



Covid-19 Statement

Date of last update: 8 January 2021

WATERWORKS MUSEUM TO REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Our plan for a partial re-opening of the Museum in late January and a full opening at Easter 2021 was always going to be challenging and is now impossible following the Covid-19 fixed period lockdown in November 2020 and now the open-ended national lockdown announced on 4 January.

Good progress has been made in the project to make the Waterworks Museum safe for visitors to return and, in particular, the reconfiguration of our visitor centre. Click [here](#) for more information about the improvements.

TIMETABLE

Museum Directors have taken a phased approach to assessment Covid-19 risk for visitors and have only re-assessed the situation when new information became available.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Announcement</u>
13 March 2020	The Waterworks Museum was closed to volunteers and visitors with all events cancelled to 30 April 2020 - this was announced 10 days before the Government imposed a national lockdown on 23 March
29 March 2020	Closure of Waterworks Museum extended to 30 June 2020
15 May 2020	Closure of Waterworks Museum extended to 30 September 2020
26 June 2020	Confirmation of closure until at least 30 September 2020 following a Government announcement on 24 June that museums and visitor attractions in England could re-open from 4 July 2020.
11 September 2020	Waterworks Museum confirms award of a Heritage Lottery Emergency Fund grant to support work to make the Museum Covid-safe for the return of visitors
12 September 2020	Closure of Waterworks Museum extended until 31 December 2020
8 January 2021	Closure of Waterworks Museum extended until spring 2021

Previous updates are attached for information

PREVIOUS STATEMENTS

11 September 2020

WATERWORKS MUSEUM TO RECEIVE GRANT FROM HERITAGE EMERGENCY FUND

After a frustrating year of closure we have some good news to share.

The Waterworks Museum is delighted to acknowledge the award of a grant from @TheNationalLotteryUK @HeritageFundUK grant, which will fund the installation of a new entrance to our Southall Gallery (as part of a one-way system) and improve facilities in our visitor centre, which will help make the Museum #Covid-safe for our visitors and volunteers.

Work on these critical safety measures has commenced but will, unfortunately, require us to extend the closure of the Waterworks Museum until January 2021. Further information will appear on the museum's website shortly [www.waterworksmuseum.org.uk].

In the meantime, THANK YOU to #NationalLottery players for making it possible for the #volunteers at @WaterworkMuseum #Hereford to undertake this important work.



The new entrance to the Southall Gallery will be created by installation of a covered walkway between the fire exits in the Museum's meadow car-park, which will be the start of a one-way route to visit our Grade II* Victorian water pumping station. This will also have the added benefit of allowing visitors to see the exhibits in the Southall Gallery from a wholly new perspective!

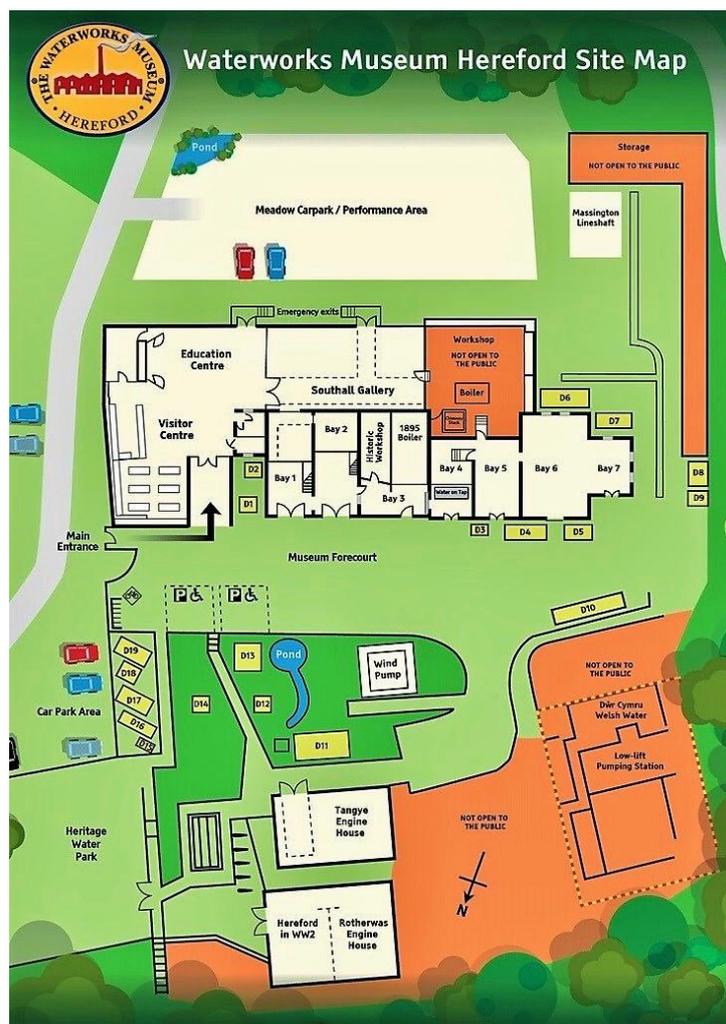
More information

Planning for the safe re-opening the Waterworks Museum, which started several months ago, has received a big boost with news of an award from the Heritage Emergency Fund. This will enable us to make certain structural changes which will greatly reduce the risks associated with Covid-19 and at the same time improve facilities for visitors to the Waterworks Museum.

The work which we have started is designed to reduce the risks associated with Covid-19 (and any similar such outbreak in the future) by creating a one-way route to explore the Waterworks Museum, the narrow corridors and galleries of which otherwise make any form of 'social distancing' nearly impossible.

A new entrance to the Southall Gallery will be created from the visitor centre by installing a covered walkway between the existing fire exits in the Museum's meadow carpark. From here visitors can then enter our Grade II* Victorian water pumping station and enjoy the engines, pumps and other exhibits on display in Bays 1 to 7 along a one-way route. Other changes in the visitor centre funded from the Heritage Lottery grant will see a new visitor entrance and a new and larger toilet block.

Next year, visitors will also see some other small changes, but these are relatively low-cost actions being implemented by our Volunteers. In the future, visitors will leave the Tangye House exhibit by a new exit at the rear of the building and there will be new arrangements to control visitors numbers in the tight spaces of the WW2 exhibit in the Rotherwas Building and in the area of the Massington Lineshaft Display.



26 June 2020

Why the Waterworks Museum will not be re-opening in July 2020

Following the outbreak of Covid-19, the Waterworks Museum closed on 13 March 2020 and the Museum will remain closed until further notice.

Social distancing in a Victorian Waterworks, and on a small site, is complex and requires investment and new volunteers in order to open safely and comply with the requirements of social distancing. The reduction in social distancing from 2m to 1m (with mitigations) introduced on 24 June 2020 does not change our assessment of Covid-19 risk.

The Directors will re-open the Waterworks Museum as soon as we assess it safe for visitors to return. This is likely to be in the autumn of 2020 (at the earliest) as we need time to make the structural changes necessary to create a one-way route to tour the Museum and to procure and implement other safety precautions. Please remember that this Museum is run wholly by Volunteers so we may not always be able to respond as swiftly to changing circumstances as some other museums.

When we have agreed a date for re-opening the Waterworks Museum, we will make an announcement and update our pre-visit information so that visitors will know what to expect and can plan accordingly. For example,

- it may be that a re-opening of the Waterworks Museum will be on a phased basis
- we will explain our arrangements for managing social distancing and protecting the health and wellbeing of our visitors and volunteers
- some exhibits may be viewable only by booking a timed slot on arrival
- the Museum café is likely to remain closed for the foreseeable future (but we have excellent picnic facilities).

Whilst the Waterworks Museum is closed please continue to support our volunteers by following our activities on social media. This is a great way that our members, supporters, and friends can help maintain the public profile and awareness of the Waterworks Museum. Thank you.

Twitter <https://twitter.com/WaterworkMuseum>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WaterworkMuseum>

You Tube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLGPW_ZFzGyHcC8TELroGQ

For more information please email info@waterworksmuseum.org.uk.