



Rickmansworth Waterways Trust

Access Statement

Document Number P15

Date Reviewed and Approved by the Trustees – Dec 2019

1. Introduction

Rickmansworth Waterways Trust (RWT) is a charity that works with children, young people and volunteers to provide inland waterways based Heritage Education. Our employees and volunteers are fully committed to ensuring as many people as possible can access our programmes while recognising that the Heritage assets at Batchworth Lock and the nature of the Canal environment mean that access to all areas for those with more limited mobility is not always possible.

The statement below summarises the level of access that is available in our buildings and also in our boats.

2. The Batchworth Lock Education Centre

Entrance to the Building

The main building entrance is located at the front of the building adjacent to an access road leading off Church Street in Rickmansworth. Vehicles can stop here to drop off passengers. Wheelchair access is also possible from the pavement of Church Street directly to the Education Centre.

The entrance is well lit with lighting to illuminate both the steps and the ramp to the main entrance. There are 4 steps which have non slip yellow treads on the facing of each step leading up to the entrance. For visitors in wheelchairs there is a fixed ramp with a handrail which leads from the vehicle drop off point to the building entrance.

The building entrance has wide double doors and level access into the foyer and the facilities are all on a single floor.

Toilet Facilities

Toilets are accessed from the building foyer and all four cubicles have hand washing facilities and can be used by either sex. One of the cubicles has been made much larger and designed specifically for those with disabilities. It has appropriate fixtures and fittings to facilitate access by a wheelchair user.

The Main Classroom

The main classroom is accessed via wide double doors from the foyer and all amenities within the hall can be accessed by a wheelchair user.

3. The Batchworth Lock Canal Centre

The Canal centre is accessed from the towing path along a cobbled walkway. From Church Street step free access is possible by following the towing path alongside the River Chess which starts by the lift bridge across the entrance into the Chess Wharf basin. Direct step free access from Church Street is not possible as the access from the front of 99 Church Street is via steep and narrow steps. The other side of the Church Street Canal bridge has a slightly easier ramped access but still with broad steps. The Lock Centre can then be accessed by following the towing path under the road bridge towards the lock.

Disabled parking is available in the Rickmansworth Aquadrome and there is a good level path from the Aquadrome to the towing path and then north to the Canal Centre



4. Pride of Batchworth

Our trip boat Pride of Batchworth does not have a wheelchair lift and can only be accessed by persons with a reasonable degree of mobility.

5. Roger

The outside of our Historic Working Boat Roger is accessible to view from the towing path but the restored cabin, by its nature, is not accessible to those of limited mobility.

6. Our approach to welcoming people of all abilities

We welcome and encourage organisations catering for vulnerable adults and children and the Education Centre is used by one group who work with young adults with a wide range of needs.

We are aware of the fact that school children will arrive with a range of learning needs and we are open to schools' suggestions and requests for the day's content and topic and we will make any reasonable adjustments to our day's programme to accommodate. We will endeavour to respond to individuals' levels of understanding, and any behavioural issues, and adjust our approach (e.g. choice of questions to individual children) accordingly.