



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING CLUB

Primrose Hill Local Event
7th March 2026
Mapper/Planner Comments



Primrose Hill – not used after a probably not highly satisfactory DEE/IMDOC Challenge match in 2009, 40 years after DEE's inauguration. Felling and tree planting had made it unusable and regular trips there after that lead to no improvement so I stopped going. Then, in early 2025, Jon H, well known DEE orienteer and turfer, said to me 'hey, Smithard, been turfing in PH, more interesting than of late, take a look!'. So, in late winter, I took a look and, yes, looks possible, updated 2009 map for runnability and path existence, planned a 5.5k course, looks ok, route choices round paths... Let's see how the brambles go in summer, looked again in January and yes, one big block now no longer runnable but let's get in there before more things happen. So, it came to pass that on a coolish, almost wind-free day in March 2026, the sound of cursing orienteers returned to Primrose Hill. A few downhill brambles on the way down a small hill to the road bend made you grateful that I didn't make you explore more areas of even heavier bramble. A few didn't realise the difference between a 4m high crag next to a path and a 1m high small crag halfway up a hillside (but visible from the path) which I had painstakingly cleared of moss (not done that for decades!) – that's right, the G and LG were not exactly the same – and some didn't realise that it was meant to be a path run between runnable and nearly runnable forest so insisted taking the direct route through heavy u/g which seemed to come off for some but not others. A larger entry than normal for our Local level events, lovely new parking venue for DEE, hope you enjoyed it, all the staff made Organiser John very welcome, just needed to avoid dates when some big horse events are on, and new FC liaison person also efficient – we even got the

permission document more than a week before the event! (cf BSOC in 2012) Then the tree felling started in early February... but just 2 blocks of bramble infested open forest so no harm done, all quiet by early March.

Mike Smithard, map updater and planner