

## Access Statement 2024 - v2.0

### Abbey Pumping Station Museum Corporation Road Leicester LE4 5PX.



This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with disabilities, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that are offered to all our visitors.

Access statement provided by the Leicester Museum Technology Association, the volunteer group supporting the Abbey Pumping Station Museum. Registered charity number 1052391. To contact the volunteer association please email [enquiries@abbeypumpingstation.org](mailto:enquiries@abbeypumpingstation.org).



## **Introduction.**

The Abbey Pumping Station museum stands in approximately 7 acres (2.8 hectare) of parkland which was formerly a Victorian sewage pumping station and was in use from 1892 until 1964. In 1972 it became a Leicester City Council museum.

This museum is supported by a volunteer organisation, a registered charity that organises events and is a key player in the restoration and conservation work of both site and exhibits.

The buildings forming the museum are all historical and listed thus ensuring the site for future generations to enjoy but this does prevent Leicester City Council and the supporting volunteer organisation from undertaking certain measures to improve access for all i.e. improvements to staircases or the installation of elevators or ramps.

Leicester City Council and the supporting volunteer association take their responsibilities for providing universal access provision very seriously and adhere to the Equalities Act accordingly. We work hard to provide the highest level of access to the whole site but in some instances, due to the historic nature of the pumping station, this is not always possible.

Pathways within Abbey Pumping Station grounds are paved and suitable for wheelchairs and other mobility aids.

Picnic tables are available within the grounds both at the front and rear of the main building.

## **Pre Arrival.**

- Admission to museum is free except on special event days when charges apply.
- The Abbey Pumping Station is located just north of the city centre adjacent to the National Space Centre.
- For full details and maps of how to reach us please see the directions section of our website, alternatively you can plan your journey by car or public transport using [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) Simply enter your postcode and ours, which is LE4 5PX to get directions.
- The nearest railway station is 2.7 miles away on London Road. Local bus route number 54 leaves from Charles Street (Haymarket Bus Station stand HY a 10 minute walk from the railway station) and will bring you to the Abbey Lane-Corporation road junction. Alternatively, taxis are available at the railway station forecourt. If you require an accessible taxi you can book this in advance on 0116 251 5105. For details of bus times please telephone travel line 0871 200 2233 (Available 24 hours) or visit [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)
- The Leicester to Derby 'Skylink' service drops off and picks up at the junction of Corporation Road and Abbey Lane. [www.kinchbus.co.uk/services/skylink-derby](http://www.kinchbus.co.uk/services/skylink-derby).
- Leicester Birstall Park and Ride route 303 is located adjacent to the A46/A6 junction. Buses leave every 15 minutes and arrive at the National Space Centre approx. 9 minutes later. Visit [www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/parkandride](http://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/parkandride)
- For more details including local bus information please visit Google Maps. To plan your journeys to Leicester please visit Leicester travel pages. All links can be found on the volunteers website 'Contact Us' page: <http://www.abbeypumpingstation.org> or the Leicester City Museums website

<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums-and-galleries>

## **Car Parking on Arrival.**

- Abbey Pumping Station Museum does not have any specified disabled parking spaces but on none-special event days allows car parking on site. Use the entrance on Corporation Road.
- Disabled persons can be dropped off at the museum entrance on none-special event days before parking in the site allocated area.
- There is no car parking within the museum grounds on special event days.
- On special event days car parking is available at the adjacent National Space Centre car park with parking stewards being available to guide you to the Pumping Station entrance. A Pay and Display system is in operation.
- There are no allocated disabled car parking spaces in the museum grounds but disabled visitors can be dropped off and picked up at the main museum building entrance prior to parking in the general car parking area on None-Event days.

## **Picnic Tables and Narrow-Gauge Railway Station**



Picnic tables are available at the front of the museum near the Narrow-Gauge railway station.

There are also additional picnic tables at the rear of the building near the children's play area

## **Main Entrance**





## Reception Desk

- The main entrance and reception to the museum is on the ground floor. The entrance doors to the museum automatically open and measure 60inches/ 152cm wide.
- A maximum of only 1 wheelchair is allowed in the engine house during normal open days, increased to 2 wheelchairs on special event days depending on the number of evacuation chairs being available.
- There are steps at the front of the building. However, these are only used on special event days and during weddings; there is a platform lift serving the same area from the main gallery.
- The floor area in reception and main gallery is flat and suitable for wheelchair access.
- The reception and counter area is used for information and shop purchases. The desk is open with no glass partition and has a low area suitable for wheelchair uses.
- On event days there is a complimentary ticket policy for a career.
- A Wheelchair for use on site is available for loan free of charge.



## Attractions & Displays.

- The main exhibition galleries are situated on the ground floor. There are no steps and it is accessible for wheelchair users. It takes approximately 30 minutes to view.
- The galleries are free-flowing and generally uncrowded. However, on event days they can become very busy.
- The galleries are made up of exhibition panels and cases, freestanding & interactive exhibits and room sets.
- There are video and audio transcripts which cause a degree of background noise.
- The text is variable and doesn't currently meet access standards.
- There are seats available within the gallery.
- There is a hearing loop.
- There is currently no audio guide



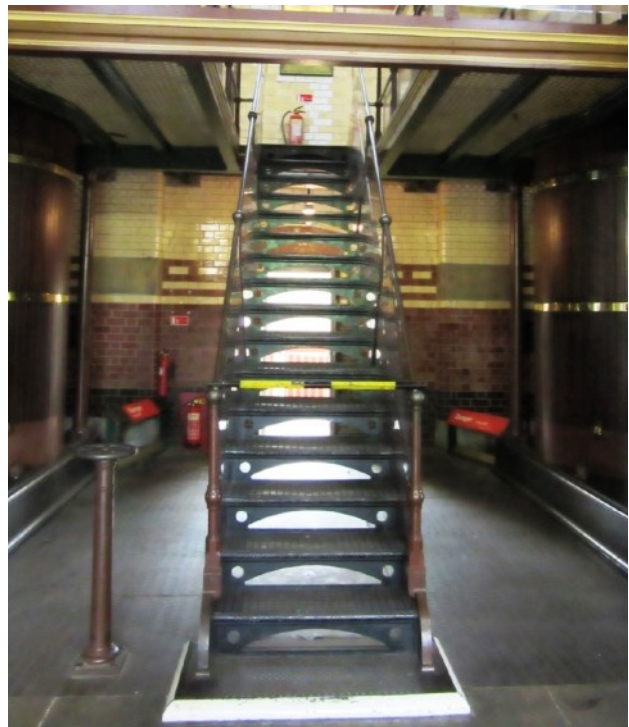
**Part of of the Main Gallery**

## The Beam Engine House.

- There is a platform lift to access the Lower Beam Engine House.
- The upper floors of the Beam Engine House are only accessible by narrow, industrial, open metal stairways and are unsuitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs and those with mobility problems.
- The top floor can become excessively hot during the summer months which may adversely affect some people.
- There are audio visual displays in the Lower Beam Engine House which have BSL but no subtitles.
- A maximum of only 1 wheelchair is allowed in the Beam Engine House during normal open days, increased to 2 wheelchairs on special event days depending on the number of evacuation chairs being available.



Platform lift and stairway to beam engine floor



Stairs in engine house to upper floor.



Route to Switch Room /Café



Emergency Beam Engine House exit

### **The Switch Room.**

- The Switch room is used as a café on event days and is hired out for functions.
- The room is large and flat with no steps. However, the access route may be unsuitable for wider wheelchairs and mobility scooters as it is quite narrow and uneven and requires two right angle turns through the engine house.

### **The Basement.**

- The engine house basement is only accessible on selected special events days.
- The engine house basement area is inaccessible to wheelchairs or those with mobility problems due to steep and open spiral staircases and landings.
- Lighting in the engine house basement is low and it will take a few moments for visitor's eyes to adjust to the gloom.

### **The Main Store.**

- The main museum store is located in the grounds. It is used on event days for a variety of purposes and is flat and accessible for wheelchairs/pushchairs. This building is not normally open to the public however, but on special event days it can become very crowded during these popular events.

### **The Workshop**

- The site workshop is used on event days for demonstrations which are viewed from the outside making it accessible to all.

### **The Marquee.**

To the rear of the museum grounds is a large marquee which can accommodate up to 200 people and is available for private or corporate hire. Email [aps@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:aps@leicester.gov.uk) for hire details and availability.

Access to the marquee is via flat tarmac paths with plenty of room for wheelchairs or mobility scooters







### **Dementia Garden.**

In a secluded and quiet part at the front of the museum grounds is our “Forget-me-not” garden. Access to this is via tarmac paths and is completely fenced off with a wide access gate for wheel chairs and mobility scooters.

## **Childrens Play area.**

At the rear of the museum is a children's play area which is accessible along flat paths and contains a seat for parental supervision.



## **Public Toilets**

- Abbey Pumping Station has a toilet block situated in the buildings opposite the museum main entrance and galleries. All toilets are on ground level with the disabled toilet having a wide sliding door and contains a baby changing station at an appropriate height for all users.
- There are also ladies and gents toilets situated along a narrow corridor with narrow doorways.
- The disabled toilet has a twist lock, a grab rail and an emergency alarm.
- The sink in the disabled toilet is fully fitted with a lever tap, mirror
- Hand driers are available in all toilets.



## **Additional information.**

- Disability training has been undertaken by selected staff.
- Assistance dogs are welcome and water can be provided upon request.
- Disabled emergency exit from the Beam Engine House and the switch room is via an evacuation chair.
- Emergency exit from the main museum gallery is via a double width door, then a right turn and a ramp.



Evacuation chair



Internal Gallery emergency exit.



Museum gallery emergency exit & external ramp.

## **Contact Information**

- Address: Abbey Pumping Station Museum, Corporation Road, Leicester, LE4 5PX
- Telephone: 0116 299 5111
- Volunteers Email [enquiries@abbeypumpingstation.org](mailto:enquiries@abbeypumpingstation.org)
- APS operational team Email [aps@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:aps@leicester.gov.uk)
- Websites [www.abbeypumpingstation.org](http://www.abbeypumpingstation.org); or [www.leicester.gov.uk/museums](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/museums)