

Shugborough Estate Access Statement



Shugborough Estate
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Introduction

Shugborough Estate is a 900 acre estate consisting of the following:

- Grade 1 listed parkland comprising 900 acres.
- Grade 1 listed Mansion house
- Walled garden
- Plant Centre
- Explorers Wood natural play area
- Park farm including Park Farm Café, Farmhouse, Farm exhibition and Parkland Exhibition, toilets, animal pens and grassed picnic area.
- Mansion Tearoom
- Servants Quarters
- Mansion Shop
- Mansion Toilets
- Formal Gardens including terracing
- Arboretum.

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, SOME AREAS OF THE ESTATE ARE CLOSED.

The main visitor areas are relatively flat with parkland walks taking in hills around the wider estate.

Mobile reception is patchy in places with very little service inside the Mansion House. In case of emergency, the main number to call is 01889 880160.

Assistance dogs are welcome across the estate. Dogs on leads are welcome in all outdoor areas including the formal gardens. There is an off lead area available in Stafford Plantation. (except during ground nesting bird season of 1st March – 1st August) Dogs are not permitted in the mansion house, servants quarters, park farmhouse, shop or any catering outlet.

In some areas of the house, light levels are low due to conservation reasons and some areas have narrow doorways.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

There are brown signs to follow from both approaches to the estate, the main entrance is clearly signposted.

There are 18 designated spaces for disabled visitors in the main carpark, approx. 25m from the visitor reception building. The main car park surface is hardstanding and flat.

If the main carpark is full, then one of two overflow parking areas will be in use. These are grass fields identified as being relatively flat and suitable for parking and adjacent to the main visitor carpark. Where possible they will be mown prior to use but will have uneven surfaces in places.

Toilets and Facilities

Plant Centre:

1x accessible toilet with emergency alarm and handles, adjacent to the female toilets.

Size of room 1.6m x 2.35m

Transfer handles on right of toilet as seated.

Alarm - Yes

Lighting – fluorescent lighting, no natural light.

Hand drier

Park Farm

1x accessible toilet facility.

Size of room 4m x 3m

Transfer handles on right of toilet as seated.

Alarm - Yes

Radar key access - Yes

Lighting – no natural light, fluorescent only

Hand drier

Fully fitted out Changing Places facility

Mansion (Midden Yard) Toilets

1 x accessible toilet

Size of room - 1.93m x 2.9m

Transfer handles to the left of the toilet as seated.

Hand drier

Good natural lighting as well as a strip light provided.

Visitor Reception

Visitor Reception is located on the edge of the main carpark with a large tarmac'd space outside. Staff are on hand to scan membership cards and check bookings, however there is currently no visitor access inside the Visitor Reception building.

Tramper Mobility Vehicles are available to book in advance and can be collected from Visitor Reception. A visitor shuttle runs from Visitor Reception to the Mansion House throughout the day.

Plant & Gifts

Toilets are located adjacent to the Plant Centre including an accessible toilet as detailed above.

Park Farm

Park Farm is approx. 300m from the main carpark along a tar and chipped road. The farmyard is predominately a concrete surface with some uneven cobbles in places and a grassed area in the centre.

Park farm Café

The Café is situated within the farm yard and is currently a takeaway only service with a one way system. The entrance door opens outwards and is kept open throughout opening hours.

House

The house is approx. 800m from Park farm. The approach is a rolled gravel path giving way to a tarmac road. Benches are positioned regularly along the route. The path is suitable for all mobility scooters and wheelchairs.



Pathway from Park Farm to Mansion House

The surface in front of the house is hardstanding chipped and rolled pathways, and continues around the formal gardens.

The front of the house has 7 steps to access and is currently closed due to Covid-19 restrictions.



Stepped entrance to Mansion House

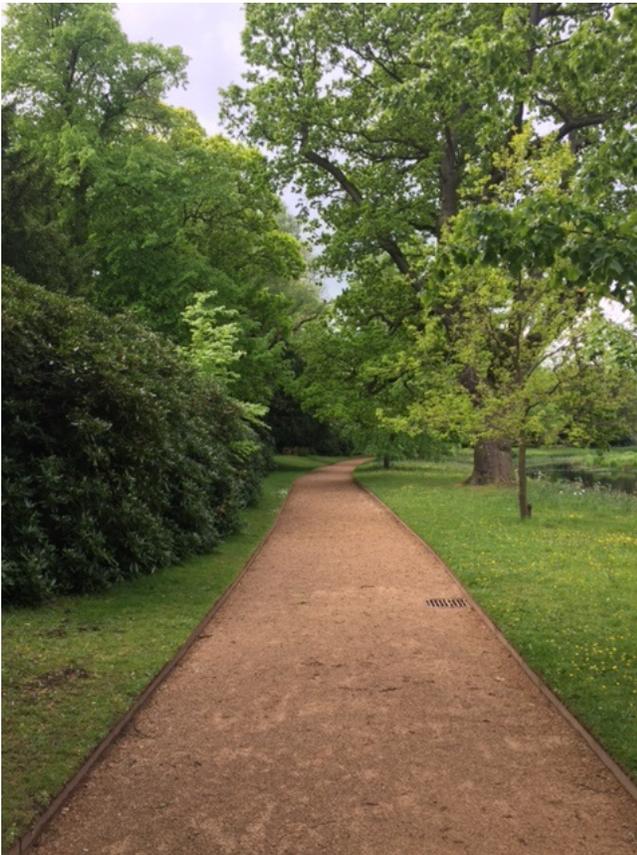
Formal Gardens

The formal gardens are wheelchair accessible with chipped and rolled pathways in all areas. Paths closest to the house have 3 steps to form terraces with no direct handrails, however the wider path network is all one level with minimal changes in gradient.

There is currently no interpretation within the gardens however when the garden team are working there, they will provide information and assistance as required.

There is limited seating around the gardens for visitors to use – there are a variety consisting of benches with tall backs and log benches with no backs.

There is a river at the bottom of the garden with grassed banks and shallow steps down to it in one location. There are no active water features in the garden.



Example of path network with in formal gardens



Stepped terracing directly behind Mansion House

Arboretum

The arboretum forms part of the wider gardens and is accessed from the formal gardens via a bridge at either end. Each bridge has a small step at either end although path works have minimised the step as much as possible

The main path within the arboretum is of a rolled hardstanding surface. In extreme weathers it may be uneven and muddy in places. Away from the main path, there are on;y mown grass paths. The arboretum is accessible by 'Tramper' mobility vehicle, vehicles with smaller wheels may struggle when leaving the main path.

There are a number of benches situated in the arboretum and provide a quiet sheltered space for reflection.



Typical example of paths within arboretum



Access to Arboretum via blue bridge with step



Access to Arboretum via red bridge showing step.

Walled garden

The walled garden is accessed from the main visitor route opposite Visitor Reception and has a good network of chipped and rolled pathways throughout. There are additional mown grass pathways through the centre of some planting areas.

Benches are provided around the walled garden. The walled garden is all on one level with no steps.

Wider Parkland

The path network within the wider parkland has no hard surfacing, except for a tarmac route along the visitor drive, linking with a further road to the Mansion House. This route has a two cattle grids and a kissing gate that may not be suitable for wheelchairs. All other paths across the estate are mown grass only and as such may be uneven and muddy. Farm animals roam the parkland freely in areas and will naturally leave muck behind them, areas around water troughs may become muddy and difficult to negotiate.

There are steep gradients to negotiate in the wider parkland as well as densely wooded areas with minimal paths of any type. Once in the wider wooded areas, we would suggest the use of an OS map.

Tramper mobility vehicles with large tyres may be able to access the parkland closest to the main visitor areas but we would recommend not taking them into the wider parkland.

Contact details for more information

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Date: March 2021