

## **Byelaws with respect to Pleasure Grounds**

Made by the Mayor Aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Watford acting by the council under Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875, with respect to the pleasure grounds named in Part I of the Schedule hereto and under Section 15 of the open Spaces Act 1906 with respect to the open spaces named in Part II of the said schedule.

1. Throughout these byelaws the expression "the Council" means the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the borough of Watford acting by the Council, the expression "the pleasure grounds" means except where inconsistent with the context each of the pleasure grounds and open spaces named in the Schedule hereto, the expression "power driven model aircraft" means any model aircraft driven by the combustion of petrol vapour or other combustible substances or propelled by the explosion of gunpowder or other similar substances, and the expression "fire-arm" means any lethal barrelled weapon of any description from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged.
2. An act necessary to the proper execution of his duty in the pleasure ground by an officer of the Council, or by any person or servant of any person employed by the Council, shall not be deemed an offence against the byelaws.

***Council officers and their contractors carrying out their work are exempt from the byelaws***

3. A person shall not in the pleasure ground
  - (i) carelessly or negligently deface, injure or destroy any wall or fence in or enclosing the pleasure ground, or any building, barrier, railing, post or seat, or any erection or ornament;
  - (ii) wilfully, carelessly, or negligently soil or defile any wall or fence in or enclosing the pleasure ground, or any building, barrier, railing, post or seat, or any erection or ornament;
  - (iii) climb any wall or fence in or enclosing the pleasure ground, or any tree, or any barrier, railing, post or other erection or ornament;
  - (iv) wilfully, carelessly or negligently remove or displace any barrier, railing, post or seat, or any erection or ornament, or any part of any erection or ornament, or any implement provided for use in the laying out or maintenance of the pleasure ground.

***Please do not damage anything within the park, such as trees, benches, fences; do not apply graffiti, and do not climb on or remove any buildings or fences, or anything belonging in the park.***

4. (i) A person shall not, except in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege, ride any horse in any pleasure ground other than Whippendell Wood.

Provided that this byelaw shall not be deemed to prevent the riding of ponies by children within any area of a pleasure ground set aside by the Council for this purpose.

(ii) A person shall not ride a horse in the pleasure ground known as Whippendell Wood to the damage or danger of any other person using the pleasure ground.

***Horse riding is only permitted in Whippendell Wood: please keep to the designated areas.***

5. (i) A person shall not except in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege bring or cause to be brought into the pleasure ground any horse-drawn vehicle or any motor vehicle other than an invalid carriage.

(ii) A person shall not except in the exercise of lawful right or privilege, ride any bicycle, tricycle or other similar machine in any part of the pleasure ground.

Provided that where the Council set apart a space in the pleasure ground for the use of any class of vehicle or machine, paragraphs (i) and (ii) of this byelaw shall not be deemed to prohibit the driving or riding in that space, or to or from that space by a direct route from or to the nearest vehicular entrance to the pleasure ground, of any vehicle or machine of the class for which it is set apart.

Provided further that paragraph (ii) of this byelaw shall not apply to any officer or servant of the council on duty in Cassiobury Park or Woodside Playing Fields.

***You may not drive any vehicle in the park without the permission of the Council.***

6. A person who brings a barrow, truck, machine or vehicle into the pleasure ground shall not drive, wheel or station it over or upon:

(i) any flower bed, shrub or plant, or any ground in course of preparation as a flower bed, or for the growth of any tree, shrub, plant or grass;

(ii) any part of the pleasure ground where the Council by a notice board affixed or set up in some conspicuous position in the pleasure ground prohibit its being driven, wheeled or stationed.

***If you have permission to drive in the park, please make sure you do not drive or park on any shrub/flower beds.***

7. A person shall not in the pleasure ground drive any vehicle in a dangerous manner or without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the pleasure ground.

***If you have permission, please drive carefully in the park.***

8. A person shall not in the pleasure ground walk, run, stand, sit or lie upon:

(i) any grass, turf, or other place where adequate notice to keep off such grass, turf, or other place shall be placed; provided that such notice shall not apply to more than one sixth of the area of the pleasure ground;

(ii) any flower bed, shrub, or plant, or any ground in course of preparation as a flower bed, or for the growth of any tree, shrub, plant or grass.

***Please respect any sign asking you to keep off the grass or flower/shrub beds.***

9. A person shall not in the pleasure ground:

(i) remove, cut or displace any soil, turf or plant;

(ii) pluck any bud, blossom, flower, or leaf of any tree, shrub or plant.

***Please do not pick any of the flowers, trees or shrubs, or dig any holes in the park.***

10. A person shall not in the pleasure ground:

(i) bathe, wade or wash in any ornamental lake, pond, stream or other water;

Provided that this byelaw shall not apply to any paddling pool that may be provided for the use of children.

(ii) wilfully, carelessly or negligently foul or pollute any such water, or the water in a paddling pool;

(iii) throw, place or wilfully leave in any paddling pool any brick, stone, bottle, broken glass or other sharp substances liable to cause injury to any person using a paddling pool;

(iv) wilfully disturb or worry any water fowl;

(v) take, or attempt to take, in any pond, stream or other water, any fish in any such water without the consent of the Council;

(vi) wilfully displace or disturb, injure or destroy any birds nest or wilfully take, injure or destroy any birds eggs;

(vii) take, injure or destroy any bird or spread or use any snare or other engine instrument or means for the taking, injury or destruction of any bird.

***Please use the paddling pool if you want to paddle, not the river. Please do not throw any rubbish or chemicals into the river that may cause pollution. Please do not scare the birds, and leave the fish in the river.***

11. A person shall not, except in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege, have in his possession while he is in the pleasure ground, any fire-arm unless it is covered with a securely fastened gun cover that it cannot be fired.

This byelaw shall apply to all parts of the pleasure ground except any part thereof which is a public right of way.

***Guns are not permitted in the park.***

12. A person shall not cause or suffer any dog belonging to him or in his charge to enter or remain in the pleasure ground, unless such dog be and continue to be under proper control and be effectually restrained from causing annoyance to any person, and from worrying or disturbing any animal or water fowl, and from entering any ornamental water of paddling pool.

***Please keep your dog under control at all times.***

13. A person shall not cause or suffer to enter or remain in the pleasure ground any greyhound belonging to him or in his charge unless it is muzzled and kept on a lead.

***Greyhounds must be muzzled and kept on a lead.***

14. A person shall not, in the pleasure grounds known as Munden Drive and Whippendell Wood, play cricket, football or any similar game liable to cause danger, annoyance or obstruction to any other person using the pleasure ground.

***You may not play games such as football in Munden Drive or in Whippendell Wood: these are not suitable areas for sports.***

15. Where the Council have provided any play equipment, play apparatus, play space or paddling pool which by a notice affixed or set up near thereto has been set apart by the council for the exclusive use of children under the age of 14 years, no person who has attained the age of 14 years shall use that equipment or apparatus or go into that play space or paddling pool.

Provided that this byelaw shall not be deemed to prohibit the entry into a play space of any person bona fide in charge of a child who is therein.

***Play areas and the paddling pools are for children under the age of 14, and their parents/minders.***

16. A person shall not in any part of the pleasure ground which may have been set aside by the council for any game, play or take part in any game:
- (i) when a notice is set up in some conspicuous position stating that play is prohibited in that part of the pleasure ground owing to the ground being unfit for use; or
  - (ii) on any day specified in a notice set up in a conspicuous position stating that play is prohibited on specified days of the week (not exceeding three a week) in order to prevent excessive wear of the ground and to ensure as far as possible that the ground is fit for use on the remaining days of the week.

Provided that on any one day play shall not under paragraph (ii) of this byelaw be prohibited upon an area greater than half of the area of the pleasure ground set apart for a particular game.

***Please do not play on any pitches or areas marked out for organised sports on Saturdays and Sundays unless you have booked.***

17. A person resorting to the pleasure ground and playing or taking part in any game for which the exclusive use of any space in the pleasure ground has been set apart shall:
- (i) not play on the space any game other than the game for which it is set apart;
  - (ii) in preparing for playing and in playing use reasonable care to prevent undue interference with the proper use of the pleasure ground by other persons.
  - (iii) when the space is already occupied by other players not begin to play therein without their permission;
  - (iv) where the exclusive use of the space had been granted by the Council for the playing of a match, not play on that space later than a quarter of an hour before the time fixed for the beginning of the match unless he is taking part therein;
  - (v) except where the exclusive use of the space has been granted by the Council for the playing of a match in which he is taking part, not use the space for a longer time than two hours continuously, if any other player or players make known to him a wish to use the space.

***Please use the sports facilities for their proper sports: do not play football on the cricket fields or tennis courts. Please respect other people's wish to use the facilities, and be reasonable with the amount of time you spend on a court or pitch. If people have officially booked the pitch/court you are using, please allow them to play.***

18. A person shall not play or take part in any game with a golf ball in the pleasure ground except on land set aside by the Council for use as a golf links, golf driving

range, or putting course.

***Golf is not permitted in the park, unless there is an area set aside for it.***

19. A person shall not in the pleasure ground:

(i) except as hereinafter provided erect any post, rail, fence, pole, tent, booth, stand, building or other structure;

Provided that this prohibition shall not apply where upon an application to the Council they grant permission to erect any post, rail, fence, pole, tent, booth, stand, building or other structure, upon such occasion and for such purpose as are specified in the application.

(ii) sell or offer or expose for sale or let to hire or offer or expose for letting to hire any commodity or article unless in pursuance of an agreement with the Council or otherwise in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege he is authorised to sell or let to hire in that particular pleasure ground such commodity or article.

(iii) without the consent of the Council or other lawful authority light any fire.

***Camping is not permitted in the park, and you are not allowed to rent or sell anything in the park unless you have permission from the Council. Do not light any fires: this includes barbecues.***

20. A person shall not in the pleasure ground wilfully obstruct, disturb, interrupt or annoy any other person in the proper use of the pleasure ground or wilfully obstruct, disturb or interrupt any officer of the Council in the proper execution of his duty or any person or servant of any person employed by the Council in the proper execution of any work in connection with the laying out or maintenance of the pleasure ground.

***Please do not cause annoyance to other users of the park, or to Council officers working in the park.***

21. (i) A person shall not deliver any sermon or any public speech or address or hold or attempt to hold any public meeting in the pleasure ground;

Provided that this byelaw shall not apply to the pleasure ground known as Callowland Recreation Ground, Watford Fields Recreation Ground and Water Fields Recreation Ground;

Provided further that this byelaw shall not apply to any person holding or taking part in any religious service or meeting in connection with the St Mary's Church, Watford, which may be held in the pleasure ground known as the Garden of Rest.

(ii) Where the Council, by means of a notice conspicuously exhibited in the pleasure ground set apart any part of the pleasure grounds known as Callowland Recreation Ground, Watford Fields Recreation Ground and Water Fields Recreation Ground for holding public meetings, no person shall deliver any sermon or any public speech or address or hold or attempt to hold any public meeting in any other part of that pleasure ground.

***Public speaking, including religious speeches, is only allowed in Callowland Recreation Ground, Watford Fields Recreation Ground and Water Fields Recreation Ground with the permission of the Council. This does not apply to any services in the Garden of Rest next to St Mary's Church.***

22. A person shall not to the annoyance of any person in the pleasure ground play any musical instrument in the pleasure ground.

Provided that this byelaw shall not apply in any case where the permission of the Council has been given for the playing of musical instruments or singing at any concert or other function held in the pleasure ground in pursuance of than agreement with the Council for the purpose.

Provided further that this byelaw shall not apply in any case to any person holding or taking part in any religious service or meeting in connection with the St Mary's Church, Watford, which may be held in the pleasure ground known as the Garden of Rest.

***You may not play any musical instruments in the park without permission from the Council. This does not apply to any services in the Garden of Rest next to St Mary's Church.***

23. Any person who by operating or causing or suffering to be operated any wireless set, gramophone, amplifier or similar instrument in the pleasure ground makes or causes or suffers to be made any noise which is so loud and so continuous or repeated as to give reasonable cause for annoyance to other persons in the pleasure ground shall be guilty of an offence.

Provided that this byelaw shall not apply to any wireless set, gramophone, amplifier or similar instrument used by any person taking part in a concert or other performance held in the pleasure ground in pursuance of an agreement with the Council.

***Please respect other park users if you wish to listen to a radio.***

24. A person shall not fly any power-driven model aircraft in the pleasure ground; provided that this byelaw shall not apply to any of the pleasure grounds known as Cassiobury Park, Garston Park, Oxhey Park and the Woodside Playing Fields.

***Model aircraft can only be flown with care in Cassiobury Park, Garston Park, Oxhey Park and Woodside Playing Fields.***

25. Where any part of any of the pleasure grounds known as Cassiobury Park, Garston Park, Oxhey Park and the Woodside Playing Fields has by a notice conspicuously exhibited in the pleasure ground been set apart by the Council for the flying of power-driven model aircraft, a person shall not fly or permit any such model aircraft to fly in any other part of that pleasure ground.

***Please keep to the designated area for flying model aircraft.***

26. A person shall not in any part of the pleasure grounds known as Cassiobury Park, Garston Park, Oxhey Park and the Woodside Playing Fields set apart by the Council for the flying of power-driven model aircraft:

a) fly any such model aircraft unless it is attached to a control line and is kept under effective control;

b) fly any such model aircraft;

(i) at times when the part so set apart has been allocated by the council for the exclusive use of persons playing a match or game;

(ii) on days and during hours other than those specified in the following table in

respect of that pleasure ground.  
Table

Name of pleasure ground	Days	Hours
CASSIOBURY PARK	Monday to Saturday	9am – 9pm
	1 <sup>st</sup> May to 31 <sup>st</sup> July	
	Monday to Saturday	9am – 1pm
	1 <sup>st</sup> August to 30 <sup>th</sup> April	
Sundays	9am – 7pm	
GARSTON PARK, OXHEY PARK and WOODSIDE PLAYING FIELDS	1 <sup>st</sup> May – 30 <sup>th</sup> September	9am – 1pm
	1 <sup>st</sup> October – 30 <sup>th</sup> April	9am - 9pm
	Monday to Saturday	9am – 7pm
	Sundays	9am – 1pm
	1 <sup>st</sup> May to 30 <sup>th</sup> September	
	1 <sup>st</sup> October to 30 <sup>th</sup> April	

***You may only fly model aircraft attached to a control line, and only on the days and times as shown. If a sports match is in progress, you may not fly model aircraft.***

27. Every person who shall offend against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding 500 pounds (level 2 on the standard scale).

***People who break any byelaw may receive a fine of up to £500 if found guilty.***

28. Every person who shall infringe any byelaw for the regulation of the pleasure ground may be removed therefrom by any officer of the Council or by any constable in any one of the several cases hereinafter specified, that is to say:

1) Where the infraction of the byelaw is committed within the view of such officer or constable, and the name and residence of the person infringing the byelaw are unknown to and cannot be readily ascertained by such officer or constable;

2) Where the infraction of the byelaw is committed within the view of such officer or constable and from the nature of such infraction or from any other fact of which such officer or constable may have knowledge, or of which he may be credibly informed, there may be reasonable ground for belief that the continuance in the pleasure ground of the person infringing the byelaw may result in another infraction of a byelaw or that the removal of such person from the pleasure ground is otherwise necessary as a security for the proper use and regulation thereof.

***People seen breaking any byelaw may be removed from the park by a police officer or by a Council officer witnessing the action.***

#### REPEAL

29. The byelaws with respect to the following pleasure grounds which were made by the council and confirmed by the appropriate Ministers on the dates shown are hereby repealed:

Description of Byelaws

Oxhey Park	Made by the Council on 2 June 1925 and allowed by the Minister of Health on 27 July 1925.
Harwoods Recreation Ground	Made by the Council on 11 December 1929 and allowed by the Minister of Health on 3 February 1930.
Harebreaks Recreation Ground	Made by the Council on 1 September 1931 and allowed by the Minister of Health on 19 October 1931.
Pleasure Grounds (generally)	Made by the Council on 9 June 1932 and allowed by the Minister of Health on 15 July 1932.
North Watford Playing Fields	Made by the Council on 6 September 1932 and allowed by the Minister of Health on 25 October 1932.
Whippendell Woods	Made by the Council on 9 November 1936 and confirmed by the Minister of Health on 18 January 1937.
Watford Fields, Water Fields, Callowland and Cassiobury Park	Made by the Council on 6 April 1937 and confirmed with modification by the Minister of Health on 21 September 1937.
Garden of Rest	Made by the Council on 7 February 1955 and confirmed by the Secretary of State on 2 May 1955.
Woodside Playing Fields	Made by the Council on 7 February 1955 and confirmed by the Secretary of State on 2 May 1955.
Cassiobury Park and Water Fields	Made by the Council on 7 February 1955 and confirmed by the Secretary of State on 2 May 1955.
Garston Park, Knutsford Playing Fields and Munden Drive	Made by the Council on 5 September 1955 and confirmed by the Secretary of State on 19 April 1956.
Flying power driven model aircraft in Pleasure Grounds	Made by the Council on 1 October 1956 and confirmed by the Secretary of State on 19 April 1956.

SCHEDULE



PART I (Pleasure grounds with respect to which byelaws are made under Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875)

Callowland Recreation Ground  
Cassiobury Park  
Garston Park  
Harebreaks Recreation Ground  
Harwoods Recreation Ground  
King George V Playing Fields  
Knutsford Playing Fields  
Lea Farm Recreation Ground  
Meriden Park  
Munden Drive  
Nara Woods  
North Watford Playing Fields  
Oxhey Grange Playing Fields  
Oxhey Park  
Riverside Road Recreation Ground  
The Dell, Glen Way  
The Paddocks Recreation Ground  
Water Fields Recreation Ground  
Watford fields Recreation Ground  
Woodside Playing Fields

PART II (Open spaces with respect to which byelaws are made under Section 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906)

Garden of Rest, St Mary's Church  
Goodwood Recreation Ground  
Lea Farm Open Space  
Whippendell Woods

The foregoing byelaws are made and adopted by the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Watford in witness whereof the Common Seal is hereunto affixed this sixteenth day of November 1964 in the presence of:

Arthur Reynolds  
Mayor

Gordon H Hall  
Town Clerk

The Secretary of State this day confirmed the foregoing byelaws and fixed the date on which they are to come into operation as the first day of April 1965.

R J Guppy  
An Assistant Under Secretary of State  
Home Office  
Whitehall  
5 March 1965

BOROUGH OF WATFORD

BYELAW with respect to PLEASURE GROUNDS

Made by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Watford acting by the Council under Section 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906 with respect to the pleasure ground known as Whippendell Woods.

1. The Byelaw No. 4(iii) with respect to the pleasure ground known as Whippendell Woods which was made by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Watford on the fifteenth day of August 1966 and confirmed by the Secretary of State on the sixth day of February, 1967, is hereby repealed.
2. In the Byelaws with respect to pleasure grounds made by the Mayor, aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Watford on the sixteenth day of November, 1964, and confirmed by the Secretary of State on the fifth day of March, 1965, there shall be added and construed with Byelaw No. 4 the following provisions:

“(iii) where any part of the pleasure ground known as Whippendell Woods has by a notice conspicuously exhibited in the pleasure ground been set apart by the Council for the riding of horses, a person shall not, except in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege, ride, lead or exercise a horse in any other part of the pleasure ground.”

The foregoing Byelaw is made and adopted by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Watford in witness whereof the Common Seal is hereunto affixed this First day of October, 1970 in the presence of:

R W JACKSON  
Mayor

F FURNESS  
Deputy Town Clerk

SEAL of the Corporation was here affixed.

The Secretary of State this day confirmed the foregoing Byelaw and fixed the day on which it is to come into operation as the Tenth day of May 1971.

SEAL of the Secretary of State  
Home Department, was here affixed.

K P WHITNEY  
An Assistant Under secretary of State

Home Office  
WHITEHALL

3 May 1971