

Property Name Access Statement

Biddulph Grange Garden, Grange Road, Biddulph. Staffordshire. ST8 7SD

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Introduction

Biddulph Grange was the creation of James and Maria Bateman, c1840-1865: its distinctive character derives from the series of “gardens within gardens”; in 1872 it was acquired by another industrialist, Robert Heath, and most of the house dates from 1897 following a disastrous fire in 1896. From 1923-1984 the property was used as an orthopaedic hospital, before being acquired by the National Trust. Following extensive restoration 1989-1991, the gardens were reopened to the public.

The compartmentalised nature of the garden, on a hillside site, coupled with its status as a grade 1 listed structure, means that there are considerable physical access restrictions, there are many gradients, steps, narrow paths, ledges and tunnels coupled with gravel and uneven paths and steps.

Mobile phone reception is good across the whole garden.

Assistance dogs are welcome, other dogs are welcome in the picnic area and car parks. Adjacent to Biddulph Grange Garden is Biddulph Grange Country Park where all dogs can be exercised.

There can be low light levels in some areas of the garden.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

There are brown and white signs to the garden from Congleton, Cheshire and from Stoke-on-Trent. From the A500 in Stoke-on-Trent it is advisable to take the A527 junction, signposted Kidsgrove and Longbridge Hayes and follow this road to Biddulph rather than the brown and white signs on the A500.



4 designated spaces for disabled visitors in the main car park adjacent to the visitor welcome area.

Car park surface is tarmac, the overflow car park is gravel and loose stone with a bark chip path leading to the main car park.



There are no transfer vehicles or wheelchairs on site.

Visitors can be dropped off by the welcome area.

WCs

The shop has, accessed from the rear, an accessible toilet. Entrance door width is 840mm, internal dimensions 1.45m x 2.15m. In the same location is an ambient toilet with grab handles and comfort height toilet and 3 unisex toilets.



Facilities include natural and electric light; toilet with right-hand exchange with washbasin, single tap, soap dispenser, hand dryer and alarm.

Baby change is located by the tearoom.

Visitor Reception

Visitor welcome is outside, occasionally the shop is used (please see section on retail).

The ticket office has a brick floor and breeze block walls and stone arch entrance.

Entrance to the ticket office is by a step, 4ch high. Entrance doorway is 1.55m wide, doors are open during opening hours. Welcome is provided for visitors infront of this doorway.



Reception desk is 94cm high with lower section 76cm high.

Area is lit by natural light and artificial LED lights.

3 chairs are available

An induction loop is available at the reception desk

There a portable induction loop available to be used at the membership recruitment desk

House

The house is private property and not owned by the National Trust or open to the public, however, there is one room open to the public, the Drawing Room. The Drawing Room overlooks the Italian section of the garden. The Drawing Room is used for room hires and extra seating for the smaller Camellia House café in the adjacent room (seasonal opening only).

Paths are mainly gravel and stone paving immediately outside the Drawing Room.

Access to the Drawing Room is up 3 steps and down 1 internal step.
The entrance door is inward opening. The door is 90cm wide.



The Drawing Room is lit by natural light and one central electric light.

The floor is wooden.

The Drawing Room is 8m long and wide.

Catering

To access the tearoom, a flight of 5 steps, plus 1 further step.



2 Manual swing doors access the tearoom each 64cm wide.



The tearoom has terrazzo floors and wooden chairs and can be very noisy.



It is lit by 9 ceiling pendant lights and natural light from roof and side windows.

Counter is 92cm high

Staff assist visitors as required, can visitors be seated if they experience difficulty queuing and staff will then assist them.

Is there circulation space between the tables of around 1200mm.

Till point has induction loops.

Large handled cutlery available.

During the summer seasonal the Camellia House café is open in the room adjacent to the Drawing Room, see House section above.

Retail

The shop is adjacent to the car park, it is a single story wooden building and accessible by a brick paved ramp from the car park.



Access via the plant sales area is by a gravel surface. The internal floor is tiled.



The entrance doors are manual and open outwards. There are two wooden framed glass doors in each doorway both doors 85cm wide.

Circulation space around the central table between the display shelves is 1200mm.

Till point has an induction loop

The shop is lit by natural and led lights.

Staff are available to assist reaching down items to view if they cannot be reached by customers.

Staff assist with telling visitors the price of items where no large print available.

Garden

The garden is built on the side of a valley with many gradients and there are 425 **steps** in different locations all around the garden.

Path surfaces are almost all compacted earth and gravel with the exception of the Woodland Walk path which is mainly packed earth and the Himalayan Glen path which is a narrow stone path.

There is no wheelchair hire available on site.

There are no handrails, except to Joss House which is accessed by very steep stone steps and the balustrading on and adjacent to the bridge over the pond in the Chinese Garden.

Seats are limited around the garden.

Water is generally unprotected (lake, 2 ponds, stream).

Accessing the main garden

Access to the Terrace at the side of the house from the Visitor Reception and Plant Centre is via a flight of 10 steps onto a gravel path.



Then through an open side gate at the corner of the house with 1 step.



Italian Garden

A flight of 28 steps leads down to the Italian Garden. There are 4 shallow steps through the Italian Garden.



Lime Avenue

Flight of 3 steps leads down from the Italian Garden (4 steps up to the stone seat).



Monkey Puzzle Parterre

This gives access to Mrs Bateman's Garden, the Dahlia Walk, and the Rose and Verbena Parterres.



Mrs Bateman's Garden

17 steps in all lead to this area, which is otherwise flat (and a dead end)



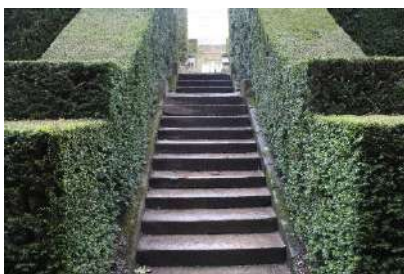
Dahlia Walk

The Dahlia Walk can be accessed from the Monkey Puzzle Parterre; there are a series of shallow steps, and steeper steps at the end leading under the Shelter House to the Stumpery - 34 in all.



Rose and Verbena Parterres

From half-way up the Dahlia walk, approximately 20 steps lead to these parterres which are otherwise flat, and also give access to the Second Hand Bookshop (run on an honesty system). A path continues through the Cherry Orchard towards the Wellingtonia Avenue (8 steps)



Wellingtonia Avenue

From the terrace above the Cherry Orchard, there are 6 short flights of steps leading up the sloping walkway to the Urn at the top (and an average gradient between of 1 in 20).

It is possible to return along the parallel Woodland Walk avoiding some of these steps, but the surface can be soft in wet weather and has several steeply sloping sections (1 in 8).



Geological Gallery

5 steps lead from the terrace overlooking the Cherry Orchard to a flat area leading to the Gallery. There is no artificial lighting in the Gallery.



Pinetum

The Pinetum can be reached either from the Italian Garden along the side of the lake, or from the Lime Avenue / Disabled Entrance through the Tennis Lawn.

Access is via a short tunnel with an uneven surface, width 89cm



The path involves no steps, but there is a significant sloping section (1 in 24). Part way there is an opening to the Croquet Lawn; this is flat but not well-drained.

At the top 3 steps lead up into the Cheshire Cottage.

Cheshire Cottage

Pathways through the Cottage are 75cm wide. From the Pinetum entrance, the right-hand exit (a short-cut to the Wellingtonia Avenue) involves 12 steps with tight corners; the steps are lit at foot level but require care.

The left-hand exit leads to the Egyptian Court.



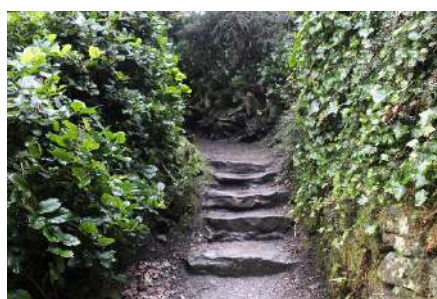
Egyptian Court

This is approached either from the terrace above the Cherry Orchard, or via 2 shallow steps from the Cheshire Cottage.



Stumpery & Chinese Garden

The terrace above the Cherry Orchard gives access opposite the Shelter House down to the Stumpery and to the Chinese Temple (around 38 steps); the route is narrow and twisting (min width 60cm). (2 metre section adjacent to Watch Tower graded at 1 in 7)



A side path leads through the Tree Peony bed over the Chinese Bridge (involving additional steps).

An alternative but equally problematic route up to the Chinese Garden is via the Dahlia Walk, meeting the top path in The Stumpery. The width of the passage under the Shelter House is 60cm.

The Joss House and the Watchtower are accessed by long flights of steep steps, which can be slippery and any visitor attempting these needs to exercise great care.



The Chinese Garden can be exited via the Chinese Temple, through a dark, narrow, twisting tunnel, culminating in a short flight of steps down to the Himalayan Glen: the steps are lit at foot level. Width 60cm



Himalayan Glen

The Glen connects the Chinese Garden and the lakeside path by entrance to the Pinetum tunnel (around 22 steps in all). It is narrow and twisting, and includes a section with a broad stepping stone (57cm wide) across a shallow stream. Minimum width 55cm.



There is a high level walk difficult of access via uneven stone steps and includes a narrow metal bridge to cross and descend by more narrow uneven stone steps.

Kitchen Garden

This is accessed by a gravel path from Visitor Reception, through the Plant Centre. There are no steps, but the garden and part of the access path are sloping.



Entrance pathway for visitors with mobility problems

From Visitor Reception, a flat service pathway suitable for visitors' own wheelchairs or buggies, leads to a gate opened by pressing an adjacent push-button giving access to an area at the back of the Tennis Lawn.



This path ends in a compact earth path which can be muddy and a sloping gravel path up to the Tennis Lawn area.

From here it is possible to access the Italian Garden in front of the house (short sloping sections), and to pass through a tunnel to the Pinetum (including access to the Bowling Green). It is also possible to access the Lime Avenue (small metal kerbs on all the edges of grassed areas)

Please refer to the map for gradients and indication of steps.

Contact details for more information

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