

West Wycombe Park Access Statement

West Wycombe Park, the elegant Palladian home of the Dashwood family, is one of the most theatrical and Italianate of all English country houses. Set in 45 acres of landscaped park, it is frequently featured in screen adaptations of literary classics such as Cranford and Little Dorrit, and in the television series Downton Abbey.

Contact details

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Points to note

- The Park is partially accessible to wheelchairs, but please be aware there are greenways, slopes, steps and various areas of water, including a lake, plus a cascade and bridges to cross.
- A buggy is available to help transport visitors from the main car park to the house. When arriving at the Visitor Reception kiosk please let a member of the team know you would like to use the buggy.
- Disabled visitors are also offered the option to drive to the House.
- There are 2 manual indoor wheelchairs available for loan; one in the Visitor Reception kiosk and one at the House entrance.
- Please speak with our welcome staff at the Visitor Reception kiosk about your requirements.
- Mobile phone reception across most of the site is poor.
- Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the property. There is a water bowl provided in the main car park which is refilled regularly or can be filled on request.

Arrival, Departure & Parking Facilities

- There are brown NT signs from either end of the entrance road (A40) to West Wycombe village. The Park entrance is signed from the A40 and the main car park is down a short driveway, to the right of the main drive.
- The main car park surface is gravelled with 2 spaces signed as reserved disabled parking.
- The route from the main car park to the Visitor Reception Kiosk is back from car park and then right along the main driveway. This route to the Visitor Reception Kiosk is level and gravelled.
- There is an overflow car park to the right of the entrance drive with 2 spaces signed as reserved disabled parking. This is a reasonably flat area apart from the entrance slope and has a grass surface.
- Disabled visitors are verbally offered the option to drive to the House. The drive to the House has a 67mm. 'sleeping policeman'. Parking space is on the left hand side of gravelled driveway next to front of House.

WCs

- Portable disabled toilet with ramp is provided during open season in the main car park including a right-hand transfer accessible WC with space to turn a wheelchair through 1500mm diameter circle. There are no adult changing facilities but baby changing facilities are available here. All the WCs have paper towels provided and fluorescent lighting.
- There are more WCs by the House. These are not however accessible WCs as they can only be reached down 5 steps.

Visitor Reception Kiosk

- This wooden building is right next to the main drive, close to the main entrance. The Welcome Team can assist with admission, access and membership enquiries. There are 2 seats, if required to wait for the Buggy to arrive. An indoor wheelchair is provided for tours of the house.

Route to the House

- Visitors are encouraged to walk to the house, via grass Broad Walk, rather than use the main drive. The driveway is used by Estate traffic, and also has 67mm speed hump and gullies.
- The broad walk path is from the Visitor Reception Kiosk to the House and is approximately 500 meters long and takes around 10 minutes to walk at a moderate pace. The path starts on level grass, until grass/stone slopes (approximately 1:11 gradient) have to be used to cross a waterway at the first bridge on the right of the Broad Walk. The route continues across parkland up a slope towards the House, becomes increasingly steep (approximately 1:7), just before the pathway in front of the House is reached.

House

The immediate pathway in front of the House is only used by pedestrians and is gravelled, but there is grass one side which can be walked on if the gravel is difficult. There is then an area of grass which needs to be crossed around the end of the house, past the East Portico, to reach the South Colonnade entrance at the back of the House. 4 Benches and various deckchairs are provided on the South Colonnade for visitors to wait outside while waiting to go into the house. Additional seating can also be found on the East Portico.



South Colonnade entrance to the House

The entrance to the House is up small ramps approximately 1:14 gradient. Visitors only access the ground floor of the House. The visitor route finishes on the East Portico via steps leading down to grass. Wheelchair users will be shown back through the house to exit via the entrance ramps.

- A wheelchair is provided to visit the house.
- The floor surfaces are mostly wooden but the rooms all contain a lot of artefacts which assists with minimising echo.
- There is normal Halogen or LED lighting in chandeliers or table lamps around the house.
- Rucksacks and large bags are required to be left in the entrance area which is monitored at all times.
- Powered wheelchairs can be accommodated in the House.
- There is a brochure in Braille print available, with information about the house.

Park

- The 45 acre Park is set on a hillside with various water features and temples. There are informal grass pathways which cross slopes, undulating ground, and past cascades to visit all these features. The Temple of the Winds is on a hill containing steep slopes (approximately 1:6 gradients) and up a staircase which has no handrail. Nearby is a Ha-Ha which has a steep drop, but the Temple can be viewed by walking along a gently sloped (approximately 1:20 gradient) avenue between trees.
- There is a gently sloped (approximately 1:14 gradient) circular path around the lake, approximately 1 mile in length, and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. There are 4 benches along the circular path. In addition there are further benches by the Cascade and in the Water Garden.

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- To complete the circular path around the lake the cascade bridge has to be crossed. The cascade bridge has no hand rails (see picture below).
- All Park path surfaces vary between gravel and grass. Grass sections can be muddy after heavy rain, so ask at Visitor Reception Kiosk for the latest conditions on the paths. Please also see the current West Wycombe Park Welcome Leaflet for a map of the park and further information.



The lake



Cascade along circular walk

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