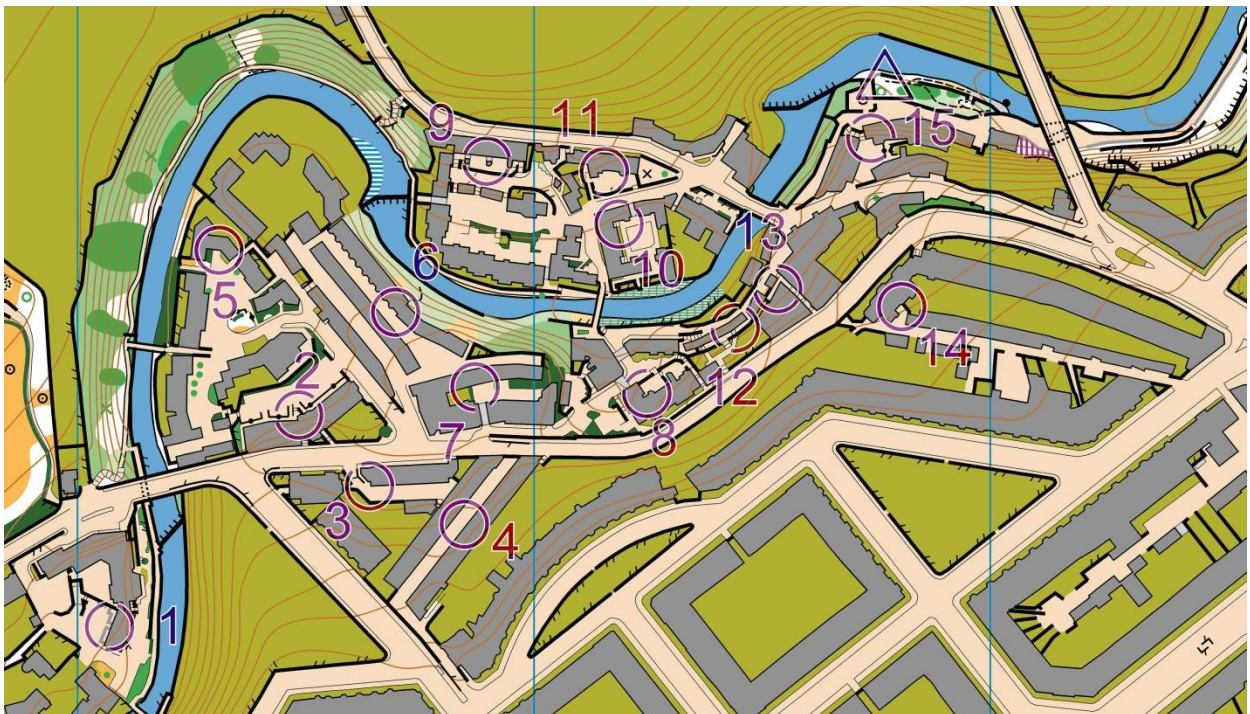


SOA Christmas Countdown Puzzle 2

Santa's Route Choice

Santa's reindeer are feeling very tired - all the short journeys from house to house in the city are tiring them out. Santa has decided to let them have a rest in a small patch of woodland beside the river (marked as Start) and he is going to set off on foot to deliver parcels at the 15 locations shown, before returning for the reindeer and the sleigh.

What route should he take to deliver parcels to each of the 15 locations to minimise the distance he needs to walk? He can visit the locations in any order and he doesn't care about the climb, but he does want to take the shortest possible route. (Being a law abiding person he will obey all uncrossable boundaries and private areas)



If the reindeer had been able to fly the sleigh directly to the 15 locations would they have delivered the parcels in the same order to minimise their distance travelled?