

Access Guide for Borders Textile Towerhouse



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This guide aims to describe accurately the facilities and services that we offer all our visitors.

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Section 1 - Welcome

Borders Textile Towerhouse is FREE to everyone and is located in the historic borders town of Hawick, in Scotland. Discover the story of Border knitwear and tweed in a beautifully restored 16th century towerhouse. Garments, artifacts and photographs bring to life over 200 years of tradition and innovation in the local woolen industries.

Changing exhibitions showcase contemporary fashion, design, art and craft. Please visit our website to see what's on this year.

Get in touch if you require any further information about specific access or would like advice on planning your visit. Contact details can be found on the first page of this document.

Section 2 - Accessibility at a Glance

Access



There is a button at the rear of the building to call for assisted entry via a shallow ramp for those with mobility impairments. Otherwise, there is stair access on the high street side of the building. There is lift and stair access to all floors. The lift doors are 790mm.

Assistive Listening



There is an induction loop at the welcome desk to assist people with a hearing impairment.

Accessible Toilets



We have an accessible toilet on the ground floor, with baby changing facilities. This toilet has a manual door.

Audio & Visual Information



There are touch screen and interactive displays on the two upper floors of the towerhouse and a short video on the ground floor.

Assistance Dogs



Registered assistance dogs only may accompany their owner into the building.

Parking



There are parking spaces at the Hawick Heritage Hub which can be used by 'Disabled badge holders only'.

Section 3 - Getting to the Museum

Address

Borders Textile Towerhouse

1 Tower Knowe

Hawick

TD9 9EN

Travel by Public Transport

There is a town bus service (H1/H2) which operates in Hawick. The nearest stop to the towerhouse is on Hawick High Street. It is approximately a 1 minute walk from the front entrance.

A taxi can bring you right to the rear entrance. There are several taxi companies operating in the Hawick area.

Travel by Car

There is a large FREE car park which is within a 5-minute walk of Borders Textile Towerhouse. It is located on Victoria Road (TD9 7AH).

Additionally, there are parking spaces for blue badge holders available across the road from the Towerhouse at Hawick Heritage Hub.

Travel on Foot

Borders Textile Towerhouse is at the East end of Hawick High Street. There are signposts around the town to point you in the right direction.



Section 4 - Arrival at the Museum

The area directly outside Borders Textile Towerhouse is a mixture of paving stones and cobbles.

A set of four steps leads up to the front entrance and a tunnel to the left-hand-side of the front entrance leads to the rear of the building where there is level access.



The front entrance is opened manually. The door here is 810mm wide and leads to a tiled foyer.

Alternatively you can reach the rear of the building either via the tunnel to the left of the main entrance or through a fence around to the right-hand-side of the building.



If you have parked in the blue badge holder's spaces at Hawick Heritage Hub then this is the fastest option to reach the accessible entrance.

The rear entrance has a shallow ramp. It is an assisted access point as it can only be opened from the inside team if you press the button on the right handrail one of our front-of-house team will come and open it for you.



The rear entrance (1040mm) leads to a glass atrium with a flagstone floor. There is a metal grate on the floor near the glass wall.



From the front entrance, you'll enter into a tiled foyer and find the shop and welcome desk immediately through a set of doors (1740mm) to your left.



From the rear entrance, the tiled foyer is straight through a set of double doors (1450mm) and then you'll see the welcome desk and shop on your right.

The toilets on the ground floor can be found either side of the double doors in the rear atrium.



Section 5 - Getting to the Upper Floors

From the rear atrium there is a doorway (800mm) opposite the Tower Story Room which leads through to the lift and spiral stair.



The lift door is 790mm wide and the stairs have high contrast markings and a handrail. Both the lift and stairs can be used to access the first and second floors of Borders Textile Towerhouse.

Section 6 - Ground Floor Exhibition Areas

Exhibition Room

From the foyer, there is a narrow doorway (830mm) leading to the exhibition room. If this doorway is too narrow, there is an alternate route through the Tower Story room which is 900mm wide. The exhibition room is a changing space so please visit our website to see what's on this year.

From the exhibition room there is a short corridor which is 900mm at its narrowest which leads to the Tower Story Room.



Tower Story Room

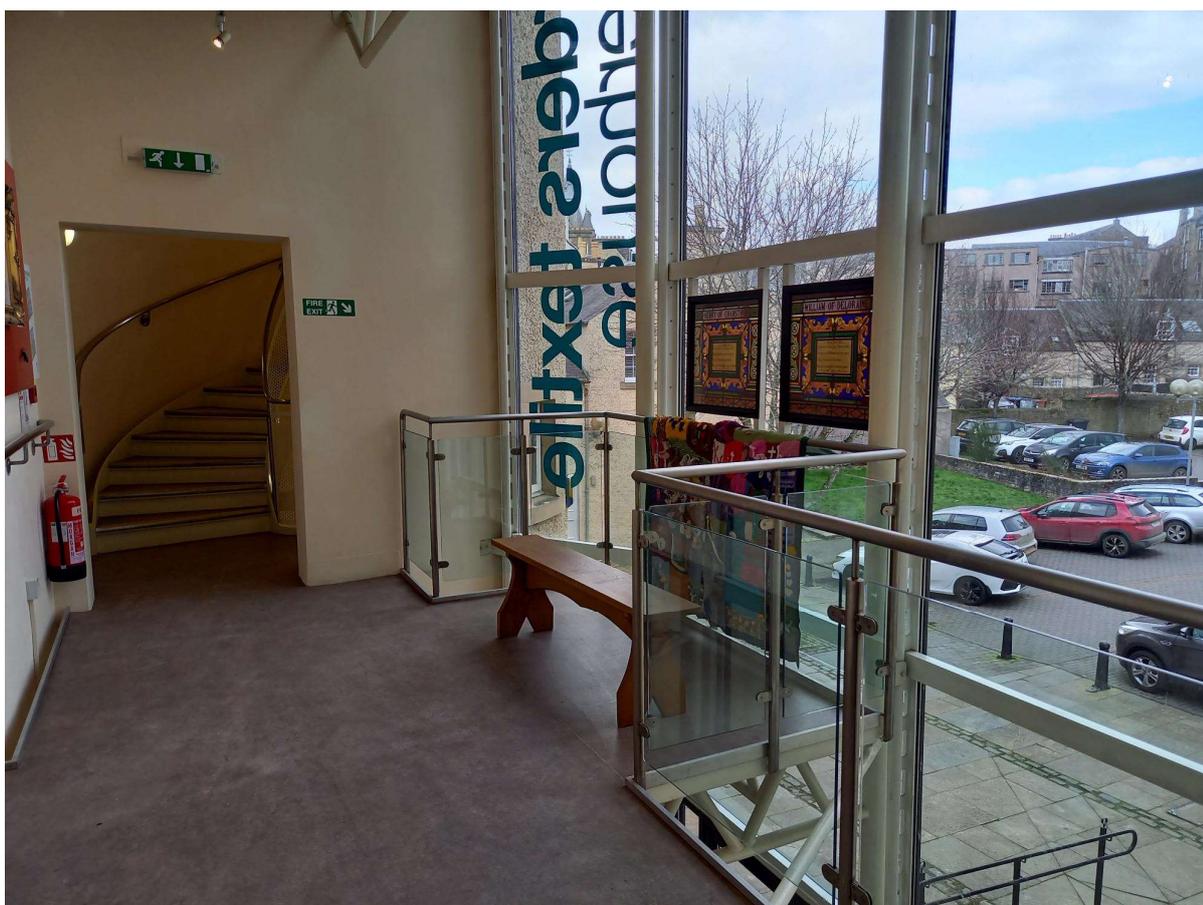
The tower story room has a barrel-vaulted ceiling and flagstone floor. It tells the history of the tower. There is an area at the rear of this room for viewing a short video. There is seating provided which can be moved.



A doorway (900mm) leads from the tower story room to the rear atrium where there is an accessible toilet, a gent's toilet and lift or stair access to the upper floors through a doorway (800mm) opposite.

Section 7 - First Floor Exhibition Areas

Emerging from the stairs or the lift, there is a 1120mm wide entryway to the first floor of the rear atrium. Which has a linoleum floor and seating area. There is access to the Tom Scott Room, Commercial Room and Textiles Past Rooms as well as a female toilet on the first floor.



Textiles Past

Through the door (900mm) at the end opposite the stairs takes you into the Textiles Past Rooms. The floors here are wooden in the first room and carpeted in the workers galleries.



These rooms have some interactive displays. There is a hands-on carding station and other displays which can be touched. There are also hand-held audio points.



Tom Scott Room

The Tom Scott room is carpeted and accessed through a doorway (900mm). It is dimly lit to preserve the artwork.



The Tom Scott Room has only one door, so you'll have to go out the same way you came in.

The Commercial Room

Similar to the Tom Scott Room there is a single door (900mm) to access this room.



The floor is carpeted. This room is often used for functions so there may be table and chairs in the room.

Section 8 – Second Floor

There is stair or lift access from the first floor to the second floor. The lift door is 790mm wide. Emerging on the second floor there is an entryway which leads to the second floor of the rear atrium. There is access to the Textiles Future Room, Catwalk and a further female toilet on the second floor.



Textiles Future Room

The textiles future room is currently **CLOSED FOR REFURBISHMENT.**

The doorways on the second floor are 790mm at their narrowest. The textiles future room has interactive displays, hand-on activities, touch screens and listening points. The floor in this room is wooden.



There is access through to the Catwalk from this room through a doorway which is 790mm wide.

Catwalk

The Catwalk is a carpeted space which can be accessed either from the textiles future room or the rear atrium through 790mm doorways. The Catwalk has some permanent displays and some which change, please visit our website to see what's on this year.



Section 9 – Shop

Have a browse in our shop area, which is situated near the welcome desk.

Choose from a variety of giftware and books

Our museum staff are happy to help reaching items down from the higher shelves.

We are happy to process either cash or card payments.

Section 10 – Toilets

There is an accessible toilet on the ground floor. The door is 930mm wide and opened manually. There are baby changing facilities in this toilet.



There is a male toilet on the ground floor through a 690mm door which is opened manually.

Additionally, there is a female toilet on the first floor and another one on the second floor. Both have 850mm doors which are opened manually.

Section 11 – Evacuation Procedures

There are fire-doors located around the building. All fire escapes have appropriate signage.

In the event of an emergency evacuation, all visitors must follow the signage to their nearest fire exit if they are able to.

The rear atrium is a refuge point for wheelchair users as the lift should not be used in the event of a fire.