

### What is a Permanent Orienteering Course (POC)?



A permanent orienteering course consists of a map of an area with a series of 'controls' marked on it. These correspond to control markers on the ground such as posts or orange and white labels. Visitors navigate around the course, practising their map reading and exploring the area at their own pace whether that be walking with the kids, jogging with the family dog or livening up some run training.

### What facilities do I need?

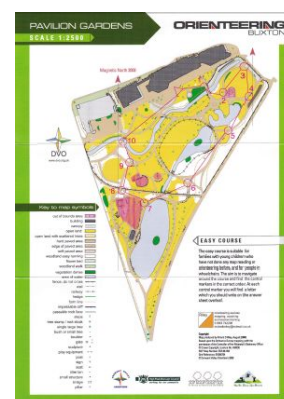
Town parks, school grounds, country parks, local areas of heath land, moorland, wood and forests are all suitable, although you will need to consider how to make the course itself suitable for your intended visitors – a park might not challenge more experience orienteers whereas a forest could intimidate the younger ones.

### How large does the area need to be?

Courses can be designed around all kinds of areas – for small areas you may put in a limited number of course options, looping around to create a longer circuit, whereas in larger areas you have the option to include courses of varying difficulty to suit all abilities.

### Where do I get a map from?

Orienteering maps are very detailed and would usually be drawn by experienced mappers. Your local club is the first point of contact for mappers in your area – visit [www.britishorienteering.org.uk/page/find\\_a\\_club](http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/page/find_a_club). Costs vary according to the size of the area and its complexity.



### How do I plan a course?

Again, planning a course is a skilled job to get the right level of difficulty and is best done by an experienced orienteer. Your local club may be willing to help out, particularly if you come to an arrangement by which they have access to the area for activities or events! Visit [www.britishorienteering.org.uk/page/find\\_a\\_club](http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/page/find_a_club)

### What materials do I need?



The construction of the markers themselves varies considerably, from a simple plastic orange and white marker to hardwood or stone posts concreted deep into the ground with anti-theft cross pieces. Choice is dependent on factors such as the likelihood of vandalism, the need to fit in with the surroundings and budget – your local club is likely to have some good ideas, or the council Parks department may be able to advise.

## How do I install the course?

Once the course is planned, the posts need to be installed in the right place. It is a good idea to work with your local club and course planner to set out and check the locations.

Responsibility for installation varies and is something you need to negotiate with the club – if you have grounds staff this is often a good way to get the course installed.

## How much does it cost?

Costs include mapping and course planning costs, costs of materials, costs of installation and maintenance and costs of printing maps. You may be able to offset some or all of these costs with the revenue from additional visitors or map sales. Also consider grant funding.

Costs are highly dependent on the size of the course and how durable you need the course to be so to a certain extent can be tailored to your budget.

## What about maintenance?

It is worth agreeing up front who will be responsible for maintenance – will a club member check the location of posts every few months, or are there grounds staff who could do it?

What happens if a post goes missing? It is worth agreeing how they will be replaced and who will be responsible.

## How do I make the map available to visitors?

You may decide to sell the map at a visitor centre or enable the public to download it online (subject to copyright issues). Whichever format you choose, British Orienteering has a useful template for formatting your map including instructions for completing the course – contact [info@britishorienteering.org.uk](mailto:info@britishorienteering.org.uk) for details. Registering the course with the local club/British Orienteering will ensure that it is advertised on their web sites.



## Where can I get further advice?

Your club has a great deal of local expertise – find them at [www.britishorienteering.org.uk/page/find\\_a\\_club](http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/page/find_a_club).