

ACCESS STATEMENT

HERGEST CROFT GARDENS



The gardens are situated on a relatively steep hill which rises from about 200m (650ft) at the lower end of the Kitchen Garden to over 300m (950ft) at the top of the Maple Grove, and the 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 an excellent Tramper Mobility Scooter FOC which can be booked in advance through the Estate Office. There are hard surfaced paths, covered with a layer of small granite chippings from the local quarry, covering many of the important areas of the Garden. There is a very clear Accessible Map available 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 which is through the Conservatory. The car park has signed disabled parking places and there is one disabled dropping off bay in the driveway of Hergest Croft.



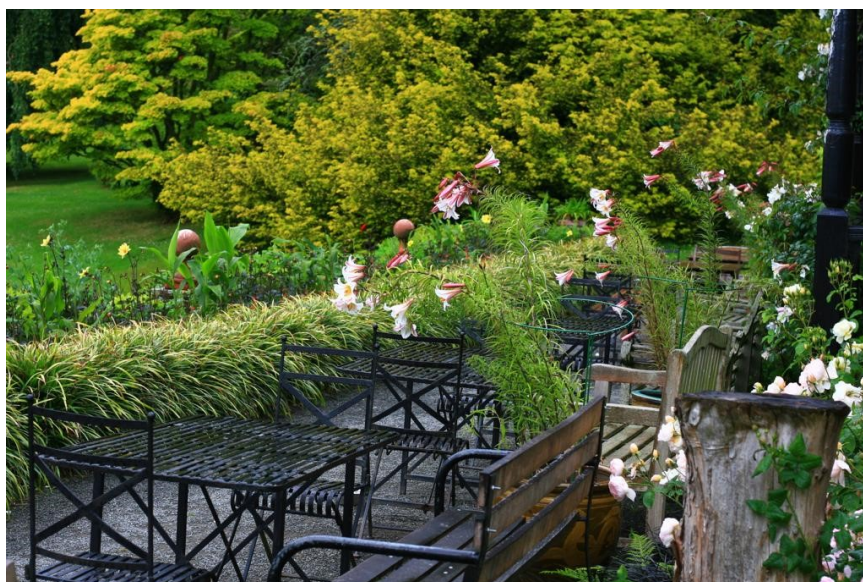
Disabled visitors requiring drop-off should proceed past the car park and take the next turning on the left and down the drive to the house. This is only a drop off point. Once through the conservatory the reception desk is in front of you.





Reception, Gift Shop and Tearoom

Once entry tickets have been bought; you can pass through the shop in the original hall and enter the tearoom where they will seat you. There are two wonderful rooms to choose from with views of the garden.. On fine days you can sit on the terrace by going back through Reception, turn left and passed the plant sales area.



Accessible Toilet

The Toilet is accessed through reception. It is a large brown door from the hall leading to the lobby and 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, 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 the reception either go to the left hand door of the conservatory or straight ahead through the door that you came in. If you go left this leads you to the plant sales area and onto the upper terrace where there are wrought iron tables and chairs used by visitors to the tearoom. This will give you a glorious view across the front lawn. To access the inside tearoom go through Reception and you can use either of the two rooms. Unfortunately the covered terrace is only accessible if you are able to walk a short distance as there is a step out of the building.



If you wish to explore most of the garden from Reception go back out the conservatory ahead straight away. Please remember to take an Accessible Map from the Receptionist. Take the drive to the cattle grid and before you reach it there is a gravel path on your left. It has a fairly short incline but once past this you have reached the higher part of Hergest Croft Garden. There are several hard surface paths which will show you the Autumn Border, the Sycamore Walk and lead you to the Boundary and Daisy Path.

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 and has the wider gate. There are mown paths throughout which are passable if dry but there is quite a steep incline to reach the top of the Maple Grove and the Millennium seat.



Once past the Croquet Lawn there is a choice to either turn left along Elizabeth Walk and arrive back at the top of the front lawn or drop down a short incline to the Daisy Border where you turn left. The flat lawn in front of the house was the original double tennis court and can be reached either from the lawn at the eastern end of the Daisy Border or from the Slate Garden. On the east side of the lawn there is a granite gravel path around the Rockery. This does contain gravel and stone paths which can be partially accessed by a wheelchair. Passing by 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 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 wrought iron gate, cross the orchard on a tightly mown path you will reach the Kitchen Garden. The garden lies on a gentle incline and has several granite chipping paths but some 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

Dogs are welcome and water is provided in the conservatory.

There is a wheelchair available for use and a mobility scooter (this must be pre-booked to make sure it is charged or not out already).

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.