

## Nostell Access Statement

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### Introduction

Nostell is a 300-acre estate consisting of a house, pleasure grounds and parkland. The grounds are relatively flat, although there are several slopes there are accessible routes available throughout. The House is displayed over 2 floors with lift access to the first floor.

### Mobile signal

Mobile phone reception is good across most of the site although poor inside the House. During office hours, in an emergency staff and volunteers are connected via a 2-way radio system and can raise the alarm. For emergencies outside of this time call 999.

### Dogs

Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the property. In the Park owners should keep their dogs under close control at all times. Dogs must be kept on leads around the Lower Lake, in addition to areas of the Park that have seasonal cattle grazing. Dogs are not allowed in the Garden. You can find more information about visiting with your dog [here](#).

### Specifics

Lockers are available for visitors to secure large bags & other possessions before entering the House.

## Arrival & Parking Facilities

### By car:

The only vehicle access to Nostell is from the main A638 trunk road that runs between Wakefield and Doncaster. The gated entrance is located approximately 5.5 miles southeast of Wakefield.

The Park is signposted using brown highways agency signs from the centre of Wakefield. We recommend using satellite navigation using WF4 1QE. The entrance to the House, Gardens and Visitor Facilities is approx. 800 metres from the main car park.

### By bus:

<https://www.wymetro.com/>

The entrance to Nostell is approx. 800 metres from the House, Garden and visitor facilities.

### By train:

There is a train station in Fitzwilliam which is 1 mile from the estate entrance. Trains are operated by Northern Rail. Fitzwilliam is on the line between Leeds and Sheffield. For details please visit:

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/DSL/details.html>

## Accessible Blue Badge Parking

Accessible Blue badge parking can be found in 2 locations at Nostell: Stables Car Park has 4 Blue Badge bays; the main car park has 10 Blue Badge bays. Please display your Blue badge documentation on your dashboard for eligibility for free parking.

### The main car park

The car park has a hard surface constituted of tar, spray and chip. Please note at present the buggy is not accessible to wheelchair users. A car parking charge of £5 is in place for all visitors unless members of the National Trust and a fee of £3 when arriving after 3.30pm.

### The Stables

The car park surface is grasscrete with a tarmac access road. The entrance to the Courtyard is block cobbles leading to Yorkshire stone edge with a central surface of resin bonded gravel.

## **Busy periods**

If all the Blue badge spaces are occupied, we will always endeavour to find a suitable location for parking based on the circumstances of each visitor. We regret we cannot reserve parking bays in advance. At busy times such as weekends and school holidays we use grass overflow parking. If you require accessible Blue Badge parking please ask a member of our team.

## **WCs**

### **Main Visitor Facilities - Stables**

- All are located on ground floor level in the Courtyard.
- Accessible / Changing Place room size – 3m x 3.6m.
- Remote controlled hoist.
- Transfers on both sides.
- Area lit by florescent lighting.
- Hand drying facilities: Dyson auto hand dryers.

### **Welcome Team Office**

- The Welcome Team office is only used for people wishing to purchase a membership and therefore visitors will always be accompanied by a member of staff.
- The Welcome Team office is in the Stables and the surfaces are all stone. There are 4 dining style chairs with cushions and a leather covered bench.
- There are two entrances to the Welcome Team office. The primary doorway has no slope; the secondary entrance has a step which is 8cm high.
- The main entrance door near the café is 119.5 cm wide. The secondary door is 125 cm wide. It opens outwards and is 119.5 cm wide.
- The area is lit by GU10 LED bulbs. There is limited natural light.
- There is an induction loop available at the desk

## House

### House entrance:

- The House entrance is approx. 200 metres from the blue badge spaces in the Stables car park, and approx. 120 metres from the Welcome Team office, via a level tarmac surface.
- The house entrance doors are 167cm wide doors, with a shallow 3 cm step. They are manual and are set open and staffed during open times.
- Powered mobility scooters can access the ground floor of the mansion but no other floors, due to restrictive access.
- Wheelchair access to the first floor is through use of a lift, operated by staff. As our lift is historic & therefore not fire protected, we are unable to use it if the fire alarms sound. Hence all wheelchair users need to be able to certify that they can get themselves down from the first floor in the event of an evacuation. If they are unable to do this, we are sorry, but they will be unable to access the first floor.
- For fire safety reasons it is necessary to restrict the number of wheelchairs on the first floor of the house to 2 – this is to ensure that should we need to evacuate down the Peron steps for wheelchair users there is space for this to happen in a safe manner.
- There is a rest space in each room.
- Food & drink is not allowed in the House.
- Shoes must have heels larger than a postage stamp, to prevent damage to historic floors.
- Some of the exhibits in the house have sound effects.

### Ground Floor access:

The ground floor has level stone floors throughout and is wheelchair friendly, with several areas large enough for turning.

The large entrance hall has low natural lighting, and it is recommended that all visitors allow time for their eyes to adjust before beginning their visit. The remaining ground floor has few windows and is naturally dark, with freestanding LED lighting at intervals. There are no fluorescents on the public route. There are fluorescents in some mansion staff offices.

## State rooms (first floor) access:

- The staircases to and from the first floor have 21 steps with historic banisters.
- There is a staff-operated lift, available on request during House open hours. In case of fire, wheelchair users must be able to evacuate through the Top Hall front doors & walk down 26 stone steps in front of the house.
- All doorways and corridors on the public route are at least 75 cm. Some rooms have limited corridors of access but intermittently there are larger spaces where a wheelchair can turn around.
- The first floor has manageable natural light but in the winter months it can become dark near the end of the afternoon. There are currently experimental installations of additional LED lights in key points on the route.
- The large top hall and saloon can echo.
- Audio in Top Hall, Crimson Room, State Bedroom and Saloon.
- Modern benches are periodically available for visitors to rest and also there are some modern armchairs. These are grey in colour and come with and without arms.

## Catering

- The café is approx. 450 metres from the blue badge spaces in the Stables car park and approx. 45 metres from the Welcome Team office.
- The surface outside the cafe in the courtyard is a Yorkshire stone flagged area the entrance from the gardens is a tarmac stone chipped path.
- There are 3 entrances/exits to the courtyard café and all are at ground level, all are 1 metre wide and the doors swing both inwards and outwards.
- The café and smaller outlet have no soft furnishings and the hard surfaces will cause sound echoes.
- The environment is well lit with lots of natural light, and there is artificial light provided by spot LED ceiling lights, small fluorescent bulbs shaded wall lights.
- Courtyard café tills have induction loops.
- There is a circulation space of approximately 120cm between tables.
- There are metal table & chairs in the courtyard for café users wishing to sit outside, all chairs have arms.
- The courtyard can become noisy at busy periods.

## Retail

- The shop is approx. 450 metres from the blue badge spaces in the Stables car park and approx. 45 metres from the Welcome Team office.
- The surface outside the shop in the courtyard is a Yorkshire stone flagged area the entrance from the gardens is a tarmac stone chipped path.
- To enter the shop there is a slight slope but once over the slope the shop floor is level.
- The entrance to the shop is 2 metres wide and has no door.
- The Shop has no soft furnishings (e.g. carpet, wall hangings...) and the hard surfaces will cause sound echoes.
- There is no seating in the shop.
- There is sometimes background music playing in the shop.
- Reed aroma diffusers are sometimes used in the shop.
- The environment is well lit with lots of natural light, and there is artificial light provided by GU10 LED bulbs directed at displays.
- There is circulation space of 100cm between all displays.
- Tills have induction loops.
- Staff and volunteers are available to help pass down items that cannot be reached by customers.
- Staff and volunteers are always available to describe items and prices to customers if need.
- Wherever possible staff will support in transporting heavy / bulky purchases to a customer's vehicle.

## Garden

- The garden is accessed via the garden gate entrance; the route around the garden varies in level as it progresses. For those using a powered mobility vehicle a map is provided highlighting steep slopes and steps (un-advisable routes).
- There are routes which can avoid steep slopes, and these are marked on [the Access Map](#).
- Path material varies throughout the garden. Including tarmac and gravel from the stables to the house. Red shale/ granite chips (compacted material between 1 and 40mm in size). Grass paths in the Kitchen Garden and certain areas of the Menagerie and bark chip paths through the playground. Routes may be compromised by weather conditions. Please check before you visit if you wish to see a specific area.

- Paths in the Pleasure Ground and Menagerie have shallow and steep slopes in areas. The steeper paths at approximately a fall of 1:6 (16%).
- There are steps in the Pleasure Grounds, with handrails and steps in the Menagerie Garden without handrails.
- Throughout the garden there are several gates, they are located in the Rose Garden, Kitchen Garden, West Lawn and Menagerie.
- Fingerpost signage is used at the garden entrance. Other signage is provided on a 'pop up' basis using chalk boards or small A4 signs. Tactile models or audio tours are currently not available.
- Garden benches are provided throughout the garden.
- The gardens are dissected with water features in the shape of ponds, lakes, a fountain and a cascade.
- Wild fowl are present throughout much of the year.
- Garden machinery is in operation throughout the year.

## Parkland

- The Parkland consists of approximately 300 acres of mixed woodland, grazed meadow and lake and can be accessed at several points (main entrance, Wragby Lodge, Far Vista, West Hardwick Track and Foulby Caravan Park Entrance).
- The ground is undulating, with steeper slopes mainly within Obelisk Park and between the Boat House and Mansion.
- A map of the estate is available free online [here](#) with 4 suggested routes and approximate distances as well as an all-weather route.
- The routes paths are a mixture of materials- Tarmac (Car park to Boat House), fine compacted limestone (Boat House to Obelisk and Hardwick Beck picnic site), rough limestone metalled track (Bottom Lake to Caravan Park and Sheep Wash Field), wood chip (Bottom Lake and Joiners Wood) and grass (outer parkland walks in Obelisk and Far vista as well as any other woodland walks not mentioned above). The grass paths can become rutted and muddy during the winter and prolonged wet periods.
- There is a green graded cycle route to the left of Obelisk and a blue graded cycle route to the right of Obelisk, which has a limestone chip surface.
- Throughout the estate there are gates to negotiate, some of which are fitted with 2-way accessible latches (those along the all-weather route).
- Cattle graze the Vista and Sheep Wash between March and November. From mid-July to November they also intermittently graze Obelisk and Foulby Park as well as the Far Vista. Electric fencing is used for stock control where needed.
- Horse riders with permits use the Parkland.



- Water features within the Park are in the form of a lake, boat house pond and small cascade, beck and long-standing flooded areas within the Sheep Wash Field.
- Estate machinery is in operation throughout the year.

### **Contact details for more information**

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