

VISITING
**VICARAGE
ROAD**



**WATFORD FC 2016/17
ACCESS STATEMENT**

WELCOME TO VICARAGE ROAD **THE HOME OF WATFORD FOOTBALL CLUB**

Thank you for choosing to come and watch Watford FC. We are keen that your visit to Vicarage Road will be as enjoyable as possible, so we have put together this guide to give you all the information we think you might need.

In this guide, you'll find details of our provision for supporters with all types of disability, along with information on parking, transport and a stadium map showing all accessible points.

Please browse the information and if you have any questions, please contact our Disabled Liaison Officer, Joanne Simonds, on 01923 223023, our Supporter Liaison and Disability Access Officer, Dave Messenger, on 01923 496397 or email disabled.supporters@watfordfc.com

Watford FC works closely with the 'Watford FC Enables' disabled supporters' association on all matters relating to disabled supporters. Membership is free, further details about the group and how to join can be found on their dedicated website, which can be accessed www.wfcenables.co.uk



ORDERING YOUR TICKETS

BUYING TICKETS

We aim to provide a personal service for all disabled supporters. In order to purchase tickets, please call our ticket office hotline on 01923 223023 where our team will be happy to discuss your individual requirements and provide the best ticket available. At busy times, please use our call-back service by emailing disabled.supporters@watfordfc.com. Please provide your name, FAN ID and phone number, and one of the team will contact you.

CONCESSIONS

Some concessions are available, but are not based on impairment type, rather the recognition that some disabled supporters have a restricted choice of viewing area in the stadium and/or could not attend a match without personal support or the provision of an auxiliary aid.

PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

Where the need for personal support has been identified, the Club will admit the personal assistant free of charge on the understanding that they are providing a service to the disabled supporter to enable them to access matchday facilities. The personal assistant should be capable of supporting the disabled person's needs in the event of an emergency and the Club require the disabled person and their PA to enter the ground together and sit together.

You will be entitled to a free personal assistant if you are in receipt of Middle or Higher rate components of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (P.I.P.) however proof may be required before tickets are issued.

ACCESS

Our ticket office is fully accessible. There is step and ramp free access via an automatic door and non-slip surfaces are around the office itself. A dropped counter and induction loop are available inside, as are braille copies of our fixtures. The queueing system is fully managed on matchdays and our staff will be available to provide any additional support you require.

GETTING TO VICARAGE ROAD

BY TRAIN AND TUBE

The nearest stations to the stadium are Watford High Street (0.6 miles, 12 mins walk) Watford Underground (1 mile, 20 mins walk) and Watford Junction (1.1 miles, 25 mins walk)

Watford Junction Station has the most accessible facilities. The station is on the West Coast Mainline and fast trains come from London Euston. Services are run by London Midland and Virgin Trains.

- Accessible taxis are available from the front of the station
- Buses to the stadium are also available
- Induction Loop is situated in the ticket office
- Staff available for additional assistance, which can be pre-booked up to 24 hours in advance
- Ramps for train access are available
- Accessible toilets are also available - Staff are able to provide Radar Keys
- Wheelchairs are available for use

Watford High Street Station has a single island platform which can be accessed by staircase only, there is no ramp or step free access. An induction loop is situated in the ticket office and staff are available to provide additional support. Services are run by London Overground.

Watford Underground station is on the Metropolitan line. This station also has a single island platform which can be accessed by staircase only, there is no ramp or step free access. Staff are available to provide additional support.

BY BUS

A number of buses (10, 320, 324 and W1) run between Watford Junction station and the stadium. Frequent services are run by Arriva and Red Rose Travel and take around 10 minutes. All buses are low floor accessible and supporters should alight at the Watford General Hospital, which is situated next door to the stadium.

PARKING AND DROP-OFF POINTS

We provide 25 wheelchair parking bays, which are located in Stadium Way and Occupation Road, both are accessed via Cardiff Road. There is step free access to the Rookery, Lower Graham Taylor and Sir Elton John stands. All traffic will be held back for a short while after the match to ensure clear access for pedestrians.

We also provide parking spaces for ambulant disabled supporters in the nearby Lower Hospital Car Park, which can be accessed via Thomas Sawyer Way. We provide a buggy service to bring supporters to the accessible entrance of their choice and supporters can also make the return journey to the car park by buggy.

To book a space, please call our ticket office hotline on 01923 223023 or email your request to disabled.supporters@watfordfc.com. Spaces are provided for both home and away supporters and are subject to availability. Maps showing access routes for each car park can be provided on request.

A drop off point is also available at the junction of Stadium Way and Occupation Road, which is also accessed via Cardiff Road.

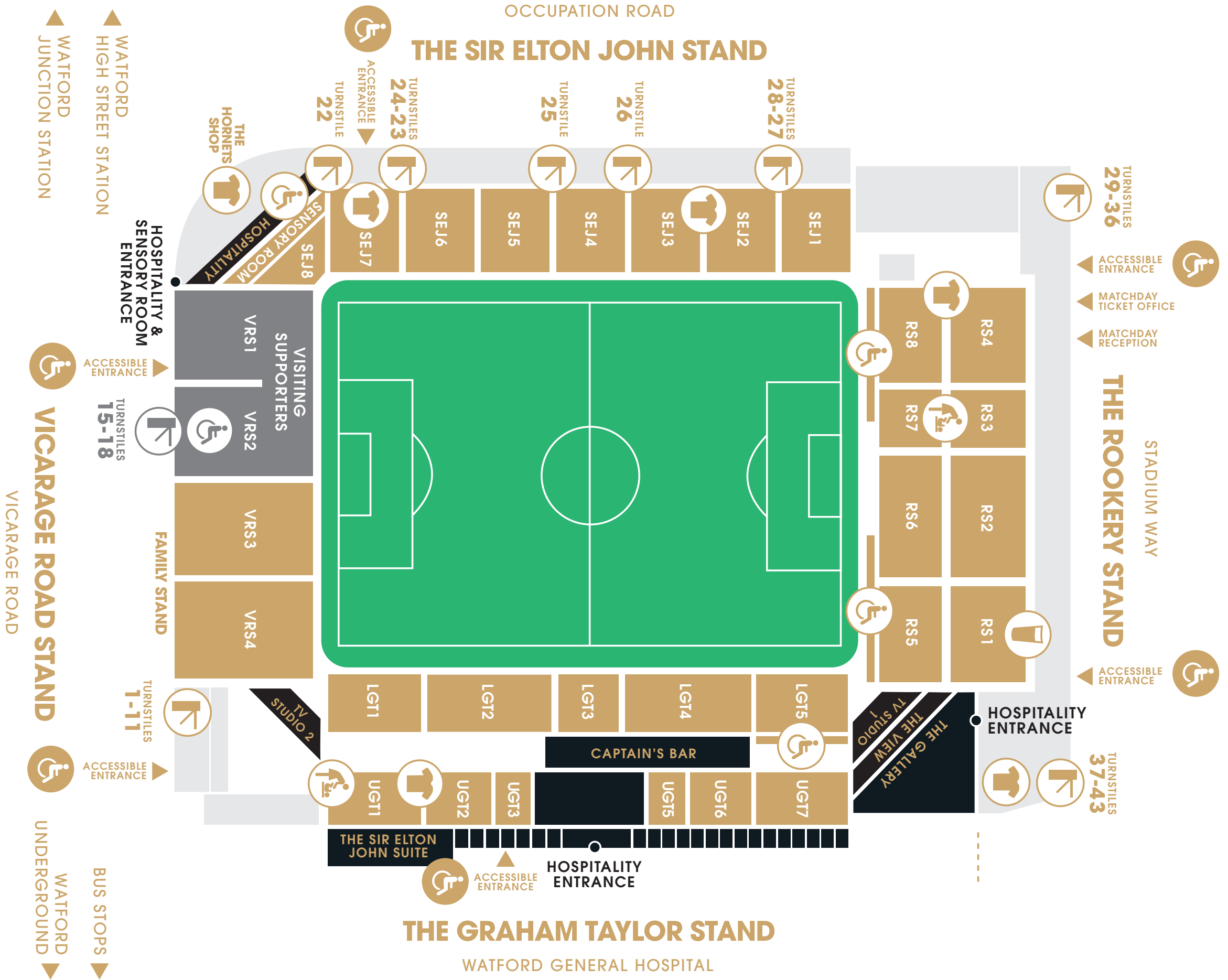
BY CAR

From the North – Join the M25 and follow until Junction 20. Exit and follow signs for Hempstead Road, follow Hempstead Road into central Watford. Follow the large roundabout system at the end of Hempstead Road and exit towards Rickmansworth A412. Follow this road for 1/4 mile and turn left at the end of the underpass. Go through two traffic lights and turn left into ‘The Hornets’ at the East end of Vicarage Road.

From the South – Join the M25 and follow until Junction 18. Exit via the slip road, which goes up to a bridge going across the motorway, then turn left towards Rickmansworth. Head down into Rickmansworth until you arrive at a large roundabout near Rickmansworth BR station. Turn left here along the A412 towards Watford. Follow signs into Croxley Green. Continue straight over at the two roundabouts past Croxley, then take the fifth right exit on to Harwood Road. Continue straight down, heading straight over the traffic lights, until you come to the end of the road. At the end turn left and you will now be on Vicarage Road, continue for a few hundred metres and you will see the ground on your right hand side.

Please note that Vicarage Road is closed to traffic from 2pm onwards.





VIEWING AREAS

Accessible viewing areas are available in the Rookery, Lower Graham Taylor, Upper Graham Taylor and Sir Elton John Stands. Visiting supporter facilities are available in the Vicarage Road Stand. There is personal assistant space available in all areas. Dedicated matchday disabled liaison officers are also posted in all areas.

ROOKERY

This stand has 34 wheelchair spaces and 30 ambulant/easy access spaces at pitch level. Step-free access is via the accessible entrance next to turnstiles 29-36. Two accessible toilets are available in the concourse, which are Radar Key operated and have support rails and alarm cords fitted. A changing places facility is also under construction. There are also 4 wheelchair and 14 ambulant/easy access spaces planned for opening during the 2016/17 season, which will be at elevated level.

LOWER GRAHAM TAYLOR

This stand has 11 wheelchair spaces and 11 ambulant/easy access spaces at elevated level. Access is via the accessible entrance next to turnstiles 37-43. Step-free access is via a platform lift and there are two steps down to the ambulant/easy access seats. An accessible toilet is available in the concourse, which is Radar Key operated and has support rails and alarm cords fitted. A further 12 ambulant/easy access spaces are available in the front row, which are accessed via the Rookery turnstiles 29-36 and have step-free access.

UPPER GRAHAM TAYLOR

This stand has 34 ambulant/easy access spaces at elevated level. Access is via the accessible entrance alongside the hospitality entrance. There are four steps up to the seats. An accessible toilet is available in the concourse, which is Radar Key operated and has support rails and alarm cords fitted.



SIR ELTON JOHN STAND

This stand has 16 ambulant/easy access spaces in the front row. Step-free access is via the accessible entrance next to turnstiles 29-36. An accessible toilet is available in the concourse, which is Radar Key operated and has support rails and alarm cords fitted. There are also 7 wheelchair spaces at elevated level. Access is via the accessible entrance next to turnstile 22. Step-free access is via a platform lift. An accessible toilet is available at the lift exit which is radar key operated and has support rails and alarm cords fitted.

VICARAGE ROAD STAND

This stand has 5 wheelchair spaces for visiting supporters in the front row. Step-free access is via the accessible entrance next to turnstiles 29-36. An accessible toilet is available in the Sir Elton John Stand concourse, which is Radar Key operated and has support rails and alarm cords fitted. There are also 4 wheelchair spaces for visiting supporters at elevated level. Step-free access is via the accessible entrance next to turnstiles 15-18 for visiting supporters. An accessible toilet is available in the concourse which is radar key operated and has support rails and alarm cords fitted.



SENSORY ROOM

Places in our Sensory Room, which enables children on the autism spectrum to enjoy football in a calm environment, are available for booking on matchdays. The room features a comfortably furnished viewing area, with an excellent view of the action and a state-of-the-art calming area featuring a bubble tube, fibre-optic carpet, soft seating, wall projectors, a glitter-ball with a colour wheel and a Bluetooth speaker system so that visitors to the room can choose their own music if the game becomes too distressing for their child.

The room is managed by fully-trained staff with a background in working with children on the autism spectrum and is accessible from Vicarage Road. The room is also fully wheelchair accessible. Places will be subject to availability and a letter from a doctor/consultant or other healthcare professional confirming diagnosis of Autism Spectrum disorder may be required when booking. Parents will also have the option to visit the Room before matchday, if they wish to check the suitability of the room.

For more details about the Sensory Room or to book places please contact Dave Messenger, Supporter Liaison and Disability Access Officer, on 01923 496397 or email disabled.supporters@watfordfc.com

THE HORNETS SHOP

The Hornets Shop is located on Vicarage Road and is the best place to buy official club merchandise on matchdays. We also have a number of pop-up Hornets Shops inside the stadium. All of our shops can be extremely busy on matchdays, if you require a quieter period we recommend visiting the main shop around two hours before kick-off.

The shop is fully accessible. There is step and ramp free access via an automatic door and non-slip surfaces are around the shop itself. A dropped counter and induction loop are available inside. The queueing system is fully managed on matchdays and our staff will be available to provide any additional support you require. An accessible toilet is available to customers, please ask our staff to gain access.

If you prefer to do your shopping online, you can also order your official club merchandise by visiting www.thehornetsshop.co.uk with products being delivered direct to your door. A Click & Collect service is also available.



MATCHDAY PROGRAMMES

No visit to Vicarage Road is complete without picking up a copy of the matchday programme – available at the stadium before every Watford home game.

The Club's accessible programme is also now available, supporters can download a version of the programme which can be converted to the spoken word, if your device has the necessary software.

Programmes can be downloaded to your iPad, iPhone or Android devices. The free matchday digital app can be downloaded at the following links;

ITUNES

GOOGLE PLAY STORE

Season passes or individual purchases are then available via the app.



OUR TEAM OF 'VICARAGE ROADIES' LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO VICARAGE ROAD STADIUM

WHO ARE THE VICARAGE ROADIES?

The Vicarage Roadies are here to meet and greet all supporters coming to Watford Football Club on match days. Our group consists of supporters of all ages and most of the Roadies have been Hornets for years. The one thing we all have in common is our desire to go that extra mile and give all supporters the best possible matchday experience.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Anything we can do to help is the easy answer. We provide a dedicated service to our disabled visitors, which ranges from escort to your seats, to help with refreshments and everything in between. As Hornets supporters, we know a lot about the Club, the town and the stadium. In the unlikely event we can't help you we will find someone who can.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Our team will provide help, guidance and the answers to any questions you might have when you arrive at the Stadium. To us no problem is insurmountable, whatever you might need, no task is too great or small! Just come and find us, ask us and we will do all we can. As it says on our Roadie jackets, we're 'HERE TO HELP'

HOW AND WHERE CAN YOU FIND US?

Our team can be found on the approaches to and around Vicarage Road Stadium from at least 90 minutes before kick-off, and we have an information point at the North-East corner of the stadium. You'll easily spot us dressed in our bright green 'Roadie Jackets' with cheerful smiling faces.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The club has 21 Soccer Sight headsets, which allow visually impaired supporters to sit in any part of the ground and listen to the commentary provided by volunteers from the Watford Hospital Radio team.

Please email disabled.supporters@watfordfc.com or call our ticket office hotline on 01923 223023 in advance of your visit with your name and seat number to order a headset, which will be delivered to your seat in time for kick off and collected at the end of the match. Headsets can be provided on a seasonal basis and are also available to visiting supporters.

We offer a seat side food and drink ordering service for all disabled supporters. A drop counter and induction loop is also available in our kiosk situated in the Rookery concourse. Our staff at the catering kiosks will be happy to read out our menus.

Evacuation procedures will be advised by the matchday DLO and stewarding teams in the event of an evacuation being necessary.





Assistance dogs are welcome at Vicarage Road. Should you wish to bring your assistance dog along, please call our ticket office hotline on 01923 223023 or email disabled.supporters@watfordfc.com so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

We provide Wheelchair facilities on the official club coach travel to away games. Please call our ticket office hotline on 01923 223023 or email disabled.supporters@watfordfc.com to book a space on the coaches.

Storage is provided for wheelchairs and walking frames for those supporters who are able to transfer into a seat. Please ask our matchday DLO and stewarding teams for details when you arrive at the stadium.

Signage around the stadium is gold type on a black background and our concourses are painted in highly visible colours, offering contrast between floors and walls.

KEEP IN TOUCH

WATFORDFC.COM

The best way to stay abreast of goings on at Vicarage Road is by visiting the official Watford FC website – watfordfc.com – for regularly updated news, fixtures, ticket details and club information. Our new-and-improved website offers live audio commentary from all Watford matches as well as exclusive news, interviews, videos and extended highlights, available on your computer, smartphone and tablet device.

WATFORD FC ENABLES

Contact details for the disabled supporters association can be found at www.wfcenables.co.uk

YOUTUBE

In addition to the video content available on watfordfc.com, teasers and some exclusive footage are available via the club's official YouTube Channel.

Visit youtube.com/watfordfcofficial to browse the Hornets' video library.



TWITTER

The perfect place for updates, delivered informally, regarding day-to-day events at the club is the @watfordfc Twitter account - a reliable source for ticketing queries, live match updates and regularly directing fans to Watford content.

SNAPCHAT

A unique way of following the Hornets' Premier League campaign, with exclusive image and video content telling the story of matchdays and club events. Follow @Watford_FC.

FACEBOOK

The Watford FC Facebook page - [facebook.com/watfordfc](https://www.facebook.com/watfordfc) - is jointly run by the club and chosen fan representatives, and includes news and exclusive content from the club's UCL training ground, such as photos and videos.

INSTAGRAM

Regular uploads of exclusive behind-the-scenes photos charting life at Vicarage Road, as well as the club's UCL training ground. Visit [instagram.com/watfordfcofficial](https://www.instagram.com/watfordfcofficial) to check it out.

You can also get in touch with the club using the following contact details:

ADDRESS

Watford Football Club
Vicarage Road Stadium
Watford,
WD18 0ER

EMAIL

disabled.supporters@watfordfc.com

PHONE

CLUB CONTACT:
01923 496000

TICKET HOTLINE

01923 223023

FAX

01923 496001