



Profiling DVO's Virtual Orienteering Courses

THE BACKGROUND

Derwent Valley Orienteers (DVO) have set up MapRun courses on 17 different areas across Derbyshire using a mix of OpenOrienteering maps and conventional ISSOM orienteering maps. Most areas have more than one course with a mixture of linear and score courses.

These have been made permanently available with users able to print their own maps and load the course in MapRun to complete at any time - and perfect socially distanced challenges

Wirksworth & Alvaston Park

OUR TWO MOST POPULAR COURSES

Alvaston Park Medium includes some urban terrain outside the park, but Short is within the park, so perfect for children. There's a play area, a planets trail, a cafe and a lake in the park, as well as great views of Derby Velodrome

Wirksworth is really complex in places, especially the pretty area of cottages and alleyways on the hill known as 'the puzzle garden'. Both are linear rather than score courses:



"Some of the club's permanent orienteering courses have now also been set up in MapRun. This will provide a much better experience for users when markers go missing."

Mike Godfree, DVO



Wirksworth:

- ✓ Long 5km with 75m climb
- ✓ Medium 3km 50m climb

Alvaston Park:

- ✓ Medium 5.2km
- ✓ Short 2.5km no climb on either

DVOs experiences with their virtual courses

"About 12 planners have been involved (including 3 first-timers), mentored by our Mapping Officer so it has been a fantastic way of keeping our volunteers engaged as well as our members active. A Generic Risk Assessment was produced by our Safety Officer eg avoid market day, out of bounds areas, give way in narrow alley ways and so on. British Orienteering webinars were a great help and inspiration!"

Sal Chaffey, DVO

Run leagues and challenges for added fun

By running a league (handicapped by gender and age group) with particular areas qualifying for points a fortnight at a time, additional interest has been created. Just on 100 runners ran at least one league challenge - with a handful running at least 10 courses over a two month period.

One event was also run where competitors ran individually on the same evening and more of these are planned to follow on once COVID19 restrictions allow.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Wirksworth (73 runs) has easily been the most popular, followed by Alvaston Park (54 runs).

THE FUTURE

- Running clubs – potential to engage them?
- Beginners – some family members of orienteers tried the MapRuns, completing several courses.
- Art trails – in the summer, urban art trails are becoming popular. One of our members created a MapRun around the 25 decorated swans in Burton-on-Trent, and 20 people completed this.

DVO MapRuns have had more than 600 individual runs, totalling over 3000km!

Hints & Tips

- ✓ Most of our courses have been in urban areas, with some in city parks. Partly this is to avoid access issues, but also to improve GPS and map accuracy which can be limited under tree cover.
- ✓ Consider the need for easy-to-find and accessible parking.
- ✓ Conventional Orienteering maps have been better. The maps from OpenOrienteering are often inconsistent. For instance, individual houses and paths are marked on some parts of the map but not others. It is difficult to make alterations though sometimes we have added paths for the printed map (but not the phone map) in Purple Pen.
- ✓ In OpenOrienteering, sometimes pass-throughs are missed, or shown when they don't exist. But you can use the crossing point and the x symbol to clarify if something is passable or not.

