



Scottish Schools Orienteering Association



SCOTTISH SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING FESTIVAL

Thursday 4th June 2026, Beecraigs Country Park

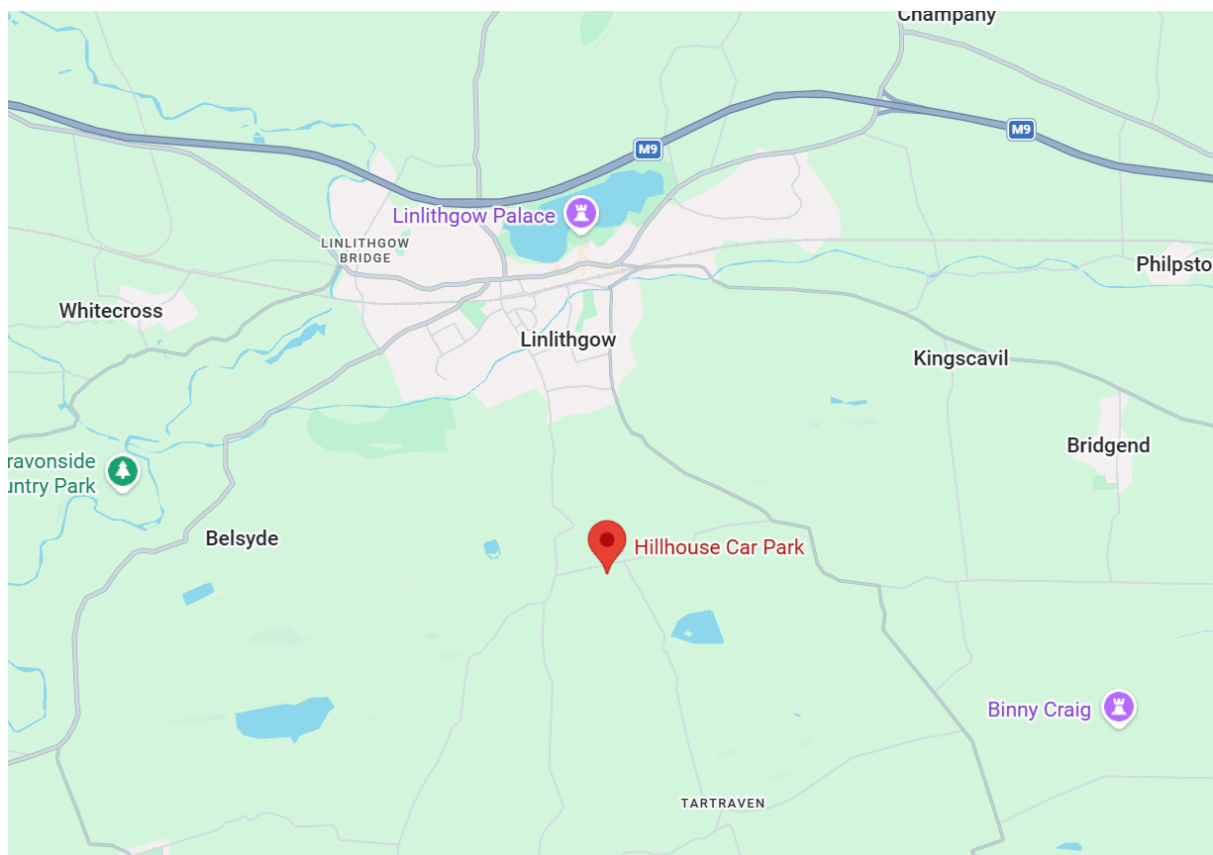
FINAL DETAILS

TRAVEL

Coming by car/coach/minibus - Parking is at the Hillhouse Car Park at the north end of Beecraigs Country Park, Linlithgow. We have been granted sole use of this car park for a fee of **£2 per car/minibus** and **£10 per coach** so please bring this in **cash** on the day and this will be collected on entry to the car park by an event marshal.

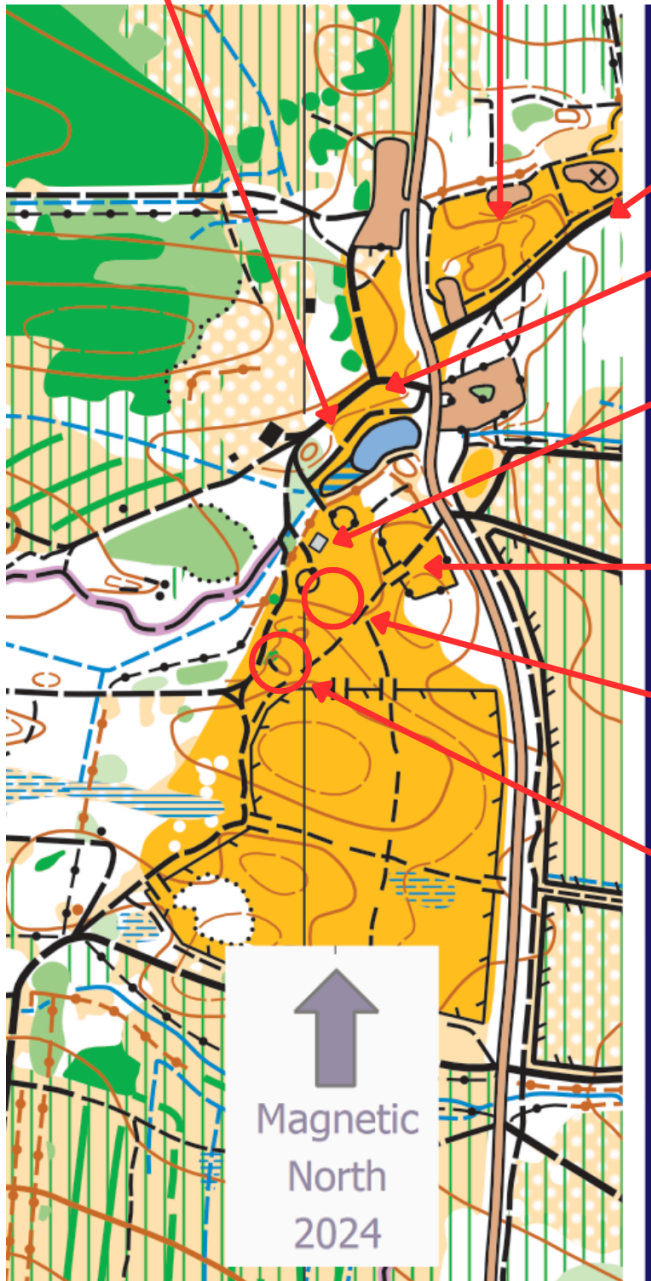
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There is designated parking for coaches - £10 per vehicle, please bring cash.



TOILETS

PLAYPARK



ROUTE IN FROM
CAR PARK

START

REGISTRATION
AND DOWNLOAD

MAZE

FINISH

LAST CONTROL

ASSEMBLY AREA

Leaving the car park at the south-west corner, there is a walk of about ~1km from the car park to the assembly/start/finish area which will be taped using red and white streamers. The assembly is within the Barbeque Area just beyond the playpark. The walk passes the playpark and then crosses a minor road so please stick to the designated route and follow marshals' instructions. We don't expect this road to be busy but please take care when crossing, especially if your pupils want to go back across to play in the park. Competitors will also pass the start on the way into the assembly so please ensure you don't get in the way of anyone racing!

There is space within the assembly to make a base for your school team, with a great view of the last control and run-in and a maze in an adjacent grassy area - make sure to give this a go before or after your run! There will also be a registration/enquiries desk and a 'Download' desk that must be visited by all pupils after their run whether they completed their course or not. This is an outdoor event with **no indoor shelter** so feel free to bring tents to store bags and ensure pupils are dressed appropriately.

There will be 3 portaloos available adjacent to the assembly and start. These will be situated near to the existing toilet block but we ask if you could **prioritise using the portaloos** as much as possible to keep the toilet block free for use by members of the public.

HIRE DIBBERS

On arrival at the assembly area, please go straight to the registration desk to pick up your school pack that includes your hire SI dibbers. If pupils are running in a pair or three, they will get one SI dibber between them (but a map each). SI dibbers are free to hire but any lost dibbers will incur a £30 charge so please ensure they are secured on using the finger strap and returned at the download desk after their run.

START AND FINISH

Start times are from **10am-12pm**. Please ensure you get your pupils to the start at least **5 minutes before their start time**. The start list will be published on the SSOA website, as well as emailed out in advance and contained within your pack that you should collect from the registration desk on arrival in the assembly.

There is one start for all courses and this is located adjacent to the assembly area on the north side of the pond. It will be visible from the assembly but we recommend that you accompany your pupils to the start, especially if they are unsure on what to do.

Pupils will be called up to enter the start boxes **4 minutes before their actual start time** and moved through each box every minute up to the start line. There will be marshals here to help pupils get the right map, make sure that they have it orientated (set to north) and that they know which way to go out of the start. And that they don't forget to 'dib' the start box otherwise they won't get a result!

The last control (number 200) will be positioned on top of the hill above the assembly so everyone will be able to see it and cheer on their teammates as they run down the tape funnel into the finish. It is not on a path which is atypical for the easier courses, so we would recommend taking your pupils to have a look at it (whilst staying out of the taped off areas) before they go to run.

All participants must go to the Download desk after finishing their run, to get their result. This is also very important for pupil safety, so the event team knows who is still out on their course. The Download desk will be directly next to the finish and have a marshal directing pupils to it. **Please hand any hire dibbers back to the download team.**

COURSE INFORMATION

Course lengths are given as a straight line distance. Pupils will cover more than this distance, with the actual distance covered dependent on route choice.

Course	Length (Km)	Colour-coded standard	Number of controls
P5/6 boys	1.4	White	9
P5/6 girls	1.2	White	8
P7 boys	1.7	Yellow	10
P7 girls	1.5	Yellow	8
S1 boys	1.9	Yellow	9
S1 girls	1.8	Yellow	8
S2 boys	2.3	Orange	9
S2 girls	2.1	Orange	8
S3 boys	2.7	Orange	11
S3 girls	2.6	Orange	10
S4 boys	2.9	Light Green	11
S4 girls	3.3	Light Green	11
S5/6 boys	3.7	Green	16
S5/6 girls	3.5	Green	13

S4/5/6 courses will be using a map scale of 1:7500 (1cm on the map is 75m on the ground). All other courses will be using 1:5000 (1cm on the map is 50m on the ground).

The longest courses have 2 controls on distinctive trees - on the map these are shown as large white circular areas as opposed to a green circle as they are quite big!

Primary pupils' courses have a compulsory taped route to get them across a mountain biking track. There will be signs in the event area in advance to warn mountain bikers of the event taking place and also 'Caution Runner' signs on the day to warn them ahead of any crossing points, but please reiterate to your pupils that there might still be bikers on the paths and extreme caution must be taken when crossing to avoid any collisions. Secondary pupils'

courses may come across this taped route however there may be other route choices available.

The mountain bike tracks are shown on the map with a purple background to indicate they are Out of Bounds. See the map extract below that also shows the junction that will have a taped crossing for pupils crossing from north to south. Pupils may come across some signs to show them that they are heading onto a mountain bike track, in which case they should turn around and find another way.



**NO ENTRY TO
ORIENTEERS**



Some pupils may need to venture off the paths to find their controls, so please ensure they are wearing appropriate footwear and we would recommend full leg cover.

Courses close at 1330. Please tell your pupils to have returned to the finish by this time even if they have not completed their course. We advise that pupils wear a watch so they are aware of the time.

PRIZE GIVING

There will be a prize-giving ceremony within the assembly area at around 1pm, or as soon as all the results have been collated and checked. As usual, there will be prizes for the top 3 individuals in each class as well as overall school prizes.

If you have any trophies from last year, **PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THEM BACK THIS YEAR!**

SAFETY

There are a number of safety notices related to this event, so please read the list below carefully and ensure it is relayed onto your pupils.

- **Mountain bikers and MTB tracks** - there are a number of MTB tracks throughout the woodland and these are strictly OUT OF BOUNDS to orienteers. At commonly used path crossings, there will be signs to warn bikers of runners. If you find yourself crossing an MTB track not on a path, then please exercise extreme caution to check nobody is coming before crossing. Signs have been placed in the area in the run up to the event to warn potential bikers, but we can't say for certain that there will not be any on the day.
- **Slippery boardwalk** - there is a section of boardwalk that runners may use so please be aware that this may become slippery if it is wet.
- **Ditches** - some of the ditches are quite large (deep and wide) and full of water in places so please take care if you need to cross them.
- **Shelter** - There is no indoor shelter at all for the event, so please come dressed appropriately for the conditions on the day. You may wish to bring a small tent to store bags or provide some shade.
- **Other park users** - we do not have sole use of the woods so pupils may encounter members of the public. People within the area should not be approached unless they are known to the child or are a member of the event team who will be identifiable by hi-vis jackets.
- **Roads** - no roads should be crossed whilst pupils are out on their course. Some marshalls will be placed at locations where pupils may accidentally find themselves near a road to turn them around and put them back on track.
- **Dogs/Horses** - should not be approached and given a wide berth if possible.

FIRST AID

There will be basic first aid available at the registration desk, provided by trained volunteers.

Any pupils with a more serious injury should be taken immediately to the nearest hospital:

Full A&E: St John's Hospital, Livingston, EH54 6PP

Minor injuries: Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline KY12 0SU

Children under 13: Royal Hospital for Children and Young People, Edinburgh, EH16 4TJ

Phone signal in the area is good and there is road access all the way to the event should ambulance assistance be needed.



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