

## Stowe Access Statement

New Inn, Stowe, Buckingham, MK18 5EQ

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### Introduction

1. Stowe is a 250 acre landscape garden with a visitor welcome centre located on arrival. The welcome area, café, shop and toilets within the New Inn visitor centre are fully accessible; some of the restored parlour rooms have limited access and low levels of lighting. The gardens are partly accessible: they include uneven and hard gravel paths, steep slopes, and are slightly hilly.
2. Mobile phone reception is generally good across the site, but there may be spots in the gardens where coverage is not as strong. If you need assistance when in the gardens you can call our Duty Manager on 07990771841 or our visitor reception can be contacted on 01280 825009.
3. Assistance dogs are welcome anywhere on site; other dogs also welcome in all area except the café. Dogs should be kept on a lead at all times.

### Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. The site is easy to find being situated right outside Buckingham. There are brown signs directing from the surrounding main roads. Once you reach Stowe Avenue you will be greeted by the Corinthian Arch which signifies you have reached the entrance of the site.



*Corinthian Arch at the top of Stowe Avenue, turn right at the arch to enter.*

2. We have 22 designated disabled spaces in the main car park. These spaces are 87.5m from New Inn visitor centre.
3. There are a limited number of Coach Parking spaces which we can reserve if booked in advance. The coach park is located 112m from New Inn.
4. The car park is surfaced with a mix of hard tarmac surfaces and hard gravel, it is sometimes dusty in dry weather. The disabled parking is the same as the rest of the car park. Whilst we try to keep paths maintained in wet weather they can become uneven.
5. There is no transport between your vehicle and the visitor centre entrance. There is a buggy service that can be utilised between New Inn and the garden entrance. Further details of this follow below.
6. We also have overflow parking opened only on busy days in the field directly opposite the entrance to New Inn, this has a grass surface. The distance of this car park is 70m from the entrance

## WCs

1. There are three more accessible toilets at New Inn. Two are located by Visitor Reception and the other is opposite the café/next to the shop:
  - Toilet 1 (first toilet by visitor reception) – this is a **fully accessible toilet** (2.3m x 1.63m). This toilet has an emergency cord and is right hand transfer. It has florescent lighting.
  - Toilet 2 (second toilet by visitor reception) this is a **child and parent friendly toilet** (1.55m x 1.77m). It provides a baby change table and a nappy waste bin. This toilet is does not have handles for disabled transfer or an emergency cord. This toilet has natural lighting.
  - Toilet 3 (opposite café) this is a **fully accessible toilet** (3.2m x 1.64m). This toilet has an emergency cord and both right and left hand transfer. There is a mix of natural and florescent lighting.
2. We do not have an adult changing table and hoist at this time.
3. All toilets including access toilets have automatic hand driers.
4. Standard toilets are lit mostly with natural light.
5. In the gardens we have temporary mobile toilets located near the Chinese House (can be seen on our map), there are accessible toilets available at Stowe House during their [opening times](#).

## Visitor Reception

1. The building is made up of hard surfaces including wooden beams, glass and plaster walls, and concrete floors.
2. The entrance to New Inn is through wide stables doors and across a partially cobbled courtyard. The cobbles are broken up by pathways between the main entrance and the entrance to the reception and toilets. These paths are paved with stone slabs and there is no gradient.
3. The entrance door into reception is 1.55m wide and is a set of automatic sliding doors.
4. Doors to the toilets are 1.55m wide, and reception staff can assist with this if required.
5. The reception desk is 0.76m high, but staff will move out from behind this desk if this more suitable addresses the needs of the visitor.

6. The area is lit with lots of natural light.
7. There are chairs and tables available, these do not have armrests.
8. We have an induction loop available at the reception desk.
9. Access from visitor reception down to the café and shop involves a set of 8 stairs. We have a chair lift at this point and reception staff will assist with the operating of this. There are also alternative routes around New Inn to avoid these stairs.
10. We have electric golf buggies available to hire from reception for use in the gardens. We ask for a £10 donation towards their running costs, and hire these out in 2 hour time slots. We advise booking in advance for these. You can book by calling 01280 825009.
11. There are many quiet spots around the New Inn building, we recommend the Farmhouse garden (just beyond the shop), Ivy's bench (behind the café courtyard) or the Paddock (in front of New Inn).

## **Parlour Rooms at New Inn**

1. The Parlour Rooms are the historically set rooms located on the right on the New Inn building by the central courtyard. These contain two Parlour Rooms, Tap room, Kitchen, Lower Dairy, and Laundry.
2. There are two access points into the rooms; the first is located under the entrance arch. This is stepped access and the door is 0.88m wide. The second is from the middle of the courtyard and lead into both the Laundry and Kitchen. This door is 0.8m wide and level with a small lip.
3. The doors to these rooms are left open at all times during opening hours.
4. All rooms contain hard surfaces, with no soft furnishings. Floors are marginally uneven stone slabs.
5. The rooms are all quite dimly lit with some natural light from numerous windows.
6. The lower dairy is currently only accessible down a set of stone steps and these are also slightly uneven.
7. There is a narrow and low lit corridor leading between the parlour rooms and tap room and step access from this area into the kitchen.
8. The kitchen and laundry are the only rooms fully accessible where there is space to turn a wheelchair other rooms are quite small.
9. There are benches in both the laundry and kitchen, and some chairs in the tap room, and parlour rooms. These are all in keeping with the historic setting. Most of these therefore do not have armrests suitable for support.
10. These rooms are not attended by staff or volunteers.
11. The nearest toilets are located by visitor reception.
12. There is currently no permanent interpretation in these rooms.
13. The parlour rooms in general are a relatively quiet area of the New Inn site.

## **Catering**

1. The café is located on the right hand side of a wide corridor. The disabled toilet is located on the left of this corridor.
2. The flooring in this space is concrete and the walls alongside are glass, with wooden panels on the outside.
3. The entrance doors to the café are automated sliding doors and are 1.39m wide. There are two sets of these doors to access to different areas of the café.

4. Inside the café the area is spacious with high ceiling, there is lots of natural light in this space.
5. The space in the café is all on one level.
6. Access to outdoor seating areas is also available from the left of the access corridor and at the end of the main café area. Both of these areas are accessed through doors that push outwards, but these are propped open in good weather and staff can assist if required.
7. The counter height is 0.9m.
8. Staff will assist visitors wherever possible and as required.
9. There is circulation space of at least 1200mm between the tables
10. Induction loops are available at till points.
11. Our menu changes daily and is written on our chalk board behind the counter, Staff can explain what is on the menu verbally if required.
12. We have straws available on request.

## **Retail**

1. The shop is located at the far end on the left hand side of the corridor from reception and cafe. The disabled toilet is also located just before the shop.
2. The entrance doors to the shop are a set of double doors that open inwards but are propped open during opening times. The doors are 0.92m wide each.
3. Inside the shop the area is spacious with high ceiling, there is lots of natural light in this space.
4. The space in the shop is all on one level.
5. Access to outdoor areas with plants is either out the main exit doors of New Inn which are 1.82m wide and are automated opening outwards, or via a door at the back of the shop. This door is 1.2m wide and is propped open in good weather conditions. Staff can assist with this door if required.
6. The counter height is 0.93m high with a lower lip in front that is 0.76m high.
7. There is a circulation space of approx. 1m between the display stands
8. Induction loops are available at till points.
9. Staff can assist with reaching retail items if they cannot be reached by customers. They can also assist with telling them the price of items if required.

## **Garden**

1. We have a visitor map which shows the main paths across the gardens. The white paths on this map are made up of harder surfaces, mostly hard gravel paths. The secondary paths are mainly made up of grass paths and some of these are shown on the map in green. It is important to note that the path quality varies at different times of the year dependant on weather, at sometimes there can be potholes and as others they can get dry and dusty.
2. There are no steps on the main paths across the site; however there is stepped access to most of the temples, these do not have handrails.
3. There are some steep gradients in parts of the gardens, most notably between the Palladian Bridge and Gothic Temple. There are other inclines also across other areas of the site. Our team at visitor welcome would be happy to advise you on a suitable route based on your access limits.

4. There are gates between some areas within the gardens, these are usually where we have some livestock grazing. Hawkwell Field and the areas around the Gothic Temple and Palladian Bridge is a particular area to note that sheep usually graze.
5. Currently there is little to no interpretation in the gardens permanently, we often have this as part of a temporary project and therefore more details of this are available at that time in the programme.
6. There are over 140 benches across the gardens at many different locations. Mostly these are benches without arms or backs.
7. There are many bodies of water (including moving water features) across the gardens and these are all shown on our visitor map.
8. We host tours of the garden, but these do not run every day. If you would like a tour, please enquire about the schedule with our Visitor Welcome team on 01280 825009. Tour guides do not currently wear a hearing loop.
9. Other than our welcome map we only have our guidebook available to buy for £4. This is not currently available in large print, but we do also have a DVD about Stowe available in the shop for £13. We could send this out in advance if requested.

## **Parkland**

1. The parkland is the 750 acre area of countryside land surrounding the gardens which has many paths for the public to roam freely. All of these are countryside paths such as in fields and are therefore mainly grass underfoot.
2. You can access the parkland directly via public footpaths; suggested routes are shown on our parkland map. But please note there are no facilities available in the parkland..
3. There are no steps to note, however the land is undulating, and there are many gates.
4. This area does not provide any interpretation, but we do have a parkland map which you can request from our visitor reception.
5. There are some benches in the parkland areas but all of these have no arms or backs. The benches can be found in Bycell Ridings field, a few by the Farey oak, some in the deer park by Wolfe's obelisk and several down Stowe Avenue.
6. The main body of water Haymanger Pond which is marked on the parkland map.
7. We do not host tours in the parkland.

## **Contact details for more information**

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**Date: August 2018**



- KEY**
- ① Corinthian Arch
  - ② Farmhouse Garden
  - ③ New Inn
  - ④ Bell Gate
  - ⑤ Temple of Friendship
  - ⑥ Chinese House
  - ⑦ Brown's Cascade
  - ⑧ Palladian Bridge
  - ⑨ Temple of British Worthies
  - ⑩ Gothic Temple
  - ⑪ Saxon Deities
  - ⑫ Lord Cobham's Pillar
  - ⑬ Queen's Temple
  - ⑭ Samson and the Philistine
  - ⑮ Fane of Pastoral Poetry
  - ⑯ Circle of the Dancing Faun
  - ⑰ Gladiator
  - ⑱ Hercules and Antaeus
  - ⑲ Temple of Concord and Victory
  - ⑳ Grotto
  - ㉑ Season's Fountain
  - ㉒ Captain Cook's Monument
  - ㉓ Shell Bridge
  - ㉔ Wooden Bridge
  - ㉕ Congreve's Monument
  - ㉖ Lord Chatham's Urn
  - ㉗ Pebble Alcove
  - ㉘ Eastern Lake Pavilion
  - ㉙ Western Lake Pavilion
  - ㉚ Cascade and Artificial Ruins
  - ㉛ Sleeping Wood
  - ㉜ Doric Arch
  - ㉝ Temple of Ancient Virtue
  - ㉞ Captain Grenville's Column
  - ㉟ Gothic Cross
  - ㊱ St Mary's Church
  - ㊲ Statue of King George II
  - ㊳ Stowe House
  - ㊴ Dido's Cave
  - ㊵ Rotunda
  - ㊶ Hermitage
  - ㊷ Temple of Venus
  - ㊸ Lower Cascade
  - ㊹ Statue of Queen Caroline
  - ㊺ Roman Wrestlers
- 
- Ⓥ Visitor Reception
  - Ⓦ Shop
  - Ⓧ Car park
  - Ⓨ Café
  - Ⓩ Toilets
  - ⓐ Dog waste bin
  - ⓑ Bookshop

Please note this map is intended as a guide only and is not drawn to scale

Stowe landscape garden map



# National Trust

- 1 Corinthian Arch
- 2 Farmhouse Garden
- 3 New Inn
- 4 Bell Gate
- 5 Temple of Friendship
- 6 Chinese House
- 7 Brown's Cascade
- 8 Palladian Bridge
- 9 Temple of British Worthies
- 10 Gothic Temple
- 11 Saxon Deities
- 12 Lord Cobham's Pillar
- 13 Queen's Temple
- 14 Samson and the Philistine
- 15 Fane of Pastoral Poetry
- 16 Circle of the Dancing Faun
- 17 Gladiator
- 18 Hercules and Antaeus
- 19 Temple of Concord and Victory
- 20 Grotto
- 21 Season's Fountain
- 22 Captain Cook's Monument
- 23 Shell Bridge
- 24 Wooden Bridge
- 25 Congreve's Monument
- 26 Lord Chatham's Urn
- 27 Pebble Alcove



# National Trust

- 28 Eastern Lake Pavilion
- 29 Western Lake Pavilion
- 30 Cascade and Artificial Ruins
- 31 Sleeping Wood
- 32 Doric Arch
- 33 Temple of Ancient Virtue
- 34 Captain Grenville's Column
- 35 Gothic Cross
- 36 St Mary's Church
- 37 Statue of King George II
- 38 Stowe House
- 39 Dido's Cave
- 40 Rotunda
- 41 Hermitage
- 42 Temple of Venus
- 43 Lower Cascade
- 44 Statue of Queen Caroline
- 45 Roman Wrestlers

V Visitor Reception



Shop



Car park



Café



Toilets



Dog waste bin



Bookshop



*Stowe parkland map, including Stowe Avenue*