

# CHOC O 2020

**Live from Saturday 19 December to Sunday 3 January**

**Start:** Park in Church Stretton

Control 1 for all courses is Southern End of small quarry (GR SO448940)

ChocO is an unsupported anytime navigational challenge around a set of control points. At each control there is a white post. Attached to each post is a tag with the grid reference and description of the next point on your course. Write these down and mark the control on your map. You are given the location of the first control above. Don't copy the wrong next control reference down or you will have a much longer or shorter run than you were expecting.

At the last control is a sack containing a tin of chocolates. Enjoy, reseal tin, leave a comment in the book and cover up the sack. It's then about 1600 metres back into Church Stretton.

Courses: Approximate Straight-line lengths from the first control to the last control are- **Short:** 8km.

**Medium:** 11km.

**Long:** 15km.

These may seem short distances, but you may find for some legs a more circuitous route with less climb and better going will be the optimum route.

**Strollers:** This is designed to be walked following paths and tracks. With a steady climb to the top of the Mynd. Around 6 km. in length. It is not suitable for buggies and will need to be walked. All the comments below apply equally to this course.

The Long Mynd is sometimes very steep and with poor visibility and indistinct features making relocation difficult. Even if the weather is good in Church Stretton assume that there will be thick cloud and high wind when not in the shelter of the valleys. And can change quickly.

**Terrain:** Steep side valleys and monster bracken in places. Heather of varying depths crossed by numerous tracks and paths. Not all paths are marked on the OS maps.

All courses will encounter steep ascents, descents, contouring, stream crossings, wet ground and heather. The small boggy flashes should be avoided as they are not only environmentally sensitive but deep in places.

**Navigation kit:** OS Map Long Mynd 217 Explorer. Plastic bag for Map, Compass, Pen, Paper. GPS is allowed. A spring not on the map is one control, the grid reference is correct and will get you to the right location.

Kit: FRA standard is advised with hat, gloves, warm clothes and a good set of waterproofs including trousers.

Survival: Take some food drink whistle and a phone together with any other kit you feel necessary. The nature of the event is that only you and anyone you inform know you are taking part. Please tell somebody you are out, (and who will raise an emergency if necessary), when you expect to finish and when you are back. You take part in this unsupported activity entirely at your own risk. Only take part if you are a competent navigator and have experience of the hills in winter.

There has been a lot of rain on the Mynd recently. A lot of the tracks are wet, muddy and can be slippery. Please be careful!

Entry: Is free. You can go solo or in groups. Please follow Covid guidelines.

If the chocolate supply is running low or other problems:

**Lawrie Jones text 07821 597248.**