

## Hughenden Access Statement

It's hardly surprising that the unconventional Victorian Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli so loved Hughenden. His handsome home, set in an unspoilt Chiltern valley with its views of ancient woodland and rolling hills, is full of the fascinating personal memorabilia of this charismatic and colourful statesman. Disraeli's hillside retreat later became the headquarters for a top-secret, Second World War operation that put Hughenden high on Hitler's target list. The estate also offers a variety of walks, rewarding visitors with perfect views of the Chiltern Hills.

### Contact details

Hughenden, near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP14 4LA

T: 01494 755573

E: [hughenden@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:hughenden@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### Introduction

- Dogs are welcome in the gardens and parkland on leads and under close control. Assistant dogs are welcome throughout the property. There are two water bowls available in the stableyard.
- As the property was built on a hill there are a number of uneven paths, steep slopes and steps across the property.
- There is disabled parking located closer to the Stableyard than the main car park. When arriving at the welcome kiosk please let a member of the team know you would like to use the disabled parking area.
- The gardens are partially accessible to wheelchairs.
- Access to the ground floor of the manor (only floor open currently) is accessible for wheelchairs. A ramp can be brought out on request to enable access through the front door and wheelchair users will be guided back to the entrance to exit the manor to avoid stairs on exit.
- Induction loops are available in the welcome kiosk, shop and cafe.
- There is reasonable mobile phone reception across most of the site.
- Light levels in the manor are kept low to protect the collection.
- There are manual wheelchairs available for loan which must be pre-booked before your visit.

## Arrival, Departure & Parking Facilities

- There are brown signs from High Wycombe town centre (A4128 / A40 junction). Take the A4128 along the Hughenden valley for 1.5 miles. The entrance is signed on the A4128. The main car park is approx. 0.75 mile from A4128 along a single track tarmac driveway (with 2 cattle grids and passing places).
- Before you reach the main car park, you will be asked to stop at the welcome kiosk and show your National Trust membership card if you are a member.
- The main car park is further up the hill, along a road surfaced with crushed stone, as is the main car park.
- Pedestrians arriving from the main road should walk straight on at the top cattle grid. Turn right behind the stableyard and follow the path up to the welcome kiosk.
- There are 12 designated Blue Badge spaces in the main car park. There is also disabled parking available next to the Stableyard which is much closer to the manor.
- There is an overflow car park at the back of the main car park which is opened on busy days when the ground is dry.
- The main car park and overflow car park are reasonably flat. Access to the stableyard and manor are reached via the woodland path which is sloped.
- The woodland path is 300 meters long and takes around 5 minutes to walk at a moderate pace. The path is surfaced with crushed stone, which leads downhill along a 1:9 gradient slope directly past the welcome kiosk. There is a wooden seat approximately half way along this path.
- The exit route from the main car park directs cars downhill, and to slow traffic, through a series of sharp bends followed by a 60mm. 'sleeping policeman'.



Woodland path to Visitor Welcome Kiosk



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## Visitor Welcome Kiosk and Picnic Orchard

- There are a number of picnic tables in the Picnic Orchard which is located next to the welcome kiosk. These are accessible to wheelchairs and buggies via a gravel path to the lawn area. Please note the same route must be used to exit the orchard to avoid slopes and steps. The ground is uneven and can get extremely wet and muddy depending on the weather.

## Route to the Stableyard and Manor

- The woodland path, after the welcome kiosk, joins a gently sloping (approximately 1:15 gradient slope) tarmac road. This entrance road leads to the stableyard, manor, walled gardens and pleasure grounds.
- As you walk down the hill there is an entrance on the left which leads through to the Walled Garden. This can be accessed by entering a yard and using the path on the right which is wheelchair accessible.
- To access the Stableyard follow the path all the way down and around a corner on the left.
- The route contains tarmac and gravel surfaces and is used as a road. The road is single tracked but has grass on either side which can be used if a vehicle approaches. The route is lined with trees which can create a 'dappled' effect on the path if the sun is out.
- Once at the bottom of the path the entrance to the Stableyard and another entrance to the bottom of the Walled Gardens are to the left of you. On the right is a tarmac road which crosses through the property. On the other side of the road are the entrances to the manor, pleasure grounds and formal gardens.
- The route from the welcome kiosk to the manor is approx.. 300 meters and takes around 5 minutes to walk at a moderate pace.

## The Stableyard

- The stableyard has a cobbled floor which is uneven in places.
- Within you will find access to the shop, café and toilets.
- Just inside the stableyard are WCs, including a separate disabled toilet with baby changing facilities.
- The disabled facilities have 1000mm entrance and include a right-hand transfer accessible WC with space to turn a wheelchair through 1500mm diameter circle.
- There are no adult changing facilities available here.
- All the WCs have automatic hand driers, stone floors and brick walls surfaces, with fluorescent lights.

## Stableyard Café

- The Stableyard Café can be entered via a doorway over 800mm wide. This door opens inwards over 90 degrees into the first cafe room. The door is non-power assisted. There

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is a level entrance apart from a small raised lip onto an entrance mat which then leads onto a cobbled floor.

- There are brick walls and low energy lighting.
- There is an alternative level entrance / exit to the café through a larger non-power assisted door, at the back of the stableyard, which is 1000mm wide and opens inwards. This door leads to second café room which has a paved brick floor and wooden panelled walls. The width between the tables in the first room is approximately 950mm, but the width is must wider in the second room.
- There is some outdoor seating with tables which can accommodate wheelchair users.
- The counter is over 900mm high. There is induction loop at the counter which is signed
- Catering team members are available to assist with service and carrying trays. Members of visitor groups can sit at tables if queuing is difficult and one member of the group can ask catering staff for assistance.

## Shop

- The entrance from stableyard is level and the floor has smooth hard surface and low energy lighting is used.
- The doorway is over 1000mm in width; the door open inwards to at least 90 degrees and is non-power operated.
- The counter is 950mm high but staff and volunteers are able to assist with service here and with lifting and carrying goods if required.
- There is an induction loop which is signed.
- There is circulation space within the shop to use a powered wheelchair, but not a powered mobility vehicle.

## The Walled Garden

- The walled garden has 2 entrances both of which join a sloping crushed stone path (approx.. 1:13 gradient slop).
- Wheelchair users are advised to stick to the outer path which goes around the garden as the middle paths are slightly uneven.
- Benches with armrests are positioned around the walled garden.



## **The Manor – opening 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

- The driveway in front of the manor is only used by pedestrians. The driveway is surfaced with bitumen bound gravel.
- The entrance to the Manor is up 2 small steps, the largest 100mm high. Temporary ramps are available which staff will install on request. There are 2 doorways at the entrance; the first is 800mm wide and the second 900mm wide. The floor surfaces are mostly carpeted and covered with large rugs in the main rooms. There is hard flooring throughout the Hillside exhibition space.
- In the Hillside exhibition space, audio/interactive elements are at a height that makes them accessible to visitors in a wheelchair. All videos have subtitles.
- The lighting is a mixture of LED and Halogen and kept to a low level to maintain the atmosphere and to protect the collection apart from in the Hillside exhibition where light levels are much higher.
- Seating, with arm rests, is provided around the house, please ask the room guides for assistance if required. There is usually someone in each room. If you require use of a quiet space, please indicate this to one of our room stewards who will be able to find a suitable area for you..
- 4 wheeled powered mobility vehicles and powered wheelchairs cannot be accommodated in the Manor due to narrow turning circles.



## **Second-hand bookshop – opening 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

- It can be accessed from the North Lawn which is located at the front of the manor. There are 5 steps to the entrance door and a further 2 small steps in the entrance area.

- The second-hand bookshop is accessible for wheelchair users by a different route through the manor. To use this route please ask the volunteers located on the entrance to the manor for help. The route goes through 3 non-power assisted doors all at least 800mm wide and which open at least 90 degrees. The doors open both inwards and outwards.
- There is a disabled toilet which can be accessed by a sliding door (maximum opening 730mm). The facility includes a right-hand transfer accessible WC with space to turn a wheelchair circle.

## The Pleasure Gardens and Parterre

- The garden is set on a hillside behind the manor and is enclosed by hedging or metal fences.
- There are various sloped pathways with varying gradients; surfaces also vary between crushed stone, and grass. There is a 'ha-ha' along the side of the garden, down a steep grass slope.
- There are several benches around the gardens.
- The direct route from the manor to the Parterre is separated by stone steps, which have no handrails and the step sizes vary.
- Wheelchair access to the Parterre is possible by using a sloped (up to approximately 1:10 gradient slope) gravel path which starts directly left of the main garden entrance. The route initially drops downwards and then wheelchair users should follow the right fork (shown below) to access the Parterre.



The right fork of the above Pleasure garden path should be followed to reach the parterre.

- Once the Parterre is reached there are level crushed stone paths which circle the Parterre.

- At the far end of the Parterre are beehives with a viewing platform. The beehives and viewing platforms can only be accessed across uneven sloped grass and the various routes are not suitable for wheeled chair access.

## **The D'Israeli monument and wider estate**

- Surrounding the manor is parkland and woodland which can be explored using four signposted walking routes. There are also a number of other footpaths and bridleways that cross the estate.
- One of these routes leads to the D'Israeli monument where there is a great view from the top of the hill.
- All of the routes contain steep slopes and uneven paths so are advised as unsuitable for wheelchair access.

**For more information please contact Hughenden Estate Office on the number above.**

**Last reviewed: September 2020**