

Accessibility to People, Pits & Politics

Durham

The Festival takes place in 6 different rooms in 5 different venues. All are within 6 minutes walking time of the Festival Hub according to Google, which tends to base its walking times on a slow walk for an able-bodied person.

Durham is hilly, and some of the streets are cobbled. The route from the train station to the hub is mostly pedestrian, but does involve a lot of steep hills. A wheelchair route would take significantly longer.

Venues

We have done what we can to find accessible venues. Four of the six venues are fully accessible, the remaining two have limited accessibility.

Durham Town Hall – Festival Hub, Main Hall and Training Room.

Although this is a very old building, the interior has been fully modernised and has modern access lifts to all the rooms we are using. Entry is via automatic doors. There is a disabled toilet.

Alington House

Entry is via a large, hinged door. Access to the room is down a few short steps, and an access lift is available.

Sanctuary 21

Although it looks very old from the outside, Sanctuary 21 has a modern interior. It has a flight of wide stairs up the room, and there is a modern access lift. There is a disabled toilet.

Shakespeare Hall

This is the film venue. Access is via a wide hinged door. There is a full flight of steps up to the hall, and an old fashioned stair lift is available. However, it is not possible to get a motorised wheelchair up to the hall. Please see the pictures. There is a disabled toilet.

Assembly Theatre

The Assembly theatre is an old fashioned, raked, swing seat theatre. There is space for wheelchair users in the auditorium.

There are steps up to the building from the front, and no ramp. There is wheelchair access via the back of the building; it is quite a circuitous route, and involves travelling down a narrow path between two buildings, so please allow extra time. Please see the photos. If you need to find the route, please ask one of the stewards.

The theatre is about to undergo a £2.4mn refurbishment to radically improve disabled access to the building, but not until after this year's Festival.



Front steps into the Assembly Theatre.



The path to the back door of the Assembly Theatre, from Cathedral Green.