

WESSEX ORIENTEERING CLUB

Purbeck Weekend of Orienteering (Regional)

4th/5th October 2025

FINAL DETAILS

INFORMATION FOR BOTH DAYS

Weekend Co-ordinator: Julie Astin - julie.astin14@gmail.com

SI Electronic Punching:

SI will be used for this event and controls are SIAC-enabled. There will be a SIAC Battery Check box situated near Enquiries/Download.

Please check you are using the SI number you entered with.

If you need to change the number, please inform DOWNLOAD before your run.

Procedure:

- Competitors with their own dibber may go straight to the START.
- **PLEASE ENSURE YOU KNOW WHICH COURSE YOU'RE RUNNING. THERE WILL BE NO START LIST.**
- Competitors who have hired a dibber should collect it from Enquiries..
- If you wish to change your course, please visit Download before you run; changes limited to map availability.

Results:

Results will be uploaded to the WSX website: www.wessex-oc.org.uk/results as soon as is feasible after the event. Routegadget will be available for uploading your routes after the event.

Dogs: Dogs are not permitted on the courses and must be kept on a lead in the car park.

Medical Issues:

Competitors with pre-existing medical conditions may wish to leave details of their condition, any medication they take and emergency contact details with the Enquiries team. Please place in a sealed envelope which will only be opened in an emergency and which will be destroyed after the event if not collected by the competitor.

The form can be downloaded here: [Medical & Contact Details](#)

First Aid:

This will be available at Enquiries and provided by members of WSX OC.

There is a minor injuries unit located at Swanage Community Hospital, Queens Road, Swanage BH19 2ES

The nearest A&E department is Poole Hospital, Longfleet Road, Poole BH15 2JB.

Any major injuries must be reported to the Organiser.

Disclaimer:

Orienteering is an adventure sport and competitors take part at their own risk. Please note that personal injury through the normal course of orienteering is not covered by British Orienteering's public liability insurance.

Photos will be taken at this event by an appointed member of Wessex OC in line with the British Orienteering guidance: O-Safe. Objections to this should be lodged with the Organiser in advance.

Cancellation:

In the event of the cancellation due to extreme weather, or other circumstances, a notice will be posted on the club website: <http://www.wessex-oc.org.uk/>

Wessex Orienteering Club reserves the right to retain part of the entry fee to cover costs already incurred. Details of how to obtain a refund in the event of cancellation will be posted on the website and also sent the email used to enter.

Any particular keen runner for whom two courses during the weekend is not enough, might like to consider adding in the Durlston Parkrun on Saturday morning. This is one of the most challenging parkruns in the country and features 180m of climb and an almost total lack of any flat sections. You have been warned !

DAY 1 - STUDLAND DUNES - 4TH OCTOBER**Directions:**

- Competitors travelling from the east may wish to use the chain ferry at Sandbanks to avoid driving around Poole Harbour. Toll charges can be found here: <https://www.sandbanksferry.co.uk/tolls/>
- From the Sandbanks Chain Ferry, follow Ferry Road to Knoll Beach, signed off to your left.
- Competitors travelling from the west: From Corfe Castle, take the B3351 towards Studland for 5 miles. Just after the Knoll House Hotel (on your left) the entrance to Knoll Beach Car Park will be signed on the right.

Parking:

National Trust Car Park, Knoll Beach, Studland BH19 3AQ. GR: SZ 034 828 GPS: 50.645235, -1.953777
What 3 Words: situated.stun.dubbing

There will be no Car Parking team, so please find yourself a space and obtain a ticket at the NT machines. If you are NT members parking is free, however, you will need to scan your card at one of the machines and display your ticket. For non-members, the fee can be paid by cash or PaybyPhone app only.

Facilities:

- Knoll Beach Cafe serves sandwiches, hot food, drinks and snacks. Only Guide Dogs are permitted inside the cafe.
- The Toilet Block is opposite the cafe.

Enquiries and Download:

There will be no WSX tents erected; instead, we will be using a small covered area outside the Knoll Beach Cafe. Hire Dibbers, key drop and medical form drop will be at Enquiries.

Assembly Area:

The NT have stipulated that **NO CLUB BANNERS/TENTS MAY BE ERECTED.**

Event Officials:

Planner – Jon Brooke (WSX); Controller – Ian Peirce (Sarum) Organiser – Nicki Brooke (WSX)

Planner's notes - PLEASE READ ALL OF IT!

Courses up to Green are based exclusively in the area of sand dunes immediately to the west of Studland beach. The whole area has intricate contours with many knolls and depressions. Much of the area is covered with heather, with pockets of woodland and scattered trees and some gorse, though gorse can be avoided using optimum routes. There are also some more open sandy areas, where counter-intuitively some of the paths are slower running than the surrounding rough open because of bare soft sand underfoot, especially if it has been dry during preceding days.

Please **DO NOT cross areas of marsh within the dunes**. Marsh areas **within the dunes** are **OUT OF BOUNDS**, even though they have not been marked out of bounds for clarity of the map.

If you find yourself considering a route across a marsh, then you are not on an optimal route.

The Brown and Blue courses only have a separate start on the open heathland behind the sand dunes and make use of the heathland around the inside of Poole Harbour to the west of the dunes. This heathland is almost all covered in short heather although there are some interesting contour details and areas of vegetation nearer the water's edge. There are also some areas of marsh on the heathland but these have been marked where they are out of bounds. Once the Brown and Blue courses enter the dunes (after a timed out road crossing), then the same warning about **all areas of marsh within the dunes areas being OUT OF BOUNDS** applies.

Please be very respectful of the ruling on marshes within the dunes being OUT OF BOUNDS. The Studland Dunes are an especially important natural environment and we only have permission to run here on the condition that we avoid disturbing marshy areas.

The road crossing for Blue and Brown courses only is timed out, with controls on either side of the road. You will automatically get a 1 minute timeout, but please take care, and report to download if you have been forced to take a longer timeout because of traffic (e.g. if a ferry is just unloading and there is a stream of traffic). Visibility at this crossing point is extremely good and there is no marshal at the crossing. There will be a sign at the checkpoint before the crossing to remind you that the crossing is timed out.

For Green, Blue and Brown courses only, it is worth noting that the E edge of the northern part of the dunes is a popular Naturist beach. It is unlikely to be densely populated with naturists in October, but it is possible that you may come across naked people, also avoiding the gorse.

Map:

Mapped 2022 (Ben Mitchell). Updated 2023 (Tim Houlder). Extended and updated 2025 (Jon Brooke)

Brown/Blue

Scale: 1:7500

Contour Interval: 2.5m

Size: A3

White to Green

Scale 1:5000

Contours 2.5m

Size: A4

- Control Descriptions are printed on the maps and loose copies will be available in the start lanes.
- White and Yellow courses have text descriptions; all other courses have pictorial ones.
- There isn't a full map legend on the maps.
- Competitors on White and Yellow courses may pick up their maps before entering the start lanes.

Courses:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Start</u>
Brown	8.3km	Far
Blue	6.8km	Far
Green	3.6km	Near
Short Green	2.4km	Near
Light Green	2.5km	Near
Orange	2.2km	Near
Yellow	1.8km	Near
White	1.6km	Near

Climb has not been calculated as the area is largely flat, except for the undulating dunes.

Note: the White and Yellow courses are technically slightly harder than the Planner would have liked them to be, but there are only a limited number of suitable paths/linear features in the area. Plenty of white and yellow smiley faces will be deployed, but if you are concerned about your child's ability to navigate the courses after looking at the map, please consider shadowing them.

There won't be a String Course, but maps for the **Permanent Orienteering Course** on the dunes will be available at Enquiries if parents wish to take youngsters around it.

Start:

To make the most of the area, the planner has used 2 starts. Brown/Blue courses will use the **Far Start** which will involve a 1km walk, across the road from the car park and through the woods and along a path onto the heath.

The route will be tagged. **TAKE CARE CROSSING THE ROAD AS THERE WILL BE NO MARSHAL**

At the top of the driveway into Knoll Beach, the path goes into the trees on the opposite side of the road.

The very start of the path is hard to see - but will be signed/tagged - and you will have to duck under some branches to get to it. But don't lose confidence - it IS there!

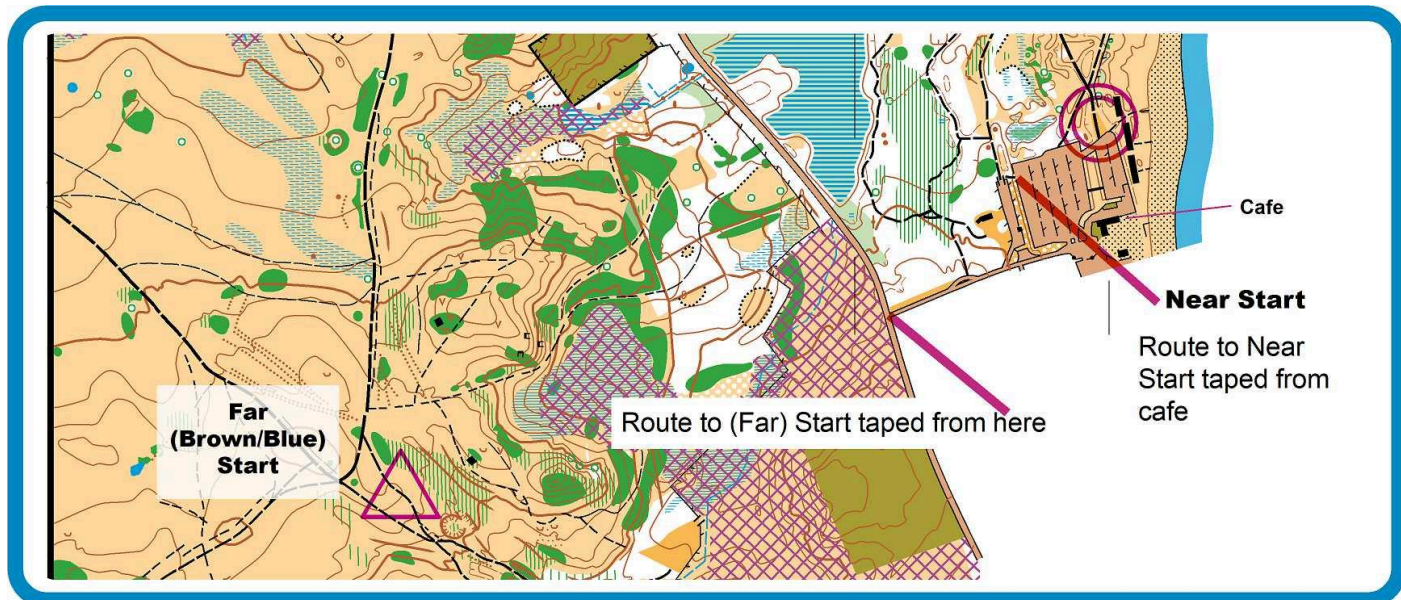
All other courses will use **Near Start** which is at the NW corner of the main car park on the N side of the entry road, about 100m from the cafe.

The Finish is approximately 350m from Download.

There is a punching start/finish for both SI and SIAC users.

The Starts will be open from **12.00-14.00**

Courses close at 16.00.



YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING THAT YOU PICK UP THE CORRECT MAP

Whistles are advisable for all competitors.

In the event of severe weather, the carrying of a waterproof jacket may be compulsory. If the organiser decides to enforce this, a notice will be placed in the car park.

THERE IS NO CLOTHING DUMP.

Safety:

- Other users will be on the dunes, including horse riders. Please be courteous and considerate at all times.
- If lost, competitors can head E to the beach and then head South to Download at Knoll Beach Cafe

Courses close at 16.00. ALL competitors must punch the Finish control and return to DOWNLOAD even if they do not complete their course. If you do not do this, we may waste a lot of time sending out a search party for you.

We are very grateful to the National Trust and Natural England for allowing us to use Studland Dunes



**National
Trust**

DAY 2 - DURLSTON COUNTRY PARK - SUNDAY OCTOBER 5th

Directions/Parking: Once in Swanage, follow brown tourist signs to Durlston Country Park and park in the Learning Centre car park. **w3w: pots.chuckling.bluffing**

There will be marshalls to direct you. Please park as tight as you can.

There are parking charges, payable on the way out. The rates are £3.75 for 2 hours; £5.00 for 3 hours and £6.30 for 5+ hours. A free parking option is on Lighthouse Road on the approach to Durlston, but there is a 15 minute walk through the woods. The choice is yours!

Please car share as much as possible.

Assembly: - in the Learning Centre, where there are toilets. There is also a cafe at the Castle, where only guide dogs (and people!) are allowed.

Event Officials:

Planner: Roger Crickmore (WSX) Controller: Karen French (WIM) Organiser – Julie Astin (WSX)

Terrain:

Apart from White and Yellow which are on flat ground, the courses mainly take place on a south-facing slope with spectacular views out over the English Channel. The area is mainly open but with a large number of thickets of varying sizes and some regions of intricate contour details. Most of the open areas are quite runnable. There are a number of walls and fences that must only be crossed at the mapped crossing points, which in some cases will involve opening and closing a gate. The courses are somewhat shorter than average but additional physical challenge is provided by a relatively large amount of climb.

Map:

Mapped 2025 by Nick Nourse (The Mapworks)

Scale: 1:5000

Contour Interval: 5m

Size: All courses have A3 maps

- Control Descriptions are printed on the maps and loose copies will be available in the start lanes.
- White and Yellow courses have text descriptions, all other courses have pictorial ones.
- Competitors on White and Yellow courses may pick up their maps before entering the start lane

Courses:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Length/Climb</u>
Brown	7.8K/280m
Blue	6.5k/255m
Green	4.8k/180m
Short Green	3.5k/95m
Light Green	3.9k/115m
Orange	2.5k/75m
Yellow	1.9k/20m
White	1.5k/15m

Start:

The START will be taped for approximately 200m from the Learning Centre. The Finish is approximately 150m from Download.



There is a punching start for both SI and SIAC users. **The START will be open from 10.30-12.30**

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING THAT YOU PICK UP THE CORRECT MAP

Whistles are advisable for all competitors.

In the event of severe weather, the carrying of a waterproof jacket may be compulsory. If the organiser decides to enforce this, a notice will be placed in the car park.

Safety:

- Other users may be using the area. Please be courteous and considerate at all times.
- Safety bearings: if on the south slope, head north (uphill) then east to the Start area. If on the northern flat section, simply head east.
- An emergency contact number is on the map.

Courses close at 14.30. ALL competitors must punch the Finish control and return to DOWNLOAD even if they do not complete their course. If you do not do this, we may waste a lot of time sending out a search party for you.

In entering this event you have signed up to the British Orienteering Participant Code of Conduct.

We are grateful to Dorset Council for allowing us to use Durlston Country Park.

