

National Trust
Dyrham Park Access Statement

Contact Details

Dyrham Park, Nr Bath, South Gloucestershire, SN14 8ER

Satnav post code: SN14 8HY

T: 0117 9372501

E: dyrhampark@nationaltrust.org.uk

Points to note:

- The garden, park, tea-room, shop, terraces and car park are open. The exhibition (The world of William Blathwayt and the birth of modern Britain), and basement are currently open, with a selection of rooms on the ground floor open and dressed for Christmas through the ages.
- Two electric mobility vehicles are running from 10.30am until 15 minutes before closing (subject to volunteers) for those who otherwise wouldn't be able to manage the walk between the car park and the house/garden.
- Mobile phone reception is limited across most of the property.
- Assistance dogs only are welcome throughout the property. There is a water bowl available at reception building, ask a member of staff.
- The site has areas of deep water and the parkland has steep and uneven terrain.
- There are four wheelchairs and two off-road wheelchair available for loan. Please talk to a member of staff on arrival.

Arrival and parking facilities:

There are brown signs on the A46 towards Bath to signpost the main entrance. There are tarmac speed bumps between the main entrance and the car park. The car park is very close to the main entrance.

The main car park is stone chip and grass parking.

There are 12 designated spaces for disabled visitors, three hard standing, and nine on gravel. The three hard standing spaces are the nearest to Visitor Reception.

Many wheelchair users may find the parkland too steep a gradient to access.

Visitor Reception:

Visitors sign in at the reception building. The counters for the tills are under 1m tall and there is a hearing loop system for each station.

Visitor transport:

We are running two electric mobility vehicles between the carpark and garden for those who otherwise wouldn't be able to manage the hill. These can take wheelchair users as well.

Toilets:

There are toilets next to the Visitor Reception building, including one accessible toilet with a right-hand transfer accessible space to turn a wheelchair. There are no adult changing facilities, but baby changing facilities are available here.

All the toilets have automatic hand driers.

The toilets are tile floored with sufficient lighting.

By the house are further toilet facilities, including one combined accessible toilet and baby changing unit. Both accessible toilets have emergency cords to sound an alarm to attract attention for help. The entrance doors to the toilet are fixed open, they are non-powered doors, at the bottom facilities they open inwards and at the car park they open outwards to the disabled toilet cubicles.

There are more toilet facilities at Old Lodge café and play area, including one combined accessible toilet and baby changing unit.

Route to the house:

The main tarmac drive from Visitor Reception through the parkland does not have any steps, but it is a path with a steep gradient of 1:7. It is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile and a 10-15 minute walk. There are areas of grass on either side which need to be used if estate vehicles approach. Many wheelchair users may find the tarmac drive through the parkland too steep a gradient to use without the assistance of the electric mobility vehicle.

Venturing off the main drive is not recommended for wheelchair users as the parkland surfaces are grassland, as well as steep and uneven. The gravel paths to Old Lodge café and play area can be difficult to access for wheelchair users due to the steep gradient of 1:7 and depth of the gravel.

The area around the house, toilets and garden entrance is cobbled.

Route to Old Lodge café and play area:

The route to Old Lodge café and play area is a gravel path leading off from the main drive. This gravel path has a steep gradient of 1:7. The gravel paths to Old Lodge café and play area can be difficult to access for wheelchair users due to the steep gradient of 1:7 and depth of the gravel. At some parts of the year, the grass paths through the parkland to Old Lodge from Visitor reception are open which have a much shallower gradient. Please ask on arrival if these paths are open.

House:

Entry and exit to the house is from the west terrace in the garden. The west terrace is via a gravel path through the garden and up 12 shallow stone steps. There is a wide stone banister on the left-hand side on entry, there is no banister on exit down the steps.

Level access is available from the East Front across a gravelled area with small sized gravel and one row of large flagstones. This entrance has a <5cm raised edge in the doorway. The doorway is double width, and can fit standard-sized manual wheelchair.

To gain entry between opening hours visitors wanting level access need to ring the doorbell at this door.

The ground floor rooms are step-free once inside, the first floor is closed to everyone until 10th January. You will be informed of the best route to follow for the day, this may involve not following the sign-posted route as some doors may be too narrow for a variety of mobility aids.

The floor surfaces inside are mainly seagrass matting and wooden flooring.

Seating is provided inside some of the rooms, please ask the volunteer guides for assistance.

Bags, pushchairs, and large child carriers cannot be brought into the house. Lockers are available near the house entrance for bags and belongings. Pushchairs should be left outside and our left at owners' own risk.

You may also be asked to leave other belongings in the locker room including leaves and sticks picked up outside, footballs, hiking poles (when not needed for assistance during house visit), camera tripods and other bulky or long items. Any items are required for physical assistance during your visit are exempt from this.

Food and drink cannot be brought into the house, unless needed for medical reasons.

Visitors with wet, muddy or dirty shoes will be asked to wear plastic overshoes. Please let the person asking know if there is a valid reason you cannot wear the overshoes.

The house visit will approximately take 10 minutes.

Only two wheelchair, electric wheelchair or mobility scooters users will be admitted at once due to our fire evacuation policy.

Exhibition:

The entrance and exit to the exhibition is level paving stones. It is through the garden via cobbles and compressed gravel paths. The door to the lobby is wider than average and always open. The door to room 1 is push-button assisted. The button is to the left of the door with room to manoeuvre around the button.

In room 1 there are black plastic chairs with and without arms. There is space for wheelchairs and mobility scooters around the chairs. The room is dark with a low level of lighting. There is a film that plays automatically on two walls at right angles to each other. The film duration is about four minutes. The film is subtitled. The volume level can be adjusted up or down upon request, if no one

is present in the exhibition please ask in the shop. The door between room 1 and room 2 has a width of 81cm, it is not automatic or push-button, and needs to be manually opened.

In room 2 there are black plastic chairs with and without arms. There is space for wheelchairs and mobility scooters around the chairs. The room is dark with a low level of lighting. There is a film that plays automatically, projected on to different areas of one wall and mesh screen. Behind the mesh screen is a standard TV screen that also plays images. The film duration is about four minutes. The film is subtitled. The volume level can be adjusted up or down upon request.

The exit door from room 2 needs to be manually operated and has a width of 78cm. The corridor to room 3 and exit is narrow, measuring 103cm at its narrowest point. It can be unpassable to wider mobility vehicles and aids due to tight turns and corners. Those that are unable to enter the corridor from room 2 can exit back through room 1.

Room 3 contains written information and no films or sound. It is well lit with spotlights. Room 3 can be accessed without passing through Room 1 or 2 upon request. The doorways are 78 cm wide to access Room 3.

There is a tablet available with BSL interpretation of the two films in the exhibition. This tablet is available on request. If no one is present in the exhibition, please enquire in the shop.

It is recommended pushchairs and large bags be left in the locker room, which is 20 meters from the exhibition entrance across compressed gravel.

There is a sign asking visitors with dirty, wet or muddy shoes to wear plastic overshoe covers.

Basement

The main entrance is via a cobbled courtyard. There is narrow level access from the courtyard gates. Approaching through the middle gate contains a high curb. This main entrance door is always open, measuring 84cm with a slight ledge. There is a push-button door into the Tasting Kitchen, all other internal doors will be open.

There is alternative ramped access into the Great Kitchen from Fountain Courtyard. This door needs to be manually opened and closed.

The basement doorways and corridors are narrow in places. The narrowest point of the corridor is 108cm and the narrowest doorway is into the dairy measuring 66cm. Access throughout the basement is level. In places the floor is slab stone and can be uneven, this includes the main corridor. Throughout the basement there is written information at different heights. There is a film playing on a small screen. The film is not subtitled. The volume cannot be changed.

Garden

The entrance to the garden is via a cobbled courtyard. There are compressed gravel paths throughout the garden, some with slight slopes.

The orchard area may be awkward for wheelchair users as there are some mown grass paths which are narrow, sloped, and uneven.

The garden has areas of deep water.

Paths in the terraces are steep, and one path includes some steps. The steepest path from the terraces to the parkland has a gradient of 1:7.

Catering

Most of our catering is located at the bottom of the hill.

The courtyard area where the shop, tea-room and Stables kiosk are located, and the entrance to the garden are all cobbled. Access to the tea garden kiosk is via an outdoor stone doorway across a compressed gravel path.

There is outdoor seating and tables for takeaway food in the tea garden and Stables courtyard, which can accommodate wheelchair users.

The tea-room counter and the tea garden kiosk counter are both over one metre high. There is a hearing loop system on the tills.

The tea-room has a non-powered door. Catering team members can assist if required. The floor and wall services are stone and brick. There is plenty of space between tables and chairs for wheelchair users.

There is a café situated next to the children's play area serving hot and cold refreshments on china. Please note it is a rubbish free zone so no takeaway cups are provided but they do accept reusable cups. There is both seating indoors and outdoors and is on a hard smooth ground surface.

Picnic areas are available in the car park, the orchard and in front of the house.

Retail

The shop has two non-powered doors. Retail team members can assist if required.

The shop is narrow in places and there is not much room to manoeuvre wheelchairs/scooters.

The counter is over one metre high. There is a hearing loop system on the tills.

Bookshop

The second-hand bookshop is fitted with a hearing loop and has automatic doors from the main entrance to the basement. There are two alternative doorways measuring 76 and 86cm, if these are too narrow visitors can exit via the automatic doors.