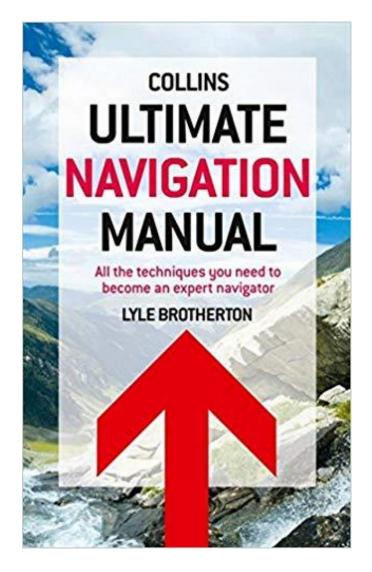
Experiences from a Night Navigation Course

David Watts



Ultimate Navigation School (UNS)

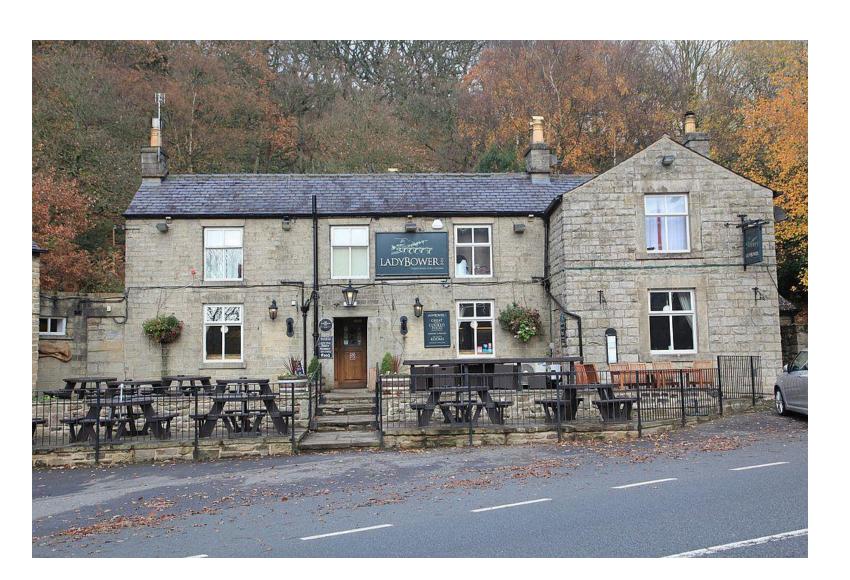




www.shavenraspberry.com



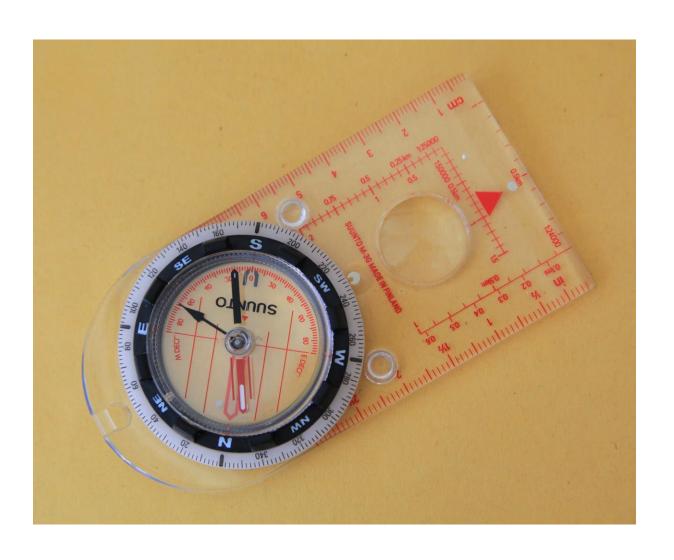
Course Venue



Course Overview

- 2 evenings (Friday and Saturday)
- Meet in pub around 4pm to discuss plans
- Drive a short distance to start of walk
- Circular walk, practising various navigation techniques (approx. 5 hours)
- Return to pub before last orders!
- Focused on using map and compass (i.e. no GPS devices)

Compass



- Base plate with rulers & scales
- Luminous markings

Headtorch





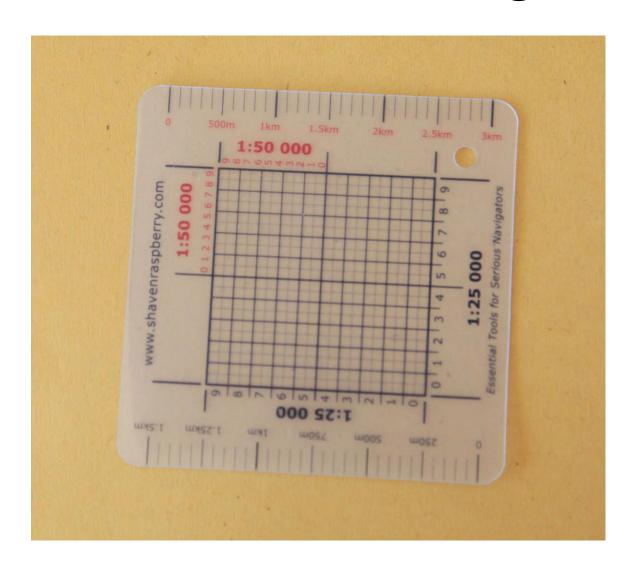
- LED Lenser H14R.2
- Need a good headtorch
- Red/green light an advantage
- Need a spare headtorch
- Need spare batteries

Pacing



- Pacing is the most accurate method of measuring distance walked
- Toggles on compass cord easiest way to keep track of 100m stages
- 5 10 extra double-paces per 100m at night

Measuring Distances

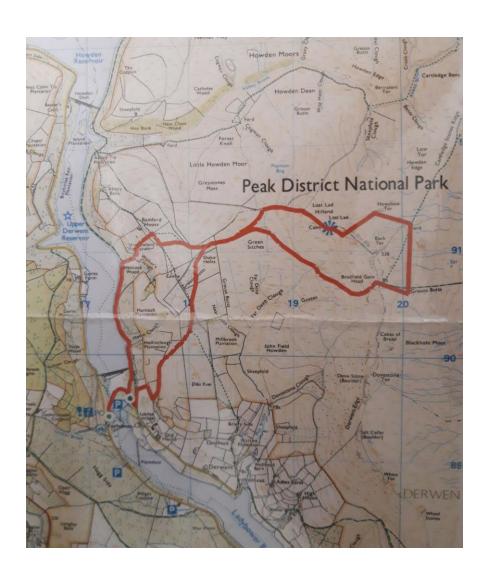


- Grid Tool
- Good for accuracy
- For 25K and 50K maps
- Keep with compass

Keeping Warm

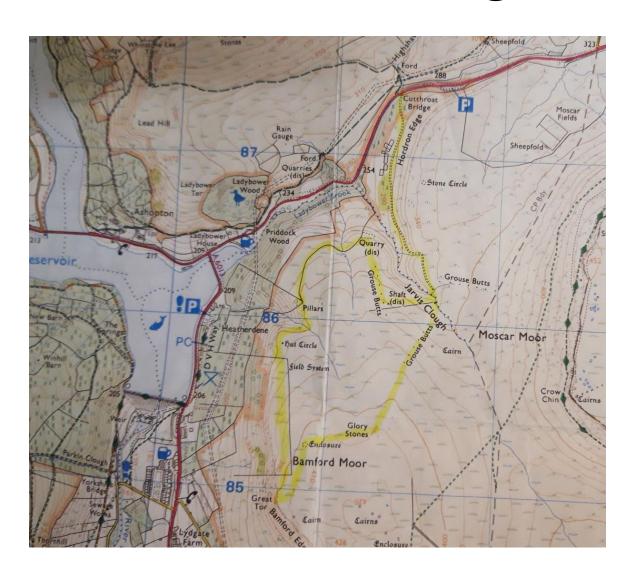
- Will be moving slower with frequent stops to look at the map
- Need to keep warm so as to concentrate on navigation!
- Plenty of warm clothes, hats, several pairs of gloves etc.
- Hot drink and plenty of food (more calories needed to keep warm)
- Group shelter useful in bad weather

Mark Route On Map



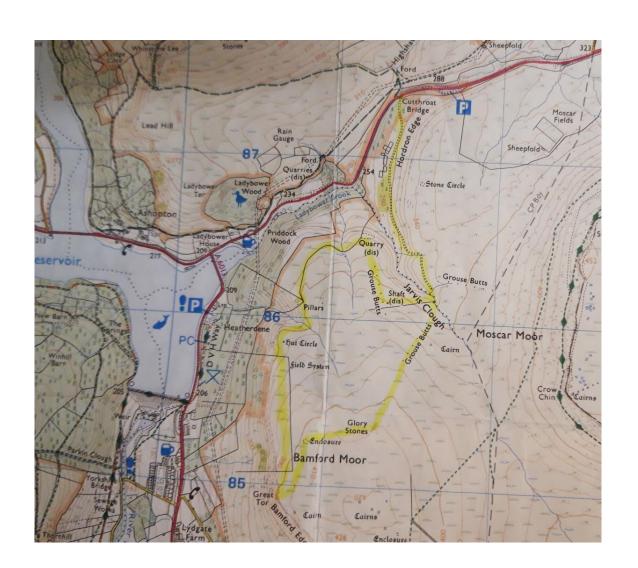
- Do for planned night walks
- Easier to keep track of location

Large Features



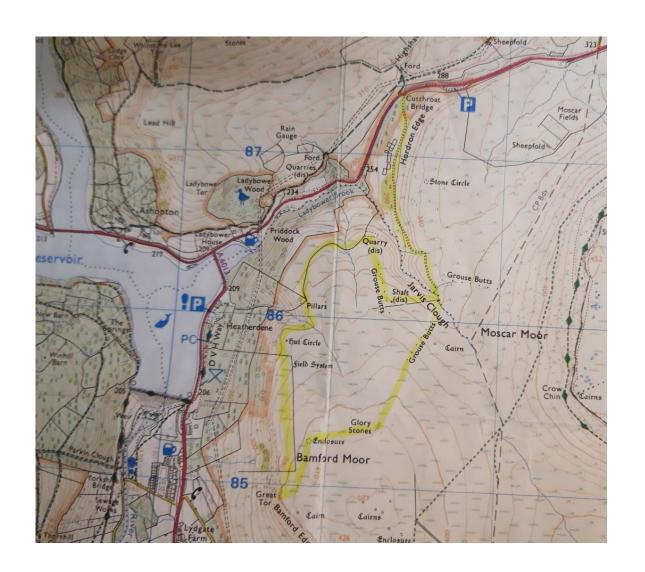
- Use large features at night
 - Good paths/tracks
 - Walls
 - Edge of forest
 - Rivers
 - Change of contours
- Don't use small features
 - e.g. hut circles
- Use paths whenever possible
 - Be flexible

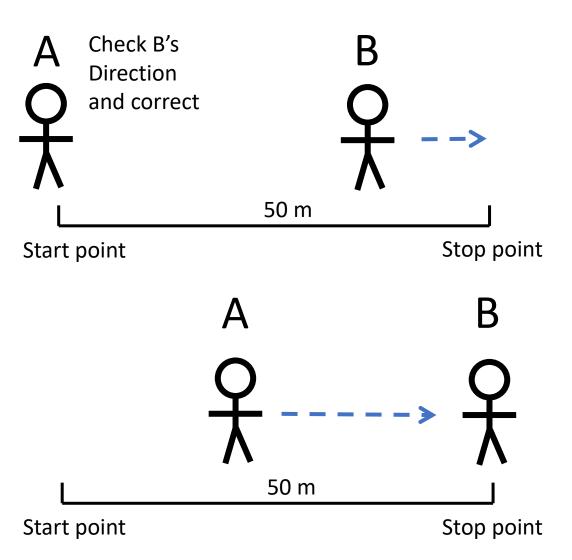
Short Distance between Attack Points



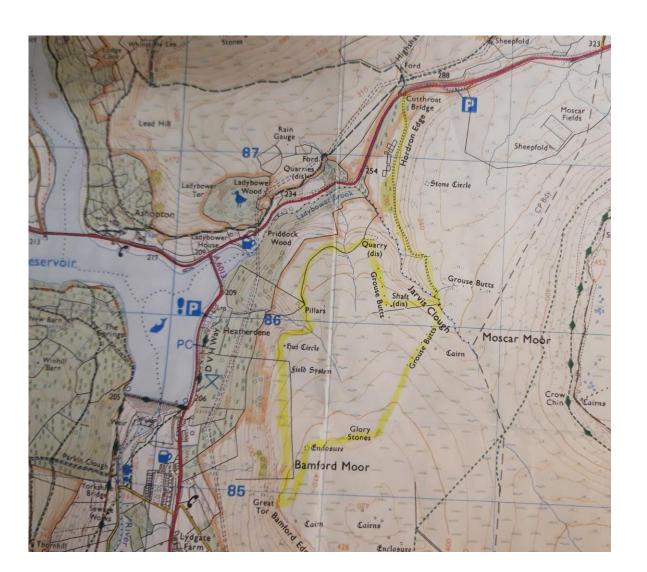
- Essential to use short legs
- E.g. 250m
- Reduces margin for error
- If go wrong, not far to retrace
- Use 5Ds all the time

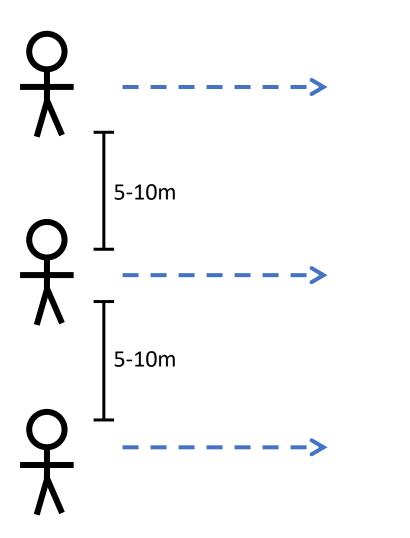
Leap-Frogging





Search Techniques



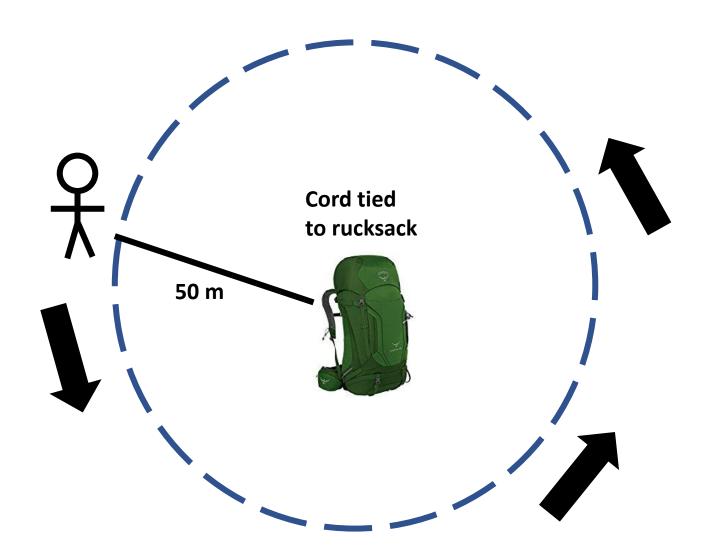


Target

Search Techniques (1 or 2 persons)

Build up a picture of 20 double paces what is around you

Search Techniques (1 person)



Build up a picture of what is around you

Miscellaneous

- Don't always need headtorch; close one eye when turning on headtorch to see map
- Takes approx. 8 minutes for eyes to start adjusting to darkness
- Drawing a line between the two ends of a crescent moon points south
- In an emergency give the police a PINT: Place, Incident, Name, Time
- Backup equipment: Altimeter, GPS, Smartphone, phone power pack, OS Locate app
- Download maps to phone as these will be the most up to date available

The End

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