

Springhill Access Statement

20 Springhill Road
Moneymore
Magherafelt
County Londonderry
BT45 7NQ



Introduction

1. A 17th-century 'Plantation' home, with a walled garden and parkland, full of waymarked paths, that is located within walking distance of Moneymore.
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 main office number (02886 748210) would alert staff during normal working hours.
3. Dogs are welcome on the estate and within the gardens. Our policy is that dogs should be kept on leads. Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the property, including in the Visitor Reception located in the Barn in the top carpark. Dog waste bins are situated throughout the property.
4. Given the rural setting of Springhill, there are some inclines on our paths around the property. Maps of the grounds highlighting these areas are available for those visitors using mobility aids.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. Springhill is well signposted from Cookstown and Moneymore, with brown tourist signs highlighting the route. It is a one mile walk up Springhill Road from Moneymore to the property.
2. On arrival, visitors follow the entrance driveway towards the house, turning left at the small crossroads and then up to the top car park, which is located next to the Visitor Reception (Barn). Any visitors with mobility issues can be directed to our disabled car parking spaces, which are nearer to the buildings.
3. The visitor car parks have gravel surfaces. The Barn (Visitor Reception) is on the same level and is accessible through wide front Barn doors.

WCs

1. There are two separate accessible toilets, complete with emergency pull cords. One is located at the top of the carpark and the other is located on Juniper Walk which is a concrete path running through the garden area from Visitor Reception into the Laundry Yard. The emergency alarms for these are picked up in the visitor reception.
2. Both accessible toilets have smooth flooring, the carpark toilet being "lino" flooring, and the Laundry Yard toilet being tiles.
3. Both accessible toilet cubicles are large, with the door opening outwards in the car park toilet and inwards in the Juniper Walk toilet.
4. Both accessible toilets have a pull-down rail on the right-hand side and are fitted

with a back rest.

5. Within the accessible toilet, the spaces are lit with motion sensor 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 Barn in the top car park. It is a stone structure, with grey concrete flooring. This area has been continually developed over the last few years and is fully accessible to the car park. There is a ramp at the side door which leads onto the Juniper Walk.
2. The front of the Visitor Reception has a large safety glass double door (the width of the original barn doors. The entrance is 1680mm wide (both doors open). The door remains open when the property is open to visitors. There is a manual wheelchair which can be hired free of charge from reception.
3. The reception desk is 750mm in height on the visitor side, and 930mm on the staff side. There is an additional side piece to the main desk which is 760mm 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 whicker armchairs and iron circular tables, in the Visitor Reception.
6. During opening hours there is always a member of staff at reception.
7. There is no loop system available to assist people with hearing difficulties.
8. There is adequate circulation space in this area.

House

1. The distance from the car park and Visitor Centre to the house is 98 metres. There is a mild gradient downwards and it takes 5 minutes at a casual pace.



The route is marked with signs that lead to the front of the house for the start of the visitor's tour.

2. The surface in front of the house is lightly graveled.
3. The main entrance to the house has 4 steps and a final step leading into the Entrance Hall. It is level at the upper and lower areas of the steps. A ramp is not available at this point (see Q 5)



View of the front entrance into the house.

4. The entrance door is a manual door only. The door is 117cm wide and opens inwards and staff & volunteers help with opening and closing it.
5. There is a disabled access at the back of the house. Visitors will be shown the direction to go by staff in the Visitor Centre and the route is marked with signage. The distance to the back door is an extra 52 metres for the visitor to walk to avoid any steps. In total it is 150 metres from the Visitor Centre to the back of the house. The back door opens outwards and a member of staff will assist with this. The door is 115cm wide. The surface of the path to the back door is a mix of tarmac (40% of journey) and gravel (60% of journey).



Above left: View of the route to the back door which is sign-posted.
Above right: A view of the back door from distance.

6. The back door house access is 115cm wide.
7. There are no rooms without soft furnishings that will create an echo.
8. Four of the spaces that are open to the visitors have artificial lights (mix of LED and fluorescent bulbs). There are four other visitors areas that don't have artificial lights however the shutters are open throughout the house which lets in a sufficient amount of light that maintains the collection and atmosphere.

9. Access to the first floor is only accessible by stairs with handrails. There is a flight that leads to the middle landing area and another flight that leads to the upper landing area where the final room of the tour is located. First flight of stairs has 12 steps and the second has 8 steps. There is a photographic information booklet for visitors who cannot access the upper areas to give them an idea of what the upper areas contain.



View of the stairs that lead to the final room on the visitor journey

10. Coming from the Dining Room to the Butler's Pantry there is a narrow and low doorway where visitors are advised to be careful they don't bump their head. There is also a small step the visitor needs to manage. The open door in this photo is 156cm high and 72cm wide.



View of the low doorway from the Dining Room to the Butler's Pantry.

11. There is space to turn a wheelchair that will allow a visitor to have the 1500mm diameter circle required.
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. Seating is available if required. A member of staff will assist in helping anyone that needs a seat. There are no arm rests on the seats that are at Springhill.
14. There are no volunteers in each room as there is a guided tour system at Springhill.
15. There are no WC's within the house for visitors. The closest WC is in the Laundry Yard. There is an accessible WC in this location.
16. The guides do not use induction loops or other similar communication devices.
17. There are no audio guides, virtual tours or large prints but Springhill has a house tour in Braille and there are tours in French and German.
18. There is one space at the bottom of the stairs where the guide will allow the visitor to sit and wait for the group to finish the tour. There are photos of the upstairs part of the tour if the visitor is interested.

Costume Exhibition

1. The distance from the Visitor Centre to the Costume Museum is 89 metres.
2. The type of surface for the majority of the journey to the museum is tarmac (85%) and the rest is flagstone.



Photo of the flagstones outside the Costume Exhibition.

3. People can access the exhibition space by following the flagstones that take a turn to a slight gradient uphill until you get to the door of the Costume Exhibition.
4. The entrance door is manually operated and is generally open throughout the day so the visitor does not need to manoeuvre it. The door opens inwards. The width of the door is 95cm.
5. There is no other access/entrance door to the Costume Exhibition.
6. The Costume Exhibition area is not furnished therefore, there may be echoes within this space if there are many people inside.
7. The area is lit by fluorescent bulbs and some strip lighting. There is no natural light in the areas past the first part of the exhibition. This means that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the space has artificial light.
8. There is space to turn a wheelchair in the Costume Exhibition.

9. There are two seats with arm rests in the Costume Exhibition.
10. There are no volunteers that work in the Costume Exhibition.
11. There are no WC's within the Costume Exhibition area but there are accessible WC's and Male and Female WC's located across the yard which are 20 metres away.
12. There are no guided tours for this space which means there are no induction loops, Braille or other devices that will aid communication in the space. There are however, information leaflets that can be used to give the visitor a fuller understanding of the exhibition and they are located inside the entrance door.
13. There are no audio guides, tactile models, virtual tours or large prints.
14. There are no large print versions of the information panels.
15. There are no restrictions on powered wheelchairs or powered mobility vehicles inside the building.
16. There are seats in which the visitor can sit to take a break but as there is no guided tour the visitor can leave the building easily to take a breath of fresh air if they so please.

Dutch Garden

1. The Dutch Garden is located through a doorway on the right 30 metres from the Visitor Reception down Juniper Walk. The doorway is 90mm wide and is always wedged open when the property is open.
2. The paths are smooth gravel, are accessible and in one corner there is an iron corner bench.
3. There is one entry/exit door to the walled garden.

Laundry Yard

1. The Laundry Yard is located 80 metres from Visitor Reception and consists of a tarmac path running through the middle, with the Costume Museum located on one side and a toilet block on the other. There are grassy lawns on each side of the path.
2. There are steps at the end of the path, which lead down to the doorway and lead to the front of the house. This area is cobbled and, although wheelchairs can be pushed over this, it is not comfortable; therefore, they should follow the accessible route round to the rear of the house if they wish to take a house tour. They will be informed of this at Visitor Reception on arrival.

The Dovecote

1. This is a walled area surrounded by original stone walls and outbuildings, located in the lower carpark.
2. The surface to this area is gravel in the courtyard and cobbled under the entrance archway and can be uneven. Inside is a grass surface throughout and there are wooden bench-style picnic tables placed in there throughout spring and summer for visitors to use.

The Allotments

1. The entrance to the Allotments is located to the right of Visitor Reception through

a cobbled stone outhouse. This area is not accessible to wheelchairs due to an uneven entrance and bark pathways within.

2. The Allotments are only accessible by those who have an allotment, this area is not open to visitors unless there is an event in this area.
3. There is not WC in this area, with the nearest being located at the top of the carpark.

Wider Estate

1. The Springhill estate has approx 2 kilometres of walks that lead the visitor through the wider parkland surrounding the house.
2. There are several adventure trails for kids and families, which lead them through the woodland. These are not accessible due to tree roots and rugged ground.
3. The surface of the paths are largely tightly packed gravel and there are some slight slopes to negotiate, all highlighted on our property map and by staff on arrival.
4. The outer areas of the estate can be 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

T: 02886 748210

E: springhill@nationaltrust.org.uk

Access Statement completed December 2020