Chedworth Roman Villa access statement

During the Coronavirus pandemic, you must pre-book on our website and part of the property will be closed, so please check our website for full details.

Chedworth Roman Villa, Yanworth, nr Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 3LJ

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Introduction

1. Please contact us, either in advance of your visit, or once onsite if you require further Access information and our staff will be happy to assist.
2. All contact points around the property, including handrails, door handles, toilet flushes and taps will be sanitised three times a day, but please do exercise caution and wash your hands regularly using soap and water, or using hand sanitiser.
3. Mobile phone reception is very poor – in an emergency ask for the Duty Manager.
4. Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the property.
5. We are a breast-feeding friendly property.
6. We will not have wheelchairs available to borrow during the Coronavirus pandemic.
7. We allow picnics in the Lower Courtyard only at this time.
8. The ground is generally uneven due to the nature of the site.

Sensory considerations

- All our outdoor paths are either tarmac, metal grating, compact gravel, or grass; we have no highly polished floors.
- Post lock-down, we are reopening with limited visitor numbers, so queuing should be minimal. There may be a short queue for the toilets or to speak with the Visitor Welcome Team. We expect to be slightly quieter in the afternoon.
- We have no security checks, escalators, revolving doors, fluorescent lighting, flashing lighting, background music or construction work on site.
- There are background sound effects of talking in the West Range building, and the lighting levels are lower.
- You may occasionally hear gardening machinery (mowers, strimmers, hedge-cutters), but this work is usually done outside of opening hours.
- There may also occasionally be forestry noise from the estate workers in the woods around the property.
- There is a one-way system in place, and clearly signposted around the property.
Some paths have narrow points so there may be a need to carefully pass other visitors, whilst maintaining social distancing.

- The hand soap in our toilets is fragranced and there is a herbal smell in the West Range, but there are no other artificial scents on site.
- There are numerous areas around the site which should offer ‘quiet spaces’, particularly the Lower Courtyard and end of the North Range.

**Arrival & Parking Facilities**

- There are brown signs from the A429, about 4 miles from the villa. Follow the small white and green signs which state ‘Roman Villa’. The property is not located in Chedworth village.
- The main car park is located near the Visitor Centre and is tarmacked. There are marked parking spaces, and two disabled parking bays near the entrance.
- During the Coronavirus pandemic, Visitor Reception will be closed and your pre-booked tickets will be checked by staff at the property entrance located under the gazebo next to the Visitor Centre.
- There are overflow parking areas in the layby and Woodland Carpark. The Woodland Carpark has a natural earth surface and no marked parking bays.
- There are 13 steps descending from the Woodland Carpark onto the road to the villa entrance. The steps are wooden and have wooden handrails on either side. There is a marked pathway across the road to the villa entrance.
- Cycle racks are available at the front of the Visitor Centre.

**WCs**

- There are WCs in the Salway building, located behind the Visitor Centre, including an accessible WC. There are no adult changing facilities or baby changing facilities.
- The entrance is located via the external door on the left side of the building. There is a slope up to the door with a rubber matting surface and metal grating between the matting and the doorway.
- During the Coronavirus pandemic, all hand dryers across the property will be out of use, and there will be paper towel dispensers available.
- The WCs have motion sensor lighting, and use energy saving bulbs.
West Range

- The route from the Visitor Reception to the West Range is along a tarmac path and then across a gravel surface held firm by a metal framework to create a smooth surface.
- The West Range is a timber building with a high ceiling and with some metal exterior access features and some interior walkways and handrails.
- There are large windows along one side of the building which allow a large amount of natural light into central area. Other areas have artificial lighting, either energy saving or LED spotlights.
- The entrance to the West Range is either up 6 metal steps or via a platform lift.
- The steps have a handrail to the right as you ascend and are approximately 150mm high.
- The platform lift is designed for independent use with buttons which have to be held down to enable the lift to move.
- The door to the lift can be pulled open and it opens outwards. The platform is 900mm wide x 1400mm long.
- The operating buttons are approximately 750mm high and encroach by about 100mm for part of the interior space. The buttons must be pressed continuously to be activated.
- Once at the top of the lift, the door opens outwards and there is a space of approximately 1000mm x 1600mm to turn towards the entrance door to the West Range.
- The entrance door is manually operated and opens outwards and is approximately 800mm wide.
- Immediately inside the doorway is a metal walkway with a 1:12 gradient. This levels out to a flat surface round to the left and continues along a wooden surface to the central area of the building. There are small gaps in the metal walkway so that you can look down onto the mosaics below if you wish.
- To the left of the entrance corridor, there is a room with a moving visual image on the far wall and the sound on conversation. This room would have been the dining room and the audio visual is designed to give an idea of how the room would have felt.
- The central area of the building has a wooden floor with stone edging.
- On the other side of the central area, there is background audio effects to indicate that that area used to be the baths. The floors in each area are metal with small gaps between the metal strips so that you can look down into the mosaics below if you wish.
- The exit from the West Range is down a metal ramp of approximately 1:12 gradient and 1200mm width to a door which opens manually outwards onto a gentle metal surfaced slope which leads out to tarmac. The door is approximately 840mm wide.
- The step-free exit route from the site is back through the West Range or the gates that lead out to the carpark past the Victorian lodge.
Nymphaeum

- The Nymphaeum is a pool of still water with a small pipe through which water pours slowly into the still water.
- The tarmac path leads round to the left from the West Range up to the Nymphaeum.
- There is a step of approximately 130mm along this route. The slope increases as you get closer to the Nymphaeum and the very top area is a short distance with a gradient of approximately 1:6.
North Range

- The North Range is accessed across the corner of the grassed area in front of the West Range. This grass route leads around to a tarmacked path. Some areas of the grass with heavy footfall tend to become very muddy and have been covered with woodchip or matting as a temporary solution.
- The area of the North Bath House has wooden steps with handrails. Interpretation of this area is located at the bottom of the steps.
- There is a short slope up from the grassed area onto the tarmac. This slope is approximately 1:5 gradient.
- The tarmac path is over 1000mm wide apart from a turn onto the path closest to the raised heat room and cold plunge bath area which narrows to approximately 650mm. There are level grassed areas around this path which can be used if you require more space.
- It is possible to enter some of the rooms along the North Range pathway. There are short slopes up into each one and all have grass surfaces apart from the room furthest from the West Range which has a gravel surface.

![Wheelchair access along the left side](image)

The Café, Shop, Visitor Centre toilets, second-hand bookshelves, outdoor café seating area, inside Salway building seating area, and Museum are all currently closed during the Coronavirus pandemic. This is subject to change, so please check our website.

Date 10/07/2020

Map

Attached to this document is a step-free access map of the site (please see last page).
Welcome to Chedworth Roman Villa, one of the grandest country houses of fourth century Roman Britain.

Chedworth Roman Villa was discovered in 1864 when a gamekeeper, out ferreting for rabbits, found small stone cubes - loose tesserae - from one of the buried mosaics.

The site was swiftly dug to reveal extensive walls, bathhouses and fine mosaics from one of the most significant Roman villas in Britain.

The 19th century landowner, Lord Eldon, maintained timber shelter buildings over the most delicate ruins and built a small museum for the artefacts. The estate was sold in the 1920s and the Villa was bought for the nation through public subscription.

Chedworth Roman Villa was at its greatest in the fourth century, as a large and luxurious country house, with many domestic comforts such as underfloor heating and two bath houses.

In 2011 the site underwent a major renovation, with a new shelter building to protect the fragile remains, new museum displays and many more ways to learn about life in the Villa during the ‘Golden Age’ of Roman Britain.

The old classroom
Woodland trail on a steep hill
The old classroom
Salway Learning room

1. Reception, shop, cafe and toilets
2. Orientation model
3. Lift
4. West Range conservation building/mosaics/burning room (accessible by wheelchair)
5. Water shrine (nymphaeum)
6. North range bath house
7. Underfloor heating system (hypocaust)
8. Picnic area
9. Victorian museum
10. Roman latrine
11. Outdoor cafe area
12. Salway Learning room

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