

# READING BOROUGH COUNCIL



## BYELAWS

Made by Reading Borough Council under section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875, section 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906 and sections 12 and 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906, with respect to pleasure grounds.

R.C. Taylor

Head of Legal Services

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## **Interpretation**

1. In these byelaws:

"the Council" means the Reading Borough Council;

"the pleasure ground" means each of the pleasure grounds named in Schedule 1 to these byelaws.

## **Opening times**

2. On any day on which the pleasure ground is open to the public, no person shall enter it before the time, or enter or remain in it after the time, indicated by a notice placed in a conspicuous position at the entrance to the pleasure ground.

## **Climbing**

3. No person shall, without reasonable excuse, climb any wall or fence in or enclosing the pleasure ground, or any tree, or any barrier, railing, post or other structure.

## **Removal of structures**

4. No person shall, without reasonable excuse, remove from or displace in the pleasure ground any barrier, railing, post or seat, or any part of any structure or ornament, or any implement provided for use in the laying out or maintenance of the pleasure ground.

## **Grazing and foraging**

5. No person shall, without the consent of the Council, bring into or cause to be brought into the pleasure ground any animal to graze or forage.

## **Protection of wildlife**

6. (1) No person shall in the pleasure ground intentionally kill, injure, take or disturb any animal, or engage in hunting or shooting, or the setting of traps or nets, or the laying of snares.  
(2) No person shall in the pleasure ground intentionally kill, injure, take or disturb any fish, or engage in fishing, in any area designated as not for fishing and identified by means of a notice placed in a conspicuous position.

## **Vehicles**

7. (1) No person shall, without reasonable excuse, ride or drive a motor cycle, motor vehicle or any other mechanically propelled vehicle (other than a cycle) in the pleasure ground, or bring or cause to be brought into the pleasure ground a motor cycle, motor vehicle, trailer or any other mechanically propelled vehicle (other than a cycle), except in any part of the pleasure ground where there is a right of way for that class of vehicle.  
(2) No person shall, without reasonable excuse, ride a cycle in any of the pleasure grounds named in Schedule 2 to these byelaws.  
(3) If the Council has set apart a space in the pleasure ground for use by vehicles of any class, this byelaw shall not prevent the riding or driving of those vehicles in the space so set apart, or on a route, indicated by signs placed in conspicuous positions, between it and the entrance to the pleasure ground.  
(4) This byelaw shall not extend to invalid carriages.

(5) In this byelaw:

"cycle" means a bicycle, a tricycle, or a cycle having four or more wheels, not being in any case a motor cycle or motor vehicle;

"invalid carriage" means a vehicle, whether mechanically propelled or not, the unladen weight of which does not exceed 150 kilograms, the width of which does not exceed 0.85 metres and which has been constructed or adapted for use for the carriage of one person, being a person suffering from some physical defect or disability and is used solely by such a person;

"motor cycle" means a mechanically propelled vehicle, not being an invalid carriage, with less than four wheels and the weight of which unladen does not exceed 410 kilograms;

"motor vehicle" means a mechanically propelled vehicle, not being an invalid carriage, intended or adapted for use on roads;

"trailer" means a vehicle drawn by a motor vehicle, and includes a caravan.

### **Model aircraft**

8. (1) (a) No person shall in the pleasure ground release any power-driven model aircraft for flight or control the flight of such an aircraft.

(b) No person shall cause any power-driven model aircraft to take off or land in the pleasure ground.

(2) This byelaw shall not apply to the pleasure ground known as Kings Meadow Recreation Ground.

(3) In this byelaw:

"model aircraft" means an aircraft which either weighs not more than 7 kilograms without its fuel or is for the time being exempted (as a model aircraft) from the provisions of the Air Navigation Order;

"power-driven" means driven by the combustion of petrol vapour or other combustible vapour or other combustible substances.

### **Protection of flower beds, trees, grass, etc**

9. No person who brings or causes to be brought into the pleasure ground a vehicle shall wheel or park it over or upon:

(a) any flower bed, shrub or plant, or any ground in the course of preparation as a flower bed, or for the growth of any tree, shrub or plant; or

(b) any part of the pleasure ground where the Council, by a notice placed in a conspicuous position in the pleasure ground, prohibits its being wheeled or parked.

10. No person shall in the pleasure ground enter upon:

(a) any flower bed, shrub or plant, or any ground in the course of preparation as a flower bed, or for the growth of any tree, shrub or plant; or

(b) any part of the pleasure ground set aside for the renovation of grass or turf, where adequate notice to keep off such grass or turf is exhibited.

### **Bathing and pollution of water**

11. No person shall in the pleasure ground:

- (a) bathe, wade or wash in any ornamental lake, pond, stream or other water; or
- (b) intentionally, carelessly or negligently foul or pollute any such water.

#### **Games**

- 12. Where the Council has, by a notice placed in a conspicuous position in the pleasure ground, set apart an area in the pleasure ground for the playing of such games as may be specified in the notice, no person shall:
  - (a) play in such an area any game other than the game for which it has been set apart;
  - (b) use any such area so as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to any person already using that area for any purpose for which it has been set apart; or
  - (c) play any game so specified in any other part of the pleasure ground in such a manner as to exclude any person not playing the game from the use of that part.
- 13. No person shall, in any area of the pleasure ground which may have been set apart by the Council for any game, play any game when the state of the ground or other cause makes it unfit for use and a notice is placed in a conspicuous position prohibiting play in that area of the pleasure ground.
- 14. (1) No person shall in the pleasure ground play any game:
  - (a) so as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to any other person in the pleasure ground; or
  - (b) which is likely to cause damage to any tree, shrub or plant in the pleasure ground.

(2) This byelaw shall not extend to any area set apart by the Council for the playing of any game.

#### **Erection of structures**

- 15. No person shall in the pleasure ground, without the consent of the Council, erect any post, rail, fence, pole, tent, booth, stand, building or other structure.

#### **Trading**

- 16. No person shall in the pleasure ground, without the consent of the Council, distribute or sell, or offer or expose for sale, or let to hire, or offer or expose for letting to hire, any commodity, service or article.

#### **Removal of substances**

- 17. No person shall remove from or displace in the pleasure ground any stone, soil or turf, or the whole or any part of any plant or tree.

#### **Fires**

- 18. No person shall in the pleasure ground, without the consent of the Council, intentionally light a fire, or place, throw or let fall a lighted match or any other thing so as to be likely to cause a fire.

#### **Golf**

- 19. No person shall in the pleasure ground drive, chip, putt or pitch a golf ball, except in any area which, by a notice placed by the Council in a conspicuous position, has been set apart for use as a golf course, golf driving range, golf practice area or putting course.

## **Ball games**

20.

No person shall play or take part in any ball game in any of the pleasure grounds named in Schedule 2 to these byelaws.

## **Children's play areas**

21. (1) No person who has attained the age of 16 years shall enter or remain in a children's play area in any of the pleasure grounds named in Schedule 3 to these byelaws.

(2) This byelaw shall not apply to any person who is bona fide in charge of a child under the age of 16 years.

(3) This byelaw shall not apply to any children's play area identified by means of a notice placed in a conspicuous position.

## **Children's play apparatus**

22. No person who has attained the age of 16 years shall use any apparatus in the pleasure ground, unless it has been specifically set apart by the Council, and identified by means of a notice placed on or near thereto, for the use of persons over the age of 16 years.

## **Noise**

23. (1) No person in the pleasure ground shall, after being requested to desist by an officer of the Council, or by any person annoyed or disturbed, or by any person acting on his behalf:

(a) by shouting or singing;

(b) by playing on a musical instrument; or

(c) by operating or permitting to be operated any radio, gramophone, amplifier, tape recorder or similar instrument;

(d) cause or permit to be made any noise which is so loud or so continuous or repeated as to give reasonable cause for annoyance to other persons in the pleasure ground.

(2) This byelaw shall not apply to religious services held with the consent of the Council.

(3) This byelaw shall not apply to any person holding or taking part in any entertainment or event held with the consent of the Council.

## **Obstruction**

24. No person shall in the pleasure ground:

(a) intentionally obstruct any officer of the Council in the proper execution of his duties;

(b) intentionally obstruct any person carrying out an act which is necessary to the proper execution of any contract with the Council; or

(c) intentionally obstruct any other person in the proper use of the pleasure ground, or behave so as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to other persons in the pleasure ground.

### **Savings**

25. (1) An act necessary to the proper execution of his duty in the pleasure ground by an officer of the Council, or any act which is necessary to the proper execution of any contract with the Council, shall not be an offence under these byelaws.
- (2) Nothing in or done under any of the provisions of these byelaws shall in any respect prejudice or injuriously affect any public right of way through the pleasure ground, or the rights of any person acting legally by virtue of some estate, right or interest in, over or affecting the pleasure ground or any part thereof.

### **Removal of offenders**

26. Any person offending against any of these byelaws may be removed from the pleasure ground by an officer of the Council or a constable.

### **Penalty**

27. Any person offending against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

### **Revocation**

28. Byelaws 2-17, 19-27 and 30 of the byelaws made by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Reading, acting by the Council of the said Borough, on 20 October 1970 and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 14 January 1971 relating to pleasure grounds are hereby revoked.

## **SCHEDULES**

### **SCHEDULE 1**

Abbey Ruins and Chestnut Walk  
Albert Road Recreation Ground  
Ambrook Road Children's Playground  
Amersham Road Park  
Anglers Way Toddlers' Play Area  
Arthur Newbery Park  
Aveley Walk Children's Play Area  
Avon Place Toddlers' Play Area  
Baltimore Walk  
Beresford Road Children's Playground  
Blackhouse Woods  
Blagrove Recreation Ground  
Blundells Copse and The Moor  
Caleta Close Children's Playground, Caversham  
Caversham Court Gardens  
Childrey Way Pleasure Ground  
Chiltern Road Recreation Ground  
Christchurch Meadows

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Christchurch Meadows (Playground)  
Coley Recreation Ground (Playground)  
Dorothy Street Play Area  
Dover Street Children's Playground  
Emmer Green Recreation Ground  
Great Knolly Street/Victoria Road Recreation Ground  
John Rabsons Recreation Ground  
Kensington Road Pleasure Ground  
Katesgrove School Children's Playground  
Long Barn Lane Recreation Ground  
Lyon Square Children's Playground  
Mapledurham Playing Fields (Playground)  
Moriston Close Playground  
Orchard Street Playground  
Oxford Road Recreation Ground  
Palmer Park (Playground)  
Patriot Place Playground  
Portman Road Playground (behind Ivydene Road and next to Bridgewater Close)  
Rivermead Children's Playground  
Robert Hewett Recreation Ground  
Shinfield Road Recreation Ground  
Sol Joel Playing Fields (Playground)  
South Whitley Park (Playground)  
Southcote Farm Lane Play Area  
Southcote Linear Park (Playground)  
Spring Gardens Children's Play Area  
St Giles' Close Children's Playground  
(St John's and St Stephen's) Orts Road Playground  
Virginia Way Children's Play Area  
Waterloo Meadows (Playground)  
Wensley Road Play Area  
Westfield Road Recreation Ground

Round Copse  
Scours Lane Picnic Area  
Shinfield Road Recreation Ground  
Sol Joel Playing Fields  
South Whitley Park  
Southcote Farm Lane Play Area  
Southcote Linear Park  
Spring Gardens Children's Play Area  
St Giles' Close Children's Playground  
(St John's and St Stephen's) Orts Road Playground  
Thameside Promenade and Meadows  
The Coal  
The Cowsey  
The Warren  
Victoria Recreation Ground  
View Island  
Virginia Way Children's Play Area  
Waterloo Meadows  
Wensley Road Play Area  
Westfield Road Recreation Ground  
Whitley Wood Recreation Ground

#### **SCHEDULE 2 - CYCLING/BALL GAMES**

Abbey Ruins and Chestnut Walk  
Caversham Court Gardens  
Forbury Gardens  
King George V Memorial Gardens  
Kings Road Gardens

#### **SCHEDULE 3 - CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS**

Albert Road Recreation Ground  
Ambrook Road Children's Playground  
Amersham Road Park  
Anglers Way Toddlers' Play Area  
Arthur Newbery Park (Playground)  
Aveley Walk Children's Play Area  
Avon Place Toddlers' Play Area  
Beresford Road Children's Playground  
Blagrove Recreation Ground (Playground)  
Caleta Close Children's Playground, Caversham  
Childrey Way Pleasure Ground



Cintra Park  
Clayfield Copse Recreation Ground and Showfield  
Coley Holybrook Walk  
Coley Recreation Ground  
Comparts Plantation  
Coots Bank (Smallmead)  
Courage Sports Ground  
Deans Farm  
Devils Dip  
Dorothy Street Play Area  
Dover Street Children's Playground  
Emmer Green Recreation Ground  
Farnham Drive, Caversham Park Village  
Fobney Island  
Forbury Gardens  
Great Knolly Street/Victoria Road Recreation Ground  
Hardwick Road, Tilehurst  
Hills Meadow  
John Rabsons Recreation Ground  
Katesgrove School Children's Playground  
Kensington Road Pleasure Ground  
King George V Memorial Gardens  
Kings Meadow Recreation Ground  
Kings Road Gardens  
Long Barn Lane Recreation Ground  
Lousehill Copse North and South  
Lyon Square Children's Playground  
Mapledurham Playing Fields  
Marshland Square  
McIlroy Park  
Meadway Sports Ground  
Milestone Way Centre, Caversham Park Village  
Moriston Close Playground  
Orchard Street Playground  
Oxford Road Recreation Ground  
Palmer Park  
Patriot Place Playground  
Portman Road Playground (behind Ivydene Road and next to Bridgewater Close)  
Portman Road Playground (near to Thornton Mews)  
Prospect Park  
Rivermead Children's Playground  
Robert Hewett Recreation Ground

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THE COMMON SEAL of THE READING )  
BOROUGH COUNCIL was hereunto )  
affixed this 28th day of October 1996 )  
in the presence of: )



A.E.W. SILLETT  
Authorised Signatory

**The foregoing byelaws are hereby confirmed by the Secretary of State and shall come into operation on the ~~sixth~~ day of January 1997.**

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

R G EVANS  
Head of Unit  
Constitutional and Community Policy Directorate

12 DEC 1996  
Home Office



