

Petworth House & Park Access Statement

Petworth has been shaped by a family of collectors over the past 900 years. This 17th century house is overflowing with the finest collection of paintings and sculpture in the care of the National Trust. In contrast, the atmospheric Servants' Quarters reveal the hustle and bustle of life 'below stairs. Outside, discover a 30-acre Pleasure Garden and 700 acre 'Capability' Brown landscaped deer park with an historic herd of fallow deer and glorious views of the South Downs National Park.

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Points to note

1. The house is set within a gently undulating 30 acre Pleasure Garden and 700 acre deer park with varying terrain
2. Mobile telephone reception is intermittent, and if visitors need assistance during their visit, they can contact the property office on 01798 342207
3. Dogs under close control are welcome in Petworth Park and on a short lead in the Pleasure Garden. Only assistance dogs can access the Servants Quarters and house. There are dog water bowls at the car park Visitor Reception and in the courtyard by the house
4. Induction loops are fitted in the Main Car Park, Church Lodge and House Visitor Receptions as well as the Servants' Quarters shop and the Audit Room Café
5. The light levels within the house are controlled for the care of the collection.
6. The ground floor of the house is fully accessible, except for the Chapel, which has short steps descending to ground level
7. There are 6 manual wheelchairs available for loan from the car park Visitor Reception, Church Lodge Reception and House Reception
8. There are no power assisted doors on the property
9. The Park features two main 'lakes' within the undulating landscape; Upper and Lower Ponds. There are also several other smaller bodies of water within the park. There is no fencing around the edge of the water

Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. Brown street signs direct visitors to our main visitor car park, located 700m from the house
2. 12 designated spaces for disabled visitors are clearly marked and are adjacent to the car park Visitor Reception
3. The main visitor car park has a tarmac road surface, with loose stone surface to the car parking spaces
4. Should the main car park become full there is overflow car parking available inside Petworth Park, which has a grass surface and is 150m from the car park Visitor Reception
5. Cycle racks are available in the main car park adjacent to Visitor Reception.
6. There is dedicated parking in the main car park for coaches

7. Church Lodge Reception is open 10.00-17.00 and is available to drop off and pick up visitors. This reception is within the Servants Quarters and a short distance from the house.

Seating

1. There is a table with bench seating outside the car park Visitor Reception
2. Between the car park Visitor Reception and Mansion there is a 700m path through the Pleasure Garden, along which there are 3 benches
3. The house has folding gallery stools spread through the open rooms
4. There are other wooden bench seats around the Pleasure Garden, and stone benches on the west front of the house and at the side of the Upper Pond within the park

WCs

1. There are accessible lavatories at both the main visitor car park, adjacent to Visitor Reception, and in the Servants' Quarters. The SQ lavatory has a power assisted door
2. The accessible lavatories are sized 2460mm x 1600mm (Car Park), 2000mm x 2000mm (Servants' Quarters)
3. The accessible lavatories in both the car park and Servants' Quarters have left hand transfer
4. There are no adult changing facilities but baby changing facilities are available in the main visitor car park and Servants' Quarters lavatories (changing mat in both men/women)
5. There are no public lavatories within the house
6. The car park and Servants' Quarters accessible lavatories have LED lighting.
7. All lavatories on the property have stone floors, plastered wall surfaces, automatic hand driers and LED lights

Visitor Reception

There are four visitor receptions at Petworth, one at the main visitor car park (MVCP VR), one in the Pleasure Garden near the house (PG VR), one in the House (House VR) and the finally one at the Church Lodge reception (CL VR).

Currently clear Perspex screens are in place at all reception points to protect visitors, volunteers and staff.

MVCP VR

1. There is a tarmac surface, slightly sloping upwards, on approach (5%). Inside there is a wooden floor with matting covers in places, and coir mats at the entrance/exit doors, sunk flush to the wooden floor
2. The ceiling rises to an open apex. Acoustic 'clouds' have been installed to help with noise levels
3. The entrance has two doors (patio door style), which can be opened to accommodate wheel chair access, neither of which are automatic/power assisted
4. The doors open outwards
5. Staff are located near to the doors
6. There is a small covered veranda outside, which has small ridges to give a 'non slip' surface'



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7. The reception desk is a height of 910mm. There is not a lower section for wheelchair visitors
8. The reception has LED lighting and very good natural daylight (3 large windows and 2 fully glazed sets of double doors)
9. An induction loop is available at the reception desk
10. There are manual wheelchairs available for visitors to borrow. They cannot be pre-booked

PG VR

1. The reception is based in a wooden trailer, staff will come down a small set of steps to greet visitors
2. The reception sits on a grass surface, which is uneven

House VR

1. Access to the house is step free
2. To reach the house reception you enter a large door from the corridor and walk through a corridor which is lit with LED light bulbs, there no natural day light in part of the corridor
3. Inside there are wooden floors with matting covers in places, the main reception area is carpeted
4. An induction loop is available at the reception desk
5. In the reception acoustics are good and there is LED lighting as well as very good natural light from two east facing windows. However, on dull days it can be a little darker
6. The reception desk has a height of 1050mm. There is not a lower section for wheelchair visitors, but staff offer a personal approach instead, coming around the desk to offer customer service
7. There are 2 chairs available, both of which have arm rests
8. There is 1 manual wheelchair available for visitors to borrow. This cannot be pre-booked

CL VR

1. There is a stone step 160mm high at the entrance to the Servants' Quarters building. A wheelchair ramp can be put out by staff on request
2. The corridor leading to Church Lodge Visitor Reception has a stone floor, has low lighting, and 2 inward opening doors 1300mm wide
3. The Visitor Reception area has a polished wooden floor
4. Acoustics are good and there is LED lighting as well as very good natural light from a large west facing window. However, on dull days it can be a little darker
5. The reception desk has a height of 910mm. There is not a lower section for wheelchair visitors, but staff offer a personal approach instead, coming around the desk to offer customer service
6. There are 2 chairs available, both of which have arm rests
7. An induction loop is available at the reception desk
8. There are manual wheelchairs available for visitors to borrow. They cannot be pre-booked

Route from the Car Park to House

1. There is a 700m path between car park Visitor Reception and the house
2. The path from Visitor Reception has 2 sloping paths to reach the tarmac surface of the Salvin Drive. The surface of this sloping path is compacted stone. One path has a 10% at maximum gradient, and the other 7%
3. The Salvin Drive (shortest route) is 700m and the surface is a mixture of tarmac and compacted sand/stone path
4. The Salvin Drive (longer route) is 730m and the surface is wholly tarmac and has an incline of 5.6% in parts
5. It will take 8 minutes to walk the shortest route and 10 minutes to walk the longer route

House

1. The house is 700m from the car park Visitor Reception
2. The Courtyard area between the house and Servant's Quarters has a tarmac surface and is only used by pedestrians. Any vehicles using this area will either be Trust operated, being used for conservation work or part of a programmed event
3. The house door opens inwards, is not automated, and is 1460mm wide The door will be open to welcome visitors. The floor is carpeted to minimise echo
4. The Marble Hall has a marble floor and no furnishings, and the Square Dining Room as a wooden floor with little furnishings, therefore both spaces can be noisy during busy times
5. There are low light levels in most of the rooms to protect the collection. A mixture of filament/LED bulbs in the historic interiors (chandeliers)
6. The state rooms are large and therefore there is plenty of space to turn a wheelchair easily in each room (requirement of 1500mm diameter circle)
7. There is seating in the house as detailed above. None of these seats have backs
8. There are volunteers located throughout the house
9. There are no public lavatories inside the house
10. Powered wheelchairs are permissible within the house; please note there is a tight turn at the entrance
11. If you require use of a quiet space, please indicate this to one of our room guides who will be able to find a suitable area for you

Bookshop

1. The second-hand bookshop is located off the Servants' Quarters corridor; the entrance is level
2. It is a large double height room, with long windows along the main wall
3. The floor is carpeted, and the lighting is LED
4. Please ask staff in the Servants' Quarters shop if you need assistance

Catering

1. The Audit Room Café is in the Servants' Quarters
2. There are 3 steps up to the Café entrance, made of wood
3. The door to the Café is 840mm wide and opens to 90 degrees
4. There is a platform lift that can be used to access the Café, a member of the team can operate this on request



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5. The counter is over 850mm high. Catering team members are available to assist with service and carrying trays
6. The width between the tables varies
7. There is an induction loop at the counter
8. Menus are available in standard print and there are straws available
9. The floor is wooden, and the lighting is LED.
10. There is a high ceiling and with the wooden floor and stone walls, it can be noisy during busy periods

Retail

1. The entrance to the shop is level. The entrance to the shop lobby is 1070mm wide with a 90 degree turn into the shop doorway, which is 0.98m wide. The door opens to 90 degrees
2. The floor of the shop is wooden and the lighting is LED
3. There is one counter 750mm high
4. Staff and volunteers can assist with service and with lifting/carrying goods if needed
5. There is an induction loop fitted at the till
6. There is reasonable circulation space around the shop with some of the goods reachable by wheelchair users and children
7. There is space here to use a powered mobility vehicle or powered wheelchair

Pleasure Garden

1. There is a mixture of hard surfaces around the Pleasure Garden, including to/from the car park reception and house/Servants' Quarters
2. The paths are suitable for wheelchairs, powered wheelchairs and powered mobility vehicles
3. The incline on the lower path between the car park reception and mansion is 4% in places
4. The incline on the upper path between the car park reception and mansion is 5.6% in places
5. The woodland walk does have a semi-hard surface, which is rutted in places
6. There is a sloping path from the car park reception to the Pleasure Garden, with a maximum gradient of 10%
7. There are 3 benches along the lower path between the car park reception and mansion, with other benches along the woodland walk and on the Orange and North Lawns
8. There are no water features in the Pleasure Garden
9. There is a 'ha-ha' around the Pleasure Garden separating it from Petworth Park (there is a wall between the Pleasure Garden and ha-ha)

Petworth Park

1. Access to the park is via the Tijou Gate 20m from the house
2. The Tijou Gate is 1070mm wide
3. Alternative access from the North Car Park, 1 mile north of the Main Visitor Car Park – please note it is a 45-minute walk from this car park to the house



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4. The North Car Park is an informal countryside car park, with no marked bays including blue badge bays. The car park is on a slope and has an uneven compacted gravel surface. There is no staff presence at this car park
5. The distance between the Tjou Gate and Upper Pond (lake) is 700m and has a short grass surface
6. The 'paths' in the park are either grass or compacted gravel
7. The park has an undulating terrain with some hills having a 10% gradient
8. The Lower Pond (lake) is 1 mile from the mansion
9. The Upper Pond is approx. 3-6' deep and the Lower Pond is approx. 3-6' deep. Both have a deep layer of silt/mud underneath. Dogs are not permitted in the ponds
10. There are three stone benches around the Upper Pond. Other formal seating is limited
11. The West Front of the mansion has stone seating and provides a fine view of the parkland. Access to this seating is via 3 stone steps. There are metal grills spaced evenly in the concrete patio area

Contact details for more information

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