

Travel Information for

## W3C QAWG Face-to-face Meeting

Reading, UK  
October 27 – 29, 2004

### **Location**

The Open Group  
Thames Tower  
37-45 Station Road  
Reading  
RG1 1LX

Tel: +44 118 950 8311  
Fax: +44 118 950 0110  
[www: http://www.opengroup.org/](http://www.opengroup.org/)

(Streepmap Ref: C2)

Reading is a large town in the Thames valley about 65km west of London and 45km south of Oxford. It has good road, air and rail connections, a large university and is a base for many international IT companies.

From October 2004, The Open Group will be based in Thames Tower, a 12 storey block directly opposite the railway station in the centre of Reading.

The centre of Reading is small enough that most places can be visited on foot. Taxis are available in the street directly outside the Open Group office.

### **Getting to Reading**

The most convenient airports for Reading are the main London international airports: Heathrow (35km) and Gatwick (70km).

#### **From Heathrow By Train**

There is no direct train link from Heathrow to Reading. The rail companies operate a road service (see below).

The Heathrow express train travels from the airport to London

Paddington Station (journey time 15 mins). From Paddington, a fast frequent express service runs to Reading.

The Piccadilly underground line also connects Heathrow to the centre of London (journey time is approx 45 minutes).

### **By Road**

The easiest way to get from Heathrow to Reading is to use the RailAir Link bus service. Express coaches run between Heathrow Airport and Reading Station every 20 minutes on Monday to Friday during the day (5am to 11pm). Early morning and evening services and all services at weekends leave every 30 minutes. The journey time is approximately 45 minutes. You can purchase combined rail/coach tickets from most rail stations. Coaches run to and from terminals 1, 2 and 3 and there is a free shuttle service between terminals 3 and 4.

Round-trip ticket is £17.50 (valid 1 month).

[http://www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/onward\\_travel/airports.php](http://www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/onward_travel/airports.php)

### **For private cars:**

There is direct access to the M4 at Heathrow. Stay on the M4 until the Reading exits (Junctions 10, 11 and 12)

### **From Gatwick**

#### **By Train**

Direct trains to Reading are available from Gatwick airport station. The journey time is approx. 90 minutes. Operator is FGW Link. Service runs hourly from approx 5am to 11pm.

For London connections, use the Gatwick Express, 4 times an hour from 5am to midnight. Journey time is 30 minutes, destination is London Victoria.

<http://www.baa.co.uk/main/airports/gatwick>

For further information you can visit [www.southernrailway.com](http://www.southernrailway.com) or call 0845 7484950

### **By Road**

Take the M25 westbound to Junction 15 and then join the M4. The Reading exits of the M4 are Junctions 10, 11 and 12.

## **From London**

### **By Train**

Train: The fastest direct services (operator: 'First Great Western') depart from Paddington Station frequently. Journey time is approx. 30 minutes.

It is also possible to travel from Waterloo station. Trains runs approx. every half hour and take 75 minutes. This is a slow commuter service stopping at many stations and so is not recommended.

### **By Road**

Reading is 66km west of London and is connected by the M4. There are three exits for Reading: Junctions 10 (east), 11 (central) and 12 (west).

National Express runs a bus service between London and Reading. Journey time is 1h 20m. The London terminus is Victoria, the Reading terminus is Calcot, near M4 Junction 12, several km west of the centre and so not very convenient. This service also stops at Heathrow airport main bus station.

<http://www.nationalexpress.com/>

## **Accommodation in Reading**

We suggest the following hotels:

### **Comfort Inn**

39 Christchurch Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 7AN, UK

Tel: 0118 9311311

WWW: <http://www.uk-hotel-accommodation.co.uk/England/hotels/readingcomfortinn.cfm>

Comments: Near University in south part of town so the least convenient location. No high-speed internet.

Typical cost of room (GBP): 59 (small), 79 normal

Distance to Open Group: 1.6 km

### **Holiday Inn Express**

Richfield Avenue, Reading, RG1 8BQ, UK

Tel: 44-118-9582558

Fax: 44-118-9582858

Email: ebhi-reading@btconnect.com

Comments: Near River Thames. No high-speed internet. Streetmap Ref B1

Typical cost of room (GBP): 68

Distance to Open Group: 0.7 km

### **Renaissance**

Oxford Road, Reading, RG1 7RH, UK

Phone: 44 118-9586222

Fax: 44 118-9597842

www: <http://marriott.com/property/propertyPage/LHRLR>

Comments: Most expensive hotel on this list. Pool, gym etc. Streetmap Ref B3

Typical cost of room (GBP): 115

Distance to Open Group: 0.5km

### **Royal County**

4 - 8 Duke Street, Reading, RG1 4RY, UK

Tel: 0118 958 3455

Fax: 0118 950 4450

www: <http://lesterhotels.com/royal/index.html>

e-mail: [reservations@royalcountyhotel.com](mailto:reservations@royalcountyhotel.com)

Comments: Free parking.

Some building work occurring on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor during October which may be an inconvenience (?). Streetmap Ref C3

Typical cost of room (GBP): 109 normally. Should be possible to get a rate of 98.50 (incl. breakfast).

Distance to Open Group: 0.4 km

## **Food and Drink**

There are many places to eat and drink in central Reading. The riverside at the Oracle (a large shopping mall thing, [C3]) has a large concentration of restaurants and cafes.

There are lots of places around the Friar Street/Town hall area [B2-C2] and also around the Minster church at 'St Mary's Butts' [B3]

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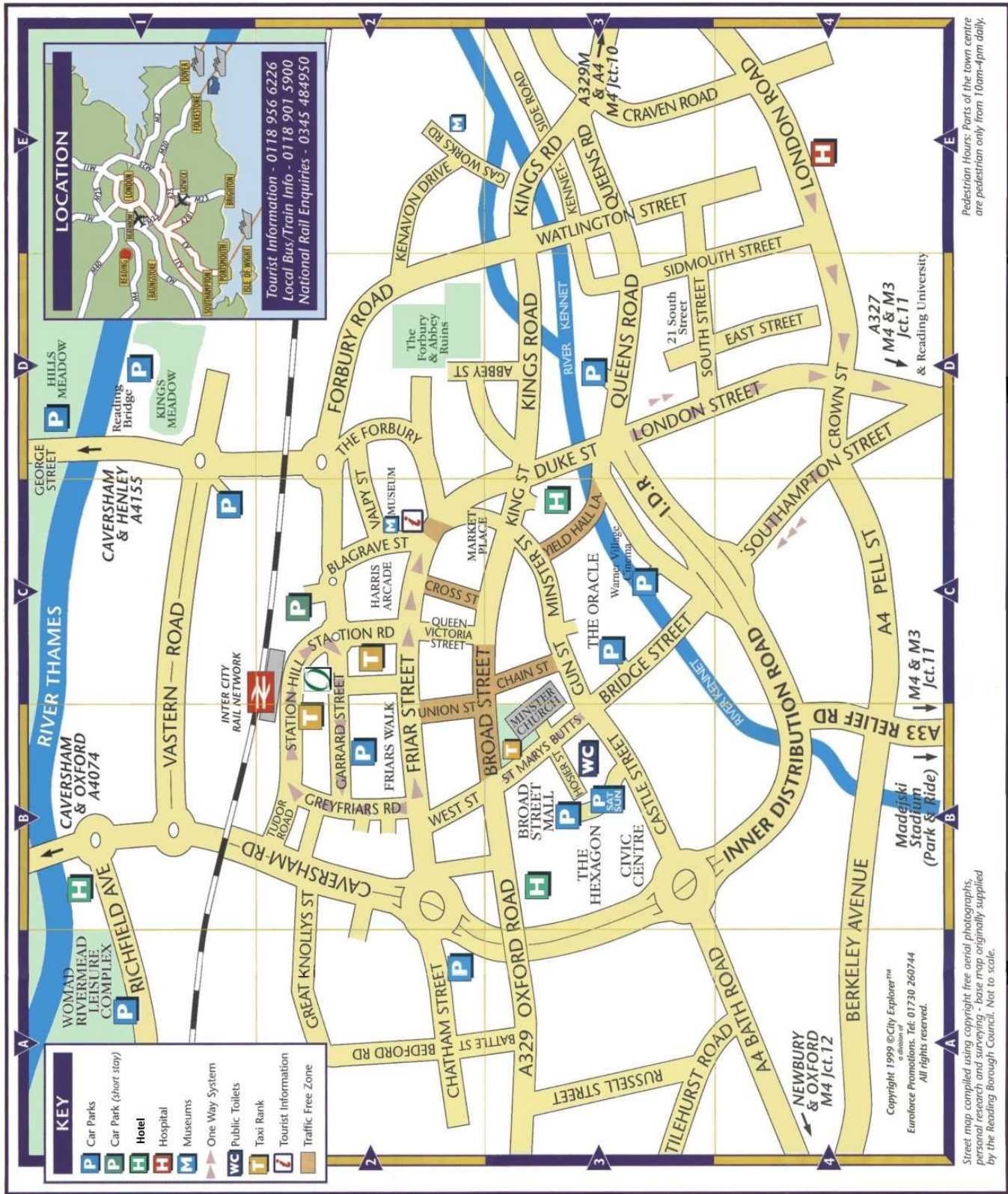
[http://www.readingrestaurants.com/town\\_centre/](http://www.readingrestaurants.com/town_centre/)

**LOCATION**

Tourist Information - 0118 956 6226  
 Local Bus/Train Info - 0118 901 5900  
 National Rail Enquiries - 0345 484950

**KEY**

- Car Parks
- Car Park (short stay)
- Hotel
- Hospital
- Museums
- One Way System
- Public Toilets
- Taxi Rank
- Tourist Information
- Traffic Free Zone



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Pedestrian Hours: Parts of the town centre are pedestrian only from 10am-4pm daily.