

THE Christmas Model Railway Show

Disabled access at the Barnes Wallis building

There is no public vehicular access to the building itself. There is a drop-off point at the Porters' Gatehouse about 150m away and the venue has its own multi-storey car park on Charles Street about 180m away, which has designated disabled access bays on the ground floor. The postcode of the car park is M1 3BB.

Street view on Google maps unfortunately does not show the actual approach to the Barnes Wallis building, but it does allow one to inspect the route from the car park to the Porters' Gatehouse.

On leaving the Charles Street car park, be aware that the kerb at the car park exit does NOT have a dropped edge.

Turn left on leaving the car park. At the junction with Sackville Street, cross to the far side. There are dropped kerbs at this point. Turn left up Sackville Street in the direction of the railway viaduct.

After passing the Porters' Gatehouse, and before the railway viaduct, turn right into Altrincham Street. This is a flat, pedestrianised street. The Barnes Wallis building is about 150m ahead on your right and has a statue of two linked red magnets outside the entrance.

The building itself is approached by five steps, or a gently sloping ramp (both with handrails), to an over-bridge across the low level service road. This leads directly to the upper lobby where the pay booth will be. The door to the building is automatic and slides sideways. Carers for wheelchair bound visitors, and other disabled visitors who require a carer for their own safety, are admitted free of charge.

The upper lobby has a self operated disabled access lift to descend about 1.2m to the lower lobby. There will be a steward on duty here at all times. Once you have reached the lower lobby, the three main exhibition halls are all on the same level, one to the left and two to the right. There is a disabled access toilet off the lower lobby.

The exhibition hall to the left (Room 1 - The Harwood Room) contains an emergency fire exit, at which there are no steps.

To the right is Room 2 – the Barnes Wallis Room, with Room 3 off it on the left hand side as you enter. At the far end of Room 2, which is the biggest of the exhibition halls, is a door leading to a lobby and hence to the café, the restaurant, the first aid room and the three smallest of the six exhibition rooms – Rooms 4, 6 & 8. The café and Room 8 are half a floor up; the restaurant, first aid room and rooms 4 & 6 are half a floor down. Again there is a lift where an MMRS steward should be on duty at all times. There are no steps after leaving the lift.

There is a set of female toilets and a designated unisex disabled access toilet on the upper level, outside room 8. There are corresponding male toilets on the floor below outside Room 6.

The café and restaurant have no fixed chairs and there is ample wheelchair access at the servery and till. The doors to the café and restaurant are power assisted, and there are no further stairs on either floor.

Motorised scooters are allowed within the building.

Further details and pictures are available at

<http://www.disabledgo.com/access-guide/the-university-of-manchester/barnes-wallis-building-2>

However, be aware that:

- 1 Some of the information is out of date, eg the description of the entrance doors.
- 2 The building is divided horizontally between the Students' Union on the ground and second floors, and the exhibition venue on the first floor only. THE Christmas Model Railway Show only uses the first floor of the Barnes Wallis building.
- 3 The exhibition can only be approached through the Altrincham Street entrance, not the main entrance to the Students' Union on the ground floor.

The information contained in this advisory leaflet is believed correct at the time of writing. MMRS can accept no responsibility for errors or omissions.

Revised 3 July 2017