



Thames Valley  
Orienteering  
Club

# Chiltern Challenge

## National Event inc SCOA Championships

### Penn Wood, Penn Estate and Common Wood

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### FINAL DETAILS

#### Key points

- Parking on hard standing at [lions.sparrows.electric](http://lions.sparrows.electric), HP7 0PX Lone drivers are asked to leave car keys at Enquiries.
- Parking space will be tight. Please help us as follows:
  - Please share cars if you can
  - Early starters are asked to depart soon after their run
  - Those with start times after 11:30 are asked to arrive no earlier than 30 minutes before their start time. You will not be penalised if you are late for your start - just be at the start by 13:00
- Toilets in the car park
- SPORTident punching. SIAC enabled. Only the Start controls will require punching. Competitors must also punch the Safety control after the SIAC-enabled Finish
- Start times listed on [SiEntries](http://SiEntries)
- Start is approximately 500m from the car park. Marshalled road crossing en route to the Start
- Control descriptions in Start lanes. Yellow maps at -4
- There are some fenced enclosures in Penn Wood, used for cattle grazing. Use the access gates marked on the map; DO NOT CLIMB over fences. NB: For clarity, purple 'uncrossable boundary' lines have not been overprinted on the map.
- Two Finishes. Shorter courses (Green and below) finish at the North Finish, near the Start. Longer courses (Short Blue and above) finish at the South Finish
- Both Finishes about 500m from the car park. No clothing dump
- Longer courses have two road crossings; 2 minutes time out for each crossing. Note that a radio control is used at the first road crossing. This puts an additional strain on SIAC batteries; SIAC users with weak batteries should be alert to the risk of battery failure, especially immediately after the road crossing. SIACs will still work after battery failure, but will need to be manually dibbed in each subsequent control.
- Courses close at 15:00. You must report to download by this time
- No post race water. Make sure you bring your own
- Sorry, no traders, due to restricted space. Two nice pubs in Penn Street village
- Map of layout of car parks, facilities, Start and both Finishes at the end of this document
- Sorry no string course

## Safety issues

- **Routes to Start and from the Finishes.** The route to the Start and back from the North Finish involve a marshalled road crossing. Please follow the marshal's instructions. The route back from the South Finish involves an **unmarshalled** road crossing - it is in a 30mph area, and visibility is good.
- **Road Crossings – Short Blue to Black.** All these courses cross a road twice. This road is not busy but traffic can be fast. There will be a time-out of up to two minutes to cross the road at each crossing. There is plenty of time to cross, so do not rush. The road crossings will be marshalled; please follow marshals' instructions.
- **Public Access.** Penn Wood and Common Wood are used by the public for walking, running, dog walking, cycling and horse riding. Please be considerate and courteous towards other users, especially those with dogs and horse riders – our future use of these areas depends on this. Penn Estate is privately owned, with a couple of public footpaths crossing the area.
- **Clothing and Safety Equipment.** Competitors' torso and legs must be covered. For safety reasons we strongly recommend you carry a whistle. The distress signal is six short blasts, wait one minute, and then repeat.
- **Emergency Number.** All maps will be overprinted with an emergency phone number which can be used on the day to contact the Organiser in the event of an emergency.
- **Ponds.** There are a number of ponds in the competition area. More importantly, there is a large pond on Penn Street Common; parents should ensure children do not play around this area.
- **Cattle and other animals.** Penn Wood has some fenced areas (with access gates) which are being used for cattle grazing. Competitors should take particular care when passing by any cattle. Competitors should also be aware that the woods contain deer and other animals, but they are very unlikely to come anywhere near you. We recommend you check for ticks after your run.

## Notes on the area

Penn Wood, Common Wood and Penn Estate are 3 adjoining areas separated by country roads. The woods have been used in various combinations since 2010; the last event was in Penn Wood in November 2021 - [Route gadget link](#). The complete set of woods was last used for the Chiltern Challenge in 2019 - [Route gadget link](#).

Penn Wood is one of the largest ancient woodlands in the Chilterns. The adjacent Common Wood and Two Sisters Plantation have been semi natural ancient woodland for over 400 years. Penn Estate is a traditional rural estate with ancient woodland and has been privately owned by the Penn, Curzon and Howe families for at least 15 generations. The current custodian is Frederick Richard Penn Curzon, 7th Earl Howe - Deputy Leader of the House of Lords and a former Minister of State for Defence.

We are grateful to the following for allowing use of these areas:

- The Woodland Trust (George Griffiths) for Penn Wood.
- The Penn and Tylers Green Residents Society (Mike Morley) for Common Wood.
- Anthony Miller for Two Sisters Plantation.
- Edward Dixon for Penn Estate (owned by Earl Howe).

The commercial premises on which we are parking was a furniture factory for many years. During the war, the woodworking skills of the employees were utilised to manufacture fuselage parts for De Havilland Mosquito aircraft, hence the name given to the redeveloped section of the estate. We are grateful to Sam Buckles for allowing use of the Commercial Estate and the De Havilland Court offices for car parking.

## Travelling by car

**Parking space is very tight. Please share transport if at all possible.** If you are meeting friends at the event, one option would be to meet in Amersham, or the north side of High Wycombe, and share one car to the event. The following car parks are free on Sunday and are just off the route you will be taking:

- in Old Amersham at SU 959972, nearest postcode HP7 0HL, and
- in Hazlemere at SU 890956, nearest postcode HP15 7BD.

Parking for the event is at Penn Street which is just off the A404 between High Wycombe and Amersham.

Please approach the event along the A404.

- If coming from the High Wycombe direction, turn right off the A404 onto Penn Street (confusingly, the road has the same name as the village) at grid reference SU 924965, nearest postcode HP7 0QW. Parking is signposted left off this road after approximately 1km.
- If coming from Amersham, turn left from the A404 into School Lane at grid reference SU 928963, nearest postcode HP7 0QJ; at the far end of School Lane, turn left onto Penn Street. Parking is on the left after approximately 800m.

Car parking is on hard standing / tarmac in two areas adjacent to the Hit or Miss pub.

**Please be alert for pedestrians, who will be sharing the entrance driveway with you.**

Part of your entry fee includes an amount to be donated to a charity nominated by Sam Buckles, who owns the Commercial Estate.

Please park as directed by the marshals, and be prepared to be parked tightly – space is very limited. Enquiries, SIAC hire, Download, First Aid are located in a loading bay. (See map at end of this document)

Please do not park on the roadside in Penn Street or in the pub car parks unless, and only whilst you are, at the pub.

Early starters are kindly requested to leave the car park soon after their runs, in order to allow their parking space to be reused for later arrivals. Late starters (after 11:30) are asked not to arrive more than 30 minutes before their start time.

## Travelling by Public Transport

Penn Street is approximately 3 miles from both Amersham and High Wycombe, served by the Chiltern Line, from London Marylebone and Birmingham. Amersham is also on the Metropolitan Line. There is an hourly bus service between Amersham and High Wycombe (Carousel Buses, number 1), with stops near the railway stations. Disembark at the stop on the A404 close to its junction with Penn Street; Penn Street (the road) runs south from its junction with the A404, about 50m east of the bus stop – main car parks are about 1km along Penn Street.

## Entries

Pre-entry through [SiEntries](#) only, remains open until 12 noon on the morning of the event, but subject to map availability. Note that SCOA members entering after Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March will not be eligible for the SCOA Championships.

## Enquiries / SIAC hire

Enquiries and SI card collection are housed in a loading bay in the industrial estate – see map on final page. Note that lost SIACs will be charged at £65.

Lone travellers are encouraged to leave car keys with Enquiries.

## Starts

The start times are from 10.00 until 13:00. Courses close at 15:00.

Start times are listed on SiEntries. Please arrive at least 4 minutes before your allocated time. Those on Yellow, Orange and Red courses do not have set start times; those competitors can just turn up at the Start, where they will queue (if necessary) and go.

Competitors who are hiring an SI card will need to go to the loading bay to pick up their card before going to the Start.

The Start is in Penn Wood. Turning right out of the car parks, follow tapes to the road crossing, and then on into Penn Wood.

Call-up will be at -4, where Yellow maps will be provided to those competitors.

If you are late for your start, we will fit you in at the next available slot.

It is a punching start. You must physically 'punch' the Start station, and ensure that it beeps. No beep indicates a problem - see a Start official; do not blindly charge off into the forest.

Note: An entry does NOT provide an extra map for any shadower!

## There is no clothing dump.

## Finish

There are two Finishes. They are fly-by finishes (SIAC enabled). Please ensure you punch the safety control located just after the Finish.

Courses up to Green and Red finish at the North Finish, which is close to the Start. The route from the Finish passes the marshalled road crossing back to Download in the loading bay in the Industrial Estate.

Courses Short Blue and above finish at the South Finish, which is in Penn Estate. Follow tapes back around the edge of a field to an **unmanned** road crossing, and then into the Industrial Estate to Download.

**Course close at 15:00.** Please ensure you have reported to Download by then, to avoid a search for you being initiated. **You must report back to Download even if you retire.**

## Map and Terrain

The map has been updated by Bob and Pattie Beresford and Rosie Walklin during Autumn/Winter 2023. It is at 1:10000 scale, with 5m contours, on waterproof paper. The map complies with ISOM2017-2 (particularly with regard to symbol changes and legibility requirements).


Shorter courses (Yellow to Green) will run in Penn Wood, size A4. Longer courses (Short Blue to Black) will also include Penn Estate and Common Wood, size A3.

Penn Wood is generally flat whilst Common Wood is more contoured. Both areas have a good network of paths. The areas have a very varied mixture of conifer, beech and oak, and some semi open areas. There are a number of ponds and many pits and depressions, some

quite large, as a result of ancient clay and flint workings. There are many small knolls and generally only those more than 1m high have been mapped.

Penn Estate is smaller and generally more runnable, with similar features to Penn Wood, but with fewer paths. It provides an eastern link to Common Wood.

Parts of the south and west of Penn Wood are enclosed with barbed wire or Rylock cattle-proof fences and are being used for cattle grazing. For clarity, purple 'uncrossable boundary' lines have not been overprinted on the map. **Competitors MUST use the access gates** to enter or exit these areas; **DO NOT CLIMB** over fences. The crossing points have been marked on the map; courses are designed to make using the gates the best option. Competitors should also take care as they pass by any cattle. You are advised to check for ticks after your run.

The woods have a number of small fenced enclosures (some are being used for nature studies and others are around individual trees) which are marked as a square fence: 

Power lines and hides are not shown on the map. Old fallen tree rootstocks with associated pits and small knolls less than 1m high are not shown on the map. The woods contain many of these!

Non-standard symbols: Bench or wooden sculpture = 

**Out of Bounds areas.** All OOB areas are clearly marked on the map. These include:

- Fenced off fields
- The golf course
- Settlements adjacent to Common Wood (not fenced)
- An area of private woodland to the NW of Common Wood (not fenced)
- A small area in Common Wood used as a forest school – surrounded by string
- Penn House and grounds in Penn Estate
- A field (usually with horses) in Penn Estate

There are no direct routes through any of these areas and the courses are planned to avoid them.

## Courses

Course	SCOA Champ Class	Finish	Distance km	Climb m	Technical Difficulty
Yellow	M10, W10	North	2.0	10	Easy
Orange	M12, W12	North	3.2	25	Moderate
Light Green	M14, W14	North	3.5	30	Difficult
Very Short Green	M85, M90, W75, W80, W85, W90	North	3.3	35	Very Difficult
Short Green	M75, M80, W65, W70	North	4.0	40	Very Difficult
Green	M70, W16, W55, W60	North	5.0	50	Very Difficult
Red		North	5.0	40	Moderate
Short Blue	M65, W18, W20, W45, W50	South	5.7	105	Very Difficult

<b>Course</b>	<b>SCOA Champ Class</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Distance km</b>	<b>Climb m</b>	<b>Technical Difficulty</b>
Blue	M16, M55, M60, W35, W40	South	6.8	135	Very Difficult
Short Brown	M18, M20, M45, M50, W21	South	8.3	145	Very Difficult
Brown	M35, M40	South	10.0	155	Very Difficult
Black	M21	South	11.7	170	Very Difficult

## **Control Descriptions**

Control descriptions are printed on the map. Loose control descriptions on waterproof paper will be available in the start lanes. Yellow courses use text descriptions; all other courses use IOF symbols.

## **Medical conditions**

If you have a High Risk Medical Condition you are invited to download and complete this form <http://tinyurl.com/BOF-med> and place it in a sealed envelope with your name on it, in the box provided at Enquiries. Envelopes will only be opened if required for a medical emergency. Unopened envelopes should be collected after the event. Any unclaimed envelopes will be destroyed after the event.

## **SCOA medal presentations**

This event incorporates the 2024 SCOA Championships. Medals will be awarded to the first three eligible in each age class. It is intended that the prize-giving takes place in the car park near to Download at 2:30pm or as soon as practicable after that. Please stay to support the prize-giving if you can.

Those eligible for the SCOA Championships are asked to check that their start time is such that they have completed their course and downloaded by 2:00pm, in order that the prize-giving can go ahead promptly.

## **Dogs**

Well-behaved dogs allowed on their leads in the car park. TVOC's policy is no dogs to accompany competitors on their courses although there may be other members of the public in the woods with dogs. Please clean up after your dog.

## **Facilities**

First Aid, provided by White Star Medical, will be located in the Loading Bay in the Industrial Estate.

Toilets will be located in the Industrial Estate car park (see map).

Water / squash is NOT being provided. Please bring your own supplies.

There are two good pubs in the village – The Hit or Miss and the Squirrel. Both serve food on Sunday lunchtimes, but they do become very busy. If you want to eat there after your run, you are recommended to book (Hit or Miss 01494 713109, Squirrel 01494 711291). There are also some good pubs in the nearby villages of Winchmore Hill and Penn. PLEASE ON NO ACCOUNT PARK IN THE PUB CAR PARKS unless and until you are actually going to the pub.

## Results

Live results will be available at <https://tvoc-live.droppages.com>. There is a QR code link on the maps and on splits print-outs. Note that mobile phone signal can be sporadic in Penn Street. Our aim is to publish final results at <https://tvoc.org.uk/results/> by 6pm on Sunday evening.

## Complaints

If you have any reason to complain about your course or the event arrangements, then talk informally with the Organiser in the first instance, who will contact other officials as necessary. You may also complain in writing on a form held at Enquiries.

If you feel you still need to make an Official Protest, you must do this in writing to the Controller, who will discuss with the Organiser. If they agree with the Protest, the appropriate action will be taken.

## Photography

You are welcome to take photographs at our event. However please be respectful of other peoples' privacy when taking photographs, and do not take inappropriate or intrusive photos. Please bear in mind [British Orienteering's guidelines](#) on the subject.

If you have any concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography (in terms of the way, by whom, or where photography is being undertaken), please report them to the event organiser or another official.

Parents, guardians or carers who have a reason to be sensitive about the children they are responsible for should bear in mind that photographs may be taken at the event, and some may be posted onto public websites.

## Ash Dieback precautions

The following precautions have been recommended by BOF – arrive with all of your kit, especially footwear, fully cleaned since its last outing. After your run, place all your kit in a plastic bag to prevent spreading fungal spores. Full details of Ash Dieback precautions can be found on the British Orienteering website.

**Organiser:** Alun Jones  
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**Planner:** Neville Baker

**Controller:** Helen Marsden, HH

**Courses close at 15:00. You must report to download by 15:00 even if you do not complete your course.**

## Please remember

- **Orienteering is an adventure sport. All competitors take part at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety.**
- **Please check website for last minute cancellation in case of bad weather. In the event of cancellation, some or all of your entry fee may be retained.**

- The personal data you give will be used by the event organisers & their agents only for the purpose of processing and publishing the event entries and results, for conducting safety checks and to validate British Orienteering insurance cover. Submission of an entry for the event will indicate your acceptance of this procedure.

[www.tvoc.org.uk](http://www.tvoc.org.uk)

