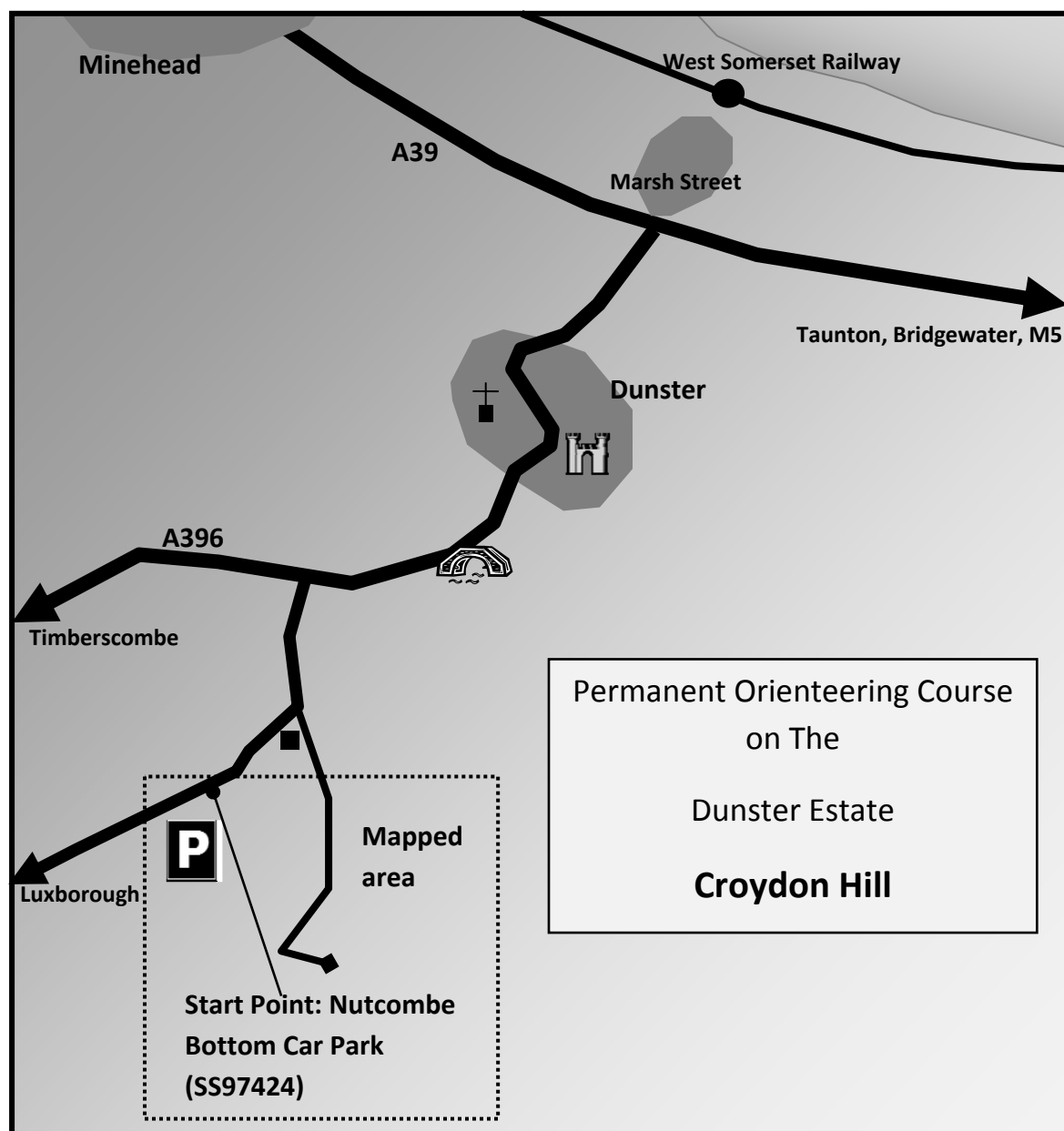


Getting to Croydon Hill

Croydon Hill is a large wooded area on the edge of Exmoor National Park, about a mile to the south west of the village of Dunster.

Croydon Hill forms part of the Dunster Estate, and is owned by **The Crown Estate** (www.thecrownestate.co.uk). The forest is managed in part by The Crown Estate and The Forestry Commission (www.forestry.gov.uk).

Access to the course, as with other Dunster Estate trails, is via Nutcombe Bottom Car Park, where there is room for approximately 30 cars.



Permanent Orienteering course at

The Dunster Estate

www.dunsterestate.co.uk

Croydon Hill

In this pack you will find.....

- 1 Coloured orienteering map
- Details of recommended courses of varying levels of difficulty
- Details of how to use the permanent course
- Details of the course controls (the answers)



Using the Permanent Course

- The course is marked by square posts, approximately 1m high. An orienteering course post displays a red and white band, and is marked with a letter and code number.
- The **code letters** (A to Z) are for general identification and combinations of these are used in the suggested courses provided.
- The **code numbers** are not revealed, and are to be used by group leaders as a check that the posts have been correctly located.
- It is suggested that you start from Nutcombe Bottom Car Park, though the course can be picked up from anywhere in Dunster Forest.

Choosing your route

- We have suggested four routes of increasing difficulty. The routes are colour graded (from white through to green) according to a national standard, as used at competition level orienteering.
- We recommend that you try the white course before progressing on to the yellow or orange courses. Green Courses are navigationally testing, and should be experienced by more experienced orienteers.
- Though some of the courses may appear short in length, there is an emphasis on 'micro' navigation using the very detailed, colour map. Hence, deciphering some of the finer details may take longer than you expect!
- The map scale is 1:7,500, which means that 1cm on the map equates to 75m on the ground.
- How you choose your route is up to you. You can make it as simple or as complicated as you wish, and there is always the option of developing your own route to suit your particular skills or abilities.

Getting Started

- **Ensure that you have appropriate clothing for the conditions that you may experience.** It is strongly advised that you wear sturdy footwear, and that you are prepared for changeable weather conditions. You should also always work to the ability of others in your group, so make efforts to account for the needs of everyone in your party when selecting a route.
- Once you have selected a route, you may find it useful to connect the circles on the coloured map to highlight your route.
- The polythene bag in which the pack comes also acts as a map case to protect your map from the elements.
- A compass may come in useful, particularly for the more complicated routes, though it should be possible to navigate using the map and line features (paths, streams, earthbanks).
- As you near a post you should read the brief description (e.g. earthbank bend) as this provides a useful clue as to where the post is in relation to surrounding features.
- When you locate a post check that the letter matches the one on your course description. Copy down the code number that is found on the post- this is the proof that you found it!

Be aware of your surroundings

- Dunster Forest is located within Exmoor National Park, and is therefore in one of Britain's most special areas of countryside. Please help us to keep it this way by following a few simple rules:
- Dogs are welcome on the tracks and trails, but please keep them under close control at **all** times. There are deer, livestock, nesting birds, and other users to think of. Please also clear up after your dog, to minimise the spread of infections and diseases.
- Take your litter home with you at the end of the day.
- Leave gates as you find them- This is a working landscape and so it is vital that agricultural and forestry workings are not disturbed.
- As this is a working forest, with multiple uses, please do not climb on timber stacks, nor block any access that might be required by operational machinery or emergency services.
- Prevent the risk of fire by discarding of cigarettes in a considerate way. For this reason fires (including barbecues) are not permitted at any time.
- Be prepared for any weather, and **have fun!**



Dunster Estate

- The Crown Estate's land at Dunster is managed to add value for everyone. Any revenue generated by the working of the estate goes directly back to the treasury.
- Value is also added through the provision of tracks, trails and other facilities, so that people can get the most out of their visit to the Dunster Estate.



➤ We also carry out work to improve the value to the native wildlife and historical sites, so that the special features of the estate are here to be enjoyed by generations to come.

➤ If you wish to learn more about what else is on offer at the Dunster Estate please ring the Estate Office on 01643 821309 or look on our website at www.dunsterestate.co.uk.

Please note:

Permission has been given by The Crown Estate for individuals and small groups (less than 10) on foot to use the course at any time. For groups larger than 10, please contact the estate office on the number above to check availability. Continued use of the trails is subject to review at any time, and The Crown Estate reserves the right to close part of, or all, of the course at any time, in line with any pertinent legislation, in order to carry out the operational working of the forest. Users of the facilities on the Dunster Estate do so entirely at their own risk. No responsibility whatsoever can be accepted by either The Crown Estate or Quantock Orienteers.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Quantock Orienteers for their help and expertise in developing this permanent course at Croydon Hill. For more info on Quantock Orienteers see www.quantockorienteers.co.uk.