

Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum – Access guide



Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum

Morpeth

Northumberland

NE61 1PD

Tel: 01670 624 490 / 07736 865 824

Building

- The Chantry is a converted 13th century church building on the main street in Morpeth Town Centre. Morpeth Tourist Information Centre and the Northumbria Craft Centre are on the building's ground floor, and the Bagpipe Museum occupies the first floor.

Planning your visit

- You can plan your journey by car or public transport using [Google Maps](#). Simply enter your postcode or location to get directions.
- You can also use What3Words: [///scream.crows.inflame](#).
- Morpeth Chantry is in Morpeth Town Centre, within 5 minutes' walk of Morpeth bus and train stations. To make your way to the Chantry from the nearest bus stop, get off at Castle Square and cross the Telford Bridge. The Chantry is situated on the north side of the bridge.
- The nearest railway station is Morpeth, which is 5 minutes' walk from the Chantry. Turn right out of the station. Follow the A192 down the hill and cross the Telford Bridge into Morpeth Town Centre. The Chantry is on the north side of the bridge.
- Taxis are available locally. If you require an accessible taxi, you can book this in advance – Phoenix Taxis 01670 540222. Accessible taxis are available; please mention this requirement when you book.
- Our leaflet and all site guides and interpretation are available in larger print on request.

Car Parking and Arrival

- The museum is accessed via the Chantry Tourist Information Centre, on the building's ground floor. If you have specific access needs, or concerns about your visit, please do let a member of the Chantry staff know and they will do their best to assist you.

- The museum is not staffed by Museums Northumberland staff; the Chantry staff are based on the building's ground floor if assistance is needed.
- There is no car park at the Chantry, but there is lots of car parking in Morpeth Town Centre, within a short distance of the building. Parking is free but you will need a parking disc- these are available from Libraries, Tourist Information Centres, Customer Information Centres, local businesses - see the signage on display in the car parks. Disc dispensers are also available in some car parks. Parking discs issued with Blue Badges or from other local authorities can also be used. Parking discs cost £1.
- If required, we will allow drop-off/pick-up of visitors with mobility issues closer to the main museum entrance. For the convenience and safety of all our visitors this must be arranged in advance with the museum, and a member of our staff will guide you.

Access

- There are two access points to the building - one via the main entrance to the Tourist Office on Bridge Street, and one via the rear of the building, into the Craft Centre. This second doorway is wider than the main entrance, giving easier access to wheelchair users and visitors using large pushchairs. Additionally, this courtyard door has an automatic opener installed to allow easier access for visitors.
- The courtyard to the rear of the building, and the area outside the Tourist Office entrance has slightly uneven paving.
- Parking in the courtyard is available for a minibus, by prior arrangement only.
- The museum is accessed by a stair to the first floor of the building. This stairway has open treads, and one handrail to the right. There are 18 steps, broken by a half landing. There is a second spiral stairway in the main gallery of the museum, which is for staff use only.
- The museum can be accessed via a lift to the first floor, which is situated next to the stairway. Press the button to open the door, and once inside continuously press the button to raise the lift. A noise will announce you have arrived at the first floor.

Museum Galleries

- The museum consists of two galleries, linked by a small foyer area at the top of the main staircase.
- The main gallery measures approximately 15 metres long by 8 metres wide. Entry is from a door at the top of the main staircase. There is a spiral staircase leading to a ground floor office at the opposite end of the gallery. The museum display is furnished with 10 large plate glass cases, and one large hanging panel. All furnishings are fixed to the floor. There is a low stand equipped with a

television and video. There are two electricity points at floor level. These are covered when not in use. The windows in this room have bars.

- The foyer area at the head of the staircase is not gated. Vigilance is therefore necessary when young children and visitors with sight impairments are visiting the museum. There are four wall-mounted cases in this area, which jut out at a height of 4 feet.
- The second gallery measures approximately 12 metres long by 6 metres wide. Entry is through the museum foyer area. The museum display is furnished with large plate glass cases, which are fixed to the floor. There are two electricity points at floor level in this room. These are covered when not in use. The windows in this room have safety bars fitted.
- There is a Mini Museum trolley with a play rug for children. This contains games, books, puppets and a row of bells to play tunes.
- All areas of the museum are carpeted. All seating is upholstered. The tonal contrast within the rooms is considered suitable.
- Light levels in the galleries are generally low, for conservation reasons.
- The display cases are finished with glazed screens, which generally have a low level of surface reflection.
- The exhibition panels use large typefaces, and almost all are printed in black on white high contrast.
- There is an infra-red sound guide, which features music only.
- A set of bagpipes is available for handling, by prior arrangement.
- A demonstration of piping is available, by prior arrangement.

Fire Escape

- There is a wooden fire escape leading from the second gallery to ground floor level. Should the fire alarm sound, this escape should be used to exit the second gallery. This means of exit should be used in case of emergency only (i.e., not as a means of entry/exit). The fire assembly point is the courtyard to the rear of the building. The building's fire alarms and extinguishers are checked on a regular basis.

Toilet Facilities

- There are two toilets. One is fully accessible to visitors using wheelchairs. There is no separate baby changing facility.
- The nearest Changing Places facility is in Morpeth Leisure Centre, approximately three minutes' walk from the museum.

Storage area

- There are no formal storage areas on the ground floor of the building, and though it will be possible to stow a limited number of pushchairs/equipment downstairs in the building it is recommended that such items be taken upstairs.

Workshops and musical events

- These will be held mainly in the second gallery, where the capacity is 60 people.
- Music and dance sessions might involve some movement but will require no special equipment.
- Art and craft sessions will use non-toxic materials. Any scissors used will be designed for safe use for children and to be handled under adult supervision only.
- Children under the age of eight must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult.

Additional Information

- We are here to help you make the most of your visit to Morpeth, so please contact us before your visit if you require any specific assistance or information.
- We have a set of evacuation procedures – should you require it someone will assist you with evacuation either out of the building or to a refuge.
- All our information brochures, evacuation procedures etc. are available in large print.
- We welcome trained assistance dogs, and water is available on request.
- Clear signage is used throughout the attraction using clear font and large lettering.
- We can offer a list of nearby accommodation and details of their Access Statements for information, where available.
- Please also see our website for online exhibitions, archive catalogue and information, information about public events and our exhibition programme.

Future Plans

- Along with our sister museums in Ashington, Hexham and Berwick we intend to increase our community outreach and project work - going out to groups who can't easily come to us. Please do get in touch if you are interested in a visit or workshop or see our website for opportunities to participate in our upcoming projects.
- Where feasible we intend to improve our facilities and experiences through consultation with local disability awareness groups - this includes signage and printed/Braille material. If you have any suggestions for improving accessibility at Morpeth Chantry, please do get in touch.

Contact Information

Address: Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum

Telephone: 01670 624 490

Email: hello@museumsnorthumberland.org.uk

Website: www.museumsnorthumberland.org.uk

Hours of operation: 09:30-17:00 Monday – Saturday, all year round. We are also open on Sundays during August and December, and most bank holidays (except Christmas and New Year). Please see our website for further details.

Local Carers: Carers Northumberland Suite 17 Wansbeck Business Centre Rotary Parkway Ashington <http://www.carersnorthumberland.org.uk/> Tel 01670 518204

Local Accessible Taxi: Phoenix Taxis 01670 540222

Local Public Transport:

Morpeth Bus Station Sanderson Arcade, Morpeth, Northumberland. NE61 Please note that the bus station is unmanned but operators are listed below:

Morpeth Bus Station 01670 533 128

Arriva 0844 800 4411

Go Northeast 0845 606 0260

National Express 08717 818 181

Morpeth Railway Station Coopies Lane, Morpeth, Northumberland. NE61 2SL The station is staffed 06.30am until 17.30pm weekdays, 06.30am until 13.00pm on Saturdays, Closed on Sundays. It does not have a public telephone on site. The station is operated by Northern Rail 08450 000125 / 0800 200 6060
www.northernrailway.co.uk/help

Please note: 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 guests/visitors.