

Nostell Access Statement

Doncaster Road
Nostell
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Introduction

Nostell is a 300 acre estate consisting of a house, pleasure grounds and parkland. The grounds are relatively flat, although there are a number of slopes there are accessible routes available throughout. The house is displayed over 3 floors with lift access to the first floor.

Mobile signal

Mobile phone reception is good across the majority of the site although poor inside the house. In an emergency 9-5pm call 01924 863892, alternatively all staff and volunteers are connected via a 2-way radio system and can raise the alarm. For emergencies outside of this time call 999.

Dogs

Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the property. In the park owners should keep their dogs under close control at all times. Dogs must be kept on leads around the lower lake, in addition to Areas of the park that have seasonal cattle grazing. Dogs are not allowed in the garden.

Specifics

Lockers are available for Visitors to secure large bags & other possessions before entering the House.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

By car:

The only vehicle access to Nostell is from the main A638 trunk road that runs between Wakefield and Doncaster. The gated entrance is located approximately 5.5 miles southeast of Wakefield.

The Park is signposted using brown highways agency signs from the centre of Wakefield. We recommend using satellite navigation using WF4 1QE. The entrance to the House, Gardens and Visitor Facilities is 500 yards from the main car park. Please note a buggy service is available to take visitors from the car park to the main facilities every day from 10am until 4pm. Please note at present the buggy is not accessible to wheel chair users.

By bus:

Include link to metro.

The entrance to Nostell is only 1000 yards from the House, Garden and visitor facilities.

By train:



There is a train station in Fitzwilliam which is 1 mile from the estate entrance. Trains are operated by Northern Rail. Fitzwilliam is on the line between Leeds and Sheffield. For details please visit:

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

Accessible Blue Badge Parking

Accessible Blue Badge parking can be found in 2 locations at Nostell: Stables Function Car Park has 4 Blue Badge bays, the main car park has 10 Blue Badge bays. Please display your Blue Badge documentation on your dashboard for eligibility for free parking.

The main car park The car park has a hard surface constituted of tar, spray and chip. A buggy service is available to take visitors from the car park to the main facilities every day from 10am until 4pm. Please note at present the buggy is not accessible to wheel chair users. A car parking charge of £7 is in place for all other visitors unless members of the National Trust

The Stables The car park surface is grasscrete with a tarmac access road. Entrance to the Courtyard is block cobbles leading to Yorkshire stone edge with a central surface of resin bonded gravel

Busy periods

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. At busy times such as weekends and school holidays we use grass over flow parking. If you require accessible Blue Badge parking please ask a member of our team

WCs

Main Visitor Facilities - Stables

- All are located on ground floor level in the Courtyard.
- Accessible / changing place room size – 3m x 3.6m
- Remote controlled hoist
- Transfers on both sides
- Area lit by florescent lighting
- Hand drying facilities : Dyson auto hand dryers

Mansion

- All are located on ground floor level along the Pavilion corridor
- Accessible size – 2.3m x 2.4m
- Transfers on both sides
- Area lit by : natural light from 2 large windows &
- Hand drying facilities : manual push button hand dryer & paper towels

Visitor Reception

- The main visitor reception is in the stables and the surfaces are all stone. There are 4 dining style chairs with cushions and a leather covered bench.
- There are two entrances to the stables ticket office which is the main welcome reception for visitors. The primary doorway has no slope; the secondary entrance has a step which is 8cm high. The welcome cabin at the car park has a step into it but the staff always greet visitors from the path. Tickets are not processed from this point.
- The main entrance door near the café is 1m, 19.5cm wide. The secondary door is 1m, 25 cm wide. It opens outwards and is 1m, 19.5cm wide.
- The reception desk is 1m, 7cm high. There is a lower side section of the desk where someone in a wheelchair could speak at their level to staff or there is a table in the middle of the room.
- The area is lit by GU10 LED bulbs. There is limited natural light.
- There is no induction loop available at the reception or membership recruitment desk
- There are three powered mobility vehicles available for use in the parkland & gardens. These can be pre-booked or available on the day if still available and not pre-booked.
- There are five wheelchairs for use in the house and gardens. These can be pre-booked or available on the day if still available and not pre-booked.

House

Mansion entrance:

- The mansion entrance is 200 metres from the blue badge spaces in the Stables car park, and 120 metres from the visitor reception, via a level tarmac surface.
- The house entrance doors are 167cm wide doors, with a shallow 3 cm step. They are manual and are set open and staffed during open times. Assistance is always available during mansion open hours. .
- Wheelchairs are available for loan for use in the mansion. Powered mobility scooters can access the ground floor of the mansion but not other floors, due to restrictive access.
- Wheelchair access to the first floor is through use of a lift, operated by staff. As our lift is historic & therefore not fire protected we are unable to use it if the fire alarms sounds. Hence all wheelchair users need to be able to certify that they can get themselves down from the first floor in the event of an evacuation. If they are unable to do this we are sorry but they will be unable to access the first floor.



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- For fire safety reasons it is necessary to restrict the number of wheelchairs on the first floor of the house to 2 – this is to ensure that should we need to evacuate down the Peron steps for wheelchair users, there is space for this to happen in a safe manner.
- There are volunteers available to assist visitors at all key points and in most rooms on the public route.
- There is a rest space in each room.
- Food & drink is not allowed in the house
- Shoes must have heels larger than a postage stamp.
- Some of the exhibits in the house have sound effects.

Ground Floor access:

The ground floor has level stone floors throughout and is wheelchair friendly, with several areas large enough for turning.

The large entrance hall has low natural lighting, and it is recommended that all visitors allow time for their eyes to adjust before beginning their visit. The remaining ground floor has few windows and is naturally dark, with freestanding LED lighting at intervals. There are no fluorescents on the public route. There are fluorescents in some mansion staff offices.

State rooms (first floor) access:

- The staircases to and from the first floor have 21 steps with historic banisters.
- There is a staff-operated lift, available on request during mansion open hours.
- Occasionally three extra rooms are opened on the second floor, which have 36 steps and are not accessible by lift for wheelchairs.
- All doorways and corridors on the public route are wider 75 cm. Many first floor rooms are small with limited access, and wheelchairs can only be turned around in the Top Hall, State Dressing Room, Saloon and Billiard Room.
- The first floor has manageable natural light but in the winter months it can become dark near the end of the afternoon. There are currently experimental installations of additional LED lights in key points on the route.
- Noise in the large Top Hall does echo.
- Audio in Top Hall, Crimson Room, State Bedroom and Saloon.
- There is a rest chair in each room, identified by a green check cover. Please note they are historic Chippendale chairs and do not have armrests. Backless rest benches are also available in some rooms.

Catering

1. The café is 450 metres from the blue badge spaces in the Stables car park and 45 metres from the Visitor reception. There is also a smaller outlet which is also within the courtyard
2. The surface outside the cafe in the courtyard is a Yorkshire stone flagged area the entrance from the gardens is a tarmac stone chipped path.
3. There are 3 entrances/exits to the café and all are at ground level, all are 1metres wide and the doors swing both inwards and outwards. The entrance to the smaller outlet is up a set of 2 steps.
4. The café and smaller outlet have no soft furnishings and the hard surfaces will cause sound echoes.
5. The environment is well light with lots of natural light, and there is artificial light provided by spot LED ceiling lights, small fluorescent bulbs shaded wall lights.
6. Staff will assist visitors on request, visitors can be seated if they experience difficulty queuing.
7. There is a circulation space of approximately 120cm between tables
There are metal table & chairs in the courtyard for café users wishing to sit outside, all chairs have arms.
8. The courtyard can become noisy at busy periods.

Retail

- The shop is 450 metres from the blue badge spaces in the Stables car park and 45 metres from the Visitor reception.
- The surface outside the shop in the courtyard is a Yorkshire stone flagged area the entrance from the gardens is a tarmac stone chipped path.
- To enter the shop there is a slight slope but once over the slope the shop floor is level.
- The entrance to the shop of 2 metres wide to the shop and has no door to open or close when entering the shop.
- The Shop has no soft furnishings (e.g. carpet, wall hangings...) and the hard surfaces will cause sound echoes.
- There is no seating in the shop
- There is sometimes background music played in the shop
- The environment is well light with lots of natural light, and there is artificial light provided by GU10 LED bulbs directed at displays.
- There is circulation space of 120cm between all displays
- Tills do not have induction loops.
- Staff and volunteers are available to help reach down items that cannot be reached by customers.
- Staff and volunteers are always available to describe items and prices to customers if needs be.
- Where ever possible staff will support in transporting heavy / bulky purchases to a customers vehicle.

Garden



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- The garden is accessed via the courtyard entrance; the route around the garden varies in levels as it progresses. For those loaning a powered mobility vehicle a map is provided highlighting steep slopes and steps (un-advisable routes).
- There are routes which can avoid steep slopes and steps in some areas, which are marked on the map provided with the powered mobility vehicle.
- Path material varies throughout the garden. Tarmac and gravel from the stables to the house. Red Shale/ granite chips (compacted material between 1 and 40mm in size). Grass paths in the kitchen garden and certain areas of the Menagerie. Bark chip paths through the playground. Routes maybe compromised by weather conditions, please check before you visit if you wish to see a specific area.
- Paths in the Pleasure Ground and Menagerie have shallow and steep slopes in areas. The steeper paths at approximately a fall of 1:6 (16%).
- There are steps in the Pleasure Grounds, with handrails and steps in the Menagerie Garden without handrails.
- Throughout the garden there are several gates located in the Rose Garden, Kitchen Garden, West Lawn and Menagerie.
- Fingerpost signage is used at the garden entrance. 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.
- The gardens are dissected with water features in the shape of ponds, lakes, fountain and cascade.
- Wild fowl are present throughout much of the year.
- Garden machinery is in operation throughout the year.

Parkland

- The parkland consists of approximately 300 acres of mixed woodland, grazed meadow and lake and can be accessed by several points (main entrance, Wragby Lodge, Far Vista, West Hardwick Track and Foulby Caravan Park Entrance).
- The ground is undulating, steeper slopes mainly within Obelisk Park and between the Boat House and Mansion.
- There are information points at both the main car park (Estate Map and leaflet route guides available at all times) and Stables. Staff are available between 10 am and 5.00pm (10 – 4 in winter months) every day (except Christmas Day) to suggest routes for those with mobility issues.
- A map of the estate is available free with 4 suggested routes and approximate distances as well as an all-weather route.
- The routes paths are a mixture of materials- Tarmac (Car park to Boat House). Fine compacted limestone (Boat House to Obelisk and Hardwick Beck picnic site). Rough limestone metalled track (Bottom Lake to caravan park and sheep wash field). Wood chip (Bottom Lake and Joiners Wood). Grass (outer parkland walks in Obelisk and Far vista as well as any other woodland walks not mentioned above). The grass paths can become rutted and muddy during the winter and prolonged wet periods.
- There are Green graded cycle route left of Obelisk & a blue graded cycle route right of Obelisk, lime stone chip surface.



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- Throughout the estate there are gates to negotiate, some of which are fitted with 2-way accessible latches (those along the all-weather route).
- Cattle graze the vista and sheep wash between March and November. From Mid-July to November they also intermittently graze Obelisk and Foulby Park as well as the Far Vista. Electric fencing is used for stock control where needed.
- Horse riders with permits use the Parkland.
- Water features within the park are in the form of a lake, boat house pond and small cascade, beck and long standing flooded areas within the Sheep Wash Field.
- Estate machinery is in operation throughout the year.

Contact details for more information

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Map Appendices:

1. [Nostell Map Guide](#)
2. [Mobility Scooter Access Map](#)