



Athelhampton

Access Statement for Athelhampton House & Gardens

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our visitors and guests.

Athelhampton is an historic site. In the gardens and grounds there are uneven surfaces, steep terraces, deep water features, steps, non-edible plants, low branches and slippery surfaces in wet weather.

Inside the House there are also steep stone steps, uneven and slippery floors, other steps not immediately obvious and low doorways. Children must be accompanied and supervised at all times.

Pre-Arrival

- You can find details of and a map of how to reach us searching for 'Athelhampton House' on a suitable mapping app or webpage - Google Maps or Apple Maps.
- Accessible transport options can be found on Dorset For You website <https://www.visit-dorset.com/visitor-information/accessibility>
- Feel free to contact Athelhampton in advance of your visit to help make the best of your day on 01305 848363

Car Park & Arrival

- Eight reserved parking bays are available for Blue Badge holders, these bays are clearly marked.
- Other bays are close to The Coach House
- There is space for dropping off in front of the main site entrance of The Coach House, where visitors can be both dropped off and collected by car or coach.

Main Entrance, Reception, Ticketing Area

- The Entrance is located in the Coach House, where the restaurant, bar, visitor toilets are located.
- Access to the Coach House, is on slightly inclined tarmac and paving.
- Ticketing staff are mobile and can assist with ticketing.

The House

- Access to the house is made by exiting the coach house, through a plant sales area, all flat and level paved or compacted gravel.
- The Ticketing staff can phone/radio the house steward to deploy accessible ramps to the front of the house due to a step.
- Wheelchairs are welcomed, however only compact Electric scooters may not be used in the house
- Only the ground floor of the house is accessible in a wheelchair, about 8 rooms, as there are no lifts or hoists available due to the age of the house.

The House continued

- Assistance dogs are welcomed.
- Trainee Assistance dogs are welcomed provided that they are house trained.
- Light levels are low in the house so extra care and time to adjust from outdoor brightness should be taken
- There are uneven surfaces extra care should be taken
- Seating is available on request from the Steward
- Touchable furniture is available on request from the Steward for those of limited or no sight
- Hand rails are in place to assist more able bodied up stairs.

The Gardens

- An access map is available upon arrival showing the best routes for access.
- Paths are either compacted gravel, brick or grass.
- There are some small unavoidable steps, a ramp is available from the house steward if needed.
- There are some steep slopes away from the guided paths and care must be taken.
- The Boardwalk is currently closed (1.12.2018)
- Ponds have no barriers and care must be taken
- Steps & paved areas can become slippery when wet and care must be taken.

Toilets

- Accessible toilets are available in the Coach House, near the entrance.
- There is no hoist available.

Restaurant

- The Coach House is full accessible.
- Table and chairs can often be moved by customers and block access, a staff member can assist

The Shop

- Is located in the visitor reception.
- The shop is suitable for small scooters and manual wheelchairs.
- The plant sales area is fully accessible.

Additional Information

- Water for dogs is available.
- Local Transport can be advised upon by calling 01305 848363
- Picnicing is welcomed on benches in a picnic area, but not in the formal gardens,
- Registered Carers & Employed Carers are given discounted or free admission, please call 01305 848363.