

Uppark House & Garden Access Statement

Uppark House & Garden, South Harting, West Sussex, GU31 5QR

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Introduction

1. Uppark House & Garden are situated on a high elevation of the South Downs. Whilst much of the walking route of the gardens are accessible, there are some elevations that are steeper than others. Our Woodland Walk features very steep steps and our Meadow Walk is also quite steep and features very uneven ground. Our Mansion has a ramp into the main entrance, with all Ground Floor rooms accessible. The basement and Print Room, which is only open on special occasions, is only accessible by stairs. There is ample designated parking plus the option of a collection/drop off point outside the mansion.
2. The exit from our site can be quite difficult to navigate with a national speed limit road and blind bends. There can be varying levels of head movement required in order to safely navigate an exit.
3. Mobile reception on the site can be quite disparate depending on your network.
4. Assistance dogs are allowed throughout the site.
5. Due to the conservation requirement of our collection, the light levels in some rooms may be quite low. Most of our guides are available with a torch if aid is required. Some areas of paving can be quite loose and slippery due to the nature of their design, in particular near to the Scented Garden and Bakery.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. Uppark House & Garden is about 4 miles from the A3, a major route into London or to Portsmouth and only 20 minutes from Chichester. Brown signs can be found from both directions. There is a steep hill upon approach to Uppark.
2. There are 6 designated spaces available in the car park. The designated parking is a maximum of 250 metres from the Visitor Reception Building. There are also 2 more designated spaces directly outside the mansion if required.
3. The surface of the car park is gravel, with some areas being loose gravel and other areas more compacted.
4. Whilst we do not have a transfer vehicle available on site, we allow visitors to drop visitors off at the mansion, or if required, accessible parking can be arranged directly outside the mansion.
5. If our car park gets full, we do have a small overflow car park which is on an incline with a grass surface. The distance from this car park to the visitor reception is around 350 metres.
6. There is a small ramp leading into the Visitor Reception building.

WCs

1. We have two accessible toilets available on site, one in the bookshop and the other in the basement of the mansion.
2. The bookshop toilet is 1.58m x 2.2m. The mansion toilet is 2m x 2.2m.

3. The bookshop toilet has hand transfers on both sides, with the left hand transfer rail attached to the wall and a pull-down transfer for right-hand use. The Mansion toilet has hand transfers on both sides, with the right hand transfer rail attached to the wall and a pull-down transfer for left-hand use
4. Unfortunately, we do not have a Changing Places facility on our site.
5. The bookshop toilet has no natural light but is lit instead with 2 ceiling LED bulbs. The mansion toilet has a single LED bulb.
6. Both accessible toilets have paper hand towel dispensers only, no automatic hand driers.

Visitor Reception

1. The building is a timber framed building with laminate flooring. There are carpet coverings near the doors and some soft furnishings to absorb sound echoes.
2. The entrance and exit is via slopes, the slopes have a maximum gradient of 5 degrees.
3. The entrance door can be opened to a maximum width of 1500mm. The doors open outwards and are manual. Staff/volunteers are available to assist if required.
4. The desk available at Visitor Reception is 920mm high. Staff/Volunteers are able to come round from the desk if required and clipboards are available if there is a need for someone to use to write on.
5. The building has several LED ceiling tube lighting and natural light.
6. There is some seating available, 2 bar stools and 1 chair with arm rests.
7. An induction loop is available.
8. There are 4 manual wheelchairs available for visitor use. We would recommend booking this prior to visit to avoid disappointment.



Images: Entrance and exit ramps into and out of the Visitor Reception building

House

1. The Mansion is a 500 metre walk from the car park.
2. The paths surrounding the house vary but are mostly gravel and paving on entry and exit.
3. Entry to the house is via a portico, there are 2 shallow steps up or alternatively a ramp is permanently installed for use.



Image: Ramp up to House Entrance

4. The entrance door is manual opening, it measures 1340mm wide and opens inwards. Staff/volunteers are available to assist if required.
5. The main entrance has a stone floor, and the Staircase Hall has a wooden floor – both have no soft furnishings so the hard surfaces may cause sounds/echoes. The basement corridor floors are made from flagstone so may also cause echoes.
6. The main entrance area is lit with natural light from high windows, as is the Staircase Hall. The showrooms have less lights as most are reflective of historical lighting (mostly lamp lit, some chandelier lighting). We open the shutters and blinds and therefore there is also natural light, however we must ensure that the light levels are not too high to damage the collections.
7. The house covers 2 floors. There are stairs with a handrail. There is currently no lift operational in the mansion.
8. We have one doorway at the beginning of the visitor route (into the Flower Room) which measures 730mm. However, alternative routes are available if necessary.
9. Some rooms are quite small, and many have a visitor route with relatively narrow walkways through each room. There are, however, numerous places throughout the journey for easy turning.
10. Each of our rooms have chairs available for use. They do not always have armrests.
11. We try to have volunteers in each room but this cannot always be possible.
12. There are two WCs in the house. One on the ground floor and one in the Basement which is an accessible toilet. The Ground floor WC is not accessible as the doorway only measures 630mm.

13. Guided tours are sometimes available, please check our website for further information. If special access and tours are required, please get in touch with the property before arrival and we will try our best to accommodate. We can also arrange a BSL tour with enough notice. We have a portable induction loop in the mansion.
14. A Braille guide is available upon request from our Visitor Reception.
15. We have a maximum number of 5 wheelchairs in the Basement at any one time due to fire evacuation procedures.
16. There are a few chairs available in the North Corridor (main entrance corridor), there are also benches on the Portico where visitors can sit and wait for their group. When the courtyard in the Basement is open there are also benches for visitors to sit.
17. The Print Room is only open occasionally and will be advertised on our website, it is accessible only via a large staircase with handrail on the left hand side and a further staircase with no handrail.

Catering

1. The café is a 500 metre walk from the car park.
2. The level access path that leads to the café is via tarmac and grass.
3. There are 3 entry points to the café. 1 is via the tunnels and up a set of 19 steps with handrail on both sides; another is via the bookshop and up 1 step with handrail – a ramp is available to use if required. The level access is to the rear of the café via tarmac and grass. There is a very slight ramp up to the door.
4. The level access doorway is manual and opens outwards. The door is 1040mm wide. Staff are available to assist if required.
5. Tunnel Entrance: this is via the tunnels and is accessible by 19 upwards steps with handrails on both sides. The steps are made of stone and can be slippery when wet. The door opens into the café and can be opened to a maximum width of 1470mm. Bookshop Entrance: this is accessed via the bookshop. There is 1 step into the entrance with a handrail for assistance. The bookshop floor is flagstone. The door can be opened to a maximum width of 1420mm.
6. The café is a long, narrow and tall building with no soft furnishings or carpets. It can be quite a noisy room when busy.
7. Whilst there are plenty of windows to create natural light, the building can become quite dark on poor weather days. There are 18 small LED Energy Efficient light bulbs.
8. The counter height is 840mm.
9. Staff will assist visitors as required, visitors can be seated if they experience difficulty queuing and staff will then assist them.
10. The café is a long and narrow building, therefore it has not been possible to ensure decent circulation spaces around all of our tables. A large number, however, do have a 1200mm circulation space.
11. Our till point has an induction loop.
12. There is limited availability of large handled cutlery. Paper straws are available upon request.



Image: Accessible entrance into café

Second-hand Bookshop

1. The second-hand bookshop is a 500 metre walk from the car park.
2. There are 3 entry points to the bookshop. 1 is via the tunnels and up a set of 17 steps with a handrail on one side; another is via the cafe and down 1 step with handrail – a ramp is available to use on this step if required. The level access is via the tea garden. The ground leading up to the level access is via gravel and 9 shallow steps with no handrail whilst the other is via stone floor and gravel.
3. There is level access into the building.
4. The entrance door opens manually and outwards. It is 1006mm wide. Staff or volunteers are available to assist if required.
5. Tunnel Entrance: this is via the tunnels and is accessible by 17 upwards steps with handrail on one side. The steps are made of stone and can be slippery when wet. The door opens into the bookshop and is 840mm wide. Cafe Entrance: this is accessed via the cafe. There is 1 step into the entrance with a handrail for assistance. The bookshop floor is flagstone. The door can be opened to a maximum width of 1420mm.
6. The bookshop floor is flagstone and the ceilings are high in places, so there is a small amount of echo. However the room holds stock that includes soft furnishing which help with this.
7. The area holds some natural light, but is mostly lit by a large track of LED spotlights.
8. There is circulation space of at least 1200mm.
9. Our till point has an induction loop.
10. Staff/Volunteers are available to assist customers reaching down items to view if they cannot be reached.



Image: Entrance into Bookshop

Garden

1. A map showing the best accessible route is available to all our visitors. The map however doesn't highlight all areas to be aware of. Key things to be aware of are: uneven surfaces, slopes, steps, gates, kerb edge onto drive from the lawn
2. Our gardens are entirely accessible, albeit on grass. The meadow walk has no steps but is very uneven ground. The Woodland Walk is not accessible due to steps up and down the steep hill.
3. Our garden has a combination of surfaces including gravel, cobbles, paving and grass.
4. The property is on a high elevation and therefore there are some slopes which can be quite steep in some places.
5. There are steps from the turning circle towards the East and West, but both steps have handrails and an alternative slope access. There are steps with no handrails in the Tea Garden which can be avoided via the main driveway. There are also steps leading down from the dairy towards the meadow with no handrail.
6. There are 3 gated areas within the grounds. 2 of which have alternative accessible gate access. There is 1 kissing gate near to the dairy.
7. There is limited interpretation in the garden. Garden tours are sometimes laid on for our visitors, check the website for the latest information.
8. There are benches around the garden.
9. There is a small pond which falls outside of the visitor route but is visible.



*Images: Image 1 – accessible ramp into Scented Garden and towards Stables and Dairy.
Image 2 – accessible ramp towards viewpoint, gardens, café, bookshop and gardens.*

Contact details for more information

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Map

