

Access Statement for Rushden Transport Museum

2024 -2029

Introduction

The Museum's access policy statement has been written to ensure that there are no barriers to prevent visitors regardless of ability, age, gender, cultural or social background, sexual orientation, faith, language, location or wealth from enjoying and benefiting from our Museum.

We have considered the potential barriers to visitors enjoying our museum and have tried to mitigate these as follows:

Physical: enabling people with physical disabilities, the elderly and those caring for young people to reach and appreciate all rooms of the museum by considering their needs and making more suitable routes available.

In the case of an evacuation volunteers will specifically seek out any visitors who need assistance, and give them extra support in leaving the building. The assembly point is marked clearly to show it is on the tarmac area near the yard gates and line crossing.

Sensory: to incorporate a range of different sensory experiences within the interpretation of our exhibits including visual, olfactory and auditory. The museum volunteers maintain a relaxed ambience for all our visitors.

Intellectual: we acknowledge that people have different learning styles and sharing information with our visitors to enhance their experience and understanding, their needs and requirements. We provide a selection of interactive sheets to engage visitors in observational activities to highlight the collection.

Cultural: we acknowledge and recognise that there may be cultural differences and seek engage with our visitors in such a way that they are encouraged to share their knowledge and experiences.

Emotional / Attitudinal: we have a visitor's charter upheld by our volunteers to ensure that all visitors feel welcomed and valued. The rights of future generations to enjoy access to our present collection are safeguarded by environmental and pest monitoring and reducing exposure to light when the museum is closed.

Financial: we will aim to minimise financial barriers by having free admittance to the general public, pre-booked group visits including schools incur a small charge per person for our guided services and use of the site and the collection.

We are grateful for any donations to help with the future development and care of the collection.

Rushden Transport Museum is part of the Rushden Historical Transport Society (RHTS) premises located at:

Rushden Station, Station Approach, Rushden, Northants NN10 OAW.

The museum is housed in the restored Victorian station building of the former Rushden railway station, which was acquired by the Society in 1984. It forms part of the station site with adjacent buildings and running track, which is the setting for the Society's historic vehicles and trains. Regular themed weekend events and heritage train rides are held throughout the year.

The museum collects and preserves items, which are held in trust for the future, that relate to the rail and road transport of Rushden and its development within the surrounding area.

The collections are made accessible to the public by permanent displays and a variety of changing displays on specific local themes.

The museum is signposted and accessible for wheelchair and pushchair users up a sloped, tarmacked pathway, and flat level access to the entrance door.

Due to the historic nature of the vehicles, not all RHTS vehicles are accessible.

Hours of operation

Saturday 10 -12 (last admission 11.45) April to October, subject to volunteer availability, email museum to confirm.

Running Days 10.30 to 16.00 (last admission 15.45) unless advertised differently.

Groups by prior arrangement, at any mutually agreed time, subject to a small charge paid in advance.

Pre-Arrival

Contacting the museum and information.

Email: museum@rhts.co.uk

Rushden Historical Transport Society website <http://www.rhts.co.uk/>

Admission

Admission is free to the general public, but donations are gratefully received.

We welcome feedback to help us continually improve and there is a Visitor Experience Logbook for this purpose in the main waiting room.

Arrival at the museum

Rushden Transport Museum is located at

Rushden Station, Station Approach, Rushden, Northants NN10 OAW.

There is no parking on museum side of the site, but normally on a Saturday parking is available on the opposite side of the road in our Goods Shed car park. There is also ample town centre parking within ¼ to ½ mile away. Disabled parking may be made available on the station side of the site by prior arrangement. Disabled spaces are also available in the Good Shed car park opposite.

Trains: the nearest mainline station is Wellingborough – 5 miles

Buses: Bus services from Wellingborough town centre - Stage Coach No.46 to ASDA store 100 yards from Rushden Station.

Bus Service from Bedford and Kettering - Stage Coach No. 49/50

Rushden does not have a Shop Mobility scheme and there are no wheelchairs available on site.

Toilets including disabled access are available on site.

Assistance dogs are welcome, please keep them on a lead, and water bowls are available on the platform.

Entrance

The Parcel Office entrance provides the first contact with our volunteers, who will be happy to be of assistance during the visit.

Once inside the Museum, all our rooms are fully accessible by wheel chair, but not necessarily as a through route.

Seats are available on the platform and a chair in each room is for public use.

Information on the displays and exhibits is presented in booklets with photo illustrations for ease of use.

RHTS on Site Facilities

Public WC's

There are a Ladies, suitable for disabled visitors and a Gents toilet at the end of the platform passed the bar. There is an additional ladies toilet in the bar, and at the railway platform end.

RHTS bar

The bar selling a good range of beers and ciders is open to the public. There are specific cider and beer festivals during the year. Additional seating is available on the platform and in train carriages but there is no wheel chair access due to the restrictions of the heritage doors.

Café

The Buffet car is available on event days, serving hot and cold drinks light snacks and homemade cakes. There is no disabled access because of the step up from the platform, but there are picnic benches outside. The ASDA café is nearby for non-running days.

Shop

The RHTS shop, open on event and train running days, is located in the wooden chalet on the platform across the public access to North Street. The adjacent chalet is the ticket office and waiting room for train running days.