



Accessible Free Attractions in Shropshire (and further afield, but within reach of a day trip)

This list has been compiled as a result of many requests for information for fully accessible free days out in Shropshire. All attractions have been visited and accessed by Disabled Holiday Information.

Battlefield 1403

Upper Battlefield, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England, SY4 3DB

Phone: 01939 210905

www.battlefield1403.com



Battlefield 1403 is a visitor centre which was newly opened for 2008 and is situated on a farm, 3 miles north of Shrewsbury just off of the A49. As well as a small exhibition there is a farm shop selling a wide variety of local products and a restaurant selling light snacks and meals. The exhibition is housed in a former farm building and describes the events that took place during the Battle of Shrewsbury which was fought on the 21st of July, 1403 in the fields adjacent to the farm. Nearby is Battlefield Church which has a 4 inch (approx) step and the Battlefield Heritage Trail. Wheelchairs users will need to drive the three quarters of a mile to the trail car park as the path from the visitor centre is unsuitable for wheelchairs.

Shrewsbury Abbey

Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England, SY2 6BS

Phone: 01743 232723

www.shrewsburyabbey.com



The Abbey is situated on Abbey Foregate on the eastern side of the town of Shrewsbury just over the English bridge. The Saxons had a church here before the Normans came in 1070 but the Benedictine Abbey was started in 1083. During the dissolution of the abbey in 1540 much of building was demolished but the original Norman arches remain. This beautiful place of worship which is also the Parish Church of the Holy Cross is well worth a visit. The tombs within the Abbey are of particular interest and have a good tactile element for people with visual impairment.

Telford Town Park

Telford, Shropshire, England, TF3 4HD

Phone: 01952 567280

www.telford.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.aspx?documentID=169&pageNumber=5



Telford Town Park covers 170 hectares and is situated adjacent to the main shopping complex in the town centre. The park can be accessed from several points including level access from the shopping complex and inclined access from 4 designated spaces at the top of Southwater Way (N.B. blue badge holders are allowed double the permissive parking time here). There are excellent benches near the visitor centre see photo. General access round the park is on good surfaced paths however please note the site covers a large area and manual wheelchair users may require some assistance with some of the steeper inclines.

The Maxwell Cherry gardens are a delightful place to rest and have wheelchair access and good seating throughout. Please note there are steps within the gardens but it is possible to avoid these by leaving the gardens and re-entering at an alternative entrance. There is also a small sensory garden. Access to the play areas for wheelchair using parents and grandparents may be limited due to the soft bark on the surface.

The Mere

The Mereside Visitor Centre, Ellesmere, Shropshire, England, SY12 0HD

Phone: 01691 622981

www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf/open/6AAF9B79664EAEB5802574E3003C837E



The Mere is located within wheeling distance of the town of Ellesmere in North Shropshire. There is a wheelchair accessible footpath which winds through the adjacent parkland and around part of the lake. A Visitor Centre and the Boathouse Restaurant are located on the Mere-side promenade. As well as a wealth of information about the area, there is a small exhibition within the visitor centre (however at present because of a lack of underneath clearance it is difficult for some wheelchair users to get close enough to enjoy the interactive element). Visitors can also watch live footage of the wildlife on the Mere which during the spring includes close up views of the heronry. The restaurant has a wheelchair accessible veranda with an outside eating area and wonderful views over the Mere. From here there is a ramp down on to the path way that leads to promenade.

Whittington Castle (CAR PARK CHARGE)

Castle Street, Whittington, Shropshire, England, SY11 4DF

Phone: 01691 662397

www.whittingtoncastle.co.uk



Whittington Castle is set in about 12 acres of ground and was built in the 12th century by William Peverel on the site of a stronghold dating from the time of King Offa and that was probably surrounded by a wooden stockade. Later additions include the Elizabethan Cottage that is attached to the Northern Bailey Gate. Access around the site has been greatly improved for visitors with more limited mobility and there is a gently sloping pathway winding up across the moat and on to the ramparts. Interpretation boards detail what life would have been like in years gone by. Also on site there is a small bookshop and the proceeds are used to help towards upkeep of this community run enterprise.

The Earth Centre

Derwen College, Oswestry, Shropshire, England, SY11 3JA

Phone: 01691 661234

www.derwen.ac.uk/visitors/derwen-estates.html



The Earth Centre is part of Derwen Estates and is located within the grounds of the Derwen College near Oswestry. It has been developed as an environmental teaching resource and visitor centre, with the theme of the natural environment and the impact that people have upon it. The ten-acre site includes a woodland area planted with native trees that has a 750 metre wheelchair accessible trail running through it.

The Earth Centre is comprised of a number of different pocket-sized habitats including areas to attract birds and insects. In addition, there are large beds of different varieties of willow trees for basketry and other willow work. A number of trees are grown in the nursery and a small organic allotment is being developed by Derwen Estates to produce teasels, bulrushes, poppy heads, twisty willow etc for sale to the public through college outlets, including the Garden Centre. The woodland surrounding the trail is gradually maturing and provides a pleasant walk/wheel throughout the seasons but is especially attractive during the autumn months with an abundance of colour from the changing leaves and the ripe berries and fruits. The college's ethos of offering real life working environments to their students make visitors an essential element at the Derwen and as well as the trail you can enjoy some excellent homemade refreshments at Tiffin's or lunch Betty's Coffee Shop and The Orangery Restaurant. You might also wish to browse around the excellent garden centre, the art gallery or buy locally grown produce in the Farm Shop.

RAF Museum Cosford (CAR PARK CHARGE)

Shifnal

Shropshire

England

TF11 8UP

Phone: 01902 376 200

www.rafmuseum.org.uk



The Museum is conveniently situated a short distance from junction 3 on the M54. There are up to 70 aircraft on display which include war planes as well as missiles, transport and research collections. The National Cold War Exhibition is housed in a purpose built hangar with a lift which can take visitors up to an elevated viewing platform (with enough room to accommodate mobility scooters and larger powered chairs). Access around the museum is excellent and the volunteer staff are very knowledgeable and helpful. The flight simulator is the only interactive exhibit that has limited access (four steps). The designated toilet facilities have varying lateral transfer :- right and left hand and an adult changing facility in the visitor centre by the entrance, hangar 1 right hand only, hangar 2 left hand by gents right hand by ladies, cold war exhibit left hand transfer.

Cae Glas Park

Church Street Oswestry, Oswestry, Shropshire, England, SY11 2SS

Phone: 01691 662753

www.oswestry-

tc.gov.uk/Core/Oswestry/Pages/Cae_Glas_Park_3.aspx



The Park covers seven acres and has beautiful floral displays during the spring and summer months. There are various events held in the park each year including the open air 'Music Live' which for 2010 will be held on the 24th of July. General access around the park is on hard surfaced paths and there is plenty of seating. Shop mobility located at the Qube in Oswald Road offer mobility scooters and manual wheelchairs for hire tel 01691 662753. The Heritage Centre which houses the town's visitor information centre is located behind the adjacent St Oswald's Church a couple of minutes wheel/walk from the park. It is accessed via a small ramp and although it is a listed building there is wheelchair access to the tearoom on the ground floor. However at peak times due to the confinements of the building there will be limited access to some of the tables. The nearest accessible toilet is in the park. A varied programme of exhibitions are also held at the centre during the year however please note access to the gallery is up a steep staircase. For information on the guided walks that start from the centre each Saturday from Easter to September please phone the number above or e-mail: guides@oswestry-welshborders.org.uk

Bridgemere Garden World

Bridgemere, Nantwich, Cheshire, England, CW5 7QB

Phone: 01270 521100

www.thegardencentregroup.co.uk/on/demandware.store/Sites-Wyevale-Site/default/Stores-StoreDetails?storeId=Bridgemere



Bridgemere Garden World is part of the Wyevale Group and has an extensive range of plants in the nursery area including a selection of rare and unusual plants. There is also a large under cover shopping area with gifts and garden accessories, tools and equipment, a restaurant and cafe, several independently owned shops such as

Hobbycraft and free entrance to a six acre garden. Access around the main site is good and mainly level with only the large greenhouse (with it rough floor surface) and some areas of the gardens needing light assistance. Please note the designated toilets in the ladies and gents outside the main entrance are not accessible for wheelchair users due to the steeply ramped entrance and the limited internal dimensions in the cubicles. There are however 3 other accessible toilets on site, for further details of these facilities see below.

Carding Mill Valley (CAR PARK CHARGE)

Chalet Pavilion, Carding Mill Valley, Church Stretton, Shropshire, England, SY6 6JG

Phone: 01694 723068

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-cardingmillvalleyandlongmynd



Carding Mill Valley lies at the base of the Long Mynd Ridge in the borderland of South Shropshire which covers an area of nearly 1295 hectares (5 square miles). The National Trust owns 5,850 acres including the valley and this unique landscape is designated a SSSI for its geology and biology, it is also within the Shropshire AONB (area of outstanding natural beauty). There are many trails in the area but these due to the naturally hilly terrain mostly have steep inclines. Visitors with more limited walking ability and wheelchair users can also enjoy the stunning views and the peaceful setting from the car parks and grassed picnic areas along the valley. N.B. There is a second designated toilet (accessed from inside the cafe and adjacent to the ladies toilet) that is not radar key operated and that has right hand lateral transfer.

Llanymynech Industrial Heritage Site

North Road, Llanymynech, Shropshire, England, SY22 6EA

Phone: 01743 255957

www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf/open/B790AA047FA99E2B80256C8E004330E9



This unique heritage site is located at Llanymynech is four miles south of Oswestry on the A483. Visitors to the site are not only able to enjoy the beautiful countryside but gain real insight into the lime works and to see inside the Hoffman Kiln (one of only 3 remaining in the UK) that operated on the site from 1894 to 1914. The Visitor Centre is situated at the wharf on the left hand side as you enter Llanymynech. Please note there is limited parking on site. It has displays detailing the industrial heritage of the area including Hoffman's Lime Kiln and is open Sundays and Bank holidays between Easter and the end of September and Saturdays in July and August from 2.00 to 4.30pm. The trail extending the area of the Llanymynech Heritage Site that is accessible enables people with mobility issues to not only see more of the site but to be able to actually go inside the Hoffman Kiln. There has been a great deal of thought and effort to make this interesting and unique piece of architectural heritage accessible for all visitors and we commend those connected with the development for the site for their achievement. This is a category 3 circular

trail (approximately 1 mile) which means manual wheelchair users may need the assistance of a fit pusher to access all areas. A key is available for the gate at the entrance (for easier access for larger wheelchairs) and the education room by ringing the site warden on 01691 624448 or Rosemary Pyne at the Village Hall on 01691 839147 in advance of your visit. Recent improvements to access at the site including wheelchair accessible picnic tables, improvements to path surface by entrance and designated parking. There is not a cafe on site but our researchers can recommend 'The Village Pantry' cafe in Llanymynech for its excellent food and helpful staff.

Nantwich Museum

Pillory Street, Nantwich, Cheshire, England, CW5 5BQ

Phone: 01270 627104

<http://freespace.virgin.net/nantwich.museum/index.htm>



Nantwich Museum was founded in 1980 and is situated in the heart of the town. There is no admission charge and it relies on volunteer staff for its existence so donations towards the upkeep are very welcome. Though not large there are a wealth of artefacts on display as well as a varied programme of exhibitions in the Millennium Gallery. The museum has an unusually good tactile/interactive element and visitors with cognitive/visual impairment may find this particularly interesting. The museum does not have its own cafe but there are a good selection of level access cafes/restaurants in Nantwich including the Ingle Nook Cafe just across the street.

Powysland Museum

The Canal Wharf, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7AQ

Phone: 01938 554656

www.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=2117&L=0



The Powysland Museum is housed in a former warehouse on the Montgomery Canal that runs through the eastern edge of the Welshpool and is only five minutes walk from the town centre. The wide range of exhibits depicting local life and the history of Montgomeryshire are housed on two floors. Signage within the museum is accessible, clear and of a good size font. Access around each floor area is also good. The museum does not have designated toilet facilities for all visitors but those with disabilities may use the accessible toilet used by the museum staff.

Cheshire Candle Workshops (ACTIVITY CHARGE)

Burwardsley, Tattenhall, Cheshire, England, CH3 9PF

Phone: 01829 770401

www.cheshireworkshops.co.uk

Cheshire Candle Workshops is set in beautiful countryside and offers visitors of all ages an interesting and enjoyable experience. Entrance to the main workshops and candle making demonstration is free. A small charge is made for those wishing to try

out the candle dipping themselves. General access around the site is good however some assistance may be needed with the internal ramps.

Coed y Dinas Nature Reserve

Coed Y Dinas, Welshpool, Powys/Powys, Wales, SY21 8RP

Phone: 01938 555654

www.montwt.co.uk/dinas.html

The reserve was originally a redundant gravel pit next to a busy by-pass which has now been turned into a wildlife haven. In winter flocks of teal and wigeon join resident mallard, tufted duck and coot with occasional visits by whooper swans from the Arctic and goosanders. The site is managed by the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust which since 1982 has been the leading voluntary organisation promoting wildlife conservation in Montgomeryshire. There is a hard surfaced path from the car park to the bird hide overlooking the lake. Access into the hide is via a wide sliding door and as can be seen in the photograph there is a large viewing window out over the lake. Unfortunately the opening windows for use with binoculars were not accessible for wheelchair users. Also at the site is a short circular walk around a meadow to a dipping pond please note this has rough gravel in places. On our researchers visit they saw sand martins feeding their young in nests in a bank at the side of the hide and a wide variety of other birdlife including a kingfisher.

Shirehall Art Gallery

Market Square, Stafford, Staffordshire, England, ST16 2LD

Phone: 01785 278345

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/museumandgalleries/shirehallgalleries/



The Gallery is located in the former Crown Court building in Market Square in the centre of Stafford. It has a constantly changing programme of exhibitions and an area dedicated to selling and promoting art work. General access around the ground floor of the gallery is good with ample space between exhibits. There is access to the upper floors and the courts via 2 specific wheelchair lifts or alternatively via a full sized lift which is located in the library at the rear of the building. The gallery has a multi-sensory room equipped with lighting and sound effects as well as tactile elements to stimulate all the senses and promote hand/eye coordination. The room can also be used to provide a calm atmosphere to promote relaxation and winding down. This is a free service for private use and can be pre-booked for 30 minute or one hour sessions, please contact the gallery for further information. There are settees/comfortable chairs and coffee tables in the library side of the coffee shop and small tables in the gallery side.

Trentham Shopping Village and Garden Centre

The Trentham Estate, Stone Road, Trentham, Staffordshire, England, ST4 8AX

Phone: 01782 657341

www.trentham.co.uk/shopvillage.html



The Shopping Village is part of the Trentham Estate and is a collection of individual shops and branches of larger retail chains located in small shops within a pedestrianised area. The adjacent Garden Centre has gardening, gift and clothing departments as well a plant nursery, cafe and restaurant. N.B. To contact the Garden Centre direct please telephone 01782 646644.

Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre **(ACTIVITY CHARGE)**

School Road, Craven Arms, Shropshire, England, SY7 9RS

Phone: 0345 678 9024

www.shropshire.gov.uk/shropshirehills.nsf



The centre offers a variety of experiences for visitors of all ages. Visitors can enjoy the Onny Meadows nature reserve where there is an easier access trail with a ramped dipping platform out over a pond. N.B. Wheelchair users may require some assistance negotiating the ramps. There is an excellent cafe, a gift shop and the centre also houses visitor information and the local library. Entrance to the centre and the meadows is free but there is a charge for the Secret Hills Exhibition which features stories of the Shropshire Hills, local history and a new and improved film panorama of the local countryside giving you the illusion of actually drifting across the landscape in a hot air balloon.

Bantock House Museum and Park

Finchfield Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, England, WV3 9LQ

Phone: 01902 552195

www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk/bantock



Bantock House Museum is named after Baldwin and Kitty Bantock who lived there a century ago. It offers visitors a chance to explore life in an Edwardian home and also to discover about the history of Wolverhampton. The house is set in pretty gardens and parkland which covers 43 acres. General access around the site is good. There is level access to the ground floor of the house and conservatory and access to the first floor is via a lift. A special wheelchair lift operated by a member of staff takes visitors to the top floor. There is a large print description of each room on the wall by the doorways see photo. There is a designated toilet (left hand transfer) on the ground floor of the house, a designated toilet inside the cafe (right hand transfer) and a third facility which is radar key operated (right hand transfer) within the courtyard. N.B. This is closed at 5pm each night. It also worth noting that although the cafe has been extended and there is separate wheelchair access to both levels,

this is a popular attraction and it does get crowded at peak times. The park has some hard surfaced pathways and level access to the children's play area however there is no inclusive play equipment.

Montgomery Castle

Castle Hill, Montgomery, Powys/Powys, Wales, SY15 6PH

www.castlewales.com/montgom.html

The town of Montgomery in Powys is dominated by the remains of Montgomery Castle that stand on the hill behind the town. The present castle was started in 1223 and replaced an earlier 'motte and bailey' castle called Hen Domen sited one mile away to the north west. This new site on a rocky outcrop proved an excellent choice as the castle was never taken by force throughout the town's turbulent history and it remained an English stronghold in this area of the Marches until it was finally demolished in 1649. The pathway from the car park has a good surface but has an incline so manual wheelchair users may need some light assistance. Access to the castle remains is across two level bridges giving excellent views of the castle's deeply ditched defences. There is good access around most of the remains and information boards. Please note the path down to the area around the base of the castle walls and the information board overlooking the site of the civil war battle is too steeply inclined for wheelchair access. There are public conveniences at the rear of the town hall in the main square but not an accessible toilet. However if you would like some refreshment then the Castle Kitchen Restaurant/Delicatessen serves freshly prepared meals and snacks as well as selling local and Welsh produce. The restaurant has level access and a good accessible toilet. The spectacular views over the surrounding countryside from the castle's elevated position make this an amazing place to visit if you are in the area.

Silver Scenes

Berriew, Welshpool, Powys/Powys, Wales, SY21 8QA

Phone: 01686 640695

www.silverscenes.com

Silver Scenes craft workshops are situated 5 miles south of Welshpool off the A483 in the pretty black and white timbered village of Berriew. This family business has been producing gifts and keepsakes for over 20 years. There is a shop and showroom on site and visitors can have a guided tour of the workshops. It is possible to watch the whole process from the melting of the pewter/lead bars that make up the base metal of the items, through moulding, abrading, dipping, copper coating, more dipping and silver plating to blacking, polishing and finally the finished product. The gifts are also designed by the company taking inspiration from the culture and landscape of the surrounding countryside and can be purchased to provide a unique souvenir from the area. Access around this site is level apart from the entrances and the friendly craftspeople offer a very informative tour. This would not be a suitable attraction for powered chair users with larger chairs.

Severn Valley Country Park

Chapel Lane, Alveley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, England, WV15 6NN

Phone: 01746 781192

www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf/open/850728D04F3C47948025755200541D20



Severn Valley Country Park is located in beautiful countryside near Bridgnorth in Shropshire. The visitor centre which has a cafe and shop is situated in an elevated position offering visitors outstanding views across the Severn Valley. Due to the topography of the site some of the pathways although well surfaced are very steeply inclined down to the river in the bottom of the valley. However there are short lengths of level pathway adjacent to the visitor centre which have plenty of seating for visitors to enjoy the views. There is also a fairly level easy access trail around an attractive small lake that includes an accessible bird hide located near the park entrance. For more information about the trail please visit:

www.disabledholidayinfo.org.uk/search/searchdetail.cfm?estid=697

Amerton Farm and Craft Centre (ACTIVITY CHARGE)

Stowe By Chartley, Stafford, Staffordshire, England, ST18 0LA

Phone: 01889 270294

www.amertonfarm.co.uk



Amerton Farm and Craft Centre is located in rural countryside near Stafford and has a selection of craft/sales outlets and a tearoom. Also on site is a small steam train, a wildlife rescue centre, a play barn and a farmyard. The shops and other attractions are accessed from a central courtyard area where there are outside tables for the tearoom. Wheelchair users will need to exercise caution when accessing the ramp down to the farmyard area. NB Access on to the train is via a ramp which might not be suitable for larger wheelchairs. There is no entrance fee into the main area but there are concessionary fees for the train and a separate entrance fee into the wildlife rescue centre.

Cannock Chase Visitor Centre

Marquis Drive, Hednesford, Staffordshire, England, WS12 4PW

Phone: 01543 876741

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/e-land/Countryside/OpenSpaces/OpenSpacesCannockChaseCountryPark.htm



Cannock Chase Country Park extends to 4.5 square miles and is owned by Staffordshire County Council. The visitor centre in Marquis Drive is open 7 days a week throughout the year and has a small shop and exhibition area as well as a cafe serving light meals as well as snacks. The centre is the starting point for trails in the area and there are 3 tramper scooters available to loan free of charge. There is a leaflet detailing the tramper trail routes which explore the former RAF

Hednesford base which is now part of the country park. For more information about the RAF Hednesford trail please visit:

www.disabledholidayinfo.org.uk/search/searchdetail.cfm?estid=657

Museum of Cannock Chase

Valley Road, Hednesford, Cannock, Staffordshire, England,
WS12 1TD

Phone: 01543 877666

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents.php?categoryID=1482



The Museum is located on the former Valley Colliery site and is housed in the corn store where the pit ponies food was kept. As well as permanent galleries detailing the history of Cannock Chase there is a programme of temporary exhibitions throughout the year. General access throughout the museum is good and access to the upper floor is via a wheelchair accessible lift or a stair climber. There is an excellent tactile element to the exhibitions including a cabinet of wooden toys that can be tried out. There is also a programme of special events during the year which are detailed on the museums website. N.B. Other buildings on site that may be used during these events are also wheelchair accessible.

Parish Church of St Laurence Ludlow

Ludlow, Shropshire, England, SY8 1AN

Phone: 01584 872073

www.stlaurences.org.uk/history-tour



The church of St Laurence in Ludlow is one of the largest parish churches in the country and was originally built in the 11th century with major refurbishment work being carried out in the 15th century. The ashes of A.E. Housman are buried in the church grounds, with the stump of a cherry tree marking their location. General access around the church is good however please note the chancel has a stepped entrance so is not accessible for non ambulant wheelchair users. A pathway to the right hand side of the church entrance takes visitors to a green with fine views over the local countryside.

Wolseley Centre

Wolseley Bridge, Stafford, Staffordshire, England, ST17 0WT

Phone: 01889 880100.

www.wolseleycentre.org.uk



The Wolseley Centre is the headquarters of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and is located off the A51 at Wolseley Bridge. The Centre is set in 26 acres of the former landscaped gardens of Wolseley Hall (demolished in 1967), the ancestral home of the Wolesley family. There is a visitor centre with a small exhibition and shop and an all ability trail which winds across boardwalks and around several ponds. Please note the gents and ladies toilets are located via a step so visitors with limited

walking ability might find it easier to use the designated accessible toilet which has level access. There is a drinks machine on site and an accessible pathway past one of the ponds down to the Wyevale Garden Centre which has a cafe serving meals as well as light snacks. The garden centre also has an accessible toilet with right hand transfer. For more details of the trail please use the link below:
www.disabledholidayinfo.org.uk/search/searchdetail.cfm?estid=654

Grosvenor Museum Chester

27 Grosvenor Street, Chester, Cheshire, England, CH1 2DD

Phone: 01244 402008

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/visiting/museums/grosvenor-museum.aspx?removelink=yes



The Grosvenor Museum has a wheelchair lift to enable access to the ground floor, admission is free and it is well worth a visit. The museum is not fully wheelchair accessible but there is a curator guided virtual tour available near the shop for the areas that are not step free.

Red House Glass Cone

High Street, Wordsley, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England, DY8 4AZ

Phone: 01384 812 750

www.dudley.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums--galleries/red-house-glass-cone



The Red House Glass Cone is located within the centre of the glassmaking industry in and around Stourbridge in the West Midlands. The Cone was built towards the end of the 18th Century and was in use for the manufacture of glass until 1936. It is now one of only four cones left in the United Kingdom. It scales a height of 100 feet and encloses a furnace around which the workers made the glass in almost unimaginable working conditions of extreme heat and noise. Although this is an industrial heritage site, general access is good with a low level reception desk, ramps to various exhibits and a lift inside the cone which takes visitors with limited mobility up to the roman gallery. There is a free audio tour that has good descriptive content and is evocative of the local dialect and culture. So although not specifically designed for visitors with a visual impairment it would assist to enhance their experience. The outside eating area alongside the canal is very pleasant. Glass Blowing demonstrations are available on Saturday and Sunday between 1.30pm-3.30pm.

Dudley Museum and Art Gallery

St James's Road, Dudley, West Midlands, England, DY1 1HP

Phone: 01384 815575

www.dudley.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums--galleries/dudley-museum--art-gallery



This excellent attraction is located in the centre of Dudley in an area of the West Midlands known as the Black Country and a great deal of thought has been given to welcoming all visitors. There is a wide variety of artefacts and art work on display and some of the museum galleries have been created with pseudo wood and rock linings to give visitors an additional insight into life in the area at different periods in history. General access around the building is excellent with good wheeling space between exhibits and there is a lowered area at the reception desk. The galleries are located over 3 floors with a wheelchair lift to the lower ground floor operated by a member of staff and a conventional lift to the upper floor with room for a carer/companion. Many of the displays have large print information attached to the outside of the cabinets on chains that allow close examination of the text and there is a tactile fossil time line which could be of special interest to visitors with visual impairment. Seating has been placed on all floors. A detailed access statement is available on their own website.

Delamare Forest - Linmere Visitor Centre

Delamare, Northwich, Cheshire, England, CW8 2JD

Phone: 01606 889792

www.forestry.gov.uk/delamereforestpark



The visitor centre is situated within the Delamere Forest and has a small exhibition area and an excellent cafe. There is a recommended circular accessible route which goes from the centre through Eddisbury Wood. The surface of the path is compacted and fairly easy to wheel on however there are several steepish inclines and manual wheelchairs may need the assistance of a fit companion to negotiate these. Towards the end of the trail are accessible picnic tables. The trail around the mere (keeping to the paths nearest to the mere itself) does have steep inclines at the beginning and rough and uneven surfaces in places but might be suitable for people with larger all terrain scooters.

Blakemere Craft Centre

Sandiway, Cheshire, England, CW8 2EB

Phone: 01606 883261

www.blakemere-shoppingexperience.com



Blakemere has a variety of shops selling craft items, furniture, gifts and plants. There is also a pottery which offers visitors a 'hands on' experience. General accessibility around the site is good and many of the shops have level access. N.B.

Wheelchair users may need some assistance to access the designated toilet in Birchwood Lane as it has a steeply ramped entrance with an outward opening door.

The New Art Gallery Walsall

Gallery Square, Walsall, West Midlands, England, WS2 8LG

Phone: 01922 654400

www.thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk



The New Art Gallery Walsall is open seven days a week and houses a wide variety of collections of historic, modern and contemporary art over four floors. Amongst the collections is a permanent exhibition of drawings and sculptures by the artist Sir Jacob Epstein. The gallery has good general access and a great deal of thought has been given to welcoming all visitors. On the first **Wednesday** of each month from **1.30pm - 5pm** the gallery has 'Bright days' when the lighting level in the Garman Ryan Collection is increased. BSL, tactile and special support tours can be arranged by prior request. There is seating throughout the gallery and mobility scooters can be used within the building. A detailed access statement is available on their website.

Walsall Leather Museum

Littleton Street West, Walsall, West Midlands, England, WS2 8EQ

Phone: 01922 721153

www.walsall.gov.uk/leathermuseum/



This extremely interesting museum is located within a restored leather factory in Walsall which is famous for its leather goods. The production of leather bridles, saddles and other equestrian items started as a complimentary trade to the ironry production (metal bits and stirrups etc) in the area. There are several galleries displaying all kinds of leather items from practical objects from bygone times to present day art work such as a beautiful mask made up of holly leaves. Very informative demonstrations are given by skilled craftworkers on Tuesdays to Saturdays each week. General access is good and there is seating at various points within the museum. There is also a very pretty small garden adjacent to the outside eating area of the cafe.

Lake Vyrnwy Visitor Centre

LLanwddyn, Welshpool, Powys/Powys, Wales, SY10 0ND

Phone: 01691 870278

www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/l/lakevyrnwy/about.aspx



Lake Vyrnwy Nature Reserve and Estate surrounds the reservoir of Lake Vyrnwy. Its stone-built dam was built in the 1880s for the purpose of supplying Liverpool and Merseyside with fresh water. It flooded the head of the Vyrnwy Valley and submerged the small village of Llanwddyn dramatically changing the local landscape. The Nature Reserve and the area around it are jointly managed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and Severn Trent Water. There is

plenty to see and do at Lake Vyrnwy including the sculpture trail which has good surfaced paths along the river, past the bottom of the dam and through a wooded area. There are 2 portaloo designated toilets at the start of the trail and blue badge holders are able to park at the end of the lane signposted with a sculpture symbol. As well as the bird hide near the visitor centre, with some assistance manual wheelchair users can also access the centenary hide at the far end of the lake. There are designated parking spaces in front of the Artisans cafe and an excellent accessible toilet (left hand transfer) within the cafe for customers use. Visitors with 'all terrain' mobility scooters or powered chairs could also try the trail to the Rhiwargor waterfall at the far end of the lake. There is room to park at the end of the forest road (which leads to the trail) just over the first bridge on the mountain road to Bala. There are also several gift and craft shops and tearooms.

Sutton Park NNR

The Visitor Centre, Park Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, England, B74 2YT

Phone: 0121 355 6370

www.sp.scnhs.org.uk



Sutton Park covers an area of 2,400 acres and is the UK's largest local authority park. Being located only 7 miles from Birmingham and having a wide variety of wildlife habitats including marshes, wetland and heathland as well as woodland, it is an extremely important national nature reserve. The park can be accessed from several points and our researchers entered through the town gate where it is only a short drive to the visitor centre. Leaflets and maps are available showing the location of trails and other information including the location of the parks various eating establishments. The visitor centre also contains a small display and interactive interpretation area. A series of roadways many of which are gated to prevent vehicular access spread out through the park and provide good surfaced routes for wheelchair users and buggies. The Toby Inn located within the park has level access to the entrance and ramped access internally. There is good access to the tables and a well proportioned designated toilet. The Bistro also located within the park has level access and a designated toilet. Please note however the designated toilet adjacent to the cafe by the town gate has limited internal dimensions and no lateral transfer.

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, West Midlands, England, B3 3DH

Phone: 0121 303 2834

www.bmag.org.uk



Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, which houses extensive and varied collections in a large number of galleries, is located in the city centre. It is well signposted from the motorway network and there is free on-street parking for blue

badge holders near the accessible entrance in Edmund Street. A recent addition to the Gallery is a series of audio visual points which enhance visitor experience by highlighting the relationship between disability and a series of paintings ranging from the sixteenth century to the present day. One of the paintings entitled 'The Blind Girl' is by the Sir John Everett Millais and visitors can choose to listen to a selection of 5 audio pieces including a detailed description of the work and a personal anecdote inspired by the image. This innovative concept was created with the collaboration of six artists who also have a disability. As well as the good sized unisex toilet located on the 1st floor there are designated facilities situated on the second floor within the Ladies and Gentlemen's toilets. However please note that whilst the cubicle in the ladies facility (located in the shop) is wheelchair accessible and has left hand lateral transfer, the designated cubicle in the gentlemen's facility (located near the main staircase) cannot be accessed with a wheelchair and so is only suitable for wheelchair users with some walking ability. Access to the third floor exhibitions including the Egyptian Gallery is via a second large lift which has room for two wheelchair users each with a carer if required. Please note some of the exhibition cases have very limited viewing for seated wheelchair users including several in the Staffordshire Hoard Exhibit, however in some cases large print descriptions have been added. In the Victorian Gallery audio guides are available for the Round Room. Folding seats are also available to loan, please ask at the reception desk.

Birmingham Cathedral

Colmore Row, Birmingham, West Midlands, England, B3 2QB

Phone: 0121 262 1840

www.birminghamcathedral.com

The Cathedral was built between 1709 and 1715 however, not as a cathedral, originally it was the parish church of the "New Town". The building designed by Thomas Archer in the baroque style and the Burne-Jones windows are particularly beautiful. There is a pleasant seating area within the Church grounds which are planted with trees and form a tranquil green oasis within the busy urban environment of the city centre.

Walton Hall Gardens

Walton Lea Road, Higher Walton, Warrington, Cheshire, England, WA4 6SN

Phone: 01925 261957

www.warrington.gov.uk/waltongardens



Walton Hall Gardens is situated on the outskirts of Warrington and within easy reach of the M56. It offers an enjoyable visitor experience for everyone and has an excellent accessible toilet/changing room facility. Entry to all parts of the gardens

including the zoo is free. As well as the beautiful grounds, there is an accessible sensory garden, the Children's Zoo, a small heritage centre and a cafe on site. N.B. the cafe only opens at weekends during winter but there are two drinks/snacks machines adjacent to the ranger's office. (These are set on a plinth so may require assistance). There is plenty of seating throughout the park and access to most of the gardens via alternative pathways avoiding steps. Once a year the grounds are home to Warrington Disability Awareness Day which is a great family day out with a wealth of marquees providing a wide range of information. There are demonstrations all day in the central arena for more details check out July 2010 on our events pages.

Warrington Museum and Art Gallery

Museum St, Warrington, Cheshire, England, WA1 1JB

Phone: 01925 442733

museum.warrington.gov.uk



The Museum was founded in 1848 to house 2,745 specimens from the local Natural History Society. The collection has now grown to over 200,000 objects and covering a wide variety of interest. There is also a selection of art from a wide variety of genres. The upper floors of the building were originally accessed via flights of stairs. A lift was added some years ago and has since been improved to provide better access. A wheelchair lift was also installed to allow access to the gallery off the half landing. The Botanical Gallery contains the original cabinets and some exhibits housed in the central displays are too high for wheelchair users to see, however there is a wealth of other material in the wall cabinets. Internal access around the galleries is good and visitors will need to allow sufficient time to see all the artefacts on display. The museum map is very clear and has a large font.

Lady Lever Art Gallery

Port Sunlight Village, Port Sunlight, Wirral, Merseyside, England, CH62 5EQ

Phone: 0151 4784136

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ladylever



The Lady Lever Art Gallery is located within the Port Sunlight Village and was created by William Hesketh Lever in memory of his wife. It houses an amazing collection of artwork that includes outstanding examples of British 18th and 19th century painting and furniture as well as Wedgwood and Chinese porcelain displays. There are also some beautiful sculptures displayed in two 'purpose built' round galleries. General access around the gallery is good and there is plenty of seating throughout, please note however that access to the balconies on either side of the main gallery is via stairs. Reminiscence tours that include a tactile element can be arranged, please contact the gallery for further details. There are additional toilets (with grab rails) that are suitable for visitors with some ambulant ability located within the Ladies and Gentlemen's facilities on the ground floor.

Sudley House

Mossley Hill Road, Aigburth, Liverpool, Merseyside, England,
L18 8BX

Phone: 0151 724 3245

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/sudley/visit/



The land on which Sudley House stands was purchased during the first decade of the 19th century by Nicholas Robinson, a rich corn merchant who later became Mayor of Liverpool. The exact date of the building is unknown but Nicholas Robinson is recorded as living in it by 1823. Visitors can view the house as it was during the 19th century including an excellent collection of paintings. In addition a programme of costume exhibitions is staged on the upper floor throughout the year. There is an additional designated toilet within the learning suite on the upper floor but please note this would only be suitable for visitors with some ambulant ability. There are several accessible fire exits within the building and an evac chair for the upper floor.

Queenswood Country Park and Arboretum

Dinmore Hill, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0PY

Phone: 01432 260073

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/leisure/parks_recreation/queenswood.aspx



The park covers approximately 103 acres of semi natural ancient woodland which has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Also on site is a 67 acre arboretum with over 500 rare and exotic trees in an attractive parkland setting. The park is a beautiful peaceful place to visit at all times of the year but is especially pretty in Spring and during the Autumn when the trees are changing colour. The buggies are free to hire and pre-booking is advised to avoid disappointment. N.B. Proof of identity will be required when registering to use them.

Merion Mill

Dinas Mawddwy, Powys/Powys, Wales, SY20 9LS

Phone: 01650 531311



Merion Mill Shop is housed in the former terminus for the old Mawddy railway beside the river Dyfi just outside the village of Dinas Mawddy and against a backdrop of the southern edge of the Snowdonia mountain range. The mill shop offers visitors a chance to browse through a wide variety of local and regionally produced goods and would make a suitable place to stop for refreshment when exploring the area.

Liverpool Cathedral (CAR PARK CHARGE)

St James's Mount, Liverpool, Merseyside, England, L1 7AZ

Phone: 0151 709 6271

www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk



The Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool which was completed in 1978 is the largest in the UK and the fifth largest in the world and from its elevated position on St James's Mount dominates the skyline of the city. Access to the main floor of the Cathedral is via either of two lifts one located by the Western Function Rooms and the other in the rear car park. Once inside the building general access is good and following recent improvements wheelchair users can view most of the Cathedral except for The Lady Chapel and the Tower (see below). NB There is a wheelchair lift to access one point of interest on the audio tour. At present there is no wheelchair access to the Lady Chapel (although there are plans to improve access) however there is an elevated balcony which gives excellent views over the Chapel. The Tower is accessed via a staircase and there is a joystick controlled camera for visitors who cannot manage the stairs. The theatre is accessible via a lift and there is a hearing loop in place. A detailed accessibility statement is available on the Cathedral website.

Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery

Foregate Street, Worcester, Worcestershire, England, WR1 1DT

Phone: 01905 25371

www.worcestercitymuseums.org.uk/mag/magind.htm



Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery is housed in a Victorian building within the city centre and as well as the main collection offers a varied programme of special exhibitions throughout the year. (Details of these are available on their website) Parking around the museum is limited however our researchers parked in the 'Gala Clubs' car park at the rear of the museum which had 3 designated spaces. NB Blue badge holders were charged the same fee as other motorists. The Museum is located on the first floor and accessed via a lift. Our researchers found this attraction well worth a visit with good accessibility for all visitors.

The Albert Dock

Liverpool, Merseyside, L3 4AD

Phone: 0151 708 7334

www.albertdock.com



The Albert Dock is home to some of Liverpool's excellent visitor attractions such as the Maritime Museum, Tate Liverpool and the Beatles Story. There is also a good variety of restaurants, cafes and shops on offer. General access around the Dock is fairly level on a flagstoned path laid into a cobbled surface but please note that there is a flight of steps adjacent to the Blue Bar and Restaurant. Wheelchair users will have to use the outer pathway along Salthouse Quay to get from the Atlantic Pavilion

to the Maritime Museum (and vice versa). The Express by Holiday Inn Liverpool - Albert Dock which has 2 designated accessible rooms is located in the Britannia Building on the Dock and the Visitor Information Centre is located in the Britannia Courtyard. Located over a footbridge on Monarchs Quay at the other side of the adjacent Dukes Dock is the Echo Wheel of Liverpool which has wheelchair access for manual wheelchair users and a standard sized wheelchair is available on site for powered chair users who are able to transfer. The ride lasts 12 minutes and gives visitors a unique 'birds eye' view of the surrounding area.

Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King Liverpool **(CAR PARK CHARGE)**

Cathedral House, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, Merseyside, England,
L3 5TQ

Phone: 0151 709 9222

www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk



This beautiful Cathedral which was completed in 1967 is unique because of its' unusual round shape. It is sited over the 1930's Crypt that was designed by Sir Edward Lutyens and which was the only part of his plan for the Cathedral that was completed. The Crypt is now accessible to all visitors via a recently installed lift. There is a large flight of steps from the street to the main entrance however there is step free access either by lift down to the car park or by ramp from the garden. Access to the cafe and shop which are located at street level is via Mount Pleasant. NB There is a charge to visit the Crypt and Treasury. There is an accessible toilet located by the car park entrance and accessible toilets with alternate lateral transfer (LHT) via the lift at the entrance to the crypt. There is a separate accessible fire exit within the building.

Tate Liverpool

Albert Dock, Liverpool, Merseyside, England, L3 4BB

Phone: 0151 702 7400

www.tate.org.uk/liverpool



Tate Liverpool which opened in 1988 displays artwork from the Tate collection alongside exhibitions of modern and contemporary art. It has galleries over four floors with a varied programme of special exhibitions and events on the fourth floor. There are additional accessible toilets on the first and second floors located between the galleries. Please note however that the facility located on the 1st floor is very long and narrow and does not have sufficient room for full lateral transfer so is suitable for people with some ambulant ability. The facility on the second floor is slightly larger and offers right hand lateral transfer (alternative to the ground floor facility transfer) and room for a carer if required. An access statement is available to download in pdf from their website on the 'Access and Facilities' pages and there is also a link to alternative access information.

Merseyside Maritime Museum

Albert Dock, Liverpool, Merseyside, England, L3 4AQ

Phone: 0151 478 4499

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime



The Merseyside Maritime Museum reflects Liverpool's central role down the centuries as a sea gateway to the world. It includes details of life at sea during many eras, tells the story of the merchant navy, major expeditions to discover new lands and a whole floor is dedicated to the Slave Trade in which the city's merchants played an important part. There is excellent access and plenty of seating located around the galleries within each floor of the museum with a few internal ramps. Please note the reconstructed dockland area leading to the sailing ship within the exhibition about emigration has a cobbled surface. The designated toilets vary both in size and accessibility. The facility located on the ground floor has no lateral transfer at all as the nappy dispensing machine has been placed on the wall in the designated transfer space. The most accessible toilet is located on the 1st floor, it is of good dimensions, has room for a carer and left hand lateral transfer (with only a small sanitary bin impeding access on our researchers visit). The facility on the 3rd floor would have right hand lateral transfer and room for a carer but again the transfer space was impeded by two large bins on our researchers visit. The facility on the 4th floor at the rear of the Marine Dining Rooms has left hand lateral transfer and room for a carer (bins in transfer space on our visit).

Liverpool One

Wall Street, Liverpool, Merseyside, England, L1 8LT

Phone: 0151 232 3100

www.liverpool-one.com/website/home.aspx



Liverpool One is a unique city centre retail experience located over 3 levels. On the lower street and first floor levels are a wide range of small shops and well known high street stores. On the top level is a park with a small funfair and ramped access to a wide variety of eating establishments. There is an excellent changing place with a ceiling hoist located adjacent to the information centre in Wall Street. The Q Car Park has a variety of services including children's buggies and umbrellas to loan. Shopmobility is located on level 3. Visitors wishing to loan a scooter or wheelchair need to book 24 hours in advance and provide two forms of identification including one with a photograph and one with a home address such as a utility bill. The Liverpool Shopmobility contact number is 0151 707 0877 or e-mail LShopmobility@localsolutions.org.uk their website is www.localsolutions.org.uk

Worcester Cathedral

8 College Yard, Worcester, Worcestershire, England, WR1 2LA
Phone: 01905 732900

www.worcestercathedral.co.uk



Building work for the present Cathedral began in 1084 on the site of two previous cathedrals, the first being founded in the 7th century which was replaced by a second building in 10th century. The cathedral was an important monastic site and during the anglo saxon period and into the later middle ages the Benedictine Monks established it as a centre of learning. In the sixteenth century with the dissolution of the monasteries, some of the last monks became the first Dean and Chapter. General access around the cathedral is good with ramps leading down to the medieval cloisters where the shop and cafe are located. Please note however that in order to avoid the steps up to the quire it is necessary to go outside of the building and enter at a door further along.

National Conservation Centre

Whitechapel, Liverpool, Merseyside, England, L1 6HZ
Phone: 0151 478 4999

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/conservation



The National Conservation Centre is conveniently located within the city opposite the main bus station. Visitors are given a chance to see some of the stories behind the preservation and storage of a selection of the amazingly varied objects in National Museums Liverpool's collections. General access around the Museum is good and seating is provided. The interactive element is a major part of the exhibits and details some fascinating information. Some of these such as the video microscope require minimal manual dexterity and would be suitable for visitors with limited hand control. The Cafe Eros and the special exhibitions on the upper floor are both accessed via a lift.

Walker Art Gallery

William Brown Street, Liverpool, Merseyside, England, L3 8EL
Phone: 0151 478 4199

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/walker



The 130 year old Walker Art Gallery, which is located in the city centre, houses Liverpool's largest art collection of paintings and sculpture that date from the 13th century to the present day. As well as the permanent displays there is an interesting programme of temporary exhibitions. General access around the gallery is good with a lift to the upper floors however manual wheelchair users may require some assistance with the doors into some of the galleries as our researchers found them quite stiff to open. There is a detailed access statement available on the gallery's own website located under visitor information

World Museum Liverpool

William Brown Street, Liverpool, Merseyside, England, L3 8EN

Phone: 0151 478 4393

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml



The World Museum is located in the city centre adjacent to the Walker Art Gallery and within easy reach of the bus and train stations. It offers an amazing array of galleries and exhibits which cover a large range of topics from dinosaurs to Egyptian mummies. There are five floors to explore and with so much to see and do, this attraction could easily fill a whole day. Visitor Assistants are stationed throughout the building and are easily identified by their uniform. There is a plentiful supply of seating and resting places on all floors of the Museum. A lot of the exhibits have a tactile, audio or olfactory element so are suitable for people with sensory impairment. In addition interactive exhibits such as the planetarium show and the video exhibit shown in the photo can be enjoyed by all visitors. There is an additional toilet for people with ambulant disabilities located within the ladies and gents toilets adjacent to the planetarium on the fifth floor. The planetarium theatre (shows can be booked on arrival) can seat two wheelchair users at any one time and carers can sit alongside if required. There are evac chairs and refuge areas in place and staff are trained to deal with these in case of an emergency

Worcester Woods Country Park

Wildwood Drive, Worcester, Worcestershire, England, WR5 2LG

Phone: 01905 766493

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/environment-and-planning/countryside/explore-the-countryside/countryside-service-sites/list-of-countryside-sites/worcester-woods-country-park.aspx



Worcester Woods Country Park is located on the outskirts of the city of Worcester and as well as the visitor centre with a cafe, there is a children's play area and it is the starting point for two trails, one of which the 'Woodland trail' is wheelchair accessible. The Orchard Cafe serves meals as well as light snacks and also has a covered outside eating area. In the children's play area, which has level entrance, there is a basket swing that might be suitable for some children with limited mobility. For more detailed accessibility information about the accessible trail please use the link below:

www.disabledholidayinfo.org.uk/search/searchdetail.cfm?estid=662

Bodelwyddan Marble Church

Bodelwyddan, Rhyl, Denbighshire/Sir Ddinbych, Wales, LL18 5UP

Phone: 01745 590683

www.themarblechurch.org.uk

St Margaret's Church at Bodelwyddan known as the Marble Church is located a short distance from junction 25 of the A55 North Wales Expressway. It is a fine

example of Victorian architecture and contains some beautiful carving both in wood and marble. Access to the main entrance is via a ramp and there is level access through the Nave down to a 4 inch step that leads up the choir stalls and altar. During the first world war Canadian Troops were stationed at Kinmel Camp in the grounds of Kinmel Hall immediately to the west of the Church. Some of them perished in the 'Spanish Flu' epidemic of 1918/19 and they are buried in the churchyard along with 5 soldiers who were killed during a riot at the camp over a cancelled repatriation plan.

The Trafford Centre

Manchester, England, M17 8AA

Phone: 0161 749 1717/18

www.traffordcentre.co.uk



The Trafford Centre is a very large retail mall situated on the outskirts of Manchester and well signposted off of the M60 motorway. Inclusivity for all visitors is of paramount importance at the centre and there is good signage to the designated parking adjacent to the entrance by Shopmobility. As well as designated toilets there is an excellent adult changing facility with a ceiling hoist. General access around the centre is good, with plenty of benches and sufficient space for mobility scooters to navigate even at peak times. There are easily identified 'red coated' customer service staff, patrolling the malls and at the customer service desks on the ground floor, to provide assistance should it be needed. The accessible toilets in different area have varying transfer and turning space. On their visit our researchers found that those in the New Orleans Quarter were exemplary, being both spacious with clear floor space and having both right and left hand transfer adjacent to each other.

Imperial War Museum North

The Quays, Trafford Wharf, Trafford Park, Manchester, England,
M17 1TZ

Phone: 0161 836 4000

north.iwm.org.uk



The Imperial War Museum North is one of five Imperial War Museum branches located in the UK. It is housed in a very futuristic looking building and as well as the main picture show there is a varied programme of displays and exhibitions detailing the many aspects of war from the perspective of the powers behind its creation, the members of the armed forces taking part and the civilians whose lives it affects. Please note that in the main exhibition area the lights are dimmed to create an atmospheric experience. This area also goes dark during the Big Picture Show

(every hour, on the hour) and the show also contains loud noises and some flashing lights. For more information on accessibility and tours please contact the Learning and Access Team at the museum on 0161 836 4064.

The Lowry

Pier 8, Salford Quays, Manchester, England, M50 3AZ

Phone: 0843 208 6000

www.thelowry.com



The Lowry is home to two theatres and a large expanse of gallery space which houses the largest public collection of works by LS Lowry in the world as well as a varied programme of temporary exhibitions. The building is triangular in shape, to fit with its site at the end of Pier 8, has a maritime theme and is very striking in appearance. General access around the Lowry is good however please note some visitors might find the sloping floors, some of which have an adverse camber and the vivid coloured walls and carpets rather disorientating.

The Old House Museum

High Town, Hereford, Herefordshire, England, HR1 2AA

Phone: 01432 260694

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/leisure/museums_galleries/2849.asp

The Old House is an amazingly well preserved example of a 17th Century timber-framed building and is situated in the heart of Hereford. It is surrounded by a busy and vibrant shopping area and the contrast this fine old building makes with the modern buildings around it, is quite startling. Due to the historic nature of this old building, wheelchair access is naturally restricted to the ground floor but visitors with limited mobility can take a virtual tour via a computer. This has the advantage of being able to zoom in on some of the more unusual carved features located within the buildings timber structure. The Museum has various aids for people with visual impairment and a set of coloured perspex sheets that can be used to assist visitors with dyslexia.

Hereford Cathedral

Cathedral Close, Hereford, Herefordshire, England, HR1 2NG

Phone: 01432 374 202

www.herefordcathedral.org



The beautiful 12th century Cathedral of Hereford (one of the oldest in England) is located at the centre of the city and has good access for wheelchair user visitors, the only exception being the crypt.

Hereford Museum and Art Gallery

Broad Street, Hereford, Herefordshire, England, HR4 9AU

Phone: 01432 260692

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/leisure/museums_galleries/2869.asp



Hereford Museum and Art Gallery is located diagonally opposite the cathedral entrance in the heart of Hereford. It is housed in a Victorian building elaborately decorated in a Gothic style. The Museum is located on an upper floor directly above Hereford Public Library and is accessed via a lift. It houses a wide variety of artefacts and there is also a programme of temporary exhibitions throughout the year. There is a stair lift in place to enable wheelchair users to view the Roman Mosaics and other exhibits displayed on the walls around the stairs. Some wheelchair users may need to transfer to the Museums own wheelchair to be able to access this facility and pre-booking is required to ensure there are sufficient staff members on duty to operate the control system. The museum has equipment for people with sensory impairment including a Talking Tactile Tablet (T3) and large print fact sheets. Braille transcriptions are available for some parts of the display, for example the Timeline. Small tours for those with cognitive impairment can be pre-booked and workshops relating to the current art exhibition can often be arranged.

Manchester Museum of Science and Industry

Liverpool Road, Castlefield, Manchester, England, M3 4FP

Phone: 0161 832 2244

www.mosi.org.uk



The museum details Manchester's Industrial past and covers a large site with 5 main areas. There is wheelchair access to the majority of the site however the Electric gallery is a grade two listed building and does not have a lift. Our researchers felt that the museum was an excellent day out and particularly enjoyed the Air and Space Hall.

Manchester City Art Gallery

Mosley Street, Manchester, England, M2 3JL

Phone: 0161 235 8888

www.manchestergalleries.org



Manchester City Art Gallery is located in the heart of the city and houses over 25,000 objects spanning six centuries in its collection. This is accessed via a ramp, has lifts to all floors and an excellent cafe that serves lunches and light snacks. The gallery also provides lightweight portable folding chairs for those that have limited mobility. Our researchers found this a light airy building with artwork to cater for all tastes.

Manchester Cathedral

Victoria Street, Manchester, England, M3 1SX

Phone: 0161 833 2220

www.manchestercathedral.org



Despite extensive refurbishment carried out both inside and outside the church during the nineteenth century, much of the woodwork is original to the 15th and 16th centuries and there is evidence of an early Saxon church in Manchester on this site. In the heart of the busy city this beautiful building is a peaceful place to visit. There is wheelchair access to the majority of the cathedral but at present to be able to access the regimental chapel and the Quire needs some ambulant ability.

Adjacent to the Cathedral, situated next to the remains of the Hanging Bridge, is a visitor centre and exhibition, below which is the refectory. The entrance is through the shop and via a lift to the lower floor. It serves excellent meals as well as snacks and is a good place for lunch. Also adjacent to the Cathedral is an area which was destroyed by IRA bombing several years ago and is now home to a garden.

MOMA Wales

Y Tabernacl, Heol Penrallt, Machynlleth, Powys/Powys, Wales, SY20 8AJ

Phone: 01654 703355

www.momawales.org.uk



MOMA WALES is located within the Tabernacle in Macchynlleth in Mid Wales. The former Wesleyan chapel was converted in the mid-1980s into a centre for the performing arts. Since then the gallery which has four beautiful exhibition spaces has steadily grown alongside it. As well as works from the resident Collection there is a programme of exhibitions throughout the year featuring leading artist's examples of Modern Welsh Art, and an annual Art Competition. Many of the works of art are for sale. General access around the galleries is good and the Cafe Glas.

Coed y Brenin

Ganllwyd, Dolgellau, Gwynedd/Gwynedd, Wales, LL40 2HZ

Phone: 01341 440747

www.forestry.gov.uk/website/Recreation.nsf/LUWebDocsByKey/WalesGwyneddNoForestCoedyBreninCoedyBreninVisitorCentre



Coed y Brenin is a Forestry Commission visitor centre set in the Coed y Brenin forest towards the southern boundary of the Snowdonia National park in Wales. The centre is perched on the hillside with views across the valley towards Cadair Idris which rises to 2927 feet above sea level. There are several designated all ability trails within the area and the Afon Eden riverside trail

(www.forestry.gov.uk/website/ourwoods.nsf/LUWebDocsByKey/WalesGwyneddNoForestCoedyBreninCoedyBreninVisitorCentreAfonEdenRiversideTrail) starts from the centre itself. The trail which took our researchers 45 minutes to complete, has an

excellent wheeling surface and gently snakes down the hillside to the banks of river Eden at the bottom of the valley. There are seats and picnic benches evenly spaced throughout the route. Please note most manual wheelchair users will need the assistance of an able companion to negotiate the return trip up to the centre and we recommend returning the same way as you descended as the path surface is smoother. Blue badge holders can drive up a mountain track near the entrance to the site and park by a viewing point with two accessible picnic benches. There are stunning views across the valley to Cadair Idris and northward towards the northern reaches of Snowdonia from here. When our researchers visited in early February the mountain was wreathed in cloud and hazy sunshine but the view was still breathtaking. This is a gated track so please ask for a key for the gate from the information desk in the visitor centre. A short drive away is the accessible trail to Glasdir Copper Mine

(www.forestry.gov.uk/website/Recreation.nsf/LUWebDocsByKey/WalesGwyneddNoForestCoedyBreninGlasdir) where visitors can wheel/walk along a pathway around the hillside to a picnic spot and viewing point just above the ruins of the old mine. Situated next to the accessible picnic table is a 'wind up' audio commentary (narrated in an evocative local accent) of the workings of the mine. For families with young children please note there are steep drops on one side of the trail and in places these are not fenced. A couple of hundred yards up the lane is the shorter Forest Garden Trail where visitors can wheel/walk over a bridge across the river and small waterfall to a sculpture of a deer (the bridge across the river is known as the Bridge of the Deer Leap Pont Llam yr Ewig.

Clifton Country Park

Visitor Centre, Clifton House Road, Swinton, Manchester, England, M27 6NG

Phone: 0161 793 4219

www.salford.gov.uk/cliftoncountry.htm



Clifton Country Park Local Nature Reserve is located in the Irwell Valley just a few miles from Salford city centre. It covers approximately 48 hectares of woodland, meadow, ponds and a lake. It also contains the remnants of the city's industrial past as it was the home of the Wet Earth Colliery which was established in 1740 and had an extremely long working life from 1750 through to 1928. As the park is in a valley some areas are not suitable for people with limited mobility but there is a hard surfaced path around the lake providing a circular walk which is fully wheelchair accessible. This would be also suitable for mobility scooter users. However it may be necessary to borrow a key for the motorbike-proof access gates, because although standard sized wheelchairs can pass through it may be more difficult if using a mobility scooter or large motorised wheelchair. Rangers are on site most days between 9 and 5 but not necessarily in the Visitor Centre so calling in advance is a good idea.

Bwlch Nant-yr-Arian

Ponterwyd, Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire/Ceredigion, Wales, SY23 3AD

Phone: 01970 890694

www.forestry.gov.uk/bwlchnantyrarian



The Visitor Centre is set in an elevated position and has an excellent viewing platform overlooking the lake. This is a red kite feeding station and from a viewing platform at the lakeside visitors can watch these magnificent birds being fed at 3pm each day in the summer months and 2pm in the winter. There is an excellent easier access circular trail around the lake, which in 2009 has had improvements made to remove one of the steeper gradients. Manual wheelchair users may still need the assistance of a fit pusher to negotiate the ramped inclines to the red kite hide and back up to the visitor centre car park. There is also an accessible hide (with an audio commentary) on the trail.

Rheidol Power Station

CwmRheidol, Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire/Ceredigion, Wales, SY23 3NB

Phone: 01970 880667

www.visitmidwales.co.uk/groups/thedms.aspx?dms=13&venue=1000428



The Rheidol hydro-electric scheme now owned by the Norwegian firm Statkraft is located in the river Rheidol valley near Aberystwyth in Mid Wales. It is the largest of its kind in England and Wales and uses the naturally high rainfall in the surrounding mountains to generate a renewable source of energy. The visitor centre has a twenty minute audio/visual display detailing the history of the scheme and a series of interactive exhibits that explain some of the processes involved. Visitors can also visit the power station, located just a short way along the valley, where guided tours are conducted at set times throughout the day. With the assistance of the knowledgeable and informative guide it is possible to learn more about the interconnected reservoirs, dams, pipelines and power stations and their relationship with the national grid. Rainbow Trout are also reared at the station and put into Dinas reservoir to provide a great angling facility that is suitable for anglers with easy access needs. The tour can be adapted to suit all access needs and if you are unable to manage stairs please explain to the tour guide on arrival. Please note the room that houses the turbines is very noisy.

Attenborough Nature Centre

Barton Lane, Attenborough, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire,
England, NG9 6DY

Phone: 0115 972 1777

www.attenboroughnaturecentre.co.uk



The Centre was opened in 2005 and the Reserve is one of the most important nature conservation sites in the East Midlands. Created from former gravel pits, it covers more than 145 hectares and is a designated SSSI due to its importance as an over wintering site for waterfowl. Both the Centre and the Reserve are managed by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org and general access is good. Our researchers tried out the shorter 'Tufted Duck' circular trail which took approximately one hour to complete at a brisk wheeling pace. It is fairly level on compacted surfaces for most of the way but requires fit able assistance to negotiate the incline up to the bridge at the beginning of the trail and a second bridge en-route. There are plenty of benches and perch seats around the whole trail. The kingfisher hide located on the first section of the trail has good wheelchair access and a lower level viewing window. During their visit our researchers encountered a lightweight mobility scooter user, who is able to regularly use the site trails throughout the seasons. The Centre has a packed programme of special events throughout the year including guided walks. For more information on dates and times check out their website, we would also recommend you contact them beforehand to check they are fully accessible.

Wollaton Hall (CAR PARK CHARGE)

Wollaton, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England, NG8 2AE

Phone: 0115 915 3900

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1037



Wollaton Hall, Gardens and Deer Park are located at Wollaton only 3 miles west of Nottingham City Centre. The Hall is an Elizabethan Mansion built at the latter end of the 16th century which houses a Natural History Museum with a large number of exhibits. The grounds extend to over 500 acres of gardens and parkland which is also home to herds of fallow and red deer. After major refurbishment in 2007, access to the Hall has been greatly improved with the addition of a platform lift for wheelchair users at the entrance and an internal lift to all floors. Also included was the addition of an excellent changing place facility at the Visitor Centre. Manual wheelchair users may need some assistance within the courtyard area by the Visitor Centre as there is quite a steep incline to the cafe and shop. There are excellent hard surfaced paths within the park and around the lake however please note these have long steep gradients to and from the Visitor Centre. N.B. The Industrial

Museum which is located by the Visitor Centre is now only open for special Steaming Events on one Sunday per month. For dates and times of these events please check out their website.

Llandudno Pier

North Parade, Llandudno, Conwy/Conwy, Wales, LL30 2LP

Phone: 01492 876258

www.visitllandudno.org.uk/content.php?nID=13&langID=1&dID=14&offset=2&aID=29



The pier is 2,295 ft in length, making it the longest pier in Wales and is decorated in an Indian Gothic Style with pierced ironwork. There are two entrances one from the Parade and one from Happy Valley road. The original pier which opened in the mid 1800's was swept away and it was redesigned and opened again in 1877, additions at the shore end over the next 6 years bringing it to its present length. General access is good with ramps into many of the small shops and attractions. The views (from the end of the pier) of the toll road around the Great Orme and across the bay towards the Little Orme are spectacular. N.B. The toilets at the end of the pier are unusually decorated with prettily patterned tiles.

Great Orme Visitor Centre

Great Orme, Llandudno, Conwy/Conwy, Wales, LL30 2AR

Phone: 01492 874 151

www.greatorme.org.uk/canolfan.html



The Great Orme (Pen-y-Gogarth) is one of two carboniferous headlands that dominate the landscape on either side of the town of Llandudno in North Wales. It is 2 miles long, 1 mile wide and rises 207 metres (679 feet) above the sea. It managed as a country park and local nature reserve by Conwy Council and is home to a wide variety of wildlife, some of which are unique to the site such as the silver-studded blue butterfly. The herd of feral goats grazing on the headland help maintain this site of special scientific interest. The visitor centre is located at the summit which can be reached by car from the coastal toll road. Access inside the centre is good and there are a variety of interactive displays and an extremely interesting introductory film show. The path up to the shop, restaurant and bar at the Summit complex is steep and manual wheelchair users will require some fit assistance. N.B. Access into these buildings is also limited but there is a good viewpoint across the headland and out to sea. At the present time the tramway which is also located here is not wheelchair accessible. The prehistoric copper mine now has wheelchair access to the visitor centre and shop but due to the historic nature of the workings not into the mine.