

The event will take place in the most intricate part in a compact area on a ridge of heathland and forest studded with > 200 sinkholes. There will be a feel of Scandinavian forests and Slovenian sinkholes about this one. These Dorset dolines (or sinkholes) are depressions formed by subsurface solution of chalk, covered by a thin cover of sand. They take the form of small, circular or elliptical depressions that have formed when the surface sediment has collapsed into hollows formed by the dissolution of the underlying chalk. Some are so large that they are 90 metres wide and up to 12 metres deep. However, most are only 10-20m wide and 4 metres deep. Most have trees in the bottom and a covering of leaf litter, but some are active.

The courses will make full advantage of these features, however no controls will be placed in the bottom of the depressions, and **you must not attempt to run down into the deeper ones even if it seems quicker**. The most dangerous are fenced off, however others remain active, but the majority are benign. Controls on these depressions will be placed just below the rim of the pit, easily reachable from the top. The courses will be most long middle distance, with lots of controls, lots of changes of direction. The northern part of the area is quite runnable, however recent forestry work has left quite a few brashings. The worst areas of bramble have been avoided, so running through dark green may not be the best route-choice. The network of paths and rides can be helpful but also confusing. The southern half has a steep ridge across the middle of the area, all courses will cross this, and there are areas of open heath with long distance view of the Purbecks. Some of the dolines have pools in them, keep away from the water as they could be deep. The southern woods are tougher under foot, with some ridge and furrow. Using paths might be a better route-choice here. The blue and brown courses will have a double-sided map, and on these courses expect climb as you criss-cross up and down the slope.

Hope you enjoy the courses as much as we have enjoyed mapping and planning on it.