



# Museum in the Park

Stroud District (Cowle) Museum Service

## Access Statement for the Museum in the Park, Stroud

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## Introduction

Set in the beautiful parkland of Stratford Park, the Museum in the Park is a two storey Grade II Mansion, dating from 1674 which contains displays of the history of Stroud and surrounding district.

## Pre-Arrival

- Address: Museum in the Park, Stratford Park, Stratford Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4AF.
- Telephone: 01453 763394 (answer machine out-of-hours)
- Website: [www.museuminthepark.org.uk](http://www.museuminthepark.org.uk)
- National Grid Reference: SO 846 057
- Reference for Satellite Navigation System (SatNav):  
1:44:58N (51.7495) 2:13:24W (-2.2234)
- Information is available in large print.
- There is a lift to the upper floor.
- A modern purpose built single story extension contains the foyer, shop, café, toilets, baby care facilities, exhibition Galleries 1 & 2 and meeting rooms.
- Access to exhibition Galleries 1 & 2 is by means of a ramp 10 metres long and 2.6 metres wide. (Slope is 1 in 38 or 2.6%).
- The museum is signposted at key local junctions by brown signs.
- We are a 10 minute walk from the Bus Station and 20 minutes from Stroud Railway Station.
- Museum is  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from National Cycle route 45.
- Bus services
  - The following buses all stop at Tesco, Stratford Road – a 5 minute walk through the park to the Museum:
    - Stagecoach Number 63 Gloucester to Stroud
    - Stagecoach Number 66S (some journeys operate from Stroud Merrywalks via Cainscross Road instead of going via Stratford Road), Gloucester to Stonehouse
    - Stagecoach Number 67 Stroud to Cashes Green
    - Cotswold Green Number 230 Stroud to Randwick and Ruscombe
  - The Stagecoach Number 61/61A Cheltenham to Uley stops at Paganhill, Stratford Road – a 15 minute walk to Museum.

## Arrival & Car Parking Facilities

- There is a free car and coach park shared with the Leisure Centre and Stroud College about 400 metres from the Museum.
- The museum is signposted from the Car Park.
- The museum is a 5 minute walk from the Car Park through Stratford Park along a wide tarmac surface. The route is slightly downhill.
- Holders of Disabled Badges can gain vehicle access through the barrier at top left corner of car park. By following the road down behind the Leisure Centre they arrive in front of the museum where there is free disabled parking available for 2 vehicles.
- There is a drop-off point via Disabled route for those non-Disabled badge holders who have difficulty walking from the main Car Park.

- We have one manual wheelchair for use in the Museum, which is available from Reception.

### **Main Entrance & Reception**

- The Main entrance doors are automatic sliding doors (1.2 metres wide).
- Immediately on entering there is door matting flush with floor, beyond which is the carpeted Foyer.
- There are no steps to negotiate.
- There is a Hearing Loop at Reception Desk.
- The Reception Desk has two heights (1.06 and 0.8 metres).
- Entry to the Museum is free of charge (some exhibitions, events and talks may incur a charge).
- The doorway between the Reception Area and Mansion (which houses the collection) is 0.70 metres at its narrowest point (note: the narrowest doorway entrance in the mansion is into the Archaeology Gallery, And Then Came People, at 0.69 metres).

### **Public Areas - General**

- The flooring throughout the museum is of carpet, wood or vinyl.
- Seating is provided in most galleries.
- Lighting is mainly by spotlights and natural light but at low brightness to protect the artefacts.
- The environment is maintained by a zoned environmental system which aims to keep temperature below 23 degrees Celsius and relative humidity below 55%.
- A recorded Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV) operates throughout the building.
- The lift (1.4 x 1.1 metres) is accessed through doors 0.78 metres wide.

### **Public Areas - Toilets (WCs)**

- Museum
  - There is a male toilet (WC), 3 urinals, 2 cubicles on ground floor.
  - There is a female toilet (WC), 3 cubicles on ground floor.
  - There is a family toilet with baby changing facilities on ground floor.
  - There is one unisex accessible (Disabled) toilet (WC) on ground floor.
    - Width of door is 0.85 metres
    - Transfer to the toilet is from the left from a seated position (1.1 metres between wall and side of toilet)
    - The height of toilet (floor to seat) is 0.46 metres
    - The height of the wash basin (floor to rim) is 0.70 metres
    - There are a vertical and a horizontal wall rails to the left of the toilet (opposite side to transfer)
    - There is a vertical wall rail to the right rear of the toilet
    - A drop-down grab rail can be lowered from a vertical to horizontal position to the right of the toilet
    - There is an alarm call cord (red) which alerts Museum Reception.

## **Public Areas - Outdoor Facilities**

- Courtyard
  - Used for some activities
  - Outdoor and undercover seating
  - Sculptures on show
  - Wooden tables and chairs with sun umbrellas for the café
- Car Park
  - There are male, female, baby changing and Accessible (Disabled) toilets by the main Car Park

## **Café**

- Hot and cold beverages, light snacks and ice creams are available for sale in the Foyer – payment at reception.
- Tables and upholstered chairs are situated in the café area.
- Nearest café serving hot food is the Leisure Centre (3 minute walk).

## **Nearby Restaurants and Accommodation**

- Nearest restaurant is at the Nelson Brewers Fayre - 0870 990 6378 (5 minute walk).
- Nearest accommodation at the Stratford Lodge Premiere Travel Inn - 0870 990 6378 (5 minute walk).

## **Shop**

- Area in Foyer selling souvenirs, toys, books, postcards and prints – payment at Reception.
- We accept cash, cheques, credit & debit cards (Maestro, VISA, MasterCard).

## **Conference & Meeting Rooms**

- Our two galleries are available for hire.
- Ideal venues for workshops, lectures, training events and meetings.
- Each can seat 50 people in theatre style.
- Gallery 1 is a high quality space for both two-dimensional and three-dimensional work. The gallery has dedicated exhibition lighting, hanging rails and a polished wood floor.
- Gallery 2 is an excellent space for smaller scale or two-dimensional exhibitions and was designed as a combined exhibition, conference room and workshop/activity venue. This space has a public address system including a hearing loop; dedicated exhibition lighting and a hanging system. The floor is carpeted.
- Digital, 35mm slide and Over Head Projectors are available and a laptop PC can be made available.
- This space is also used by local school groups.

## **Attractions**

- Mansion is set in a beautiful parkland setting.
- The World's first lawnmower invented by Edwin Budding in 1830.
- A Pederson bicycle.
- Paintings of Wallbridge and view from Rodborough Fort.
- Artefacts are mainly exhibited in floor to ceiling glass cabinets.
- Laminated printed guides are available in most rooms.

- Two videos playing continuously:
  - One shows the making of a flint arrow by Phil Harding of Time Team
  - The other shows life at a farm today and yesterday
- Sound recording of local author Laurie Lee reading an extract from Cider with Rosie (Hearing Loop facility).
- Sound recording about memories of wash-day in 1930s.
- Working Turret Clock from Dunkirk Mill, Nailsworth in Foyer.
- Two computer based games (mouse only operation) based on local industry and local geology.
- Special exhibitions and events.
- Family friendly displays.
- Children's school holiday activities and family learning events throughout the year.
- Monthly walks in Stratford Park.
- Guided tours of the Museum available on advanced request.
- Resources for schools:
  - Time boxes available on loan
  - Curriculum linked programme of workshops available
- For notification of events and exhibitions by email see museum website.
- Identification service available.

## **Grounds and Gardens**

- The Museum stands in Stratford Park, a 56-acre country park, awarded a 'Green Flag' for high standards. Mature woodland with many magnificent trees such as oak, beech, maple, horse chestnut and more exotic species and a lake make it the ideal location for a family picnic.
- The Museum Courtyard is used occasionally for events and exhibitions and provides outdoor and covered seating.
- There is a children's play area in the park.
- A model railway located in the woodland area provides rides on the last Sunday April through to October.
- The Leisure Centre with pools (indoor and outdoor) gymnasium and sports activities is situated in the Park. Details from <http://www.everyoneactive.com/>
- During the summer months the bandstand plays host to visiting brass and silver bands on Sunday afternoons. Details from [www.bandsinthepark.org.uk](http://www.bandsinthepark.org.uk)

## **Additional Information**

- Service dogs welcome – water bowl located in Courtyard.
- Smoking (or 'Vaping') is not permitted in the main building, the courtyard area, the walled garden, or the pavilion.
- No general background music. There are sound recordings, including one with music, associated with some displays and sometimes exhibitions in the Galleries include music and other audio visual content).
- Tannoy for general announcements.
- All staff, including volunteers, attend Disability and Diversity awareness training.
- Duty Mangers are Appointed Person First Aid trained
- Objects not on display are held in stores which are not on the museum site. For health, safety and security reasons the stores are not open to the public. Most objects in store can be made available for research by prior appointment. The stores are not wheelchair accessible, but most objects can be brought from store to the Museum as required.

## Contact Information

### Address:

- The Museum in the Park, Stratford Park, Stratford Road, STROUD, Gloucestershire, GL5 4AF.

### Telephone:

- +44 (0)1453 763394

### Email:

- [museum@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:museum@stroud.gov.uk)

### Website:

- [www.museuminthepark.org.uk](http://www.museuminthepark.org.uk)

### Minicom:

- Not available

### Grid references:

- National Grid Reference is SO 846 057
- Reference for Satellite Navigation is 51:44:58N (51.7495) 2:13:24W (-2.2234)

## Hours of opening

### April to September

- Tuesday to Friday 10am - 5pm (closed Monday except on Bank Holidays and during August)
- Saturday & Sunday (and Monday Bank Holidays) 11am - 5pm
- Open Mondays in August 10am - 5pm
- Closed Good Friday

### October to March

- Tuesday to Friday 10am - 4pm (closed Monday)
- Saturday & Sunday (and New Year's Day) 11am - 4pm
- Special arrangements in December - call 01453 763394 for further details.

### Local public transport information

- Traveline 0871 200 22 33 [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)
- Local Buses: <http://ww5.gloucestershire.gov.uk/Bustimes/Stroud.htm>
- Local Accessible taxi information: <http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/maps/taxis.asp>

### Other Contact Information:

- Friends of Stroud Museum – leaflet available from 01453 763394 or see the museum website

## Future Plans

We welcome your feedback to help us to continuously improve. If you have comments or suggestions please leave them with a member of staff, or at reception before you leave, or phone or email them to us. Should you have a complaint please ask to speak to the Duty Manager.

### Internal:

- Improved hearing loops for all audio visual displays, tours and lectures.
- Training of staff to use RNID Typetalk (18001 & 18002 numbers).
- To improve audio content.
- Relocate objects not on display to a single store with a fully accessible public search room facility (requires external funding).

### Internal (in progress):

- Improved room guides – larger print in clearer font and available in every room.
- Improve access to collections information (note: location audit completed as first step, knowing what we have and where it is).
- Open up more of the collection to public access (note: quarterly change to recent acquisitions case; increased foyer displays, improved interpretation and volunteer gallery guide, new objects added to displays where feasible).
- Improve the environment control in the Museum Mansion (note: external consultants report received and actions underway - ongoing).
- Produce a booklet on the 'History of the Museum Mansion Building and the Stratford Estate' (draft written, under review by museum staff).
- Opening up the Walled Garden by 2016.

### Internal (Completed):

- Lighting levels throughout museum to be reviewed with the aim of improving lighting of signs and displays and removing glare from information panels.
- Make Collections Policies more widely available (note: page on website listing with contact details).
- Create improved website (completed with rollout of [www.museuminthepark.org.uk](http://www.museuminthepark.org.uk)).
- Downloadable location map to be put on website.
- Lighting levels – new improved lighting trialled in some rooms.
- Details on all items on display now available within the museum in printed form.
- Environmental conditions in mansion improved (monitoring ongoing).

### External (requiring other partners):

- Improved signage locally and in Stratford Park – completed September 2012.
- Produce a map showing route from Town Centre, Railway Station, Bus Station and proposed canal route through Stroud – completed by others.