



Access Statement

1. Introduction

This Access Statement describes the facilities and services offered to visitors at Dr Jenner's House, Museum and Garden in order to help those with access needs to plan their visit and enjoy the museum and gardens.

Dr Jenner's House, Museum and Garden is an historic house museum and heritage visitor attraction which tells the story of the life, career and legacy of Dr Edward Jenner, the pioneer of vaccination, all in the setting of the eighteenth-century Grade II* listed Queen Anne style home at which he lived for 38 years until his death in 1823.

The museum is situated on a level site in the centre of Berkeley, a small country town in the Vale of Berkeley in Gloucestershire. Visitors normally allow approximately 2 hours to visit the museum at a comfortable place to enjoy everything that is on offer.

The museum's exhibitions are based in gallery rooms spread over two floors with a further exhibition located in the house's attic which is visited by guided tours arranged in advance. Additional temporary exhibition space is located in the Potting Shed, part of the historic Vinery, and the Old Cyder House, an adjacent building that acted as a service wing, houses the visitor toilets and indoor picnic area.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01453 810631 or e-mail info@edwardjenner.co.uk. Members of our Front of House team are on hand to provide assistance to visitors during the times we are open to the public. Outside normal opening times members of staff in the Museum Office are available to answer enquiries during the week between 9-5pm and at other times there is a 24 hour answering machine on which messages can be left which will be returned as soon as possible.

2. Pre-Arrival

The museum's post code is GL13 9BN. For full details and maps of how to reach the museum please see the 'How to Find Us' section of our website: <https://jennermuseum.com/visit-us/#getting-here>

Entrance Gates

The main entrance gate for both vehicles and pedestrians is off Church Lane to the front of the House. There is a pedestrian only gate to the right and a bright open/closed sign that gives details of open days and hours, also given on our website www.jennermuseum.com.



Fig 1. The entrance gate and car park area; the open/closed sign is on the right gatepost.

There is also a pedestrian only gate leading from the grounds of Berkeley Castle into the garden. The pathways from this gate are gravel, suitable for wheelchair users, and are level.



Fig 2. The pedestrians only gate leading from the grounds of Berkeley Castle.

Car Travel and Car Parking

There is limited parking on site for 20 cars, car park as in Fig 1. There is one clearly marked Blue Badge parking space which is adjacent to the entrance that is accessible to wheelchair users. It can be reserved in advance by contacting the museum. The main entrance is about

20 meters from the Blue Badge space. The car park surface is level, has a gravel surface, and is suitable for wheelchair users.

The nearest alternative off-site car park (free) is in Marybrook Street. It has a tarmac surface, approximately 30 parking spaces, and is approximately 800 meters from the museum using level pavements. There is also free parking on many of the adjacent streets, however in certain areas in the town centre there are 1 or 2 hour parking restrictions Mondays - Saturdays 8am-6pm.

Public Transport

- The nearest railway station is Cam & Dursley which is about 6 miles away (a 10 minute drive).
- Taxis are not available at the station except by pre-booking. A list of local companies can be found here www.britinfo.net/taxis/TBDHP28050.htm. If you require an accessible taxi please enquire with the company concerned.
- Bus travel is very limited and visitors are not advised to travel to the museum by bus without prior planning. Visitors may find Traveline (<http://traveline.info>) a helpful online planning resource.

3. Entrance, Hallway and Ticketing Area

There are 3 steps leading to the main entrance (door width 90cm; opens inwards) but there are no handrails. Unfortunately the steps are also too steep to allow a wheelchair ramp to be used safely; wheelchair users access the museum via a separate door (width 90cm; opens inwards) by the Blue Badge Parking area. There is one small step and there is a removeable wooden wheelchair ramp to allow access into the museum building. Visitors will be assisted by the front of house team when using this entrance.



Fig 3. The main entrance to Dr Jenner's House.

The front door is open at all times the house is open to visitors - please go straight in.

Visitor Reception is situated in the Gift Shop which is located on the ground floor with step free, level access throughout. The Gift Shop is accessed from the hallway, immediately on the left though the main door. There is a short permanent ramp allowing wheelchair access into the Gift Shop.

The floor surface is stripped wooden floorboards and the area is evenly and well lit with overhead lighting from spotlights.

There is a portable "Contacta" hearing loop system available at Visitor Reception - hearing aid users should inform staff they wish to use the Hearing Loop and then switch their device to the T position.

Visitors are provided with a floorplan and list of highlight objects to use during their visit and this should be returned to the Gift Shop. There is also a short guide leaflet available for purchase (£1.50) entitled "The Life, Times and Home of Edward Jenner". There is a Braille translation of this leaflet which may be borrowed at the admissions desk and also returned there after use.

One accompanying carer is admitted free.

There is a DiscoveryPEN audio tour available for blind or partially-sighted visitors, those in wheelchairs or unable to visit the first floor of the museum, or any visitors wishing to use this facility. These are available from Visitor Reception and full instructions of how to use will be provided by the front of house team. A handheld map, with sound spots, is used in conjunction with the audio set. These should be returned to Visitor Reception after use.

4. Orientation Space and DVD - the Dining Room

The first part of the visit experience is a 22 minute DVD for adults and a 15 minute alternative DVD for younger children (age 8 and under). Seating for the DVD is on movable wooden chairs, some of which have cushions. There is ample space for wheelchair users.

The adult DVD is available with subtitles which can be put on by staff on request. The children's DVD does not have subtitles.

5. The Exhibition Rooms

The exhibitions are located in six exhibition rooms located over two floors - the Ground and First Floor. In addition, there is a further exhibition in the house's attic which is visited by guided tour arranged in advance.

Ground Floor Rooms (Dining Room, Drawing Room, Study)

These rooms present Edward Jenner's life, career, achievements and legacy through the presentation of objects, archives and display panels.

The study is a period room setting. All rooms are accessible to wheelchair users and have level step-free access. The doorway to the Study requires access at a right angle and the doorway width is 85cm. The Study viewing area is quite small (approx 130cm x 130cm) which might be awkward for some wheelchair users – the front of house team can assist if required.

All rooms are lit with overhead lighting. The case lights in the Drawing Room are currently switched off for collection conservation reasons, however torches are available to borrow from the Gift Shop to provide further illumination if required. Light levels in the Study are lower (for collection conservation reasons). There are chairs in the Dining Room, Drawing Room and Hall which visitors may use.

First Floor Rooms (Immunology Works 1, Immunology Works 2, Eradication Room)

These rooms present the scientific and medical underpinning of vaccination and the science of immunology together the story of the final eradication of smallpox by the World Health organisation in the 1960s and 1970s. The first-floor rooms are only accessible via a flight of stairs (16 stairs, stair depth 16cm), however there is level step-free access beyond the stairs.

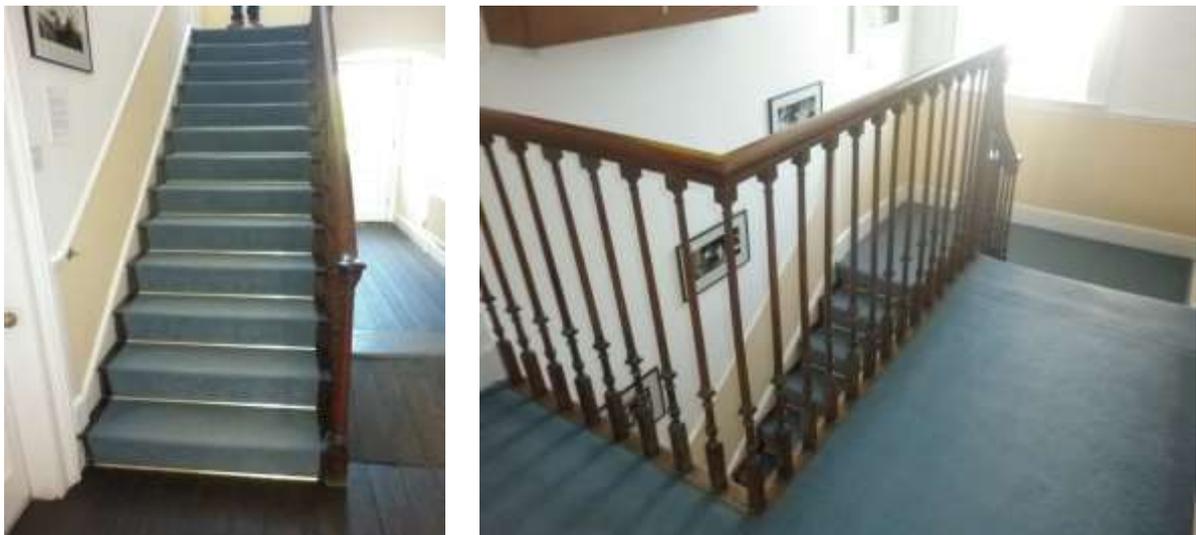


Fig 4. The main staircase (left) and first floor landing (right) at Dr Jenner's House

Visitors who cannot use the stairs are invited to view the content of the exhibitions in a clearly marked brown leather folder which is available on the hall table on the Ground Floor; staff can assist if required.

All rooms are lit with overhead lighting. The display panels in the Immunology Works rooms are backlit. The case lights in the Eradication Room are currently switched off for collection conservation reasons, however torches are available to borrow from the Gift Shop to provide further illumination if required. There are chairs for visitors to use in all first-floor exhibition rooms.

Attic

The Attic exhibition is only accessible by pre-booked guided tour which is led by staff/volunteers.

The access stairs to the rooms are very steep and uneven and are unlikely to be suitable for those with mobility impairments and cannot be accessed by wheelchair users. There is one rope handrail to the right and one wooden handrail to the left. Approximately half way up the stairs is a sharp left-hand turn and a low beam - visitors should be aware of the low beam when using the stairs.

The rooms also have uneven floors, narrow access ways and there are relatively low light conditions. The spaces can also get very hot in the summer and some of the rooms are quite small, which some visitors find claustrophobic. Light levels are relatively low.

Guides give a full explanation of the health and safety aspects of visiting the attics at the start of each tour.



Fig 5. The steep, narrow and uneven wooden stairs leading to the Attic rooms.

6. The Old Cyder House

The Old Cyder House is a two-storey building adjacent to The Chantry. The entrance is through a wide external door (width 113cm) with a small step (9cm), as pictured. A temporary ramp is available for use by museum staff/volunteers to allow wheelchair access into this building.



Fig 5. The entrance to the Old Cyder House.

The Ground Floor houses a multi-function room space used for temporary exhibitions, functions, refreshments and indoor visitor seating for packed lunches etc. Upstairs there is a Conference Room where events, lectures and meetings are held.

The First Floor rooms are only accessible via a flight of stairs (14 stairs, stair depth 20cm) and there is no step-free access for wheelchair users.

The Museum Office is also located on the First Floor.



Fig 6. The stairs to the First Floor of the Old Cyder House

The visitor toilets are also located on the Ground Floor of the Old Cyder House (see Section 8, below). All rooms are lit with ample overhead lighting.

7. The Garden, Physic Garden, Vinery and Temple of Vaccinia

External entry to the garden is via several gates (width 115cm) and pathways. Some of the wooden gates are opened using top level catches which may be difficult for wheelchair users to use - the front of house team can assist if required. All paths are gravel and level.



Fig 8. Example of the level, gravel pathways in Dr Jenner's Garden.

Entry to the garden from the house is via an inwards opening wide back door to the house on the Ground Floor. There is a ramp over the one step which has non-slip strips.



Fig 9. The back door from the house to the garden, showing the ramp.

The Physic Garden is a new addition to the grounds since 2016. There are four large raised plant beds arranged around a centrepiece. All pathways are gravel and level. Pathways through the Physic Garden are all wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs, with the minimum width at any point 97cm. There is room to manoeuvre around the centrepiece.



Fig 10. The Physic Garden with centrepiece.

The interior of Vinery is accessed through a door to which there is one step (depth 30cm) and then a further 3 steps (depth 25cm). These steps lead to a viewing gallery but this is unlikely to be accessible to people with some mobility needs owing to its restricted dimensions.

The Vinery Potting Shed houses temporary exhibitions. It is accessed at two points – the main entrance is located opposite the back door of the house and access is via a small ramp to accommodate wheelchair users. The second entrance is from the Physic Garden and, while this is on the level, there is restricted space and so may not be suitable for wheelchair users.

The small thatched hut called the Temple of Vaccinia is where Jenner vaccinated the poor free of charge on certain days. It is a Grade II* building in its own right and has a strong sense of atmosphere and significance. There is an audio-visual installation which starts automatically. Access is level and there is sufficient space for wheelchair users. The doorway is approximately 75cm.



Fig 11. The Temple of Vaccinia.

There are several seats and benches in the garden for visitors' convenience as well as external cafe tables and seats outside the Old Cyder House. In the summer, lawn games are sometimes put out on the lawns for visitors to enjoy.

8. Visitor Toilets

The visitor toilets are located on the ground floor of the Old Cyder House with level access from the main entrance of the building. There are male, female and accessible toilets. The accessible toilet is located through one external door that leads to the male and accessible facilities. The door widths are (female: 78cm; male 78cm; accessible 72cm, opens outwards).

The accessible toilet does not meet current recommended standards in terms of space and this may make use difficult for some wheelchair users with restricted space for turning and manoeuvring. There is no transfer space for the accessible toilet. The toilet height is 42cm. There are vertical and horizontal rails either side of the toilet. There is a low-level coat hook but no alarm cord.

The basin units have conventional taps and may be a little stiff for those without a strong grip.



Fig 12. The accessible toilet in the Old Cyder House

The museum is very aware that the toilet facilities, which date from 1985, whilst working, clean and generally adequate, would be enhanced by refurbishment which is currently outside the museum's resources.

Alternative public toilets, owned and managed by Stroud District Council, are available in Marybrook Street, 5 minutes from the museum. This block consists of 4 individual cubicles providing a male urinal, a unisex toilet, a family room and an accessible toilet. These toilets are opened automatically at 7:00 am and closed at 6:00 pm.

The accessible toilet is accessible 24 hours. **A RADAR National Key Scheme key is required for access.** The black door on the left gives access to a urinal. The door next to it gives 24-hour access to a cubicle for everyone to use.



Fig 13. The Marybrook Street Public Toilets, Berkeley.

There are also toilets in Berkeley Castle, next door to the museum, 2 minutes from the garden gate, including an accessible toilet. These are available to those who are also visiting Berkeley Castle and are located behind the Yurt Restaurant.

9. Gift Shop

There is a shop with a range of souvenirs and books etc. which can be accessed directly from the main entrance and hall. The shop door is always kept open during public opening times. The shop is level throughout although there is not a low-level desk or counter. There is ample room within the shop for a wheelchair to manoeuvre and turn.

The retail displays are mostly accessible from a seated position; where they are not the front of house team will assist. The counter has a portable hearing loop system installed and the front of house team have been trained in its use.

10. Additional Information

Our staff and volunteers receive customer service training that includes awareness training for supporting visitors with access needs.

We have a set of evacuation procedures.

Clear directional signage is used throughout the attraction using Lucida Sans font and large letters on contrasting background.

11. Contact Information

Address: The Chantry, Church Lane, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, GL13 9BN

Telephone: 01453 810631

E-mail: info@edwardjenner.co.uk

Website: www.jennermuseum.com

Dr Jenner's House, Museum and Garden

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Dr Jenner's House & Garden is a Quality Assured Visitor Attraction under the Visit England Quality Scheme. This Access Statement has been prepared according to the guidance provided by Visit England.