

JK day 3 planner comments

The planners thank you for your appreciative comments and car park conversations.

Peter thanked all his Day 2 supporters and I would reiterate we had lots of support and especially so from the Day 2 team and DVO for the loan of SI kit. Alice, Mike and Tim's comments were instrumental in improving courses.

We also used three planners to provide resilience and the manpower for four days control hanging.

At the outset we split the courses into long, middle and short sets. We also found all control sites in defined areas and cross checked each other's sites.

The initial planning focussed on the possibilities for the Finish and routes off the moor. There is a narrow strip of low visibility forest alongside the Finish but this was unmapped, would require a substantial Forestry Commission land access fee and after about 20 m was very steep. There was also a possibility of crossing the marsh but the east and west maps did not join up so we needed to press on with what was available.

All low TD courses are difficult to plan or draw and most required taped routes. With the long finishing triangle we could not take courses too far away before coming back.

We chose the quarry Start to provide a contrast to the moorland, but this needed many map improvements by Dave Peel. However the 2.5 km from here to the Finish made short courses rather linear. When the rules changed to require a W85 course of 2 km, we had to add a new Start to provide the technical difficulty and get back to the finish. Similarly course 21 started at the near Start but in February moved to use the road crossing, but created difficulties in ensuring we didn't use the same control two days running. Ground nesting birds also bumped the Light Green course from the near Start.

The planning concepts involved four drink stations, short courses from the near Start, plus Elite and far Start combined. All the restrictions on use of the areas which arrived in the autumn required reworking. As knowledge of the ancient monuments (crashed war planes), ground nesting birds, SSSI restrictions affecting use of marshes, rocks and caves were received plus abandoning the central moor drink stations we revised our courses many times.

The biggest change for the planners was working collaboratively; courses were subject to online peer review, some evening meetings lasted until the early hours around a large screen to view courses. Every version was stored in Dropbox with a log of the version and the items finished or to be actioned. We also took many photos of the quarry and picturesque views in the bright sunshine. The folder was available to the Controller and later the IOF Adviser (Links to our photos folder and archive courses folder are shown below for those interested in seeing early versions of courses).

Technical issues: when printing we lost the purple out of bounds on one of the litho maps; we needed all purple to be on the course planning layer. Purple Pen software doesn't provide a facility to split control descriptions into two parts, this was done in Ocad. We used some additional software written for us to reposition the courses on new maps. If we had sorted out the artwork early on by limiting how far long courses went to the east we could have provided room for the 1:10000 control descriptions to be on the right-hand side. Although there is a proximity report in Purple Pen this can't be fully relied on as there is some variation in positioning control symbols. Measuring on the ground was used, we also judged the depth of

every depression/pit to decide retrospectively which we would mark up as deep (eventually we choose 10 m). We made efforts to ensure that all symbolic descriptions had the required dimensions, but still missed some late on, and struggled with the symbolic large depressions.

For safety we took radio communication at every visit; we had one accident where they were useful but they weren't a panacea as they tend to work on line of sight only.

We never found a satisfactory way of tagging control sites/marking tent pegs with permanent numbers but we did notice fewer pegs went missing once we sprayed the yellow tops red!

Roger Edwards (LEI)

http://tiny.cc/JK2014_photos

http://tiny.cc/JK2014_courses

