

## Stowe Gardens Access Statement

New Inn, Stowe, Buckingham, MK18 5EQ

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### Everyone Welcome

The National Trust has a variety of ways individuals with specialist requirements can access places free or at discounted admission rates.

Contact the Supporter Services Centre to discuss your specific requirements in relation to the passes outlined below:

**Essential Companion Card** - free admission for one companion or carer of a disabled person

**Essential Companion Admit Two Card** – as above but for more complex care needs

**Access for All Admittance Pass** – in situations where it may be more appropriate for the disabled person to go in free with a paying companion

If you need to bring a carer or essential companion to accompany you as a disabled visitor, you can now book a carers ticket in advance, free of charge.

To find out more contact the Supporter Services Centre:

Tel: 0344 800 1895 (9am-5.30pm weekdays, 9am-4pm weekends & bank holidays)

### Introduction

Stowe Gardens is a 250-acre landscape garden with visitor facilities located on arrival. The café, shop and toilets within the New Inn are fully accessible; some of the restored parlour rooms have limited access, some stepped access and low levels of lighting. The gardens are mostly accessible: but do include uneven and hard gravel paths, steep slopes, and are slightly hilly in places.

### Dogs Welcome

Stowe Gardens is a three paw-print rated property. Assistance dogs are welcome everywhere on site; all other dogs are welcome in all areas except the café and vegetable patches in the Farmhouse Garden. Dogs should be kept on a lead at all times.

### Mobile phone reception and Wi-Fi

Mobile phone reception is generally good across the site, but there are some weak spots. The same goes for data coverage. Our National Trust free Wi-Fi is available for you to use in and around our main visitor facilities.

## Arrival and parking facilities

The site is easy to find being situated right outside Buckingham. There are brown signs directing from the surrounding main roads. Once you reach Stowe Avenue you will be greeted by the Corinthian Arch which signifies you have reached the entrance of the site.



*Corinthian Arch at the top of Stowe Avenue, turn right at the arch to enter.*

All parking is free at Stowe Gardens.

### **Main car park**

We have 22 designated disabled spaces in the main car park. These spaces are approximately 80metres from the New Inn facilities.

There are a limited number of Coach Parking spaces which we can reserve if booked in advance. The coach park is located 112m from New Inn.

The car park is surfaced with a mix of hard tarmac surfaces and hard gravel, it is sometimes dusty in dry weather. The disabled parking is the same as the rest of the car park. Whilst we try to keep paths maintained, in wet weather they can become uneven.

There is no transport between your vehicle and the New Inn.

### **Overflow car park**

Our overflow car park is opened on busy days in the field directly opposite the entrance to New Inn; this has a grass surface.

The distance of this car park is 70m from the entrance and there is a specifically dedicated area for accessible parking here too.

## **Toilets**

There are toilets located at New Inn and in the café corridor, and temporary toilets at the entrance to the garden. Accessible toilets are found in all these locations. A separate baby-change facility is located in the toilet block at New Inn.

All permanent toilet facilities are equipped with automatic hand driers and lit mostly with natural light.

The temporary toilets are equipped with hand sanitiser and paper towels.

## Accessible toilets

There are three accessible toilets at New Inn. Two are located just off the main courtyard and the other is in the corridor opposite the café:

Toilet 1 (first toilet by courtyard) – this is a **fully accessible toilet** (2.3m x 1.63m). This toilet has an emergency cord and is right hand transfer. It has florescent lighting.

Toilet 2 (second toilet by courtyard) this is a **child and parent friendly toilet** (1.55m x 1.77m). It provides a baby change table and a nappy waste bin. This toilet does not have handles for disabled transfer or an emergency cord. This toilet has natural lighting.

Toilet 3 (opposite café) this is a **fully accessible toilet** (3.2m x 1.64m). This toilet has an emergency cord and both right and left hand transfer. There is a mix of natural and florescent lighting.

At the entrance to the gardens, we have temporary mobile toilets which include one accessible toilet.

There are accessible toilets available at Stowe House during their [opening times](#).

Unfortunately, we do not have an adult changing table or hoist at this time.

## Garden

Stowe Gardens, by its nature, can be challenging. Most pathways are gravel or hoggin. Mown grass paths can be slippery when wet. There are steep slopes and uneven 18th-century steps leading to many of the monuments. These are a fundamental feature of the character of the estate, but much of it is still accessible to visitors of all abilities. Ask for our access map and guide on arrival to help find the best route for you.

It is important to note that the path quality varies at different times of the year dependant on weather, at sometimes there can be potholes and as others they can get dry and dusty.

There are no steps on the mains paths across the site; however, there is stepped access to most of the temples and monuments, and these do not all have handrails.

There are some steep gradients in parts of the gardens, most notably between the Palladian Bridge and Gothic Temple. There are other less severe inclines across other areas of the site.

Our team at visitor welcome would be happy to advise you on a suitable route based on your access limits.

There are gates between some areas within the gardens, these are usually where we have some livestock grazing. Hawkwell Field and the areas around the Gothic Temple and Palladian Bridge is a particular area to note that sheep usually graze.

There are over 140 benches across the gardens at many different locations. Mostly these are benches without arms or backs.

There are many bodies of water (including moving water features) across the gardens and these are all shown on our visitor map.

We host tours of the garden, but these do not run every day. When these are running they will be advertised at the entrance to the gardens with the tour type and time. Tour guides do not currently wear a hearing loop.

## Parkland

The parkland is the 750-acre area of countryside land surrounding the gardens which has many paths for the public to roam freely. All of these are countryside paths such as in fields and are therefore mainly grass underfoot.

You can access the parkland directly via public footpaths; suggested routes are shown on our parkland map, but please note there are no facilities available in the parkland.

There are no steps to note, however the land is undulating, and there are many gates.

There are some benches in the parkland areas but none of these have arms or backs. The benches can be found in Bycell Ridings Field, a few by the Farey oak, some in the deer park by Wolfe's Obelisk and several down Stowe Avenue.

The main body of water is Haymanger Pond which is marked on the parkland map.

## Parlour Rooms

The Parlour Rooms are the historically set rooms located on the right of the New Inn building by the central courtyard. These contain two Parlour Rooms, Tap Room, Kitchen, Lower Dairy (Second-hand Bookshop), and Laundry.

There are two access points into the rooms; the first is located under the entrance arch. This is stepped access and the door is 0.88m wide. The second is from the middle of the courtyard and leads into both the Laundry and Kitchen. This door is 0.8m wide and level with a small lip.

The doors to these rooms are left open at all times during opening hours.

All rooms contain hard surfaces, with no soft furnishings. Floors are marginally uneven stone slabs, and narrow corridors in certain areas. The rooms are all quite dimly lit with some natural light from numerous windows.

The lower dairy (second-hand bookshop) is currently only accessible down a set of stone steps, and these are also slightly uneven.

The kitchen and laundry are the only rooms fully accessible where there is space to turn a wheelchair (other rooms are quite small).

There are benches in both the laundry and kitchen, and some chairs in the tap room, and parlour rooms. These are all in keeping with the historic setting. Most of these therefore do not have armrests suitable for support.

These rooms are not attended by staff or volunteers, with the exception of the second-hand bookshop.

The nearest toilets are located just off the main courtyard.

The parlour rooms in general are a relatively quiet area of the New Inn site.

## Eating, drinking and shopping

There's level access from the car park to the main café, shop and the Potting Shed Kiosk. All are found at the back of New Inn. Every penny spent here goes back into conserving and



restoring Stowe. So, whether stopping for a scone, slurping on a bowl of soup, or enjoying a cuppa with friends, thank you.

## **Cafe**

The café has level access throughout with automatic doors along the corridor. There is also level access to the two outdoor seating areas. If you need help with carrying your items, please ask a member of the team.

Please let staff know if you have any allergies. A full allergen list is available for items on sale.

Our menu changes daily and is written on our chalk board behind the counter. Staff can explain what is on the menu verbally if required.

Straws and large-handled cutlery are available on request.

The disabled toilet is located along the corridor next to the cafe.

The flooring in this space is concrete and the walls alongside are glass, with wooden panels on the outside.

The entrance doors to the café are automated sliding doors and are 1.39m wide. There are two sets of these doors to access different areas of the café.

Inside the café the area is spacious with high ceiling, there is lots of natural light in this space.

Access to outdoor seating areas is also available through the corridor and at the entrance of the main café area. Both of these areas are accessed through doors that move outwards, but these are propped open in good weather and staff can assist if required.

The counter height is 0.9m and there is circulation space of at least 1.2m between the tables. Induction loops are available at till points.

Staff will assist visitors wherever possible and as required.

## **Shop**

The shop has level access throughout and is located around to the left of the main New Inn building.

The disabled toilet is located in the corridor next to the shop.

The entrance/exit doors to the shop open outwards but are propped open during opening times. The doors are 1.2m wide each. Staff can assist with this door if required.

Inside the shop the area is spacious with high ceiling, there is lots of natural light in this space.

Access to outdoor areas with plants is out the front of the shop.

The counter height is 0.93m high with a lower lip in front that is 0.76m high; and there is a circulation space of approx. 1m between the display stands.

Induction loops are available at till points.

Staff can assist with reaching retail items if they cannot be reached by customers. They can also assist with telling them the price of items if required.

## **Second-hand bookshop**

This is located within our historic Parlour Rooms, and only accessible via steps. Our volunteer bookshop team are more than happy to come out to you and chat through books you might be looking for.

## Access services

### Access map and guide

There are many ways to enjoy Stowe and we detail them all in our access guide and map - simply ask for one on arrival. Please follow the suggested paths based on your personal capability. It shows recommended routes, the distances between key monuments, rest spots, toilets, quiet spaces, and more. It also helps explain the different services we have on offer to you during your visit.

If you have any other access requirements, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of our team and we will do our best to help you make the most of your day wherever possible.

### Free access equipment

Please call 01280 817 156 or email [stowe@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:stowe@nationaltrust.org.uk) in advance to book our free manual wheelchairs, mobility vehicles, or festival trollies for transporting heavy bags or picnics.

They are available for hire for either a morning or afternoon slot. We recommend booking these at least a week in advance of your visit for best availability. You will be given a short briefing at the beginning of your session to show you how the vehicle works.

If you are bringing your own mobility vehicle, please remember to charge it fully before setting off.

We have a single-seater and a double-seater mini-crossover, or a 4-seater golf buggy available for hire for either a morning or afternoon session (10.45am-1pm or 1.30pm-30 mins prior to closing time).

### Shuttle service

A free shuttle service runs regularly from outside the cafe to Bell Gate (the main garden entrance). The entrance is about 800m from the car park so if you need help getting there, please speak to a member of our team on arrival. Pick-up points are marked on the access map.

We have a variety of buggies to suit different sized groups and needs including a smaller buggy for up to 3 people, a larger buggy for up to 7 people, and a 6-seater buggy with a wheelchair ramp (6-seater currently under repair). We have removable ramps to help stepping up onto the buggies if required.

### Stairclimber

For special openings and private events, we have a stairclimber available for access into the temples and monuments. Please contact us on 01280 817 156 in advance if you require this service.

### T-loops

Induction and T-loops are available at the following locations: café, shop, bookshop and Bell Gate kiosk (the garden entrance).

### Virtual Tour

Want to enjoy a visit to Stowe Gardens from the comfort of your own home?

Explore the site with our virtual tour: [National Trust - Stowe \(tourmkr.com\)](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe/tourmkr)

**Updated: July 2023**



## Enjoying your visit



- Visit the toilet before you explore
- Wear appropriate footwear
- Keep your dog on a short lead
- Use regular rest points
- Use our shuttle service

New Inn Farm, Stowe, Buckingham MK8 5EQ  
01280 817 156 • [stowe@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:stowe@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe)  
Search 'national trust stowe' on the socials

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You can see all the locations listed below from level ground. If you need a mobility vehicle or wheelchair, please call 01280 817 156.



### 1. Corinthian Arch



2. Farmhouse Garden
3. New Inn & Parlour Rooms
4. Bell Gate
5. Pebble Alcove
6. Temple of Friendship



7. Chinese House
8. Palladian Bridge



### 9. Gothic Temple



10. Queen's Temple
11. The Congreve Monument
12. Wooden Bridge
13. Lord Chatham's Urn
14. Cascade & Artificial Ruins
15. Sleeping Wood
16. Rotunda
17. Dido's Cave
18. Statue of King George II
19. Stowe House
20. The Best View at Stowe?



21. Eleven Acre Cascade
22. Temple of Venus
23. Hermitage
24. East & West Lake Pavilion
25. Octagon Lake



## Accessibility

Stowe Gardens can be challenging, though we're working to make it as accessible as possible. Most pathways are gravel or tarmac. Mown grass paths can be slippery when wet. There are steep slopes and uneven steps in places. Please follow the suggested paths based on your level of mobility.

## Free Access Equipment

Call 01280 817 156 in advance to book manual wheelchairs, mobility vehicles or dog trailers. Please fully charge your vehicle before setting off.

## Car Park, Shuttle Service & Entry

New Inn has accessible parking. The garden entrance is 800m from the car park. If you need assistance getting from the car park to the shuttle service which takes you to Bell Gate, please call 01280 771 861 or ask a team member for help.

## Cafe, Shops & Monuments

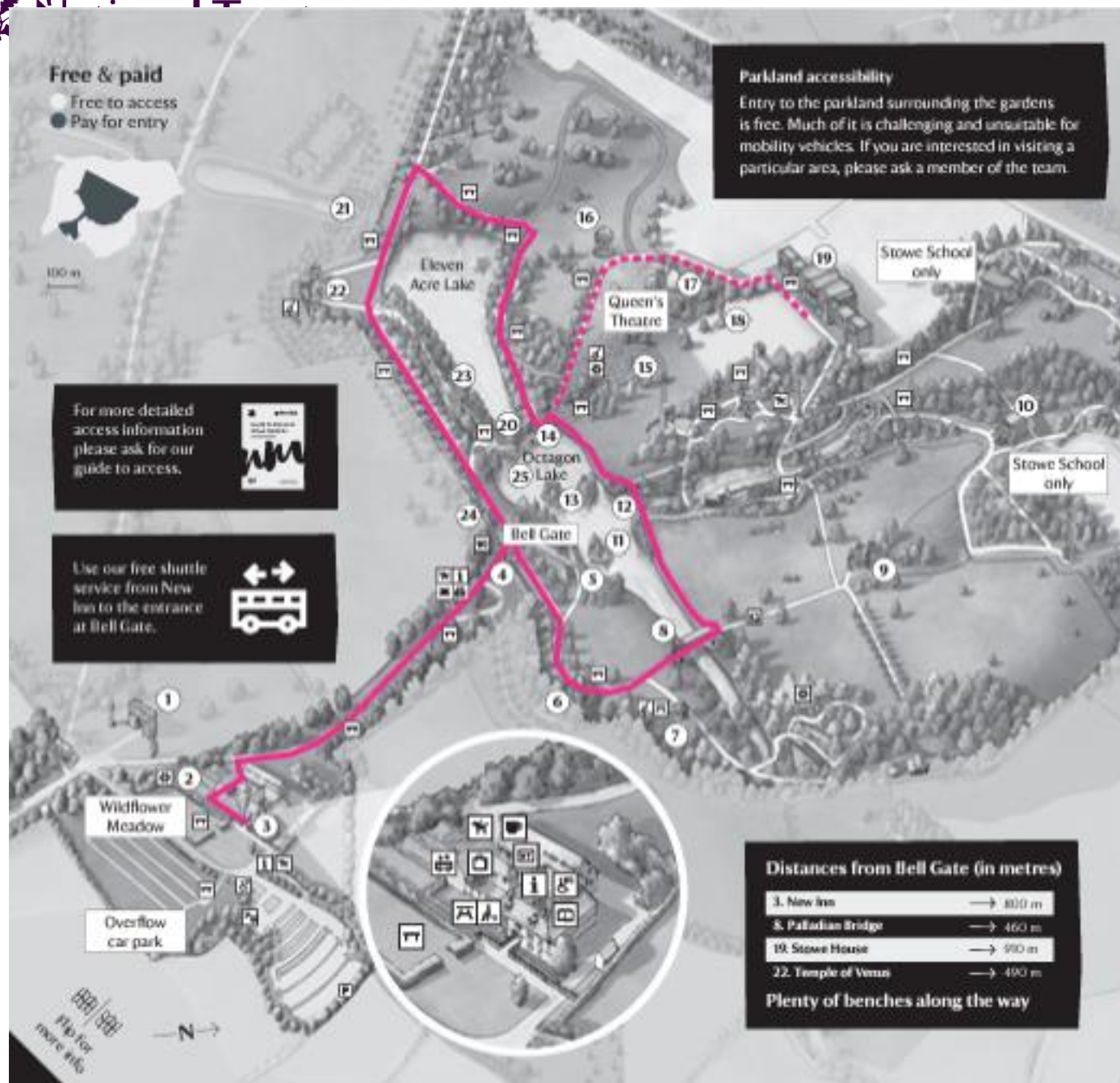
There's level access from the car park to the cafe and shop at New Inn. The Parlour Rooms, second hand bookshop, and most of the monuments have steps.



## Take a Virtual Tour







## Explore Stowe Gardens



### The Path for All - 4k

Enjoy the beauty of Stowe at your own pace. The Path for All covers the main garden highlights via the most accessible route. With wider paths, shallow gradients, sensory spaces, and plenty of rest spots, this route is suitable for everyone.

### The Stowe House Path - 3.5 km

This is the easiest and most accessible route around the gardens for those wishing to visit Stowe House. (Please note: Stowe House is not NT owned and needs to be booked separately). We recommend you return the same way to avoid steep slopes and narrow paths.

### Legend

- Information point
- Tickets
- Shop
- Car park
- Coach parking
- Accessible car park
- Café
- Accessible Toilets
- Quiet space
- Virtual tour
- Shuttle service pick up
- Dog waste bin
- Bookshop
- Picnic area
- Sensory area
- Bench/rest stop
- Heated, outdoor seating
- Steep gradient

### Emergencies

Need assistance? Call 07990 771 841 to contact the Duty Manager.

### Shuttle service

If you need help reaching the garden entrance, please speak to a member of our team on arrival and ask about our 'on demand' shuttle service.