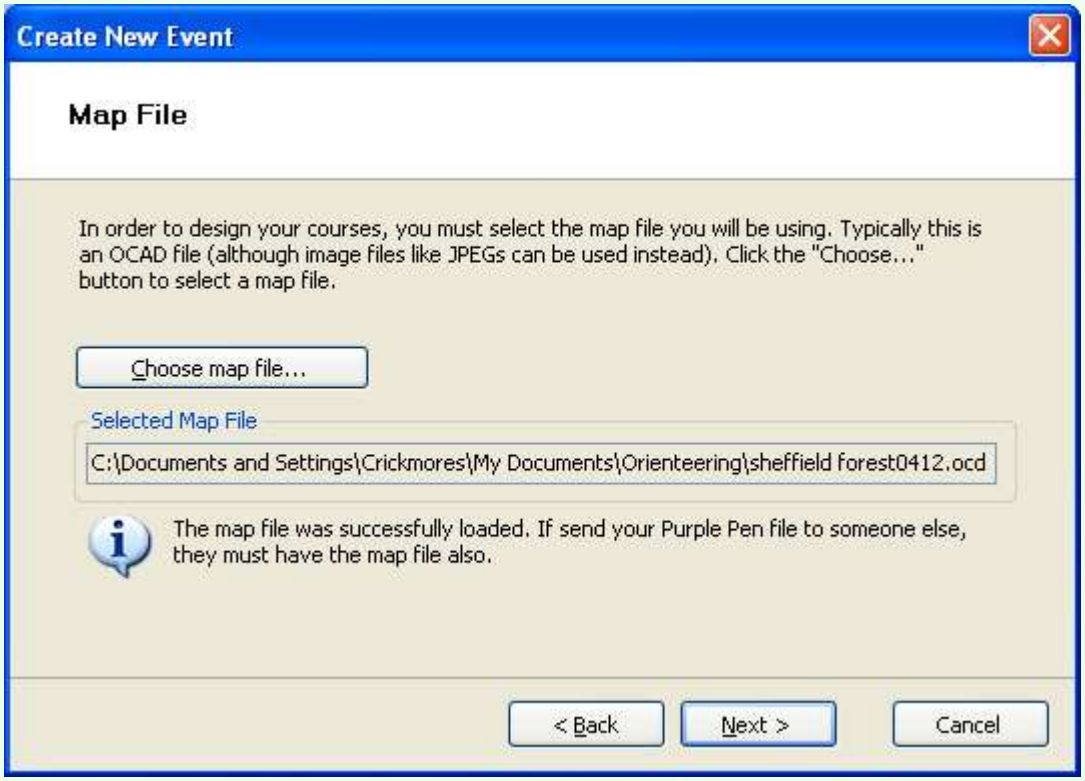
Create a new event and give the event a title





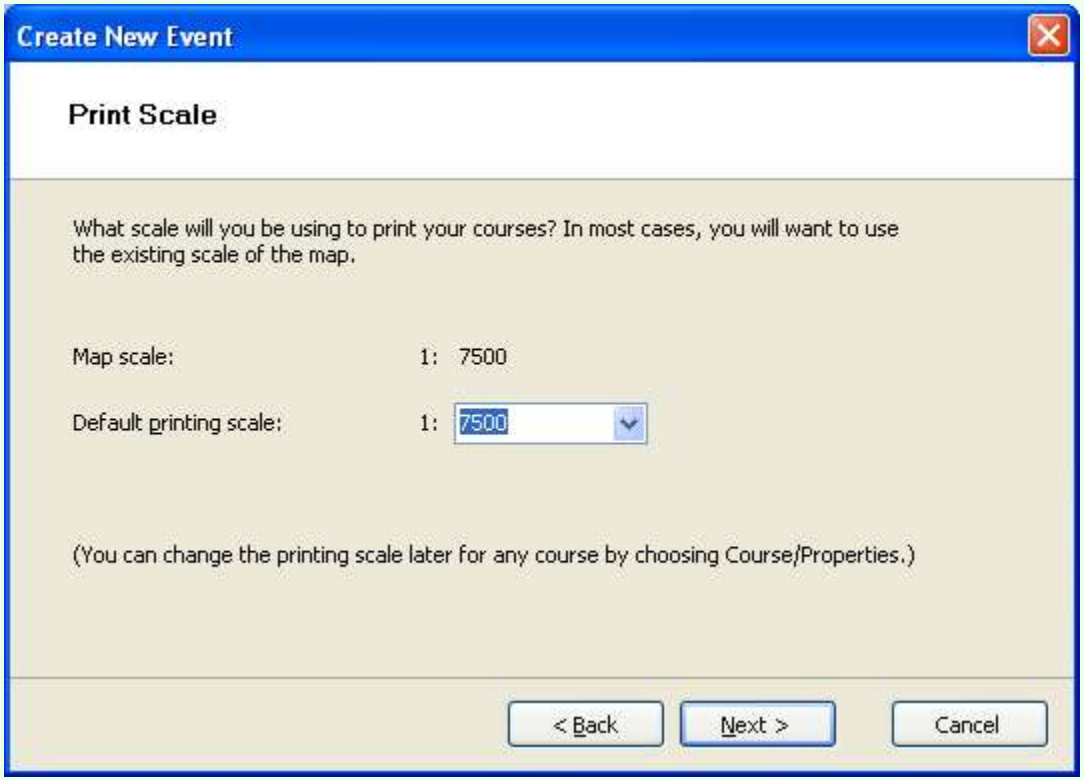
Load the map

Locate the map file (in ocad format normally)



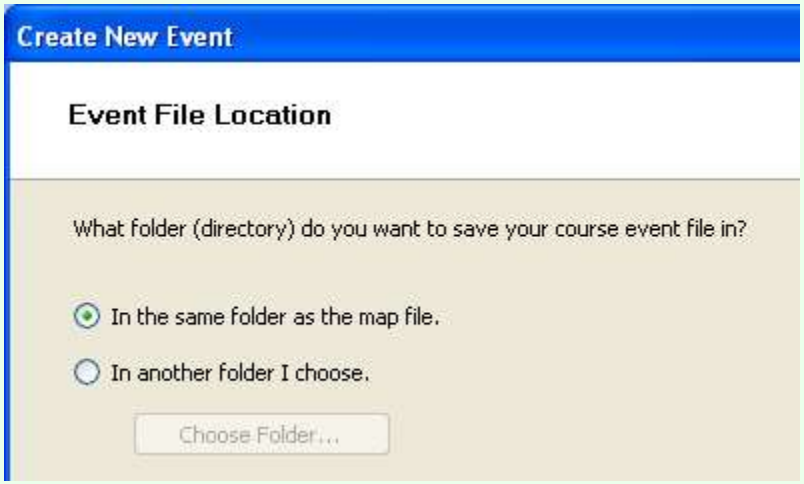
Checking the scale

Hopefully the values that appear in the boxes will be the same as the scale written on the front of the map. If not change the default printing scale to whatever is written on the map. Before going much further though check with the person who sent you the map file that the scale is correct

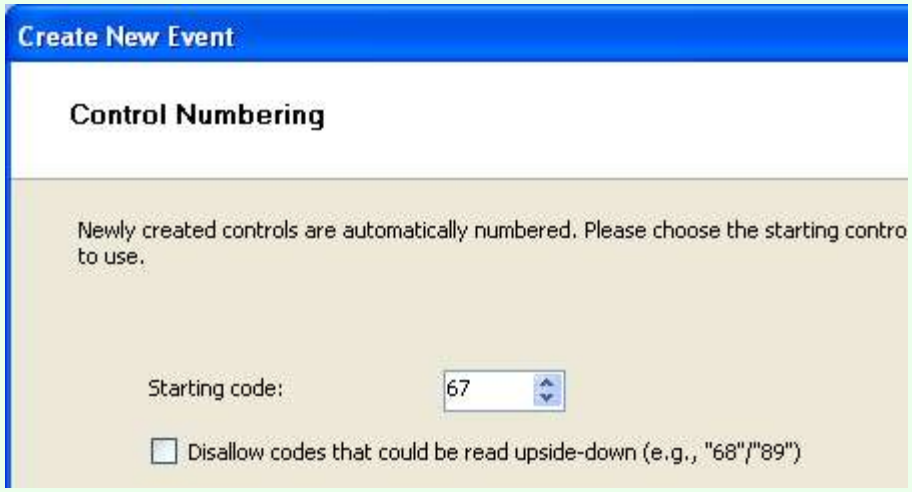


Housekeeping

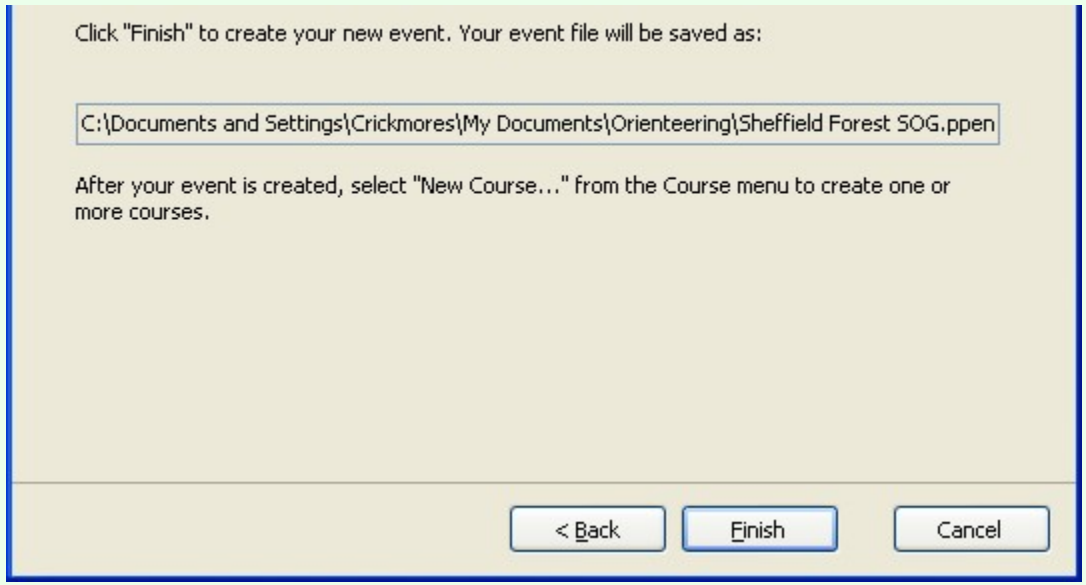
Save the file



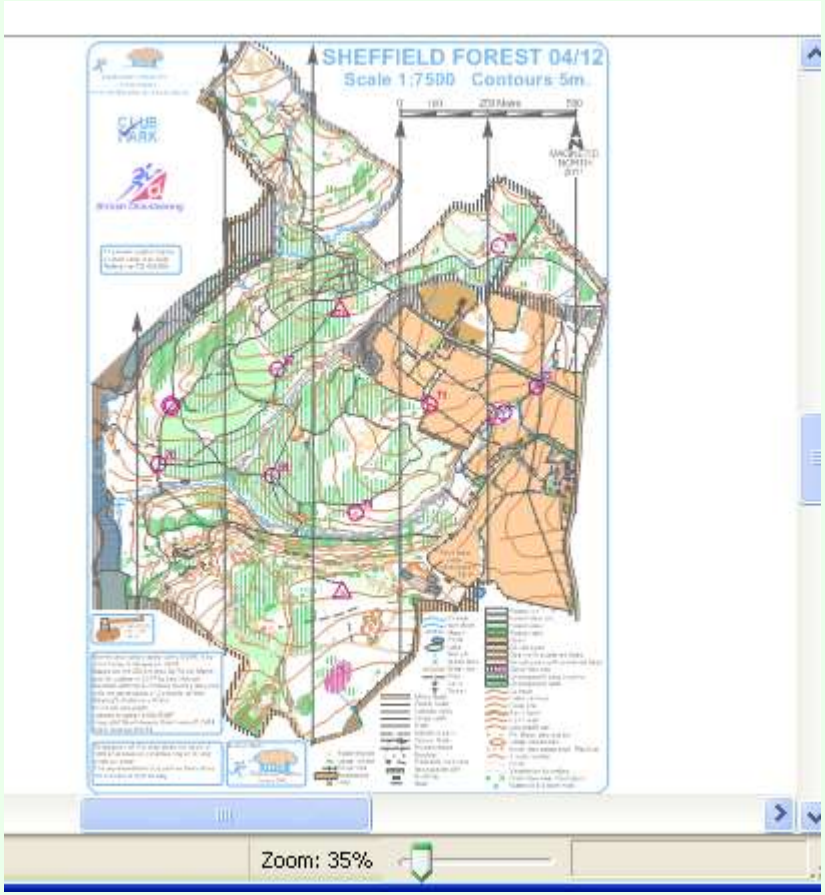
Specify the control range



Complete the setup



Viewing the map



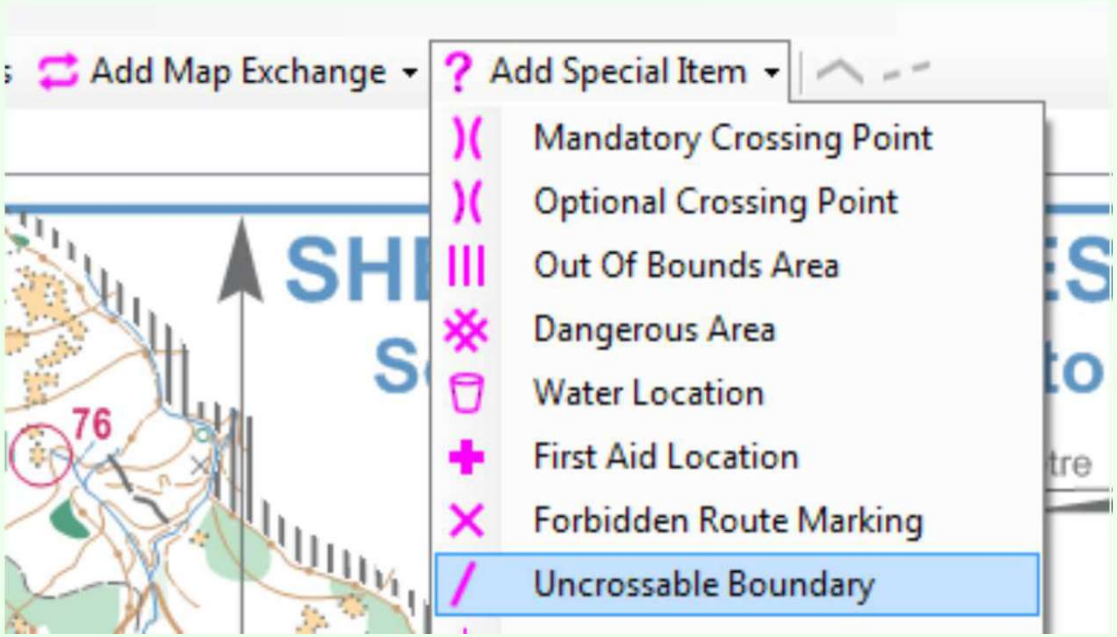
Scroll around the window

Use the slider to zoom in or out (or use mouse wheel)

Confirming the scale

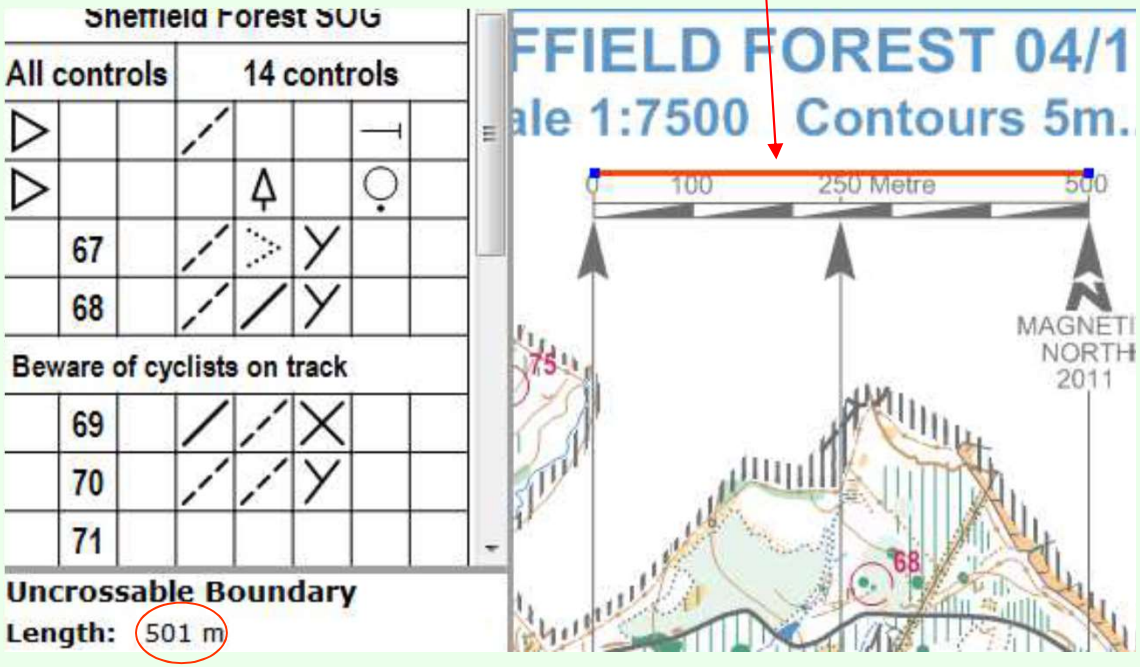
Most of us have been to an event where the planner has got the scale wrong and planned courses too long or too short. This step is therefore recommended for every new event.

Select the uncrossable boundary symbol from the special items pull down menu.



Confirming the scale II

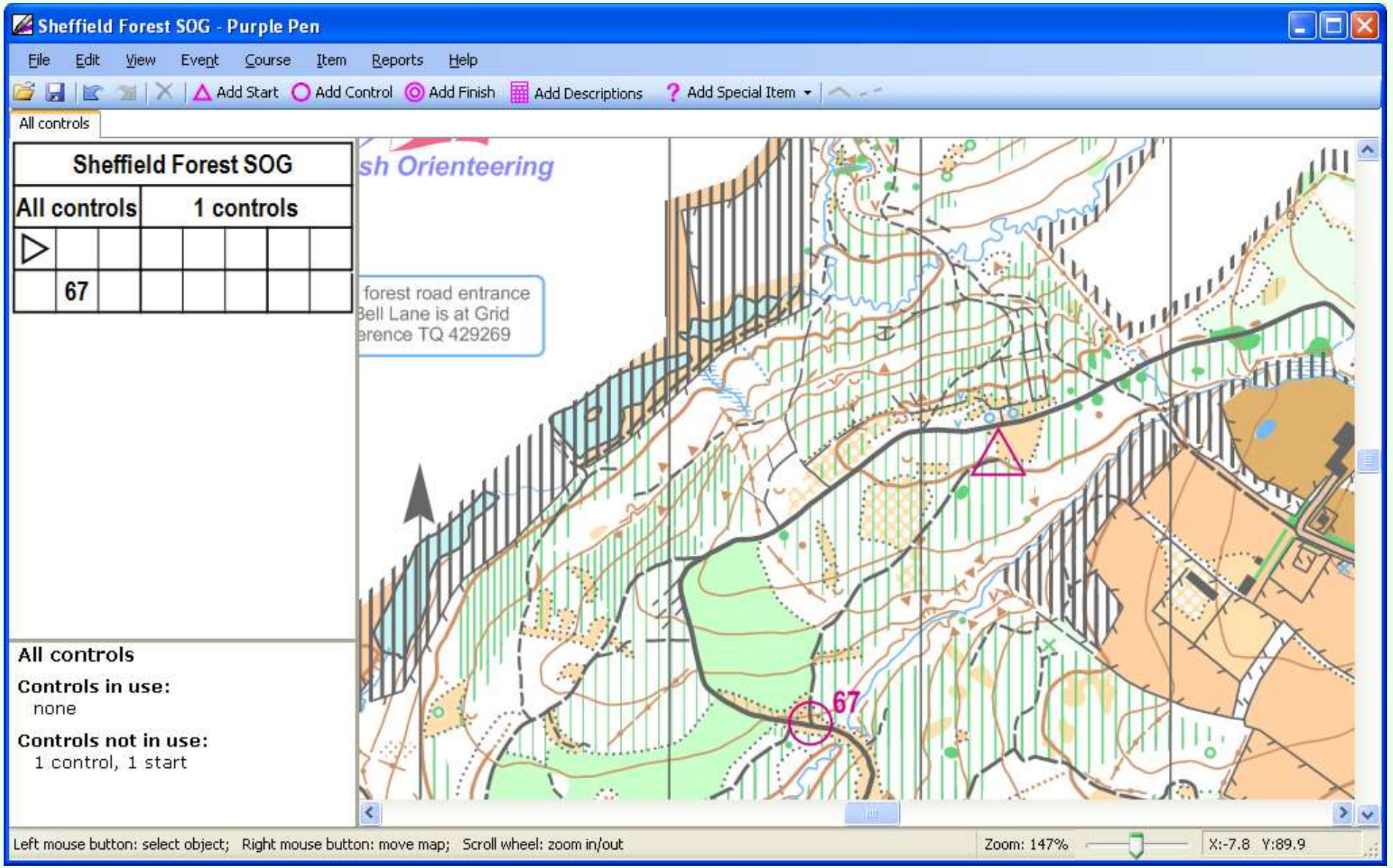
Draw a line along the scale bar



Check that the length of the line is the same as the scale bar

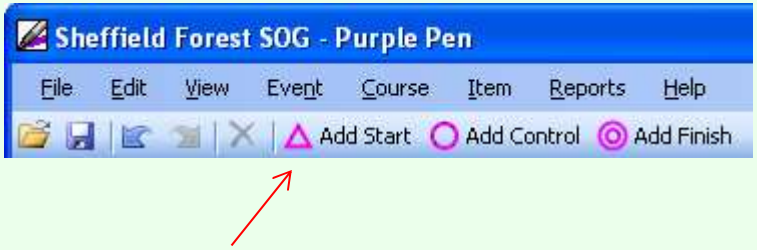
Delete the line when you are done

Start entering items on the master map



To place the start I

Below the menu bar you will find the Add Start button click this



Using the cross hairs position the start over the correct feature then left click to place it there.

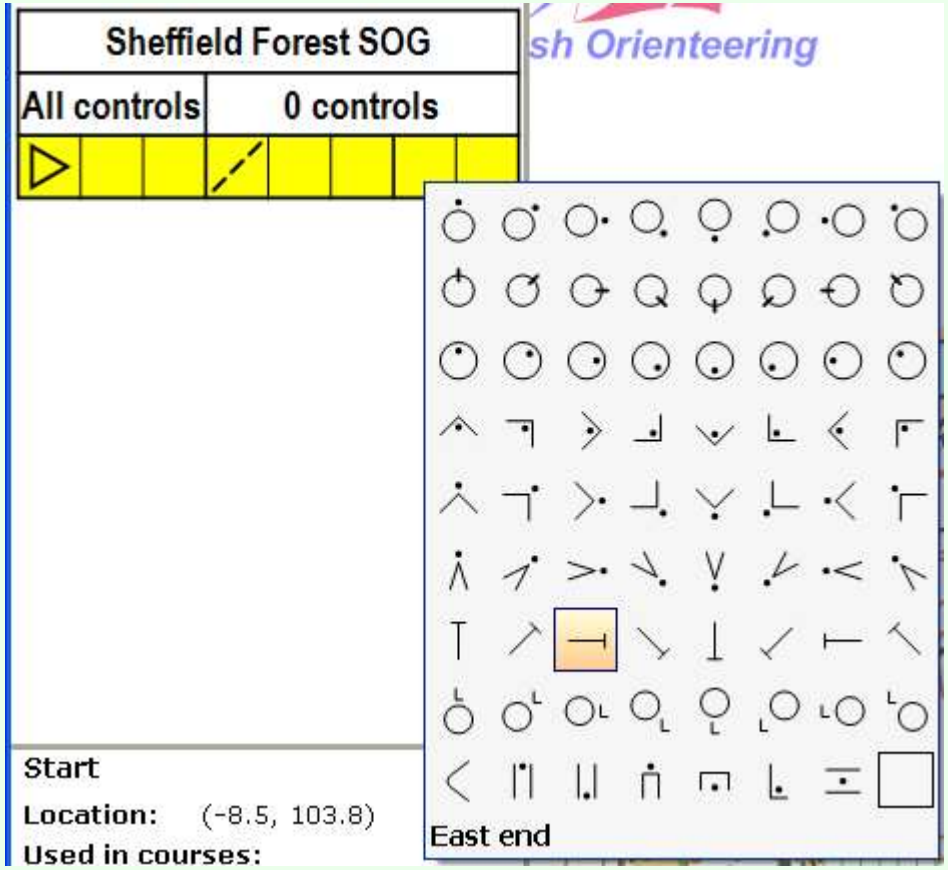


Click elsewhere on the map and the symbol will turn purple



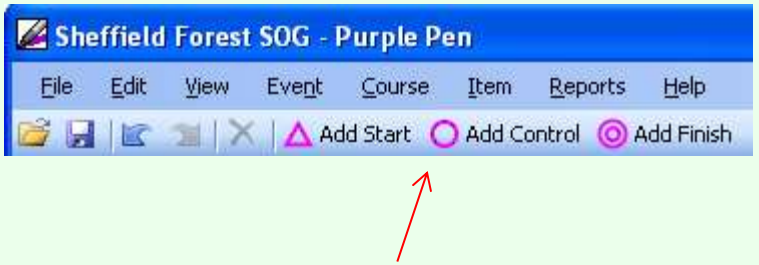
To place the start II

By clicking the yellow boxes you can add the description for the start.

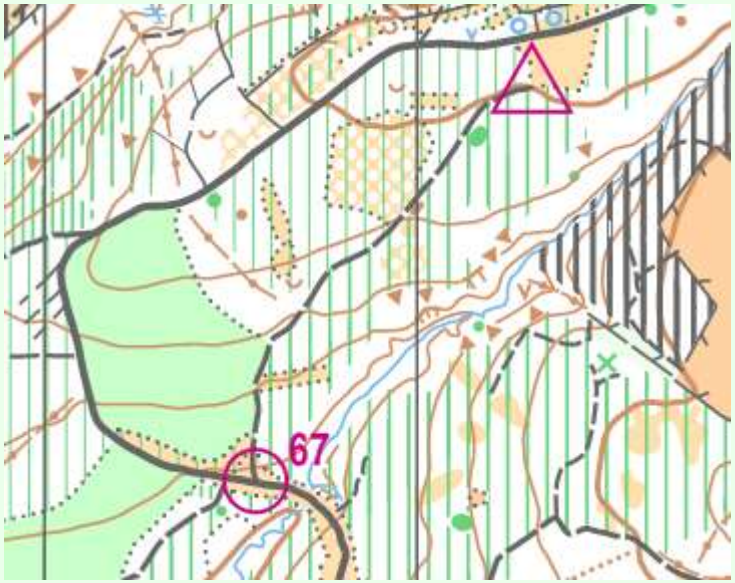


Placing controls

Use the same procedure as with the start but using the Add Control button



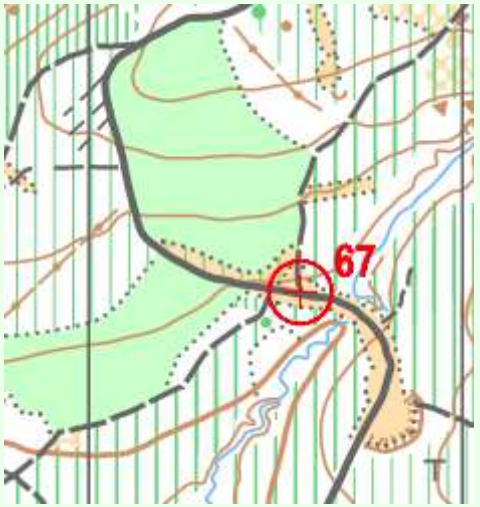
Don’t forget the descriptions



Enter all the controls for all the courses

If you need to move a control

…or start or finish or anything else



Left click on the symbol. It will turn red and the cross hairs will appear.

Left click and hold to drag the symbol to the new location.



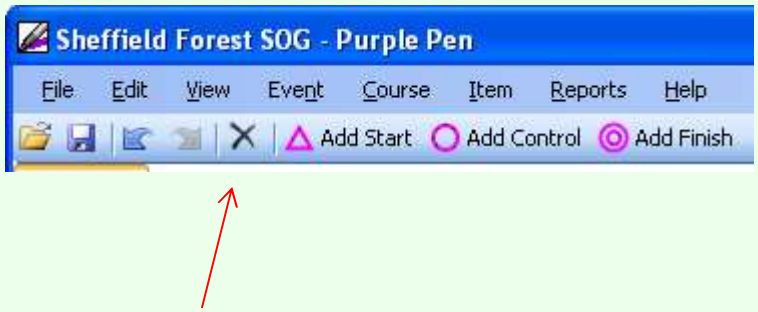
Don’t forget to change the description.

If you need to delete a control

…or start or finish or anything else

Left click on the object until it turns red.

Click on the delete icon
to remove the object

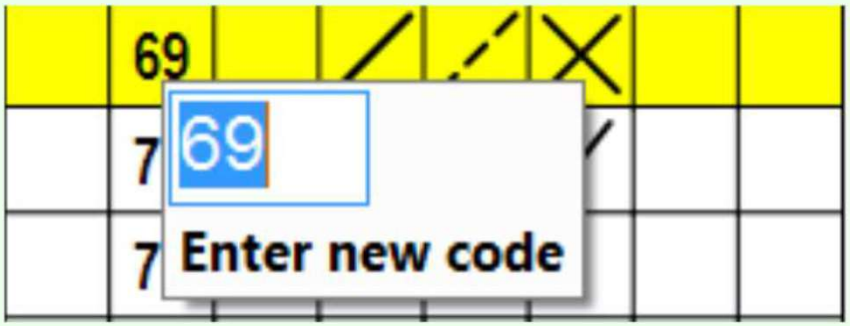


If you need to renumber a control

Simply double-click on the number that you want to change.

You can then replace the old number with a new one and press return

If you choose a number that is already in use then the program will tell you and not allow you to make that change,

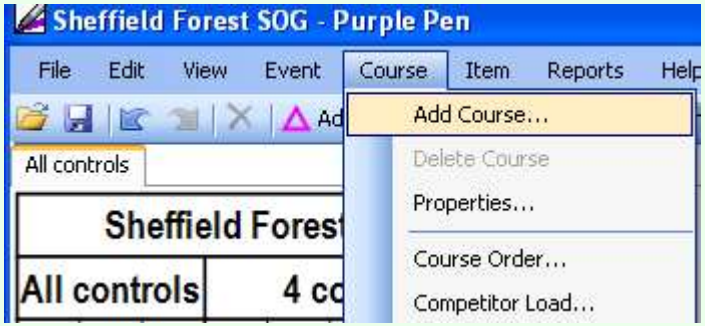


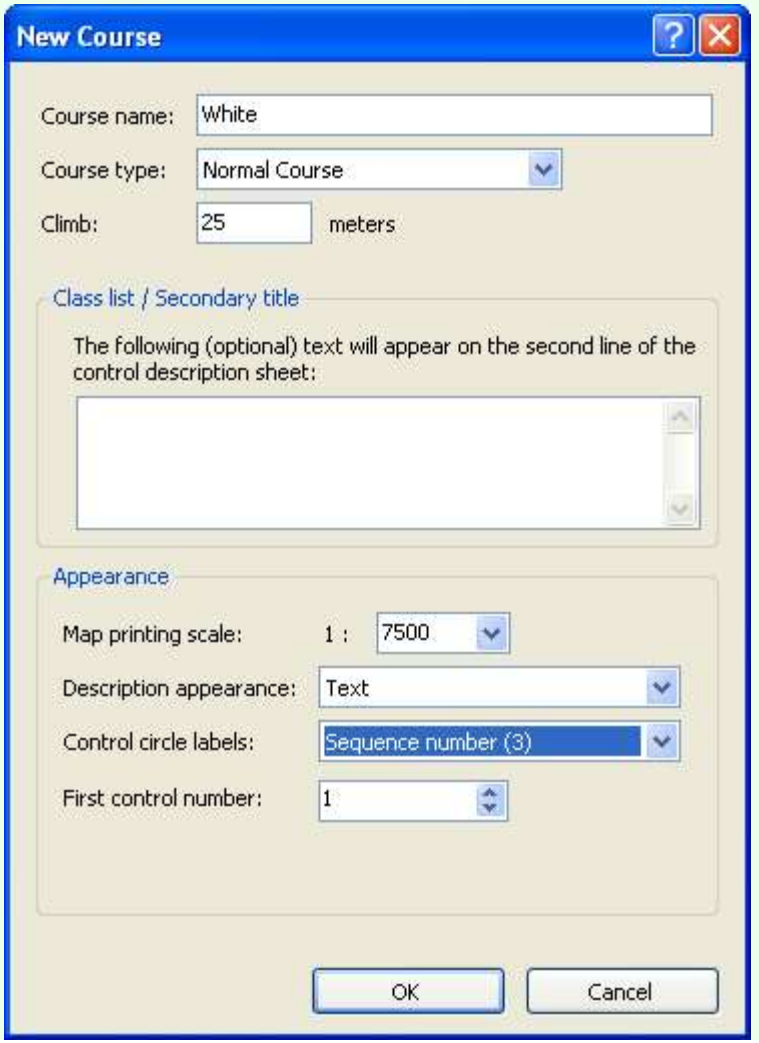
Creating courses

When you have added all the controls it's time to define the courses

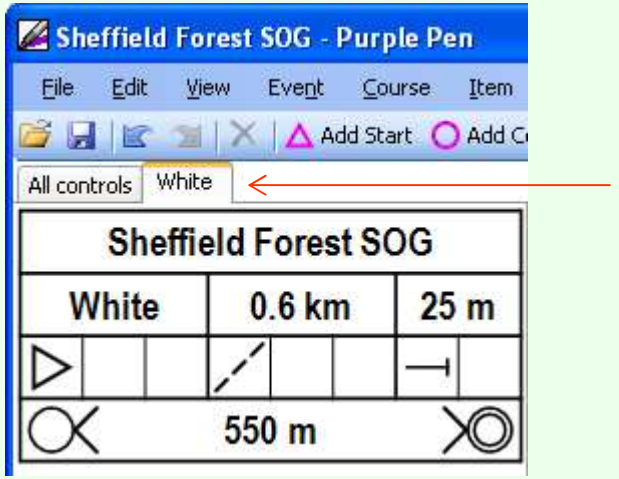
From the Course pull down menu select Add Course

Fill in the appropriate details



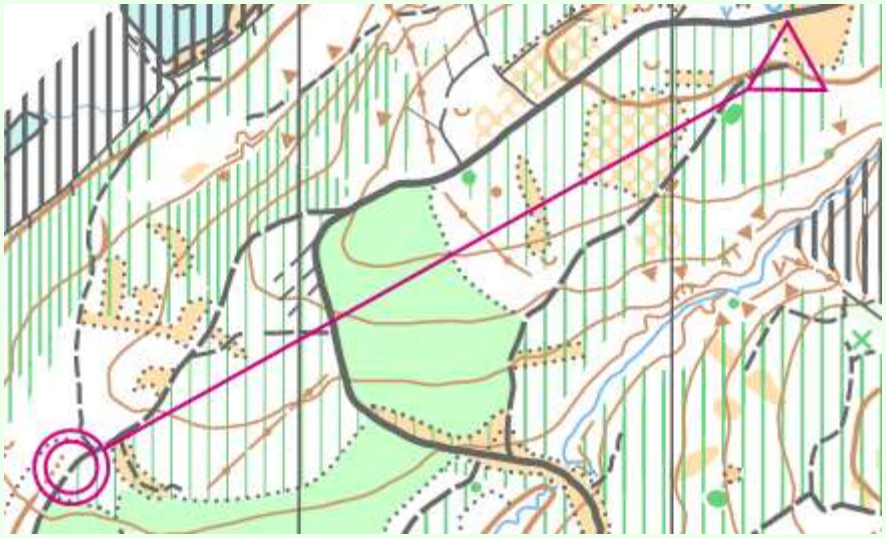


Defining the course



The new course will now have appeared as a tab by the control list

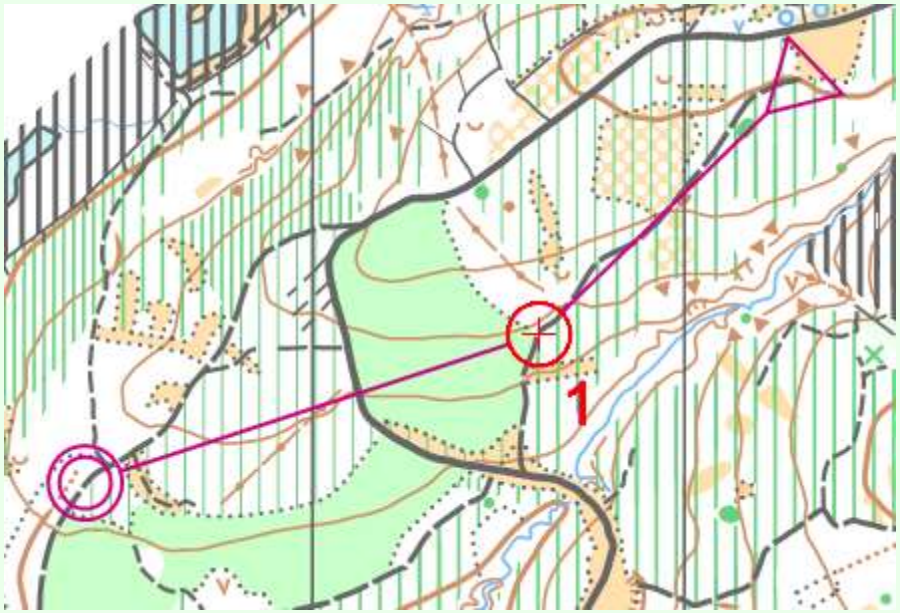
The course will initially be shown as a line between the start and finish.

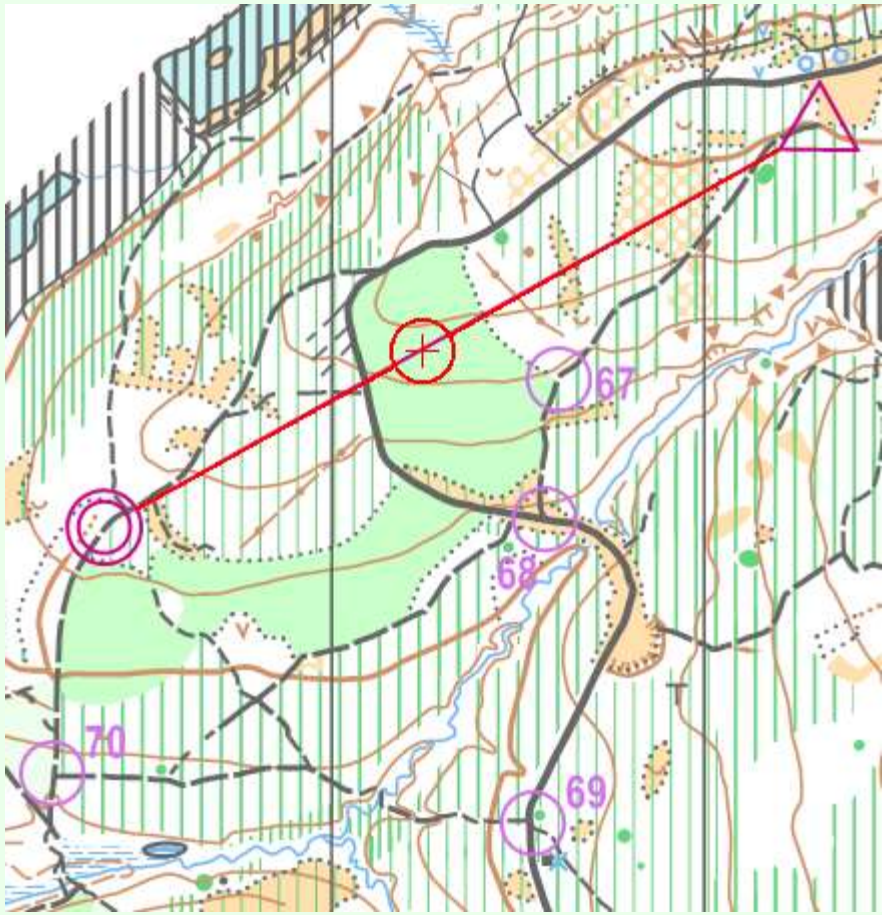


Click on the Add Control button and the location of the other controls will appear

Defining the course II

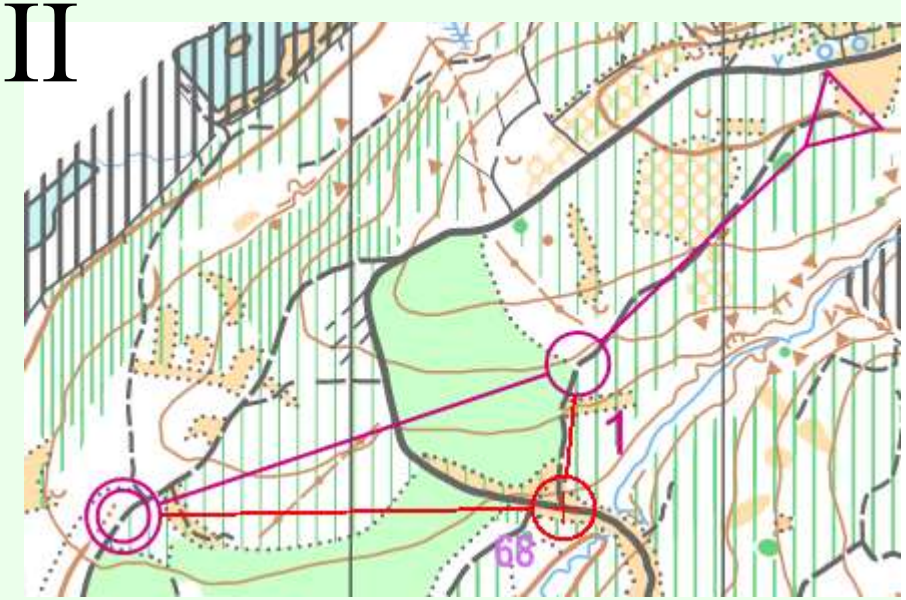
Drag the red circle to the intended first control and left click. This will set the first control on the course.



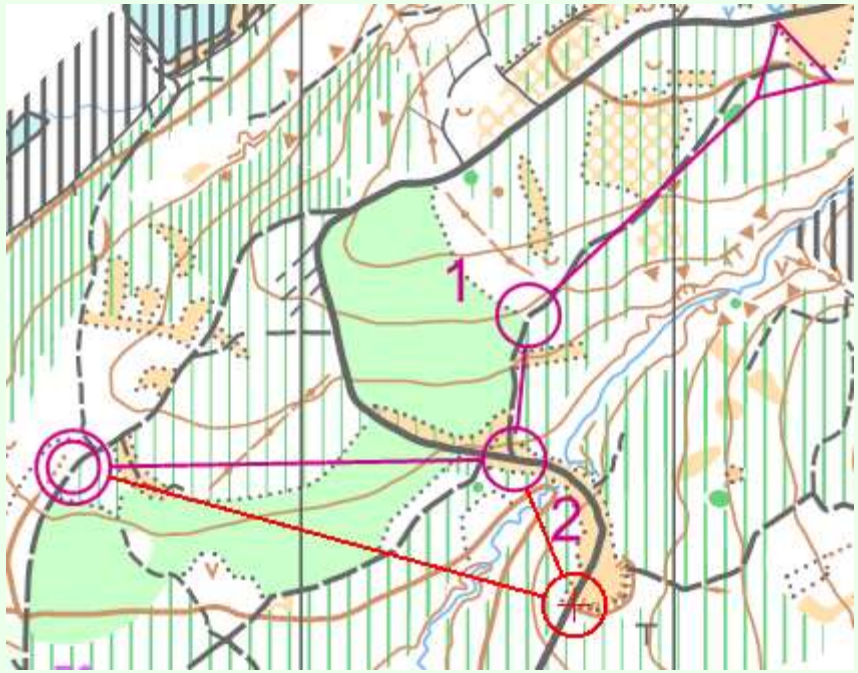


Defining the course III

Click on Add Control again and move the circle to the next control on the course.



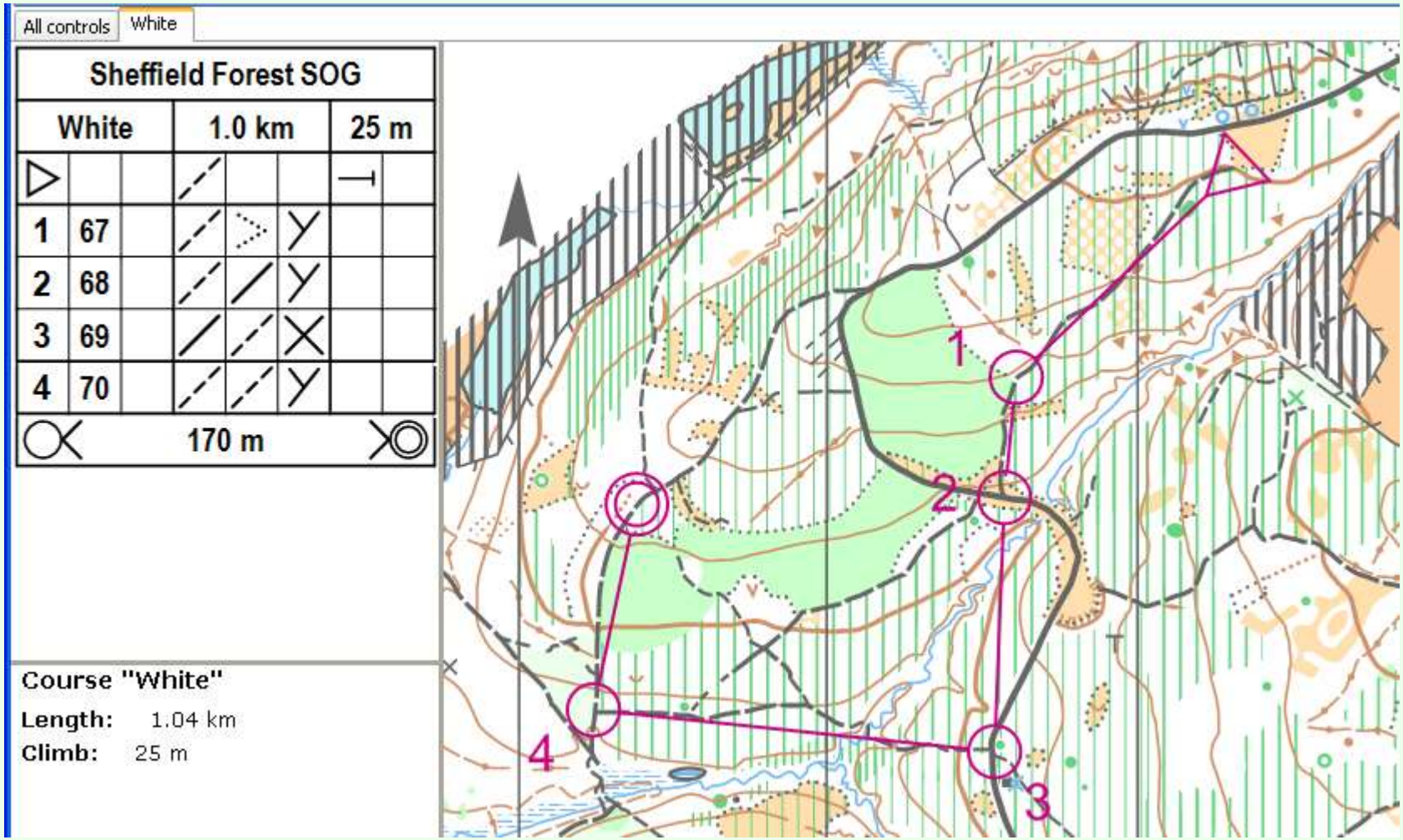
Continue this process until all the controls have been added.



You can if you wish drag the red circle to a new location and create a new control site.

Defining the course IV

Complete the process until the course is complete



Changing controls

To change a course control left click it until it turns red and then either delete it, move it to a different control or to a new site.

If you want to move the position of an existing control then click on the All controls tab to change that control.



Inserting a line of text

To insert a line of text in a course description first select the control above where you want the text to go. Then from the Item pull down menu select Add Text Line



This will bring up a dialog box into which the text can be added.

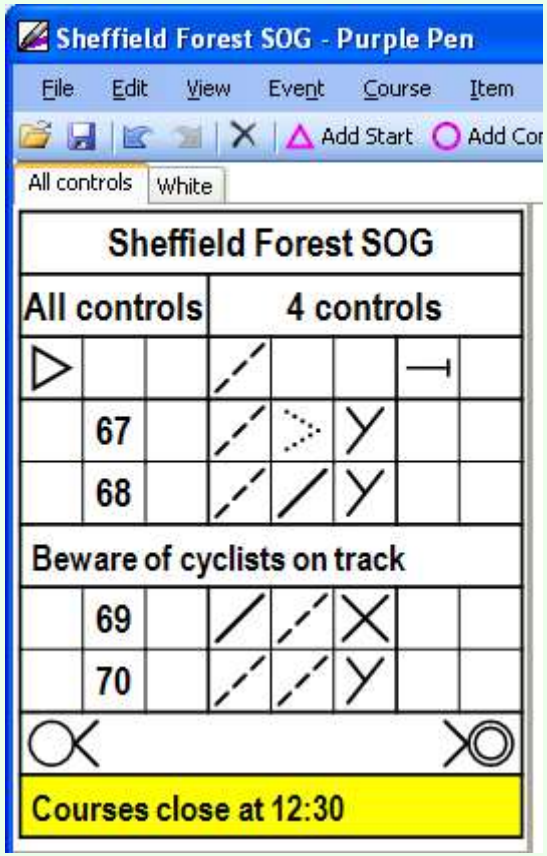


Inserting a line of text II

This will insert the line of text into the course descriptions.

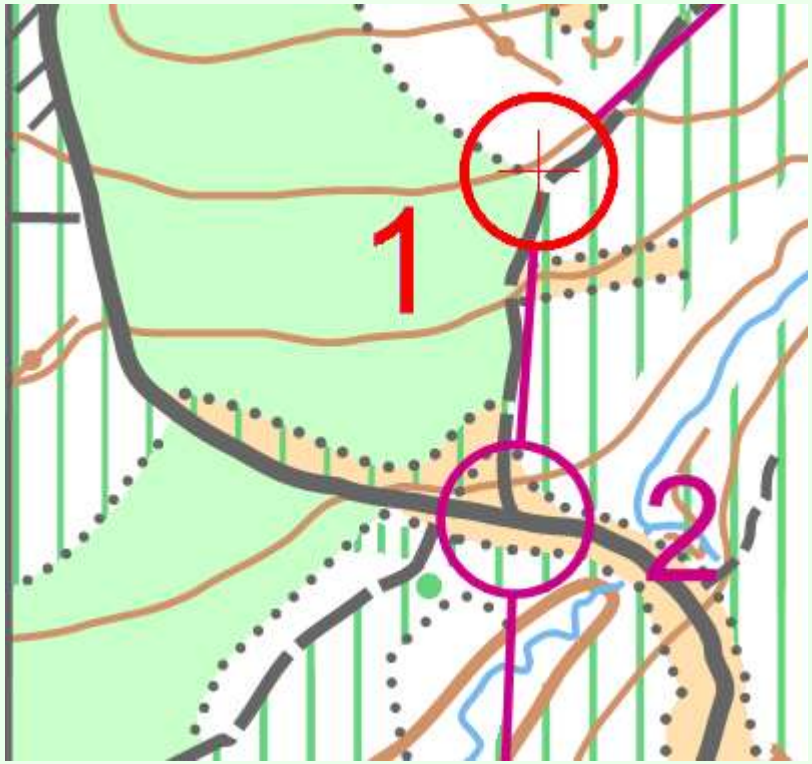
In the previous dialog box you have the option of that line of text appearing below the specified control in all courses.

This could be used to insert the course closing time after the finish



Modifying the course

You will almost certainly need to move the control numbers around – to do this first go to the course that you want to tidy up. Left click on a control – the circle and number will turn red. You can then move the number around.

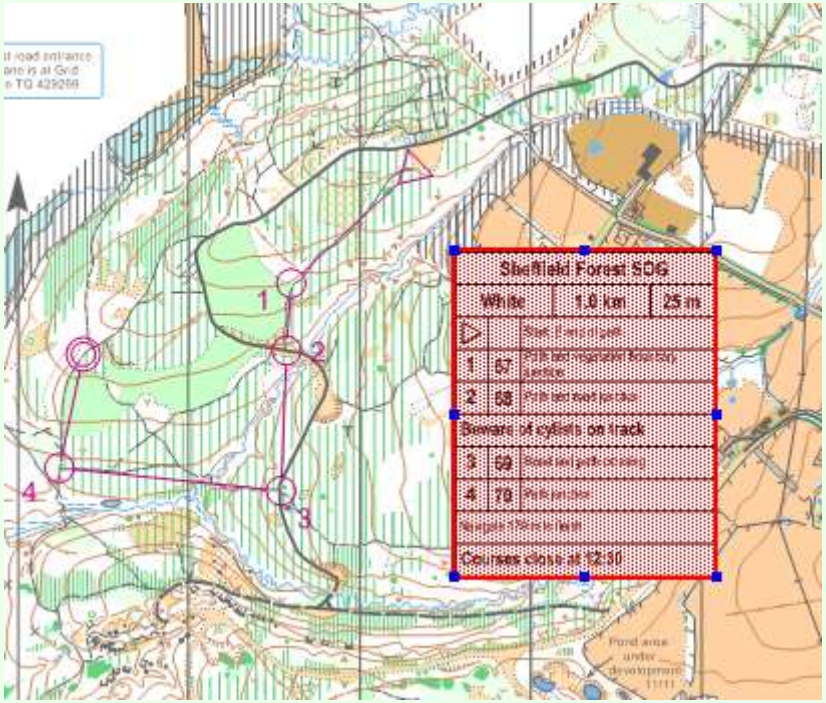


Adding control descriptions

Select the Add Descriptions button. description placement icon.

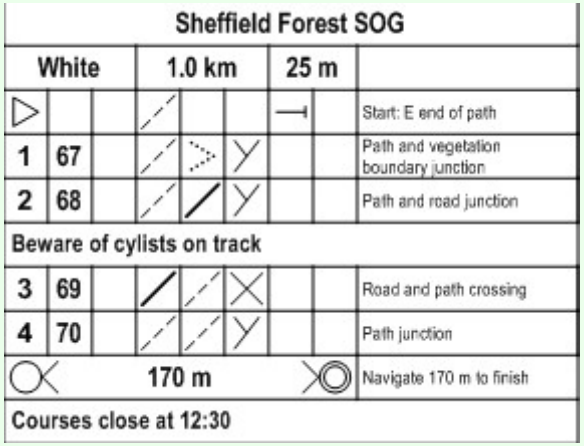


Left click, hold and drag out the location of the descriptions on the map.

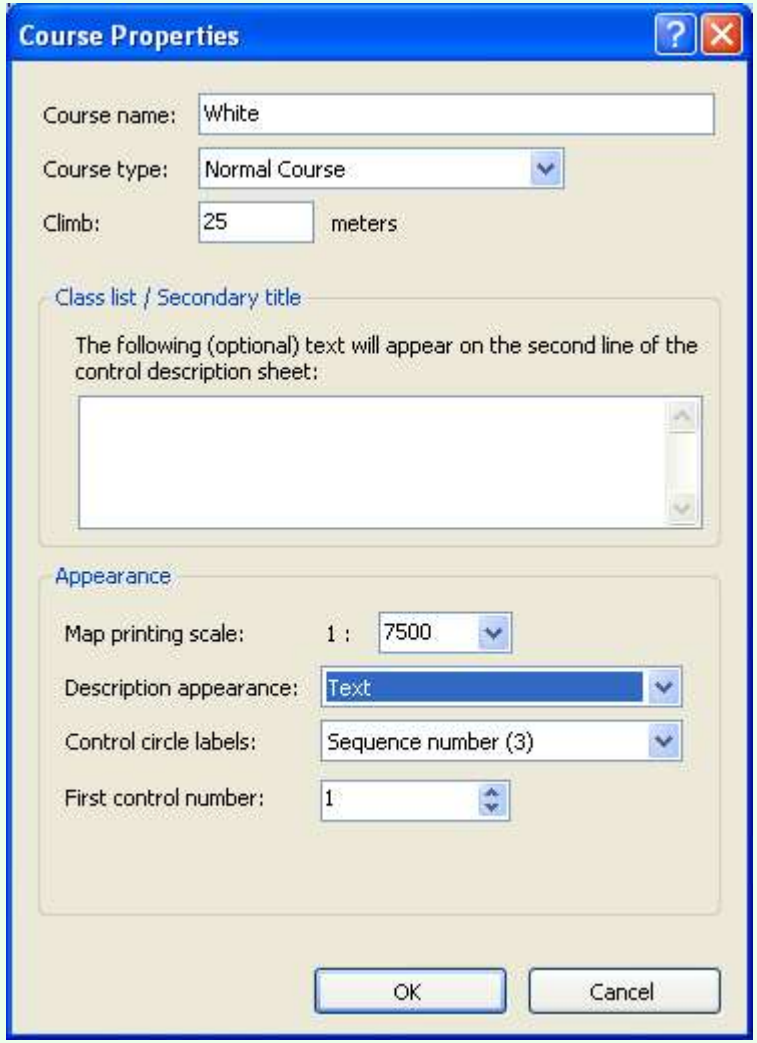


English and/or IOF descriptions

You can decide whether to have text, pictoral or both descriptions in the Course Properties dialog box (see earlier). If space allows you may consider having both.

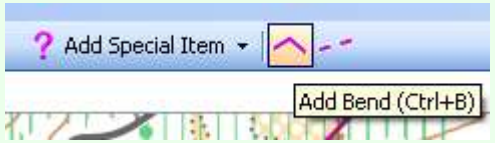


Sheffield Forest SOG								
White			1.0 km			25 m		
▷			⁄			⊣		Start: E end of path
1	67		⁄	⁄	Y			Path and vegetation boundary junction
2	68		⁄	⁄	Y			Path and road junction
Beware of cylists on track								
3	69		⁄	⁄	X			Road and path crossing
4	70		⁄	⁄	Y			Path junction
✕			170 m				◎	Navigate 170 m to finish
Courses close at 12:30								



Improving print clarity

To avoid the connecting lines obscuring underlying detail (eg a path) you have the option of moving, bending or cutting the line. To do this first click on the line until it turns red. Then select the Add bend symbol



Click on the line and a blue square will appear

Left click, hold and drag to move the line (in this case off the path)







Removing a bend

If you want to remove a bend that you have added first click on the line containing the bend



Then from the Item menu select remove bend

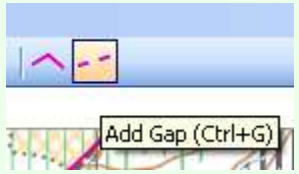


Using the cross icon click on the bend to be removed



Cutting lines

To cut a line first select the line until it turns red. Then select the Add Gap symbol.



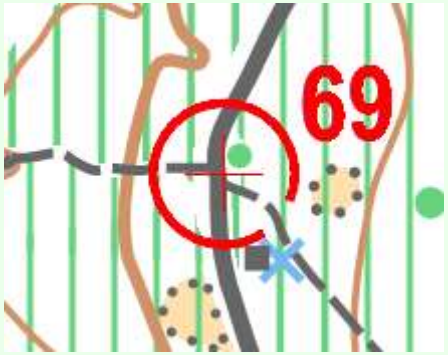
Left click and hold at one end of where you want the gap and then drag to the other end. A gap will appear in the line. By clicking and holding on the squares you can adjust the length of the gap

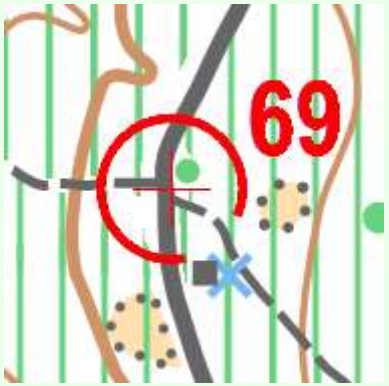


Cutting circles

To cut a control circle first click on a circle until it turns red. Select the Add Gap tool as in the previous slide.

Click on the circle where you want the gap to be centred. A gap will appear. Repeat the process if you want a bigger gap.



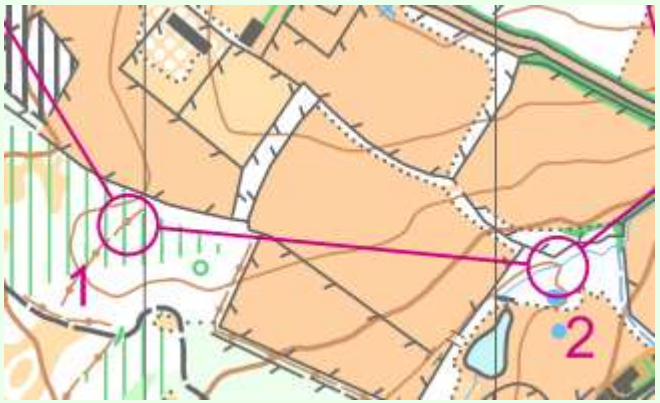


Adding marked routes

A marked route is a specified route that competitors must take during their course eg across fields via a public footpath.

Unfortunately it is not easy to mark this using Purple Pen. The only way to do this properly is to place a control either side of the marked route.

As an example



Adding marked routes II

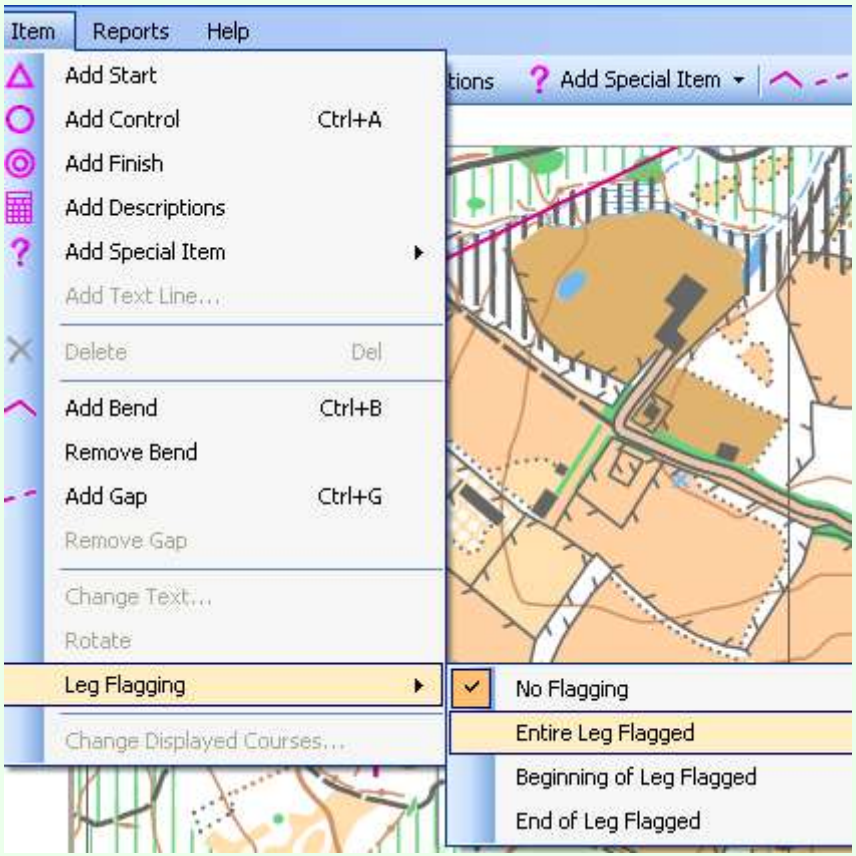
To convert this leg into a marked route insert sufficient bends into the connecting line to mark the required route.



Then from the Item menu

select the flag entire leg option





Adding marked routes III

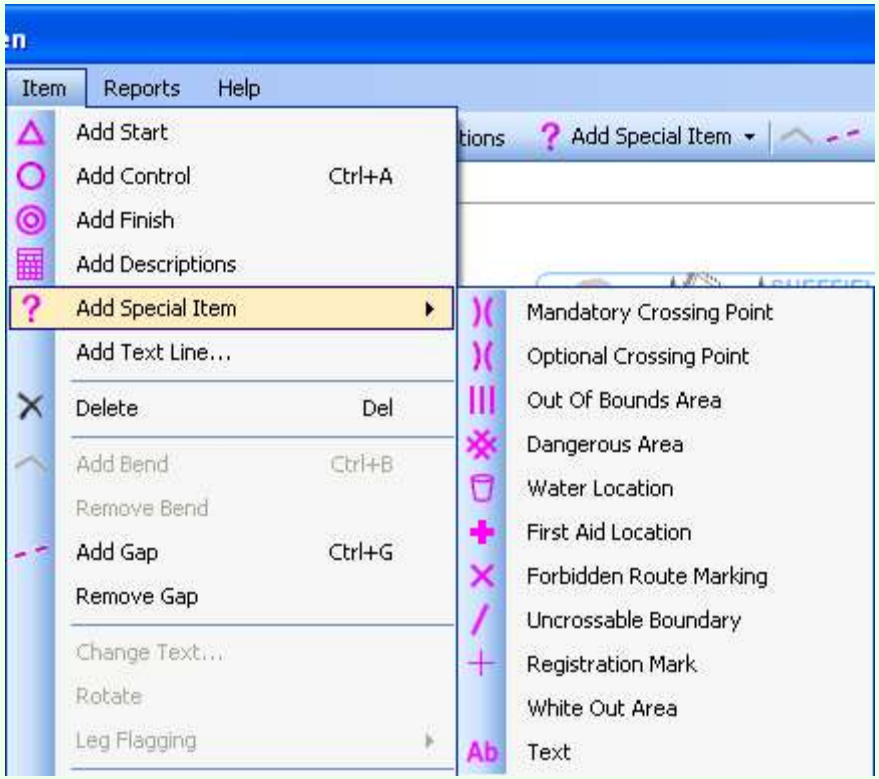
If only part of the leg is marked you have the option of converting the start or finish of a leg to a marked section.

If you select the flag at beginning option the entire leg up until the last bend mark will be marked

If you select the flag at end option the entire leg after the first bend mark will be marked

It is not possible to mark only the middle of a leg

Adding other objects to the map

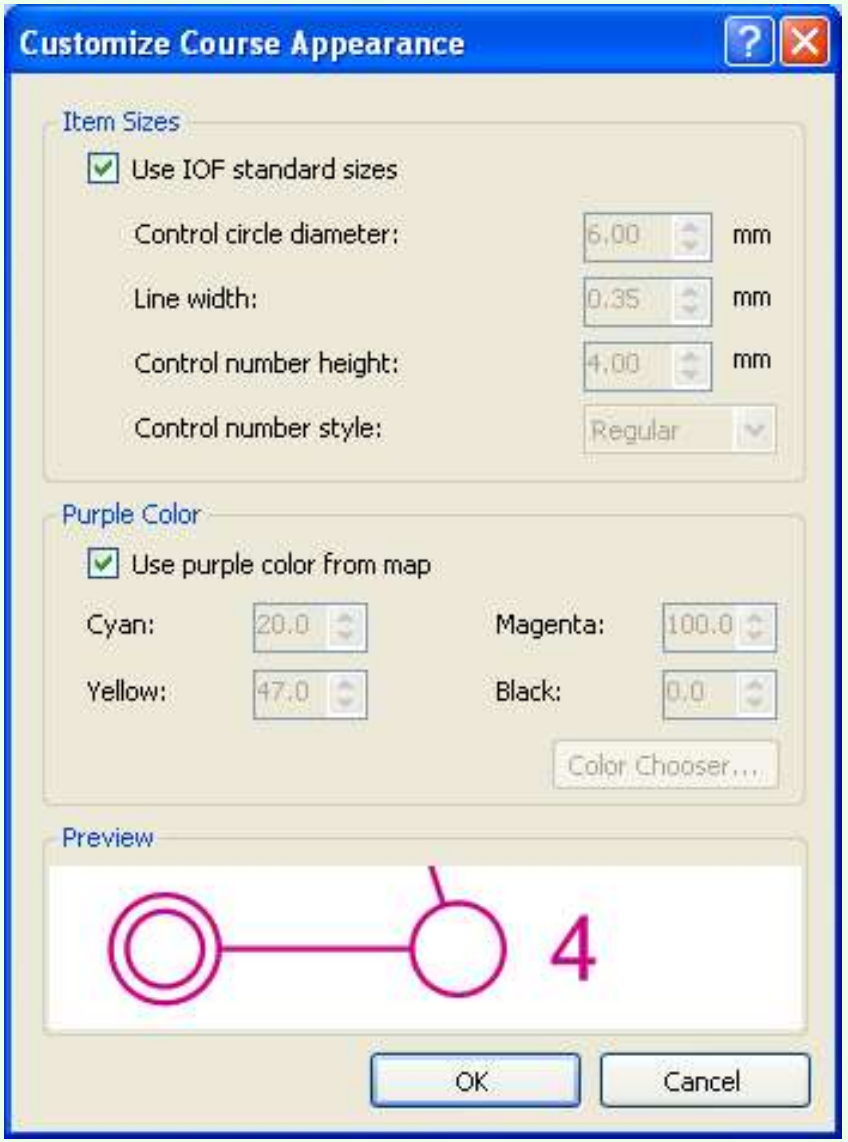


These symbols can be selected and inserted at the appropriate place on the map

Other Display Options

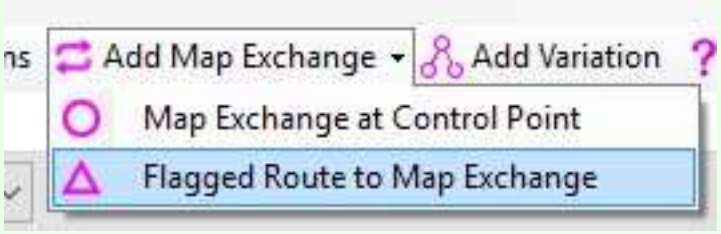
You have the option of changing the appearance of some of the course features.

You shouldn't need to do this though.



Splitting a course onto 2 maps

Sometimes when using a small area it is necessary to split a course onto two maps for clarity. This can be done by inserting a map exchange.



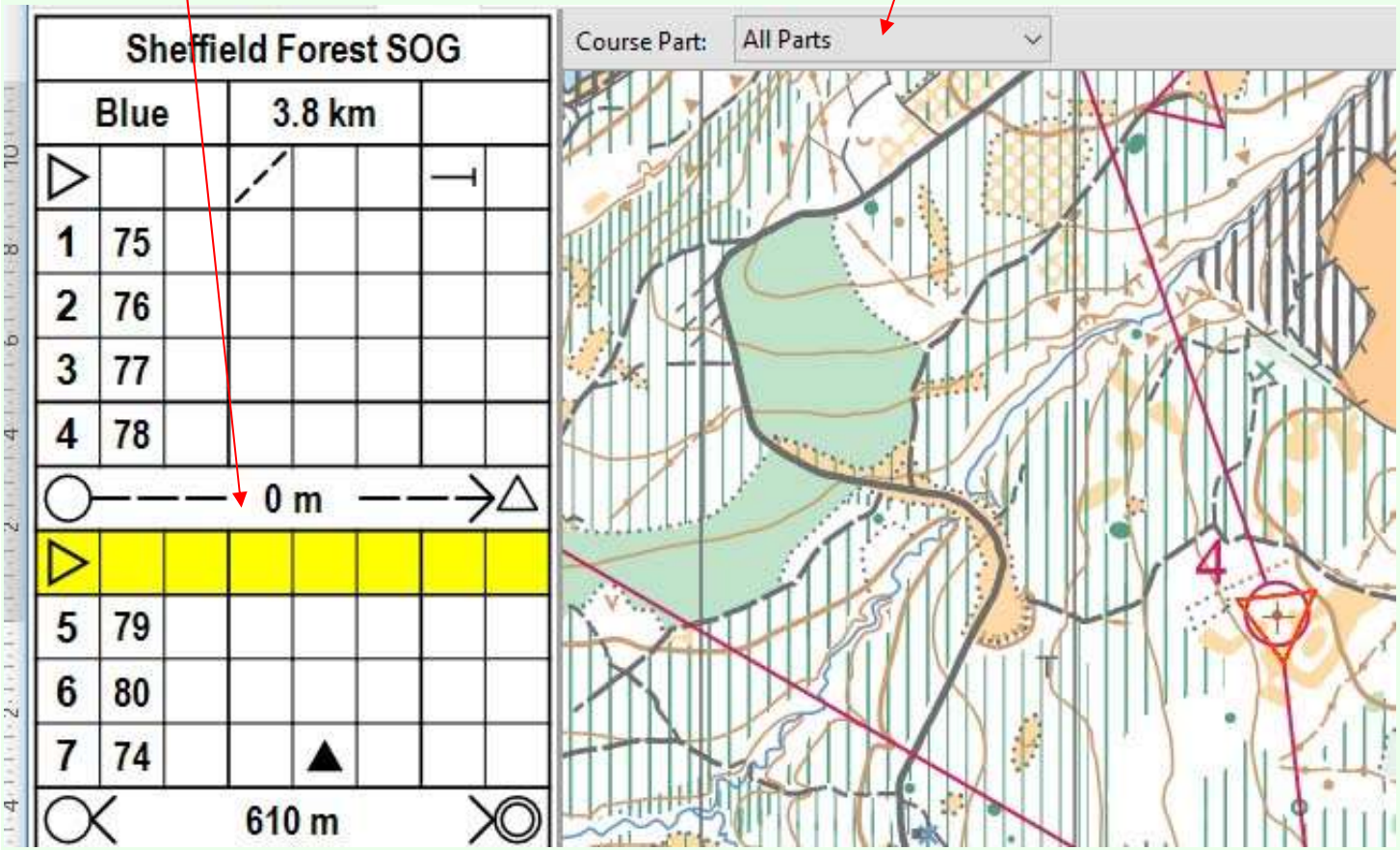
Two options are given but in most cases you will use the Flagged Route to Map Exchange option.

Select this option and then click on the course control where you want the 2nd part of the course to start.

Splitting a course onto 2 maps II

Two extra lines will appear on the control descriptions

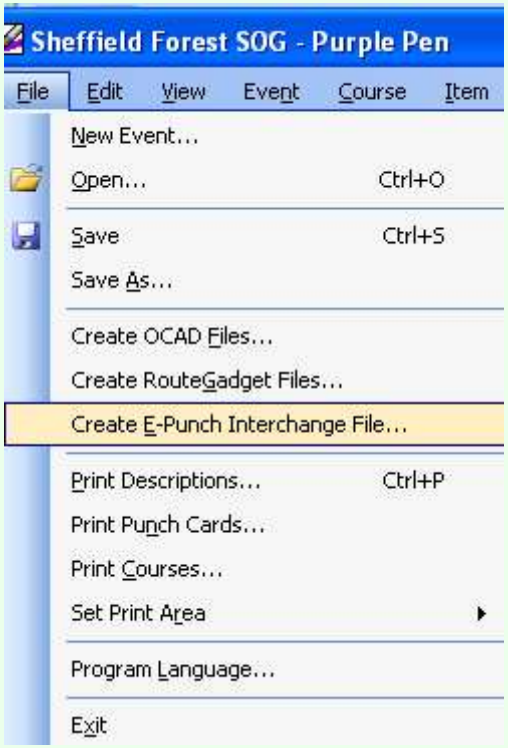
And you will be able to view the course as a whole or as separate parts



In this example part1 will show controls 1-4 and part 2 control 4 onwards

Exporting course information

The course information (distances, control order etc) can be exported in an xml file that can be imported into various results software etc.

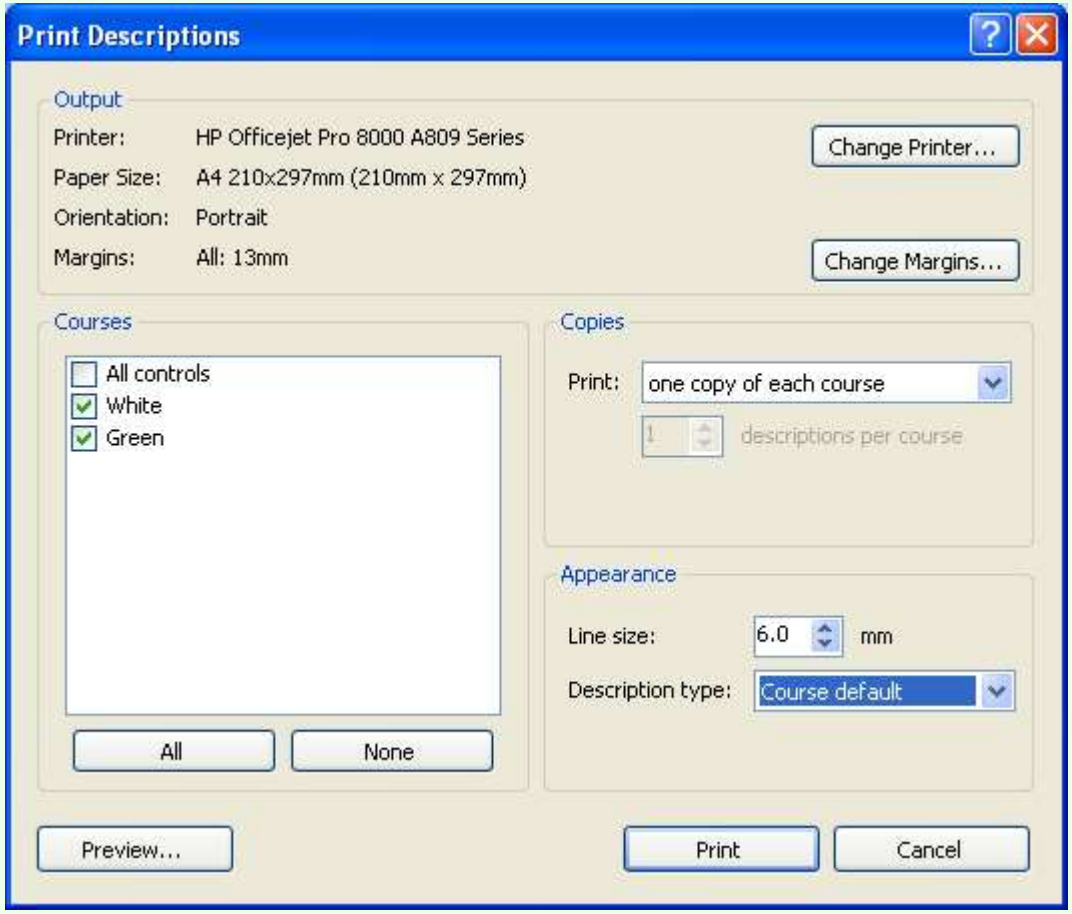


From the File menu select Create E-punch Interchange File.

This will then prompt you for a location At which to save this .xml file

Printing loose control descriptions

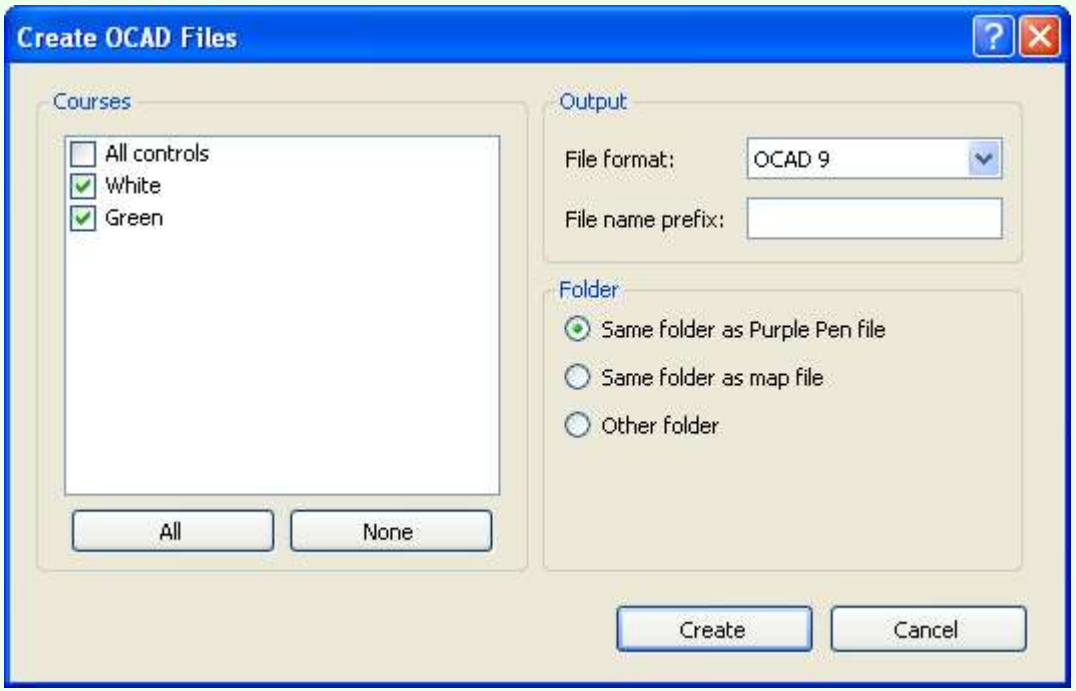
From the File menu select Print Descriptions.



This will bring up a dialog box with various options regarding the printing of loose descriptions.

Exporting the courses

There may be occasions where you need to export the courses as OCAD files. To do this select Create OCAD Files from the File menu.



The dialog box gives you various options.

Note that the descriptions do not appear to be exported along with the course.

The courses can also be exported as PDF files

Other Features

The information presented in the preceding files should be sufficient to allow you to plan your courses properly.

The program does contain various other features that you may wish to play with.

More information can be found using the help facility within the program and also via the support group. Details of this group can be found on the Purple Pen web page.