



## Ashdown Access Statement

Ashdown, Nr Ashbury, Oxfordshire, RG17 8RE

T: 01793 762209

E: ashdownhouse@nationaltrust.org.uk

### Introduction

1. Ashdown is an extraordinary building with the appearance of a doll's house nestled in a beautiful valley on the Berkshire Downs, surrounded by woodland. It was built by an Earl, William Craven, as a house fit for the queen he loved, Queen Elizabeth of Bohemia in 1662.
2. Ashdown House is tenanted and access is limited to hall, staircase (100 steps ) and roof.
3. Access to the house is by guided tour only at 2.15, 3.15 and 4.15, for up to 25 people at a time. On busy days, timed tickets for the tours will be handed out at the gate on a first come basis and additional tour will be at 2.45 and 3.45. Pre-booking is not required except for large groups (over 10 people) who must contact us first on 01793 762209 (phone answered 9am-5pm Monday to Friday) to check if they can be accommodated.
4. Mobile phone reception is limited at some points throughout the estate.
5. Assistance dogs are welcome in the house. Dogs are permitted under close control in the woods but not in the formal gardens around the house.

### Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. Parking is available in the woodland carpark and brown signs from Ashbury will direct you there.
2. There are no designated spaces for disabled visitors in the main car park. The main car park is about 100 metres from the house down a tarmac then gravelled drive.
3. Disabled car parking is available by the house if requested in advance by phoning 01793 762209 (office open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm). Limited to 3 vehicles.
4. The surface in the main car park is a mix of gravel, wood chip and grass in the overflow car park.
5. No buggy or wheelchairs available on site.

### WCs

1. There is one toilet available near the South Lodge next to the house (during house opening hours only).
2. The toilet is adapted with support handrails but isn't fully accessible.
3. There is no alarm cord in the toilet and the doorway is low so there is a 'Please mind your head' sign.
4. The historic door way is low and quite narrow
5. The toilet is a right-handed transfer with the rails attached to the wall are on the right hand side.)
6. The light switch is on the left hand side onside when you enter the toilet
7. There is an automatic hand drier in the toilet



## **Visitor Reception/South Lodge Welcome room**

1. The floor is historic flag stones and there is a lip on the door as you enter.
2. It has a level entrance.
3. The desk is 750mm high.
4. Chairs are available with armrests

## **House**

1. It is 200 metres from the car park to the house and visitor reception.
2. Outside the house is sandy coloured gravel and there are 9 steps up to the front door which are uneven with metal handrails on either side.
3. House is tenanted and access is limited to the entrance hall, staircase (100 steps) and roof
4. Access into the house is via guided tour only
5. Group tours available but must be booked in advance on 01793 762209 (9-5 Mon - Fri)
6. The floor on the ground floor is stone but the rest of the staircase and landings are wood. On some of the landings there are rugs on the floor.
7. There is natural light and lights on the staircase, as well as additional table lamps on some of the furniture.
8. The final staircase onto the roof, is a turret staircase with a rope handrail.
9. Wheelchairs can't get into the house as its stairs only
10. The tour is limited to 25 people and led by a volunteer.
11. There are a few seats (collection) that visitors may sit on, please ask the tour guide on the tour
12. There are no toilets in the house
13. If you aren't able or don't want to visit the house, we have a digital photo display of inside the house available in the visitor reception.

## **Catering**

1. No catering on site

## **Retail**

1. There is a small amount of retail on the reception desk to buy in visitor reception and a second hand books to purchase

## **Garden & Ashdown Wood**

1. The formal garden and parterre around the house are only open when the house is open
2. The woods are open every day from dawn to dusk. There are maps available in the carpark. The wood paths are uneven, with a mix of gravel, grass, mud and wood chip surface.

## **Contact details for more information**

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