

AIRE Junior Coaching – Hirst Wood Saltaire - 12 October 2025



We were rewarded with a sunny afternoon in Hirst Wood Saltaire to develop map -reading skills including off-line features and brown map features. This was to prepare juniors for moving up a class and technical difficulty in the new year which some will do. 15 juniors turned up on the day, more than expected. It was great to see so many eager to improve their skills.

We started with a map walk spotting 10 features along the way. We checked out the difference between

a large depression and a small one and we noticed how a large depression differs from a hill symbol on the map. We explored a gully and an earthbank on the ground and on the map. We also saw how boulders can be marked when alone, in groups and how the control description is different from the map symbol.



From the west of the wood we tried out a few short exercises to find different types of features. We had to make sure we orientated the map correctly and read the control descriptions. The mini kites and markers were hung low so that we had to find the feature rather than just spot the kite. We realised that we needed to check which side of a wall the correct control was on and that gullies can be shallow and bushes can restrict visibility. Some juniors had time to complete a mini course as well.

Lastly, we returned to an open area of the wood to run a fun relay in teams with a dibber as a baton. This was a noisy game as each team cheered on their runners!

Thank you to Eamon and his Dad for helping to collect relay controls in. Thanks also to David A who helped organise and run the coaching, to Faye who took photos, to Matthew who spotted one control

was missing, to Alethea, Sebby & Matthew's dad who collected controls and to Peter for carrying controls and any other helpers that I have overlooked.

Lindsey King- Coach

