

FVO Night Event – Abbey Craig, 4th December 2024

Final Details

Venue

The area is the wooded hill that the Wallace Monument sits on top of, adjacent to the A907 in Stirling.

Parking

Parking will be at the Wallace Monument public car park, grid reference NS808958, what3words slings.harmony.shortens. The monument closes at 4pm, so there should be ample parking.

Toilets

There are no public toilets available, so please plan accordingly.

Start/Finish

These are both on the pedestrian footpath just to the rear of the monument ticket building/café, adjacent to the car park.

The start is a mass start at 18:30, following a safety briefing at 18.25. If anyone prefers a punching start after the mass start, then this can be accommodated. Entries are via the FVO web site.

The courses close at 20:00. All participants **MUST** report to the finish by that time and please make sure you download.

Terrain

The terrain is essentially a steep wooded slope, that rises from east to west, before ending at the large cliff that bounds the western side of the area. The cliff is spectacularly dangerous, however there is a prominent tourist footpath around 50m in from the cliff edge running the whole way up. There are no controls on the cliff side of this footpath, so please do not cross it.

There are three significant quarry areas that have dangerous cliffs surrounding them. The courses are planned to keep competitors away from them, however on the longer courses an overshoot on certain controls could present a risk, so please be vigilant in these areas. There are numerous smaller crags around and again the courses are planned to avoid competitors approaching over the top of them as far as possible, but please take care.

There are several areas of windblow from storms, including a large area in the centre of the map. These are mapped as dark green and are to be avoided. Outwith these areas, the terrain is generally runnable, but can be rough underfoot in parts, with bracken that has not died back yet, due to the mild weather and brashings, so please take care.

Map

1:4,000, Surveyed in 2016 by G Gristwood and updated 2020-2022 by Chris Smithard and Martin Bagness.

Courses

Long - 3.9km, 210m climb. TD5
Short - 3.0km, 175m climb. TD5
Orange (Novice) – 1.7km, 95m climb. TD3

The courses, especially the long course, are a bit shorter than normal due to the climb, ground conditions and the area being quite small. The focus has been put more on the technical challenge than distance, so there are quite a lot of controls, and the long and short courses criss-cross and are gaffed. Please take care that you are heading to the right control and check the code before you punch.

Safety

Headlamp, spare torch and whistle are compulsory. You may be asked to carry a waterproof jacket on the night, depending on the weather.

Any participants with relevant pre-existing medical conditions which might affect their participation should disclose them to the event organiser before they start.

Note that U16s are very welcome but must be accompanied (individually or in groups) by an adult willing to take responsibility, unless exempt. Please contact Lewis Taylor for details on which juniors are exempt if you are unsure.

The organiser is first-aid trained and a basic first aid kit will be available at the start/finish. The nearest hospital is Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Stirling Rd, Larbert FK5 4WR.

Competitors are reminded that they take part at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety.

Timing System

SPORTIdent will be used and touch free punching will be activated, although the finish must be dibbed. All competitors are reminded that they must download before leaving the event, even if they have not completed the course.

Contact

Please contact Rhys Stanwix (rhys.stanwix@hotmail.com or 07767 852697), if you have any questions.

I hope you all enjoy your evening's orienteering.

Rhys