

Final Details - Didcot Urban Event Monday 30th August 2010

TRAVEL: Venue is Didcot Football Club [SU525910](#).

From East: Get on the A4130 Wallingford to Didcot road. At the edge of Didcot (town centre signed left under bridge) continue to right on A4130, and follow for about 2 km until signed Didcot FC to left along Avon Way, follow O-signs for about ½ km.

From North, West and South: Come off A34 at Milton, junction with A4130 and turn east on this road. After 4km turn left at roundabout, and ahead at next 3 roundabouts, still on A4130. At next roundabout turn right onto Avon Way signed to Didcot FC., follow O-signs for about ½ km.

You will be directed to the northern part of the car park. There is a parking charge of £1 per car.

From Didcot station: Turn left outside main entrance, after 200m turn left under railway and walk north 100m (traffic is one way, southbound) and on reaching the playing fields on the north side of railway, cross them diagonally to north-west for about 400m.

REGISTRATION & ENQUIRIES: Outside Didcot Football Club building, at the north end of the car park, open from 10am until 12 noon. Entry fees are £7 seniors (BOF members £5, juniors £2. The event uses EMIT timing. The hire charge for EMIT cards is £1; lost cards will be charged at cost. Keys can be left at the Enquiries tent.

Pre-entered with Emit card? You can go straight to the Start.

Pre-entered but hiring Emit? Collect your card from the Emit tent.

Entering on the day? Fill in a form and pay at the Entries tent before proceeding to the EMIT tent to register, and collect an Emit card if necessary.

Toilets: Towards the south end of Didcot FC premises.

Café: In the Willowbrook Leisure Centre, just south of the car park entrance.

Clothing & Footwear: The children's course is mostly grass. Competitors on other courses (including U16) will spend 40-80% of the time running on tarmac and the rest on grass, nearly all close-mown. Trainers will be the best footwear. Shorts and running vests are permitted.

COURSE DETAILS:

Course	Straight-line distance	
Long	6.2km,	27 controls
Medium	4.1km,	22 controls
Short	2.5km,	13 controls
U16	3.0km,	15 controls
Children's	1.3km,	12 controls

Running distances on the long, medium and short courses will be approximately 50% longer than the straight-line distances. On the other two courses the running distances will be quite close to the straight-line distances. The U16 course is traffic-free except where it crosses two access roads at marshalled crossing-points. The children's course doesn't cross any roads.

Printed Control descriptions will be available at registration.

NB Under-16s must not run on the Long, Medium or Short courses, only the U16 or 'children's'.

Start Times: These are given as the start of a time block in which you should start. The blocks start at 10.30, 10.50, 11.10, 11.30 and 12.00.

Course Closing Time: Courses close at 2.30 pm.

Entries Queries: to Alun Jones tel. 01494 816946, email alun.orienteeing@gmail.com

Notes from Mapper and Planner

It's complicated! The map has many small alleyways. Those that are possible routes have been widened (on the map) so that they're at least as wide as the ISSOM specification (0.35m), but most of the 'dead ends' remain at their auto-converted widths, which is usually thinner than that.

It's often difficult to decide what's public and what's private, with 'communal' (e.g. would be used by five or so households) lying between the two. We've aimed to site the controls in places that are clearly public and we've leafleted the houses near all the sites that are tending from there towards 'communal'. Some people have been welcoming while others have not, even about paths that are thoroughfares. (One nice path has had to be mapped as private.) If you're shouted at, please explain, apologise and retreat: unless you were in an out-of-bounds area or crossing an uncrossable feature (see below) you will be treated sympathetically at the finish.

Most uncrossable fences have been mapped as uncrossable walls. The black lines are the same thickness but the double tags on the fences have been omitted for clarity. Fences around forbidden areas (the olive-green screen) are omitted, except where they are needed to emphasise that there's no way through.

At the start you will be shown the uncrossable features in the map legend and asked to acknowledge that you understand that such features may not be crossed (even if they look crossable). This is an important difference from features that may be mapped similarly at 'forest' events. Crossable fences tend to be horizontal wooden beams about 0.6m off the ground, although a couple have a second rail at about 1.2m. Fences with vertical wooden slats or vertical metal railings are mapped as uncrossable even if they're only 1m high. You may not cross them, even if on a good day you could hurdle them.

Flower beds in or adjoining the public areas have been mapped as 'impassable vegetation' (green-black), as have clipped hedges around gardens and parking spaces. You may not cross them. Private gardens are olive-green 'forbidden areas'. Again, keep out.

There is a stream through the area. The stream itself is easily crossable but in most places it runs through a jungle of vegetation, mapped with the 'undergrowth - walk' screen. Cross it if you dare, but there is bound to be a bridge not far away. Some patches and hedges of hawthorn and other spiky bushes have been mapped as 'fight'. You may try to cross these but you probably don't want to, especially if you're wearing shorts. The pylons of the power line are mapped with the 'high tower' symbol; the wires are omitted.

The day before the maps went to print, work started on the 'Ladygrove Loop'. This will be a trail of outdoor fitness equipment, flower beds, play areas etc., installed where there's presently only grass. One taped-off grassy area has been mapped as 'under construction' but we don't know how much progress the contractors may make in the week leading up to the event. We believe that neither control sites nor route choice will be affected, but if you come to orange mesh barrier fencing or a two-strand 'fence' of red-and-white tape, please don't cross it.

Please be courteous and respect the general public. There are no prizes (and certainly none for knocking people over); we'd like to return to the area.

Organiser: Martin Ricketts – 01235 835628, martinricketts@waitrose.com

Planner: Roger Thetford

Controller: John Spence (TVOC)