

Snowshill Manor and Garden Access Statement

Snowshill,
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<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/snowshill-manor-and-garden>

Please check our website for the latest Updates and Opening information

Points to note

- Please contact us, either in advance of your visit, or once on site, if you require further access information and our team will be more than happy to assist.
- We have laminated access maps available to borrow at reception, which show an overview of the site on one side and a detailed map showing the steps around the garden, on the reverse.
- You are not permitted to take back-packs, back child-carriers or large bags into the manor, so ideally leave these in your car. Pushchairs must be left outside the front door of the manor.
- Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the property.
- There is reasonable mobile phone reception across most of the site.
- We are a breast-feeding friendly site.
- We have three powered mobility vehicles available for free hire from reception. You will be given a short induction and asked to sign a user declaration form.
- There is one manual wheelchair available for free hire from reception and one at the manor.
- Light levels in the manor are kept low to maintain Mr Wade's theatrical atmosphere and to protect the collection.
- Some steps in the garden do not have handrails and paths and steps are uneven.
- The garden has two areas of open water, a small pool by the byre in Well Court, and a larger pool by Wolf's Cove model village, neither of which are fenced off.
- We allow picnics anywhere in the gardens, but the recommended spot is in the orchard at the bottom of the steps down from reception, which has lovely views over the valley.
- The café is open for hot & cold drinks, sandwiches, cakes, scones, ice cream and a limited range of hot food, with both indoor and outdoor seating available.
- Access maps are shown at the bottom of this document.

Sensory considerations

- All of our outdoor paths are either tarmac, gravel, paving stones or grass; we have no highly polished floors.
- We expect to be slightly quieter in the afternoons.
- We have no security checks, lifts, escalators, revolving doors, flashing lighting, background music or construction work on site.
- You may occasionally hear garden machinery (mowers, strimmers, hedge-cutters), but our work is usually done outside of visitor opening hours.
- Some paths in the garden are narrow, meaning you may have to pause to let other visitors pass.
- The hand soap in our toilets is fragranced, there are scented room diffusers in the toilets, the shop stocks scented products and there are fragrant plants in the gardens.
- There are numerous areas around the garden which should offer 'quiet spaces', particularly in the orchard at the bottom of the steps from the visitor entrance, in the old orchard near the manor and on the lawns below the Priest's House cottage.

Arrival & parking facilities

- There are brown signs from Broadway. The entrance is signed and the car park is down a short driveway.
- If the main carpark is full, there will be a 'full' sign on an A-board on the drive, instructing you to park in the overflow carpark. On particularly busy days, such as Bank Holidays, we have members of the team in the carpark to assist you.
- The main car park surface is gravelled with embedded space markers.
- Park in the carpark and walk to the visitor reception building, where the team will be ready to issue you with an admission ticket, provide you with any necessary information and give you directions.
- There are 6 designated spaces for disabled people, on a firm surface in the main car park, directly in front of the visitor reception building. If you have a temporary disability or require parking close to visitor reception and do not have a Blue Badge, please tell a member of the team.
- It is possible to arrange to drop off visitors at an alternative entrance to the manor & garden, by arrangement with the visitor welcome team.
- Cycle racks are available alongside the visitor reception building.
- Areas of the main car park are coned-off for motorhomes and coaches.
- There is an overflow car park accessed by a steep concrete slope on the left of the main drive, which acts as both an entrance and exit for cars and pedestrians. This carpark is grassed and the spaces are not marked. To access the property from the overflow carpark, walk back down the entrance slope or parallel steps and around the concrete perimeter path to the visitor reception building.
- This visitor reception building is next to the main car park. The entrance is up a short slope of approximately 1:8 gradient and less than 1000mm long. The single entrance door is non-power operated, approx 900mm wide, opens outwards to about 90 degrees. Our team can assist with opening the door if required.
- The surfacing in this area is mostly wood and tiles, with full length windows to provide natural light. LED lighting is used.

- The reception desk is over 1000mm high and there is a lower area, approx 750mm high, which the visitor welcome team can also use for admission enquiries. There is space for a 1500mm diameter turning circle in front of the reception desk, if needed.
- There is an induction loop at both till points.
- There is a small model train which runs on a high level track just below the ceiling. This operates on a timer, but can also be operated by a button accessible to visitors. The train does create a rumbling sound as it circles the track.
- This building can feel quite small and loud if you suffer from sensory overload.

Toilets

- There are toilets immediately next to the visitor reception building, including a right-hand transfer accessible toilet with space to turn a wheelchair through 1500mm diameter circle. There are no adult changing facilities, but there is a dedicated baby changing room, which includes a nursing chair. There are hand-dryers available in all toilets. The toilets have tiled floors, painted walls and feature lighting.
- There is a right-hand transfer accessible toilet to the right of the ice cream parlour at the café.
- There is a small toilet block in the garden, with a baby changing table in the ladies, but no accessible toilet.

Route to the manor & garden from visitor reception

- There is an approximately 1:8 gradient slope from visitor reception down to join the main path to the garden. There is a flight of steps as an alternative, with 25 steps broken into three sets of 10, 7 and 8 steps each. There is a metal handrail on both sides of the steps.
- The path from visitor reception to the garden is approximately 500 yards long and takes around 10 minutes to walk at a moderate pace. The route is an undulating tarmac path, incorporating several 1:8 gradient slopes. There are benches positioned regularly along the route.
- The route is lined with trees which can create a 'dappled' effect on the path if the sun is out, and there is a level wooden bridge to cross over a stream about halfway along the route. The stream is not fenced off and so please watch children in this area.
- The bridge is fitted with grip strips, which does make it bumpy if crossing in a wheelchair, mobility scooter or pushchair.
- The path is shared by all visitors to the manor & garden, so you may encounter visitors using mobility scooters or the shuttle buggy.

Manor



Paved path leading to the manor



Ramp to manor front door

- The pathway in front of the manor is only used by pedestrians and is paved.
- The entrance to the manor is up 3 steps, each approximately 150mm high. There is a temporary portable ramp that can be requested from the front door of the manor. The team will set up the ramp, but you must be able to ascend and descend without assistance from the team. The access ramp is a pair of telescopic parallel track ramps, which need to be aligned with the wheels of your chair. Once set up, the gradient of the ramps is 1:8, which can feel quite steep on both entrance and exit, for both the wheelchair user and wheelchair pusher.
- There is no alternative level entrance.
- Powered mobility vehicles and pushchairs cannot be accommodated in the manor due to the entrance steps and narrow corridors and turning circles.
- You are not permitted to take back-packs, back child-carriers or large bags into the manor, these must be returned to your car. Pushchairs must be left outside the front door of the manor.
- Please see the map below for further information about access inside the manor. Once inside the manor, wheelchair users can access three rooms on the ground floor without encountering further steps (these rooms are Turquoise, Meridian & Zenith) and then must return to exit through the entrance door. The remaining three rooms on the ground floor (Admiral, Dragon & Nadir) are all accessed via a single stone step, which do not have ramps.
- The first and second floor of the manor are unfortunately inaccessible to wheelchair users, as they are accessed via several flights of stairs.
- There is a virtual tour incorporating photos and text on a small tablet computer, which can be requested from any of the team.
- There is a Braille guide available from the manor front door.
- BSL guided tours can be arranged with a minimum of 3 weeks' notice.
- The floor surfaces are mostly wooden or flagstones, with some loose rugs.
- The rooms all contain a lot of artefacts, which dampen sound.

- The lighting is LED and kept to a low level to maintain the atmosphere and to protect the collection. There are no labels on the furniture and objects in the manor, in line with the request of the historic owner of the house and collection.
- Seating is available if required, please ask the team for assistance. There is usually someone in each room.
- If you require use of a quiet space, please indicate this to a member of our team who will be able to find a suitable area for you.
- Handling items are available in some rooms throughout the manor.

Priest's House

- The entrance to the Priest's House is directly opposite the exit from the manor. There is one ground floor room with level entrance and a small viewing point for two people. There is a small set of 2 steps up for children to use to see over the barrier.
- There is a set of 10 steep stone steps with metal handrails on each side to get to the two first floor rooms. There is a lobby area with a window and the area is lit with standard lightbulbs. This bathroom is up one more stone step, and the bedroom opposite has two more steps up into the viewing area.

Garden

- During periods of particularly wet weather, parts of the garden may be roped off to protect the grass.
- The garden is set on a hillside and is designed as a series of 'outdoor rooms', each enclosed by hedging or low walls and separated by stone steps, most of which are steep and only some of which have handrails.
- Path surfaces throughout the garden vary between gravel, flagstones, cobbles and grass. There are many areas which are very uneven and care should be taken throughout.
- Most of the garden can only be accessed via steps and wheelchair accessibility is therefore very limited. There are lawns above the main orchard, giving lovely views over the orchard and valley beyond, which are wheelchair accessible.
- There are benches throughout the garden.
- There is a 'haha' at the far end of the garden from the entry point, and there are two areas of unfenced water towards the centre of the garden.
- There are two buildings, Sancta Maria Byre and Lower Byre which have uneven cobbled floors.
- The garden also contains a dovecote and so there are often a large number of doves around the lawns.
- Please see the access map of the garden below, for more information.



Area of open water in front of Wolf's Cove model village



Area of open water in Well Court



The ha-ha near Elder Court



Terraced garden showing flights of steps

Café

- The café has a paved path to the entrance and level access throughout.
- The entrance doorway is over 1000mm. The doors are usually open and are non-power assisted. The doors open outwards. Our team can assist if required.
- You enter via the double doors, past the menu boards and refrigerated self-service drinks and cold food fridge, to the till counter. Here you order any hot drinks or food, pay and then move across to await your food & drink. You then either find a table indoors within the café or exit via the double doors to find a table on the café terrace.
- There are induction loops at both till points in the main café and at the till point in the ice cream parlour.
- The counter is 900mm high. The team are available to assist with service and carrying trays.
- The tables can accommodate wheelchair users and the width between the tables is approximately 1000mm.
- The floor is a dark wood effect surface, the walls are painted dark turquoise and beige, with flashes of rusty red. There are recessed ceiling spot lights and wall-mounted feature lights.
- There are large umbrellas over some of the outdoor seating, to provide protection from sun and rain.
- There is large-handled cutlery and plastic or paper straws available on request.

- Allergen information is available on request and on pre-packaged foods.
- Calorie information is displayed on all food or menu boards.

Shop

- The entrance is level, the floor is wood effect and the lighting is fluorescent.
- The doorway is over 1000mm in width.
- The counter is over 800mm high but the team are able to assist with service here and with lifting and carrying goods if required.
- There is an induction loop at the till point.
- There is circulation space between the tables of around 1200mm and some of the goods on the central tables are reachable by wheelchair users and children. There is space here to use a powered mobility vehicle.

Second-hand bookshop

- This is a small building at the end of the paved entrance path to the Manor. There is a small wedge ramp up the one step to reach the entrance, which is approximately 800mm wide. It has stone floors and brick walls with bookshelves along them. The bookshop is unmanned and customers are requested to pay for their books at visitor reception or the shop on their way out.

Play areas

- Part of the way down the path to the manor & garden, there is a natural play area for children. The route runs underneath trees, to a den building area, with carved wooden logs and a small wooden puppet theatre stage, which has a wheelchair accessible ramp to access the stage area, with a non-slip flooring.
- This area is regularly checked by our team, but it is a wild, natural play area, so there may be uneven areas of ground, caused by vegetation or stones. We also do our best to keep the area clear of stinging nettles and brambles, but there may still be some present, so please supervise your children.
- This area is used by wildlife and so we recommend that all users wash their hands immediately after use.
- Near the café terrace there are some wooden farm animals and a wooden tractor for children to climb on.
- Please supervise your children whilst playing on the equipment.

Resources

- We have two sets of noise cancelling headphones available for hire. One pair is at Visitor Reception and one pair is at the Manor. Ask a member of staff or volunteer in either of these locations to borrow a pair.
- At the Manor entrance we have two Manor Explorer Bags available for use. These contain a mixture of sensory items and interactive items such as a fidget spinner, house trail, puppet, binoculars, and a magnifying glass. Ask at the manor entrance to hire on the day or email to reserve.

Plan your visit in photos:





Mobility vehicle hire



Exiting visitor reception



Start of the Manor and café path



Path to the Manor part 1



Path to the Manor part 2



Path to the Manor part 3



Path to the Manor part 4



Path to the Manor part 5



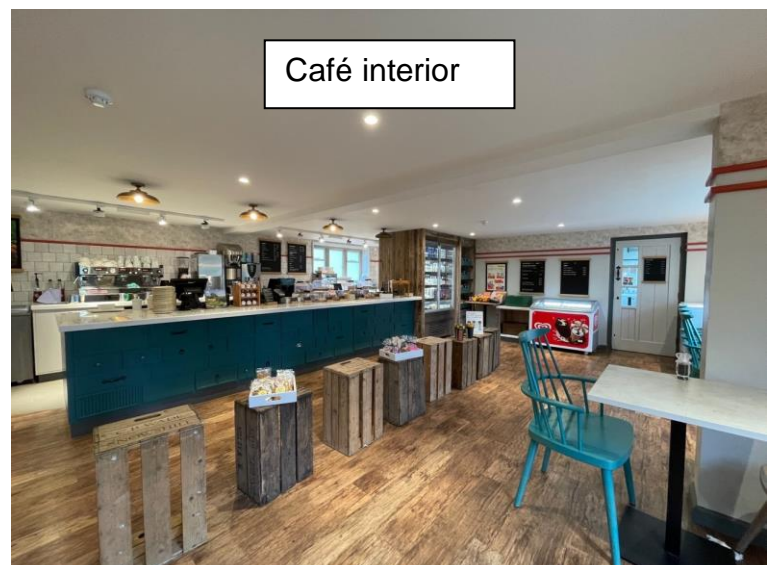
Exit from the garden.



Café approach



Café entrance



Café interior

Please check our website for the most up-to-date information.

Date updated

13/06/2023