



Berkshire Orienteers

The Orienteering Club for Berkshire and Surrounding Areas

Bloom Wood (Marlow) SCOA regional event

Monday 5th May 2025

Final details

Please read this page if nothing else!	
Location / entry point	Participants must enter the parking area using Winchbottom Lane from the south (Marlow Road/A4155). Parking is on a field off Winchbottom Lane. Nearest Postcode: SL7 3RN OS grid ref: SU865892 What3words:///unique.sung.super
Parking	In field and on track between assembly and the finish. Parking will be tight and has been limited to 110 cars (by limiting entries for drivers). We aim to park fully electric cars on the track. Parking open from 09:30.
Arrival & Departure	We will operate a one way system along Winchbottom Lane. Arrive from the south on Winchbottom Lane (via A4155). Depart to the north on Winchbottom Lane.
Control Descriptions	On maps and loose at start
Route to start	Start: Less than 100m from enquiries tent.
Entry on Day	No EOD on the day due to space restrictions
Water provision	None
Facilities	First Aid, Toilets

WELCOME

From Berkshire Orienteers

Welcome to our BKO regional event on the bank holiday Monday that is part of the SCOA League Event series (SCOL8).

We hope you will enjoy the challenges set by the planner and the generally fast running conditions in the forest. The roughest and most challenging areas of vegetation have been avoided. The bluebells are in full flower and give a magnificent blue spectacle. These areas including the paths and rides are strictly out of bounds and marked on the map. Courses have been planned to avoid these areas and any diversion marked on the map must be followed! The landowner has requested that patches of bluebells are avoided and failure to do so may jeopardise future use of the area. You may encounter isolated pockets of bluebells not marked on the map that you should please run around and avoid trampling.

The forecast for next week is sunny, including a heat wave towards the end of the week. Currently, the forecast for 5th May is for cloudy but dry. Let's hope it stays that way. If substantial rain is forecast, this will change the parking situation. If this is looking likely a further event notice will be issued.

The event would not take place without the goodwill and cooperation of the landowner, and the volunteers helping. Many thanks to all of you.

John Methven, Event organiser, and Stefan Stasiuk, Planner.

TRAVEL, PARKING AND Assembly

Car park will be open from 0930.

Parking will be tight. If anyone is bringing a minibus or large vehicle like a camper van, you must notify the Organiser in advance by emailing events@bko.co.uk.

Assembly area contains:

- Enquiries & SIAC dibber collection
- Download
- Toilets
- First Aid

ENQUIRIES, INCLUDING KEY DROP

Competitors travelling alone can leave car keys here as a safety check.

ENTRIES AND CHANGES

Entries and changes to entries via Racesignup only. Entries close by midnight at the end of 1st May. no Entry on the day due to the tight space on parking.

MAPS

Map scale 1:10,000, 5m contour intervals. The map has had some smaller updates in 2023. Maps will be digitally printed by BML. Map size will be A4 for all courses (double sided for Brown and Blue courses). The most recent event in the area was in 2023. The map for that event can be found on [Bloom Wood 2023-05-21 \(routeadgadget.co.uk\)](https://routeadgadget.co.uk/Bloom%20Wood%202023-05-21).

CONTROL PUNCHING

Touch-free SIAC timing system will be used, or SI dibbers. SIACs will be available to hire (please specify on entry). The start and finish will be punching controls, all the other controls on the courses will be touch-free enabled.

DOGS

Dogs are allowed in the field and track used for car park and assembly. But nowhere else. Dogs must be always kept under control. Please clean up after your dog.

SAFETY AND RISK

British Orienteering rules require that you **MUST** wear full leg and body (torso) cover.

Whistles plus Windproof jackets may be compulsory depending on the weather. This is unlikely as the event takes place in May and the Met Office forecast is for dry weather. If required, signs announcing this will be displayed in the Arena.

There will be a mobile phone number printed on competitor maps for use in an emergency. This will enable you to contact an official in the arena. If any incident occurs in the assembly area or car park please inform Enquiries.

Orienteering is an adventure sport. While we have carried out a full risk assessment of the competition areas, and put in place mitigation of found risks, please be aware that competitors take part at their own risk. Each competitor is responsible for their own safety. Suitable clothing and footwear should be worn, paying attention to the weather on the day.

GPS DEVICES & MOBILE PHONES

Competitors are reminded that they are only permitted to use a GPS device to record data for post-race analysis and are only permitted to use a mobile phone to call for assistance in the event of an emergency. Such devices must not be used to assist with navigation.

SHADOWING

For the open classes, shadowing is permitted. The person helping must have already completed their own run.

WATER

None is provided either on courses or at the finish on either day. Competitors should bring their own. It is currently forecast to be sunny on the day, so please stay hydrated.

RESULTS

FINAL RESULTS

Links to the final results, Routegadget, Winsplits and Splitsbrowser will be on the BKO website as soon as possible after the event. www.bko.org.uk/results

MEDICAL SERVICES

FIRST AID

On site First Aid will be provided by Face2Face Medical. They will be located at the assembly area.

EMERGENCY HOSPITAL SERVICES

See **Appendix A** at the end of this document.

PHOTOGRAPHY

In accordance with British Orienteering Child Welfare Policy and Procedures, we request that any person wishing to engage in any video, zoom or close-range photography should read and comply with *section 4.8 of British Orienteering's O Safe Policy*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Berkshire Orienteers would like to thank the landowner at Bloom Farm, Jamie Mash and family, for the kind permission to use the area for the event. Also, we thank the Carrington Estate for access to the northwest corner of the area.

TIMETABLE

- 09:30 Car park open

- 10:30 First start time
- 12:30 Last start time
- 14:30 Courses close

TRAVEL

The event Car Park and Assembly must only be accessed via Winchbottom Lane **from the south** (Marlow Road/A4155).

- Nearest Postcode: SL7 3RN.
- What3words [///unique.sung.super](https://www.what3words.com/unique.sung.super)

By Road:

From the north. If travelling on the M40, then use junction 4 and exit onto A404 south towards High Wycombe/Marlow. After 2.3 miles, take the A4155 exit towards Bourne End. Turn left (north) onto Winchbottom Lane.

From the south. If travelling on the M4. At junction 8/9, take the A404(M) exit to High Wycombe. Then exit to A4155 Bourne End. Turn left (north) onto Winchbottom Lane.

By Public Transport:

The nearest railway station is Bourne End or Marlow, both of which are about 2.5 miles from the event centre. There is no bus service. It would be better to approach from Bourne End station via footpaths and along Winchbottom Lane. If you approach via footpath from Marlow then you may well enter the orienteering area on the track being used for the starts.

SAFETY BEARING

The shorter courses will keep to the west of Winchbottom Lane. The Longer courses will start to the west of Winchbottom Lane and will have a timed road crossing to the east competition area and back.

The competition area is intersected by Winchbottom Lane which is also the lowest part of the competition area. If you get disorientated, then you can head downhill until you reach Winchbottom Lane and then walk south back to the assembly area. Do not walk on the road but parallel to it as the traffic can be fast and visibility for drivers is poor.

START

Less than 100m from assembly.

COURSE & CLASS DETAILS

Course	Class	Length	Climb	Map scale	Size
Yellow	Open	2.4 km	70 m	1:10,000	A4
Orange	Open	2.6 km	100 m	1:10,000	A4
Light Green	Open	3.8 km	145 m	1:10,000	A4
Green	Open	5.0 km	160 m	1:10,000	A4
Short Green	Open	3.1 km	130 m	1:10,000	A4
Blue	Open	7.1 km	210 m	1:10,000	A4 (double-sided)
Brown	Open	9.2 km	245 m	1:10,000	A4 (double-sided)

CONTROL DESCRIPTIONS

Control descriptions will be printed on the map using IOF symbols, except for the Yellow course which will use text descriptions only. On the Orange course the control description will be in both symbols and text. Loose descriptions will be available in the start lanes.

ROAD CROSSINGS

Longer courses (Brown, Blue, Green and Light Green) will have a marshalled and timed out (max 1 minute) road crossing as they enter the eastern part of the map (indicated in control descriptions) and also on returning to the west area. **Please follow any instructions from marshals for your own safety.** Whilst the road is not busy, some vehicles may be travelling at speed.

For your own safety (as well as compliance with the rules), please do not run along the main road intersecting the competition area.

TERRAIN & PLANNER'S NOTES

Bloom wood is a variable wood predominantly Beech typical of the Chilterns and it is in good condition for Orienteering before the summer growth takes over. There are some excellent fast running possibilities through the wood but careful navigation to the control will often be required. The roughest and most challenging areas of vegetation have been avoided. The Bluebells are in full flower and give a magnificent blue spectacle. These areas including the paths and rides are strictly out of bounds and marked on the map. Courses have been planned to avoid these areas and any diversion marked on the map must be followed! You may encounter isolated pockets of Bluebells not marked on the map that you should please run around and avoid trampling.

START PROCEDURE

All competitors will have a punching start.

Runners will have a start time block and should form a queue when arriving at their start.

If you are late for your start, do not panic. Simply speak to the start volunteer and they will fit you in.

FINISH

Will be close to the assembly area. Please take care in walking back to assembly because there will be car parking either side of the track.

ALL COURSES CLOSE AT 14:30!

All competitors must report to download by this time, whether you have finished your course or not. Having started, if you decide to retire (not finish your course) you must still report to download as soon as possible (and in any case by not later than the course closing time of 14:30).

APPENDIX A: EMERGENCY HOSPITAL SERVICES

Nearest A&E hospital:	Wexham Park Hospital (A&E, 15 miles, 24 hours) Tel: 0300 614 5000 Wexham St, Slough SL2 4HL	Map will be available at Enquiries and with Event Medical Services.
Minor Injuries Unit:	Wycombe Hospital (3.6 miles, 24 hours, Minor injuries unit): Tel: 01494 526161 Queen Alexandra Rd, High Wycombe HP11 2TT	