



Navigation – more questions answered!

By Heather Morning

Do you ever use digital maps while you're out?

The easy answer would be NO, with the one exception – Skye Cullin. Where due to the unreliability of the compass I definitely refer to View Ranger from time to time.

What would the best maps be for younger people to use?

Gosh, difficult answer as all maps are pretty detailed and complicated. Perhaps try the Harvey 1:25k map which uses colour/shading and I think is a bit clearer to use.

Do you carry different scale maps with you when walking?

No. I tend to plan ahead and take the map that I feel will be the most appropriate for my adventure.

Any advice on how to fold a map into a case? When the area of the map I'm walking is in the centre of the map i struggle to fold it nicely.

Yes. Do it before you go so you can benefit from laying it out on a flat surface before folding. A good tip is to remove the cardboard cover of an OS map. They are only lightly glued for exactly this reason. Keep the cover of course to store the map in on return to home. You will find the map folds much easier without the cardboard cover on it.

Some phones power down in cold conditions so is it worthwhile having a handheld GPS as an alternative?

Yes, some phone batteries (like my ancient iphone 5) are useless in cold conditions. I personally only use a GPS when I am ski touring or on the Skye Cuillin. You might consider taking a spare battery charger so you can recharge your battery if necessary, but even that might be affected by the cold. Another good tip is to keep your phone in airplane mode or switched off and in an inside pocket, to keep it warm and fully charged in case you need to use it.

Having used the OS locate app teaching in Secondary schools, I've not found it to be very accurate. How do you rate its accuracy for 6 figure grid references?

Hi Gordon, I have never found OS Locate to be inaccurate. Have a look at the OS locate FAQs on the [Ordnance Survey website](#) for more info.

Idiot question maybe! When looking contours, how do you tell what direction is up/down hill?!

Not an idiot question, it can be very confusing! Either look at the heights on nearby contour lines or if none are available a nice rule of thumb is 'if you are heading towards blue (loch, burn, river) you will be going downhill. And if you are heading away from a blue feature on the map you will be heading up hill.

Bubble in your compass - when to worry?

A small bubble may appear in the fluid inside your compass housing when you ascend. This is due to a change in pressure and it generally disappears when you descend. Sometimes, the bubble will remain. If it is small and not affecting the stability of the compass, then use it. If it is large and affecting the needle stability, then it's time to buy a new compass.

Naismith's rule – you gave a very good and clear description... do you think about changing timings for visibility?

That may be sensible, if you are walking on a compass bearing through rough complicated terrain your pace may slow down considerably.



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