

*Dean Heritage Centre*

Camp Mill, Soudley, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, GL14 2UB  
01594 822170

[www.deanheritagecentre.com](http://www.deanheritagecentre.com)



## Dean Heritage Centre

### Access Statement



## Statement of Purpose

**The Dean Heritage Centre exists to provide the following mission and aims:**

### **Mission**

*“The Dean Heritage Centre is a registered charity dedicated to protecting, preserving and promoting the unique history and heritage of the Forest of Dean to inform existing visitors and encourage new ones.”*

### **Aims**

**The Centre delivers its mission by:**

1. Providing a Centre and tourist attraction detailing the history, culture, wildlife and environment of the Forest of Dean and its people, and a local history reference library for the benefit of the local community and visitors to the district
2. Ensuring the natural, built, archaeological, industrial and cultural richness and local distinctiveness of the Forest of Dean’s heritage is conserved for current and future generations
3. Collecting, collating and recording evidence of the lives and achievements of the people of the local area, its unique local identity and distinctive environment for present and future generations
4. Promoting wider understanding and enjoyment of the DHC, including its natural and historic context, and the contribution it makes to shape our contemporary and future environment
5. Advancing the knowledge and education of the public and providing, maintaining and administering, for the public, museums and heritage Centre’s for the Royal Forest of Dean
6. Managing and maintaining the Collection in accordance with current or enhanced standards of best practice to ensure their future safeguarding and preservation
7. Managing its affairs in compliance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Museum Associations Code of Ethics for Museums



This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with disabilities, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our guests/visitors.

## Access Statement for the Dean Heritage Centre

### Introduction

Situated in Soudley, in the Forest of Dean, the Dean Heritage Centre is one of Gloucestershire's leading attractions. Set across a stunning and fully interactive five acre site, the Centre protects and preserves the unique history and heritage of the beautiful Forest of Dean.

With a wide range of things to do and see, including five onsite galleries exploring the history of the Forest from the Ice Age to the present day; a reconstructed Victorian cottage; a charcoal burner's camp; an adventure playground; chainsaw carving demonstrations; a variety of animals, an onsite gift shop and cafe there's always something new and exciting to interest, inspire and surprise our visitors.

The Centre is situated next to a beautiful mill pond, surrounded by forest. The main entrance is accessed down a slope from the main road.



Slope from the main road to main Dean Heritage Centre entrance

Located across two main buildings, the entrance, gallery 1 and 2 are situated on the ground floor and galleries 3 and 5 are across the first floor.





There is a lift on the ground floor, located in Gallery 2, but this is a Goods Lift only and cannot be used for personnel. The dimensions of the lift are: door access: 0.90m x 2m (2ft 11ins x 6ft 6 ins). Internal: 1m x 1.38 m (3 ft. 3 ins x 4ft 6 ins)



The Centre has a ramp at the exterior of the building which allows access to the first floor, toilets (including disabled toilet) and café area.



Ramp to first floor and toilets

The rest of the site is accessible by wheelchair and motor scooter, although the track around the edge of the pond to the adventure playground can get muddy in wet conditions.

We look forward to welcoming you to site.

If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01594 822170 or email

[alexis@deanheritagecentre.com](mailto:alexis@deanheritagecentre.com)



## Pre-Arrival

- For full details and maps of how to reach us please see the directions section of our website. <http://www.deanheritagecentre.com/findthedeanheritagecentre.htm>
- Alternatively, you can plan your journey by car or public transport using [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info); simply enter your postcode and ours, which is GL14 2UB to get directions.
- The nearest railway station is Lydney, which is 5.7 miles away. Taxis are available at the station. If you require an accessible taxi you can book this in advance.
- The nearest bus stop to the Centre is by the post box by our main entrance - ask the driver to stop at the Dean Heritage Centre. There is no sign, shelter or seating.
- The Dean Heritage Centre is located in a rural area, down a steep slope from the main road therefore some difficulty may be experienced by wheelchair users travelling by public transport.

## Car Parking and Arrival

- There is sufficient parking on site for 100 cars and a clearly marked designated area near the main entrance for blue badge holders.



The blue badge car park area is approximately 4 metres from the main entrance and has space for 5 cars

- The main onsite car park surface is gravel on tarmac and the surface can be uneven in certain areas.
- The car park is well lit at night and the Centre closes at 5pm in the winter and 4pm in the summer.



- The main entrance door has two doors that open manually and are 0.90m wide per door x 2m (6ft 6) high.



Entrance doors to the Centre

## **Main Entrance, Reception and Gallery 1**

- The main entrance, reception area and Gallery 1 are situated on the ground floor with step free, level access throughout. There is a ramp with a slight incline to the front door and a ramp down to Gallery 2.
- The floor surface is a textured vinyl floor covering.
- The area is evenly and well lit with overhead lighting from fluorescent lights.

## **Attraction, displays and exhibits**

- There are interactive activities and trails throughout the Centre; the majority can be accessed from a sitting or standing position.
- Interpretation boards are all in clear, easy to read text, and have pictorial representation where applicable.
- We encourage people to touch most objects that are not cased.
- There are articles held in glass cabinets (most are upright).
- Some of these are vertical and may not be visible if the eye line is below 115cm.
- There is a returnable map available from reception which gives detail about the site.
- Wooden seats are located at various points around the galleries.
- The floor surface is vinyl or wood in most places.
- Lighting in the galleries is generally bright and evenly lit with overhead halogen lighting; however, some areas are more dimly lit to aid preservation of the exhibits.



## Public Centre Toilets

- Public toilets are located on the first floor with a ramp providing access at the rear of the building.
- There are male and female toilets plus a disabled toilet available.
- The disabled toilet door is 830mm (w) x 1.98m (h) or (2 ft x 9in (w) x 6ft 6 ins (h)
- The toilet height is: 0.43mm/17 ins. With booster seat it's: 0.52mm (or 20.5 ins)
- There is one vertical rail 0.91mm/3ft at the right side of the toilet.



## Café Toilets

- The café toilets are located inside the café to the left of the main seating area.
- There are also 2 unisex toilets available in the cafe.
- The toilet height is .47mm/18.5 ins
- There is a horizontal hand rail 0.72mm/28.5 ins
- The vertical hand rail is 0.91mm/3ft
- Sink vertical hand rail is 0.86mm/34ins
- The sink height is 0.73mm/29ins
- There is a red emergency pull cord to the left of the toilet.
- There is one baby changing unit: 0.91.5mm/3ft





## Catering

- The café is situated on the first floor and is accessible via stairs and a ramp at the front of the Centre, via the lift in gallery 2, or by walking up the slope to the main road and through the side door to the café. The rear fire door is 0.92m x 2.2m (3ft x 6ft.75)
- Access to the decking area is via a wooden ramp at the front.



Access to the café decking is via a wooden ramp at the front of the Centre

- The entrance doors to the restaurant and café are 91 x 2mtrs/3ft x 6ft 6 wide.
- Tables in the restaurant and café are well spaced apart, with a clear height from the floor of 0.73 m/2ft 5ins, with a mixture of upright chairs with and without arms.
- Lighting in all areas is natural daylight with overhead lighting used.
- The flooring in the restaurant and café is vinyl
- Where possible all our food produce is locally sourced. The café does its best to cater for any dietary requirements; please contact the café manageress in advance to check any specific requests you may have.
- The cafe is self-service, however, staff can assist on request.
- Specials of the day are shown on a blackboard. All staff can assist by running through menus with you.
- The nearest public toilet with an accessible WC is located in the café near the entrance.

## Shop

- There is a shop with a range of souvenirs and books etc. which can be accessed directly from the main entrance/reception area and when exiting the Centre.
- There are two sets of glass doors to the shop; one door measures 0.875 m, both doors are 175mm (w) x 2m (h) wide and manual, they are usually kept open in the summer.
- The shop is level throughout.
- There is ample room within the shop for a large wheelchair to manoeuvre and turn.
- There are tall display racks and low tables accessible from a seated position.
- Staff can offer assistance if required.





## Grounds

- The Dean Heritage Centre is located across a 5 acre rural site and has paths and walkways constructed of various materials.
- The main site has paths covered with loose gravel and wooden boarded walkways.
- The walkway/route around the pond is accessed via a wooden ramp, followed by a concrete path which leads to a path of compacted soil/earth. This can path can get muddy in wet weather and limit access.
- There is a small picnic area on an uneven grassed area that can be access from the car park. This has a combination of picnic benches and wooden tables with benches attached.
- There are rustic wooden benches at intervals along the pond route.
- The Victorian Cottage has two floors but access is limited to the second floor due to the narrowness of the staircase.



The majority of the site is covered with loose gravel as shown above.



Wooden ramp leading to path around the pond and woodland trail



## Additional Information

- We have a set of evacuation procedures – should you require it someone will assist you with evacuation out of the building.
- We welcome guide and assistance dogs and a water bowl is available at the main entrance/exit.
- Clear signage is used throughout the Centre providing directions.
- We offer a complimentary admission ticket for each carer.

## Contact Information

**Address:** Dean Heritage Centre, Camp Mill, Soudley, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, GL14 2UB

**Telephone:** 01594 822170

**Email:** alexis@deanheritagecentre.com

**Website:** www.deanheritagecentre.com

**Hours of Operation:** 10am – 5pm Spring/Summer  
10am – 4pm Autumn/Winter  
Open year round except 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> December

**Local Equipment Hire:** Fairways Mobility Hire  
35, Market Place, Coleford, GL16 8AA  
01594 836701

**Local Public Transport:** Bus Traveline on 0871 2002233.

**Review schedule:** Annual

Version	Date	Notes	Position	Trustees signoff date
1.0	May 2012		Centre Manager	