

## Using MapRun Check Sites to Check Control Positions

I'm a great fan of using MapRun (which we use for Night Street League events to 'punch' our controls) for checking out control locations when planning events and for actually putting out controls on the day, particularly at WEE or SEE events where there isn't a controller to check my placements. Having done this for a few events, I've found that it's really straightforward and wanted to share this across our club.

The instructions below look complicated but I promise you that it's not. However, don't hesitate to contact me (at [johnleeson@aol.com](mailto:johnleeson@aol.com)) if you have any queries.

The first thing to do is to download MapRun on your phone, which is a free download (and then you can come and enjoy the NSL events!).

### **The Map File**

MapRun uses a KMZ map file rather than the OCAD file which is produced by the mapping software. All the KMZ shows is map detail. It does not show the actual course and control information.

So, you need to obtain the KMZ map file for the area where you are holding the event which can be downloaded from the OCAD map file. The mapper (or someone with OCAD) will be able to export this file, which will have a .KMZ suffix. Alternatively, you can do it yourself using Open Orienteering Mapper (another free download) in which you can open the OCAD file and then click on File and then Export As and then KMZ file.

Open Orienteering Mapper is downloadable from:

[Mapper | OpenOrienteering](#)

### **The Course File**

In addition to the KMZ map file, you need the course file (from the course setting software that you are using, like Purple Pen), which is downloaded as a KML file. All this file shows is the course information as a series of points and lines, or if you are checking all the controls, it will just be a series of points (often referred to as 'pins').

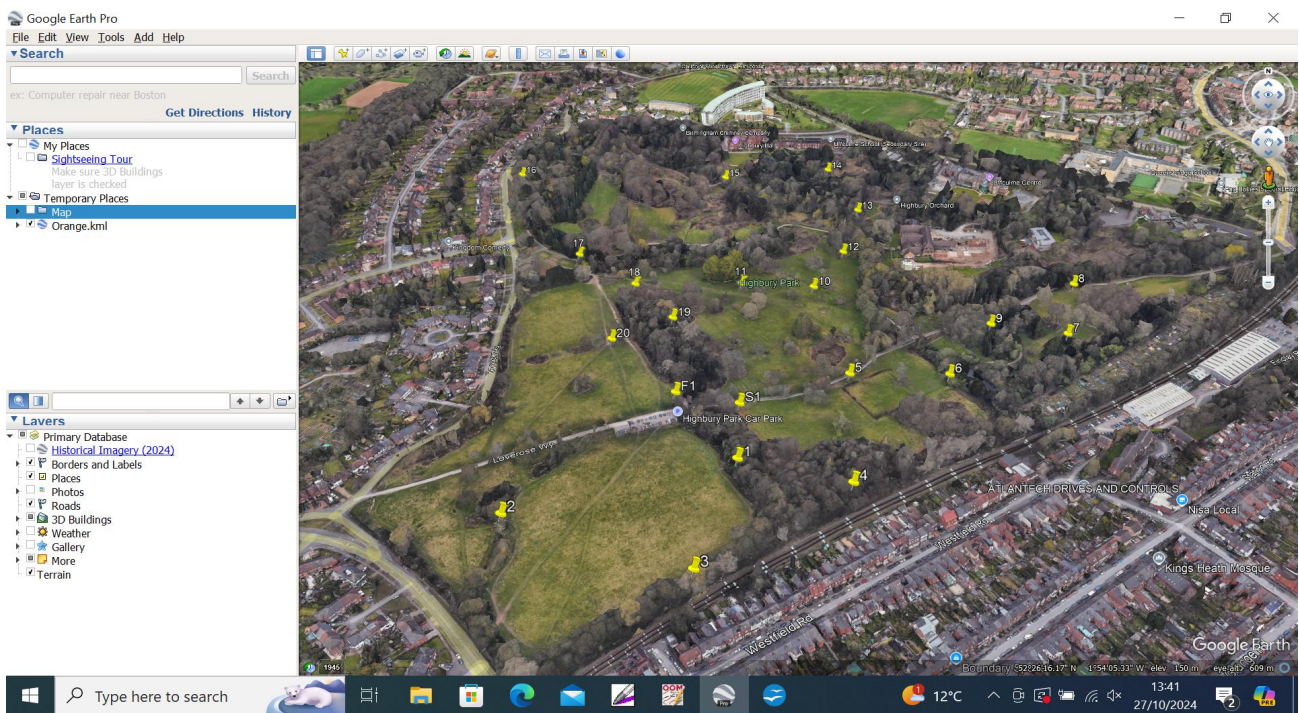
### **Checking the KML and KMZ Files**

Make sure that you have the KMZ and KML files for your event in a folder where you can find them (eg the folder your map and course are saved into). Then you can (but don't have to) use Google Earth to check your KMZ and KML files.

To do this, download Google Earth Pro (another free download) onto your desktop or laptop PC from the page at:

[Earth Versions – Google Earth](#)

Then go to the folder with your KML file and click on it. This will open Google Earth and the controls will appear on an image of your course area as coloured pins, as shown in the image of Highbury Park below. You can check your control locations at home by zooming into the aerial images before you go out to tape or check them in the field.



If you click on the KMZ file it will open the map as an overlay over the Google Earth image.

## Checking Control Sites in the Field

To check your actual control sites on the ground, open the MapRun CheckSites page on your computer. This is at:

[MapRun Console](#)

Follow the prompts adding your contact details and the course name and then upload the KMZ and KML files. Make sure that the '*Display location and track*' option at the bottom of the page is set as ON.

Click the '*Add the Event*' button and CheckSites will generate a 6 figure code which (on default setting) will work for one month.

Then, open the MapRun App on your phone. Click on the horizontal bars in the top right hand corner of the front page screen (MapRun 7) or bottom left hand side (MapRun 6) and then on CheckSites in the drop down menu that opens.

Enter the 6 figure code which then loads your course on your phone. It's worth doing this before you go out in the field in case you have bad reception in the forest (very frustrating). Before clicking '*Go to Start*', click on '*Options and Settings*' and make sure that the present location and track will be displayed (you find these tabs under '*Event Display Options*').

Then click on '*Go to Start*' and the map and control locations will appear as shown on the screen shot below. When you are out on the course, your position will appear as a red dot followed by your track. Zooming in will enable you to check your location (red dot and red line track) compared to the control position on the map.

You can even use the pin symbol in the upper right hand corner of the screen to drop a pin onto the map together with a comment (maybe a good control site, or some update for the mapper to pick up).

The green bar at the foot of the screen shows the approximate accuracy of the GPS fix, which I often find to be better than 5m.

When you get back you can click on 'Show Results' and then the 'Event name' to see your track.

If you've found any map updates, you can email your track to the mapper along with its pins. The mapper can upload the track into OCAD to help update the map accurately.

MapRun CheckSites can also be used when controlling events by obtaining the KMZ and KML files from the event planner.

Good luck!

