



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 carpark, the parking spaces will be on your right and the Museum building on your left. There are two Blue Badge Holder spaces. Be careful crossing the road to the museum door: there may be other carts entering or exiting the carpark.



The entrance to the museum is step free. An automatic door will open as you approach. At busy times, there may be other visitors queuing the right of the entrance waiting to access the museum. A member of our team will be on hand to welcome you to the museum. Museum volunteers all wear green uniform.



When you enter the Museum, a volunteer will greet you at our welcome desk where they will check your name against our booking list. You will be asked to sanitise your hands and wear a face mask while in the Museum and we may check your temperature on arrival. Note that there may already be a visitor in this space and you may be asked to wait outside until the reception area is free.



One of our friendly volunteers will serve you at the till and ask you to fill in your contact detail for track and trace.

If you have not booked online the Museum prices are clearly displayed.

Please ask if you have any questions or require any assistance (wheelchair, foreign language guide, large print Museum guidebook).



As you turn to enter the Museum's downstairs gallery there will be an entrance to our café on your left. You will see that this area is roped off and unfortunately our café remains closed until further notice.

Takeaway drinks and snacks are available upon exiting the Museum via the Museum shop.



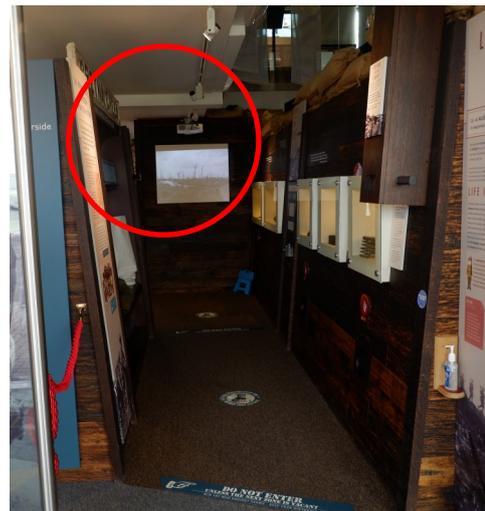
As you enter the Museum's downstairs gallery you will notice a number of additional signs reminding visitors about social distancing from other visitor groups. The Museum has a one way system clearly marks with arrows on the floor.



Downstairs gallery

The downstairs gallery begins with a replica trench. It is dimly lit and features explosion noises, occasional flashing lights and plastic rats.

At the far end of the trench is a black and white moving image and a audio recording playing through a speaker.



At the end of the trench you 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 have been switched on by other visitors.



As you pass into the next area there will be a table where you can sit and use touch screens to read further information (the headphones are currently not in use). There is a display of the State Management Scheme and a video you can watch on HM Factory Gretna. Press the button under the screen to begin the video. You can play the film with subtitles and/or British Sign Language.



Turning right from the video area, you will enter the next room, which gives information about HM Factory Gretna. Move anti-clockwise around this room. There are listening points with headsets (volume adjustable) and a moving image presentation on the wall.

An opening through the panels to the Museum shop is currently roped off but you may hear some background noise.



The next room shows what one of the factory workers' bedrooms would have looked like. Parts of the display are currently roped off.

There is a replica gramophone in the 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 workers. The interactive tablets can be used to view old images of the townships (no sound).



Straight ahead will be tables where you can sit and view further information (headphones not in use).

There is a large instrument on the wall to the right but it does not have any sound effects.



Toilet area

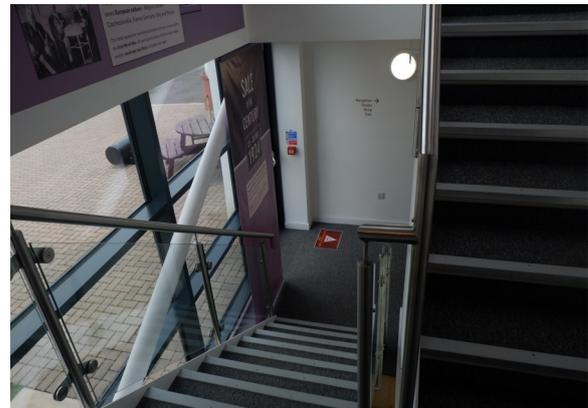
You have now reached the end of the downstairs display. You will find the toilets located here on your left. If the toilets are roped off please ask a one of our volunteers for assistance. On your right is the Museum shop and a route back to the main entrance of the Museum. The door at the far end of this space leads to the stair to access the upper floor of the museum. There is also lift access to the upper floor located next to the toilets.



Stairs

The door past the toilets leads to the upper gallery. Note that the stairwell is often considerably brighter than the galleries and that the doors are heavy and may slam. Care should be taken when passing other visitors on the stairs as this is the only area of the museum that does not follow a one way system.

The display in the stairwell features a timeline of events between WWI and WWII.



Lift

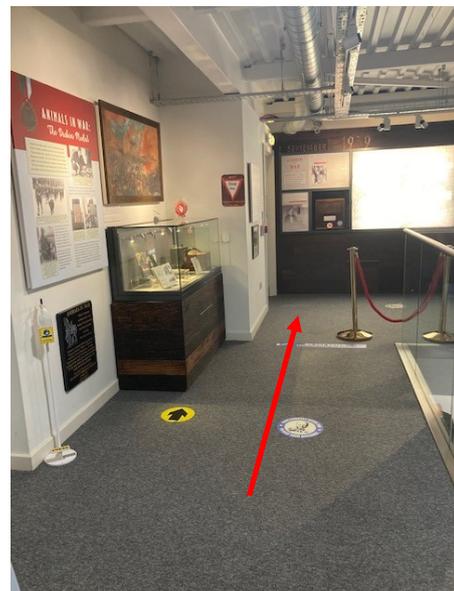
If you wish to take the lift to the upper floor gallery, press the button to call the lift (it may take 30 seconds to a minute to arrive).



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 upper floor, you must press button '1' again to release the door.

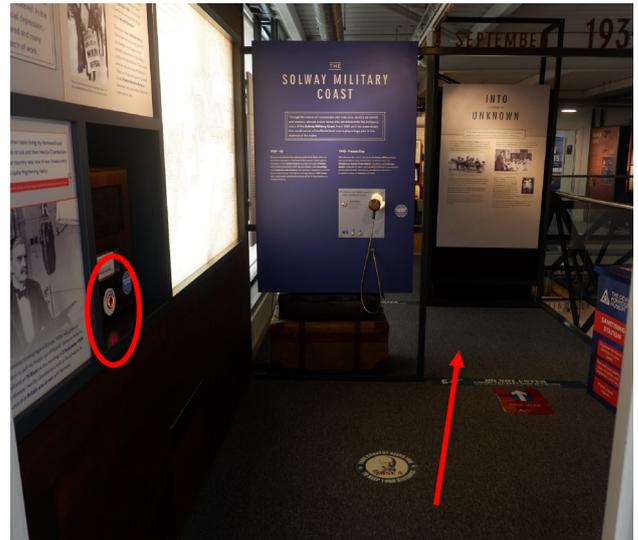


Upon exiting the lift, turn left and proceed to the exit from the stairwell to continue your visit.

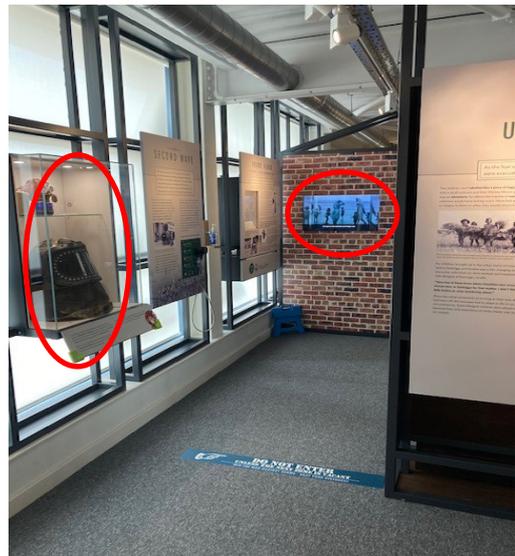


Upper Gallery

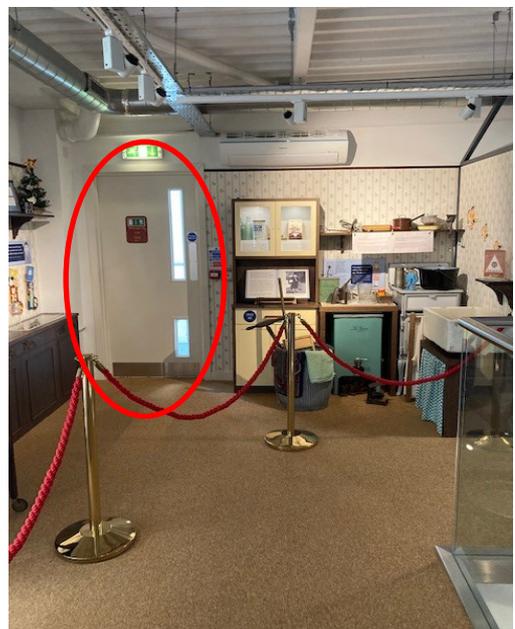
As you enter the upper gallery there will be a radio recording (operated by a push button) and an illuminated map on your left. The layout is designed for you to walk straight ahead and proceed in a clockwise direction around the room. Note that this is a mezzanine floor and open to the ground floor and that you may hear background noise from below.



Walking straight ahead takes you through our display on the experiences of evacuee. 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 to your left may appear frightening at first to those who have not seen them before.



The next display is a reproduction of a home in the 1940s (currently roped off). The door to the left of the 1940s house leads to a staff stairwell and should only be used in an emergency or if instructed to do so by a member of the Museum team.



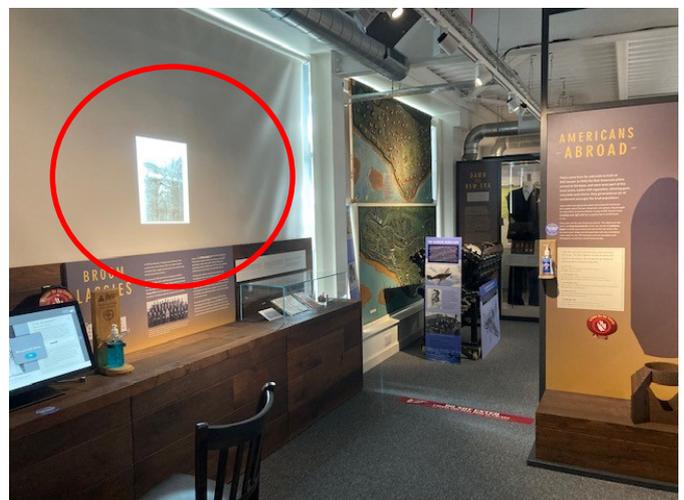
Turning to your right , you will come to the entrance to our Learning Zone. There may be a temporary exhibition or an activity session in this room, or the doors may be shut to indicate that the area is closed.



The next exhibit in the upper gallery provides information on the bombing of Gretna and RAF Annan. There are several listening points in this area (volume adjustable).



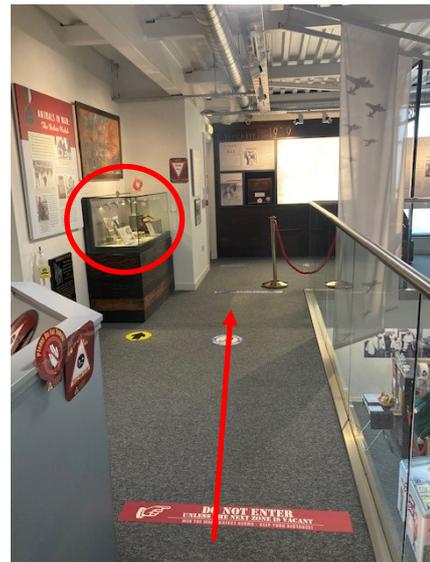
Turning right again takes you into the final display on WWII, which provides information about the Powfoot factory, Women's Land Army and demobilisation. There is a video playing with sound in this part of the museum with occasional flashes of light.



The far end of this room features written panels and an audio-visual station with headphones (headphone not in use) providing information about Chapelcross Nuclear Power Station. The Chapelcross Virtual Reality experience is not currently in use due to Covid-19 restrictions.



Turning to your right will take you back towards the lift and the stairs to exit the museum. On your left you will see a lit cabinet displaying information about animals serving in the armed forces.



Exit

As you reach the bottom of the stairwell, the exit will be signposted. Turn left to exit via the Museum shop. Remember the toilets are on your left should you wish to use them.



If you wish to purchase something from the gift shop, please take it to the reception desk at the exit. Takeaway drinks and snack are also available from the reception.



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



Outside

If you turn right upon exiting the Museum you will come to a bogey cart, nitrating pan, Anderson shelter and our Dig for Victory garden, which you are free to explore at your leisure.



If you turn left as you exit the museum you can view 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 in some parts of the museum where you may sit 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 noise during heavy rainfall or when birds walk on 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.