



72nd BEDFORD MARATHON

PADDLE UK EASTERN REGION

2026 HASLER QUALIFIER

Sunday 24th May 2026

VENUE	Viking Kayak Club, Poynters Boathouse, Batts Ford, Commercial Road, Bedford MK40 1QS what3words.com/papers.love.fresh		
CAR PARK	Borough Hall (Cauldwell Street), MK42 9AP (£1 coin if barrier down) what3words.com/vets.noting.oasis Access to the Club for vehicles and boats is severely limited. All competitors should use the Borough Hall car park and landing stage.		
HASLER CLASSES	Division 1, 2 & 3 Singles and 2 & 3 Doubles	19.7 km	4 Portages
	Division 4, 5 & 6 Singles and 4, 5 & 6 Doubles	12.9 km	2 Portages
	Division 7, 8 & 9 Singles and 7, 8, & 9 Doubles	6.8 km	0 Portages
	GSA, GSB (U14), GSC (U12)	2.5 km	0 Portages
	GSK2	2.5 km	0 Portages

TIMETABLE

Check-In	Briefing	Start	
09:00 – 10:00	10:25	10:50	Div 7, 8 & 9 Singles; 7, 8, & 9 Doubles GSA, GSB (U14), GSC (U12)
09:00 – 11:00	12:05	12:30	Div 1, 2 & 3 Singles; 2 & 3 Doubles Div 4, 5 & 6 Singles; 4, 5 & 6 Doubles GS Open K2, GS Mini-K2 (U14)
Late entries close at 20:00 Sat 23/05/2026 – no late entries on the day			
15:00			Prize Giving

REFRESHMENTS	Light refreshments for competitors after their race. Drinks and snacks available to purchase throughout the day.
SAFETY	The provisions of 'Rule 5 - Safety' apply. "The wearing of life jackets or buoyancy aids is compulsory for all paddlers ranked in divisions 7, 8, 9 & GST ranked paddlers irrespective of the race they are entered in." All paddlers under 16 years of age in higher divisions are strongly advised to do so. Competitors shall render their boats sufficiently buoyant to remain afloat and to support the crew in the event of capsizing. Changing and shower facilities will be available at the Viking Kayak Club boathouse on the 1 st floor.
PARTICIPATION	Canoeing and Kayaking is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks, and be responsible for their own action and involvement.
PRIZES	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Paddler/Crew in each singles and doubles Hasler division will receive prizes provided there is quorate entry in division.
RESULTS	Results will be posted on the www.vikingkayak.co.uk and canoeracing.org.uk/marathon web sites.

SPECTATOR ACCESS	All parts of the courses are accessible on foot or cycle via a network of foot/cycle paths and bridges.
V.K.C.	Viking Kayak Club reserve the right without prior notice to alter any of these arrangements should the weather or circumstances warrant it. In the event of cancellation of the event for any reason, an announcement will be made as soon as practicable on the Viking Kayak Club website.
WEB SITE	www.vikingkayak.co.uk
NUMBERS	Vertical numbers for marathon racing are compulsory for div 1 - 9. Regional number boards will be provided for the Hasler race. Lost boards will be charged at £5 each so please make sure they are fixed securely.
FEES	Senior: £12.00 per seat, Junior: £10.00 per seat, Div A-C, GSK2: £5.00 per seat. Late entries accepted on Sat 23rd May until 8pm - £5.00 extra per seat. Single Event Memberships £5.00 per paddler - required for paddlers who cannot prove they have valid Paddle UK On The Water membership or Club Associate membership. For divisions 1 to 6 a Single Event Membership may only be purchased if a competitor has not raced in the last 5 years. A Single Event Membership only provides temporary insurance cover to take part in a single event and is not a "day membership" or boat license for the use of waterways
RULES	The race will be run in accordance with the current Paddle UK Marathon Racing Committee Rules.
PADDLE UK MEMBERSHIP	Competitors must be current On The Water members of Paddle UK, Canoe Wales, Paddle Scotland, Paddle Northern Island or for Div 7-9, GSA-GSC have had their club membership registered with Paddle UK as an Associate Member . Competitors without proof of membership may be able to purchase a Single Event Membership – see FEES above.
ENTRIES	All entries together with the correct fees payable to Viking Kayak Club must be received by 8pm Sat 23rd May 2026 . Please use the Paddle UK Race Entry website for entries https://entries.canoemarathon.org.uk/entries Where this is not possible contact the race secretary Single C1 SUP entries will be accepted (propelled by a single paddle).
ENTRIES TO	Race Secretary: Email: bedfordmarathon@vikingkayak.co.uk Telephone: 07855 375454



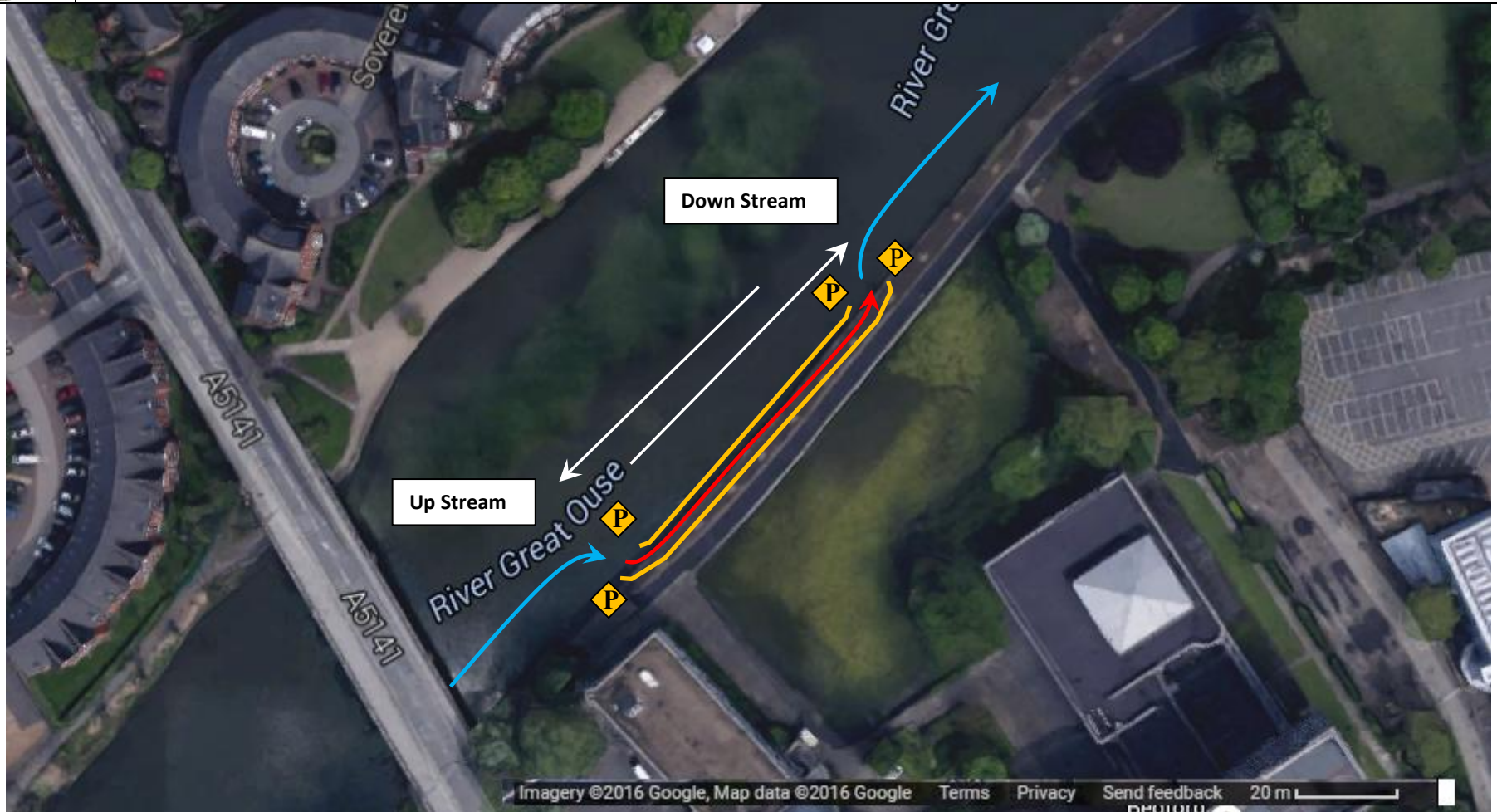
72nd Bedford Marathon – Sunday 24th May – Hasler Courses

19.7 km Course 4 portages, 10 turns	(Start/Finish – Turn A – Turn B – Portage – Start/Finish = 4.3 km lap) x 1 laps + (Start/Finish – Turn A – Turn B – Portage – Start/Finish = 4.3 km lap) x 3 laps + (Start/Finish – Turn A – Turn C – Start/Finish = 2.5 km lap) x 1 lap
12.9 km Course 2 portages, 6 turns	(Start/Finish – Turn A – Turn B – Portage – Start/Finish = 4.3 km lap) x 1 laps + Start/Finish – Turn A – Turn B – Portage – Start/Finish = 4.3 km lap) x 1 laps + Start/Finish – Turn A – Turn B – Start/Finish = 4.3 km lap) x 1 laps
6.8 km Course 0 portages, 4 turns	(Start/Finish – Turn A – Turn B - Start/Finish = 4.3 km lap) x 1 lap + (Start/Finish – Turn A – Turn C - Start/Finish = 2.5 km lap) x 1 lap
2.5 km Course 0 portages, 2 turns	Start – Turn A – Turn C - Finish





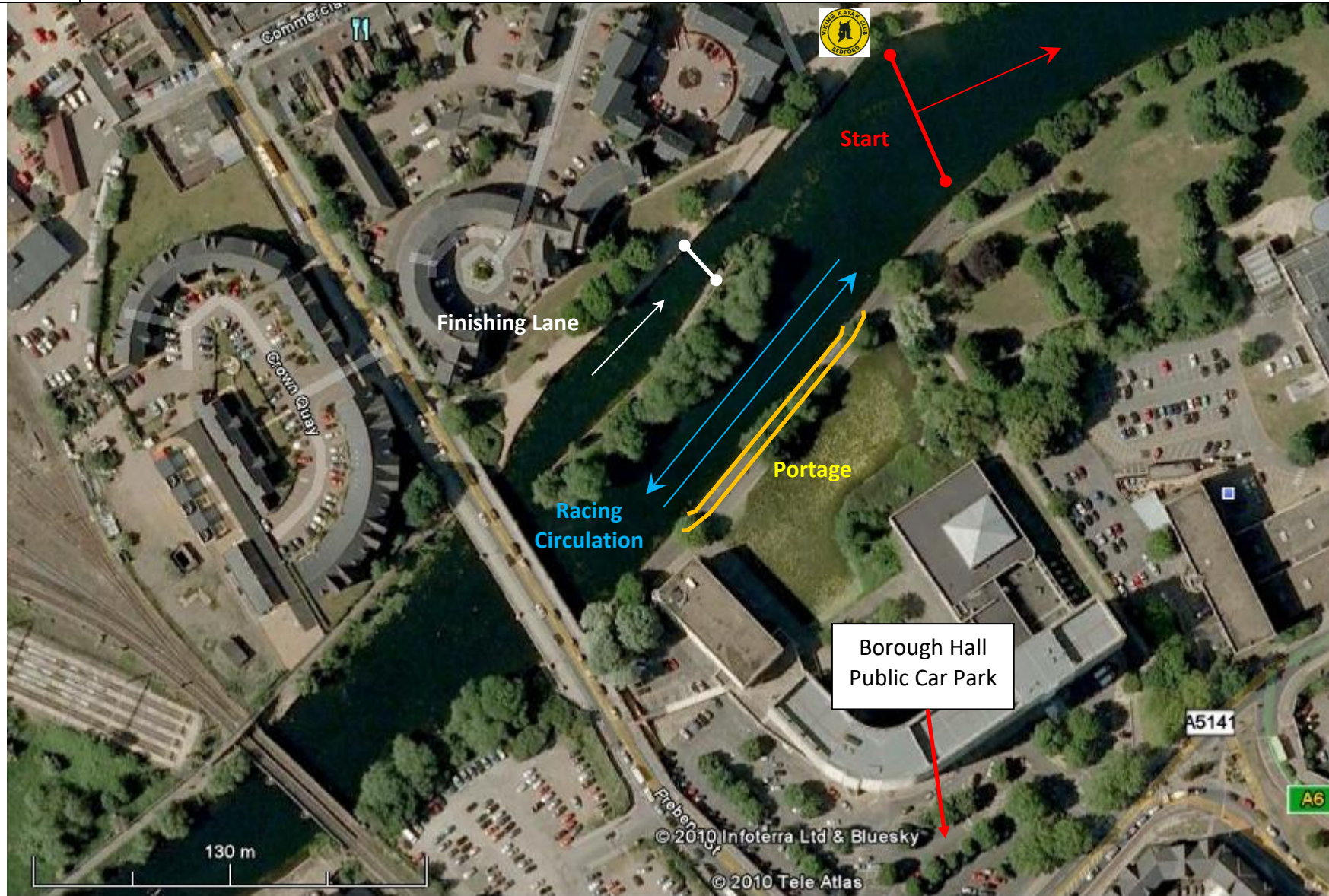
72nd Bedford Marathon – Sunday 24th May – Portage



Borough Hall Portage



72nd Bedford Marathon – Sunday 24th May – Start/Finish





72nd Bedford Marathon – Sunday 24th May – Borough Hall Car Park

