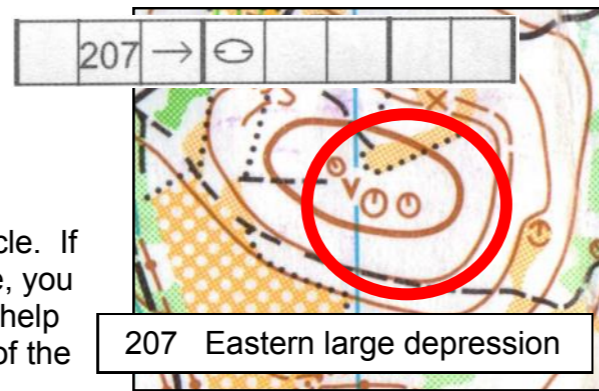


# Know your sport: Control Descriptions

The site of a control is shown on the map by a circle. If you navigate to the point at the centre of the circle, you should then find the control. Control descriptions help by providing the control **code** and a **description** of the location:



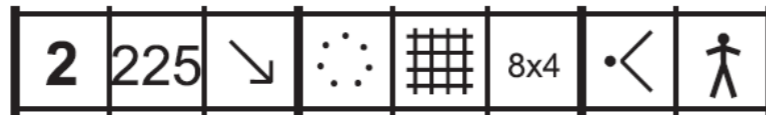
- All controls have unique numbers on them and by checking the control's **code** against your own list you can be confident that you have found the correct one.
- Often it will be obvious from the map what feature the control will be using. However in areas of complex terrain, this can be hard and so a **description** is provided to ensure the competitor knows what they are looking for.

Junior and novice courses usually use descriptions written in plain English. However, since about 1975, it has been common to use the internationally agreed symbolic descriptions. This ensures that when competitors from other countries attend our events they can use the control descriptions and, more importantly for us, when British orienteers travel abroad, they are used to the format.

## Column classification

**A: Control number** — Number of the control in the sequence they are to be visited (although not used in a 'Score' event where controls are visited in any order)

A B C D E F G H



**B: Control Code** — The unique number displayed on the control. Allows the competitor to know that they have found the right control.

**C: Which of any similar feature** — This is used when there are more than one similar feature within the control circle. Possible examples are 'south eastern' or 'middle'.

**D: Control feature** — This is the control description symbol equivalent to the symbol on the map for the site of the control (e.g. 'boulder' or 'vegetation boundary'). Since the map uses different colours for symbols whereas the control description list uses only a single colour, some of the control description symbols have to be different from their equivalent on the map.

**E: Appearance** — Additional helpful information to help the competitor identify the feature. Examples include 'overgrown' or 'ruined'. The column can also be used for a second control feature where the description combines two features (e.g. 'ditch/path crossing').

**F: Dimensions/Combinations** — Dimensions of the feature should be given when the symbol on the map is symbolic and not to scale. For example, both a 2m and a 0.5m bolder use a black dot symbol on the map of a standard size.

**G: Location of the control flag** — Position of the control flag with respect to the feature.

**H: Other information** — other helpful information for the competitor (e.g. 'drinks' or 'radio control')

## Examples of the symbols used

### Column C

Symbol	Name
↑	Northern
↘	South Eastern
⊖	Upper
⊖	Lower
⊖	Middle

### Column D

Symbol	Name
⤴	Terrace
⤵	Spur
⤶	Re-entrant
⤷	Earth bank
⤸	Quarry
⤹	Earth wall
⤺	Erosion gully
⤻	Small erosion gully
⤼	Hill
⤽	Knoll
⤾	Depression
⤿	Small depression
⥀	Pit
⥁	Cliff, Rock face
⥂	Rock Pillar
⥃	Cave
⥄	Boulder
⥅	Boulder field

⊙	Lake
⊕	Pond
⊖	Waterhole
⊗	River, Stream, Watercourse
⊘	Minor water channel, Ditch
⊙	Narrow marsh
⊕	Marsh
⊖	Open land
⊗	Semi-open land
⊘	Forest corner
⊙	Clearing
⊕	Thicket
⊖	Linear thicket
⊗	Vegetation boundary
⊘	Copse
⊙	Distinctive tree
⊕	Tree stump, Root stock

⤴	Road
⤵	Track / Path
⤶	Ride
⤷	Bridge
⤸	Stone wall
⤹	Fence
⤺	Crossing point
⤻	Building
⤼	Paved area
⤽	Ruin
⤾	Pipeline
⤿	Tower
⥀	Monument or Statue
⥁	Building pass through
⥂	Stairway
⥃	Special item
⥄	Special item

### Column E

Symbol	Name
⊖	Low
⊖	Shallow
⊖	Deep
⊖	Overgrown
⊖	Needle leaved
⊖	Broad leaved
⊖	Ruined

### Column G

Symbol	Name
⊙	North east Side
⊙	South east Edge
⊙	West Part
⊙	East Corner (inside)
⊙	South Corner (outside)

### Column F

Symbol	Name
⊙	Crossing
⊙	Junction

### Column G (ctd)

⊙	South west Tip
⊙	Bend
⊙	North west End
⊙	Upper Part
⊙	Lower Part
⊙	Top
⊙	Foot (no direction)
⊙	North east Foot
⊙	Between

### Column H

Symbol	Name
⊙	First aid post
⊙	Refreshment point
⊙	Radio or TV control

M45, M50, W21		
5	7.6 km	210 m
101	↘	⊙
2 212	↘	⊙
3 135	⊙	⊙
4 246	⊙	⊙
5 164	⊙	⊙
120 m		
6 185	↘	⊙
7 178	↘	⊙
8 147	⊙	⊙
9 149	↘	⊙
250 m		

Classes M45, M50, W21		
Course number 5	Length 7.6 km	Height climb 210 m
1	101	Road, wall junction
2	212	Narrow marsh bend
3	135	North western boulder, 1 m high, east side
4	246	Between thickets
5	164	Middle depression, east part
Eastern ruin, west side		
Follow taped route 120 m away from control		
6	185	Stone wall, ruined, south east corner (outside)
7	178	Spur, north west foot
8	147	Upper cliff, 2 m high
9	149	Path crossing
Follow taped route 250 m from last control to finish		

This is not a complete list! A more detailed A4 document is at:  
<http://www.maprunner.co.uk/simon/iofcontroldescA4.doc>  
 For the full IOF official international specifications, see:  
<http://orienteering.org/foot-orienteering/rules/>

⊙	⊙	⊙	Path crossing
⊙	⊙	⊙	Ride / River crossing
⊙	⊙	⊙	Road junction
⊙	⊙	⊙	River / Narrow marsh junction