



# Orienteering on Cannock Chase

## Brindley Heath

### Level C Regional Event - Final Details West Midland League Event 1

## Sunday 5th January 2020

#### Directions to the event:

**From Stafford: 9 Miles.** Take the A34 Cannock Road heading towards Cannock, at the Pottal Pool roundabout turn left and follow the signs for Cannock Chase AONB, continue along Broadhurst Green Road for 1.8 miles and turn right onto Marquis Drive, continue for 0.5 miles over the cross roads where you will now be at the entrance to the Visitor Centre North side. Follow around until entrance to parking on the Triangle.

**From Cannock: 4 Miles.** Take the A34 Stafford Road heading towards Stafford, at the Pottal Pool roundabout turn right and follow the signs for Cannock Chase AONB, continue along Broadhurst Green Road for 1.8 miles and turn right onto Marquis Drive, continue for 0.5 miles over the cross roads where you will now be at the entrance to the Visitor Centre North side. Follow around until entrance to parking on the Triangle.

**From Rugeley: 4 Miles.** Head along the A51 towards Stafford turning left at the Traffic Lights onto Hagley Road. Continue up Hagley Road and then onto Penkridge Bank Road and then turn left at the sign for Birches Valley Forest centre. Continue along Birches Valley Road and then turn left onto Marquis Drive sign posted Hednesford 2 miles. Continue for a short distance before branching left into the Marquis Drive park. Follow around the one way to the entrance to the parking on the triangle.

Post Code for the Car parking: WS12 4PW. Streetmap link: [here](#)

**Parking:** Grassy triangle at Marquis Drive Visitor Centre, follow the one-way system and marshals will guide you in. Registration is in the same location as the car park. If you are driving a heavy vehicle and have concerns regarding parking on grass the public car park adjacent costs £1 and has no height restrictions. Possible free parking on the road but does get busy.

**Registration:** 10.00am to 12.00pm

**Start:** 10.30am to 12.30pm (punching start)

**Entry Fees:** Seniors £8 (BOF Members) £10 (non BOF Members) Juniors £3.  
£5 for Long Orange (Trail course). Entry on day for all courses.

**Punching:** (Si) Sport-Ident Electronic (SIAC enabled)

**Si card hire:** No Charge

**Map:** 1:10,000, control descriptions are available at registration

**Courses:** White, Yellow, Orange, Long Orange, Light Green, Short Green, Green, Blue and Brown.

There is a Trail course (Long Orange) specifically aimed at runners looking to try something different, basically an approximate 5k trail race with some easy route finding. If you want some support before going for your run please email the organiser (email below) and he will arrange for a coach to be available to introduce you to the map. You can run in pairs or groups if you want to.

Course	Length (km)	Climb (m)	Difficulty
White	1.5	20	Very Easy
Yellow	2.0	25	Easy
Orange	2.5	50	Medium
Long Orange (Trail)	6.0	70	Medium
Light Green	3.5	65	Hard
Short Green	3.2	50	Very Hard
Green	4.4	90	Very Hard
Blue	5.8	140	Very Hard
Brown	8.0	170	Very Hard

**Safety:** Please note that the area is also used by horse riders, dog walkers and bike riders. Please respect their right to be there.

Compulsory disinfectant footbaths will be used at the start and finish, as a condition for using the area, and to safeguard its use for the future. Due to the presence of Phytophthora on the area, please respect the areas marked as Out of Bounds on the map.

There is a compulsory marshalled road crossing between the assembly and the start, please ensure this is used and remind children who will be finishing by themselves to use this on their way to download.

**The competition area is undermined and liable to mining subsidence. Any areas marked Out of Bounds, close to known infilled fissure lines, must be strictly avoided. Care should be taken as new fissures could suddenly appear away from these known areas.**

Competitors take part at their own risk and **must carry a whistle** (for newcomers please ask at the start to borrow one) and **full leg cover is essential**.

- Toilets:** Toilets are available next to the Marquis Drive Visitors centre.  
**Traders:** The café at the Marquis Drive Visitor Centre provides a range of hot food and drinks.  
**Dogs:** Dogs are allowed on a lead in the assembly due to the moving cars.  
**Organiser:** Dan Findlay-Robinson tel: 07971552785  
**E-mail:** [danfindlayrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:danfindlayrobinson@gmail.com)  
**Planner:** John Robinson  
**Controller:** Andy Hemsted (HOC)

**Planners comments:**

Brindley is a mixed area of patchy woodland and (as the name suggests) heathland. It has a good network of large paths and small tracks (recently remapped) also gullies and earth features remaining from wartime usage. The woodland has in many places succumbed to the scourge of bramble, I have tried to reflect this on the map and as far as possible take the courses away from the worst of it. Using the green stripe screen to represent bramble, although obviously a bit subjective (I am a known wuss where bramble is concerned) if it shows slow running (wide stripes) you can get through it with care, if it shows walk (close stripes) I really advise you to avoid it! Although some heroes may choose otherwise. In any event, lower leg protection is advised unless you are doing the Trail course, (very easy navigation, about 5k)

The Heath by comparison is surprisingly free of bramble for the most part or it is patchy and easily avoided, if significant I have indicated it on the map. The Vegetation is a patchwork of lumpy tussock grass, bilberry (3 types for you botanists) and heather of various heights. Some has been recently mowed (joy) some still low from previous mowing and some a bit of an obstacle to progress (depending on how fit you are)

There are some special symbols ○ =large isolated tree  
x = tree stump

On the longer courses there are rather more controls than I would have liked, this was necessary to try and avoid tempting people to cross the AOB areas.

As a mainly open area it could be a bit bleak if the weather turns cold, some come prepared but the start and finish are very close to the parking.

So, come along and enjoy the wonders of Brindley Heath!

**British Orienteering course guidelines:**

Navigational Difficulty	Course Length				
	XS 0-2.5km	S 2.6-5.0km	M 5.1-7.5km	L 7.6-10.0km	XL 10.1km +
Very Easy	□				
Easy		■			
Medium		■	■		
Hard		■			
Very Hard		■	■	■	■

For more info on which course to do, please see the British Orienteering newcomers guide below, or ask at Enquiries on the day. [https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/newcomers\\_guide](https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/newcomers_guide)