

Gawthorpe Hall Accessibility Guide

National Trust Gawthorpe Estate Office

Burnley Road,

Padiham,

Lancashire BB12 8UA

This guide aims to provide clear, useful information to help people know more about what to expect when travelling to and exploring National Trust Gawthorpe Hall Estate, particularly for those with additional needs.

We endeavour to comprehensively review this guide every two years, however, if you have suggestions about how we can improve it, please get in touch via our email or phone using the details at the bottom of this guide.

Thank you and we hope you find this guide useful in helping to plan your visit to this special place.

National Trust

Gawthorpe Hall

January 2024

Key Information

- The grounds are set in the heart of urban Lancashire with easy access via public transport and roads.
- All the information provided below was collected during our most recent revision of this guide (January 2024), therefore please bear this in mind when considering visiting during the winter months, when challenges such as mud and standing water are more likely, particularly on our woodland trails.
- Mobile phone reception is generally good. In a medical emergency, visitors are asked to telephone 999.
- During opening times, visitors can also contact staff on the telephone numbers at the bottom of this guide.
- Up to date opening hours can be found on our website at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/liverpool-lancashire/gawthorpe-hall>

Dogs at Gawthorpe

- Dog walking is a popular activity, and we welcome all responsible dog owners. We ask that dogs are kept on a lead near to vulnerable wildlife such as many feeding, nesting and roosting birds.
- We also ask that dog owners ensure that they pick up after their dog. A large bin is provided in the car park along with two strategically placed dog bins that can be used for depositing dog waste; however, we kindly ask that you take your rubbish home with you.

Introduction

- Gawthorpe Hall is cared for in partnership with Lancashire County Council. The Hall is an Elizabethan country house, set in a terraced garden and surrounding woodland.
- The House is open late March until early November. There is open access all year round to the grounds.
- Gawthorpe Hall is located on the A671 in an urban area on the outskirts of Padiham Town Centre.
- The entrance to the estate is via Stockbridge Drive accessed through two stone pillars.



- The entrance to Stockbridge Drive is at an awkward angle and large vehicles are advised to enter from the Padiham Town Centre direction.
- Stockbridge Drive is single track with passing places and speed bumps, with a max speed limit of 10mph the drive is also used by pedestrians as the main path into the Property. No parking is allowed on this road at any time due to the need for emergency vehicle access.



- Mobile phone reception is good in the grounds but intermittent to poor inside the Hall although the emergency number does connect inside.
- Assistance dogs are welcome in the Hall. Dogs are welcome in the gardens and woodland areas, but we ask they are kept under close control on leads.
- The Hall is a tower shaped building on 3 floors. There is no lift with access being via a central staircase. This has a total of 42 steps, in 6 short flights to a landing.
- The Hall is not suitable for baby backpacks, pushchairs, or large bags. Visitors are required to hand over large bags to be securely stored before entering the House. Visitors are requested not to wear high heels.
- Light levels are low throughout the property.
- Reception staff will provide information about accessibility.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

By foot:

- There are several points at which you can access National Trust Gawthorpe by foot.
- Main entrance via Stockbridge Drive from Burnley Road. There is no separate footpath and visitors must take care with passing traffic also accessing the property.
- Secondary entrance via Habergham Drive from Burnley Road. This is a bridleway made up of compacted gravel. No vehicular access here. Walkers and cyclists only.



Habergham Drive pedestrian entrance. No vehicular access.

By Public Transport:

Bus:

- Frequent buses are available from Burnley Bus Station. Further information is available from www.lancashirebus.co.uk
Bus stops are located approximately 150 metres away from the entrance property at Stockbridge Lodge.

Train:

- Rose Grove, Burnley Barracks and Burnley Manchester Road stations are nearby. Further information is available from www.nationalrail.co.uk

By Road:

- Gawthorpe Hall is located on the A671 Padiham to Burnley road. From the M65 exit Junction 8 towards Clitheroe and then follow signs to Padiham or Junction 10 follow signs to Padiham.

Parking:

- There is free parking for our visitors on site. The main car park is 150 metres from the Hall accessed by a narrow access road with passing places.
- The main car park is located off Stockbridge Drive and is approximately 700 metres from the main road and has capacity for 50 cars.
- There are 4 marked accessible car parking spaces available in the car park for Blue Badge holders only.



Entrance car park

- Main car park. Unsurfaced and uneven in places
- There are 6 speed bumps before the main car park and an additional speed bump totalling 7 up to the gardens entrance gate. (Drop Off) The highest speed bump is approximately 8cm.
- Paths to the Hall are clay gravel which can be difficult in wet weather.
- It is possible to arrange to drop visitors off at the entrance to the Hall. Please telephone Lancashire County Council office in advance to discuss parking arrangements (01282 771004)
- On busy days the coach bays may be used for parking if they are not being used by coaches.

Toilet Facilities

- Visitor toilets are located in the courtyard with the entrance floor being level with the outside path, accessible to all. The floor is tiled and can become slippery when the weather is wet.
- There is one accessible toilet: -
An easy opening door 110cm wide which opens outwards.
Cubicle measuring 122cm wide and 240cm deep.
Toilet seat 41cm high
Wash hand basin 74cm high with lever taps
Horizontal and vertical grab rails on the right hand and rear of the toilet and in front of wash basin.
- The toilet is well lit with overhead lighting.
- An emergency alarm pull cord is installed for assistance.
- Please see our website for the current opening times for our toilet facilities and note that different opening times are employed during the winter months due to the reduction in daylight hours.
They are only open for a specified period during the day from late March through to early November. Wednesday through to Sunday and are usually closed by 5pm

House

- There are four steps up to the main entrance with no ramp. The front door is 1.15m wide this is always open when the Hall is open to visitors. The door opens inwards, this leads to the inner porch, through to reception.



- The inner porch has a wooden screen with a door which leads to the Entrance Hall. The door is 72 cm wide and is always open when there are visitors in the Hall.
- The entrance door is also the exit door from the property.
- There are chairs with and without armrests available for visitors throughout the house.
- Volunteers are located in the 4 main historic rooms and 1 on the Collection Floor who can provide assistance.
- There are no visitor toilets located within the Hall.
- Guided tours can be pre-booked but these are not available during normal opening times.
- Printed guides are available in rooms and are laminated and are in normal print.
- The Hall is not suitable for powered wheelchairs and powered mobility vehicles due to the high number of steps.

Visitor Reception

- The area is well lit with chandeliers. 2 chairs are available 1 with and 1 without arm rests.
- The reception desk is located in the Entrance Hall.
- There is an induction loop available at the reception desk.
- Manual wheelchair is available which can be used for the grounds or on the ground floor of the Hall.
- Braille Guide and Large Print Guides are available.



- Touch screen tour is available showing all interior rooms of the Hall.
- Photo album of all rooms is available.

Lighting in the Hall

- Lighting in the historic rooms is via central chandeliers, table lamps and/or natural light. The level of lighting is generally good but can be reduced in spring and autumn as natural daylight is less. Additional up-lighting is placed in key areas if needed.
- The Textile Collection is exhibited in display cabinets – these are lit by electric light and the light levels vary depending on how sensitive the objects are. Those containing old or fragile items have dim light levels. The cabinets also have strip lights on top of them which up light the rooms they are located in.

Access to Floors

- The Hall is a tower shaped building on 3 floors. There is no lift only access via a central staircase. This has a total of 42 steps, in 6 short flights.
- In addition, there are steps between rooms on the same floor, all of these have either additional spotlighting or are indicated with white lines on the step edge.

Steps are located as follows: -

Ground Floor

- There are 2 stone steps up from the Dining Room to the bottom of the main staircase. There are 2 steps up from the Inner Porch to the bottom of the main staircase.

First Floor

- There are 2 shallow steps up from the first-floor landing of the main staircase into the Collection Floor (Rooms 1 to 5).
- On the Collection Floor there are 2 steps down through a narrow doorway (70cm wide) from Room 2 to Room 3. There is 1 step down at the end of Collection Room 5, taking you back to the main staircase.

Second Floor

- There are 6 steps into the Exhibition Room from the second landing on the main staircase.
- There is 1 step up into the Long Gallery from the second-floor landing of the main staircase.
- There are 2 steps down and then 3 steps up to the alternative door to the end of the Long Gallery from the Servants Corridor.

Narrow Corridors and Doorways

- The route from the Entrance Hall to the Dining Room passes under the Minstrel's Gallery and goes through 2 doorways that are offset, this makes manoeuvring from one room to another awkward.
- Doorway from Entrance Hall to below Minstrel's Gallery is 86cm.
- Corridor below Minstrels Gallery is 84cm at its narrowest point.
- Doorway from Minstrels Gallery corridor into Entrance Hall is 104cm.

Garden

- The grounds are a mixture of formal gardens and woodland areas, some areas could pose difficulties for people with mobility problems.
- Paths are mainly clay gravel which can be difficult in wet weather. Some roadways are very uneven with potholes and can become waterlogged in wet weather.
- There are some steep slopes and some steps without handrails around the formal gardens with 19 steps plus further shorter flights of steps up to the fish pond. There are no gates on the routes.



Steps leading up to the fishpond.

- There are some seats for visitors around the grounds and in the 2 picnic areas located in the Courtyard and behind the Estate Office. Both picnic areas are on grass with one level access in the courtyard and the other accessed via 3 stone steps. All picnic tables allow wheelchair users to sit at the tables.
- Visitors to the property who wish to walk around the grounds are recommended to wear stout shoes.



- If you have any comments about how we could have made your visit more enjoyable, or how we can make this access statement more helpful, then please let us have your feedback on a comment card on the day or email us at gawthorpehall@nationaltrust.org.uk

Contact details for more information

Telephone:

National Trust Estate Office 01282 770353.

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Date 11th January 2024