

Bawdsey Radar Museum

Access Statement



Introduction

Bawdsey Radar tells the important story of the part played by the women and men of Bawdsey Research Station and, later, RAF Bawdsey in the development of operational radar that helped win the Battle of Britain. In addition, the museum explores the context of the global story of radar up to the present day.

The museum in the Transmitter Block is on the Bawdsey Manor Estate, a rural and remote location. The Estate is bordered by the River Deben and the North Sea and sits on the land where the two meet. The location was chosen by scientists looking for somewhere isolated to continue their top-secret research into radar before the second world war. Today, the area is popular with visitors including families, walkers and cyclists looking for somewhere unspoilt to explore and enjoy.

The 1939 Transmitter Block, Grade 2* listed, is part of the very first operational radar station in the world. The Transmitter Block is now home to an interactive museum exhibition. Visitors can hear the voices of some of the women and men talking about their time at RAF Bawdsey, try their hand at being a radar operator, dress up as Bawdsey Boffin and explore the story through the timeline, films and displays.

We're proud to say Bawdsey Radar was judged Suffolk Small Museum of the Year 2019. The museum was awarded Full Museum Accreditation by Arts Council England in 2022.

We want to make the site and the story as accessible to as many people as we can. Here is a summary of the ways we do this:

- level access throughout the building with no steps or ramps.
- an accessible toilet (door width is 83cm)
- baby change facilities
- paths around the building that are level and smooth
- a wheelchair available to borrow for a visit
- subtitled films
- transcripts of audio clips and talks (available to download from the website or at events)
- a website that meets WCAG standard 2018.
- A bowl of fresh water for assistance dogs (and poo bags available if needed)
- Plain English words on the displays, in large size fonts, on contrasting backgrounds. Some of the information panels are not fixed and can be hand held
- Seating in all areas, inside and outside
- Free and close-by car parking

We can easily create a quiet, lower-lit space and the films and interactives can easily be turned down or off.

We are proud to offer a warm welcome and a high-quality experience to all visitors. We do this through a range of family and adult events and activities for example short talks, larger-scale themed events and online material as well as the exhibition and displays. We use a range of formats including films, words, sound clips, images and hands-on displays and activities.

We look forward to welcoming you.

If you have any questions or require any assistance please phone 07821 162879 or email info@bawdseyradar.org.uk

Address, contact and opening information

Bawdsey Radar Museum

Transmitter Block

Bawdsey

Suffolk

IP12 3BA Tel 07821 162879

www.bawdseyradar.org.uk

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The Transmitter Block is open April to October on Thursdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. For more information please visit www.bawdseyradar.org.uk

Getting to Bawdsey Radar Transmitter Block

By car

Sat Nav users – IP12 3BA brings you to within a few hundred metres of the museum.

A mile past Bawdsey village on the B1083, look left for these gates with the spheres. Turn left immediately after these gates.



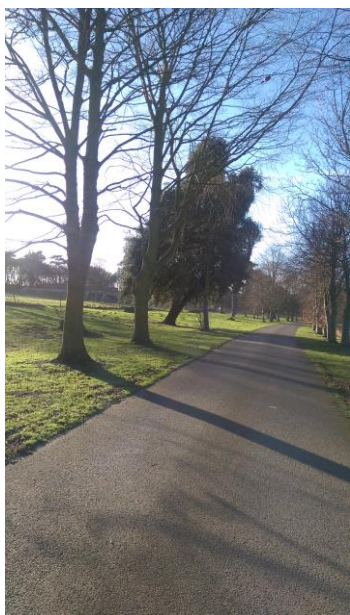
Look out for these gates

BRT Access Statement

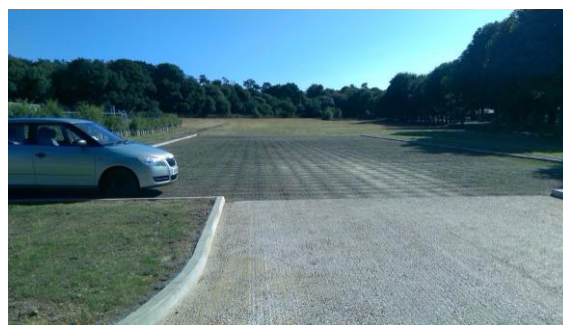
V6 Issued 09.05.23

Bawdsey Radar Trust Registered Address Transmitter Block Bawdsey Suffolk IP12 3BA T 0782 162879 E info@bawdseyradar.org.uk
Charity number 1125600 Company number 06474550

Follow this avenue of trees for 200m. You will then see the museum car park on your left.



The avenue of trees



Car park

By train

The nearest train station is Melton, Suffolk IP12 1LT and is 9.6 miles from Bawdsey Radar.

The train service is operated by Greater Anglia www.greateranglia.co.uk

Taxis can be booked and come from Woodbridge (the nearest bigger town). Please note the station is unstaffed and train and taxi assistance will need to be arranged before travelling.

There is no public bus service to Bawdsey.

By Foot Ferry from Felixstowe Ferry Hamlet

May to October 10 to 5pm, and weather permitting, a foot ferry carries passengers, dogs and bicycles between the hamlet of Felixstowe Ferry on the Felixstowe side of the River Deben and Bawdsey Quay. It is an open, motorised boat and not wheelchair accessible. Wave the bat (yes, really!) at the end of the jetty to call the ferryman.

For more information call the ferryman on 07709 411 511.

On foot from Bawdsey Quay

From Bawdsey Quay it is a one mile walk back along the B1083 to the Transmitter Block along the road. Please note there is no access via Bawdsey Manor or the beach.

BRT Access Statement

V6 Issued 09.05.23

Car parking and arrival

The car park is close by – 30 metres from the museum. You are very welcome to drop off at the museum entrance and then park up in the car park.

The car park is a level, hard surface shown here and there is no charge for parking.

Please do call on 07821 162879 with any questions about accessible parking.



Bawdsey Radar's car park

The Transmitter Block was built into a hill in 1937 and the approach from the car park is on a slight slope. Please see the photo below to get an idea of the slope. The photo is taken from the car park looking up to the Transmitter Block which is just visible (the red brick wall can be seen) in the top centre of the image, behind the hedge.



Looking up to the Transmitter Block from the car

This concrete path approach is slightly uneven in places so please take care

BRT Access Statement

V6 Issued 09.05.23

The paths around the building itself are smooth and even, making them accessible for people in wheelchairs and for pushing prams and buggies.



The smooth paths around the building shown here.
The arrows will guide you to the entrance.
The 'rusty box' are the toilets.

There are lights around the building which are switched on as needed.
The large blue arrows on the walls will guide you to the entrance door.
The entrance door is painted green and marked 'entrance'. The door opens inwards and is relatively light to open.



Entrance door

The building, museum exhibition and displays

Spaces, lighting and seating

The building has two main rooms plus 3 smaller rooms to explore. All are level access, wheelchair accessible, with no ramps or thresholds inside. The floors are smooth, either tiled or painted concrete.

The lighting is a mixture of small and larger spotlights, some of them on tracks overhead, plus ambient lighting from overhead pendant lights.

There is bench, chair and stool seating in both main rooms and the Resource Room. Additional stools and chairs are readily available at any time.

A wheelchair is available to borrow on your visit.

Entrance and reception desk

The entrance door is 80cm wide and opens inwards. It is a manual door.

The reception area is where you tickets are purchased, pick up a free Bawdsey Boffin Trail sheet or buy a guide book. The reception desk has two counters: 110cm and 75cm high.



Reception and welcome



Nick and Emily wearing their red lanyards

All of the Bawdsey team wear red lanyards so you know who we are. We all enjoy answering questions and having a chat.

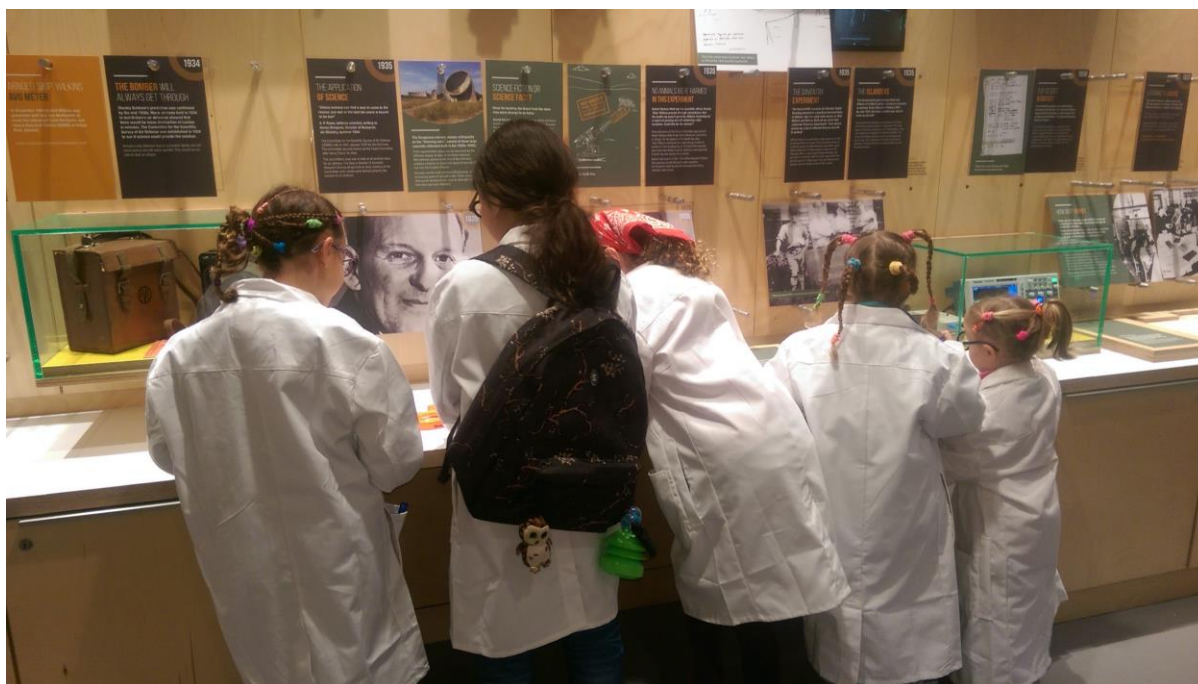
Bawdsey Boffin trail and family activities

There is a free Bawdsey Boffin trail sheet for all visitors and dressing up for younger visitors. Available at the reception desk. Books and colouring sheets are in the main gallery.

BRT Access Statement

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'Bawdsey boffins' exploring the museum

Exhibition and displays

All permanent exhibition films are subtitled and transcripts for the sound clips are available on the website.

All exhibition text is in Plain English, in large font size on a contrasting background. Some of the information panels are not fixed and can be picked up and held.

Rooms

Switchgear room

The reception desk is in this area.

There is an introductory film with subtitles, music and talking. Bench and stool seating is available and the area is fully accessible for people in wheelchairs and prams.

The volume level on the film can be turned up or down.

There is an iPad with a touchscreen and an information app called 'RADAR Chain'. It explores the 1939-45 radar stations around the coast of Britain. It is a touch screen. The iPad is in a fixed mount on a plinth which is 76cm high with knee space underneath and a stool.

BRT Access Statement

V6 Issued 09.05.23

Original 1937 WC room

This small area is the original 1937 WC. There is not enough room to turn a wheelchair or buggy round inside. There is clear view from the doorway and an information label.



Original 1937 WC

Resource Room

This is a small room. It contains a fixed, large touchscreen on a table with knee room underneath.

A range of research material can be accessed from the touch screen.

Two chairs are available and extra stools can be used in here.

There is limited room to turn a wheelchair or pram round.



Resource Room desk and screen

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V6 Issued 09.05.23

Air Filtration Room

This room has some original ducting and equipment. It is small with no turning room. The room is low-lit with a light projection that illuminates one wall and an information plinth.

There are 3 sound clips that play automatically. The transcripts are here:

<https://www.bawdseyradar.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Transcripts-Air-Filtration-Room-sound-clips.pdf>



Air Filtration Room showing information plinth and wall projection.

Large gallery in the museum

The whole room is accessible with a range of displays, hands-on items, a subtitled film, touchscreens and objects.

The timeline contains information and images. Some of the information panels are not fixed and can be handheld.

There is an iPad displaying one of the following 2 apps: 'Ship Finder' or 'Plane Finder'. Both apps are in real time and enable you to track ships and aircraft locally and internationally. It is a touch screen. The iPad is in a fixed mount on a plinth which is 72cm with knee space underneath and a moveable stool.

There is a large, wall-mounted screen giving real time information on aircraft flying locally. There are 2 other interactive touch screens, both mounted on plinths 72cms high with knee space. There are 2 smaller digital photo frames in the timeline with black and white images scrolling on them.

The main film display is subtitled and the film starts automatically.

BRT Access Statement

V6 Issued 09.05.23

This space is fully accessible for people in wheelchairs. There are stools in the area to use.



The films in the main gallery room. The film is subtitled and starts automatically.

Gift Shop

The shop has two levels of counters: 110cm and 76cm high.

The contactless payment machine, serving and wrapping areas are on the lower counter.

The shop is lit with spotlights from above.

The shop sells gifts and souvenirs including cards, gifts and books relating Bawdsey Radar.



The gift shop and two of our volunteers

Catering

Hot and cold drinks can be bought from the shop area. Hot drinks are served in sturdy paper cups with lids on. Prepacked biscuits are available. Fresh drinking water is always freely available on request.

Exit door

The exit door is next to the shop area and is painted green and is 93cm wide. It can be opened to 100cm and can be used as an entrance door. The door opens inwards.

Events and activities

There is a programme of activities each year, some of which are free to take part in. All the details will be found here:

<https://www.bawdseyradar.org.uk/whats-on/>

BRT Access Statement

V6 Issued 09.05.23

Toilets

The toilets are adjacent to the main building.

The accessible toilet has grab rails and emergency help pullcord. The door width is 83 cm.



Accessible toilet

There is a baby changing unit in the second toilet, shown below. The width of the door opening in the toilet is 80 cm.



Outside area

There picnic tables and benches on a grassed area behind the Transmitter Block.
There are no paths in this area and it is slightly sloping.



Picnic table area

Additional Information

Our team receive regular training. We have a set of evacuation procedures – should it be needed, someone can assist you with evacuation out of the buildings and/to the evacuation meeting place.

Assistance dogs are welcome – here is a link to more information

<https://www.bawdseyradar.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Dog-and-pet-policy-update-oct-2019.pdf>

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Access information here <https://www.bawdseyradar.org.uk/accessibility/>

Policy Review Dates

This Statement was approved and adopted by the Board of Trustees at their meeting held on 2nd February 2021. This policy will be reviewed as necessary and at least every 3 years.

Updated 24.04.23 by Lynette Burgess, awaiting sign off 23 May 2023

BRT Access Statement

V6 Issued 09.05.23