



# British Orienteering Access & Environment Newsletter Winter 2025

## Welcome to the first edition of the British Orienteering Access and Environment Newsletter.

This bi-annual newsletter is designed to keep members informed about key developments over the previous six months, share success stories and highlight new resources available to support your enquiries and negotiations.

The **Winter 2025 edition** includes updates from major landowners and announces the launch of a new section to the British Orienteering Website: *Information for Landowners*, now available within the Access and Environment pages.

For those I have not yet had the opportunity to speak with, I would like to introduce myself as British Orienteering's University and Access Officer. In this role, I focus on supporting access to the land that is vital for our sport, developing resources available to all, while ensuring responsible land use and promoting practices that protect the natural environment. I look forward to working with you to maintain and strengthen these relationships and resources.

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

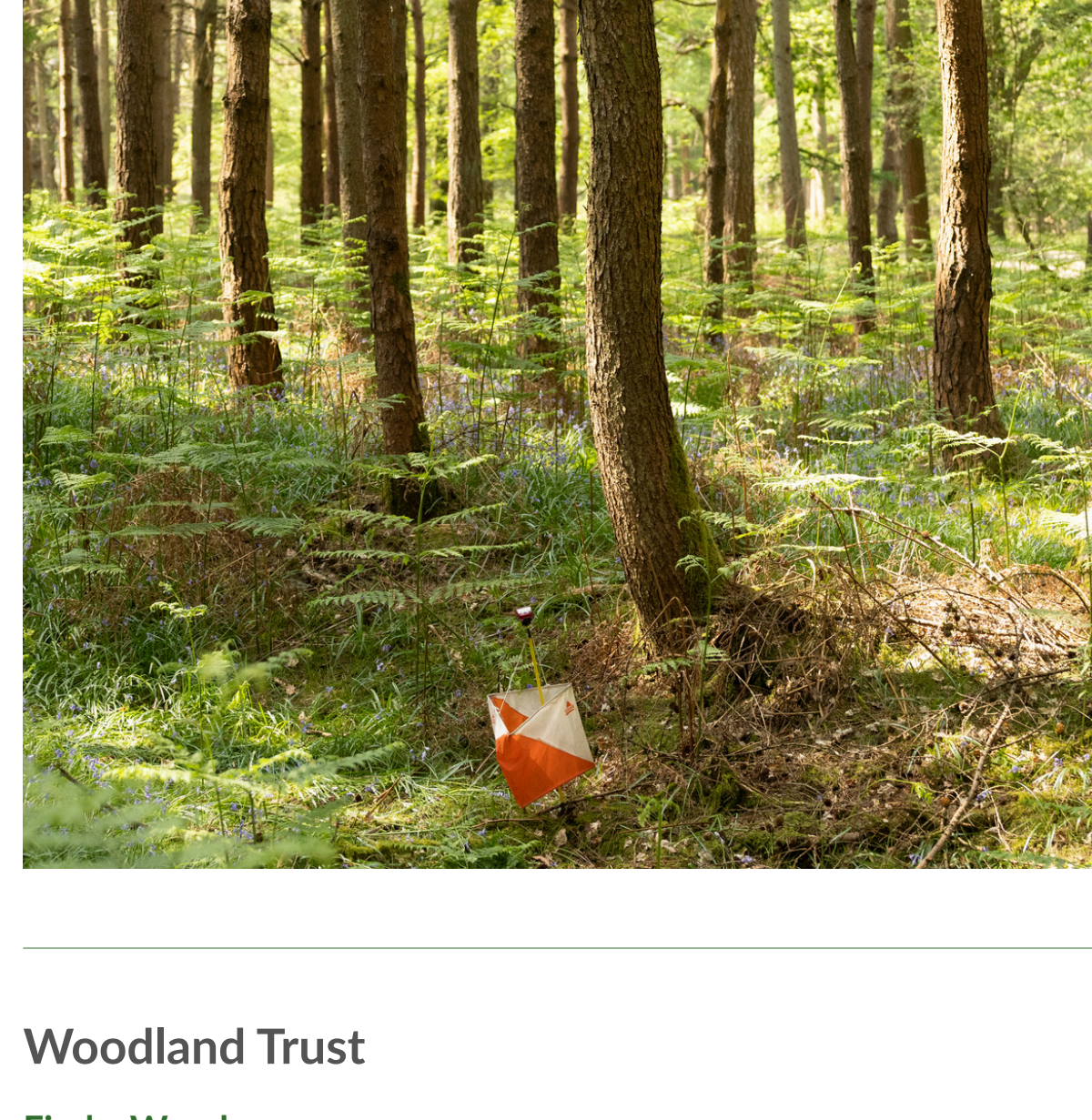
Please feel free to share this newsletter with other members of your club. This newsletter has been sent to all Permissions Officers, Chairs and Club Secretaries.

Best wishes,  
  
Gracie Grant  
University and Access Officer



In recent months, British Orienteering have strengthened engagement with landowners, including establishing new relationships with organisations such as the National Trust and the Woodland Trust, while continuing to maintain our strong partnership with Forestry England.

## Forestry England



### Forestry England Resources

All Forestry England resources available on the British Orienteering website can be found [here](#). When applying for permissions, Forestry England would like to encourage clubs to enquire up to two years in advance.

### Scale of events

Forestry England have requested that for large-scale events, clubs contact their local office, before submitting an initial enquiry. Within this communication, please include a description of the event and the desired location.

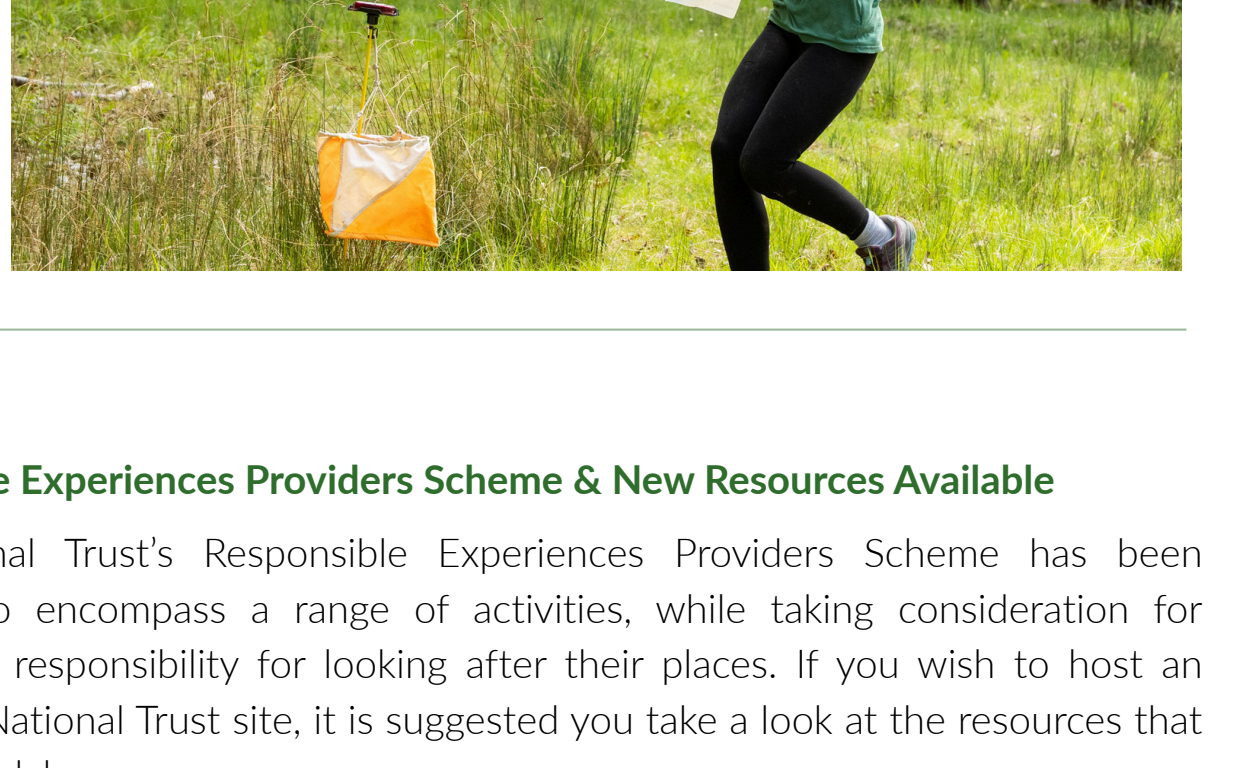
Forestry England would like you to take this action, for their teams to have greater visibility on potential upcoming large-scale events across their sites. These events take greater consideration, and the earlier the enquiry, the more time there is for discussions between Forestry England and event organisers. Many Forestry England sites have limited parking, and so the Forestry England team may wish to work with event organisers to organise alternative parking options.

## Woodland Trust

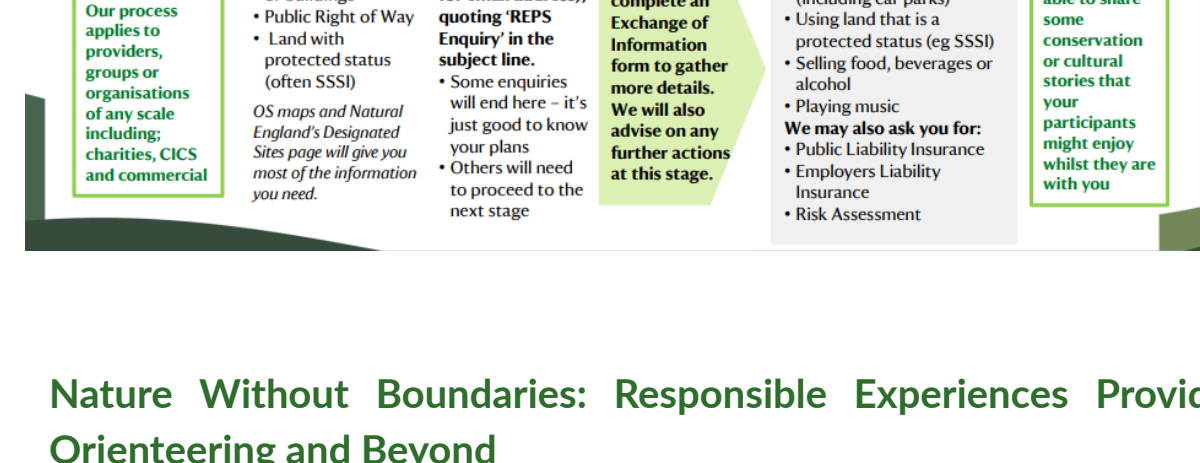
### Find a Wood

The Woodland Trust have highlighted their UK 'Find A Wood' tool on their website. This tool will show all woods and places in the UK on a map, whether it is a Woodland Trust site or owned by another Landowner. This can be a great resource to use to view all woodland sites in your area. You can find this tool [here](#).

To view more information about the Woodlands Trust, see [here](#).



## National Trust



### Responsible Experiences Providers Scheme & New Resources Available

The National Trust's Responsible Experiences Providers Scheme has been designed to encompass a range of activities, while taking consideration for sharing the responsibility for looking after their places. If you wish to host an event at a National Trust site, it is suggested you take a look at the resources that can be found [here](#).

The first step to requesting permission is to contact the local property that cares for the area you want to run your event from. The team will then progress your request and provide an Expression of Interest form to gather further information. It is important that organisers provide as much detail as possible within this form. When planning an event, the National Trust ask that you speak to the landowner as early as possible, and at least nine months ahead of the planned date.

## Nature Without Boundaries: Responsible Experiences Providers Scheme for Orienteering and Beyond

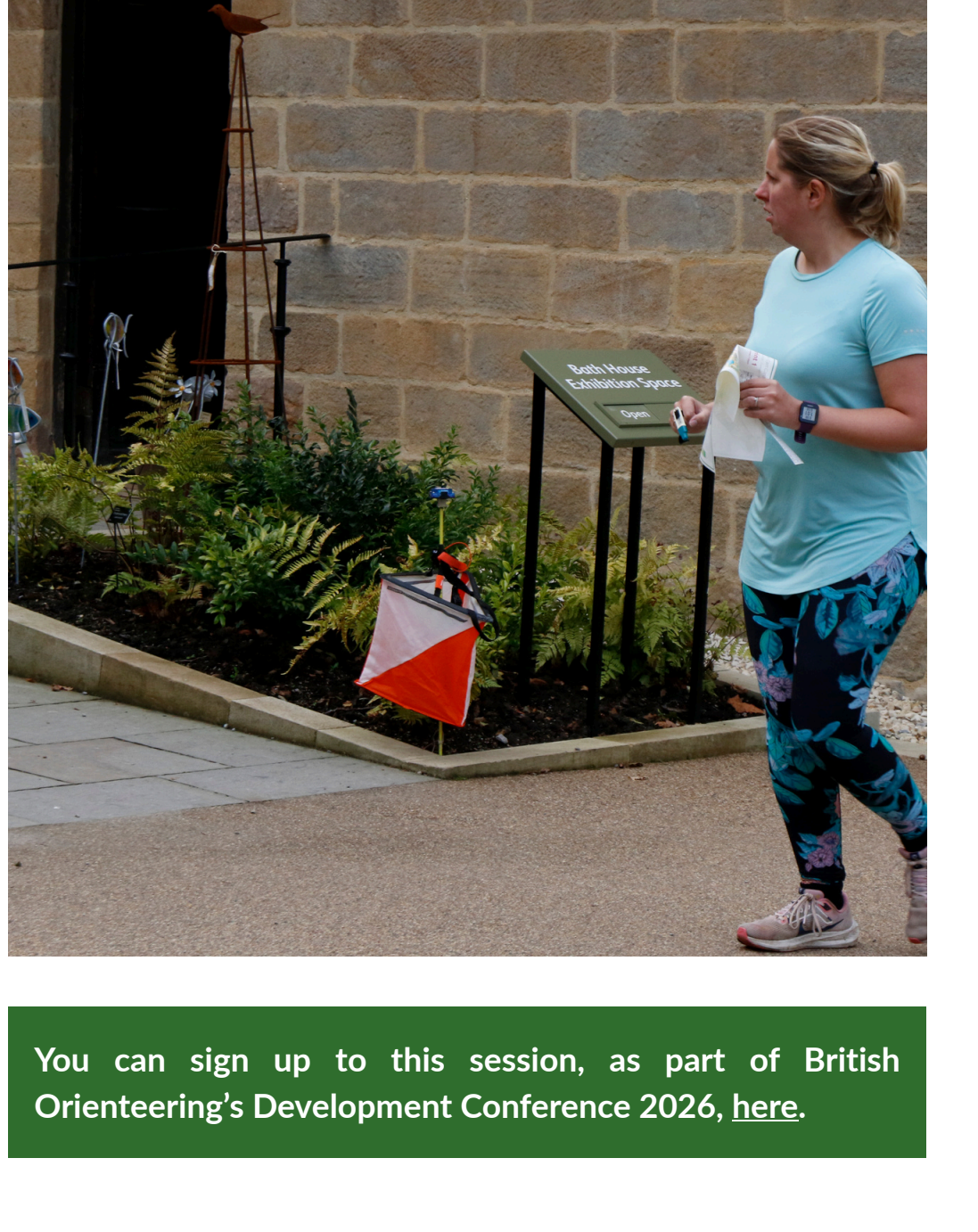
A webinar to begin at 7pm, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Join Mimi Roussel from the National Trust and Gracie Grant from British Orienteering for an insightful session on how we can balance adventure with responsibility. Nature doesn't follow public rights of way, and through collaboration and shared knowledge, we can support experiences for a variety of landscapes while inspiring participants.

This webinar looks at the National Trust's Responsible Experience Providers Scheme (REPS), which replaced the Active Outdoors Providers Scheme 18 months ago. Designed to embrace the full spectrum of experiences at our places—from theatre and forest schools to walking, running, biking, and orienteering—the scheme ensures that all providers, irrespective of scale, balance delivery of exceptional experiences with nature.

Discover how this initiative supports sustainable access, fosters partnerships, and helps you play a vital role in protecting the landscapes we love while offering unforgettable adventures.

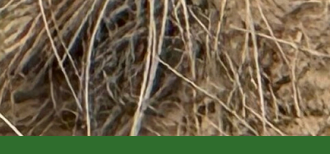
For more information on the Responsible Experience Providers Scheme, you can find it here: [Hosting outdoor experiences | National Trust](#)



You can sign up to this session, as part of British Orienteering's Development Conference 2026, [here](#).



# Access & Environment Resources Webpage



British Orienteering have developed an Information for Landowners section of the website. This provides landowners with everything they need to know about what orienteering involves, how events are managed, and how we work with landowners to ensure responsible, respectful access.

## Information for Members

Key landowners now have their own pages within the Information for Members page of the British Orienteering website. Within these pages, we will sit all resources provided by the landowner, and any additional information that British Orienteering believe will be useful when requesting access for events.

Over the coming months, we will be working to produce a Best Practice Access Case Studies series, of which we hope to cover a range of landowners to portray the breadth of our sport. This series will aim to highlight the work behind organising events and the significance of positive relationships with landowners.



## Information for Landowners

In addition to this, we have created a number of leaflets for landowners. These resources aim to explain what orienteering is and the benefits of the sport to both the participants and the landowner. Both general and tailored versions have been produced to suit different landowners.

You can find a range of these leaflets on the British Orienteering website, [here](#).



## Information for Landowners

### JUST LAUNCHED: Information for Landowners pages

We would like to announce the launch of the Information for Landowners guide on the British Orienteering website.

This section aims to provide landowners the resources to understand the sport of orienteering. This guide includes information regarding the following:

- What is Orienteering
- What Landowners can Expect from an Orienteering Event
- British Orienteering's Commitment to Landowners
- Orienteering's Environmental Impact
- Frequently Asked Questions

British Orienteering hope that these new resources will be useful assets when having discussions with landowners. This guide will be continually updated as and when new resources are available.

Please note, there is a downloadable copy of all the available resources on the Information for Landowners homepage, [here](#).

## Additional Information



### British Orienteering Support

If you have any questions or require further clarification regarding Access and Environmental matters, please do not hesitate to contact British Orienteering. We are here to provide guidance, share best practices, and support you in ensuring that all activities are carried out responsibly and in line with current regulations.

### Looking Ahead to 2026

We would to extend a massive thank you to all for your hard work and dedication in organising your club's activities and events throughout the year. Your commitment to working closely with landowners has enabled fantastic events to take place across 2025.

British Orienteering is committed to strengthening relationships with landowners and event organisers to ensure responsible access and promote environmental care. In 2026, we look forward to building even closer partnerships with landowners to support clubs in delivering successful events and activities. We also remain dedicated to advancing our sustainability efforts, reducing the environmental impact of orienteering, and safeguarding the natural landscapes we enjoy.