



Capacity and Evacuation Calculations

Recreation Ground, Whitefield Road

The Capacity calculations have been calculated allowing for a customer density of 3 people standing per 1 square metre as recommended for medium risk standing venues. The licensable area (as marked in red on the plan) is 16,300sq.m and by deducting one third of the site area for infrastructure, could accommodate over 30,000 people. However, events on this site will operate at an absolute maximum of 4,999 as a manageable and realistic figure.

*In the absence of formula for calculating evacuation from public open space, we have used evacuation from buildings as a guide, noting that exits have to be within 10m.

The site.

The area is laid to lawn with both mature and younger trees, with hedging and a War Memorial to the centre of the southern boundary. The southern boundary also has a banked grassed area with access/egress at either corner or centrally via a tarmacked footpath. There are tarmacked footpaths within the boundaries and adjacent to the site.

The northern boundary has a vehicle access gate (Exit 1) which is kept locked unless in immediate use. Ability to open this gate is given as standard to those organising events on site. Whilst the gate is locked both pedestrian and mobility scooter can negotiate to one side. The gate leads into a small car park area and access road to Whitefield Road where buses and trains are caught less than five minutes' walk away. The eastern access (Exit 2) is of vehicle width but contains one concrete bollard, and is therefore pedestrian/disabled access only. This opens to a small parking area, privately owned, and general pedestrian access to Station Road. The western access point (Exit 3) is pedestrian/mobility scooter width and leads to a public footpath adjacent Whitefield Road. The southern boundary, which has pedestrian/mobility scooter access centrally (Exit 4) and to the south west corner (Exit 5), pedestrian only to the south east corner (Exit 6), leads out to public footpath and Old Milton Road.

Exit 1 is – 3 metres wide. Whilst gate closed, pedestrian exit to the east is 1.4m, to the west 1.1m with small slope - Using a flow rate based upon accepted formula of 160 for a 1050 metre exit plus 30 for each additional 75 cms, these two exits therefore have a capacity of 680 persons.

Exit 2 is 2 metres wide with concrete bollard at 0.6m (measured from the south point of opening). Using the same formula, the capacity of this exit is 400 persons.

Exit 3 is 1.8 metres wide between tall oak posts. Using the formula this gives a capacity of 384 persons.

Exit 4 is 4 metres wide with bollards at 1.3 and 2.6 metres from the west. Surrounding the exit is a bank laid to lawn, gradient 2:1. Total capacity for this exit is 560 persons.

Exit 5 is 1.6 metres wide. Total capacity for this exit is 368 persons.

Exit 6 has two shallow steps heading north at 1.3 metres width, and sloped to the west at 1.6 metres wide. Total capacity of these exits is 712 persons.

Total capacity of exits = 3104 if evacuating within 2 minutes.

Because we will operate the site so far below its capacity, dispersal within the site but away from danger is acceptable. However, if full evacuation is required, the open southern boundary (banked) will be used and

heavily marshalled. Due to the size of the site and the self-imposed capacity cap, there are no crush opportunities.

Event Seating.

The site is of such a size that temporary event seating will not cause significant delay in any evacuation.

Parking provision.

The town centre car parks, which are owned and managed by New Forest District Council, equate to

- 180 short term (3 hours)
- 44 mid-term (6 hours)
- 120 long term (20 hours)
- 21 disabled
- 4 motorcycle spaces.

In addition there is limited on street parking available.

The site is well served by the nearby train station, with regular services to and from Bournemouth, the New Forest, Southampton and London. The station is easily within 10 minutes' walk of the northern boundary. This boundary also leads towards stops for the local bus services.

Designated Bar Area

The area marked on the plan for a bar to be situated within has been oriented east to west to lessen likelihood of congestion/overcrowding. It also will be open toward the pavilion as the main focus of the site.

Conclusion

The War Memorial Recreation Ground has more than sufficient capacity of exits to enable effective evacuation of the site in an emergency.