

The Argory Access Statement

The Argory
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Introduction

1. An atmospheric Irish gentry house and wooded riverside estate with grounds offering sweeping vistas and scenic walks including a rose garden with striking sundial. Located just 3 miles from M1. Exit on signposted junction 13 or 14.
2. Mobile reception is limited in some areas of the property, especially along the outer boundary walks. Some mobile providers have better reception in the area than others. In an emergency, telephoning the Visitor Reception number (02887 789010) would alert staff in an emergency.
3. Dogs are welcome on the estate and within the gardens. Our policy is that dogs should be kept on leads, apart from in the dog exercise area located along the River Walk. Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the property, including within the mansion, tearoom and shop. Dog waste bins are situated throughout the property.
4. Given the rural setting of The Argory, there are some inclines on our paths around the property. Maps of the grounds highlighting these areas are available for those visitors using the mobility scooter which is available to hire free of charge from Visitor Reception.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. The Argory is well signposted from the M1, Moy and Portadown, with brown tourist signs highlighting the route.
2. On arrival, visitors follow the entrance driveway to the main car park, which is located next to our Visitor Reception. Any visitors making staff aware of mobility issues can be directed to our disabled car parking spaces, which are nearer to the buildings.
3. Extra car parking is available in an overflow carpark located slightly further away, at the start of the exit drive. From here it is a 2 minute walk to Visitor Reception and facilities.
4. The two visitor car parks have gravel surfaces. There is a concrete path which runs from the car park to Visitor Reception and on up to the main entrance gate to the Courtyard. The Courtyard is gravel, with traditional stone around the perimeter and running into the various outbuildings.

WCs

1. There is one accessible toilet, complete with emergency cord pulls. This is located in our facilities block, which lies adjacent to the main visitor car park. The emergency alarms for these are picked up in Coffee Shop kitchen.
2. The toilet in this area has a small cobbled slope at the entrance to the toilet block, the flooring in the actual cubicle is tiled.
3. The accessible toilet cubicle is large, with the door opening inwards.
4. The accessible toilet has a pull-down rail on the right hand side and is fitted with a back rest.
5. Within the accessible toilet, the spaces are lit with motion sensed fluorescent lighting and there is an automatic hand dryer. This is also the same for our other toilet facilities.

Visitor Reception

1. The Visitor Reception has been created within what was the Carpenters workshop. It is a stone structure, with the original stone flooring. This area was developed in 2018. The main car park is situated adjacent to the Visitor Reception.
2. The entrance has a 87mm step. The front of the Visitor Reception has a large safety glass window and integrated door which is pushed open to enter. The entrance is 866mm wide. The door remains open when the property is open to visitors. There is a movable ramp which is fitted at the doorway for access/exit of both wheelchairs and the mobility scooter.
3. The reception desk is 1184mm in height on the visitor side, and 874mm on the staff side. There is an additional side piece to the main desk which is 737mm in height, which was included in the design of the desk to meet accessibility standards.
4. The Visitor Reception is largely lit by natural light as the front façade is almost entirely glass. In addition, there are LED lights to provide additional light on dull days.
5. There is seating, in the form of a corner bench, in the Visitor Reception.
6. The property's powered mobility vehicle is available to hire free of charge from the Visitor Reception. All users of this are provided with a map showing suitable paths to use the PMV on, and training is given to all visitors hiring the PMV.
7. During opening hours there is always a member of staff at reception.
8. There is no loop system available to assist people with hearing difficulties.
9. There is adequate circulation space in this area.

House

1. The House is surrounded by gravel. On the south side of the building there is a narrow gravel path (1.15m wide) with grass on either side.
2. The main entrance to the house is located on the west side of the building where there are 5 steps that lead to the front door. It is 180 meters from the Car Park to the West door.



Above Left: The west entrance to the house with 5 steps
Above Right: Ramp leading to the East door

3. The west entrance has a double door which is manually operated by staff. It is 1.2 meters wide and opens inwardly.
4. If necessary, visitors can gain access to the house through the East door via a wooden ramp. (7.6m long and 1.3 wide). The door is 1 meter wide, opens inwards and is manually operated by staff. There is a gravel path leading to the East door. The East entrance is closer to the Car Park (140 meters) than the West entrance.
5. The only areas inside the house without soft furnishings are the Service Corridor and the Servant's stairs where there are stone floors and hard wooden surfaces that might create a slight sound echo.
6. The main source of light throughout the house comes from natural sunlight which means that on a dull day the house can be dimly lit. On a daily basis the shutters are open, and the blackout blinds are raised throughout the house. Sun blinds are also in place to protect the collection from UV light damage and are adjusted throughout the day depending on levels of sunlight. There is no electricity in the historic house apart from an LED lamp in the Service Corridor and the upstairs corridor.
7. Visitors will be given a guided tour of the ground floor and the first floor of the house. The first floor is accessible from the West Hall via a cantilevered stone staircase (27 steps) with a carpet runner and a handrail. Visitors then descend the servant's stone staircase (20 steps), handrail included, to the ground floor.



The West Hall staircase which leads to the 1st floor. 27 steps

8. The minimum width of the corridors in the house is 115cm. The doorways in the house are all approx. 91cm.
9. For wheelchair users please note that there is adequate space to turn a wheelchair in most rooms however the Drawing room druggery ranges from 90-140cm wide depending on the location of the collection. The lower corridor at its narrowest point is 115cm and at its widest is 195cm.
10. Seating is available for visitors in each of the rooms. There is at least 1 chair in every room, none of which have armrests.
11. Rucksacks and large bags are required to be left in the entrance area of the house.
12. Guided tours are available for visitors wishing to see the house. 1 guide will take a maximum group of 15 people on a tour which will last approximately 1 hour. There are no volunteer guides in each room. The tour is not self-lead.
13. The guides do not use induction loops and unfortunately at this time we do not have any guides trained in BSL. Tour sheets are available in German, French and Spanish.
14. There are no WC's for visitors to use within the historic house. There are however WCs for visitors to use in the courtyard behind the tearoom.
15. Visitors are offered a guided tour of the house. There is no audio guide, virtual tour, Braille or other type of interpretation available at this time. If a visitor is unable to go upstairs the guide should radio for a member of the house team or DM to remain with the visitor on the ground floor. Access books which contain photographs and information of the first floor are available.
16. Visitors using either a powered mobility vehicle or powered wheelchair who wish to take a guided tour of the house are able to leave their scooter at the East Door where there is a ramp, and transfer into a manual wheelchair they must operate it themselves/ or by a member of their party. The guide/ other visitors cannot push the wheelchair.
17. If use of a quiet space is required, please indicate this to the member of staff at reception and they will do their best to find a suitable area for you. Visitors wishing to take a tour of the house cannot be left alone and unsupervised at any time whilst inside the historic house.

Courtyard Coffee Shop

1. The Coffee Shop is located in the main visitor courtyard, approximately 70 metres from the car park.
2. The courtyard itself has a gravel surface, with historic stone immediately outside the entrance door.
3. The entrance to the Coffee Shop has one step, 135mm in height. There is a movable ramp available for manual wheelchair access, though there is insufficient space inside for a mobility scooter. The flooring inside is traditional stone and seating areas are located on two levels. There is access to the toilets down 3 stone steps (193mm each in height). Wheelchair users can access the rear door of the coffee shop from this facilities area/yard which is on the same level.
4. The entrance door to the Coffee Shop is a historic wooden door which is secured open whenever the tearoom is open. There is no hand rail at this entrance.

5. There are no soft furnishings within the Coffee Shop, and the furniture is wooden tables and chairs, with no armrests. The space does have natural light, but given the size and orientation, does require additional fluorescent lighting.
6. The display counter, from which staff pass food to visitors, is at a convenient height (922mm) and circulation space is good.
7. Tearoom staff will be happy to assist with visitors with any requirements, for example taking orders from the seating area instead of queuing for self service, and assisting with the carrying of trays to the seating areas.
8. There is additional wrought iron seating outside in the main courtyard, with three of these tables having shelter from the port cacheur next to the Coffee Shop entrance. These chairs do have armrests. There are also three wooden and wrought iron benches with arm rests around the perimeter of the courtyard.
9. There is no provision for people with sensory impairment.

Laundry Yard

1. The Laundry Yard is located off the courtyard and consists of a small grassy area surrounded by traditional stone and various outbuildings, plus the Acetylene Plant.
2. Access to this area is through a doorway with two steps down (70mm and then 155mm) . There is no access to this area for wheelchairs at this time.

Bookshop

1. The Bookshop entrance is located in the courtyard and there is one step (99mm), for which a ramp can be provided on request.
2. The entrance door to the Bookshop is a historic hinged wooden door which is secured open whenever open to the public. There is no hand rail at this entrance. Mobility scooters cannot access this area.
3. The Bookshop has minimal natural light and therefore has LED lights to illuminate this area.
4. The entire floor in the Bookshop is on one level and is wooden.
5. There is no additional seating in this area at this time.

The Light Box (Birkenhead Room)

1. This entrance is located in the courtyard and there is one step (78mm), for which a ramp can be provided on request.
2. The entrance door to is a historic wooden door which is secured open whenever open to the public. There is no hand rail at this entrance. Mobility scooters cannot access this area.
3. The Light Box is largely lit by natural light plus, due to the nature of the display, also has lit neon lighting for effect. On dull days additional LED lights can be switched on.
4. The flooring in this area is traditional stone and is on one level.
5. There is seating provided in this area in the form of a fixed wall bench.

The Harness Room and Stables

1. Both these outbuildings are located in the corner of the courtyard and are accessible via traditional wooden doors and stone flooring.

Pleasure Grounds

1. The entrance to the Pleasure Grounds is located opposite the Visitor Reception and adjacent to the main car park.
 2. The path leading around the Pleasure Grounds are shallow gravel, and are largely even, with only a few areas of incline and decline.
 3. These paths are suitable for wheelchair users and the property's powered mobility vehicle. There is one path, leading from the Pleasure Grounds into the Rose Garden which is accessible. Once in the Rose Garden, the outer pathway is accessible, but the inner paths are thinner and there is one step (122mm). This is highlighted on the map given out to those who hire the PMV. The outer path of the Rose Garden is wide enough for wheelchairs, but not the inner paths. There is also same level access to the Rose Garden from the paths at the front of the main house.
- There are several wooden benches throughout the Pleasure Grounds.

Wider Estate

- The Argory estate has 6 kilometres of walks going into the wider forest park surrounding the main estate.
- There are a number of stone steps on the lawns directly in front of the house, though there are obvious alternative accessible paths around this area.
- The surface of the path routes are largely tightly packed gravel and there are some slight slopes to negotiate, all highlighted on our property map.
- The wooden boardwalk which is accessible, runs from the entrance driveway to the exit driveway. The boardwalk is covered in mesh to ensure grip in wet weather.
- The outer areas of the estate and the sections of the River Walk are more rugged and uneven, with some areas prone to becoming very boggy during wet weather periods, and therefore not recommended for those with limited mobility.

Contact details for more information

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