

# New City Centre traffic restrictions

## Improving the pedestrian environment in Bath City Centre

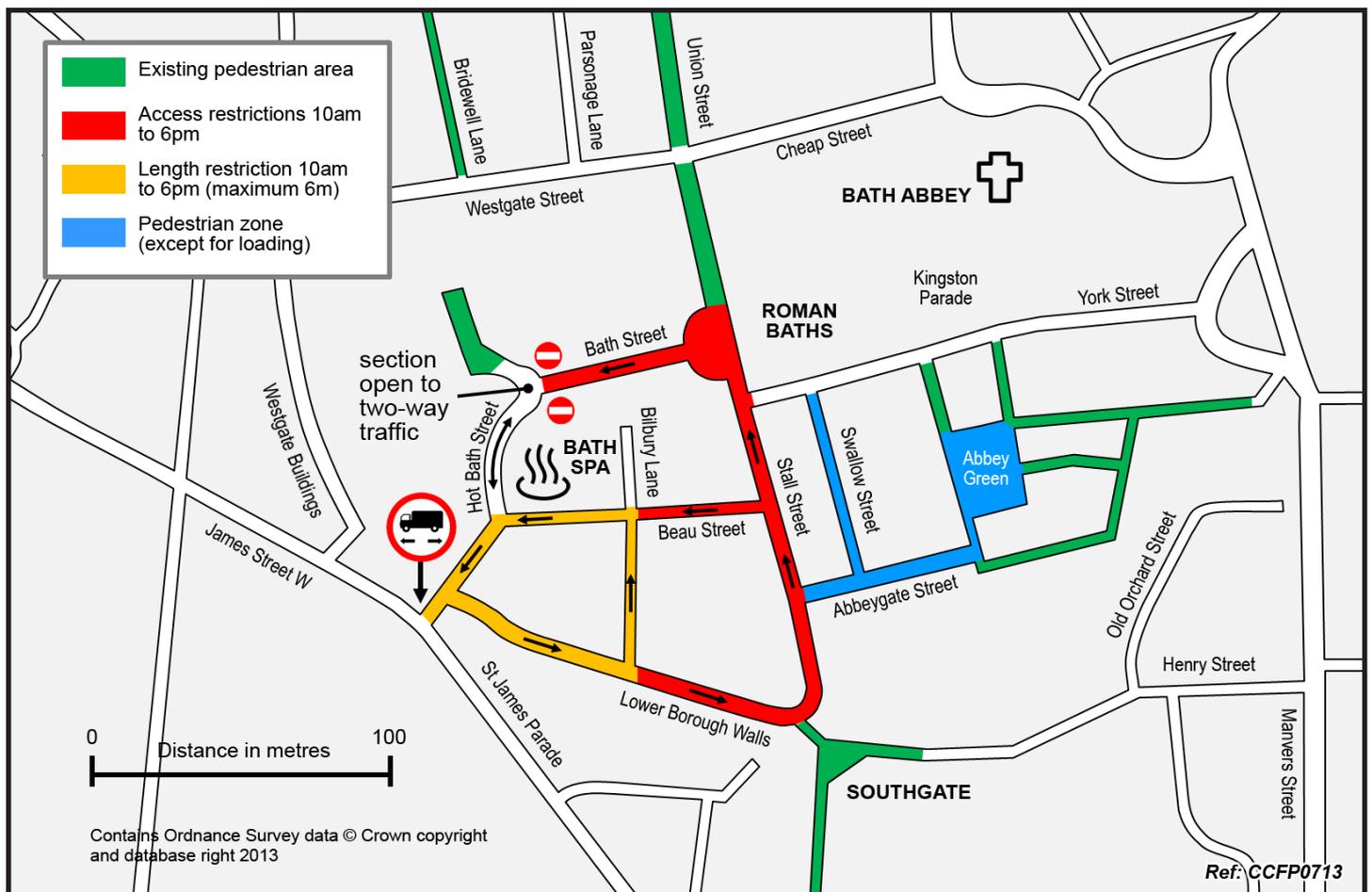
The Council is committed to creating a safer and more attractive city centre area where conflict between vehicles and pedestrians is kept to a minimum. Evidence from other cities has shown that similar restrictions have enhanced the visitor experience, with consequent increases in pedestrian footfall.

The changes will see current Saturday restrictions extended to core shopping hours, 10am to 6pm every day and includes the following restrictions:

- A 10am – 6pm timed 'Pedestrian Zone' restriction on Lower Borough Walls, Stall Street, Beau Street and Bath Street, shown in red on the attached plan.
- A 10am – 6pm timed length restriction of 19'8" or 6m on the gyratory system around the Gainsborough Hotel (Lower Borough Walls, Bilbury Lane, Beau Street & Hot Bath Street) shown in yellow on the plan. This is required as larger vehicles cannot make the

turn at the top of Bilbury Lane during the main access restriction hours mentioned above.

- A separate 'Pedestrian Zone' restriction for Abbey Green, Abbeygate Street and Swallow Street shown in blue on the plan. This will not be timed but will have an exemption for Loading/Unloading.
- An amendment to the existing Prohibition of Driving order in Swallow Street, to allow access through Swallow Street and to stop up the Highway at the junction of Stall Street/Abbeygate Street.
- Hot Bath Street to be opened up to two way traffic.



Map of proposed changes

## You asked...

Between January and September 2009, the Council held an informal public consultation on our proposals to improve the City Centre environment. A further informal consultation exercise was undertaken during April of this year with businesses and residents, including a public consultation day held in the Guildhall. We have considered the comments received when formulating our final proposal. The following table includes the key issues raised and our response.

What measures are being put in place to help businesses with their deliveries?

Delivery vehicles will need to unload before the restriction at 10am. A small number of loading bays also exist just outside the restricted zone. Since the original consultation, a freight consolidation initiative has been implemented within Bath. Freight consolidation vehicles reduce congestion by cutting individual deliveries, and will be exempt from the restrictions because of their beneficial impact.

What alternatives are there for blue badge holders and those with limited mobility to access the city centre?

Blue badge holders are subject to the restrictions. Badge holders arriving before 10am can park within the restricted zone and leave as normal, but cannot re-enter before 6pm. A number of disabled parking bays are available close to the restricted area, and disabled parking bays will be created in Lower Borough Walls on completion of the new hotel. Charlotte Street car park has a number of disabled bays which are exempt from parking charges, as are any on street Pay & Display zones. The Council operates a 'Shopmobility' service from Manvers Street that offers electric scooters and wheelchairs (for more information see below).

Will the streets affected be pedestrianised?

The purpose of the restrictions is to enable pedestrians to move more freely about the city centre during core shopping hours. However there are no plans to make any physical changes to the streets at this time.

Will there be any changes to the infrastructure to improve movement for the mobility impaired within the restricted zone?

As above, there are no changes planned. However accessibility is a key goal for the Council and the requirements for those with mobility issues would be considered in any future infrastructure improvements within this area.

What about contractors, example builders, who need to access locations throughout the day to deliver/remove materials?

Any vehicle movements must take place outside of the restricted hours. Contractor vehicles arriving before 10am can remain within the restricted zone while carrying out work, but would not be allowed to re-enter if they leave after 10am.

## Bath Shopmobility Centre

Shopmobility is a loan service of manual or powered wheelchairs and electric scooters to anyone with limited mobility.

The Shopmobility centre is located in Manvers Street, next to the Council's 'One Stop Shop'. The service can be used in and around the city centre Monday to Saturday, whether for shopping, entertainment or business purposes.

We recommend advance booking to ensure a vehicle will be available, and staff can even meet you at various drop off points by prior arrangement. A minimal charge of £1 per hour is made for electric scooters and 50p for manual wheelchairs.

For more information, please telephone **01225 481744** or email: **shop\_mobility@bathnes.gov.uk**



*We aim to reduce conflict between vehicles and pedestrians in the main shopping areas.*

For more information, please visit our web site at: [bathnes.gov.uk.btp](http://bathnes.gov.uk.btp) or email us at: [strategic\\_transport\\_projects@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:strategic_transport_projects@bathnes.gov.uk)