

## Rowallane Garden – Access Statement

**Property address** - Crossgar Rd, Saintfield, Ballynahinch BT24 7LH

**T:** 02897510131

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

### Introduction

Rowallane Garden is situated in Saintfield. The property is accessible via the Crossgar Road. The walking routes are mainly gravel and grass paths with undulating terrain. The lower garden is partly accessible to those with restricted mobility. There are several steep inclines, particularly in, and around the Rock Garden Wood.

There is a short distance between the Visitor Welcome to the Visitor Centre. Visitors with mobility issues may be dropped off at the side of the Welcome Centre before parking in the main car park.

Mobile phone reception is usually of a good standard.

Please call us on 02897510131 if you encounter any problems whilst on the property.

Assistance dog are welcome. Please find our property dogs policy by following the link below.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/rowallane-garden/features/wonderful-walkies-at-rowallane-garden>

### Arrival and Parking Facilities

The site can be found via the Crossgar Road. There is brown National Trust signage at the entrance and in Saintfield Village centre there is general signage indicating the property.

Arriving by car

- *From Belfast via M1 and Saintfield Road.*
- *From Downpatrick via A7 and Crossgar Road.*

Arriving by bus

- From Great Victoria Street 15, 15a services

Timetable information can be found here <https://www.translink.co.uk/>

On foot, the property is 1/3 of a mile from Saintfield Village Centre.

Given the nature of the Garden, cycling is not permitted in the grounds. We do however welcome visitors arriving on Bicycle.

Cycle information can be found here <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/national-cycle-network/>

The car park has 120 parking spaces including 10 disabled parking spaces.

Roads leading to, and throughout the car park are tarmac. The parking spaces are gravel.

There is a grass overflow carpark put in place to manage heavy visitor flow, particularly on busy days. On busy days, the car park is controlled by staff.

Grit and sand are laid down during icy conditions to help prevent slips and trips.

## WCs

There is signage for the toilets in both our Visitor Centre and the Stable Yard. They are also marked on our maps.

There are two access toilets on the site. One in the Visitor Centre, 179 x 221 cm with a 90cm wide outward opening door and one in the Stable Yard, 295 x 155cm with an outward opening door. The access toilets are right hand transfer with a fold down support on the left side in both areas.

There are baby changing facilities on site in both areas, however, there is no adult changing facilities in either toilet block.

All WCs on site are fitted with accessible automatic hand dryers.



## Welcome Hut

The Visitor Welcome is a wooden hut in the car park. There is no carpet in the interior.

The entrance is on a level surface. The hut is accessible by wheelchair users and prams however staff often come out to greet visitors rather than entering the hut.

The entrance door is 122cm wide.

The entrance doors open outwards. They usually kept open and latched back to avoid them blowing closed.

There is no desk between visitors and staff, however there is a table used for the till which is 74cm high. There is also another table used for membership recruitment. This table is 74cm high.

The area has lots of natural light and artificial LED lighting.

There are wooden chairs for visitors at the membership table.

There is one manual wheelchair available for use. Visitors can request this subject to availability.

Powered Mobility Vehicles (PMVs) are also available upon request.

Visitors have access to a Braille map and Large Text format maps.







## Visitor Centre

There is an inclined walk from the Visitor Welcome to the Visitor Centre. Visitors may follow the Avenue from the car park. After a small bridge with a gravel path, the route is tarmac with grass lawns on either side.





There is an alternate route to the Visitor Centre from the Welcome area. This is a tarmac road used for deliveries and emergency services. Visitors with mobility issues may be dropped off at the side of the Visitor Centre before parking in the main car park.



There are four, level, public access points to the building. The main door at the front of the building and two doors via the Tea Garden at the back.

The outer main door is 102cm wide and always open during business hours. The inner double door is 170cm wide and power operated. These doors open inwards.



The back door located in the foyer is power operated and 80cm wide. The two back doors in the café area open outwards and measure 95cm wide. These doors open outwards.

In each area there is enough space to turn a wheelchair. No corridor is less than 100cm wide.

There are wooden floors throughout the building. No areas are without soft furnishing and there are no echoes.



### Catering and Retail

The café is located in the Visitor Welcome Centre. From the main entrance it is located on the left side of the building. There is A Frame signage outside the building and floor markings within the foyer.

Information concerning door widths on the exterior doors can be found above in the 'Visitor Welcome Centre' section.

The inner door leading into the café is 95cm wide.



The counter height is 94cm. There is a lowered counter level of 70cm to assist wheelchair users. Staff will also assist visitors as required.

There is circulation space between tables ranging from 95cm to 155cm. There is enough space to turn a wheelchair.

Menu boards are written in large print.

Staff will assist visitors as necessary.



The second-hand bookshop located in the Rowallane House is open to the public during business hours. It is located on the right hand side of the main doors, there are no doors to enter this space. It is well lit with wooden floor. There is enough circulation space to turn a wheelchair inside.

## **Garden & Stable Yard**

There is a map of Rowallane Garden below. Key areas including toilets, car parking, main paths and water features are labelled.

The walking routes are mainly gravel and grass paths with undulating terrain. The lower garden is partly accessible to those with restricted mobility. There are several steep inclines, particularly in, and around the Rock Garden Wood.





The Pleasure Ground offers more accessible routes to those with restricted mobility. Staff will provide guidance to visitors as required.

There are gates within the garden, however they are open during business hours.



There is seasonal interpretation throughout the garden. Fact sheets and children's activities can be found in the Visitor Centre. In the garden wooden stumps with text and slate signage provide context to trails and activities. These are non-permanent. There is also Plant Identifications throughout the garden.

Throughout the garden there are benches for rest.





The Stable Yard is mainly pathed with gravel. The centre of the yard is elevated concrete.

The barn is often open to the public, the doors are 250cm wide. The doors open outwards. There is enough room to turn a wheelchair inside.

The Pottery located outside the Stable

Yard has enough space to turn a wheelchair. The main door is 295cm wide. The door opens outwards. Inside there are steps down into a secondary room. For visitors with mobility issues there is a second entrance to this room, this door is 85cm wide.

In the interest of safety, children should be supervised at all times. There are water features within the garden. These can be seen on the map below.

## Contact Details for more information

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Date: 20 December 2019



# Welcome to Rowallane Garden

## Key

- 1 Visitor Centre
- 2 Pleasure Ground
- 3 The Bandstand
- 4 Walled Garden
- 5 Outer Walled Garden
- 6 The Haggard
- 7 Woodland Walk
- 8 Trio Hill
- 9 Rock Garden Wood
- 10 Old Wood
- 11 The Hospital
- 12 Spring Ground
- 13 The Paddock
- 14 Avenue Ground
- 15 Car Park
- 16 Dog exercise area
- 17 Toilets
- 18 Path
- 19 Proposed Path



Look out for the growing number of pathways. Some are on grass surfaces and they may be muddy at certain times of the year.



Four legged friends on short leads are always welcome at Rowallane. They can be let off lead in the dog exercise area.



In the interest of safety we request that children are supervised at all times as there are water features within the garden.

For further information see overleaf

