

How to...

We have just put the first content on this page – some tips for finding your way and using Google maps – and we will be adding more items in the coming days to help you make the most out of your routes and the great British outdoors e.g. using GPS, taking photos, looking at wildlife, spotting historical sites. We would welcome contributions so if you have tips or information to share, [please let us know by clicking here to send us details](#)

Find your way

For some people, finding their way is instinctive and reading a map is as easy as reading a book. These tips are for those who struggle with sense of direction or making sense of maps.

Look for the signs



Sign
indicating
the route
bears right

1. Look for the signs which show the direction to take – for most routes on the site so far, the signs will be yellow (public footpaths). It is particularly important to look just before crossing a stile or going through a gate since the sign will often show you the direction to take in the next section.
2. As well as being on stiles or gates, the signs can also be on fingerposts at the side of the path and on trees

or telegraph poles.

3. The Mayfield Circular Walk has its own circular sign in the middle of a yellow arrow and some permissive paths are marked out with blue arrows.

Estimate your time to complete each section

1. Know how fast you walk/jog/run: find out how long it takes you to do a mile on several routes that you know. If you are planning to do hilly routes or cross-country routes, make sure you know your mile time on similar terrain. Work out how your mile time converts to a time for 100 yards (divide by 20 for a rough answer or 17.6 if you want to be precise)
2. If you are using a map, make sure you know what distance represents a mile and what represents 100 yds before you start – it is normally shown at the bottom or on the cover. If you are using directions, make sure they give you distances between key turning points
3. On tricky parts of the route or if the weather is bad so that you cannot see much of the route ahead, work out the time it should take to reach the next turning point and start looking for the turning when your time travelled indicates you must be coming close.

Using Google Maps

As well as being shown on OS maps, each route on this website is currently also shown on Google maps (classic version) as in the example below:

View [Mayfield Circular Walk](#) in a larger map.

The rectangle gives you a view of part of the map and you can alter the view by using the buttons.

On the top right you see four buttons : “Map”, “Sat”, “Ter” and “Earth”. Clicking on them alters the background on which the route is drawn: either a map, a satellite view, terrain view (map with minimal shading for different terrain) and earth (satellite view not from directly overhead so giving a 3D impression).

On the top left in the “Map”, “Sat” and “Ter” views are arrows for up, down, left and right which you can use to move the viewing window to see a different part of the map. You can also use your cursor on the map to drag it around. In “Earth” mode there is a circle at the top which you can use to turn the map to any other orientation (North as up is the default) and inside this circle arrows to alter the 3D perspective: the arrows to move the viewing window over the map are in the circle below.

In all views, the “+” and “-” buttons at the bottom of the left hand menu are used to zoom in and zoom out respectively.

The routes are shown as blue lines.