

Caldicot Castle & Country Park, Caldicot

Access Statement

This access statement aims to describe the facilities and services we offer for all our visitors.

If you have any questions you would like us to answer before you visit, please contact the castle. Contact details are given below. During your visit, please contact a member of staff if you would like information, advice or assistance.

Caldicot Castle is located within Caldicot Castle Country Park, in Caldicot. It is a historic castle set within a 55 acre country park and is run by Monmouthshire County Council. It has an active programme of events and has a permanent display relating to the history of the castle and its occupants. It also has a gift shop and a cafe.

Practical Information

Caldicot Castle
Church Road
Caldicot
Monmouthshire
NP26 4HU
Phone: (01291) 420241
E-mail: caldicotcastle@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Visit: www.caldicotcastle.co.uk

Open: 1st April (or Easter if earlier) to 31st October

Admission Free, except on event days when charges will apply as advertised

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Sunday 11.00 am - 4.00 pm

Occasionally hours may vary for special events or as a result of private bookings, please check our website or ring for details.

Pre-arranged group and school visits can be arranged out of normal hours. The castle has flexible facilities available for venue hire and is licensed for weddings and events. Please enquire for more details.

Follow us on twitter:

www.twitter.com/CaldicotCastle

and Facebook www.facebook.com/CaldicotCastle

Arriving at the Castle and Country Park

By Car

From M4 take junction 23a for Magor and B4245 to Caldicot. From M48 take junction 2 for Chepstow and follow A48 (towards Newport) and B4245 to Caldicot. Caldicot Castle is sign posted from B4245. If you are using a sat nav please use the postcode NP26 4HT but sat navs vary and may take you away from the castle. The main entrance is located off Church Road.

On large event days no vehicles are allowed access to the country park and car parking will be located off the "Mitel" roundabout on the B4245. Follow direction signs.

By Train

Caldicot Halt is served by mainline services between Cardiff and Gloucester. From Bristol change at Severn Tunnel Junction. The station is about a twentyminute walk from the castle.

By Bus

Bus services run to Caldicot from Bristol, Newport and Chepstow. The nearest bus stop is "Caldicot Cross" the castle is about a five-minute walk along Church Road. Bus information is available on www.travelinecymru.info tel 0871 200 2233 from 7am until 10pm daily throughout the year and at www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/publictransport

By Cycle

The castle is located near to National Route 4 and the Celtic Trail East more information is available on www.sustrans.org.uk. We do not currently have a dedicated cycle rack but you are welcome to store your bikes inside the castle courtyard. If business allows we can lock them in a secure room. We cannot guarantee the security of the bike while on our premises.

Arrival and Car Parking

The site offers free parking for cars and coaches (ST 487 884). There is no dedicated disabled parking.

On large event days car parking will be located off the "Mitel" roundabout on the B4245. Follow direction signs.

Facilities

Within the castle there are two female toilets and one male toilet and one accessible toilet all on the ground floor. Dogs are welcome, but should be kept on a lead in the castle. The Castle café serves light refreshments.

Audio Tours

We do not currently offer an audio trail.

Pre-arranged tours for groups, schools, colleges with specific needs can be arranged.

The Castle

Caldicot Castle's courtyard and lawns have level access with areas of paving and hard standing. Towers have spiral staircases, often with uneven steps, and some doorways are narrow. Some seating is available in the grounds and towers.

The Country Park

There are level trails, with wide gates and regular resting places, around the country park. There are leaflets available which detail walks around the country park.

Detailed information about the castle

(All measurements are approximate. Door widths are given in brackets)

Before the entrance

The castle entrance is 50m from the car park. The approach is uphill and across a wooden drawbridge to the gatehouse.

Tourist information and gift shop are located within the tea rooms. The tea room is located approximately 20m from the portcullis entrance, which has level access accessed via double doors door.

High display shelves may not be accessed from a seated position. Staff are available to provide assistance. There is room to manoeuvre a pram or a wheelchair

Toilets

A RADAR key is available from reception during castle opening hours for the fully accessible toilet in the car park.

Grounds

The keep is surrounded by a steep moat. The pond in the grounds is surrounded by a wooden barrier. The castle's well is bordered by a stone surround 15 to 20cm high and covered by a metal grille. Steps lead to paved paths across the raised rose beds. To the rear of the grounds, steep stone sided paths are cut into the lawns and lead to the postern gate (no longer in use) beneath the square Woodstock Tower. The perimeter of the lawns to the right of the grounds, slopes into banks edged with a wall.

The Keep

This round tower contains furniture collected by the Cobb family and is 50 metres across the lawns from the reception area. It is approached by 11 steps with a handrail to the right. A level area with no handrail runs along the top of the motte. A second flight of 10 steps takes you to the keep entrance. Ahead of you is the dining room accessible via double doors, one of which opens (62cm). A doorway (72cm), to the left of the entrance to the keep, leads to a spiral staircase. This takes you down 11 steps to the storeroom and dungeon. Seating is available in this room. From the entrance, the spiral staircase continues upstairs with a handrail. Stairs and handrails are painted to contrast with the wall. 17 steps lead to the bedroom and there are two wooden steps down into the room. The wardrobe in this room is accessible via 5 steps and through a doorway (64cm). Outside the bedroom 18 steps continue up through a doorway (84cm) to the roof. From here 15 wooden steps and 6 stone steps with handrails lead to the highest point of the tower. From the roof 2 steps lead through an entrance (71cm) which would once have led to a wall walk.

DeBohun Gateway

This ruined tower is next to the keep. It is accessible at ground level from the lawn to the left of the tower. A step at the front of the tower also provides access. The ground inside the tower is uneven. A doorway (63cm) to the right leads to the wardrobe.

Woodstock Tower

This tower is 60 metres from reception and can be reached via level paved paths. All rooms in the tower have seating. Stairs and handrails inside the tower are painted to contrast with the wall. 7 wooden steps with a handrail lead to the entrance (108cm). Double doors, one of which opens (80cm) lead to the room at entrance level. A spiral staircase with a handrail leads to the next floor, up 15 steps approximately 86cm wide. A further 2 steps to the left lead to a corridor (65cm) through an archway and down 1 step into a room. From the corridor 5 stone steps lead to the bathroom through a doorway (52cm). From the entrance to the corridor the spiral staircase continues up 15 wooden steps to the next floor. A step to the left opens onto a corridor (56cm), again with one step down to a further room, through an archway (65cm). The staircase then leads up 8

wooden and 7 stone steps, still with handrails, through a door (53cm) to the roof.

Outside the Woodstock Tower

9 steps lead down between the Woodstock Tower and the pond and a grass and concrete slope then leads back up to the lawn.

South East Tower

This tower is about 45m from the Woodstock Tower to the right of the back gate. 11 wooden and 2 stone steps, 102cm wide with handrails, lead up to a viewing area in the tower.

Café

Entry is via double doors approximately 2m wide, level access.

Exit and Gatehouse

Exit from the castle through the door in the portcullis (200cm) outside reception). The Banqueting Hall can usually be viewed. Access is from the ground level entrance to the Gatehouse via 21 stone steps with handrails.

Dogs

Dogs are allowed into the castle courtyard provided they are on a lead and any mess is cleared away and disposed of responsibly. Assistance dogs only are welcome inside the buildings.

Additional information

We welcome suggestions on improving our service by talking to our staff, phone, email or social media etc.

Revised January 2016