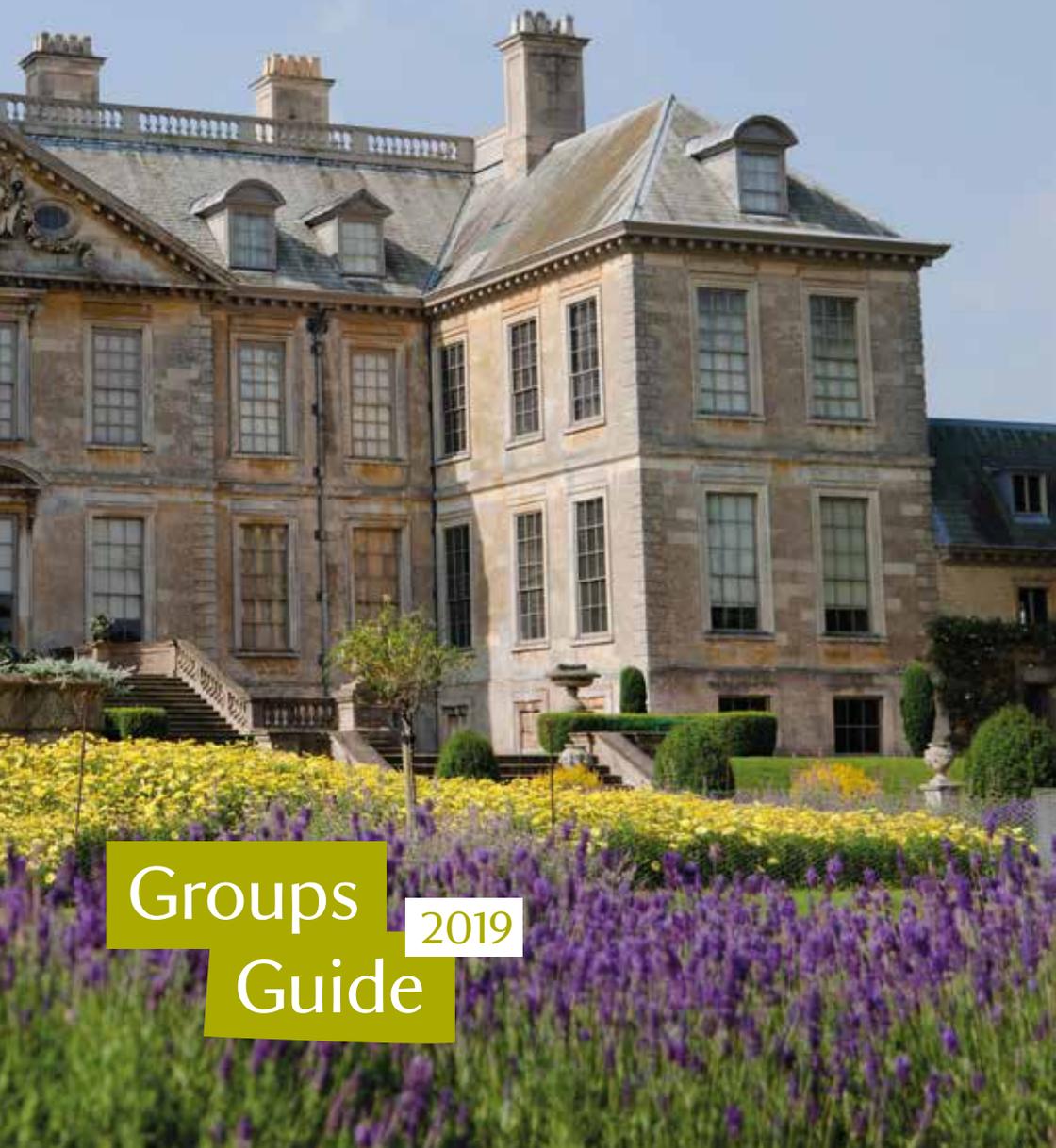


# Belton House



National  
Trust



Groups  
2019  
Guide

# Welcome

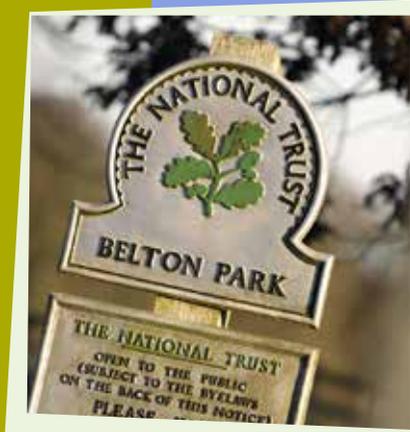
Thank you for your interest in visiting Belton House.

Sitting elegantly in the Lincolnshire countryside this seventeenth century Carolean mansion features a fine collection of porcelain, silver and a world renowned library.

There is much to see and do for visitors of all ages, and this pack is designed to give a glimpse of what Belton can offer your group, along with the practical information you need to plan your visit.

Our team at Belton are keen to help you make the most of your day, so please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

**Ian Cooper,**  
General Manager



When you visit Belton House, your support helps to look after this special place for ever, for everyone.

## Creating a Legacy 2019

### Creative Women

Developing last year's theme, Belton continues to share the stories of four creative women: Sophia Cust (1811-1882), Marian Alford (1817-1888), Florence Woolward (1854-1936) and Nina Cust (1867-1955).

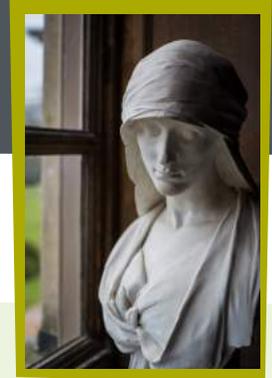
By focusing on the diverse breadth of their creativity, from watercolour and embroidery to botanical illustration and sculpture, we will show how their talent and intellect made a significant mark on the history of Belton.

Discover more about the lives of Belton's creative women through self-led trails and see their work on display in the mansion and gardens.

### What's on

There will be a number of opportunities to express and develop your own creative talents at a diverse range of events during the year, including Paint the Garden, Wild Art Weekend and Nettle Fest.

Belton will celebrate its creative women with flower displays in the mansion for two weeks in September. It will be a tribute to the talent and significance of the creative women of Belton.



### Curios and Curiosity

For one week only in April, our mansion conservation team will open doors into normally unseen rooms and unlock cabinets containing hidden treasures.

This rare opportunity to see some of Belton's oddities, eccentricities and rarities will take place during normal visiting hours from Wed. 3 - Sun. 7 April



## Visiting the Mansion

Built in 1685, Belton House is often described as a quintessential example of Restoration architecture. Albeit on a relatively modest scale, the design of Belton House, its rural setting and impeccable collections, mean that it's regularly referenced as the classic English country house.

Between 1660 and the 1680s, there was something of an English renaissance in the decorative arts, when the puritanism of Cromwellian rule came to an end, and Charles II was reinstated to the throne. The success of Restoration, or Carolean, architecture showed that opulence and splendour were back in fashion.

The work of leading designers, artists and craftsmen are much in evidence in Belton House; from Grinling Gibbons carvings and Edward Goudge plasterwork to one of the most important silver collections in the country and the second largest library cared for by the National Trust.



### Entry to the Mansion

To ensure a high quality experience for our visitors, we operate a timed entry system. So, if your group is planning to visit the house, you'll need to reserve 'entry keys' which can be picked up on the day of your visit.

Each member of your group will receive their own key to guarantee admission within a 15 minute time slot. That means that a 1pm entry key, for example, will give entry to the mansion between 1pm and 1.15pm.

Once inside the house, visitors are welcome to spend as long as they like exploring the interiors until we close at 5pm. To avoid large groups entering at once, we ask you to spread the entry times and we'll arrange this for you as part of the booking process.

### Below Stairs tour

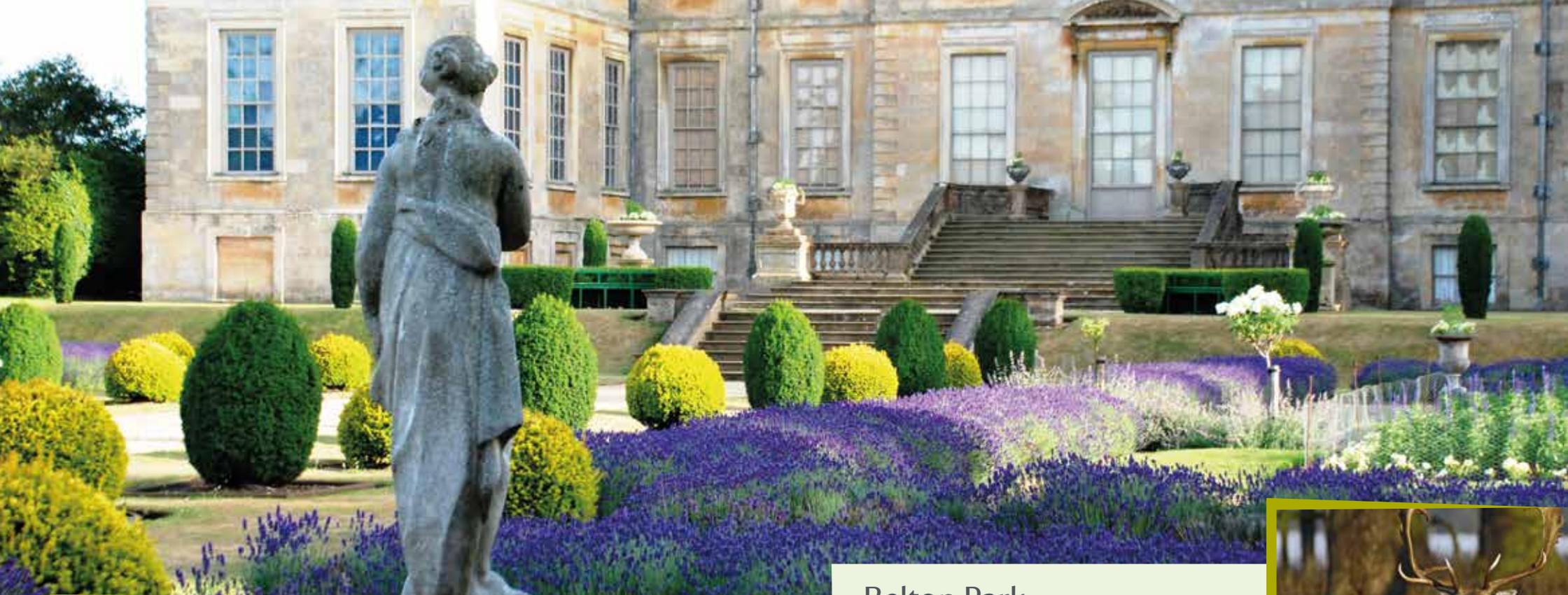
Guided below stairs tours give a fascinating insight into the lives of the servants who worked at Belton House and run from 11.00am, Monday to Sunday, throughout the year. Tours operate on a timed ticket system and can be picked up from the Information Point next to the Visitor Reception Building from 10.30am. The tour can take between 45 minutes to 1 hour. There is an additional charge to the house for any non-members holding a grounds only ticket. Please note this is a non-pre-bookable tour. *Maximum 15 people. Tickets are issued on a first come first serve basis.*

### Behind the door tour

It's possible to book an extended 'behind the scenes' tour which goes from the basement rooms to the attic floor of the house and gives real insight into the daily life of a hard working servant.

It's a fascinating tour which would suit a small group of no more than ten people and involves climbing quite a lot of stairs.

*£12 per person.  
Groups of 8 - 10 people.  
Advance booking only.*



## Visiting the gardens

From scented lavender beds in the summer and vibrant autumnal displays, to carpets of wildflowers in spring and swathes of snowdrops in winter, Belton's gardens offer inspiration to all who visit them.

### Introductory Garden Tour

Meet a member of the Belton gardening team as they welcome your group and provide a 30 minute introduction to Belton's formal gardens and pleasure grounds, taking in the season's highlights.

*£6 per person. Minimum 20 people. Advanced booking only.*

### Walking Tour with the Head Gardener

Enjoy an extended tour with the Head Gardener and hear how he cares for Belton's 37 acres of formal gardens and pleasure grounds. Pick up a few gardening tips along the way too. Hear about the latest garden restoration work and exciting new developments planned for the future. The tour will take in the Orangery, Italian and Dutch Gardens, and pleasure grounds.

*£10 per person. Minimum 15 people. Advanced booking only.*

## Belton Park

A herd of approximately 300 fallow deer roam freely across Belton's 1300 acre parkland. The herd was introduced to Belton in 1690 when royal consent was granted to enclose over 1000 acres of land. Today's deer are direct descendants of the wild herd first enclosed here.

Belton remains one of Britain's only deer parks where the deer are left to feed solely on the grassland and wildflowers. They provide the estate with quality award-winning venison.

The dramatic rutting season in autumn attracts the attention of many amateur photographers and wildlife enthusiasts.

As we see it today, the park is a designed 'naturalistic' landscape of tree-lined avenues, ponds and clusters of woodland which create pleasing views from and towards the house.

Groups are free to explore the park at leisure and can either download a free on-line walk or pre-order the Belton Park guide in advance of your visit. Park guides are also available to purchase on site.





## Eating at Belton

2019 is a year of change for Belton's restaurants.

Make the most of your last chance to enjoy the Pavilion café, as from summer the fully licenced Stables restaurant will reopen after a full year of restoration.

The new Stables Restaurant will offer an exclusive group seating area for lunches. Once open, this area will be bookable for groups of up to 50 people. A range of menu options will be available.

The Ride Play Café and Muddy Hands will be open as usual throughout the year.



### Morning coffee 9.30am-11am

Tea or Coffee served with homemade shortbread. £3.95

### Lunch 12-noon

Gluten free homemade soup served with a freshly baked roll, followed by a selection of cakes and tray bakes. £6.75

### Afternoon tea 3pm

A selection of sandwiches followed by a freshly baked scone with jam and clotted cream. Served with cakes and tea or filter coffee. £8.70

## Opening times

|                           |                 | M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Mansion</b>            |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2 Mar - 27 Oct            | 12.30pm - 5pm   | . | . | W | T | F | S | S |
| 28 Oct - 31 Dec           | CLOSED          | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| <b>Below Stairs Tours</b> |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2 Mar - 27 Oct            | 11am - 3pm      | M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
| 28 Oct - 31 Dec           | 11am - 2pm      | M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
| <b>Grounds</b>            |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2 Mar - 27 Oct            | 9.30am - 5.30pm | M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
| 28 Oct - 31 Dec           | 9.30am - 4.30pm | M | T | W | T | F | S | S |

Last entry to the House is 4pm, by timed entry ticket only. The House may close early in poor light. The whole property is closed 25 December. Grounds times apply to the gardens, parkland, outdoor adventure playground, shops and restaurant.

## 2019 Group Admission (min 15 people)

|                   | Adult non-members | Child non-members | National Trust Members |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| House and Grounds | £15.60            | £9.45             | FREE                   |
| Grounds only      | £10.80            | £7.40             | FREE                   |
| Winter grounds    | £8.00             | £6.00             | FREE                   |



## Literature

### Welcome Leaflet

Provided free on arrival  
The leaflet includes a site map and key information to help you enjoy your visit.

### Belton House Souvenir book

A beautifully illustrated souvenir guide explores the family members who shaped Belton House. It highlights the superb collections in the mansion and reveals the changing face of the park and gardens. £5

### Explore Belton Park

Get the most out of your walk around Belton's 300-acre park with this handy little guide. £2

# Making your booking

- Please contact us directly to discuss dates and details of your plans.
- A group discount applies to groups of 15 or more who book in advance. Prices shown include discount where it applies.
- Your visit and catering requirements must be pre-booked and confirmed in writing. Please request a booking form from the Estate Office at Belton House.
- Upon receipt, we'll send you a confirmation letter with all the details of your visit.

## Please note

- We can only accept three coach bookings per day
- We do not take bookings over Bank Holiday weekends (including Good Friday)
- We try to spread arrival and departure times through the day to prevent queues forming and enable us to give everyone our full attention.

## Payment

- The admission fee for all non-National Trust members must be paid either on or before arrival.
- We accept credit or debit cards and cash. However, we cannot take payment by American Express. We will only accept cheques for advance payments.
- If you are paying in advance by cheque, please make it payable to 'National Trust' and ensure it reaches us at least three weeks prior to your visit.
- Payment for any guided tours or catering must be paid in full at least three weeks in advance.



## Before you arrive

- Please ensure we have your final numbers and catering requirements two weeks before your visit.
- If your group is running late, please call us to let us know so we can make any necessary adjustments.
- When following a SatNav, we recommend you use postcode NG32 2LW.

## On arrival

- Please ask your driver to stop the coach by the entrance to the Stable Yard on the main drive.
- A member of our Welcome Team will come on board and take you round to our coach parking. They will give a welcome and short introduction to Belton House and site facilities.
- We will provide everyone with a map & welcome leaflet and admission sticker. Your party can alight at this point.
- The Group Leader will accompany our welcome representative and call at Visitor Reception to purchase all necessary tickets in one transaction.

## Access for all

- Please note that there are uneven surfaces and cobbled areas around Belton.
- Access to the mansion is via a flight of steps.
- We provide a stair climber for visitors in wheelchairs. We are sorry there is no access for motorised wheelchairs. Fire regulations prevent us from allowing more than one wheelchair user in the mansion at any one time if they require the stair climber.
- Access to the basement and upper floors of the house is by stairs only, and no alternative access is available. The route through the basement presents steps and uneven surfaces.
- For visitors unable to access the upper and lower floors of the Mansion, a digital guide of the first floor is available to view in the Marble Hall.
- A limited number of outdoor personal mobility scooters are available to book in advance and can be collected at the Visitor Reception building or the coach drop-off point by arrangement.
- Two manual wheelchairs are available on loan from Visitor Reception.
- A courtesy shuttle service operates between the house, stable yard and car park.
- There are 14 wheelchair accessible car parking bays located immediately beside Visitor Reception, but they cannot be reserved.
- For those with a visual impairment, we can offer close access to a lot of the collection, some of which can be handled.
- Belton's restaurants and shops are wheelchair accessible but require access over uneven cobbles.

The Belton team are happy to assist where required. Please contact us with your access requirements in advance of your visit.

For further information, please contact:  
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Lincolnshire, NG32 2LS

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E: [belton@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:belton@nationaltrust.org.uk)

W: [nationaltrust.org.uk/belton-house](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/belton-house)

