

Washington Old Hall Access Statement

At the heart of historic Washington village this picturesque stone manor house and its gardens provide a tranquil oasis, reflecting gentry life following the turbulence of the English Civil War. The building incorporates parts of the original medieval home of George Washington's direct ancestors, and it is from here that the family took their surname of 'Washington'.



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Points to note

- The property was not built on level ground therefore there are a number of steps, ramps and slopes to contend with.
- The mobile phone reception across most of the site is good outside but poor for some services inside buildings
- Dogs on leads are welcome in the gardens but not in the hall with the exception of assistance dogs. There is a water bowl in the café gardens
- Light levels in the Great Hall on the ground floor are kept low to maintain and protect the collection.
- The first floor in the Hall is not wheelchair accessible
- Access is provided to the lower gardens via an outdoor garden lift
- There are no power assisted doors on the estate.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

- Washington old hall can be located by following brown signs once in the local area
- From A1 exit junction 64 and follow brown signs. From A19 join A1231 and follow brown signs. From all other routes, join A1231 and follow brown signs.
- Brown signs in the village direct you to the entrance and car park
- The property has one main entrance for visitors from street level.
- Entering through black metal gates, visitor reception is on the right. An ascending slope veers left to the carpark.
- The carpark is small and the surface is of hardstanding with gravel chippings
- Street Parking is also available on The Avenue, outside the property.
- Three Cycle racks are available near the main car park, located at the back of the Hall
- There are two designated spaces available for disabled visitors in the main car park approximately 25 metres from the visitor reception.
- Members of staff will be available to meet visitors who cannot access the stairs down to visitor receptions
- The coach drop off point and collection is on The Avenue outside the property entrance



WCs

- Male and female WC facilities are located on the first floor within Washington Old Hall. The entrance door opens outwards. The individual cubicle doors open inwards.
- The lower garden WCs are adjacent to the café which is accessible via an outdoor lift
- There are three WCs in the Lower gardens all of which are unisex
- The right-hand transfer accessible WC is 1.5m x 2m with 94cm wide door giving space to turn a wheelchair through is located in the lower garden
- All the WCs have automatic hand driers, stone tiled floors and LED lights.
- All WCs have windows allowing natural light
- The lower garden WCs doors open inwards
- There are no adult changing facilities but baby changing facilities are located in the lower garden WCs
- The unisex and female WCs have sanitary bins

Visitor Reception



- The visitor reception is in a sandstone lodge opposite the carpark.
- Access to reception is down nine stone steps, the first four steps do not have handrails.
- The steps lead to a flagstone path with some uneven paving.
- The wooden door entrance manually opens inwards using a latch. The door swings up to 90 degrees and is 0.9 - 1m wide.
- There is a 4 cm stone step up to a 2cm high wooden thresh lip
- There is a wooden 7cm step down into reception

- Staff or volunteers will be available to assist with opening the door or use portable scanners in the carpark to pass entry if using the stairs is inconvenient
- The office for staff and volunteers is also located at visitor reception.
- The reception desk is 86cm high
- There are also 3 desks and 5 office chairs which the reception team can also use for admission and membership enquiries.
- The flooring in this area is carpet. There are 2 large windows to provide natural light which is supplemented with 6 LED lighting panels.

House

- From the car park and Visitor reception it is between 20 - 45m to both the front and back entrance to the Hall.

Back entrance / exit

- Access to the back entrance is via the car park, up a gentle slope laid to hardstanding with gravel chippings. Turning right behind the back of the hall the entrance is an oak door set in the sandstone building in-between two stone troughs.
- The Oak door opens inwards and is 97cm
- There is a 3cm high difference between the flagstones of the Great hall floor and the coir mat on hardstanding outside, there is no thresh allowing for comfortable wheelchair access.
- The great hall floor which leads to the Great Hall Kitchen and the Panelled room is laid to sandstone flags, which in some places is uneven.

Front entrance / exit

- From Visitor Reception turn right, there are four stone steps taking you along a sandstone flagstone path which will bring you to a view of Top Garden, follow the path to the left. There are three stone steps up to the Oak door front entrance. - They are 13-15cm high with a tread of 30cm high the third step has a tread of 134cm.
- The width of the 3 stone steps is 2.8m and has a wooden hand rail on both sides
- A fourth stone step which takes you into the Hall which is 13cm high and has a step down of 7cm.
- As you enter the entrance of the Hall through an Oak door which is 76cm wide and opens inwards there is a large coir rug.
- Access to the Great Hall is from the entrance through two oak doors. One door is permanently wedged open during opening hours with a width of 80cm both doors can be opened upon request allowing an access width of 106cm. There is a wooden thresh 1.5cm high
- The Great Hall floor which leads to the Great hall kitchen and panelled room is laid to sandstone flagstones which are uneven in places.
- The Great hall, kitchen and panelled room is wide enough for turning wheelchairs.
- The Great Hall leads to the Panelled room through an oak door 80cm wide, there is a slight difference, under 1cm, between the flagstone paving and the wooden floor of the panelled room.
- There are no carpets down stairs so the hard surfaces cause a mild echo in these rooms.



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- The natural light on the lower floors is minimal and the supplementary lighting is average to maintain and protect the collection.

Access to 1st floor

- Access to the first floor is via the main staircase. It is of wooden construction and is covered on the landings by a cord carpet.
- There is no lift
- There are 5 windows up the staircase allowing for natural light, supplemented with LED lighting from 2 chandeliers.
- There are 29 steps, altogether, 18cm high with a tread 24 - 27 with 5 landing areas with chairs positioned as resting points.

Landing 1	152cm tread
Landing 2	142cm tread
Landing 3	148 cm tread
Landing 4	168cm tread
Landing 5	178cm tread

- Handrail only on the right side, going up (reversed coming down)
- Landings 1 -4 are covered by a cord carpet
- Landing four splits left and right, the left leads to the Exhibition Room, right takes you to landing 5 only.
- Access to the Exhibition room is through an Oak door 102cm wide, there is a 2cm high thresh opening onto a wooden floor.
- The exhibition room leads to 2 further exhibition rooms and the 1st floor WCs.
- All doors in the exhibition room open outwards. They range from 90 - 94cm wide with a thresh of 0-2cm.
- All rooms have wooden floors.
- There is natural light from 4 windows supplemented with LED lighting.
- There are no accessible toilets on the 1st floor
- Turning right on landing four there are five wooden steps, 13cm high with a tread of 24cm leading to landing five which is laid to wooden floorboards.
- Seating is available for visitors to sit down or ask room guide volunteers for any further assistance, there is not a room guide in every room
- Guided tours are available for groups upon pre booking - subject to availability of guides

Catering/café



- The café is located in the Lower gardens
- Access to the entrance is via a ramp of even block paving, 160cm wide or via two large paving steps 20-22cm high with 52cm tread
- The entrance into the café is via manual double doors opening inwards to a maximum of 102cm, single door opening is 50cm. There is an angled wooden thresh lip up to 3cm high flattening out onto the non-slip flooring of the café
- The café is well lit with natural lighting from the patio doors and bay window supplemented with 6 LED light fittings
- The counter in the Cafe is 83cm high
- There are variable size tables, chairs and benches in the cafe
- There is access space for wheelchairs but circulation space is below 1200mm
- There are no induction loops in the cafe
- The menu is displayed in large print on the wall.
- Catering team members are available to assist with service and carrying trays.
- Outside seating is available in the café garden

Retail (See Catering)

Further Retail

- There is a 'Friends of the Old Hall' vintage and collectables shop which is not wheelchair accessible.
- Both access routes are via stone steps.
- The shop is small accommodating limited footfall at any one time.

Garden

- There are two main access routes via the front and back of the Hall which lead you to the gardens. There are six small gardens to the East and South of the hall which can be accessed without using stairs.
- The route from the back of the hall is wheelchair accessible and leads you to the Mead garden or you can turn right down a gentle slope, through a Yew hedge arch into Top garden. The Paths are 120cm wide and laid to sandstone flagstones, some may be a little uneven.
- The route from the front of the hall takes you down one stone step into the centre of Top Garden.
- The sandstone paths throughout top garden are 120cm wide with paths being level to grass amenity areas - no restrictive edging, allowing visitors using wheelchairs or PMV's full access onto the grass
- There are three routes taking you south to the Lower gardens one of which is a passenger lift, available for use by visitors which takes you from Top gardens and exits at the Lower Garden WCs and Café gardens



- There are 15 stone steps at the East of Top garden, 158cm wide with a hand rail on the left as you descend to the Parterre Garden.



- There are 15 stone steps leading from the centre of Top Garden which are 140 - 170 wide with no handrails which also take you down into the Parterre Garden.
- The sandstone flagstone paths zigzag throughout the Parterre garden, all being accessible, the minimum width is 88cm and maximum 120cm.
- Continuing from the Parterre Garden there are two routes to follow. West will lead you to the garden Lift, the garden WC's and the Café
- Continuing South from the Parterre Garden will lead you through a 120cm wide gate into Orchard garden and the Play area. Paths throughout are sandstone paving.
- Access into the Orchard is laid to grass
- Continuing along the path, past the play area will bring you to the Nuttery.
- Entering the Nuttery through an Oak gate 120cm wide the sandstone paving ends at the Pond bridge.
- Access around the pond is wide enough for wheelchairs but is laid to woodchip.
- The Nuttery is approximately an acre of wildlife garden laid to grassy paths with an ascending slope up to the top which is not fully accessible for wheelchairs
- There is no map of the gardens, staff and volunteers are available to answer or help with any queries..
- All gates between the gardens are all opened and pinned back at the start of each day.
- There is a pond with small waterfall located in the Nuttery



- There are picnic benches available in the Orchard gardens
- There are seats and benches throughout the formal gardens and Play area.
- The Nuttery has rustic log seating with backrests.

Contact details for more information

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Map

