

Forge Mill & Bordesley Abbey Visitor Centre

Group
Booking
Information

2024



01527 62509

Needle Mill Lane, Riverside,
Redditch, B98 8HY

www.forgemill.org.uk



FORGE MILL
NEEDLE MUSEUM

FORGE MILL & BORDESLEY ABBEY

Our beautiful site is unique in that it shows two distinct areas of our country's rich historical heritage from Medieval monastic life to the hardships of working in a Victorian needle mill in the industrial revolution. Redditch was famous for producing a staggering ninety percent of the world's needles during Victorian times.

The Forge Mill tour has expert guides to take you around this historic mill to bring to life the fascinating & sometimes gruesome story of how the humble needle was made.

You will also experience the (largely) unchanged atmosphere of an original scouring (polishing) mill: much of the original Victorian water powered machinery remains & is working for group visits. We are the only remaining water powered needle scouring left in the world!

Our link with needles is also celebrated through regularly hosting textile exhibitions.

The needle mill itself is set in the beautiful grounds of a twelfth century Cistercian Abbey. The museum also offers tours of Bordesley Abbey which is just a short walk from the Mill.

The Abbey has been extensively excavated & many of the archaeological finds can now be seen in the Visitor Centre which tells the story of the Abbey from its development to the Dissolution.

PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE AND LEAFLET FOR MORE DETAILS



A TYPICAL ITINERARY

- Tea/Coffee & cake on arrival **(needs to be pre-booked)**
- Welcome & introduction
- Guided tour of either Forge Mill or Bordesley Abbey **(Forge Mill takes just under an hour, for Bordesley Abbey please allow an hour)**
- Free time to visit the temporary exhibition
- Time to enjoy the Visitor Centre & browse around the shop, which naturally has an extensive range of needles

EXTRA INFORMATION

- A light lunch can be pre-booked, menus can be found on our website
- Forge Mill regularly hosts textile exhibitions. Please see our website for details
- Car parking is free





A CRAFTY DAY OUT

This is a combined visit to the Jinney Ring Craft Centre as well as the Forge Mill Needle Museum. Spend the morning at Forge Mill: refreshments on arrival, guided tour, time to look at the exhibition & browse the shop, then travel to the Jinney Ring Craft Centre for a two course lunch, watch traditional crafts people at work & browse the craft centre shops.

Other nearby places to visit

Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings
National Trust sites: Baddesley Clinton • Coughton Court •
Hanbury Hall • Packwood House

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