

Shugborough Estate Access Statement



Shugborough Estate
Milford
Staffordshire
ST17 0XA

T: 01889 880160
E: Shugborough@nationaltrust.org.uk

Introduction

Shugborough Estate is a 900 acre estate consisting of the following:

- Grade 1 listed parkland comprising 900 acres.
- Grade 1 listed Mansion house
- Walled garden
- Plant Centre
- Explorers Wood natural play area
- Park farm including Park Farm Café, Farmhouse, Farm exhibition and Parkland Exhibition, toilets, animal pens and grassed picnic area.
- Mansion Tearoom
- Servants Quarters
- Mansion Shop
- Mansion Toilets
- Formal Gardens including terracing
- Arboretum.

The main visitor areas are relatively flat with parkland walks taking in hills around the wider estate.

Mobile reception is patchy in places with very little service inside the Mansion House. In case of emergency, the main number to call is 01889 880160.

Assistance dogs are welcome across the estate. Dogs on leads are welcome in all outdoor areas including the formal gardens. There is an off lead area available in Stafford Plantation. (except during ground nesting bird season of 1st March – 1st August) Dogs are not permitted in the mansion house, servants quarters, park farmhouse, shop or any catering outlet.

In some areas of the house, light levels are low due to conservation reasons and some areas have narrow doorways.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

There are brown signs to follow from both approaches to the estate, the main entrance is clearly signposted.

There are 18 designated spaces for disabled visitors in the main carpark, approx. 25m from the visitor reception building. The main car park surface is hardstanding and flat.

There is a mobility shuttle service in operation, on request. There are two vehicles in operation one of which is converted to allow wheelchair access. There is ramped access to the buggy and wheelchair users should, where possible, have a companion with them to assist access up the ramp. There is a weight limit of 18stone – combined person and wheelchair. The buggy is unable to accommodate mobility scooters.

The mobility shuttle follows a route from Visitor reception via the exterior of Park Farm to the Mansion House. It is available on request from these stops via any member of staff with a radio.

If the main carpark is full, then one of two overflow parking areas will be in use. These are grass fields identified as being relatively flat and suitable for parking and adjacent to the main visitor carpark. Where possible they will be mown prior to use but will have uneven surfaces in places.

Toilets and Facilities

Plant Centre:

1x accessible toilet with emergency alarm and handles, adjacent to the female toilets.

Size of room 1.6m x 2.35m

Transfer handles on right of toilet as seated.

Alarm - Yes

Lighting – fluorescent lighting, no natural light.

Hand drier

Park Farm

1x accessible toilet facility.

Size of room 4m x 3m

Transfer handles on right of toilet as seated.

Alarm - Yes

Radar key access - Yes

Lighting – no natural light, fluorescent only

Hand drier

Fully fitted out Changing Places facility

Mansion (Midden Yard) Toilets

1 x accessible toilet

Size of room - 1.93m x 2.9m

Transfer handles to the left of the toilet as seated.

Hand drier

Good natural lighting as well as a strip light provided.

Visitor Reception

The Visitor reception building has vinyl flooring with soft seating at either end of the building and a log burner in the centre of the rear wall for warmth. Outside is an undercover area to protect staff and visitors from the elements and feature spot lighting for darker days. The main doors are 750mm wide however they are double doors and will be opened up to allow free flowing access.

Staff and volunteers are on hand to assist any visitor that requires information or equipment passing to them from the counters. Clipboards are available for those who may struggle to reach the counter height.

The entrance doors are manual opening with staff members and volunteers able to assist with opening the doors as required.

The area is predominantly lit with natural light from floor to ceiling windows on three sides. There are spot lights also positioned in the ceiling.

There are two seating areas within the reception building at either end.

There are three battery operated scooters (Trampers) available for individual visitor use. They can be booked in advance by either calling or emailing the estate. The Trampers are able to access the majority of the estate including the Farm, formal gardens, arboretum and parkland although are unable to access the Mansion House.

Plant Centre – currently closed

The Plant Centre is located approx. 40m from Visitor Reception, along the tar and chipped bridleway. It is accessed via a flat slatted wooden bridge, approx. 3m wide. Assisted automatic double doors allow access to the plant centre which is all on one level with a smooth floor. There is sufficient room between display tables for wheelchair users and the till point has a lowered section at 78cm. There are displays at varying heights throughout the space and staff

members and volunteers are on hand to assist with any queries or stock requests. Double doors lead out onto an outdoor plant sales area, accessible by ramp with a rolled stone surface suitable for wheelchairs and buggys.. Toilets are located adjacent to the Plant Centre including an accessible toilet and separate baby change space.

Park Farm

Park Farm is approx. 300m from the main carpark along a tar and chipped road. The farmyard is predominately a concrete surface with some uneven cobbles in places and a grassed area in the centre.

Farmhouse – currently closed

Ground floor only open however some rooms accessible by steps of 1-1.5". Multiple exterior doors and ramps allow access into majority of rooms for wheelchair users however doors into the Still room are restricted to 700mm wide. Some door frames are raised to 1". Flooring surface is either stone flags, tiles or wooden. Narrow passageways in some areas although all corridors and doorways over 750mm.

Farm Exhibition – currently closed.

Situated on the top floor of one farm building above the water wheel. Ramped access to the rear however multiple steps up and down within exhibition to access all areas. Natural lighting plus spotlights.

Parkland Exhibition – currently closed.

The Parkland exhibition is housed in one of the old farm buildings within the farmyard, it has a shallow drainage channel outside followed immediately by a 1 brick high step. Once inside the flooring is of brick and uneven in some places. Seating is provided in the form of two long sofas with arm rests.

Park farm Café

The Café is situated within the farm yard with outdoor seating, some covered by large umbrella's. The entrance door is propped open and faces outwards. Tables and chairs and are available outside, none of which have armrests. Staff are able to assist with moving chairs to allow easier access as necessary.

House

The house is approx. 800m from Park farm. The approach is a rolled gravel path giving way to a tarmac road. Benches are positioned regularly along the route. The path is suitable for all mobility scooters and wheelchairs.



Pathway from Park Farm to Mansion House

The surface in front of the house is hardstanding chipped and rolled pathways, and continues around the formal gardens.

The front of the house has 7 steps to access. A stair-climber is available to assist wheelchairs accessing the mansion. The stair-climber cannot accommodate electric wheel chairs or mobility scooters. There is a standard wheelchair available in the mansion house for visitors who are able to transfer from their wheelchair to the mansion wheelchair which the stair-climber can then accommodate.

Due to fire safety and evacuation procedures, only one wheelchair requiring the stair-climber will be allowed in the mansion house at any one time. There is no restriction on wheelchair users who are able to climb the stairs



Stepped entrance to Mansion House

The entrance into the Mansion is double doored and opens inwards with assistance from staff or volunteers. The majority of floors are either stone flags or wooden with two rooms only being carpeted or having a large floor rug. The foyer, saloon and dining room have no soft furnishings and high ceilings and so sounds may echo. All rooms have natural light although this is restricted in some rooms due to conservation of the collection, in these cases there are either high level LED spot lighting or standard energy efficient bulbs.

The Mansion house is only open on the ground floor and there are approx.10 steps on exit of the property which curve gently with a handrail to the right or left

Doorways into the library are restricted to 700mm wide, all other doorways are over 750mm with space to turn a wheelchair in all rooms.

There are seats currently within the saloon consisting of sofas, armchairs with armrests and hard backed chairs with no arm rests.

Volunteers are not restricted to every room and move around as visitors require, all volunteers carry radios in case of emergencies.

There are no WC facilities in the house, the closest facilities are in the Midden Yard, approx. 200m from the house entrance.

There are currently no tours within the house, there is a guide for visitors to take around with them and large interpretation panels in most rooms

Small electric powered wheelchairs and mobility vehicles are permitted into the house, however the stair climber is unable to assist them so they would need to be carried up the entrance steps.

Servants Quarters – closed till mid June 21.

Access to the servants quarters is through doorways 690mm wide, however second door can be opened to allow wider access. All flooring is either stone flags, quarry tiles or wooden. Once inside, there is natural lighting in all rooms, however some corridors are lit with standard tungsten bulbs only.

No soft furnishings in any rooms so sounds will echo, particularly in the kitchen. All rooms accessible for wheelchairs with space to turn around except the wet laundry that has 3 steps down to it.. No interpretation provided as yet, however volunteers may be around the space to answer questions and provide information.

Mansion House Tearoom

Doorway into tearoom 900mm wide and opens outwards with ramp access. Doorway from tearoom into courtyard 900mm wide also with ramped access. Counter is 900mm high and all on one level.

Staff on hand to assist where possible, chairs can be moved to allow easier access for wheelchairs.

To access the outside seating area to the rear of the Tearoom, wheelchair users must enter the tearoom. However there is also outdoor seating to the side of the tearoom that does not require access through the building.

Mansion House Shop

The shop doorway 1050mm wide and open outwards manually, staff and volunteers on hand to assist. There is natural light throughout the shop with LED spotlights also in use. The counter is 880mm high and staff and volunteers will assist with pricing and reaching items, visitors may be unable too.

Access to the shop is tarmac'd and the interior of the shop is vinyl flooring and all on one level.

Formal Gardens

The formal gardens are wheelchair accessible with chipped and rolled pathways in all areas. Paths closest to the house have 3 steps to form terraces with no

direct handrails, however the wider path network is all one level with minimal changes in gradient – Step Free path signage in place around the gardens.

There is currently no interpretation within the gardens however when the garden team are working there, they will provide information and assistance as required.

Seating is situated around the gardens for visitors to use – there are a variety consisting of benches with tall backs and log benches with no backs.

There is a river at the bottom of the garden with grassed banks and shallow steps down to it in one location. There are no active water features in the garden.



Example of path network with in formal gardens



Stepped terracing directly behind Mansion House

Arboretum

The arboretum forms part of the wider gardens and is accessed from the formal gardens via a bridge at either end. Each bridge has a small step (approx. 5cm) at either end although path works have minimised the step as much as possible

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The main path within the arboretum is of a rolled hardstanding surface. In extreme weathers it may be uneven and muddy in places. Away from the main path, there are only mown grass paths. The arboretum is accessible by 'Tramper' mobility vehicle, vehicles with smaller wheels may struggle when leaving the main path.

There are a number of benches situated in the arboretum and provide a quiet sheltered space for reflection.



Typical example of paths within arboretum



Access to Arboretum via blue bridge with step



Access to Arboretum via red bridge showing step.

Walled garden

The walled garden is accessed from the main visitor route opposite Visitor Reception and has a good network of chipped and rolled pathways throughout. There are additional mown grass pathways through the centre of some planting areas.

Benches are provided around the Walled Garden, the majority are stone with no back or armrests with one wooden bench with back and armrests provided along the far right wall as you enter.

There is an empty Dipping Pond in the centre of the garden with rope and post fencing around it to prevent falls.

The walled garden is all on one level with no steps.

Explorers Wood

The play area is accessed through the Walled Garden on the same chipped and rolled pathway network. The path has a 3m section of uphill followed by a shallower gradient to the play area.

The play area is surrounded on 3 sides by the same path surface and includes seating on a picnic bench or on natural logs. The play area is accessed over a 30cm approx. high log barrier that prevents the loss of bark chippings from under the play equipment.

The play area is made of logs formed into a ship structure with balance beams, ladders and rigging as well as lower level canon balls, canon and long anchor. Wheelchairs are unable to directly access the play equipment due to the log edging.



Wider Parkland

The path network within the wider parkland has no hard surfacing, except for a tarmac route along the visitor drive, linking with a further road to the Mansion House. This route has a two cattle grids with pedestrian gates alongside. All other paths across the estate are mown grass only and as such may be uneven and muddy. Farm animals roam the parkland freely in areas and will naturally leave muck behind them, areas around water troughs may become muddy and difficult to negotiate.

There are steep gradients to negotiate in the wider parkland as well as densely wooded areas with minimal paths of any type. Once in the wider wooded areas, we would suggest the use of an OS map.

Tramper mobility vehicles with large tyres may be able to access the parkland closest to the main visitor areas but we would recommend not taking them into the wider parkland.

Contact details for more information

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