The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust is a Charitable Trust
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A detailed Access Guide to Blists Hill VICTORIAN TOWN

This Guide contains an overview of Access for:

Visitors with physical and sensory disabilities

Assistance Dogs are welcome on site and into all the exhibits.

www.ironbridge.org.uk
The information given in this booklet is a detailed guide about access into the individual exhibits within Blists Hill Victorian Town.

The numerals in the text refer to the individual exhibit locations on the colour map attached.

A general Access Guide to all 10 of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums is available free of charge from each reception.

Blists Hill Victorian Town covers 52 acres and is made up of multiple terrains including shale roadways, block paving, cobbles, a canal towpath and woodland terrain. The weather conditions can change the terrain quite dramatically, especially along the canal towpath. The exhibits themselves are either original to the site, reconstructed brick by brick or replicas of typical buildings of the period and therefore some, unfortunately, prove difficult to access. Any of the costumed demonstrators in any of the exhibits or walking around the Town will be happy to give information and a full colour Guide Book to the site is available to buy from the Entrance Shop.

This guide lists all the exhibits in numerical order and follows the full colour map attached but you may explore the site in any way you prefer. After the Bakery 36 the land begins to slope steeply, ‘Furnace Bank’ (1 in 16) to the Lower Town and wheelchair users are not advised to go beyond this point without a companion. An Incline Lift 50 is available off the canal towpath (natural surface) to facilitate access to the lower part of the Town. We would not advise going along Miner’s Walk 55 which is rough natural woodland terrain.

Visitors are welcome to use personal motorised scooters. Routes around the site are of varying gradients, the steepest of which is 1 in 16 (6.25%) and expect to cover at least 2 miles.

The Mine Railway and Mine Experience 51 offers full access, but like the Visitor Centre audio visual, contains short periods of total darkness and loud bangs!
**53 Shelton Tollhouse**

**ACCESSIBLE ★**
Access from shale roadway up small step into front room, door restricts width into backroom, limited space.

**54 Mission Church**

**DIFFICULT ACCESS ★★★**
Steep stone steps into Church from shale roadway.

**55 Miners Walk**

**DIFFICULT ACCESS ★★★**
Not suitable for wheelchair users.

**56 Hay Inclined Plane**

**DIFFICULT ACCESS ★★★**
Requires long walk along rough canal towpath at Upper Town level or along Miners Walk at lower Town level.

**57 - Alternative access to the lower Town by prior arrangement with Reception staff who will contact the Duty Officer. Return to your vehicle and drive 600 yards downhill to the Staff Car Park and enter via gate 6.**

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**Key to symbols used in this guide:**

**ACCESSIBLE ★**
- A ramp or incline provide access for all visitors.

**LIMITED ACCESS ★★**
- Small steps may limit access for visitors with restricted mobility and access is best achieved with the aid of a helper.

**DIFFICULT ACCESS ★★★**
- Large steps and restricted door widths make access difficult for those with restricted mobility and limited access may be achieved with the aid of a helper.

- Loop system available in this exhibit.

- Some of the exhibits are manned by costumed demonstrators who will explain the surroundings and tell you about the history of a specific exhibit.

- Assistance Dogs are welcome on site and into all the exhibits.

**Unisex Accessible Toilets** and baby changing facilities are available at the Visitor Centre 1 off the main car park, in the Visitor Centre Café on the first floor (lift available), and in the Forest Glen Refreshment Pavilion 45 on ground level, in the lower part of the Town.

**Rest Stops**
Seating is available throughout the site, please ask any of the costumed demonstrators for the nearest rest stop.
ACCESSIBLE ✨
Access to Blists Hill Victorian Town is through the Visitor Centre. Internal Lift available to the 1st floor level, the Visitor Centre Café and the Victorian Town. An atmospheric audiovisual on the ground floor gives an overview of the Victorian Town.

The Entrance Toilets
ACCESSIBLE ✨
Access to the Entrance Toilets from the car park. Unisex accessible toilet and baby changing facilities also available.

The Entrance Café
ACCESSIBLE ✨
Access to Entrance Café. Lift available to Café level. Unisex accessible toilet and baby changing facilities also available.

Entering the Victorian Town
ACCESSIBLE ✨
When you enter the Victorian Town you emerge from a dark interior to the bright light of the outdoors and onto a shale roadway. 22m (25yds) walk to the first exhibit.

You are now entering the Victorian era!

ACCESSIBLE ✨
Flat smooth grassed area, accessible from three sides off shale pathway.

Inclined Lift
ACCESSIBLE ✨
Preferred method of moving between the Upper and Lower Town. Requires a 60m (65 yard) walk along the canal towpath, which can be a little bumpy in places. Check Inclined Lift operation at Reception.

LIMITED ACCESS ✭
Access good into reception shed, and designated carriages - assistance required for wheelchair users.

LIMITED ACCESS ✭
Uneven ground from either end, restricted door width into cottage, limited interior space.

The terrain beyond 54 is not suitable for wheelchair users - natural woodland, uneven and boggy in wet weather.
**45 Forest Glen Refreshment Pavilion**

**ACCESSIBLE ✭✭**
Easy access from shale roadway. Accessible toilets and baby changing facilities.

**46 Stirchley Board School**

**ACCESSIBLE ✭✭**
Good access across playground and via entrance to left side of building up small ramp, limited space for viewing.

**47 David & Sampson**

**VIEW ONLY**
Static exhibit, view from roadway.

**48 Lower Severn Trow**

**DIFFICULT ACCESS ✭✭✭**
Can be viewed from roadway, steep wooden steps to view inside.

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You are now in the upper town and able to start exploring the exhibits. A horse and cart operates at intervals during the day which may restrict the roadways on occasions, also look out for manure piles!

**Upper Town - High Street**

**2 Bank**

**ACCESSIBLE ✭✭**
Choice of access to Bank via 3 steps front entrance or ramp, side entrance.

**3 Cycle Showroom**

**NO ACCESS**
View only over high stable door from pathway.

**4 Grocers**

**ACCESSIBLE ✭✭**
Level access to front entrance of Grocers from block pathway.

**5 Chemist**

**DIFFICULT ACCESS ✭✭✭**
Access to front entrance of Chemist by a single step from the block pathway (step rise 7½”, 19 cms).

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**48 - 2 new cover buildings are planned for 2014 to house the Lower Severn Trow, Ice-Breaker and Trevithick Locomotive (during the winter months) with full access planned.**
**Unisex toilets and baby changing in the New Inn Public House. Nearest accessible toilets are in the Entrance Café (Visitor Centre 1) or the Forest Glen Refreshment Pavilion 45 in the Lower Town.**

**Upper Town - turn left onto Canal Street**

**6** Goods Shed

ACCESSIBLE ★
Access from hard surface roadway onto wooden floorboards.

**7** Iron Merchants

NO ACCESS
Window view only from block pathway.

**8** General Drapers & Outfitters

ACCESSIBLE ★
Access from block pathway through double doors.

**9** Post Office & Stationers

ACCESSIBLE ★
Access from block pathway. Internal lift to first floor exhibition.

Please note: The terrain undulates, meanders and changes frequently in the lower part of the Town.
10 Photographer

**ACCESSIBLE ★**
Level access from block pathway onto a wooden floor.

11 Sweetshop

**ACCESSIBLE ★**
Level access from block pathway onto wooden floor.

12 Victorian Terrace

**ACCESSIBLE ★**
Level access from block pathway onto wooden floor.

13 Fried Fish Dealers

**ACCESSIBLE ★**
Level access from block pathway.

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The area between The Fried Fish Dealers 13 and the Cobbler’s Shop 14 which leads down to The Foundry 18 is an uneven shale surface and is probably best negotiated with the aid of a helper.
**Upper Town - turn left back onto High Street**

**14 Cobbler’s Shop**

NO ACCESS
View only over stable door from pathway.

**15 New Inn Public House** Restaurant & Toilets (not Accessible Toilets)

DIFFICULT ACCESS ★★★
*Front corner entrance.* Access difficult with single step from pathway (step rise 6”, 15cms).

ACCESSIBLE ★
*Rear entrance and exit* off Canal Street. Level Access from roadway to block paved yard with one in ten ramp over 2m, 6.5ft.

Club Room Restaurant only accessible by steep stairway. Fully accessible Café in the Visitor Centre 1, and Restaurant in the Forest Glen Refreshment Pavilion 45.

**16 Boy’s Brigade Hut**

ACCESSIBLE ★
Level Access from shale roadway. Primarily used for School Groups. Not open to the general public.

**33 Candle Factory**

ACCESSIBLE ★
Slight downhill access over cobbles through double doors into exhibit.

**34 Saw Mill / Undertakers**

LIMITED ACCESS ★★
Difficult access from front of exhibit, easier access via side door to left of exhibit over rough paved area and via ramped step.

**35 Harnessmakers**

ACCESSIBLE ★
Access off roadway, over paved area and small step to enter exhibit. Exhibit has restricted floor space.

**36 Bakery**

LIMITED ACCESS ★★
Slightly down ‘Furnace Bank’, a short ramp into exhibit - smooth access and egress.

**WARNING** - You are at the top of ‘Furnace Bank’. Wheelchair users are advised not to go beyond this point. Alternatively, turn left after the Masons Yard 25 and follow the Canal towpath to the Incline Lift (approx 75 yards) for access to the Lower Part of the Town.
**Winding Engine**

Accessible ★
Access from shale pathway to exhibit, two entrances, tight 90 degree turn in exhibit and a small step between floorings.

**The Trevithick Engine**

View only
Can be viewed from Town side of canal or over canal bridge.

**Brick & Tile Works**

Difficult Access ★★★
Viewed from Town side of canal or over canal bridge, requires climbing a long flight of shallow gradient steps to get close to exhibit.

**Mine**

View only
Viewed from pathway.

**Butchers**

Difficult Access ★★★
Single step up from pathway. Assistance required for wheelchair users.

**The Iron Foundry**

Accessible ★
Level access onto wooden floor boards from shale pathway off Canal Street and Jessie’s Fold 19. Viewing over hand rail, or ‘cut-out’ glass section in partition wall.

**Jessie’s Fold**

Cobbled courtyard.
Stable doors usually half open. The stables are used to rest the working horses on site.

**Printing Shop**

Accessible ★
Access from slab pathway. Small 3” step into shop, or cobbled ramp through double doors.

The Incline Lift 50 for access to the Lower Part of the Town, is approx 50 yards along the canal towpath from this point.
NOTES:

WARNING - Ahead, after the Bakery 36 the land begins to slope steeply (1 in 7 ‘Furnace Bank’). Wheelchair users are advised not to go beyond this point. Alternatively, turn left after the Masons Yard 25 and follow the Canal Towpath to the Incline Lift 60m approx (50yds).