

# Hartside Hill SOL

## 7 September 2025

### Final Details

Hartside Hill is a mature plantation woodland with deep cleughs, rides of varying widths and an extensive ditch network near Soutra Pass, just off the A68.

We are grateful to landowner David Smith and Bidwells who manage the woodland for permission to use the forest and to the Duns, who farm at Gilston, for parking. Parking is likely to be tight so we would encourage people to meet at Pathhead and car share where possible.

Orienteers of all abilities are welcome to join us for this Scottish Orienteering League event where there will be a range of courses to suit everyone.

We plan to publish live results online at [www.elo.org.uk/latest-results](http://www.elo.org.uk/latest-results).

## Location and Directions

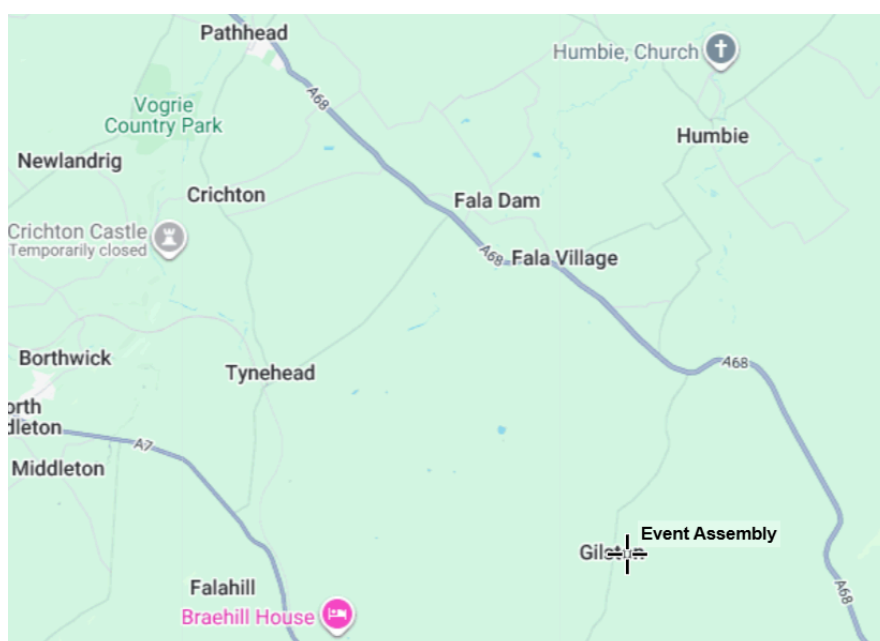
Nearest Town: Pathhead, Midlothian

Grid Ref: NT444566

Nearest Postcode: EH37 5TF

GPS: 55.799803, -2.888126

[Google Maps](#) | [What3Words](#)



### By car:

Follow the A68 south from Edinburgh. Parking is likely to be tight so we would encourage people to meet at Pathhead and car share where possible. After joining other orienteers at Pathhead continue to head south on the A68. As you start to ascend towards Soutra pass, turn right along the B6368 following the sign to Soutra Aisle. The event is 2 miles south along the B6368 with parking to the west of the road.

### By public transport

The nearest train station is at [Stow](#), from which the event is a 10 mile cycle.

[Borders Bus #51](#) from Edinburgh stops at the North end of the B6368, 2 miles from the event – unfortunately bikes are not currently carried on this service.

## Parking

Parking is along the edge of a cattle field on the west side of the B6368.

Pedestrians should exit the field at the southern end and exercise caution when crossing the road.

Please contact [events@elo.org.uk](mailto:events@elo.org.uk) if you are planning to bring a minibus or coach to discuss arrangements.

## Event Assembly

The event assembly will include entry on the day / string course / download and a ScotJOS cake stall.

Information will be open from 11:00am until courses close at 4:00pm.

## Information/Enquiries

At information you will be able to:

- Collect hired SI-cards.
- Enter on the day - entries will be available for all courses for which maps are still available. Online entries will remain open as late as possible to allow you to make volunteers' jobs easier on the day. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee that your first choice of map will still be available. Please see the website for prices.
- Collect Yellow and White course maps for pre-entered competitors.
- String Course Information/Registration.
- Key drop.
- Medical form envelopes point.
- Complaints and Protests.
- Lost Property.
- View Start Lists.
- First Aid.
- Ask any other questions.

## Shadowing

Shadowing juniors on the White and Yellow courses is allowed. 'Shadowers' must have completed their own race before undertaking any shadowing.

Adults are reminded they must declare at download if they are actually helping (or helped) a Junior competitor as opposed to following.



## String Course

We will have a short Shrek-themed string course available adjacent to information.

## Start and Finish

Start times will be from 12:00 noon until 2:00pm.

The Start is a 1.7km walk with 50m of climb from the parking and will be taped using red and white tape from the gateway into the wood east of Assembly.

The finish is 400m from the parking field (150m from download).

## Start Procedure

It is competitors' responsibility to start at their allocated times; there will be a name call-up and the -4 clock will be prominently displayed with times. Latecomers and helpers should speak to an official at the start who will make every effort to find a suitable slot.

- Remember to clear and check (SIAC test also available) before entering the minus 4 box. At call up you will be asked to dib a check box.
- Minus 3 is one box with loose control descriptions.
- Minus 2 is one box with blank maps. Note there will be different scale maps on display.
- Minus 1 is one box. There may be safety information/reminder given. At 10 seconds to go you may step over the line then go on the long beep. Remember to punch the start unit and to pick up the map for your course from the appropriate box.

## Dogs

Because the parking area is used for cattle, **dogs are not permitted**.

## Toilets

Toilets will be available near the exit from parking.

## ScotJOS Cake Stall

ScotJOS will be in attendance with an abundance of tasty home-baking. Please bring along a donation to support their training weekends.

## Officials

Organisers: Jamie Willson & Michael Atkinson

Planner: Michael Atkinson

Controller: Roger Scrutton (ESOC)

## Course details

The map is printed at 1:15,000 (A4) for Black and Brown courses and 1:10,000 (A3) for all other courses. with 5m contours.

SportIdent (SI) electronic timing will be used – we will have SIs for hire free of charge but there is a £30 charge if lost.

Units, apart from start and finish, will be set for contactless punching and control codes will be printed on top of the units.

Courses close at 4:00pm.

If possible, please request an early start time if you think you are likely to finish after 3:00pm.

Course name	Distance	Climb	Controls
White	1.6km	25m	10
Yellow	3.1km	85m	13
Orange	3.8km	120m	12
Red (Long Orange)	4.7km	130m	13
Light Green	4.0km	120m	11
Very Short Green	3.1km	95m	9
Short Green	3.4km	90m	9
Green	3.9km	120m	10
Short Blue	4.7km	150m	11
Blue	5.9km	185m	13
Short Brown	6.0km	220m	13
Brown	7.1km	245m	19
Black	9.1km	360m	22

**The Light Green, Orange and Yellow courses are longer than usual to ensure the correct technical difficulty. Note that each of these courses will be taking competitors downhill after an early ascent.**

Both the Yellow and White courses contain taped routes which will be marked with strips of White tape. An example of the style of taping will be visible between Assembly and the gate into the forest.

The relevant age classes for each course [are available on the SOA website](#).

## Terrain

Hartside Hill is a plantation forest. Some of the blocks of wood are thick to break into but once in the running is generally good although there are many low-level branches so care should be exercised. The thickest areas for breaking through into runnable forest are indicated on the map.

Full leg and body cover is mandatory and arm cover is strongly advised.

- Visibility is generally good and the underfoot conditions are stable but in wet weather the woods can be dark because of the thick upper canopy.
- The more open areas and wider rides are either heather-covered or marshland (which is relatively dry just now) but courses are designed to minimise lengthy runs along the heaviest-going of these areas. A vertical green screen has been applied to show the heather-covered rides.
- The network of ditches and rides is extensive, particularly at the higher points of the woodland. Because of the dry weather the ditches are mostly free of water. Mapped ditches are >50cm in depth within the woodland – they are useful and clear for navigation.
- Forestry work is ongoing but courses have been designed to avoid the notified areas of felling. You are reminded not to touch any log piles or forestry equipment which you may see. Most forestry work is currently restricted to enhancing the tracks within the forest with felling due to begin later in the month.
- Most of the blocks of woodland are flattish but on an incline so accurate compass work will be required to hit features economically.
- Unusually for southern Scotland, there are very few brambles.



## Gallery





## Accessibility

The courses all contain sections which cover rough open ground – both white and yellow courses include taped routes through the woods and/or across heather. You may prefer to shadow younger competitors on white and yellow following your own run.

## Safety and Risk

A comprehensive risk assessment has been carried out by the organisers, but participants take part at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety during the event.

The area is not regularly used by the general public so you are unlikely to meet other people. For this reason we would strongly advise you to take a whistle.

Deer are in the area and so there is a risk of ticks. Please check after your run and remove ticks promptly. More information about Lyme disease is available on the [NHS website](#).

The parking area is a cattle field so please ensure that you wash your hands before eating.

## Medical Conditions

If you, or anyone in your group (including juniors), have a medical condition that first-aiders or health professionals should know about in the event of an accident or illness during the course of the event please print off the Medical Form, complete it fully and bring it along to the event. You should complete a separate copy for each individual who has a medical condition. Please leave the completed Medical Form at Event Registration. If it is not in a labelled sealed envelope, it will be put in one and will be opened only in an emergency. It will be shredded immediately after the event if you do not claim it back.

## Privacy

When entering our events your name will appear in the results section of this website and may appear in newspaper reports.

We may also take photographs at the event for publicity purposes – please let us know if you do not want us to use your photograph in this way.