



What to expect at the Breast Screening Assessment Clinic

For some women, breast screening is a 2-stage process and there is a variety of reasons why a woman may be asked to return for the second stage assessment clinic. This leaflet explains what to expect during your visit to the Assessment Clinic.

Why do I have to come back for another breast screening?

There are a number of reasons why you need to come back; many of these reasons are not related to cancer. We need to see you again for more tests to complete both stages of the screening process.

Do I have to come on that day – can I come a different day?

While we will try to fit in with your requests, the assessment clinics are held on a Monday and a Tuesday when all the specialists are available.

How long will the assessment appointment take?

We may need to take some more x-rays, carry out an examination and perform an ultrasound of your breasts. A small number of women may need a core biopsy – see below.

We would suggest you allow 1–2 hours for the assessment appointment.

What is an ultrasound examination of the breasts?

This is a test using a probe and sound waves to check the breast tissue. The procedure is usually painless and is like the scan carried out on pregnant women.

What is a core biopsy?

This is when a small sample of breast tissue is removed and sent for testing. This is done using either ultrasound or mammography and a local anaesthetic is used to numb the area. You can find more information in our leaflets called '[Ultrasound guided core biopsy](#)' or '[X-ray guided core biopsy](#)'.

Who will I see at the clinic?

You will see some, or all of the assessment team. The team consists of a consultant radiologist, a consultant radiographer, a radiographer and clinical nurse specialists.

How soon will I know the results?

Where possible, you will be given the results of the tests before you leave the clinic. If a biopsy is performed, the results will be available within approximately 7 days and you will be offered an appointment to come back to talk about your results.

Further information

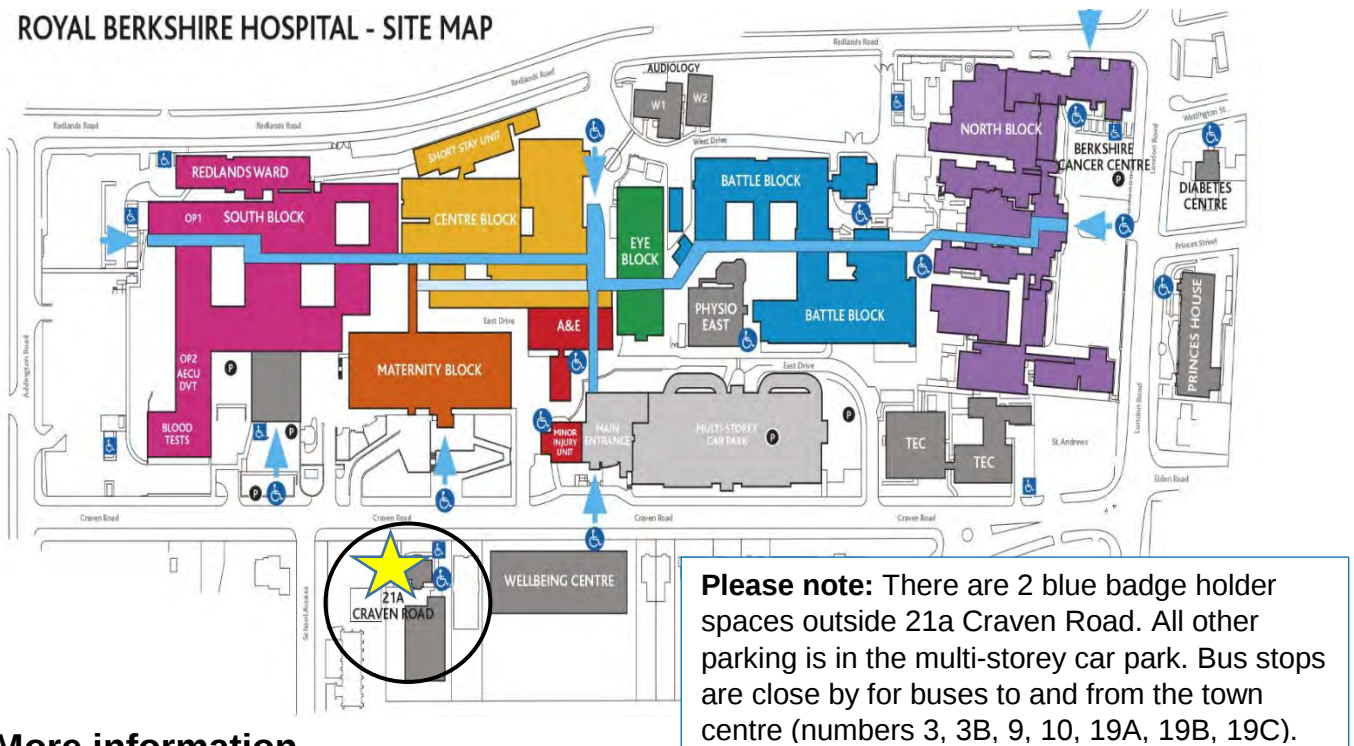
For further advice or support, please contact one of our breast screening clinical nurse specialists on **0118 322 8563** or email westberksbsu@nhs.net

West Berkshire Breast Screening Service, 21A Craven Rd, Reading RG1 5LE

Important note:

Whilst NHS breast screening is a free service, any subsequent further investigations or treatments (secondary care) resulting from screening may be chargeable for those not eligible for NHS care. If you think, you are *not* entitled to free NHS treatment at the point of service delivery, please contact the Overseas Team who will be able to help you. Email overseas.visitors@royalberkshire.nhs.uk or telephone: 0118 322 6833.

ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL - SITE MAP



More information

If there are any problems or queries please contact the Breast Screening Clinical Nurse Specialists on 0118 322 8563. Out of normal working hours, please contact your GP.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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