

BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

SHEFFIELD

AUGUST 2026

**WATERBEAR
EDUCATION LTD.**



The College of Music

ABOUT US

WATERBEAR EDUCATION

WaterBear offer BA (Hons) degree and master's courses made for today's musicians, artists and industry professionals. We're about smaller class sizes, flexible course delivery, bespoke one-to-one mentoring and exclusive work experience and career development opportunities. We're based in the heart of Brighton, one of the UK's most exciting cities for music and the arts. We also have a range of online distance learning courses too. WaterBear is a College of Falmouth University, a pioneer in creative industries education, entrepreneurship and innovation.

We offer what we term a 'city-wide campus' approach, a part of the WaterBear student experience that involves teaching and learning activities being scheduled in established music venues, studios and rehearsal facilities in the city, as well as in our own dedicated WaterBear campus buildings.

WATERBEAR SHEFFIELD

We currently offer one building of full access for mobility-impaired individuals, which is our HQ building situated at 49 Eyre Lane in the city centre. Other spaces utilised for teaching and learning activities as part of our city-wide campus approach have been made as accessible as possible within the limitations of the buildings they are situated in. With regards to those suffering cognitive impairments, we have procedures in place to identify specific needs and requirements and offer appropriate support.

This statement document aims to summarise mobility, audio and visual aids and considerations relating to each of the WaterBear campus buildings and outsourced spaces for the academic year 26-27.

The statement below is based on an internal assessment. In the case of external venues, the information has been provided by the venues themselves and is based on their own internal assessment.

BUILDINGS OVERVIEW

WATERBEAR HQ

49 Eyre Lane, Sheffield, S1 4RB

The WaterBear Sheffield 'HQ' building is situated 0.9 miles from Sheffield train station, with the main entrance opening out onto Eyre Lane. The 'HQ' building is conveniently located, close to the City

Centre and only 400 yards from one of the main bus routes in the city, providing excellent public transport facilities.



The 'HQ' building is a part of a multi-storey building, with the WaterBear demise occupying two ground floor units. The building is well-equipped, suitable for hosting both onsite and online seminars and lectures. It has two general teaching spaces, a study space, a media suite and a mixing suite with an industry standard mixing desk and both analogue and digital outboard equipment. There are also three 1-1 meeting rooms, a staff office and reception area.

APPROACH AND CAR PARKING

The building is within convenient distance of a public highway, and a main road, with access to city wide public transport. Whilst WaterBear does not have its own parking facilities there are three large public car parks within 500 yards of the main 'HQ' building. The route to the building does have small kerbs, but there are 'drop kerbs' at regular intervals with surfaces well maintained, smooth and slip resistant. The route is wide enough for wheelchair access. The approach is free from hazards such as bollards, litter bins and any outward opening windows or doors and there are no overhanging projections. The area is well lit. The route to the building is kept free of snow, ice and any other debris, there are no steps.

ENTRANCES, INCLUDING RECEPTION

The main entrance door is clearly distinguishable from the façade; it is glass but visible when closed. The clear door opening easily permits passage of a wheelchair, the threshold is level and there is clear visibility through the doorway from both sides at standing and seated levels. There is adequate wheelchair manoeuvre space beside the door to clear door swing and door furniture can be used at both standing and seated height and is easily grasped and operated. There is an entry system fitted to the door which utilises mobile phones, the scan pad for this system is accessible from both standing and seated positions. The door and reception area are well lit, and signage is clear and well positioned. Floor surfaces are firm for wheelchair manoeuvre and of a quality that is sympathetic to acoustics. Floor surfaces avoid presenting trip hazards and causing visual confusion. The reception area is suitable for approach and use by people in standing and seated positions. Currently, there is no induction loop fitted; however, the spaces are small and people with hearing aids should be able to listen and take part without interference or acoustical distortion.

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY

Corridors and passageways are wide enough for wheelchair users to manoeuvre and for other people to pass by. Corridors are free from obstruction and from hazards to people with impaired vision. Wheelchair users can clear one door before approaching another and there is space to turn. Light avoids glare and silhouetting. Floor surfaces allow ease of movement for wheelchair users and there is minimal light reflection, acoustic treatment has been applied to walls to reduce sound reverberation. Direction and information signs are visible from both sitting and standing eye levels and are written clearly to aide reading by those with impaired vision. The building is well maintained and kept clear of obstructions to reduce any potential hazard for those with impaired vision. Seating arrangements and spaces are suitable for people with visual disabilities.

VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND INTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE

The 'HQ' building is at ground level; there are no stairs, landings or lifts.

DOORS

Doors serve a functional safety purpose and are fire rated. There is clear signage on the doors that identify them as such. Doors are fitted with closures. Doors are clearly visible when shut. There are window panels in the doors, and internal windows to some rooms, this enables people standing or

sitting to be seen from either side of the door. The clear opening width of the doors permits wheelchair access. Door handles can be reached from both a sitting and standing position and they can be easily grasped. Door mechanisms are fitted with slow action closers, and these mechanisms are checked regularly.

LAVATORIES

There is WC provision for people with disabilities and lavatory areas have slip resistant floors. All fittings are readily distinguishable from their backgrounds and door fittings and locks are easily gripped and operated. Ambulant disabled people can manoeuvre and raise and lower themselves. Provision is made for wheelchair users, and the approach is free of steps and obstructions. The location of lavatories is clearly signed. There is sufficient space at entry to the compartment for wheelchair manoeuvre and door opening. All fittings and light switches are easily reached. There is a WC facility fitted with an alarm system. Handwashing and drying facilities are within reach of someone seated on the WC. Taps are appropriate for use by someone with limited dexterity or grip. There are suitable grabrails fitted to aide use of the WC.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

There is currently an audible fire alarm system in place. Final exit routes are accessible to all, including wheelchair users as are the entry routes. People with disabilities can evacuate the building independently. There is an evacuation plan in place for all people. WaterBear staff are trained as fire marshals and there will always be someone on duty to manage any evacuation. Evacuation plans are checked regularly, and fire drills are carried out in line with regulations. Evacuation routes are checked regularly for freedom from combustible materials, obstacles and locked doors. All warning devices and detectors are checked regularly.

WATERBEAR ARUNDEL STREET

**Unit 1 Gatecrasher, 102 Arundel Street, Sheffield,
S1 4RE**

The Arundel Street building is housed in the same Gatecrasher complex as the WaterBear HQ. and is conveniently located in Sheffield City Centre and is close to Sheffield station and major bus routes. This building houses the Music Industries Hub, two general teaching spaces and a student common room area.



APPROACH AND CAR PARKING

The building is within convenient distance of a public highway, public transport and car parking. The route isn't free from kerbs, however there are conveniently placed 'drop kerbs'. Surfaces are smooth and slip resistant and the route is wide enough for wheelchair users. The route is free from hazards such as bollards, litter bins, outward opening windows and doors or overhanging projections and is adequately lit. There is no site-owned car parking for people with reduced mobility, however there is a car park that is 2 minutes' walk from the building. The route is kept free of snow, ice and fallen leaves and is level (i.e. no gradient steeper than 1:20 and no steps).

ENTRANCES, INCLUDING RECEPTION

The door is easily distinguishable from the façade and glass doors are visible when closed. The clear door opening when opened permits passage of a wheelchair or double buggy, there is a level threshold. There is visibility through the door from both sides at standing and seated levels and there is a minimum of 300mm wide wheelchair manoeuvre space beside the leading edge for the door to clear door swing. Door furniture can be used at both standing and seated height and can be easily grasped and operated. The door has a slow action closer. The door is security protected, and the system is suitable for use by and within reach of people with sensory and mobility impairments. Signs are designed and positioned to inform those with visual impairments and wheelchair users with reduced eye levels. The lighting installation takes account of the needs of visually disabled people. Floor surfaces are slip resistant, of a quality that is sympathetic to acoustics and firm for wheelchair manoeuvre. Junctions between floor surfaces are arranged in a way that

avoids presenting tripping hazards and causing visual confusion. Reception points are suitable for approach and use from both sides by people in standing and seated positions. There is clear signage for people progressing to other parts of the building. There is no induction loop.

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY

Corridors and passageways are wide enough for a wheelchair user to manoeuvre and for other people to pass and are free from obstruction to wheelchair users and from hazards to people with impaired vision. Lobbies allow users to clear one door before approaching the next and there is adequate space available for wheelchair users. Natural and artificial lighting avoid glare and silhouetting. Floor surfaces allow ease of movement for wheelchair users and avoid light reflection and sound reverberation. Textured surfaces convey useful information for people with impaired vision. Direction and information signs are visible from both sitting and standing eye levels and are large enough to be read by those with impaired vision. Maintenance of these items is checked regularly. Lighting is designed to meet a wide range of needs. There is sufficient circulation space allowed for wheelchair users which is maintained and clear of obstructions. There is no induction loop.

VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND INTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE

The location of any steps or stairs is clearly indicated by signage. Steps have handrails and any level change is clearly lit. The pitch of steps is consistent and nosing's are clearly identifiable. Any landings are large enough to permit passing and turning manoeuvres. Moveable ramps can be made available when necessary. For wheelchair users' access to the lower-level teaching space and Live room will be accessible through an external entrance, a member of the facilities team will be on hand to assist in accessing the security gate on Arundel Street. There are currently no power assisted platforms installed.

DOORS

Doors have a functional/safety purpose and can be readily distinguished. Glass doors are visible when shut and clear opening widths permit wheelchair access. There is sufficient space on the opening side of the door to allow the door handle to be grasped, and the door swung past a wheelchair footplate. Door furniture is at a height accessible for standing and sitting use and are

clearly distinguishable. Door handles can be easily operated and grasped. Door mechanism function is checked regularly.

LAVATORIES

There is WC provision for people with disabilities and lavatory areas have slip resistant floors. All fittings are readily distinguishable from their backgrounds and door fittings and locks are easily gripped and operated. Ambulant disabled people can manoeuvre and raise and lower themselves. Provision is made for wheelchair users, and the approach is free of steps and obstructions. The location of lavatories is clearly signed. There is sufficient space at entry to the compartment for wheelchair manoeuvre and door opening. All fittings and light switches are easily reached. There is a WC facility fitted with an alarm system. Handwashing and drying facilities are within reach of someone seated on the WC. Taps are appropriate for use by someone with limited dexterity or grip. There are suitable grabrails fitted to aide use of the WC.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

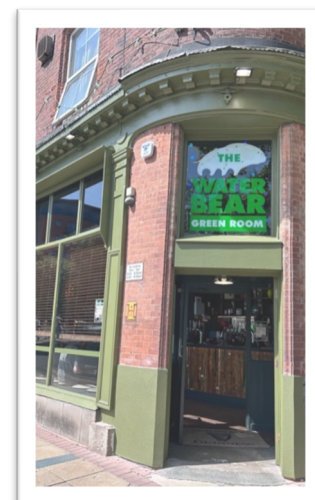
There is currently an audible fire alarm system in place. Final exit routes are accessible to all, including wheelchair users as are the entry routes. People with disabilities that cannot evacuate from the building independently have designated and signed refuges available. There is an evacuation plan in place for all people. WaterBear staff are trained as fire marshals and there will always be someone on duty to manage any evacuation. Evacuation plans are checked regularly, and fire drills are carried out in line with regulations. Evacuation routes are checked regularly for freedom from combustible materials, obstacles and locked doors. All warning devices and detectors are checked regularly.

WATERBEAR GREEN ROOM

150 Devonshire Street, Sheffield, S3 7SG

The WaterBear Green Room is our brand-new grassroots live music venue, situated within a 10-minute walk from our main HQ on Eyre Lane.

As well as a live venue and public bar, the Green Room will also function as a teaching space and the main student hub outside of teaching hours.



APPROACH AND CAR PARKING

The building is within convenient distance of a public highway, and a main road, with access to city wide public transport. Whilst WaterBear does not have its own parking facilities there are three large public car parks within 100 yards of the Waterbear Green Room. The route to the building does have small kerbs, but there are 'drop kerbs' at regular intervals with surfaces well maintained, smooth and slip resistant. The route is wide enough for wheelchair access. The approach is free from hazards such as bollards, litter bins and any outward opening windows or doors and there are no overhanging projections. The area is well lit. The route to the building is kept free of snow, ice and any other debris, there are no steps.

ENTRANCES, INCLUDING RECEPTION

The main entrance door is clearly distinguishable from the façade. The clear door opening easily permits passage of a wheelchair, the threshold is level and there is clear visibility through the doorway from both sides at standing and seated levels. There is adequate wheelchair manoeuvre space beside the door to clear door swing and door furniture can be used at both standing and seated height and is easily grasped and operated. The door and reception area are well lit, and signage is clear and well positioned. Floor surfaces are firm for wheelchair manoeuvre and of a quality that is sympathetic to acoustics. Floor surfaces avoid presenting trip hazards and causing visual confusion. The reception area is suitable for approach and use by people in standing and seated positions. Currently, there is no induction loop fitted; however, the spaces are small and people with hearing aids should be able to listen and take part without interference or acoustical distortion.

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY

Corridors and passageways are wide enough for wheelchair users to manoeuvre and for other people to pass by. Corridors are free from obstruction and from hazards to people with impaired vision. Wheelchair users can clear one door before approaching another and there is space to turn. Light avoids glare and silhouetting. Floor surfaces allow ease of movement for wheelchair users and there is minimal light reflection, acoustic treatment has been applied to walls and ceilings to reduce sound reverberation. Direction and information signs are visible from both sitting and standing eye levels and are written clearly to aid reading by those with impaired vision. The building is well maintained and kept clear of obstructions to reduce any potential hazard for those with impaired vision. Seating arrangements and spaces are suitable for people with visual disabilities.

VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND INTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE

The Waterbear Green Room building is at ground level; there are no stairs, landings or lifts.

DOORS

Doors serve a functional safety purpose and are fire rated. There is clear signage on the doors that identify them as such. Doors are fitted with closures. Doors are clearly visible when shut. There is a window panel in the internal entrance door, this enables people standing or sitting to be seen from either side of the door. The clear opening width of the doors permits wheelchair access. Door handles can be reached from both a sitting and standing position and they can be easily grasped. Door mechanisms are fitted with slow action closers, and these mechanisms are checked regularly.

LAVATORIES

There is WC provision for people with disabilities and lavatory areas have slip resistant floors. All fittings are readily distinguishable from their backgrounds and door fittings and locks are easily gripped and operated. Ambulant disabled people can manoeuvre and raise and lower themselves. Provision is made for wheelchair users, and the approach is free of steps and obstructions. The location of lavatories is clearly signed. There is sufficient space at entry to the compartment for wheelchair manoeuvre and door opening. All fittings and light switches are easily reached. There is a WC facility fitted with an alarm system. Handwashing and drying facilities are within reach of

someone seated on the WC. Taps are appropriate for use by someone with limited dexterity or grip. There are suitable grabrails fitted to aide use of the WC.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

There is currently an audible fire alarm system in place. Final exit routes are accessible to all, including wheelchair users as are the entry routes. People with disabilities can evacuate the building independently. There is an evacuation plan in place for all people. WaterBear staff are trained as fire marshals and there will always be someone on duty to manage any evacuation. Evacuation plans are checked regularly, and fire drills are carried out in line with regulations. Evacuation routes are checked regularly for freedom from combustible materials, obstacles and locked doors. All warning devices and detectors are checked regularly.

External Spaces used by WaterBear for Teaching/Rehearsals/Studio Time

STUDIO TECNA

**Sheaf Bank Business Park, 20 Prospect Road,
Heeley, Sheffield, S2 3EN**

<https://www.studiotecna.com/>

Studio Tecna is a well-equipped and respected recording studio located 1.2 miles from Eyre Lane in a business park just outside Sheffield city centre.

It is easily accessible via multiple bus routes that pass by WaterBear HQ. Situated on the second floor of a building complex shared with other local businesses, Studio Tecna offers a high-quality experience for WaterBear students, featuring both analogue and digital equipment. Its spacious live room is ideal for recording live instruments and vocals.



APPROACH AND CAR PARKING

The building is within convenient distance of a public highway and within convenient distance of public transport (bus routes). There is nearby car parking and the route approaching the facility is free from kerbs, there is a cobbled surface on the approach. The route is wide enough for wheelchairs and is free from such hazards as bollards, litter bins, outward opening windows and doors or overhanging projections and is adequately lit. Car parking by the entrance is available by arrangement for people with reduced mobility. Car parking is clearly marked out, signed, found and kept free from misuse. Car parking is suitably surfaced and the route to the building is kept free of ice, snow and fallen leaves. The route is level, and the studio has portable threshold ramps to assist access. There is a ramp with level surfaces at the bottom, it is wide enough, suitably surfaced and slip resistant with handrails on both sides. There are alternative steps that are clearly identified, ramps and steps are well lit.

ENTRANCES, INCLUDING RECEPTION

The main entrance door is clearly distinguishable from the façade and is clearly visible when closed. The clear opening of the door permits wheelchair access and there is a minimum 300mm wide wheelchair manoeuvre space beside the leading edge of the door to clear door swing. Door furniture can be used at both standing and seated height and can be easily grasped and operated. The door has a slow action closer. Lights within communal areas are on automatic sensors, and assistance would be provided for visually impaired people to operate main studio lights. Hard flooring is sufficiently covered with rugs, are slip resistant and of a quality that is sympathetic to acoustics and would not cause acoustic confusion. Rooms are acoustically treated, and reflection of sounds is controlled. Junctions between floor surfaces are arranged in a way that avoids presenting tripping hazards and causing visual confusion. Assistance will be always available to support access for wheelchair users – entry can be made via a tailgate lift with ramp and an elevator.

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY

Corridors are wide enough for wheelchair access, however, not wide enough for other people to pass. This is mitigated by small numbers utilising the studio at any one time and can be easily coordinated. Corridor spaces are short in length so corridor use can be effectively managed. Corridors are free from obstruction to wheelchair users and from hazards to people with impaired

vision. Turning space is available for wheelchair users. Natural and artificial lighting avoids glare and silhouetting. Floor surfaces allow ease of movement for wheelchair users and avoids light reflection and sound reverberation. Direction and information signs are visible from both standing and sitting eye levels and are large enough to be read by those with impaired vision. Lighting is sufficient to meet a wide range of needs. The studio space is well maintained and clear of obstruction. Due to the nature of sound recording, cables and stands will be set out, but risk will be mitigated with use of cable mats and tape. Seating arrangements are suitable for people with visual disabilities. Currently, there is no induction loop fitted; however, the spaces are small and people with hearing aids should be able to listen and take part without interference or acoustical distortion.

VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND INTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE

Steps and stairs have handrails, and the handrails extend beyond the top and bottom of any flight. Level changes are clearly lit. The pitch of the stairs is consistent and whilst nosings aren't currently marked all stairwells are well lit. There is a lift to access all floors. The lift's location is clearly defined by visual information and controls at all floors are visible, identifiable and reachable from sitting and standing levels. There is adequate unobstructed space at each floor lift entry for wheelchair manoeuvre. The lift door opens wide enough for wheelchair user access and door operation allows slow entry and exit. The internal lift dimensions allow sufficient space for a wheelchair user and carer, and the lift car has sufficient support rails. The lift car controls including emergency call are located within reach of all users and with visual and tactile information. There is audible floor identification. The lift is regularly maintained, and its functional operation is routinely checked.

DOORS

Doors serve a functional purpose, and they can be readily distinguished, and they are clearly visible when shut. The clear opening width permits wheelchair access and on the opening side of the door there is sufficient space to allow the door handle to be grasped and the door swung past a wheelchair footplate. Door furniture is at a height suitable for standing and sitting use. Door handles are clearly distinguished and can be easily operated and grasped. All door mechanisms are checked regularly. Any required assistance will always be available.

LAVATORIES

All lavatories have slip resistant floors and are easy to distinguish by colour contrast from walls. All fittings are readily distinguishable from their background. All door fittings are easily gripped and operated. Ambulant disabled people can manoeuvre, raise and lower themselves in standard cubicles. Provision is made for wheelchair users, and the approach is free of steps and obstructions. There is sufficient space at entry to the compartment for wheelchair manoeuvre and door opening. Door fittings, locks and light switches are easily reached and operated. The wheelchair accessible WC is large enough to permit manoeuvre for frontal lateral/angled/backward transfer without assistance and fittings are positioned to facilitate this. The area is free from obstruction.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

All fire procedures, systems and checks are in place and carried out in line with regulations by Tecna Studios. There is an audible fire alarm. Small numbers mean that any fire evacuation is easily managed, and a hearing-impaired person could easily be made aware of any alarm. There are designated refuge spaces available for those that cannot exit the building independently. There is a management evacuation strategy for all people, and someone is on duty to manage the evacuation procedure. The strategy is checked regularly for effectiveness. Evacuation routes are checked routinely and regularly for freedom from combustible materials, obstacles and locked doors. All fire warning devices and detectors are checked routinely and regularly.

HYBRID 3 REHEARSAL ROOMS

**H3 Bank Business Park, Prospect Road, Lowfield,
Sheffield, S2 3EN**

<https://www.hybrid3.org/>

Hybrid 3 is a well-regarded rehearsal facility located 1.2 miles from Eyre Lane, just outside Sheffield city centre.

It is easily accessible via several bus routes that pass by WaterBear HQ. Situated on the second floor of a business complex, Hybrid 3 offers spacious, acoustically sound rooms equipped with a variety of PA systems, amps, and drum kits — making it an excellent venue for live rehearsals and a valuable experience for WaterBear students.



APPROACH AND CAR PARKING

The building is located within convenient distance of a public highway and local transport links. There is also parking situated close to the building. Access to the building is via a cobbled courtyard. The route is wide enough for wheelchair users and is free from bollards, litterbins, outward opening windows or doors and overhanging projections. The area is adequately lit, and by arrangement a car parking space directly next to the entrance can be provided for people with reduced mobility. Car parking is clearly marked out, signed and easily found and is near to the building entrance. The car park is cobbled but there have been no issues to date for wheelchair users. The route to the building is kept free of snow, ice and fallen leaves, and the route is level (i.e. no gradient steeper than 1:20 and no steps). There is a fixed ramp that has level surfaces it is wide enough and suitably graded with a slip resistant surface. There are handrails. There are portable threshold ramps available and there are alternative steps that are identified by visual information. Ramps and steps are adequately lit. There are some minor inconsistencies with step depth and height due to the installation of an anti-slip floor. All nosings are marked, and landings are of adequate size and are provided at intermediate levels in long flights. There is lift access to all floors.

ENTRANCES, INCLUDING RECEPTION

The door is clearly distinguishable from the façade, and any glass doors remain visible when closed. The doors when opened permit passage of a wheelchair or double buggy. There is a minimum of 300mm wide wheelchair manoeuvre space beside the leading edge of the door to clear door swing and door furniture can be used at both standing and seated height and can be easily grasped and operated. The doors have slow action closers and minimal closure pressure. Any power operated doors have visual information. Lobby layouts enable all users to clear one door before going through the next and signs are designed and positioned to inform those with visual impairments and wheelchair users with reduced eye-levels. Lighting installation considers the needs of visually disabled people. Floor surfaces are slip resistant and of a quality sympathetic to acoustics and are firm for wheelchair manoeuvre. Junctions between floor surfaces are arranged in a way that avoids presenting trip hazards and causing visual confusion. Any reception points are suitable for approach and use from both sides by people in standing and seated positions. There is no induction loop.

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY

Corridors and passageways are wide enough for a wheelchair user to manoeuvre and for other people to pass. Corridors are free from obstruction to wheelchair users and from hazards to people with impaired vision. Lobbies allow users to clear one door before approaching the next with minimal manoeuvre and turning space is available for wheelchair users. Direction and information signs are visible from both sitting and standing eye levels and large enough to be read by those with impaired vision. Maintenance of these items is checked regularly. Lighting is designed to meet a wide range of needs and there is sufficient circulation space for wheelchair users. Rooms are kept tidy and free from obstruction, however, due to the nature of recording studios and rehearsal rooms there are sometimes cables laid out on the floor. Seating arrangements/spaces are suitable for use by people with visual disabilities.

VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND INTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE

Steps and stairs have handrails, and the handrails extend beyond the top and bottom of any flight. Level changes are clearly lit. The pitch of the stairs is consistent and whilst nosings aren't currently marked all stairwells are well lit. There is a lift to access all floors. The lift's location is clearly defined by visual information and controls at all floors are visible, identifiable and reachable from sitting and standing levels. There is adequate unobstructed space at each floor lift entry for wheelchair manoeuvre. The lift door opens wide enough for wheelchair user access and door operation allows slow entry and exit. The internal lift dimensions allow sufficient space for a wheelchair user and carer, and the lift car has sufficient support rails. The lift car controls including emergency call are located within reach of all users and with visual and tactile information. There is audible floor identification. The lift is regularly maintained, and its functional operation is routinely checked.

DOORS

Doors serve a functional purpose, and they can be readily distinguished, and they are clearly visible when shut. The clear opening width permits wheelchair access and on the opening side of the door there is sufficient space to allow the door handle to be grasped and the door swung past a wheelchair footplate. Door furniture is at a height suitable for standing and sitting use. Door handles are clearly distinguished and can be easily operated and grasped. All door mechanisms are checked regularly. Any required assistance will always be available.

LAVATORIES

All lavatories have slip resistant floors and are easy to distinguish by colour contrast from walls. All fittings are readily distinguishable from their background. And all door fittings are easily gripped and operated. Ambulant disabled people can manoeuvre, raise and lower themselves in standard cubicles. Provision is made for wheelchair users, and the approach is free of steps and obstructions. There is sufficient space at entry to the compartment for wheelchair manoeuvre and door opening. Door fittings, locks and light switches are easily reached and operated. The wheelchair WC is large enough to permit manoeuvre for frontal lateral/angled/backward transfer without assistance and fittings are positioned to facilitate this. The area is free from obstruction. There is currently no emergency call system in place.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

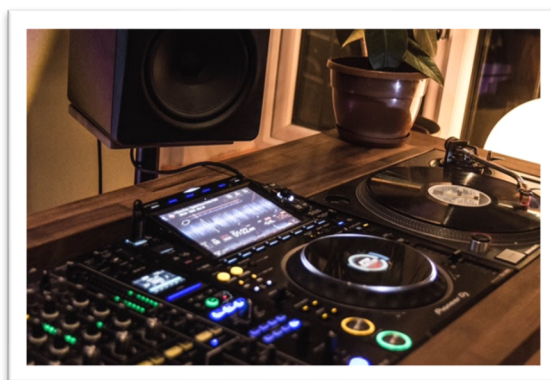
All fire procedures, systems and checks are in place and carried out in line with regulations by Hybrid 3. There is an audible fire alarm. Small numbers mean that any fire evacuation is easily managed, and a hearing-impaired person could easily be made aware of any alarm. There are designated refuge spaces available for those that cannot exit the building independently, however, these are not signed and carry chairs are not currently available. There is a management evacuation strategy for all people, and someone is on duty to manage the evacuation procedure. The strategy is checked regularly for effectiveness. Evacuation routes are checked routinely and regularly for freedom from combustible materials, obstacles and locked doors. All fire warning devices and detectors are checked routinely and regularly.

SPRING TANK STUDIOS

100 Randall Street, Highfield, Sheffield, S2 4SE

<https://springtankstudios.co.uk/>

Spring Tank Studios is a versatile music studio based in Sheffield City Centre. The facility is conveniently located only 0.3 miles (10-minute walk) from the WaterBear HQ building. Spring Tank is a new facility equipped with a wide range of high-quality recording and performance equipment to meet the needs of people specialising in electronic music and DJ'ing. Rooms are spacious and welcoming.



APPROACH AND CAR PARKING

The building is within convenient distance of a public highway, public transport and car parking. The route is free of kerbs, and the surface is smooth and slip resistant. The route is wide enough for a wheelchair and is free from such hazards as bollards, litter bins, outward opening windows and doors or overhanging projections. It is adequately lit and there is car parking for people with reduced mobility. Car parking is clearly marked out, signed, easily found and kept free from misuse. There is car parking available near to the building entrance, it is suitably surfaced, and the route is kept free of snow, ice and fallen leaves. The route is level (i.e. no gradient steeper than 1:20 and no steps).

ENTRANCES, INCLUDING RECEPTION

The door is clearly distinguishable from the façade. Doors can be easily grasped and operated and have slow action closers. Lobby layouts enable users to clear one door before going through the next. There is some limited manoeuvre space for wheelchair users. Signs are designed and positioned to inform those with visual impairments and wheelchair users with reduced eye levels. Lighting installation takes account of the needs of visually disabled people. Floor surfaces are slip resistant and of a quality that is sympathetic to acoustics and are firm for wheelchair manoeuvre. Junctions between floor surfaces are arranged in a way that avoids presenting tripping hazards and causing visual confusion. Any reception point is suitable for approach and use from both sides by people in standing and seated positions. There is no induction loop.

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY

Corridors and passageways are wide enough for a wheelchair user and for other people to pass. Corridors are free from obstruction to wheelchair users and from hazards to people with impaired vision. Lobbies allow users to clear one door before approaching the next with minimal manoeuvre. There is turning space available for wheelchair users. Natural and artificial lighting avoids glare and silhouetting, and floor surfaces allow for ease of movement for wheelchair users. Direction and information signs are visible from both sitting and standing eye levels and are large enough to be read by those with impaired vision. Regular maintenance of these items takes place. Lighting is designed to meet a wide range of needs. Seating arrangements are suitable for use by people with visual disabilities. There is no induction loop.

VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND INTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE

The location of any steps or stairs is clearly signed; stairs do not currently have handrails. Any level changes are clearly lit, and any landings are large enough to permit passing and turning. Moveable ramps can be made available. There is no lift access.

DOORS

Doors serve a functional and safety purpose, and they can be readily distinguished. Any glass doors are visible when shut. In some cases, people standing or sitting in a wheelchair cannot see each other from either side of the door. The clear opening width permits wheelchair access and on the opening side of the door there is sufficient space to allow the door handle to be grasped and the door swung past a wheelchair footplate. Door handles are at a height for standing and sitting use and are easily distinguished. The handles can be grasped and operated easily. Doors have a slow action closer – door function and mechanisms are checked regularly.

LAVATORIES

There is currently no specific WC provision for people with disabilities. All lavatory areas have slip resistant floors and the floors are easy to distinguish by colour contrast from walls. All fittings are readily distinguishable from their background. All door fittings and locks are easily grasped and operated. Location of WCs is clearly signed. There is currently no emergency response system installed. Handwashing and drying facilities are within reach of someone seated on the WC and areas are free from obstruction.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

All fire procedures, systems and checks are in place and carried out in line with regulations by Spring Tank. There is a visible as well as audible fire alarm system. Signed and designated refuges are available when people with disabilities cannot evacuate from the building independently. There is a management evacuation strategy for all people and someone on duty is responsible for the evacuation procedure. The evacuation strategy is checked regularly for its effectiveness and evacuation routes are checked routinely and regularly for freedom from combustible materials/obstacles/locked doors. All fire warning devices and detectors are checked routinely and regularly.

CORPORATION

2 Milton St, Sheffield City Centre, Sheffield, S1 4JU

<https://corporation.org.uk/>

The Corporation is a thriving independent live music venue and alternative music nightclub in Sheffield City Centre. Just an 8-minute walk from WaterBear HQ, the Corporation is perfect for student classes, gigs and events.



APPROACH AND CAR PARKING

The building is within convenient distance of a public highway and has easy access to public transport and car parking. The route to the venue does have kerbs, however, 'drop kerbs' are conveniently placed. The route is wide enough for a wheelchair and surfaces are smooth and slip resistant where necessary. The route is free from hazards such as bollards, litter bins, outward opening windows and doors and is adequately lit. There is parking for people with reduced mobility, and the car parking is as near to the entrance as possible. The car parking area is suitably surfaced. The route to the building is kept free of snow, ice and fallen leaves. There is a suitable ramp to assist access. There is a ramp with level surfaces that is suitably graded and wide enough – the surface is slip resistant. Handrails are present. There are also steps that are suitably identified and that are adequately lit. All nosings are marked and/or readily identifiable.

ENTRANCES, INCLUDING RECEPTION

Door furniture can be used at both standing and seated height, and it can be easily grasped and operated. The door mechanism has a slow action closer. Lobby layouts enable all users to clear one door before going through the next. Signage is designed and positioned to inform those with visual impairments and wheelchair users with reduced eye levels. Floor surfaces are of a quality that is sympathetic to acoustics so as not to cause acoustic confusion. Junctions between floor surfaces are arranged in a way that avoids presenting trip hazards and causing visual confusion. For those progressing to other parts of the building information is provided by signs, supported by tactile information.

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY

Corridors are wide enough for a wheelchair user to manoeuvre and for other people to pass. Corridors are free from obstruction to wheelchair users and from hazards to people with impaired vision. Lobbies allow users to clear one door before approaching the next with minimal manoeuvre. Turning space is available for wheelchair users. Floor surfaces allow for ease of movement for wheelchair users. Direction and information signs are visible from both sitting and standing eye levels and are large enough to be read by those with impaired vision. There is regular maintenance and facilities are checked regularly. Seating arrangements are suitable for use by people with visual disabilities.

VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND INTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE

The location of any steps is clearly indicated and has handrails. Level changes are clearly lit, and the pitch of stairs is consistent with identifiable nosings. The landings are large enough to permit passing and turning manoeuvres and are provided in any long flight. All ramp gradients are easily negotiated. Steps are available as an alternative to any ramp or ramped surface. The lift has visible controls at all floors and can be seen and reached from sitting and standing levels. There is adequate, unobstructed space at each floor lift entry for wheelchair manoeuvre. The lift door opens wide enough for wheelchair access and door operation allows for slow entry and exit. The lift car dimensions allow sufficient space for a wheelchair user and carer and has appropriate support rails. Lift car controls are located within reach of all users and have visual and tactile information. The lift is regularly maintained, and its functional operation is routinely checked.

DOORS

Doors serve a functional and safety purpose, and they can be readily distinguished. The door clear opening width permits wheelchair access, and on the opening side of the door there is sufficient space to allow the door handle to be grasped and the door swung past a wheelchair footplate. Door handles can be easily grasped and operated. Door mechanisms and function is checked regularly.

LAVATORIES

There is WC provision for people with disabilities, and all lavatory areas have slip-resistant floors. Floors are easy to distinguish by colour contrast from walls, and all fittings are easily distinguishable

from their background. All door fittings are easily gripped and operated. Ambulant disabled people can manoeuvre and raise and lower themselves in standard cubicles. Provision is made for wheelchair users, and the location is clearly signed. There is sufficient space at entry to the compartment for wheelchair manoeuvre and opening. Door fittings and lights are easily reached and operated and there is an emergency call system with someone designated to respond. The call system can be operated from floor level. The wheelchair compartment is large enough to permit manoeuvre for frontal, angled, backward transfer with or without assistance. Taps are suitable for use by people with limited dexterity, grip or strength and there are suitable grabrails fitted in all the appropriate positions to facilitate use of the WC. The manoeuvring area is free from obstruction.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

All fire procedures, systems and checks are in place and carried out in line with regulations by Corporation. There is a visible as well as audible alarm system. Final exit routes are accessible to all, including wheelchair users, as are the entry routes. Evacuation from upper and lower levels is possible using an evacuation lift with a protected power supply. For anyone unable to evacuate the building independently, designated and signed refuges are available. There is a management evacuation strategy for all people and someone on duty is responsible for the evacuation procedure. The evacuation strategy is checked regularly for its effectiveness. Evacuation routes are checked routinely and regularly for freedom from combustible materials/obstacles/locked doors. All fire warning devices and detectors are checked regularly and routinely.