

Gawthorpe Hall Access Statement

Burnley Road, Padiham, Lancashire BB12 8UA

T: National Trust Estate Office 01282 770353 LCC Estate Office 01282 771004

E: gawthorpehall@nationaltrust.org.uk

Introduction

- Gawthorpe Hall is run in partnership with Lancashire County Council. Gawthorpe Hall is an Elizabethan mansion house and garden. There is open access all year round to the grounds.
- Gawthorpe Hall is located on the A671 in an urban area on the outskirts of Padiham.
- The entrance to the estate is via Stockbridge Drive accessed through two stone pillars. The entrance to Stockbridge Drive is at an awkward angle and large vehicles are advised to enter from the Padiham direction.
- Stockbridge Drive is single track with passing places and speed bumps. The drive is also used by pedestrians as the main path into the Property.
- Mobile phone reception is good in the grounds but intermittent to poor inside the Hall although the emergency number does connect inside.
- Assistance dogs are welcome in the Hall. Dogs are welcome in the gardens and woodland areas but we ask they are kept under close control on leads.
- The Hall is a tower shaped building on 3 floors. There is no lift with access being via a central staircase. This has a total of 42 steps, in 6 short flights.
- The Hall is not suitable for baby backpacks, pushchairs or large bags. Visitors are required to hand over large bags to be securely stored before entering the House. Visitors are requested not to wear high heels.
- Light levels are low throughout the property.
- Reception staff will provide information about accessibility.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

Travel Directions

On foot:

Enter on Stockbridge Drive from Burnley Road. There is no separate footpath and visitors must take care with passing traffic also accessing the property.

By Bus:

Frequent buses are available from Burnley Bus Station. Further information is available from www.lancashirebus.co.uk. Bus stops are located approximately 150 yards away from the entrance property.

By Train:

Rose Grove, Burnley Barracks and Burnley Manchester Road stations are nearby. Further information is available from www.nationalrail.co.uk

By Road:

Gawthorpe Hall is located on the A671 Padiham to Burnley road. From the M65 exit 8 towards Clitheroe and then Padiham or Junction 10 to Padiham.

Parking:

There is free parking for our visitors on site. The main car park is 150 yards from the Hall accessed by a narrow access road with passing places.

The main car park is located off Stockbridge Drive and is approximately 400 yards from the main road and has capacity for 50 cars. The car park is unsurfaced and uneven in places.

The main car park is located 100 yards from the main house.

There are 6 speed bumps before the main car park and an additional speed bump totalling 7 up to the entrance gate. The highest speed bump is approximately 8cm.

Paths to the Hall are clay gravel which can be difficult in wet weather.

It is possible to arrange to drop visitors off at the entrance to the Hall. Please telephone Lancashire County Council office in advance to discuss parking arrangements (01282 771004)

On busy days the coach bays may be used for parking if they are not being used by coaches.

WCs

Visitor toilets are located in the courtyard with the entrance floor being level with the outside path and are accessible to all. The floor is tiled and can become slippery when the weather is wet.

There is one accessible toilet:-

- An easy opening door 110cm wide which opens outwards
- Cubicle measuring 122cm wide and 240cm deep
- Toilet 41cm high
- Sink 74cm high with lever taps
- Horizontal and vertical rails on the right hand and rear of the toilet and in front of wash basin.
- The toilet is well lit with overhead lighting
- An emergency alarm pull cord

House

- The main car park is 100 yards from the Visitor Reception. Paths are clay gravel which can be difficult in wet weather.
- There are four steps up to the main entrance with no ramp. The front door is 1.15m wide and is always open when the Hall is open to the public. The door opens inwards and this leads to the inner porch.
- The inner porch has a wooden screen with a door which leads to the Entrance Hall. The door is 72 cm wide and is always open when there are visitors in the Hall.
- The entrance door is also the exit door from the property.
- There are chairs without armrests available for visitors throughout the house.
- Volunteers are located in the 4 main historic rooms and 1 on the Collection Floor who can provide assistance.
- There are no visitor toilets located within the Hall.
- Guided tours can be pre-booked but these are not available during normal opening times.

- Printed guides are available in rooms and are laminated and are in normal print.
- The Hall is not suitable for powered wheelchairs and powered mobility vehicles due to the high number of steps.

Visitor Reception

- There are four steps up to the main entrance with no ramp. The Front door is 1.15m wide and is always open when the Hall is open to the public. The door opens inwards and this leads to the inner porch.
- The inner porch has a wooden screen with a door which leads to the Entrance Hall. The door is 72 cm wide and is always open when there are visitors in the Hall.
- The area is well lit with chandeliers. 2 chairs are available both without arm rests.
- The reception desk is located in the Entrance Hall.
- There is an induction loop at the reception desk.
- A manual wheelchair is available which can be used for the grounds or on the ground floor of the Hall.
- A Braille Guide and Large Print Guides are available.

Lighting in the Hall

- Lighting in the historic rooms is via central chandeliers, table lamps and/or natural light through the windows. The level of lighting is generally good but can be reduced in spring and autumn as natural daylight is less. Additional up-lighting is placed in key areas if needed.
- The Textile Collection is displayed in cases – these are lit by electric light and the light levels vary depending on how sensitive the objects are. Those containing old or fragile items have dim light levels. The cases also have strip lights on top of them which light the rooms they are located in.

Access to Upper Floors

The Hall is a tower shaped building on 3 floors. There is no lift with access via a central staircase. This has a total of 42 steps, in 6 short flights.

Additionally there are steps between rooms on the same floor, all of these have either additional spotlighting or are indicated with white lines on the step edge. They are located as follows:-

Ground Floor.

There are 2 stone steps up from the Dining Room to the bottom of the main staircase. There are 2 steps up from the Inner Porch to the bottom of the main staircase.

First Floor.

There are 2 shallow steps up from the first floor landing of the main staircase into the Collection Floor (Rooms 1 to 5).

On the Collection Floor there are 2 steps down through a narrow doorway (70cm) from Room 2 to Room 3.

There is 1 step down at the end of Collection Room 5, taking you back to the main staircase.

Second Floor

There are 6 steps into the Exhibition Room from the second landing on the main staircase.

There is 1 step up into the Long Gallery from the second floor landing of the main staircase.

There are 2 steps down and then 3 steps up to the alternative door to the end of the Long Gallery from the Servants Corridor.

Narrow Corridors/Doorways

The route from the Entrance Hall to the Dining Room passes under the Minstrel's Gallery and goes through 2 doorways that are offset, this makes manoeuvring from one room to another awkward.

Doorway from Entrance Hall to below Minstrel's Gallery is 86cm.

Corridor below Minstrels Gallery is 84cm as narrowest point.

Doorway from Minstrels Gallery corridor into Entrance Hall is 104cm.

Catering

- The Coach House Café is 100 yards from the main car park and from the Hall. The paths are clay gravel and paving slabs. Both can be difficult in wet weather. A large area of the Courtyard where the Café is located is cobbled.
- The Entrance to the Café is level with the path outside and is accessible to all.
- Visitors can be dropped off at the entrance to the Café but care must be taken as the Courtyard is often full with visitors.
- The door width is 74cm wide and opens inwards. The door can be open or closed on arrival depending on the weather but staff will see visitors through the windows and will be happy to assist with entering if required.
- The floor surface of the Café is stone slabs and due to their age they are uneven in parts.
- The Café is lit with electric lights with lighting being at a lower level in the seating area. There are tables available next to large windows which give a source of natural light.
- There is ample space in the entrance area of the Café to turn a wheelchair.
- The counter height is 88cm. The Café is self-service but staff will be happy to carry items to the table and help visitors who have difficulty queuing.
- Tables in the Café are placed reasonably well apart with a clear height of 600mm with upright chairs without arms.
- There is background music in the Café
- Where possible all our food produce is locally sourced. We do our best to cater for special dietary requirements including vegetarian and gluten free; please contact us in advance to check any specific requests you may have.
- We have a portable PDQ for ease of payment.
- There is a space to leave prams.

Second Hand Bookshop

This is located on the first floor of the Coach House Café. There are 14 steps with a handrail up to the first floor. There is no lift.

Books are stored on low level shelves. Staff will be happy to provide chairs for visitors to sit on while browsing if there are no spare ones available nearby.

Some books are displayed and for sale on the ground floor near to the entrance door.

Garden

- The grounds are a mixture of formal gardens and woodland areas and some areas could pose difficulties for people with mobility problems.
- Paths are mainly clay gravel which can be difficult in wet weather. Some roadways are very uneven with potholes and can become waterlogged in wet weather.
- There are some steep slopes and some steps without handrails around the formal gardens and 16 steps up to the fishing pond. There are no gates on the routes.
- There are some seats for visitors around the grounds and in the 2 picnic areas located in the Courtyard area. Both picnic areas are on grass with one level to the paving slabs and there accessed via 3 stone steps. All picnic tables are wheelchair accessible.
- Visitors to the property who wish to walk around the grounds are recommended to wear stout shoes.

If you have any comments about we could have made your visit more enjoyable, or how we can make this access statement more helpful, then please let us have your feedback on a comment card on the day or email us at gawthorpehall@nationaltrust.org.uk

Contact details for more information

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