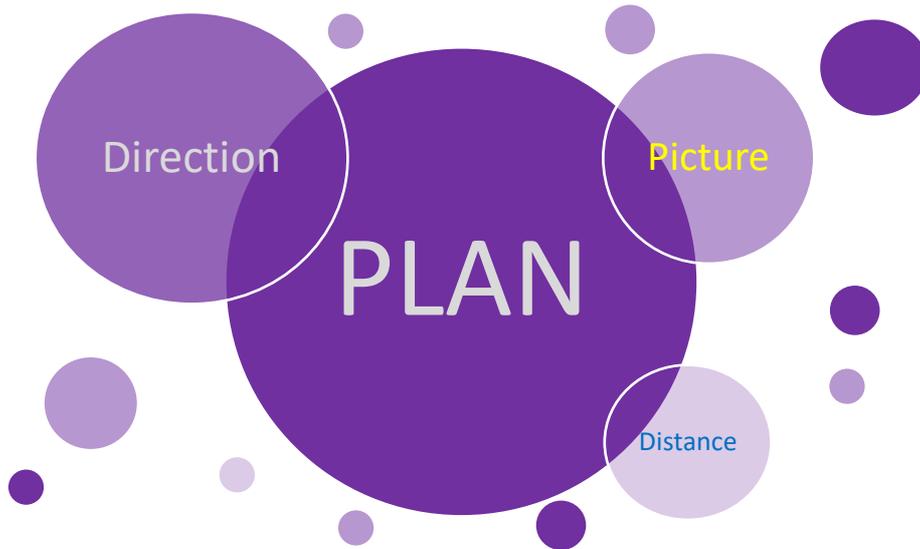


Picture



What is meant by 'Picture'?

Basically you are **simplifying** the map by using the following:

- Use distinct features
 - Visible from a distance
 - Different from others around them
- Use significant features
 - Close to the control; expand the control circle to take these in
 - To form a useful handrail on your route
- Filter out clutter
 - All small or indistinct items
 - Many which are similar
 - Seasonal e.g. vegetation
- Always know where N on the map is.
- Picture the feature the control is on.
- Simplified map can be easily memorised.

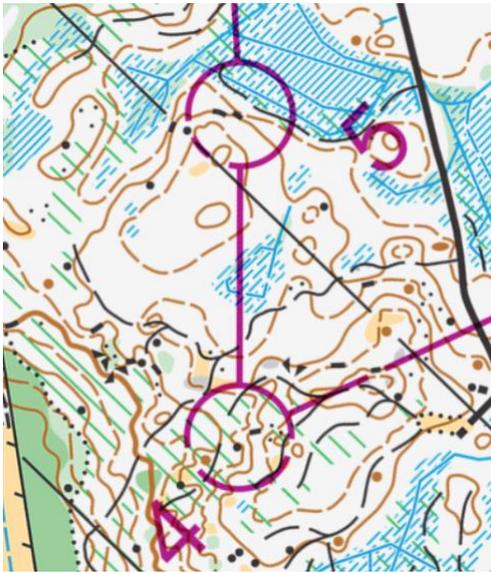
So what makes a distinct feature?

1. Landform features → raised features (knolls, spurs) stand out more than 'down' features (re-entrants, depressions).
2. Man made features → walls and buildings stand out; paths are a bit seasonal, they can be covered with needles / leaves; you often only see a track when you are almost on it.
3. Where are you viewing the feature from? Spurs and crags are best viewed from below.
4. Vegetation → this can be seasonal! Is more reliable if marked with a 'distinct vegetation boundary' symbol.

It is really important to **look up** – many navigate with their head down, checking the map & compass; this means that the important terrain features identified when simplifying the map are missed! So:

- Look up, raise your head
- Scan around (avoid tunnel vision).

Try this exercise: grab a sheet of paper and a pencil, simplify the leg #4 to #5 and #8 to #9 as shown on the map segments below. Think of navigating the leg along a corridor, what will you easily see along this?



A question – how confidently could you navigate the leg using only your simplified map?

Thierry Gueorgiou – a multiple World Orienteering Champion – mastered simplification. He recommends three steps:

1. Make it simple.
2. Accurate direction.
3. Attack point.

You can read more about this on the [Better Orienteering](#) website, scroll down the page to the 'Using the Skills Tool Kit in practice' section.

One of the best ways to work on your picture and simplification is to do Map Memory exercises. Octavian Droobers (a club in the Midlands in England) have some [online exercises](#) to help you with this.