

## Property Name Access Statement

Beningbrough Hall, Gallery and Gardens

Tel: 01904 472027

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### Introduction

Welcome to Beningbrough Hall. The main house, gallery, garden are all very accessible spaces due to the even terrain, the hard surfaced paths and lift access in the house. The parkland paths can be quite uneven and wet/muddy in winter. The upper floor of the stables is the only area not accessible by lift but provision is made to make accessible any exhibition on display up there through an Ipad available from reception on the ground floor.

Mobile phone reception is variable depending on which provider you use and your location on site. If you have a serious emergency we advise you to contact a member of staff or volunteer immediately either at the hall, restaurant or admissions. If this isn't possible then you could call the emergency services directly, otherwise you could try 01904 472027 for the property office.

Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the whole property including the hall, shop, restaurant. Dogs are welcome in the parkland on a lead or under strict control and leaflets are available with a variety of walks. A dog water bowl is available at reception. Dogs (other than assistance dogs) are not permitted into the formal gardens.

The light levels in the house can be quite low in some rooms due to conservation restrictions. We can look after your pushchairs and offer you the free use of a special lightweight one that is easier to negotiate around the historic house, or a hip seat for younger children. We will also look after any large bags or rucksack style baby carrier you have, again for conservation reasons. There are lots of child friendly exhibits and interactives. An audio tour or room guides offer visitors some alternatives to the guidebook to help you enjoy your visit.

Some family activities and exhibitions are held on the upper floor of the stable block, above the shop. Please note there is no lift access to this area. There are many family activities around the grounds including free trails.

### Arrival & Parking Facilities

There are three main access routes via the public highway to the property. All three routes are sign-posted, though the route from Linton-on-Ouse through Newton-On-Ouse village is not currently well sign-posted (being addressed with Highways). Head for Newton on Ouse village and the entrance to the estate is at the end of the main Cherry Tree Avenue. Coaches or larger campervans should enter via the Exit route as a historic archway at the can limit access to tall vehicles.

There are speed ramps on the entry and exit roads with a speed limit of 20mph.

There is a designated area for disabled parking in the main car park which provides space for approximately 13 cars. These spaces have hard standing (tarmac) and the nearest are 5-10 meters from the main entrance. The hall is then another 80 meters approx. from the main entrance.

Cycle racks are located outside the admissions area.

In addition to the hard standing disabled parking spaces, there are some other spaces close to the main entrance that are gravelled. In wet weather however this surface can become soft.

Visitors are welcome to use their own wheelchair or electric scooter on all outdoor paths (the house is not suitable for electric scooters due to the tight turning area from the lift areas and other walkways). As the paths are a mixture of stone paving and thin, compact gravel, and are all level, it makes for very accessible access. There is just one grass bank in front of the house that we advise visitors not to use wheelchairs or electric scooters on. To access the lift in the house which takes you to all three floors, there is a short (approx.10metres), slightly inclined path to the lift door.

If all the hard standing parking spaces are taken, visitors can be dropped off at the main admissions entrance.

## **Toilets**

The accessible toilet in the Stable Block, by Reception is slightly smaller than the current stand size, it is 1.4m x 1.9m. It has a fixed grab rail to the left and a pull-down rail on the right. There is no natural light, and it is lit by both halogen and energy-saving bulbs. There is a towel roll and no automatic hand-dryer.

There is also an accessible toilet on the first floor of the House with grab rail, emergency pull cord.

The non-accessible toilets have both automatic hand driers and paper towels. They are well lit with energy-saving bulbs (no natural light).

There is a separate changing facility in the Stable Block. The available surface is 78cm high and 130cm long. In the room there are also hand-washing facilities (paper towels), a baby change mat (with mobile above) and some seating.

There is currently no Changing Places facility but when our toilet facilities are upgraded in the next few years we will be looking into the possibilities of providing this.

## **Visitor Reception**

There is level access in and out of Reception, which has stone flags to the floor as well as a carpeted area. The entrance doors are 820mm wide and open outwards. There is always a staff member in Reception who can assist with the door if required.

The reception desk is 700mm high and staff circulate freely to greet visitors.

There is plenty of natural lighting and the area is also well lit with artificial lights and no fluorescent bulbs.

There is a window seat and a variety of chairs available, including two with arm-rests.

Two powered mobility vehicles are available for loan free of charge as well as three manual wheelchairs. There is also another manual wheelchair available for use in the house (this is narrower to allow access through internal doors). Bookings can be made for these in advance and we recommend this to ensure that visitors are not disappointed on the day.

## **House**

The House is approximately 300 metres from the Visitor Reception and Car Park area.

The main carriageway to the House is flat and wide. It is slightly gravelled but has no cobbles or obstacles to navigate.

The main entrance to the House is on your left as you approach from the main carriageway. There are 10 steps, each of which is 100mm high, to ascend before reaching the front door.

The front door is manually opened and opens inwards. The width of the entrance is 310mm. A secondary door can be manually opened if any extra width (620mm) is needed for entering. There is always a staff member or volunteer on the door who can assist if required.

There is an alternative lift entrance to the House which is located in the east courtyard. Upon approaching from the main carriageway, the lift entrance is signposted (under the Clock Tower) to the left, down a sloping path. It is 10 metres to the lift entrance.

The lift entrance is 1.9 metres high and 0.8 metres wide. The lift can be summoned by pressing the call button to the left of the lift door.

All rooms in the House have some form of soft furnishings. The Entrance Hall has a double vaulted ceiling and as a result echoing can occur.

The House is primarily lit by natural light and so areas can be quite dark on bad weather days. For conservation purposes, only a limited amount of natural light can enter the House, although there is low-level spot lighting in some of the show rooms.

The House comprises of three floors which are accessible to the public. All floors can be accessed via the main staircase – each step is 170 mm high and there are 32 steps on the first staircase and 26 stairs on the second. The lift also travels to all floors; therefore a full tour of the House can be completed without the need to ascend any steps. In the event of a fire evacuation, the lift can still be used.

There are no corridors in the House with a width of less than 750mm. The narrowest point in the House is on the ground floor, where an entrance to the left hand closet is 770mm wide.

Wheelchairs can access all areas of the House. Rooms do vary quite significantly in size but it is possible to turn a wheel chair in even the smallest of the ante rooms.

There are window seats with soft cushions which visitors are welcome to use in all of the rooms on the ground and the first floor. The occasional window seat and chair is also available on the second

floor. The only chairs with armrests are to be found in the Book Room which is on the ground floor, just off from the Entrance Hall. This is also the quietest area to sit.

The number of volunteers in the house does vary on a daily basis, but there is always a minimum of four staff members on duty at any time, covering all floors of the House.

There is one visitor toilet in the House which can be found on the first floor. It is fully accessible and includes baby changing facilities and an emergency cord.

There are no guided tours of the interior of the house however, an audio guide is available which provides a full tour of the first two floors of the House. It includes an induction loop and is also available as a large print transcript and in braille. The Sculpture Room on the top floor allows visitors to touch and explore figure head exhibits including having a go at sculpting a nose.

Mobility scooters are not permitted in the House, as their large turning circles make navigating certain areas, for example the lift lobbies, difficult if not impossible. An in-house wheelchair is available for borrowing and mobility scooters can be safely parked outside the lift entrance in the East Courtyard.

## **Catering**

The restaurant is counter service. However staff are on hand to assist with choices and carrying refreshment trays if visitors require it.

The circulation space between tables can be quite tight especially when busy and the chairs are quite heavy to move. So staff are available to identify a space/remove a chair to allow wheelchair access etc whatever help the customer needs.

Large print menu's are available

Large handled cutlery, double handled mugs and straws available are available

The restaurant is located between reception and the House and has level access.

## **Retail**

There are three entrances to the retail shop, the widest of which is 100cm. There are no steps and the tiled floors are level throughout.

The till desk has a lowered section of just over 700mm.

There is good natural lighting and no fluorescent lights.

There is circulation space of 700-1000mm between the display stands and staff are happy to assist with accessing hard-to-reach items or notifying visitors of prices.

## **Garden**

Maps are available from Reception showing accessible routes around the garden. All hard path surfaces are marked on this; these include a mixture of paving slabs, compacted gravel and also cobbles in the Laundry courtyard. There is a slight gradient leading up from the Italian border towards the South lawn.

Steps from this path lead into the East Formal Garden but these can be avoided by entering this area from the other end, adjacent to the south steps of the House.

Other paths within the gardens include woodchip, gravel or grass routes. These are mainly level, with no steps or gates. There is a small grass bank to the south of the House which is unsuitable for wheelchairs or buggies; the South lawn can however be reached by a more gentle gradient at either end of this bank.

There are benches (with backs and arm rests) in most areas and also a shelter with conservatory-style wicker seating in the east formal garden.

The property guidebook includes a section on the gardens, and staff or volunteers working in the gardens are also happy to help with any questions – they can be identified by their badges or branded workwear (National Trust).

A variety of herbs are grown in the walled garden and the double border is also designed as a sensory experience.

There are raised ponds in both the walled garden and east formal garden and a natural pond within the American garden.

A ha-ha with a sudden drop runs the length of the southern edge of the gardens.

## **Contact details for more information**

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