



Hell Fire Wood

Introduction to Orienteering
Setanta Orienteers in association with
the Dublin Mountains Partnership

www.setantaorienteers.org
www.orienteing.ie

Medium



Control Descriptions

1. Track Bend
2. Boulder
3. Cairn
4. Pond
5. Boulder
6. Re-entrant
7. Track junction
8. Knoll
9. Trig point
10. Boulder
11. Boulder
12. Boulder
13. Fence Corner

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| | Minor Road | | Open land |
| | Forest Road | | Rough Open Land |
| | Vehicle Track | | Forest: easy Running |
| | Small Path | | Forest: slow Running |
| | Narrow Ride | | Forest: difficult to run |
| | Stone Wall | | Vegetation: Impassable |
| | Fence | | Undergrowth: slow running |
| | Building / Ruin | | Forest: Runnable in one direction |
| | Boulder: Lge / Small | | Distinct vegetation boundary |
| | Knoll / Hill | | Private land - Strictly out-of-bounds |
| | Depression / Pit | | |
| | Earthbank | | |
| | Low Earthbank | | |
| | Escarpment | | |
| | Gully | | |
| | Pond / Water hole | | |
| | Group of Boulders | | |
| | Cairn | | |

No Litter Please - Leave No Trace

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Map updated Jan. 2010
Cartography: B. Power
Government of Ireland Permit 6048

Map Scale 1:7500 (1 cm = 75 m)
Contour Interval: 5 m



Find the controls (using the control descriptions) in the order shown on the map
Note the numbered code on the marker post in the corresponding box on the right

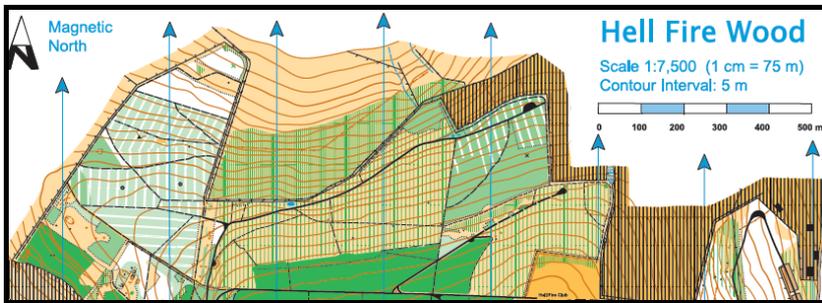
Orienteering is an adventure sport that involves traversing rough and uneven terrain, paths and tracks.
Setanta Orienteers and the Dublin Mountains Partnership do not accept responsibility for any injuries incurred

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

Name

Today's Date

There are 9 controls for you to find on this Adventure Challenge



Control Point 1– The Squirrel

A Red squirrel stashed 310 hazel nuts for the Winter. A Grey squirrel found the stash and ate 50% of the nuts. A wood mouse ate another 50 nuts. Eventually the Red squirrel visited his stash and ate 100 nuts before feeling quite ill. How many nuts were left to germinate and grow into trees?



Control Point 2 - Ecology

We are going to examine a square metre of the forest habitat here. Select a study area and measure it with a quadrat if you have one, or just a large step (about a metre) if you don't. The square below represents your chosen 1m² study area. Draw a simple sketch map of your area including direction, scale, vegetation, stumps, animal traces etc. If there are items of interest outside your study area, such as paths or streams, include them on your sketch also.



Control Point 3 – Leave No Trace



Have you heard of the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace? They are listed below; think of a reason for each principle that shows why it is important to practice Leave No Trace

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

2. Be considerate of others

3. Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife

4. Travel and Camp on Durable Ground

5. Leave What you Find

6. Dispose of Waste Properly

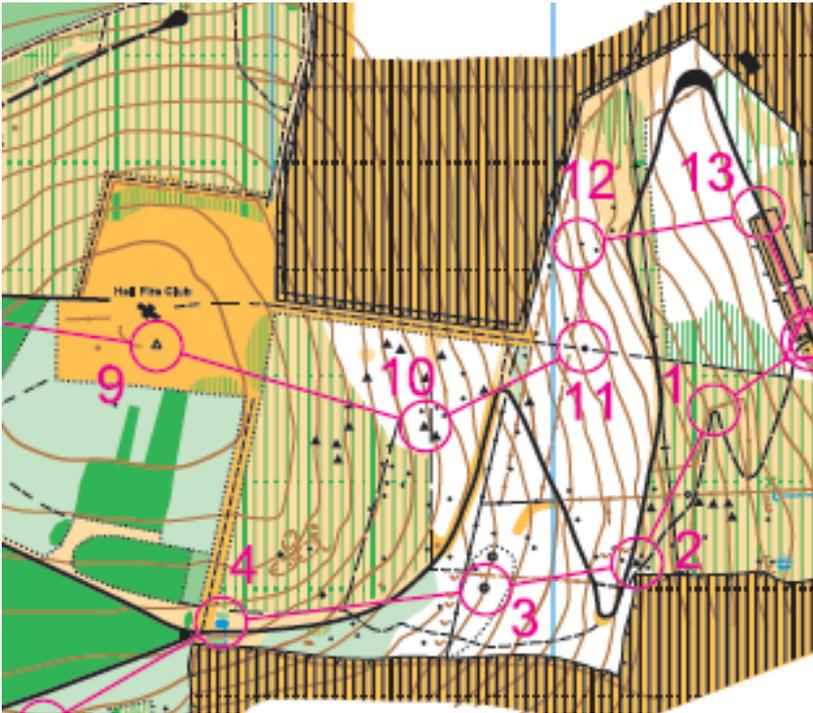
7. Minimise the Effects of Fire

Control Point 4 – The Map

Contour lines depict areas of equal height above sea level.

The contour interval on this map is 5m. That means that 5 metres of vertical height is gained in the distance between each contour line.

How much higher above sea level is the house at the summit of Hell Fire than the car park?



Control Point 5 – The Hellfire Club



Constructed in 1725 as a hunting lodge, the house at Hell Fire has some interesting history! The summit was originally a megalithic tomb surrounded by standing stones, many of which were used in constructing the house. Shortly after it was finished, a powerful storm blew the slated roof off and it was replaced with the current stone roof.

Describe how construction might have taken place in the 1700's, how would they have built the roof?

Control Point 6 – Ecological Balance

Can you see any evidence here of how mankind has upset the ecological balance?

If you were the forest manager here, what would you do to rectify these issues?

Control Point 7 – What is *Picea sitchensis*?

Sitka spruce is the main species used in afforestation in Ireland. A large coniferous, evergreen tree growing to between 50m and 70m tall. Its name comes from the Sitka community in Alaska where it originated. Brought to Ireland in 1831, its quick growth and suitability to Irish soil make it the most common species in Ireland. This forest is largely made up of Sitka spruce.



Can you identify spruce foliage in the forest around you? The leaves, or needles, are 2-2.5cm in length ending in an abrupt shiny point.

There are several other species in Hell Fire Wood, can you identify two of them on your way around this Adventure Challenge?

Control Point 8 – Forest Layers

There are four main forest layers, can you identify them in the woodland around you?

Canopy

The highest layer, formed by the leaves and branches of the highest trees



Shrub

Up to 2 metres high, formed by larger woody plants, small trees, brambles and flowering bushes



Field

Tender or annual plants, ferns and herbs



Ground

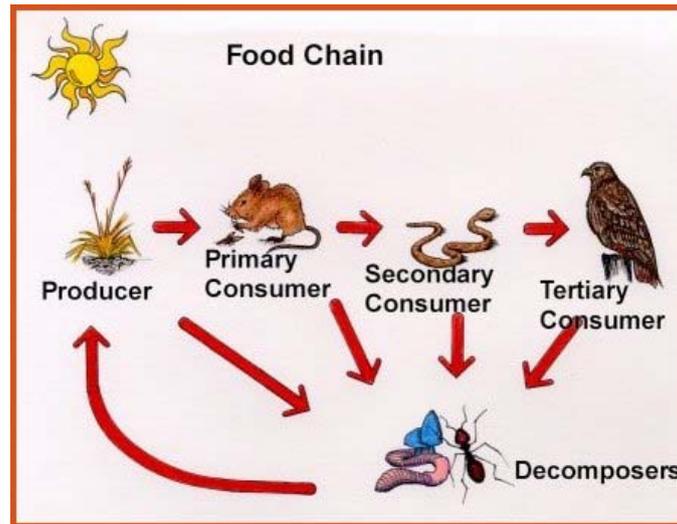
Mosses and creeping plants



Identify two plants in each layer in the forest around you:

Canopy	1.	2.
Shrub	1.	2.
Field	1.	2.
Ground	1.	2.

Control Point 9 – Food Chains



All the energy in the woodland originates from the sun. Green plants use photosynthesis to turn this energy into leaves and branches that are eaten by herbivores. These, in turn, are eaten by carnivores. Draw two food chains using the animals and plants that you have seen evidence of today.

Sun	→	Plant	→	Herbivore	→	Carnivore
Sun	→		→		→	
Sun	→		→		→	

Question	Answer		Total
Q 1	The Squirrel	5	<u>15</u>
Q 2	Ecology		<u>15</u>
Q 3	Leave No Trace		<u>15</u>
Q 4	The Map	115m	<u>15</u>
Q 5	The Hellfire Club		<u>15</u>
Q 6	Ecological Balance	Felled trees, mono culture, furze bushes etc.	<u>15</u>
Q 7	What is Picea sitchensis	e.g. Scots pine, Noble fir, Larch etc.	<u>15</u>
Q 8	Forest Layers		<u>15</u>
Q 9	Food Chains		<u>15</u>
Total			<u>135</u>