



Writtle Forest Open event (Local/Level D) on Saturday 26th September 2026
 Final Details Host: EAOA

PLEASE NOTE THE PERIOD FOR STARTS IS EARLIER THAN NORMAL.

Open event starts will run from 9.30 to 11.00am. Courses close 12.30pm.

Slower participants running longer courses are encouraged to start early.

Saturday 26th September Open event					
Location	Writtle Forest near Mill Green, near Ingatestone CM4 0PR (What 3words ///spell.lance.visual).				
Travel directions	Monks and Barrows Farm, Mapletree Lane, Mill Green, near Ingatestone. The nearest postcode is CM4 0PR. O signs from Mill Green Road. Access from J15 of the Southbound A12 via Margaretting, J12 of the Northbound A12 via Mountnessing and Fryerning or at the Fox and Goose from the A414 via Highwood Road and Ingatestone Road. Parking on grass. No vehicle departures before 12.30 due to single track access road.				
Terrain	Ancient woodland. Runnable forest with some areas of complex contour. There are relatively few distinct footpaths but the streams, gullies and earthwalls provide linear 'handrails' for navigating.				
Map	Map scale 1:10000, 5m contours, A4 landscape size, updated for the event. There is no legend on the map but normal ISOM mapping symbols have been used. Obvious large hides are marked by a black 'X' on the map. Shooting seats attached to trees are marked by a black 'T' on the map. Blue course maps are double sided. Copies of the previous map can be found on the SOS routegadget https://www.sos.routegadget.co.uk/rg2/#96				
Courses	Course	Distance (km)	No. of Controls	Climb	Technical Difficulty
	Orange	3.4	15	45	Moderate
	Short Green	3.7	19	35	Hard
	Green	5.2	19	65	Hard
	Blue	7.2	30	90	Hard
SI	SI electronic punching will be used. This event will be SIAC enabled, however you will have to punch the start boxes. The finish boxes will be SIAC enabled, but there is a check box after the finish that must be punched by all competitors. Hire Si cards (non SIAC) will be available to collect at enquiries. All controls will have a backup pin punch. If you think the SI unit has failed at a control, then pin punch your map to prove you visited the control and report your actions at download.				

Planner's Notes	Writtle Forest is a private ancient broad-leaved woodland. There are relatively few distinct footpaths but the streams, gullies and earthwalls provide linear 'handrails' for navigating. The rolling woodland offers good visibility and runnability with scope for fast orienteering for those who can maintain map contact at speed. Some patches of tall bracken (1.5m or taller) existing in the semi-open and open areas are mapped with the green undergrowth screen to indicate that they impede visibility and runnability. Elsewhere there is some low, sparse bracken under woodland which does not impede visibility or runnability and so it is not mapped. Mapped rootstocks are at least 1.2m tall and some are 2m or taller. Shooting seats attached to trees are mapped with the black 'T' symbol. Mapped hides are large and obvious; other smaller ones are not mapped. Mapped prominent small trees are single holly trees in otherwise deciduous woodland. Some prominent large dead trees which are used as control sites are described in the control description symbols as being 'ruined'. The area is divided into 3 blocks. The Southern wood has a dense pattern of earthwalls, gullies and other earth features. It is linked to the Middle wood by a short run along a field margin. The Middle wood has a more rolling character with fewer features including a stream, ditch and gully network and some larger patches of open and semi-open land. The Northern wood beyond a compulsory road crossing is flat and fast but also includes a complex pitted area. Two large depressions in this wood are used for archery practice. These depressions are not marked as out of bounds and there will be no archery taking place during the orienteering event.
Arena	Enquiries, dibber collection, portable toilets, and download all adjacent to parking. First aiders are present at enquiries.
Refreshments	The farmers providing the parking will sell tea, coffee, home-produced milk-shakes and possibly ice-cream. The arena has been grazed by cattle recently. You are advised to use hand sanitiser before eating. No water will be provided so please bring your own.

Starts and Finish	This event is associated with JIRCs 2026 and is open to all. The Open event starts will be from 9.30 to 11.00am with courses close at 12.30pm. Entries will be via racesignup, see WAOC website www.waoc.org.uk. Entries close on 20th September 2026 and there will be <u>no</u> entry on the day. Slower participants running longer courses are encouraged to start early to ensure they finish before courses close. Entry fees will be as follows: Adults: £10 (BO member) £12 (non- BO member) Junior/Student : £3. Timing chip hire (non-SIAC): £1 A £3 charge is payable per car. EAOA helpers on either the Saturday or Sunday can enter at half price if paying the adult rate. Please contact entries@waoc.org.uk BEFORE you enter to obtain the discount code. The JIRCs individual event will start afterwards from 12.30pm to approx 14.30pm. In consequence, maps will be collected at the finish. Coaches, parents and others associated with the Junior Squads may compete in the Open event but under no circumstances discuss their course with a Junior Competitor until after all JIRCs competitors have started. No dogs are allowed in the forest. There will be ample parking. Access is along a single track road which is navigable by cars and minibuses. We are grateful to the landowner, Lord Petre, for allowing use of the forest and to the owner of Monks and Barrows Farm where the parking, download, enquiries and portable toilets will be situated. Qualified first aiders will be present. The start is approximately 300m from the arena. Care is required as the route crosses the vehicle entrance track. The crossing will be marshalled. The warm up area is in the arena before the track crossing as there is little space in the pre-start area. There is a 100m taped route from the Start grid and Start punch towards the Start Kite. This taped route forms part of the competition time and so competitors should run towards the Start Kite once they have punched at the Start grid. The finish is in the arena. All Open event competition maps will be collected at the Finish and placed in club bags. They can be reclaimed after the last JIRCs starts from about 2:30pm.
Results	Presupposing enough mobile signal, live results will be available at the following link: https://www.stragglers.info/latest-results . Otherwise live results will be presented on screens. Results and routegadget will be uploaded to the SOS website https://www.stragglers.info/results
Officials	Organiser: Will Harrison (SUFFOC), phone 07717 376586, email willharrisonglebe@gmail.com Planner: Paul Beckett (HAVOC) Controller: Peter Woods (WAOC) Mapper: Kevin Machin (SOS) Computer/Results: Rod Mansel (SUFFOC) Welfare officer: Helen Hague (WAOC) welfare@waoc.org.uk

Safety Information	• The Blue course includes a road crossing into and out of the Northern wood that is timed out and marshalled. This crossing point will have control sites located each side of the road. Competitors will have up to 2 minutes to cross safely, and this is ample time to walk between the control sites and cross when it is safe to do so. Do not cross or run along this road elsewhere. All other roads that surround the competition area are out of bounds and should not be crossed or run along. • The Northern wood visited by the Blue course includes two very large depressions which are used for archery practice and so they contain targets which are not mapped. These large depressions do not contain any control sites. They are not marked as out-of-bounds. There will be no archery taking place there on the competition day but please be aware of posts in the ground and other associated architecture. • Your course may include a road crossing. This is timed-out and marshalled. Only cross when instructed to do so, and do not cross or run along this road elsewhere. • A risk assessment will have been carried out by the Organiser and all reasonable care has been taken by the Organiser and Planner to ensure the safety and well-being of competitors. However participants take part at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety during the event. • Goggles may be made compulsory if the weather is inclement, please bring one with you just in case. These must have a hood – windproof jackets are not an acceptable alternative. • Whistles are compulsory. • Take care whilst in the car park, be aware of moving vehicles. • Full leg and torso cover. • You may meet walkers, dogs, cyclists and horses. Please give plenty of room when passing. • No dogs are allowed in the forest. • There are fallow deer in the forest. They normally avoid humans but might run unpredictably if startled so please give them space and take care near them. It is now the rutting season, so if a male deer behaves in an aggressive manner then a slow retreat is your best course of action. • Competitors are reminded they are required to report to the finish and/or download once they have started a course, whether or not they have completed the course. • All potential competitors must agree to abide by the <u>British Orienteering Participant Code of Conduct</u>. • Photographs might be taken to promote the sport. Please let the organiser know if you do not wish to be included. • There may be ticks in the area. Please check after your run and remove immediately. A leaflet about tick removal can be found by following this link https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057949/Tick_awareness_A5_leaflet.pdf More details about Lyme Disease can be found by following this link https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng95/chapter/Recommendations#clinical-assessment • In line with the policies of British Orienteering, any person wishing to take photos or videos showing children should register their details with the Weekend co-ordinator before taking any such photos or videos. The event organiser reserves the right to ask people to refrain from taking photos or videos and may, if such warnings are ignored, refer the matter to the police.
Nearest A&E Nearest Defibrillator	Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, CM1 7ET 01245 443673 Fryerning Parish Room, Mill Green Road CM4 0HS
Personal Information	EAOA will process entrant information on the basis of legitimate interest to produce competition results, to check for missing runners, used in case of medical emergency, to trace missing SI cards, to provide participation and results information to British Orienteering, and will retain details for a period to meet insurance requirements. Published results may include (but not limited to) name, any club affiliation, race times and age group. Photographs from the event may appear on orienteering websites or publications.
Event cancellation or postponement	For the latest information check www.waoc.org.uk especially in case of forecasted weather warnings.
Acknowledgements	We are very grateful to the landowner, Lord Petre, for allowing use of the forest and to the owner of Monks and Barrows Farm for his help with the parking arena. Thanks to all in EAOA and further afield who have helped us deliver this event.