

# Summits on the Air

## Belgium (ON)

### Association Reference Manual



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Authorised	Date: 01-Apr-2016 on behalf of the SOTA Management Team
Association Manager	Peter Preud'homme, ON4UP
Summits-on-the-Air	an original concept by G3WGV and developed with G3CWI

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## 1 Change Control

Date	Version	Details
01-Jun-07	1.0	First formal issue of this document
01-Jan-09	2.0	Modifications reflecting P100 prominence rule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- change of name, coordinates and height for ON/ON-001 and ON/ON-004</li> <li>- deletion of ON/ON-002, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8</li> <li>- addition of ON/ON009 to 22</li> </ul>
01-Jan-11	3.0	New Association Manager Corrected longitude ON/ON-010 Addition of ON/ON-023 and ON/ON-024
01-Sep-11	4.0	ON/ON-001, 011, 016, 017, 019: height, name and position corrected
		ON/ON-010: height, name, position and locator corrected
		ON/ON-004, 013, 021: height and position corrected
		ON/ON-024: height corrected
		ON/ON-009, 012, 014, 015, 018, 020, 022, 023: become invalid
		ON/ON-025, 026, 027: new summits
		ON/ON-006: valid again, height, name & position corrected
01-Mar-13	5.0	ON/ON-028: summit added Text in 2.3 and 3.1.1 amended
15-Jun-13	5.1	3.1.2 Deleted summits removed 4.1 Completed All ON Summits Award
01-Mar-15	5.2	ON/ON-011: points corrected ON/ON-018: valid again ON/ON-029: new summit
01-Apr-16	5.3	ON/ON-009: valid again

## 2 Association Reference Data

Association	Belgium (ON)
Commencement date	01 July 2007
Regions	Belgium (ON-xxx)
Association parameters <sup>1</sup>	
Summit operation criteria	Operation must be within 25m vertically of the summit
Band 1, score 1 point	<300m ASL
Band 2, score 2 points	>=300m ASL, <500m ASL
Band 3, score 4 points	>=400m ASL, <500m ASL
Band 4, score 6 points	>=500m ASL, <600m ASL
Band 5, score 8 points	>=600m ASL
Seasonal bonus	Yes
Bonus rationale	Winter period with highest probability of sub-zero temperatures and deep snow
Min. height for bonus	3 Points for activations >=500m ASL
Bonus period dates	1 December to 15 March inclusive
Association sponsored awards	Completed All ON Summits Award
Association Manager	Peter Preud'homme, ON4UP, <a href="mailto:on4up@skynet.be">on4up@skynet.be</a>

### 2.1 Programme derivation

SOTA Belgium is an extension of similar programmes already active in other countries. In a manner similar to the Marilyn programme of Great Britain, it considers the *relative* height of summits compared to their surroundings (“prominence”) and defines a minimum of 100 m climb from the surrounding cols in order to qualify.

With so few qualifying summits in Belgium, the summit database is likely to be complete. However, there is always the possibility of error, so activators are asked to submit details of any proposed additional summits to the association manager [on4up@skynet.be](mailto:on4up@skynet.be), together with any supporting documentation. If the summit meets the SOTA criteria it will be added to the list. Summits cannot be counted for points until a reference number has been allocated by the association manager. The same address should be used for any other proposed amendments.

### 2.2 General information

Belgium is a generally low-lying country with its highest terrain in the eastern part of the country. Compared to its larger neighbours to the south and east, its hills are smaller and less challenging, and are ideally suited to relaxing expeditions on foot or by bicycle.

### 2.3 Rights of way and access issues

Some summits may not have public access. In this case, it is essential that the landowner's permission be obtained before attempting activation.

<sup>1</sup> See General Rules for parameter definitions

In autumn many forests in the Ardennes are closed a few weekends for hunting ( “chasse battue”). These closing periods are announced on the websites of the local government and posted along all access roads. For their safety, activators are strongly advised to inquire and observe any access restrictions.

## **2.4 Maps and navigation**

The definitive maps for hill walking in Belgium are published by the Nationaal Geografisch Instituut (NGI) or Institut Géographique National (IGN). They are widely available in shops throughout Belgium, or can be ordered on-line from the website at <http://www.ngi.be/> . They are also available on CD-ROM.

Generally, navigation on the Belgian summits is not difficult, at least if you stick to the paths and the weather remains fine. It is, however, easy to get disoriented, especially in the more forested areas and during adverse weather conditions. Only the foolhardy will venture there without a compass and the knowledge to use it. A GPS is not an adequate substitute.

## **2.5 Safety considerations**

It is worth remembering that all hills can be inhospitable places in inclement weather at any time of year. Despite Belgium's summits never being far from road access, you should always be prepared for a possible deterioration in the weather and dress accordingly.

Mobile phone coverage is generally good throughout Belgium, but, especially in the more sparsely populated areas of the Ardennes, there may be certain areas without coverage. Nevertheless, if you have a mobile phone, it is worth taking it with you.

## **2.6 Disclaimer**

Hiking, hill-walking and rock-climbing are potentially dangerous activities. The SOTA Management Team and their associates assume no responsibility for accidents. Each participant does so at his or her own risk, and must decide, on the basis of their own ability, whether an objective is achievable. The listing of a summit in the reference does not mean that it is easy to reach, and it is always worth seeking local advice for all but the simplest of expeditions.

### **3 Summit Reference Data**

#### **3.1 Region Reference – Belgium**

<b>Association</b>	<b>Belgium (ON)</b>
Region	Belgium (ON-xxx)
Region manager	Refer to Association Manager, Peter Preud'homme; ON4UP, on4up@skynet.be

##### **3.1.1 Regional notes**

Starting from the coastal plain near the North Sea and going south-eastward to the Ardennes plateau, the terrain slowly rises. In Flanders only a few hills remain as relics of the geological evolution during the tertiary period or as evidence of recent mining activity. Only one of these hills achieves the required criteria to qualify for SOTA.

The Ardennes is a region of extensive forests and rolling hill country, stretching from France, through Belgium, and into Luxembourg. It continues into Germany, where it is known as the Eifel mountain range. The region is typified by steep-sided valleys carved by fast-flowing rivers, the most prominent of which is the Meuse. Its principal cities, Liège and Namur, are both in the Meuse valley, but otherwise the Ardennes is a relatively sparsely populated region. The scenic beauty of the region and its wide variety of outdoor activities, including cycling, walking, skiing and canoeing, combine to make it an important tourist destination all year round.

## 3.1.2 Table of summits

SOTA	Alt (m)	Summit name	Latitude	Longitude	Lat. Decimal	Long. Decimal	WWLoc.	Valid from	Valid until	Points
ON-001	695	Signal de Botrange	50 30 06 N	06 05 33 E	50.50159	6.09243	JO30BM	1/07/2007		8
ON-004	586	Bois de Hazeille	50 01 58 N	05 25 36 E	50.03278	5.42667	JO20RA	1/07/2007		6
ON-006	503	La Croix Scaille	49 57 04 N	04 50 41 E	49.95111	4.84472	JN29KW	1/10/2011		6
ON-009	693	Iverst	50 24 30 N	6 22 11 E	50.408277	6.369730	JO30EJ	1/4/2016		8
ON-010	651	Baraque Fraiture	50 15 03 N	05 43 49 E	50.25086	5.73020	JO20UG	1/01/2009		8
ON-011	601	Sur Clair Fa	50 19 50 N	05 58 39 E	50.33058	5.97751	JO20XH	1/01/2009		8
ON-013	568	Bois de Hodinfosse	50 18 54 N	05 51 05 E	50.31500	5.85139	JO20WH	1/01/2009		6
ON-016	445	Les Aisances	49 46 12 N	05 12 12 E	49.77000	5.20333	JN29OS	1/01/2009		4
ON-017	405	Bois Haut	49 32 37 N	05 44 46 E	49.54361	5.74611	JN29UN	1/01/2009		4
ON-018	395	A la Plate	50 19 06 N	05 32 12 E	50.3183	5.5367	JO20SH	1/03/2015		2
ON-019	365	Bois de Javingue	50 09 30 N	05 17 35 E	50.15833	5.29306	JO20PD	1/01/2009		2
ON-021	306	Plantis de Mesnil	50 10 42 N	04 54 53 E	50.17829	4.91482	JO20KE	1/01/2009		2
ON-024	340	Bois du Tour du Coo	50 23 25 N	05 52 06 E	50.3903	5.8683	JO20WJ	1/01/2011		2
ON-025	455	Burteaumont	50 23 53 N	05 58 16 E	50.39806	5.97111	JO20XJ	1/10/2011		4
ON-026	354	Le Mont d'Henri-Chapelle	50 43 32 N	05 55 15 E	50.67556	5.92073	JO20XQ	1/10/2011		2
ON-027	157	Pottelberg	50 45 51 N	03 41 56 E	50.76422	3.69889	JO10US	1/10/2011		1
ON-028	195	Noordelijke terril Waterschei	51 00 44 N	05 32 32 E	51.01215	5.54229	JO21SA	1/04/2013		1
ON-029	230	Terril Ste-Barde et Tonne	50 39 33 N	05 33 29 E	50.6591	5.5581	JO20SP	1/03/2015		1

## **4 Association sponsored awards**

### **4.1 Completed All ON Summits Award**

#### **4.1.1 Objective**

This award promotes the activation and chasing of all the Belgium SOTA summits.

Since Belgium is a small country with a limited amount of SOTA qualified summits and all these summits are relatively easy accessible, completing all the ON summits becomes achievable for every SOTA participant.

#### **4.1.2 Description**

To achieve the criteria for the “Completed All ON Summits Award”, a SOTA participant needs to have successfully activated and chased all valid ON summits at the time of the request. The valid summits list is the one included in the ON association Reference Manual valid at the time of the request.

The award is available in electronic format only (PDF-file for example).

The award is free of charge.

#### **4.1.3 Timing**

The awarding of this award starts with the release of ON ARM version 5.1.

#### **4.1.4 Requesting procedure**

To request this award, an e-mail has to be sent to the ON association manager Peter Preud’homme ON4UP via [on4up@skynet.be](mailto:on4up@skynet.be). A list of chased and activated dates of your ON summits is required. This data can easily be found in your “SOTA Complete Log”.