

Property Access Statement 2024

Newark Park

Ozleworth

Wotton-under-Edge

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Introduction

Newark Park or “New Worke” as it was originally called, is situated at the top of the Cotswold escarpment looking down into the Ozleworth Valley.

Newark Park comprises a house, garden, and estate covering 750 acres. There are 3 way-marked trails, parts of which are very steep as the parkland descends into the valley below. There is a small lake, a purpose-built children’s play area (accessed by an uneven, sloped path) made from natural materials within a sloping field, and an adjacent smaller play area with hand-carved tree trunks depicting animals for children to find and enjoy. All dogs on leads are welcome, including Assistance Dogs. There is farm livestock, chickens, peacocks and ground nesting birds so we ask you to please be mindful and keep dogs on short leads at all times. Please don’t feed the chickens or peacocks as they peck.

Please note: mobile phone reception varies across the site. In the event of an emergency make your way to the tea pavilion or visitor reception for help. There are trained first aiders on site whenever the property is open to the public.

Arrival and parking facilities

Newark Park is in a rural location which can be reached via country lanes. It is signposted from the A4135 and B4058 junction coming from Dursley direction, and from the Wotton-under-Edge central roundabout if coming from the M5.

The two closest named roads to the entrance are Blackquarries Hill and Park Lane.

Due to the nature of the roads, it is difficult for large coaches to traverse. Please be aware that Blackquarries Hill is a steep and narrow road unsuitable for larger vehicles. There are several farms in the area that use these roads so you may encounter farm vehicles on your way to and from the site.



Entrance to the site is through the main gate and down a long drive, crossing parkland which contains livestock. At the far end of this drive to the right is a path leading to a cattle grid and into the car park.



There are 4 designated spaces for disabled visitors immediately to the right as you drive in. The surface is gravel with mesh and grass. There are some wooden logs marking parking areas.

The ground can get very muddy when wet. No transfer vehicles are available however, if required, visitors can be dropped off in front of the house and then the car parked back in the main car park. Disabled drivers can park outside the front of the house. Please discuss this with the visitor reception team upon arrival in the car park. There are two pay and display machines for parking payments. Members are encouraged to scan their cards and non-members select the level of time and appropriate fee for their visit. Blue badge holders park free. These machines are cash only but card payments for car parking can be made at visitor reception.



The main toilet block is in the car park. There is an accessible toilet which includes changing facilities and a hoist. The access area is 2.5mx3.1m. There are also baby changing facilities in the toilet on the right-hand side. The toilet areas are well lit with artificial, recessed and automatic lights. There are automatic hand driers and toilet paper roll dispensers. Lighting is not fluorescent.

Visitor reception

An accessibility map is available from visitor reception which indicates step-free routes (also available on the last page of this document).

There are two manual wheelchairs available to borrow – one is at visitor reception, and one is in the main house. You can pre-book a wheelchair before your visit by calling or emailing Newark Park. An access ramp to the house can be installed when required.

There are sensory bags which can be borrowed for the duration of your visit. They contain sensory toy items, ear defenders and emotion fans.

There is a hearing loop available at visitor reception and at the tea pavilion.

Next to the visitor reception building there is a welcome panel with a map showing the estate and outlining the estate walks (please see following page for a photo). You can also pick up a leaflet from this area which explains the layout of the site and what's available to see. Please ask visitor welcome staff for information and advice on the gentlest routes.



House

Located approximately 150m from visitor reception. After leaving the car park there are two manual gates leading to a stone and gravel path that leads towards the house. There is a 90cm wide foot gate to the left of another cattle grid, which opens towards you, and widens out to a small access road of Cotswold stone gravel leading up to the house.



There is a low step to get into the house – please speak to the visitor reception team on arrival and they will contact the house team to prepare the access ramp ready for your arrival.

The entrance hall has a stone floor, high ceilings and limited furnishings, so there can be some echo in this area. Most of the other ground floor rooms have wooden floors (some of them with rugs) and have little or no echo.

Some of the rooms, especially on the south side of the house (Garden Hall and Drawing Room) enjoy lots of natural light. Other rooms have less direct sunlight and rely more on artificial light.

There are 3 floors in total; unfortunately there is no lift in Newark House, and access to the first and second floors is by stairs only. There are handrails in place. Information and photo folders are available which show the rooms on the upper floors and the basement for those who cannot access them.

There are also braille guides available.

All visitor doors and corridors are wider than 750mm.

There is space to turn wheelchairs in all the ground floor rooms.

There is plenty of visitor seating available around the house, including sofas and chairs (some with armrests).

There is a toilet with baby change facilities on the ground floor to the right of the main entrance. Upstairs, on the first floor, there is a toilet that is accessed by a small step (14 cm) in the second-hand bookshop.

Café ('Tea pavilion')

The café is located on the lawn near the house and is accessed via a gravel path. The building is a wooden structure with large glass doors. Staff are behind the counter and visitors order, pay for and collect their items from outside the building at the doorways. Hot and cold drinks are available, as well as sandwiches, limited hot food and a selection of cakes.

There is a hearing loop available at the tea pavilion.

All seating is outdoors. There is a marquee available with tables and chairs under cover for visitors. The floor of the marquee is wood chipped.



Garden

The garden areas around the house are on one level with no stiles or steps. Some areas can be muddy and the ground is uneven in places.

The paths to the middle terrace and to the lakeside garden and play areas are very steep and are not recommended for wheelchair users or mobility scooter users. Surfaces are a mix of stone, grass, and woodchip. The paths can be very muddy.

Near the lakeside garden there are 4 steps leading to the summerhouse which have no handrail. The lake is approximately 2 feet deep and has visiting wildlife that nest in the center. There is no fence surrounding the lake. There is a longer set of steps further along between the top bank and lower lawns in the play area and these do have a handrail. There are wide wooden gates within the gardens connecting through to the estate walks. The children's play area can get quite waterlogged in wet weather. Suitable footwear is recommended year-round.

Numerous wooden and metal benches and seats are available throughout the gardens especially in the area around the house.

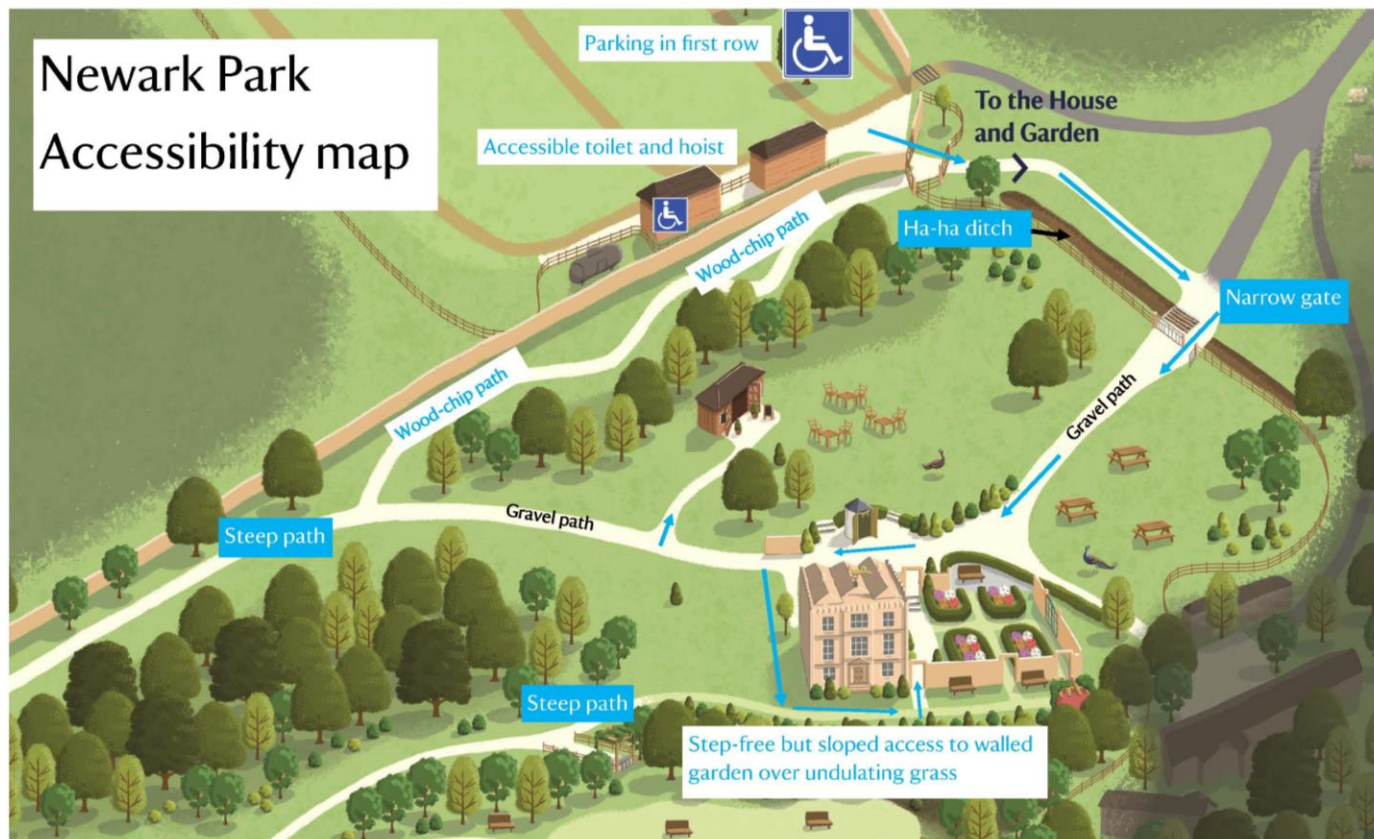
Estate walks

Please note: the Purple route is closed due to poor weather conditions and will be reopened when safe to do so.

The estate walks can be accessed by going past the visitor reception building towards the house and taking the first gate on the right. There are 3 different routes available with varying lengths and difficulty levels. The staff in visitor reception can provide more information on which routes are open and accessible on the day.



Newark Park Accessibility map



Contact details for more information:

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