

West Wycombe Park Access Statement

West Wycombe Park, the elegant Palladian home of the Dashwood family, is one of the most theatrical and Italianate of all English country houses. Set in 45 acres of landscaped park, it is frequently featured in screen adaptations of literary classics such as Cranford and Little Dorrit, and in the television series Downton Abbey.

Contact details

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Points to note

- The Park is partially accessible to wheelchairs, but please be aware there are greenways, slopes, steps and various areas of water, including a lake, plus a cascade and bridges to cross.
- There are 2 manual wheelchairs available for loan one in the Visitor Reception kiosk and one at the House entrance.
- Please speak with our welcome staff at the Visitor Reception kiosk about your requirements.
- Mobile phone reception across most of the site is poor.
- Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the property. A water bowl is available at reception which can be filled on request.
- An Induction Loop is available in Visitor Reception Kiosk and there is a portable hearing enhancement system available for guided tours of the house

Arrival, Departure & Parking Facilities

- There are brown NT signs from either end of the entrance road (A40) to West Wycombe village. The Park entrance is signed from the A40 and the main car park is down a short driveway, to the right of the main drive.
- The main car park surface is gravelled with 3 spaces signed as reserved disabled parking.
- The route from the main car park to the Visitor Reception Kiosk is back from car park, taking a path off the main driveway through a small wooded area. This route to the Visitor Reception Kiosk is level.
- There is an overflow car park to the right of the entrance drive with 2 spaces signed as reserved disabled parking. This is a reasonably flat area apart from the entrance slope and has a grass surface.
- Disabled visitors are verbally offered the option to drive to the House. The drive to the House has a 67mm. 'sleeping policeman'. Parking space is on the left-hand side of gravelled driveway next to front of House.
- The overflow car is past the visitor welcome kiosk in a paddock with no blue badge spaces.

WCs

- Portable disabled toilet with ramp is provided during open season in the main car park; including a right-hand transfer accessible WC with space to turn a wheelchair through 1500mm diameter circle. There are no adult changing facilities but baby changing facilities are available here. All the WCs have paper towels provided and fluorescent lighting.
- There are more WCs by the House. These are not however accessible WCs as they can only be reached down 5 steps.

Visitor Reception Kiosk

- This wooden building is right next to the main drive, close to the main entrance. The Welcome team can assist with admission, access and membership enquiries. An induction loop is available and there are 2 seats, if required. A wheelchair can be provided upon request.

Route to the House

- The driveway is used by both pedestrians and site vehicles. There is no set pedestrian walkway, but there are 67mm speed humps and gullies to keep vehicles travelling at a slow pace. The driveway is very steep initially but does flatten out nearer to the house. The top of the driveway is surfaced with loose gravel, which runs around the south side of the house where the driveway ends. The rest of the visitor route to the front of the house is grass which is relatively flat but may be uneven in places.
- The broad walk path is from the Visitor Reception Kiosk to the House and is approximately 500 meters long and takes around 10 minutes to walk at a moderate pace. The path starts on level grass, until grass/stone slopes (approximately 1:11 gradient) must be used to cross a waterway at the first bridge on the right of the Broad Walk. The route continues across parkland up a slope towards the House, becomes increasingly steep (approximately 1:7), just before the pathway in front of the House is reached.

House

- The entrance to the South Portico is up to small steps. A wooden ramp is always in place to allow access, the gradient is approximately 1:14. There are no rails on this ramp.
- The entrance to the manor is up one small step. A wooden ramp is always in place to allow access. There are no rails on this ramp.
- The entrance doorway is wide enough for a standard wheelchair.
- The exit is down seven large steps via the Music Room, for which there is no ramp due to the angle of incline. An alternative exit is in place. Please notify a volunteer or member of staff and they can direct you along the alternative route back to the main entrance and down the access ramps.
- Display barriers are in place in most of the rooms (except the main hallway, dining room and Music Room), where possible these have been set to accommodate standard sized mobility wheelchairs and pushchairs.

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- Flagstone stone flooring is present throughout the main hallway (the first room on the route) and hard wood flooring is present throughout the Music Room (the last room on the route). Most other rooms have fitted carpets or large rugs in place, which minimises echoes. There are also druggets overlaying many of the floors, except the hallway and Music Room.
- A mixture of open shutters and electric lighting is used within the mansion (LED and Halogen). The lighting is generally kept to a low level to help protect the collection. The Tapestry Room has the lowest levels of light due to the sensitive nature of the wall hangings on display.
- Seating is provided in most rooms; this seating does not have arm rests except the benches and chairs located on the South Colonnade.
- Rucksacks and large bags are required to be left in the entrance area which is always monitored.
- In all instances a volunteer should be present in a room or with a tour group. Please ask the room guides or tour guides for assistance if required.
- Powered wheelchairs can be accommodated in the House, but due to the size of some rooms four wheeled powered mobility vehicles cannot be accommodated due to the narrow turning circles and door circles in the mansion.
- Ground floor offer only



South Colonnade entrance to the House

Park

- The 45 acre Park is set on a hillside with various water features and temples. There are informal grass pathways which cross slopes, undulating ground, and past cascades to visit all these features. The Temple of the Winds is on a hill containing steep slopes (approximately 1:6 gradients) and up a staircase which has no handrail. Nearby is a Ha-Ha which has a steep drop, but the Temple can be viewed by walking along a gently sloped (approximately 1:20 gradient) avenue between trees.
- There is a gently sloped (approximately 1:14 gradient) circular path around the lake, approximately 1 mile in length, and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. There are 3 benches along the circular path. In addition, there is a further bench in the Water Garden.
- To complete the circular path around the lake the cascade bridge has to be crossed which has no handrails (see picture below).
- All Park path surfaces vary between gravel and grass. Grass sections can be muddy after heavy rain, so ask at Visitor Reception Kiosk for the latest conditions on the paths. Please also see the current West Wycombe Park Welcome Leaflet for a map of the park and further information.



The lake



Cascade along circular walk

Date February 2022