



## **Access Statement for Stockport Air Raid Shelters**

Stockport Air Raid Shelters are purpose built tunnels dug into sandstone which were used for people to take Shelter during the air raids of World War II. We are committed to access for all visitors, and here we set out some of the basic information to help you plan your visit. Please contact us in advance of your visit to discuss what else we can provide to help you access these amazing Shelters. For example we can offer bespoke tours such as signed tours and touch tours, please contact us on 0161 474 1940 to arrange this in advance. These will be charged at the standard entrance fee and will not incur any extra charges.

### **Facilities**

Disabled parking is available directly outside the Shelters. Groups with minibuses can phone well in advance and we will request a space to be coned off for you.

Entrance to the Air Raid Shelters is through manual, heavy glass doors. Please knock on the door for assistance with these.

Any carer accompanying a person with a disability to our site will have free entry, this is limited to one carer per person.

The majority of the shop stock and the displays in the reception are at a suitable height for wheelchair users. Staff will be pleased to assist with anything out of view.

An accessible toilet is available for visitors in the reception area.

### **Floors**

The entrance and reception area is tiled, with wide transit areas and adequate turning space. There is level access for all visitors around the Shelters. High traffic areas have reinforced concrete floors.

New flooring has been added to reduce sloping, and aid visitors with a visual impairment but the sandstone floors are uneven and there is a slight slope towards the edges. The sandstone can be softer in some areas and manual wheelchairs may cope better with this floor type.

It is recommended that you bring someone with you to help you access the Shelters if you are a wheelchair user.

## **Access Statement, cont'd**

### **Interpretation**

The tour starts with an Audio Visual show which contains flashing lights, noise and pictures projected onto the walls and ceiling. There are 4 steep steps in the AV room- but there is an alternative level access route in. The route out at the end is level, but dark. Please request assistance from a member of staff to safely exit the room if this would be helpful.

Audio guides are provided for visitors to listen to and hear more about the tunnels. They are light and simple to use, with simple volume control and the buttons have symbols on them for ease of use. Neckstraps are available for audio guides.

Hard of hearing or Deaf visitors can call in advance to book a staff member to take them round if our audio guides are not suitable.

Some written interpretation is also provided, in a minimum of font size 16, alongside replica signage and posters from the time. Font sizes and style for some posters and replica chalkboards may not be fully accessible.

Areas of the Shelters have low lighting, and visibility is not always good. Please request a torch at reception to improve visibility in the Shelters if required.

Wayfinding signs are replicas of the original signs, in black on white and use a hand as an arrow to direct visitors.

At all times staff are available to answer questions and assist with any element of the visit or audio guides.