



WESSEX ORIENTEERING CLUB

SW Orienteering League Sunday, February 20th 2022 Agglestone Heath, Studland FINAL DETAILS

Location

The event takes place on Agglestone Heath to the west of Studland. This is an internationally important example of lowland heath and is managed by the National Trust as a designated National Nature Reserve.

We are extremely fortunate to have local NT Officers who are very supportive of having orienteering on their land – we intend to keep it that way!

This is from the National Trust website:

'As the largest expanse of unspoiled lowland heath to survive in Dorset, the wilderness of Studland and Godlingston Heath is perhaps the closest thing to the landscape of Thomas Hardy's Wessex that the 21st century affords. In his 'Return of the Native' Hardy places the fictional Egdon Heath further west, but today it is here in Purbeck that we can best enjoy the uninterrupted vistas of gently rolling hills covered in purple heather he describes.

Some of the best views of the heath sweeping down to the shores of Poole Harbour are from the dramatic Agglestone – a 400 tonne rock sitting alone on a hill as if a giant had dropped it there. So out of place does it seem that legend suggests it was placed there by supernatural forces. It is said the Devil was sitting on the Needles when he saw Corfe Castle being built. He was so offended by the beautiful white tower of the Norman Keep that he threw his cap at it: the missile fell short, however, and became the Agglestone. Legend aside, the 17-foot rock is thought to be part of a band of ironstone which crosses the heath, also including the nearby and much smaller Puckstone'

The event is based at the National Trust Knoll Beach car park, Ferry Road, Studland, Dorset. Grid Reference SZ031834, postcode BH19 3AH. The entrance to the car park will be signed from the main road. There are several car parks in the area, so make sure you use the right one.

Competitors arriving from the east may wish to use the chain ferry at Sandbanks to avoid driving around Poole Harbour. Details and tolls can be found here: <https://www.sandbanksferry.co.uk/>

Parking and Assembly

There won't be any car park marshals as there are plenty of marked parking bays. We suggest you park on the left (north) side as you enter the area as the Registration/Download tent is in the NE corner in the BBQ area.

Parking is free for NT members. You will need to scan your card at one of the ticket machines and display the parking ticket in your car. For non-members, the fees are as follows (cash or PaybyPhone app only):

Cars

Up to 2hrs £3
Up to 4 hrs £5
All day £7

Camper Vans over 4m

Up to 2 hrs £4
Up to 4 hrs £6
All day £8

Registration/Dibber Collection/Download are in a blue tunnel tent in the BBQ area in the NE corner of the car park.

Keys may also be left at the tent, as can Medical Contact Details, should you wish to do so.

Facilities

Knoll Beach has a cafe serving hot drinks and light meals. The Toilet block is opposite the cafe. Please change any muddy shoes or clothing before using the cafe. Further details available here: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/studland-bay>

Dogs

Dogs are not permitted on the courses. Dogs must be kept on a lead in the car park and on the beach. Dogs (except guide dogs) are not permitted in the cafe.

Terrain

The area is open heathland with scattered patches of gorse and extensive seasonal and permanent marshes. The marshes marked as uncrossable on the map are deep and MUST be avoided. There are several valleys running south to north that provide some steep, complex contours. Only minimal updating of the map has occurred since the area was last used in 2020. Scattered gorse has not always been mapped, neither have many of the indistinct paths. There are also a few water-filled rectangular pits (where heather has been cut) that have also not been mapped.

Please wear full leg cover and gaiters are strongly recommended.

Out of Bounds Areas

You will notice on the map that many of the linear marshes and streams caused by water runoff are marked as OOB. This is at the request of the National Trust in order to restrict the footfall on the marshy areas for environmental reasons.

Courses have been planned as much as possible to place the crossings on the direct route between controls and legs on the map have been bent around the OOB areas and to crossing points where necessary. Please keep to these restrictions to ensure we continue to have access to this area for future events.

Maps and Courses

Light Green to Brown courses have 1:10,000 scale map printed on A3 waterproof paper. White to Orange are 1:7,500 scale on A4 paper. Please note that the size of the control circles on the White to Orange courses have been reduced to aid clarity where different sections of the courses pass near each other.

Control Descriptions are printed on the front of the maps and loose copies will be available in the Start lanes. White and Yellow courses have text descriptions, all other courses have IOF pictorial descriptions.

There isn't a Map Legend on the A4 maps but there will be loose copies available at the start. Competitors on the White and Yellow courses may pick up their maps before entering the start lanes.

Course Table

| Course | Km | Climb | Controls |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------|
| Brown | 9.3 | 275m | 19 |
| Blue | 6.7 | 240m | 14 |
| Green | 4.5 | 160m | 12 |
| Short Green | 3.7 | 120m | 12 |
| Light Green | 3.8 | 95m | 12 |
| Orange | 2.6 | 90m | 9 |
| Yellow | 2.1 | 65m | 10 |
| White | 1.4 | 20m | 12 |

Any competitor shadowing another runner must complete their own course first if they wish to be classed as competitive.

A FREE STRING COURSE WILL BE AVAILABLE NEAR THE DOWNLOAD TENT

Entries

Pre-entry via [fabian4](http://fabian4.com).

BOF seniors £12

Non-BOF Seniors £14

Juniors £5

Senior Novices £5 (White, Yellow or Orange only)

Dibber Hire £1 (free for juniors, £30 charge of lost)

There is no SIAC Hire

Electronic Punching

SI will be used for this event and controls are SIAC-enabled. There will be a SIAC Battery Check box situated just before the road crossing on the way to the Start.

Please check you are using the SI number you entered with.

If you need to change the number, please inform Registration before your run to keep download operating smoothly.

Procedure

- Competitors with their own dibber may go straight to the Start
- Competitors who have hired a dibber should collect it from Registration.
- If you wish to change your course, please visit Registration before you run to check we have enough maps available.

Start and Finish

The Start and Finish are located close to each other 600m from the car park. The route is along the access road (Hardys Road) to Knoll Beach before crossing the marshalled main-road crossing. Please keep to the left of the road. After crossing the road there is a path through the woodland which is private land owned by the Knoll House Hotel which has kindly granted us access. Please stick to the taped route.

There is a punching start for both SI and SIAC users. The start is open from 10.30-12.30 and courses close at 14.30. ALL competitors must punch the Finish control.

There will be a clothing dump near the Start/Finish.

Download

All competitors must report to Download even if they do not finish. If you do not do this we may send out a search party for you.

Results

Results will be uploaded to the WSX website: <http://www.wessex-oc.org.uk/results/> as soon as is feasible after the event. Routegadget will be available for uploading your routes after the event.

Safety

If lost, competitors should head SE which will take them to a large track or road signposted to Studland. Additionally, the large Agglestone Rock is visible from most of the map. Following the path NE from the rock will take you back to the Finish. An emergency contact number is on the map.

Whistles are advisable for all competitors.

In the event of severe weather, the carrying of a waterproof jacket may be compulsory. If the organiser decides to enforce this, a notice will be placed in the car park.

If you are concerned about the length of time a competitor has been out, even if courses have not yet closed, please inform a member of the organising team at assembly. If you have notified us of a concern, please ensure we are notified if the competitor then returns and ensure they download as soon as possible. Competitors with pre-existing medical conditions may wish to leave details of their medical condition including any medication they are taking and emergency contact details with Registration in a sealed envelope. This will only be opened in case of an emergency and will be destroyed after the event if not collected by the competitor. The form can be downloaded [here](#).

First Aid will be available near the Registration/Download tent provided by members of WSX.

There is a minor injuries unit located at Swanage Community Hospital, Queens Road, Swanage, BH19 2ES.

The nearest A&E department is Poole Hospital, Longfleet Road, Poole BH15 2JB.

Any major injuries must be reported to the Organiser.

Disclaimer

Orienteering is an adventure sport and competitors take part at their own risk. Please note that personal injury through the normal course of orienteering is not covered by British Orienteering's public liability insurance.

Cancellation

In the event of the cancellation due to extreme weather or other circumstances a notice will be posted on the club website: <http://www.wessex-oc.org.uk/>

Wessex Orienteering Club reserves the right to retain part of the entry fee to cover costs already incurred. Details of how to obtain a refund in the event of cancellation will be posted on the website and also sent the email used to enter.

In entering this event you have signed up to the British Orienteering Participant Code of Conduct. This can be found on the [British Orienteering website](#).

Anyone who has symptoms of Covid-19, who is living in a household with someone who has a possible or confirmed Covid-19 infection, or who has been asked to isolate by NHS Test and trace, should remain at home.