



Berkshire Orienteers
Concorde Chase Weekend 2025
25th and 26th January

Final Details

Berkshire Orienteers welcome you to our premier weekend of the year consisting of a tricky urban race around the estates of Great Hollands and Wildridings on Saturday morning followed by a long-distance forest event including the 2025 SCOA Championships at Cold Ash, Hermitage on Sunday.

The weekend would not take place without the goodwill and cooperation of the landowners, their tenants, local councils and businesses permitting parking and finally the key officials supported by on the day volunteers without whom this weekend could not take place.

Photography at this event will be subject to the Club's Guidelines. These can be found on the club's internet site: <http://www.bko.org.uk/photography>

Risk Assessments -Comprehensive risk assessments have been carried out by the organisers of both events in conjunction with the other officials and will be available to read at the events. Participants take part at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety during the event.

Public Liability Insurance - Both events are registered with and as a result covered by the British Orienteering Public Liability Insurance cover.

Saturday 25th January – Urban Race Great Hollands & Wildridings

Travel and Parking

Post code: RG12 8YS Grid Reference: SU853683 What3words: ///hoot.kick.define
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The assembly area is accessible by public transport and is 1.5miles (around 30 mins) from Bracknell Railway Station. It is also serviced by the Reading bus Lion 4 (southern Industrial area stop).

For these travelling by car, parking will be in the carpark of Fujitsu on Lovelace Road in Bracknell.

The entrance will be indicated by a large Orienteering sign. The entrance is barred – This may be open - If not please press the button marked ‘Security’, so that you can be admitted. Please follow the parking directions to the south(far) end of the carpark.

There is a separate exit close to registration/download.

Assembly Area

The assembly area is in the south-east corner of the car park.

Compass Point will be in attendance.

Toilets will be available.

There will be a key drop at Enquiries.

First Aid is provided for this weekend by Face2Face Medical in the assembly area.

Bracknell Urgent Care Centre, London Road, Bracknell, RG12 9RT (2.5 miles from Car Park) is open from 8am to 8pm.

The nearest A&E is Frimley Park Hospital, Portsmouth Rd, Frimley, GU16 7UJ.

Dogs

On leads in the car park. They are not permitted out on the courses.

Registration

Pre entry for this event is through www.racesignup.co.uk. Pre-registered competitors with their own SIAC or SI dibbers can go straight to the start. Any competitor who has hired a SIAC should collect it from Enquiries. A charge of £72 will be made for lost SIAC dibbers hired on the day.

There will be no EOD, however if you have changed dibbers, or need other changes this can be done at Registration. Registration/Enquiries will be open from 0930.

Medical Conditions -If a competitor has any medical conditions that First Aid/Ambulance would need to know about please complete the form found here - https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/organiser_library (called medical form under ‘Safety Resources’), seal it in an envelope and leave it with Enquiries. It can be collected again after the competitor has downloaded or it will be shredded after the event. There will be paper copies of the form available to complete and leave at Enquiries.

Start and Finish

Start times are between 1030 and 1230 and the courses close at 1430. Call up at –4 minutes. The pre-start is 1km from the assembly area – follow the taped route which goes via the finish – **There is a road crossing just before the pre-start because of this, all juniors must be accompanied to the start by an adult.**

The Finish is 300m from the assembly area.

Although start times have been allocated, it is a punching start. If you miss your start time you will not be penalised but can start when a suitable slot occurs.

It will be a **PUNCHING START** and a **PUNCHING FINISH** with the rest of the controls SIAC enabled. Please ensure that you clear your SI dibber before you run (clear, check and SIAC test will be in the pre-start area).

Due to the proximity of residential housing, the start clock will be silent – There will be no beep.

REMINDER – Please remember to report to download after you finish or if you retire and do not finish your course.

Results

We aim to have provisional results displayed during the event on our website (www.bko.org.uk). A link to results will be printed on your splits printout as well as being available as a QR code in the download area.

We aim to have a complete set of Provisional results loaded to the BKO website and 'RouteGadget' set up by the end of the evening.

Courses

Course	Classes	Length - optimal route	Climb	No. of controls
1	Men Open	10.6km	50m	31
2	Men Vet 40+, Women Open	9.1km	45m	25
3	Men Supervet 55+, Women Vet 40+	8.4km	35m	28
4	Men Ultravet 65+, Women Supervet 55+	7.1km	30m	25
5	Men Hypervet 75+, Women Ultravet 65+, Women Hypervet 75+	4.4km	20m	15
6	Men Junior 16-, Women Junior 16-	3.5km	15m	17
7	Men Young Junior 12-, Women Young Junior 12-	2.2km	10m	12

Following the rule change in 2024, course lengths are measured as: "... the shortest route which a competitor could reasonably possibly take.... (Rule 17.5)"

Great Hollands and Wildridings are areas of complex housing with multiple footpaths and passageways with some open and wooded areas. Courses will be technically testing with complex route choice. Please take care when navigating the narrower passageways, especially around blind bends and respect the right of way of residents

Course 7 (M/W12-), stays on footpaths and does not cross any roads. There are two compulsory underpasses with controls adjacent to guide competitors safely.

Course 6 (M/W16-) crosses quieter roads, with two compulsory underpasses being used to cross the busier (darker brown) roads.

Courses 1-5 cross these busier roads, these are still 30mph but carry through traffic which tends to travel faster.

Courses 1-4 Leave the Great Hollands area and enter Wildridings for the middle section of the course before returning to Great Hollands.

Map/Control Descriptions

The map scale is 1:4000 with 2.5m contours, updated December 2024 to ISSprOM 2019-2.

The event uses the areas of Great Hollands and Wildridings. Courses 5-7 stay in the Great Hollands area.

Maps for courses 1-4 are A3 (double-sided). Courses 5-7 are A3 single-sided.



There is a limited legend on all maps with the following special map symbols –

- Green cross X tree stump.
- Black cross X bench or play equipment.
- Black circle O sculpture or statue

Control Descriptions:

The only special control description used is a X for a bench.

Two new or relatively rarely used symbols are as follows: -

- Turn the map over 
- Canopy / underpass 

Map Overprint:

Courses 1-4 start on map side 1, flip to map side 2 and then flip back to side 1 to complete the course. Start and Finish are on side 1 (Great Hollands). The last control on side 1 is indicated with the usual control circle. On turning the map over, the same control is indicated with the 'continuing point' symbol -triangle in circle. The same occurs when leaving side 2 and returning to side 1.



Juniors running courses 6 and 7 should be aware of the canopy/underpass symbol on the map with the hatched brown symbol. The example (right) shows a road underpass



Sunday – Long Distance Race and SCOA Championships at Cold Ash

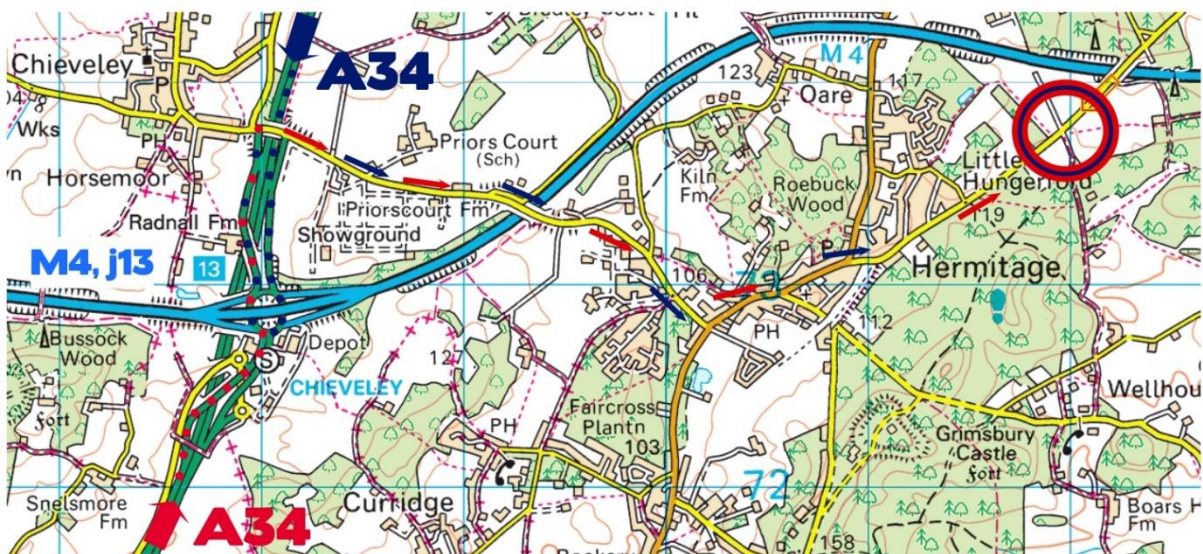
Travel

The event Car Park and Arena can be accessed **only** from Everington Lane, Hermitage, Berkshire.

- Grid reference: SU520737
- Post Code: RG18 9XP
- What3words: ///returns.maybe.enchanted

By Road: Competitors are advised to approach from the west through Hermitage village. (**NOTE: if travelling north or south on the A34 you must initially exit onto the M4 J13 interchange**). **From the roundabout at M4 J13 (A34) take the exit for A34 northbound** (towards Oxford). Keep left and filter off BEFORE you rejoin A34(N) following signs to Hermitage and Newbury Showground. It's a long detour if you miss this turn!

At the top of the slip road turn right towards Hermitage. After 2.5km at the mini roundabout turn left onto B4009 through the village. After 800m turn right, signposted Yattendon/Pangbourne (O signs at this junction only). After 1.3km turn right onto a single lane gravel track leading south to the event parking and arena.



A34 from south follow red dots and arrows

A34 from north follow blue dots and arrows

M4, exit at Junction 13 and follow alternating red/blue dots

Parking and Assembly will be in the field off the farm track (used for the BOC 2023).

There will be tracking in the entrance way of the field. Please follow the directions of the parking team as the field, although generally quite well drained is very boggy in one area that we have been asked to avoid using that section.

Anyone bringing a coach or larger campervan must notify the Organisers in advance by emailing concorde@bko.org.uk.

Please try not to arrive before 0915 (unless you are a helper).

PLEASE NOTE – vehicle entry is via a single lane farm track with no passing places therefore no exit from the parking field until 1230.

Facilities

Tom's Burger van will be in attendance.

Compass Point will also be present offering a multitude of orienteering items and kit for sale.

There will be event toilets in the assembly field.

First Aid will also be found in the parking field being provided by Face2Face.

West Berkshire Community Hospital, London Road, Benham Hill Thatcham RG18 3AS (6 miles from assembly field) is the nearest minor injuries unit and is open from 0800 to 1700 on Sundays.

For more serious injuries the nearest A&E is Royal Berkshire Hospital, Craven Road, Reading RG1 5AN (15 miles away).

Junior Social Tent – we will erect a tent near to the traders for the SCJS and any other juniors attending to use. There will be some snacks and treats, and they can meet and socialise with other juniors attending this competition

Enquiries

Open from 0915 to 1230 for SI/SIAC Dibber collection.

There will be no EOD at this event – any course change requests to be made at Enquiries who can check map numbers. Dibber number changes can also be done through Enquiries.

Competitors who have pre-entered and have their own SI Dibbers can go direct to the start.

PLEASE NOTE competitors on the Black and Brown courses will require SI Dibbers that can record more than 30 controls. The Short Brown has 28 controls so if you are on this course and there is a chance that you may pass near controls other than those on your course then again, check your dibber will hold more than 30 dibs. If not, then you will need to collect one with the correct capacity from Enquiries.

Medical Conditions -If a competitor has any medical conditions that First Aid/Ambulance would need to know about please complete the form found here - https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/organiser_library (called medical form under 'Safety Resources'), seal it in an envelope and leave it with Enquiries. It can be collected again after the competitor has downloaded or it will be shredded after the event. There will be paper copies of the form available to complete and leave at Enquiries.

Clothing, equipment and conduct

Full leg cover and footwear suitable for the terrain must be worn and a whistle should be carried. Six blasts on the whistle repeated every few minutes indicates the need for assistance. In case of adverse weather, we may require competitors to wear a cagoule or similar waterproof top. If that is the case, there will be signage in assembly and at the entrance to the path leaving assembly to go to the Start.

Please make yourselves aware of and abide by the [British Orienteering Participant Code of Conduct](#) (revised August 2021).

Start

There is one start approx. 700m walk from assembly slightly uphill, allow 10-15 minutes. When you pre-enter you will select your start time. Please try to be on time as some courses will be nearly full and you may have to wait some time before a start slot becomes available.

As this is the SCOA Championships start times will be adhered to and there will be no early starts.

Start times are from 1030 to 1245.

The route to the start begins on the south side of the assembly/parking field and goes up the small track up the hill in the woods to the cottage at the top. Then you will follow the vehicle track to the start. There is occasional traffic on this track, but it will be slow due to the potholes.

Starts for Yellow and Orange courses open at 1045 for safety reasons for the juniors (to ensure they are not on their own in the forest).

Courses close at 1430. All competitors must report to the finish and download even if they have abandoned their run – this is to prevent search parties being organised unnecessarily.

Road Crossings

There are several minor public roads that cross the area, the primary one although little used has a 60MPH limit and traffic can come past at speed. There are two marshalled and timed out crossings of this road with controls on either side of the road. You have **ONE MINUTE** to cross. Please follow any instructions from the marshals at the crossings for your own safety.

Blue and Short Blue courses have a marshalled crossing for the minor road heading south-west over Grimsbury Castle. This will not be timed, but runners should heed the marshal's instructions. Other courses cross the road near the marshalled crossing but are free to choose where they cross. Take care.

Terrain and Planner's notes

We are using the northern part of the Cold Ash map. The area is divided into four zones. All courses use the Northern zone, which features a hill in the east, re-entrants in the south, and flatter terrain in the west, containing many water features. The Yellow, Orange, Light Green and Very Short Green courses remain in this zone. There is a high density of control sites in this zone, so be sure to check the control codes and descriptions.

To the south, and separated by the Marlston road, is the largest zone, Fence Wood, which features a curve of higher ground to the north, west and south, sloping towards the east. The lower ground contains a contoured network of streams and low hills. To the west, separated by a minor road crossing Grimsbury Castle, is a small zone featuring more ditches and ponds. South of Fence Wood, and Bucklebury Alley is another small zone which is only visited by the Black course. Much of this zone is privately owned, and out of bounds. It is crossed by a number of public footpaths which pass the unfenced gardens of private houses, so please be sure to stick to the paths when near them.

The vegetation is a mixture of coniferous and deciduous. The bracken has receded but may still cause problems for some runners in places. Bad areas are indicated on the map with the undergrowth screen.

The recent December gales felled a number of trees. Some block paths. Known areas of fallen timber are indicated on the map with the green fight screen. These should not be used for fine navigation.

With recent wet weather, many tracks and paths are still wet and muddy - "squelchy" as a lady put it.

In the south and south-west area of Fence Wood, there has been forest thinning, leaving brashings in places, but not reducing runnability much. Forestry vehicles have left deeply rutted tracks in places. If wet, they are extremely muddy, and difficult to cross. They are indicated on the map with the "Narrow Ride, Slow Run" linear feature, in a shade of "walk green". Only Blue and longer courses are likely to meet these tracks.

Parts of the northern and western zones are used by mountain bikers. The areas they use are recognisable with jump platforms, and swerving, incised turns on their trails. Few bikers have been observed but take care if they are present. New trails regularly appear. Many minor trails have not been mapped in these areas and elsewhere.

The junior "Talent South" squad will be holding a coaching session in the woods at the same time as the Concorde Chase. They will be using mini kites, which you should ignore.

The Yellow course has a taped route through pathless terrain, between two controls. If paths are covered with leaves, Yellow course runners may encounter Smiley/Frowny faces.

The area has multiple owners with some small areas, especially in the central and southern parts, that are under private ownership and are **OUT OF BOUNDS**. The parts that must not be entered are clearly shown with purple out-of-bounds hatching. Please keep out of these areas to safeguard the use of this area in the future. **If you pass through an area of new planting with high fencing (deer fencing) around it DO NOT CLIMB OVER THE DEER FENCING but use the gate. It goes without saying that you should not trample through any new planting.**

Finish

The Finish will be in the Assembly field. Please ensure you go straight to Download after finishing. If you have abandoned your run for any reason, PLEASE ENSURE YOU STILL DOWNLOAD so we do not send out search teams for missing runners who have gone home.

Map: Drawn to ISOM 2017-2 specification, 5m contours, scale as specified in the table of courses/classes. Updated Nov/Dec 2022 by Peel Land Surveys, further updates Dec 2024 by Ricard Rae. Maps will be digitally printed by BML.

Course Details

Course	Contr ols	Distance (km)	Climb	Descripti ons	Map scale	Paper Size
Yellow	14	2.5	80	Text	1:10,000	A4
Orange	13	2.8	95	Symbols + text	1:10,000	A4
Light Green	16	3.5	130	Symbols	1:10,000	A4
V Short Green	14	3.3	90	Symbols	1:10,000	A4
Short Green	19	3.9	120	Symbols	1:10,000	A3
Green	18	4.6	160	Symbols	1:10,000	A3
Short Blue	20	5.1	185	Symbols	1:10,000	A3
Blue	21	6.7	205	Symbols	1:10,000	A3
Short Brown	28	8.1	240	Symbols	1:10,000	A3
Brown	33	10.1	295	Symbols	1:10,000	A3
Black	34	11.7	335	Symbols	1:15,000	A4

Safety Bearing

The competition area runs generally north to south with an undulating ridge along its western edge, bordering mainly onto farmland to the east and the minor road from Cold Ash to Hermitage along the west/south-west edge. In most parts of the map you can head west until you encounter a road then north towards Hermitage. The assembly is at the northern end of the area so generally a bearing of north will take you back towards the finish.

Control Punching

SIAC contactless punching is being used for this day however everyone must dib both the Start and the Finish. All the rest of the controls will be SIAC enabled. If you do not have a SIAC contactless card, then you need to dib the units as usual.

SIAC test unit will be situated near the Enquiries team where you can test before you go to the start.

If a SIAC card fails to register at a control in contactless mode, you should **revert to 'dibbing'**. A SIAC card with a flat battery will still function in dibbing mode, and the beep/flash feedback from the control unit will confirm you have punched.

SCOA Championships

This event is also the SCOA Long Distance Championships for club members who are affiliated to British Orienteering through the SCOA Region. Medals will be awarded to the winners at the next SCOA League event – the BADO event on 30th March 2025 at Chawton Park Wood.

Dogs

On leads in the parking field/assembly, not permitted out on the courses and please make sure you clear up after them. **There may be sheep in nearby fields** so please adhere to this.

Biosecurity

Please come to the event with clean and dry shoes and clothing. After your run, please follow the guidance that helps us to protect our precious environment: Check – Clean – Dry.

Risk Assessments -Comprehensive risk assessments have been carried out by the organisers of both events in conjunction with the other officials and will be available to read at the events. Participants take part at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety during the event.

Public Liability Insurance - Both events are registered with and as a result covered by the British Orienteering Public Liability Insurance cover.

Event officials

Planner: Richard Rae

Controller: Terry Smith (SOC)

Organisers: Jane Courtier and Fiona Clough

Thanks to the landowners for permitting us to orienteer on their land

Eling Estates

Bernard Clark & David Edwards-Moss

Richard Goodman for use of his field.