



Access statement for Sarehole Mill Museum

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 of our visitors.

Introduction

Sarehole Mill, situated in Hall Green in Birmingham, is a Grade II listed water mill, one of only two working water mills in the Birmingham area. The current buildings were built in 1768 and worked as an industrial mill and latterly as a corn mill until 1919. In 1969 the building opened as a museum run by Birmingham City Council and latterly run by Birmingham Museums Trust. The author of 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'The Hobbit', J.R.R. Tolkien, lived nearby and cited the mill and its surroundings as an influence on his work.

The building allows visitors to see what a working water mill was like and we currently operate twice a week on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout our open season.

Birmingham Museums Trust take their responsibilities for providing universal access very seriously and adhere to the Equality Act accordingly but in some instances, due to the historic nature of Sarehole Mill, this is not always possible i.e. we are unable to install an elevator to access the top floor of the mill.

Pre-Arrival

For full details and maps of how to reach us please see the directions section of our website. Alternatively, you can use Google maps: simply enter your postcode and ours, which is B13 0BD, to get directions.

- By Road – Sarehole Mill is located 5 miles south from Birmingham City Centre. For Google maps and Sat Nav use postcode B13 0BD. Cole Bank Road (B4146) is off the Stratford Road (A34)
- By Bus – Number 5 bus from Birmingham City Centre or circular bus 11A/11C.
- By Rail – The closest train station is Hall Green Station (10 min walk). Turn left onto Stratford Rd, then right at large crossing onto Cole Bank Rd. Entrance to the mill is located on the right-hand side of Cole Bank Rd.
- By Bicycle – Sarehole Mill is located 5 miles south from Birmingham City Centre. For Google maps and Sat Nav use postcode B13 0BD. Cole Bank Road (B4146) is off the Stratford Road (A34). Bike racks can be found within the Mill Car Park.

Car Parking and Arrival

- Entry into the site is via the car park situated on Cole Bank Road which has a 5-degree decline leading down to the side gate, situated on the right of the red brick building.

- At the front of this building is a Disabled access toilet that will require a RADAR key (the Mill has a key that can be used). The car park surface is compact limestone that can support pushchairs and wheelchairs but can become muddy in inclement weather.



- There is a short downward slope (5 degrees) to the entry gate that is flagstone paving. The pathway that leads to the mill is flag paved and this leads to cobblestones on the mill yard. There is a step down from the pathway to the cobblestones. On the right of the courtyard is a dropped kerb. This may impede some wheelchair and pushchair usage.
- The pathways at the rear of the site that lead to the mill pond have a dropped kerb to access them and the surface is a bonded gravel path.
- Sarehole Mill is divided into four sections. The first is the Mill building, the second is the Granary/Display Rooms/ the third is the Bake house and finally the courtyard.
- Admissions are made via the shop which is clearly signposted, and a member of staff will be on hand to welcome and direct visitors as required.

Reception and Shop.

On most days, admission is made via the shop. The shop is accessed by the grey door with 'Welcome to Sarehole Mill' on a black panel.



The door opens inwards and is on a closer. The door is 94cm wide and the rear door is the same size. The shop has no steps. The shop has a selection of souvenirs as well as being a point of sale for our stone ground flour.

Tearoom

The tearoom serves as our reception and shop area on days that the shop isn't open.

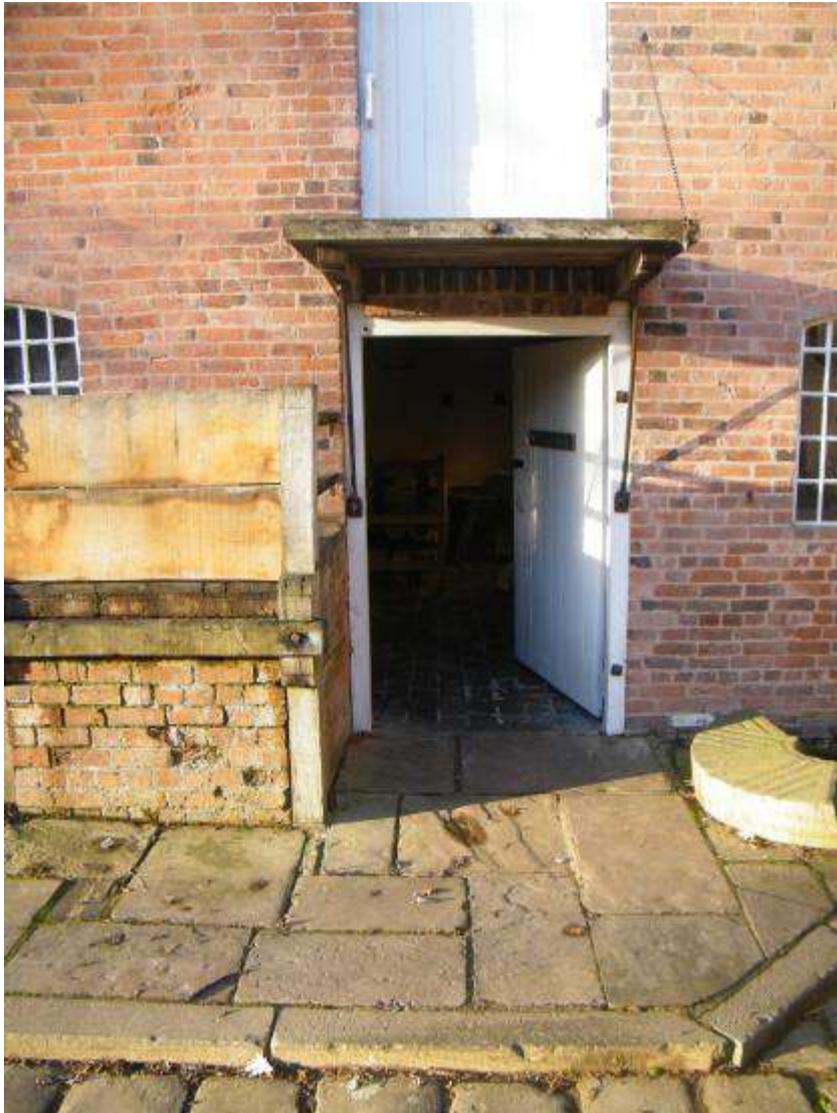


The tearoom offers light refreshments (tea and filter coffees as well as a selection of cold drinks) and locally made cakes. All admissions are made here. There is a step into the shop (7.5cm high). The door is wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs and mobility vehicles. Admission can be purchased from the counter directly in front.

- The flooring is engineering brick and is slightly uneven on the right-hand side of the tearoom as this area is part of the old miller's cottage.
- The shop is situated on the left-hand side of the tearoom. If assistance is required, the member of staff behind the counter will be more than happy to help.
- Once admission has been bought, visitors may enter the mill via the white door on the front of the mill building. There is a kerb (7.5 cm high).

Mill Entry: Ground floor

Visitors are encouraged to see the ground floor of the mill first. The mill is a three-storey building. For the working parts of the mill, visitors can see the ground floor via entering the white door.



- The mill is lit with LED lighting but, due to the construction of the windows, there is little natural light. The flooring is engineer brick on the ground floor and wooden flooring on the 1st and 2nd floors.
- The mill can be noisy when the waterwheel is in operation.
- The ceilings are 7ft high but due to the construction of the building, the head clearance is 6ft 2 inches.
- The 1st floor is accessed by a wooden staircase which has a steep incline and open steps 19cm high. The edges are marked in white paint to make them more visible.



Mill 1st floor (Grinding Floor)

- The 1st floor can be accessed via the staircase on the ground floor. Alternatively, the pathway that leads to the mill pond can be used for access to the 1st floor.
- Visitors who are mobility impaired or visitors using pushchairs would need to exit via the main door and turn right and follow the path that leads around the tearoom. Due to the historic nature of the building we are unable to install an elevator.



- The door at the rear of the mill is 69cm wide and due to the historic nature of the building we are unable to widen the door. A Transit/Push Wheelchair is also available for visitors to use.
- There is a doorway opposite the waterwheel that leads into the display room. This has a substantial step of 28cm high leading up to the exhibition rooms.



- When grinding on milling days, the mill can be noisy and dusty.

Mill 2nd Floor (Garner)

The 2nd floor of the mill is inaccessible to those with impaired mobility and to pushchairs. Due to the historic nature of the building we are unable to install an elevator.

- The 2nd floor is reached by two sets of stairs that turn to the left.
- The Garner is lit by LED lighting.
- There is a wheel that operates the sack hoist in the middle of the walkway that needs to be ducked under.
- All information panels including photographs of the Garner are available in the access book. Please ask a member of staff if you require this.
- There is a short set of steps leading down to the Tolkien Display room.



Tolkien Exhibition Room

- There is a step up into the display room of 15cm height.
- The television screen plays a 10-minute video about Tolkien in English.
- Lighting is LED strip lighting.
- Printed versions of information panels and a transcription of the video are available from a member of staff.



History of the Mill Gallery/ Interactive

The Interactive History of the Mill gallery is well lit and for visitors who feel they cannot manage the stairs, the doorway to the right, next to the steam engine room, will lead visitors back to the grinding floor where they can access the pathway by the pool.

- Access down to the History of the Mill Gallery is via a staircase. The stairs are steep and there are banisters on either side of the staircase. Each step is 19cm high.
- Lighting is spot LEDs.



Signposts to Middle-earth Exhibition

Visitors who are unable to access the upper floors can access this gallery via the mill yard.

- There is a cobbled slope leading into the room.
- The door is wide and of glass construction with a grey frosting strip to identify that the surface is reflective.
- The content of the television screen can be changed to the film screened in the Tolkien display room



for visitors who are unable to access that area.

School Room

The school room is used for exhibitions and talks as well as for school groups. Entry to the school room is via the signposts to Middle-earth exhibition.

- The slope is cobbled, and the door is 91cm wide and of glass and timber construction with a frosting strip to identify the surface being reflective.



Bake house

The bake house is accessed via the flagstones on the left-hand side of the mill yard.

- There is a cobbled slope leading to the bakery.
- The door is 85cm wide.
- The flooring is engineering brick construction and the access is on the same level as the exterior flagstones.



Millpond and Gardens

The millpond can be accessed either from the pathway around the back of the tearoom or via the Grinding floor of the mill. There is a gentle slope that winds its way around the back of the mill.



- There are 2 gates leading to the pool. The 2nd gate leads to the viewing platform.
- The viewing platform path is bonded resin and gravel. The platform is wooden and does not have a rail.
- The platform can be slippery in wet conditions.
- The platform at the rear of the mill is engineer brick and the railing has been lowered to enable visitors using wheelchairs to look over the pond.



Toilets and Baby Changing Facilities

There are 3 toilets for visitors to use. They are all located in the red brick building near to the car park.

- The male and female toilets have a step up.
- All doors open inward.

- Baby changing facilities are in the female toilets with a second facility located in the accessible toilet.
- There is a disabled toilet facing the car park. The door requires a RADAR key which is available from a member of staff. The door opens outwards.
- All toilets have hand dryers and push down taps. The female toilet also has mirrors.

Additional Information

- All of our staff receive regular training.
- We have a set of evacuation procedures – should you require it someone will assist you with evacuation either out of the building or to a refuge.
- There is a dog bowl available for assistance dogs.
- Language Line translation services are available. Our visitors can communicate in their own language to ask questions or receive information using an interpreter.

Contact Information

Address: Sarehole Mill, Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B13 0BD

Telephone: 0121 348 8160

Website: <http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/sarehole>

Twitter: @sarehole_mill

Hours of Operation:

Times – 11am to 4:00 pm

Days of the week: Winter opening November – Wednesday and Thursday. Site closed to public in December and January

Open from Feb: 1st Sunday of Month and Wednesdays and Thursdays. Open Half Term, Tuesday until Sunday.

Summer season: Easter until End of October: Term times, Weds-Sunday 11-4pm

School Holidays: Tuesdays-Sundays 11am-4pm

Bank Holiday Monday arrangements – Open every bank holiday except for 25th and 26th December and 1st January

Taxis: seven seven taxis 0121 777 7777

Local Public Transport: Bus 08712 002 233 www.networkwestmidlands.co.uk

Train: 0121 200 2787 (centro)