

Crook Hall Gardens Access Statement

Crook Hall Gardens

Frankland Lane

Sidegate

Durham

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Introduction

A stone's throw from Durham's World Heritage Site, Grade 1 listed Crook Hall is considered one of the city's most significant medieval domestic buildings.

The oldest part of Crook Hall we see today was built by Peter del Croke in the first half of the 14th century. It is likely to have replaced an earlier building.

Intriguing paths lead you to blooming borders, secluded walled gardens, an orchard and a tranquil moat pool. Sheltered spots tempt you to sit a while and soak up your surroundings. The gardens are a haven for wildlife, alive with bees and butterflies collecting nectar from flowers, ducks and moorhens on the pond and songbirds in the trees. Views of Durham Cathedral are a reminder that this green oasis is close to the heart of the city.

The gardens complement each other, while differing in age and personality. Formal areas with neat lines and topiary hedges border traditional English cottage gardens, boasting a colourful medley of roses, wisteria, perennials, trees and shrubs.

The serene moat pool is planted with water lilies, hosta and iris. The gentle sound of running water and views towards fields and woodlands beyond the gardens enhance its peaceful appeal.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

You'll find our pay and display car park off Frankland Lane, Sidegate, Durham DH1 5SZ. NB there is another pay and display car park next door, not National Trust - follow the sign for Crook Hall Gardens and turn into the entrance next to our café building.

Parking is free for National Trust members, please scan your membership card.

Charges apply for all other visitors and maximum stay is 3 hours.

There are designated Blue Badge spaces available. The car park is open 10am - 6pm. It is locked at closing time.

To find our admissions point, head towards the café and through the gate to your left.



Crook Hall car park and admissions



Facilities

An accessible toilet with baby changing area can be found in the café, which is immediately opposite the admissions area. There is another toilet (not accessible) close to the medieval hall, approximately 50 metres from the admissions area.

The Garden Gate Café is open 10am - 5pm to dine in or takeaway and serves hot and cold drinks, light bites and cakes. There's no need to pay admission to the gardens if you're only visiting the café, so you can drop in to enjoy a tasty treat anytime.

Seating is available in the café and on the patio outside. 1 in 4 chairs have arms.

Entering the Gardens

The path from admissions leads up to the garden via a set of steps. Parts of the gardens can be accessed in a wheelchair. There is level access from the car park and from there access to the main garden area is via an incline.



Steps from Admissions to the gardens

From the steps a path leads up a slight incline with uneven surface and taking in the maze entrance on your right. The maze is narrow and is surfaced with bark chip throughout.



Incline path leading to brick path – both uneven surfaces



Maze entrance

From the top of the incline paths lead to different parts of the garden. To the left the walled garden leads along narrow gravelled paths to the front of the house. There are a number of seats and benches to rest and take in the splendour of the garden.



Entrance to the walled garden.

The gravelled paths lead to small lawned areas which also offer level access.



Lawned areas within the walled gardens.

Heading back to the top of the incline, the Cathedral garden gate leads through a number of distinct areas. The first, the Cathedral garden is a lawned area with small steps on both exits. From here you can see Durham Cathedral hence the garden's name.

The path leads from the Cathedral garden to the Shakespeare garden via a set of steps.



Steps between Cathedral and Shakespeare gardens.

Once in the Shakespeare garden there is a bench. The paths are narrow and brick lined but are fairly level and make for easy access.



Seating in the Shakespeare garden.

The next garden is the Orchard garden, Grassed with stone paving stepping stones. This is an easy walking area through the apple trees. The stones can be used if the grass is wet. There are small set of steps leading out to the pond area but these can be avoided by going straight on to the Silver and White garden, which again offers a lawned area with stepping stones. The exit from here is up a slight incline and leads to the pond area.



The orchard garden.

The pond area has a more undulating surface with some grassy slopes and wooden steps. There are two bridges and a number of seats to rest. Paths lead off from here to the grassed playing area where you can enjoy summer sports. This is down a stepped path. A path continues in a loop across the field and into the hay meadow allowing for a relatively steep circular walk before returning back to the pond area.



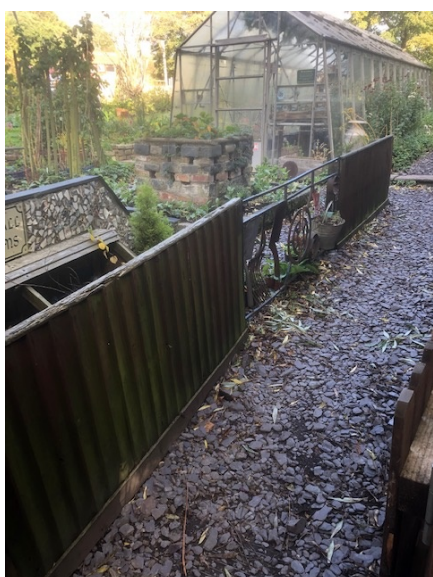
Pond garden bridge



Pond

This area also offers a sheltered area for children to play in.

Access can be gained into the vegetable garden and the greenhouse from this area but there is a step. A more accessible route can be found a little further on. The path is flat but covered with loose slate gravel.



Passing the NT offices, steps lead down to the courtyard and down to the Old Medieval Hall. The latter can be accessed by a sloping path then a step down to a gravelled surface leading back to a stone surface at the entrance to the hall.



Access to the Medieval Hall.

The quirky undulating brick paths lead to a lawned area and the woodland canopy which offers plenty of seating undercover.



Woodland canopy



Further information about the property is available on our main website.

[Crook Hall Gardens | National Trust](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/crook-hall-gardens)

Contact details for more information

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Date 5th March 2024