

On terrain, map and course

Terrain

The twelfth TAOK rogaine takes rogainers back to Northern coast of Estonia, introducing a terrain which is quite unknown to orienteering, not to speak about rogaining. Less than kilometer from the coast line, the first escarpment of the coastal slope runs through the terrain. It is more gradual in the western part of the map, some dunes in the middle part of the map, while in the eastern part of the map the cliff is rather steep. About 4-5 km inland there is the second escarpment of the coastal slope. Between these two slopes the terrain is flat. The terrain is intercepted by three rivers – Selja, Toolse and Vainupea, but there are also a number of smaller winding streams. The rivers and streams have carved from the slopes valleys and gullies, some of which look quite impressive, like canyons. In the western part of the terrain, on plateau, there is an old military airfield, which was used by Soviet Army. On the coast, there are small coastal villages Eisma, Rutja, Karepa and Toolse. In Toolse, at the coast, there are remarkable ruins of a medieval castle. The coastal area is gaining back its reputation as a place of holiday homes. This is witnessed by construction of several new homes and summer cottages.

There are a number of different forest types on the terrain. Passability varies greatly from very good to very bad. Passability of the forest is slowest in the middle part of the map. However, in several areas, runnability is reduced not by thickness of the forest, but rather by undergrowth – grass, nettles, ferns etc. Heavy storm in August 2010 resulted in fallen trees on large areas in western part of the terrain. These areas have been cut this year, and there are many new large clearings. Nonetheless, smaller areas with fallen trees remain. There is a regular network of drainage ditches. Most of the ditches can be easily crossed, however some are filled with water either due to beaver activity or rainfall, and you may have to look around to find a suitable place for crossing.

Map

As usual at TAOK rogaines, the map is at scale of 1:30000 with 5 m contour interval. It is a special rogaining map, which is more accurate than the base map, but not as detailed as an orienteering map. For drawing contours Lidar data have been used. The highest point on the terrain is 60 meters over the sea level, some slopes have relative height difference of 30 meters. Some clearings may be missing on the map, also some tracks of forest harvesters are not shown on the map. NB! The map is not rotated to align with magnetic north, in other words the grid lines of magnetic north are not parallel to the edge of the map.

Course

Course planning has been affected by restrictions imposed by Environmental Agency. Checkpoints could not be placed in areas of protected species. Please take appropriate care to minimize your impact on the nature. Absolutely no trash shall be left on terrain.

There are some out-of-bounds areas, marked on the map with purple vertical stripes. West from the event center, there is an out-of-bounds area where horses are grazing. In this area, go by tracks indicated on the map. It is also prohibited to enter the territory of farmsteads and private homes, marked on the map with olive green color. When traveling through coastal villages, please stay on tracks or use the coast line (up to 10 m from the seafront).

There is only one bridge over Selja river, which runs through the terrain in the middle of the map. This bridge is near the event center. There are two more recommended places where this river can be crossed. One is where the river reaches the sea. Another is at the southern edge of the map, where there are ruins of an old bridge. The water in these places is shallow, up to 0.5 m.

The local roads on the terrain are rather narrow and curvy. Be cautious when running alongside or crossing these roads.

There are 2 water stations on the terrain with cold water. We have no information about the purity of the water in natural streams.

The weather forecast is promising sunshine for the week-end. With fine weather the terrain offers some interesting sights into the nature of North-Estonia. Even if some legs will be difficult to pass keep up your spirit to reach the next checkpoint. I hope you will enjoy this terrain, but you will enjoy it more, if your clothing will be nettle-proof.

Lauri Leppik