

Astley Hall Complex Access Assessment 2016

*Carried out by Amanda Draper, Curatorial Consultant
Based on Visit Britain Access Assessment toolkit.*

****Most recent updates based on new visitor experience added 2024****

1. Introduction:

Astley Hall is set in parkland on the outskirts of Chorley town centre. The terrain is flat around the Hall itself, but there are some gentle gradients in the pathways through the Park. All the main paths around the Park are wheelchair accessible, as is the café, Coach House Gallery and the ground floor of the Hall.

2. Pre-Arrival

Astley Hall is a 20 minute walk through the Park from Chorley railway station. There is a bus every 15 minutes from Chorley bus station to Chancery Road in Astley village and then a 5 minute walk to the Hall.

All details of public transport to the Hall are given in the publicity leaflet and to telephone enquirers.

There is no collection service for visitors but information about local taxi companies is given on request. Staff can call for a taxi if necessary.

Streets in Astley village are tarmacked and in good repair.

There is wheelchair hire/Shopmobility available in Chorley town centre.

Access information is available on the website as well as contact details if prospective visitors require specific information.

The Astley leaflet is not available in other formats such as large print, braille or audio, which are options for the future.

3. Parking and Arrival

The Astley car park is adjacent to the complex and is connected by smooth, wheelchair accessible pathways. Parking is free. It is approximately 300 metres from there to the front of the Hall

There are four disabled parking spaces on Hallgate Car park and two adjacent to the Farmhouse building (about 100 metres from the front of the Hall). In certain circumstances, visitors may be permitted to park or drop-off in front of the Hall.

The surface underfoot from the car parks to the Hall is tarmac or gravel and it is level.

There is lighting in the car park although it can be dark in the park and around the Hall at night.

There is a ramp to the main entrance to the Hall at the side of the building. The Great Hall's doors at the front of the building are unlocked when it is open to visitors and there are no steps up; it a level access. The width of the Great Hall door opening is 150cm with no obstacles.

4. Main Entrance, Reception & Ticketing Area

Tickets to the Hall are low cost and available to purchase from the Astley Museum Shop which has level access.

The main entrance to the Hall is on the ground floor of the with level ground leading up to it. There is a small lip from the entrance walkway to inside the Hall.

There is seating in the Great Hall and seating can be provided elsewhere if requested.

The flooring on the ground floor is a mixture of flags (Great Hall and Kitchen area), wood (passageways and Morning Room) and carpet. Upstairs it is a mixture of wooden floors (all main rooms) and carpeted corridors.

The lighting is a mixture of daylight, wall lights, central light (chandeliers) and spotlights.

All visitors are welcomed by a knowledgeable guide at the main entrance. Visitors requiring additional assistance can request it at this point. Audio transcripts and access to a 3D tour of the building can be made available. Video elements are equipped with subtitles

There is no hearing loop system.

5. Attraction (displays, exhibits, etc)

The Hall offers several means of interpretation: textual, private guided tours led by member of the front of house team, printed audio transcripts and 3D tour.

Minimum text size is 16pt Ariel font. Interpretation in rooms is set at appropriate heights according to museums guidelines.

Background music is often played when the Hall is open but this can be turned off if requested.

All the doors around the building are propped open when the building is open.

There is seating at intervals around the Hall and the courtyard

The lighting throughout is a mixture of spotlights, wall lights and natural daylight with fluorescent lighting in some areas including the art gallery. Light levels can get low as darkness falls in the North Wing.

The Hall has no lift and is inaccessible to anybody unable to climb stairs. There is a 3D tour of the Hall which can be made available in order to virtually view the upper floors

6. Public toilets

There are public toilets for men and women inside the Hall but they are not designed for wheelchair users or people with impaired mobility. The door width is 75cm and there are no hand rails.

There is a unisex Radar bathroom on the ground floor of the café and a unisex disabled bathroom in the outside courtyard in the farmhouse building. These have a door width of 90cm on a level entry. They are heated and well-lit with fluorescent lights. There is non-slip tiled flooring.

In the outside toilet, there is a wheelchair space on the left of the toilet. There is a horizontal grab rail to the right and on either side of the wash basin. The basin has a lever mixer tap.

The toilet seat is 48cm from the floor.

There is an emergency red alarm cord for summoning assistance.

7. Grounds and Gardens

Visitors have access to lawns, picnic areas, a walled garden with flower beds; all these are on good paths on level terrain which is wheelchair accessible.

There is also a woodland area which is on steep uneven terrain with steps and not wheelchair accessible.

The paths in the park are wide and 210cm at the narrowest point. Path surfaces are tarmac or gravel.

There is wooden bench seating throughout the park and gardens.

8. Additional Information

Staff have attended dementia awareness training.

The staff are trained in evacuation procedures. Fire exit signs are prominently displayed.

Assistance dogs are admitted to the Hall. There are water bowls for dogs near the café.

Signage around the Hall is according to accessible guidelines

Original assessment: 19th September 2016
Most recent updates made 2024

