



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING CLUB
SUNDAY OCTOBER 11th 2026

RAVEN MEOLS FORMBY

NATIONAL and UKOL EVENT

Day 2 of the Deeside Autumn Weekend

Venue

Raven Meols is the southern part of the Formby Dunes system, situated on the Sefton Coast at Formby between Liverpool and Southport [GR:SD273056](#)

Directions

From the western ends of the M57 and M58 follow signs to Southport via A5758 then A565 for approximately 10km, at the roundabout turn left for Formby, B5424 [GR:306058](#) What3Words [send.paths.impose](#). At the next mini roundabout turn left onto Raven Meols Lane. This route will take you over a level crossing with trains passing on a regular basis in both directions. (to avoid the level crossing see longer route below *). After the level crossing take the fourth junction on the left into Jubilee Road (signed from here) and follow down into Stapleton Road and turn left into the school entrance [GR:SD285059](#) What3Words – [shark.rear.joined](#). These are residential roads at 20mph, please drive carefully.

*Alternative Route – to avoid the level crossing carry straight on at the mini roundabout until the next roundabout, here keep left then left again at the following mini roundabout into Duke Street. Keep straight on at the next roundabout over Formby Bridge passing the railway station, then turn left at the second junction into Ward Avenue. These are residential roads at 20mph, please drive carefully. At the end of Ward Avenue turn right then immediately left into Jubilee Rd, follow 'O' signs.

If approaching from Southport on the A565, turn right at the traffic lights signed for Formby B5195 [GR:308069](#) What3Words [keep.over.diary](#). Turn left at the T junction, signed Formby point, then right at the roundabout and immediately left at the mini roundabout into Duke Street. Follow *Alternative Route above over the railway bridge.

Train

It is possible to come to Formby by train direct from Liverpool on the Southport line. **The journey normally takes 30 minutes but on the event day, due to engineering works starting, there will be a bus replacement service between Liverpool and Sandhills which will increase the journey time to 50-60mins.**

It is a 1.4k walk or cycle ride from Formby station to the event assembly.

When you get off the train at Formby Station, go up the steps off the platform & turn right out of the main entrance onto Formby Bridge and head west. Take the second turning on the left into Ward Avenue. At the T-junction at the end of Ward Avenue, turn right onto Queen's Road and follow 'O' signs at Jubilee Road. Vehicles travelling to the event will be approaching in this direction so display something "orienteering" and you may get a lift.

Parking and Assembly

At the Range High School, Stapleton Rd, Formby L37 2YN [GR:SD285059](#), What3Words – [shark.rear.joined](#).

Gates to the school will be open from 9am, please don't arrive any earlier as the residential roads are narrow and will cause congestion by waiting outside.

Please follow Marshals' instructions. Entry and exit to the school is by the same gate. **Please arrive by 12.00pm at the latest and there will be no exit from the parking area until 12.15pm.**

Assembly/Enquiries/Download is in the Sports Hall next to the parking area. Toilets will be situated within the school. No wet/muddy shoes to be worn inside the Sports Hall.

Clothing

Full leg cover is compulsory. Lower leg protection recommended. Cagoules may be compulsory in case of bad weather.

Dogs

No dogs are allowed anywhere on the school premises.

Competitors may come across dog walkers (and the possibility of dogs not on a leash) on their courses as all of the competition area is open access to the public.

Terrain

The area as a whole is now managed by the National Trust and comprises mainly of open vegetated dunes. There are a number of areas of bare sand which are marked as OOB on the map and must be avoided: sand in these areas is mobile and so there has been no attempt to map contours within them. There is also a large caravan site in the middle of the area that is marked as “settlement” and is OOB.

The contour detail is complex throughout the whole of the area and it will provide competitors on relevant courses with a definite technical challenge! Undergrowth has grown thicker during recent years and progress off paths can be slower than has been the case in the past, so also expect a physical challenge! There are also areas of very low-level vegetation with thin spikey runners (trip and scratch hazard).

Roads – in the northern part of the map, the longer courses pass close to the Lifeboat Road car park and its approach road. These are Out Of Bounds to competitors and are marked as such on the map. Please avoid.

Map and Description Sheets

A new map based on LIDAR data first surveyed by Graham Nilsen in 2018 and updated this summer.

The map scale is 1:10000 or 1:7500 according to course (see table of courses), with a contour interval of 2.5m. All courses are printed on A4 waterproof paper.

Control descriptions are printed on the front of the map for all courses. Text is used for Orange and Yellow courses, all others are pictorial. Loose description sheets will be available in the Start lanes and will be printed on waterproof paper.

Please note that footpaths have been mapped by runnability rather than width. The major path symbol is used for surfaced paths (gravel, wood chip etc) which offer good running; the minor path symbol indicates unsurfaced paths (grass or loose sand) which are slower. Be aware that the area is heavily used by the public and so the mapping of paths has had to be selective in order to produce a map which is readable: **many small paths are not shown**. Please can parents warn youngsters that they will come upon small paths that are not marked on the map (easier courses have been planned to minimise the impact of these unmarked paths). Compass and pace counting will be useful in places because of this.

Vegetation across the area is very variable and patchy, usually without definite boundaries: it has been mapped for runnability, not navigation. Individual trees and bushes are generally not shown.

Courses

Courses subject to final controlling.

Course	km	Climb	Scale	UKOL Men	UKOL Women
Black	10	120	1:10000	M21 M35	
Short Brown	8	100	1:10000	M18 M20 M40 M45 M50	W20 W21 W35
Blue	6.5	80	1:7500	M16 M55 M60	W18 W40 W45
Short Blue	5.5	70	1:7500	M65 M70	W16 W50 W55
Green	4.5	60	1:7500	M75	W60 W65
Short Green	3.3	45	1:7500	M80 M85	W70 W75 W80 W85
Light Green	3.2	30	1:7500		
Orange	2.5	25	1:7500		
Yellow	2.2	20	1:7500		

The Black, Short Brown and Blue courses have double sided maps.

The Black course has 31 controls: if you have entered with a type 5 or 8 dibber (nos 1-499,999, 2,000,000-2,002,999 or 2,004,000-2,999,999), you will need to exchange it for a SIAC at Enquiries.

UKOL : You are free to run any course, but you must enter the course shown for your age class to score UKOL points, see age class to course mapping above.

Courses close at 15:30: please remember that you must report to download even if you do not finish the course.

Entries

Online pre-entries at [SiEntries](#). Seniors £9.00, Juniors £2.50. Normal SI card free to borrow.

Closing date for entries Sunday 4th October. Late online entry (£2 surcharge for Seniors) possible until 18.00 on Saturday 10th October, subject to availability of maps. Entry on the day at late entry rate subject to availability of maps.

Choose your start time when you enter the Black to Short Green courses, Light Green, Orange and Yellow course runners may start whenever they wish. Start times are between 10:30 and 13:30 with 2-minute intervals.

An entry limit of 500 competitors has been set by the National Trust and Natural England. If this limit is reached, entries will be closed.

Start lists will be available at Enquiries and Start.

Start and Finish

There is one Start area for all courses, 700m approx. from the Sports Hall. Follow the signs and red/white tapes SE from the Sports Hall, through a gate and turn right onto a track to the dunes, follow tapes.

A punching Start and punching Finish will be used for all courses.

The carrying of a whistle is compulsory, full leg cover is compulsory and a check will be made on entry to the start lanes. Cagoules could also be made compulsory if the weather deems it necessary.

Yellow maps to be picked up from download/ enquiries

There is one common finish for all courses 400m approx. from assembly. Follow signs and tapes back to assembly.

Punching

Sportident with activated SIAC will be used. Non SIAC dibbers available to borrow on the day. Punching start and finish.

Safety

A comprehensive Risk Assessment has been carried by the organising team, but competitors take part at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety.

Important - Non-members of British Orienteering are not insured under British Orienteering's public liability policy. By entering this event, you acknowledge that you are participating at your own risk.

The whole area is open access land and is very popular with locals and walkers, especially in the northern part around the Lifeboat Road Car Park. The Lifeboat Road car park and its approach road is OUT OF BOUNDS and marked as such on the map. Please be aware of other users and give way where possible.

A bridle path passes through the northern part of the area, please give way to horses if you come across them.

Full leg cover is compulsory. Lower leg protection recommended. Cagoules may be compulsory in case of bad weather.

There will be no water on the courses or at the finish. Please bring your own.

There will be a key drop at Enquiries. Competitors are advised to use this facility, especially those travelling alone, as this is an added check that you have returned.

First Aid cover is being provided by DEE members trained to give first aid, situated at Download/Enquiries.

There is a Minor Injuries Clinic open until 19.30 at Ormskirk Hospital, L39 2AZ, 01695 577111. The nearest A&E dept is Southport & Formby Hospital PR8 6PN 01704 547471. Maps will be available at Download.

Officials

Planner: Mike Smithard (DEE)

Controller: Eddie Speak (MDOC)

Organiser: Norman Hall (DEE) e-mail: norman265@hotmail.co.uk

This Event has been made possible with the help of The National Trust, Natural England and Range High School. Deeside OC would like to thank these organisations for their kind assistance with this event.