

Bude Pirate Run 2026 Race Brief

Sunday 20th September 2026

Ahoy me hearties! Welcome back to the Bude Pirate Run for 2026.

Thank you for joining our race, I hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

Firstly, I would like to thank Crooklets Beach Café for kindly sponsoring our race. I would also like to thank the National Trust for allowing us to use their land. I also thank Sophie Edwards (SE Sports Therapy) and Emma Freeman (Freeman Physiotherapy). Sophie and Emma have kindly agreed to offer their time to provide massages post-race. The Bude Surf Life Saving Club also provide us with a headquarters and are always very hospitable which we are thankful for. Finally, we could not run the race without all our committee and volunteer marshals, please ensure you thank the marshals during your run.

Reminders and Safety

Our race is part of the Multi Terrain Series and therefore no dogs are allowed. Also, in line with the Series rules, **no headphones are permitted of any type** (even bone conducting or similar). Anyone found breaching these rules will be disqualified, you have been warned!

Please also note that the coast path can be a dangerous place. Sticking to the footpath is important, firstly it is the route of the course, secondly if you veer off the footpath you could be on private land and thirdly (most importantly) for your safety veering off the path may lead you closer to the cliff edge.

Zig Zags - Those that know the local area or the course itself will note that there are zig zags cut into three of the hills, Northcott Mouth, Duckpool and the downhill and uphill after Duckpool. The zig zags form part of the course and you should take these, please do not shortcut your way up or down the hills.

Rabbit Holes - There are lots of rabbit holes especially on the grassed areas, please watch your step especially on the start/finish straight.

Start / Finish Line – Repeat runners will no doubt know that we changed the location start/finish line three years ago due to necessity. It is now on Maer Down. A link to google maps is below. There are also yellow arrows from registration pointing you there. There will also be marshals showing you the way.

Times & Locations

Car Parks	Open Throughout <i>The registration and race start are both only a short walk from the car parks.</i>	Both car parks are chargeable, and both have the postcode: EX23 8NF Crooklets Car Park (you can use the JustPark app) What 3 Words: ///fuse.targeted.discusses Google Maps: https://goo.gl/maps/uQZxQTLEYHk2FcFo9 Rosie's Kitchen Car Park What 3 Words: ///tilt.riverside.tougher Google Maps: https://goo.gl/maps/CPcZnTbxeffGtqrVA
Registration	Opens at 9 AM CLOSES 10:10 AM	At the Bude Surf Life Saving Club. Please do not wear muddy shoes in the clubhouse. We will likely ask you to take the exterior stairs into the clubhouse to minimise footfall in the clubhouse. What 3 Words ///issues.enthusied.unfair Google Maps https://goo.gl/maps/TU5iNrjwF378hvtN8 Directions from Crooklets Car Park, walk along the tarmac towards the sea, you will see the Surf Club / Registration on the Right (there will be yellow signs from this car park). Directions from Rosies Kitchen Car Park - you will see the Bude Surf Life Saving Club at the end of the car park.
Walk to Start	BY 10:20 AM	You can head up early but please aim to walk up to the start/finish line to get to the start/finish by 10:20am to ensure suitable time. There is no vehicular access to the start. Below are links to the locations for your information, but there will be signage and marshals directing all runners to the start from registration. What 3 Words: ///darker.backfired.apparatus Google Maps: https://goo.gl/maps/sacaEtqZTRBA6TXA9
Race Start	10:30 AM	The race start will be 10:30am.
Awards	Aimed at 1PM but depends on finishing times	Bude Surf Life Saving Club (where registration is)

Toilets

Public toilets are available in the Crooklets car park. Rosie's Kitchen does have toilets however these are for customers only therefore if you are using them, please make sure that you are a customer.

Registration

Details of the registration including times and locations are set out above in the table.

Baggage

As the car parks are close-by to registration there will be no bag drop.

The Start/Finish

The start/finish is on Maer Down: What 3 Words: ///darker.backfired.apparatus

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/sacaEtqZTRBA6TXA9>

The start will commence with a 3-2-1 Air Horn at 10.30AM.

Water

Water will be supplied on the course at Stowe Barton and Sandymouth (approximately mile three and mile six). There will also be water at the end of the race. Cups will be supplied and there will also be jugs if you wish to fill your own cups. You may wish to bring your own water, especially if it is a hot day.

Ankle Tags

As with other Multi Terrain Series races the Bude Pirate Run will have ankle tags for all runners. Please ensure that the ankle tag is secured to your ankle firmly. Please ensure it is attached to your ankle and not carried or attached to any other part of your body. The reason for this is that it ensures that your time is picked up by the timing mat.

We get charged for any ankle tags that are missing. Please also ensure that you return the ankle tags at the end of the race or, if you have to withdraw, please return them as they are needed for a race the week after and missing ankle tags will cause problems.

First Aid

First aid is stationed on the course (usually at Stowe Barton) and at the start/finish. If you hurt yourself, please make a marshal aware and they will arrange support for you. If you drop out for any reason, it is important that you tell a marshal and give them your number. To contact the on-site race medics please call the race director, Simon, on 07812 019 635.

The Course / GPX

A GPX file and a Strava Route link are both available from the Pirate Run Page.

<https://www.buderats.co.uk/budepiraterun>

A map of the route will be available at registration.

Flags: Orange Outbound and Blue on the return - The route is marked with flags where the route diverges on the outward run and the homeward run, please follow orange flags on the way out and blue flags on the return route from Duckpool.

Roads and Road Crossings - There are several road crossings on the route and a road section from Coombe to Duckpool. There will be signs warning of these and marshals there to support you, but it is your responsibility to ensure it is safe to cross. Marshals do not have the authority to stop traffic.

We have a good team of marshals out to support you – if you have enough breath as you pass by, please do give them a Thank You – we couldn't do it without them.

The route also follows the coast path for much of the way. This has been subject to a lot of erosion in the last few years. Please stick to the flagged path. If you need to come off the path for any reason, please do so on the inland side of the path not towards the cliff edge. At Northcott there is a new(ish) zigzag path instead of the steps which you need to follow. Also, at Duckpool the path has been altered and zig zags up the hill at the top end. The steep downhill and uphill after Duckpool is the same with new zig zags. Please follow the path and zig zags.

The route crosses public footpaths and grazing land, whilst it goes without saying, please ensure that all gel wrappers or any other waste is taken with you and disposed of at the end of the race in a suitable bin, under no circumstances leave litter along the route.

There will be a party waiting for all those that comply and a gangplank for those that do not! **Please remember, if you have entered after the 11th September 2026, you do not get a party, as stated on the race entry form.** We will also be looking out for the best dressed pirate (or best effort) so dust off your Captain Jack Sparrow outfits!

Awards will be presented outside the Surf Club (or inside if the weather is bad) as soon as we have checked the results after the race.

We will also aim to get the race results uploaded on the Bude Rats Pirate Run page of the website and the Bude Pirate Run Facebook page as soon as we can after the race.

If you have any problems, I can be reached by emailing budepiraterun@buderats.co.uk I will try and respond promptly but there may be a delay in replying as the race nears.

Finally, it is a fantastic course, and we hope you have a great time and enjoy yourselves and look forward to seeing you.

Simon Finn

Race Director