

Packwood House Access Statement

Contact details

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Introduction

Graham Baron Ash created his own private world at Packwood. The house saw much chance, with rooms remodeled, staircases constructed and modern comforts added. No expense was spared with the furnishing, with Baron Ash purchasing the perfect combination of antique textiles, polished wood, faded gold and extraordinary objects which would convey his ideal of timeless Englishness. The grade two listed gardens compliment the house perfectly, a space of vibrant ever changing colors and tranquility. One of the most significant features in the garden is the yew garden, with some of the yews dating from the seventeenth century.

Points of note

- Mobile phone signal is poor across the entire site. The worst affected areas are within the café and house.
- Assistance dogs are welcome in all areas of Packwood.
- We welcome dogs on leads at the back of the café and on the Estate. Please ensure dogs are on leads and under control as Packwood has areas of grazing stock on the Estate.
- There are 3 manual wheelchairs available from visitor reception and 1 is available from the house.
- There is one four wheel drive mobility scooter available from visitor reception, please be aware that this cannot be used in the house.
- The gardens and grounds have some areas of gravel pathways and rough terrain.
- Light levels are low inside some areas of the house for conservation reasons.
- Of the rooms in the house, seven are on the ground floor and six of these are all wheelchair accessible. A tactile guide and braille are available in the House Entrance Hall if requested. Those rooms on the first floor can be viewed via an iPad upon request.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

- Packwood is close to both the M40 and M42 motorways. Brown signs can be found when two miles away from the property, Lapworth is 1.5 miles and Hockley Heath is 2 miles. Packwood is 11 miles south east of central Birmingham.
- There are 10 parking spaces suitable for blue badge holders or people with low mobility adjacent to the Welcome Centre(approx. 13 feet away)
- The car park surface is suitable wheelchair access.
- At peak times and for large events overflow car parking will be used. This may mean parking on a grassed surface further away from the Visitor welcome center.
- Due to the compact nature of the site there is no buggy.
- If arriving by train, Packwood is 1,5 miles from Lapworth and 8 miles from Birmingham International station.
- If arriving by foot the millennium way crosses through the park.

Visitor Reception

- The building is adjacent to the car park.
- The entrance is accessed via slope with a small gradient; the doors are automatic and are approximately 115cm wide.
- Staff work in the open space of visitor reception, tills are on tables which are approximately 107cm height.
- The Ticket office is lit by natural light and has additional fluorescent lighting.
- There is a soft padded bench available without arm rests. The seat pad is 46cm off the ground.
- The doors to the café and barn yard are both automatic and approximately 115cm weight.
- There is an induction loop available at the reception desk.
- There are three manual wheelchairs available upon request, on a first come first served basis.
- There is one electronic four wheel drive mobility scooter available upon request, on a first come first served basis.

Carers are admitted free of charge when accompanying a person who has membership or is paying normal admission. This is standard practice throughout the National Trust.

WCs

There are toilets located outside of the visitor welcome center. These are accessed through the visitor welcome center. However, if required, staff can open a gate which allows access straight from the car park.

There are ladies toilets:

- The door is 70cm wide
- There are 3 cubicles.
- There are automatic hand driers available.
- The light is a mix of fluorescent and natural light.
- There is a baby changing facility.

The men's toilets:

- The door is 70cm wide.
- There is 1 cubicles and 3 urinals.
- There are automatic hand driers.
- There is a mix of natural and fluorescent lighting.
- There is a baby changing facility.

There is one disabled accessible toilet:

- The door is 96cm wide, with a turning area of approximately 150cm by 120 cm.
- There is an automatic hand drier.
- There is a mix of natural and fluorescent lighting.
- There is a baby changing facility.

There are toilets located in the café:

There are three unisex toilets.

- The doors are 65cm wide, with a turning area of approximately 60cm by 100cm.
- There is an automatic hand drier.
- There is a mix of natural and fluorescent lighting.

There is one family toilet:

- The door is 86cm wide, with a turning area of approximately 150cm by 130 cm.
- There is an automatic hand drier.
- There is a mix of natural and fluorescent lighting.
- There is a baby changing facility.
- There is a child sized toilet and sink.

There is one disabled accessible toilet:

- The door is 86cm wide, with a turning area of approximately 150cm by 140 cm.
- There is an automatic hand drier.
- There is a mix of natural and fluorescent lighting.
- There is a baby changing facility.

There are no toilets in the gardens.

Route to the House

- The route from the welcome center to the House is approximately 350 metres.
- This route has a variety of surfaces from gravel pathways and flagstones.
- There is a road in which you have to cross to get to the house.

House

- The main entrance to the house is 120cm wide, this leads to 3 steps and a door which is 100cm wide. The entrance has a handrail on the left hand side and is maned by a volunteer at all times.
- An alternative entrance without steps can be found at the West of the house via the Birmingham door. The door is 140cm wide and opens into the Inner Hall.
- The inner Hall can be used as a turning circle for both average and large wheelchairs as it is 220cm wide.
- There are a total of 6 rooms which can be independently accessed by wheelchair users.
- The passageway from the Inner Hall to the entrance is the thinnest section of the house; the hallway is approximately 110cm wide with doorways 70cm in width. When visiting the house, visitors turn off this hallway to access the Dining room and Entrance Hall.
- The Drawing room is partially roped at all times; the door is 70cm in width and the room is 180cm in width.
- The Dining room is 200cm at its smallest width, at times the room has to be roped off, this will decrease the width to 140cm, the doorway is 83cm in width.
- The Long Gallery is 200cm in width, with a doorway of 120cm in width.
- The Parlor is 180cm in width with a doorway 85cm in width.

Guidelines for the area required to turn a wheelchair can be found on the next page.

- Access to the first floor is via the main staircase, each step is 30cm in depth, there is a handrail on the left hand side when ascending the stairs.
- The light in many areas of the house is kept at a low level for conservation purposes.
- There are seats available for visitors in the main rooms of the house. Room guides can assist with any requests for seating.
- The main rooms in the House are staffed by room guides.
- There are photograph albums with images of the contents of the House in each room.
- A Braille guide of the House is available to borrow, please request a copy from house staff.
- To aid sensory experiences a list of objects which are available to touch in each room is in the Entrance Hall.
- There are no flashing fire alarms in the House. However, in the event of a fire staff will assist in evacuating the buildings.

Area guidelines for turning a wheelchair

Area required to turn 90 degrees.

- Manual wheelchair 1500cm x 1500cm
- Manual wheelchair plus attendant 1800cm x 2500cm
- Power wheelchair 1600cm x 1600cm
- Self-propelled wheelchair 1550cm x 1550cm
- Powered Mobility Vehicle 2500cm x 2500cm

Area required for turning 360 degrees.

- Average wheelchair 1500cm x 1500cm
- Large powered wheelchair 1800cm x 1800cm
- Average Powered Mobility Vehicle 2200cm x 2200cm

Retail

There is one retail outlet on site. This can be found in the visitor welcome center.

- The building is adjacent to the car park.
- The entrance is accessed via slope with a small gradient; the doors are automatic and are approximately 115cm wide.
- Staff work in the open space of visitor welcome center; tills are on tables which are approximately 107cm height.
- The Shop is lit by natural light and has additional fluorescent lighting.
- There is a soft padded bench available without arm rests. The seat pad is 46cm off the ground.
- The doors to the café and barn yard are both automatic and approximately 115cm weight.
- There is an induction loop available at the shop till.
- Staff can assist reaching down items to view if they cannot be reached by customers.
- There is no large print version of the price list, but staff are happy to assist with telling visitors the price of items.

Garden

- The gardens are accessed via a gate next to the house, this is 95cm wide; this is the smallest gate in the gardens.
- There are various paths within the garden area from grassed paths to gravel.
- Small mobility vehicles can access the Kitchen Garden. Larger ones are not advised. This is because whilst the doorway is 122cm wide, the pathway is between 70cm and 90cm wide.
- Some areas such as the orchard area, yew garden and lakeside walk and estate of the have undefined walkways and terrain can be uneven and not easily accessible.
- The raised terrace and sunken garden are both accessed via steps.
- There are 12 steps when accessing the Yew gardens from the front, to avoid these steps an alternative entrance can be found in the orchard.
- There is a selection of seating throughout the gardens.

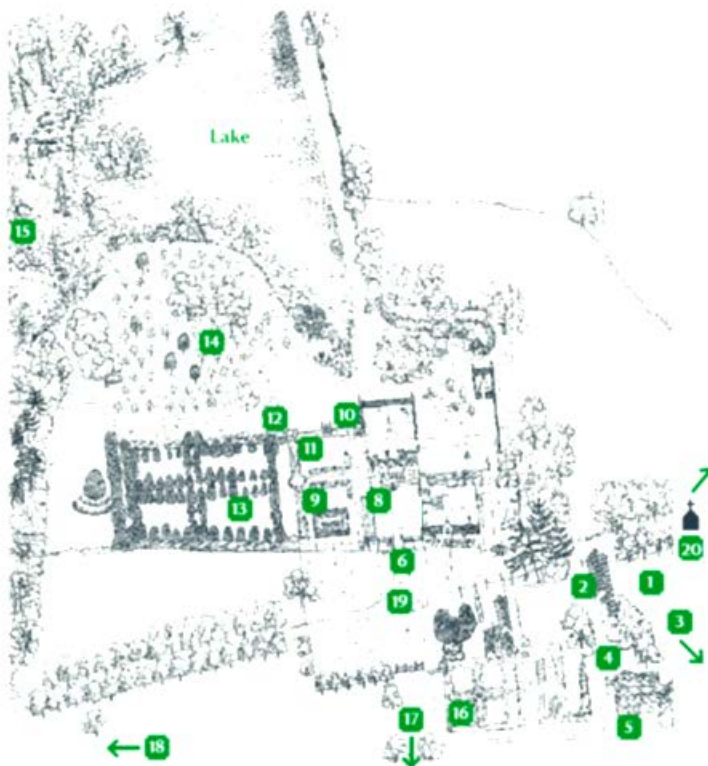
Cafe

- The café is located in the visitor welcome center, named the new build.
- The entrance can be found in reception, the door is 115cm in width.
- There are no stairs to access the toilets or patio areas.
- The counter is 89cm high; tills and cake can be found on the counter. The tills have induction loops.
- The menus are on blackboards and staff can assist with explaining menus if required.
- Staff are available to assist visitors as required if they experience difficulty when queuing and/or carrying food and drink.
- The tables are approximately 75cm high; there is a mix of fixed and movable seating which can be moved to accommodate wheelchairs.
- The patio contains movable seating; the tables are approximately 75cm high.

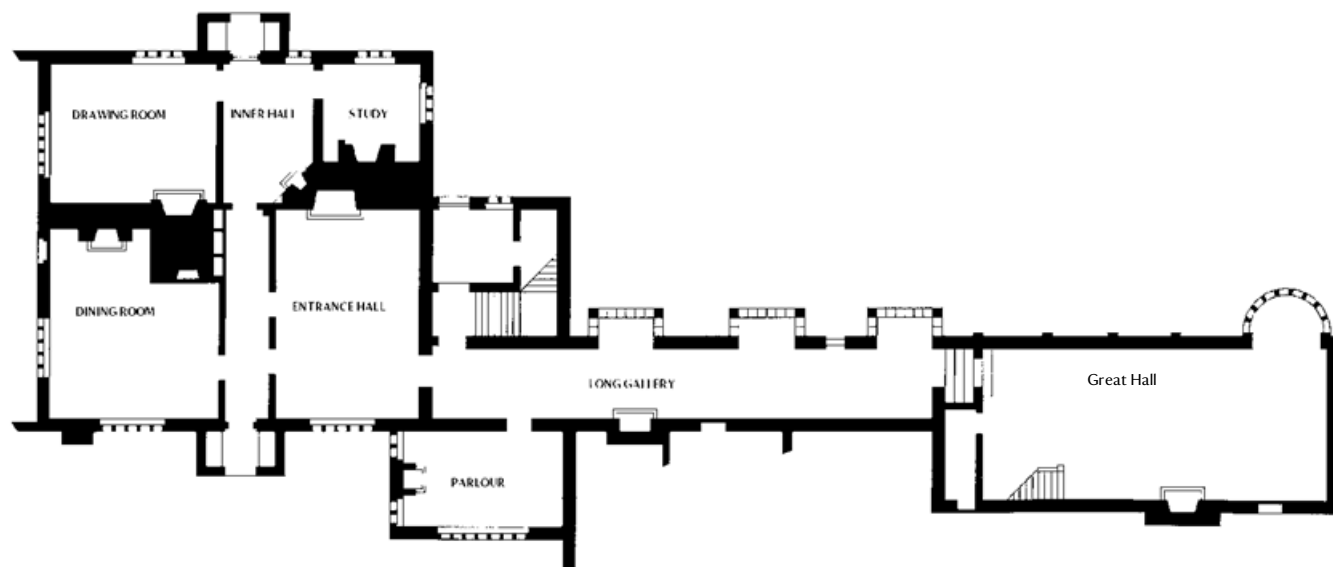
Site Map

- 1 Car park
- 2 Barnyard toilets
- 3 Picnic tables
- 4 Visitor reception and admissions
- 5 Garden kitchen cafe
- 6 Garden entrance

- 8 House
- 9 Carolean Garden
- 10 Head Gardener's Office
- 11 Raised Terrace
- 12 Garden Gazebo
- 13 Yew Garden
- 14 Orchard
- 15 Pool Tail Copse
- 16 Kitchen Garden
- 17 Chestnut Avenue & Gorse Wood
- 18 Welly Walk
- 19 Public road
- 20 St Giles Church (Packwood Church)



Ground floor of the house



Written: 24/01/2017

Updated: 14/10/2021