British Orienteering Access & Environment Newsletter

Summer 2026

Welcome to the Summer 2026 edition of the British Orienteering Access and Environment Newsletter.

This edition of the Access Newsletter focuses on the beginning of a new series of Access Best Practice Case Studies, showcasing how clubs have successfully built relationships with landowners and partners to secure access to a range of fantastic areas. We hope these examples provide useful insights and inspiration for clubs planning future events and activities.

Also included in this edition is a range of resources, guidance and support available to clubs, including information on environmental responsibility and further guidance on the National Trust enquiries process.

If you have any questions or need assistance at any time, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with other members of your club. This newsletter has been sent to all Permissions Officers, Club Chairs and Club Secretaries.

Best wishes,
Gracie Grant
University and Access Officer

Access Best Practice Case Study Series

The beginning of a series of case studies which aim to support clubs with examples of negotiating access to different and unique landscapes. We focus on the importance of building relationships and working with the landowner to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

Orienteering on Heathland with Wessex Orienteering Club

Wessex Orienteering Club share their experience of orienteering at the National Trust's Studland Heath, part of the Purbeck National Nature Reserve in Dorset.

We explore how their relationship with National Trust started, and the positive impacts orienteering events have had on the area. WSX have dedicated time and effort to understanding the sensitivities of the Heath, and highlight the measures taken to address site sensitivities during the planning process.

Strong communication and great understanding of environmental sensitivities at the site were of significant importance for the successful partnership.

This case-study provides a fantastic example of how well-planned orienteering can coexist with environmentally sensitive landscapes.

Read the case study here!

Delivering Orienteering in one of the Country's Finest Gardens

Set within the stunning Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Harlow Carr Gardens in Harrogate, Claro Orienteers share their experience of hosting and competing in the Northern Sprint Championships. The event featured a double sprint through spectacular gardens, woodland and a network of winding paths.

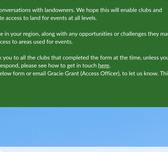
They also reflect on how patience, relationship-building and communication helped turn summer holiday taster sessions for children and members of the public into an opportunity to showcase orienteering in one of Yorkshire's most picturesque venues.

Read the case study here!

Regional Area Audit Survey

British Orienteering are carrying out an audit survey, to identify the areas around the UK, that are suitable for Level A and Level B Orienteering events.

Thank you to all the clubs that have sent over their areas so far, your time and effort is greatly appreciated. Please note, SOA clubs do not need to respond.

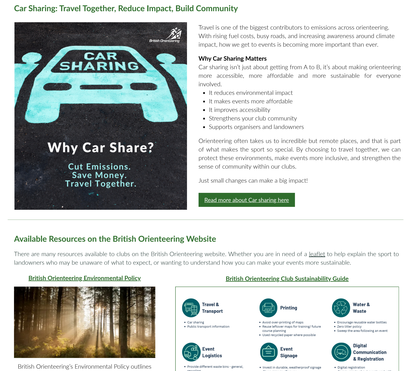


These insights will be used to inform future access planning and, in due course, help shape conversations with landowners. We hope this will enable clubs and British Orienteering to continue building strong relationships with landowners and to promote access to land for events at all levels.

By sharing your regional knowledge, we can gain a better understanding of the areas available in your region, along with any opportunities or challenges they may present. This will help us plan more effectively and support the long-term sustainability of access to areas used for events.

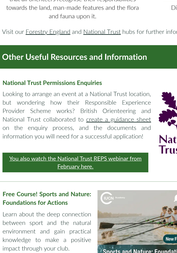
This insight request continues from an initial request that was circulated in early 2025. Thank you to all the clubs that completed the form at the time, unless your suitable areas have changed, we do not require you to respond to us again. If you are yet to respond, please see how to get in touch here.
If your club does not have any suitable Level A or Level B areas, please either complete the below form or email Gracie Grant (Access Officer), to let us know. This is just as important as clubs informing us of the areas that they do have.

Many thanks in advance for your insight and support.



To ensure we maintain access to the natural and beautiful areas we love to orienteer, we must continue to think about environmental sustainability at events, and take action to reduce our impact.

Car Sharing: Travel Together, Reduce Impact, Build Community



Travel is one of the biggest contributors to emissions across orienteering. With rising fuel costs, busy roads, and increasing awareness around climate impact, how we get to events is becoming more important than ever.

Why Car Sharing Matters
Car sharing isn't just about getting from A to B, it's about making orienteering more accessible, more affordable and more sustainable for everyone involved.

- It reduces environmental impact
- It makes events more affordable
- It improves accessibility
- Strengthens your club community
- Supports organisers and landowners

Orienteering often takes us to incredible but remote places, and that is part of what makes the sport so special. By choosing to travel together, we can protect these environments, make events more inclusive, and strengthen the sense of community within our clubs.

Just small changes can make a big impact!

Read more about Car sharing here

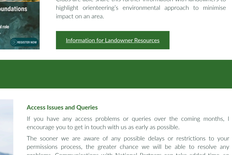
Available Resources on the British Orienteering Website

There are many resources available to clubs on the British Orienteering website. Whether you are in need of a leaflet to help explain the sport to landowners who may be unaware of what to expect, or wanting to understand how you can make your events more sustainable.

British Orienteering Environmental Policy

British Orienteering's Environmental Policy outlines and confirms its commitment to the conservation of the natural and historic environment and to ensuring that all orienteers recognise their responsibilities towards the land, man-made features and the flora and fauna upon it.

British Orienteering Club Sustainability Guide



Discover what we can do to promote sustainability across our sport, to all clubs, members and participants.

Visit our Forestry England and National Trust hubs for further information on their sites and property, and how to enquire regarding permissions.

Other Useful Resources and Information

National Trust Permissions Enquiries

Looking to arrange an event at a National Trust location, but wondering how their Responsible Experience Provider Scheme works? British Orienteering and National Trust collaborated to create a guidance sheet on the enquiry process, and the documents and information you will need for a successful application!

You also watch the National Trust REPS webinar from February here.

Risk Assessments for Landowners

A polite reminder that Risk Assessment's should be completed on a site-by-site basis, and Identify hazards appropriate to that area. It is extremely important that controls and measures are updated each time you hold an event in the same area, for insurance purposes.

Many landowners will expect high-level Risk Assessments in order for events to take place on their land or property.

This could also include environmental risks, and the measures that will be put in place to control and alleviate these.

Free Course! Sports and Nature: Foundations for Actions

Learn about the deep connection between sport and the natural environment and gain practical knowledge to make a positive impact through your club.

Take a look at the course here!

Information for Landowners Resources

These resources have been designed for landowners, to understand the sport of orienteering. Information varies across a range of topics, from what orienteering is, what expect at an event and annotated maps, to answered FAQs.

Clubs are able share this further information with landowners to highlight orienteering's environmental approach to minimise impact on an area.

Information for Landowner Resources

Additional Information

Access Issues and Queries

If you have any access problems or queries over the coming months, I encourage you to get in touch with us as early as possible.

The sooner we are aware of any possible delays or restrictions to your permissions process, the greater chance we will be able to resolve any problems. Communications with National Partners can take added time, so please factor this into your communications with them and ourselves.

British Orienteering Support

If there is anything we can do to support your club with access or environmental matters, please feel free to contact us.

We are always here to provide advice, discuss potential challenges, and share relevant guidance and best practice.

Contact us.