

Blickling Estate Access Statement

The Blickling Estate is one of Norfolk's top visitor attractions and is just a short drive from the county's famous sandy beaches. The estate was once the home of the Boleyn family, and now encompasses nearly 5000 acres, with an impressive Jacobean house, a garden you'll want to try to recreate at home, and the Trust's most significant book collection.

Contact details

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Points to note

- The mobile phone reception across most of the site is poor.
- The property was not built on level ground therefore there are a number of steps, ramps and slopes to contend with.
- Dogs are not allowed in the hall, the front drive area, the gardens or any buildings although assistance dogs are welcome throughout the property. There is a water trough in the farmyard near to the entrance to the second-hand bookshop. There is also a bowl at the visitor reception at the main car park. There are dog-waste bins in the main car park and near the designated blue-badge parking by the entrance to the park.
- Light levels in the hall are kept low to maintain and protect the collection.
- There are 3 manual wheelchairs and 3 PMVs available for loan.
- There are no power assisted doors on the estate.
- The garden has two fountains, one on the parterre and one on the West side of the house.
- On the north-west side of the house, the garden is edged by Blickling Lake. There is about 30cm drop from the edge of the lawn to the surface of the lake. This is not fenced.
- At present, there are induction loops in both Visitor Reception areas; Retail and Catering areas and a portable induction loop is available if needed.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

- The main car park is west of the hall and is signposted
- The main car park surface is mainly hard standing with some gravelled with raised sleepers as space markers.
- Blue badge holders may park to the east of the hall in designated parking bays. These are generally hard standing bays. These spaces are the shortest distance from the Visitor Reception at East Wing.
- Cycle racks are available in the main car park and the farmyard.
- Areas of the main car park are occasionally cordoned off for coach parking.

- Should the main car park become full, there is an overflow car park through a five bar gate. Although the track is metalled, parking is on the grass. This is a reasonably flat area of grass.
- The coach drop-off and collection point is adjacent to the farmyard.

Seating

- There are picnic benches available outside the Estate Barn at main car park, several which are wheelchair friendly. On the route, there are two plank benches approximately halfway between the car park and the Hall.
- The designated blue-badge parking area is adjacent to the farmyard which has plenty of picnic tables and chairs.
- There are seats and benches throughout the gardens.

WCs

- There are WCs next to the Visitor Reception at the main car park, including a right-hand transfer accessible WC with space to turn a wheelchair through. There are no adult changing facilities but baby changing facilities are available here. All the WCs have automatic hand driers, stone floors and brick wall surfaces and LED lights.
- There are also WCs in the farmyard including a right-hand transfer accessible WC with space to turn a wheelchair through. There are no adult changing facilities but baby changing facilities are available here. All the WCs have automatic hand driers, stone floors and brick walls surfaces and LED lights.
- There are also WCs in the East Wing adjacent to the visitor reception area. This includes a left-hand transfer accessible WC with space to turn a wheelchair through. There are no adult changing facilities but baby changing facilities are available here. All the WCs have automatic hand driers, stone floors and brick walls surfaces and LED lights.
- There are no public toilets within the hall.

Visitor Reception

There are two visitor receptions at Blickling, one at the main car park (MCP VR) and one in East Wing (EW VR).

- **MCP VR** is an old stable next to the main car park. The entrance is down a short slope of approximately 1:15 gradient. The single entrance door is non-power operated, approx. 83cm wide and opens inwards to about 90 degrees. There is a 3cm high threshold lip at this door. Staff and volunteers can assist with opening the door if required.

Main Car Park Visitor Reception



- The flooring in this area is brick. There are 3 windows and 2 half glazed doors to provide natural light which is supplemented with LED lighting.
- The reception desk is over 107cm high but there is a lower area, approx. 80cm high. There is also a desk which the reception team can also use for admission and membership enquiries. Seats are available in the reception or the café next door.
- **EW VR** is inside the East Wing. From the designated parking bays, access to East Wing is via the steps or access ramp at the bottom of the farmyard. The ramp is constructed of brick and concrete with a landing midway. The legs are 6.6m and 8.6m long with a central handrail. After going through the hedge tunnel follow the flagstone path. The main door in to East Wing is flanked by two information boards. There is a small ramp 1:13. Once in the foyer, turn to the left and pass through the shop, descending two ramps, in to EW VR. Alternatively, if you follow the flagstone path a little further, there is another door into the wing with another ramp outside it. This ramp is 1:13. Once inside the building, turn to the right and in to EW VR.
- The flooring in east wing varies from pamment tiles, through flagstones, brick to concrete. The floor in EW VR is brick and uneven.
- The reception desk is over 110cm high but there is a separate desk which the reception team can also use for admission and membership enquiries. There are some seats provided.

The Farmyard

- The area known as the Farmyard is adjacent to the designated blue-badge parking area. Within the farmyard is the second-hand bookshop, the plant centre, visitor toilets and a cafeteria. The farmyard is covered in gravel and is uneven in places and is on a slight slope, dropping from the second-hand bookshop down towards East Wing.
- The farmyard contains chairs and tables for visitor use as well as tables covered with plants for sale from the Plant Centre.
- At the bottom of the slope are the steps and ramp leading to the front of the house, retail, restaurant and EW VR. The ramp is constructed of brick and concrete with a landing midway. The legs are 6.6m and 8.6m long and have a central handrail and is approx. 1:15. The flight of stairs consists of 5 steps with a handrail on either side. There are corduroy tactile paving slabs at the top and bottom.

Route to the Hall

- From **MCP VR**, it's 210m to the top of the main drive or 380m to the front door of the hall.



- The route is marked with bollards along the way and is hard surfaced or compacted gravel with short, mild gradients. It takes about 5 minutes to walk to the top of the drive at a moderate pace. The route includes a short 40m section of public road in front of the Buckinghamshire Arms public house. The road is very little used and although single track there is space for vehicles and pedestrians to pass. There is one unmarked step off the drive directly in front of the hall and before the bridge.

- From **EW VR**, the route is either diagonally across the driveway or by following the flagstone path around. There is a small slope either side of the bridge in front of the hall and one unmarked step off the drive directly in front of the hall and before the bridge.

Hall

- The main driveway immediately in front of the hall is only used by pedestrians and is gravelled, but there is plenty of grass either side which can be walked on if the gravel is difficult. Any vehicles in this area will either be Trust operated, being used for conservation work or part of a programmed event.
- Once over the old moat bridge and into the outer courtyard, the main door to the hall is up a rubber covered ramp approx. 1:10.



Old Moat bridge showing hall front door

- A passenger lift is available in the hall for use by visitors with limited mobility, between the ground and first floor only. It does not go to the basement. Visitors wishing to use this lift or visit the basement should speak to a member of staff beforehand.
- The entrance hall has a flagstone floor but most of the other floor surfaces are wooden covered with rugs or carpets and assists with minimising echo.

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- The lighting is mostly LED and kept to a low level to maintain the atmosphere and to protect the collection.
- There is a basement containing the butler's pantry and the old kitchen. These rooms are accessed by descending a flight of 12 stone steps and travelling through a tunnel under the archway. The tunnel is 4m long, 135cm wide and 200cm high. The corridor outside the old kitchen has a slight rise and fall. The route then goes up the brown staircase (two flights of stairs, 5 & 7 steps) and on into the Great Hall.
- The main staircase leads to the first floor. It is of wooden construction and is covered in a thick red carpet. It has a central flight of 8 steps which splits left and right with two further flights of 11 and 9 steps each.
- The flooring upstairs is wood, most carpeted or with rugs.
- Seating is available if required, please ask the room guides for assistance. There is usually someone in each room.
- Rucksacks and large bags are required to be left in the entrance area and are monitored at all times.
- Some 4 wheeled powered mobility vehicles and powered wheelchairs cannot be accommodated in the hall due to turning circles. The location of the lift also makes it awkward for large wheelchairs or PMVs to access. Please speak to a member of staff beforehand for advice.
- If you require use of a quiet space, please indicate this to one of our room stewards who will be able to find a suitable area for you.
- There is a portable induction loop available in the Hall.
- Large print guides are available.
- There are guided tours available. Please speak to a member of staff on arrival.

Bookshop

- The second-hand bookshop is located off the farmyard in the old RAF theatre. Access is via two doors that both open outward and are 73cm and 70cm wide respectively. There is a slight ramp between them. The flooring is wood and brick walls with book shelves along them and coming into the room. Although 90% of the books are on the main floor, further books are displayed on the old stage which accessed by two steps. Staff will help reach books as required.



The second-hand book shop

Catering

- The restaurant is located in East Wing and is accessed from the main foyer.
- The doorway is 123cm wide and is up a ramp approx. 1:11. The door is usually open to at least 90 degrees and is non-power assisted. The door opens inwards. Catering team members can assist if required.
- The counter is over 850cm high. Catering team members are available to assist with service and carrying trays.
- The width between the tables varies.
- There is an induction loop at the counter.
- Members of visitor groups can sit at tables if queuing is difficult and one member of the group can ask catering staff for assistance.
- Menus are available in standard print and there are straws available.
- The floor and wall surfaces are stone and brick and the lighting is LED. The chairs have cushioned seats. Although some of the legs of the chairs and tables have 'rubber feet' on to minimise noise, others have come off so it can get noisy during busy periods. We are in the process of purchasing more rubber feet.
- There is a café in the farmyard serving hot and cold snacks and drinks. This is open dependant on the weather, visitor numbers and staffing levels. There is a short 1:8 ramp into the café entrance. The doorway is about 123cm wide and leads into an area of approximately 2.5m by 6m. The counter is 90cm high. Catering team members are available to assist. There is no seating inside. An induction loop is fitted.
- The "Muddy Boots" café is located near to the main car park, in the same building as the MCP VR. Entry is either via MCP VR up a single step, 14cm high and 100cm wide, or via the door on the pub side of the building. This door is 76cm wide and can be opened up almost 180 degrees. There is a 4cm threshold lip. The flooring is wooden throughout with brick, limed walls. There are old animal troughs and hay baskets within. The counter is 89cm high. Catering team members are available to assist with service and carrying trays. Outside seating is available. There is an induction loop at the counter.

Retail

- The entrance to the shop is level with the foyer and accessed by double doors which are 110cm wide and normally open at 90 degrees, opening inwards and are non-power operated.
- The shop is set on different levels, each accessible by ramps. A further display area at the rear of the shop is up two steps. Portable ramps are available if required.
- The floor is divided between carpets and flagstones. The lighting is LED.
- There are two counters. One is 90cm high and the other 97cm high but staff and volunteers are able to assist with service here and with lifting and carrying goods if required.
- There are induction loops at each till.
- There is circulation space between the tables of around 100cm and some of the goods on the central tables are reachable by wheelchair users and children. There is no space here to use a powered mobility vehicle or powered wheelchair.

Plant Centre

- The plant centre is located in the corner of the farmyard. Entry is through a large wooden barn door that is always held open at over 90 degrees. There is a ramp approximately 120cm long which leads onto a painted concrete floor. The shop layout is an “L” shape with a central display area on the right. There is about 80cm gap between this and the surround display units. There is no induction loop present.

Garden

- Entrance to the garden is via East Wing and into the parterre. The parterre is level with hardened gravel paths about 6.5m wide. The lawns are surrounded with metal edging about 7cm tall but there are various ramps around which enable visitors in PMV's or wheelchairs to get onto the grass. The ramps are of metal checkerboard design.
- It is not possible to access the rest of the garden without using steps or crossing an area of grass. A map showing the routes available to wheelchairs and PMVs is attached.



- There is a double flight of stone steps from the parterre to the double borders. This has a total of 15 steps and has handrails either side.

- Path surfaces vary between gravel, paving stones and grass. There is a ‘ha-ha’ nearly all the way around the garden, separating it from the rest of the estate and the park.
- There are two fountains in the gardens, one on the parterre and one in the west garden.



- The western edge of the garden is bordered partly by Blickling Lake. The lake edge is corrugated sheeting topped with wood and is level with the lawns. There is about 30cm drop from the edge of the lawn to the surface of the lake. This is not fenced. The lake is about two feet deep along this edge with a deep layer of silt/mud underneath.

- There is no wheelchair or PMV access available to the Temple. Access to the Orangery is via a checkerplate metal ramp and double doors.

Spike Malin
Premises Manager
May 2014
Revised Mar 2016

