

Big Splash 2025 Access Guide

Our aim is to make the Big Splash accessible to everyone.

Below you'll find details of what we are doing to support access this year, and what to expect when attending the festival

We would love to hear your feedback after the event so we can keep improving.

If you need any assistance or have any queries before or during the festival, you can:

- Contact us via phone on 01633 656 757 or email Riverfront.BoxOffice@NewportLive.co.uk
- Ask any of our staff or volunteers at the festival. Look out for our team wearing official yellow Big Splash t-shirts:



- Visit the festival information stand, located at Usk Plaza outside Bistro Pierre – look out for the Newport Live gazebo on the ground floor of Friars' Walk) between 11am and 5pm on Saturday and 11.30am and 4.30pm on Sunday.

What3Words ///cost.frost.agrees

- Visit the Riverfront Box Office which will be open between 9am and 6pm

What to expect at the Big Splash Festival 2025:

How to get here

The Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre is situated opposite Newport Bus Station and Friars Walk shopping centre, and a 10-minute walk from Newport train station.

Address: The Riverfront Theatre, Kingsway, Newport NP20 1HG

What3words /// salad.glory.broad

Access and Parking Information:

We recommend using the nearest pay and display car parks:

[Friars Walk](#) (located across the road from the theatre and the nearest car park to Usk Plaza). **What3Words** ///such.flesh.heave

[Kingsway Centre](#) (which has over 30 disabled parking spaces with lifts to all floors of the car park, and is a 7-minute walk to the Theatre and a 3-minute walk to Usk Plaza). **What3Words** ///wage.major.falls

[NCP Newport North Street](#) (a 7-minute walk to the Theatre, and a 9-minute walk to Usk Plaza). **What3Words** ///worm.bless.items

Please note:

There will be no visitor parking at the Theatre, and it will not be possible to access the theatre by vehicle or use the theatre's drop off or collection point across the festival weekend.

The Riverfront public pay and display car park (between the Theatre and the USW Campus) is also not available during the festival weekend due to the funfair.



This area may be noisy



This area may have flashing lights



This area will have a quieter area or chill space



This area will have an audience or crowd, and they will be clapping



Join in or participate



Feel free to make a noise



Toilets



Accessible toilets



Information points



British Sign Language interpreted performances available (see performance schedule)



Audio described performances available (see performance schedule)



Contains high-risk acts that may be distressing to some, such as those including fire, or performing at height.

The festival can be experienced by foot, wheelchair, or mobility aid. There is level access and dropped curbs on all main routes.

The routes are predominantly flat.

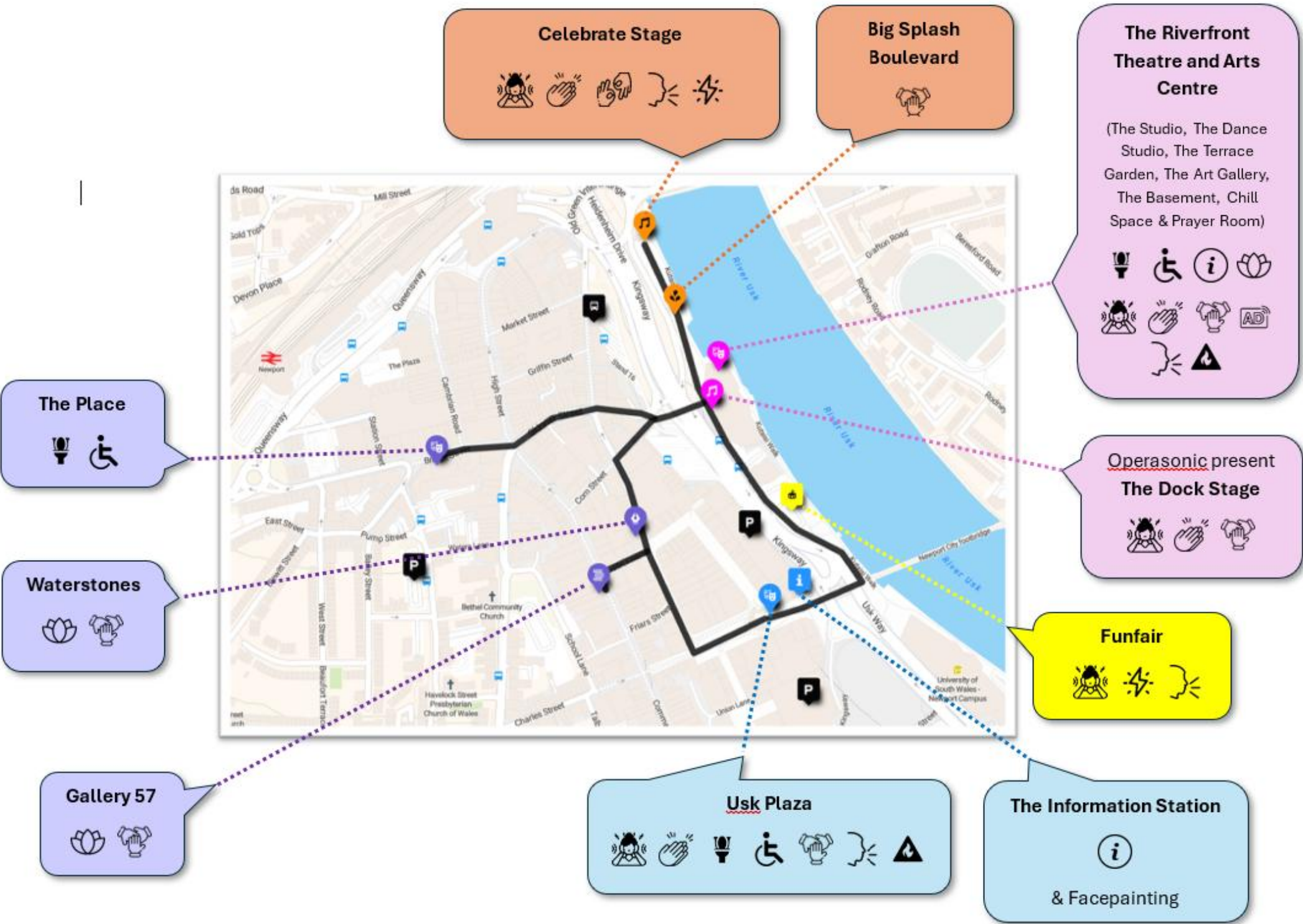
Some events are roaming acts which means that they will move around the city centre, and you can catch them along the way, or walk along with them if you like.

Assistance dogs are welcome.

In the event of wet weather some events will change venue or may be cancelled, and this access information may be subject to change. Any changes will be publicised here <https://www.newportlive.co.uk/en/theatre-arts/festivals-events/big-splash/festival-accessibility-and-wet-weather-contingency-plan/>

Our audio programme can be found here <https://soundcloud.com/user-83602250/big-splash-2025-audio-programme>

Large print timetables are available at the Riverfront Box Office or The Information Point.



Splashtonbury at the Riverfront

The main festival hub full of family-friendly fun! Get creative with arts, crafts, and workshops, enjoy live music, circus performances, dance, and interactive street shows.

Areas within this zone / What to expect:

The Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre:

What3Words /// salad.glory.broad



Performances will take place directly outside the front doors of the theatre on the cobbled thoroughfare which will be closed to traffic. There are a set of steps in front of the theatre which can be used as a viewing area, with ramped access to the left. There will be limited seating in this area. Amplified music will be used in this area.

There will be audio described performances in this area (see schedule).

Although all acts are safe, there may be high risk performances that may be distressing to some, including fire and performers doing tricks at height.

The Mini Makers Parade will leave the front of the Riverfront Theatre on Sun 20 July at 3pm and will take a route around the outside of the theatre, along the River Usk, finishing at the Celebrate Stage. The route will be level and will take no more than 30 minutes. The parade will be accompanied by a Samba Band, and this is likely to be noisy.

Some performances will also take place inside the foyer, directly in front of the box office. Some of these will also include amplified music and it is likely to be busy and noisy during these times.

The Terrace Garden:



An outdoor space, accessed from within the Riverfront Theatre. It is situated on the ground floor through the rear café doors (facing the river) and has level access. There will be some tables and chairs, plus deck chairs, and matting on the floor to create a relaxed and informal space. Some workshops, performances and music will take place in this area.

The Art Gallery:

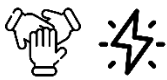


Accessed from within the Riverfront Theatre, on the ground floor with level access.

The area will be furnished with trestle tables and plastic to touch seating. All chairs will be individual spaced 3 to a table.

There will be some overhead florescent lighting.

The Studio Theatre:



Accessed from within the Riverfront Theatre, on the ground floor with level access. For the light drawing activity, the room will be very dark, and participants will use handheld fluorescent lights to create patterns. There will be some seating in the room. This area may also be used for other events in the event of wet weather.

The Dance Studio:



Accessed from within the Riverfront Theatre, on the first floor, via stairs or lift. Dance workshops will be held here for people to participate in. There will limited amount of seating around the edge of the room. This area will be noisy. There is some natural light and some fluorescent lighting. This area may also be used for other events in the event of wet weather.

Basement:



Accessed from within the Riverfront by lift to the lower levels. Level -1 is for spectating, with a viewing platform where some seating available. This level is wheelchair accessible. Level -2 is where people can participate in skate lessons. Please take care as you exit the lift and enter the space, there is a low beam above your head, and the

skate activity may be in progress, so stay alert for skaters. The room has no natural light and has fluorescent overhead lighting. This area is likely to be noisy.

Chill Space:



Accessed from within the Riverfront Theatre, on the first floor, via stairs or lift (the room labelled 'Conference Room'). This space is available if you need to take some time out of the festival. This space is also available as a prayer room (prayer mats are available). The room has some natural light and fluorescent lighting above which can be switched off if needed. Please do not bring food and drink into this space.

Operasonic presents The Dock Stage:

What3Words: ///danger.grant.door



A small pop-up stage located outside and to the side of the Riverfront Theatre. There will be some seating in this area including comfy sofas, and some chairs. There will be amplified sound.

Celebrate Stage

Catch live performances from local community groups and professional artists on the Celebrate Stage. Stroll down Big Splash Boulevard for workshops, games, walkabout acts, stalls and riverside fun!

Areas within this zone / What to expect:

Big Splash Boulevard:

What3Words ///factor.yards.stop



The paved area located along the river side, running from the Riverfront Theatre towards Newport Bridge, under the 'Red Wave'). This area will be full of traders and stalls,

games and workshops, and you will be able to participate or buy things from the stalls. There is level access, but there will be limited seating in this area.

Celebrate Stage

What3Words [///spaces.deflection.shirts](#)



Located at the far end of the 'Red Wave'. Performances will take place on a raised, covered, outdoor stage, and there will be bench seating available. There is level access throughout. Amplified music will be used in this area. This area may get busy at times and this area will be noisy. There may be flashing lights on the stage.

There will be BSL interpreted performances in this area.

Usk Plaza

A lively street theatre hotspot bursting with energy! Enjoy thrilling circus acts, fire juggling, and community performances throughout the day. Visit the Information Station to get all your Big Splash questions answered - and don't miss out on free face painting while you're there!

Areas within this zone / What to expect:

Usk Plaza:

What3Words [///item.buzz.arena](#)



A small performance arena, located near the restaurants on the ground floor of Friar's Walk. There is stair and lift access to access Usk Plaza (on the ground floor) from John Frost Square (level 1) if coming from Commercial Street, but level access from the river side.

Some performances will take place on the raised stage, and some performances will take place on the floor in front of the stage. Audiences can sit on the floor which will be covered in fake grass. There is no seating in this area. Amplified music will be used in this area, and it's likely that this area will be noisy. Although all acts are safe, there may

be high risk performances that may be distressing to some, including fire and performing tricks at height.

The Information Station:

What3Words ///cost.frost.agrees



Our friendly staff will be on hand for any assistance at our information station, located under the Newport Live gazebos, on the ground floor next to Usk Plaza (directly outside Bistro Pierre).

Our free facepainting will also be located here. The facepainting is very popular and there are usually long queues. The noise from the performance arena and from the audience may carry to this area.

Newport Now Creative Quarter:

A vibrant showcase of local arts, culture, and creativity, with activities spread across key creative hubs including Gallery 57, The Place, and Waterstones. Explore exhibitions, performances, and workshops celebrating local talent, while enjoying surprise pop-up shows and roaming acts bringing energy and fun all along Commercial Street.

Gallery 57:

What3Words ///copies.spare.spins



This independent art gallery and shop is located on Upper Dock Street (pedestrianised), 2 doors to the left of the Mercure Hotel, with stair and ramp access from the street. Free children's arts and craft activities will be available on tables and chairs directly outside the shop. In the event of wet weather, this activity will take place inside the shop on the ground floor, with one step at the front door. Further workshops will take place in the upstairs gallery, and a single toilet is available, and these can only be accessed via stairs. This will be one of our quieter spaces.

Waterstones:

What3Words ///pardon.live.tricky



This book shop is located on Commercial Street (pedestrianised), in between Iceland and Boots, opposite Burger King. There is level access from the street. There is some seating inside the shop. This will be one of our quieter spaces.

The Place:

What3Words ///rarely.edge.bricks



This arts venue, run by Tin Shed Theatre, is located on Bridge Street (pedestrianised, although there are drop-off points on the corner of Baneswell Road). There is level access from the street and throughout the ground floor of the building and there will be seating available.

Commercial Street: Some of our walkabout performances will take a route along Commercial Street. There is street furniture along the street. The Samba Galez procession is likely to be noisy.

Accessible Events

Audio Description



The following events will be Audio Described **by Alastair Still** / Word of Mouth:

Saturday 19 July		
Splashtonbury: The Riverfront Entrance	Circus Raj	12:25 - 12:55
Usk Plaza	Felicity Footloose	13:30 - 14:00
Splashtonbury: The Riverfront Entrance	Circus Raj	16:10 - 16:40
Sunday 20 July		
Splashtonbury: The Riverfront Entrance	Circus Raj	11:50 - 12:30
Usk Plaza	Logy on Fire	14:00 - 14:30
Usk Plaza	Able Mable	16:00 - 16:30

For audio described performances, **please bring your own headphones**, we will supply packs to be collected at The Riverfront Box Office.

British Sign Language



There will be British Sign Language interpretation on the **Celebrate Stage on Saturday 19th July**, with **Emma Horton** interpreting. Emma will be interpreting various events intermittently throughout the day.

If you require use of BSL interpretation at any point on Saturday 19th July, please do not hesitate to ask one of our friendly Big Splash staff or volunteers, and they can liaise with Emma to assist.