

**10 TOP TIPS FROM BO MAPPING WEBINAR, APRIL 2021**  
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**TOP TIP No1 -**

**1 hour extra spent preparing the base map = 10 hours saved in the forest!**

**TOP TIP No2 -**

**before starting, ask yourself, 'what makes a good map good?'**

have a mental image of how the ideal map for your area could look  
have a clear idea of what you are aiming to create

use of o-maps in non-racing situations is a way of developing this (planning / controlling / coaching)

also, walk around with a map that you admire - look carefully at why it is good -  
what is shown / what isnt shown? Spot mistakes!

**TOP TIP No3 -**

**ask for help**

eg with making a base map

club mapping rep?  
read online resources  
dont waste years re-inventing the wheel!

**TOP TIP No4 -**

**make sure you know and understand the latest IOF symbols!**

ISOM2017 - forest

ISSproOM - urban / sprint

IOF website

read accompanying notes

when surveying, bear in mind that these symbols are all you have to work with  
dont make up symbols or change them (unless you are me, that is!)

**TOP TIP No5 -**

**always make field notes in map form - pictorially and to-scale!**

draw directly onto base map in the field, to create something very like final map

- never just write down long lists of numbers!

**TOP TIP No 6 -**

**is it worth spending time updating this old map?**

eg - was it first mapped in 1970 from an poor OS base and has never been right?

consider starting again with lidar / georef data

make sure 'updating' does not become 'correcting' - can be opening a can of worms!

**TOP TIP No 7 -**

**dont 'over-map!'**

everyone does this on their first days mapping!

**set size criteria and stick to them!**

eg 'boulders must be 1m+'  
'every tree on my map must be a proper whopper, on its own, in an open area'

**CONSISTENCY IS IMPORTANT**

avoid 'mission drift'

**if in doubt, leave it out!**

**remember - this map is for runners in a race!**

'I am not mapping for myself - someone else has to use this map'

could a runner read this map, or is it too cluttered?

could a runner see these features on both ground and map in a race?

Are these features visible and permanent (or mere ephemera, mapped in a moment of poetic whimsy -  
a cluster of daffodils, a quietly rusting pram?).

**TOP TIP No 8 -**

**when drawing up in ocad /o-mapper (more next week)**

**always scan your fieldwork,  
open as background and trace over**

**TOP TIP No 9 -**

**get out and give it a go!**

**dont stress over the result**

**aim to get better in easy stages**

**TOP TIP No 10 -**

**enjoy your mapping!**

**Its totally absorbing and a good way of forgetting  
everything else. Is that mindfulness? Not sure.**

**Its the best way of improving your orienteering.**

**Its a good excuse to wander round in the woods.**

**Like all creative things, its very rewarding.**

**After 50 years you might get a certificate from BO!**