

## ACCESS AUDIT REVIEW

Location	CSA Stroud
Date	25/01/2022
Assessor	Tasha Everall and Christian Drewitt

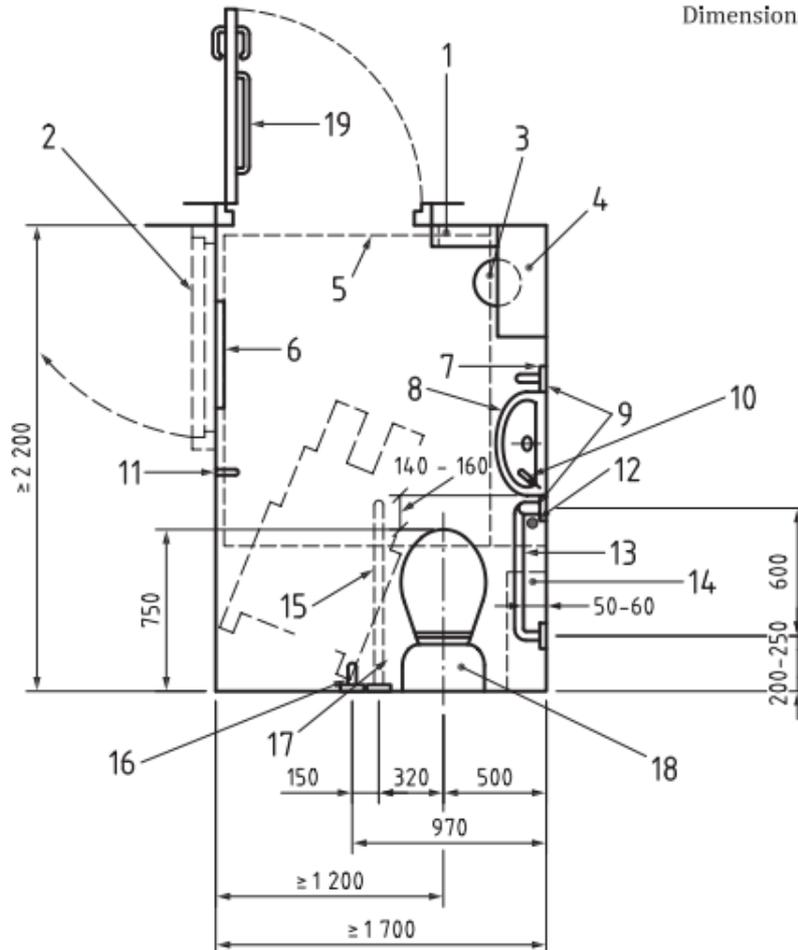
1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>The Centre for Science and Arts in Stroud is a stunning and historical building, but it currently marginalises a large proportion of the community due to its layout. It is noted that, as a listed building, changes can be difficult. However, there are significant additions that can be made without changing or damaging the integrity of the building. It is everybody's duty to consider all possible adjustments to ensure the whole community can enjoy what CSA has to offer.</p> <p>This audit was undertaken to assess how to improve access throughout the building, which is currently inaccessible for a number of people. Therefore, the focus is on entrances, toilets and the impact of steps/stairs, rather than each individual room.</p>
2	<p><b>Parking and entrance</b></p> <p>There is accessible parking for 2 cars outside the library which is directly opposite CSA. There are 2 steps outside CSA, the first is 7cm high and the second is 17.7cm high. Once inside the building there are 4 large steps leading to 2 large doors with an access code for entry. The keypad is relatively high on the wall and would be very difficult for a wheelchair user or person of smaller stature to use. There is a step free entrance to the garden around the side of the building. This is on quite a steep hill and may be unnerving for those with limited mobility.</p> <p><b>Advice and recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it advised a ramp is installed here, either permanent or portable. Ideally, the ramp here should be around 2200mm in length. It is advised a ramp specialist is invited to assess this. If a portable ramp is suitable, it is important that there is a way for a wheelchair user to gain assistance in using this.</li> <li>• It is recommended there is a wheelchair platform stairlift mounted on the wall on the left of the steps. This type of lift means there will be no damage or change to the steps.</li> <li>• Each step nosing should incorporate a durable, permanently contrasting continuous material for the full width of the stair on both the tread and the riser to help people who are blind or partially sighted appreciate the extent of the stair and identify individual treads. The contrasting material should extend 50mm to 65mm in width from the front edge of the tread and 30mm to 55mm from the top of the riser, and should contrast visually with the remainder of the tread and riser.</li> <li>• It is recommended that the keypad is lowered so that it can be reached by people of all statures and wheelchair users. This is especially important once a platform lift has been installed.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doors that open automatically once the correct access code is entered would allow for people of all abilities to enter with ease.</li> <li>• It may be beneficial to have a handrail installed on the side of the building to aid access from the main entrance to the side entrance.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>General access</b></p> <p>The main foyer on the ground floor is large and spacious. All rooms are accessible on this level and are used for a range of activities. The majority of the lower ground floor is rented to artists and is accessed via the side entrance through the garden. We were unable to access the top floor during our visit due to it being rented out privately.</p> <p>All levels are currently only accessible via stairs.</p> <p><b>Advice and recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the main foyer it may be possible to install a lift at the right of the stairs as there is a significant amount of space here and this would easily reach each floor.</li> <li>• It must be noted - this would block the doorway to the lower stairs, however, as it is understood that once in the building, movement from floor to floor is minimal and visitors tend to stay on the floor that is hosting their activity. Therefore, the priority should be ensuring there is step free access to every level, rather than the flow of movement throughout the building.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Toilets</b></p> <p>The floor plan is the same on each level, meaning the advice below can be repeated on every floor.</p> <p><b>Advice and recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upon entry to the standard toilet is a separate room, currently used differently on each floor (cloakroom/storage). This room is a decent size and could be transformed into an accessible toilet (with the standard toilet becoming storage within the accessible toilet if the wall cannot be removed). The introduction of an accessible toilet on every level supports the way that this building is used and allows for minimal movement from floor to floor.</li> <li>• The room that is currently a standard toilet on some floors and a cupboard on other could then become a unisex toilet on all floors.</li> <li>• Ideally, an accessible toilet should be 1500mm x 2200mm.</li> <li>• The toilet door should be 950mm wide.</li> <li>• There should be 1.5m x 1.5m manoeuvring space outside the door.</li> <li>• The door should open outwards but be positioned carefully so that it doesn't obstruct a circulation route or inconvenience other users of the building.</li> </ul>

The toilet seat should be 480mm from the floor as this is the height of a standard wheelchair and makes transfer easier.

- There should be 800mm of unobstructed transfer space between the toilet and the wall.
- The flush lever should be on the same side of the cistern as the transfer space and should be large enough to be operational with a closed fist.
- Being able to operate locks, door handles and light switches with a closed fist is a good way of testing accessibility for people with limited dexterity.
- Ensure there is an emergency pull cord in a position where it can be reached from a seated position on the toilet and from the floor. There should be 2 ring pulls on the cord, one at 100mm from the ground and the second between 800mm and 1000mm. This should ring out so that it can be heard throughout the building to ensure somebody will always be there to assist.
- The hand rinse basin should be between 720mm and 740mm in height.
- It is beneficial to use tissue paper instead of toilet roll because tissue paper is much easier to rip off with just one hand.
- Ensure the floor is non-slip.
- Below is a diagram of a best practice accessible toilet:

Dimensions in millimetres



**Key**

- |    |  |    |   |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1  | Sanitary dispenser   | 12 | Alarm pull cord   |
| 2  | Alternative door position  | 13 | Horizontal grab rail  |
| 3  | Disposal bin   | 14 | Sanitary disposal unit  |
| 4  | Shelf, 760 mm above finished floor level                                     | 15 | Drop-down support rail  |
| 5  | Wheelchair turning space (1 500 × 1 500) mm                                  | 16 | Vertical grab rail  |
| 6  | Long mirror  | 17 | Flush mechanism on this side of WC pan  |
| 7  | Wall A (see Figure 42)   | 18 | Flat-topped close-coupled cistern providing a back rest and a colostomy bag changing surface for standing users <sup>A)</sup> |
| 8  | Hand rinse basin projecting not further than 250 mm                          |    |   |
| 9  | Vertical grab rails  | 19 | Horizontal pull rail  |
| 10 | Tap on side of basin nearest to WC   |    |   |
| 11 | Two clothes hooks, one at 1 050 mm and the other at 1 400 mm above the floor |    |   |

*NOTE* Examples shown are for right-hand transfer to WC.

<sup>A)</sup> Where high or low level or reduced flush cisterns are used, a rail with a padded back rest and a separate colostomy bag changing shelf at 950 mm above finished floor level should be provided.

<p>5</p>	<p><b>Garden and Pottery</b></p> <p>The garden is uneven in places which may cause difficulty in manoeuvring around. There is a small ramp at the change in level which is not in a very good condition. There are 6 large steps to the rental studios from the garden with a rise of 650mm. There is a doorway towards pottery measuring 70cm in width with a pipe in front of the step, this is a considerable trip hazard. The pottery area is split in half separated by double doors.</p> <p><b>Advice and recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each step should incorporate durable and permanent contrasting material for the full width of the step on both the tread and the rise (50-65mm in width on the tread, 30-55mm height on the rise).</li> <li>• It would be positive to introduce picnic benches to the garden with a space in the bench to allow for a wheelchair user to sit comfortably at the table.</li> <li>• Where practicable the rise for steps should be between 150mm – 180mm and the tread should be 300mm – 440mm. This suggested rise and tread makes it easier for people with limited mobility.</li> <li>• There should be tactile corduroy hazard warning surfaces at the top and bottom of steps.</li> <li>• Consider widening and lengthening the small ramp in the garden and ensure there isn't an immediate drop on one side of the ramp. This should also be visually contrasting to the surrounding surfaces with edge protection on the open side.</li> <li>• It is recommended that the garden is resurfaced.</li> <li>• It would be beneficial to enquire about an outside platform lift for these steps. With the lift at the foyer, this would provide step free access to every level – the main goal for CSA.</li> <li>• It is recommended doorways are a minimum of 800mm wide.</li> <li>• A small ramp over the pipe at the doorway would make pottery completely step free and eliminate the trip hazard.</li> <li>• The pottery area could be renovated into one large open space, especially if it is currently used with the door open anyway. A folding wall could be installed to allow for 2 separate sessions at once if it would be beneficial. If this is actioned, consideration should be made to the impact this will have on heating the space.</li> <li>• A rise and fall table for the mobile tabletop wheel would allow for people with varying abilities to use the facilities.</li> </ul>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>The main issues here are the number of steps and lack of accessible toilets. The introduction of ramps, lifts, and an accessible toilet on each level will dramatically improve the accessibility of the entire of CSA.</p> <p>The priorities here should be the main entrance and the garden entrances, and the installation of at least one accessible toilet. This would immediately open CSA to a community of people who would not have been able to enjoy it previously and improve the accessibility and inclusivity of Stroud Town.</p>

	<p>In this day and age, it is vital that we are not leaving behind members of the community, but instead ensuring all members feel valued, considered and welcome. These improvements to CSA would be a huge step towards achieving this.</p>
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