

## **Winchester City Mill Access Statement**

Bridge Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9BH

T: 01962 870057

E: [winchestercitymill@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:winchestercitymill@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### **Introduction**

1. Winchester City Mill is a building which houses the functions of an ancient watermill and features a number of narrow doorways, low beams, some uneven floors as well as machinery that is not currently in use. Access to the mill room and to the lower mill floor is via several staircases. Due to the historic and confined nature of the building, ramps and chair lifts are not available.
2. Mobile phone reception throughout the property is good.
3. Assistance dogs are welcome at the property. As a food producer we do not admit non-assistance dogs within the Mill area or café.
4. Due to the limited space within the visitor welcome area, cafe, and mill room we only have limited room for pushchairs and buggies.

### **Arrival & Parking Facilities**

1. Winchester City Mill is situated at the lower part of the High Street in central Winchester (200m East of the King Alfred Statue), adjacent to the City Bridge. Signage is limited throughout the city but the property is featured on all the main pedestrian signs and maps.
2. There is no parking available on site. Public car parks are available throughout the city. Winchester Park and Ride is advisable at peak times. Chesil Street multi-storey car park is the nearest public parking located 500m from the visitor reception. There is no designated disabled parking on site.
3. The entrance to visitor reception is located within a gated courtyard accessed from Bridge Street.
4. The courtyard is paved with flag stones and has a slight incline down to the front door.

### **WCs**

1. There is an accessible toilet and baby changing facilities available on site.
2. The nearest public and disabled access toilets are located 200m from visitor reception in Abbey Gardens, adjacent to the King Alfred Statue. Nearby public toilets are also available in Winchester Guildhall.

### **Visitor Welcome**

1. The visitor welcome area features predominately hard surfaces including wood, stone and steel. The entrance lobby floor is a laminate non-slip surface. The rest of the floor is natural wooden floorboards throughout.
2. The entrance is via a low gradient ramp up from the courtyard that features a non-slip surface and a handrail.
3. The entrance door is manual opening, 920mm wide and opens inwards. Staff/volunteers can assist with opening the door if required.
4. There is circulation space of 1200mm between the display stands in most areas.
5. The height of reception desk is 904mm with a lower desk ledge 780mm high. Staff/volunteers can assist with opening the door if required.

6. The area is lit by natural light as well as LED spotlights throughout.
7. Two backless stools and a wooden bench are available for seating if required.
8. An induction loop is available at the main desk.
9. There are large print visitor guides upon request.

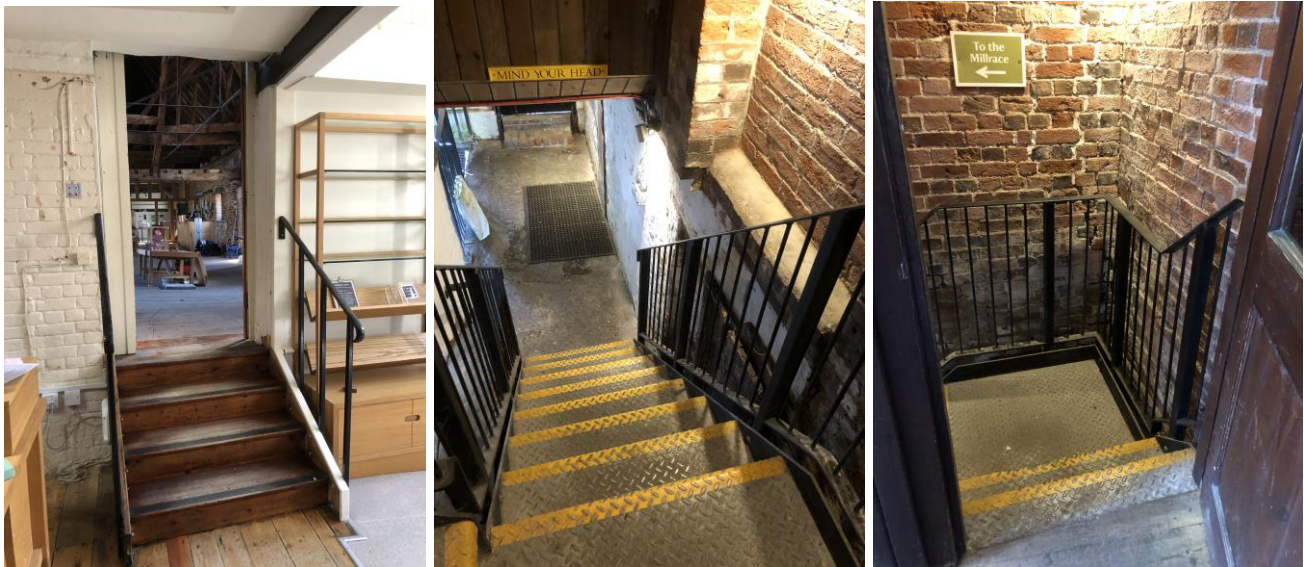


*Image: Entrance courtyard with ramp and left-sided handrail into Visitor Welcome*

## Mill Room

1. The entrance to the Mill room is via the visitor welcome.
2. Access through the entrance is via 4 x 150mm high steps and through a manual door 780mm wide that opens outwards. Due to the steepness of the steps a ramp is not available. Staff/volunteers can assist if required.
3. There are hard surfaces throughout the museum as well as noise from the river.
4. The museum is lit by natural light as well as LED spot lights throughout.
5. Access to the lower floor is via a doorway 720mm wide. This door is kept hooked open during visiting hours. Beyond the doorway is a staircase of 10 x 220mm high steps with a handrail. No lift is available.
6. The lower floor features a stone floor surface, uneven in some places as well as several ledges. A large rubber floor mat is provided in the most uneven areas. The machinery viewing area is accessed by a short bridge over the millrace. The surface of the bridge is made from a steel grill unsuitable for high heeled footwear. The bridge and viewing area are enclosed by wrought iron railings.
7. The lower floor is often noisy with the sound of fast flowing water.
8. There is space to turn a wheelchair easily (excess of 1500mm diameter circle) in the main mill room.
9. There are several backed and armed wooden chairs available within the mill room, and more seating can be made available upon request.
10. There is an audio/video guide, tactile model, large print and interactive interpretation throughout the property.
11. Access for powered wheelchairs or powered mobility vehicles is limited within the mill room due to the entrance steps.

12. British Sign Language Interpreters, Sign Supported English, Lipspeaking or a combination of these services can be requested but the visit will need to be prearranged.



*Image 1: Steps with handrails on both sides leading from the Visitor Welcome area into the Mill Museum. Image 2 & 3: Steps leading from the Mill Museum down to the Mill Race.*

## Catering

1. Our onsite café is located at the end of the mill room.
2. Access is via a sliding door which is 1000mm wide. This doorway is a single sliding glass door and needs to be manually opened and closed. Staff/Volunteers are available to assist as required.
3. Patrons of the café are served via table service by our staff.
4. The width between the tables varies and tables and chairs are not fixed and can be moved if needed.
5. The floor is the same as the mill room with flat, wooden floorboards.
6. An induction loop is available.
7. The area is lit via LED spotlights.

## Garden

1. Access to the garden is through the main mill room and via a manual door 880mm wide that opens inwards. There are 6 x 20mm stone steps down to the garden with a handrail.
2. The surfaces of the garden include a cobbled and paved path that leads through to the end of the garden.
3. Some of the paths feature uneven surfaces.
4. There is seating available for café patrons.
5. The garden extends out into the River Itchen with deep fast flowing water on either side. A stone and brick wall 800mm high forms a barrier between the island and the river.



*Image: Steps leading from the Mill Room down to the Garden.*

## **Contact details for more information**

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