



Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

Kirkleatham Museum



Access Policy

2024 - 2026



Kirkleatham Museum Mission statement

To build community strength and vibrancy, enhancing quality of life and wellbeing through engagement with Kirkleatham's amazing heritage, art and nature.

Our vision is that Kirkleatham Museum will be the beating, vibrant heart of heritage in our community - working in collaboration across the Tees Valley and beyond to enrich lives through understanding our past, exploring our present and forging the future.

Museum Service Aims

Aim 1: To make a positive impact on health and well-being for people in Redcar and Cleveland

Aim 2: To be recognised for working more closely with a wider range of people in our communities

Aim 3: To programme in ways that connect to people's present and future lives

Aim 4: To maximise engagement with our collections and ensure they reflect our diverse local history, especially our industrial heritage

Aim 5: To build capacity, skills and environmentally sustainable new ways of working

Aim 6: To work strategically in effective partnerships

Aim 7: To ensure our funding is secure and sustainable



Key Aims of wider Redcar and Cleveland BC Policies to which our Actions Align

Key Priorities	Outcomes	Objectives
Start Life Well	The environment which we grow up in and the education which we receive sets the tone for our whole life, including our health and future career. The safety and future prospects of local children is and always will be a priority for the Council.	We will strive to reduce child poverty in the borough.
	R&C is somewhere where a child can achieve all that they dream, regardless of their background.	We will support children to thrive and fulfil their potential
Live and Age Well	A strong local community where there is access to leisure, culture and healthy pastimes, alongside providing support when required, all play a significant role in influencing quality of life. This is a key part of the council's role, helping people throughout their life,	We will work hard to improve health and wellbeing.
		We will encourage community participation and volunteering.
		We will empower people to live independently.
Prosper and Flourish	Jobs and prosperity which will transform the prospects of local people. More money in people's pockets, means more money for them to spend in the local area, it means business will prosper and people will come to live here.	We will support the creation of good and well-paid jobs.
		We will help local people get the skills and training they need for quality jobs.
		We will spend money with local businesses.
		We will invest money to improve our towns and villages and lobby for better transport connectivity between them.
Clean and Tidy	A priority for the council is to look after the local area, to keep it clean and tidy, now, as well as to look after the environment for future generations. The council, alongside local people to that end	We will work with the local community to improve recycling levels.
		We will do our best to look after the environment.
		We will reduce the council's carbon footprint.



1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council recognises that all people have the right to derive the same benefits and opportunities from its museums and cultural facilities, regardless of ability, age, gender, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.
- 1.2 It is the Council's policy to provide physical and intellectual access to Kirkleatham Museum and its collections, grounds, programme of exhibitions and special events; and to offer a warm welcome to those who choose to visit and utilise the museum's facilities.

2.0 Guide to the Museum Site and its Facilities

2.1 Kirkleatham Museum

Kirkleatham Museum is a local history museum situated in the ancient village of Kirkleatham, 3 miles from the seaside town of Redcar. The Museum is housed in a magnificent 1710 Queen Anne building that sits within a site covering 15 acres. The site is generally flat, with gentle ramps at the ends of pathways which make it ideal for wheelchair users.

Access into museum is through a wide double door and an automatic door just inside the porch which requires a push on a button to open and gain access.

Displays and exhibitions occupy the three floors of the Museum, all of which are accessible via the Ground Floor lift. Public toilets, including facilities for disabled visitors and baby changing, are located on the Ground Floor.

2.2 The Pavilion

The Pavilion is a modern building which consists of a large glass-roofed exhibition/ events hall, a suite of spaces used for schools' visits, and a cafe. All public areas within the Pavilion are at ground level and are easily accessed through the automatic doors at the entry to the exhibition/ events hall. Public toilets, including facilities for disabled visitors and baby changing, are linked to the cafe.

2.3 Collections Annexe

The Collections Annexe is a purpose-built storage facility housing the Museum's collections. It is built on a single level and features a large space for storage along with a small office which is the workspace of the Collections Officer. The Collections Annexe is open to the public for research and viewing purposes, but only by prior appointment. A toilet with disabled facilities is located within the building.

2.4 External Grounds & Car Parking

The Museum grounds feature a play area for children, including accessible equipment for wheelchair users and large area of flat lawn. Clear signage gives directions to the other facilities on the site.

The parking area provides for up to 6 coaches and 80 cars plus 4 spaces designated for disabled visitors.

3.0 Museum Opening Times

Kirkleatham Museum is open six days per week (Tuesdays to Sundays) throughout the year, and admission is free. There may be charges applicable for some, but not all, of the Special Events programme which is held throughout the year.

Opening hours are:



Tuesday – Sunday 10:00am – 4.30 pm

The museum is closed Mondays except Bank Holidays

4.0 Access Principles

- We will provide our services to the widest range of people regardless of ability, age, gender, ethnic, religious or economic background.
- We will ensure that exhibitions and displays are as accessible and inclusive as possible. We will use 'Tees Valley Museums Access Guidelines' for producing written text and design associated with exhibitions and interpretation to enable them to be inclusive: to be accessed by as wide an audience as possible.
- We will seek to continually improve both physical and intellectual access to our museums and services.
- We will support inclusive access to arts and heritage regardless of financial background. The Children North East report: 'Poverty Proofing© Kirkleatham Hall Museum & Grounds 2023', will inform our practice and planning.
- Core services will be free including entrance to our museum. A charge may be payable for Specialist Exhibitions, Events and Activities.
- We will consult regularly with disabled people and disability organisations to ensure that every one can access the museums services and facilities.
- We shall ensure that the principles of full access underpins all aspects of the work at Kirkleatham Museum.

5.0 Review of Access Policy

The Access Policy was reviewed in:

August 2017 (by Malcolm Armstrong, Cultural Services Manager).

October 2024 (Liz Vine, Education Development Officer)