

## **Barrington Court Access Statement**

Tudor house (Court House) and 17<sup>th</sup> century stable block (Strode House), restored by Colonel Lyle in the 1920's and refitted with his collection of salvaged antique woodwork. The houses are surrounded by formal walled gardens, inspired by Gertrude Jekyll's plans and working kitchen garden. The Lyles added model farm buildings, creating their 1920's vision of a working medieval estate. Parkland and orchards form part of the estate.

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### **Points to note about the area:**

- There is limited mobile phone access across the site.
- Dogs are welcome except in the house and formal gardens. Assistance dogs only in the house and formal gardens. There is a water bowl alongside the reception building which is refilled regularly.
- There are three manual wheelchairs available for loan from reception.
- Light levels are good in the house. Some areas are a little dark on dull days but emergency lights are in use in these areas. There are blinds or curtains over some windows. There is no furniture collection, but some rooms may be used as temporary exhibition spaces.
- There are areas of unfenced water. The pond in the lily garden is very deep. There are unfenced drops. Livestock graze in the parkland. There are beehives in the east orchard.
- Traffic drives through the estate throughout the day as access is required for deliveries and tenants.

### **Arrival and parking facilities:**

- There are brown signs from the A358 and A303 and through Barrington village. Satnav incorrectly directs visitors to the rear entrance – follow brown signs from Barrington village. The entrance is signed and the main car park is down a short driveway.
- Cycle racks are available alongside the reception building.
- There are six designated spaces for disabled visitors in the main car park, which is adjacent to the reception building. The surface is tarmac.
- The main car park is gravel, the overflow car parks grass. All are uneven in places.
- There is a six-seater transfer vehicle available for visitors. Please call in advance to check availability (01460 241289). This can be requested from any area around the house and gardens. Please ask a member of staff or a volunteer to do this for you.
- Visitors are able to be dropped off at the back of Strode House (for level access to the house and restaurant via the holiday/residents' entrance). The driver of the six-seater transfer vehicle holds a key to the entrance door.

### **Bathroom facilities**

- There are no wheelchair accessible toilets at reception.

- There is a large toilet in Strode House (180 metres from the main car park) with right and left hand transfer, and space to turn a wheelchair through 150cm diameter circle. There are no adult changing facilities but baby changing facilities are also available here.
- The toilets at reception have a door width of 67cm.
- All toilets have automatic dryers, laminated floors and brick wall surfaces, with non-fluorescent lights.

### **Visitor reception**

- This wooden panelled building is in the main car park. It has a carpeted floor. The building is shared with retail so there are soft furnishings as part of shop stock. These help to minimise noise.
- The part-glazed double-door entrance is non-power operated, approximately 107cm wide and opens outwards. Staff and volunteers can assist with opening the door if required.
- There is a slight slope up towards reception; the surface is mainly carpeted and wide enough for a turning circle in front of the reception desk.
- There are two reception desks which are both 75cm high and there is a separate table 76cm high which the team use for admission and membership enquiries, event promotions and fundraising messages.
- There is a lot of natural light provided by six windows. During the winter period, light is provided by three hanging light bulbs and is limited.
- There is no induction loop available within reception.
- There is a seat available for visitors to use.
- Three manual wheelchairs are available to borrow from reception, on a first-come basis. Please ask at reception.

### **House**

- The house is approximately 180 metres from reception.
- The accessible entrance is at the east side of Court House and is signed from the moat bridge onwards. If access is needed through this door, there is a bell to ring on the right hand side, which a staff member or volunteer will respond to.
- There are brick paths through the gardens to the house which are accessible for wheelchairs though bumpy and uneven due to historic paving.
- Access to the house is currently through the north door (width 135cm) via 12 shallow stone steps without a handrail.
- The house has no furniture collection. Rooms have wooden floors and panelling. Rooms contain small exhibits telling stories about the house. Some rooms are sometimes used as exhibition spaces. At Christmas, some rooms are dressed and contain furniture.
- All rooms are lit by natural and/or artificial light. There are blinds and curtains on some windows. Rooms are well lit, except for the corridors on entry and exit which, although lit, have low light levels.
- There are three floors. These are accessed by three staircases (one main with shallow steps and two spiral) which are used to give a one-way flow of traffic. There is additional access to the upper level of the first floor via eight shallow steps and double doors which are normally closed to the public. Please ask at the front door of the house if you wish to access the upper level of the first floor this way, rather than via the spiral staircase. However, the second floor can only be accessed via a spiral staircase.

- The main staircase is 164cm wide, has 26 shallow stairs and wide historic banister rails on both sides. This takes you to the lower level of the first floor. The up staircase from the lower level of the first floor takes you to the long gallery (second floor). It is 72cm wide, has 24 steps and a hand rail on the right hand side. The down staircase which does not have a hand rail, will take you from the second floor to the upper level of the first floor via 21 steps and down to the ground floor via a further 24 steps. It is 87cm wide.
- Wheelchair access is maintained on the ground floor, apart from the small dining room, which has a small step on entry and exit. There is also space to turn a wheelchair in all other ground floor rooms.
- There are chairs which can be used by visitors on each floor (no arm rests). There is a Chesterfield sofa and two armchairs outside the library, a small table and a chair with arm rests in the old kitchen, and a large table with four seats (no arm rests) in the small dining room. These allow wheelchair users and visitors with limited mobility to browse pictures of the rooms from interpretation books. There are copies of the interpretation panels for all rooms and photos of the upper floors on a table outside the library. The location of these may change over the Christmas period.
- There are volunteers available on the ground floor and occasionally on other floors.
- There are toilets in Strode House, one of which has right and left hand transfer and space to turn a wheelchair through a 150cm diameter circle.
- There is no induction loop.
- Large print guide is available.
- Four-wheeled powered mobility vehicles and powered wheelchairs can be accommodated on the ground floor in all rooms except the small dining room.

## Catering

- Strode House restaurant is accessible via level access through the Strode House tenant's entrance. Please let reception know on arrival and they will arrange for this entrance to be opened for you. If you choose to arrive here via the six-seater transfer vehicle, the driver has keys for this entrance.
- The restaurant is also accessible via a shallow ramp through the double doors (width 107cm) from the south lawn. There is a small lip at the top of the ramp as these are original doors.
- The main doorway to the dining room is 99cm wide and is always open at 90 degrees.
- There are two further rooms available to use when the restaurant is busy; the Wren room, which has a door width of 104cm and opens inwards, and the William and Mary room, which has a door width of 101cm and open inwards. Both are usually kept open when utilised and are accessed from the main wide internal corridor from Strode House.
- During the spring and summer months, there is outdoor seating on the south lawn with space for wheelchairs.
- Staff will assist visitors as required and seat them if they experience difficulty queuing at the tillpoint. If you inform reception upon your arrival that you would like assistance, they can call the restaurant and reserve a table for you and give assistance on your arrival.
- There is circulation space between some tables of around 120cm.
- The self-service cake table is 76 high. Restaurant staff are available to assist if required.
- There are no induction loops.
- There are no braille menus.
- There are large-handled cutlery and straws available upon request.
- The floor is wood and the walls stone with panelling in all dining rooms. Lighting is fluorescent in the William and Mary room, track lighting in the Wren room and fitted wall lights in the main dining room. All have natural lighting however, can be dark due to their

wood panelling. The majority of chairs have cushioned seats and there are two sofas: one in the Wren room and the other in the cake room.

## **Retail**

- The shop is in the reception building in the main car park.
- Entrance to the shop can be gained via either the reception or from a side entrance with manual opening doors 112cm wide and with a slight step.
- Staff/volunteers can assist with access if required.
- The building is carpeted and shop stock contains some soft furnishings which helps to minimise noise.
- There is natural light provided by windows and the shop area is also covered by seven spotlights.
- Both the reception and shop are situated in a single storey building. The floor is undulating and a little uneven in places.
- There is limited circulation space between the displays and the smallest point is 97cm wide.
- Staff will assist in reaching and providing information for products as required.
- The counter top is 90cm high
- There is no induction loop.
- During the summer period teas/coffees and ice cream can be purchased from the shop and there are picnic tables available on the grassed area nearby – these picnic tables are unsuitable for wheelchair users. However, there is sufficient space for wheelchair users to move around.

## **Garden**

- The formal garden is made up of a kitchen garden and three garden rooms, all separated by stone walls. Each section has at least one bench with arms and is accessed by brick paths which are suitable for wheelchairs, although bumpy and uneven in places.
- The route to the garden is step-free. Path surfaces around the wider garden include brick, tarmac and grass.
- There is a haha on the south lawn and a deep pond in the lily garden.
- There is a plan of fruit, vegetable and flower planting available to borrow from the kitchen garden.

		
<p>Six-seater transfer vehicle outside reception</p>	<p>Entrance to formal garden via bridge over moat (unfenced water)</p>	<p>Moat on north side of Court House (unfenced water)</p>
		
<p>Uneven brick paths in formal garden</p>		<p>Stone path on south front</p>
		
<p>Pond in kitchen garden (unfenced water)</p>	<p>Pond in lily garden (unfenced water)</p>	<p>Haha on south lawn (fenced ditch)</p>
		
<p>Accessible entrance to Strode House via south lawn</p>	<p>Accessible entrance to Court House via east door</p>	<p>Accessible entrance to Strode House via tenants'/holiday cottage entrance</p>