

Leicester Open Air Event Site

Traffic Management Plan

V1 – 04/03/2020



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Proposed Event Site Overview

The proposed event licence for this site is to be between 10am until 11pm, with a maximum capacity of 5,000 visitors.

The proposed event site is located north of Leicester City Centre, north of Leicester's city centre ring road, the A594 Burleys Way. The area is a former industrial site with entrances on St John Street, Canning Street and Watling Street, with a further access point on Thames Street. See Appendix 1, Venue Licence Overview, for details of these access/egress points. Further egress points may be made possible around the site should there be any issues around egress, however, 4 points seems sufficient for the crowd volume proposed on the licence at this stage.

The local area has many small businesses with the largest operating site being Parkway Volkswagen on Bay Street, with the site spreading over around 50% of the land in the area. This business has opening times of 8am – 7pm Monday to Friday, 8am – 6pm on a Saturday and 11am – 5pm on a Sunday. All local businesses shall be consulted with and made aware of all events in good time so appropriate measures can be put in place to minimise disruption.

Traffic Management Plan Objectives

The purpose of the traffic management plan objectives is to set out the framework defined in the plan, to ensure that key areas of interest are identified and appropriate measures are in place in the interests of public safety and to minimise the impact of traffic disruption for all road users.

The key objectives are as follows;

1. **Maintaining Public Safety** – Public safety must be protected at all times and must include all road users, including all vehicular traffic, pedestrians including pedestrians requiring assistance and all vulnerable road users. The event, and its contractors, must take all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that the risk to injury and life is kept to a minimum. This includes all staff that are working on this site, as well as its visitors and the general public
2. **Minimising Transport Disruption** – Taking into account all road users and maintaining the integrity of the routes surrounding which may be required to carry a higher than usual volume of traffic. The traffic management plan within this document shall be agreed by all concerned parties, including the Local Authority and Emergency Services, to ensure that the plan is suitably robust to cope with all anticipated issues and that the public highway is, as much as reasonably practicable, to be kept clear of unnecessary congestion.
3. **Minimising the Impact on Local Businesses and Residents** – It is important that businesses and residents that may be affected by the event are impacted minimally to mitigate any adverse effects on the local community. Communication and liaison with all businesses and residents that may be affected will identify any specific needs and will help to prevent disruption wherever possible.

Event Visitor Access

There is to be no event parking on or near to the site. No Waiting Cones will be deployed around the site and surrounding areas, with authorisation and enforcement provided by Leicester City Council (subject to approval) with issued temporary traffic regulation orders and parking bay suspensions, where necessary. This is to ensure that the local infrastructure network doesn't become congested and emergency vehicles will have access to all areas at all times.

Event visitors are to be notified extensively that there will be no parking on or near to the venue and will be encouraged to use the local transport network and city centre car parks. There are 15 car parks around the city centre offering around 5000 spaces, of which 4 are within a 5 minute walk, and 4 within a 10 minute walk, of the proposed venue. Most of these car parks are open 24 hours a day or cover the proposed licence times, including time to walk back to those car parks.

It is estimated that approximately half of visitors to an event in a city centre location, approximately 2500 for a 5000 person event, will arrive by car. Of those, most will be travelling in pairs or groups, so it is estimated that no more than 1000 additional vehicles will impact the city centre's infrastructure than on another particular day. It is expected that the impact on car parks will be low until mid-afternoon and is expected to grow steadily between 3pm and 7pm, with the majority of attendees expected to arrive from around 5pm, after the main city centre shopping times.

A drop off point is proposed to be in place on Canning Street to allow visitors to alight at the venue from taxis and by other means. This will be in place from 10am until 9pm. See traffic management details for information regarding how this will operate.

The remaining visitors are expected to arrive using the local transport networks, and others arriving by rail. St Margaret's Bus Station and Haymarket Bus Station are within a 5 minute walk of the proposed venue and Leicester Rail Station is a 15 minute walk through the city centre. There is a 2m wide footbridge over the A594 Burleys Way and additional pedestrian crossing facilities at the junction with Abbey Street for pedestrians to access the event site.

Event Visitor Egress

As with all events of this nature, the majority of visitors will leave at the same time. It is expected that large crowds will leave the site from any of the 4 exits from the site, including in cases of evacuation. For public safety, road closures will be implemented on St John Street, Watling Street, Canning Street and Thames Street.

It is estimated that two thirds of pedestrians will make their way away from the venue on foot, with the majority heading back into the city centre the same way they arrived. To do this, a combination of stewards and traffic management will manage the crossing facilities at the Abbey Street junction with the A594 Burleys Way. Also, the footbridge over Burleys Way will be closed to pedestrians heading north to avoid them trying to walk against the flow of people on a narrow bridge.

A lane closure will also be implemented on Burleys Way to allow for a taxi pick-up point between St John Street and Thames Street. See traffic management details for information regarding how this will operate.

Traffic Management Details - Proposal

There will be different stages to the traffic management due to the different phases of the event and the level of assessed risk associated with this. The following proposal is based on a maximum capacity of 5000 on an event running from 10:00am until 23:00pm. Timings given are an estimate only and for events with smaller capacities, reduced measures shall be implemented.

1. Pre-event – The evening prior to an event, from 4pm, No Waiting Cones are to be deployed on St John Street, Canning Street, Grafton Place, Watling Street, St Margaret’s Street, Bay Street, Friday Street, Thames Street and Yarmouth Street. This is to deter drivers from parking their vehicles overnight and remaining within the event footprint and relevant temporary traffic regulation order in place before it comes into force.
2. From 09:00am – Road closures installed on Watling Street and Canning Street made one-way traffic. Vehicles will be required to continue driving to Canning Street to the drop off point, built using signs and cones, and cones to be installed on St John Street to keep traffic in one lane away from the venue entrances. This is to ensure crowd safety whilst arriving at the venue and to ensure vehicles don’t congest on A594 Burleys Way.
3. From 17:00pm – Road closure installed on Thames Street, north of Yarmouth Street. This is to ensure a safe area for egress and also provide a safe space in case of evacuation as crowd size is expected to be considerable from this time.
4. From 19:00pm – Lane one closure installed on eastbound A594 Burleys Way to provide taxi pick up point.
5. From 21:00pm – Canning Street drop off point closed down and full road closure implemented on Canning Street to allow safe area for mass egress.
6. From 21:00pm – Additional lane closure installed on westbound Burleys Way. This is to assist controlling traffic approaching the pedestrian crossing facilities. NOTE – Pedestrian crossing facility only operates for around 15 seconds on pedestrian phase, however, footbridge will also be operational.
7. From 22:45pm – A594 Burleys Way closed in both directions, including Burleys Flyover, between A607 Belgrave Gate and A6 St Margaret’s Way. Abbey Street also closed between Burleys Way and Belgrave Gate. Vehicles leaving St Margaret’s Bus Station to be facilitated northbound when safe to do so. Diversions in both directions via;

A6 St Margaret’s Way > B5327 Abbey Park Road > A607 Belgrave Gate

This is to allow for a safe route into the city centre. Closure expected to be implemented until midnight.

Emergency Access

Emergency access is to be maintained on and through the event footprint at all times EXCEPT during egress, approximately between 22:45pm – 23:59pm. During these times, access will only be via Abbey Street or pre-arranged with the event liaison team and safe passage is to be facilitated with crowd management staff.

