



Manchester & District Orienteering Club



UK Urban League Event at

Birchwood and Locking Stumps

Sunday 24th September 2023

FINAL DETAILS

Important - If you don't read anything else, read this!

This event is taking place in a residential area. Please respect property or garden boundaries and familiarise yourself with the out-of-bounds symbols on the map shown below. No wall, gate, fence or vegetation mapped as impassable may be crossed. Also, areas mapped by a green/yellow (olive green) "settlement" colour are not to be entered. These might be private gardens, flower beds or private paths.

SYMBOL	COLOUR	MEANING
	Black	Impassable fence
	Black	Impassable wall
	Light grey	Canopy – may be passed under
	Green/black	Impassable vegetation – not to be crossed
	Green/yellow	Forbidden access (as for "forest maps")
	Purple	Out of Bounds; Dangerous or forbidden
	Purple	Out of Bounds; Building work etc.


Parking

Free dedicated parking has been arranged for the event at Chadwick House car park, Chadwick Place, Birchwood WA3 6AE. Assembly and toilets are 600 metres from the car park. It is also possible to walk 600m direct to the Start from the car park, mostly on a greenway through the business park.

Please DO NOT park on any streets in the area, even near Assembly. The limited parking spaces inside the Assembly compound are for helpers only. Please contact the organiser if you think your circumstances warrant a parking space there. Marie Roberts, email: birchwood2023@mdoc.org.uk

UKUrbanLeague



Orienteering 

Travel

Birchwood lies in the SE quarter of the intersection of the M6 and the M62. Use car park post code WA3 6AE for SatNav or follow descriptive directions below.

If travelling by car leave the M6 at junction 21, or M62 junction 11 and follow signs to Birchwood. There will be O' signs from the 'BT' roundabout on Birchwood Park Avenue and along Garrett Field.

Please drive slowly along Garrett Field as competitors walking from Assembly to the Start have to cross this road. There will be a road marshal at this crossing for juniors but not further along the road, where competitors may choose to cross the road on their way from the car park to Assembly to avoid building work.

Descriptive directions: From the M6, follow Woolston Grange Avenue through four roundabouts then, at a large roundabout, turn right onto Birchwood Way. Cross the motorway, then turn left at the bow-shaped roundabout onto Birchwood Park Avenue and right at the next roundabout onto Garrett Field. Continue along this bendy road, ignoring signs for Birchwood Youth & Community Centre, until you see a lake on your left and a large office block on your right. The car park is just beyond this on the right. You do not need to collect a ticket. The barriers will be up and free parking has been arranged for the event.

From the M62, head south along the A574 Birchwood Way. Continue straight at the first roundabout (junction with Faraday Avenue) to the bow-shaped roundabout, where you should take the third exit onto Birchwood Park Avenue and right at the next roundabout onto Garrett Field, then follow directions as above.

If travelling by rail, Birchwood station is a 20min (1.5km) walk from Assembly.

Due to a temporary road closure, the only approach to the Chadwick House car park is along Garrett Field which eventually becomes Chadwick Place.

Assembly

Birchwood Youth & Community Centre, Delenty Drive WA3 6AN This is 600m from parking and 700m from the Start.

Facilities: • Toilets • Enquiries • Download • SI card hire (no SIAC hire) • First Aid • Bag storage (Please note bags are left at your own risk) • Limited EOD subject to map availability from 10am; before that time, online entry will remain open (again subject to map availability) via RaceSignUp.

Registration: 10:00 -12:00

EOD: Subject to map availability only. £10 Adults, £5 Juniors SI card hire: Free to hire but £30 charge if you lose it.

Courses

Course	Class (Men)	Class (Women)	Optimum length	No. controls
1	MO (Men's Open)		10.6km	31
2	MV (M40+)	WO (Women's Open)	9km	27
3	MSV (M55+)	WV (W40+)	6.9km	20
4	MUV (M65+)	WSV (W55+)	5.0km	18
5	MHV (M75+)	WUV (W65+), WHV (W75+)	3.8km	15
6	MJ (M16-), Orange	WJ (W16-), Orange	4.8km	25
7	MYJ (M12-), Yellow	WYJ (W12-), Yellow	2.5km	24

Note: Please bear the number of controls in mind when making provision for loose control descriptions. Also, some older SI cards do not have capacity for over 30 controls; Type 8 cards can only store 30 controls while type 5 cards

can store 36 control codes but only 30 split times. If you are unsure whether your SI card has capacity, please check the number at https://www.sportident.co.uk/information_sheets/SPORTident-CardComparison.PDF

Juniors under 12 must be accompanied/shadowed by a responsible adult.

Start times: 10:30 – 12:30 except for competitors on junior courses 6 & 7 who should start between 11:00 and 11:45.

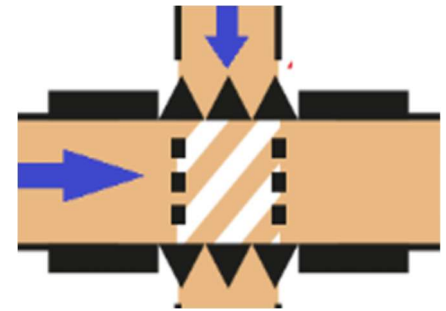
Map: Birchwood (Chris Smithard 2017, expanded and updated 2019, updated 2023) with new extension of Locking Stumps by Richard Parkin (2023) Scale: 1:4000 Contour interval: 2.5m Drawn to ISSprOM 2019-2.

Note the new 'dragon's teeth' symbol for an underpass entrance (right).

Courses 1-4 will be printed on A3 waterproof paper; Courses 5-7 will be printed on A4 waterproof paper.

Courses 1, 2, 5 & 6 will be double-sided. Please note that the last control on side 1 will be the first control on side 2 (NO start triangle on side 2).

Dogs: No dogs in the assembly building and whilst dogs are allowed on the streets we discourage taking them on a course.



Start

The start is 600m from the Chatham House car park and 700m from Assembly. Follow the taped route. Call-up at -3.

Loose control descriptions on waterproof paper will be available in the start lanes using IOF pictorial descriptions for Courses 1-6 and English descriptions for Course 7.

Timing: SportIdent (SI) timing will be used. Controls will be SIAC enabled but all competitors must punch the Start and Finish controls. Please report to the Finish/Download if you have not completed your course.

If the SI unit at a control does not appear to be working, use the backup pin-punch attached to the control. If a control appears to be missing due to vandalism, you should make very sure you are in the right place and then continue with your race. Please alert a Finish or Download official if you believe a control is missing.

Safety

It is your responsibility to take care on all roads. The race area contains many residential cul-de-sacs, which may contain light traffic. There is a limited network of distributor roads providing vehicle access between the residential areas. Although each of these distributor roads is lightly trafficked, you should take extra care crossing them. There are also many cycle routes through the race area, including routes along major footpaths. Please watch out for cyclists when you make a change in direction or emerge onto a pathway. Please also look out for other path users, especially at corners – there are some blind bends in the narrow alleyways – so take care, go wide and adjust your speed to avoid accidents occurring.

The longer courses cross a dual carriageway and feed roads to a major roundabout which are Out of Bounds and MUST NOT be crossed. The lines of affected legs have been diverted to a mandatory crossing at a bridge / underpass, as appropriate, which MUST be used.

Under 16s: British Orienteering rules stipulate that anyone under the age of 16 on the day of the competition may only compete in areas with limited and/or speed-limited traffic (unless they are accompanied or shadowed by an adult). Both junior courses 6 & 7 will have a timed-out manned road crossing towards the end of their course.

Courses 1, 2, 5 and 6 have double-sided maps so if you retire early, the Finish location may be on the other side of the map.

First Aid

A dedicated first aid person will be available in Assembly.

The nearest A&E Department is Warrington Hospital, Lovely Lane, Warrington, WA5 1QG. A map will be available at Enquiries.

Finish

The Finish is 120m from Assembly/Download across a road bridge. If you have hired an SI card, please return it at Download. There will be a charge of £30 if you lose a hired SI card. **YOU MUST DOWNLOAD BACK AT ASSEMBLY, EVEN IF YOU ABANDON YOUR RACE.** This is a safety check to ensure that all competitors are back.

Maps will not be collected – in the spirit of fair competition please do not show your map to competitors that have yet to run.

Courses close at 14:30

Terrain

Hard surface and gravel 90%, Grass and woodland 10%

Body Cover & Footwear

Full body cover is not required, but you may prefer to protect your legs against undergrowth in some of the wooded areas. Studded shoes are inappropriate for this race – wear trainers or similar.

Acknowledgements

Thanks for access and facilities are due to: Councillor David Ellis, Birchwood Youth & Community Centre and Warrington Borough Council

Organiser: Marie Roberts (MDOC)

Planner: Ben Kyd (MDOC/OUOC)

Controllers: Jane and Nick Campbell (DEE)

We hope you have an enjoyable race.

For any questions email birchwood [at] mdoc.org.uk and please check the website at <http://mdoc.org.uk/> for any last-minute updates.