

## Access Statement for Middleport Pottery

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our visitors.

### Introduction

Set on the outskirts of Burslem, the 'Mother town' of the Potteries, Middleport Pottery is the last working Victorian Pottery in Great Britain. World famous Burleigh pottery has been created here using traditional methods since 1889. In 2011, The Prince's Regeneration Trust stepped in and brought the site to save it from closure and restore it. Following three years of renovation it is now fully open.

Step back in time as you explore the historic collections, Victorian offices, steam engine, bottle kiln and mould store, and learn about the people and events which have shaped the Pottery. The factory tour offers the chance to see pottery being made using the same handcraft methods as in the 1880s. There is also a traditional café, overlooking the picturesque Trent and Mersey Canal. Middleport Pottery is also a unique venue which can provide a very special location for conferences, celebrations, and many other types of events.

Tours must be pre-booked. The tour is of a working factory, which can be quite noisy in places and there are some trip hazards – therefore places are limited to 10 people per tour. There are four sizeable staircases and several smaller steps, some of which are narrow and steep. There is no seating on the way around. Limited access to some areas of the factory tours for wheelchair users is possible – however a more accessible version of the tour with a rearranged route is available, please contact us in advance to discuss your needs. A tour video is available in the Victorian Offices.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please contact us by telephone on 01782 499766, or email [middleport@princes-regeneration.org](mailto:middleport@princes-regeneration.org).

This access statement is available in larger print on request.

### Pre-Arrival

You can plan your journey by car or public transport using the website [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info) – simply enter your postcode, and ours, which is ST6 3PE to get directions.

The nearest railway station is Longport (0.6 miles), approximately 10 minutes walk away. Local trains only run to this station hourly – national rail services call at Stoke-on-Trent railway station (5 miles). Taxis are available at this station, and the journey to us takes around 15 minutes.

The First Bus number 3 runs between Keele and Crewe Leighton Hospital – this can be boarded at Stoke-on-Trent railway station, and you will need to alight at Wedgwood Place, Burslem. There is a shelter with seating here. You may then walk approximately 20 minutes to us, along Market Place then Newcastle Street, following the brown signs for Middleport Pottery. Alternatively, take bus number 9A from Wedgwood Place and alight at Trubshaw Cross roundabout, again following the brown signs, around 8 minutes

walk. There is no shelter or seating at this bus stop. Please visit [http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/staffordshire\\_cheshire/](http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/staffordshire_cheshire/), or call 08456 020 121 for up-to-date travel information regarding buses.

We are around 4 minutes cycle ride from the centre of Burslem, following the same route, and we are also accessible from the canal towpath, on the opposite side to the site. The canal can be crossed less than a minute's walk south at Pidduck Street. The towpath can also be used to walk or cycle all the way from Stoke-on-Trent railway station. Mooring is available for canal boats adjacent to the site.

The pavement on the streets surrounding Middleport Pottery is tarmac.

### **Car Parking and Arrival**

We have a large, rough ground car park adjacent to the building. There is a dedicated disabled car park opposite the entrance on Port Street, and there is unrestricted on-street parking on both sides of Port Street. There is a parking drop off space just outside the front entrance on Port Street, and also a coach parking space on the road immediately outside. There are hard surface paths from the car park to visitor reception and the shop (some parts are cobbled). There is no bell at the entrance, there is a sign advising the reception telephone number for assistance adjacent to the main gate.

### **Visitor Centre/Victorian Offices**

The visitor centre reception area has a level entrance off the street, with a step from the route from the main car park which can be raised for wheelchair users. The visitor centre has level access, which some seating available and more on request. The flooring is tile in the entrance hall, leading on to wood in the Victorian Offices. The area is not brightly lit, although it has some artificial lighting there is a large reliance on natural light. There is a hearing induction loop, and notes on the collections displays are available in large print. Video footage is played on a flat screen television, with adjustable volume control. There are 2 steep stone steps down to a single toilet. There is a stone staircase, with handrail, to the upstairs gallery space. This is also accessible from the lift to the first floor via the Function Room and a low ramp.

### **Café**

The café has a level entrance from the canal side, and 3 steps down from within the building, with handrail. Tables are well spaced, with a mixture of chairs, benches and sofa seating. Furniture can be removed or rearranged. There is a low counter, and the flooring is wooden with cobbles under the outside tables. There is a low level of artificial lighting, with two sets of large French doors which open onto the outside seating area adjacent to the canal, generating large amounts of natural light.

### **Activity Room**

This room is on the first floor, which is reached by stairs with handrail up from the café area. There is a lift, from which visitors need to pass through the function room – there is no wheelchair access to the main activity space but the area inside the entrance of the room is accessible via the route from the lift, and there is a wheelchair accessible toilet in this room. There is wooden flooring, some of which is slightly uneven, and bench style seating. Furniture can be removed or rearranged. There are large low-level sinks in this

room for craft activities. The ceiling is very high with roof lights, and there is also artificial light.

### **Function Room**

The Function Room is on the first floor. This can be accessed via stone steps with handrail up from the visitor centre, wooden steps up with a handrail from the café, or by the lift and through a doorway. There is a ramp from the main function room space up to the upstairs gallery area. The flooring is wooden, and very slightly uneven – if accessing by the lift there is also a small amount of smooth metal flooring. There is no permanent furniture, as this is set up to cater for the relevant function. The ceiling is very high with roof lights, and there is also artificial light.

### **Factory Tour**

The tour is of a working factory, which can be quite noisy in places and there are some trip hazards – therefore places are limited to 10 people per tour. There are four sizeable staircases and several smaller steps, some of which are narrow and steep. There is no seating on the way around. Limited access to some areas of the factory tours for wheelchair users is possible – however a more accessible version of the tour with a rearranged route is available, please contact us in advance to discuss your needs. A tour video is available in the Victorian Offices.

### **Other Public Areas**

The general public spaces around the ground floor of the factory are reached via cobbled walkways, which are generally smooth but with slightly uneven surfaces due to the Victorian period of the site. Ground floor workshops, the bottle oven and mould store are all accessible this way. The mould store has concrete flooring, and intentionally low light to recreate the effect of the old factory's mould store. The bottle kiln has a small ramp down to it with uneven surface, and low lighting inside with videos played via projection on the interior walls. Video footage is played in here on a flat screen television, with adjustable volume control.

Other floors of the building can be accessed via a variety of routes, most easily by the main stairwell and lift, which are adjacent to one another off the cobbled walkway in the centre of the site. Both the stairs and lift are metal with non-slip flooring.

There is other space available to rent, frequently used for meetings, on the fourth floor of the building accessible via the lift or straight up the main metal stairwell. The whole of this floor has level flooring, with artificial light, windows and some roof lights. Desks and chairs are currently in place but furniture can be arranged as necessary.

We also have a small, flat, grassed area, approximately 2m x 5m. A small picnic-style table is on here with a pottery themed board game on it.

### **Toilets**

With the exclusion of one in the Visitor Centre reception, all toilets are reachable from a level surface. Single facilities in the café, and on all four levels of the building are wheelchair accessible, with wide doors and handrails. Flooring within the toilets is non-slip, and they are all brightly lit. The nearest mobility toilet to the car park is

approximately 30 yards away. There are a further 3 toilets in the café which are for standard use and have no handrail in in the cubicles.

### **Additional Information**

Free wi-fi internet is available on request.

The nearest hospital with an A&E unit is the Royal Stoke University Hospital 2.5 miles away. The nearest walk-in centre is Haywood Hospital, 1.3 miles away. The nearest Doctors surgery is less than 0.2 miles away. Please ask if you require further information about these.

We welcome trained assistance guide dogs, including on the factory tour. A water bowl is available just outside the café for all dogs to use.

The factory shop, run by Burleigh, is located on site and is accessible on the ground floor via the cobbled walkway and by the lift, through our Function Room.

### **Contact Information**

Address: Middleport Pottery, Port Street, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 3PE

Telephone: 01782 499766

Email: [middleport@princes-regeneration.org](mailto:middleport@princes-regeneration.org)

Website: [www.middleportpottery.co.uk](http://www.middleportpottery.co.uk)