

# ROYAL NAVY INTERNATIONAL AIR DAY RNAS YEOVILTON - SATURDAY 13 JULY 2019



## ACCESS STATEMENT

*Last updated 2 Nov 2018*

**This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our guests/visitors.**

### Introduction

Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton is situated 6 miles north of Yeovil in Somerset surrounded by beautiful countryside. For 2 days of the year this operational airfield, home to the Wildcat Maritime Force, Commando Helicopter Force and Aviation Reconnaissance Force, is transformed into a showground for its annual military air show. The event attracts an audience of approximately 40,000 visitors and significant foreign military participation as well as support from RAF and Army aircraft. The 5-hour flying display consists of historic warbirds, classic jets, helicopters, fast jets, and formation aerobatic teams from military and civilian participants. On the ground there is an extensive static aircraft display along with a whole host of attractions.

Please note the event does not enjoy the same infrastructure as a dedicated showground or purpose-built event venue. The site is planned utilising the resources available and within the constraints of an operational military establishment. The entire showground is very large with no internal transport.

The Air Day aims to be as accessible as possible to ensure everyone can enjoy the event equally. The showground is flat with access routes on hardstanding. There are plenty of grass areas where you can set-up a picnic and enjoy the flying display.

Several facilities are also provided to make your visit more comfortable such as designated disabled parking, mobility hire service, disabled toilets across the showground and a designated Mobility Aids Viewing Enclosure (MAVE) with seating. Service personnel will be happy to assist upon request throughout your visit.

Comprehensive information about the show, display acts, online booking, visitor information, etc can be obtained by visiting the official website at [www.royalnavy.mod.uk/yeovilton-airday](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/yeovilton-airday) which is optimised for accessibility.

## Pre-Arrival

- In order to take advantage of discounts and fast track entry to the showground it is strongly advised that tickets are purchased in advance, although tickets are available on the day if required.
- Advance tickets can be purchased by credit/debit card over the phone by calling 0330 100 3656 or online by visiting the Air Day website. Tickets are also available over the counter from over 60 Tourist Information Centres (TIC). A full list of participating TICs will be available on the 'Ticket' page of the website from April.
- For full details and traffic plan of how to reach us please see the 'Visitor Information' section of the website. Alternatively, you can plan your journey by car or public transport using [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info); simply enter your postcode and ours, which is BA22 8HT to get directions.
- The nearest train stations are Yeovil Pen Mill (7.5 miles) and Yeovil Junction (9 miles). The main bus station is Yeovil (7 miles).
- There is a special shuttle bus service, operated by First Buses, to and from the event stopping at Yeovil Bus Station and Yeovil Pen Mill and Yeovil Junction train stations throughout the day. For details on charges and a full timetable please visit the 'How to get to Air Day' section of the website.
- There are 3 entrance gates to the event however the Fleet Air Arm Museum Gate is the most suitable and closest entrance point to the disabled car park (50m to 100m away depending on where you are parked) and public transport drop off points are located in this area. Other entrance gates serve car parks (farmers' fields) located some distance away from the showground.
- The showground covers an area of approximately 350,000 square metres comprising of taxiways which act as pedestrianised routes and grass areas which are used as picnic/viewing areas. There are no internal transport facilities. Please note that the showground is an operational military airfield except during the show period. We therefore ask all visitors to be mindful of potential trip hazards such as runway lights, drains and airfield infrastructure.

## **Car Parking and Arrival**

- If travelling by car please follow the temporary Air Day traffic signs depicting the Blue Badge disabled symbol as you approach the Air Station. This route will directly take you to the disabled car park known as Fury Car Park. Please ignore satellite navigation directions once you see the Air Day traffic signs.
- All car parking is free of charge with a capacity of 10,000 vehicles spread over 6 car parks.
- The dedicated disabled car park has ample parking on hardstanding and flat grass surfaces conveniently located opposite the Fleet Air Arm Museum (large blue building) Gate.
- Service personnel will be on hand to assist visitors with unloading vehicles upon request.
- An information point and disabled toilet is also located within the car park.
- Electric scooters and wheelchairs are available to hire and should be collected from 'Event Mobility' who operate the facility in the Fury Car Park. Due to high demand pre-booking is essential by calling them on 01386 725391 or visit [www.eventmobility.org.uk](http://www.eventmobility.org.uk).
- Adjacent to the car park is a tarmac road which will be pedestrianised and leads to the entrance point which is 50m to 100m away depending on where you have parked.
- On departure, please expect some delays as we try to clear 10,000 vehicles in a very short space of time.

## **Main Entrance, Reception and Ticketing Area**

- At the entrance point there will be a fast track lane on the left-hand side for disabled ticketholders and their carer's. Please note you may be asked to have your bags searched before entry is permitted.
- If you need to purchase a ticket please stay on the right hand-side where you will be directed to a pay booth followed by a search area followed by a ticket checking area before gaining access to the showground. The pay booths have

glass screens that can be partially opened to aid lip reading and visitors with a visual impairment.

- All security checks, ticket sales, ticket checking at this gate are conducted on a large flat hardstanding area.
- Security staff will guide visitors accordingly to minimise waiting times and keep queues moving. However, please expect some delay if the establishment is placed on a heightened state of alert.

### **Mobility Aid Viewing Enclosure (MAVE)**

- The Air Day showground has plenty of space for your party to set up a 'camp' for the day to enjoy the main activity taking place in the sky above. There is no essential need to be able to view the runway.
- However, we understand that some Air Day visitors, who require mobility assistance (wheelchair, scooter, crutches, etc), may be attending on their own or with an accompanying carer. To make your visit more comfortable the MAVE is a free of charge outdoor enclosure (no shelter) on hard-standing with good views of the flying display. Other facilities include:
  - Disabled Toilets
  - Tables and chairs
  - Enclosure wristband
  - Cadets on hand to assist if required
- Access to the enclosure is free of charge and is restricted to those using mobility aids and ONE accompanying carer only, due to space restrictions.
- Places in the enclosure are limited and must be pre-booked in advance using the form on the 'Visitor Information' page in the 'Disabled Facilities' section. Please call 0330 100 3654 if you require further information.
- Please note that this enclosure is situated on the crowd line approximately 400m from the Museum entrance point.

## **Attractions (displays, exhibits, rides etc.)**

- Traders and exhibitors have been positioned such that they are accessible by all. The only exceptions are some of the food courts and the fairground which are located on grass. However, a good choice of mobile caterers will be positioned in more convenient areas across the showground.
- Visitors utilising any of the hospitality packages need to be aware that all enclosures have carpet ground coverings and the outdoor areas are grass.
- All visitors need to be aware that many of the aircraft displays will generate considerable noise particularly modern fast jets. Ear defenders are recommended for those with sensitive hearing and can be purchased from some of the traders on the day.
- Air Day is an outdoor event with limited areas for shelter. All visitors are advised to check the forecast and come suitably prepared.
- Static aircraft will be cordoned off and manned by aircrew. They will be happy to answer any of your questions and in some instances will allow a closer look at the aircraft upon request.
- The Fleet Air Arm Museum is open, and access is discounted by 50% to Air Day ticketholders in receipt of a voucher. For further details on their accessibility please visit [www.fleetairarm.com](http://www.fleetairarm.com) .
- There are 4 information points within the showground manned by service personnel on hand to assist.

## **Public Toilets**

- The main public toilets are situated in 6 key locations across the showground. At any point on the showground there will be toilets within 150m of your position.
- Each location has a combination of toilet types consisting of portaloos, trailer units and disabled portaloos. The portaloos are unisex.
- A wheelchair friendly portaloos unit is located at each of the key locations in addition to the units in MAVE, the disabled car park and the hospitality enclosures.

- Trailer units are elevated to a height of 3 steps, with a handrail, to reach the entrance and contain a mixture of urinals and/or lockable cabins. The trailer units are not unisex.
- All toilets have hand sanitising gel.

### **Catering**

- There are approximately 45 food and drink outlets including bars, ice cream, hot and cold, savoury and sweet food units. The operators come in all shapes and sizes with many utilising mobile catering trailers whilst some have a gazebo set-up.
- The outlets are conveniently located throughout the site including five dedicated food courts comprising of 6-8 units each. These are positioned in the main picnic areas on grass.

### **Additional Information**

- Pedestrian routes can become congested at times.
- There are evacuation procedures in place and service personnel will be on hand to assist and guide you to a safe location in case of an emergency.
- Site maps are available from the information points and within the official programme. A copy is enclosed at the end of this document for reference.
- Assistance dogs are allowed but strictly no other pets are permitted on to the airfield or car parks.
- Comprehensive medical facilities are provided, with a support team of over 50 personnel on site, including first aid point, mobile paramedics, doctors and ambulances.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any further assistance, please contact us.

### **Contact Information**

Contact Address: RNAS Yeovilton International Air Day  
c/o AHA Events Ltd  
Mayfair  
1 The Square  
Barnstaple  
Devon  
EX32 8LS

Venue Address: RNAS Yeovilton  
Ilchester  
Somerset  
BA22 8HT

Telephone (Information): 0330 100 3654

Telephone (Tickets): 0330 100 3656

Email: [info@yeoviltonairday.co.uk](mailto:info@yeoviltonairday.co.uk)

Website: [www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Yeovilton-Airday](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Yeovilton-Airday)



