

Orford Ness NNR Access Statement

Quay Office, Orford Quay, Orford, Woodbridge IP12 2NU

T: 01394 450900

Introduction

- Although most of the tracks on Orford Ness are hard surfaced, level and flat, access to the property itself is by foot ferry across a tidal estuary, which necessitates descending steep and sometimes slippery steps to the boat, and then ascending again on the other side. These steps have a handrail on one side only, and the number of steps is dependent on the state of the tide.
- The site is exposed and often windy.
- Mobile phone reception is generally good on Orford Ness, although often poor or non-existent in the village of Orford itself. Visitors experiencing a problem at the property should phone the Rangers' Office on the number listed above.
- Assistance dogs are welcome on Orford Ness, but no other dogs are allowed on the property.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

- Orford Ness is not individually signed. However, Orford and Orford Castle are signed from the nearest main road: the A12. Once in the village, following the main road through it will bring one to the village's large pay and display car park.
- Orford Ness does not have its own car park, and we recommend that visitors use the village pay and display car park approximately 150m from the quay and the National Trust ticket office, which has a tarmacked surface.
- It is normally possible to drop people off near the National Trust ticket office on the quay before parking in the car park. Unattended parking on the quay, however, is not permitted.
- Should the pay and display car park be full, roadside parking is possible elsewhere in the village.

Ticket Office on Orford Quay

- The Ticket office for Orford Ness is situated on the quay, from where tickets must be bought before crossing the river to the Ness itself.
- The National Trust ticket office has a concrete floor and brick walls, due to occasional flooding.
- There are two steps upward to reach the ticket office door, which is 73cm wide.
- When the property is open to visitors, the ticket office door is usually kept open. The door is manual, and staff will assist in opening it if required.
- The desk in the office is 1m high, however staff will happily come round to talk to anyone for whom this would present a problem, and there are lower surfaces available as writing surfaces.
- The office is naturally lit during most opening hours, however fluorescent lighting is also present and may be used on dull days.
- A bench and a number of folding chairs – with armrests - are available in the ticket office.
- There is an induction loop system at the desk.

Ticket Office on Orford Quay (continued)

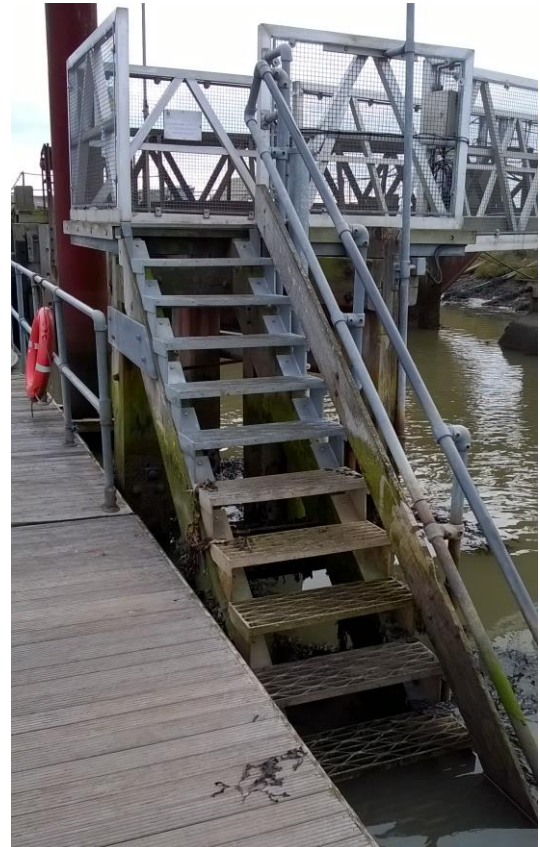
- A manual wheelchair is available for loan at the visitor reception caravan, near the arrival jetty, on Orford Ness itself.
- An electric vehicle – driven by staff or volunteers - is normally available to transport visitors around the majority of the property tracks. This can seat up to 3 visitors, and is subject to a staff member or volunteer driver being available. We recommend that visitors contact us – at the number above – to ensure availability on a specific date.
- Once across the river, at the arrival and departure jetty, visitors will be met and given a brief introductory talk by volunteer rangers. It is at this point that any requested wheelchair or mobility vehicle will be made available.

Boat Crossing

- The ferry to reach the Ness itself is an open launch which carries a maximum of 12 passengers.
- Access to the ferry from the quay is via a set of wooden steps, with a single handrail. The number of steps varies with the state of the tide.
- Stepping from the lowest step into the boat involves a couple of sizable steps. The ferry pilot will offer assistance.
- The river crossing only takes 2-3 minutes.
- Once the boat reaches the Ness, access involves exiting to a wooden-decked pontoon, climbing a steep set of galvanised steps with a single handrail (the number of which, again, will vary with the state of the tide) and crossing a wooden-decked bridge of approximately 12m to reach the land. A concrete ramp of approximately 20m then leads down to ground level.
- This is also the departure point from the Ness, and the same access issues apply in reverse.

Tracks

- Visitors may purchase a handbook for the property, which includes an annotated map of the tracks and buildings, but will otherwise be given a simple map on arrival.



Steps from the pontoon at mid-tide



The track leading to the Bailey Bridge

Tracks (continued)

- The principal route around the property is almost all on tarmac or concrete paths. Although not entirely smooth, due to age, there are no steps involved, other than to access some buildings, and no gates.
- For 100m leading to the central Bailey Bridge, the track surface is uneven and surfaced with compressed shingle, a similar, but slightly shorter stretch leads to the Bomb Ballistics Building. A 200m stretch leading to the NAAFI building is also rather uneven.
- The 700m track leading to the beach consists of loose shingle, as does the beach itself, and the 200m return track, leading to the Black Beacon, but these are not required routes to reach any of the National Trust visitor buildings.
- The ramp leading to the jetty is the steepest gradient on the route, and is approximately 1:12. A slightly gentler slope leads to the Bailey Bridge in the centre of the property, but does include uneven ground.
- There are a number of benches and perches located around the tracks.

WCs

- An accessible toilet is situated at the Rangers' Office – opposite the main visitor WCs, and approximately 1.3km from the jetty, as indicated on the visitor map. Drinking water is available here.
- Together, these are the only WCs on the property.
- Visitors in need of the toilet when elsewhere on the property can ask a volunteer ranger, who will usually be able to summon a vehicle to take them to the toilets.
- The accessible toilet is 2.3m x 2.6m, in size and is a left-hand transfer.
- There is no Changing Places facility.
- The toilet is naturally lit through a large window, but has a LED strip light if required.
- Hand drying in both the accessible and other visitor toilets is by means of paper towels.

Trailer Tour Facilities – advance booking essential

- On the first Saturday of July, August and September each year, we offer Trailer Tours in the morning and afternoon to assist with access around the property. This is a covered 24-seat trailer, drawn by a Landrover, which starts from the arrival jetty and visits most of the visitor accessible buildings, allowing time to look around at each one before returning to the jetty approximately 2-3 hours later. The trailer has padded seating and involves two steps to access it. Advance booking is essential via the National Trust Website.
- The trailer will stop immediately outside most buildings, but visitors may still need to walk stretches of up to 250m in order to reach other buildings.
- This same vehicle can be used for private guided group tours (with a minimum of 12 visitors) on other occasions. Call on the number above for further details. There is no induction loop facility for such tours.

Buildings on the Site

- Unless otherwise noted, all buildings on the site have stairs and corridors of at least 75cm wide.
- Unless otherwise noted, all rooms have a turning area of at least 150cm wide

Information Building

- This building, normally the first that visitors will reach after arriving on the Ness itself, is approximately 1km from the jetty.
- The surfaces leading to this building are tarmac and concrete road surfaces.
- There is a single 7cm step at the doorway into this building.
- The entrance door is normally kept open when the property is open to visitors.
- The doorway is 80cm wide.
- Both the walls and floors are hard surfaced in all rooms.
- Most of the rooms are naturally lit. However, one room is lit by LED bulbs due to light-sensitive materials.
- This building is on a single floor.
- There are benches situated outside this building. There is no seating with armrest,
- There is no volunteer stationed in this building, but our volunteer rangers will periodically cycle past and drop in.

NAAFI

- This building is either approximately 1km or 1.3km from the jetty, depending on which trails are open.
- The surface around this building is slightly uneven tarmac and concrete. The route leading to it from the Information Building is uneven in places for a stretch of approximately 200m.
- There is a slight step of 3cm followed by a slight ramp at the door to this building.
- The door to this building is normally kept open during visitor opening hours.
- The doorway is 130cm wide.
- All the walls and floors are hard surfaced.
- The rooms are naturally lit.
- The building is on one floor only.
- There is seating situated in this building.
- There is no volunteer stationed in this building, but our volunteer rangers will periodically cycle past and drop in.

Bomb Ballistics Building

- This building is approximately 2.1km from the jetty.
- The paths immediately around this building are concrete, but it is necessary to cross some short stretches of loose shingle and uneven ground to reach this section of the property.



Steps to the main floor and roof of the Bomb Ballistics building

Bomb Ballistics Building (continued)

- Access to the two upper floors of the building – including the visitor interpretation and binoculars – is via external, galvanised steps, with handrails on either side. There are a further 6 wooden steps inside the first floor.
- The entrance door is normally kept open during opening hours.
- The external steps are 80cm wide, and the doorway itself is 120cm wide
- All internal walls and floors are either concrete or wooden.
- The building is naturally lit.
- There is a bench inside the lowest floor of the building, which is open to the elements on one side.
- There is no volunteer stationed in this building, but our volunteer rangers will periodically drop in.

Power House

- This building is approximately 2.5km from the jetty.
- The paths immediately around this building are concrete, but it is necessary to cross some short stretches of uneven ground to reach this part of the property.
- There is one step – 10cm high - in the first room of this building.
- The door is normally kept open during opening hours.
- The door that is normally open is 67cm wide. However, the second half of the door can be opened on request, making the entrance 130cm wide.
- All walls and floors are hard surfaces.
- The building is naturally lit.
- The building is on a single floor.
- There are a number of benches situated immediately outside this building.
- A volunteer ranger is normally stationed in the Black Beacon, immediately opposite this building, but also patrols other areas.

Black Beacon

- This building is approximately 2.5km from the jetty.
- The paths immediately around this building are concrete, but it is necessary to cross some short stretches of uneven ground to reach this part of the property.
- Access to this building is by a flight of galvanised metal steps, with handrails on either side.
- The door is normally kept open during opening hours.
- The external steps are 120cm wide, and the doorway is 130cm wide.
- Floors and walls in this building are all wooden.
- This building is naturally lit, but has relatively small windows and may become dim at times.



Entrance to the Black Beacon



National Trust

Black Beacon (continued)

- The building has two floors. The second floor is accessed by a wooden staircase with handrail on each side.
- The stairs are twisting and only 69cm wide.
- There are a number of benches situated immediately outside this building.
- A volunteer ranger is normally stationed in this building, but also patrols other areas.

Control Room

- This building is approximately 2.7km from the jetty
- The paths immediately around this building are concrete, but it is necessary to cross some short stretches of uneven ground to reach this part of the property.
- There is one step of 4cm into this building.
- The door is normally kept open during visitor hours.
- The doorway is 106cm wide.
- All floors and walls are hard surfaces.
- This building has natural lighting, but with smaller windows can be dim at times.
- This building is on a single floor.
- There are a number of chairs and tables available in this building.
- There is no volunteer stationed in this building, however the volunteer rangers will cycle by and drop in periodically.

All building access is subject to safety considerations, weather and conditions on the day.

Contact details for more information

T: 01394 450900

Revised – July 2019

