

CLARO Regional Orienteering Event.

Sunday 8th February 2026.

Claro is pleased to invite you to one of our premier areas to enjoy the exceptional orienteering experience that is Brimham Rocks!



Venue:	Brimham Rocks							
Assembly:	Adjacent to National Trust car park							
Postcode:	HG3 4DW	What3Words:	handbags.hockey.showcases					
Times:	1000-1200 registration opens 1030-1230: starts 1345: courses close (you must have returned and downloaded by this time).							
Entries:	Via Racesignup until Sun 1st Feb. After this, subject to map availability and supplement, on RSU until Thu 5th Feb, then at the event on the day only.							
Facilities:	Public toilets, outdoor cafe (both 350m easy walk from assembly)							

Courses

	Kms	Climb (m)	Controls	Map scale	Technical Difficulty	Standard
Black	4.8	250	37*	1:4000	TD5	Full technical and physical challenge. Gaffled**
Blue	3.8	225	28	1:4000	TD5	Full technical and physical challenge
Green	2.8	165	19	1:4000	TD5	Full technical challenge. Slightly easier physically: avoids scrambling.
Short Green	2.5	130	18	1:4000	TD5	As Green, reduced climb, avoiding steep exposed locations.
Very Short Green	1.8	90	14	1:3000	TD5	As Short Green, further consideration to those needing a physically less challenging course
Red	4.0	155	27	1:4000	TD3	Intermediate technically, ideally suited to those wanting a fair distance without full on technical challenge
Orange	2.9	65	17	1:3000	TD3	As red technically - ideal for adult beginners and more experienced children
Yellow	1.8	50	12	1:3000	TD2	Ideal for beginners and younger children

* Please make sure your SI-card can cope - older ones (e.g. red!) cannot.

**Gaffled means that 'butterfly loops' will be used to split the field up more: everybody does the same orienteering, but some of the legs in a different order! See planner's notes below.

Distances are measured 'straight line' between controls. Add c 25% for expected running distance.

Loose control descriptions will be available for all courses, including Black.

Yorkshire Superleague: This event is a counter for the Yorkshire Superleague. Due to the unique nature of Brimham, we want to encourage everybody to pick the course which best matches their appetite for

physical and technical challenge. To score points without penalties, simply choose any course of the usual technical difficulty for your age class. See full YHOA Superleague rules [here](#).

- M16/W16 to M90/W90 – any TD5 course.
- M12/W12, M14/W14** – any course TD3 or above.
- M10/W10 – any course TD2 or above.

** Note – there is no Light Green so if this is your normal course we recommend you choose between a simpler Orange, a simpler but longer Red, or the shorter but more technically challenging Short Green or Very Short Green.

Map: Surveyed and drawn by Quentin Harding, see course details for scale. Loose control descriptions available (including Black) in start lanes.

Terrain: Brimham is one of the most technically challenging areas in the north of England, dominated by a multiplicity of gritstone rock formations, almost unique as an orienteering area in the UK, made even more interesting in recent years by woodland growth. To the east, is open moorland with patches of complex contour detail and less rock, although enough to keep life interesting! A well-developed path network provides the framework for easier courses, but still well in amongst this fascinating landscape.

Start: 450m easy walk

Finish: adjacent to assembly

Safety: (in addition to standard Ts&Cs)

Whistles are compulsory. The area is characterised by dense areas of crags, some over 30m high with near vertical drops. These will be particularly slippery in wet or icy weather. In the event of localised ice patches identified near controls, these will be taped off and controls may be hung slightly away from the mapped location to avoid the hazard. Please be cautious and sensible.

Transport: Nearest bus is route 24 Harrogate-Summerbridge-Pateley Bridge. Limited Sunday service.

Parking: National Trust car park. Fee payable for non-members. Please follow directions from marshals and park in the Northerly Car Park which is adjacent to registration and download. Parking free for National Trust Members, for others fee is £6.50 for up to 4 hours payable by cash or via Just Park (please download the app beforehand as poor Wi-Fi signal.) **THE MACHINES DO NOT TAKE CARD PAYMENT.**

Main officials Organiser: June Graham and Katie Gray Planner: Vicky Bailey Controller: Ruth Ker For entries queries, contact the Entries Secretary, Linda Kelly, at entries@claro-orienteering.org.uk

Planner's notes (7 of them!):

1. Birch pruning - safety notice

There has been recent pruning of silver birches in several areas.

These areas are quite obvious, but the stumps less so.

Please take care.



2. Control density

Brimham is a compact area with many controls packed into a small area, on similar (rocky) features. Some sites bend IOF rules on proximity. Courses are planned middle-distance style; your controls will come thick and fast. Check your control descriptions carefully to avoid mis-punching.



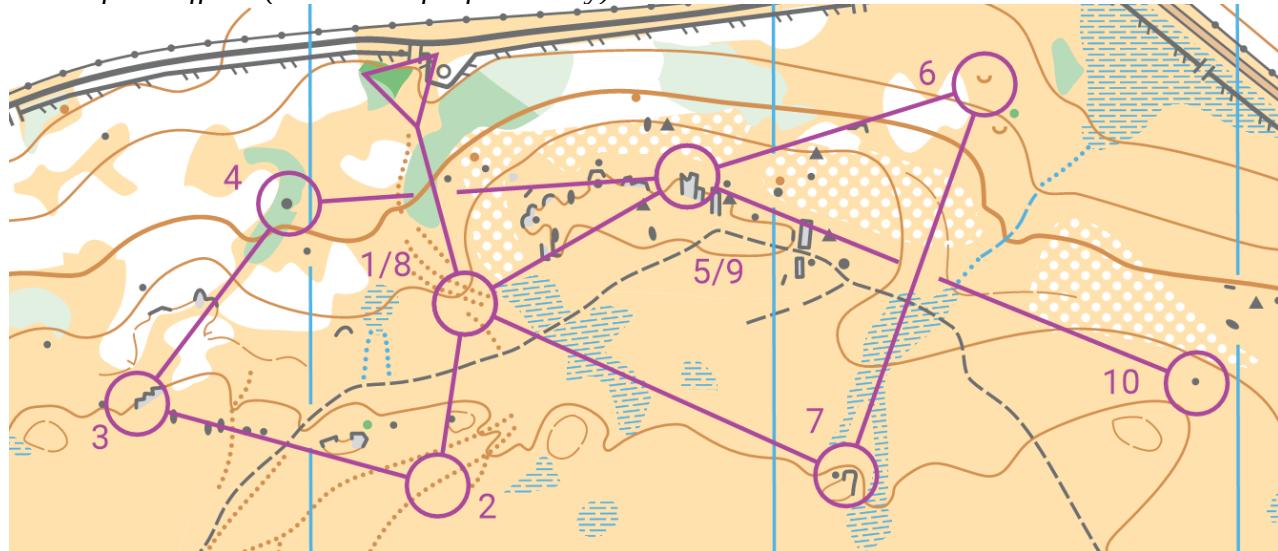
3. Gaffles

The Black course includes gaffled sections. “Gaffles” are sections of a course that re-visit a control or controls multiple times, allowing the planner to create variations of the course that visit all the same legs but in a different order – great for splitting up runners. Competitors receive different versions of the map at the start line. Expect fast and furious racing where you’re never sure which runners around you are going to the same place!

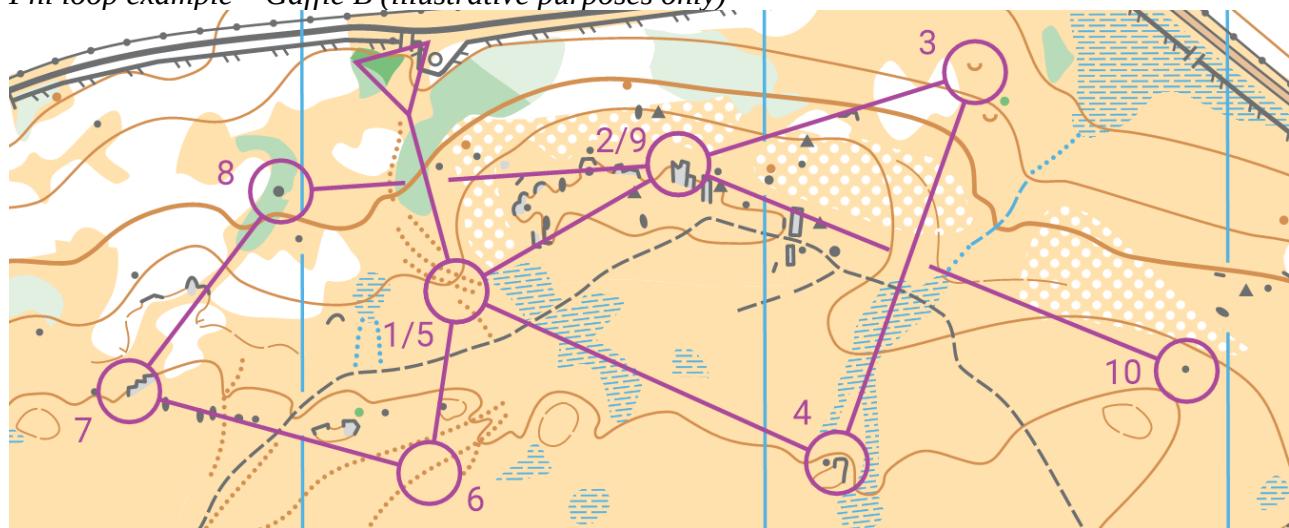
If you are doing the Black course, your map will be handed to you in the start lane, with control descriptions attached. You can attach your control descriptions while you wait but please don’t look at your map until you punch the start. Take care upon starting – you will immediately enter a complex, gaffled area so take the time to ensure you’ve correctly identified your first control.

The gaffles used include “phi” loops. See examples below.

Phi loop – Gaffle A (illustrative purposes only)



Phi loop example – Gaffle B (illustrative purposes only)



4. Map notes – feature heights

In a world of rocks, it's worth brushing up your knowledge of how these features are captured in control descriptions.

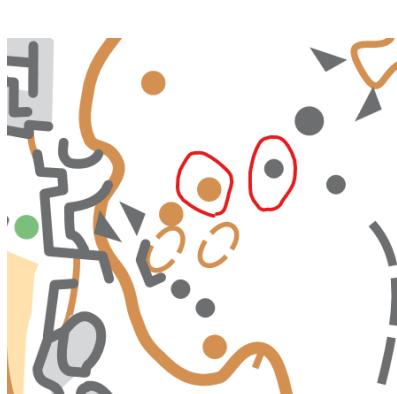
IOF rules require all boulder, crag or knoll control sites to have their heights (in metres) quoted in the control descriptions. This helps you visualise (without the need to carry a tape measure) whether the feature you are looking for is little, big or ginormous.

Examples:

<table border="1"><tr><td>1</td><td>91</td><td></td><td>■■■</td><td></td><td>12</td><td>○</td><td></td></tr></table>	1	91		■■■		12	○			North of boulder 1m at one end, 3m at other end. The first number is the height of the boulder where the control is positioned.
1	91		■■■		12	○				
<table border="1"><tr><td>3</td><td>93</td><td></td><td>▲</td><td>▲</td><td>3 1</td><td>—</td><td></td></tr></table>	3	93		▲	▲	3 1	—			Between 3m and 1m boulder.
3	93		▲	▲	3 1	—				

5. Map notes – when is a boulder not a boulder?

Answer – when it's a knoll! If the boulder is covered in greenery, it will likely be mapped as a knoll. This convention originated in Scandinavia, where the forests contain a multitude of furry and non-furry boulders.



This is a knoll



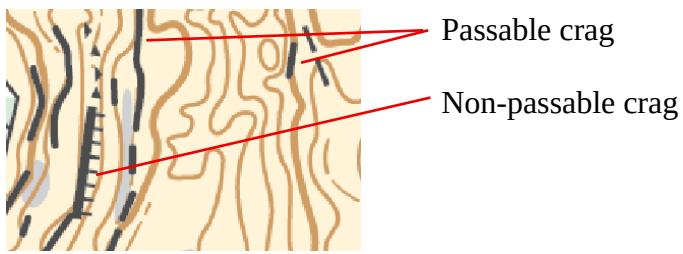
This is a boulder



Alternatively, the boulder you have found on the ground may not appear on the map because it is too small. "Too small" usually means lower than a metre, however in areas with lots of detail, 1m+ features may be omitted so that more significant features can be more clearly seen.

6. Map notes – about crags

In areas where rocky features are the exception not the norm, crags are shown in two ways: passable (thin black line) and non-passable (thick black line with “caterpillar legs.”)



At Brimham, it's not possible to use the non-passable symbol without obscuring detail. Many acutely non-passable cliffs will be marked with the thin line. Do not expect to be able to climb a crag. If in doubt, go round.

The multitude of crags in Brimham call for a whole new vocabulary of control descriptions. Crag corner, middle foot of (enormous) crag, anybody? We've had to confine ourselves to sites than can be described (sometimes creatively) within the usual standard. One interpretation we have consistently observed is that contiguous black crag lines always refer to a single crag. The various arms or branches of the crag are not counted separately.



7. Map notes – tunnels through rock

Tunnels through rock have been mapped with the non-standard symbol shown below. The purple arrows show the entrances to the tunnel. This symbol has been used to make the map tunnels more prominent. The standard black-dotted, striped symbol is easily lost among the many black rock features.

