

Why is Studley special?

People have visited Studley for over 300 years. In that time much has changed in how visitors use and experience this part of the estate.

The original designers of the Studley Royal Estate were father and son, John and William Aislabie. In the eighteenth century, guests of the family would have taken carriages from Studley Royal House in the deer park, to these historic gates. This was a transition point from the expansive, sweeping vistas of the parkland to the more formal water garden beyond, and the experience was carefully considered.

The Victorian lodge building that we currently use as a tea-room, was built in 1880.



Eighteenth century visitors enjoying Studley.



Queues have persisted at Studley for decades.

Today 400,000 people visit the pay for entry area and an estimated additional 128,000 visit the deer park.

Most of our visitors (75%) now enter the estate at the visitor centre and use Studley as the mid-point in their visitor journey, fundamentally changing the original intention of this entrance.

In the 20th century, there were piecemeal attempts to help ease the capacity issues at Studley through the addition of poor-quality temporary buildings and alterations to the tea-room which are not worthy of a World Heritage Site.

Where our visitors enter the
abbey and water gardens:

West gate entrance 10%
Studley entrance 15%
Visitor centre entrance 75%

