



YEOVIL DOES PRIDE

ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE 2022

Saturday 3rd October 2022

Yeovil Town Centre & Yeovil Country Park

FOREWORD

Accessibility is something we take very seriously at Yeovil Diversity Project and, as with all our events, we have done our best to make Yeovil Does Pride accessible to all. For us, inclusivity is an important and integral part of our planning - and not an after-thought. This event has been arranged at extremely short notice, and with longer time to prepare we know we could have done even more. That being said, we hope you find this guide useful as we explain the various steps we have taken and options available for people with different needs.

If you have any questions regarding accessibility, or any aspect of the Yeovil Does Pride, please do not hesitate to contact us through social media, our website or by email.

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FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Yeovil Does Pride is free to attend, although it is a ticketed event that you need to register for in advance. If you are unable to bring your own food to the picnic due to financial hardship, please let us know and we will arrange a packed lunch for you. There will also be a selection of fresh fruit available for anyone on the day to take what they need.

ACCESSIBLE ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

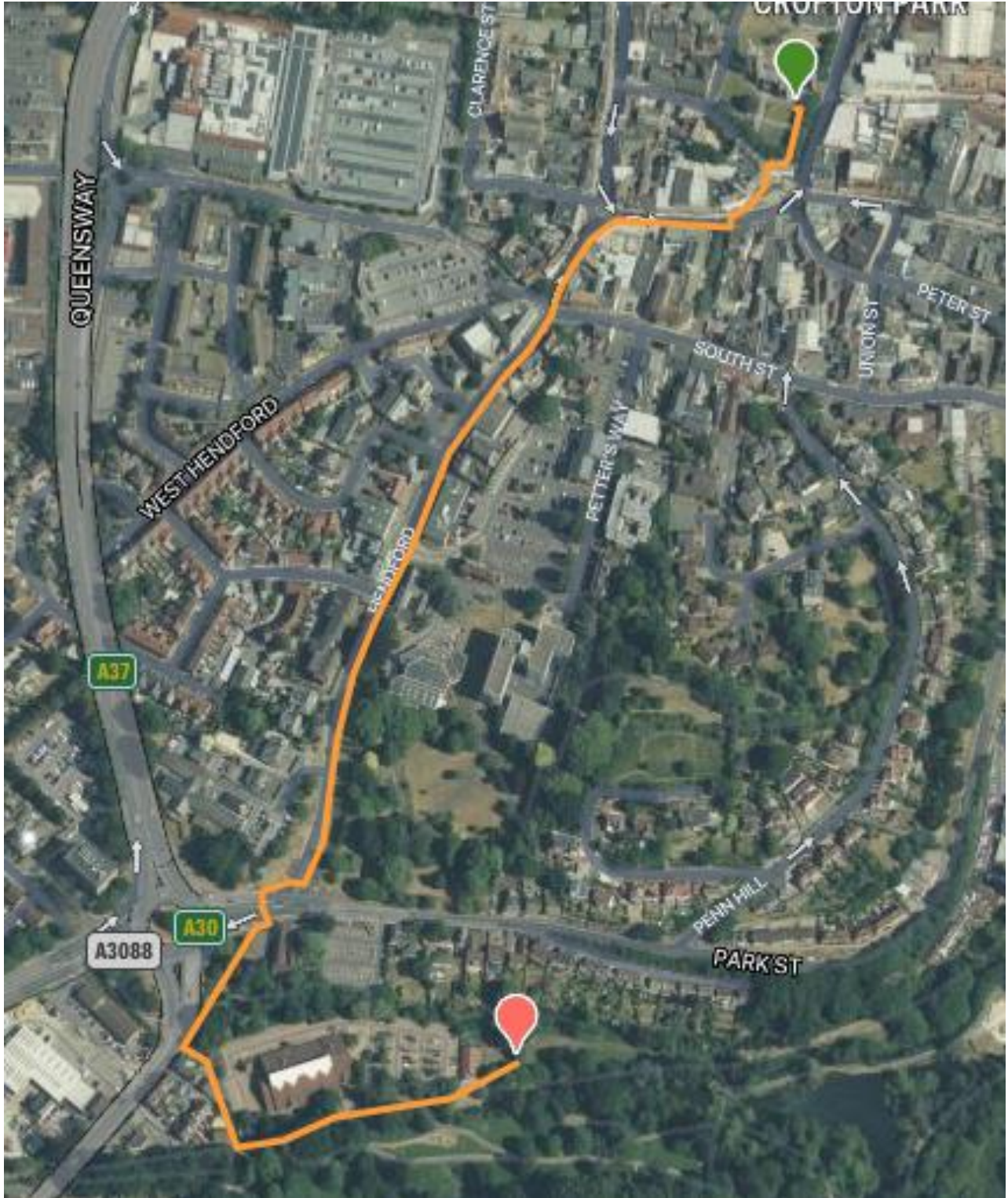
The Accessible Route Alternatives provide additional options for disabled people who may find the elevation in the Quedam / Middle Street, and then Brunswick Street too steep to be able to navigate safely. We have dedicated Accessible Route stewards who will be taking care of everyone wishing to use either of the route alternatives, making sure no-one is left behind.

The first alternative is for people to wait at the war Memorial while the Main Pride Parade does the small loop of the Quedam and Middle Street. As the Main Pride Parade crosses the road between HSBC and Burger King, the Accessible Route stewards will let those with them know that the parade is approaching, and guide them over to the zebra crossing, enabling them to join the parade where ever they feel comfortable between Bet Fred and Costa Coffee. Whether you want to be front and centre leading the way just behind the lead steward, bringing up the rear or somewhere in between, we will make space for you where you will be most comfortable – just let us know!

The second alternative is for people to use the series of traffic lights at the bottom of Henford, going to the right and then left to end up in front of Cooper's Mill. From there they will follow the path around to the right and go around the back of the pub to join up with the main Ninesprings Trail, continuing along it until they reach the destination of the green space behind the Café. This avoids the steep descent into Goldenstones carpark and has a much gentler gradient. However, there are some strong tree roots that have disturbed and broken up the tarmac along these paths.

Both the Main Parade Route and route using the Accessible Route Alternatives are about 0.8 miles.

ACCESSIBLE ROUTE ALTERNATIVES - MAP



DIFFERENTIATED SCAVENGER HUNT ACTIVITY

The scavenger hunt activity has been differentiated to three different levels, providing participation opportunities for a wide range of abilities.

The entry level activity is the sheet with circle markers in each corner. The sheet has a picture of all the flags hidden along the scavenger hunt trail, with a box underneath each flag for the participant to tick once they have spotted the flag in the environment. This simple matching activity helps to build visual perception and critical thinking skills, as well as encouraging them to be aware of and engage with their surroundings.

The next step up is the sheet with triangle markers in each corner. The sheet has a picture of all the flags hidden along the scavenger hunt trail, with a box underneath each flag for the participant to tick once they have spotted the flag in the environment. Under each flag are also spaces indicating how many letters are in the name of each flag, with some letters provided as clues. The names of the flags are listed on the back of the sheet in a random order, for them then to work out the name of each flag and write it underneath. The list can also be provided on a separate sheet, please ask for one if this would benefit. This kind of word game challenges spelling skills and focus, as well as introducing them to some LGBT+ vocabulary.

The third version of the activity has square markers in each corner. There are no pictures on this sheet, but there are spaces for each flag to be represented however the participant feels best – they might sketch the shapes and stripes or choose to just write key descriptors in the box. On the back of the sheet is a series of clues that describe the features of different flags, for them to work out through observation and a process of elimination as to which flag is which. This activity employs memory and recall skills, promotes problem-solving and introduces some LGBT+ vocabulary.

MAKING OUR SPEECHES ACCESSIBLE

As part of our celebrations, there will be speeches made by members of the LGBT+ community and their allies. We have arranged for a BSL interpreter to attend Yeovil Does Pride and sign for us, so that each person's message is able to reach as many people as possible.

As a contingency, if the interpreter is unable to attend, a member of the committee will be able to provide a link to a text copy of each speech that can be viewed on a smart phone or other device via QR code.

If you would like us to ensure that a space is made for you closer to the speakers, to make it easier for you to listen or lipread etc, please make yourself known to a steward.

ANXIETY, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

During the picnic we will be encouraging everyone to circulate and meet new people, but we know that not everyone is comfortable with this. Towards the back of the green space, furthest away from the Café, we will have our Peaceful Pitch marked out.

This area is for anyone who wants to be a part of our Pride celebrations but does not want to mix with others. This could be for any number of reasons; being immunosuppressed, having communication difficulties, being ND, feeling shy around new people... Whatever the reason, which isn't anyone's business but yours, it's valid and we want to make and hold space for you to be able to enjoy Yeovil Does Pride too – alongside everyone else, but in way that honours your boundaries and comfort.

As well as two fully qualified physical first aiders, we will have a mental health first aider onsite. There will also be a designated picnic blanket where you can go if you want someone to reach out to you or are feeling lonely.