

# Newarke Houses

Access Statement



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 visitors.

We want to be open and accessible so that as many people as possible can enjoy the building, collections and exhibitions. We are accessible to all visitors to ensure that the widest number of people can enjoy the building, collection and exhibitions.

## Introduction

Leicester is very privileged in having Newarke Houses, dating back six hundred years. It is a Grade 2 listed building situated near to the City Centre next door to De Montfort University campus, Leicester Castle and Rupert's Gateway.

Over the centuries Newarke Houses has had many lives. These include being used for houses for notable Leicester gentry and merchants such as William Wygston. In 1645 it was involved in the Siege of Leicester and it has also been used as a school for boys. Newarke Houses opened to the public in 1953 as a museum.

Newarke Houses hosts a regular events programme including talks, and seasonal children's events. The museum is available for private hire with our newly refurbished garden galleries available at competitive rates.

Newarke Houses is accessible on all floors via a lift.

We look forward to welcoming you and want everyone to enjoy what we have to offer. If you have any queries or require assistance please telephone 0116 2254980 or email [museums@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:museums@leicester.gov.uk)

## Pre-arrival

- Free admission.
- For full details of how to reach us please see the Find Us section of our website, 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 LE2 7BY to get directions.
- The nearest railway station is a 10 minute walk away on London Road. ABC Taxis are available at the station. If you require an accessible taxi you can book this in advance on 0116 2555111.
- Newarke Houses is located in Leicester City Centre next to De Montfort University campus in the Newarke. The nearest car park is 5 minutes' walk away at the Holiday Inn Hotel.(NCP car park).
- For more details including local bus information please visit [Google Maps](#) To plan your journey to Leicester please visit [Leicester travel pages](#).

## Car Parking & Arrival

The Newarke Houses has no car park and therefore no accessible parking. There is pay and display parking on the Newarke outside (Blue badge holders can park for free). You can also drop people off outside the museum and then go and park the car at a nearby car park. The nearest car park is 5 minutes' walk away at the Holiday Inn hotel. Please call 0116 2254980 for further details.

- The entrance doors are large and automatic and are very accessible.
- We have 2 floors in the museum and 2 mezzanine levels. Our lift will drop you at any of the 4 levels.

- The city also has 3 park and ride facilities on the outskirts of town.

### Main Entrance & Reception

- The main entrance and reception is suitable for wheelchairs and the area is well lit with spot lights.
- The floor area in reception and most of the ground floor is made of stone with a lift situated in the room on the left of the reception area.
- There are seats available in the two galleries off reception.
- The reception and counter area is used for information, shop purchases and tickets for events.
- There is a hearing loop system in place.
- There is a wheelchair loan available for inside the museum.



## Attractions & Displays

Newarke Houses incorporates the museum of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment.

The museum is composed of two historic houses, Wygston's Chantry House and Skeffington House and tells the social history of Leicester. Discover the history of the Regiment, including a recreation of a First World War trench with sound and lighting. The museum displays include a cinema experience, (picture below) a collection of toys from Tudor to present day and a play area for children to try various games.

Visit to find out more about Leicester's famous son Daniel Lambert and visit a 1940s street scene inspired by Wharf Street that includes the Jolly Angler public house, a grocer and a pawnbroker, with sounds and conversations from the times. Through oral histories, archive film, computer interactives and collections, discover the histories of Newarke Houses, the surrounding historic area and contemporary Leicester.



Above is a photo of the clocking in machine and the street scene. The street has been made the same level to allow wheelchair access.



View of Regimental Galleries with ramped access.

We also have beautiful gardens which are partly accessible to wheelchairs. See photos below.



Please Note: The interpretation boards are made up of text, images and some artefacts. The text is not very large and therefore visually impaired visitors may struggle to read the smaller print.

## Public Toilets

- Newarke Houses has one accessible toilet and ladies and gents all situated on the ground floor.
- The accessible toilet does not require a key it has a twist lock, a grab rail and an emergency alarm.
- The sink in the accessible toilet is fitted with a lever tap, mirror and hand drier.

## Additional information

- Assistance dogs are welcome and water can be provided upon request.
- Selected staff have received disability training.
- Sensory information: Quietest time to visit is after 2pm and in the wintertime or out of school holidays.

(A quiet area can be provided on request).

## Emergency Evacuation

- Evacuation procedures are in place and can be made available on request.
- Vertical evacuation from the upper galleries is conducted with the use of:
  - Evacuation Chairs located on all escape routes / final fire exits to enable the safe vertical evacuation from all floors.
- Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) process is in place at the museum – please ask to speak to museum staff so that we can better understand any specific evacuation requirements you may require.

## Contact details

Newarke Houses, The Newarke Leicester LE2 7BY

Telephone: 0116 2254980

Email: [museums@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:museums@leicester.gov.uk)

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