Using Google Earth Images for Orienteering Course Planning in Purple Pen

Find the area you need in GE and zoom in to get the maximum you can see on the screen; use F11 to have a full screen with no tool bars

Beware that as you zoom in GE pans the view towards the horizontal, away from the vertical. A vertical Is the view that you MUST have.

This is the view from the previous slide once you change the view to vertical

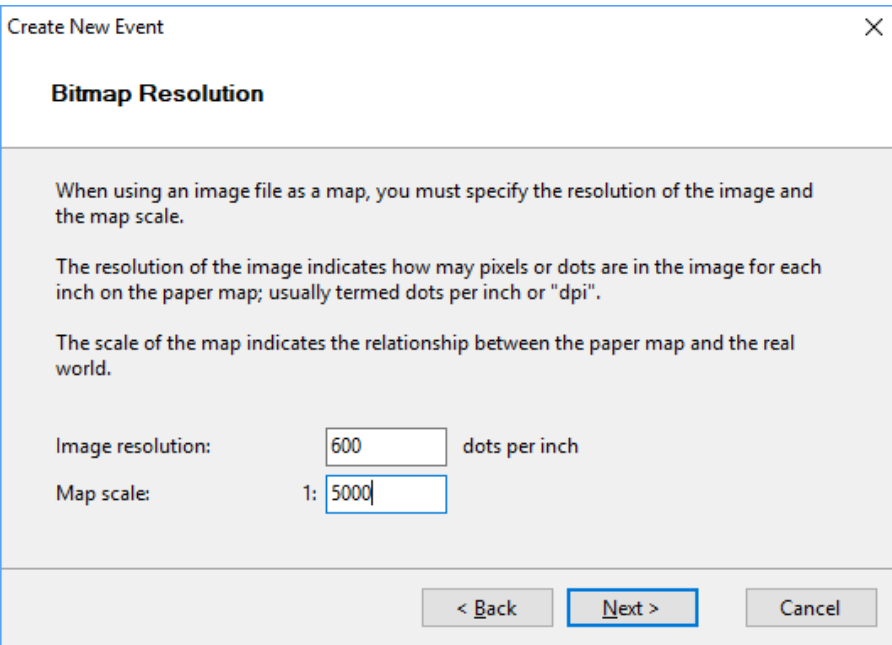This is the view from above once zoomed out to get the area needed

Save this image using >File>Save>Save Image. Select the maximum resolution for the image. Note where you have saved it!

Use the GE feature >Tools>Ruler and select the units as meters. Measure between two obvious points on the image. Make a note of the distance.

Create a new Purple Pen file….

Create New Event ✕

Bitmap Resolution

When using an image file as a map, you must specify the resolution of the image and the map scale.

The resolution of the image indicates how may pixels or dots are in the image for each inch on the paper map; usually termed dots per inch or "dpi".

The scale of the map indicates the relationship between the paper map and the real world.
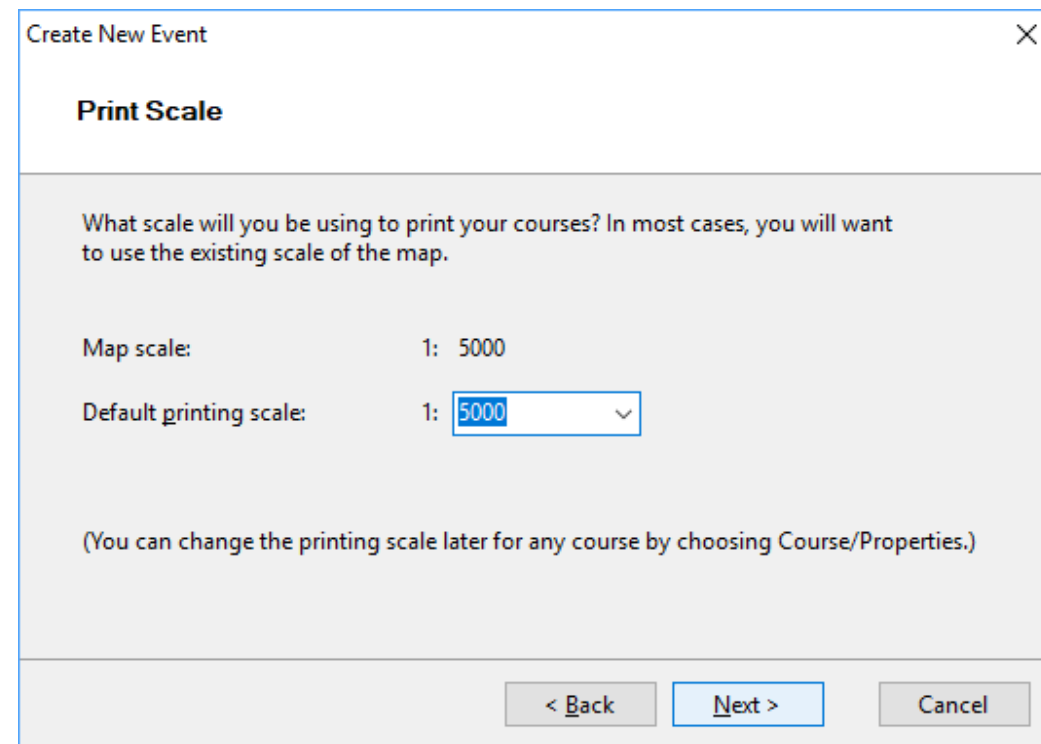
Image resolution: 600 dots per inch
Map scale: 1: 5000

< Back   Next >   Cancel

When you open the Google Earth image it makes no difference what DPI or scale you open at so we will guess at 600DPI and a scale of 1:5000.

As this event is in an urban area I am going to select an appropriate print scale of 1:5,000

Create New Event ✕

Print Scale

What scale will you be using to print your courses? In most cases, you will want to use the existing scale of the map.
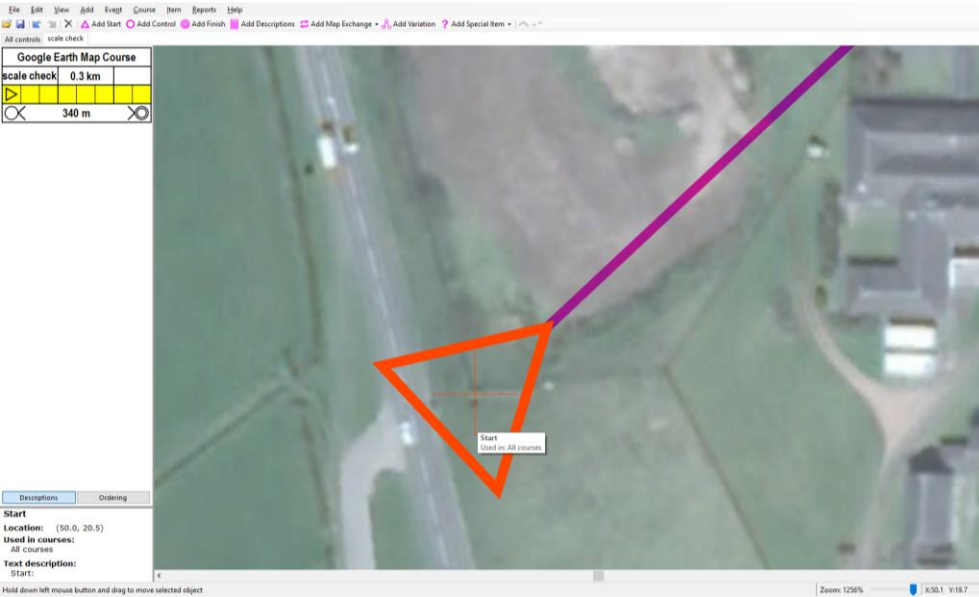
Map scale: 1: 5000

Default printing scale: 1: 5000 ⌄
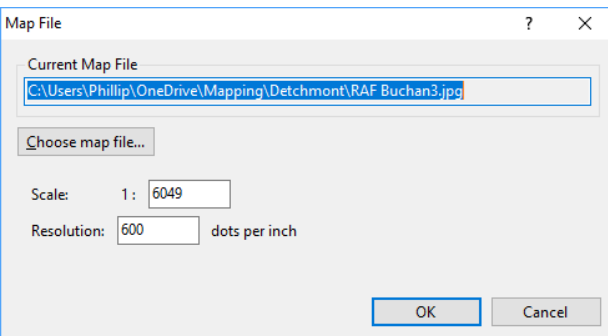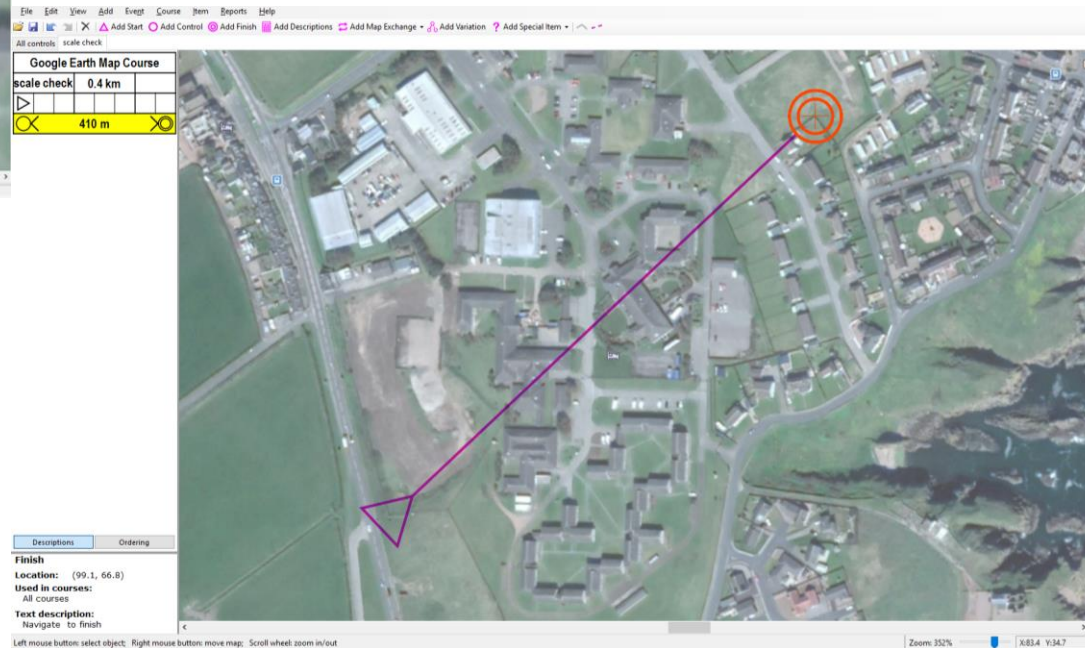
(You can change the printing scale later for any course by choosing Course/Properties.)

< Back   Next >   Cancel

In purple pen go through the final set up stages as you need and then create a new course; I've called mine: scale check. Place a start at one end of the line you measured in GE and a finish at the other. Zoom in to ensure accurate placement
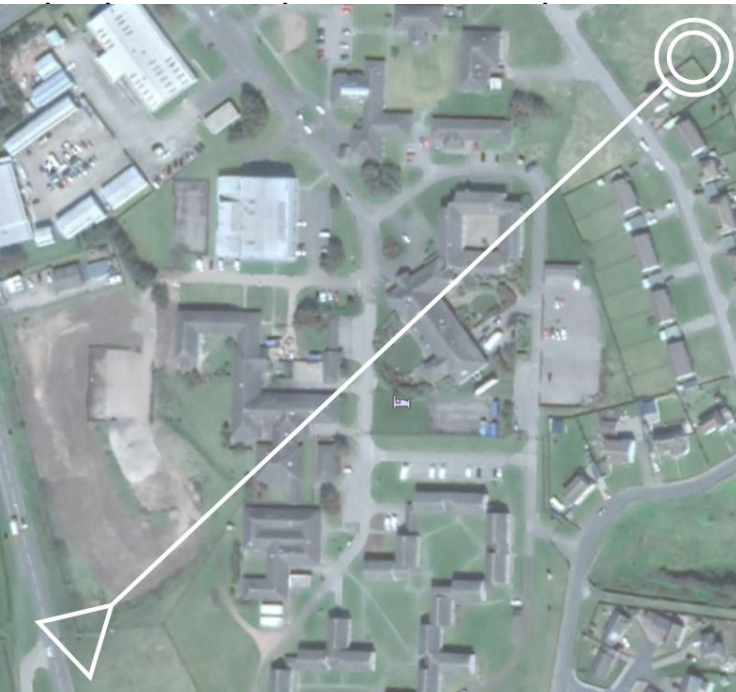

Note the distance indicated and do the following sum: the distance you measured in GE/the distance you got in PP* the scale you opened the map image at = the new scale to open the map image: (410/340*5000=6029). Go to >event>map file and change the scale to the answer of your sum.

Now we need to change the colour of the circles, numbers, lines etc to white. Go to >Event>Customise Appearance. Un- tick "Use purple color from map", change the values of Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black all to 0 and un-tick "blend purple with underlying map colors".

Design your courses now as normal

Google Earth Map Course, Urban 1, 1:5,000

Google Earth Map Course					
Urban 1		1.7 km		10 m	
▷		❈			○
1	31	■			⌐
2	32	■			⌐
3	33	→ ⌁			⌐
4	34	■			⌐
5	35	■			⌐
6	36	■			⌐
7	37	⌁			⌐
8	38	■	⌁	Y	
9	39	⌁			⌃
10	40	❈			○
✕		110 m			✕◎