

BOLTON STEAM MUSEUM

PUBLIC ACCESS STATEMENT



May 2019

BOLTON STEAM MUSEUM

The Museum endeavours to provide a welcoming, helpful and caring service to all our visitors

The museum has been developed over the last 28 years on the site of the old Atlas Mills in Bolton. It was opened to the public on a regular basis in 2006 and displays a collection of 29 steam engines that used to provide power for the machinery in the textile mills throughout the north of England during the Industrial Revolution.

The museum is a registered charity (No 532259) and is run entirely by volunteers and is housed in an old Victorian warehouse that used to store the bales of raw cotton for the mills.

There is no admission charge, although donations are welcome to help with the running and development of the museum

cctv is in use both inside and outside the museum and images are therefore continuously recorded to ensure your safety and the security of the building and exhibits.

Opening

The museum is open most Wednesdays and Sundays when visitors are welcome to view the engines statically when volunteers are working at the museum. Depending upon the work going on, it is sometimes possible to demonstrate a few of the engines in motion via electric motor drives.

On most Bank Holiday weekends (except Easter), the engines are all working in steam and can be seen in motion under power. Please check dates on our website for more details or use one of the contact numbers below.

Opening hours are 10am to 4pm

General Access

The main museum displays are entirely on one level and there is unobstructed access for pushchairs and wheelchairs. The floor is smooth concrete. All exhibits are protected by mesh handrailing to prevent unauthorised or accidental access to machinery.

Access to the small mezzanine and balcony areas is available via stairs or an accessible lift for wheelchairs or pushchairs with a floor area of 1500 x 900 mm

The museum is located adjacent to Morrisons Supermarket car-park with over 700 spaces available, which museum visitors are free to use. The spaces near to the museum are almost always empty and there is also a small visitors' car-park immediately adjacent to the museum with parking spaces for blue-badge holders. This has level access to the 25m pathway to the main museum entrance.

The usual entrance to the museum is through a 1500mm double-doorway from the level and hard-surfaced external path. Alternatively a separate 900mm wide doorway with direct access to the blue-badge carpark can be opened on request.

Space for free coach-parking is available on the main car-park area.

Chairs are available at various points in the museum and volunteers are available to assist whenever required.

Displays

Many of the engines are very large and are up to 5m (15ft) tall. When working, the engines are hot and produce a certain amount of noise. The building can get quite warm in the summer when the sun shines through the windows in the roof and the engines radiate heat. There is no heating in the building, so temperatures in winter can be low when the engines are not running.

Information panels use large-font text and are displayed at a convenient height for reading from a standing position or from a wheelchair.

There is a 4-page brief guide to the museum exhibits given to all visitors on arrival. A large returnable laminated version of this in A3 size is available on request. A fully-illustrated souvenir guide to the museum collection is available for sale at the door at modest cost.

We positively welcome family groups, but because of the nature of the exhibits when in motion, we request that children are accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

Educational worksheets for children are available at the door on request

Guided Tours

These can be provided by museum staff. Tours with live description/commentary are available for visitors with visual impairments.

Photography

There is an extensive collection of photographs of the engines available for viewing on our website but visitors are welcome to take their own pictures in the museum for personal, non-commercial purposes

Other items

Although all the engine collection is on display, there is a considerable other archive material in store elsewhere in Bolton. This includes books, leaflets, drawings, company catalogues and photographs which are stored off-site. A database of the items is maintained at the museum, but please contact us in advance to make arrangements if you wish to view any of the items.

Planning your visit

The museum is located on Morrisons Supermarket site off Chorley Old Road Bolton, approximately 1.5 NW of Bolton town centre and is adjacent to Morrisons petrol station.

There is a downloadable map on our website. www.nmes.org and the museum is shown on Google ,maps

You can plan your journey by public transport using www.traveline.info/ simply by entering your postcode and ours which is BL1 4EU.

The nearest railway station is Bolton, which is approximately 1.5 miles away where taxis are available (see contact details) and is adjacent to the bus interchange.

From the bus Interchange, No 125 (service every 10 minutes on weekdays and Saturdays, every 30 minutes on Sundays) or No 520 (service approx. every 30 minutes), run past Morrisons Supermarket on Chorley Old Road. The museum is a 3 minute walk from the nearest bus stop.

Coach-parties and other groups can be accommodated by prior arrangement and guided tours to the museum can be provided by volunteers who can demonstrate some of the engines. Contact details are shown below

Toilets

The museum has male, female and accessible unisex toilet facilities
The accessible toilet can also be used for baby-changing

- The accessible toilet does not need a RADAR key and is locked via simple twist latch
- The door is 900mm wide and opens outwards
- The toilet cubicle is generously proportioned and is 3m (10ft) long by 2m (7ft) wide
- The toilet height is 420mm with 1.2m (4ft) transfer space to the right, when facing the toilet
- Horizontal (fixed and fold-down) and vertical handles in contrasting colours, in line with current requirements, are provided on either side of the toilet and washbasin
- The floor is non-slip ceramic tiles with contrasting grout
- There is an alarm pull cord system and the washbasins are fitted with lever taps.

Shop/Café

On steam days only, there is a small café selling drinks and snacks on the mezzanine floor with tables and seating nearby. Access is via the stairs or lift.

For more substantial meals, Morrisons Supermarket café is open during all normal store opening hours approximately 100m away on the other side of the car-park

Also on steam days only, we operate a small shop selling museum souvenirs and a range of steam-related books. There is also an extensive collection of second-hand books and magazines for sale.

Both the shop and café are integral with the main museum area and are easily accessible.

Contact details

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| Museum Address | Bolton Steam Museum, Mornington Road Off Chorley Old Road, Bolton, BL1 4EU |
| Museum Information | 01204 846490 01257 265003 |
| Website | www.nmes.org |
| Bolton Train Station | 0800 200 6060 (Northern Rail) |
| Bus Interchange | Great Moor Street Interchange, Bolton |
| Stagecoach Bus | General enquiries 0161 273 3377 Disability helpdesk 0161 276 2611 |
| First Bus | Careline 08457 881155 |
| Taxis (one of many) | Metro cars 01204 520000 |
| Accessible taxis | Atlas Taxis 01204 531884 |