



Event Information  
V.1.0 as of 17<sup>th</sup>  
October 2024

**Harlequins Orienteering Club**  
Invite you to a Winter Evening Event  
At

# Habberley Valley

near Kidderminster

On

THURSDAY 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024



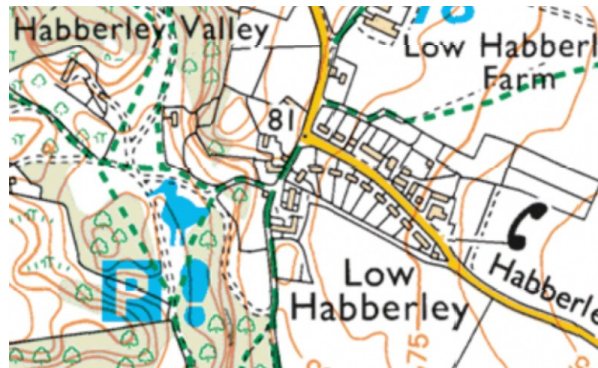
Orienteering in  
Worcester, Hereford,  
South Shropshire, Black  
Country and Birmingham.

**Venue &  
Travel**

Entrance to the area is on the B4190 2km NE from Bewdley and denoted by a brown Habberley Valley sign on the North side of the road at grid reference SO805767 (DY12 1LA is about 500m SW of the turning according to google). Proceed with care on the narrow road for approximately 1km to the car park.

**Parking:**

Wyre Forest DC public parking - capacity for ~20 cars. Parking is only permitted in this official car park and not on road verges or the central grassland - parking enforcement does take place. Alternate parking in the village - follow the public footpaths to the heel of the shoe...



**Terrain:**

A much frequented local beauty spot comprising a sandstone valley containing open acid grassland, remnant lowland heath-land, birch and oak woodland. Large sandstone outcrops in the northern part. In the southern part holly is proliferating making vegetation generalisation a challenge. Recently brambles and bracken have spread throughout much of the area, this along with newly fenced enclosures mean that many intended control locations are no longer usable. Courses are planned to avoid remnant summer vegetation. The north western part is not being used this time - too steep for safe use in the dark.

**Map:**

1:5000 with 5m contours. Updated David Williams May 2021 with minor revisions October 2025. **Map is not waterproof** - you will need an A4 size poly bag. Note special symbols for large Scots pine (O), mature yew tree (Y) and standing, but dead tree trunk (X).

**Courses:**

One course and a 60 minute time limit. Out of respect for the organiser (and search team) you **must report to the finish within 75 minutes of starting**. Competitors must take controls in the correct order, but can miss out controls as they wish. 10 points per control. 1 point lost each 6 seconds or part thereof if back late. For example: controls 1,3,4,7,15 scores 50 points but 1,7,2,12,9 only scores 30 points.

**Entries:**

To guarantee a map send email to habberley2024@ddwilliams.net before 28<sup>th</sup> October.

Include in the email: **Name**, **BO number** (if a member), **Class**, **SI chip number**/hire and, if possible, please add your **contact phone number** - preferably the one you will be carrying during the competition.

If you are able to assist with **control collection**/search party please indicate this (see fees below)

While stocks last maps can be reserved after 28<sup>th</sup> October - as above or just turn up and hope.

**Registration:**

17:00 to 18:30 **Starts:** 17:30 to 18:45. Please make allowance for rush-hour traffic. It may be possible to start earlier but not guaranteed.

Course closes at 19:45. Controls will be collected in from 20:00

- Punching:** Electronic Punching using SportIdent. Please bring your SI-Card to registration. SI-Cards may be borrowed - by prior arrangement, replacement fee £30 if lost.
- Fees:** Seniors £8 (£6 for British Orienteering members) Juniors - £4. **Control collectors (max 5) will pay half price.**
- Please bring exact cash amount. No change will be available. If a data connection is available it will be possible to pay by card or phone (signal is weak at the car park location)
- Dogs:** Dogs welcome. Really they should rename it “Doggerley Valley” - you will meet crepuscular dog walkers and, sadly, there is poo all over the place - check your shoes after the race.
- Facilities:** None
- Officials:** Organiser/Planner David Williams 0793\_478\_9689 habberley2024@ddwilliams.net
- Equipment & Safety**
- Competitors take part at their own risk and must satisfy themselves that they have sufficient ability to safely take part in night orienteering.
  - Participants under 16 years of age on the day of the even must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
  - A **whistle** and a **spare torch/headlamp** must be carried.
  - In case of bad weather competitors may be required to carry **water- and wind-proof tops. These to have an attached hood.**
  - It is strongly recommended that you **carry a phone**. Organiser number will be on the map.
- Hazards specific to the area:**  
A copy of the detailed risk assessment will be available at registration. In summary:
- There are **steep rock faces and high cliffs** - pay attention and do not attempt to run along the top of or descend any of these. There are areas of **bare rock** which may be slippery. Some paths incorporate short sections which have eroded through to slippery bare rock.
  - **Take care on descents** - after the recent wet weather the terrain is muddy and slippery.
  - Expect traffic on the road through the area - dog walkers and residents. Also mountain bikers.
  - Dogs. Cattle (not expected to be present but possible). Mouflon type sheep in out of bounds enclosure.
- Website & Cancellation:** Check for <http://www.harlequins.org.uk> for final details, updates and changes before travelling. In the case of severe weather the event may be cancelled.