

# Avon Valley Runners

## The AVR Wiltshire Half Marathon Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2013 11am.



### Risk Assessment

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## **Abstract:**

This document describes the risks and mitigation activities that have been identified by Avon Valley Runners associated with the running of ‘The AVR Wiltshire Half Marathon’ road race.

## **Introduction**

The “AVR Wiltshire Half Marathon” event is a roadrunning race hosted by Avon Valley Runners. The race starts and finishes in the grounds of Station Yard, Edington and progresses for 13.1 miles along country lanes and minor roads before returning to the finish.

The age restrictions are:- minimum 17 years on race day.

There are sufficient car park spaces to accommodate 80 cars. Entry to the car park is via a single, gated entrance from a minor road. ‘Beware Runners’ signs will be posted either side of the entrance to advise drivers using the road. The entrance will be marshalled before and during the race. Two marshals will act as parking supervisors to ensure that people park sensibly and safely and in a position that does not restrict the course of the race.

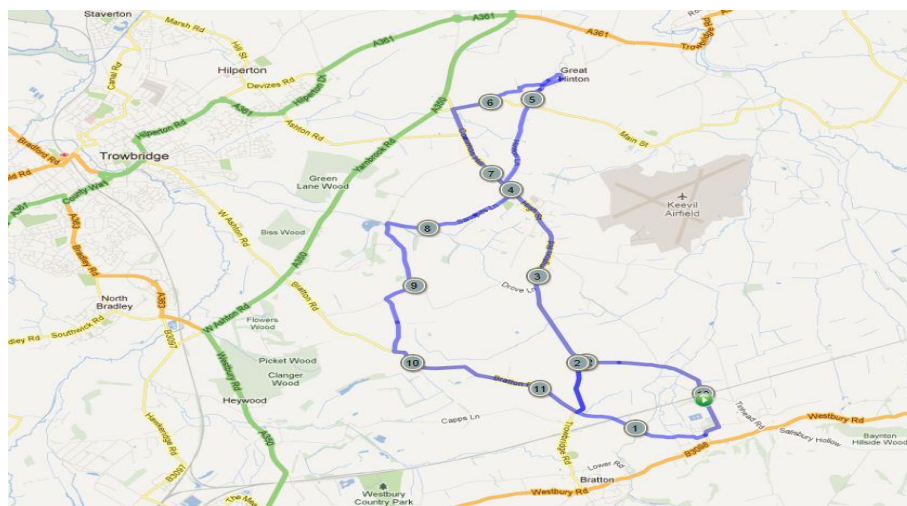
The HQ will be 2 empty industrial units/or marquees in the grounds providing ample changing and baggage storage for 375 competitors (although it is anticipated that the majority of competitors will not use the clubhouse facilities and will opt to leave their belongings in their cars. This has been assessed from competitor’s behaviour at previous races and other recent events e.g. the Corsham 10k and the ‘Over the Hills’) Toilet facilities will be hired using appropriate hire companies.

Although a marshal will be appointed to provide security to the changing areas competitors will be advised in posted, pre-race instructions, that they do this at their own risk. This will be reiterated at the pre-race, competitors briefing. There are no showering facilities available and this will be highlighted on the race entry forms.

We have decided to ban the use of personal devices which involve earphones so as to maximise the chances of marshals being heard whilst participating in the race.

# The Route

From its starting point the race progresses along country lanes in a figure of 8 loop style, finishing in the same place.



Given the nature of the event some injuries are inevitable and competitors are asked to indicate their acceptance of this risk through the signing of a disclaimer as part of the entry form, see below:

Please complete clearly in Block Capitals

Surname:		
Forenames:		
Address:		
Postcode:	Tel No:	
Date of Birth:	Age on day:	Sex:
Affiliated Club:		

For official use

**Declaration:** I declare that I shall abide by the rules of the race. I will follow all instructions given by race officials. I am not under the minimum age to compete in this event, i.e. 17-years old. I accept that the organisers will not be liable for any loss or damage, action, claim, cost or expenses, which may arise as a consequence of my participation in this event. I declare that I will not compete in this race unless I am in good health on the day of the race and that in any case I will only compete at my own risk.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Marshall's are provided by Avon Valley Runners. The St Johns Ambulance brigade provides first aid support.

More information about the event can be found at the Avon Valley Runners club website at [www.avonvalleyrunners.org.uk](http://www.avonvalleyrunners.org.uk)

## Risk Overview

The manageable risks\* associated with the running of the event have been identified and for each risk described, a cause has been highlighted along with the containment

actions that can be taken to mitigate the risk. The impact of the risk should it occur is also described and what actions can be taken in the event of it's occurrence. The probability of the risk occurring is also stated and contributes to the risks Severity value, calculated as the Probability against Impact as shown in the table below:

IMPACT	HIGH	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH
	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
		PROBABILITY		

The Impact is graded according to the following criteria:

- LOW – Verbal complaint(s) by greater than 2% of the entrants or by any third party.
- MEDIUM – Minor injury and/or written complaint by an entrant or by any third party.
- HIGH – Serious injury to an entrant.

The key risks that have been identified are those that relate to the other users of the lanes and minor roads that the ‘AVR Wiltshire Half Marathon’ course utilises, including: walkers, motor vehicles, cyclists, horses with riders and cattle crossings.

These risks will be managed with the positioning of caution signage on and around the course both prior to and during the event and the positioning of race marshals at key points on the course. Other risks relating to the crossing of junctions on the course will be re-iterated to competitors as part of the pre-race briefing and if it is not accepted the runner(s) will be asked to withdraw from the event and offered a full refund on any entry fee paid.

*\*The risks identified do not include those relating to natural disaster, civil disturbance or other force majeure, neither do they include risks to the financial, organisational or administrative functions of the event.*

## **Risk #1 – Motor vehicles**

There is a risk that runners will encounter motor vehicles along the country lanes on the course and that an obstruction may occur.

This risk is caused by the course utilising country lanes and minor roads that are open to motor vehicles and regularly used by local residents.

This risk will be mitigated by the reiteration of the risk during the pre-run briefing; positioning of caution signage on and around the course; positioning of marshals at key points on the course.

Should a runner encounter obstruction by a motor vehicle they should, if appropriate give way and report the incident to the race organisers.

It is believed that this risk has a MEDIUM probability of occurring and has a HIGH impact.

Therefore this is believed to be a MEDIUM risk.

## **RISK #2 – Crossing the road for Right Turn Junctions**

There is a risk that runners will encounter motor vehicles when crossing to turn in to right turn junctions. This risk is caused by the use of the roads /lanes by local traffic. The risk will be mitigated by the reiteration of the risk during the pre-run briefing, positioning of marshals and caution signage.

It is believed that this risk has a HIGH probability of occurring and has a MEDIUM impact.

Therefore this is believed to be a MEDIUM risk.

## **RISK #3 – Emerging from left hand junctions from lanes to minor roads.**

There is a risk that a runner may encounter traffic at junction approx 6 1/2 miles on route map. This risk is caused by emerging from a lane onto a minor road that is close to A350 which can carry a higher volume of vehicles than other minor roads. This risk will be mitigated by reiteration during the pre-run briefing; positioning of caution signage on and around the course and positioning of marshals at key points on the course.

It is believed that this risk has a MEDIUM probability of occurring and has a HIGH impact. Therefore this is believed to be a MEDIUM risk.

## **RISK#4 – Crossroads at Great Hinton.**

There is a risk that runners will encounter traffic at the crossroads at 4 miles on the route map. This risk is caused by the use of the roads /lanes by local traffic. The risk will be mitigated by the reiteration of the risk during the pre-run briefing, positioning of marshals, caution signage and a crossing monitor marshal. It is believed that this risk has a HIGH probability of occurring and has a MEDIUM impact.

Therefore this is believed to be a MEDIUM risk.

## **RISK #5 – Walkers, horse and riders.**

There is a risk that runners will encounter groups of walkers and horse and riders.

This risk is caused by the use of lanes and minor roads by the public. This risk will be mitigated by reiteration during the pre-run briefing; positioning of caution signage on and around the course; positioning of marshals at key points on the course.

It is believed that this risk has a MEDIUM probability of occurring and has a HIGH impact. Therefore this is believed to be a MEDIUM risk.

## **RISK #6 - Trip Hazards**

There is a risk that runners may trip and suffer injury *i.e. twisted ankle, bruising, cuts & abrasions relating to a fall.*

This risk is caused by the possibility of loose surface debris on the course tractors and other farm vehicles use the lanes. This risk will be mitigated by the reiteration of the risk during the runners pre-run briefing and any runner not willing to accept this risk will be asked not to run and offered a full refund on their entry fee. Should a runner suffer injury through exposure to this risk, then the marshals will have means of communication to the race problem manager who can then alert St John's Ambulance to the situation.

It is believed that this risk has a LOW probability of occurring and has a MEDIUM impact.

Therefore this is believed to be a MEDIUM risk.

## **RISK #7 – Cattle Crossing.**

There is a risk that runners may encounter cattle crossing from farmyard to field at approx 11 ½ miles on the route map.

This risk is caused by the route passing over an established farm area. The risk will be mitigated by liaising with the farmer before hand with a proposed window of time that the runners may be passing, requesting if possible that the farmer avoids crossing the cattle during that window and by the reiteration of the risk during the runners pre-run briefing.

It is believed the risk has a LOW probability of occurring and has a HIGH impact.

Therefore this is believed to be a MEDIUM risk.