

Pendle Forest Orienteers



The permanent orienteering course (POC) at Wycoller was first set up in the 1990s with the assistance of Lancashire County Council.

PFO are keen to welcome new members of any age or experience. We serve the Pendle / Burnley / Blackburn / Rossendale area of Lancashire and meet regularly for events, training and social events. Most members take part in competitive orienteering events both locally (organised by PFO) and in other areas. Details of local events can be found on our website www.pfo.org.uk and other club events on www.britishorienteering.org.uk

PFO has a small number of POCs in the region and maps and instructions can be downloaded from our website. There are numerous POCs round the country, details of which can be found at www.goorienteering.org.uk

Orienteering at Wycoller:

Access to Wycoller village is a short walk from either of the country park car parks. The POC is on the western flank of Turnhole Clough. The start post is by the field gate uphill from the clam bridge. The ancient single slab clam bridge is 250m upstream from Wycoller Hall ruins. The area includes rough pasture, woodland, young plantation and rock features. The POC will give you a chance to try a non-competitive or leisure form of orienteering using your map reading skills to navigate round a course of permanent markers or "controls". After rain parts of the area will be boggy or have slippery stones. Suitable footwear should be worn. Take care.

There are 26 controls available for you to find, either as a score course visiting all 26, or more simply following one or more line courses according to difficulty. The following maps are available to download.

Difficulty	Length & Climb	Controls - number and difficulty
Easy	1.5k 70m	10. Easily visible from paths & line features.
Moderate	2.0k 80m	8. Off paths and not directly visible
Score hard	Visit some or all controls in any order	26. Mix of all types of difficulty and terrain

The Maps:

Before starting study and understand your course map:

1. Map scale is 1:5000. Thus, 1 cm on the map is equivalent to 50m on the ground. The contour interval is 5m.

2. Interpretation: Using the key to “map symbols” determine the meaning of each symbol.
3. Orientation: Align paths or other line features on the map to features on the ground. Or, if you have a compass, align magnetic north (blue vertical lines) to the north needle of your compass.
4. Position: Follow your progress on the map. Know where you are at all times !
5. Out of bounds: Do not trespass into surrounding areas or those marked with purple cross hatching.
6. The start (purple triangle) and finish (purple double circle) are marked together on the map by the field gate uphill from the clam bridge.
7. Control positions on the map are marked by numbered purple circles centred on the feature.
8. The control list is shown on the map.
Control descriptions tell you what feature you are looking for e.g. Bridge, wall etc.
Control letters are on the red/white marker on each control post. This confirms that you have successfully navigated to the correct location.
The two digit numbers at the bottom of the marker are for use in competitive orienteering
9. The purple lines connecting the controls on the course maps guide your eye from one control to the next. You can sometimes follow them but more often you will need to find your own route round the obstacles on the ground. The skill is in finding the best route for you to go from one control to the next.

Take care ! Have fun !