



Thames Valley
Orienteering
Club

TVOC regional event and SCOL3

Common Wood

Sunday 4th January 2026

FINAL DETAILS

Key points

- Drivers must have said you are bringing a vehicle when entering through SiEntries.
- Parking on hard standing at lions.sparrows.electric, HP7 0PX Lone drivers are asked to leave car keys at Enquiries.
- We have limited parking space. Please park tightly, as instructed by car park marshals. And please share cars if you can.
- Toilets in the car park.
- SPORTident punching. SIAC enabled, including Finish. Punching Start.
- Start blocks listed on SiEntries
- Penn Wood Start - White, Yellow and Orange courses only
 - Start is approximately 500m from the car park. Turn right on exiting car park. Marshalled road crossing en route to the Start (note the Penn Wood Start is NOT en route to the Common Wood Start).
 - No clothing dump but clothing can be left near to Finish which is adjacent.
 - Last start is 11am. Courses close at 12:30pm. **You must return to the Finish by that time.**
- Common Wood Start - Light Green courses and upwards
 - Start is approximately 1500m from the car park. Turn left on exiting car park. Two marshalled road crossings.
 - Clothing tent adjacent to Start. Finish is nearby.
 - Last start is 12 noon. Courses close at 2pm. **You must return to the Finish by that time.**
- Control descriptions in Start lanes. Competitors on White and Yellow can see their maps before entering their start lane – ask the Start Official for it.
- 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.
- 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, direction to Starts at the end of this document.



Safety issues

- **Routes to Starts and from the Finishes.** The routes to and from both the competition areas involve marshalled road crossings. Please follow the marshals' instructions.
- **Public Access.** Penn Wood and Common Wood are both 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.
- **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 Penn Wood (used by courses White, Yellow and Orange). 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.** Both Penn Wood and Common Wood have 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

Common Wood and Penn Wood have been used for orienteering in various combinations since 2010; the last event was the Chiltern Challenge in March 2024 - [Routegadget link](#).

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.
- Sam Buckles for allowing use of the Commercial Estate and the De Havilland Court offices for car parking.

Travelling by car

We only have space at the event for 150 cars. Only drivers who have said that they are bringing a vehicle when they entered through SiEntries, will be permitted to park. If you do not have a parking space, please arrange a lift with a club colleague who does. Please do not attempt to park on the roadside in Penn Street, or in the pub car parks unless, and only whilst you are, at the pub. Our continued access to the area is contingent on our, or rather your, good behaviour.

Parking space is 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 limited. Enquiries, SIAC hire, Download, First Aid are located in a loading bay. (See map at end of this document).

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 a twice hourly bus service between Amersham and High Wycombe (Carousel Buses, number 1 or 1A), 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 11am on the morning of the event, but subject to map availability.

Enquiries / SIAC hire

Enquiries and SI card collection are housed in a loading bay in the industrial estate – see map on final page. Please ensure that you collect your hired SI card before heading to the Start – it's a long walk back! Note that lost SIACs will be charged at £65.

Lone travellers are encouraged to leave car keys with Enquiries.

Penn Wood – courses White, Yellow and Orange

Penn Wood Start

Turn right out of the car park, to the road crossing, and follow the tapes into Penn Wood. (Note that this is in the **opposite** direction to the route to Common Wood.)

There is an (uncovered) clothing dump near the Start.

Start times are from 10.00 until 11:00.

Those competing on White and Yellow courses can see their maps before they enter the start lanes. Just ask the start team for a copy.

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!

Penn Wood Finish

It is a fly-by finish (SIAC-enabled).

Courses close at 12:30, by which time you must have returned to the Finish.

The route from the Finish returns via the marshalled road crossing back to Download in the loading bay in the Industrial Estate. **You must report back to Download even if you retire.**

Common Wood – all other courses

Longer courses (Light Green, Very Short Green, Short Green, Green, Red, Blue and Brown) compete in Common Wood. Their Start and Finish are some 1500m from the car park.

Common Wood Start

Turn left out of the car park, over the marshalled road crossing, through the kissing gate into the field behind. Follow the tapes for some 1500m to another marshalled road crossing. The Start is some 100m after this road crossing.

There is a clothing tent close to the Start.

Start times are from 10.00 until 12:00.

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.

Common Wood Finish

It is a fly-by finish (SIAC enabled).

Course close at 14:00. Please ensure you have finished by then, to avoid a search for you being initiated. **You must report back to Download even if you retire.**

The Finish is about 50m from the Start, so close to the clothing tent. Return to the car park and download is the reverse of the route to the Start.

Map and Terrain

The maps for both Common Wood and for Penn Wood have been updated by Bob and Pattie Beresford and Rosie Walklin in Winter 2025. Both maps are on A4 waterproof paper , with 5m contours. The Penn Wood map is at 1:7,500 scale; the Common Wood map is at 1:10,000 scale except for Very Short Green course which will be at 1:7,500. Both maps comply with ISOM2017-2 Rev 6 (particularly with regard to symbol changes and legibility requirements).

Both woods have a good network of paths with a very varied mixture of conifer, beech and oak. There are a number of 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.

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 = ; small fenced enclosure 

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)

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

Course	Start / Finish	Distance km	Climb m	Map scale	Technical Difficulty
White	Penn Wood	1.6	25	7,500	Easy
Yellow	Penn Wood	2.1	35	7,500	Easy
Orange	Penn Wood	3.3	50	7,500	Moderate
Light Green	Common Wood	4.0	70	10,000	Difficult
Very Short Green	Common Wood	3.3	55	7,500	Very Difficult
Short Green	Common Wood	3.8	60	10,000	Very Difficult
Green	Common Wood	4.7	65	10,000	Very Difficult
Red	Common Wood	5.4	105	10,000	Moderate
Blue	Common Wood	6.9	120	10,000	Very Difficult
Brown	Common Wood	8.7	155	10,000	Very Difficult

Control Descriptions

Control descriptions are printed on the map. Loose control descriptions on waterproof paper will be available in the start lanes. White and 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.

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.org.uk/results-live/> 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.

SCOA League

This is a SCOA League event. SCOA members should note that, to score points at this event, they must be 2026 members of BOF (with SCOA as their region) on the day of the event. You can join online (at <https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/join>) up to 23:59 on Sunday 4th January to qualify for the SCOA League.

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.

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Planner: Nat Skidmore

Controller: Mark Foxwell, BKO

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

TVOC Penn and Common Wood Sunday 4th January 2026

Penn Wood
White/Yellow/Orange

Common Wood
Light Green/V Short Green
Short Green/Green/Red,
Blue/Brown

Route to and from Penn Wood

Route to and from Common Wood

(map not to scale)

2026 Version 3

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