

Trip Planning Exercise –Deer Group

You will need a chart for the area; I recommend the 1:40,000 (chart 3671), an orienteering compass and a deck mounted marine compass if you have one.

Your trip plan should contain some or all of the following:

- Start point (launch site) with safe access and grid reference.
- Campsite with grid reference
- Magnetic bearings from launch site to campsite (including fixes) there may be several
- Distance in Nautical Miles (per leg) and approximate time for the journey
- Points of interest including wildlife watching areas or features
- List of potential hazards along the route (to be identified and marked on the chart)
- Associated risks
- Backup plan with an alternative campsite
- Tides and currents tables

Some tips

Keep it simple, plan to paddle between islands to break up long open water crossings if possible, paddle the shore line and include points of interest. Choose a campsite which is sheltered from the wind and has easy access at all levels of the tide. Learn chart symbols which represent hazards that are 'practical and relevant' to your journey. Keep the math easy – if we paddle at 3NM per hour it takes us 20 minutes to go 1 NM or 10 minutes to go half a NM, therefore if your campsite is 2 ½ NM it will take 20+20+10 minutes = 50 minutes. Plan in advance, print off tide and current tables and bring them with you.