

ACCESS STATEMENT

HERGEST CROFT GARDENS



The gardens are situated on a relatively steep hill which rises from about 200 (650ft) at the lower end of the Kitchen Garden to over 300m (950ft) at the top of the Maple Grove, and as many of the paths are mown grass, it can be rather strenuous to get to all the areas in a wheel chair, especially for the person pushing. We have a Tramper mobility scooter which can be booked in advance through the Estate Office. Please note that visitors use the Tramper at their own risk. Hergest Croft Gardens cannot be held responsible for any incident, accident or injury that occurs to them or another party as a result of using it.

There are hard surfaced paths, covered with a layer of granite chippings through many of the important areas of the Garden. Accessible paths are clearly indicated on the Garden maps, which can be seen on the website, and are also available in hard copy at Reception. There are some flights of steps, although alternative routes do exist. In the woodland areas the mown grass paths can be used as long as the ground is dry.

Arrival

The car park is situated on the right side of Ridgebourne Road, a short way from the entrance to the gardens. The car park has signed disabled parking places and there is one disabled dropping off bay in the driveway of Hergest Croft.



Disabled visitors requiring drop-off should proceed past the car park and take the next turning on the left and follow the drive to the house. This is only a drop off point. The entrance is clearly marked and there is step-free access through the conservatory to Reception.





Reception, Gift Shop and Tearoom

Once entry tickets have been bought, you can continue through the Gift Shop and enter Maples Tearoom where the staff will seat you. There are two wonderful rooms to choose from with views over the garden. On fine days, wheelchair-users can sit on the Terrace by going back through Reception, turning left past the Plant sales area and left again on to the Terrace. Unfortunately the covered terrace is only accessible if you are able to walk a short distance as it is up several steps.

Accessible Toilet

The Accessible Toilet is accessed through Reception. Continue through the Gift Shop and turn left through a large brown door into a small lobby by the front door of the house. The toilet has twist locks, emergency alarm and fitted grab rails. The hand basin is fitted with a lever taps; there is a paper towel dispenser and mirror. It also contains a baby changing facility. The public toilets are outside at the eastern end of the driveway.

The Gardens

To access the Gardens from Reception, we suggest that you leave via the main door (through which you entered). Follow the drive out of Hergest Croft. Just before you reach the cattle grid, you will find a gravelled path to your left (marked with an accessible sign) which you should take. After an initial slope, the inclines/declines on the rest of this route are gentle. There are several hard surface paths which will show you the Autumn Border, the Sycamore Walk and lead you to the Boundary Path and Daisy Border.



Follow the Boundary Path and on the right are two entrances to the Azalea Garden and Maple Grove. The wrought iron Wembley Gate is the second entrance you reach and is the wider gate. There are mown paths and paths covered in bark chippings throughout the Azalea Garden/Maple Grove area. These are passable for a wheelchair if dry but should not be attempted following wet weather when the grass is wet and/or it is muddy underfoot. There is quite a steep slope to reach the top of the Maple Grove and the Millennium Bench.



If you continue along the Boundary Path (rather than turning right through the Wembley Gate), you will pass the Croquet Lawn on your left. Immediately beyond this, you can either turn left along Elizabeth Walk and arrive back at the top of the front lawn, or you can continue down a short incline to reach the Daisy Border where you turn left.

The Daisy Border leads you to an area of lawn. Beyond this and directly ahead of you is a gravel path around the Rockery, which can be accessed by wheelchair. After passing two small ponds you arrive at the Slate Garden. From here you can either turn left and follow the path up to the front lawn or lift the chain on the wrought iron gate ahead of you and move up the incline to the entrance path from the car park. If you turn left you arrive at the forecourt of the house and back where you started. If you turn right through the small wrought iron gate, you can cross the orchard on a tightly mown path, which is accessible unless the ground is very wet, you will reach the Kitchen Garden. The garden lies on a gentle incline and contains both some granite chipping paths and other paths that are closely mown.

Please don't hesitate to ask any of our staff. The Hergest Croft staff are all in green uniform and will be only too happy to help you .

Additional Information

- Wheelchair-users are admitted to the Gardens free of charge.
- Dogs on leads are welcome and water is provided in the conservatory.
- There is a wheelchair available for use, as well as a Trampler mobility scooter. The Trampler needs to be booked in advance by contacting the estate office. Any visitor using it will be required to complete the disclaimer form.
- Some staff have first aid training

Contact Information

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This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to the suitability for those with disabilities, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that are offered for all visitors.