

Ashton Court

The showground and the Smyth field

Site guide



Bristol City Council

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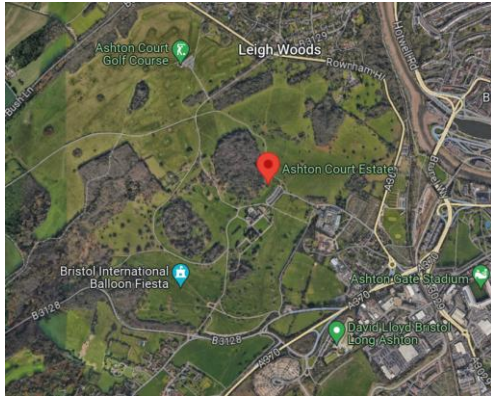
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1. Location

Ashton Court is a mansion house and estate to the west of Bristol in England. Country park and mansion with 850 acres of woodland and grassland and many activities.

2. Site Address



The mansion house, Ashton Court Estate, Long Ashton, Bristol, BS41 9JN

Google Maps : [3D Aerial](#) [2D Directions Map](#)

3. Site Description

Showground: Public hill top parkland, higher level is compacted ground, land drain installed, gentle slopes to steeper banks in places.

The Smyth field: Public valley parkland as part of country estate with house, soft at the bottom of the hill.

3.1 Event Space

1. Ashton Court Showground
2. Ashton Court- The Smyth field



Find a larger online version of this site on our map of [Bristol Outdoor Events Areas](#)

4. Ground conditions

Conditions can be wet and soft underfoot after periods of heavy rain or sudden downpours. Event organisers will be expected to use ground protection especially in high use vehicle/pedestrian thoroughfares during the build/break and the event. We would only allow events on the Showground between April and September, and large events on the Smyth Field during the same period.

5. Event Area



The Showground: 6.5 Hectares

The Smyth Field: 14.5 Hectares

6. Accessibility

Event organisers are responsible for making their events as accessible as possible.

- There are two disabled toilets in the stables courtyard.
- Due to the terrain and topography of the estate, access may be difficult
- The stables courtyard is level but has a cobbled surface.

[Find out about the courtyard cafe's accessibility on DisabledGo.](#)

7. Access and Parking

7.1 Vehicle Access

For small events, parking is possible in the Church Lodge pay and display car park, or for larger events on the Smyth Field for an additional fee, using the Bower Ashton wood yard and Church Lodge entrance as access and egress points. A key may be obtained from the Ashton Court Rangers on payment of a £50 returnable cash deposit.

7.2 Parking



- 3 x Charged car parks
- 10 x Disabled spaces at Mansion
- 1 x Disabled space Clifton Lodge (golf course)
- 10 x Disabled space at Church lodge

Clifton Lodge car park may have overflow parking at busy times. This will have the same charges as the main Clifton Lodge car park.

There is no parking charge for Blue Badge holders, motorcycles and scooters.

These car parks are first come first served.

7.3 Pedestrian Access

The Estate is always open to pedestrians and cyclists. The main entrances are at Kennel Lodge Road, Clifton Lodge and Church Lodge.

7.4 Traffic Management

A traffic management plan will need to be agreed with Bristol City Council and in consultation with the Safety Advisory Group

8. Transport links

1.5 miles to Long Ashton Park and ride

Find more transport options and timings on the [travelWEST website](#).

9. Site Facilities

- Two cafes
- Coach House
- Toilets with baby changing facilities (access via the stables courtyard)
- Woodland garden
- Picnic area
- Deer parks
- Golf course



9.1 Permanent Infrastructure

- Mansion house
- An events track running across the Smyth Field from Church Lodge entrance to the Showground
- Tarmac roadway running past the Showground.



9.2 Power

Please use our [power map](#) to find out what power is available at this site.

Event organisers should prioritise means of power higher in the [power hierarchy](#).

9.4 Water

Use our [water map](#) to see what water resources are available at this site. You can also find further details in our Water Guidance.

9.4 Toilets

There are no toilets on this site, so events would have to arrange temporary toilets (Essential when capacity is over 50).

To calculate additional infrastructure facilities required for your event please refer to [The Purple Guide](#) for guidance on minimum provision.

10. Waste management

- Event organisers should prioritise methods higher in the [waste hierarchy](#)
- The waste management plan must include the surrounding area and key ingress and egress routes
- The event organisers are responsible for doing a litter pick after the event and also disposing of all of this waste.
- The fixed waste bins onsite are not for event-use and should not be factored into the waste management plan.

11. Restrictions on the site

- Ground protection required.
- Veteran trees.

12. Nature Conservation

Nature Conservation Designations

Most of the site is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI).

Notable Habitats

The site comprises historic parkland with large areas of species-rich grassland (managed as hay meadows), woodland (including areas of ancient woodland), and ponds scattered across the site. There are a high number of ancient and veteran trees around the site. Part of the site is managed as a deer park, with herds of red and fallow deer within fenced areas. There is a Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) agreement with Natural England which funds the management of the species-rich grasslands.

No activities should be permitted which cause damage to these habitats. Events should be avoided within the grassland areas covered by the CSS agreement. Measures will need to be taken to avoid impacts to the wider site as a result of increased footfall or use of vehicles and machinery.

Notable Species

The meadows support a high diversity of wildflower species. There are known badger setts within the woodland, and there may be additional setts present in areas of dense scrub. Several species of bat have been recorded using the site; there is an important bat roost present in one of the buildings on site and there is a high likelihood of bat roosts being present in trees and other structures within the site. Amphibians including great crested newts have been recorded in the ponds and will be using adjacent grassland, scrub and woodland habitats. Reptiles such as slow worm and mammals such as hedgehog are also highly likely to be using these habitats. There is general potential for nesting birds across the site including ground-nesting skylarks which use the grasslands along the Plateau (adjacent to the golf course) and are likely to be present elsewhere on site.

Measures must be taken to ensure there are no direct impacts to these species such as via damage to habitats, or indirect impacts such as via disturbance from artificial lighting, noise and vibration, litter and pollution impacts.

13. Hazards

The site is renowned for its veteran trees, for which it is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This does bring its own hazards in terms of falling branches. Event organisers are required to fence trees (separate document) to protect them, but also to protect the public from the trees. Event organisers will need to factor this in as part of their event planning and costing.

There is an old Victorian drain which runs across the site. This is planned to be repaired soon but it is possible that collapses/sink holes can develop on the site of the drain which can create hazards that will need to be barriered or covered during events.

There are 2 ponds on the showground and 2 on the Smyth Field which would need to be fenced during events for public safety.

During dry weather we would need event organisers to consider the risk of fire in woodland and long grass areas, and would ask that they do not allow barbecues, fireworks or other fire based attractions especially when conditions are dry.

14. Consultation and stakeholder engagement

Out of courtesy, it is recommended that event organisers contact local businesses and residents to discuss their event and the impact it may have.

For larger events, it is recommended that organisers contact all surrounding businesses to inform them about the event as well as any local residents as stipulated by the city council's Noise Pollution Team.

15. Fees and charges

15.1 Hire Fee

A site fee and application fee are required for the use of Bristol Council land. Please ensure you are fully aware of all relevant costs on submission of your application.

15.2 Site Bonds

A site bond may be held in consideration for damages with the amount calculated depending on the size of the event.

Land reinstatement may also be required within a week post-event (weather dependent) and a contractor is to be agreed prior to the event.

16. Maps

Find a larger online version of this site on our map of [Bristol Outdoor Events Areas](#)