



Stoneywell Access Policy

Overview	<p>The Policy has three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An introduction to the National Trust's commitment to provide access to all• Our access policy and the services we provide• Accessibility specific to Stoneywell <p>This policy sets out our approach to enabling inclusive access, and sets out our aims and responsibilities to ensure that Stoneywell is accessible for all.</p>
-----------------	--

Introduction

The National Trust is committed to enabling increased access to its historic built and countryside environments, and to developing and promoting inclusive access solutions that are creative and sensitive to the surroundings. The Trust is committed to developing and promoting equality of opportunity and inclusion in all that it does as one of the UK's leading conservation charities.

The National Trust exists to ensure the permanent preservation for the benefit of the nation of lands and buildings of beauty or historic interest. We aim to make our places available for ever, for everyone. We aim to achieve this without adversely affecting anyone's safety or health, as well as the conservation of our properties and their collections. In practice, we try to achieve a reasonable balance between safety, conservation and access.

Definitions

'Access' for the purposes of this position statement includes physical access to buildings, intellectual access to ideas and information, and access to services by a wide variety of means. Improved accessibility and greater inclusion benefits everyone, including many people who do not consider they have a disability, or whose disabilities may not be apparent. 'Access' undoubtedly has a wider meaning and this will be picked up by the Diversity policy, mentioned below.

Policy

To ensure we embrace the requirements of the Equality Act (2010), the Trust will continue improving access to its properties and services, consistent with their special character and within the constraints of the pre-existing legislation, relating to the protection of historic monuments, listed buildings and nature conservation areas.

The Trust needs to assess all aspects of its services, including their development and management, its employment and recruitment practices, as well as the provision of relevant and appropriate information and the development of alternative means of communication, where these will provide an aid to access.

Each property the Trust looks after is different. The Trust has a responsibility to consider all available options and make alternative provision where necessary at each property.

The staffing structure of the Trust will reflect the importance of access, equality and diversity with support for the equality specialist from regional Operational Risk Business Partners (ORBPs) and in turn the development of property champions for access.

The Trust offers 'Admit One' cards for the companion of disabled visitors, free of charge. There is also a 'Links pass' available for groups affiliated to local government or disability organisations whose membership comprises disabled or elderly people. This is also free of charge and offers reduced entry rates to properties participating in the scheme.

Services

The Trust will develop and promote services and resources for disabled people, including visitor centers and receptions, learning and training facilities and the services of National Trust Enterprises, including retail outlets, catering facilities and holiday cottages.

New services will be designed to accommodate disabled people in line with Building Regulation Approved Document Part M and British Standard 8300:2010.

The Equality Act 2010

This act states that service providers must make reasonable adjustments to the way they provide their services if it is 'impossible or unreasonably difficult' for a disabled person to use their goods, services or facilities. Those adjustments may require changes in policies, procedures and practices, the provision of auxiliary aids and services or an alternative method to overcome physical barriers.

Accessibility at Stoneywell

As a grade II* listed building, conservation legislation means that it is difficult for us to make many changes to the accessibility to the cottage, although we do try to make changes to help with access where we can. As a result, there is a small step leading into the cottage, with only one period room on the ground level. This, in addition to narrow doorways and spiral stairs, makes the cottage unsuitable for some wheelchair users. Although the garden and woodlands can be reached via the accessible path along the original driveway, there are many steep slopes through the garden; consequently, wheelchair users may take this route at their own risk and at the discretion of the property.

We have provided an Access Folder in the Stables, which contains information and images for those who are unable to access the Cottage. There is also a virtual tour available, which contains images and videos for all rooms of the Cottage.

The middle toilet in the Stables is an accessible WC, and also includes a baby changing table.

There are benches throughout the garden and some companion seats near the tearoom. In summer months blankets are available for visitors wishing to picnic outside.

There is limited seating available throughout the cottage – this is distinguished from fragile chairs within the collection, which have hats, books and other items on to prevent visitors from sitting on them.

The National Trust car park for the property, located on Whitcroft's Lane, comprises of 40 hard-standing spaces on flat, even, and recently re-tarmacked surface, along with 20 spaces on the grass 'overflow' car park. Of the 40 hard-standing spaces, 5 space are allocated as wider spaces

for disabled people. The car park is managed by a dedicated member of National Trust staff on every open day.

The Shuttle Bus is fully accessible, with a step and handrails at the side door, and an electric lift at the back to enable wheelchairs to access the vehicle. All visitors are required to take the bus from the car park to the property.

Information throughout Stoneywell has been presented in a hands-on, multisensory way, and includes guided tours of the cottage and gardens, and fresh food in the period dining room for a sensory experience. Much of the property's collection is suitable for handling, and volunteers are on hand to encourage visitors to interact with the rooms in more detail and pick many objects up for a closer look. At present there is no pre-recorded audio interpretation at the property, although the model railway on the floor of the Well Room makes some noise when it is in use. There are three induction loops at the property: on the Shuttle Bus, in the Tearoom and a portable one for use on guided tours when required.

In the Tea Room, we offer vegetarian and gluten-free refreshments, with full ingredients lists available for all products for any allergy sufferers.

For further information please contact the Operations Manager or email stoneywell@nationaltrust.org.uk