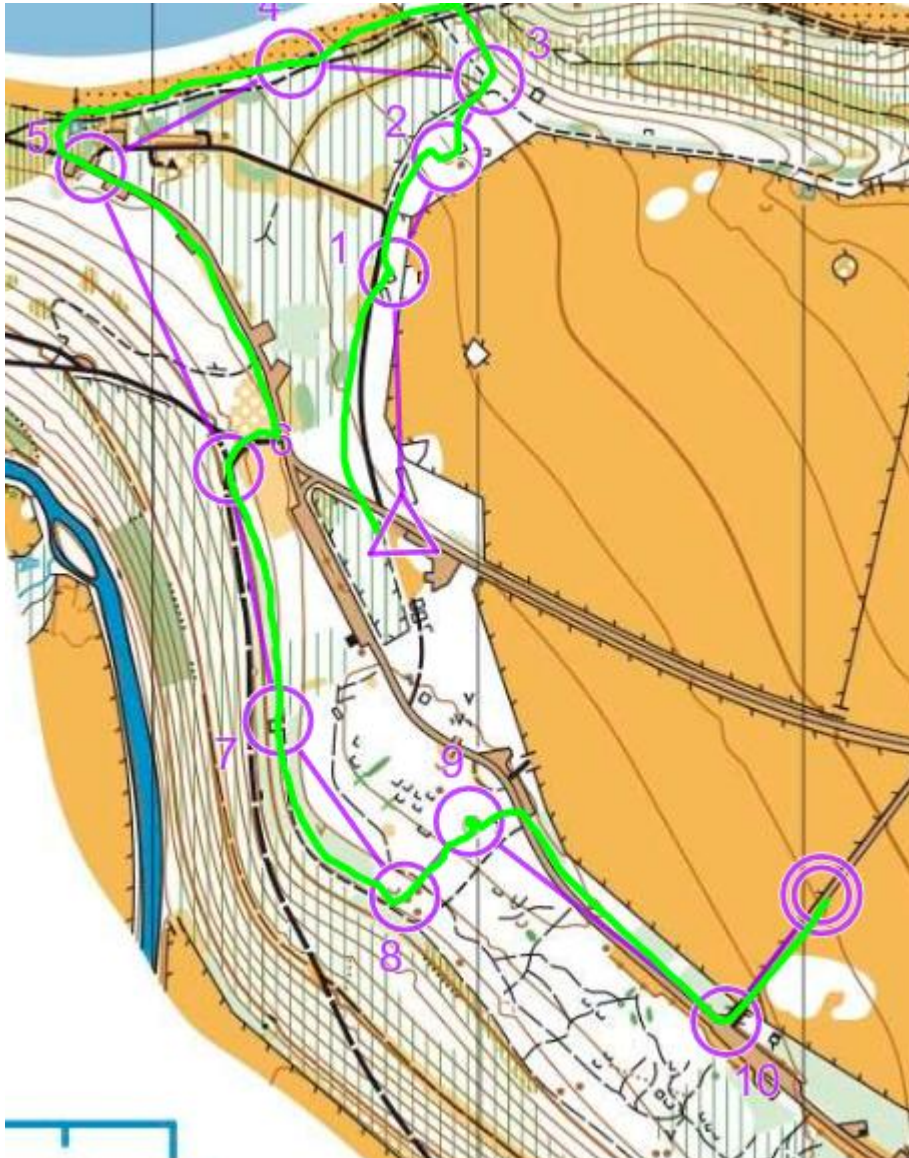


White Rose 2018

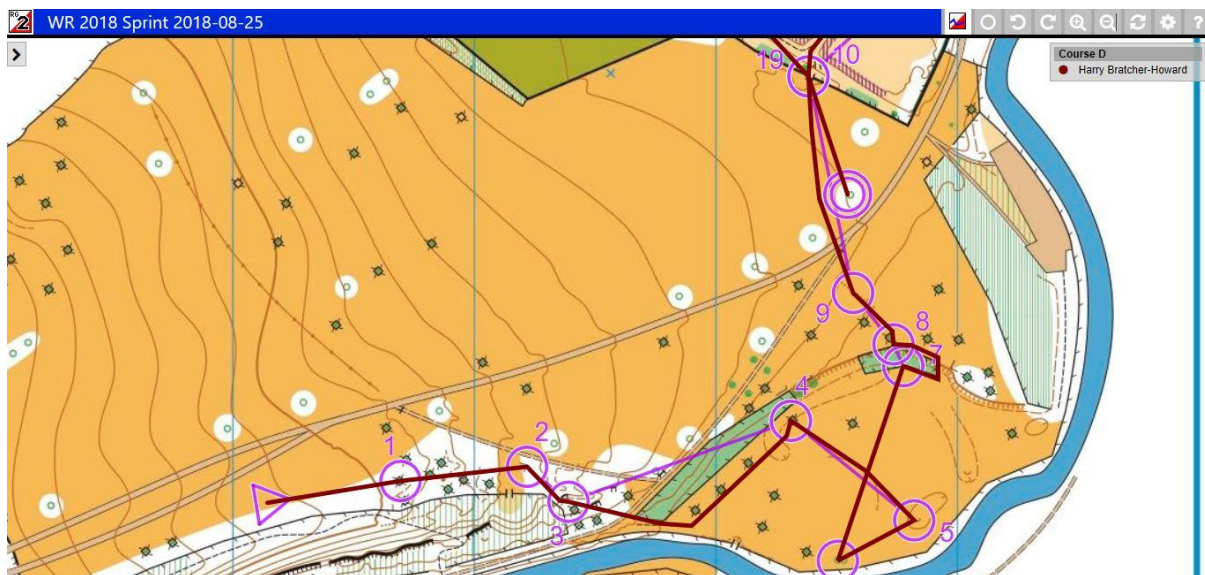
I was looking forward to the White Rose event, mainly because it was an opportunity to run somewhere different. Of the 7 events, we did 4 of them: The middle distance in Duncombe park, the classic at Windy Pitts, the Helmsley castle sprint and the team race in Duncombe park.

At 12pm on Saturday, we arrived in the assembly field for the Middle. My start time for this event was 1:31 so I had some time to get into race mode, look at the blank map and to get to the start for this race.

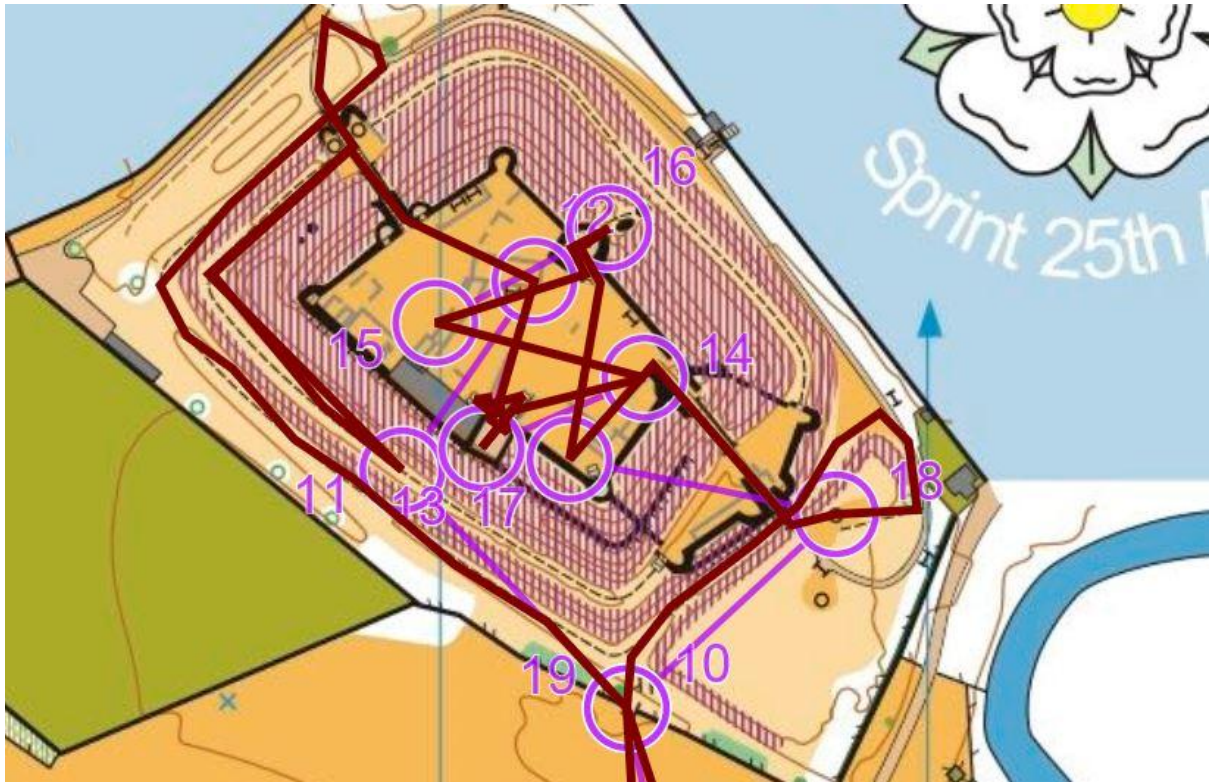


The walk to my start was along a gravel track and the start was just into a forest. Duncombe park is a steep sided working forest, housing a bird of prey centre and a manor house. My course ran around the north west, west and south west of the almost circular forest. Once 13:31 came around, I punched the start and I began. Number 1 was just off the road, on the corner of a WW2 bunker. I decided to run on the path until I saw the bunker, then dive in. Number 2 was in a re-entrant. My plan was to run along the path until the fence bend, then dive in. However, I saw the control beforehand, so I dived in early. 3 was just a matter of finding the path and blasting along. There were tapes to lead you into the path for 4. 5 was a fun leg, because you could try straight through the brambles, or run round the paths. I ran round most of the way, but I spotted a small shortcut through the long grass which I took. To 6, I just decided to have a long path run round because if I took a bearing I may have hit a bit low and end up doing more climb. On the way to 7, I kept expecting the concrete platform to jump out of the trees but after 250m or so I saw a control on the path and it turns out it was 7! To 8 I decided to dive in when the woodland changed to white after the bend. Sure enough, once I was round the bend, the trees got further apart, and I saw a knoll, then a control! 9 was the hardest leg of the course. I spent 15 seconds taking a bearing and then I ran off towards the depression. After a minute of running, I felt my feet start to go down and I found myself in a depression and then I saw a control-9! To 10 it was just a long path run and it was just a long, flat run-in. I completed the course in 16:31 and I was delighted to find myself leading M12A by 5:01 and orange by 45 seconds. Monty was second on M10A and Dad was 7th on M40L

Saturday afternoon was the castle sprint, which must be one of my favourite urbans ever.



Controls 1-10 were in Duncombe park E, a small area of parkland. I ran this part of the course clean in 7 minutes. I knew I had to run fast and clean here and, sure enough, I did just that. However, the tide turned when I got over the gate to 10.



I was a bit stumped about how to get to 11, because it was about 80m away and I couldn't run straight to it! I spent a minute choosing my way into the castle and then I set off to complete it. Sure enough, my route worked and I was on the ramparts in 2 minutes, and then it was another minute to the control. 12 was just running back round into the castle. 13 was a different story. I had run over into the tower to find the control and it wasn't there! What I didn't know is that it was under my feet...



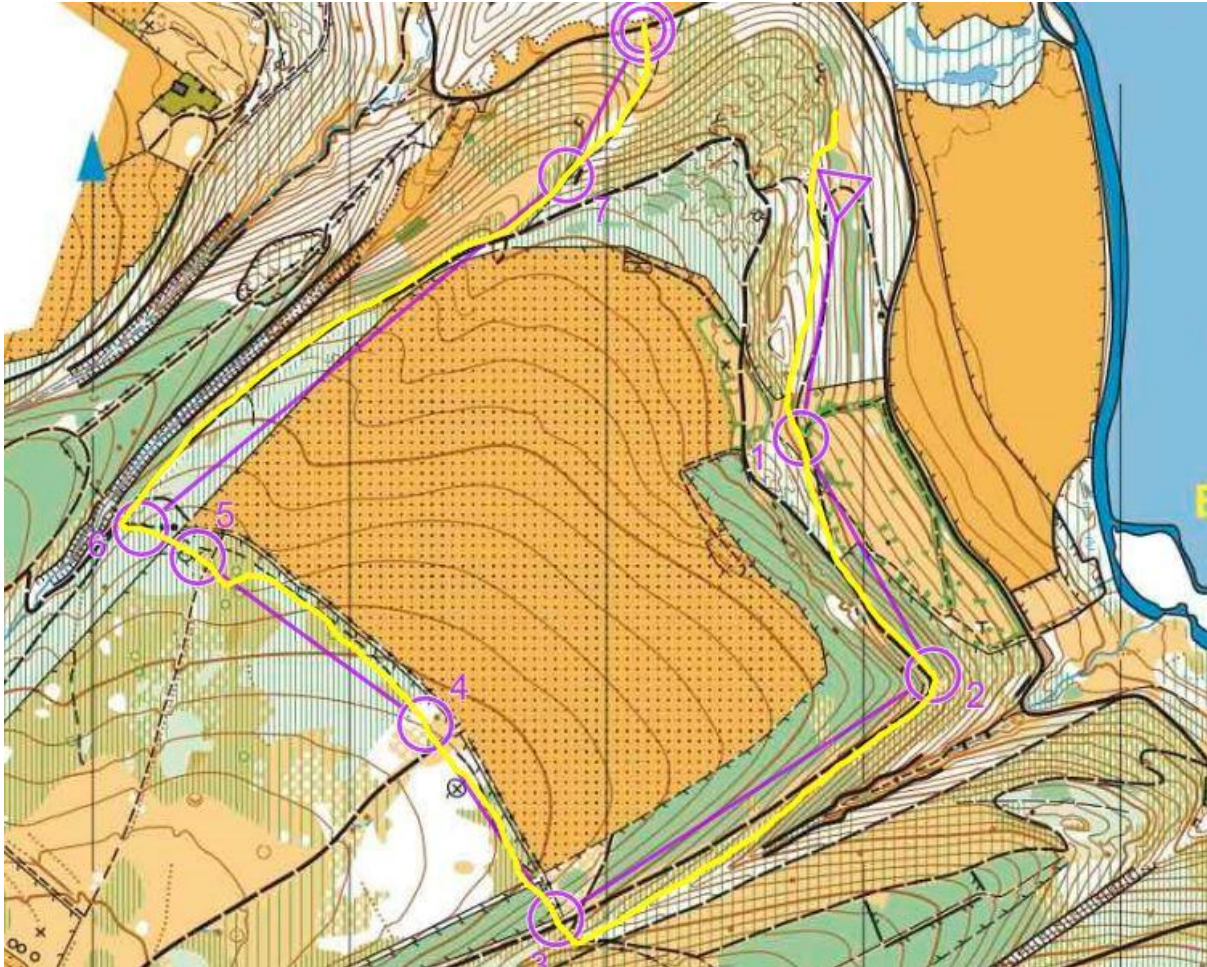
I had to check in all the rooms around to check I wasn't in the wrong room but after a couple of minutes I saw a flight of stairs underground so I took them and I found it! Controls 14-17 were just running around the castle some more before heading out to 18 on the knights...



From there, it was just a run to the finish. I completed the course in 20:32 in 4th place (losing to some people that Monty had beaten earlier), for 1.6km straight line, 2.8km my route! It wasn't my day!



The classic race next day was at Windy Pitts, just west of DP. Windy Pitts is a steeper version of Duncombe park, with a lot of open. It was a 1.5km walk to the start, so a bit of time to get into race mode.



Controls 1-3 were just a very long, yellow standard loop of a field that took me 10 minutes. After 3, the course got more interesting because I was running along a small path through bracken over 2 meters tall. Suddenly, on the way to 4, there was a shocked “squawk” as a bird flew upwards in front of my face! Then, next second, the other 99 nesting in the bracken flew off too! Quite a surprise. Nevertheless, I arrived with no errors at 4, then 5! 6 was over a stile and along a wall. Apparently, the leg took me 19 seconds but it didn’t feel like that! 6-7-Finish was downhill along a steep path. I finished in 22:30, winning M12A by 5 minutes today and 10 overall and orange by 3 (and 5 overall). It was a great feeling, to have had 2 clean runs and to have won. Monty, on the other hand, had a disaster on his yellow, putting him 7th overall despite a good day 1. Dad was 9th on M40L, claiming that his classic course, a “Brown” was more like an Extremely Long Orange!



Last of all came Monday's team race. We had entered the Family class which consisted of 1 Short Green, 1 Light Green and 1 Orange. I ran the Light Green, Monty ran the Orange and Dad ran the Short Green. The relay was a 10:00 mass start and it was a very sudden "GO!" from the organiser. The courses weren't gaffled so it meant that all the teams in our relay (2 CLOK, 1WIM(us),1NGOC and 1 DVO) were all running together! We started up by the finish which meant a long run to 1!



2 was an interesting leg, because there weren't attack points! I used the quarry to dive in to the knoll. For 3, I ran along the path till I saw the knolls. To 4, I went back to the main ride and round. 5

was a matter of taking a bearing to hit it, which I did bang on. 6 was another bearing job though, luckily, the feature stuck out because it wasn't a rocky pit, more like a small stone structure. For 7 I used the junction as an attack point and took a bearing from there. For 8 I ran along the rides until I got ear enough to the control, then I took a bearing to hit it with the ride as a catching feature. For 9 I ran back to the road and then along the road into the field and under the trees to the last control and then I ran into the finish, taking -13 seconds (according to my splits)! I finished in 5th (out of 5) though I was the youngest on leg 2 by a long way. Monty got back about a minute later and Dad a couple of minutes later to run the final course.

I enjoyed the White Rose, because I felt that I ran in lots of new places and I really have become more confident with bearings. I am looking forward to lots more new orienteering terrain and I can't wait to run around another castle!

Harry Bratcher-Howard