



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

The parking will be on the right.
The museum will be on the left.

There are two blue badge holder spaces in the car park.

Be careful crossing the road to the museum door or café. There may be other cars entering or exiting the car park.



The entrance of the museum is step free.

There is an automatic door, which may open when you walk towards this.



A friendly member of our team will welcome you into The Devil's Porridge Museum.

Our front of house team wear burgundy jumpers or shirts. Speak to them if you need any extra support during your visit.

You will hear some loud noises inside the museum, like explosions and music. This is part of our displays.

Sometimes it can be busy with lots of people in this area. If it is, you may have to wait.

You do not have to wear a face mask in the museum unless you want to.

Some members of our museum team or visitors may be wearing face masks.



You will have to pay at the front desk. Unless you have booked online.

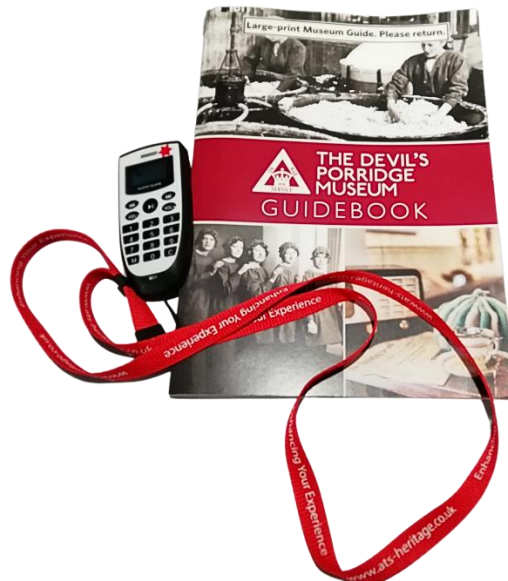
Our team member on the front desk may ask if you would like to gift aid your entry. If you would like to do this, you will need to fill in a form.



Here you can hire an audio guide, borrow a large print guidebook or foreign language guide.

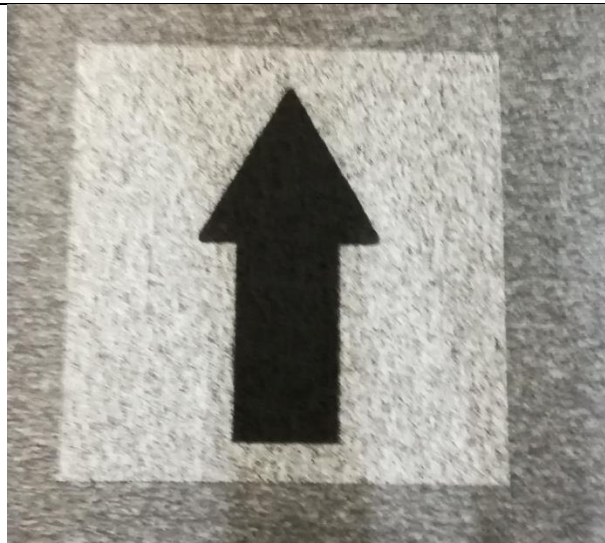
You can also ask about borrowing a manual wheelchair.

Children will also be given a factory pass to complete during their visit.



Around The Museum

The Devil's Porridge Museum has a one-way system. There are arrows on the floor to follow around the museum.



You will see this roped off entrance as you enter the museum's downstairs gallery.

This is where our museum team keeps their coats. Sometimes there can be boiling water and trip hazards in this roped off area.

For your own safety and security of our teams' coats, please do not go through here unless directed to do so by a



member of our museum team.

The first section is a replica of a trench. It is dimly lit.

It features explosion noises, occasional flashing lights and plastic rats. There is also a gas mask on display in this section.

At the far end of the trench is a black and white moving image projected on to the wall.



Next there is a display of cap badges and objects from the Quintishill train disaster.

There will also be a wheelchair and some crutches here. These are old and fragile, so please do not play with them.



There is an audio recording you can listen to through a phone.

Around the corner is a video. You may hear this if other visitors are listening to it.

There are touchscreens with headphones. You are welcome to use these.



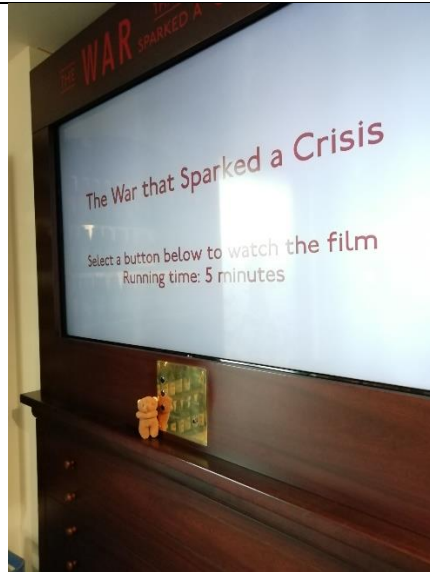
There is a State Management display.

On one wall you can see a mirror with lots of bottles. Please don't touch this as it can break.



You can watch this video about H.M. Factory Gretna.

There is the option of watching with subtitles and / or BSL.



Next is a room about H.M. Factory Gretna.

There are headsets and touchscreens here. You are welcome to use these.

You may hear some clicking noises and talking from the next section.



The next room shows what a munition workers room looked like.

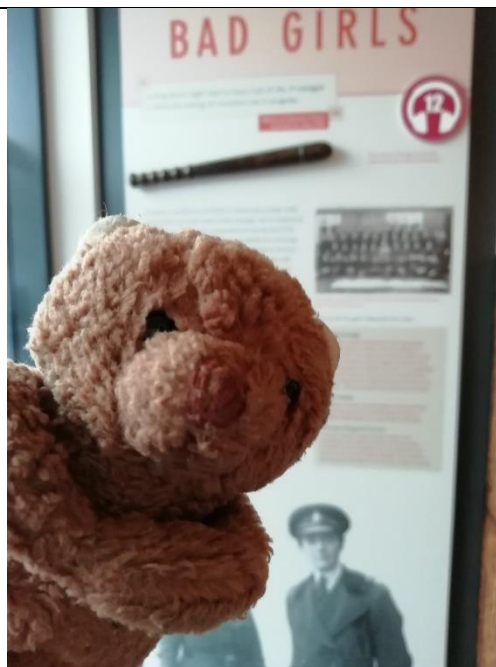
There will be a talking projection of a hologram. This will have some slight flickering lights.

Please don't cross the rope in this area. Some of the objects here are sensitive and fragile.

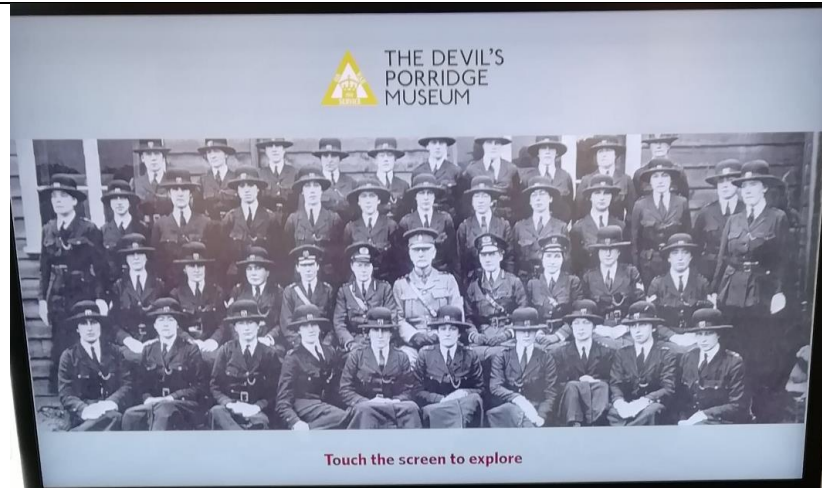


There is a small tablet on the wall that you are welcome to use.

You can read some information about women police officers too.



Next are two large touchscreens. You are welcome to use these.



This is our research area.

There are some folders on the table with information about the workers for H.M. Factory Gretna. You are welcome to look at these.



On the wall is a large instrument. This has no sound.

You will also see two touchscreens with headphones. Please feel welcome to use these.

This is our exhibition area. What is displayed here changes regularly.

Look at the exhibition section of our website to learn more about our current exhibition.



On the other side of our exhibition area is the toilets and lift.

The museum has three toilets. All of which are on the ground floor. These are:

- A unisex accessible toilet;
- A male toilet;
- A female toilet.

There is baby changing facilities located in our accessible toilet.



The stairs are located straight past our toilets.

Going up the stairs is a timeline of events between WW1 and WW2.

Please note that this area can be considerably brighter than the rest of the museum.

The stair doors are heavy and can slam.



You can take the lift to the upstairs gallery.

Press the silver button to call the lift. It may take from 30 seconds to a minute to arrive.

Please be aware that the lift makes some loud noises when it's working.

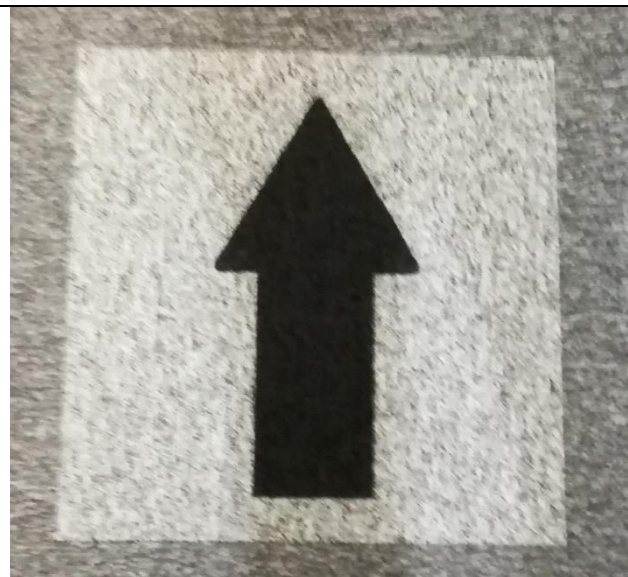


Hold in the silver button next to the number one and the word up to go upstairs. Don't let go or the lift will stop.

The lift will be noisy when it is working.



Follow the arrows on the floor around the upstairs gallery of the museum.



You will see a large clock in the middle of the room. This is the Mossband clock.

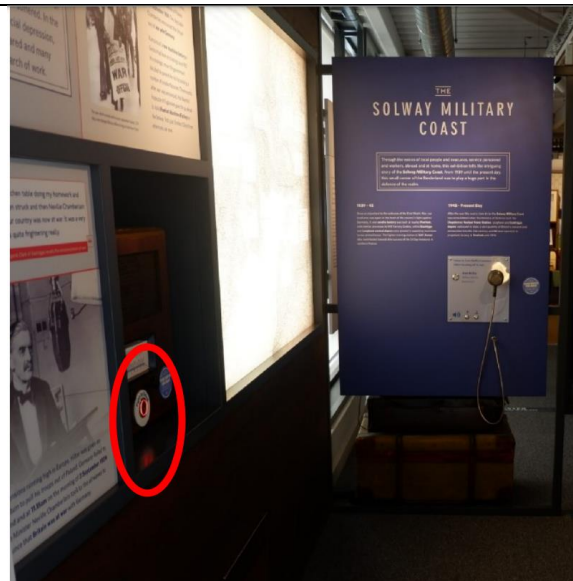
There will be some talking and music from a film being projected on the right wall. You will also hear sounds from downstairs.



There will be a radio with a silver button. You are welcome to press this. It will play a recording of a radio broadcast.

Other visitors may also press this button while your upstairs.

There is an illuminated map on the wall you can look at and a headset. You can listen to this.



Next is an evacuee section. A video will be playing on one wall.

There are some gas masks on display. These can appear frightening if you're not used to them.

There is a touchscreen



which you are welcome to use.

You will also see some dressing up clothes. Please feel free to try these on and even take some photos.

This is our 1940s house.

You are welcome to touch and move the objects in this area.

There is some soap which smells very strong on the shelf above the sink.

Near here is some dressing up clothes you are welcome to try on.



Next is our education room or learning zone.

Sometimes there can be events, activities, or groups in this room. There may be some loud noises or music from this room.



The next area is about the bombing of Gretna and RAF Annan. You are welcome to use the headsets here.

There is another gas mask on display here.



After this is another section about World War Two.

There is a video about a land girl projected on the wall here. You will hear music

and talking from this.

There are occasional flashing lights from the video.

There will also be some art of a munition workers uniform on display.

You will also see another touchscreen, which you are welcome to use.

You can also try on the dressing up clothes here.



Our next section is about Chapelcross Nuclear Power Station.

You will see a gas mask on display here. There is a touchscreen with headphones that you are welcome to use.



Here is a desk with a touchscreen with no sound and some switches.

You are welcome to sit at this desk. You can also use the touchscreens and switches.



After this you will see information about animals who served in conflict on display.



You can go back downstairs in the lift or using the stairs.

Use the silver button next to the zero and the word down to go back downstairs in the lift. Don't let go of this button or the lift will stop.





Turn left to exit via the museum shop.

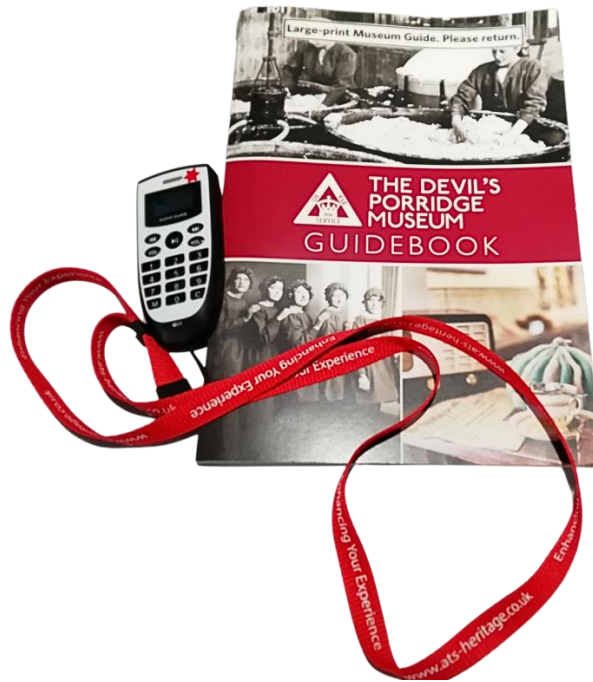
If you would like to buy something from the shop, you will have to pay at the front desk.

You can also buy ice creams and cold drinks here.



Return any audio guides, large print guidebooks and other materials that you have borrowed at the front desk.

Show your completed factory pass to the staff at the front desk to earn a small prize. This prize is for children only.



Walk straight past the front desk to the foyer to leave the museum.

Please be aware that other people may be stood in the foyer.



Café

Our Café is on the left side of the museum. The entrance is step free. You can buy food and drinks here.

You don't have to visit The Devil's Porridge Museum to use our Café.

There is some outside seating here. Sometimes there may be people sitting here and talking.



When you enter the Café, a member of our team will welcome you.

There will be some background noises in the Café. The dishwasher and coffee machine make loud grumbling sounds when in use. The coffee machine also beeps sometimes.



You can also expect background chatter, the noise of plates, more general cooking noises and occasional bangs. These can be loud at times.

There is air conditioning in the Café. You may hear a blowing sound from this.

Please be aware that the Café can be very busy at times.

The Café has glass windows and doors so it can be very light in bright weather.



Our café has a unisex toilet. A member of our café team can direct you to this.

The closet accessible toilet is back around inside the museum. You would be welcome to use this.



Outside

If you turn right from the entrance of the museum, you will see a bogey cart and nitrating pan.

You will also see the café with some outside seating outside.



Past the café you will see the Anderson shelter. You are welcome to sit in the Anderson shelter.



At the back of the museum, you will see our Dig for Victory Garden. You are welcome to look around this.

Young people grow the food in our Dig for Victory Garden. We use this food in our café.



If you turn left from the entrance of the museum, you will see this memorial to animals in war.



Sir James, the fireless locomotive is over at the far side of the car park. Please be careful when crossing the road to this.

You can climb up the stairs here to go inside Sir James.



You are welcome to look at the other things outside The Devil's Porridge Museum, like the phone box and submarine mine.

There are some picnic benches outside the museum. You are welcome to sit at these.



Fire Procedures

If you hear a fire alarm, it makes a loud siren noise.

Our museum team will guide you out of the museum.

Do not go back inside the museum unless a member of our team tells you it is safe.

General Points to Note

The Devil's Porridge Museum is a modern building with a mezzanine layout and two floors, accessible by a lift and stairs.

- The museum's mezzanine layout means that you will hear background noises from different parts of the museum while walking around.
- The museum has a flat metal roof, which means that you may hear noise during heavy rainfall or when birds walk on the roof.

- The top floor the museum can be accessed by a lift. This does make some noises while it's working.
- The stairs to the top floor have handrails on both sides.
- There are chairs throughout the museum where you may sit if you wish.
- There is hand sanitiser throughout the museum, which you are welcome to use.
- Floor surfaces on both floors are flat and level.
- At times you may suddenly come across bright sunlight from windows around the museum.
- You may smell food cooking in the café inside the museum.
- Be aware of the signs in the museum. Occasionally, things can stop working and these signs will let you know.
- Please feel free to speak to a member of our museum team if you would like assistance at any time during your visit.