

Mapper/Planner's comments

I hope you all enjoyed your visit to Simpson Ground. The main moans I heard were about the wet ground, which could hardly be helped. Surprisingly little mention of the wind blow and brashing, but maybe people know what to expect in Simpson Ground. I think Dave's decision not to park on a farmer's field was vindicated. Planning for this event started with updating the map. The central part of the map had been updated recently for middle distance events but was not sufficient for the course lengths we required. Many hours were spent with OCAD 11 before I finally managed to rejoin that new map to the original old map. Then I had to update the older parts of the map, especially the newly felled areas. This was considerably helped by buying a "proper" orthorectified aerial photograph. With the OCAD map georeferenced the aerial photo opened as a background image in exactly the right place which made adding new vegetation features and rides in the felled area relatively straightforward.

With the map ready, and the decision to park on the roads fixed then the rough shape of the longer courses was finalised fairly early on. As I said in the final details, it was basically a case of joining up the nicer bits of the forest and making things as different as possible from the recent middle distance events. What went through many more iterations was trying to find a way to fit in a White, Yellow and Orange course, and in fact it was only when I spotted an unmapped ride on the aerial photo that I came up with the final shape for the Orange course which fixed the short start location and hence the White and Yellow courses.

After that it was a lot of fine tuning of the map and courses with the help of our two controllers Mike Atherton and Tony Richardson. A beta version of Purple Pen which fixed a bizarre bug in the display of elliptical form line hills arrived just in time for the event, and everything was going well until the final two weeks when my home computer died and took a week to repair and a ParcelForce lorry with the maps on board broke down. We got there in the end, with organiser Dave Hargreaves helping me to put out controls on the Friday. Thanks go to all the aforementioned and also to my wife Jayne for putting up with the extra muddy clothes and evenings spent poring over OCAD and Purple Pen.