

Weardale Museum : Access Statement

Pre-Arrival

- We deal with enquiries by telephone from home, by post, and by e-mail.
- Our website is accessible to all users.
- We are in a North Pennines countryside location served by the 101 bus service.

Public Transport & Car Parking Facilities

- Weardale Motor Services 101 stops outside the Museum about 25 metres away. Buses run every hour except on Sundays and Bank holidays
- We have a small car park for about 8 cars behind the Museum, visitors can off load at the door.
- Coaches can off load outside the Museum and return later to on load.
- Coach parking is in St John's Chapel (1/2 mile) or Ireshopeburn (1/4 mile)

Main Entrance & Reception

- There is a small step (10 cm) to the main entrance.
- Access for wheelchairs is via the main road door (width36").
- A hearing loop system is in use at reception.
- The reception area is well lit.

Public Areas - General (Internal)

- The Attraction comprises a cottage museum on two levels and adjoining Methodist Chapel.

The Museum

- Access between floors is by stairs. (13 steps)
- The stair case has a handrail on one side and contrasting stair nosings.
- Lighting is mainly provided by daylight and spotlights that highlight exhibitions.
- We have a large unisex toilet with disability access.
- Guide and assistance dogs are welcome - no non-working pet dogs please
- The ground floor is accessible to wheelchairs. Large display books are available to show what we have in upstairs galleries and can be viewed in our Wesley Room where there is seating.
- Floor coverings on the ground floor are carpets and traditional mats.
- There is no public telephone in the museum and the signal for mobile phones is variable.
- The layout is crowded but furniture can be moved to provide room for wheelchairs downstairs.

The Chapel

- The Chapel has a ground floor and a gallery.
- Access to the chapel is via an outside door with one small step. (3 inches)
- Floor coverings in the chapel are carpets
- There is a hearing loop.
- Interpretation is via display books using large text
- There is no public access to the upstairs gallery.

Public Areas - WC

- The disabled visitors' lavatory, 3 metres from the main entrance, has to be accessed by wheelchair users via the main entrance door (Width only 33") .
- The floor surface near the lavatory is made of concrete
- The disabled visitors' lavatory is a purpose-built unisex toilet with all the usual facilities
- The door opens outwards.
- All taps are easy to use and do not require an ability to grip
- A coat hook and low-level mirror are provided
- The walls painted white.

Interpretation (Displays, exhibits, etc)

- There is no access to wheelchair users to the upstairs galleries but fully illustrated A3 books describing our stories are provided for those visitors who cannot access the first floor.
- A copy of our Genealogy resource is available on the downstairs computer.
- The Weardale Kitchen room downstairs is a handling collection.
- All of our display boards use the Myriad Pro font and 28 point text.
- Our labels and display books use a 14 point font.

Refreshments

- There are no refreshments at the museum. But staff will give directions to nearby cafes.

Shop

- The museum shop selling local history books, pens, postcards and bookmarks is located at reception.
- Staff will be pleased to assist disabled visitors as may be necessary.
- A low-level counter is provided.
- There is a small step down into the shop. The shop is carpeted with rugs.

Grounds and Gardens

- There are no gardens.

Contact Information

- Address: Weardale Museum, Hotts, Ireshopeburn, Co Durham, DL13 1HD
- Telephone: (01388) 517433 and (01388) 537418. These are the home numbers of Museum Officers as the Museum itself does not have a telephone.
- Email: dtheatherington@ormail.co.uk
- Website: www.weardalemuseum.co.uk

Hours of Operation

- Hours of operation: 14.00 – 17.00
- Easter and Bank Holidays
- May – Wednesday – Sunday
- June, – Wednesday – Sunday
- July – every afternoon
- August – every afternoon
- September – Wednesday – Sunday
- October– Wednesday – Sunday

Future Plans

- Accessibility will be built into future exhibition development
- Full Access Audit by 2016

We welcome your feedback to help us continuously improve if you have any comments please email or telephone if unable to use e-mail.