

Doggy Paddle Instructions 2017

Organised by Royal Leamington Spa Canoe Club, with the support of the British Canoe Union. Proceeds to The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

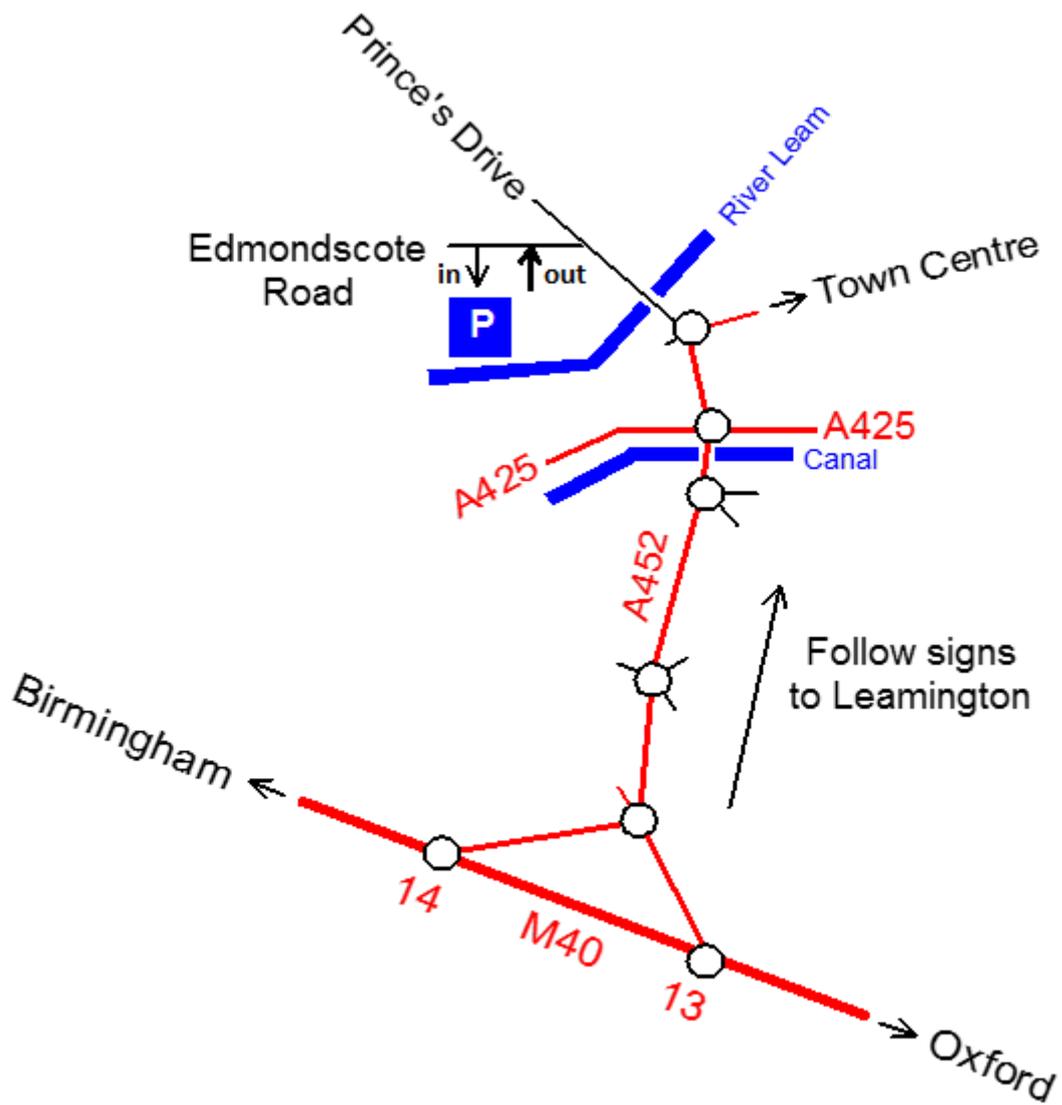
Overview

- Entry Fee: Adults: £10-00, under 18s (must be supervised by parent or guardian): £5-00
- Date: Sunday 9th July 2017
- Distance: 18 miles, take 4-6 hours
- Grade: Slow moving river (grade 1) with 4 portage-able weirs
- Start location: Edmondscote Athletics Sports Field, Leamington Spa
- Start time: 9:00 to 10:00 **LATEST**. There are potential 40+ minute delays if you arrive 'late' at Warwick Castle due to the firing of the trebuchet, so start promptly!
- Finish: Recreation Ground, Stratford-upon-Avon, opposite side of the river to the theatre
- Shuttle: A *pre-shuttle* is available till 8-45am latest from Edmondscote, Leamington Spa to deliver cars to Stratford before the start. Places are limited so try and sort yourselves out! Remember to bring change for the car park (see end location below). *There will be no organised shuttle after the event.*

Additional information

- Who can paddle: Anyone, this event is open to the public
- Bad weather, etc: Ring 01789 841240 from 5th July, check answering message, to see if cancelled.
- Competence: Novices upwards. Must be capable of paddling 18 miles in a straight-line in your chosen craft. Note that in the rare event that the marshals believe you are not capable of completing the course you would not be refunded.
- Equipment: Groups / individuals must be suitably equipped for the paddle. It is highly recommended that a lifejacket should be worn while afloat. Helmets recommended if shooting weirs. Ensure adequate food/drinks are carried. Note that the Doggy Paddle organisers cannot accept liability to loss or damage to participant's kit during the event.
- Conduct: We request that every respect is shown to **FISHERMEN**/private land/property/wildlife (nesting birds, flowers etc) along the route. Some weirs **MUST** be portaged and **NOT** played on, ask the marshals nearby. Failure to observe this risks jeopardising future permission to run 'Doggy Paddle'. See Course Outline for more details. Please observe the directions of any marshals who are there to ensure your safety.
- Start location: Edmondscote Sports Field, Royal Leamington Spa, CV32 6AG, 52.286524, -1.552875
Toilets available and car parking in a field. Ordnance Survey Map Landranger 151, 305-655.
From the M40 (see map below): take A452 towards Leamington. At the 5th roundabout after the motorway junction carry straight on along Prince's Drive. Take next left, just after the river. Turn left again into sports field as directed by the signs.
- Lunch: The best place to stop for lunch is at the large field at Hampton Lucy weir (see over). **PLEASE DO NOT LAND OR STOP FOR LUNCH IN THE NATIONAL TRUST CHARLECOTE HOUSE GROUNDS**, just upstream of the first set of deer gates through to the second set of deer gates (see next page), as this will jeopardise us running future events.
- End location: Stratford-upon-Avon Recreation Ground, (opposite side of the river to the theatres), CV37 7LS, 52.190162, -1.702916
Toilets and pay-and-display car parking: typically £6 for 9 hours
Ordnance Survey Map Landranger 151, 205-547.
- Sponsorship: See www.justgiving.com/doggypaddle2016 (hope this is set-up soon!)

Map to Start Location



Weblinks

DoggyPaddle website: www.doggypaddle.org.uk

DoggyPaddle email: info@doggypaddle.org.uk

British Canoe Union: www.britishcanoeing.org.uk

Accommodation: www.royal-leamington-spa.co.uk & www.warwick-uk.co.uk

Tourist Information: www.shakespeare-country.co.uk & www.royal-pump-rooms.co.uk

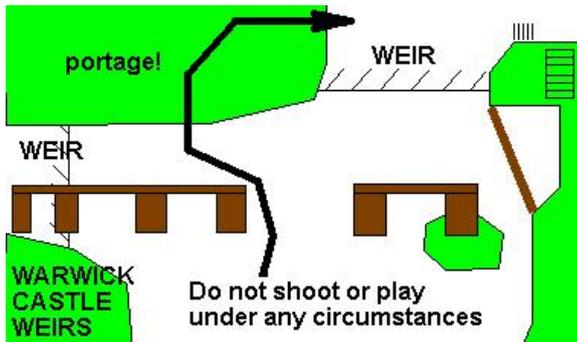
Course Outline

Any problems on route please use the emergency routes mentioned.
Follow any Doggy Paddle safety personnel's instructions. Phone organiser (07773 394 487)

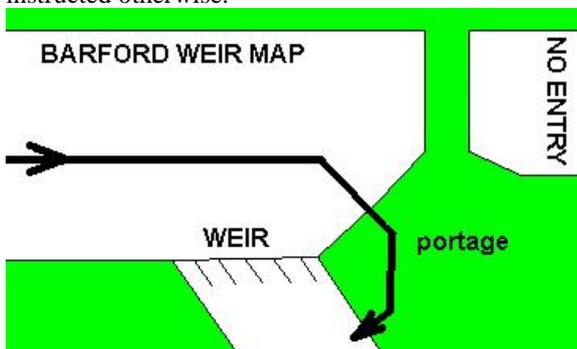
The Doggy Paddle organisers do not recommend you shoot any of the weirs - portage is recommended.
Warwick Castle weirs ABSOLUTELY MUST be portaged - DO NOT shoot or play here.

Read on for more details...

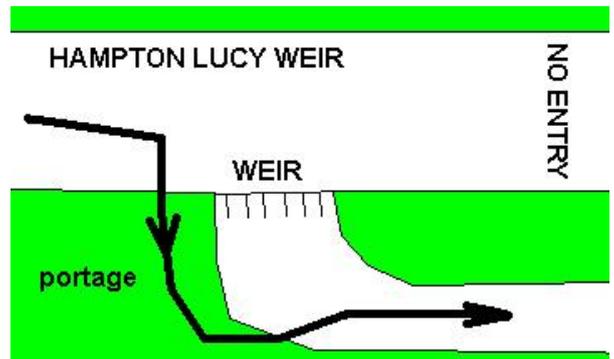
1. 9:00 to 10:00 (LATEST), after signing-in, get on the water below the weir at Edmundscote Sports Field. Paddle the short distance along the river Leam until it enters the river Avon. Continue downstream.
2. When you reach the broken bridge beneath Warwick Castle you reach the only **COMPULSORY** portage. The portage route will be clearly marked on the left of the river-right weir. You must **NOT under any circumstances** shoot or play on the dangerous weirs at Warwick Castle. Do not approach either the waterwheel or the sluice. Do NOT stop while at or near Warwick Castle, as the Trebuchet randomly throws a 1 ton concrete block over 300meters!



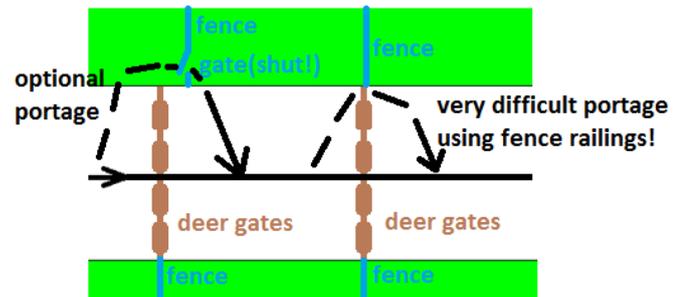
3. After a few miles the river flows through Barford and the next weir on river right. Portage river right immediately after weir. Note there is a second dangerous weir beyond the bridge (marked 'NO ENTRY') - do not shoot! **Emergency route via house near bridge.** Shortly after you will rejoin the main river flow and reach a small shallow rapid that runs slowly under the bridge. Be respectful to fishermen, generally passing on left unless instructed otherwise.



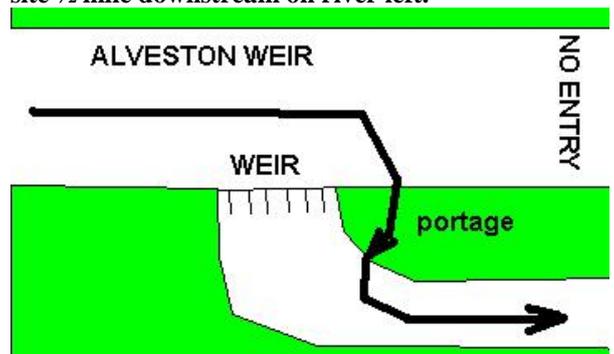
4. Not long to the next weir at Hampton Lucy Mill, where there is a portage on the river-right just before the weir. Note there is a second dangerous weir (marked 'NO ENTRY') - do not shoot! **BEST PLACE TO STOP FOR LUNCH. Emergency route at bridge. Phone box at church.**



5. Soon after you pass through Charlecote House you will reach two sets of river-wide deer gates, that should be **OPEN**. Preferably shoot if shut. Portage first set possible, second very difficult, especially with fixed rudders. Take care in high water levels. You will see the large country house on river-left and the joining of the river Deane with a rocky weir at its mouth. **DO NOT LAND or STOP FOR LUNCH IN THE CHARLECOTE GROUNDS.** Emergency route via the Charlecote House paddock.



6. A couple of miles after Charlecote Park you will find another weir at Alveston with steep portage on river-right. Note there is a second dangerous weir (marked 'NO ENTRY') - do not shoot! **Emergency route at caravan site 1/2 mile downstream on river left.**



7. The river then meanders down towards Stratford Bridge, which carries the A3400 across the Avon. Beyond this on river-right is the Stratford Theatre. Carry on another 100m and get out near the end of the recreational ground, river-left, by the Guide Dogs tent. Congratulations - you've finished!