



Access Statement for Judges' Lodgings, Lancaster

May 2024



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Document author(s) name and role title	Lynda Jackson, Museum Manager
Document owner name and role title	Lynda Jackson, Museum Manager
Document approver name and role title	Emma Heslewood Senior Museum Manager

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

Information in alternative format

This access statement can be provided in large print on request.

Access Statement for Judges' Lodgings

Judges Lodgings is a Grade 1 listed historic house located in the centre of Lancaster. It is located on the side of a hill, approaches to which are via cobbled roads and flagstone pavements.

Judges' Lodgings has no on-site visitor parking. It presents significant challenges for wheelchair users, people with mobility scooters or others with very limited mobility to access. It has no lift. Access across the site is via uneven floor surfaces and flights of stairs. There are no fully accessible toilet facilities.

The main visitor entrance during opening hours is the doorway at the front of the building accessed via stairs from street level and several steps up to the door.

There is also a secondary entrance on the left side of the building at ground level via a doorway with a single step. This is accessed up a steep incline and is unsuitable for the provision of ramps.

The visit includes the house and museum exhibitions and a courtyard and garden. The museum displays are located over three floors. The period rooms on the first and second floor and displays on toys, dolls and games on the third floor are accessed only via staircases.

Entry to the museum is by admission ticket only. Charges apply but children aged 18 and under are free. Check our website for current charges.

Those with limited mobility that cannot access the first and second floor are welcome to visit the ground floor rooms and Welcome Gallery for free. Visitors with limited mobility are advised to call ahead to speak directly to one of our team.

Assistance dogs are welcome. A water bowl is provided at the front entrance.

The visitor routes and garden are not suitable for pushchairs but there is a space to leave pushchairs on the ground floor and baby carriers are available to borrow from reception.

The museum has interpretation panels in most of the period rooms. A large print interpretation file is available on request. Staff or volunteers are on duty at reception and in the period rooms to answer questions or provide assistance. Guided tours are available if pre-booked.

An induction loop is fitted at museum reception. Low level background music is played in the Parlour on the ground floor. A recording of piano music is played in the Drawing Room on the first floor.

There are no flashing lights in the museum. Most areas are lit by single ceiling lights or wall lights.

There is limited seating on each floor. These are wooden chairs with red seats labelled, 'Please rest here.' More seating is available on request.



Photo 1. The front of Judges' Lodgings building showing front door and stairs

Pre-Arrival

Judges' Lodgings is located in the centre of the city of Lancaster and can be found following signposts for Lancaster Castle from junctions 33 and 34 of the M6 motorway. It is situated at the side of a hill close to Lancaster Castle at the bottom of Castle Hill or at the top of Church Street from the city centre. Judges' Lodgings is approximately 0.2 miles from Lancaster Railway Station and 0.2 miles from Lancaster Bus Station.

The streets surrounding Judges' Lodgings are not all flat and can be steep in places. They are a mixture of flagstone pavements, setts, cobbles and tarmac, and are very uneven in places though there is a flatter paved 'bridge' or walkway from the Castle Hill pavement across to the Judges' Lodgings pavement. Care should be taken when arriving on foot if weather is wet or icy.



Photo 2. Detail of pavements and surfaces near Judges' Lodgings

Arrival and Car Parking Facilities

There is no visitor parking at Judges' Lodgings. The spaces nearest the museum are private belonging to a neighbouring property. Parking is not allowed on Castle Hill, on the cobbled square and by the Covell Cross.

It may be possible for vehicles to quickly drop off/pick up people in front of the museum via Castle Hill but they must park up elsewhere. Parking facilities are available at a number of local car parks including

- Pay and Display on Dallas Road is a 5 minute walk from the museum
- Park Safe, Mitre House car park accessed off China Street onto St. George's Quay (please check for opening hours).

There are also 'pay and display' spaces around Lancaster Castle perimeter. 'Blue badge' holders should consult Lancaster City Council policies in regard to the use of blue badges in pay and display spaces (Tel. 01524 582000). There is parking for Blue Badge holders on Church Street, opposite the museum.

Large coaches can drop off in front of Lancaster Castle on Castle Hill which is 0.1miles from the Judges' Lodgings Museum. Most pavements around the Castle Hill area are low.

Main entrance on Castle Hill

On arriving at Judges' Lodgings during opening hours visitors should access the building via the main entrance on Castle Hill. This is the doorway at the front of Judges' Lodgings accessed via steps from the street.

There are two sets of stairs from the pavement with handrails. Visitors can use either and climb 11 steps up to the front gates. There is no marking on the edge of the steps. Walking towards the door there are then 5 more steps up to the doorway (**16 in total**). There are no handrails at the doorway. The main entrance doors are inward opening wooden doors which open to 1300mm wide. They remain open during opening hours.



Photos 3 & 4 Main entrance route via steps to the gateway and front door

Side entrance on Nip Hill

There is a secondary entrance to Judges' Lodgings on the left side of the building at ground level via a doorway with a single step. This is accessed via a flagstone path up a steep incline.

If you wish to access the ground floor of the building from street level then its advised you use this entrance but great care should be taken if your mobility is impaired. Any visitors using this entrance should ring the bell or phone the museum number to gain access and assistance.

The side entrance door opens inwards and does not open to the full width of the door frame, the widest access point is 840mm and opens into a stairwell.

For pre-booked groups during November to March when the museum isn't open to the general public the front door will be opened and the group can be met at the main entrance or side entrance.



Photo 5. and 6. Side entrance and doorway step

Ground Floor – Entrance Hall, Reception and Shop

The main entrance door leads into a glazed porch with doors that lead to the museum's entrance hall. This area houses the museum reception desk and shop.

Access can also be gained to this area through the side entrance and along the ground floor corridor.

The flooring in the entrance hall is historic paving slabs but is level throughout. The entrance hall flooring is stone flags. The entrance hall is lit by two large windows for natural light and one central light.

There is one counter in reception which is 105cm to the top but has a shelf at 840mm height. There is no low level counter. Visitors make enquires, buy tickets or pay for shop purchases at this counter. A hearing loop system is situated at reception with signage. Large print interpretation and a magnifying glass are available at reception if required.

Internal doors into reception – width 830mm at glass porch and 120mm at wooden doors (when entering into Entrance Hall from side entrance). The display racks are against the walls and glass porch. There is one free standing centre unit. Reception staff can assist with getting any objects out of reach. There is low level background music from the parlour.



Photo 5 and 6. The porch doors and reception counter including stone flooring

Ground Floor – Welcome Gallery, Parlour, Kitchen and Education Room

From the entrance hall visitors can access two ground floor rooms via open doorways.

The room to the left of the reception desk is the Welcome Gallery exhibition which introduces and summarises the history of the house and its collections. The room to the right of the reception is the historic parlour with examples of furniture made by Gillows of Lancaster.

From here visitors can access the rest of the ground floor including the Servants Hall via the Welcome Gallery or the Entrance Hall.

The ground floor has a central corridor which is level except for a short sharp slope into the Education Room. This room is used for exhibitions, learning sessions and events such as talks and the monthly pop-up tearoom. The room is well lit with overhead lighting and two large windows letting in natural daylight. It is also carpeted with a short pile carpet.

The ground floor old houses a period kitchen called the Servants Hall. It also has access to the two public toilets, the courtyard and gardens at the rear of the house and two staircases to the upper floors.



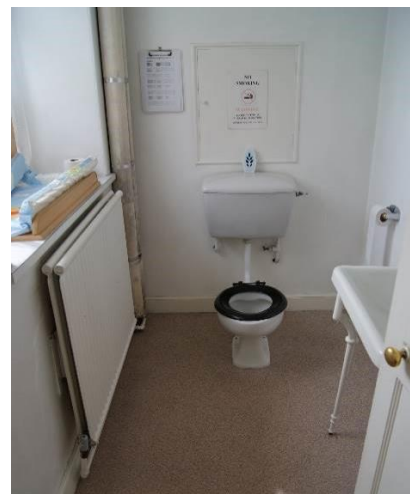
Photo 7, 8 and 9 Welcome Gallery, Parlour and Servants Hall

Public Toilets

There are public toilets on the ground floor and second floor. The two ground floor toilets are designated for MEN and WOMEN and located off the main stairwell. They are both near to the side entrance to the museum. The toilet on the second floor is UNISEX and located at the top of the same stairwell.

Each toilet houses a single toilet and a hand basin. There are baby change facilities in each toilet and nappy bins.

The toilets are not specifically designed for people with ambulant disabilities or have extra space. The men's toilet and unisex toilet are also lower than the women's toilet. The men's toilet room is also smaller.



Photos 7, 8 and 9. Women's toilet, Men's toilet and Unisex toilet

Courtyard and Gardens

The courtyard is accessed directly from the ground floor of Judges' Lodgings via a doorway along from the Education Room. The courtyard is 44 metres square and has a stone flagged uneven surface. It is all on one level.

Wrought iron and aluminium chairs and tables are provided for use. Extra seating and tables can be provided if required.

From the courtyard there is a stairway to access the rear garden. There are 16 steps to the garden. The stairs have a metal hand rail to assist ascent and descent.

The garden has an uneven surface. The path is loose gravel and there is a central lawn area.

The garden has a double gate which is an escape route in emergencies and can also act as an alternative access point, if required.



Photos 10 and 11 view of the courtyard, seating and garden stairs and paving detail



Photos 12 and 13 view of the garden stairs and garden path

Staircases

Judges' Lodgings has two staircases located on each side of the building which access the first and second floors. Each have handrails to assist ascent and descent but care should be taken on them.

Main staircase

The main house staircase is located off the entrance hall and ground floor corridor. It has paintings from the museum collection hung on the walls.

The first flight is stone, edged with white tape to aid visibility with a hand rail on the left hand side. There are 23 steps between the ground floor and middle level. The second flight is carpeted and there are 21 steps between the middle floor and top floor.



Photos 14 and 15 main staircase, first flight and second flight.

Stone staircase

A second stone staircase or back stairs is located near the ground floor public toilets and side entrance to Judges' Lodgings. It has a metal handrail on the right hand side. There is a buggy park near the back stairs.

Each step is edged in white textured tape to help with visibility but care should be taken when going up and down this staircase.

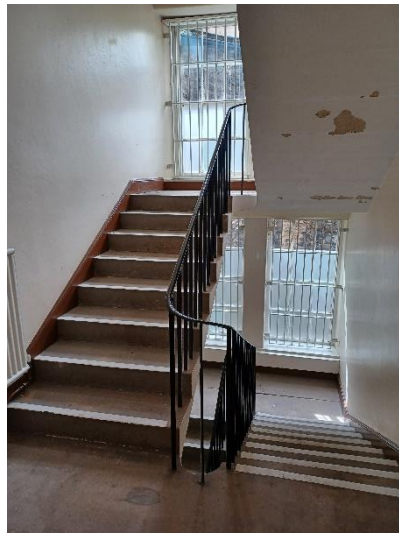
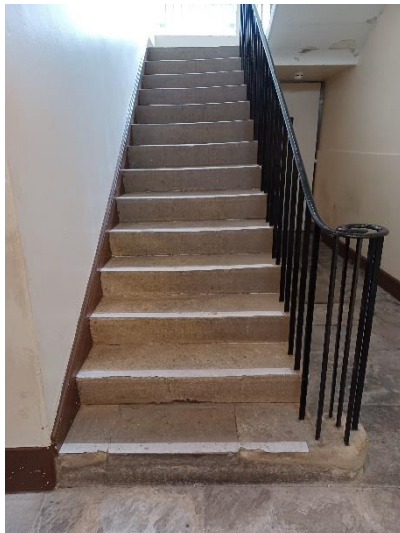


Photo 16 and 17 stone staircase, first and second flight

First Floor and Second Floor – Period Rooms and Childhood Gallery

From the main staircase visitors can access all the period rooms and museum exhibition displays.

Judges' Lodgings has interpretation panels in most of the period rooms and a large print version is available on reception for visitors to read.

Door widths vary throughout the museum. All doors within the museum are kept open whilst visitors are in the building.

Staff and volunteers are on duty throughout the museum and are available to assist visitors and answer questions if required.



Photos 18, 19, 20 and 21 Gillows of Lancaster gallery, Bedroom, Dining Room, Interpretation panel.

There is some limited seating on each floor for visitors to rest on. These chairs are labelled as such 'Please rest here' and staff or volunteers on each level can also direct visitors to chairs. More seating is available on request.

The age of the building means that the floor can sometimes be uneven with a mixture of floor surfaces.





Photos 22 and 23 showing seats to rest on and mixture of floor surfaces

Catering

Judges' Lodgings does not have an in-house café. There are a range of café's locally in the city centre, the nearest cafe is Atkinsons on China Street two minutes' walk from our Castle Hill entrance.

Once a month there is a pop-up Victorian Tea Room in the Education Room run by the Friends of Judges Lodgings (usually the first Saturday of the month but subject to change). Tables and chairs are provided in the room and also in the courtyard.

Packed lunches can be eaten in the 'Dandy Den' room on the Ground Floor during opening hours, or in the courtyard, unless there is a booked group in.

Refreshments are available for pre-booked guided tour groups when arranged in advance and served by a member of staff. These are served in the Education Room on the ground floor and the menu is limited to light refreshments – tea or coffee and a selection of biscuits. There is a short steep ramp or step up into this room and door width is 890mm. Tables and chairs can be provided for groups having refreshments. Seating is either padded, chairs without arms or plastic hardback chairs with no arms and wooden tables. Dark crockery is available to contrast with lighter tables.

The nearest toilets are the Men's and Women's toilets just along the corridor.

Additional Information

In the event of an emergency staff on duty ensure that their duty area is clear. There are fire action notices at all break glass points. The emergency alarm sounds throughout the museum upon activation. Museum staff are trained for internal evacuation procedures.

Signage used can differ throughout the museum. In house signage is white background with black text and white text with black background. Large font is used. Official signage, such as H&S notices are bought from official suppliers and meet UK regulation requirements.

Summary:

Step-free access: No

Number of step/stairs: 44 inside and externally 16 main entrance or 1 side entrance

Number of floors: 3 including ground floor

Lighting: Mixed, wall and ceiling.

Floor surfaces: Mixed, sometimes uneven and steep

- Ground Floor – floor surfaces are carpet (medium pile) and stone flag flooring.
- Middle floor – floor surfaces are carpet (short pile) and floorboards.
- Top floor – floor surfaces are carpet (short pile) and floorboards.

Average visit: 1 hour

Contact Information

Provide the following contact details where available:

Address (Inc postcode):	Judges' Lodgings Museum, Church Street, Lancaster, LA1 1YS
Telephone:	01524 581241
Email:	judgeslodgings@lancashire.gov.uk
Website:	www.lancashire.gov.uk/museums
Grid Reference:	SD 47477 61839
Hours Operation:	11am – 4pm Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday from late March – early November. Other hours may be available to groups during the week and out of season.
Local Accessible Taxi:	32090 Taxis – Telephone 01524 32090
Local Public Transport:	Lancaster railway station , Meeting House Lane, Lancaster, LA1 5NW. Accessible – taxis, public telephone & ticket machines Disabled parking, ramp for train access, step free access coverage, impaired mobility set down, wheelchairs available. Waiting room, trolleys, refreshments, toilets (not accessible), payphone, postbox, news agent. Lancaster bus station , Cable Street, Lancaster Taxi rank outside, toilets (not accessible), kiosk, pay phone & Stagecoach Travel shop