



# Access Statement for the Museum of Cannock Chase

## Introduction

Situated on the outskirts of the small Staffordshire town of Hednesford, the Museum of Cannock Chase comprises of four buildings set in nine hectares of green spaces on the site of the former Valley Colliery. The museum tells the story of the communities, landscape and coalfield of the Cannock Chase District. The museum is situated near the top of a slight hill with a gradual approach.

The museum is based on two floors with lift access to galleries on the first floor. You should allow at least 1 hour to go around the museum. A couple of wheelchairs are available for loan free of charge.

You can also enjoy our restaurant / café and shop selling a range of souvenirs. These are all situated on the ground floor with step free access.

A member of the front of house team is on hand at the reception should you require any assistance.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01543 877666 or email [museumofcannockchase@wlct.org](mailto:museumofcannockchase@wlct.org).

## Pre-Arrival

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.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info); simply enter your postcode and ours, which is WS12 1TD to get directions.

The nearest railway station is Hednesford, which is 0.5 miles away (a 10-15 minute walk). Taxis are available at the station. If you require an accessible taxi you can book this in advance, see contact information for details.

The nearest bus stop is 0.5 miles from our main entrance - ask the driver for the stop near Tesco. There is a shelter

and seating. All buses are accessible and can accommodate one wheelchair.

The main road at the bottom of Valley Road has a wide paved path.

Our guide is available in larger print and Braille on request.

### **Car Parking and Arrival**

There is parking on site with 2 clearly marked Blue Badge parking spaces, which are next to the main entrance.

There are two on site car parks. The nearest to the museum has a tarmac surface with a tarmac path leading to the main entrance. The other is a rough surface car park.

There are 2 steps leading to the main entrance with a handrail on one side as well as a permanent ramp with handrails on both sides.

The main entrance door is automatic.

### **Main Entrance and Reception**

The main entrance is situated on the ground floor with step free, level access, throughout.

The floor surface is tiled and carpeted.

The area is evenly and well lit with overhead lighting from fluorescent lights.

There is a lowered section of the welcome desk.

There is a hearing loop system installed at the counter.

A magnifying glass, pen and pad of paper are available at each counter.

Wheelchair loan is available, free of charge, on request.

### **Museum (displays)**

Interpretation boards are all in large text, and have pictorial representation where applicable. All are at a maximum top height of 165cm.

We encourage people to touch objects in the toy gallery.

There are articles held in glass cabinets (most are upright). Some of these are vertical and may not be visible if the eye line is below 115cm.

Some galleries have background sounds and music playing representing the period in history.

Individual seats and padded benches are located at various points around the galleries.

The floor surface is tile and carpeted in most places.

Lighting in the galleries is generally bright and evenly lit with overhead halogen lighting; however, some areas are more dimly lit to aid preservation of the exhibits.

### Public Toilets

Public toilets are located on the ground floor with level access from the main entrance and café areas.

These toilets have a unisex accessible toilet with a light, easy open door. There are others in the Craft Workshop, Lamp Room and in the staff corridor on the first floor. An emergency alarm pull cord is present.

The toilets are well lit with fluorescent tube overhead lighting with a low level light switch.

The flooring is non-slip laminate.

There are lever taps on the sinks.

### Catering

The café is situated on the ground floor and has step free level access from the entrance

Tables in the café are well spaced apart with a mixture of upright chairs with and without arms.

Lighting in all areas is overhead lighting used.

The flooring in the café is tiled.

Where possible all our food produce is locally sourced. We do our best to cater for any dietary requirements; please contact us in advance to check any specific requests you may have.

The cafe is self-service, however, staff can assist on request.

Large print menus are available. Specials of the day are shown on a blackboard. All staff can assist by running through menus with you.

## **Shop**

There is a shop with a range of souvenirs and books etc. which can be accessed directly from the main entrance

The shop is level throughout.

A low level desk & counter are provided.

There is ample room within the shop for a large wheelchair to manoeuvre and turn.

There are tall display racks and low tables accessible from a seated position.

The counter has a hearing loop system installed and staff have been trained in its use.

Staff can offer assistance if required.

## **Additional Information**

All of our staff receive regular training that includes disability awareness training.

We have a set of evacuation procedures – should you require it someone will assist you with evacuation either out of the building or to a refuge.

All our information brochures, evacuation procedures etc. are available in large print.

A water bowl is available at the main entrance/exit for assistance dogs.

Clear signage is used throughout the attraction using Arial font large letters black on a yellow background.

We can offer a list of nearby accommodation and details of their Access Statements for information, where available.