



National
Trust

Wentworth Castle Gardens Access Statement

Updated September 2023

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Introduction

Wentworth Castle Gardens has 63 acres of formal gardens and 500 acres of wider parkland. There is an 18th century 'Union Jack' garden, restored Victorian conservatory and hill-top folly, Stainborough Castle. The parkland is grazed by deer, cattle and sheep.

Visitors with a disability may be accompanied by up to two essential companions during their visit. Essential companions will receive free admission when accompanying a paying visitor with a disability. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/access-for-everyone>

Accessing the Site

Accessing all parts of the garden can be a challenge at Wentworth Castle Gardens as the site is built on a hill. There is a gradual incline from the car park all the way into the gardens and up to Stainborough Castle, the highest point. Several pathways are steep. For visitors with additional mobility needs we run a daily buggy shuttle service and have two personal mobility scooters available to hire for free. We would recommend pre-booking the scooters to ensure availability, either by phone or email.

Buggy shuttle service



The buggy shuttle service

The buggy shuttle service, which is largely staffed by volunteers, runs every day that we are open. For most of the year, it is available between 11am & 3pm. During winter opening hours, this moves to 10.30am & 2.30pm.

The buggy can take visitors from the car park to the Long Barn Café/toilets and up into the gardens. The visitor map on p.9 shows the

regular dropping-off points. Visitors can also be picked up from these same spots, if arranged with the buggy driver in advance.

Our buggy is not currently wheelchair accessible.

Please ask in the Visitor Welcome Building if you would like to use the buggy shuttle service during your visit.

Personal mobility scooters (PMV's)



One of the PMV's available for hire

We have two powered mobility scooters available for use in the gardens. These are larger than the standard mobility scooter, allowing you the opportunity to reach areas of the garden that would not otherwise be accessible. Each mobility scooter seats one person.

If you would like to borrow a mobility scooter, we recommend booking in advance by emailing wentworthcastlegardens@nationaltrust.org.uk or phoning the office. However, you can also ask the Visitor Welcome team on arrival to see if a scooter is available to borrow that day. The team will carry out a short assessment to ensure the scooter is suitable for the individual's needs.

The visitor map on p.9 shows a recommended route around the gardens for the PMV's and identifies a few paths that are completely unsuitable. **The parkland is currently not accessible by scooter, although this should change by the end of 2023 – watch this space!**

Due to their size, we advise that visitors do not take the PMV's into the Long Barn Café or Play area.

If you are bringing your own mobility scooter to the gardens, please be aware that the terrain is uneven. Only a limited number of paths are fully surfaced and access routes to the castle are via grass. The map shows a recommended route for personal scooters, but only you will know your own limits and what your scooter is capable of.

Wheelchair use

The steep and uneven paths can make it a challenge to access the gardens via wheelchair. To help you make an informed decision, further information about path surface, distances and other facilities can be found throughout this access statement. If you would like any further information, please get in touch.

Please note, the buggy is not wheelchair accessible. However, for individuals who are able to self-transfer, the buggy shuttle service can provide a lift into the gardens.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

By car:

The only vehicle access to Wentworth Castle Gardens is via Park Drive accessed off Lowe Lane near the Strafford Arms pub. The gated entrance is located approximately 2 miles from the M1 motorway. Wentworth Castle Gardens is signposted using brown highways agency signs from the M1 at junction 37. We recommend using postcode S75 3EN if following satellite navigation.

Car Park and Blue Badge Parking

The car park has a hard surface constituted of compressed limestone gravel with a tarmac entrance road. There is no additional charge for car parking.

At busy times such as weekends and school holidays we will use our overflow car parking. The overflow car park is a grassy field reinforced with matting and therefore may not be fully accessible for all visitors.

Accessible Blue Badge parking can be found in the main visitor car park near the Visitor Reception Building. There are 10 Blue Badge spaces and 3 additional larger spaces. If all the Blue Badge spaces are occupied, we will always endeavour to find a suitable location for parking based on the circumstances of each visitor. We regret we cannot reserve parking bays in advance.

Team members will assist with parking on busier days. Please make them aware if you require accessible parking. We can also facilitate a drop-off right outside the Visitor Reception Building if you are travelling with a companion.

If you do not have Blue Badge documentation but would benefit from parking closer to the Welcome Building, please check with the team, as it may be possible, especially on quieter days.

By bus:

There is a bus stop for Wentworth Castle Gardens on Gilroyd Lane near the Strafford Arms pub, where the 23a, 24, 24a and 34 services will stop [on request](#). This bus stop for Wentworth Castle Gardens is at the bottom of the hill; there is no access to the site from the Northern College bus stop on Lowe Lane. The Wentworth Castle Gardens bus stop is

approximately 800 metres up a gentle gradient to the Visitor Welcome Building in the main car park, although there is no separate footpath.

Information about bus timetables can be found here:

<https://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/>

By train:

There is a train station in Dodworth which is approximately 2 miles from the entrance to Wentworth Castle Gardens. Trains are operated by Northern Rail with hourly services between Sheffield and Huddersfield. There is step free access at this station. For more information and access at the train station please use this link:

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/DOD/details.html>

Toilet Facilities

Long Barn Building (Café and Second-hand bookshop)

- All are located on ground floor level in the Long Barn Building
- Accessible toilet room with 860mm door width
- Transfers on right side
- Area lit by fluorescent lighting
- Baby changing facilities in the accessible toilet.

Conservatory

- All are located on ground floor level as you enter the Conservatory
- Accessible toilet door width 900mm, room width 1100mm
- Transfers on right side
- Area lit by fluorescent lighting
- Emergency pull chord fitted.
- Baby changing facilities in the accessible toilet.

Please note, there are no toilets in the main car park.

Other

Mobile signal

Mobile phone reception is good across most of the site, although can be poor in some areas of the parkland. All staff on the site are connected via a two-way radio system. If

assistance is required, please do see a member of staff. There is also public Wi-Fi in the Long Barn and Conservatory.

Dogs

Dogs are welcome on fixed short leads throughout the gardens and parkland, including in the Long Barn Café. Assistance Dogs only are permitted inside the Conservatory building. Livestock graze in the parkland, so it is essential that dogs are always on a fixed short lead. There is dog water available at the Conservatory, Long Barn and Visitor Welcome Building. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wentworth-castle-gardens/features/bring-your-dog-to-wentworth-castle-gardens>

Main Facilities

Visitor Welcome Building



Left: The Visitor Welcome Building; Right: the path from the Visitor Welcome building to the Long Barn

- The Visitor Welcome Building is in the main car park.
- There is a hearing induction loop available.
- The buggy shuttle service runs from the Visitor Welcome Building. Personal mobility scooters are collected from here.
- The following are available to borrow from the Visitor Welcome building– please ask the team for further details:
 - Large-print information lanyards containing information about the gardens
 - A braille introduction to the site
 - Sensory backpacks, designed to support visitors with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or any other additional need as they visit Wentworth Castle Gardens. There are six backpacks available, and each contains the

following: ear defenders, adult sunglasses, child sunglasses, tangle twister, kaleidoscope, colour mixing paddle and biodegradable wipes.

Café



Left: The Long Barn and outside seating area; Right: inside seating area for the Café

- The Café is located in the Long Barn Building.
- The Long Barn is 220 metres from the Visitor Welcome Building and Car Park. The path is tarmacked and sloped in places.
- There are two wheelchairs for use in the Long Barn. These are available for visitors using an off-road mobility scooter which will not be able to access the Long Barn. Small personal mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs can access the Long Barn.
- The surface outside the cafe in the courtyard is a Yorkshire stone flagged area just off a tarmac pathway.
- There are two entrances to the Long Barn at ground level, one of which is a double door at 1.8 metres wide and the other a single door at 1 metre wide. Both doors swing outwards.
- The counter height for service is 900mm high and the drinks collection point is 940mm high. Staff are happy to come around the counter to serve visitors drinks or bring refreshments to your table upon request.
- There is a hearing induction loop available at the counter.
- Large-handled mugs and cutlery are available. Plastic straws are available on request.
- There is a designated accessible indoor table, with a lower table top.
- Nearly 50% of the indoor chairs have arms.
- There are wooden tables & chairs outside the café, most with easy access for wheelchairs.
- All dogs are welcome in the outside area and some areas of the café are also dog-friendly. Accessibility Dogs are welcome inside all buildings.

- The Long Barn can become noisy at busy periods. If visitors would like to make use of alternative seating in a quieter spot upstairs, please ask staff.

Second-hand bookshop



The Second-hand bookshop

- The second-hand bookshop is in the Long Barn building and shares the same space and entrance as the café.
- The second-hand bookshop floor is level.
- The second-hand bookshop counter is 750mm high.
- The environment is well lit with lots of natural light, and there is artificial light provided by GU10 LED bulbs directed at displays.
- Staff and volunteers are available to help reach down books that cannot be reached by customers.
- Staff and volunteers are available to describe items and prices to customers if helpful.
- Staff can ring the buggy shuttle service to help transport heavy purchases to a customer's vehicle.

Conservatory

- The Conservatory entrance is approximately 480 metres from the Long Barn Building via a tarmac and uneven compressed gravel surface which slopes steeply in places. The buggy shuttle service can drop you off in front of the Conservatory.

- Wheelchairs and mobility scooters are welcome in the Conservatory building although care should be taken in the planted area where there are raised edges and some tight corners
- Food & drink is not allowed in the Conservatory building.
- Assistance dogs only.

Garden



Accessible garden bench in the Union Jack Gardens

- The formal gardens are accessed via a tarmacked pathway which has no steps but is steep in places.
- From the Long Barn to the Conservatory is approximately 480 metres, from the Conservatory to Stainborough Castle is another 500 metres. Both routes are uphill in places.
- Path material varies throughout the garden, with compressed limestone gravel, grassy paths and tarmac. Routes may be compromised by weather conditions, please check before you visit if you wish to see a specific area.
- There are steps in a few parts of the gardens, which are shown on the visitor map on p.8. There is alternative step free access to the Victorian Flower Garden.
- There are several gates throughout the gardens which are opened manually
- Fingerpost signage is used at the garden entrance and around the gardens. Other signage is provided on a 'pop up' basis using chalk boards or small A4 signs (temporarily). Tactile models or audio tours are currently not available.
- Garden benches are provided throughout the garden, including accessible benches in the Union Jack Garden. The segments of the Union Jack Gardens, surrounded by evergreen hedges, also provide a quiet space to find relief from stress and sensory overload.
- A tour guide system is available for guided tours and activities in the garden. This includes a microphone unit (transmitter) and two receivers, which can be used with a neck loop or headphones. If you would like to borrow the tour guide

system, please email wentworthcastlegardens@nationaltrust.org.uk in advance so we can make sure it is charged for you.

Parkland

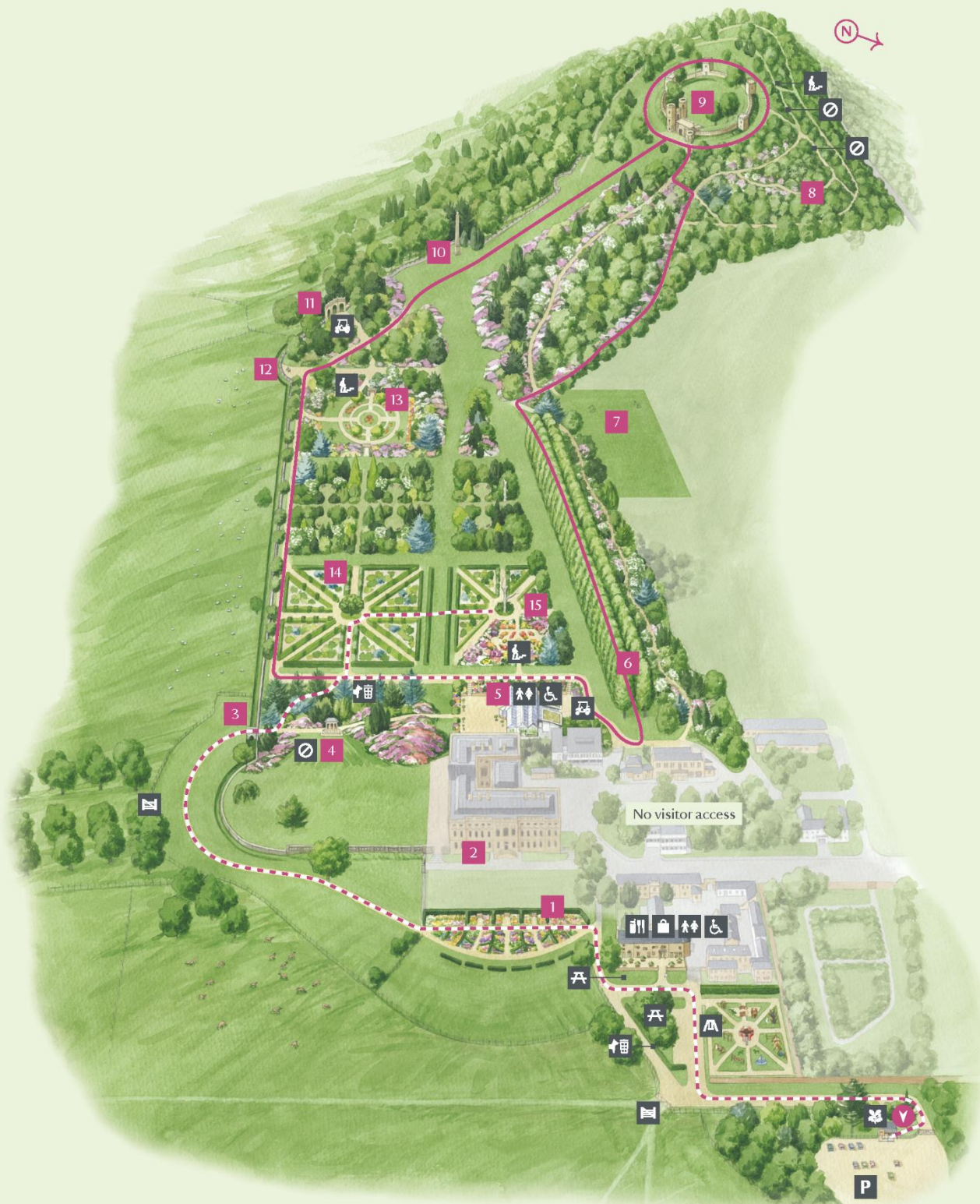
- The parkland consists of approximately 500 acres of mixed woodland, grazed meadow and lake and can be accessed through a gate near the Long Barn.
- The ground is undulating, with steeper slopes in places. Pathways can be muddy.
- Staff are available during normal opening hours every day to suggest routes for those with mobility issues.
- The mainly grass paths in the Parkland can become rutted and muddy during the winter and prolonged wet periods.
- Throughout the estate there are manual gates including deer fencing and some stiles to negotiate. Gates must be closed following access.
- Livestock graze some areas of the Parkland, so dogs must be kept on a fixed short lead.
- Water features within the park are in the form of the Serpentine.

Contact details for more information

T: 01226 323070

E: wentworthcastlegardens@nationaltrust.org.uk

Date: September 2023 Review date: December 2023



Key

P	Car Park
	Visitor Reception
	Café
	Second-hand Bookshop
	Play area
	Picnic area
	Toilets
	Accessible toilets
	Parkland entrance
	Dog waste bin
	Recommended route for personal mobility scooters
	Recommended route for National Trust mobility scooters
	Buggy pick up/drop off point – please ask at Visitor Reception
	Steps
	Unsuitable route for mobility scooter

1	John Arnold Garden
2	Wentworth Castle (Northern College) No visitor access
3	Ha Ha Bridge
4	Corinthian Temple
5	Conservatory
6	Lady Lucy's Walk
7	Playing Field
8	Fernery
9	Stainborough Castle
10	Sun Monument
11	Archer's Hill Gate
12	Earl's Seat
13	Victorian Flower Garden
14	Union Jack Garden
15	Azalea Garden



Getting around Wentworth Castle Gardens

Accessibility information for visitors

Overview

Wentworth Castle Gardens is built on a hill, meaning that getting around the site can be a challenge. To support you to access as much of the gardens as possible, we run a buggy shuttle service and have two personal mobility scooters available to borrow.

Email wentworthcastlegardens@nationaltrust.org.uk to book the scooters in advance of your visit.

Buggy shuttle service

From the car park, the buggy will take you to the Long Barn Café/Toilets and up into the gardens if required. Regular dropping-off points are shown on the visitor map, and you can also be picked up from these same spots, if arranged with the buggy driver in advance. Please ask the Welcome team for more details. The buggy shuttle service runs every day between 11am-3pm (10.30am-2.30pm in winter).

Personal mobility scooters (PMV's)

Our PMV's are larger than the standard mobility scooter, allowing you the opportunity to reach areas of the garden that would not otherwise be accessible. The map shows a recommended route around the gardens for the National Trust PMV's and identifies a few paths that are completely unsuitable. The parkland is currently not accessible by scooter.

Due to their size, we advise that visitors do not take the PMV's into the Long Barn Café, Play area or Conservatory.

If you are bringing your own mobility scooter to the gardens, please be aware that the terrain is uneven and hard going in places. The map shows a recommended route for personal scooters, but only you will know your own limits and what your scooter is capable of.

Wheelchair use

The steep and uneven paths can make it a challenge to access the gardens via wheelchair. If you are able to self-transfer, the buggy shuttle service can give you a lift into the gardens with your wheelchair.

Any issues?

In the unlikely event that you run out of battery or get stuck when using a PMV, please alert a member of staff or call the Duty Manager on 07790 373829.