



General information about visiting Pittville Park

DESCRIPTION OF PITTVILLE PARK

Pittville Park is a site of thirty-four hectares, full of historical interest, beautiful landscape and wildlife. It consists of three different character areas (see the plan).

The east side of the park

This is the Regency park overlooked by the Grade 1 listed Pittville Pump Room and contains grassed areas in front of it; the upper lake; the children's play area and aviaries; two cafes and the toilets. It also includes the Long Gardens bounded by Pittville Lawn and Evesham Road.

The west side of the park

This was created in the Victorian era and is larger, consisting of a boating and fishing lake, tennis courts, a skate park, pitch and putt golf course, an adventure play area, the Agg Gardner Recreational Ground and the Boathouse cafe.

The wildlife area

Situated west of Tommy Taylors Lane, this has been planted with native trees and wildflowers. Many of the birds in the park can be seen here. A series of paths are mown through the area for people to walk along.

Most of the paths in the east and west sides of the park are suitable for wheelchair access. All areas of the park are open throughout the year, although the facilities are only available during the day. For the times at which various facilities are available, please consult Cheltenham Borough Council website www.cheltenham.gov.uk/ and www.inthepark.co.uk.

WELCOME AND INTERPRETATION BOARDS

There are welcome boards giving details about the park at the entrances and there are also a series of interpretation boards - one for each character area, two at the restored Pittville Gates and one near the upper lake to commemorate the lifeboat that was launched there in the nineteenth century.

LOCATION AND TRANSPORT

The east and west sides of the park are divided by the A435 Evesham Road, which runs from Cheltenham town centre south of the parks to Bishops Cleeve in the north. There is an underpass below the A435 to facilitate safe crossing between the east and west sides of the park. There are also signal-controlled pedestrian crossings near Central Cross Drive and Albemarle Gate.

The west side of the park and the wildlife area are divided by Tommy Taylors Lane but as yet there is no crossing facility between the two areas.

Parking

There is parking behind the Pittville Pump Room for approximately 150 cars. This is a suitable drop-off point for schools. Access to the car park is from Albert Road and East Approach Drive and the post code is **GL52 3JE**.

There is parking for approximately 45 cars in the car park off Albemarle Gate and further parking at the Prince of Wales Stadium.

There is on-street parking around the park but it is restricted to a maximum stay of four hours.

Public transport

A number of buses pass the park and bus stops are shown on the plan. The routes are:

- A Prestbury to GCHQ
- B Charlton Kings to Sainsburys, Gallagher Retail Park
- D Up Hatherley to Bishops Cleeve
- E Cheltenham Railway Station to Bishops Cleeve
- N Cheltenham to Noverton View
- 94U Gloucester to the Pittville Student Village.

Cycling

There is an off-road cycle track through the park from Tommy Taylors Lane to Pittville Lawn, near Albert Road. Cyclists should note that this route is shared with pedestrians, and cyclists need to dismount when using the underpass. For further details of cycling in Cheltenham refer to *Cycling in Cheltenham* on the borough council's website.

FACILITIES

Toilets

There are toilets in the east side of the park just to the south of the play area together with a fully equipped 'Changing Places' toilet. There are no toilet facilities in the west side of the park or the wildlife area.

If it is wet, there is cover under the portico at the front of the Pittville Pump Room. The Boathouse cafe has a covered area; however, any use of this facility would have to be agreed with the operator. Their website is www.inthepark.co.uk/contact/.

Refreshments

The park has three outlets where refreshments may be purchased. In the east side of the park are the Central Cross Cafe and the play area kiosk, and in the west side, the Boathouse.

Pittville Pump Room

Pittville Pump Room is open to the public for general viewing from Wednesday to Sunday inclusive, 10am to 4pm (although this may be subject to bookings for private events and vary for bank holidays). To check whether the Pump Room will be open for visitors please consult www.cheltenhamtrust.org.uk

RISK ASSESSMENT

Teachers planning visits to the park are encouraged to visit beforehand in order to make the most of the excursion. We also encourage them to make their own risk assessment. To assist with this, a general risk assessment for the park is included in these resources.