

Richmond Park

Information dated 2012, from www.accessinlondon.org
For a summary of the abbreviations used see under *Methodology*

Richmond Park

Park Office, Holly Lodge, Richmond Park, Richmond, Surrey TW10 5HS

Tel: 020 8948-3209 and 0300 061-2000 for general enquiries about the Royal Parks

website: www.royalparks.gov.uk

The park, to the west of London, provides a huge area over 2000 acres (800ha), of rough but attractive open ground and is well-known for its herds of deer. Parts are wooded but the park is mainly grassy and hilly. It was created by Charles I, and given over for public use by Edward VII in 1910. It's definitely a place to go to by car as there's no public transport in or through the park. There is a road running all the way round and several entrances and CPs, whose surfaces are nearly all uneven and gravelly. When using some of the pedestrian paths to get around the park, you may encounter some awkward gates designed to keep the deer out from certain parts of the park.

There's a useful downloadable map available from the website.

Refreshments are available near the Roehampton Gate and at Pembroke Lodge (between the Richmond and Ham gates), both with step-free access.

The **Isabella Plantation** contains a magnificent collection of azaleas. Even out of season it's a lovely place, with a network of paths passing small streams and waterfalls. Most chair users would need a little assistance to get round because of rough ground, but there are no steps en route. The main CPs for the plantation are about 300m away over bumpy ground. There are BB spaces in a special CP reached from the Ham Gate and going straight ahead. They are near Peg's Pond and right by a gate into the Plantation.

In the park, there are **adapted/wheelchair toilets**:

- by the Kingston Gate (**D80 ST80 NKS**) with separate BCF;
- by the Robin Hood Gate (**D80 ST75 NKS**);
- by the Roehampton Gate (**D100 ST75**) to the right of the café near the entrance to the golf course;
- by the Sheen Gate (**D80 ST90 NKS**) with separate BCF;
- by the Richmond Gate with adapted cubicles (**D75 ST55**) in the mens and womens toilets;
- by the Petersham Gate (**D70 ST65 NKS**);
- two off the CP at Pembroke Lodge (**D95 ST100**), and one inside which was closed when we visited. All these have BCF.

In the Isabella Plantation there was a potentially accessible Portaloo (**D70 ST70 which was restricted because of the two large bins there**) located near the BB parking. They are raising funds to build permanent toilet facilities there.

Pembroke Lodge is surrounded by level tarmac paths, and offers fine views over the river from an outside part of the café/restaurant. CP off the road with eleven BB spaces. You can drive up to the Lodge via the Deliveries entrance if you need to. The area is particularly attractive during May with the rhododendrons.

There are other CPs as follows:

- Kingston Gate with 3 BB spaces;
- In the middle of the park towards Pen Ponds with 12 BB spaces;
- Roehampton Gate with 4 BB spaces.