

Project Name

5C. 'School Run' – Reading the Landscape

Project Aim

To utilise the outdoor sport of orienteering to enable schools and pupils to engage with and better understand the landscape of the Darent Valley, and to enable them to embed orienteering within the National Curriculum. During this time, pupils will have developed a better understanding and appreciation of their local heritage as well as a keen interest in a growing outdoor sport that uses the landscape as a canvas for its activities. It will also support a wide audience to engage in more challenging tests for navigation skills in the local countryside.

Delivery Lead

Dartford Orienteering Klubb (DFOK)

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Location

The project will take place mainly in the schools within the valley. More generally based activities will be delivered in areas of the local countryside lending themselves to orienteering i.e. Lullingstone CP, Beacon Wood CP and Shoreham Woods, all of which already sponsor orienteering through permanent orienteering courses or other orienteering activities.

Audience

Whilst this is primarily aimed at school children in both primary and secondary schools, operating through their own school curriculums, the project will provide opportunities for parents, local residents and visitors to experience the heritage of the local countryside through the permanent orienteering courses and other activities. In addition, DFOK will also work with Wide Horizons to use orienteering to support project 5A: Adventure Learning for All with its target audience of school children from SE London.

Project Description

'School Run' will enable a better understanding and reading of landscape form, features and influences, as well as a pathway to exploring new areas providing a direct engagement with the natural space and features of importance. As an extension to DFOK's existing school programme, mapping workshops and exercises in the school grounds will enable children to read the immediate landscape and learn how to use maps and compasses.

Opportunities will be provided to schools to use the many existing 'permanent' orienteering courses at heritage sites such as Beacon Wood CP, Lullingstone CP to provide more challenging tests of navigation skills. Mapping will be undertaken at appropriate new sites (supplemented by LiDAR data gained under project 2A) and new permanent courses. Creation of the concept of new specially designed heritage orienteering courses and events for families, that link navigation to accessing heritage features and knowledge of their relevance and importance. In addition, new heritage 'geocaches' will be created as a stepping stone to encourage deeper independent exploration in the valley and understanding of the landscape.

The Project Leader will identify one school to set up a regular liaison where much of the material to be prepared can be trialled and a school map produced early in the project. This will enable all the

training that is required to be held on this site where there are ‘models’ to be shown for the future use of the schools.

Schools involved in the project will have given their permission for the survey and cartography of their school. Potential locations of new Permanent Orienteering Courses (POCs) will be identified and permission gained from landowners to survey their land and establish the course. DFOK already has a strong orienteering relationship with KCC and other landowners in the valley and these will be enhanced to the benefit of the schools and the general public.

At the end of the 5 years we expect to see the majority of the schools to have embedded orienteering into the curriculum as well making full use of the other heritage sites within the valley.

Outputs and Outcomes

Activity	Outputs	Outcomes
A1: Provide a series of activities, both online and face-to-face, enabling teaching staff to better understand the role of orienteering within the curriculum.	<p>Provide an online information ‘package’ for schools about orienteering and how, as a model, it will assist in reading the local landscape.</p> <p>Hold 2 study sessions to inform teaching staff on the role of orienteering in the curriculum.</p> <p>36 teaching staff from 18 schools attend study sessions.</p>	<p>Teaching staff will be able to:</p> <p>Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the landscape and its heritage and how this might be assisted by orienteering;</p> <p>Recognise the cross-curricular benefits of orienteering;</p> <p>Utilise their skills of organisation and delivery within curricular and extra-curricular settings.</p> <p>Promote safe introduction into the curriculum.</p> <p>Greater use of orienteering to teach skills across the curriculum.</p>
A2: Establish a programme of surveying and cartography of the participating schools and their grounds.	<p>5 DFOK members trained in the use of OCAD.</p> <p>18 schools receive a surveyed orienteering map based on International (IOF) and British Orienteering (BO) guidelines.</p> <p>Advice on how to install a Permanent Orienteering Course (POC) within the school grounds.</p> <p>Training in how to use FREE software, Purple Pen, for drawing up their school courses.</p> <p>18 school courses created.</p>	<p>Improved map reading skills and knowledge of orienteering maps amongst teachers and pupils.</p> <p>A greater understanding of landform and landscape and the identification of their features.</p> <p>Increased use of school grounds as a learning resource.</p> <p>Greater confidence to explore and access the landscape.</p>
A3: Provide certificated training for staff.	<p>2 ‘Teaching Orienteering Pt 1’ Courses by BO Qualified Tutors.</p> <p>36 teachers achieve certification.</p>	<p>Teachers are able to apply acquired knowledge and skills required to undertake safe orienteering activities with their pupils.</p> <p>Teaching staff able to read maps with a greater understanding and ability.</p>

<p>A4: Promote the interaction of orienteering between the schools.</p>	<p>Establish a central resource of equipment in addition to the individual school resource.</p> <p>Develop an annual school league that utilises the landscape of the Darent Valley</p>	<p>Schools work together more closely in utilising the landscape of the Darent Valley for orienteering.</p> <p>Sharing resources also enables skills-sharing and passing on of knowledge between teaching staff.</p> <p>School league encourages legacy and sustainability for outdoor learning.</p>
<p>A5: Introduce teaching staff to the wider use of the valley through POCs and heritage POCs</p>	<p>1 introductory course at Lullingstone Country Park.</p> <p>18 teaching staff attend course</p> <p>1 course within Eynsford village utilising key heritage features.</p> <p>Liaise with other partnerships to produce an interactive online program for the school intranet demonstrating how the valley was formed many years ago.</p>	<p>Appreciate an awareness of the surrounding natural landscape.</p> <p>Explore Darent Valley landscape in greater depth.</p>
<p>A6: Identify 'less able' groups in the valley and provide facilities for their participation in orienteering.</p>	<p>Provide 1 suitable course for the 'less able' each year. Trail-O.</p>	<p>Increased awareness amongst this group that there is a form of orienteering that might meet their needs for more outdoor activities.</p> <p>New opportunities for individuals and groups that have difficulty in accessing and enjoying the landscape of the Darent Valley.</p>
<p>A7: Encourage a deeper independent exploration of the valley.</p>	<p>Provide 20 new, heritage focussed, geocaches within the valley.</p>	<p>More people explore the Darent Valley landscape in greater depth.</p> <p>Reduced pressure on honeypot sites in the valley.</p> <p>Greater understanding of the breadth of natural and cultural heritage in the valley.</p>

Evaluation

- Measurement of actual take up and involvement by schools and teachers against proposed target numbers.
- Formal evaluation of each course will be carried out on completion.
- An annual, formal evaluation of progress based on relevant activities, outputs and outcomes will be undertaken using bespoke evaluation tools.
- An extensive, in depth evaluation of each Activity, Output and Outcome will be carried out at the end of the project using a variety of evaluation strategies including face to face interviews and the use of paper based/computer based questionnaires. This will be fed into the overall scheme evaluation.

Project costs

Element/Item	Year 1 2017/18	Year 2 2018/19	Year 3 2019/2020	Year 4 2020/2021	Year 5 2021/22	Total
OCAD cartography software	£833					£833
Equipment for Permanent Orienteering Courses				£1,458		£1,458
Equipment & materials for geocaches					£417	£417
Professional fees (survey and cartography for school maps)		£2,000	£2,000			£4,000
Sport Ident electronic recording and timing equipment		£2,083				£2,083
Equipment and materials for school activities		£500	£1,250			£1,750
Volunteer expenses	£200	£200	£100			£500
Volunteer time @ £50 per day						£0
Volunteer time @ £150 per day	£900	£3,000	£750			£4,650
Volunteer time @ £350 per day		£3,500	£1,750	£3,500		£8,750
In kind support (staff time)						£0
Non-recoverable VAT	£167	£517	£250	£292	£83	£1,309
Contingency (10%)						£1,235
Totals	£2,100	£11,800	£6,100	£5,250	£500	£26,985

Project risks

Please identify all potential risks with the project. This may include issues with gaining consents, vandalism, difficulty in finding contractors etc.

Risk	How likely	Severity	Consequence	Action required
Lack of uptake from schools	Low,	High	Outputs and outcomes may not be achieved at the level anticipated.	Audience development work has suggested that there is genuine enthusiasm amongst many schools. Orienteering is identified within the new national curriculum and this is therefore likely to popular route to providing this learning experience.
Reluctance from landowners to give permission for new POCs.	Low	Low	Less able to provide opportunities for new participants in the activity.	DFOK has good experience of working with landowners and will also draw upon partners' links to gain permission.
DFOK unable to commit enough volunteer time to deliver the project.	Low	High	Project may not be deliverable.	DFOK has a broad volunteer base and a lack of commitment is unlikely. Also able to call upon other orienteering experts out with the Klubb.

Training required

Training five experienced Klubb members in use and application of OCAD design software. (1 day)
 Training the same five Klubb members in specialised surveying of school grounds. (½ day).
 Training 18 school teachers in use of Purple Pen for designing school courses. (2 x ½ day).
 These will be provided through the Project 5E: Future Skills.

Maintaining a legacy

Schools will be supported, with the help of DFOK, to set up and maintain an equipment base within the Valley focused on one identified school and enable their continued use for the proposed Darent Valley School League and other orienteering activities.

In addition, DFOK (within its regular events programme) already utilises sites within the valley for orienteering events and this will continue. These all provide courses relevant to children, family groups and newcomers and will be promote to the participating schools.

DFOK also has a dedicated Klubb member whose responsibility is to monitor POC's and liaise with local landowners. All maps are readily available to download from the DFOK website at no charge.

[Links to other projects](#)

This project has direct links to the following projects in DVLPS:

- **2A Peeling Back the Layers** The building of maps and permanent orienteering courses and the planning of events in new locations will utilise the DTM data from the commissioned LiDAR survey to accurately inform the maps and act as an educational tool.
- **3B Gateways to the Valley** The project will utilise locations at Shoreham Woods Country Park and Lullingstone Country Park for map reading and orienteering activities. New permanent orienteering courses will be investigated at other 'gateway' sites.
- **3C Telling the Darent's Story** The project will support the interpretation of the landscape for the younger generation helping to reveal the way in which the landscape was formed and created.
- **3D Reducing the Pressure.** Encourages more active exploration by children and families to alternative sites away from 'hotspots' and to remoter parts of the valley.
- **4D A Designed Landscape.** Lullingstone Country Park through its permanent orienteering course and other events will be a key heritage asset used through this project.
- **5A Landscape Adventure Learning for All** This project will directly link with the work being done with Wide Horizons who will work closely with DFOK.
- **5E Future Skills** This project not only provides new skills to schoolchildren, but will also provide training to DFOK Klubb members to undertake work and extend it in the future.