



THE DEVIL'S PORRIDGE MUSEUM

Museum Story

Using text and images, this Museum Story describes a typical visit to The Devil's Porridge Museum so that those with sensory, anxiety-based or accessibility difficulties know what to expect when they arrive. Please do not hesitate to contact the Museum if you require any further advice or assistance.

Arrival

As you enter the Museum car park, the parking spaces will be on your right and the Museum building will be on your left. There are two Blue Badge Holder spaces. Be careful crossing the road to the Museum door: there may be other cars entering or exiting the car park.



The entrance to the Museum is step-free. An automatic door will open.



When you enter the foyer, the reception desk will be to your right. Note that there may be other people standing in the foyer waiting to pay or receiving an introductory talk from one of the volunteers. There may also be some noise coming from the coffee-making area to the right of the reception desk.



One of our friendly volunteers will serve you at the reception desk. The entry prices are clearly displayed on the wall. Please ask if you have any questions or require any assistance (wheelchair, foreign language guide, museum map, etc.). The volunteer may offer you a free introductory talk about the Museum; this is entirely optional.



As you enter the Museum's downstairs gallery there will be an entrance to our café on the left. There may be background noise or people coming in and out of here.



The café has several tables, as well as an open kitchen area, so this area may be noisy. There are menus on the tables, with hot/cold meals and drinks available.



Downstairs gallery

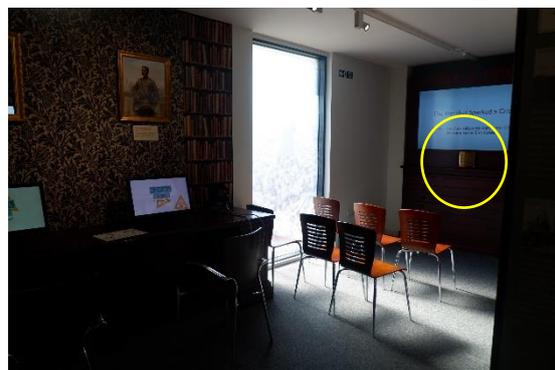
The downstairs gallery begins with a replica trench. It is dimly lit and features explosion noises, occasional flashing lights and plastic rats. There are holes that you can put your hand into to feel items; there is nothing in these that will harm you. At the end of the trench is a black and white moving image.



At the end of the trench you will turn left slightly and into our display of cap badges and items from the Quintinshill rail disaster. Note that there is a video around the corner on your right that may be switched on by other visitors.



As you pass into the next area there will be tables where you can sit and use the tablets to listen to and read further information using headphones (volume adjustable). There is a display on the State Management Scheme on your right and a video presentation that you can sit and watch. Press the button on the gold panel under the screen to begin the video. You can choose to play the film with subtitles and/or with British Sign Language.



Turning right from the video area, you will enter the next room, which gives information about HM Factory Gretna. You move anticlockwise around this room. You may touch the pans in the centre of the room and listen to the headsets around the walls (volume adjustable). There is a moving image presentation on the wall and an opening in the panels into the coffee shop area.



The next room shows what one of the factory workers' bedrooms would have looked like. There is a replica gramophone in the top left-hand corner that emits soft background music.



As you continue to your right you will find information on the Women's Police Force, our 'Object of the Month' cabinet and information on the townships that were built to house the workers. There are interactive tablets that you can use to view old images of the townships (no sound).



Straight ahead will be tables where you can sit and view further information using headphones (volume adjustable). There is a large instrument on the wall to the right but it does not have any sound effects.



Coffee shop area

You will now be at the end of the downstairs display, which finishes in a small coffee shop area. You can choose to take a break before moving to the upstairs gallery, or proceed straight to the lift (on your left) or stairs (in the top left-hand corner). There are menus on the tables, with hot/cold meals and drinks available. The available cakes are displayed on the table beside the stairwell, with posters indicating that day's specials on the wall.



Toilets are all located to the left of the coffee shop area. Also on this wall is the door to the lift. The door in the far left-hand corner leads to the stairwell.



Stairs

The door on the far side of the coffee shop area leads to the upstairs gallery. Note that the stairwell is often considerably brighter than the galleries, and that the doors are heavy and may slam. The displays in the stairwell feature a timeline of events between WWI and WWII.

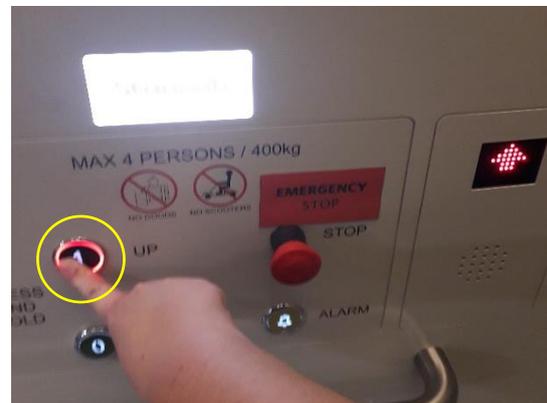


Lift

If you wish to take the lift to the upstairs gallery, press the button to call it (it may take 30 seconds to 1 minute to arrive).



Once in the lift, you must hold the '1' button in continuously or the lift will stop. Note that the lift operation is quite noisy. When you arrive on the first floor, you must press button '1' again to release the door.

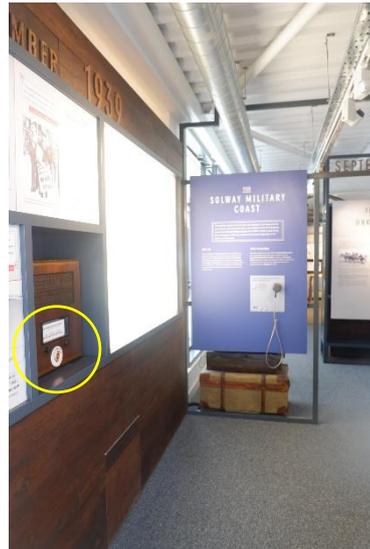


Upon exiting the lift, turn left and proceed to the exit from the stairwell to continue your tour.



Upstairs gallery

As you enter the upstairs gallery there will be a radio recording (operated by push button) and an illuminated map on your left. The layout is designed for you to walk straight ahead and proceed in a clockwise direction around the room.



Note that the railing to your right is open to the floor below. There are banners hanging with moving plane images projected onto them. Please also note that the buzzer on the mock control desk near the end of the exhibits can be heard throughout the gallery, and may go off suddenly or repeatedly as it is controlled by visitors.



Walking straight ahead takes you through our displays on the experiences of evacuees. There is a moving image display and points at which you can listen to audio information (volume adjustable). Note that the gas masks in the cabinet on the left may appear frightening at first to those that have not seen them before.



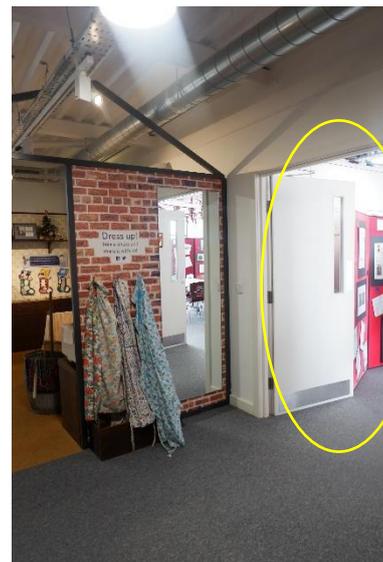
Note that in the evacuee area there are dressing up boxes where children may be playing.



The next display is a reproduction of a home in the 1940s, where there are lots of items that can be touched. The door to the left of the 1940s house is simply an extra stairwell leading downstairs.



Turning to your right slightly, you will come to the entrance to the education room. There may be a temporary exhibition or an activity club on in this room, or the door may be shut to indicate that the area is closed. Note that there is another dressing up area and a mirror to the left of the door to the education room.



You are welcome to enter the education room if there is a temporary exhibition on.



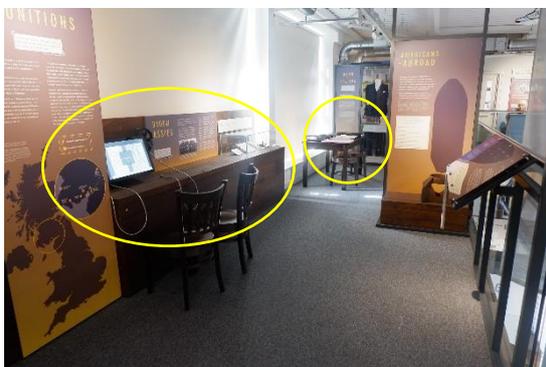
The education room also has a 'chill-out area' set up, where children and adults can take some quiet time to relax and read, colour or play with one of the games provided.



The next exhibits in the upstairs gallery provide information on the bombing of Gretna and RAF Annan. This area is quite dimly lit, with illuminated cabinets.



Turning right slightly takes you into the final display area on WWII, which provides information about the Powfoot Factory and demobilisation. Again there is a dressing up area. There are tablets with headphones (volume adjustable) and folders that you can sit down to browse.



The far end of this room features written panels and audiovisual stations with headphones (volume adjustable) providing information about Chapelcross Nuclear Power Station.



To the right of the office door is a mock power station control desk. This has a buzzer that can be operated by visitors on a panel with red LED lights, a tablet screen (silent) and a virtual reality headset (also silent). If you wish to use the virtual reality headset, please ensure that you sit down; some visitors may find using the virtual reality headset overstimulating.

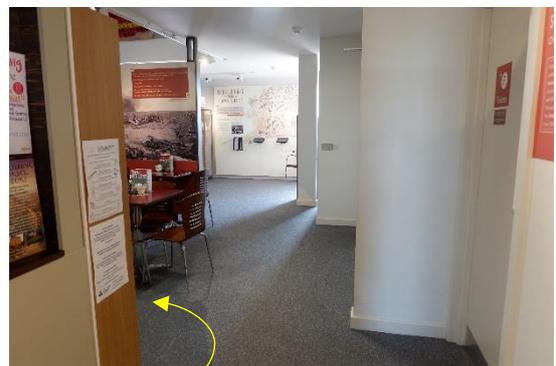


On your left you will see the lift, a lit medal cabinet, and then the door to the same stairwell that you came up. You can exit the upstairs gallery using the lift or the stairwell.



Exit

As you reach the bottom of the stairwell, the exit will be signposted. Turn left through the coffee shop area to reach the gift shop. Remember that the toilets are on your right, should you need to use them.



If you wish to purchase something from the gift shop, please take it to the reception desk at the exit. Note that there may be noise coming from the coffee-making area here.



To exit the Museum, turn right and walk past the coffee bar and reception desk to the foyer, before turning left and exiting through the automatic door. As upon arrival, please note that there may be people standing in the foyer.



Outside

If you turn right upon exiting the Museum you will come to the bogey cart, nitrating pans and Anderson shelter, which you are free to explore at your leisure. Note that there will be a side door to the café, as well as outdoor tables, to your right, which may be in use in summer.



If you turn left out of the Museum you can view our Rolls Royce Mark III engine and our Animals in War memorial.



Across the car park is our fireless locomotive, which you may enter using the steps. Please be careful crossing the car park and note that there is a main road on the other side of the perimeter wall, which can be busy at times.



General points to note

- The Museum has a mezzanine layout, which means that you will often hear background noise from the floor above/below whilst walking around the galleries.
- There are chairs around the Museum that you can use to sit down if you wish.
- The Museum has air-conditioning units, which you may feel or hear blowing air at various points in the galleries.
- The Museum has a flat metal roof, which means that you may hear noises during heavy rainfall or when birds walk over the roof.
- Those with light-based sensitivities should note that at times you may suddenly come across bright sunlight coming through the blinds or opaque windows around the Museum.