

BW EDINBURGH 2026

Welcome

The 2026 Edinburgh Big Weekend is almost here. Get yourself up to date with all the latest details below. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Weekend Overview

Friday 23rd January	Fight With the Night - The Braids
Saturday 24th January	City Race - Edinburgh Central & Calton Hill
	Ceilidh - St Peter's Church
Sunday 25th January	Classic Race - Holyrood Park
	Urban Sprint - Pollock Halls

Looking forward to seeing you in Edinburgh for Big Weekend 2026 soon!



General Information

Contact Information

Email: euocbigweekend@gmail.com

Website: <https://euoc.co.uk/bigweekend/>

Entries: https://www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?event_id=16683

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in contact with us, and we will try and answer your queries as best as possible.

Transport

Edinburgh has very good transport links provided by Lothian Buses. Event parking will not be provided, so we recommend using public transport. Bus information can be found on the Lothian Bus website here: <https://www.lothianbuses.com/>.

If you are unable to use public transport or require parking nearby for related reasons, please contact the organisers at euocbigweekend@gmail.com.

Edinburgh City Centre is now covered by a Low Emission Zone. More information can be found online at <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/lowemissionzone>.

Weather

Let's get the obvious one out of the way. It's January in Scotland, which means risk of ice, rain, snow and high winds. At the moment the forecast is predicting it to just be cold and damp, but in the event of these risks surfacing (although looking unlikely), we may have to move/cancel/void the event or make carrying a waterproof compulsory. We will keep you as up to date as possible with any changes on our website <https://euoc.co.uk/bigweekend/>. Otherwise, please bring plenty of layers, some waterproofs, and stay warm!

Entry on the Day

It's never too late! Entry on the day will be available on all days, subject to map availability.

	Friday	Saturday / Sunday
Junior / Student	£6	£11
Senior	£11	£18

Start Times

Will be available in the next few days on SiEntries. There will be an email this week notifying you once start times are available. Please remember to leave plenty of time to get to the start.

Rules

The events will be held under British Orienteering Federation Rules. These can be found here: <https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/doc/rules/2026/2026-rules-clean>.

All competitors must follow the British Orienteering's Participant Code of Conduct, which can be found here:

<https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/doc/policies-and-guidance/code-of-conduct/british-orienteering-code-of-conduct>.

Be aware that if you are **not** a British Orienteering or Scottish Orienteering member, then you are no longer covered by their insurance and so you participate at your own risk and will have to accept responsibility for any damages.

Punching System

The SportIdent system will be used for this event, and SIAC will be enabled for all days. Hire SI cards will be available from enquiries on each day of the event. Please remember to return your hire card at the end of the weekend!

Every day will be a **punching start** and a punching finish, it will **not be SIAC enabled**.

Ceilidh

If an urban race round Edinburgh central wasn't enough for you, get your dancing shoes on for the Big Weekend Ceilidh! The Pied Piper Ceilidh Band will be returning again this year for an evening of music, dancing and fun. Also look forward to haggis, a raffle and games!

Doors open at 18:00, and the dancing will start at 19:00.

If you don't have a ticket yet, they are still available on SiEntries and a limited number will be available at the door.

Merchandise

Event t-shirts will be on sale at enquiries everyday for £13. It's a gorgeous raspberry red this year so don't miss out! They are available in unisex sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL. If you ordered one through SiEntries it will be available for pick up at enquiries.

We will also be selling some blasts from the past — t-shirts from last year and bobble hats will be available for just £5. If you missed a Big Weekend then this is the perfect opportunity to complete the collection. They will be available at enquiries each day.

Prizes

There will be prizes for the winner of each course (men and women) each day. Prizes have very kindly been provided by our event sponsors. The prizegiving for Friday and Saturday will take place at the ceilidh, and Sunday shortly after the event at the assembly.

Competition Information

Friday 23rd January — Fight With The Night

Planner: Oscar Shepherd (EUOC)

Controller: Colin Eades (INT)

Organiser: Joel Atkinson (EUOC)

The Day in Brief

Area: The Braids

Assembly: Braid Hills Golf Course, north east corner, NT 264695. Near 91 Liberton Dr, Edinburgh EH16 6NS, [///sticks.parade.defend](#) There will be **no toilets** available.

Transport: 7, 37 or 47 Lothian Bus to Liberton Cemetery, then follow tapes to assembly.

Start: adjacent to assembly

Start times: 17:00 – 19:00

Mass start: meet 18:15 for 18:30 start

Finish: adjacent to assembly

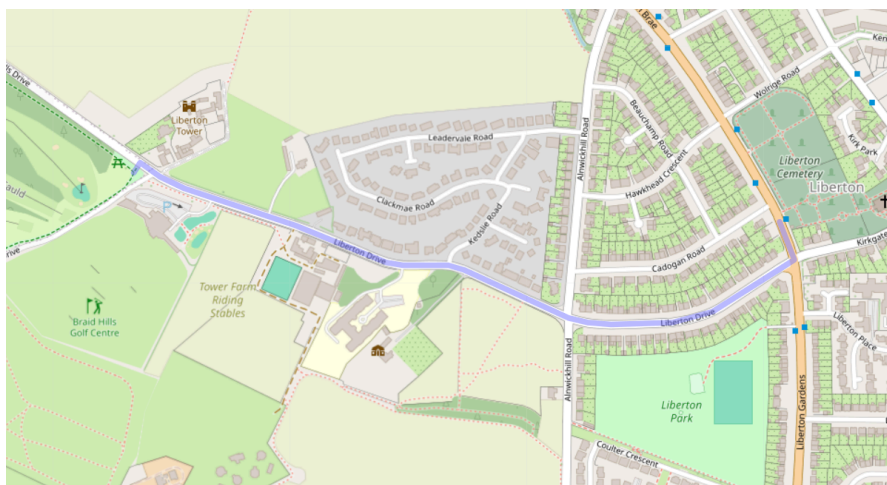
Courses close: 20:30

Advice: Read the twist details

Assembly

The assembly is at the north east corner of the golf course, NT 264695, just off Braids Road Drive. The route to assembly will be taped from Liberton Cemetery bus stop, and is a 10 minute walk. The 7, 37 or 47 all stop at Liberton Cemetery and are fairly frequent. Please take care on the approach road as it is dark and cars often drive quickly.

Please note there are **no toilets** at assembly. Please go before you arrive. We expect the assembly to be rather chilly so we will have a few tents, please leave bags in there. There will also be well deserved hot drinks and cakes afterwards.



Start and Finish

Both are adjacent to assembly. Starts will be from 17:00 to 19:00, with the optional mass start at 18:30. If you want to run the mass start (long course only), please make sure to update your start time preference on SiEntries. If not, you will be allocated a start block. Please stick to your allocated start block to avoid flooding the start. If you are running in the mass start, please ensure that you are at the start by 18:15 in order to participate.

Courses

Course	Class	Distance (km)	Climb (m)
1	Long	6.7	TBC
2	Medium	4.0	TBC
3	Short	3.0	TBC
4	Novice	1.8	TBC

Standard kites and reflectors will be used for the event. Courses close at 20:30 — please be back by then so we can collect all the controls!

The Twist

In the 2025-2026 season of FWTN, we've already seen many devious twists — from one way barriers to unfair gaffling. And the Big Weekend FWTN is no different. We're going to put your golfing skills to practice.

The long, medium and short courses are, for the most part, a normal course. However, there are a couple of “greens” — controls in which you can show off your short game! Each “green” is a short micro-O section to test your skills!

When you arrive at each section, it will be marked on your map with the **map flip symbol**. There will also be a sign at the control to remind you to flip your map. On the back of the map there will be a micro map of the area surrounding the control. This section is a **score course**. You can visit the controls in **any order**, but you must visit **all the controls**. Once you have visited every control, return to the **original control**, marked with the **map flip symbol**, and continue the course on the other side of the map as normal.

Confused? Simply punch the control, flip your map, punch **all** the controls on the micro map before returning to the central control and **punch again**. Then continue as normal.

The short and medium course will only visit the micro area **once**. The long course will visit the area **twice**. Make sure you use the right micro map on the back of your map! Make sure to **check control codes** as there are many controls in the area.

Terrain

Braids Golf Course is an open hillside with a smattering of gorse and has been used for night orienteering many times in the past. Expect some fast running while trying to stay on top of your nav!

Please **do not run on the golf course greens**; they are marked with olive green on the map. They will not be marked on the ground, but should be avoided. You also shouldn't need to run in any bunkers.

Clothing / Equipment

Headtorch is compulsory and a spare headtorch/batteries are strongly recommended. Shorts are acceptable as the terrain is very open.

In the case of poor weather conditions, cagoules may be made compulsory.

Map

Two maps will be used (see above). The main map is a brand new map from Alasdair Pedley (INT). It is mapped according to ISOM 2017-2.

Mapper: Alisdair Pedley (2025)

Scale: 1:7500, 5m contours

Previous map: <https://www.esoc.routegadget.co.uk/rg2/#91>

The micro areas on the reverse have been mapped according to ISSprOM 2019-2:

Mapper: Joel Atkinson (2026)

Scale: 1:2000, 2.5m contours, symbols 100%

Saturday 24th January — Urban / Sprint

Planner: Dan Barber (EUOC)

Controller: Roger Scrutton (ESOC)

Organiser: Cat Chapman (EUOC)

The Day in Brief

Area: Edinburgh Central & Calton Hill

Assembly: Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 138-140 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR, [///inform.bring.chin](http://inform.bring.chin).

Transport: 5 min walk from Surgeon's Hall bus stop and 15 min walk from Waverley station.

Start: 2km from assembly for courses 1–5 and 200m (adjacent to finish) for courses 6–7.

Start times: 10:30 – 13:00

Finish: 200m from assembly

Courses Close: 14:45

Advice: Take care and be aware

Assembly

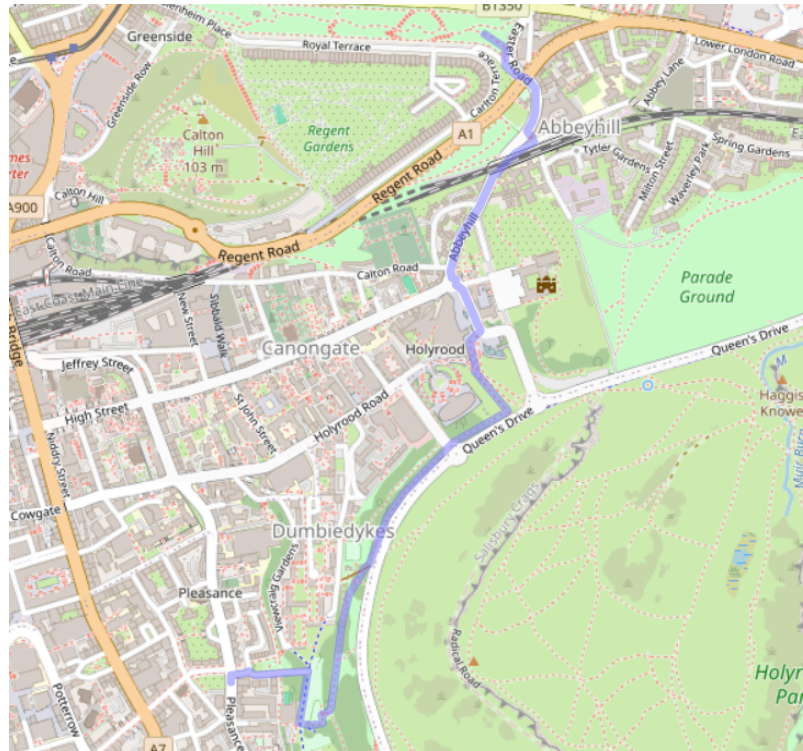
The assembly is at the Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 138-140 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR, [///inform.bring.chin](http://inform.bring.chin), only a 15 minute walk from the train station. We'd recommend walking towards the Pleasance road if coming from the train station, or a bus headed to any of the Surgeon's Hall bus stops, from which it's a 5 minute walk away. Watch out for competitors if you're coming from town!

Doors open from 09:00 for download, enquiries and toilets. The assembly is only available until 15:30, so everyone must be out by then.

Start & Finish

For courses 1–5, the start is a 2km walk to the east side of Calton Hill. The route will be taped to avoid areas used by the courses, so please follow them. Please leave plenty of time to get there to avoid stressing our helpers on the start out too much! There is also the option to go straight to the start without going to assembly to save some distance; head to Carlton Terrace Brae, [///sides.herb.plug](http://sides.herb.plug) and follow tapes from there. Don't forget to visit assembly to download after you've finished though. The junior start (courses 6 and 7) is adjacent to the finish, and will be taped from assembly. It is a short walk from the finish back to the assembly for all courses.





Courses

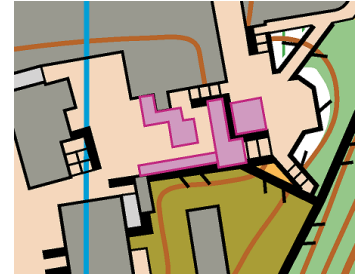
Course	Class	Distance (km)	Climb (m)
1	M Open	10.0	255
2	W Open, M Vet	8.7	220
3	W Vet, M Supervet	7.3	195
4	W Supervet, M Ultravet	6.1	145
5	W Ultravet, M/W Hypervet	4.3	120
6	M/W 16-	3.2	70
7	M/W 12-	2.3	30

There will be artificial barriers used on the courses. These will be shown with an uncrossable barrier symbol and OOB hashing behind it. If there isn't enough room, a single line will be used. See the example to the right. Two of them are large, blocking entire roads, and these will be marshalled, but not marked on the ground. One of them is smaller, and will be marked with tape on the ground, and a marshall.



The area used by the juniors is steep, tricky and passes near some busy roads. We therefore recommend that juniors on course 6 and 7 **are shadowed**.

There is a small section on Course 7 with some temporary structures shown in purple on the map - we will put some signs out to aid navigation through this section.



Terrain

Saturday showcases the sheer variety of Edinburgh city centre. Courses start on Calton Hill before heading over to the intricate passage network of the old town and finishing in the steep, towering flats of Dumbiedykes.

This is a **city centre**. Please be careful and courteous to the other members of the public. Show off our sport in a good light! Take care crossing all roads, some are very busy, descending steps and steep banks, coming round corners etc.

Clothing / Equipment

The race is mostly urban, but the section on Calton Hill is quite steep, so road shoes with some grip are recommended. If weather conditions are very poor, cagoules may be made compulsory.

Map

Mapper: Graham Gristwood (2024) & Graeme Ackland (2010), updates Frank Townley (2026)

Scale: 1:4000, 5m contours

Previous map: <https://www.euoc.routegadget.co.uk/rg2/#49> & <https://www.euoc.routegadget.co.uk/rg2/#36>

Sunday 25th January — Classic (SoSOL) / Sprint

Planner: Jonas Newey (EUOC) and Joe Hudd (EUOC)

Controller: Graeme Ackland (INT)

Organiser: James Hammond (EUOC)

The Day in Brief

Area: Holyrood Park & Pollock Halls

Assembly: Pollock Halls South Hall Complex, 18 Holyrood Park Rd, Edinburgh, EH16 5AR, [///museum.peanut.split](http://museum.peanut.split). Enter by the side entrance on Dalkeith Road.

Transport: 2, 14, 30, 33 or 51 to Commonwealth Pool, follow tapes and enter by side entrance on Dalkeith Road.

Start: 1.7km walk from assembly for the classic, and 1km walk for the sprint

Start times: 10:00-13:00

Kit drop: adjacent to finish

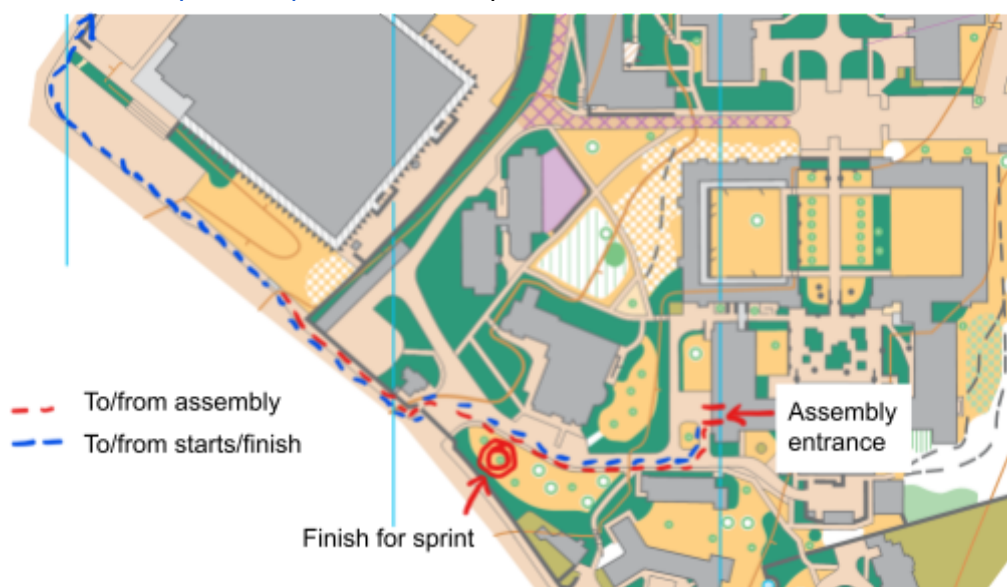
Finish: 1.1km from assembly for classic, and adjacent for sprint.

Courses Close: 15:00

Advice: Bring money for post run cake!

Assembly

The assembly will be in Kirkland Hall, part of Pollock Hall's South Hall Complex. It's a 30 minute walk from Waverley train station, following directions for Saturday and continuing to the Commonwealth Pool. The 2, 13, 30, 33 & 51 buses all stop at the Commonwealth Pool and it will be taped from there. The route to assembly is strictly through the side gate, located at [///museum.peanut.split](http://museum.peanut.split), see the map below.



Once you are here, ensure you remove **all** muddy shoes before entering, dobs or not. Download, enquiries and toilets will be available here, as well as a bake stall run by the Scottish Junior Orienteering Squad! Bring along some cash to support our talented juniors in return for some delicious cakes.

Start & Finish

There are two starts and two finishes. Please take care as you may pass competitors on the way to/from these.

The classic races start and finish in Holyrood Park. Follow the tapes and signs from assembly. A kit drop is available at the finish, and will be manned by a volunteer. From the finish follow the tapes back to the assembly.

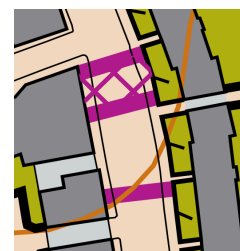
The sprint races start on the edge of Holyrood Park and finish adjacent to the assembly. Follow tapes from assembly until you enter Holyrood Park, then turn left and continue to follow tapes. Everyone entered in the sprint has an open start, but if you are entered for both classic and sprint, it is your responsibility to fit both in.

Courses

Course	Class	Distance (km)	Climb (m)
1	Brown	7.3	500
2	Blue	5.4	355
3	Green	3.3	195
4	Short Green	2.2	105
5	Light Green	3.0	230
6	Orange	2.1	115
7	Yellow	1.8	60
8	White	1.2	35
9	Long Sprint	4.5	40
10	Short Sprint	3.0	30

The sprint courses will again have artificial barriers, which will be shown the same as the race on Saturday. They will be marked with tape on the ground and a marshall.

Courses 1 and 2 on the classic will have a map flip.



Terrain

Arthur's Seat is one of Edinburgh's most iconic sites, and the courses will offer some excellent views across the city. Expect some big route choices, steep slopes and fine navigation through the gorse. Please give way to all members of the public and take care on the steep and often quite slippery paths. If you run along/cross the ring road round the area, watch out for cyclists.

The sprint is mostly held in Pollock Halls, a large area of student accommodation, with many twisty passages requiring focus. While it is a Sunday, and most students will likely be asleep, please watch out for all members of the public. The courses will also cross a large road, which will **not** be timed-out as there is unlikely to be much traffic on a Sunday, but a marshal will be in place to make sure you cross safely.

Clothing / Equipment

Due to gorse and other undergrowth, full leg cover is strongly recommended for all competitors on the classic races.

In the case of poor weather conditions, cagoules may be made compulsory.

Map

The scattered bush symbol (404.1) has been used (perhaps incorrectly) to indicate an area with individual scattered gorse bushes, which are too small to map individually.

Mapper: Matthew Gooch (2024) & Joe Sunley (2023), updates Jonas Newey (2026)

Scale: 1:10000 / 1:7500, 5m contours & 1:4000, 5m contours

Previous map: <https://www.euoc.routegadget.co.uk/rg2/#50> & <https://www.euoc.routegadget.co.uk/rg2/#39>