

Welcome to Wiltshire Museum

A visual story for anyone who benefits from preparing when visiting a new place.

This document is made primarily for people with Autism Spectrum Conditions but can be helpful for many other people, for a variety of reasons.



This visual story will tell you about

- What happens when you arrive
- how to get around the Museum
- what you can touch, handle and do in our galleries
- the sounds, lights and smells of the Museum

If you have further questions before a visit or would like to do a familiarisation visit in advance, please do contact us.

We also run Relaxed Opening Hours. These are times in which we make a proactive welcome for people with Autism Spectrum Conditions. For more information and the next Relaxed Hours, please see our events pages

<https://www.wiltshireMuseum.org.uk/events-2/>

If you need more information about access at the Museum you can find our access statement <https://www.wiltshireMuseum.org.uk/access-2/>

Arriving at the Museum



I go into the Museum through the large wooden door.

This door is always open when the Museum is open.



I can see the front desk of the Museum through some glass doors

When I go through these doors I am in the Museum.

I can push the left hand door to get in



The person sitting at the front desk is the receptionist. The receptionist will say hello to me.

There are a team of receptionists. It's not always the same person.

This is where we pay to visit the Museum.

I can read the poster on the wall to find the prices and I can see that children under 16 are free



The first room in the Museum is the gift shop.

I can look at the things in the shop when I arrive or later.

I will leave the Museum through the gift shop when I am ready to go home.

Finding Your Way Around the Museum

This Museum is made up of 5 different buildings that have been stuck together, so there are lots of little rooms and some steps as I go in and out of different areas.



If I want to I can use the lift to get to any floor.

The lift has a white door.

In the lift there is a list of the floors.

You have to hold the button down till you get to the floor you want.



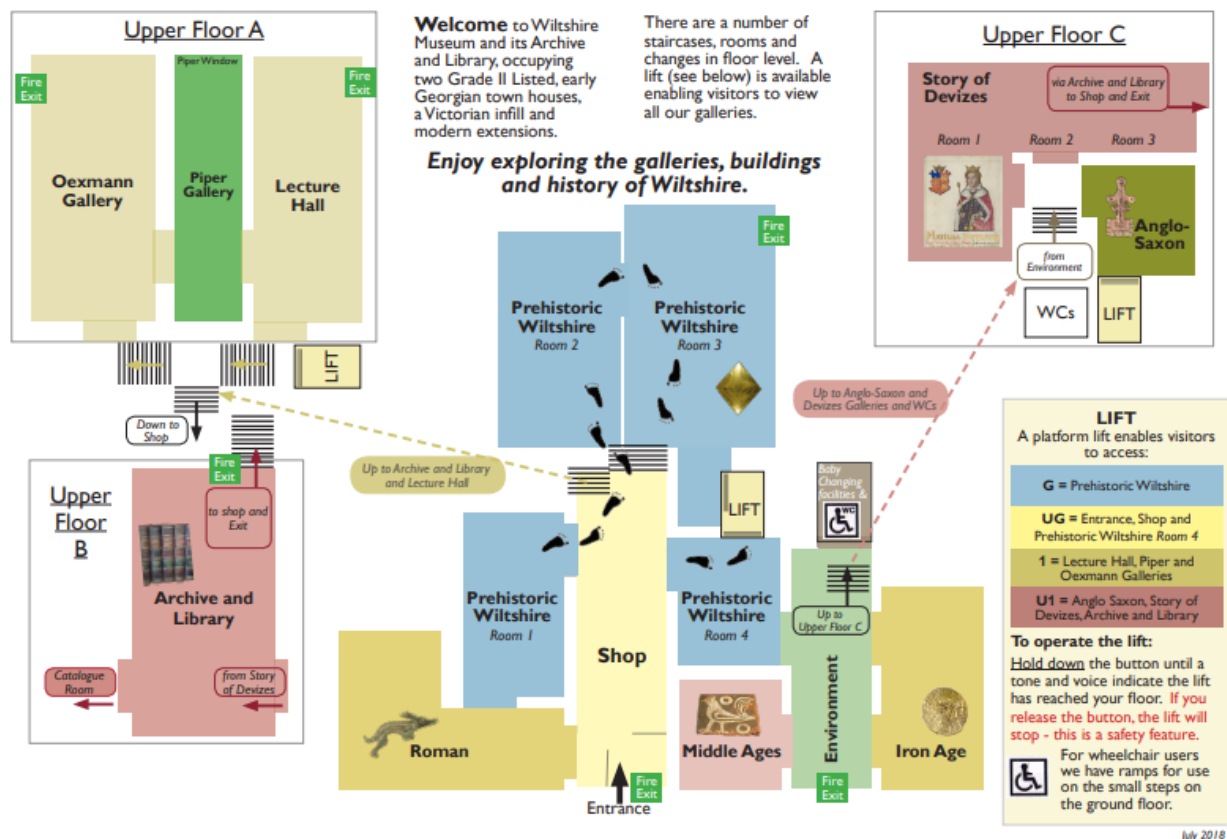
When I am in the shop, I go through the right hand archway and the lift is on my left

Useful things to know



I can get a Museum plan from the front desk and I can take it with me to help me find my way around

Inside the plan there is a map.



The rooms of the Museum are called Galleries

I can visit the Galleries in any order, but the receptionist can suggest a good route if I want one. One route is shown at the end of this visual story.



There are some areas of the Museum I can't go into.

There will be a rope across the entrance to these areas.

Visitors, like me, don't go past the ropes but I might see people who work here that do.

I can see that some of the staff wear a badge round their neck.



There are two sets of toilets at the Museum.

I can use the Museum plan to find them, or ask the receptionist where they are.

Or I can follow the signs like this around the Museum.

The ground floor toilet is accessible to all.

Your Senses at the Museum – useful information

- The Wiltshire Museum is usually a quiet place. They don't have lots of sounds, music or noises playing in the galleries.
- The Museum doesn't have a café, so there are few food smells or noises from coffee machines etc. There may be some food smells from the staff kitchen at the top of the stairs from the Environment Gallery to The Story of Devizes.
- Sometimes large groups visit the Museum. This can be noisy. I can phone the Museum to find out if there are any group bookings or ask the receptionist when I arrive.

Video Displays

There are some screens in the Museum that play videos at quite a low volume. I can find out lots of interesting information by watching and listening to them.



The screens in Prehistoric Wiltshire rooms 2 and 3, are touch screens.

They won't play unless someone starts the video



The screen in the Anglo-Saxon gallery plays a video all the time.

The volume can be turned up or down by staff, if I ask them.

Things to handle and do

There are activities in most of the galleries.



If something isn't in a glass case then I can touch it

If there are paper activities and pens or pencils out, I can use them too.

Iron Age Gallery



I can build my own mini-Stonehenge with these foam blocks

Prehistoric Wiltshire Gallery – Room 3

I can put my hands inside the round holes to feel the objects inside.

Prehistoric Wiltshire Gallery – Room 2





I can do any table top activity
Or try on any costumes

Prehistoric Wiltshire Room 3



Prehistoric Wiltshire Room 3



There are instructions on
each activity to help me
understand what to do

Environment Gallery

Galleries - useful information

- Most of the galleries will have the same things on display each time I visit. However, The Oexmann and Piper Galleries change their displays from time to time.
- I can check what exhibitions are on in this room at reception or on the Museum's website before I arrive.
- Sometimes, especially in the school holidays, there can be events and activities on in the Museum. I can check the website for these too.
- Relaxed Opening Hours take place when the Museum is usually quieter. I can check the events page on the website for Relaxed Opening Hours
- The galleries aren't laid out in date order so, for example the Roman Gallery is before Pre-Historic Wiltshire
- The Museum has
 - A dummy in the Roman Gallery, which can be seen from the reception area. The staff call him George.
 - A dummy in the Middle-ages Gallery, this dummy is called Geve of Calstone
 - Some stuffed animals in the Environment Gallery and a stuffed lion in our lecture hall. Stuffing animals is called Taxidermy.
 - Replica bones in Prehistoric Wiltshire Room 3



This stuffed lion is in the Museum Lecture Hall. The people in the Museum call him Horatio.

If I want to know what each area of the Museum looks like these next few pages can help me.

Roman Gallery (Ground Floor)



Prehistoric Wiltshire Galleries

There are four areas in the Museum that are about pre-historic Wiltshire

Room 1 (Ground Floor)



To get to Prehistoric room 2, I go through the shop and down some steps, or I can use the lift.



Room 2 (Lower Ground Floor)



Room 3 (Lower Ground Floor)



Room 4 (Ground Floor)

To get from room 3 to room 4 I go through a door and up some steps, or I can use the lift.



Environment Gallery (Ground Floor)



I can get to this gallery through Prehistoric Wiltshire Gallery room 4

Middle Ages (Ground Floor)



I can get to this gallery through the Environment Gallery, through the door on the right

Iron Age (Ground Floor)



I can get to this gallery through the Environment Gallery

Anglo Saxon (First Floor)



I can get to this gallery from the lift (floor 4) or go up the stairs from the environment gallery and turn right on the landing

The Story of Devizes (first floor)

This Gallery is split over three rooms



I can get to the first room by turning left off the landing.

I can get to the second room by going straight ahead off the landing.

This cabinet has a barrier around it because visitors aren't allowed to touch it. Only Museums staff can open it at special events.





I can get to the third room in The Story of Devizes Gallery by turning right in the second room.

The Long Room (first floor)

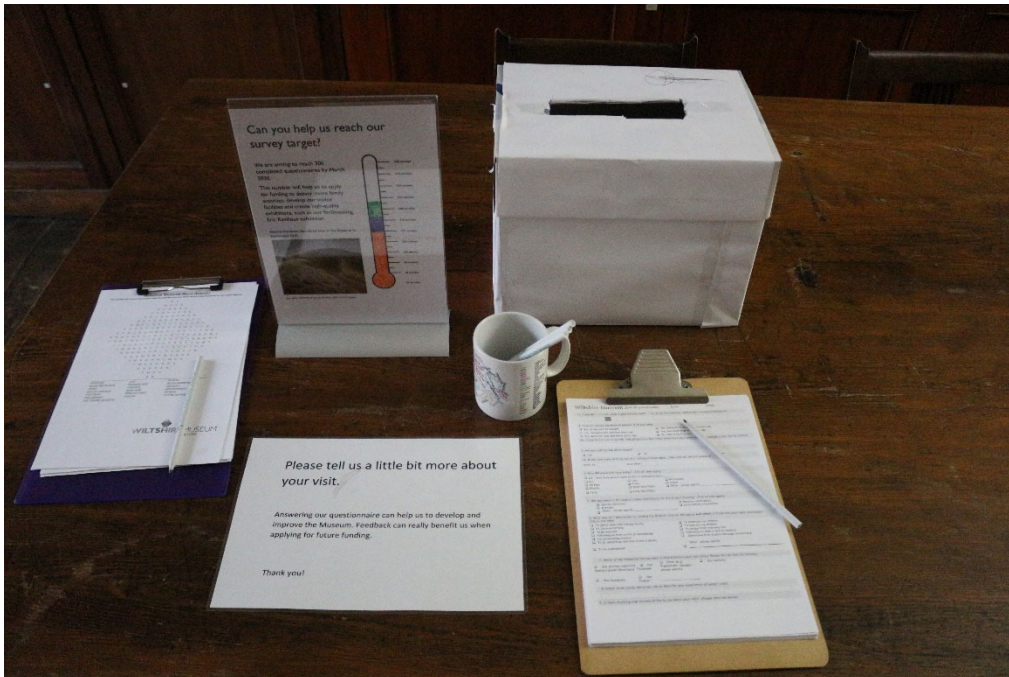
I can get to this room from the Story of Devizes and there is a small step down as I go in. Or I can get there up the steps from the Museum shop.

This room holds part of the Museum library collection but is also a place for researchers to work in.

I can look in the document display cabinets in this room and see what the librarians have been working on.



There is a survey on the table in the long room. Any visitors can use the pencils on the table to fill this in. It is full of questions about what I think of the Museum.



The Oexmann and Piper Galleries

In this picture I can see these galleries being set up of an exhibition. The things on display here change every few months.

I can get to these galleries though the lecture hall when it isn't being used for an event. Or I can go upstairs from the shop and turn left.



Lecture Hall

The Lecture Hall is used by groups and for meetings, if not in use it is also the designated quiet space during relaxed opening hours.

I can get here from the shop by going up the stairs, turning left and then right.

I can also get here from the 'Long Room', by going down the stairs and the Lecture Hall is in front of me.

