

Access Statement for the Almonry Heritage Centre

Introduction

The Almonry is a 14th Century, Grade I listed building that has developed eccentrically over the centuries. However, despite the limitations of the building, we aim to provide an excellent service to all visitors and continually strive to improve. We are a small museum and have made changes so that as many people as possible can enjoy our history. We currently offer:

Pre-Arrival

- A website
- Information can be provided in large print
- Fax and email are available
- There is an out-of-hours answer phone

Arrival & Car Parking Facilities

- We do not have a car park (town centre location)
- There is limited free parking outside the Word of Mouth café, approximately 50 metres from the Almonry: cars may stay there for a period of 2 hours.
- The nearest council pay and display car park is approximately 300 metres from our entrance.
- You will need to cross a small road and then a larger road (next to the Red Horse Inn) with a stopping point in the middle. Kerbs dropped at appropriate places.
- There is a drop off point just at the top of the Almonry path (max 5 minutes waiting time).
- The path is 60 steps from the top to the door along a mainly flat, level surface for 40 steps. The final 20 steps are along a slightly downward slopping, uneven surface.

Main Entrance and Reception

- The door is a large wooden door set in a stone porch and opened using the latch which is at head height.
- The front lobby is on a flat, level surface with the entrance.
- There is a lower section of counter suitable for wheelchair users
- There are three steps down to the lower lobby with handrails on both sides.
- There is a charge for entry.

Public Areas – General (Internal)

- Flooring throughout is old flagstones and uneven with steps in and out of the rooms.
- All of the rooms contain one or more seats.
- Lighting is dimmed in several of the rooms due to the age and fragility of some of the items in the collection.
- There are low doorways into most of the rooms.
- There is a flight of stairs leading to the first floor with a handrail on one side

Public Areas – General (External)

- There are 4 benches throughout the garden
- The paths are uneven and a mix of gravel, flagstones and cobbles.
- There are steps up and down from outside the Abbey room.
- There are some larger artefacts on display in the garden that cannot be climbed upon or moved.
- There are low walls and hedges
- There is a sunken stone area by the Abbey Room

WC

- Not available at the Almonry
- The nearest public facilities are based at the Merstow Green long stay carpark, approximately 400 metres from the Almonry.
- There is also a disabled toilet in the long stay car park that is opened with a RADAR key

Restaurant/Café

- Not available at the Almonry

Shop

- There is a shop in the front lobby when you first enter the building
- The counter is 93cms high with a lowered section of 69cms high.
- The shop units are 82cms high
- Staff take payment at the counter
- There are chairs in the shop area

Displays, exhibits etc

- Most display cases are flat and an average of 94cms high
- There is a large print version of the room guide available

Additional Information

- Service dogs are welcome
- There is strictly no smoking on the premises (including the garden)

Future Plans

The Almonry is currently in the process of putting together a bid for the Heritage Lottery Fund which will address several of the accessibility issues highlighted here, including:

- Replacing the front door
- Providing a lift to the lower lobby
- Installing an interactive virtual tour of the Almonry
- Repaving the garden and front paths for easier wheelchair access
- Installing hearing loops
- Providing subtitled audio guides to the Almonry

If you would like to contribute suggestions for the bid, please contact us at The Almonry Heritage Centre, Abbey Gate, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 4BG (tic@almonry.ndo.co.uk).