

Chedworth Roman Villa Access Statement

Cradled in a beautiful Cotswold valley rest the remains of one of the grandest Roman villas in Britain, including in-situ mosaics, two bath houses and a water shrine. Chedworth is an active archaeological site with new discoveries being made.

Chedworth Roman Villa, Yanworth, nr. Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 3LJ

T: 01242 890256

E: chedworth@nationaltrust.org.uk



Introduction

1. An archaeological site and scheduled monument in a valley, surrounded by a woodland on a hillside.
2. Mobile phone reception is very limited – in an emergency ask for a duty manager or call 999.
3. Assistance and support dogs only, are welcome throughout the property. Please help us by making sure they are wearing their hi-vis harness at all times.
4. The ground is generally uneven due to the nature of the site. Light levels are low inside the West Range conservation building. Audio visual interpretation in the West Range includes video projections on the walls and sound effects, including voices.
5. This is a breast-feeding friendly property.
6. Please supervise children closely and do not climb on the walls.
7. On the lawns by the Victorian Lodge there are two wheelchair accessible picnic tables.
8. British Sign Language guided tours can be arranged with a minimum of 3 weeks' notice.

Sensory considerations

1. All our outdoor paths are either tarmac, metal grating, compact gravel, or grass; we have no highly polished floors.
2. There may be a short queue for the toilets or to speak with the Visitor Welcome Team. We expect it to be slightly quieter in the afternoon.
3. We have no security checks, escalators, revolving doors, fluorescent lighting, flashing lighting, background music or construction work on site.
4. There are background sound effects of talking in the West Range building, and the lighting levels are lower.
5. You may occasionally hear gardening machinery (mowers, strimmers, hedge-cutters), but this work is usually done outside of opening hours.
6. There may also occasionally be forestry noise from the estate workers in the woods around the property.
7. The hand soap in our toilets is fragranced, we have timed air fresheners in the toilets, but there are no other artificial scents on site.
8. There are numerous areas around the site which should offer 'quiet spaces', particularly the Lower Courtyard and end of the North Range.

Arrival and parking facilities

1. Narrow lanes lead from the A429, please follow the brown signs, approx. four miles from the villa, the signage changes to smaller white and green signs which state 'Roman Villa' to direct you. Please note the villa is not located in Chedworth village – and sat nav brings you close, follow further signage directing you to the driveway entrance.
2. There are 4 designated accessible spaces at the end of the approach road, next to the Visitor Centre. These spaces are marked out and have a tarmac surface.
3. There are a further 29 marked spaces along the side of the approach road towards the Visitor Centre. These have a tarmac surface and tend to fill up quite quickly.
4. It is possible to drop visitors off on the tarmac area next to the Visitor Reception.
5. The Woodland car park is signed off to the left of the road up to the property, it has a natural earth surface often covered by leaves. There are no marked spaces.
6. There are 14 steps down from the Woodland car park back to the road to the Visitor Reception. These steps are wooden and have wooden handrails on either side. The first step is approximately 140mm high and the remaining steps are 170mm high. The width between the handrails is approximately 1800mm and the step treads are all quite large.
7. Once down the steps, there is a marked pathway route across the road and along the side of the approach to the car park area in front of the Visitor Centre which is 250m away.
8. Two cycle racks are in place directly outside the Visitor Centre.



Parking in front of the Visitor Centre



Steps down from the woodland car park

Toilets

1. There is an accessible toilet in the Visitor Centre. The room is 1.5m x 2.2m. The door opens inwards due to the small amount of space in the corridor. The toilet has a pull cord alarm, sink, and automatic hand drier. The toilet is right-hand transfer.
2. The lights in all the toilets operate on a motion sensor and will switch off if they don't detect any movement. If they go off before you are ready to leave, just move around a little bit and they should come back on.
3. There are baby changing tables in the accessible and ladies' toilets.
4. Unfortunately, we do not have a Changing Places toilet on site.

Visitor Centre

1. The entrance can be accessed by either 4 steps or a ramp. The 4 stone steps have a high metal banister to the left as you ascend and a low wall to the right. The ramp has metal handrails on both sides. The steps are each approximately 150mm high. The ramp is around 3.5m long and has a gradient of approximately 1:10.
2. The entrance door opens manually. The door is around 800mm wide. Staff are available to assist if required.
3. The Visitor Reception desk is straight ahead through the doorway. The desk is approximately 770mm high, with a lower counter at one end. Staff will come round to the front of the desk to assist if required. There is an induction loop at the reception desk.
4. The Visitor Centre has hard surfaced floors, walls, and ceilings. When particularly busy this space can be quite noisy.
5. There is a table that is 660mm from the floor to the underside of the tabletop, near the Visitor Centre door, which can be used by the Visitor Welcome team or as an accessible café table. The overall height of the table is 750mm. The table legs are 700mm wide. There are chairs available to sit on, but these do not have armrests.
6. The entrance doors are clear glass and allow a large amount of natural light into the reception area. There are six large ceiling lights and a strip of LED lights above the Reception desk.
7. One manual wheelchair is available for your use – please call in advance to reserve this.
8. A map of the level access route around the site is available on request.
9. An audio-visual guide of the site is available from the welcome team, it has the option for a guided tour or tour voiced by fictional Roman characters. There are separate tabs on the audio handset for children, and the children's version has subtitles.
10. There are volunteer site-guides available on the site (subject to availability).



Visitor Reception desk. Toilets are located behind here.

Café

1. The café is located in the Visitor Centre building.
2. The top of the counter is 920mm high. Staff will assist with reaching food if required and with customers whilst seated, if standing in a queue is difficult.
3. There are a small number of tables available, each 660mm from the floor to the underside of the table top. The overall height of the table is 770mm. The table legs are 520mm wide. The tables are quite close together but can be moved to create space to manoeuvre through. If this seating area is full additional seating is available in the Salway Centre, and on the outdoor terrace.
4. There are straws available.
5. There is no induction loop at this till.
6. Allergen information is available on request, and on all prepacked food.
7. Calorie information is displayed on all food packaging and display boards.



Café counter with the till at the far end

Shop

1. The shop is located in the Visitor Centre building.
2. Staff will assist with reaching items if required.
3. The desk is approximately 780mm high with a further 170mm raise area for the till. Staff can assist by coming around the counter if required.
4. The tables around the floor area of the shop vary in distance but have been placed in order to be accessible to wheelchair users. The narrowest gap is 700mm, but the majority of spaces are over 1000mm.
5. There is no induction loop at this till.

West Range

1. The route from the Visitor Centre to the West Range is along a tarmac path and then across a gravel surface held firm by a metal framework to create a smooth surface.
2. The route takes visitors past a tactile model of the site which is also described on the audio-visual guide.
3. The West Range is a timber building with a high ceiling and interior suspended metal grill and wood walkways. There are large windows along one side of the building which allow a large amount of natural light into central area. Other areas have artificial lighting.
4. The entrance to the West Range is either up 6 metal steps with a handrail which is approx. 150cm high or via a platform lift. An alternative entrance is available at the opposite end of the building via a wheelchair accessible ramp.
5. The platform lift is designed for independent use with buttons which have to be held down to enable the lift to move. The door to the lift can be pulled open, opening outwards. The platform is 900mm wide x 1400mm long. The operating buttons are approximately 750mm high and protrude into the interior space by about 100mm. The buttons must be pressed continuously to be activated. Once at the top of the lift, the door opens outwards and there is a space of approximately 1000mm x 1600mm to turn towards the entrance door to the West Range.
6. The entrance door is manually operated and opens outwards and is approximately 800mm wide.
7. Immediately inside the doorway is a metal grill suspended walkway with a 1:12 gradient. This levels out to a flat surface round to the left and continues along a wooden surface to the central area of the building. There are small gaps in the metal and wooden walkway so that you can look down onto the mosaics.
8. To the left of the entrance corridor, there is a room with a moving visual image on the far wall and the background audio sounds of conversation. This room would have been the dining room and the audio visual is designed to give an idea of how the room would have felt.
9. The central area of the building has tables and benches which can be used for our school groups, games, and workshops. The tables are 630mm high from the floor to the underside of the table. The tabletop is approximately 700mm high. The benches can be moved away from the table but are quite heavy. There are other bench seating options around the side of the room. This area has a collection of replica handling artefacts.
10. On the other side of the central area, there is a similar projection and audio effect, to indicate that the area used to be the baths. If you would like to avoid the audio and visual effect, you can go straight into the central area and subject to availability, a volunteer can explain what would have happened across the whole Range to you.
11. The exit from the West Range is down a metal ramp of approximately 1:12 gradient and 1200mm width to a door which opens manually outwards onto a gentle metal surfaced slope which leads out to tarmac. The door is approximately 840mm wide.
12. The step-free exit route from the site is back through the West Range or the gates that lead out to the car park past the Victorian lodge.



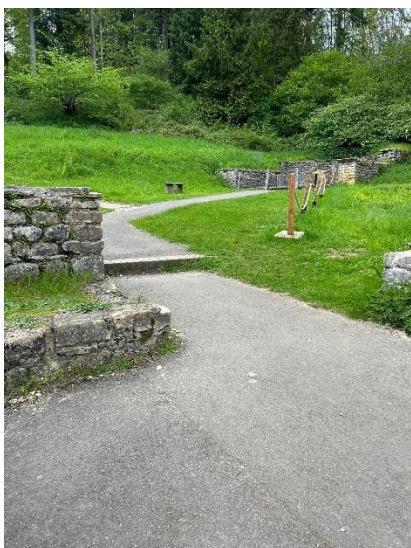
Entrance to the West Range



Tactile Model

Nymphaeum / Water Shrine

1. The Nymphaeum is a pool of still water with a small pipe through which water pours slowly into the water.
2. The tarmac path leads round to the left from the West Range up to the Nymphaeum.
3. There is a step of approximately 130mm along this route. The slope increases as you get closer to the Nymphaeum and the very top area is a short distance of approximately 1:6.
4. There is a bench along this pathway.



Path from the West range to the Nymphaeum

North Range

1. The North Range is accessed across the corner of the grassed area in front of the West Range. This grass route leads around to a tarmacked path along the North Range. Some areas of the grass with heavy footfall tend to become muddy and have been covered with woodchip as a temporary solution.
2. There is a small area of the North Range, which is accessed via wooden steps with handrails. This area includes the site of the dry heat room and cold plunge baths.
3. There is a short slope up from the grassed area onto the tarmac. This slope is approximately 1:5 gradient. The tarmac path is over 1000mm wide apart from a turn onto the path closest to the raised heat room and cold plunge bath area which narrows to approximately 650mm. There are level grassed areas around this path which can be used if you require more space.
4. It is possible to enter some of the rooms along the North Range. There are short slopes up into each one and all have grass surfaces apart from the room furthest from the West Range which has a gravel surface.
5. There is some bench seating along this pathway and two benches (one without arms) around the grassed area in front of the West Range.



View along the North Range pathway

The Museum

1. There are four routes to reach the Museum, three of these involve steps and one is ramped: From the North Range, there are two options: there are 3 wooden steps, with a handrail, or a ramped option, which is accessed from the large, grassed area in front of the West Range. This route is reasonably flat but has an uneven grass surface. The ramp is made from wood with a non-slip surface. The ramp is around 4.5m long and approximately 1:10 gradient. It is around 1200mm wide with wooden handrails on either side. At the end of the ramp there is a further flat grass surface which leads to a wooden platform with a non-slip surface, down to a short ramp with an approximately 1:10 gradient. This leads to a tarmac surface round to the Museum entrance.
2. From the Visitor Centre there is a set of 5 metal steps with handrail on the left and 8 wooden steps with a handrail both sides, leading to flagstones set within the grass to the tarmac pathway around the Victorian Lodge and Museum building. The final option is via the 3 stone steps from the lawn in front of the West Range, these have no handrail.
3. The entrance to the Museum is up a metal surfaced ramp approximately 1200mm wide, 1800mm long and of a gradient of about 1:9. The entrance door opens outwards and is 800mm wide.
4. The museum is on one level and has a tiled floor. There are windows which provide natural light, and there is some artificial light and the display cases are lit.
5. The wall cases have labels at the base, and the mid height cases have text angled at the base. The display cases are 750mm high and have legroom of around 950mm.



Victorian museum entrance as seen from the North Range

The Salway Learning Room

1. This building is located behind the Visitor Centre and is mainly used as additional café seating and has an outdoor café terrace.
2. There are 5 wide wooden steps to the outdoor terrace area with a handrail to the left side. To access the indoor area there are 3 wide wooden steps with a handrail to the right. The steps and decking are all non-slip fixed to the wooden steps and decking area.
3. The entrance has 2 clear glass doors that open outwards.
4. Wheelchair access is on the left side of the building. A rubber matting surface is in place to level the pathway and provide access to the door at the back of the building. Use of this route is on request, please ask a member of the team who will be happy to assist. The door opens outwards. This entrance has a lobby that also gives access to the toilets. There is an accessible toilet with a door that opens inwards. Lights operate on a motion sensor.
5. There are large windows, some to the floor level, as well as 4 roof skylights. There are large ceiling pendant lamps that provide artificial lighting.



Wheelchair access along the left side

Learning Pavilion

1. This building is primarily used by school groups or for children's craft activities.
2. It is a single room, wooden building with large windows on 3 sides with lots of natural light and artificial ceiling lights.
3. To access this building there is a flight of 21 steps from either side of the site which are uneven gravel and timber steps with varying heights and depths.
4. The building is surrounded by a decking terrace, with 2 picnic benches.



Steps to the Learning Pavilion from both sides

1. Reception, shop, cafe and toilets
2. Orientation model
3. Lift
4. West range conservation building/ mosaics/ learning room (accessible by wheelchair)
5. Water shrine (nymphaeum)
6. North range bath house
7. Underfloor heating system (hypocaust)
8. Picnic area
9. Victorian museum
10. Roman latrine
11. Outdoor cafe area
12. Salway Learning room

Welcome to
Chedworth Roman
Villa, one of the
grandest country
houses of fourth
century Roman Britain

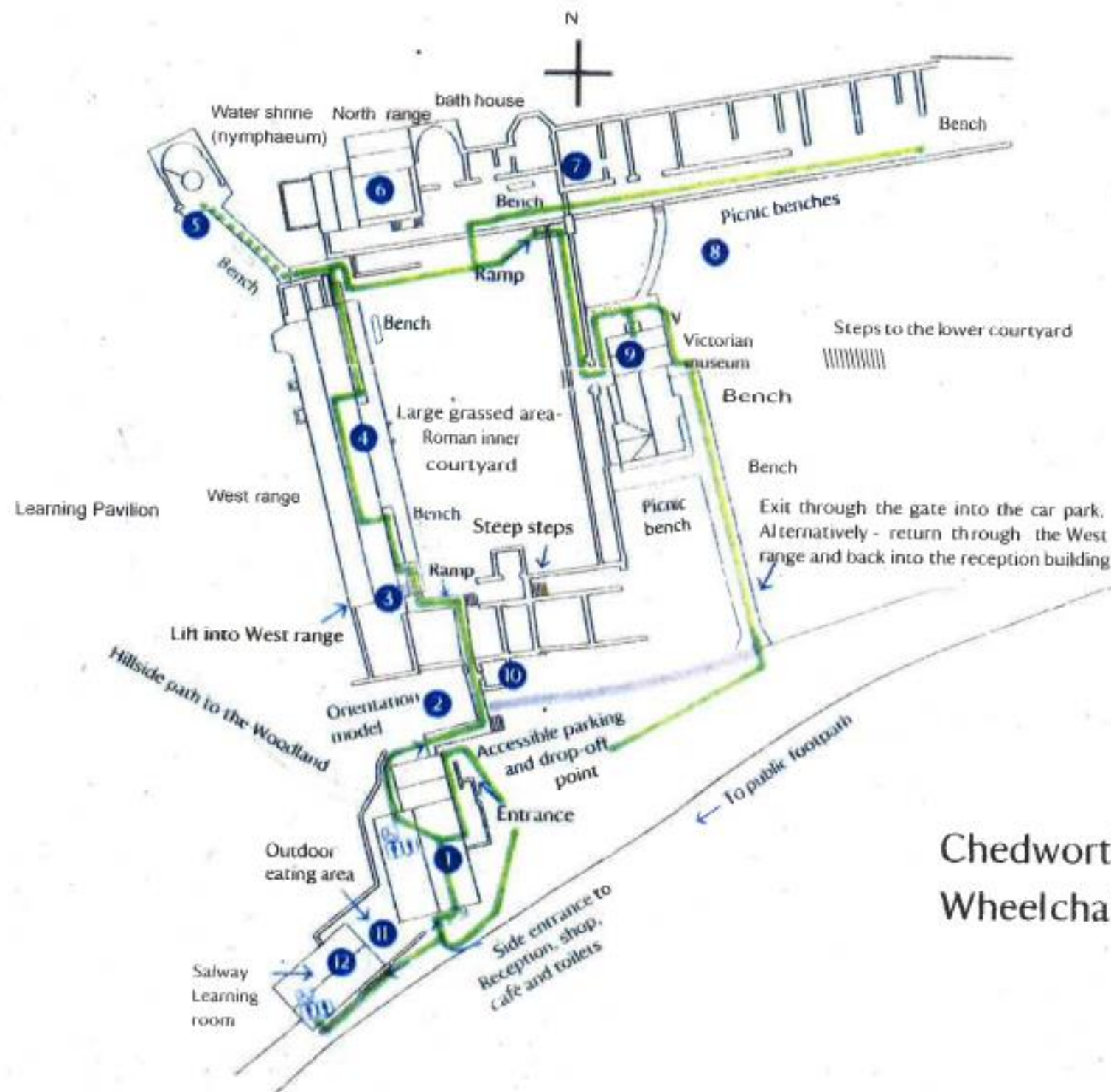
Chedworth Roman Villa was discovered in 1864 when a gamekeeper, out ferreting for rabbits, found small stone cubes – loose tesserae – from one of the buried mosaics.

The site was swiftly dug to reveal extensive walls, bath houses and fine mosaics from one of the most significant Roman villas in Britain.

The 19th century landowner, Lord Eldon, maintained timber shelter buildings over the most delicate ruins and built a small museum for the artefacts. The estate was sold in the 1920s and the Villa was bought for the nation through public subscription.

Chedworth Roman Villa was at its greatest in the fourth century, as a large and luxurious country house, with many domestic comforts such as underfloor heating and two bath houses.

In 2011 the site underwent a major renovation, with a brand new shelter building to protect the fragile remains, new museum displays and many more ways to learn about life in the Villa during the 'Golden Age' of Roman Britain.



Chedworth Roman Villa

Wheelchair access map