



Course setting using Purple Pen

An introduction

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What you need

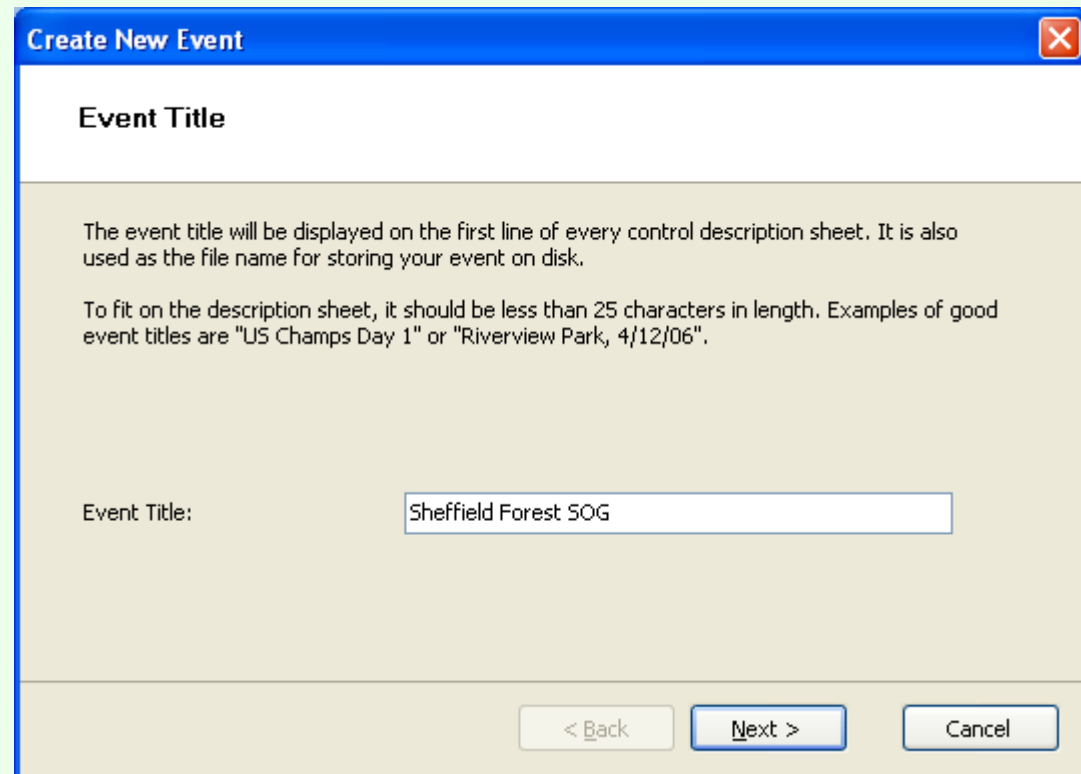
- A computer running Windows
- Purple Pen software. Freeware and downloadable from
- <http://purplepen.golde.org/download.htm>
- An map file of the area. This will normally be sent to you, most likely as an OCAD file but possibly also PDF / JPG etc.

The basic concept

- Course planning works in two layers which exist as two separate files.
- The bottom layer (background map) is the actual map. You will not be altering this map.
- The top layer / file consists of the course overprints. It is this layer that you will create and modify.
- The person checking/printing your courses will need both files.

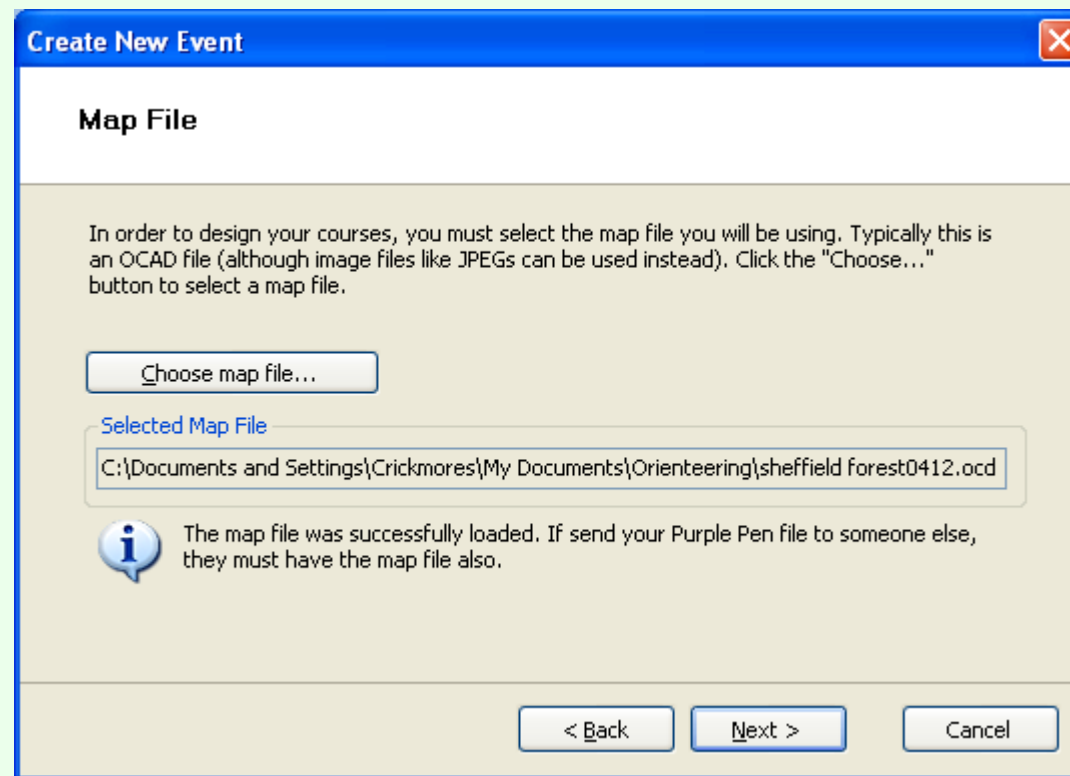
Create a new course planning file

Create a new event and give the event a title



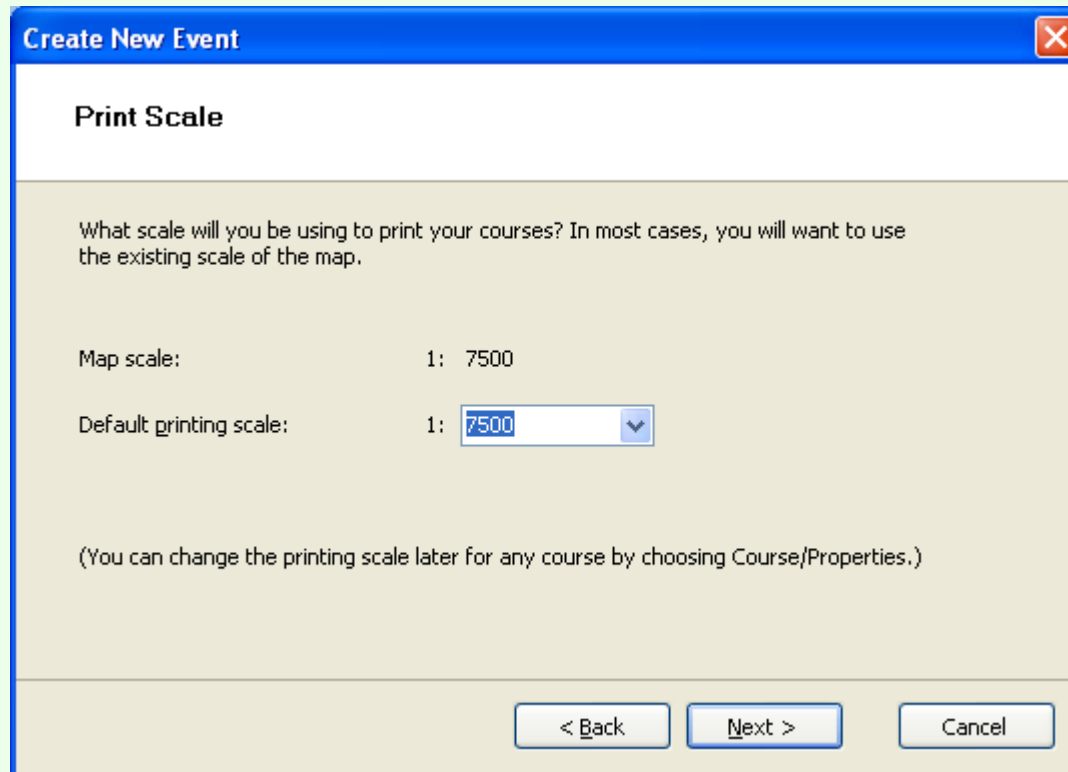
Load the map

Locate the map file (in ocad format normally)



Checking the scale

Hopefully the values that appear in the boxes will be the same as the scale written on the front of the map. If not change the default printing scale to whatever is written on the map. Before going much further though check with the person who sent you the map file that the scale is correct



The screenshot shows a software dialog box titled "Create New Event" with a red close button in the top right corner. The dialog has a tab labeled "Print Scale". Below the tab, there is instructional text: "What scale will you be using to print your courses? In most cases, you will want to use the existing scale of the map." Below this text, there are two rows of labels and values. The first row is "Map scale:" followed by "1: 7500". The second row is "Default printing scale:" followed by "1:" and a dropdown menu showing "7500". At the bottom of the dialog, there is a note: "(You can change the printing scale later for any course by choosing Course/Properties.)". At the very bottom, there are three buttons: "< Back", "Next >", and "Cancel".

Create New Event

Print Scale

What scale will you be using to print your courses? In most cases, you will want to use the existing scale of the map.

Map scale: 1: 7500

Default printing scale: 1: 7500

(You can change the printing scale later for any course by choosing Course/Properties.)

< Back Next > Cancel

Housekeeping

Save the file

Create New Event

Event File Location

What folder (directory) do you want to save your course event file in?

☒ In the same folder as the map file.

☐ In another folder I choose.

Specify the control range

Create New Event

Control Numbering

Newly created controls are automatically numbered. Please choose the starting control to use.

Starting code:

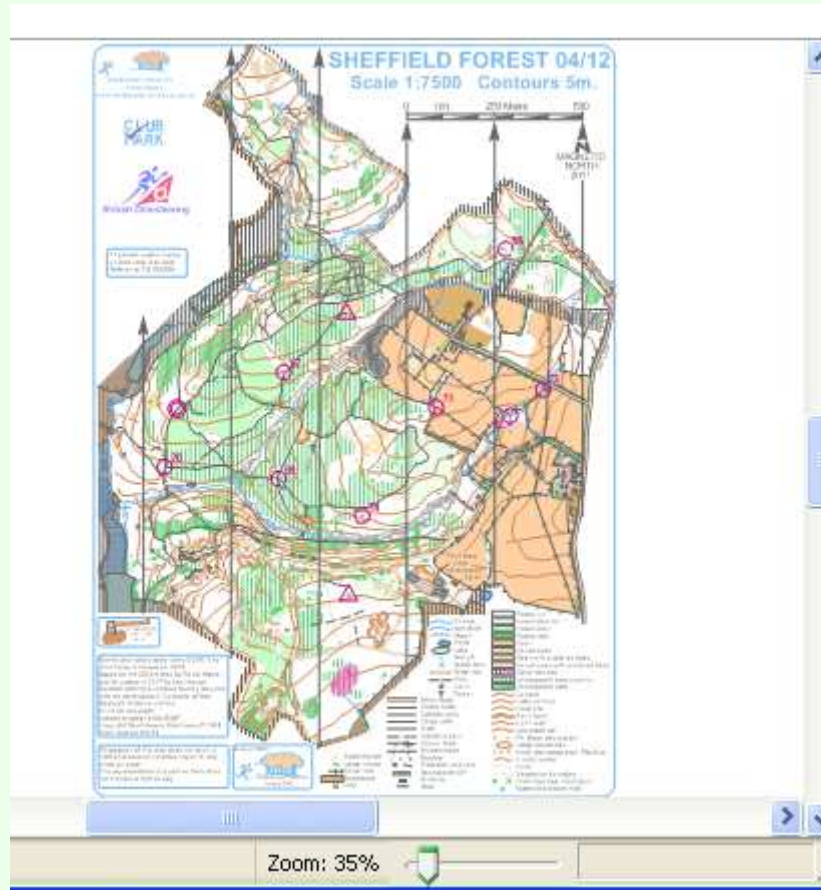
☐ Disallow codes that could be read upside-down (e.g., "68"/"89")

Complete the setup

Click "Finish" to create your new event. Your event file will be saved as:

After your event is created, select "New Course..." from the Course menu to create one or more courses.

Viewing the map



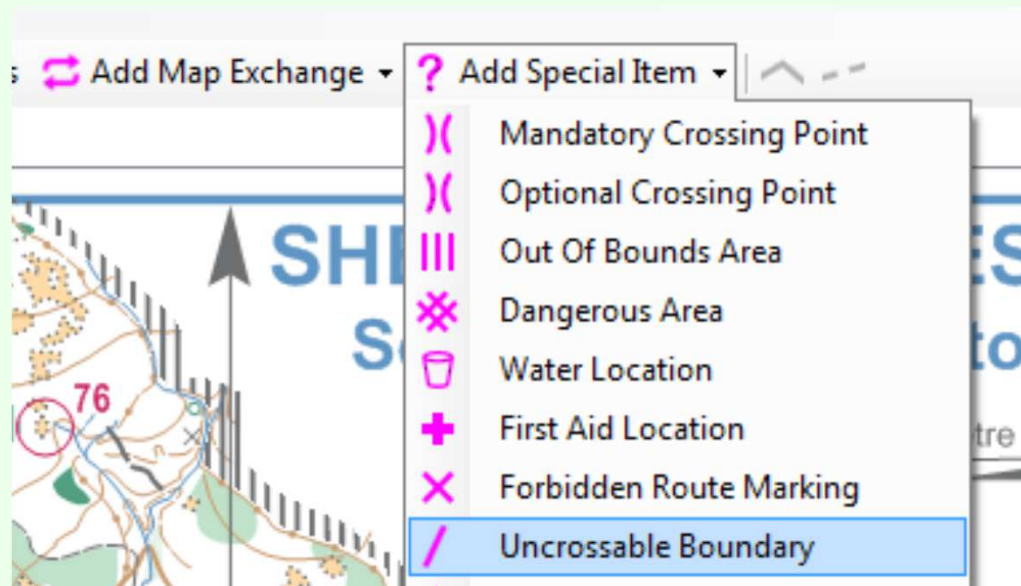
Scroll around the window

Use the slider to zoom in or out (or use mouse wheel)

Confirming the scale

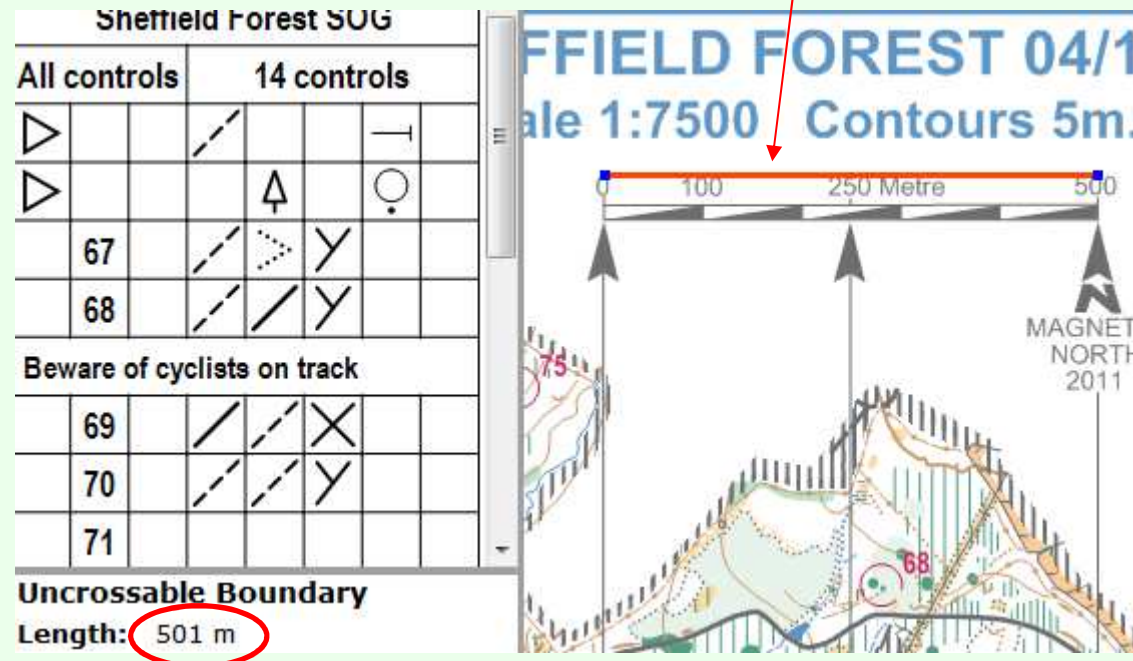
Most of us have been to an event where the planner has got the scale wrong and planned courses too long or too short. This step is therefore recommended for every new event.

Select the uncrossable boundary symbol from the special items pull down menu.



Confirming the scale II

Draw a line along the scale bar



Check that the length of the line is the same as the scale bar

Delete the line when you are done

Start entering items on the master map

Sheffield Forest SOG - Purple Pen

File Edit View Event Course Item Reports Help

Icons: Add Start (triangle), Add Control (circle), Add Finish (star), Add Descriptions (grid), Add Special Item (question mark)

All controls

Sheffield Forest SOG						
All controls	1 controls					
▷						
67						

forest road entrance
Bell Lane is at Grid
reference TQ 429269

All controls
Controls in use:
none
Controls not in use:
1 control, 1 start

Left mouse button: select object; Right mouse button: move map; Scroll wheel: zoom in/out

Zoom: 147% X:-7.8 Y:89.9

To place the start I

Below the menu bar you will find the Add Start button click this



Using the cross hairs position the start over the correct feature then left click to place it there.



Click elsewhere on the map and the symbol will turn purple



To place the start II

By clicking the yellow boxes you can add the description for the start.

Sheffield Forest SOG							
All controls				0 controls			
▶			↗				

Start
Location: (-8.5, 103.8)
Used in courses:

East end

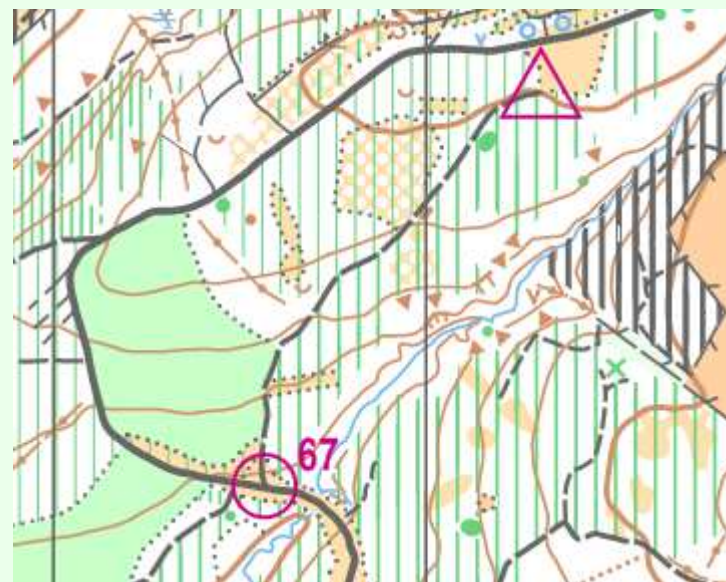
Placing controls

Use the same procedure as with the start but using the Add Control button



Don't forget the descriptions

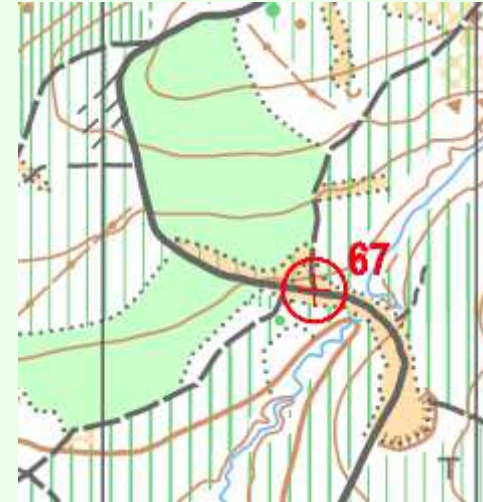
Enter all the controls for all the courses



If you need to move a control

...or start or finish or anything else

Left click on the symbol. It will turn red and the cross hairs will appear.



Left click and hold to drag the symbol to the new location.



Don't forget to change the description.

If you need to delete a control

...or start or finish or anything else

Left click on the object until it turns red.

Click on the delete icon
to remove the object

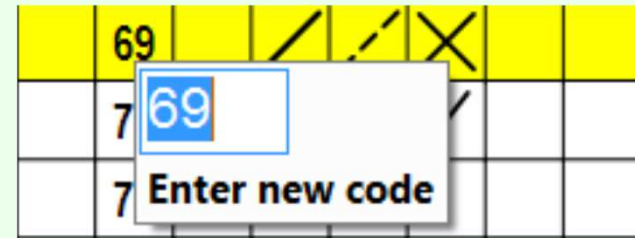


If you need to renumber a control

Simply double-click on the number that you want to change.

You can then replace the old number with a new one and press return.

If you choose a number that is already in use the program will tell you and not allow you to make the change

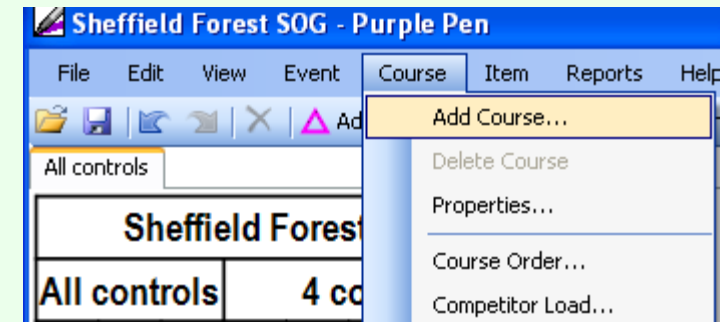


Creating courses

When you have added all the controls it's time to define the courses

From the Course pull down menu select Add Course

Fill in the appropriate details

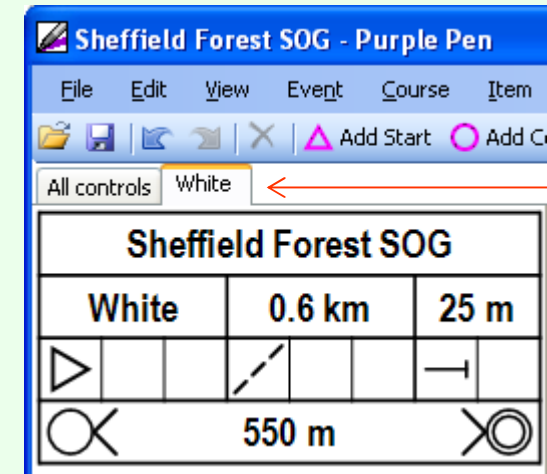
A screenshot of the 'New Course' dialog box. It contains the following fields and options:

- Course name: White
- Course type: Normal Course (dropdown)
- Climb: 25 meters
- Class list / Secondary title: The following (optional) text will appear on the second line of the control description sheet: (text area)
- Appearance section:
 - Map printing scale: 1 : 7500 (dropdown)
 - Description appearance: Text (dropdown)
 - Control circle labels: Sequence number (3) (dropdown)
 - First control number: 1 (spin box)

At the bottom are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

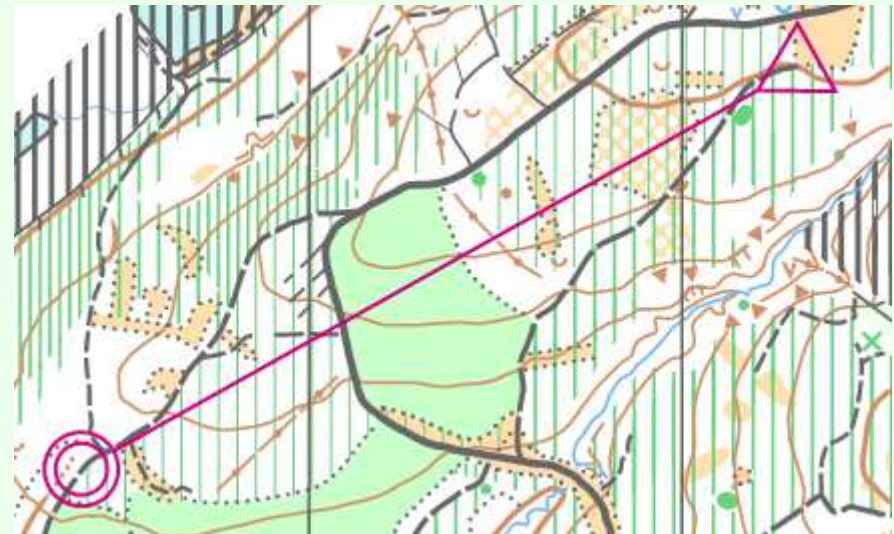
Defining the course

The new course will now have appeared as a tab by the control list



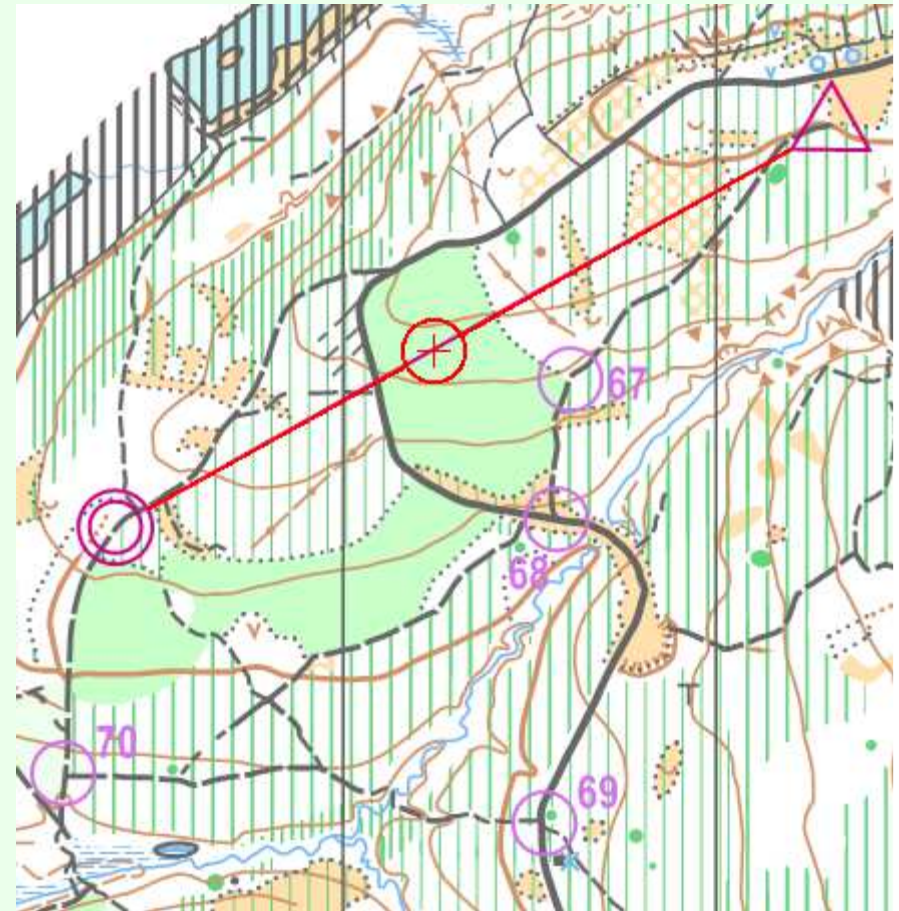
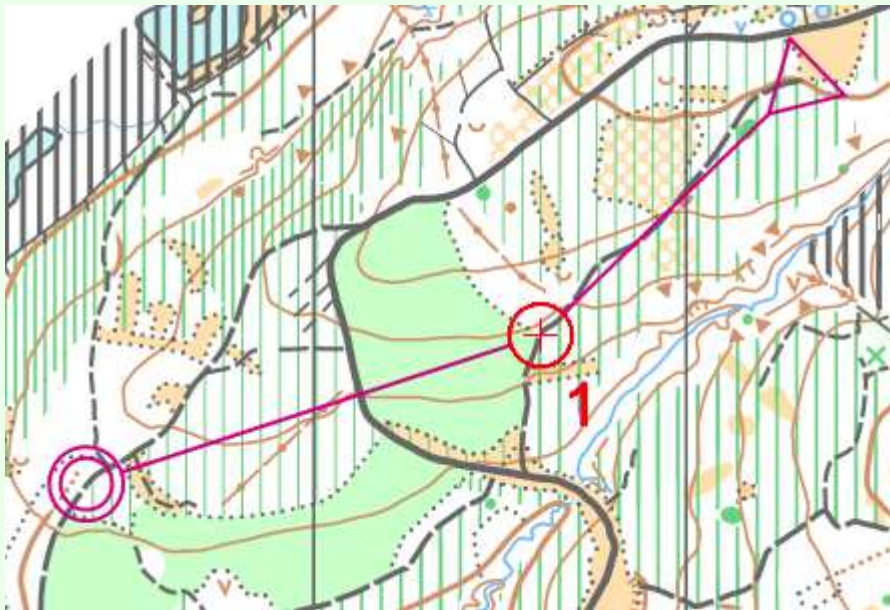
The course will initially be shown as a line between the start and finish.

Click on the Add Control button and the location of the other controls will appear



Defining the course II

Drag the red circle to the intended first control and left click. This will set the first control on the course.

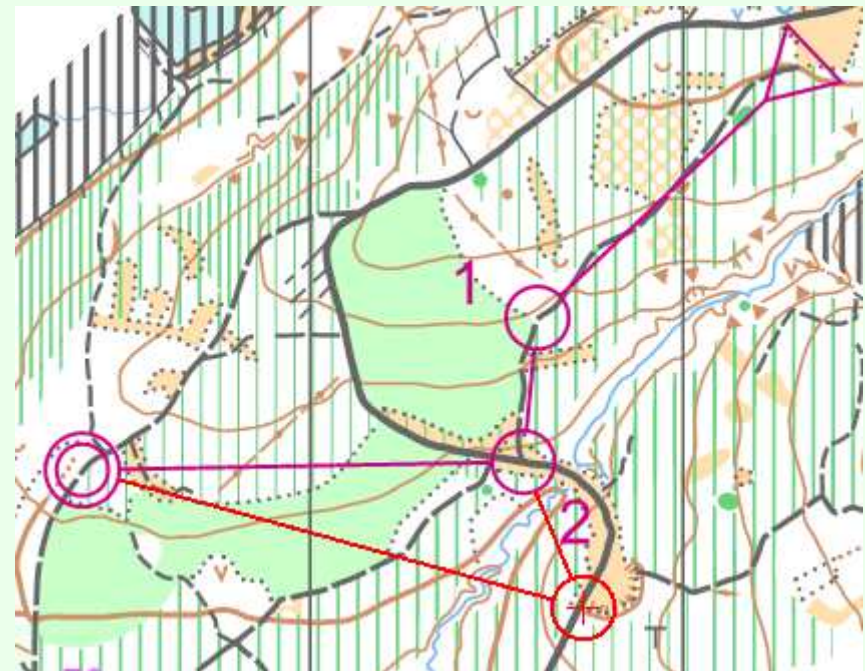
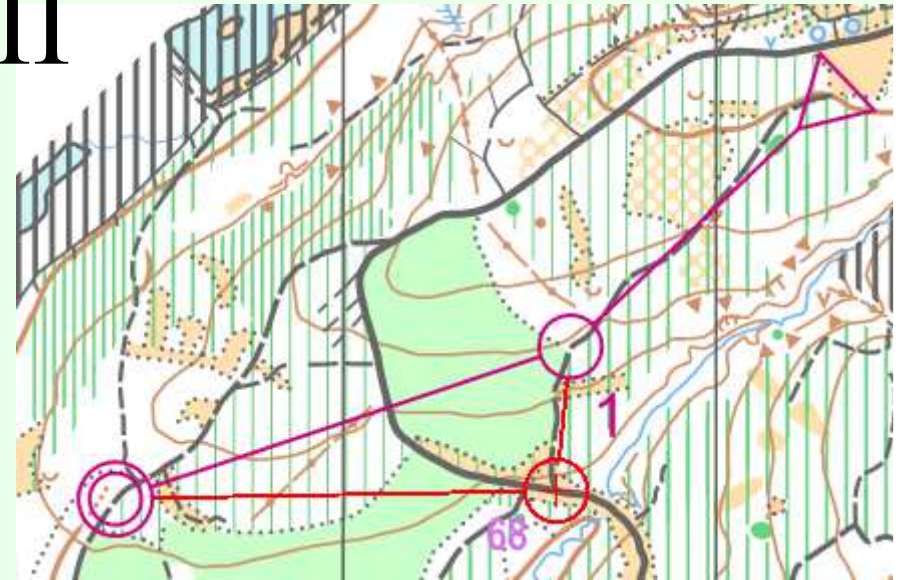


Defining the course III

Click on Add Control again and move the circle to the next control on the course.

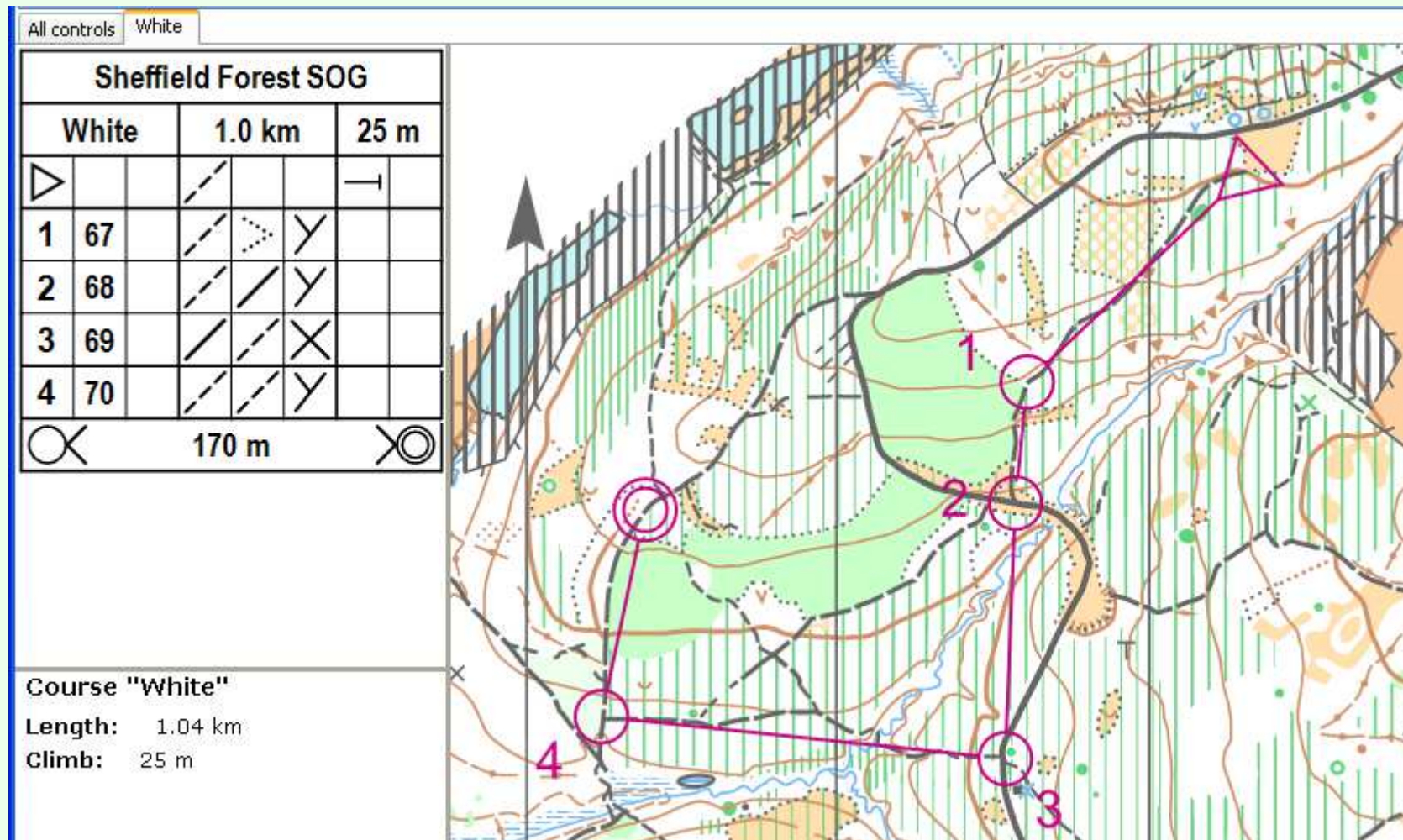
Continue this process until all the controls have been added.

You can if you wish drag the red circle to a new location and create a new control site.



Defining the course IV

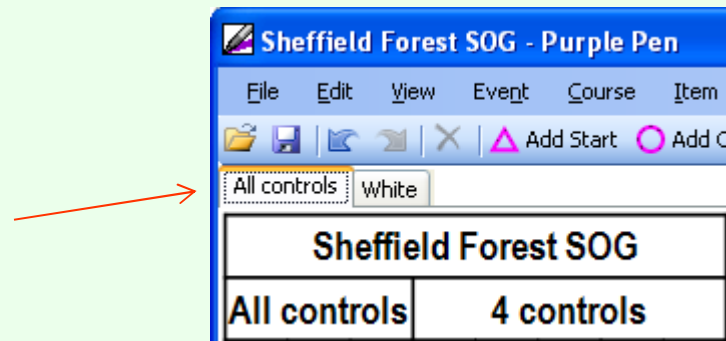
Complete the process until the course is complete



Changing controls

To change a course control left click it until it turns red and then either delete it, move it to a different control or to a new site.

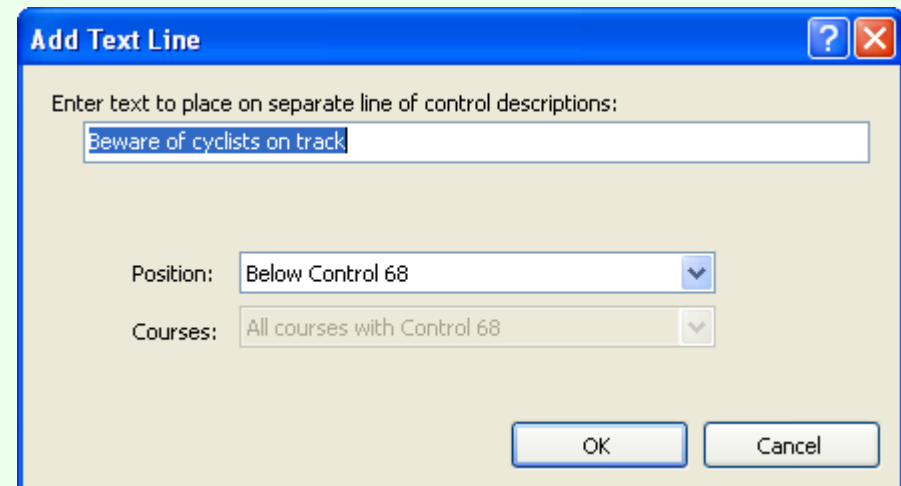
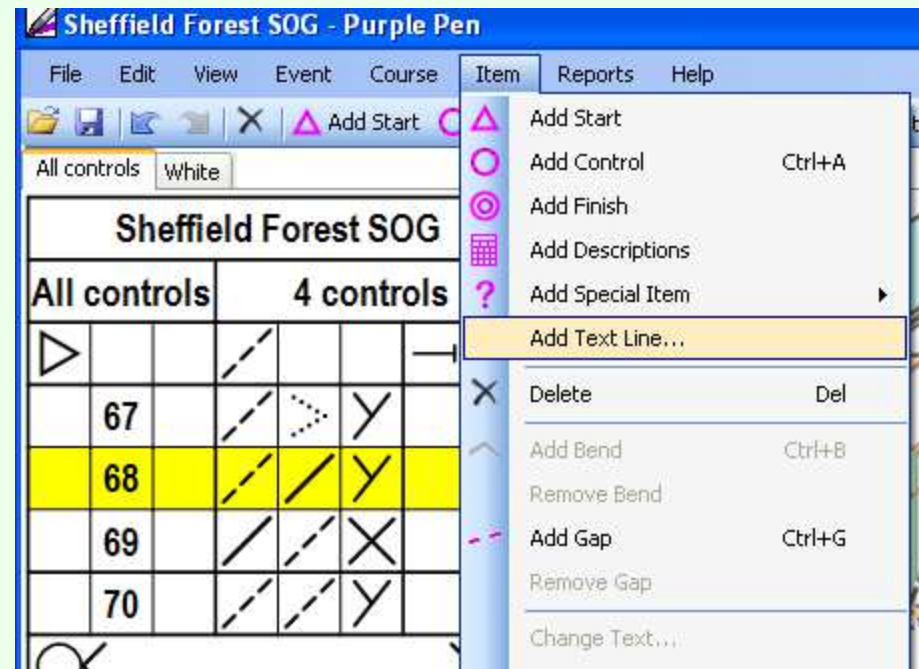
If you want to move the position of an existing control then click on the All controls tab to change that control.



Inserting a line of text

To insert a line of text in a course description first select the control above where you want the text to go. Then from the Item pull down menu select Add Text Line

This will bring up a dialog box into which the text can be added.

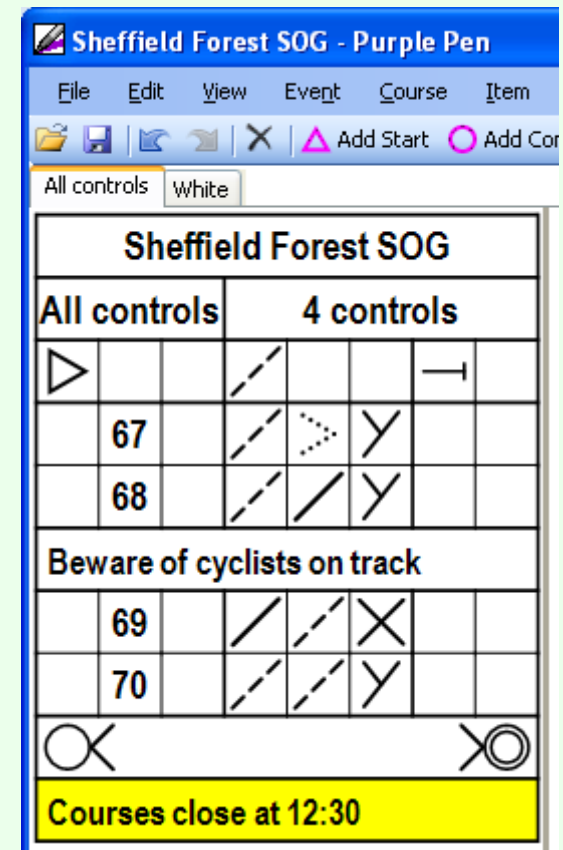


Inserting a line of text II

This will insert the line of text into the course descriptions.

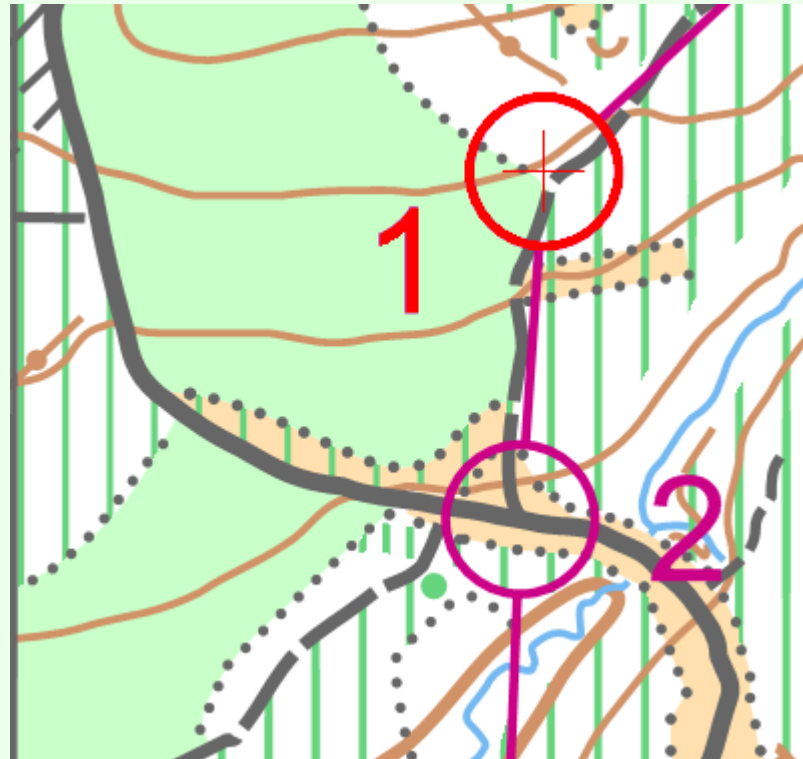
In the previous dialog box you have the option of that line of text appearing below the specified control in all courses.

This could be used to insert the course closing time after the finish



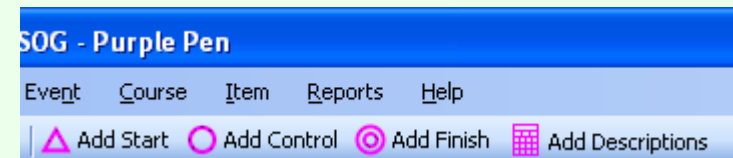
Modifying the course

You will almost certainly need to move the control numbers around – to do this first go to the course that you want to tidy up. Left click on a control – the circle and number will turn red. You can then move the number around.

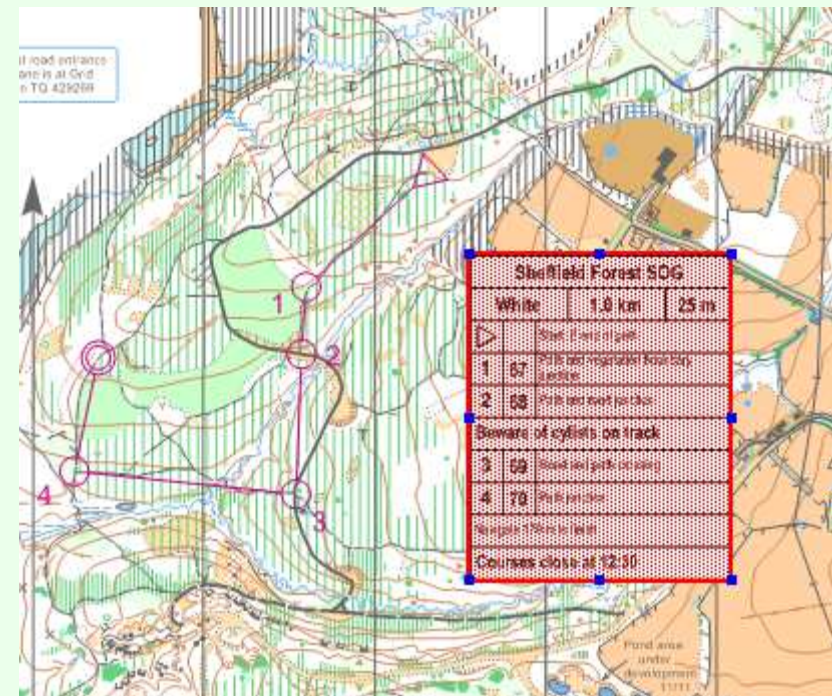


Adding control descriptions

Select the Add Descriptions button. description placement icon.
















Left click, hold and drag out the location of the descriptions on the map.



English and/or IOF descriptions

You can decide whether to have text, pictorial or both descriptions in the Course Properties dialog box (see earlier). If space allows you may consider having both.

Sheffield Forest SOG									
White		1.0 km		25 m					
						Start: E end of path			
1	67					Path and vegetation boundary junction			
2	68					Path and road junction			
Beware of cyclists on track									
3	69					Road and path crossing			
4	70					Path junction			
		170 m						Navigate 170 m to finish	
Courses close at 12:30									

Course Properties

Course name: White

Course type: Normal Course

Climb: 25 meters

Class list / Secondary title

The following (optional) text will appear on the second line of the control description sheet:

Appearance

Map printing scale: 1 : 7500

Description appearance: Text

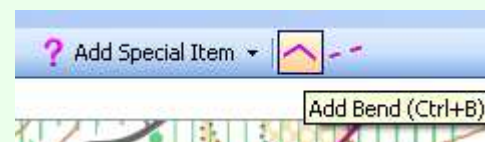
Control circle labels: Sequence number (3)

First control number: 1

OK Cancel

Improving print clarity

To avoid the connecting lines obscuring underlying detail (eg a path) you have the option of moving, bending or cutting the line. To do this first click on the line until it turns red. Then select the Add bend symbol



Click on the line and a blue square will appear

Left click, hold and drag to move the line (in this case off the path)

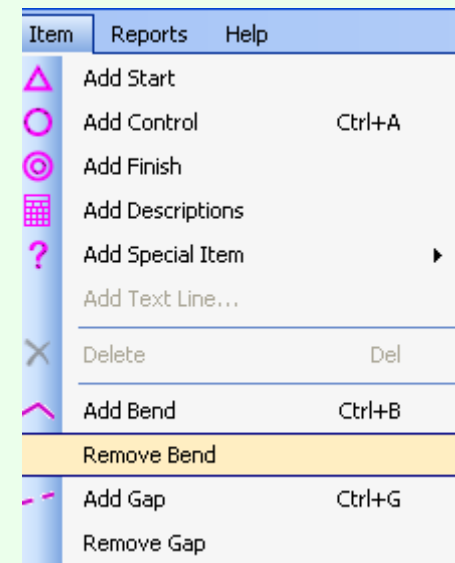


Removing a bend

If you want to remove a bend that you have added first click on the line containing the bend



Then from the Item menu select remove bend

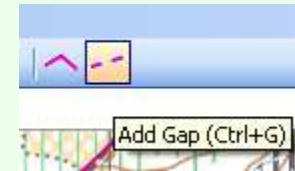


Using the cross icon click on the bend to be removed

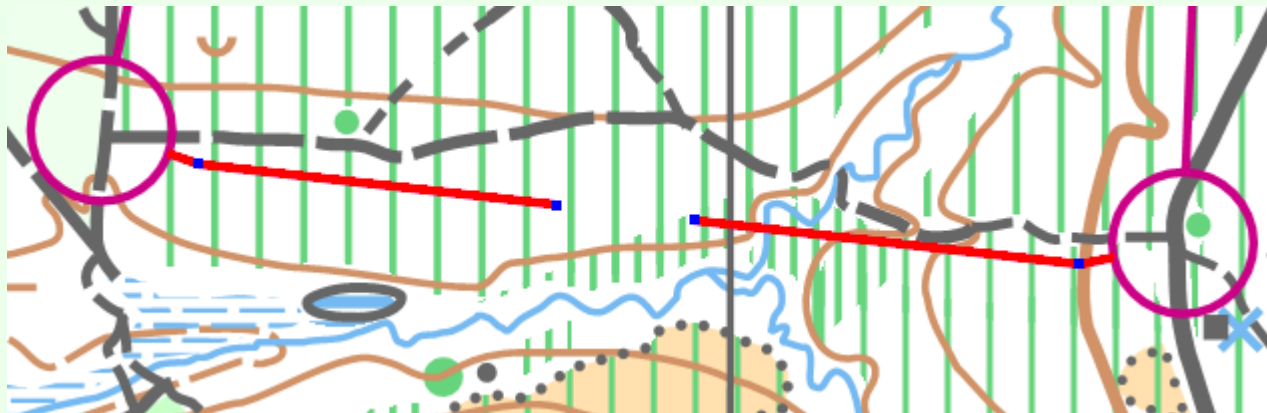


Cutting lines

To cut a line first select the line until it turns red. Then select the Add Gap symbol.



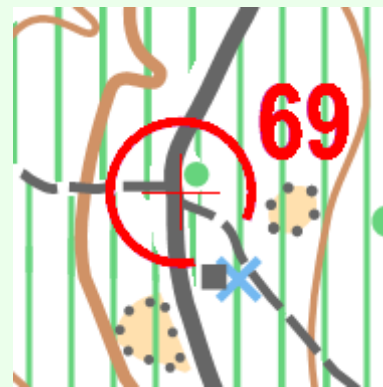
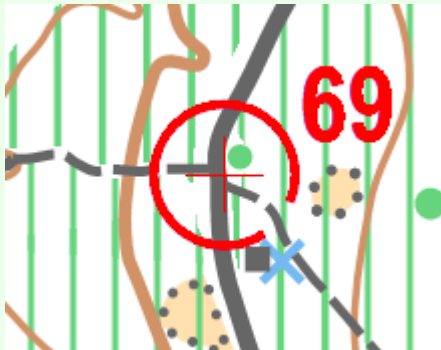
Left click and hold at one end of where you want the gap and then drag to the other end. A gap will appear in the line. By clicking and holding on the squares you can adjust the length of the gap



Cutting circles

To cut a control circle first click on a circle until it turns red. Select the Add Gap tool as in the previous slide.

Click on the circle where you want the gap to be centred. A gap will appear. Repeat the process if you want a bigger gap.



Adding marked routes

A marked route is a specified route that competitors must take during their course eg across fields via a public footpath.

Unfortunately it is not easy to mark this using Purple Pen. The only way to do this properly is to place a control either side of the marked route.

As an example

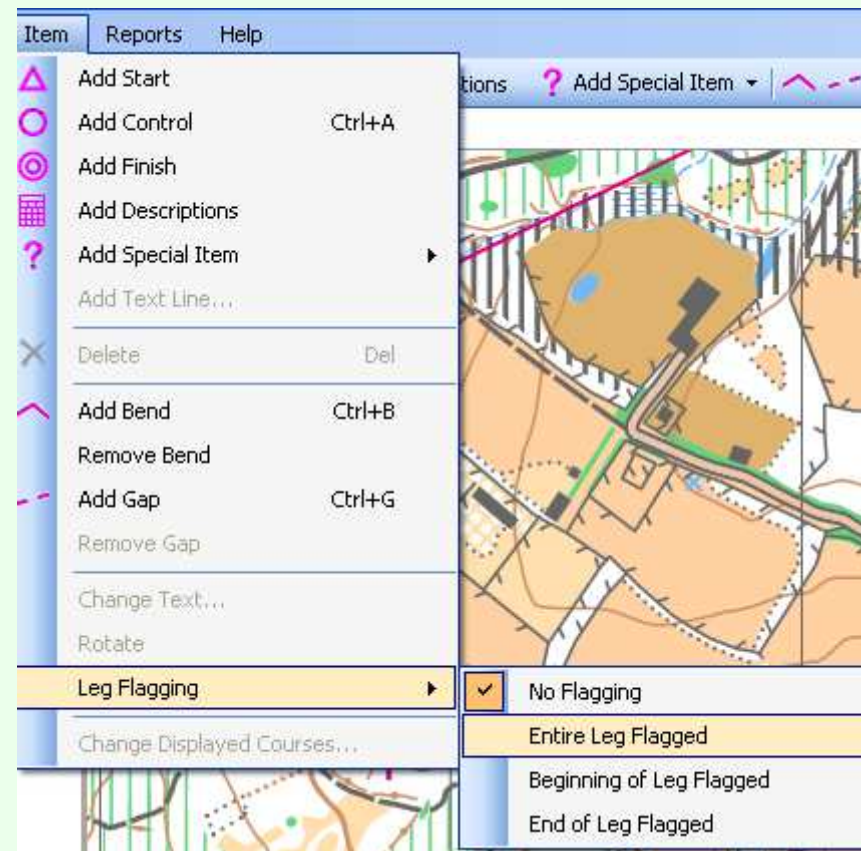


Adding marked routes II

To convert this leg into a marked route insert sufficient bends into the connecting line to mark the required route.



Then from the Item menu select the flag entire leg option



Adding marked routes III

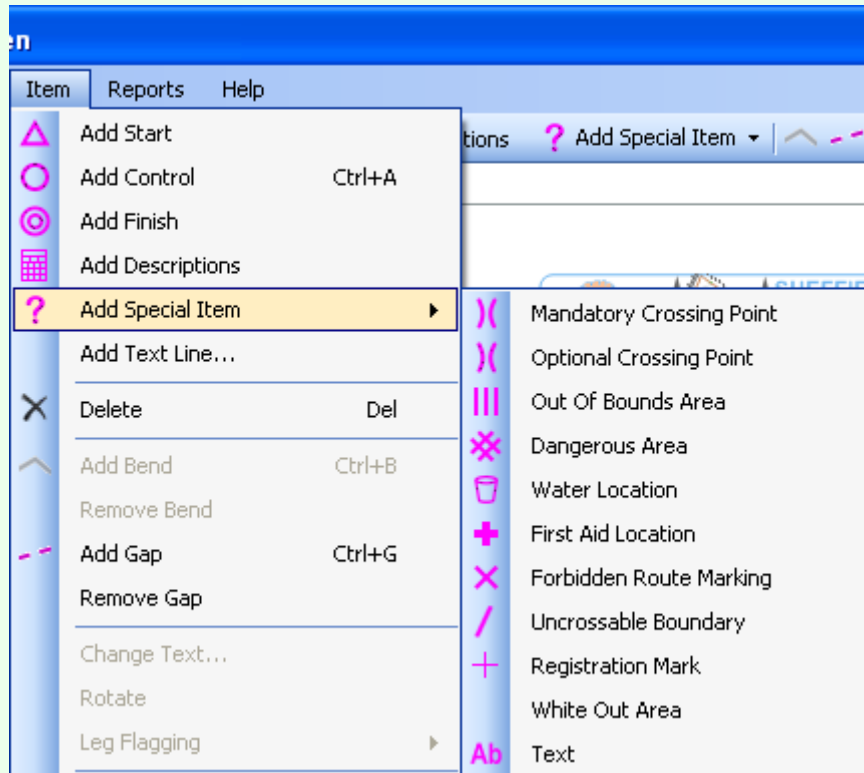
If only part of the leg is marked you have the option of converting the start or finish of a leg to a marked section.

If you select the flag at beginning option the entire leg up until the last bend mark will be marked

If you select the flag at end option the entire leg after the first bend mark will be marked

It is not possible to mark only the middle of a leg

Adding other objects to the map

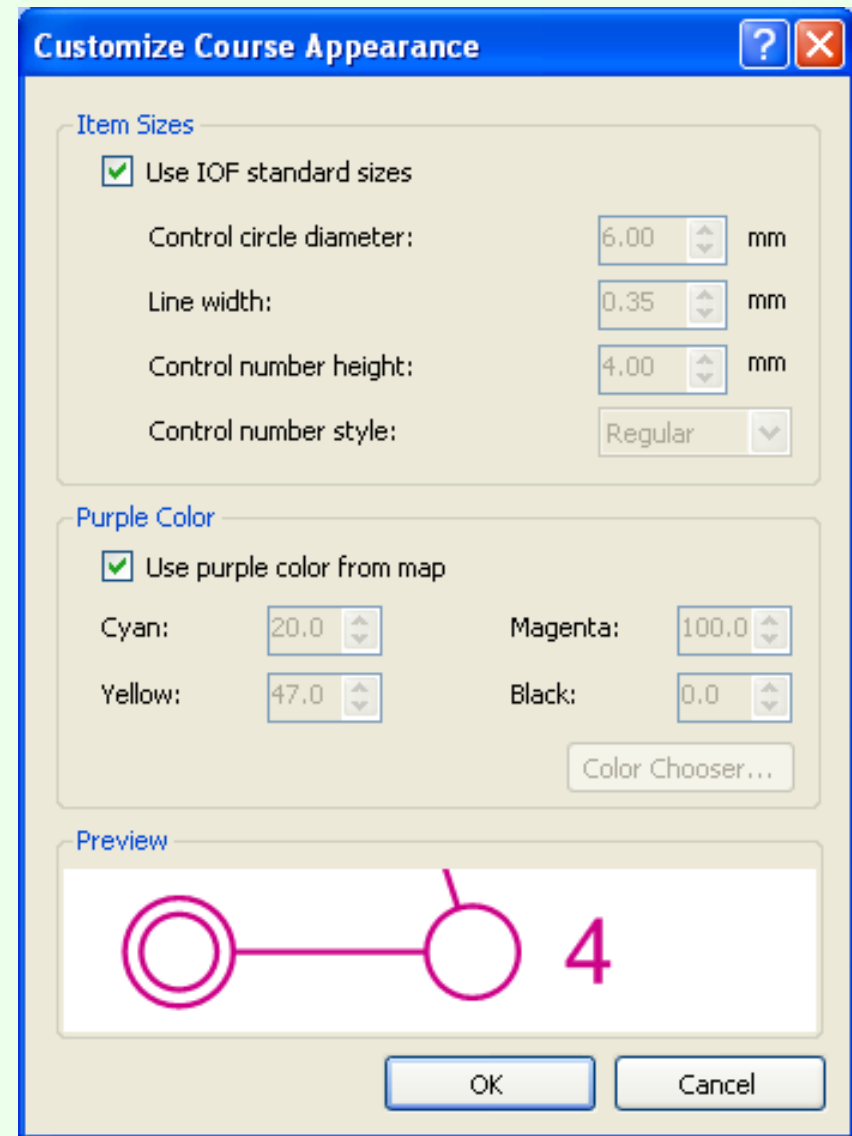


These symbols can be selected and inserted at the appropriate place on the map

Other Display Options

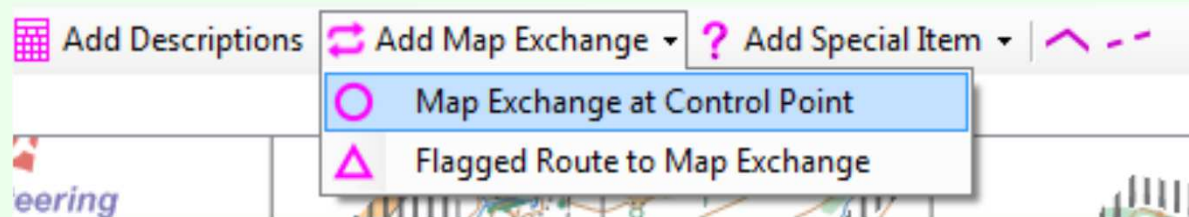
You have the option of changing the appearance of some of the course features.

You shouldn't need to do this though.



Splitting a course onto 2 maps

Sometimes when using a small area it is necessary to split a course onto two maps for clarity. This can be done by inserting a map exchange.



Two options are given but in most cases you will only be using the map exchange at control point option.

Select this option and then click on the course control where you want the 2nd part of the course to start

Splitting a course onto 2 maps

An extra line will appear in the control descriptions.

And you will be able to view the course as a whole or as separate parts.

Sheffield Forest SOG

	Blue	3.8 km	
1	75		
2	76		
3	77		
4	78		
5	79		
6	80		
7	74		

Control 78

Location: (-0.7, 57.5)

Used in courses:
Blue, Brown

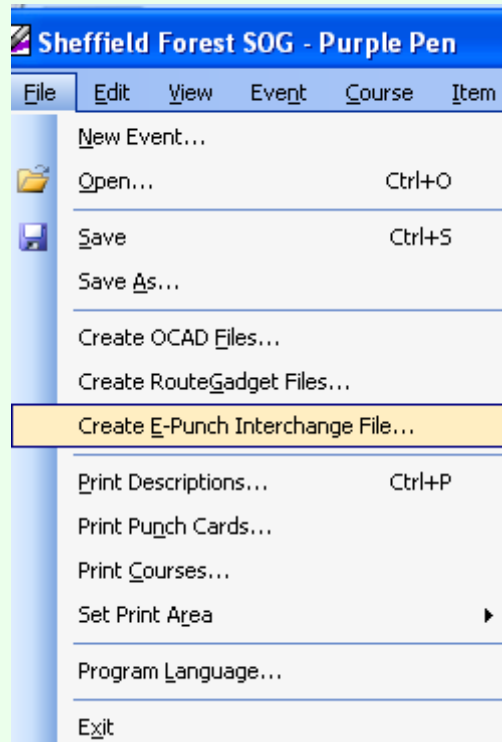
Course Part: All Parts

Entrance at Grid 29269

In this example part one will show controls 1-4 and part 2 controls 4 onwards

Exporting course information

The course information (distances, control order etc) can be exported in an xml file that can be imported into various results software etc.

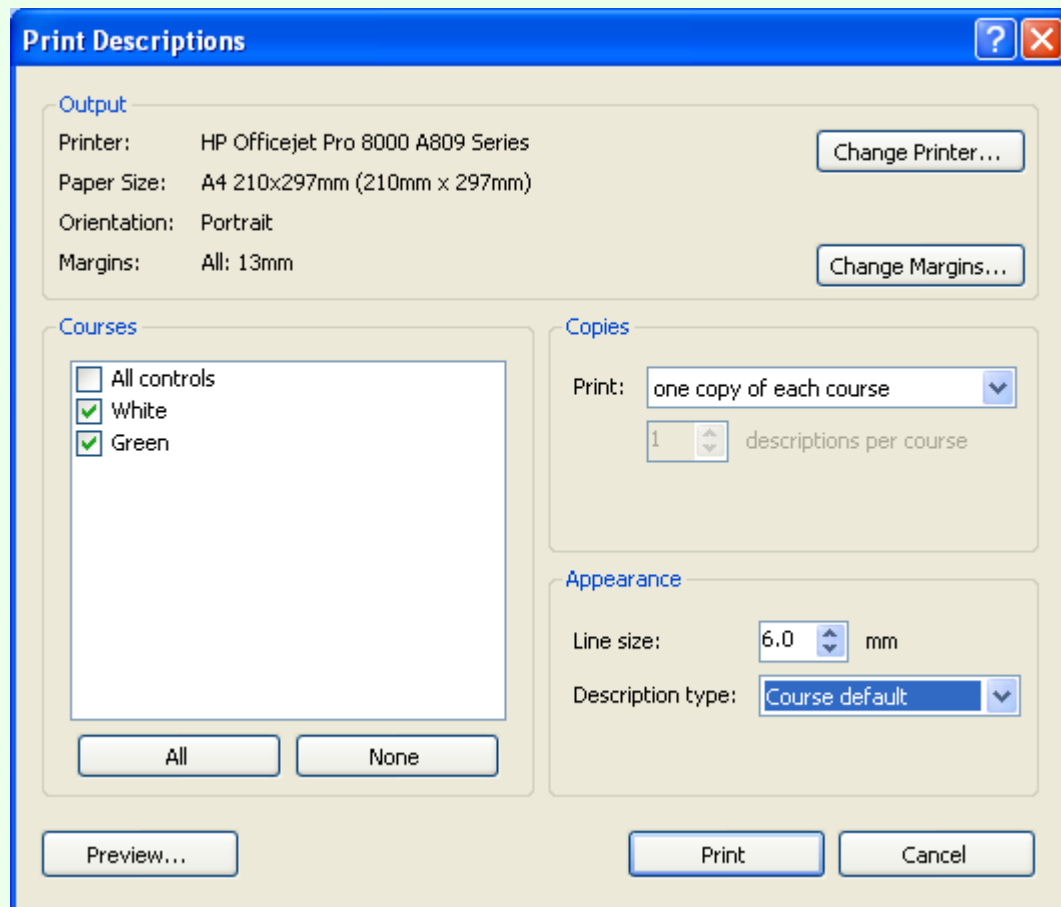


From the File menu select Create E-punch Interchange File.

This will then prompt you for a location At which to save this .xml file

Printing loose control descriptions

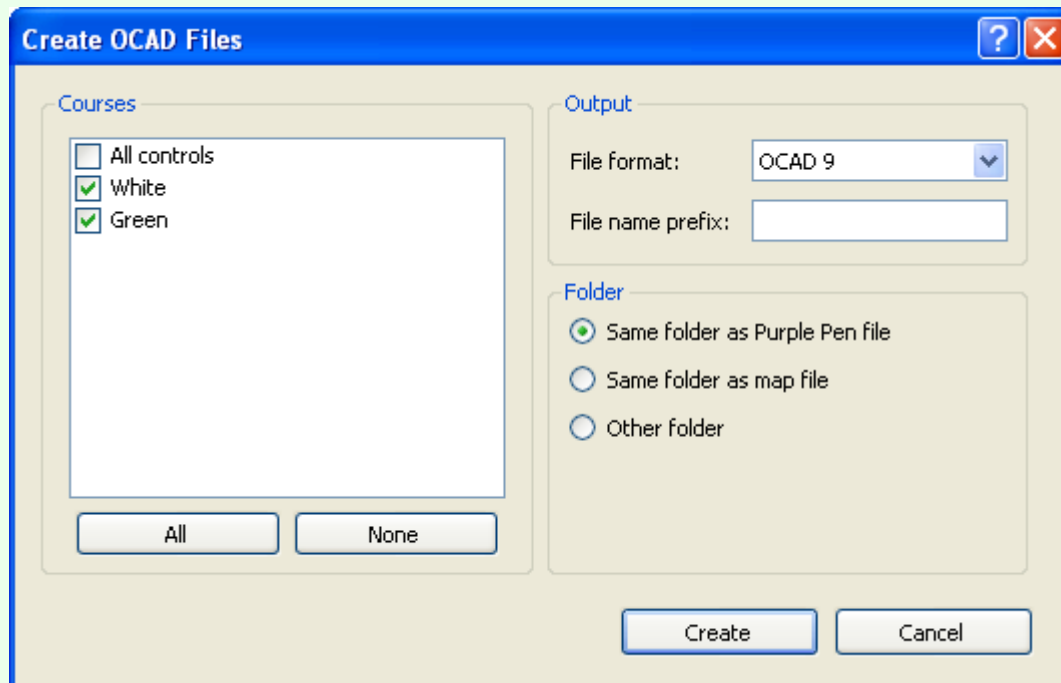
From the File menu select Print Descriptions.



This will bring up a dialog box with various options regarding the printing of loose descriptions.

Exporting the courses

There may be occasions where you need to export the courses as OCAD files. To do this select Create OCAD Files from the File menu.



The dialog box gives you various options.

Note that the descriptions do not appear to be exported along with the course.

The courses can also be exported as PDF files

Other Features

The information presented in the preceding files should be sufficient to allow you to plan your courses properly.

The program does contain various other features that you may wish to play with.

More information can be found using the help facility within the program and also via the support group. Details of this group can be found on the Purple Pen web page.