

# National Trust

## National Trust Cottages Accessibility Guide



### The Priests House

Sissinghurst Castle & Gardens  
Biddenden Road  
Sissinghurst  
Kent  
TN17 2AB

Ref: 021007

### Introduction

Sitting on the edge of Sissinghurst Castle's famous Delos Garden, this is the perfect spot for garden lovers.

Priest's House is a stunning detached brick property, believed to be part of the Elizabethan mansion that made up Sissinghurst Castle. Completely renovated, but with reams of original features, the property boasts mullion and leaded windows, inglenook fireplace, wooden beams, and brick flooring.

Discover its diverse history; from the astonishing time as a prison in the 1700s, see the newly discovered graffiti in the kitchen, to being a home to the women's land army. You'll also have 450 acres of the wider estate to explore too.

## The cottage is arranged as follows:

**Ground Floor;** Kitchen/dining room with multi-fuel stove, living room with multi-fuel stove, snug area, utility room.

**First Floor;** Three bedrooms (one large double with steps to en-suite bathroom with bath and separate shower cubicle, two twins - one with 6' bed, which can be a double on request), shower room with lavatory.

## Pre-Arrival

- See the main webpage for booking and location details.
- Please contact us prior to booking if you have any specific access requirements.
- Directions provided with booking.

## Arrival & Parking Facilities

There are 2 designated carpark spaces behind the restaurant. The area is tarmac however uneven with potholes. As you make your way down the hill past the restaurant and barn, the gravel track is very uneven and can be muddy in wet conditions as you come past the shop and towards the garage where the gate for the holiday cottage is located.



Designated parking spaces.

Guests can unload/load outside the cottage, thereafter they will need to park at the rear of the restaurant in two designated spaces. For further parking guests can use the visitor's car park.



There is a ramp down to the gate (with holiday cottage sign on it) which has a small step to the right and around the side of the garage, the gate is 850mm wide and the path is 920mm wide. A sharp turn at the end of the path leads to 4 steps up to the cottage door and where the key safe is. There is a step into the cottage and into the utility room- the step is 200mm wide and the doorway is 900mm wide. The site can be dark, there is exterior lighting by the key safe and by the bin storage area, however, there is none by the carpark spaces or down the hill via the track to the gate for the cottage so a torch will be needed. The key safe is found to the right of the door. The key safe illuminates in the dark.

## Outside space

There is no private garden but there is out-of-hours access to the main gardens including the Delos Garden. Outside the cottage, under cover is the recycling area and refuse bin- there is a small step up and low beam.



## Getting around the cottage

### Ground floor

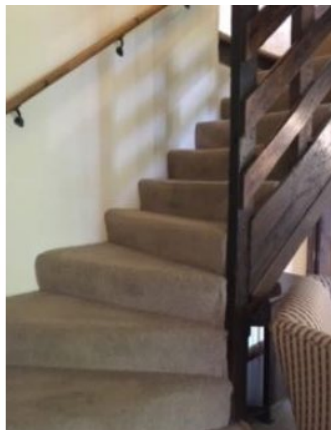
There are 2 internal doors 1.65m apart once inside the utility room which head onto the sitting room, the first door is 740mm wide and the second door into the sitting room is 720mm wide.

- Floor coverings: vinyl in the utility room, carpet throughout and brick in the kitchen
- There is only 1 step in the kitchen- running the length of the room, and the kitchen wood burner is up a step into the inglenook fireplace- there is a nursery guard around the wood burner.



Kitchen step

- Carpeted stairs with 16 treads and a wooden handrail on left hand side turn as you leave the sitting room, they lead straight into the master bedroom at the top on the right, and onto a corridor to the left with the 2 smaller bedrooms. The width of the stairs is 870mm. The treads are 220mm deep and each step is 180mm high.



## First Floor

- The main stairs lead straight into the master bedroom.
- The bedroom floor coverings are carpet and there is vinyl in the bathroom.
- There are 3 steps down into the en-suite bathroom, the doorway is 970mm wide, the height of each step is 150mm and the depth of each tread is 250mm. There is a step of 250mm into the shower.
- Out of the master bedroom, there are 3 steps down and onto the corridor ahead. This doorway is 850mm wide, the height of the steps are 200mm and make a triangular shape- 340mm wide narrowing to 60mm.
- The corridor outside the twin bedrooms is 880mm wide and leads to a bathroom at the end which has 2 steps down into the room.
- The bedrooms and corridor are carpet and bathroom vinyl • The bathroom has a sloping ceiling above the toilet.

## Entrance Hallway / Utility room

- There are 2 internal doors 1.65m apart once inside the utility room which head onto the sitting room, the first door is 740mm wide and the second door into the sitting room is 720mm wide.
- In the first room is the utility room with a built-in cupboard to the left as come in which houses the heating. Heating controls are on the wall outside the cupboard.
- Washing machine on the right as you step into the cottage.
- Vinyl floor with non-slip mat by threshold
- Behind second door is large cupboard for caretaker supplies on the right. (This is for the holidays team only)
- In the second room is coat hook, shoe rack and welly stand.

## Kitchen/Dining Area double aspect.

- Main light switch is to the right of kitchen door at a height of 975mm.
- There are 3 tracks of spotlights across the kitchen area and one wagon wheel style chandelier above the dining table. There are also 2 wall sconces either side of the fireplace.
- Dining table with knee clearance of 310mm, six kitchen chairs, no arms and are 620mm tall.
- Chairs have seat depth of 425mm and back height of 550mm.
- Two windows, one over the sink looking out over the Delos Garden and towards the tower, the larger to the right of the door has a sheer roller blind for privacy.
- The door behind the curtain is currently not being used, the 2 access doors are the back door and down the steps and a second behind curtain in the sitting room and out into the white garden- small step down.
- Brick floor surface can potentially be slippery in socks. Nonslip mat behind curtain by door.

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- Height of worktop is 910mm from floor level and up a step of 100mm to the flat area of 840mm wide where all the worksurfaces are.
- Built in electric cooker with 4 oven/ grille compartments and 6 ring ceramic hob. No cooker hood.
- Ceramic sink with single arm lever tap.
- Tall integrated Fridge freezer.
- Integrated dishwasher.
- Microwave plugged into wall socket with controls at a maximum height of 190mm above the countertop.
- Kettle and toaster and coffee machine on worksurface and plugged into wall sockets.



## Living room – Single aspect

- Main light switch is to the right-hand side. There are no ceiling lights in this room.
- Lighting comprises 4 wall sconces with shield style shades, tall standing lamps with shades.
- Two green velvet, chesterfield style three-seater sofas with seat height 420mm, 1720mm long, seat depth 680mm
- One pale green armchair. Seat height 420mm, 500mm wide and 600mm depth. With arms.
- Large pale green footstool/ coffee table. 800mm<sup>2</sup> 430mm high.
- Grey buttoned footstool / coffee table. 1m long by 500mm wide. 430mm high. Trays are provided to be used as coffee tables.
- 43" Smart 4K Ultra HD TV. (h) 561mm x (w) 967mm x (d) 26mm
- Separate DVD player.
- Woodburning stove on brick hearth- tools provided and logs stored outside. Nursery guard available on request. Spark guard in place.

- Large window overlooking the north garden and out to the further estate.
- Door behind curtain out into the white garden with a step of 110mm high. Doorway is 800mm wide.



## Snug – double aspect

- Love seat on left hand side 840mm wide, 600 deep, seat height 430mm.
- Two wing back chairs 460mm wide, 560 deep, seat height 460mm.
- Small velvet footstool, 350mm high.
- Two small wooden coffee tables.
- Two table lamps.
- One Sconce with shades.
- One small wooden cupboard 780mm high.
- Windows look out onto the Delos Garden.
- Radio.
- Bookshelves which run floor to ceiling on the right-hand side of the room. Stocked with books and games.
- There is a large curtain so this area can be closed off from the living room.





## Bathroom (Ensuite) – single aspect

- Enamel Bath is 5650mm high, inside measures 600mm wide and 1480mm long.
- WC is 400 mm high with push flush.
- Hand basin is 840 mm high with twist taps.
- Mirror, shaver point and light.
- Electric shower with glass doors, with hand controls at a height of 1350mm.
- There is a large window looking over the garden and towards the shop.



## Master Bedroom – Double Aspect

- Main light switch is to the left of bedroom door at a height of 800mm.
- Central ceiling light and 3 wall sconces with shades.
- 5'/1500mm bed, 600mm high and 2000mm long.
- Two bedside cabinets with bedside lamps.
- Four drawer chest of drawers and a mirror.
- Freestanding wardrobe with a hanging rail at a height of 1400mm.
- Wooden chair with wicker seat, seat height 330mm.
- Wooden chair with arms, seat height 430mm.
- Ottoman at bottom of bed. 1500mm long, 330mm deep, 320mm high.
- 2 large leaded windows with view to garden.
- Circulation space, 800 mm clearance right hand side of bed to the wardrobe. 1560mm left hand side of bed to window and 1220mm clearance from the bottom of the bed to the fireplace.
- Large fireplace with step up.





## Twin bedroom (left) – single aspect.

- Main light switch is to the right of the bedroom door at a height of 1200mm.
- 2 wall sconces with shades and one bedside lamps
- Large window with view to garden.
- 2 beds 3' /950mm, 630 high and 2m long. These can be made into a double.
- Bed heads are against the exterior wall.
- Built in wardrobe with a hanging rail at a height of 1600mm. Small step up from floor, 100mm high. Contains oil filled portable heater, Ironing Board, highchair and clothes horse.
- Dresser and an integrated mirror. Wooden seated chair with a seat height of 403mm and a back height of 450mm.
- Circulation – gap between beds is 1m. 2300mm clearance from end of bed to wardrobe.



## **Twin bedroom (right) – Single aspect**

- 2 beds 3' /950mm, 700mm high and 2m long.
- One bedside table between the beds 740mm high with lamp
- Built in wardrobe, half of which is shelved. 1130mm wide, 1930 high, 860mm deep.
- Circulation, gap between beds 700mm. Clearance at end of beds to wardrobe. 1100mm right hand bed, 1840mm left hand bed.
- Two wall sconces with shades.
- Bed heads are against the exterior wall.
- Window over looks garden.



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## Additional Information

### Facilities at all cottages

The National Trust aims to expand the list of accessible /equipment/items available at each cottage and these may include.

- Cordless kettle
- Hollowfibre bedding
- Chair with armrests
- Good reading light
- Large handle vegetable peeler
- Easy tin opener
- Non-slip mat for bath/shower
- Non-slip place mat
- Easy jar opener
- Information in alternative formats (on request)

Please note that we cannot guarantee that all items will be available at the time of your visit. Please enquire at the time of booking regarding any particular requests.

### Specialist equipment

Other specialist equipment such as wheelchairs, bath seats, toilet frames etc may be available for loan or purchase from the local Red Cross loan centre. Please check this out before booking the Cottage and contact us if you require further information.

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/borrow-a-wheelchair>

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/hire-a-toilet-aid>

### Future Plans to improve Access to National Trust Holiday Accommodation

- We are currently in the process of writing accessibility guides for all our holiday cottages and bunkhouses and improving access over time for all our guests. All feedback is very helpful in informing us of ways in which we can improve access. We welcome any comments or ideas from you about access at this cottage and thank you for taking the time to do this. Please do this in the most convenient way for you. See contact details below or information on website.

### About the Accessibility Guide

- This Accessibility Guide is intended to provide key information about the accommodation that may be particularly relevant to guests with disabilities. Please contact us prior to booking if you would like information that is more specific and we will be happy to oblige.  
Email: [holiday.enquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:holiday.enquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
Phone: 0344 8002070



## **Access for All at the National Trust**

- The Access for All office works to improve access at all National Trust accommodation and properties. The office welcomes comments and ideas on improving access.

Phone: 01793 818531

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