

## Sizergh Access Statement

Sizergh, Near Kendal, Cumbria, LA8 8AE

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### Introduction

1. Beautiful medieval house, extended in Elizabethan times, surrounded by gardens which include ponds and a sunken limestone rock garden. Public rights of way give access to the wider, tenanted farmland of the estate.
2. There is reasonable mobile phone reception across most of the site.
3. Assistance dogs are welcome across the whole site. Other dogs are welcome on the estate, but need to be under control near livestock. They are not allowed in the house, garden or café.
4. Light levels in the House are kept low to protect the collection from light damage.
5. Rucksacks and other large items need to be handed over and stored at the house entrance to prevent damage to the collection.
6. One powered mobility vehicle and three manual wheelchairs are available for loan at Visitor Reception.

### Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. There are brown signs from the M6, A591 and A590 giving directions to Sizergh. The main entrance is also signed.
2. There are two speed humps on the drive leading to the car park. Each speed hump is approximately 2.5 inches high.
3. The car park is at the end of the main driveway, to the left of the House. There are nine designated parking bays for disabled visitors in the main car park. These are on a firm, tarmac surface and are closest to the Visitor Centre.
4. The main car park has a tarmac surface, with slate-chipped parking bays. It contains a grassed central area which is crossed by a slate –chipped path. This area contains picnic benches. An overflow car park is available for use on busy days. This has a grass surface and is reasonably flat.
5. It is possible to drop visitors off outside the Visitor Centre if all designated parking bays are full.
6. Cycle racks are available alongside the Visitor Centre.

### WCs

1. The café toilets are situated at the entrance to the Visitor Centre and include an accessible toilet.
2. The accessible toilet is 1.5m x 2.2m, has left hand transfer and is lit by fluorescent bulbs.
3. The main toilet block is situated in the Old Forge building, to the right of the House.
4. The accessible toilet contains paper towels for hand drying and all non-accessible toilets contain automatic hand driers. Baby changing facilities are situated in the accessible toilet.

## Visitor Reception

1. Visitor Reception is situated in the Visitor Centre which can be found in the main car park. This building is open plan.
2. Entrance to the Visitor Centre is by three steps or by a 12 metre long ramp to the left of the steps. The ramp has a gradient of 1:30.
3. All entry and exit doors are non-powered opening, 151cm in width, opening outwards to 90 degrees. Staff and volunteers can assist with opening doors if required.
4. Wood flooring runs throughout the building and the area is lit by both natural and artificial lighting.
5. The reception desk is 76cm in height. Chairs are available for visitors who may find queuing difficult.
6. An Induction Loop is available at the reception desk.
7. One powered mobility vehicle and three manual wheelchairs are available for loan at reception. We recommend that the powered mobility vehicle is pre-booked by phoning the property in advance of a visit to avoid disappointment.

## House

1. From Tuesday to Friday entry to the House is via the graveled courtyard. On Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays entry is from the Mirror Pond side of the House.
2. The Courtyard entrance to the House is 180m from the Visitor Centre.
3. The Mirror Pond entrance to the House is 280m from the Visitor Centre.
4. The graveled courtyard in front of the House is used by pedestrians as well as the donor family and their guests gaining access in their vehicles. Delivery drivers use the tarmac pathway to the House.
5. Courtyard entrance: The entrance to the House is through a door 240cm in width. There are no steps at the entrance. There is however, a low threshold board. A wheelchair ramp is available on request.
6. Mirror Pond entrance: The entrance to the House is through a door 240cm in width. There are no steps at the entrance, although there is a cobbled area before the door and a low threshold board. Unfortunately there is no ramp available.
7. Upon entering the House there is a secondary doorway 100cm in width. There are no steps and the floor surface is made of wood.
8. Access to the first floor is up 26 steps, each approximately 15cm high. There is a handrail on either side of the staircase. There is no ramp or lift available and there is no alternative level entrance. Access to the Upper Hall, Stone Parlour, Drawing Room and Linenfold Room are on the same level. Most of the floor surface is carpeted and there are soft furnishings keeping sound echoes to a minimum. Some objects may be touched. Please ask a Room Guide for further information.
9. Access to the Dining Room and Queen's Room on the first floor is up 2 steps, approximately 15cm high. A wheelchair is available for use on the first floor. Please ask a Room guide for more information.
10. Access to the Library is down one step from the Garden Lobby on the first floor.
11. Access to the second floor is up a narrow staircase which is carpeted with a 180 degree turn halfway up. There is a partial handrail. Each step is 14cm in height. There are further staircases to reach the top floor, all with handrails: please ask a Room Guide for guidance.



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12. Lighting is both artificial LED and natural, and kept at a moderate to low level to protect the collection. Interiors are naturally dark owing to the original oak panelling installed throughout the House.
13. There are two narrow corridors located in the House, one measuring 100cm and the other 85cm.
14. Seating is available in all but one room, via folding chairs or window seats.
15. There are no visitor toilet facilities in the house. The nearest facilities are in the Old Forge building.
16. Braille and large print guides are available.
17. A Virtual Tour is available at Visitor Reception and on the ground floor of the House. Access to the Virtual Tour is via a wheelchair ramp or up 3 stone steps which are 11, 13 and 18 cm high. From here a small exhibition can be accessed. As well as the Virtual Tour there is a touch screen and large print guides are available.
18. Rucksacks and large bags are required to be left at the entrance area in a side room which is monitored at all times. Numbered tags are given at the entrance to identify bags.
19. Powered mobility vehicles cannot be accommodated in the House due to steps, narrow corridors and restricted turning circles. Small personal wheelchairs can be accommodated on the ground floor.

## Catering

1. The café is situated in the Visitor Services building which can be found in the main car park. This building is open plan, with wooden flooring and both natural and artificial lighting. Exterior surfaces consist of tarmac and wooden decking. Entrance to the café is via steps or ramp. All doors are non-powered opening, 151cm wide, opening outwards to 90 degrees.
2. The counter is 89cm high, with a facility to hold trays running the full length of the counter.
3. Catering staff are available to assist with service and carrying trays.
4. An Induction Loop is available at the till point.
5. There is both interior and exterior seating. Tables can be re-arranged to accommodate wheel chair users.

## Retail

1. The shop is situated in the Visitor Services building which can be found in the main car park. This building is open plan, with wooden flooring and both natural and artificial lighting. Exterior surfaces consist of tarmac and wooden decking. Entrance to the shop is via steps or ramp. All doors are non-powered opening, 151 cm wide, opening outwards to 90 degrees.
2. The counter is 76 cm in height with a wheel chair refuge to the right of the till. Staff and volunteers are available to assist with lifting and carrying goods if required.
3. An Induction loop is available at the till point.
4. There is circulation space between fixtures and tables of 120cm to allow the use of powered mobility vehicles and wheel chairs throughout the shop and staff are available to assist with reaching down items to view if the cannot be reached by customers.



## Garden

1. There is a map available at Visitor Services showing routes around the garden with the severity of the slopes indicated. There is a route around the garden which is all on one level and takes in most of the key areas
2. The majority of the paths are made up of limestone chippings, some paths are bark mulched. Grass paths have been reinforced with a geotextile to aid access.
3. Spring and summer access into the garden is down a gravel slope of 1:25, this leads on to a grass path before reaching a gravel path. An alternative entrance is open all year round and omits the grass path.
4. There are two flights of steps down to the lower terrace which overlooks the Mirror Pond; in total 20 steps. There is no handrail. There is gravel slope leading to the hot wall and at the far end, 12 stone steps lead back on to the grass area.
5. There are no gates on the route.
6. There is interpretation in the garden on chalk boards.
7. There are seats in the garden, during winter the metal seats remains in the garden and the wooden seating is stored.
8. There are 3 water features in the garden. The dipping pond has a deck; the Limestone rock garden has a stream winding through in to the largest body of water, the Mirror Pond.

## Contact details for more information

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## Date

16 December 2015 (Reviewed 17 February 2020)

# Map



## Map key

- 1** **Reception**  
Tickets, garden guides, walks leaflets and guidebooks.
- Shop** - selling high quality gifts and plants.
- WCs & baby changing facilities**
- Cafe** - try a seasonal special, we use local ingredients.
- 2** **Garden entrances**  
 Garden paths are slippery and uneven. Please wear non slip shoes. There are plants in the garden that may cause upset/irritation if touched.  
..... Main garden route.
- 3** **Great Barn**    **4** **WCs**
- 5** **House entrance** - children's quizzes available. For loan: baby hip and front carriers. Large bags and back packs will need to be left in reception. Please help us by not wearing sharp-heeled shoes.  
..... Walking route to the house. Distance: 200 yards.

- 6** **Driveway**
- Gradients**    easy    moderate    steep slope
- Seating areas** in all parts of the garden and house.
- Picnic Areas**
- Powered mobility vehicles (PMV) and manual wheelchairs** available for loan. Please ask at reception.
- Induction loops** at till points.
- Braille, large-print and foreign language guides** available.
- Dogs under close control** welcome in the wider estate, but not in the garden please. Assistance dogs welcome in all areas. Dog bin situated adjacent to reception.
- Estate walks** - please ask at reception for details.