



Event Information  
V2.0 as of 28<sup>th</sup> NOV  
2022

## Harlequins Orienteering Club

Invite you to a Club Championships

At

# Bodenham Arboretum and Shatterford Woods

On

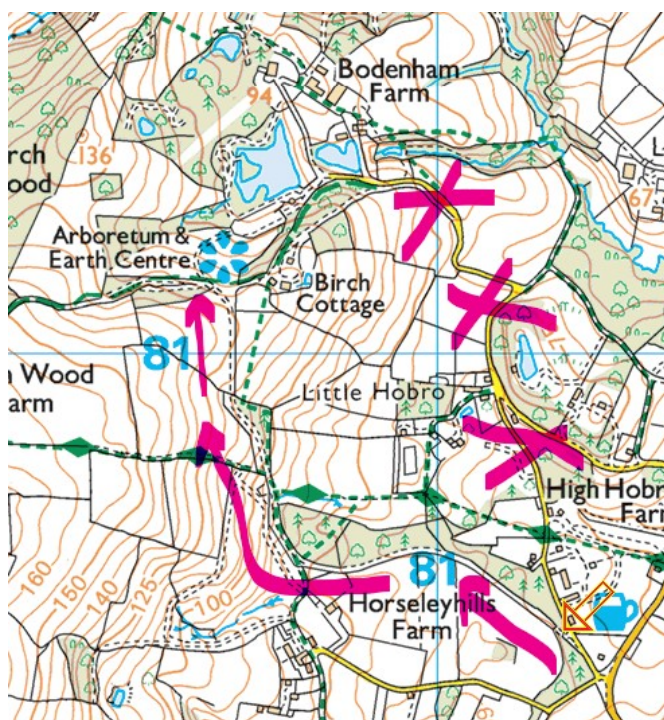
SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022



Orienteering in  
Worcester, Hereford,  
South Shropshire, Black  
Country and Birmingham.

### Venue & Travel

Bodenham Arboretum is situated 20 miles west of Birmingham, 19 miles north of Worcester and 3 miles north of Kidderminster. Follow the brown signs "Bodenham Arboretum" westwards from Wolverley Church island along the B4189.



Enter the private drive at SO812804 52.422019, -2.27740 (WGS84). Do not follow the public road northward - this is access to the farm only. FOR SAT NAVS PLEASE INPUT DY11 5TB

### Parking:

There is a large hardstanding car park at the Arboretum. Parking will not be marshalled, please be considerate of other visitors.

### Terrain:

As far as I know neither have been used for orienteering before (or at least not in the time I have been a HOC member).

The arboretum is a mixture of farmland, parkland and copse/riverside plantation rising from 55m to 140m. There are lots of fences - DO NOT CLIMB FENCES - controls have been sited so that a stile or gate will be near the optimum route.

Shatterford Woods - typical Wyre Forest terrain - mixed woodland with deep stream valleys, and an extensive path ride network plus a hidden Roman Camp. Formerly managed as a pheasant shoot. There is plenty of run forest. This is, however, a physically challenging area with areas of slow run/walk plantation and brash, died-down bracken and bramble. Controls have been sited so as to avoid competitors passing through bramble.

### Map:

1:7500 A4 portrait ISOM2017 V2 by Paul Basher updated to November 2022. Printed on water resistant stock BUT after rain you will encounter red clay mud - so you may choose to use a polybag in case of a fall. The key/legend is obscured by the control descriptions - a copy will be available at registration.

**Course and Classes** One mass start 60 minute score course (45 minutes for M/W14 and younger). 30 controls. All worth 10 points. 1 point deduction per six seconds or part thereof over the time limit. Assuming a navigationally clean run I do expect some of our younger runners to complete in under the hour.

Note Championship rules:

5.1 During the registration process competitors must be given the opportunity to indicate:

- If they are competing for a trophy out of class\*\* (only towards M/W21 permitted)
- If they are non-competitive (for whatever reason).
- If a Junior is running the longer time period in order to become eligible for a trophy towards M/W 21

and

3.9 The holders of the Men's and Ladies' Open Trophies will be allowed to defend their titles by running competitively in the current Championships event. \*\*It is a HOC tradition that the holders of all other Senior age class trophies may run in the current Championships, but shall be non-competitive so that the trophies are spread around.

Shatterford Woods are suitable for juniors who are confident at light green standard and are physically capable of safely crossing significant streams. Parents of younger or less experienced juniors are advised to contact the organiser so that suitable arrangements may be made (I can accompany them back over the stream and onto the Bodenham part of the map).

**Entries:** **£5 Senior £1 Junior.** Please help by bringing exact fee in cash only (mobile coverage is very poor and the HOC contactless brick would likely struggle).

In order to **guarantee** a map and to make things easier for the SI team please send: Name, Class (Actual), Class (Entered), SI number and contact telephone number to the organiser by email or text or WhatsApp (contact details below).

There will be entry on the day, subject to map availability.

**Registration:** 10:00 - 10:30 **Starts:** Registration will be in the meeting room near to the cafe and visitor facilities.

We will leave from registration at 10:30 and start as soon as we have reached the start location (~900m with a stream crossing and some climb)

**Punching:** Electronic Punching using SportIdent. Please bring your SI-Card to registration. SI-Cards may be hired for £1.00, replacement fee £30 if lost.

**Fees:** No charge.

**Dogs:** If you are lucky you will get to meet and play ball with Elvis. Dogs are allowed in the Bodenham part of the area but will need to be under close control at all times and on a lead when passing through fields (sheep and cattle) and near other park users. Dogs are not specifically excluded from Shatterford, subject to an FE "minimise disturbance to fauna" requirement - contact the organiser/planner **before deciding whether to run with your dog**

**Facilities:** At the Arboretum we have a room, there is a cafe and toilets. The facilities open from 10:00AM. No muddy footwear or "dobbs" in any of the facilities. Apart from the function room we do not have exclusive access to the arboretum and its facilities. Please be respectful of and give way to other visitors.

Arrangements for post-event food, drink and celebrations are currently being confirmed.

**Officials:** Organiser David Williams [Bodenham2022@ddwilliams.net](mailto:Bodenham2022@ddwilliams.net)  
Mobile phone coverage is poor over much of the area - try (in this order):  
0793 478 9689 (O2)  
0744 769 8826 (3)  
0743 740 9503 (Vodafone)

**Safety** Standard "challenging" Wyre Forest terrain - no unusual hazards.

A **risk assessment** has been prepared:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/10GUL4ZPGu9kv32PBo9\\_hUY2ZL6v8IEaM/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10GUL4ZPGu9kv32PBo9_hUY2ZL6v8IEaM/view?usp=share_link)

A copy will be available on the morning of the event.

There are several deep ponds - parents of younger competitors should use their judgement.

Three stream crossings are shown on the overprint - these are suggested for the less agile (there is a bridge but accessing this involves a fence-crossing, a deep gully (or a long detour via a rickety stile) and a steep and slippery set of wooden steps. You will pass over one of these crossings on your way to the start which will inform your judgement.

Overprint out-of-bounds includes a mineshaft, steep convex stream-side slopes, an active farmyard and "sensitive private dwelling" - please respect the marked areas and do not enter.

There is one private access road where you may encounter traffic (next to the farmyard).

You may encounter **cattle** (and three cheeky rams and possibly donkeys). I have found these to be placid and uninterested in runners. Do not to approach or "confine", do not to shout or wave arms, be as uninteresting as possible. Observe behaviour/stance and avoid if cattle give signs of being stressed, aggression or "wishing to play". There is a bridleway through the woodland and horse riders have been encountered - please make sure you do not surprise their mounts.

There are many stock control **fences** - substantial and barb-wire topped and (potentially) electrified. It is recommended and required that competitors make use of the marked gates and stiles.

**Take care on descents** - after the recent wet weather the terrain is muddy and slippery.

Competitors take part at their own risk. A **whistle** must be carried. Given it is December and with limited daylight hours - you may wish to carry a mobile phone. Organiser's numbers are on the map.

In case of bad weather competitors may be required to carry **water- and wind-proof tops (aka cagoules)**.

**Website &  
Cancellation:**

For the latest information check: <http://www.harlequins.org.uk> for updates and changes before travelling.