



**National
Trust**

Belton House Access Statement



Welcome

Welcome to Belton House the seat of the Brownlow and Cust family. Here at Belton house we understand that access to historic properties can be difficult which is why we're committed to providing a detailed access statement for visitors with disabilities. We hope this information will help you plan your visit to Belton and make it as enjoyable as possible.

On site we have various locations with different access levels which are described in this document, however, if you require further information please feel free to contact us and we will be more than happy to help.

Contact Information

Address: Belton House, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG32 2LS
(SatNav NG32 2LW)

Telephone: +44 0 1476 566116

Email: belton@nationaltrust.org.uk

Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/beltonhouse

Contents

1. General information
 - a. Visiting us
 - b. Arrival and parking
 - c. Toilet facilities

2. The House

3. The Gardens
 - a. Accessing the gardens
 - b. Italian Garden
 - c. Orangery
 - d. Old rose garden
 - e. Dutch garden
 - f. East lawn
 - g. Recumbent Beech and Mirror pond
 - h. Ice house
 - i. Maze
 - j. Pleasure grounds
 - k. Boat house

4. The Central Hub
 - a. Stables Restaurant
 - b. The Ride play café
 - c. Second hand bookshop

- d. Gift shop
- e. Garden and outdoor shop
- f. Discovery centre

5. West grounds

- a. Picnic tables
- b. Adventure playground

6. Future plans

1. General information

a. Visiting us

- For full details of how to reach us please use the “How to get here” section on our website.
- The nearest train station to Belton House is Grantham railway station (NG31 6BT) located 3.5 miles away from the property. The train station is access friendly with staff available for assistance. Please check the National Rail website for further details.
- Taxis are available from outside the train station but it is advisable to book in advance.
- There a bus service from Grantham town centre which is located 0.3 metres from Grantham train station. The bus service required is the No.1. The bus stop is located less than 10 yards from the Belton House entrance gates.

b. Arrival and Parking

- Belton House has adequate parking spaces with dedicated accessible parking for blue badge holders.
- Accessible parking is clearly signposted and there is a parking attendant on every day.
- The main visitor car park is grassed and can be very muddy during wet periods.
- There are 14 hard-standing spaces for blue badge holders which are on a gravel-filled modular surface and is suitable for wheelchair and mobility scooter use.

- Upon arrival at Belton, tickets and information are available from the visitor reception approximately 5 yards or less from the accessible parking spaces.
- The visitor centre features an automatically opening door and a dropped counter for wheelchair users.
- The visitor centre also features an induction loop system for visitors with hearing impairments.
- A map is provided in our “Welcome to Belton House” leaflet upon arrival so please use this to help with directions.
- A new map is in production which will show level access routes through the gardens.
- Four powered mobility scooters are available to hire free of charge for a maximum of two hours from the visitor centre.
We recommend pre-booking a scooter by calling 01476 566116.
- A complimentary shuttle bus service is available and will pick up from and drop off at most areas of the site except within the gardens or adventure playground, however it can drop visitors at the entrances to both areas. This is a non-bookable free-of-charge service. Please note that this service is operated by volunteers and on occasion may be unavailable. Any member of the Belton team can radio for the shuttle bus on request.
- The shuttle bus features a wheelchair ramp or a step

c. Toilet facilities

- There are 4 wheelchair accessible toilets on site and these are marked on the site map by the number 3. The

toilets are fitted with a red hanging pull cord if you require assistance.

2. The House

- The house is approximately 220 metres from the car park along a mixture of tarmac, grass, and gravel, hoggin and cobbled paths.
- Newly laid flag stone paths along the cobbles areas have made access more comfortable. There are a few places however where access to flatter paths may involve having to briefly cross the cobbled stone avenue which is very uneven.
- Those with restricted mobility or wheelchair users may be able to use a stair climber located at the mansion entrance in the West Courtyard. Not all wheelchairs can be attached to the stair climber however, so we would advise you ask in advance of your visitor or on arrival. The chair climber has a weight limit of 17 stone.
- Please note that the we can only bring one user of the stair climber in to the mansion at a time due to fire regulations.
- Wheelchair access is limited to the upper ground floor of the mansion (main reception rooms) however a free digital tour of the upstairs (library and bedrooms) is available upon request.
- Wheelchair access around the basement floor isn't currently possible because of multiple stairs and stepped areas throughout.
- There is a large-print mansion guide available in size 16 Arial font.

3. The Gardens

a. Accessing the gardens

- The entrance to the gardens is to the right-hand side of the house when approaching from the car park.
- There is level access at this point

b. Italian Garden

- The Italian Garden is a sunken area accessible via multiple stone steps with approximately a 10cm rise on each step.
- Alternative access is possible via a grassed slope when approach from the north front of the mansion. Caution is advised; please ask for assistance if required.
- Access to the outer path of the garden is best accessed via the south-east corner.
- A step-free path running along the east side of the garden provides generous views.

c. Orangery

- It's possible to reach the orangery via a flat, step-free path running directly from the north front of the house.
- Entry into the orangery is limited to two entrances via a small set of steps with approximately a 10cm rise on each step.
- The interior of the orangery has flat, smooth surfaces but the pathways are as narrow as 800mm in places because of planting.

- The orangery does include a pond inside with no barriers, therefore, caution is advised.

d. Old rose garden

- The old rose garden is accessible via a flat gravelled path running directly from the house, past the Italian garden and the Orangery.
- The path is suitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

e. Dutch garden

- The Dutch garden is accessible from steps located centrally to the north side of the mansion, or for wheelchair and mobility friendly access there are entrances to the north, east and west sides.
- Wheelchairs users are recommended to approach the garden by passing along the north front of the mansion and crossing over the grass via the west side of the garden.
- The Dutch garden is wheelchair and mobility scooter friendly.

f. East Lawn

- The East Lawn is a flat grassed area with a path (Statue Walk) originating from the house running in parallel with the Pleasure Grounds.
- This area is planted with thousands of spring bulbs and may not be accessible at all times of the year.

- The East lawn is wheelchair and mobility scooter friendly.

g. Recumbent Beech and Mirror pond

- Access to the recumbent beech is along a number of gravel paths.
- The area around Recumbent Beech itself is grassed and somewhat uneven. It can be muddy in wet conditions.
- The grass slopes towards the Mirror Pond and so caution is advised.

h. Maze

- Entrance to the maze is accessible from Statue Walk which runs parallel to the East Lawn.
- While the maze has a flat gravel surface and the paths are wide enough for wheelchairs and mobility scooters, please be aware that the maze is made up of meandering paths.
- Puddles can form on the pathways during periods of heavy rain.

i. Pleasure Grounds

- The pleasure ground paths are predominantly the same gravel paths throughout the gardens. There are however areas of less gravel and increased dirt patches, so caution is advised during or after adverse weather conditions.

- The pleasure grounds feature a small bridge crossing over a stream, the bridge has no barriers or hand rails and therefore caution is advised. The bridge itself is flat and covered in a mesh material for increased grip.
- Some areas of the pleasure grounds feature slightly hilly areas, particularly towards the north east area. The paths remain wheelchair and mobility scooter friendly.

j. Fishing Lodge

- The Fishing Lodge is accessed via a path from the northeast corner of the pleasure grounds.
- Access onto the boathouse front is accessible for wheelchairs and mobility scooters, however, access from both sides of the boathouse includes one small step with an approximate 5cm rise which is easily navigable but caution is advised due to the proximity of the lake.
- Pathways in this area can be muddy in wet weather and caution should be advised.

4. The Central Hub

- This central hub area is paved in a combination of tarmac and cobblestones which provide an uneven surface. Although it is accessible for wheelchair and mobility scooter users it is a bumpy and irregular surface. Please take caution.
- The easiest way to access the stable yard from the car park is to follow the pedestrian path towards no.8 on the map, turn right as if heading for the mansion (no 14) and

then take a left towards the Ride (no 6). There is level access at all points and paved pathways are provided.

a. Stables restaurant

- The stables at Belton have recently been refurbished to provide new catering facilities. Seating is provided within the historic stalls and stabling areas.
- The stables are not accessible in their entirety but several of the stalls are wheelchair accessible.
- Visitors order food at one of two counters. Hot food is delivered directly to your table and further assistance is available as needed.
- There is currently no induction loop system in Stables Café.
- There is an accessible toilet in the stables.

b. The Ride Play Café

- Access to the Ride is mostly via new flat surfaces however it does include crossing a small area of cobble stoned road so caution is advised.
- The Ride Café is wheelchair friendly as the entrance is smooth and level, the café desk is wheelchair height, and tables are suitable for wheelchair users.
- An access ramp is situated outside to gain access to the outdoor seating area. The ramp has a reasonable incline so please ask a member of staff if you require assistance.

c. Second-hand bookshop

- The second-hand bookshop is situated on the east side of the stable yard, facing the stables building.
- Access to the shop is level but there are some uneven cobbled surfaces to negotiate en route.
- Upon entering the shop the floor is even and level but the space is not large enough for mobility scooters.
- There is no induction loop at the till point.

d. Gift shop

- The gift shop is located to the south of the stable yard, opposite the main entrance to the Stables Café.
- There are no steps at the entrance but cobbles do make it uneven.
- The gift shop is wheelchair friendly as the floor surfaces are very smooth and flat.
- Access to the upper level of the shop is via a ramp. The ramp has a reasonable incline so please ask a member of staff if you require assistance.
- The space is not large enough for mobility scooters.
- There is no induction loop at the till point.

e. Discovery centre

- The Discovery Centre is accessed by passing through the stable yard and the entrance to the Ride Pay Café. The route includes cobbled areas.
- The ground outside the Discovery Centre is a level, gravelled surface.

- The Discovery Centre is wheelchair friendly as the surface is flat and level.

5. Picnic tables

- Picnic tables are situated near the car park and are accessible via fairly level grassed surface.
- The picnic tables are the standard design rather than wheelchair friendly.

6. Adventure playground

- Access to the adventure playground is via level surfaces.
- The path through the playground can be boggy in very wet weather or following a hard frost.
- There is a wheelchair accessible toilet.
- There is a kiosk serving hot drinks and cold snacks with undercover seating. The seating is suitable for wheelchair users.
- There is a large piece of play equipment which has been ramped for wheelchair access and a queen swing which is suitable for sensory and therapy play.
- A miniature train runs through the centre of the playground and visitors need to cross the tracks (over a level crossing) to access the kiosk, toilets and play equipment.

7. Future plans

- a.** In 2020 we are planning to install a Changing Places toilet. We understand that standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability. By installing a Changing Places toilet we wish to encourage visitors with all types of disabilities being able to visit Belton house comfortably.
- b.** We are currently undertaking a full access order as part of our commitment to Everyone Welcome and will be updating our access statement intermittently as improvements are made.