



## **Access Statement**

### **Introduction**

Royston Cave is a man-made, subterranean cave cut 8 metres into the chalk beneath Royston. The physical nature of the cave means access is limited. The cave is a Grade I listed, scheduled monument. This ensures the preservation of the site but prevents us from introducing facilities to improve access.

This access statement aims to accurately describe the accessibility of Royston Cave, and the facilities available to visitors, without personal opinion as to its suitability for individuals.

There is no wheelchair or step-free access.

No pets allowed except for registered assistance dogs.

No food or drink allowed.

Historic sites can be dangerous. Visitors enter at their own risk. Visitors must obey all safety signage, instructions and rules. Royston Town Council will not be held responsible for any accident or injury, regardless of cause.

Royston Cave may be closed without warning for health and safety reasons.

We reserve the right to refuse admission or eject you from the site for behaviour deemed inappropriate.

### **Contact**

If you have any queries, or require further advice or assistance, please phone 017623 245484 or email [info@roystoncave.co.uk](mailto:info@roystoncave.co.uk).

Updated: August 2021



## Travel

Our address is Katherine's Yard, Melbourn Street, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 7BZ.

### By Road

Royston is well situated at the crossroads of the main A505 and A10, where North Hertfordshire meets South Cambridgeshire. The A1M and M11 are each within a 15 minute drive, which link easily to the M25 and the A14.

### By Train

Royston Train Station has fast and frequent links between London Kings Cross and Cambridge. The train station is 0.4 miles from Royston Cave and takes approximately 8 minutes to walk. Royston station offers a bicycle park for almost 200 bicycles. For train timetables, station access and travel information, visit [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk).

### By Bus

Royston is well served by bus services, with links to Cambridge, Hitchin, Hertford, Buntingford, Bishops Stortford, and Luton and Heathrow Airports. Royston Bus Station is 0.3 miles from Royston Cave and takes approximately 6 minutes to walk. For bus timetables and travel information, visit [intalink.org.uk](http://intalink.org.uk).

You can find the location of Royston Cave, Royston Train Station, Royston Bus Station and surrounding roads on the town map attached to this document.

## Parking

There is no on-site parking.

Royston has space for over 500 cars in six pay and display car parks throughout town. Civic Centre Car Park (SG8 7XB) and Market Place Car Park (SG8 9JS) are both 0.2 miles from Royston Cave and take approximately 4 minutes to walk. Car parks are managed by North Herts District Council and operate a Blue Badge Scheme.

There is an electric vehicle charging station at Civic Centre Car Park (SG8 7XB).



You can find the location of all Royston car parks on the town map attached to this document.

## **Toilets and Changing Rooms**

There are no on-site toilet or changing room facilities.

Public toilets are available at Fish Hill (SG8 9JZ). These toilets are 0.2 miles from Royston Cave and takes approximately 4 minutes to walk. Public toilets are owned and run by North Herts District Council.

Royston also offers a Community Toilet Scheme. The scheme allows Royston Town Council to improve the provision of toilet facilities for the public. It provides cleaner, safer and more accessible toilets in Royston.

The Community Toilet Scheme is available at select partners during normal opening hours. Anyone is free to use this service without the need to make a purchase. Participating partners have a poster displayed in their window identifying the facilities available.

Royston Town Council encourages all Community Toilet Scheme partners to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.

You can find the location of toilets, including access and facility information, on the Community Toilet Scheme map attached to this document.

## **Catering**

There are no on-site catering or refreshment facilities.

Eateries can be found throughout Royston. The town's high street is 0.1 miles from Royston Cave and takes approximately 1 minute to walk. You can find the location of cafes, pubs and restaurants on the map attached to this document. For a more comprehensive list, visit [roystontown.uk](http://roystontown.uk).

## **Arrival**

Tickets are available to buy online and in advance only. Online booking closes the day before each tour.



Entry is by guided tour only. Do not enter Royston Cave until accompanied by a tour guide.

The entrance to Royston Cave is situated through a gated archway on Melbourn Street, to the left of 'The Cave Shop' building. It is signalled by a sign.

The area in front of the entrance is gravelled. We ask that you form an orderly queue when waiting for your tour. This area is used by vehicles. Please stay vigilant and move to allow vehicles to pass when required.

Information leaflets are available from the guide at the cave entrance. There are currently no large print, braille or foreign language leaflets available. Please ask your tour guide to assist with information.

For health and safety and security reasons, we cannot store personal belongings. Royston Cave will not be held responsible for any theft or damage of personal belongings.

## **Access**

There is no wheelchair or step-free access.

No pets allowed except for registered assistance dogs.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult throughout their visit. Please ensure your child is aware of, and adheres to, all safety precautions.

The entrance door is approximately 70 cm wide and 2 m tall. Immediately after the door there are 17 concrete steps. These all have anti-slip treads and metal railings on both sides.

Directly above the steps are two areas of lower ceiling at a height of approximately 1.6 m. These are highlighted with warning strips. Please mind your head.

The access tunnel is approximately 22 m long. It is approximately 60 cm wide at its narrowest point, and 2.2 m tall. The tunnel is cut into chalk and crosses visitors under the road, onto the other side.



The incline of the tunnel is approximately 37 %, or 20 degrees. This tunnel is the only entrance and exit, so visitors are required to ascend and descend it.

The tunnel flooring is concrete. It can be slippery and uneven underfoot and has a slight camber. There are metal handrails on both sides and it is well lit. Visitors are advised to take care, use the handrails provided and wear appropriate, sturdy footwear.

At the end of the tunnel, there are a further 5 steps with metal railings on both sides. Most of these steps also have anti-slip tread attached.

You can find our Visual Story and Sensory Map at [roystoncave.co.uk/visit](http://roystoncave.co.uk/visit).

## **Royston Cave**

Royston Cave is approximately 5 m in diameter and 8 m tall.

The viewing platform in the centre of the cave is octagonal in shape and approximately 2.8 m in diameter. For health and safety reasons, we uphold a capacity of 18 persons.

The platform flooring is wooden and bordered with metal railings. Due to the damp conditions in Royston Cave, the platform can be slippery. Visitors are advised to proceed cautiously.

The cave is dimly lit and relatively small, so some visitors may experience disorientation and/or claustrophobia. We advise visitors who feel unwell or light-headed, for whatever reason, to leave the cave immediately and make their way back to ground level.

Ventilation in the cave is provided via the access tunnel and a grille in the ceiling. This controls CO2 levels.

There is no visitor seating in the cave.

Tours last approximately 30 minutes. This includes a guided tour and subsequent Q&A session with the guide. Visitors are welcome to leave at any point throughout the tour.



The tour is guided by audio. The tour is only available in English. There is currently no hearing loop system installed. Please ask your tour guide to assist with information.

Your tour guide will highlight areas of interest with a torch. Most areas of interest are at eye level, or slightly above or below it. There are few instances where you may be required to look up.

There is no mobile phone signal in Royston Cave. A landline phone and first aid kit are available in the event of an emergency.

## **Local Interests**

We encourage you to explore Royston before or after your tour.

Take a guided walk around Royston on our Town Heritage Trail and discover the sites of an ancient crossroad, King James I's hunting palace and a 12th century monastery. You can view the Heritage Trail online at [roystontown.uk](http://roystontown.uk), or collect a printed copy from the guide at the cave entrance. There are currently no large print, braille or foreign language trails available. Please ask your tour guide to assist with information.

Royston Museum is 0.2 miles from Royston Cave and takes approximately 4 minutes to walk. The museum contains over 40,000 artefacts from Royston and surrounding area, including some excavated from Royston Cave. Royston Museum has step-free and wheelchair access. For opening times, events and access information, visit [roystonmuseum.org.uk](http://roystonmuseum.org.uk).

## **Additional Information**

At Royston Cave, while limited by the physical nature of the site, we are committed to continuing to improve accessibility where possible. In the future, we hope to install a hearing loop system, for those with impaired hearing, and a virtual tour of Royston Cave to be exhibited at Royston Museum, for those with reduced mobility.



# Royston

## Town Centre Map

Funded by Royston First



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database rights 2015  
Additional map information © Royston First  
Map created by Oxford Cartographers E & DE 97981

## What is the Community Toilet Scheme?

The Community Toilet Scheme allows the Council to work in partnership with local businesses to improve the provision of toilet facilities for the public. It provides cleaner, safer and more accessible toilets in Royston town centre.

## How the scheme works:

The council and selected local businesses sign an agreement to allow the public to use their toilets during normal opening hours and without the need to make a purchase.

The Council will continue to find other businesses to expand the scheme and increase provision for everyone which includes businesses that are DDA compliant.

**Window signs:** Participating Community Toilet Scheme members display one of these in their windows to identify the type of facilities available.



## Expected Standards and Inspection:

As part of the Community Toilet scheme agreement, the businesses agree to maintain the toilets in a clean and hygienic condition, with adequate toilet rolls, soap and hand driers/hand towels.

The Council will undertake regular inspections of all toilets in the scheme. In addition, there may be random "spot checks" at the Council's discretion.

## Disclaimer:

Royston Town Council encourages all local businesses to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.

The information in this leaflet is subject to change. It is correct at the time of print in April 2018.

## To find out more:

Phone: 01763 245484  
Opening: 9am to 5pm Monday to Thursday  
Times: 9am to 4.30pm Friday  
Email: [enquiries@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Write to: Royston Town Council  
Town Council Offices  
Melbourn Street  
Royston  
SG8 7DA

Community Toilet Scheme member details are also listed and regularly updated on the Council's website.



**Royston  
Town  
Council  
Community  
Toilet  
Scheme**





## Members of the Royston Town Council Community Toilet Scheme:

- 1** The Jolly Postie  
2 Baldock Street  
Royston SG8 5AY  
  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Saturday: 10am to 11pm  
Sunday: 10am to 10.30pm

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- 2** The Coach and Horses  
14 Kneesworth Street  
Royston SG8 5AA  
  
Opening hours:  
Sunday to Tuesday: 12pm to 9pm  
Wednesday and Thursday: 12pm to 10pm  
Friday and Saturday: 12pm to 12am

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- 3** Banyers House  
16 Melbourn Street  
Royston SG8 7BZ  
  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Thursday: 8am to 12am  
Friday and Saturday: 8am to 1am  
Sunday: 8am to 11pm

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- 4** Fish Hill  
Royston SG8 9JZ  
  
Opening hours:  
October to March: 7am to 5.30pm  
April to September: 7am to 7pm

## Public Toilets are available at:

Public toilets are owned and run by NHDC.