

Basildon Park Access Statement

Basildon Park is an 18th century house lovingly restored by Lord and Lady Iliffe in the 1950's, dressing it with fine antiques and paintings, and with all the comforts of a 1950's home. Outside there are informal gardens and 400 acres of parkland to be explored.

Basildon Park,
Lower Basildon,
Reading,
Berkshire,
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Introduction

- Visitors who require an access companion to visit with them are entitled to a free ticket for that companion.
- Basildon can get very busy during the summer months and at weekends. Quieter times to visit are weekdays in January to March and November, avoiding school holidays.
- Mobile phone reception is sporadic across the site. If you need assistance whilst on the property please call the main property line, 01491 672920.
- Dogs are welcomed in the gardens and parkland on leads and under close control. Assistance dogs are welcomed everywhere across the property, including the House and Tea Room.
- Light levels are kept low in the House for the protection of our collection.
- 2 manual wheelchairs are available at the House for the use of visitors in the Gardens and Park. Visitors are able to use their own wheelchairs or mobility vehicles in the Gardens and Parkland. There are 2 wheelchairs available for visitors to use on the first floor of the House, on request.
- There is one wildlife pond in the Gardens, approximately 1metre deep which is fenced.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

- Basildon Park is 7 miles north-west of Reading on the A329 (Pangbourne). Exit the M4 at junction 12 and follow the brown signs for Basildon Park.
- The main car park has a hard-standing surface for 90 vehicles.
- There are 4 designated parking spaces for blue badge holders; it is 16m from Visitor Reception and has a hard-standing surface.
- There is a buggy available to transport visitors from the Visitor Reception to the House and back. The buggy has a ramp and is able to transport wheelchairs and mobility vehicles as well as foot passengers.
- If all the designated car parking spaces are full, the buggy will pick up visitors from their car parking space.
- Overflow parking is available, the surface is a mixture of gravel and grass.

WCs

- There are 3 accessible toilets on site, two at the Visitor Reception and one on the Ground Floor of the House.
- The accessible toilet on the Ground Floor of the House is left hand transfer. In the Stable Yard there is one right hand and one left hand transfer.
- These are bright spaces lit by artificial light from halogen bulbs.
- The accessible toilets have paper towels, all other WC's have hand driers.
- There is a parent and child room with nappy changing facilities both in the Stable Yard and on the Ground Floor of the House.

Visitor Reception



Visitor Reception at Basildon Park

- The Visitor reception is in the historic Stableyard and has a tiled floor with stone and wooden clad walls. This space echoes and can be a busy, noisy area at times.
- There is a slope of a maximum gradient of 1 in 10 and 3 steps with a handrail leading up to the entrance door. An alternative step free path runs up to the large green double doors and then right along the building to the entrance.
- The entrance door opens inwards and is 850mm wide. It is manual opening, and there are always staff and volunteers available to assist if required. Access from Visitor Reception into the Stable courtyard is through a door which does have a lip of 15mm.
- Alternative step free access can be made through the large green double doors, please ask a volunteer or member of staff to open these for you.

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- The Reception desk is 710mm high, staff and volunteers will greet visitors in the area in front of the desk.
- The area is well lit by natural light and by halogen lights.
- There are chairs available, these do not have armrests.
- There is an induction loop available at Visitor Reception.
- Manual wheelchairs are available at the House, for use in the Gardens and in the First Floor showrooms. These do not need to be booked in advance. Please tell the staff at Visitor Reception should you need one and they will arrange for a member of staff to be waiting with one when you reach the House. There is a buggy to take visitors up to the House and back if needed.
- Leaving Visitor Reception, you will go through a door and out into the courtyard. Here you have the Shop and Toilets straight ahead, and the Gardener's Sitting Room is to your right.
- The Gardener's Sitting Room is a quiet space with a video in one corner showing an interview with Lady Iliffe. Staff may bring you here to speak to you if the noise in Visitor Reception is uncomfortable for you.
- To go to the Tea Room and House, walk under the brick archway.

Shop



Shop in the Stable Yard

- The Shop is in the Stableyard area with the Visitor Reception.
- The yard is brick paved.
- There are 2 doors into the shop, each is sloped and step free.



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- The entrance doors are manual opening and open outwards to 1060mm wide. Staff or volunteers will assist with opening if needed.
- The Shop has no soft furnishing to absorb echoes.
- The area is lit by natural light and LED artificial lighting.
- There is circulation space of 900-1100mm between all the display stands.
- There is an induction loop at the till point.
- Staff or volunteers will assist with getting things down from shelves if needed.
- Staff or volunteers will assist with telling visitors the price of things if needed.
- There is a secondary Catering outlet in the Stable Yard Shop, which serves hot drinks in paper cups and a selection of cakes and biscuits. There is some seating available in The Parlour, or these can be taken with you.

House

- The House is 402m from the Visitor Reception.
- The path from the Visitor Reception to the House is along a wooded walk which includes steps. Resting places are provided by wooden benches along the route.
- There is an alternative route along our exit road which is used by our buggy and is hard standing. Please take care when using this path as there is vehicle traffic along it.
- A buggy is available to transport visitors from Visitor Reception to the House.
- The area immediately in front of the House is gravel.
- The Ground Floor of the House contains the Tea Room.
- Also on the ground floor are the Old Kitchen and the Exhibition Room. These have ramped entrances.
- The Garden Room is on the Ground Floor and is accessed through the Tea Room entrance. There is a 30 minute film of the House showrooms available here for visitors unable to access the First Floor entrance, a member of staff will operate this if you wish to view it.
- The entrance to the showrooms is on the First Floor, an additional 22 steps from the Ground Floor on a stone staircase lead up to it. These stairs are 1m wide and shallow with a handrail.
- There are volunteers who can assist in opening the entrance doors on the First Floor. These double doors open inwards to 1420mm when both doors are opened.
- Large bags will need to be handed over to our volunteers on entering the House and will be stored for you in the cloakroom.
- Children's buggies are not permitted in the House; they can be stored under the portico. Back pack child carriers are not permitted, they will need to be handed over to our volunteers and will be stored in the cloakroom until the end of your visit. Front facing child carriers and slings are permitted, and hip seats are available at the House entrance from our volunteers.
- All rooms on the First Floor have carpets which will absorb sound. As this is a historic building the floorboards may creak in some places as you walk across them.
- The showrooms are lit by halogen lights in lamps and ceiling fittings. Natural light is controlled with blinds and light levels are kept low for the conservation of our collections. Blinds can be lifted to improve your visit if needed, ask a volunteer to alert a member of staff to assist you.
- Access to the second floor bedrooms is by stairs only, these are stone stairs with a handrail on the left side. There is a half landing where there is a chair to rest if needed.

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- All corridors and doorways on the First and Second Floors are over 750mm wide.
- Not all rooms on the First Floor have room to turn a wheelchair easily, however the Visitor Route is one way and all doors and corridors are over 750mm wide.
- Every showroom has at least one chair for visitors to rest, these do not have armrests. Any chairs without pine cones on them can be used for resting.
- There is usually a volunteer in every room, however on some occasions this may not be possible.
- There are no WC's on the First and Second Floors of the House.
- Guided tours are available on some days, please contact the property before your visit to find out if tours will be operating on the day of your visit. There is a portable induction loop available for these tours.
- After exiting the last bedroom on the second floor, you will go down a stone staircase with a handrail on the right which is partially carpeted and exit through the Tea Room.

Catering



Entrance to the Tea Room on the Ground Floor of the House

- The Tea Room is on the Ground Floor of the House, 402m from Visitor Reception.
- The area immediately in front of the House is gravel.
- There are 2 steps up to the entrance door which are ramped. The entrance doors are double doors opening inwards, these are manual doors and staff are available to assist with opening them if needed. The entrance is 1430mm wide when both doors are opened.
- The floors are stone in the Tea Room, with no soft furnishings to absorb sound. This space echoes and can be noisy during busy times.
- The Tea Room is well lit with artificial lighting.
- The counter height is 910mm.

- Circulation space in the Angkor Wat room is less than 1200mm, but there is seating available in the Entrance Hall with more than 1200mm circulation space.
- Chairs are wooden without upholstery. In the Angkor Wat room chairs do not have arms, some chairs with arms are available in the Entrance Hall.
- Highchairs are available.
- There is an induction loop at the till point.
- Menus are displayed on chalkboards above the counter in large print. Large print and braille versions of the menus are not provided. Staff will read out the available menu options if needed.
- Straws are available, and large handled cutlery is available on request from the staff.

Gardens and Parkland

- The Gardens extend between the Visitor Reception and the House and overlook the surrounding landscape park.
- The garden paths are firm and surfaced with shallow loose gravel approximately 2m wide.
- The Terrace and Rose Garden behind the House does require some stepped access and there are no hand rails. There are gates on some routes through the Garden
- There is a wildlife pond in the Gardens which is approximately 1m deep and is lightly fenced.
- The 400 acres of Parkland have four waymarked trails of varying lengths. The grass pathways can be uneven in places and weather conditions can make the paths muddy and slippery.
- There are gates along the routes through the Parkland to enclose grazing cattle.

Contact details for more information

T: 01491 672920

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