


Haw Park Wood







Permanent Orienteering Course

Instructions

This Permanent Orienteering Course has been designed in the wood to give you the opportunity to try a non-competitive, or leisure, form of orienteering using your map reading skills to navigate around a course of markers , or 'controls'.

There are three suggested courses on the map. The Short course provides less difficult navigation, with the Medium and Long courses giving a more difficult challenge. You could also set your own course or attempt to locate all the controls by finding the optimum route.

The Map

Study the map carefully and use the 'legend' to discover the type of feature for each control. Note the direction of the paths from the Start/Finish poster  and use these to align, or 'orientate', the map. The scale on the A4 size map is 1:7500, which means that 1cm on the map represents 75 metres on the ground. The purple circles  with accompanying letters on the map represent the controls, and each control has its own description eg. H is a rootstock (fallen tree). The Start  and Finish  symbols are combined  to show this position on the map. Each control marker will have a letter and a number , and the description of each one, shown on the 'Control Descriptions' on the map, will help you find them. Find the controls on your chosen course in the correct order and record the number at each one. Then add the numbers at the end of the course to give the correct total.

The Wood

The wood was once part of Don Forest and has historical connections to the neighbouring Walton Hall Estate (now the Waterton Park Hotel and Waterton Park Golf Club), which belonged to Charles Waterton, the creator of the world's first nature reserve.

In the north of the woodland a nine-foot-high wall can be seen which he built to protect the animals found in the estate and keep poachers out.

Inside this wall he built watchtowers which he used to watch wildlife. One of these watchtowers can be found in the woodland and has been restored.

Nature conservation

Haw Park Wood is designated as a local nature reserve.

Between 1940 and 1960, the ancient woodland was planted with fast growing softwoods such as Pine and Larch. This was to supply timber to the coal mining industry. The aim today is to return the woodland to British species including Oak.

Over the past decade, some of the paths within the wood have been widened. This will increase biodiversity as the variety of habitats from path edge to mature trees provides homes for a wider range of species.

The woodland already has diverse wildlife like deer, birds, and newts, as well as important plant species like the Wild Service Tree.

The management plan detailing how the site is managed and looked after can be found in the visitor centre.

The Woodland Café

The Woodland Café at Anglers Country Park is open every day from 9am to 4pm and serves food and drinks.