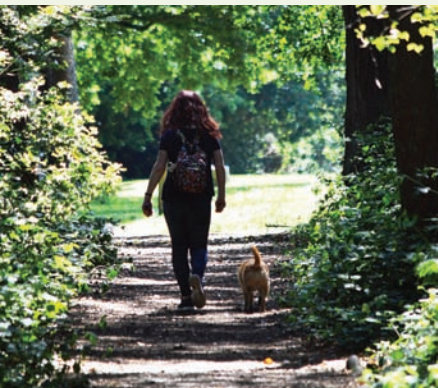




Queen's Park

A little bit of nature in the heart of Bournemouth

PLAYGROUND | CAFÉ | FITNESS & NATURE TRAILS | GOLF COURSE



PARKS



www.bournemouth.gov.uk/queenspark

A brief history of Queen's Park

From Pools Common to Queen's Park

Queen's Park was part of a large heathland that stretched from Dorchester into the New Forest. It was known as 'Pools Common', because the soils were poor. In 1802, The Christchurch Enclosure Act 'privatised' much of the land, making it ripe for development.

The Act set aside five areas, to allow for turf cutting for the 89 cottagers and their households (a source of fuel until the end of the 19th Century). These areas have largely survived as public parks, and includes Queen's Park (then called Lot No. 60).

Cattle grazed on the heathland, and access was through gates (or 'beastgates'). Deans Drove Gate was at the east end of Queen's Park, Castle Gate is to the south of what is now known as Castle Lane.

Queen's Park also contained some small quarry pits (likely to post-date 1805, as building



materials were needed for urbanisation of the area).

Plot 60 became 'Queen's Park' in 1902. Officially, the Prince of Wales (Edward) only visited Bournemouth twice – in 1856 and 1900, but he was a regular visitor to Bournemouth to see his mistress, Lillie Langtry. As both King's Park and Queen's were close to completion in his coronation year they were named after the Prince and his Danish wife Alexandra.



A horse trotting track ran along the perimeter of the park (remains still visible on Queen's Park Avenue). Horses were stabled in the park for the horse-drawn grounds maintenance machinery.

The boating pond was originally for children to sail model boats. In 2005 a Heritage Lottery project involving QPIPs and Bournemouth Council removed the formal concrete edges, most of the fish and planted it with native species.

Lord Montague of Beaulieu opened the Rifle Range (near the Pavilion) on 5th October 1907 and the ceremony was followed by a shooting competition.

The golf course (originally an 18-hole men's and a 9-hole women's course) was opened on 25th October 1905. An exhibition match followed, played by professionals J H Taylor, Harry Vardon, James Braid and Alex Herd. In 1963,



the course was redesigned to make way for the A338 Wessex Way. The original Pavilion was demolished, and the 1st tee moved to what was previously the 4th. The 3rd became the current 18th hole. The new Pavilion was built in 1967, with the first floor café added in 1983.

The playground opened in 2013 and today, the Woodpecker Café is a welcoming environment for all park users – whether to have a meal, play golf or simply enjoy the surroundings.

Find out more online at www.qpips.org.uk/history/history.pdf



Park Wildlife

We share Queen's Park with lots of wildlife - what will you spot on your visit?



Stag Beetle

Bournemouth is a national hotspot for stag beetles – the largest British beetle. They are a rare sight or even absent from much of the country.

Males grow up to 7cm long, and will fly out for a mate at dusk on humid evenings between May and August.

Females rarely fly – instead, they release pheromones to attract males to them.

The male's large mandibles (jaws that look like a deer's antlers) are used to wrestle other males during the mating season, where the loser is thrown to the ground. They are harmless.

Stag beetles live for seven years from egg to adult, with most of this time spend as large, white larva feeding on rotting wood. Once an adult, they only live for a few weeks, but a few survive the winter if they can find somewhere warm to live, like a compost heap.



Emperor Dragonfly

There are about 5000 species of dragonflies and damselflies in the world, but only about 50 species resident in Britain. We know from fossil evidence that they have been around for about 300 million years. Huge dragonflies were flying when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

The emperor is Britain's largest dragonfly. The males are predominantly blue with the females appearing greenish in colour. They are relatively common and are on the wing from May until September.

The female lays her eggs on floating vegetation in ponds, lakes and slow flowing rivers and canals. The eggs hatch into nymphs which live in the water for 1 or 2 years before emerging and moulting into the adult form.

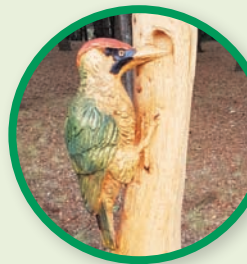


Green Woodpecker

The green woodpecker is the largest of the 3 species of woodpecker that are resident in Britain. As its name suggests it is largely green with a bright yellow rump and red on top of its head. It has a black 'moustache' which has a red centre in males.

They have a distinct undulating flight (rising and falling) and a loud, laughing call. Green woodpeckers spend most of their time feeding on the ground, probing into ants' nests with their bill and using their extremely long, sticky tongue to extract the ants and their larvae.

Like other woodpeckers, they excavate a hole in a rotting tree trunk or large bough in which they make their nest.



Red Fox

The red fox is the most common of all wild carnivores, with denser populations in urban, rather than rural environments. They are widespread in many Australian, European, Japanese and North American towns and cities.

These incredibly adaptable animals have a wide-ranging diet including small mammals, birds (including eggs), fruit, carrion and invertebrates. In urban areas, about a third of their diet is scavenged food from households.

Urban foxes tend to live in family groups of one dog (male), a dominant vixen (female) and subordinate vixens (likely to be young from the previous year). This territorial group will defend their foraging area. Foxes breed once a year and are very vocal during the mating season between December and February. A litter of cubs (usually 4 or 5) are born in March or April. Urban foxes rarely move into the surrounding countryside.



Speckled Wood Butterfly

These aptly named butterflies prefer partially shaded woodland and gardens with dappled sunlight. The territorial males perch in sunlight, waiting to intercept any intruder. If this happens to be another male, a fantastic spiralling 'fight' ensues.

These butterflies feed on aphid honeydew in the tree tops and are rarely seen feeding on flowers, except early and late in the year when aphid activity is low. The eggs are laid individually, in warm sheltered spots and on favoured food plants and grasses.

The green colour of the caterpillars provides suitable camouflage, as they feed on leaf edges. Whilst many of our butterflies are in serious decline, speckled woods are actually doing well and their range is expanding.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE SPECIES ON OUR WEBSITE



Safety Advice and Code of Conduct

for the enjoyment of all users

We hope this advice will help you have a safe and enjoyable experience when visiting Queen's Park. Our aim is always to find the balance where all users can enjoy this park's beauty.

Queen's Park is a public park, with an active golf course within it. We have put up safety signs across the park and golf course to advise all users to take precaution when using certain areas. These may advise on the direction of travel a golf ball may come from. Golf balls can be travelling in excess of 100 mph.

There are many hidden dips and copses within the park that cause blind spots, where golfers are unable to see walkers and walkers can't see golfers. We have suggested trail routes, to help you use the park safely.

We welcome responsible dog walkers at Queen's. Please remember that your dog should be under close control in any park, whether it's on a lead or not. If your dog will not respond to a call to heel, it should be on a lead.

We would ask that you do not allow your dog in to the pond where there are often breeding or resting wildfowl and that you do not encourage your dog to run across prepared playing surfaces such as greens, bunkers and tees where they can cause damage.

Active Discovery Route

Run | Walk | Explore

Blue Wildlife Route

The wildlife (blue route) starts at the northern corner of the pavilion and is a half hour, 1.75km circular walk that takes you through different habitats via the Drovers Pond (picnic spot), oak woodland, pine woods and heathland.

In this leaflet you can learn about some wildlife that lives here. Along the way discover the five carved sculptures showing some of the creatures who live in Queen's Park, can you name them?

While you follow the route markers please observe the warning signs whilst crossing fairways.

These are just three possible ways to walk around Queen's Park, there are many more paths to discover around the 61 hectares of Queen's Park that you are free to explore.



Golf at Queen's Park

For more details about playing golf at Queen's Park, please visit www.queensparkgolfcourse.com or call 01202 451675. Pay & Play and Season Tickets are available, with the course playable all year on account of its excellent drainage. The last tee-off time on the course on a Sunday is 12 noon.

To help you explore the park safely, avoiding golf play as much as possible, we have marked out 3 routes. Look for the coloured arrows on posts.



2km Green Route & 3km Red Route

These both start at the playing field next to the West Car Park. From this starting post you can follow the coloured arrows to take you on a circular route.

Why not join them up to make a 5km route? The routes have varied but solid surfaces, from woodchip to mown grass, tarmac and compacted gravel.

The 2km route is mostly flat with two hills around the pond. The 3km is a more hilly route.



Essential Information

Queen's Park Pavilion, Queen's Park

West Drive, Bournemouth BH8 9BY

T 01202 451675 (or 01202 451145 out of hours emergency)

E queenspark@bournemouth.gov.uk

W www.bournemouth.gov.uk/queenspark

Getting to Queen's Park

There are plenty of cycle racks outside the café entrance – and we have some locks for you to borrow in case you have forgotten yours.

The nearest bus stops are serviced by P2, P3 or 20 – visit www.bybus.co.uk for more information.

If you are coming by car, there is a large car park. Please note height barriers are often in place if you have a taller vehicle. There is some on-road parking around the park perimeter.

Ping! Bats and balls

A Ping! table tennis table can be found by the playground and is free to play, courtesy of Table Tennis England. Please collect your bats and balls from the golf shop.

Feeling peckish?

Woodpecker Café, at Queen's Park Pavilion, is open to all park users. The menu uses locally-sourced produce and everything is freshly prepared on site. So pop up for breakfast, lunch or dinner – or a coffee and cake, an ice cream or just a drink (there is a licenced bar). There is also function space available for hire – for business meetings, celebrations, kids parties or community groups. Why not support your local park by holding your event here?

Call 01202 309229 or visit www.parkcafes.co.uk for more information.

Toilets



Toilets are located both upstairs and downstairs in the main building, with baby-changing facilities on the ground floor.

About QPIPS (Queen's Park Improvement and Protection Society)

QPIPS (reg. charity No. 1098231) exists for the following purposes:

1. For the public benefit to secure the re-establishment, preservation, protection and improvement of Queen's Parks as a place of beauty and historical interest and for the rest, recreation and enjoyment of the whole neighbouring community and the general public
2. To provide or assist in the provision of equipment or facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation
3. To assist with the conservation and encouragement of wildlife
4. To educate the public in the history, plant-life, wildlife and other aspects of the Park

To find out more about their work, or to get involved visit www.qpips.org.uk

