

En Plein Air Wokingham – Artist Guide



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1. Introduction

This guide is for all Artists participating in En Plein Air Wokingham, part of the En Plein Air Adventures programme and we are delighted that you are considering joining us. The event is a one-day outdoor painting competition set across Wokingham town centre and surrounding green spaces. It is open to all standard of Artists, both amateur and professional. All work must be created on location during the event and following the 6.5 hour painting period, there is a two hour outdoor exhibition in Market Place where artwork is expected to be available for sale. During this period, the judges will review all artwork and make their selection for the awards which take place immediately afterwards.

Here are some important things that Artists need to know as well as some useful tips for the day.

2. Schedule:

- 8.00 to 9.00am: Artist registration in R Young Art Gallery to have their canvas stamped, receive their Goodie Bag, ID tag and be guided to their ticketed painting location. Address (Next to Brown Bar café. Opposite Giggling Squid):
1 Southgate House
Alexandra Court
Denmark Street
Wokingham RG40 2SL
- 8.30am: Mini-bus from the R Young Art Gallery to California Country Park for those Artists who are painting there. Artists may make their own way if preferred. Address:
Nine Mile Ride
Wokingham RG40 4HU
- 9.00am - 3.30pm: Artists painting on location
- 3.30 - 4pm: Artists transfer to Market Place for the pop-up exhibition set up. Artists must ensure that they arrive before 4pm. Address:
Market Place
Wokingham RG40 1AS
- 3.45: Mini-bus from California Country Park to Market Place for those Artists who are painting there
- 4.00 – 6.00pm: Artists exhibition, People’s Choice voting by by the general public and judging by the panel of judges
- 6.00pm: Award ceremony and prize giving in Market Place

3. What to Bring

Artists must be self-sufficient and bring with them everything necessary for the whole day. The below may be used as a checklist as necessary:

- A lightweight easel for painting and to display their artwork during the exhibition
- All necessary painting materials and equipment
- Folding lightweight stool or chair
- Rain/sun shade umbrella - Note that gazebos are not allowed and be careful of wind when placing and securing an umbrella
- Appropriate clothing & footwear. Dress appropriately for working outdoors in a public setting. Footwear should be suitable for standing and walking. Clothing should be something that the Artist doesn't mind getting paint on. Wear layers that can be added or removed during the day
- Sunglasses and sun hat if the forecast is bright sun. Waterproof layers if the forecast is for rain
- A small rubbish bag
- Hand wipes, paper towels and cleaning supplies
- A small ground sheet if painting on grass
- Food and drink for the day, especially if not located near a café or convenience store
- A lightweight folding beach trolley is recommended to transport all equipment and materials from the Artist's vehicle, to the gallery for registration then to their chosen painting location. Then after painting, to Market Place for the exhibition
- Consider a power pack and charger cable for their mobile as it will be a long day
- Clips and string to secure artwork if windy
- An assistant may accompany the Artist to assist with everything such as carrying, popping to a shop, cover during a toilet break and to share the experience!
- Finally - Creativity, imagination and a smile!

4. Public Car Parking

There are several all-day extended stay car parks in Wokingham, but these will need to be paid for. Artists must ensure to pay for sufficient time as Wokingham's Traffic Wardens are extremely enthusiastic (Their livelihood depends upon it!):

- The Plaza Multi-Storey Car Park - RG40 2AA. 130 spaces
- Carnival Multi-Storey Car Park - RG40 2AG. 529 spaces
- Easthampstead Road East Car Park - RG40 2EG. 233 spaces
- Shute End Council Offices car park - RG40 1BN. 209 spaces

Artists are encouraged to plan their parking in advance and allow sufficient time for their movements. Free parking may be available on the outskirts of town, a 10 minute walk from the centre.

Artists are welcome to drop off their painting kit at the R Young Art Gallery prior to parking.

5. During the Day

The organisers will take photographs throughout the day for promotion purposes and especially to attract visitors.

A Safety Officer and First Aider will be available throughout the event and Artists may initially contact a member of staff or Warden with any requirement.

6. Registration

Doors open for registration at 8.00am on the morning of the competition at the R Young Art Gallery. Materials may be dropped off prior to long term parking via the small private parking area in front of Nuffield Health Gym at RG40 2LD which is less than 50m from the gallery. However, vehicles must not be left unattended for more than 2 minutes. (See earlier Traffic Warden note...)

There, Artists will have their blank canvas, board or paper stamped. The maximum size of artwork is 1m x 1m. Note that if it's windy - Large canvas act like kite!

Artists can have a number of blanks stamped but only one piece may be displayed in the exhibition and entered into the competition.

Artists will be provided with:

- An identification tag to be attached to their easel whilst painting for publicity and People's Choice voting. Artists may also attach an 'About The Artist' information sheet to their easel for promotion and publicity purposes. Contact the R Young Art Gallery to be sent an example for reference.
- A blank Price Label for attaching to the artwork during the exhibition. It's recommended to include the Artist name, artwork title (if any), location, medium and price.
- Goodie Bag, containing:
 - Sample art materials from our sponsors Daler Rowney and Royal Talens
 - July edition of Artists & Illustrators magazine (Our Sponsor), which will contain a feature about the event
 - Voucher for a tea or coffee during the exhibition from our sponsor Honesty in Market Place
 - Voucher for 10% discount on artist services - scanning, printing and framing from the organiser – R Young Art Gallery
 - Bottle of drinking water

For Artists who are painting in California Country Park, please arrive at least 10 minutes before the mini bus departs at 8.30am for registration so as not to miss the bus! Artists may of course use their



own transportation if preferred and we request that they let us know their preference beforehand for logistics purposes.

7. Locations

There are 49 locations in all and each location is specific to the ticket purchased. Some locations have several spaces for painting which are available on a first come first served basis, whereas some have only one space. Artists are recommended to visit the ticket location to assess it beforehand.

Artists must remain within their allocated painting location and work safely and respectfully at all times.

8. Artists

- Located within Cemeteries are requested to not park themselves or their materials directly on graves
- Must be courteous to gallery staff, Wardens, other artists and the general public whilst locating themselves and painting
- Must avoid blocking pavements, entrances, or access routes and leave adequate space for people to pass safely and ensure that their equipment does not create trip hazards. Also keep noise and disruption to a minimum
- Must adhere to instructions of Gallery staff and Wardens at all times
- Located in busy areas, especially roadside, are recommended to take photographs when the area is clear, for reference in case the view is later obstructed.

See the Google Map on the website for the locations and associated notes. The street locations are more specific and have been chosen so as not to hinder pedestrians. Gallery staff and Wardens will guide Artists to their ticketed location and provide any support whilst they are painting, as necessary.

9. Painting

This is a timed plein air painting competition and all artwork must be created on location during the event. No pre-prepared or studio work is permitted and Artists should manage their time to allow for completion and submission.

On the day and from footfall data over the past 3 years, Wokingham town centre expects upwards of 20,000 visitors in total, some of which may well stop, watch Artists whilst painting and have a



chat. Artists should be engaging and polite as one may later be interested in purchasing their artwork!

The organisers may be contacted via the R Young Art Gallery landline on 0118 979 8558 during the painting period, where a staff Help Desk will be in operation. Where necessary, a member of staff of Warden may be asked to attend the Artist's painting location.

Toilet locations will be advised during registration, though these are limited in certain areas and a short walk may be necessary.

Café's and convenience stores are located in the town centre and California Country Park. Artists are recommended to take a packed lunch and adequate refreshments as required. Wardens and nearby Artists may ask another nearby Artist to watch their position during a toilet break or visit to a café, though no bags, easels and kit should be left unattended.

Artists should have their Identity Tag, supplied at registration, clearly visible as visitors have the opportunity to vote for their favourite artist and artwork. These votes go towards The People's Choice award announced during the Award Ceremony in Market Place.

Painting takes place until 3.30pm, following which Artists should start to wrap things up and make their way to Market Place with their artwork and easel. Wardens will show Artists the way if needed.

All artists are responsible for leaving their painting location exactly as they found it and must:

- Leave their painting location and the exhibition location pristine - Taking all rubbish and materials away with them or disposing of them in an appropriate waste bin
- Clean all materials at home afterwards and not disposing of paint water or solvents in public drains or on grass
- Ensure that no paint, tape, or debris is left behind

10. Exhibition

Artists are responsible for displaying their artwork on their own easel. Artwork must NOT be framed for the exhibition. The Identity Tag should again be attached to the easel for Judging and People's Choice voting.

Artists may offer their artwork for sale during this time but only via the R Young Art Gallery, for which a blank label will be provided during Registration for completion and attaching to the artwork.



The organisers will take photographs of all artwork for non-commercial promotion purposes only.

11. Judging and Prize Giving

Judging will consider many factors, to include: creativity, observation, composition, light, atmosphere, and sense of place. The panel of judges will start to make their choices from 4.30pm. Members of the public will be asked to select their favourite piece for The People's Choice Award. Prize giving is at 6.00pm.

- First prize: £1000 + £150 worth of art materials from Daler Rowney
- Second prize: £500 + £100 worth of art materials from Daler Rowney
- Third Prize: £250 + £75 worth of art materials from Daler Rowney
- People's Choice: £250 + £75 worth of art materials from Daler Rowney

The panel of Judges comprises of:

- *Richard Young*
Artist and owner of the R Young Art Gallery and organiser of En Plein Air Wokingham
- *Sarah Awadallah*
Artist and co-owner of the R Young Art Gallery and organiser of En Plein Air Wokingham
- *Dr Hannah Lyons*
Curator of University Art Collections, Museums and Collections, University of Reading
- *Alice Carpenter*
Head of Art Department , Wellington College

12. Selling of Artwork

Artists are encouraged to price their artwork to sell during the exhibition.

On the Price Label, we recommend to include the Artist name, artwork title (if any), location, medium and price. If you need advice about pricing you are welcome to speak to a member of staff.

Sales of artwork must be made through the organiser - R Young Art Gallery and there will be a staffed sales desk at the exhibition with a credit card facility to enable smooth transactions. A commission charge of 20% will be taken from the selling price.

The organiser very actively advertising and promoting the exhibition and will invite all it's subscribers, followers and local businesses to attend. All members of staff will engage with visitors and help negotiate sales.

Following the Award Ceremony, the exhibition will close at 6.30pm and all Artists must pack away their artwork and belongings as we cannot be held responsible for any artwork left after that time.

Artists may be asked about a print of their artwork, either whilst painting or during the exhibition. Artists should consider that Young Art Gallery provides a full range of services for Artists, to include high resolution flatbed scanning, high resolution giclee printing, bespoke framing and high quality ready made frames. A special 10% discount is available for all services ordered during the event and prices may be obtained beforehand via the gallery or on the day by speaking to a member of staff or calling the gallery on **0118 979 8558**

13. Further Reading About Plein Air

[FREE: The Ultimate Plein Air 101 Guide for Artists - OutdoorPainter](#)

[Which Plein Air Gear Is Right For You? - OutdoorPainter](#)

[Must-Have List: Crucial Outerwear and Art Supplies for Plein Air - OutdoorPainter](#)

14. Accommodation

For any Artists wishing to stay in Wokingham and make a weekend of it, Premier Inn is right in the town centre, a short walk from the action:

[Wokingham Town Centre Hotel | Premier Inn](#)

Wokingham

Wokingham is a historic and active town centre with pedestrian areas, shops, cafés and parks. There are also areas of forestry, lakes and waterways in surrounding areas. More information about our lovely Wokingham can be found here:

[Lovewokingham](#)

We look forward to welcoming all Artists from 8am on Sunday 14 June at the R Young Art Gallery and let's hope for some dry, warm weather. We can hope!

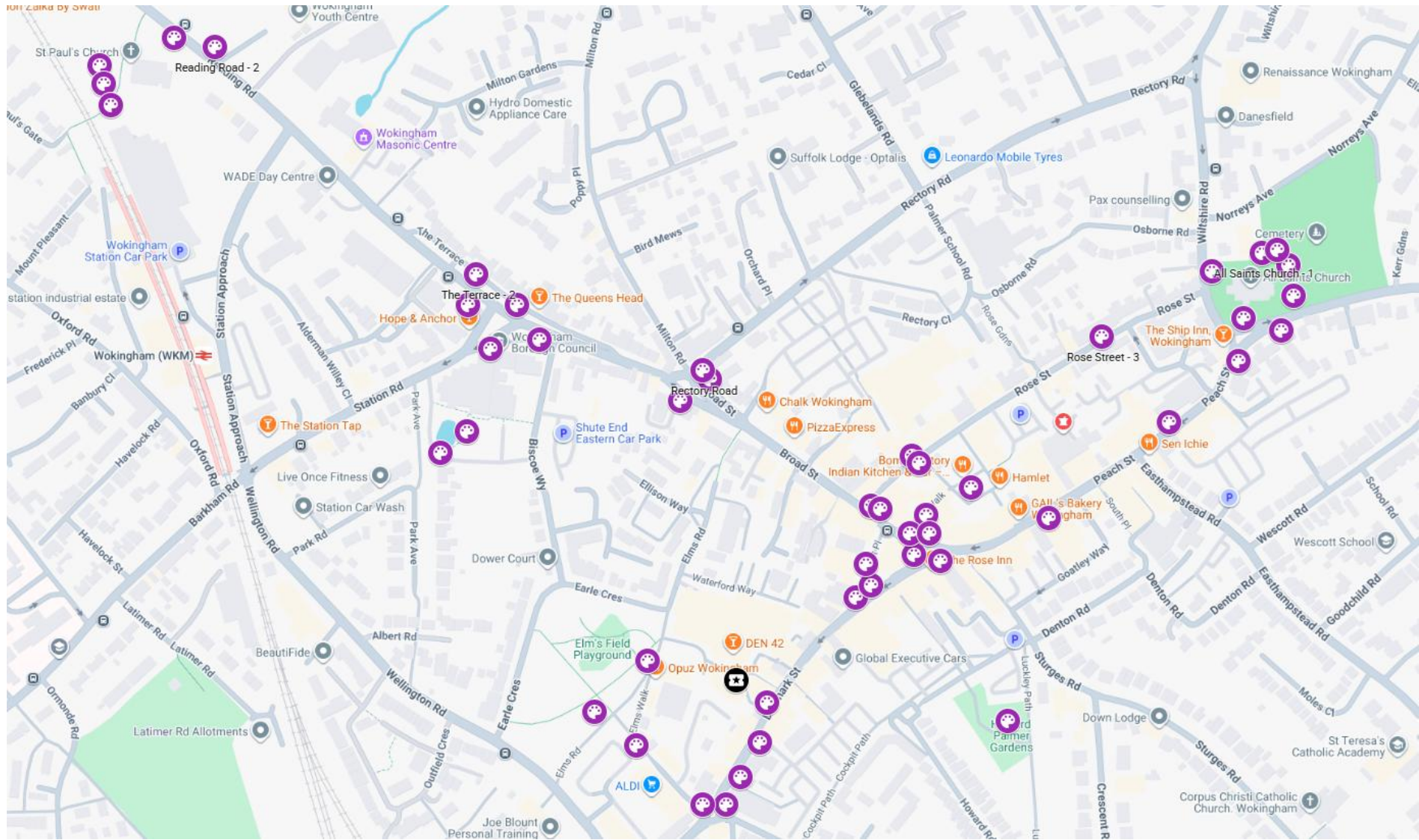
En Plein Air Wokingham celebrates skill, focus, and the challenge of painting outdoors in a historic town setting. Come prepared, work respectfully, and enjoy capturing Wokingham as it unfolds.

Any queries? Do let us know

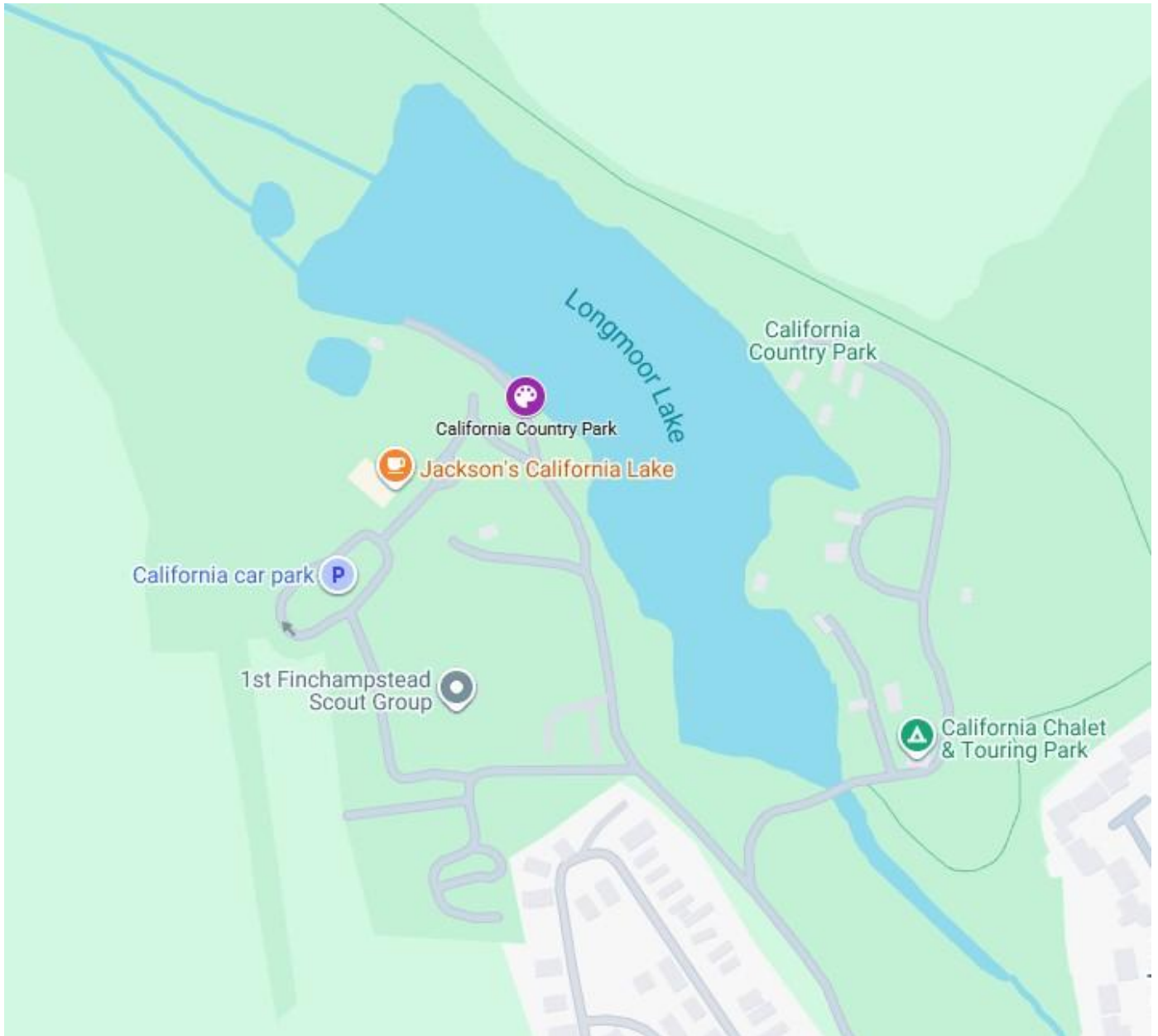
15. Map of all Locations:

The digital map may be accessed for the website at www.enpleinairadventures.com and here is a screen capture for ease of reference.

Around the town centre



California Country Park



List of all locations

R Young Art Gallery	Elms Field - 1	Rectory Road
All Saints Church - 1	Elms Field - 2	Rose Street - 1
All Saints Church - 2	Elms Field - 3	Rose Street - 2
All Saints Church - 3	Elms Walk	Rose Street - 3
All Saints Church - 4	Howard Palmer Gardens	Shute End
All Saints Church - 5	London Road	St. Paul's Church - 4
All Saints Church - 6	Market Place - 1	St. Paul's Church - 3
Broad Street - 1	Market Place - 2	St. Paul's Church - 2
Broad Street - 2	Market Place - 3	St. Paul's Church - 1
Broad Street - 3	Market Place - 4	Station Road
Broad Street - 4	Market Place - 5	The Terrace - 1
Bush Walk	Market Place - 6	The Terrace - 2
California Country Park	Market Place - 7	
Denmark Street - 1	Peach Street - 1	
Denmark Street - 2	Peach Street - 2	
Denmark Street - 3	Peach Street - 3	
Denmark Street - 4	Peach Place	
Duck pond at WBC - 1	Reading Road - 1	
Duck pond at WBC - 2	Reading Road - 2	