

Chislehurst Caves

Information dated 2012 www.accessinlondon.org
For a summary of the abbreviations used see under *Methodology*

Chislehurst Caves

Caveside Close, off Old Hill, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5NB

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An extraordinary complex of tunnels, cut through chalk and flint, and primarily the result of mining. The tour includes areas associated with the Saxons, Druids and Romans. During World War II the caves became 'home' for people whose houses were bombed, with thousands of people living there. You can see the church and hospital, and where people kept their belongings by their bunk beds.

If coming by car, it only seems to be signed when you get very close. It's near the Chislehurst rail station. CP outside with a tarmac lower section and rough ground in the upper part. No BB spaces are marked out. The rail station is about 400m away but according to NR, only one platform has step-free access.

At the entrance to the caves there's a gate (D68cm). Note that the short tour will take you nearly 1km through the tunnels, with no seats. The tour takes some 45-60 minutes. Inside, the caves are cool (always 10degC) and access is step-free, although the surface is really rough and bumpy in places. Even the hardest chair user would need a good pusher, and possibly two would be better so that they can take turns.

Step-free at the main entrance leading to the ticket office and café.

Adapted toilet (D70+ ST57) off the café area with flat access. You need to get the key from the desk. BCF included. The loo is a 'classic' design where the installer put the WC pan in the centre of the wall rather offsetting it to facilitate side transfer. Thus ST is impossible from either side !