

European Pipe Band Championships, Piping At Forres 2018 Access Statement

This access statement does not contain our opinions as to the suitability of our Event for those with disabilities, but aims to describe accurately the facilities and services that we offer to all visitors and participants.

Background

Piping At Forres is a single day outdoor event that takes place in Grant Park, Forres on the last Saturday of June. The main focus of the event is the European Pipe Band Championships, which has over 100 pipe bands competing throughout the day in 4 arenas; a very memorable spectacle. There are other activities, including Highland Dancing, a Craft & Retail village, a Food & Drink village, funfairs and beer tents, making it a great day out for everyone. We welcome all visitors and participants.

Information on the day - in advance

Our website gives a considerable amount of information about the event, and about activities and details of the local area. It also provides information about how to contact us: www.pipingatforres.com

Our team will be happy to provide further information about the event if you contact us:

- by email: admin@pipingatforres.com
- by phone: 07563 181286

Information on the day - on the park

Our Stewards and Volunteers can be identified by their jackets (Stewards) or orange hats (Volunteers). They will be able to provide information and assist you. Stewards have radios to call for further assistance if required.

Information is also available from the Information Point (location signed).

An Event Programme, containing written detail of the activities planned for the day, and including a site map, may be purchased from locations and vendors within the park.

Tickets

Tickets are available on the day at the entrances to the park.

Advanced tickets, at discounted prices, are available online and in various local outlets.

If a visitor needs a Personal Assistant (PA) to assist them during their time at the event, the PA will be provided with a free entrance ticket, at the gate.

Tickets are in the form of wristbands; if a visitor has a particular sensitivity to wearing a wristband please advise the Volunteers at the entrance on arrival.

Access within Grant Park



Photo credit HighlandSC, Walkhighlands.co.uk

Grant Park is set close to Forres' High Street.

Grant Park is mostly grassed. There is a hard standing path across the northern side of the park running between the two entrances to the park. This passes close to the arena area, which is set on a flat area of ground normally occupied by the cricket pitch.

Each of the four arenas has an area designated for viewing by wheelchair users. The Food & Drink village is set on the north side of the hard standing path in the floral gardens, while the Craft & Retail village is set just south of the western entrance. The marquees in both villages are floored.

Grant Park has steeply rising ground to the south and southwest, beyond the main competition and village areas.

Toilets

Disabled toilets (temporary) are available within Grant Park; their locations are signed and marked on the map available in the Event Programme and from Stewards and Volunteers.

Moray Council has (permanent) Unisex disabled toilets at Leys Road car park (8.00am to 8.00pm) and to the east of Grant Park (outwith the Event fenced area) (8.00am to 4.30pm).

The Community Centre, opposite Grant Park, houses the Community Café, which is wheelchair-accessible, with disabled parking, ramp access, disabled toilets, adjustable tables and an adjustable serving counter.

Seating

There is no grandstand seating.

An area of seating run by Forres Heritage Trust is available close to one of the arenas, and is accessible for a charge.

There is seating by the Highland Dancing and in the Café within the Food & Drink village.

The rising ground to the south east (the so-called “Moray Mound”) is used by people sitting informally on the grass.

Dogs

Well-behaved dogs are welcome at the event.

A Pooches’ Corner, with fresh water for dogs and free poo bags, is available as signed and marked on the event site map.

Parking

The main parking for the event is situated at the Forres Enterprise Park, 2 miles to the East of the town, served by a free 5-minute Park and Ride bus service link to the Victoria Road public entrance. The bus service is able to accommodate wheelchair users.

There is a more limited amount of disabled parking, available on a first come first served basis, on the side of the playing field adjacent to Grant Park; the entrance is on South Street. Stewards are in place to assist with parking.

There are parking restrictions in place on the roads immediately around the park on the day of the event.

Travel

Details of major routes to Forres from other parts of the country are available on the website. For those who do not wish to travel by car there is a free bus shuttle from Forres railway station, 1.2 miles to the west of the park. The bus service is able to accommodate wheelchair users.

There is a coach travel company with whom we have a collaborative arrangement that offers coach travel from the central belt integrated with a two-night stay in the area¹.

Sensitivity to Noise

The event is centred around the European Pipe Band Championships, involving pipe bands playing in the 4 arenas. Other bands tune up and practice at locations all around the park. There are a few quieter areas, but the pipes and drums can be heard everywhere within the park.

Forres Events Ltd
September 2017

¹ David Urquhart travel <https://www.davidurquhart.com>