

AMGUEDDFA CYMRU

Visual Story

A trip to the
National Slate Museum



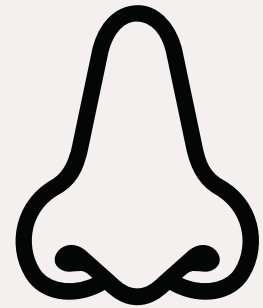
Visual Story

This is a visual guide for learning groups preparing to visit.

It includes useful information for all learners including those with additional needs.



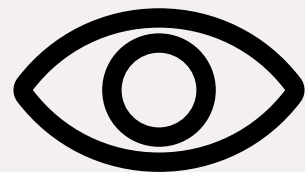
Symbols used in this guide



This symbol shows when a place has strong smells.



This symbol shows when a place is noisy.



This symbol shows when a place has a change in lighting.



This symbol is used to highlight areas where you can touch objects.

Before your visit

Large parts of the National Slate Museum are outside, so you may be outside for parts of the day.

The museum is in old workshop buildings – it can be cold, and the floors can be uneven.

It is a good idea to bring raincoats and sturdy shoes.



If you arrive by coach

There is parking for coaches at the right hand side of the car park as you arrive, next to the steam train station.

Please use the pavement area in the middle of the car park and take care when crossing the road to reach the museum.



When you get to the Museum

This is the front of the museum.

There's a slate path leading up to
the front door.



The front door to the Museum

The doors are made of red painted wood and open into the main entrance. The main entrance is outdoors but under cover, and you can see the museum yard from here.

If you arrive before 10am, the big doors will be closed and a member of the museum staff will be waiting to let you in through the smaller door.



After 10am, there are sounds of machines and people working with tools, which are played on a loop.



People you will meet

Museum staff will greet you at the main entrance.

Some staff wear uniform with the Museum logo on it.

They are there to help you have a good visit and answer any questions.



During your visit, you may not meet the exact same people as shown in these pictures

People you will meet

If you go to a slate splitting session you will meet one of our quarrymen. They will be wearing clothes with the museum logo and may be carrying tools.

If you've booked a session with us, some of the staff may be dressed in costume. They may be wearing clothes from the Victorian era and carrying replica objects.


Everyone is friendly and will help you learn about how people lived and worked in the past.



During your visit, you may not meet the exact same people as shown in these pictures

Map of the National Slate Museum


You can pick up a map from the welcome hut or the shop on the way into the museum.

The  on the map shows the areas of the museum that can be noisy.


There are staff around the site to help you if you get lost.

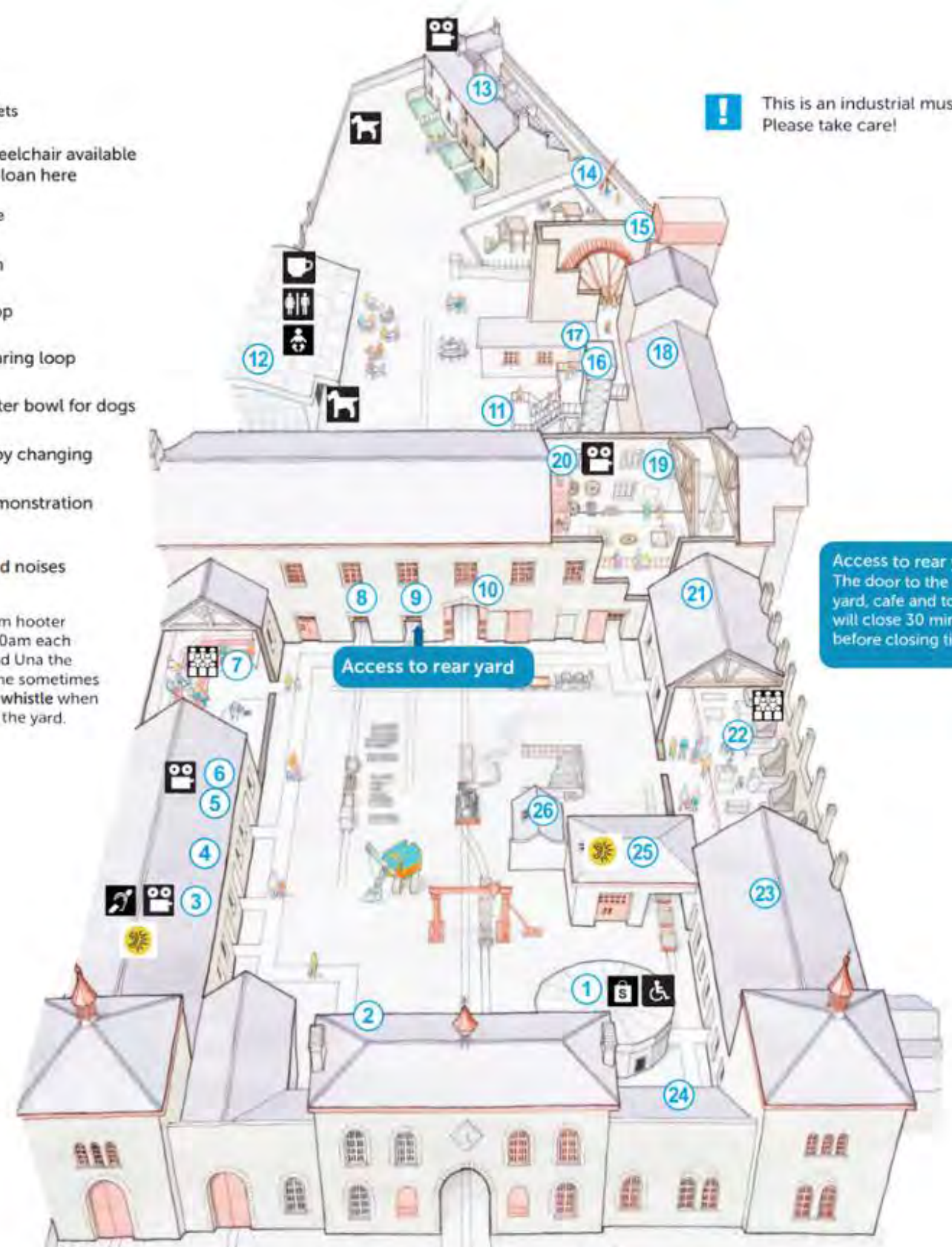
Download the site map [here](#) 

Key

-  toilets
-  wheelchair available for loan here
-  cafe
-  film
-  shop
-  hearing loop
-  water bowl for dogs
-  baby changing
-  demonstration
-  loud noises

The museum hooter sounds at 10am each morning and Una the steam engine sometimes sounds her whistle when she's out in the yard.

 This is an industrial museum. Please take care!



Getting to the learning room

You can reach Elidir Fawr, the learning room, by walking through the vertical sawshed and turning to the right.



The vertical sawshed is a dark space and can be noisy with a sawing sound effect.

Museum learning staff will walk with you to show you the way and open the room for you to leave your bags.

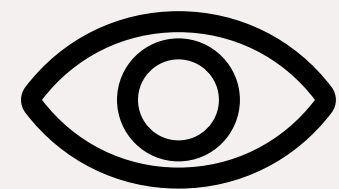


Dwyn y Mynydd – Cinema Room

You can visit the cinema room to watch a film about the slate industry.

You will sit on fabric chairs, which fold down. There is space for wheelchairs at the front.

The film lasts eighteen minutes and can be watched in Welsh or English.



The cinema room is dark so that you can better see the screen.



Slate splitting demonstration

You can visit the slate splitting demonstration in the Dinorwig room.

You will sit on fold up plastic chairs. There is also space for wheelchairs.

In the demonstration a quarryman will show you how he splits and dresses the slate to make a roof tile.



The sound of the hammer, chisel and knife can be noisy.



Historic Buildings - Getting to Fron Haul

The houses are at the back of the museum. To reach them, you can walk through the vertical sawshed, and up the slope past the cafe. You will see the houses ahead of you.

When it is busy, there may be a queue and you will need to wait next to the ropes.

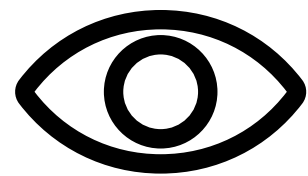
There will be a member of staff to help you know where to go.



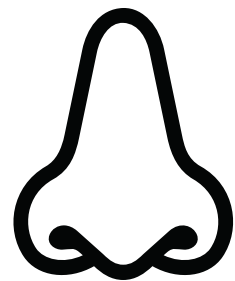
Historic Buildings - Fron Haul

Some parts of the houses have barriers sectioning off different parts of the rooms.

All the houses have low ceilings and doors.



Some of the houses are very dark.



Some have fires that are lit, so the room may smell smoky.



You can explore the houses online before your visit:

[1861](#) | [1901](#) | [1969](#)



The Waterwheel

To get to the waterwheel you can climb the metal stairs next to the learning room, or take the lift.

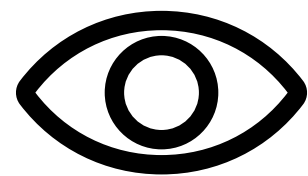
Press level 1 to get to the top.



The Waterwheel

The doorway to the waterwheel is very low. There is a high fence to keep you safe as the wheel is high up.

Sometimes there are puddles on the floor and water can splash from the wheel.



It can be dark inside the space next to the wheel.



Workshop Spaces

 Some of the spaces are dark.

 This area can also be noisy.

There are lots of things to see in the old workshops. You can enter through the Power Hall, next to the steps to the waterwheel.

Some of the floors are uneven.



Workshop Spaces



In the Foundry there is a sandpit where you can make your own moulds using sand and wooden patterns.



You can explore the Foundry and workshop spaces online before your visit



People you will meet

You may also meet Liam, our blacksmith. He may be wearing an apron and safety glasses and carrying tools.

He works with fire and metal in the forge and will help you learn how blacksmiths worked in the past.

You will need to stay behind the barrier to keep safe – the fire is very hot!



It can also be noisy at times.



Lunchrooms

Elidir Fawr is used as a lunch area for learning groups.

Elidir Fawr is a large room with several windows, three long tables and benches to sit.

There is a sink with a drinking water tap in the room.



Lunchrooms

For large groups we also use Elidir Fach, the room next door. Elidir Fach contains smaller foldable tables and stools that can be arranged in a number of ways.

Please contact our learning admin team to find out more about our spaces and discuss your requirements:


slate@museumwales.ac.uk

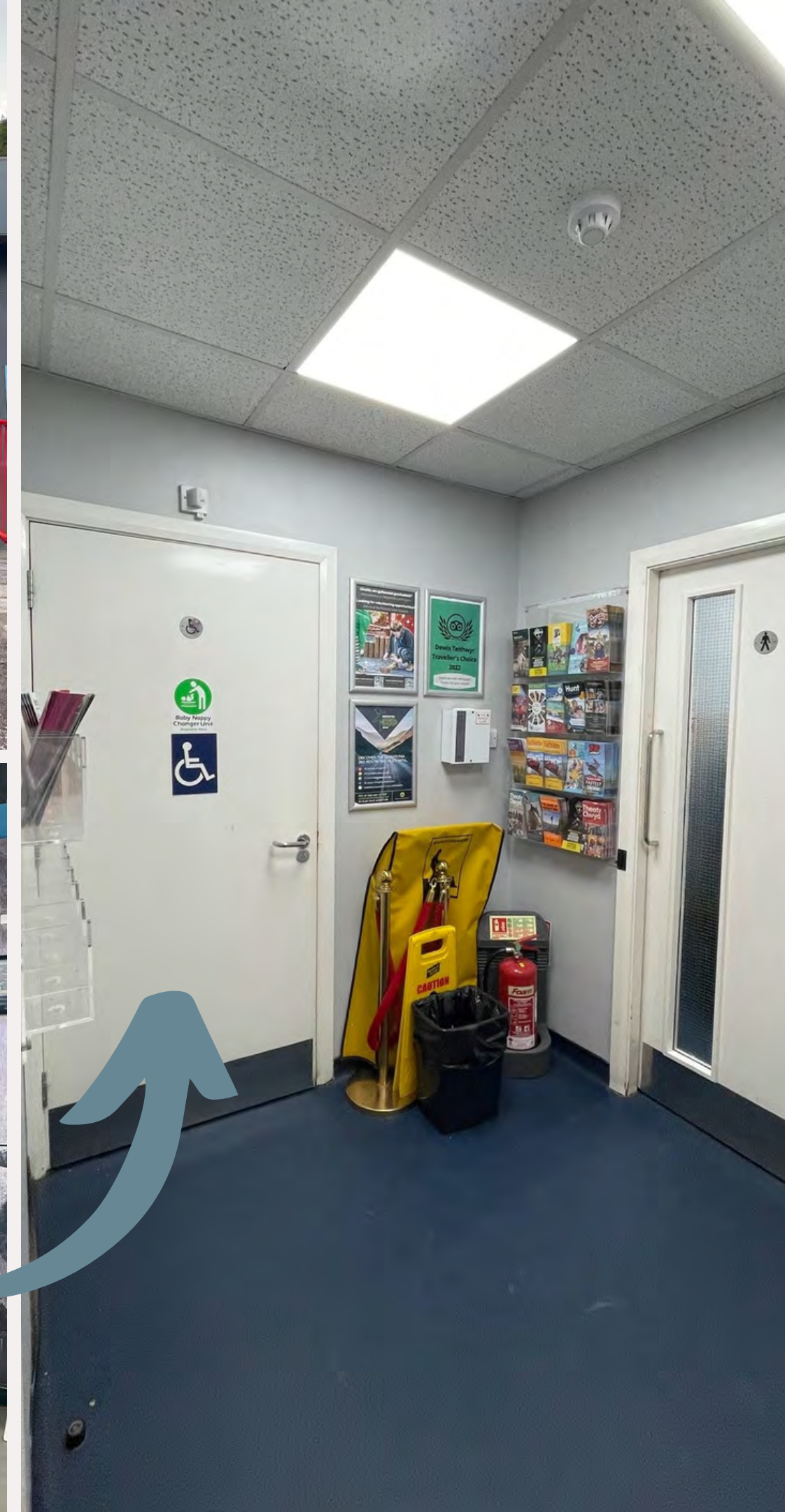


Toilets

The museum toilets are in the café at the back of the site. Turn left after you enter through the door.

There is a separate disabled toilet.

 Hand dryers are noisy in this area.



Gift shop

We have a shop in the circular building near the main entrance of the museum where you can purchase souvenirs.



Booking

When booking a visit please let us know your group's needs.

Do you need us to:

- **Adapt the content or delivery of a session. e.g. pace, language, content, activities, costumes, things to avoid / encourage.**
- **Create a more flexible timetable.**
- **Arrange use of a separate space for lunch.**
- **Look at reducing lighting, sounds - where possible.**



Quiet areas

If you need a quiet space, we can open Elidir Fach.


Please let a member of staff know so they can help you.



Workshops

You can book to take part in a facilitated workshop, which may be led by a costumed facilitator.

You may be asked to hold and use objects or take part in role-play.

Pupils enjoy this part of the day but please let us know if you need us to make adjustments. We offer different workshops throughout the year - [see website for details.](#) 



Virtual visits

Would it be useful to book a virtual visit before you visit the Museum?

Designed for learners aged 7-11, the workshops cover areas of the curriculum including:

Humanities, Expressive Arts,
and Health and Wellbeing

Connect your class with Amgueddfa
Cymru – National Museum Wales for
[a free live interactive workshop](#) 