

Hughenden Access Statement

Victorian manor, home to Disraeli, set in formal gardens surrounded by woodland walks and rolling parkland.

Contact details

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Points to note

- Hughenden can get busy during summer months and at weekends. Quieter times to visit are weekdays in January to March and November, avoiding school holidays.
- Dogs are welcome in the gardens and parkland on leads and under close control.
- Please be aware that there are uneven paths, bridges, steep slopes and steps around Hughenden.
- Buggies are provided to transport visitors from the Main car park to the Stable yard car park and back.
- The gardens are partially accessible to wheelchairs.
- Access to the manor for wheelchairs is limited to the ground floor and a ramp can be brought out on request. Photograph albums and reading materials are available for those unable to access the first and second floors and basement exhibition areas.
- Induction loops are available in Visitor Welcome Kiosk, shop and Stable yard cafe.
- There is reasonable mobile phone reception across most of the site.
- Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the property. There are two water bowls available in the Stable yard which is refilled regularly or can be filled on request.
- Light levels in the Manor are kept low to protect the collection.
- There are 2 manual wheelchairs available for loan at the second hand bookshop or one in the Manor. They can be requested from the Visitor Welcome Kiosk.

Arrival, Departure & Parking Facilities

- There are brown signs from High Wycombe town centre (A4128 / A40 junction). Take the A4128 along the Hughenden valley for 1.5 miles. The entrance is signed on the A4128. The main car park is approx. 0.75 mile from A4128 along a single track tarmac driveway (with 2 cattle grids and passing places). Past the parish church, turn right at top cattle grid and up a hill, through woodland, to the Visitor Welcome Kiosk.
- From the Visitor Welcome Kiosk the main car park is further up the hill, along a road surfaced with crushed stone, as is the main car park.
- Pedestrians arriving from the main road should walk straight on at the top cattle grid. Turn right behind the Stable yard and follow the path up to the Visitor Welcome Kiosk.
- There are 12 designated spaces for disabled people, in the Main car park. These are positioned nearest to the Buggy stop and the orientation boards (with maps). These show the layout and routes around Hughenden.
- Buggies will regularly take visitors from the Main car park Buggy stop to the Stable yard car park Buggy stop, which is just outside the Stable yard. One of the Buggies has a built in ramp for wheel chair access and takes up to 5 people as well as a wheel chair.

- If arriving by coach there is a separate Coach parking area to the Main car park. The Coach Park is 240 metres from the Stable yard facilities. The Buggy will also pick up passengers and wheelchairs from the Coach park, if required, and take them to and from the Stable yard car park. Coach party requirements should be booked in advance.
- There is an Overflow car park at the back of the Main car park. The Buggy does not serve the Overflow car park.
- The Main car park and Overflow car parks are reasonably flat; however the only access routes from these car parks are via the woodland path which is sloped. Transport by Buggy to Stable yard car park is therefore recommended.
- The alternative is a 300 meter long woodland path, and takes around 5 minutes to walk at a moderate pace. The path is surfaced with crushed stone, which leads downhill along a 1:9 gradient slope directly to Visitor Welcome Kiosk and the rest of the property.
- When leaving the Main car park the exit route goes left downhill, and to slow traffic, through a series of sharp bends followed by a 60mm. 'sleeping policeman'.



Woodland path to Visitor Welcome Kiosk

Visitor Welcome Kiosk

- This wooden building is accessed up a single step, through double doors, which are both non-power operated and approx. 1000mm wide. The doors open outwards to about 180 degrees. Windows provide natural light, and LED lighting is used in the winter. The Kiosk desk is over 800mm high. There is an Induction loop and Welcome team can assist with admission and membership enquiries.
- There are two seats provided in the kiosk and picnic tables are available on the grass outside. Further picnic tables are available in the Picnic Orchard nearby.

Route to the Manor

- The woodland path, after the Visitor Welcome Kiosk, joins a gently sloping (approximately 1:15 gradient slope) tarmac road. This entrance road leads to the Stable Yard and the Manor, past the Picnic Orchard. The entrance to the Stable yard is found around a corner on the left. This is followed by an entrance to the walled Garden also on the left. The Stable yard, contains shop, café, second hand bookshop and WCs’.
- The route from the Visitor Welcome Kiosk to the Manor is approximately another 300 metres and takes around 5 minutes to walk at a moderate pace. The Stable yard complex is approximately half way between these locations. The route contains tarmac and gravel surfaces and is used as a road. It also crosses another road. Both are used mainly by the staff and volunteer vehicles. The road is single tracked but has grass on either side of the road which can be used if a vehicle approaches from in front or behind you. The route is lined with trees which can create a ‘dappled’ effect on the path if the sun is out.
- There is an alternative direct return route back from the Stable yard towards the Visitor Welcome Kiosk; however it is up a steep flight of 16 steps. There is a metal and wooden handrail and a latched gate, at the top.

Stable yard Second-hand bookshop

- Within the Stable yard, at the back of the cobbled yard is found the second hand bookshop. This has a sloped ramp entrance / exit of approximately 800mm width. It has stone floors, and brick walls. There is a counter 850mm high, a table, 750 mm high, and 3 chairs, plus a loose rug in the first room
- In the adjoining room it contains high book shelves, 2 armchairs and two loose rugs. It has a separate sloped exit.

WCs

- Just inside the Stable yard are WCs, including a separate disabled toilet with baby changing facilities. The disabled facilities have 1000mm entrance and include a right-hand transfer accessible WC with space to turn a wheelchair through 1500mm diameter circle. There are no adult changing facilities available here. All the WCs have automatic hand driers, stone floors and brick walls surfaces, with fluorescent lights.
- There is also a disabled toilet in the Dizzy’s Tea room, close to the Manor. Dizzy’s Tea room opens normally at weekends only apart from school holidays when it is open 7 days a week. This is wheelchair accessible by asking guides at the Manor entrance, they will show the level access route to Dizzy’s Tea room.

Stable yard Café

- The Stable yard café is entranced via a doorway over 800mm wide. This door opens inwards over 90 degrees into the first cafe room. The door is non-power assisted. There is a level entrance apart from a small raised lip onto an entrance mat which then leads onto a cobbled floor. There are brick walls and low energy lighting.
- There is an alternative level entrance / exit to the café through a larger non-power assisted door, at the back of the Stable yard, which is 1000mm wide and opens inwards. This door leads to second Café room which has a paved brick floor and wooden panelled walls. The width between the tables in the first room is approximately 950mm, but the width is must wider in the second room.

- There is some outdoor seating with tables which can accommodate wheelchair users.
- The counter is over 900mm high. There is induction loop at the counter which is signed
- Catering team members are available to assist with service and carrying trays. Members of visitor groups can sit at tables if queuing is difficult and one member of the group can ask catering staff for assistance.

Shop

- The entrance from Stable yard is level and the floor has smooth hard surface and low energy lighting is used.
- The doorway is over 1000mm in width; the door open inwards to at least 90 degrees and is non-power operated.
- The counter is 950mm high but staff and volunteers are able to assist with service here and with lifting and carrying goods if required.
- There is an induction loop which is signed.
- There is circulation space within the shop to use a powered wheelchair, but not a powered mobility vehicle.

Walled Garden

Just past the stable yard, on the left, is the walled garden. The walled garden has sloping crushed stone paths (up to approximately 1:13 gradient slopes). Wheelchair users may be able to complete a circuit going up around the outer path of the garden, but the cross path are not recommended, assistance is advised. Benches with arm rests are positioned around the walled garden.



Walled garden

Manor

- The driveway in front of the Manor is only used by pedestrians and is surfaced with bitumen bound gravel.
- Access to the Manor for wheelchairs is limited to the ground floor.
- The entrance to the Manor is up 2 small steps, the largest 100mm high. Temporary ramps are available which staff will install on request. There are 2 doorways at the

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entrance; the first is 800mm wide and the second 900mm wide. The floor surfaces are mostly carpeted and covered with large rugs.

- The lighting is a mixture of LED and Halogen and kept to a low level to maintain the atmosphere and to protect the collection.
- There are basement rooms to be visited, accessed by descending eleven steps. The staircase turns a corner and has hand rails on both sides, but they change levels so care is required. There are some objects and written information to view here.



Entrance to the manor

- An introductory talk takes place outside the entrance to the Manor at advertised times during the day.
- Seating, with arm rests, is provided around the house, please ask the room guides for assistance if required. There is usually someone in each room. 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.
- Rucksacks and large bags are required to be left in the entrance area.
- Wheel chairs are available for tours of the ground floor of the house or gardens.
- 4 wheeled powered mobility vehicles and powered wheelchairs cannot be accommodated in the Manor due to narrow turning circles.
- Photograph albums and reading material are available for those unable to access the first, second floors and basement exhibition areas. There are Braille and Large print guides available. We are in the process of creating a digital tour of the Manor for visitors to view.

Dizzy's Tea Room

Dizzy's tea room opens normally at weekends only, apart from school holidays when it is open 7 days a week. It is accessed from the North lawn, in front of the Manor, up 5 steps. There are 2 further small steps in the entrance area.

- Dizzy's is wheelchair accessible by asking guides at the Manor entrance, who will show the level access route to the café. This route goes through 3 non-power assisted doors all

at least 800mm wide and which open to at least 90 degrees. The doors open both inwards and outwards.

- The seating with tables can be adjusted to accommodate wheelchair users. Catering team members are available to assist with service and carrying trays
- The width between the tables is approximately 800mm.
- The counter is over 900mm high.
- There is a disabled toilet is accessed by a sliding door (maximum opening 730mm). The facility includes a right-hand transfer accessible WC with space to turn a wheelchair circle.

Pleasure Gardens and Parterre

- The garden is set on a hillside behind the Manor and is enclosed by hedging or metal fences. There are various sloped pathways with varying gradients; surfaces also vary between crushed stone, and grass. There is a 'ha-ha' along the side of the garden, down a steep grass slope. There are several benches around the gardens.
- The direct route from the Manor to the Parterre is separated by stone steps, which have no handrails and the step sizes vary.
- It is only possible to wheel chair access the Parterre is by using a sloped (up to approximately 1:10 gradient slope) gravel path which starts directly left of the main garden entrance (route signed). The route initially drops downwards where the right fork (shown below) needs to be taken for wheel chair access to the Parterre



The right fork of this Pleasure garden path should be followed to reach the parterre.

- Once the Parterre is reached by this route there are level crushed stone paths which circle the Parterre

- At the far end of the Parterre are beehives with a viewing platform. The beehives and viewing platforms can only be accessed across uneven sloped grass and the various routes are not suitable for wheeled chair access.
- Please see the current map of the garden for more information

Icehouse Bunker

- The entrance to the Icehouse Bunker is signposted from the Stable yard and is to be found to the right of the Manor entrance down a road. The road is level apart from, a gully to slow traffic, until the Icehouse Bunker route goes right up a gently sloping crushed stone path to the entrance.
- The Icehouse Bunker is has atmospheric lighting and can be quite dark.

D'Israeli monument, and woodland walks

There are 4 signposted woodland walk routes around the Hughenden Estate. One circular route leads to the D'Israeli monument where there is great view from the top of a hill. A map of the routes is available from Visitor Reception. Unfortunately none of the routes are currently suitable for wheel chair access due to steep slopes and very uneven paths.

Study base

The Study base is sometimes open to visitors, for special events and is signposted when these events are in progress.

There are 3 steps outside the entrance to the Study base and ramp is available, which staff will install on request, to access the entrance. Inside the Study base there are steps down to the main Study base area and no ramp is available for these steps.

Contact details for more information

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Map



Key:

1 Manor

2 The Parterre

3 Pleasure Gardens

4 Ha-Ha

5 Walled Garden

6 Ice House Bunker

7 Picnic Orchard

8 Bee Hives

9 Stable Yard

10 Study Base

11 Den Building

V Visitor Welcome Kiosk